

The College of

LIBERAL ARTS

Fall 2007

“So, what can you do with a liberal arts degree?”

We are asked this question frequently by freshmen trying to choose a major. Perhaps you heard it from an uninformed relative at your commencement party. Our answer to the question is, “With a liberal arts degree from Colorado State University, you can do anything you want to do. You can be ...”

Governor of Colorado. The Honorable **Bill Ritter**



(political science 1978) was elected governor of Colorado in 2006. Prior to his election, he served as district attorney for the city and county of

Denver. Like many of our alumni, Governor Ritter is a Colorado native who worked to put himself through school. Also like many of our alumni, he is committed to service to the larger community. In the late 1980s, he and wife Jeannie managed and expanded a nutrition center in Zambia, and he created the nation's first Victim's Services Network.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Poet. New York University recently named **Yusef Komunyakaa** (English M.F.A. 1981) to the prestigious position of distinguished senior poet in its creative writing program. Among the long list of awards for his published prose and poetry are a Pulitzer Prize (for *Neon Vernacular: New and Selected Poems*), the William Faulkner Prize from the Université de Rennes, the Thomas Forcade Award, and the Hanes Poetry Prize. Yusef was awarded the Bronze



Star for his service in Vietnam, where he served as a correspondent and managing editor of the *Southern Cross*.

CEO for Power Companies. In a career featuring a number of “firsts,” **Judi Johansen** (political science 1980) went from law school to a power industry career in the Pacific Northwest. She was the first female president and CEO of PacifiCorp, a subsidiary of ScottishPower, as well as the first female CEO/administrator of the Bonneville Power Corporation. Judi's pioneering activity actually started much earlier. While at CSU, she was the first female president of ASCSU.



Denver Broncos Offensive Lineman. Among alumni embarked on dream-come-true careers is **Erik Pears** (liberal arts 2005). He has played football since he was 4 years old, when he only pretended to be a Denver Bronco. A standout offensive lineman for the Rams, he signed a free agent contract with the Broncos in 2005 and was named to the all-NFL Europe Team in spring 2006. When Matt Lepsis suffered a season-ending injury early in the 2006 NFL season, Erik started 10 games at left tackle for the Broncos. He is starting on the offensive line this season. (If the notoriously taciturn Broncos offensive linemen still fine each other for media mentions, this paragraph may cost Erik some cash.)



Professional Rock Climber.

Acknowledged as one of the best all-round climbers in the world, **Steph Davis** (English M.A. 1995) was the first female to climb the Salathé Wall



on El Capitan in Yosemite National Park without equipment. She has many other “firsts” on high mountain rock faces around the world. A profile in *Outside Online* described the upside and downside of Steph's climbing career. The downside? “Having your mom suggest (frequently) that you are out of your mind.” The upside? “Yosemite. The Andes. And a life in which every day is a thrilling vertical grab.” Steph recently published a book of her essays and poetry, *High Infatuation: A Climber's Guide to Love and Gravity*.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist. *Rocky Mountain News* reporter **Jim Sheeler** (technical journalism 1990) recently won a Pulitzer for feature writing. The award was for “Final Salute,” which chronicled a year in the life of a casualty notification officer and the families impacted by his knock at the door. Jim prepared for the story by writing innovative narrative obituaries, many of which are collected in his recently published book, *Obit: Inspiring Stories of Ordinary People Who Led Extraordinary Lives*. Another book, based on his experiences covering the impact of the war at home, is scheduled for publication by The Penguin Press in 2008.



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Novelist. A somewhat circuitous path that included both law school and a master's degree brought **Nicole Burnham** (political science 1991), also writing as Niki Burnham, to a career as an award-winning author of six romance novels and six novels for adolescents. After practicing law for a year, she decided her love of writing and travel could



be put to better use. Her travels have been all over the world, as her website indicates: "How many people can say they've skied the Swiss Alps, snorkeled in the Grenadines, and successfully haggled their way through Cairo's Khan al Khalili marketplace?"

California Speedway VP. His love of racing started as a child on the competitive go kart circuit and led **Dave Allen** (speech communication 1997, pictured at right) to talk the president of Monterey's Laguna Seca Raceway into creating an internship for him. During the internship, he met Roger Penske, which resulted in a job offer at Penske's California Speedway. Dave started as marketing manager and now is VP for corporate sales and marketing. The long hours he spends at racetracks are balanced by the opportunity to hang out with the biggest names in racing.



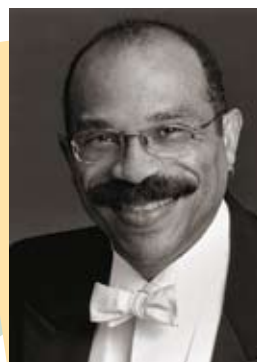
Independent Filmmaker. Armed mostly with talent and determination, **Shannan Keenan** (speech communication and theatre 1993) moved to Los Angeles after graduation to make films. Her first film, *Loaves*, won several awards, including Best Feature at the Kansas International Film Festival. Her most recent film, *Trail End*, stars Barry Corbin. It was accepted for the Crested Butte Reel Fest, the Moon-



dance International Film Festival, the L.A. Shorts Fest, and numerous other film festivals. Her company, Just Hank Productions, is named after Shannan's national champion Apaloosa cutting horse.

