



# EAGLE EYES

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Fall 1998

## FOUR GRADUATES MAKE IT FORTY

by Cristina Paglinauan,  
Life After Eagle Rock Staff Member

Eagle Rock graduated four more students on December 18, 1998, bringing the total number of graduates to 40. The four graduates are Rachel Curran from Nederland, Colorado; Sita Henninger from Boulder, Colorado; Willow Moore from Wisconsin; and Haimanot Tesfai originally from Eritrea and more recently from California.

These four young women have graced Eagle Rock with their talents and gifts for a number of trimesters and are now ready and willing to make a positive difference in the world:

After graduation, **Sita Henninger** (ER-8, Boulder, CO) will remain in Colorado for a short time before moving to her family's ranch in Arizona, where she will live for several months. Sita is currently applying to the Naropa Institute in Boulder, where she hopes to begin studying art therapy in the fall of next year. One of Sita's greatest legacies to Eagle Rock is the mural she painted

on the wall of the Human Performance Center. Her brother, Billy Henninger, is also an Eagle Rock grad and was a member of the first group of Eagle Rock students.

**Rachel Curran** (ER-9, Nederland, CO), who learned about Eagle Rock through Sita, is also graduating this December. After graduation, Rachel will spend the first few months living and working in Colorado, where she has signed up to take Aikido classes, an ongoing passion. During this time, she will be looking for full-time wildland firefighting positions in Colorado and surrounding states for the 1999 firefighting season, which begins in May. Rachel is currently a member of the Larimer County Wildland Fire Team; she began her firefighting career in 1995, as a junior firefighter. Before beginning the firefighting season in May, Rachel will spend 2-3 months traveling in Europe, thanks to a graduation gift from her mother. Rachel's long-term plans include studying forestry at the University of Montana, Missoula, where she hopes to begin as a freshman in the fall of 2000.

**Haimanot Tesfai** (ER-8, Oakland, CA) will fly home to Oakland

for a few weeks before beginning her year-long commitment with Up With People, an international learning program that provides personal and professional development through international travel, performing arts and community service. Up With People awarded Haimanot two scholarships to participate in the program; she has spent her weekends this trimester working to earn the rest of the program costs. The six-week training session begins in Broomfield, CO on January 11; the two casts will begin their U. S. shows in mid-February and leave for Europe towards the end of the summer. Upon returning from Up With People, Haimanot hopes to study performing arts and business in college.

**Willow Moore** (ER-11, Elcho, WI) will be heading back to Wisconsin, where she will spend time with her grandmother and take an art class and an EMT course at a local college. In June, Willow will leave for Norway, where she has family and an opportunity to serve as a kayaking and backpacking guide for several months. Future travel plans also include a trip to Scotland and a worldwide bike tour.

## LINK WITH BONNER SCHOLARS MAY PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNS

by Cristina Paglinauan,  
Life After Eagle Rock Staff Member

In October, I traveled south to visit a number of colleges which participate in the Bonner Scholars Program.

Established in 1990, this program, through The Corella and Bertram F. Bonner Foundation, provides scholarships

to students who demonstrate high financial need and who are committed to community service. There are currently 23 schools participating in this program, most of them located in the Southeast and Midwest. The schools are small colleges, offering a small student to faculty ratio (typically 15:1) and a more personalized college experience.

In return for money towards college, Bonner Scholars devote 8-10 hours a week to serving their surrounding communities during the school year; they also commit to

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## ERS BIDS ADIEU TO AUDREY STEVENS

by Ian Carl Stevens, Student

(Adapted from Ian's story in Eagle Rock's student newspaper, **From Under the Rock**, December 4, 1998)

It came as a shock to many — Audrey Stevens was departing from her position as Registrar at Eagle Rock and moving on in life. Audrey, who feels "it's time to move on," laughed and answered in response to my question about what she would do next, that she would "sleep in more." We know Audrey better than that; she'll no doubt be as active as ever. Her face lights up as she explains her hobbies and interests. "I think my biggest interest is photography," she beams. "It has kind of taken a back burner in the last few years, and I plan to take lots of photos. Maybe I'll try to sell some."

