

LIVE YOUR PASSION

THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS NEWSLETTER • FALL 2012

Live Your Passion with the College of Liberal Arts

The 41,913 living alumni of the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University are employed in an extraordinary variety of careers. Your achievements are as impressive as they are varied. Your stories motivate our graduating seniors. They become the stories we tell about the College of Liberal Arts to those across as well as outside the University. Most recently, they inspired our new recruiting campaign.

To ensure that individuals have the information they need to make informed choices about which university to attend, each college at CSU is developing a campaign to inform high school students and others of the opportunities that await them if they study in Fort Collins. Our theme for the recruitment campaign is: “Live Your Passion with the College of Liberal Arts.”

Some might argue we do not need to recruit more students. Liberal Arts is the largest college on campus. In the last academic year, 4,735 undergraduates were pursuing a primary major in one of our 13 departments or interdisciplinary programs, and a whopping 7,469 – more than 33 percent of all CSU undergraduates – were enrolled in a primary or secondary major or a minor in the College of Liberal Arts. Nevertheless, we are excited about reaching even more students and, thanks to the inspiration provided by you and your careers, we plan to do just that.

To launch our new recruitment campaign, this edition of the newsletter features a few of our alumni who are living their passions and whose careers and lives illustrate the amazing possibilities for individuals who study liberal arts at Colorado State. We intend this as a salute to all of you.

You make us proud.

Colorado State University





Libby James photo © Aaron Montoya



This page, clockwise from top left: Robbie Myers; Matt Shoup meets with a customer; Libby James and a pair of her favorite running shoes; Tim Schlattmann on the set of Dexter; and Blanche Hughes, CSU vice president for student affairs. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Ashley Colburn; Dave Goodman; Susie Wargin; Maj. Erin Hadlock; and Aaron Madonna and business partner Juwon Melvin.

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Robbie Myers, '82, (political science) lives her passion in fashion as the editor-in-chief for Elle. Called by some a “fashionista,” her original plan was to become a First Amendment attorney. Then, she fell in love with magazines. Her first position was as editorial assistant at *Rolling Stone*. She also worked under Andy Warhol at *Interview* and for *Seventeen*, *InStyle*, and *Tell*. Her first editor position was at *Careers* when she was only 25. She later served as editor-in-chief of *Mirabella*, and then was named to her current position at *Elle* in 2000. Robbie not only creates media but also stars in it, having appeared on an episode of *Ugly Betty* as herself. In addition, she was featured in a short-run reality show, *The City*, which focused on the women of *Elle* magazine.

Tim Schlattmann, '88, (M.A., speech communication) spent time as a college professor and a disc jockey before he found his passion in screenwriting. He has spent the last 21 years in Los Angeles as a writer and is currently an executive producer for the Showtime series *Dexter*, which has earned him three Emmy award nominations as well as multiple Writers Guild of America nominations. The show also received the prestigious Peabody Award and numerous Golden Globe nominations.

Among Tim's other writing credentials are *Roseanne*, *Get Real*, *Smallville*, and the web series, *Dexter Early Cuts: Dark Echo*. He also is writer/executive producer of a new USA Network series, *Bang Bang*, that is currently in development.

Libby James, '71, (M.A., English) has worked as a sixth-grade, community college, and English-as-second-language teacher; feature writer; magazine editor; and book editor, among other things. Her passion is for running, which she took up in the 1970s and continues today at 76 years of age. She recently was inducted into the Colorado Running Hall of Fame and holds age-group records nationally for 5K and 10K and a world record for 10 miles. Libby recently finished chapter book for 4th- to 6th-grade students that features a grandmother who decides to run a marathon and her couch-potato grandson. She has no plans to retire from running.

Matt Shoup, '03, (Spanish) turned a job that put him through college into an amazingly successful business. After being laid off his job as a mortgage banker in 2005, Matt founded M&E Painting with \$100, a lot of determination, and a sincere dedication to service and excellence. It has grown into an award-winning, multimillion dollar company

and Northern Colorado's largest painting contractor. Following that success, he founded Shoup Consulting, through which he lives his passion for inspiring other entrepreneurs. Matt gives seminars on how to unlock your business potential and has written a book to inspire others to entrepreneurial success.