Inventor of Baby Carrots. After completing bachelor's and master's degrees at Colorado State, **Dave Yurosek** (political science 1967, M.A. 1970) returned to the family farming business in Bakersfield, Calif. In the early 1980s, Dave and his father invented baby carrots, which actually was a new processing method. This innovation is credited with changing the entire carrot industry as well as increasing carrot sales by 35 percent. Although Dave remains a partner in the company (Mike Yurosek and Son), his career has developed in the direction of agribusiness consulting, where his advice is highly regarded and frequently sought.

Grammy-Winning Music Director. *The New Yorker* magazine calls San Francisco-based Chanticleer "America's favorite choral ensemble" and "the world's reigning male chorus." Directing this "orchestra of voices" for the last 25 years is **Joseph Jennings** (music M.M. 1979), a prolific composer and arranger. Chanticleer performs music ranging from jazz to gospel to "venture-some new music" throughout the United States and in Europe. Under Joseph's direction, Chanticleer has released 25 critically acclaimed recordings and won Grammys for *Colors of Love* and *Lamentations and Praises*.



Commander of the U.S.S. Peleliu. Captain **Ed Rhoades** (sociology 1982) has served in the U.S. Navy since graduating from Colorado State. Among many career distinctions, Ed has been awarded the Legion of Merit with gold star, Defense Meritorious



Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, and Navy Commendation Medal with gold star. The ship he currently commands is a helicopter carrier commissioned in 1980 under its original name, *Khe Sahn*.

Daytime TV Actor. She started modeling at age 15, and now **Lesli Kay (Pushkin)** (performing arts 1987) plays Felicia Forrester on *The Bold and the Beautiful*. Other roles have included Molly Peterson Conlan McKinnon on *As the World Turns*, for which she won a daytime Emmy, and Lois Cerullo on *General Hospital*. She also has appeared on a long list of television series and in films, the most recent of which is the 2007 release, *Shadow People*.

Golf Channel Reporter/Anchor. Most people have to retire before they get to follow the professional golf tour. Not **Steve Sands** (technical journalism 1991); he gets paid to travel the tour.

After sports positions at stations in Nebraska, West Virginia, New York, Virginia, and Florida, he joined the Golf Channel in 2001 as anchor/reporter. A *Washington Post* sports columnist calls Steve the Golf Channel's lead interviewer and credits him with elevating its broadcasts.



Washingtonpost.com Editor. **Liz Spayd** (technical journalism 1981) began her journalism career at an early age when she wrote and delivered the *Spayd Sentinel* in her Denver neighborhood. After a prestigious career in print journalism, Liz is now the editor of Washingtonpost.com, an online news publishing subsidiary of *The Washington Post*. Liz joined *The Post* in 1988 as national business editor in the financial news section. She moved to the national news desk as deputy national editor and later became the top editor for national news.

University Rector. The newest public academic institution in the Republic of Albania is headed by **Agim Kukeli** (economics Ph.D. 2004). The university



was inaugurated in 2006 and had more than 1,300 students enrolled in its first year. Unlike other public universities in Albania, it is based on the American system of education. Prior to studying at Colorado State, Agim worked in the Food and Agricultural Ministry of Albania.

Community Arts Activist. Director and co-creator of Bridge Progressive Arts Initiative in Charlottesville, Va., **Greg Antrim Kelly** (art 1999) works to build community through the arts. The Bridge hosts experimental film, music, and art events and, through collaboration of the arts, aims to enrich the local community.

Greg is an artist himself. Among recent creations is a large work in progress called PIGEON that combines "poetry and illustration, found objects and found conversation, stolen portraits, and fictional characters."



So You Think You Can Dance Contestant.

A dance instructor, **Sara Von Gillern** (technical journalism 2006) was chosen as a finalist on Fox Television's *So You Think You Can Dance*. She also has



performed as a Denver Nuggets Mob Squad dancer and Colorado Crush City dancer. In addition, Sara was chosen for the Red Bull Beat Riders Urban Dance experience, all of which proves she really can dance.

Retired in Alaska. When **Sally Ausman** (history 1958) went to Alaska to teach for a year, she did not dream it would turn into a lifetime of adventure. She followed two years of teaching with marriage and five children, then went on to a 27-year career with Alaska Children's Services in Anchorage, including a stint as associate executive director. In retirement, she facilitates workshops for a not-for-profit organization that works with individuals on public assistance. She also finds time for the spectacular Alaskan out-of-doors.

Senior VP CitiFinancial. After graduating from Colorado State, **Joe Bohling** (history and speech communication 1990) com-



pleted a law degree and worked at a 16th Street firm in Denver. Eventually, he received the "offer you cannot refuse" and began a career in human relations/training positions with companies including PepsiCO, Cardinal Health, i2 Technologies,

and Comcast Cable. Currently, he is in the Dallas corporate headquarters of CitiFinancial, where he is responsible for corporate training and personnel and is part of the senior management team.

