

The College of

LIBERAL ARTS

Fall 2009

The Planet is Our Campus

From Antarctica to the Arctic Circle, liberal arts faculty and students engage the work of the world on every continent. The impacts of their work are both local and global, internationalizing the campus community in ways that remind us, whatever our national identities, we are also citizens of the planet.

Some international projects impact students directly by taking them abroad. For example, choral conductor **James Kim** and the CSU Chamber Choir performed at the Third Grand Prix Choral Festival hosted by the city of Changwon in South Korea. They were the first nonprofessional choral group to be invited to perform at this festival.

Mike Hogan and **Tara Shelley**, sociology, took student groups to the Czech Republic to study efforts to reform its criminal justice system. With the help of local officials and government ministry staff, students explored issues relating to war crimes, political corruption, drug crime, and social justice involving the Roma population.

Other faculty projects create intercultural connections. Students study modern dance with **Chung-Fu Chang**, a highly regarded dancer whose choreography is a unique blend of East and West. As Chang notes, "Even when the students perform movement rooted in a culture that is not necessarily their own by

birth, they give it a uniquely global inflection that is also very 'American.'" Chang and his students performed by invitation at Festival Internacional de Danza Contemporanea Avant Garde in Merida, Mexico.

Some faculty projects expand our understanding of monumental social change. To explore the ways in which the collapse of the Soviet Union created massive economic dislocation for Cuba in the 1990s, **Maria del Mar López-Cabrales**, foreign languages and literatures, interviewed women writers and artists whose work reflected this decade-long period of rationing and distress. She was inspired by this work, as she notes: "The women I met and interviewed in Cuba were some of the strongest and most committed writers and artists I have known."



Kris Kodrich, journalism and technical communication, travels to Latin America frequently to work with journalists and study the challenges facing the press in this region of the world. Kodrich explains, "Journalists worldwide are struggling to figure out new ways to remain relevant to citizens as well as to develop new economic models to continue to make journalism viable in the 21st century."

Other projects remind us that we trade in culture as well as material goods. **Barbara Sebek**, English, hunts for "traces of the global in early modern writing." For instance, scholars and theater-goers have long viewed *The Merry Wives of Windsor* as the most "English" of Shakespeare's comedies because of its domestic setting. But it is in fact shot through



with impressions of the wider world, from Spanish wines (technically a forbidden import when the play was written and first performed), to Venetian head-dresses, to imported pepperboxes and pet monkeys.

Some faculty research impacts the lives of citizens of other nations and the health of the planet. In an effort to provide more environmentally friendly and sustainable production methods, our Center for Fair and Alternative Trade is providing technical support to small farmers in midaltitude Andean valleys who want to pursue organic farming. **Doug Murray**, sociology (pictured above), worked with three-country teams interviewing farmers, consumers, government officials, and others to assess consumer support for local organic produce.

Phil Risbeck, art, was honored by two countries for his contribution to international graphic arts. He received an Honorary Faculty Appointment from the Hubei Institute of Fine Arts in China and an Honorable Diploma for Contributions to World and Russian Poster Art from the Moscow Academy of Fine Arts.

Occasionally, networks of international faculty share their research on the Colorado State campus. The Korea Foundation funded a collaboration between Colorado State University and Yonsei University in Seoul. A conference on our campus was hosted by **Joon Kim**, ethnic studies, and a faculty

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member from Yonsei. The conference focused on issues that challenge the social customs and political practices of liberal-democratic countries in Asia, including interethnic marriages, multicultural education, and immigrant rights.

Faculty research enhances international studies curricula at CSU, in the public schools, and across the world. The U.S. Department of Education funded a two-year initiative to enhance the Middle East and North Africa concentration in the international studies major and to promote the study of Arabic. Co-directed by **Mary Vogl** and **Mohammed Hirchi**, foreign languages and literatures, this grant has allowed the creation of new courses and outreach to the public schools. It also has provided faculty development on topics including the geography of these regions, sustainable development, Islamic feminism, and innovative Arabic typesetting.

Robert Kling and **Steven Shulman**, economics, have established a curriculum development project with Foreign Trade University (FTU) of Hanoi, Vietnam (pictured at top). More than 40 economics and business courses will be taught at FTU by CSU faculty to three cohorts of 75 to 80 students over the next five years. Exchange coordinators anticipate that FTU students will travel to CSU for more advanced study in economics, and FTU faculty will come for postgraduate training in research methods and pedagogical practice.

The Department of English celebrated its 10th year of association with the Peace Corps Master's International (PCMI). Coordinated by **Gerald Delahunty**, this initiative allows students to complete their course work for an M.A., fulfill their Peace Corps assignment, and then return to finish their final projects – theses, independent studies, or portfolios that integrate their Peace Corps experiences with academic study. To date, these students have served in Eastern Europe, Africa, and South America.

Four Chilean university professors visited CSU as part of a curricular collaboration project for which **Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala**, English, served as international consultant. These professors were funded by the Chilean Ministry of Education to develop a competency-based curriculum for the preparation of teachers of English as a foreign language at two Chilean institutions.

Spotlight on Research in Liberal Arts

Research by College of Liberal Arts faculty spans the globe.