In addition to photography, Audrey plans to indulge in reading. "I love to read," she says. A nature enthusiast, Audrey loves wildflowers and is able to identify most in the area. An active member of her church, she plans to continue serving as president of her church's Compassionate Service Organization. "It's been difficult to juggle time between the school and my church, and now I'll have more time to dedicate to that organization." She loves to travel and plans to do so in the near future. Audrey once lived in Okinawa, Japan, and spoke fluent Japanese.

Audrey has had an extensive career. Prior to her Eagle Rock position, she worked at Stanford University's College of Medicine as an administrator in the Department of Anesthesia. She moved to Estes Park in 1992 and was hired temporarily when Eagle Rock was first opening, and she was eventually granted a full-time position.

Audrey has advised numerous students throughout the course of her career at Eagle Rock, and many are thankful for what she has contributed to their lives. "I love Audrey; she's incredible — truly concerned about people," commented student Ariann Wade, who is a member of Audrey's current advisory group.

Audrey absolutely loves ERS, and she smiles warmly as she reflects upon her career here. Students evoke pleasant memories for Audrey. "I have a lot of respect for what Eagle Rock students are, not only for their potential but for them as people, and I try to treat each student with the respect each deserves," she admits. She enjoys observing the hard work by all residents of Eagle Rock and is proud when this is exhibited to visitors who take these ideas to their own institutions.

Audrey's dedication and commitment to the school have been invaluable, and her attitude and work ethic will forever serve as inspiration for all who have interacted with her.

## GRADUATE HIGHER EDUCATION FUND BENEFITS FROM GRADUATE WORK DAY

by Dick Herb, Director of Operations

Parents, parents of graduates, and alumni joined Eagle Rock students and staff on October 3 for the fourth biannual Graduate Work Day. Teams worked shoulder-to-shoulder doing yard work, window washing, painting, wood cutting and stacking and other odd jobs for the day. Thirty-seven employers hired teams. The effort netted nearly \$5,000 which was added to the Graduate Higher Education Endowment and helped Estes Park residents get ready for winter.

Three alumni participated in the effort — Erin Saunders, Mike Moon, and Brian Hansen. Seven parents also joined in the effort — Chuck and Ellen Cooper, Stan and Gail Pennington, Joe Secor, and Mike and Mary Hart. The Penningtons are the parents of graduate Brian Pennington, and the Harts are parents of graduate Catie Hart.

Like funds raised through other efforts, funds raised through Graduate Work Day were invested in three top performing sector mutual funds plus a global fund. The stock market gave the Eagle Rock endowment the same ride it gave most other investments, with

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# STUDENT WINS POETRY CONTEST —

*by Kathryn Sharpe, Intern*

Eagle Rock students and staff listened with pride on October 20 as student Jena Argenta read the lyrical poem that won first place for her in the Pastries, Poets, and Painters competition sponsored by the Estes Park American Association of University Women. After a reception featuring local artists and delicate desserts, the crowd assembled to hear Jena and other winners of the poetry and prose competition share their winning pieces. Here is Jena's poem:

Somewhere, buried between ignorance  
and indifference,  
between subtle and shade  
Somewhere in the whirlwinds of catatonic gazes,  
brute weakness and parasitic symbiosis,  
Somewhere amidst the curtains of everyday  
smelling of lavender and old books. . .  
Our eyes smile a little more forgivingly.  
  
Our stories are lucid, strangely alive,  
Receptive with eyes open and lips closed our  
progressions are melodic.  
We create currents.  
Careening from experience to experience,  
we reach forward in gargantuan bows.

We listen with our pores.  
We echo each other's movements speaking softly  
with our oceans clasped tightly in our arms  
Weaving our symphonies behind  
star-stained eyes.

We run heavy down the pavement of sweat  
and salty red faces.

We spread our wings.  
Rosemary and jade but only paper-thin like  
the butterflies screaming from our  
throats in rich and fluid voices.

We get stronger but keep our transparency.

