

# BASKETBALL SUPPORT STAFF



## MIRIAM RUTZEN

*Director of Operations*

**Miriam Rutzen** is in her second season as director of operations for the Colorado women's basketball program.



A native of Biggsville, Ill., Rutzen was a four-year standout at forward at Harvard (2009-13), ranking among the program's career top-10 in blocked shots and games played. She was a two-time recipient of Harvard's Best Defensive Player Award (2010-11, '11-12), helping the Crimson to a pair of second place Ivy League finishes and two Postseason WNIT berths.

Rutzen received her A.B. degree in Psychology from Harvard in 2013 along with a secondary degree in sociology. She spent the last academic year as an IEP Specialist for the West Central School District in her hometown of Biggsville, providing writing services and tutoring to a quadriplegic senior student. While working for the West Central School District, Rutzen served as the 6th grade girls basketball coach and a volunteer assistant varsity softball coach.

Rutzen was heavily involved in Colorado's summer camps for both boys and girls well before joining the Buffaloes in a full time capacity in August 2014. She was a commissioner over seven coaches for middle school age divisions at the girls' Individual Camps and was the director for the boys' Little Dribblers Camp, managing 10 coaches over 100 boys, ages 5-8.

## MIKE PETRINO

*Director of Recruiting and Video*

**Mike Petrino** is in his first season as the Director of Recruiting and Video for the University of Colorado women's basketball program.



Petrino manages the sports video operations for the Buffaloes which includes, editing, production and related support for coaches and student-athletes. He plays a key role in Colorado's recruiting efforts to maximize connections with recruits, parents and coaches while providing support with video and social media endeavors.

Petrino comes to Boulder after spending the last four years as an assistant coach for the Wyoming women's basketball team. With Petrino on the bench, the Cowgirls won nearly 60 percent of their games including a pair of 20-plus win seasons from 2012-14 and a Postseason WNIT appearance in 2013.

Prior to joining Wyoming, Petrino had a successful prep coaching career in Portland, Ore. He was the head boys basketball coach at Central Catholic High School for five years, where he amassed a 97-37 overall record. His teams won five consecutive Mount Hood Conference Championships and made three Oregon State Activities Association State Tournament appearances, placing as high as third twice.

He was selected the Mount Hood Conference Coach of the Year three times and the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association All-Star Coach in 2008 and '11. In 2010, Petrino was invited to coach at the Nike Global Challenge which features some of the best high school players in the country.

In his five years as head coach, Petrino had nine players continue their basketball careers in college. Academically, Central Catholic was recognized by the OSAA in 2009 and '10 for having one of the top team grade point averages. Petrino had been on the Central Catholic staff since 2001, serving as an assistant coach, and junior varsity head coach before taking over the varsity program in 2006.

A native of Montana, he earned his bachelor's degree in Secondary Education in 1999 from Montana State Billings. Petrino and his wife, Kelly, have two daughters, Jamieson and Hayden.



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## ASHLEY BRAUN

### *Assistant Sports Information Director*

Ashley Braun is in her second year as an assistant sports information director at the University of Colorado and first as the women's basketball contact. She also works with the women's golf program and has previously worked with the soccer and lacrosse teams.

Prior to joining Colorado, Braun spent three years as communications coordinator at the Fiesta Bowl in Scottsdale, Ariz. where she managed the website, social media channels, publications and developed communication plans for the college football bowl game's community events.

Braun graduated from Colorado in 2011, earning her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and worked as a student assistant in the sports information office.

A Minneapolis, Minn., native, Braun enjoys traveling, spending time with her family and reading.



## TAKAMASA SAKAMOTO

### *Assistant Athletic Trainer*

Takamasa Sakamoto is in his first year as an assistant athletic trainer with the University of Colorado Sports Medicine program. In addition to leading the needs for the CU women's basketball team, he also covers the Buffaloes' nationally prominent cheer squad.

Sakamoto joins Colorado after one year at Ohio State University, where he served as an intern from 2014-15.

He earned his bachelors of science degree in athletic training from the University of Alabama in 2012 and in 2014, Sakamoto received his masters of education in exercise science from Wichita State University.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Sakamoto enjoys hiking and playing golf.



## KYLE GEDDES

### *Marketing/Promotions*

Kyle Geddes is in his fifth year as a marketing/promotions coordinator with the CU Athletic Department. Geddes assists in all aspects of marketing and promotions for all 17 of Colorado's varsity sports, with a focus on women's basketball and volleyball.

Prior to joining Colorado, Geddes was a marketing assistant with the University of Maryland Athletic Department where he developed and executed marketing, ticket sales and game production for the Terrapins' men's soccer and women's lacrosse teams. His efforts allowed both programs to reach attendance milestones with both also exceeding their ticket revenue goals for the season. While focusing day-to-day on those sports, he also contributed to group ticket sales plans for football and men's and women's basketball.