Legacies of resilience

What can contemporary humans learn about responding to climate change from prehistoric societies? One Colorado State archaeology professor and his graduate students are part of a team that is spending summers in Mexico seeking answers to this question.

Christopher Fisher was awarded a senior research grant from the National Science Foundation for work within the Lake Pátzcuaro Basin in the central Mexican state of Michoacán. At the time of European conquest, the lake basin was the geopolitical core of the Purépecha (Tarascan) Empire.

The Purépecha Empire controlled much of western Mexico with a mutually fortified frontier shared with their rivals to the east, the Aztecs. The Lake Basin contained a dense population, centralized settlement systems, an engineered environment, and a socially stratified society.

Already, the team has investigated an ancient island within the Lake Basin called Apúpato. Discovered on the island are a small pyramid, several platforms, a large central structure that is likely an imperial treasury mentioned in historic documents, and an early 16th-century colonial chapel. The team used global positioning equipment to survey every structure, historic and prehistoric, they encountered,

recording 16 settlements including hundreds of ancient agricultural terraces.

“By walking over the entire island, we were able to document 2,000 years of continuous occupation, climate change, and a highly engineered environment,” says Fisher.

During this past summer, the team found a previously unknown settlement on the edge of a rugged forested area. They estimate that more than 1,600 intact residences will be located at the site and that more than 10,000 individuals inhabited the small city. Among other structures, they have identified granary bases, temples and shrines, small pyramids, and other complexes.

In a report back to campus, Fisher also noted encounters with “rattlesnakes, tarantulas, scorpions, black widow spiders, brown recluse spiders, nasty dogs, a couple of angry farmers, and a possible meth lab.”

The researchers’ intensive survey and mapping allows them to explore relationships between climatic fluctuation, landscape change, and the formation of this pre-Hispanic empire. Not only will the research provide fascinating information about the past, but it also will provide prehistoric case studies that can aid modern conservation efforts in the region.

Dynamics of politics in the Middle East

Islamist groups operating throughout the Middle East and North Africa are neither unified nor uniform in their political aims and activities. Differing from violent Islamist groups that we almost exclusively hear about in the United States, many Islamist organizations renounce violence, provide social services, and transform into political parties or groups with significant political power.

Based on her research on Islamist organizations in the Middle East, **Gamze Cavdar**, political science, concludes: “These are the strongest opposition groups pushing for political reform in the region” who “will continue to shape the local and regional politics in the years ahead. In other words, these groups are the future of the Middle East and North Africa.” Part of her research seeks to understand how these Islamist groups and political parties operate and what their decision-making mechanisms are.

One of the groups Cavdar studies is Turkey’s ruling party, the Justice and Development Party. In the JDP’s transformation from an Islamist group to a non-Islamist group, Cavdar finds parallels to the transformation of communists after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Over the course of its transforma-



Christopher Fisher



Gamze Cavdar

tion, the actions and discourse of the Turkish Islamist movement became more liberal and pluralist.

What seemed resistant to change, however, were issues relating to women. She found that “the transformation was not taking place evenly across issue areas; gender was lagging behind other issues such as foreign policy, environment, and economy.” In an effort to explain this disparity, Cavdar is gathering data regarding the party’s gender policy and conducting interviews with Turkish women’s organizations. Her findings not only will bring to U.S. audiences a more fulsome understanding of Islamist groups and their development but also shed light on women’s issues in this region of the world.

Peace, science, and shared sovereignty in Antarctica

Antarctica was first seen by humans around 1820, with Great Britain, the United States, and Russia each claiming credit for its discovery. The continent came to the world’s attention during the so-called “heroic era” of Antarctic exploration in the early 20th century, as explorers competed to become the first to arrive at the South Pole. Today, the central role of Antarctica in the global climate system is again bringing the southern continent to the attention of the international community, as melting ice in Antarctica has the potential to raise sea levels around the world.

Adrian Howkins, who joined the history department in 2008 to teach international environmental history, is studying the sovereignty dispute that took place from 1939 to 1959 between Great Britain, Argentina, and Chile in the Peninsula region of Antarctica. On several occasions, the dispute threatened to turn violent.

The British argued that only they had the scientific knowledge and administrative experience to manage the Antarctic whaling industry in a sustainable manner. The Argentines and Chileans claimed the Andes Mountains continued beneath the Drake Passage to re-emerge in the Antarctic Peninsula as the “Antarcandes,” thereby physically connecting this region with South America.

The active period of the dispute came to an end in 1959, when 12 nations negotiated the Antarctic Treaty. This treaty suspended the question of sovereignty for its duration, effectively internationalizing the continent around the ideals of peace and science. It is often cited as one of the world’s most successful and innovative international treaties.

Howkins suggests that Antarctica offers an excellent location for thinking about the history of human interaction with the natural world: “Less than 100 years ago, during the heroic era of exploration, Antarctica was seen as an almost impenetrable wilderness. Today, it is the fragility of the Antarctic environment and its vulnerability to climate change that often gets most attention. With the addition of the 1991 Madrid Protocol to the Antarctic Treaty, the Antarctic continent has arguably become the most protected environment anywhere in the world.”