PHOTO CREDITS

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Yusef Komunyakaa, Page 1: Photo by C.T. Adams.

Joseph Jennings, Page 2: Photo by Lisa Kohler.

Sara Von Gillern, Page 3: Photo by Kelsey McNeal. Reprinted with permission from the Fort Collins Coloradoan.

Nepal NGO Founder. Following Peace Corps service in Nepal, **Rob Buckley** (liberal arts 1997) settled



in Katmandu, where he created two organizations. Nepal Direct Effects is a web-based organization that advocates on behalf of and raises funds for small-scale

community projects in Nepal. Himalayan Healers is an organization that works to effect social and individual change for members of the untouchable castes. Sponsored individuals train in indigenous massage techniques, and then the organization provides guaranteed employment in one of their spa boutiques in Nepal while working to place them in quality and supportive resorts and spas throughout the world.

Award-Winning Salsa Dancer. A woman who never seems to slow down, **Eulanda Shead** (speech communication 2001) and her partner A.J. Washington won third place at the 2006 International Hustle and Salsa Pro Championship, and she won first place at the Hawaiian International Dance Festival. Eulanda twice has been a featured dancer at the Hotlanta Salsa Congress in Atlanta. She owns a photography studio and teaches dance in Denver.



As these examples illustrate, you can do anything you want to do with your liberal arts degree. You are an inspiration to the next generation of graduates from this college.

The Next Generation of Alumni

The College continues to recruit wonderfully talented students with the potential for outstanding achievements in their careers and personal lives, and their numbers are growing. Also growing, however, is the cost of their college education. In response, we are working hard to grow our scholarship endowments.

In social sciences and humanities disciplines, most scholarships are either merit-based or need-based. In the arts and some other disciplines, scholarships also are awarded to attract the talented students necessary to, for example, complete the string section of the orchestra or raise the quality of the ballet studio.

Last year, we added nine new endowed scholarships with donations of over \$185,000. This year we are aiming to more than double that progress. We hope you can help, either by contributing to an already existing fund or by creating a new endowment.

Every unit of the College has existing scholarship funds. Some are named in honor of professors who have retired or are deceased. A list of all the existing scholarship funds in the College is available at <http://www.libarts.colostate.edu/scholarshipsList>.

Please consider a gift that will help the next generation of liberal arts alumni complete their education. To discuss contributing to an existing scholarship fund or setting up a new endowment, contact Kim Tobin, director of development, at Kim.Tobin@colostate.edu.



Scholarship donor and retired professor Jack Curfman with scholarship recipients at our annual donor reception.

Spotlight on Research in Liberal Arts

Research by College of Liberal Arts faculty addresses fundamental problems in diverse areas of human experience.

The economics of rock ‘n’ roll

Like most baby boomers growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, **Ron Phillips**’ future was heavily influenced by the music he played and heard. Now the professor of economics is using rock ‘n’ roll as a microcosm of entrepreneurship.

Thanks to a grant from the Kauffman Foundation, Phillips will write a book about the economics of rock ‘n’ roll and the entrepreneurial spirit that keeps it alive.

“One of the most important industries economically and culturally is the music industry,” Phillips said. “People in the business have to be pretty entrepreneurial.”

Students in Phillips’ senior seminar for economics majors, Entrepreneurship in the Music Industry, will help with the research and economic analysis of such things as whether rap artists sell more records if they’ve gone to jail, where the best place is to release a song, and how technology and the Internet have changed the music industry.

“In order for music to continue, it has to have entrepreneurship,” Phillips said. “Record sales are down, and the industry is in trouble in terms of its business model. Something has to change. The way they earned their income in the past is not the way they will earn it in the future.”



Ron Phillips



Pamela Thurman

Advancing HIV/AIDS prevention in Native American communities

It is a sad secret that HIV/AIDS has grown among Native American populations over the past decade. Prevention can be boosted, and the spread of the disease can be controlled among these groups of people, said **Pamela Jumper Thurman** of the Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity (CASAE) in the College of Liberal Arts.

Thurman is heading up a program in the HIV/AIDS Prevention Project (HAPP) called Advancing HIV/AIDS Prevention in Native Communities, which seeks first to mobilize Native communities to initiate HIV/AIDS prevention efforts and, second, to encourage HIV testing and early detection. The target audience is Native populations throughout the United States – Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

“HIV/AIDS is a sensitive topic that unfortunately has a lot of stigma attached, so getting people to talk about it is essential in prevention,” Thurman said. “With methamphetamine use rising so quickly in rural and reservation areas – yes, even in Hawaii – HIV rates are rising as well.”

HAPP’s directive is to assist communities that are providing HIV/AIDS-related services in order to increase capacity for HIV/AIDS prevention. The ultimate goal, Thurman said, is for the project to work

collaboratively with Native communities to increase effective HIV/AIDS prevention and encourage and support early detection through testing.

The group wants to strengthen community-based organizations serving Native people in order to examine their service methods and improve access to HIV/AIDS services. They also want to increase the proportion of HIV-infected individuals who know they are infected through enhancing early detection.