Geddes spent two years (2008-10) as a marketing graduate assistant in the athletic department at St. John's (N.Y.) University. At St. John's he directed promotional and ticket sales efforts for women's soccer, women's basketball and men's lacrosse. He also implemented game day operations for eight of 16 varsity sports including men's basketball at Madison Square Garden. Geddes also worked for ISP Sports, where he was a promotions team member for the 2009 and 2010 BIG EAST Men's Basketball Tournament.

He earned his MBA from St. John's in 2010 with a concentration in marketing. Geddes obtained a bachelor's degree in marketing from Notre Dame in 2008, where he was also a four-year sports marketing intern for the Fighting Irish.

A native East Northport, NY, Geddes enjoys playing lacrosse and is an avid NHL and NBA fan.



## ROSI HAUBER

### *Office Manager*

Rosi Hauber is in her sixth year as office manager for the University of Colorado women's basketball team, assisting in virtually every phase of the program's day-to-day operation.

A CU Athletics veteran, Rosi arrived at CU in September 1997, and began a seven-year stint in the athletic director's office in 1998. In 2005 she moved over to the marketing and promotions and licensing area where she also assisted with the Alumni C-Club and the East Stadium Club Seats and Suites.

Rosi earned her diploma from Northeast Iowa Community college and worked at Iowa State University for 13 years before moving to Colorado in 1987. She grew up on her family's farm near Cresco, Iowa.

Rosi resides in Erie, Colo., with Jim Jokumsen and their Shiba Inu (Dora). She enjoys classic cars, travel, playing cards and college sports.





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## CHRIS HOWLETT

### *Academic Coordinator*

Chris Howlett is in his fourth year in the Herbst Academic Center as he joined the staff in July 2012.

Howlett serves as the academic coordinator for the women's basketball, men's golf and skiing programs at CU. His primary role is to design and implement objective based academic programming for student-athletes to improve academic success, time management skills, decision making skills, and study skills with the long term goal being graduation, community involvement and career placement.

Prior to his arrival at CU, Howlett served as an athletic academic counselor at Florida Atlantic University from 2008-12. His responsibilities at FAU included the academic oversight of the men's soccer, women's softball, women's golf, and women's volleyball teams. In addition, Howlett served as the department's admissions liaison, textbook coordinator, and Life Skills coordinator.

Howlett attended Western High School in Davie, Fla., where he played baseball and hockey. He earned a bachelor's of business administration degree with a major in management, and minor in accounting, from Florida Atlantic University in 2008. To further his education and enhance his leadership and management skills, Howlett is currently pursuing a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management through the Lockheed Martin Engineering Management Program at the University of Colorado.

Howlett is originally from Northampton, England and enjoys traveling, playing hockey, and spending time with his wife, Rachel.



## CHRIS SHECKLER

### *Assistant Director of Sports Performance*

Chris Sheckler is in his fourth year as the assistant director of sports performance for women's basketball and volleyball, joining the Colorado staff in August 2012.

Sheckler, 28, came to CU from Montana State, where he was the assistant strength and conditioning coach for the Bobcats for one year (2011-12). While at MSU, Sheckler designed and implemented strength and conditioning programs for men's and women's basketball, men's and women's alpine and nordic skiing, as well as women's golf, while assisting with football. He went to MSU from South Dakota State where he spent two seasons (2009-11) as a graduate assistant strength and conditioning coach.

He graduated from Dakota Wesleyan University in 2009, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science. He earned a Master of Science in Sports Science from South Dakota State in 2011. He also maintains strength and conditioning certifications through the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA), the Collegiate Strength and Conditioning Coaches Association (CSCCA) and USA Weightlifting.

While at Dakota Wesleyan, Sheckler was an NAIA scholar All-American in football, an All-GPAC linebacker and a recipient of the Dakota Wesleyan Matthew D. Smith Award, which is given to the most outstanding senior student-athlete. He also lettered three years in track and field, where he participated in the hammer and indoor weight throws.

He was born August 6, 1986 in Cody, Wyo., and graduated from Rock



Springs High School (Rock Springs, Wyo.) where he lettered in football, track and field, and hockey. His hobbies include cycling, hunting, fishing, skiing and snowboarding. He also competes in Olympic weightlifting and the Scottish Highland Games.

## DERIC SWANSON

### *Executive Director of BuffVision*

Deric Swanson is in his 17th year as the Executive Director of BuffVision, coordinating all aspects of production involving the video display boards at Folsom Field and the Coors Events Center, both recently upgraded to a near \$10 million operation for both facilities combined.

Swanson, 40, is considered one of the best in his field and came to CU from the National Hockey League's Colorado Avalanche, where he had worked for a brief time as the manager of game entertainment and video production. He had previously worked three-plus seasons with the Colorado Rockies Baseball Club, first as a stadium camera operator, and then as video production coordinator, including the 1998 Major League Baseball All-Star Game at Coors Field.