To date, Howkins’ research has taken him to historical archives around the world, including England, Argentina, Chile, Washington, D.C., and Columbus, Ohio, which is the location of the Byrd Polar Research Institute. The most memorable according to Howkins is the Falkland Islands archive in Stanley, “with a permanent population of around 2,000 people and half a million sheep.”



Adrian Howkins



Deborah Yalen

The Soviet Union shtetl

“Shtetl” is the Yiddish term (pl: shtetlekh) denoting the market towns of Eastern Europe where many Jews lived prior to World War II.

“The shtetl,” according to **Deborah Yalen**, history, “occupies a central place in modern Jewish history and literature, and in the post-Holocaust era, it has become nothing less than a metonym for the lost world of Eastern European Jewry. While today the shtetl is subject to a good deal of nostalgic idealization, at the turn of the last century, many Jews across the ideological spectrum viewed the shtetl as a symbol of Jewish cultural backwardness.”

Yalen is writing a book about Soviet shtetlekh and Bolshevik policy towards these Jewish market towns between the two world wars. She views the Soviet campaign to modernize the shtetl not merely as a case of an aggressive regime imposing its will on a passive ethnic minority but also considers the ways in which Jewish scholars and political activists, many affiliated with the Communist Party, contributed to the transformation of the shtetl.

Yalen compares the Bolsheviks’ policy toward the shtetl with their campaigns to modernize other traditional communities, including peasants, Muslims, and nomadic tribal peoples. This larger utopian Bolshevik project envisioned a total transformation of human consciousness and geographical space across the multiethnic expanse of the U.S.S.R. Yalen finds important differences between policy toward the shtetl and these other campaigns.

Spotlight on Alumni

Alumni are changing the global community.

Liberal arts alumni make a positive impact in the global community and affect the lives of others in unique ways. We tell the stories of three such alumni using their own words.

The translator

Meagan Hoff (foreign languages and literatures '07) is finishing two years of service for the Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa.

"The year was 2007. I was sitting in a CSU classroom; it was our first day of interpretation. We have spent the entire semester translating various texts, but this was the real thing: instant translation, no notes, no time to think. I remember how fun it was laughing at each others' mistakes. For our test, we were told the subject of what we would be interpreting and given a vocabulary list to study. Flash forward to this month. There I was standing in front of a room full of people from various West African countries, translating for a Ghanaian king. The subject: Moringa, "the miracle tree"; vocabulary list: nonexistent.



"I spent a week in Burkina Faso attending a conference to discuss the new hot topic, Moringa. In light of the world food crisis and the rains that have yet to arrive, there is worry of famine. Moringa is a tree that grows in a variety of conditions and has leaves packed with vitamins, minerals, and protein. If prepared correctly and eaten regularly it could greatly cut down on malnutrition. So the Peace Corps brought together volunteers as well as host-country national representatives for Burkina Faso, Togo, Niger, Benin, and Ghana to gather all the information that currently exists in the hopes of creating a guide to distribute to future volunteers all over Africa.

"The idea was great but there were some technicalities to overcome, the most cumbersome being language. Burkina, Benin, and Togo are all French-speaking, thus all host-country nationals spoke only French, with the volunteers being bilingual with a range of abilities in French. Ghana is English-speaking and the language of Niger is Zarma.

"It was decided that all important points needed to be stated in both French and English with volunteers doing simultaneous interpretation into Zarma. The sessions were endless. Every country but Ghana had their own translators. I became the official translator for Ghana at a two-hour presentation followed by a question-and-answer session.

"Having learned all about Moringa in French, I had the technical vocabulary, but the king began talking about the various health issues that can be cured by Moringa. I was lost. It would not have been nearly so intimidating had I not been in a room half-full of bilingual people who could decipher every mistake I made. Fortunately, they also could help with the holes in my vocabulary.

"Even though I was only up there for two hours out of the four days, I became known as "the translator." I don't think I did half badly with the exception being when I had questions and answers coming in both French and English and all needing to be translated. I had just finished restating a French question in French when I realized I was supposed to be translating into English.

"My sad attempts at using Zarma with the Nigerians at the conference have inspired me to learn it. I am accustomed to learning language from a book, thus learning to read and write and then speak. But Zarma is a spoken language; no one can read or write in it. So while I do know a little Zarma, it is entirely worthless so far because I can't communicate. *C'est la vie!*"



Crafting better lives

Kevin Lynn McCarthy (fine arts '06) graduated with an emphasis in fibers and a minor in merchandising. She currently lives in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

"Two years before I graduated, I met an American woman who started a craft business in Bamako, Mali. By negotiating to receive University credit, I was able to work with her as a product designer that summer. The rest of my CSU studies surrounded the idea of a profession in the craft sector in developing countries around the world.

"I focused my study in fine arts on using repurposed materials and focused my marketing interest on overseas production and its effects on local people. I strove to find a profitable intersection between beautiful and culturally relevant handmade items and an improved quality of life for underprivileged, often-exploited producers who lived and worked in harsh environments overseas.

"In March 2007, I jumped at the opportunity to move to Port-au-Prince, where I became involved with several organizations and began several design and production projects. I then decided to start my own craft design and consulting business.

