

## The Stories UCCS Wears

By Kimberly Reeves

Repair is a radical act.

– Patagonia Worn Wear

The clothing company, Patagonia, has teamed up with colleges and universities across the U.S. to spread the knowledge of how to mend and repair outdoor clothing with a stop at UCCS on April 10. But, why would a corporation feel the need to encourage their customers to reduce, reuse, and repair the products that they sell?

One of Patagonia's mantras is "one of the most responsible things we can do as a company is to make high-quality stuff that lasts for years and can be repaired, so you don't have to buy more of it." They support new economies that revolve around extending the life of gear we already own and offer easy ways to recycle their products. They also created the Worn Wear program to celebrate the stories we wear, and helps keep gear in action longer and providing even more stories.

Since the Worn Wear College Tour is making a stop at UCCS, the Office of Sustainability wants to hear the stories that UCCS wears. We will be creating a photo campaign and encouraging campus community members to participate in sharing what article of clothing they brought to the event to mend paired with their favorite memory.

A couple of the student staff in the office gave us a preview of the clothes they're bringing.

Trent Werner, the office's Volunteer Coordinator, is bringing his Marmot ranch coat. A durable, khaki-colored coat that has been with him through thick and thin. "I used to use it all the time for working outside because it would never tear!" says Trent. Although the material is durable, the thread that hold the buttons on have seen better days. His goal is to learn how to sew buttons on heavy material. Would he need a different type of needle? Which is the best type of thread to ensure longevity? Patagonia's Worn Wear team will have the answers.

David Rodgers, the Energy and Water Conservation Supervisor, recently tore his favorite pair of pants on his bike gears. He usually avoids this mishap by wearing bike leg straps to keep the material away from the moving gears. The tear is moderate in size. "I never learned how to sew, so I'm looking forward to this opportunity!" David shares. He tells us that this isn't the first pair of pants that have seen an unfortunate end when meeting his bike gears, so hopefully he's able to learn some repair quick tips to get him back on the bike.

Stay tuned to the Office of Sustainability's website to see if Trent finds the thread he needs to repair his coat and if David gets back in the [bike] saddle again with his newly patched pants!

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