“The programs help Native communities build infrastructure to initiate HIV programs, and they adapt evidenced-based materials for a Native focus,” Thurman said, adding that CASAE, along with national Capacity Building Assistance partners, Intertribal Council of Arizona, National Native American AIDS Prevention Center, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, initiated the first-ever Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

Helping Katrina survivors tell their stories

Hundreds of thousands of New Orleans-area residents were forced to evacuate their homes because of the damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina, and two years later, many still find themselves separated from that culturally unique city.

Supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the College, two liberal arts faculty members have focused their research on the lives of those who have evacuated and the obstacles they face in returning home.

A new documentary tells the story of three women who anchor a family of 150 people displaced from St. Bernard Parish, La., illustrating the devastation to bonds of love and African-American Southern culture within a family and a community. The film is a collaborative work of Ginny Martin, two-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, and **Kate Browne**, an expert in Afro-Creole populations and professor of anthropology.

Still Waiting: Life After Katrina chronicles how the emotional ecosystem of Connie, Katie, and Janie’s family shows stress under the strain of betrayal first by Mother Nature and then by their ensuing struggle with the system to rebuild their community after Katrina. Filmed between October 2005 and March 2007, the documentary chronicles the family’s journey following their evacuation to Dallas and their eventual return home – an event both hopeful and heartbreaking – to the New Orleans area.

“To me, the heartbreaking irony is that the self-sufficiency practiced by this family for generations



Lori Peek, left, and Kate Browne

positioned them poorly to seek help from the impersonal institutions that are now controlling so much of their lives,” Browne said. “They have no knowledge or experience in dealing with bureaucratic language or mazes. So for the first time in their lives, they are dependent and powerless and becoming seriously worn down.”

For more on the documentary, visit www.stillwaiting.colostate.edu.

Lori Peek, an assistant professor in the College’s Department of Sociology, has been working on two research projects related to the experiences of those affected by the Gulf Coast hurricanes in 2005. One study is tracking the long-term recovery of children in Louisiana, with a specific emphasis on children’s vulnerability, things that adults are doing to reduce children’s vulnerability, and things that children are doing for themselves to aid in their own recovery.

The other study is focused on families who were displaced to the state of Colorado in the aftermath of the storm. More than 14,000 individuals relocated to Colorado in the weeks and months following Katrina, and over 11,000 still remain in the state. Peek is working with a sample of families to understand how children and adults have adjusted to this drastically different social, geographic, and cultural environment.

Peek was recently named associate chair for research projects for the Social Science Task Force on

Hurricane Katrina and Rebuilding the Gulf Coast, a major research effort funded by the Ford, Rockefeller, and MacArthur Foundations.

Studying the many faces of TV scientists

The typical scientist on CBS’s *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* series is an attractive, fashionably dressed professional who works in a state-of-the-art lab solving who-done-it crimes. The portrait of a scientist takes on a different flavor on Discovery Channel’s *Myth Busters* program, where T-shirt-and-jean-clad special effects experts test urban myths by running experiments in an industrial park warehouse.

This variety in scientist portrayals is particularly interesting to one scientist at Colorado State University. **Marilee Long**, a professor in the Department of Journalism and Technical Communication, studies how the media affect support for science and, in particular, how media may influence children to pursue scientific careers.

“Among other sources, media representations of scientists provide children and adolescents with ideas about what it’s like to be a scientist,” Long said. “This study will help us understand more about why they like certain scientist characters and dislike others, which, in turn, will help us predict potential effects.”

Long is currently collaborating on a National Science Foundation-funded study of the presentation of scientists in 14 television programs.



Marilee Long

New Research Centers

The University recognizes two new liberal arts research programs.

Center for Public History and Archaeology

The Center for Public History and Archaeology crosses disciplinary boundaries in a collaboration of research and scholarship that goes to the heart of the American West.

This center has received funding from the Department of Interior and other state and local agencies. Center faculty members are involved in writing the history of public space in the West, including national parks and forests. They also are working with liberal arts students at archaeological digs in Colorado to learn more about our past.

No other land-grant university combines the disciplines of public history and archaeology in this manner. As a result of their unique and excellent work, the faculty and researchers who work with the center anticipate receiving funding for even more projects in the future.

Center for Public Deliberation

The Center for Public Deliberation promotes the development of vibrant deliberative democracy through civic engagement and research.

Trained faculty and undergraduate students support democratic processes in the community by moderating public forums and traditional debates on state and local issues, hosting workshops to train future moderators, and working on special projects connected to public deliberation and collaborative decision making.

Located in the Department of Speech Communication, the Center for Public Deliberation has received grants from the Council on Public Policy Education, the Kettering Foundation, and the Pharos Fund. For more information about the Center for Public Deliberation, visit the website at www.cpd.colostate.edu.