"One day in early 2008 I invented RARA bags in my sewing room while playing with trash, which is unfortunately one of Haiti's most prevalent 'resources.' I began to sell them in local stores, and now I train unemployed women, often with little education, to weave and sew these bags. As long as a group of producers has access to at least one sewing machine, RARA bags can be made from almost completely repurposed materials. These materials include collected postconsumer waste, trash on the



street, fabric from used clothing and/or donations of fabric scraps from the local garment industry, and hardware from the local market.

“Now, RARA bags have caught on like wildfire; we can hardly keep up with demand! We are currently filling orders for both Haitian- and United States-based retailers. The future of RARA bags lies in our effort to turn it over to a local production manager as a profitable business.

“My plan is to move from country to country and continue to design products and set up businesses in underprivileged communities around the world.”

Words celebrating the world

Sandra Meek (English '86, M.F.A. creative writing '89) served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Manyana, Botswana, 1989-1991. She is poetry editor of the *Phi Kappa Phi Forum*, a co-founding editor of *Ninebark Press*, director of the Georgia Poetry Circuit, and professor of English, rhetoric, and writing at Berry College.

Meek recently published her third book of poems, *Biogeography*, the 2006 winner of the Dorset Award. Her previous publications include two books, a chapbook, and an edited anthology of works by poets traveling abroad, which was awarded a 2008 Independent Publisher Book Award Gold Medal. She has published more than 100 poems in journals such as *Agni*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poetry*, *Conjunctions*, *Green Mountains Review*, and *The Iowa Review*, and she has twice been named Georgia Author of the Year. She also was awarded the Peace Corps Writers Award in Poetry.

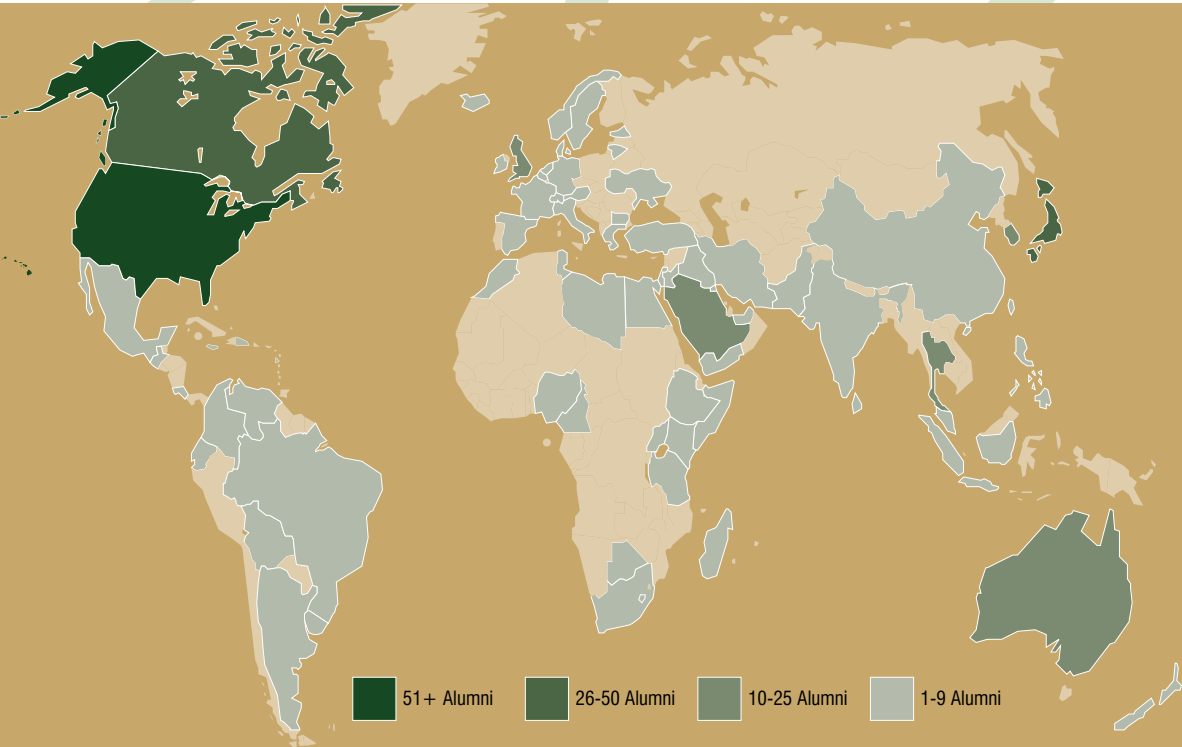
Reply Without Gazelles

A month for funerals. Lightning strokes striking tenanted fields. Each Saturday we passed printed pamphlets, faces coming off on our hands: Rre Modise, seventy years a dark unpeeling. The sound of spoons. Morning, one distant shot pierced the heart of – No. Morning, we killed a bull for the funeral feast. Such a wide circle to feed. Relatives mud-streaking the windows to sign grief. Inside, the old story. The black-wrapped widow shaving children’s heads. Scalps flickering, smooth bones turning a loose socket, blank new world, the too familiar room. What it’s like without. Women wake in the borrowed soldiers’ tent nursing candles. Men by the fire. Separation. Small lights in the night. Cries of crowned plovers, this old habit of naming. *What’s it like to wake to gazelles every morning tell me about Africa.* There was this funeral. A lightning storm. An old man ploughing his field. First rains. Dry ground. Fallow rivers of termites. I heard them digging the grave, the laughing pitched against stones. A pearl-spotted owl stuttering against thorns. A sound unidentified moving through the unelectrified night. Morning turns with the shovel. Din of roosters. The sun in a tin basin, we washed off death at the gate each Saturday, how we ate and ate.