Renouncing silence for a time of impurity. . . .

Our moments are quintessential,  
More vivid than a photography.

More subtle than a shade.  
We pass through life's  
torrents, slipping  
and sidwinding, chasing  
our sunsets —

Laughing teary-eyed at our  
own fragility.



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## EAGLE ROCK EVALUATION EFFORTS CULMINATE FIFTH YEAR

by Lois Easton,  
Director of Professional Development

In the Fall of 1998, Eagle Rock was five years old – “the right time to take a look at what we’re doing and how we are affecting education,” according to Robert Burkhardt, Head of School. Accordingly, Eagle Rock has been participating in two separate but linked evaluation efforts. The first, begun in the Spring of 1997, was an evaluation effort that looked at student success and the effects of the Professional Development Center. The second, begun in the Spring of 1998, leads to accreditation by the Association of Colorado Independent Schools (ACIS) and the North Central Association (NCA).

The first evaluation effort aimed at a retrospective of Eagle Rock’s first five years — in terms of effect of the school on both students and visitors to the Professional Development Center. Using a process designed by consultant Beverly Parsons, Eagle Rock sent surveys to students who had spent at least a year at Eagle Rock, including graduates; former staff and interns; panelists for the Presentations of Learning; and visitors to the Professional Development Center. An Inquiry Team, composed of former students and staff, parents, and educators, examined the survey results in September 1998 and made a set of recommendations for both the school and the Professional Development Center.

A report on the process and results will be available after the first of the year according to Parsons. The report will point the way towards future studies so that Eagle Rock regularly collects data both on student success and the effect of the Professional Development Center. Every few years, Eagle Rock will use these data to report progress in terms of its mission and goals.

The second evaluation began in the Spring of 1998 with surveys for parents of graduates and veteran students, staff, graduates and the veteran students themselves. Results of these surveys compared Eagle Rock to over one hundred independent

schools in the Midwest. Results of these surveys also were used by staff as one factor in a self-study which culminated in a self-study report. This self-study report will go in January to a team of educators who will visit Eagle Rock in March 1999 for three days. By comparing what is in the self-study report to what they actually observe at Eagle Rock as well as to a set of standards, the team will determine if Eagle Rock can be accredited by both the Association of Colorado Independent Schools and the North Central Association. If accredited through this process, Eagle Rock will go through the accrediting process every five years.

“Eagle Rock is very much in the public eye,” stated Burkhardt. “We have to continually look at what we are doing. The study we do on our own is valuable. The study we do for ACIS and NCA is valuable. These studies provide slightly different pictures, but pictures that reinforce each other.”

If you would like a copy of the report of the recommendations made by the Inquiry Team in September, please call Lois Easton at 970-586-7109 or write her at Eagle Rock.

“Scholars” - Continued

a significant service project during the summer. Service projects in the past have included tutoring in schools, helping the elderly or disabled, staffing crisis hotlines and building playgrounds. Scholars are able to choose the projects and areas of community service in which they devote their efforts.

The campuses I visited in October were Hood College, Frederick, MD; Emory & Henry College, Emory, VA; Union College, Barbourville, KY; Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN; and Rhodes College, Memphis, TN. The admissions and financial aid representatives at these institutions seemed excited at the prospect of ERS students applying to their respective institutions and expressed a genuine desire to continue working with Eagle Rock to make higher education accessible to our students.

Eagle Rock also hopes to attract Bonner Scholars to Eagle Rock for year-long internships.

### Eagle Rock School (Continued)

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## ONE-ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE INAUGURATED BY POLS

by Kathryn Sharpe, Intern

As the paint dried and the sawdust settled on the new One-Room Schoolhouse, the Eagle Rock community eagerly awaited its opening. Although it was included in the original plans for the campus, construction was delayed until the school's needs justified adding another space. After approximately nine months of work by contractors



Tamee Culp and Joe Troia stand by one of the hand-hewn railings.

as well as work by the Eagle Rock staff and students, the building was opened in order to provide another space for Presentations of Learning (POLs) that started on December 15, 1998. When not being used for POLs and other events requiring a large meeting space, the One-Room Schoolhouse provides a much-needed home for the music department.