Dr. Blanche Hughes, '95, (Ph.D., sociology) lives her passion for enabling student success as CSU's vice president for student affairs. She also teaches in the student affairs in higher education master's program. Previous positions she has held at CSU include director of Black Student Services. Legions of CSU students have known the inspirational power of Blanche and her commitment to their academic and personal success. Recently, she received the James J. Rhatigan Outstanding Dean award from the national student affairs organization.

Dave Goodman, '79, (music) lives his passion by creating entertainment extravaganzas. Following positions as vice president/executive producer at companies such as Disney California Adventure, Tokyo Disneyland, and SeaWorld Orlando's Dolphin Cove where he created and produced entertainment such as Carnivale in Rio de Janeiro, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parades, Major League Baseball All Star Game, Dubai Shopping Festivals, film premieres and shows for Pixar Studios, Disney,



Touchstone, and others, he now has his own consulting firm with a client list of Universal Studios Japan, the White House, and various government entities in Malaysia and Canada.

Ashley Colburn, '08, (journalism and technical communication) landed a job as host, producer, and writer for Wealth TV after graduation, which combined her passions for travel and media. The first travel show she produced, *WOW Croatia!*, received Croatia's Golden Pen award for best U.S. media and also won an Emmy in 2010. Following that success, she created *TAKEOFF with Ashley Colburn*, which was a travel series on Wealth TV. Over two seasons, the series took her to more than 25 countries on six continents. She has started her own production company, Ashley Colburn Productions, and she blogs ("Off the Beaten Track") for a shoe sponsor that has allowed her "to leave her footprints all across the map."

Maj. Erin Hadlock, '12, (M.A., English) is a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, serving as part of the rotating active-duty faculty. She is an aviator with specialization in helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft. Her Army career has been defined by the recent wars, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. She has served combat tours in those areas

as well as in Colombia. She has experience in military intelligence operations, as well. While a graduate student at CSU, her research focused on her passions by analyzing the work of veterans in writing-intensive courses. The title of her thesis is, "The Role of Genre, Identity, and Rhetorical Agency in the Military Writings of Post-9/11 Student-Veterans."

Aaron Madonna, '08, (sociology) and fellow CSU student Juwon Melvin founded Dream-Reel Media, which inspires young adults to "pursue their passions." Aaron speaks on this topic and has authored two books, *Destination College* and *Help! IDK What I Want to Do with My Life* (for readers not conversant with Internet slang, "IDK" stands for "I don't know.") After graduation, the two friends founded LifeSoap, a company that sells organic soap and gives a portion of the profits to bring clean water to schools in developing countries, in partnership with H2O for Life. LifeSoap has been featured in *O, the Oprah Magazine*, and Aaron and Juwon already have completed two clean-water projects in Nicaragua.

Susie Wargin, '92, (speech communication) has a passion for sports, music, and broadcasting. As a child, when she was not playing DJ in her room, she was challenging the guys on her

cul-de-sac in whatever game they were playing. She began her broadcasting career in 1992 as a DJ at a Fort Collins radio station. She moved on to Rock the Rockies for nine years at KBPI in Denver and, along the way, also became the first female sports reporter for KOA radio. She spent two seasons as sideline reporter for CSU football games and later hosted the *Rams Coaches* show on 9News. She joined 9News in 2001, and currently is the morning weekday sports anchor for the station, winning an Emmy in 2009. Susie still challenges the guys in sports. She ran the Boston Marathon this year, participates in numerous bike events, and races in triathlons. She also strives to find the important balance of being a wife to another CSU graduate and mother to their two children.