College of Liberal Arts Research and Creativity Centers

Center for Biomedical Research in Music

Center for Literary Publishing

Center for Public Deliberation

Center for Public History and Archeology

Center for Research on Communication and Technologies

Center for Research on the Colorado Economy

Center for Studies in Beckett and Contemporary Theatre Practice

College Retirements

Faculty

James Boyd, Philosophy – 38 years of service

Fred Enssle, History – 42 years of service

Robert Hoffert, Dean, Associate Dean; Philosophy, Political Science – 31 years of service

Terumoto Ozawa, Economics – 39 years of service

David Vancil, Speech Communication – 32 years of service

Research Associate

John Wilkins-Wells, Sociology – 25 years of service

Lecturer

Leslie Noone, English – 30 years of service

Staff

Stephanie Besser, English; Music, Theatre, and Dance – 10 years of service

Vickie Marlatt, Foreign Languages and Literatures – 20 years of service

Mary Kay Pixley, Anthropology – 6 years of service

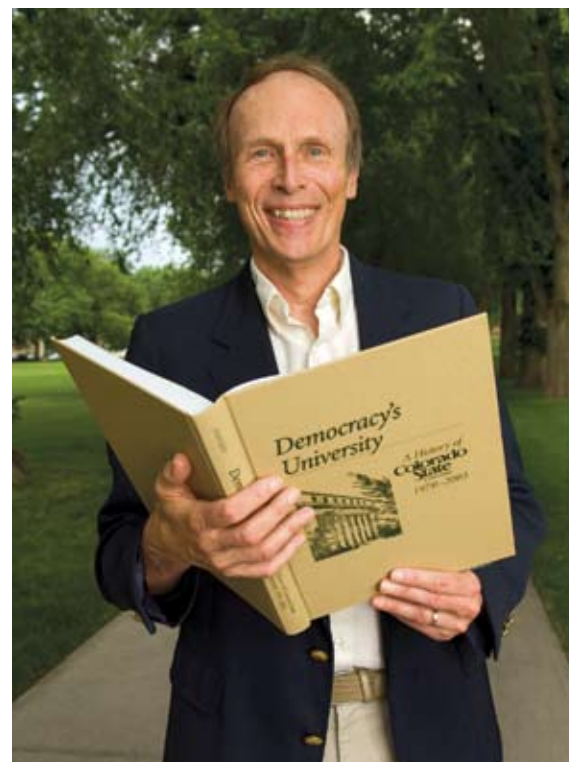
College Highlights

For years, emeritus history Professor **James Hansen** has been researching and documenting Colorado State's past, and now a second volume of his invaluable work has been published.

Democracy's University: A History of Colorado State University, 1970-2003 is available by calling (970) 491-6198 or by e-mailing Resource.Center@ucm.colostate.edu.

"For more than 135 years, intelligent, creative, hardworking people have produced something special. Together they have fashioned and preserved eternal truths and new knowledge of a high order in ways that serve humankind's needs. Few institutions can claim as much."

– James Hansen, from *Democracy's University: A History of Colorado State University, 1970-2003*



In Memory

James Garvey, 1944 – 2006

Professor Emeritus James Garvey passed away December 20, 2006, in Fort Collins. Dr. Garvey was a professor of English and linguistics until his retirement in 2006. "Jim was interested in a great many things – language, literature, music, cooking, and gardening, especially cacti," wrote friend and colleague Gerry Delahunty. "His interests cross-pollinated. He used his interests in cooking to feed, so to speak, his linguistics and his teaching. I will always be grateful to him for his collegiality, his generosity, and his friendship."

Carolyn Duff, (English M.A. 1987) 1941 – 2007

Carolyn Duff, adjunct faculty member in the Department of English, passed away July 4, 2007, in Fort Collins. Ms. Duff taught composition and literature and founded Better Communications Associates and Women Works. She published three books and was a nationally recognized speaker on issues of gender communication in the workplace. Ms. Duff was also an excellent cook and enjoyed sharing her culinary creations with family and friends. According to her family, "She worked hard to ensure the comfortable and loving upbringing of her three children. As a friend, she was supportive, loyal, and involved."



Congratulations to **Wes Kenney**, associate professor of music and music director of the Fort Collins Symphony.

Kenney won the first annual Varna International Conductors Competition held in Varna, Bulgaria. The competition featured conductors from two continents and works by Bartok, Shostakovich, Brahms, Beethoven, and Strauss. As part of the prize, Kenney will return to Bulgaria in the next season for concerts in Varna.

Liberal Arts Associate Deans

What do an Asian scholar who grew up on a Wyoming ranch, an Australian feminist economist, a Native American AIDS prevention researcher, and a trilingual regional economist have in common? They are the delightfully diverse group who currently serve as associate deans for the College. These four high-energy and exceptional individuals represent not only the scholarly and teaching excellence of the College but also its international focus and diversity.