In the fall of 1996, Dick Herb (Director of Operations) surveyed the community at a Gathering about possible features and uses of the future building. Amidst a wide range of responses, the predominant request was for sound-proof practice rooms for musicians. Thus, a staff and student committee submitted to the architect a plan which combined a traditional one-room schoolhouse layout upstairs with a downstairs dedicated to music practice and storage.

Some of the unique features of the building are the small stage at the front of the room where the teacher's desk would have been located historically, an open loft, numerous windows which welcome in the sunlight, perimeter benches cut from two dead Ponderosa trees on campus, and a wood floor salvaged from an old building in an effort to promote environmental stewardship through the reuse of building materials.

One of the enduring aspects of the Schoolhouse will be the painstaking craftsmanship invested in it by Eagle Rock students and staff. Through Garth Lewis's service learning classes, five students made significant contributions: Shaun Meehan, Sid Gillespie, Joe Troia, Tamee Culp, and Elizabeth Hennigan. In addition, interns Jon Anderson, Travis Wright, and John Breyer have assisted in the building. The students were responsible for the log railings on the stairs, the stairs themselves, the cut-out rail-

ing on the loft, and the wooden flooring. Each of these endeavors represented an entire set of skills which students acquired in order to accomplish the task, everything from debarking logs to planing boards and hand-chiseling peg and hole joints.

For Garth, the educational process is imbued with a higher level of significance, as well. In his classes, he is passing on the nearly extinct art of carpentry. "The art of hand tools is such a gift in our disposable culture. These things are lost in our schools today," he explains while pointing out the meticulous handiwork on the railings. The students spend hours of class time learning techniques of woodworking and the characteristics of different kinds of wood.

Beyond the tangible results, however, the students are exposed to an almost spiritual aspect of the work. Garth tries to communicate "a philosophy of a way of living your life — leaving legacies behind, doing quality work that is going to last for decades, and appreciating the aesthetic value of the material." He hopes to help students appreciate the finer things in life, "not just the expensive things, but things made with care." Furthermore, he strives to incorporate a dimension of aesthetic appreciation into the experience, encouraging the students to view their work as art.

Burt Bowles, Facilities and Maintenance, supervised the entire building process. Volunteers Monte Vavra, Joe Secor, and graduate Erin Saunders spent a full day sheet rocking and soundproofing the upper floor of the One-Room Schoolhouse. Ed Herford donated halfround down-spouts and gutters that were typical of the 1880s. Chris Zorichak donated all interior paint materials.

Thus, through the people who helped to build it, and with its luminous space and hand-crafted wood elements, the new Schoolhouse embodies Eagle Rock's next step into the future, as well as its enduring commitment to the valuable process of getting there.



Elizabeth Hennigan chisels a post.



Sid Gillespie measures a post.

*"Work Day" - Continued*

a loss of 14% from the \$107,000 reported in the September issue of "Eagle Eyes." However, since the slump, all has been recovered and then some. The endowment position is as follows:

	July Position	Nov. Position
Total Gifts & Earnings	\$ 98,241	\$106,634
Investment Gain	10,840	11,079
Awards Written	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-3,000</u>
	\$107,081	\$114,203

A percentage of the endowment is held in cash to honor scholarship liabilities as graduates qualify for and request a check be written to the college of their choice. For example, August 1998 graduate Eric Sterkel just requested and had his \$1,000 scholarship check deposited with Up With People so that he can receive college credit for his travel around the United States and — possibly — the world as part of a service and entertainment troupe.

If, during this Holiday Season, you would like to contribute to the Graduate Higher Education Fund, please send your gift to Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center with a notation that it is for the Graduate Higher Education Fund. All gifts are tax deductible.

The next Graduate Work Day will be May 22, 1999, and all readers are invited to join students and staff in the tasks requested by Estes Park residents. The spring work day is always the largest, so extra help will be needed. Please contact me at 970-596-7120 if you are able to donate your time.

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