– The Iowa Review



Alumni Around the World



In a chest bump Rams fans long will remember, Gartrell Johnson (liberal arts '09) celebrates with Miami Dolphins linebacker and former Ram Joey Porter (liberal arts) during the 2008 BYU game.

In Memory

Susan W. Furniss

(political science M.S. '67) 1924-2008

Susan W. Furniss, a longtime professor in political science, passed away Dec. 5, 2008, in St. Paul, Minn. Furniss was appointed to the faculty in 1967 and served through 1982. Besides her research and teaching in the area of American politics, she was passionate about political campaigns and partisan politics. She served as vice chairwoman and chairwoman of the Larimer County Democratic Party; was a member of the Democratic National Committee, the National Democratic Charter Commission, and the Democratic National Commission on Presidential Primaries; and served on the State Board of Agriculture and the advisory board for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

Upon her departure from CSU, Furniss managed the Denver office of United States Senator Gary Hart. Locally, she served as chairwoman of Crossroads Safe House. She earned a B.A. from Smith College, master's degrees from the University of Minnesota and Colorado State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado.

James R. Jordan

1931-2009

James Jordan, professor of ancient history for more than 30 years, died July 25, 2009, at home after a long illness. Jordan joined the history department in 1967 and taught courses on the Ancient Near East, Greece, Rome, and Israel. He retired in 1998 with a distinguished record of teaching and service to the history department, the College of Liberal Arts, and the University.

Jordan's talent and dedication as a teacher of undergraduate students, combined with his many contributions to the Honors Program, are highlights of his academic career. He served as associate director of the Honors Program from 1981 to 1984 and was designated an "Honors Prof" in 1981. In 1983, Jordan received the Oliver P. Pennock Award for excellence in teaching – a University recognition for a sustained record of outstanding achievement.

In addition to bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from Baptist Bible Seminary and Dallas Theological Seminary, respectively, Jordan received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in history from the University of Minnesota.

College Highlights

International Poster Exhibition

The 16th Colorado International Poster Exhibition opens Oct. 2 and highlights excellence in poster design from leading and emerging graphic designers from around the globe. Now in its 30th year, the exhibition will be featured at the University Art Museum with posters by 81 artists from 27 countries.

This exhibition series was founded in 1989 with the goal to promote international understanding, tolerance, and dialogue through the graphic arts. Through the display of international posters, the program honors diverse points of view and celebrates freedom of expression.

In each biennial year, a single outstanding artist is chosen as Honor Laureate. This year's laureate is Iranian designer Majid Abbasi, the first honoree from the Middle East. His beautiful work is rooted in Iranian history and culture and brings these elements to contemporary issues.

Despite dramatic shifts in communication methods, posters have survived and thrived, as is evident from streetscapes around the world. Every two years, the Colorado International Poster Exhibition brings glimpses of this world to our campus.

To view posters from the exhibition series, please visit: <http://lib.colostate.edu/posters>.



Poster by Honor Laureate, Majid Abbasi.

Liberal Arts Advising Center



Our Advising Center has expanded significantly. As the number of majors in the college has grown, we have moved to a system of professional advising for most students in their first and second years as well as for students pursuing a minor.

Advisers are highly trained in the requirements for all liberal arts disciplines, allowing them to be effective in helping students explore majors, make good choices among core curriculum options, and identify a path for graduation in four years. Long-time liberal arts adviser Blane Harding serves as director of this center.

Pictured with Blane Harding (seated) are, clockwise from his right, JoAnn Cornell, Michelle Turner, Marcy Abrams, Alexandra Carter, Toni-Lee Viney, and Elizabeth Terry.

Milestone for the Visual Arts

After much anticipation and years of planning, the University Art Museum opened in April.

The museum, located in the University Center for the Arts, has four discrete galleries that offer flexibility for the installation of small or large exhibitions. This will allow some 3,000 objects, including Japanese prints, African sculptures, Warhol photographs, and contemporary art, to rotate through the space. The museum is equipped with museum-standard climate control systems, lighting, and security.

"The opening of the University Art Museum is a milestone for the visual arts and CSU," said museum director Linny Frickman. "Having a home for our growing permanent collection and museum-standard exhibition spaces for loans and traveling exhibitions has been a dream of the art department for decades."