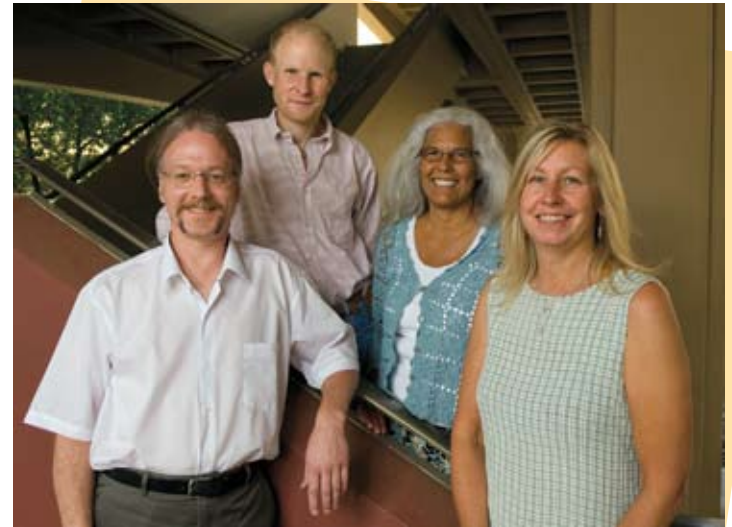
Alexandra Bernasek serves as associate dean for undergraduate studies. She grew up in Australia and speaks with an absolutely charming dialect of Australian English. She is a full professor in the Department of Economics, and her research focuses on gender and the economy. She has played a central role in the recent revision of the University's core curriculum.

Associate dean for faculty and graduate studies **John Didier** is an associate professor in the Department of History. Raised on a remote ranch in Wyoming, he competed in rodeos and served as a pack-trip guide for a dude ranch during his youth. John now is an Asian historian who reads both Chinese and Japanese. Those seated next to him at

meetings observe with great interest that John takes notes using Chinese characters.

Irene Vernon serves both as the associate dean for evaluation and diversity and as director of the Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity. This enormously energetic Mes-calero-Apache/Yaqui/Mexicana is a full professor in the Department of English. Currently, she is working on a five-year research project funded by the Center for Disease Control on AIDS prevention among Native populations.

Associate dean for research, **Stephan Weiler**, recently returned to Colorado State following a stint at the Federal Reserve Bank's Center for the Study of Rural America, where he worked on various research projects focused on regional economic development. Stephan, whose parents are from Central Europe, speaks German and French in addition to English and is a full professor in the Department of Economics. One of his continuing research projects involves microbreweries and their role in local and regional economies.



From left, John Didier, Stephan Weiler, Irene Vernon, and Alexandra Bernasek.

Faculty Excellence

Liberal arts faculty are recognized as distinguished scholars, teachers, and mentors through College and University awards.

The College's **Excellence in Teaching Awards** were presented to **Pamela Coke**, English, for a tenure-track faculty member; **Marie-Jo Hofmann**, foreign languages and literatures, for temporary faculty; and **Tammy Dowling**, English, for a graduate teaching assistant. **Prabha Unnithan**, sociology, received the College's **Award for Distinction in Advancement**, which honors outstanding contributions to the advancement efforts of the College.

Best Teacher Awards are presented by the Colorado State Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Connection to recognize outstanding educators. This year, four of the six University awards were given to College of Liberal Arts faculty: **Pamela Coke**, English; **Lori Peek**, sociology; **Edouard Thai**, foreign languages

and literatures; and **Dexter Yarbrough**, sociology and chief of CSU Police Department.

Blane Harding, liberal arts director of advising, received the prestigious **Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award**, which recognizes meritorious and outstanding achievement over a five-year period by full-time members of the academic faculty.

Sue Ellen Charlton (political science) received the **Margaret Hazaleus Award** for her work to enhance opportunities for women on campus.



Geography Returns to Liberal Arts

The College of Liberal Arts is offering two geography courses to our students this fall, Introduction to Geography and Cultural Geography. Liberal arts ceded the geography area to the College of Natural Resources a number of years ago, but at our request, they returned these two courses to us.

Our plan is to make geography a central piece in our internationalization of the liberal arts curriculum:

The west half of the island of New Guinea also has been known as:

- a) Irian Jaya
- b) West Papua
- c) Netherlands New Guinea
- d) all of the above

Answer: d) all of the above

The New Face – and Faces – of the Clark Building



Every student who attended Colorado State in the last half-century likely had at least one class in the Clark Building. It also is home to more than half the College of Liberal Arts departments as well as the dean's office.

This aging University landmark has undergone marked improvements in the last two years, including a new exterior color scheme. In addition, the Liberal Arts Commons in Clark A-Wing has new furnishings, and tables and chairs added to exterior space beneath B-Wing create places conducive to studying or hanging out with friends between classes.

These photographs capture the various new faces of Clark. Some were taken at the Ram Welcome Street Fair, held on the Friday before classes started.

Student Spotlight

Jake Blumberg makes a difference with his liberal arts education – and his hair.

A wild halo of black curls is his trademark. Communication is his special gift. Colorado State University is one of his passions, and success is his certain future. **Jake Blumberg**, a senior with a double major in technical journalism and political science, is a consummate University citizen.

The Green and Gold runs deep in Jake's family. His mother, **Sue Skiffington Blumberg** (1977), and sister, **Beth Blumberg Sauer** (1996), are graduates of the Department of Speech Communication, and his aunt also is an alumna. Apparently if you grow up singing the Colorado State fight song, even an acceptance to Northwestern University cannot keep a fellow like Jake from becoming a Ram.