Shaesby Scott, '97, (art) began his career as a sculptor. Then, while living in Rio de Janeiro, he discovered a passion for creating jewelry. He describes his perspective on jewelry this way: "One of my design principles is to distill what is found in nature into a wearable, comfortable piece of jewelry. My work does not truly come to life until worn." The Shaesby jewelry collection features brilliantly colored Brazilian gemstones and expressive styles, which he designs and produces in his Austin, Texas,

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This page, clockwise from top left: Shaesby Scott; Dr. Ibrahim Al Assaf, Joe Rocha III; Ghada Waly; Gloria Campbell; and Jack Graham. Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Mike and Sally Metcalf; Capt. Ted Fisher; Jack Becker; Julie Hutton with a friend from the Garment District; and Jeff Eastin, signing programs for White Collar fans.



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studio. The collection is sold in high-end boutiques and clothing stores throughout the United States and internationally. Shaesby jewelry is worn by some of Hollywood's hottest stars.

Jack Graham, '75, (history) was named CSU Athletics Director in December 2011. A former Rams quarterback who was drafted by the Miami Dolphins, he went on to a successful 30-year career in international insurance and reinsurance. He founded ICAT Managers, which became a leader in catastrophic risk insurance products. In this new role, Jack lives his passion for excellence in Rams athletics programs and advocates for the role that athletics can play at a research university: "Our teams can and should be leaders in defining our University's traditions, and they can be catalysts that unite our students and community."

Dr. Ibrahim Al Assaf, '82, (Ph.D., economics) is the Minister of Finance of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Regarded as one of the top ministers of finance worldwide, he also serves on the board of directors of Saudi Aramco, the state-owned national oil company, as chairman of the Saudi Fund for Development, and on the Public Investment Fund board. Earlier in his career, he taught at King

Abdulaziz Military Academy. He also has represented Saudi Arabia at the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Gloria Campbell, '74 (political science) found her passion in creating events. While at CSU, she booked fine arts events – from classical music in the Lory Student Center Theatre to rock concerts at Hughes Stadium. She later worked in the Denver Mayor's Office, producing the state's largest performing arts festival and two victory rallies/parades when the Broncos won the Super Bowl. Gloria has been affiliated with the Denver Film Society since the mid-1980s, and she returns to Denver each fall as the shorts curator for the Starz Denver Film Festival. She also worked in production at Film Independent's Spirit Awards. Currently, she is managing director of the Los Angeles Film Festival. The 2012 festival featured nearly 200 feature films, shorts, and music videos from more than 30 countries.

Jeff Eastin, '89, (technical journalism) discovered his passion shooting Super 8 movies when he was 10. After graduation, he landed a position as director of photography on two movies, *Lock & Load* and *White Fury*. He then loaded all his belongings into a Volkswagen camp bus and made his way to Los Angeles where he began his career in screenwriting. Among his film scripts were *Shadow*

Dancer, Held Up, and the *True Lies* sequel. He also wrote *Shasta* for UPN and then wrote and executive produced *Hawaii* for NBC. Currently, he is creator, writer, and executive producer for two USA Network series: *White Collar* is in its fourth season and *Graceland*, which involves undercover law enforcement personnel living together in a house on the beach in Southern California, will premiere in the summer of 2013.

Joe Rocha III, '05, (communication studies) discovered his passion in China. He was recruited there by a multinational Danish transport company as a sales manager in Guangzhou. He also worked as head of export and Asian distribution sales and marketing for an Australian holdings group. He was elected to serve on the British Chamber of Commerce's Executive Committee in Guangdong for two terms and organized the Guangzhou Youth Soccer League. Currently, Joe is client manager for China's No. 1 shipping and insurance law firm, Wang Jing and Company. He handles the firm's marketing initiatives, is liaison with chambers of commerce and foreign consulates, and develops European and American clients.

Ghada Waly, '87, (French, M.A., 1990) uses her excellent communication skills in Arabic, English, and French and her multicultural



skills working in poverty-reduction programs as assistant resident representative for the United Nations Development Program in Cairo, Egypt. Her passion for improving the lives of people also plays out in membership on the Consumer Protection Agency in Egypt and a number of NGOs devoted to educational advancement, women's empowerment, and poverty reduction. She led the development and launch of the first National Micro Finance Strategy in Egypt during the UN's International Year of Micro Credit.