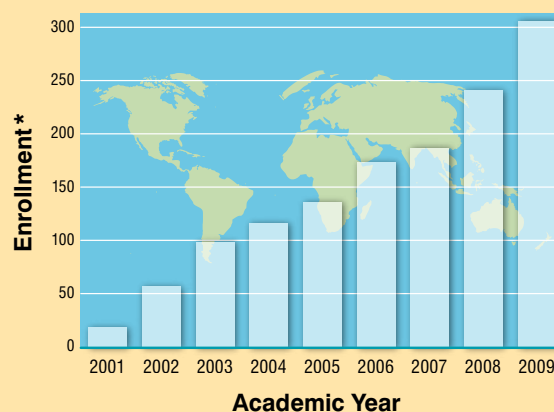
To view a schedule of exhibitions at the University Art Museum, please visit www.artmuseum.colostate.edu/exhibitions/exhibitions.



International studies growing

This concentration in the interdisciplinary liberal arts major, is a rapidly growing and dynamic part of our undergraduate curriculum. Students choose from four areas of study: Asian studies, European studies, Latin American studies, or Middle East and North African studies.

Outstanding students are attracted to this field of study, and we expect this rapid growth to continue when it becomes a stand-alone major, which we hope will occur in 2010.



*Liberal Arts majors with an International Studies concentration according to the Registrar's Office.

Faculty and Staff Excellence

The college's John N. Stern Award, which recognizes exemplary professional accomplishments, was awarded to **Harvey Cutler**, economics. The Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to **Courtenay Daum**, political science, for tenure-track faculty; **Laura Thomas**, English, for special instructors; and **Eli Weber**, philosophy, for graduate teaching assistants.

Greg Luft, journalism and technical communication; **Steven Moore**, music, theatre, and dance; and **Mary Vogl**, foreign languages and literatures, received the college's Award for Distinction in Advancement.

Chung-Fu Chang, music, theatre, and dance, received a Best Teacher Award from the Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Connection.

The University's Jack E. Cermak Outstanding Advisor Award was presented to **Andrea Purdy**, foreign languages and literatures.

Paola Malpezzi-Price, foreign languages and literatures, was awarded the Lifetime Distinguished International Service Award, which recognizes faculty who have made a significant impact campuswide on internationalization efforts at Colorado State University.

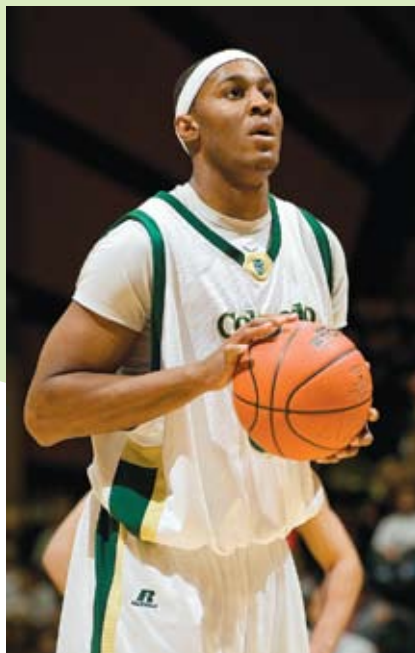
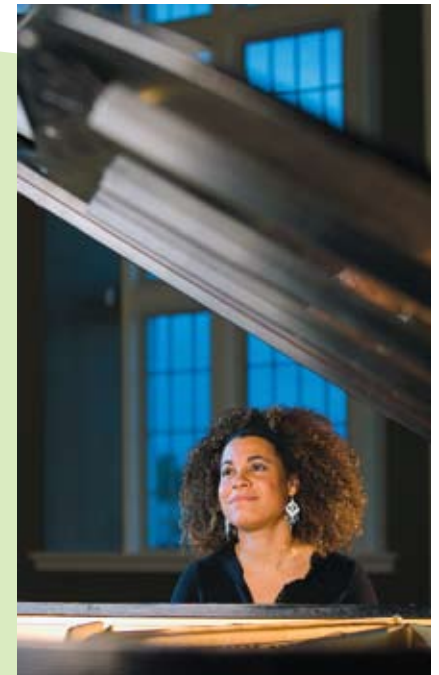
The Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award, which honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and the multiethnic community, was presented to **Eric Aoki**, communication studies.

The University's Outstanding Achievement Award was given to **Marcy Abrams**, academic advising, and **Christine Bartholomew**, journalism and technical communication.

2008-2009 Retiring Faculty

John Kutzik, art, 42 years of service
Grant Lee, philosophy, 42 years of service
Janet Morrow King, music, theatre, and dance, 24 years of service
Christine Nelson, art, 21 years of service
Dennis Phillips, communication studies, 36 years of service
David Shaner, music, theatre, and dance, 24 years of service
Lawrence Todd, anthropology, 17 years of service

Faces of the College of Liberal Arts



Spotlight on Students

International students and students with international experience enrich the campus environment. Two such students tell their stories in their own words.

Olga Mesiats

Olga Mesiats is an undergraduate with a double major in economics and finance who was born in the former Soviet Union.

"When I was born, I involuntarily was submerged into the communist culture with religion being rejected and names of Stalin and Lenin worshiped. By my first grade, I learned how to blend in and think like everyone else.

"By the end of my first grade, as the portraits of Lenin were removed from the classrooms and the U.S.S.R. collapsed, I was told to explore my individuality and learn to think democratically. I was confused. Who was I, and what did I believe in?