His record of service and academic success were evident during high school in Colorado Springs where, among many other honors, Jake was named by the Colorado Springs mayor as one of the city's "100 teens who embody community spirit." At Colorado State, Jake not only embodies community spirit, he kindles it.

Jake is the director of public relations and marketing at the CSU Office of Service Learning and Volunteer Programs. Cans Around the Oval, Northern Colorado's largest food drive, is organized by Colorado State student volunteers. Jake has been a leader in that project. This drive generated 140,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank of Larimer County last year. Jake cites Cans Around the Oval as one of his two favorite Colorado State traditions.



Among the many other service activities in which Jake played a leadership role is Cookies for Kids, which benefited underprivileged youth in Larimer County, and Trash Your Tree, a domestic violence protection project that raised funds for a local shelter.

And about that helmet of curly hair ... when it is sufficiently long, Jake cuts it all off and donates it to Locks of Love, an organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss.

Jake excels at both writing and public speaking. He has been a columnist and a staff writer for the *Rocky Mountain Collegian*, and he was named one of the top 10 college editorialists in the nation in 2006 by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Journalism Awards Program. Jake also writes for his hometown newspaper. Included on a relatively long list of career goals is his plan to write novels.

Both Jake's oral communication and leadership skills were honed by participation in the President's Leadership Program. He went on to become the first

undergraduate to teach in that program. Both the College and the University have tapped this young man's extraordinary public speaking skills. Jake was the featured speaker at the College of Liberal Arts annual scholarship awards reception in 2006 as well as at the Alumni Association's Green and Gold Gala in Denver in spring 2007.

You may be wondering about Jake's other favorite Colorado State tradition. It is the annual Rocky Mountain Showdown, featuring the-Rams-versus-the-Buffs rivalry on the football field as well as in the stands. This event, to the delight of Jake and Rams fans everywhere, returned to INVESCO Field in Denver again this fall, where Jake could be seen shouting encouragement to the Rams and offering a bit of spirited commentary to students from Boulder.

Jake's passion for the institution, for the larger community, and for making a difference is infectious. The University's spirit burns a little brighter when Jake Blumberg is involved.



Distinguished Alumni

The Colorado State University Alumni Association recently awarded three College of Liberal Arts alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards.



Michael Nosler (history 1969) was named College of Liberal Arts Honor Alumnus. For the majority of his 30-year legal career, Mike has practiced law at Rothgerber, Johnson, & Lyons in Denver, where he is the leader of the Employment Law Division and served as managing partner for the firm. Under his leadership, the *Denver Business Journal* voted Rothgerber, Johnson, & Lyons one of the “Best Places to Work” in Denver.

Throughout his career, Mike has been committed to promoting diversity in the law profession. In 2001, he created the Diversity in Law Scholarship, whereby Rothgerber, Johnson, & Lyons provide scholarship funds for up to eight Colorado State students who are considering careers in law or criminal justice.



Kathleen Henry (social science 1970) received the Jim and Nadine Henry Award, which is given in recognition of exemplary service to Colorado State University.

A third-generation Colorado native, Kathleen returned to her alma mater in 1982 to become vice president of the Colorado State University Research Foundation (CSURF). Kathleen later became president of CSURF and also was appointed president of Colorado State University Foundation.

In addition to serving on numerous community boards and organizations, Kathleen is an avid supporter of CSU athletics. She is a founding member of the Touchdown Club and is a member of the Ram Club and Ram’s Horn Club. She served on the Colorado State University Alumni Association Board of Directors and is a Life Member of the Alumni Association.



Joel Cantalamessa (technical journalism 1995) is the recipient of the Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Award, which recognizes a recent graduate for outstanding career and service accomplishments.

Never venturing far from the “Ram family,” Joel’s vision was to create a way for alumni and friends of the University to keep in touch with each other and share their Ram pride. In 2000, he founded RamNation.com, a website dedicated to news coverage of Colorado State University athletics.

Joel also has been a volunteer for the annual Ram Club membership drive and served on the Ram Club Board of Directors, where he has been instrumental in reintroducing the Colorado State University Denver Athletic Leadership Committee.

He currently serves as quality control manager for Startz Entertainment Group and also as president of The Black Diamond Group, a marketing and advertising company in Parker, Colorado.

The Colorado State University Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Awards program recognizes Colorado State University alumni and friends who have distinguished themselves professionally, brought honor to the University, and made significant contributions of time and/or philanthropy to the University or their community.

The College of Liberal Arts Newsletter is published annually by the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University for alumni, faculty, and friends. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Written and edited by Ann Gill and Catherine Coleman Kane with contributions from Pat Ferrier of the *Fort Collins Coloradoan*, Nik Olsen, and Kim Tobin.

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Advancing the Liberal Arts

It is truly amazing what our alumni have done with their liberal arts degrees. The article "So, What Can You Do with a Liberal Arts Degree?" highlights some of the interesting and unique careers that a liberal arts education prepares you for. As the director of development for the College, I have the privilege of meeting many of our alumni and hearing fascinating stories about their varied careers. It is especially meaningful to hear about the faculty members who had an impact on them while they were at Colorado State.