In 2003, BuffVision won the Golden Matrix Award for "Best Overall Video Display" in the University Division at the Information Display and Entertainment Association (IDEA) conference in Atlanta.

The following year, BuffVision was awarded two distinctions, one for the 2004 Aurora Awards, a Platinum Best of Show statue for In-Game Entertainment Graphics/Design, and a Telly Award for The Buffalo Stampede, CU's coaches' show. In 2006 and 2007, BuffVision won three more Telly Awards for Swanson's production, including two for the "Ralphie on Campus" institutional spot and another for The Buffalo Stampede, and in 2013 earned another Telly for a production involving CU's Men's Basketball team and the Navy Seals.

He is a 1996 graduate of Colorado State University, earning his bachelor's degree in technical journalism and broadcasting. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and was recognized as CSU's outstanding graduate in journalism.

He was born May 24, 1974 in Oakland, Calif., and attended two high schools. His father was stationed in the Azores, Portugal, and he spent two years at Lajes High School, where he lettered in football, soccer, volleyball and basketball. After moving to Colorado, he graduated from Liberty High School in Colorado Springs, where he lettered in football. He played volleyball on CSU's club team for three years. Swanson has also competed in eight IronMan events, including a personal best of 11 hours and 29 minutes in Phoenix, Ariz., in 2009.

He is married the former Heather Cohea and the couple has two sons, Gavin (7) and Dane (4).



## ERIC PELLONI

### *Assistant Director of BuffVision*

Eric Pelloni is in his 10th season as the assistant director of BuffVision, although he has been involved in CU Athletics for the better part of 15 years.

He assists with the video packages for CU's video display boards and has been on the BuffVision game day crew for 14 seasons. Pelloni also helps coordinate streaming and technical issues between CU Athletics and Pac-12 Enterprises.





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When CU Athletics overhauled its official athletic website, CUBuffs.com, in 2003, Pelloni was hired on a part-time basis to create video content and stream live. He has created the majority of the graphic work and assisted in the designing of CUBuffs.com, and has designed several women's basketball media guide covers.

Pelloni was also the associate producer of "The Buffalo Stamped" coaches show which aired weekly on FSN Rocky Mountain until ending with Colorado's transition over to the Pac-12 Networks agreement.

Prior to his full-time appointment at CU, Pelloni worked as a freelance video editor/graphic artist in the Denver area, creating video content for both broadcast and non-broadcast applications for a number of clients including Qwest Communications, Coors, XCEL Energy and the United Way of New York City.

Pelloni graduated from Metropolitan State College of Denver in 1998 and served as an Adjunct Professor at Metro State in 2003-04. He and his wife Gabbie, CU's Director of Operations for Olympic Sports, have a son, E.J.

## NEILL WOELK

*Contributing Editor, CUBuffs.com*

Neill Woelk, a veteran journalist of 35 years with many ties to the University of Colorado and Boulder communities, joined CUBuffs.com as its contributing editor in July 2015.

Woelk spent 30 years as a sports reporter, columnist, assistant sports editor and sports at the Boulder Daily Camera, where he covered a multitude of CU sports and events. He also worked for newspapers in Oregon and Utah.

Woelk is a 1982 CU graduate and a Colorado native. He was the 1999 Colorado sportswriter of the year and has received numerous Colorado Press Association awards for his work.

"The University of Colorado has been part of the fabric of my life for most of my life," Woelk says. "It's exciting to be part of an athletic department that has such a storied past and an equally bright future."



## MICHELLE WOLCOTT

*Team Physician*

Dr. Michelle Wolcott is in her 13th year as team physician for the University of Colorado women's basketball program.

An orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Wolcott specializes in the management of athletic injuries to the ankle, knee and shoulder. She earned her bachelor of science degree in biology from the University of Utah and graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1996.

Dr. Wolcott completed her internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, Ill., in 2001. She also completed a fellowship in sports medicine at the University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics in 2002.

A member of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and the American Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine, Dr. Wolcott spends her free time with her son, Henry (5), and daughter Charlotte (3).



## STEPHANIE CHU, D.O.

*Team Physician*

Dr. Stephanie Chu has served as team physician within CU Athletics since 2008. Working with women's basketball, soccer and volleyball teams at CU, she specializes in primary care sports medicine, with personal interests in women's sports medicine and endurance athletes.

Originally from Westerville, Ohio, Chu earned her undergraduate degree from Miami University in 1999 and her medical degree from the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2003. She completed her Family Medicine residency and Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship at the University of Connecticut in 2008, working with various athletic teams while at UConn.

Currently residing in Denver, Chu is a member of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM). She spends her free time traveling and volunteering with the nonprofit organization Hope Shines, traveling to Kigali, Rwanda with the organization every summer.



**Alec Lask**  
Student Manager



**Rhapsody Rhines**  
Student Manager