"At 17, I packed my bags and moved away from my family and friends, in search of my individuality and values. I found them in the Christian culture prevailing at a new school, LCC International University, located in the neighboring democratic country of Lithuania.

"In Lithuania, I saw the way people should be treated and decided to make a change. I became an active member of the youth opposition organization, Molodoi Front, fighting for the establishment of Belarusian democracy. With every offensive word I heard from the police officers in Belarus, with every physical punishment I received, I became stronger. With each tear I dropped, I knew there was something bigger for me.

"I then escaped the torturous darkness of my past, claiming political asylum and finding my shelter here in the United States. With my admission to CSU about two years ago, I discovered that I have a passion for statistical research and data analysis.

"Living in the United States, I still cherish my dream to contribute to rebuilding and restructuring transition countries, like Belarus. Ultimately, I plan to work for a nongovernment organization that focuses on transition countries, because I believe that a better future of the world, free of economic crisis, can be achieved only by building the infrastructure and confidence of the developing world.

"Now I know where I belong. My priorities are being free and letting others enjoy this freedom of mine. Being a part of the CSU community is a great stepping stone to my bright future."

Michelle Garcia

Michelle Garcia, a senior with a double major in anthropology and French, spent a year studying in Ireland and traveling through Europe.

"I am the daughter of a single mother and a dead father, the sister of three brothers and one sister, and most importantly, a Garcia. My first name has played an insignificant role in my life so far; a Garcia is who I am and who I will always be. As Papa frequently reminded me, 'You're a Garcia, *mi hija*, and you should be proud.'

"Mama graduated from high school, and Papa dropped out during middle school. I attend college for them; they never had the opportunity to go. I am going to college for the Garcia name and for the smile it puts on Mama's face.

"Ireland was my final study abroad destination because of Mama's and Grandma's heritage. I was raised in Pueblo, Colo., which has a large population of Hispanics, and Papa's culture has always been represented in my life.

"My study abroad experience in Ireland is nothing like my American life. I am the only Garcia in each of my classes – culture shock! And the food ... I have been living off chicken my entire stay in Ireland. There is a limited selection of Mexican food in Cork, Ireland.

"But Ireland is 'good *craic*.' The island is beautiful, the people are extremely nice, and the Irish language is grand.

"I was a Garcia before I left to Ireland, and now, I am a García, with the *i fada* (the fada is a diacritical mark found frequently in the Irish written language). I have lived, studied, and spoken like the Irish. I have taken Irish language courses at the University College of Cork, learned a simple Irish jig, and appreciated the days when it hasn't rained. I have registered with the Irish Immigration Officials and am Irish (until September). *Is maith liom Eireann*; I love Ireland.

"Traveling gives a person independence, a chance to explore your limitations, and an opportunity to discover your hidden qualities. I will continue to travel after I have finished college. Madagascar is my dream destination. My two majors can be used there; I can speak French and use my anthropology major to hang out with the lemurs."



Liberal arts alumni are scattered around the globe, but 28 percent are concentrated in the Denver area. Further, more than one-quarter of the CSU alumni who live in the Denver area graduated from the College of Liberal Arts.

As a result, we have become an enthusiastic partner in the Universitywide effort to renew relationships with Denver-based alumni; build Denver donor, corporate, and legislative relationships; and elevate CSU's presence and profile in Denver. This is Rams 5,280'.

Those of you who live in the Denver area will notice your alma mater better represented in the Denver media. You also will receive invitations to CSU programs held in the Denver area, and you may see the CSU Marching Band in the Parade of Lights and our students' art projects in the Cherry Creek Mall during the Cherry Creek Arts Festival.

We hope to see you in Denver during this academic year. We also hope that our efforts to bring the CSU story to the Denver area will renew your Ram Pride. If you are interested in the positive impact this initiative is creating or how you can get involved with Rams 5,280', please contact Michele McKinney at michele.mckinney@colostate.edu for a status report on activities in Denver.

Send Us Your E-mail Address

As the college struggles with ongoing budget constraints, we are considering a shift from a print newsletter to an electronic version in 2010.

In preparation for this possible change, we are updating e-mail addresses for our alumni and friends. Please take a moment and send us your e-mail address at cladean@colostate.edu or through the *Contact* link on the college's website: www.libarts.colostate.edu.

Distinguished Alumni

The Colorado State University Alumni Association recently presented several College of Liberal Arts alumni and friends with Distinguished Alumni Awards.



Jean Bethke Elshtain (history '63)

The Alumni Association's top award, the William E. Morgan Alumni Achievement Award, was presented to Jean Bethke Elshtain, currently the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Professor of Social and Political Ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Elshtain, regularly named as one of America's foremost public intellectuals, lectures widely in the United States and abroad on themes of democracy, ethical dilemmas, religion and politics, and international relations. In 2002, she received the Goodnow Award, the highest award bestowed by the American Political Science Association, for distinguished service to the profession.