Over the past year, Dean Gill and I reconnected with some of our 32,000 alumni not only in Colorado, but also throughout the western United States. These gatherings are always lively, and participants enjoy exchanging stories and networking with fellow Rams. For those of you who joined us, thank you for attending our events; for those of you have not done so yet, please watch your mailbox for invitations to events in your area.



A highlight of the year was working with one of our graduating seniors to facilitate the largest gift ever from a student to this University. **Sami Bedell** (liberal arts 2006) wanted to make a difference for future students, so she established the Bedell World Citizenship Scholarship as well as contributed to the existing Ethnic Studies Scholarship. Her generosity and philanthropic spirit are truly an inspiration.

We also have many wonderful supporters in the community who value the liberal arts and are engaged with the College in a variety of ways. One of these ways is through a program called Great Conversations. Great Conversations members gather in a local home to hear a liberal arts faculty member talk about their research. It has become one of the flagship programs in the College of Liberal Arts, as it draws academia and the community closer together.

Our scholarship program continues to grow as a result of many generous contributors. The College of Liberal Arts is home to 25 percent of the University's undergraduate majors, which creates significant competition for financial aid. This demand, combined with rising tuition costs, has prompted us to prioritize fundraising for scholarships and other aid for students.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the College of Liberal Arts and its programs.

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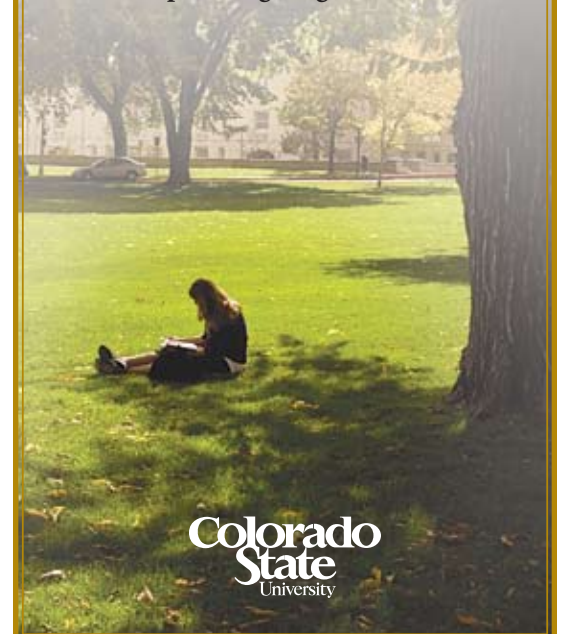
Two Ways to MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Create an endowment. You can do this now with cash or stock, or later with an estate gift. Your fund will make a lasting difference by producing income every year for the purpose you choose.

Leave a bequest. Designate an amount or percentage of your estate for a specific purpose or for unrestricted use. Your gift will provide encouragement and always make a difference.

For more information on ways you can make a difference at Colorado State, call toll-free **1-866-CSU-GIVE** (1-866-278-4483) or e-mail SupportCSU@ua.colostate.edu

Visit www.plannedgiving.colostate.edu



The College has a new look!

Visit our new website at:

www.colostate.edu/Colleges/LibArts

Make sure to check out the College Events page for up-to-date listings of performances, exhibitions, and lectures.



Message from the Dean

“Insight, I believe, refers to the depth of understanding that comes by setting experiences, yours and mine, familiar and exotic, new and old, side by side, learning by letting them speak to one another.”
– Mary Catherine Bateson

Diversity not only is a fact of contemporary life but also a goal in Colorado State’s strategic plan. In recognition of the central role played by the College of Liberal Arts in reaching that goal, this edition of the *News/letter* celebrates the wonderful array of careers, lives, experiences, and backgrounds of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff.

As part of our diversity efforts, we are internationalizing the curriculum. Our faculty is well equipped for that task. Each



summer they leave campus and travel the globe. As just a few examples, members of the faculty went to Israel to study the Palestinian conflict and to Japan and South Korea to research colonialism in East Asia. Faculty members performed opera in Italy and on the organ in Austria. They studied the epistemology of the Nahua in Mexico and ethnomedical practices in Vietnam. They led study abroad programs in Granada and Germany and a faculty study tour of India. They looked for early human remains in Uzbekistan, researched the role of the bicycle on women’s emancipation in France, and participated in a conference on sustainable agriculture in Bolivia.

The feature article in this issue concerns the diversity of alumni careers. We hope the article will inspire you to contact us with an update on your own career and life since graduation. Conver-

sations with alumni from Anchorage to Dallas and from Duke’s Malibu Restaurant in Santa Monica to Mattie’s House of Mirrors in Denver demonstrated to me not only the diversity of our alumni but also the characteristics they share. Without exception, the individuals I have met are talented, interesting, civic-minded, and engaging. You are cause for celebration.

I extend sincere appreciation to all alumni who remain an active part of the Colorado State liberal arts community and express particular gratitude to those who have contributed their time or money to support our programs and current students.

Although most of our lives fall somewhere on a continuum from scattered to frantic, I hope we can find time to communicate during this academic year.

Ann M. Gill, Dean
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