David and Paula Edwards (members of the College of Liberal Arts Development Council)

David and Paula Edwards received the Charles A. Lory Public Service Award for demonstrated exceptional and sustained leadership for their significant volunteer efforts at Colorado State and in the Fort Collins community. For more than two decades, they have invested their time, expertise, and leadership by committing themselves to building a community in areas of philanthropy, health care and social services, arts and culture, and education. In addition to serving on our development council, the Edwardses are involved in numerous organizations including the Colorado State University Campaign Leadership Council, United Way of Larimer County, and UniverCity Connections.



Lee Kamlet (liberal arts '74)

Lee Kamlet, head writer for *World News with Charles Gibson*, is the College of Liberal Arts' Honor Alumnus. In 1981, Kamlet joined ABC News as a producer. There, he covered three presidential campaigns and stories ranging from the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War to child poverty, for which he won a Columbia University/DuPont Award. In 1998, Kamlet joined NBC News as a producer at *Dateline NBC*, for which he won three Emmy awards for coverage of the Columbine High School massacre; the story of Flight 93, which crashed on Sept. 11, 2001; and the return of kidnap victim Elizabeth Smart. He also produced a report on union corruption, which won an Emmy.



Sami Bedell (liberal arts '06)

Sami Bedell, director and founder of the ArtsLIVE Youth Festival and the executive director of the Bedell World Citizenship Fund, was honored as the Distinguished Graduate of the Last Decade, which recognizes recent graduates for accomplishments that have brought honor to Colorado State. ArtsLIVE is a youth festival that promotes arts year-round in the creative corridor of northwestern Iowa. The BWCF strives to support initiatives that encourage cultural, political, economic, spiritual, and intellectual change toward a world of greater human kindness. As executive director, Bedell supports nonprofits that advocate for arts and culture, conservation and the environment, community, education, global connections, and health and human services.

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 communities.

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.

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Professorship to Support Environmental Ethics

Our outstanding environmental ethics program has been buttressed with a \$1 million gift from a Fort Collins philanthropist. The **Myra H. Monfort Professorship in Environmental Ethics** will support an outstanding faculty member pursuing research and teaching in this critical area.

Myra Monfort-Runyan is a very generous supporter of music and other programs at the University. With this recent gift, she will enable the philosophy department to attract and retain high-caliber faculty in environmental ethics and related areas, maintaining its excellent reputation. The gift also will ensure that high-quality graduate students continue to be attracted to the program.

Emeritus University Distinguished Professor Holmes Rolston, who developed the CSU program and is known internationally as the “father of environmental ethics,” greeted the news of Monfort-Runyan’s gift as “marvelous, if not providential.”



Myra Monfort-Runyan

The College Has a New Look!



Visit our new website at
www.libarts.colostate.edu.

We're on Facebook. Search
“CSU College of Liberal Arts”
to become a fan.

ACCESS to EXCELLENCE



Our Goal: Provide every qualified student access to an excellent liberal arts education

Our Plan: Raise \$10 million in scholarship funds

The Campaign for Colorado State University

THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Message from the Dean

What a year it has been!

A liberal arts education, as this edition of the *Newsletter* demonstrates, is not limited to introducing students to theory and skills in our various disciplines. It also involves engagement with, in Chaim Potok's words, "other readings of the human experience." Whether in a classroom in Fort Collins, a village in Ghana, or a concert hall in Seoul, we are engaging the world and its people. This is the story of the College of Liberal Arts I tell frequently and with great pride.

Our story this year could have been a very different one. We, like all of you, were subject to the stress and anxiety of significant budget cuts caused by the worldwide economic recession, and in our case, it was exacerbated by the limited budget options available to the Colorado legislature. It is a tribute to the resilience, talent, spirit, and accomplishments of our faculty,

staff, and students that our story instead is a very positive one.

It was a year of celebration, as we held the grand opening of the final phase of the University Center for the Arts, the University Art Museum, and the Anthropology Geographic Information Science lab. When the CSU system welcomed a new chancellor and president for our campus, we celebrated

both appointments; Joe Blake and Tony Frank share our academic values and our passion for the liberal arts, international connections, and service to others.

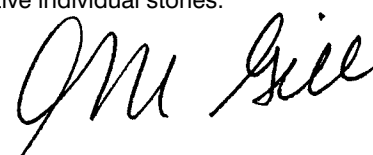
It was a year of recognition, including our student actors, who received two of the top seven awards in the Kennedy Center competition, and Patrick Fahey's award as Pacific Region Art Educator of the Year. Our faculty members continued to receive grants to support their research and artistry, and graduating seniors continue to be

accepted to outstanding professional and graduate programs.

It was a year of generosity, as alumni and other donors supported our programs, including pre-law, jazz, and environmental ethics; funded scholarships for students; and covered marching band expenses at the bowl game in Albuquerque.

It was a year of engagement. The level of political activity by our students during the presidential campaign exceeded anything on this campus since the late '60s and early '70s. Our faculty and students went into the community to work with K-12 writers, students in Spanish courses who are heritage speakers, business groups struggling to improve the regional economy, and Colorado legislators.

But above all, it was a year in which we traveled the globe and brought the world to Fort Collins. In the process, we contributed to making both better places in which to live, work, dream, and create positive individual stories.



Ann M. Gill, Dean, College of Liberal Arts