Capt. Ted Fisher, '05, (political science) found his passion in the air. He serves his country as a combat aviator who has flown more than 300 combat sorties in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other areas on multiple deployments. Ted and his C-130 crew delivered soldiers, supplies, military leaders, and members of Congress to remote areas with poorly maintained and insecure airfields, often at night. They delivered food and relief supplies to noncombatants. He was part of a select crew that airlifted a multinational, peacekeeping force to the Egyptian-Israeli border in an effort described as "brilliantly executed." He has received a number of military honors, including 2009 Navigator of the Year in his squadron, and he graduated third in his class in 2010 from the elite Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training. He is now a pilot for the C-17

Globemaster III and executive officer in the 21st Airlift Squadron at Travis Air Force Base. He flies missions for Operation Enduring Freedom into Afghanistan about every three weeks.

Mike, '71, (anthropology, M.A., 1974) and Sally Metcalf, '72, (anthropology) are passionate about the recording and preservation of cultural artifacts and the history of indigenous populations in the mountains of Colorado.

They created Metcalf Archaeological Consultants Inc. a company that has documented and salvaged thousands of archaeological sites in advance of road, pipeline, or other construction activities. They are well known as experts in the Native American archaeology of the American West, with particular expertise in the period from 10,000 to 2,000 years ago in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Their work has resulted in a paradigm shift in our understanding of cold-weather occupation of the mountains by indigenous populations.

Jack Becker, '11, (communication studies) discovered his passion for participation in public life at the CSU Center for Public Deliberation, which led to his current position as a research assistant at the Charles F. Kettering

Foundation. His work supports an international network of individuals – elected officials, educators, journalists, and other professionals – who work to further democratic practices and civic innovations at the community level. While still at CSU, he was part of a five-member steering committee for a national student conference, The Citizens' Toolbox: What's in Yours? The conference focused on topics such as Dialogue and Deliberation and Campus and Community.

Julie Hutton, '76, (art), lives her passion as a fashion designer in New York City. She first designed a collection for a friend, which was featured on the front page of *Women's Wear Daily* and in the windows of Macy's. Currently, she is the president and CEO of Julie Hutton Inc. a private and personal label company for men's and women's apparel. Julie's company designs and manufactures apparel for established brands as well as for individuals. As a result, she has worked with a rather extraordinary range of clients, from brands such as BCBG and Tommy Hilfiger to an Amish community to an individual who wanted long underwear that could be taken off and put on without completely taking off his outer pants.

2011-2012 Distinguished Alumni Awards

*The Colorado State University Alumni Association recognizes
College of Liberal Arts alumni with Distinguished Alumni Awards.*



Jim Sheeler, technical journalism, '90
College of Liberal Arts Honor Alumnus Award

Author and journalist Jim Sheeler established the highest record of distinction in his profession after winning the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing in 2006 for a series of stories in the *Rocky Mountain News*. His special report, *Final Salute*, was a feature story following a Marine casualty notification officer as he informed family members of the deaths of their loved ones in the Iraq War.

Sheeler is the author of two books, *Final Salute: A Story of Unfinished Lives*, and *Obit: Inspiring Stories of Ordinary People Who Led Extraordinary Lives*, each an examination of life and death. *Final Salute* won the *Publisher Weekly's* Best Book of the Year award in 2008 and was a finalist in the National Book Awards. During the time he reported for the *Boulder Daily Camera*, *Boulder Planet*, and *Rocky Mountain News*, Sheeler consistently won annual reporting and writing awards. He currently holds the Shirley Wormser Professorship in Journalism and Media Writing at Case Western Reserve University.



André Heller Pérache, art, '03
Graduate of the Last Decade Award

André Heller Pérache has always been deeply involved as a political activist in human rights issues. He broke from his background in the visual arts and began his career in humanitarian work in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina. This transformative experience left Heller Pérache convinced that his career should follow his unwavering conviction to assist populations in acute crises. In 2006, he began his career with Médecins Sans Frontières as a logistician and later transitioned to program management roles in a host of different field projects, addressing the medical needs of conflict-affected populations.

Following assignments in Chad, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan, along with a stint working for the New York office's Field Human Resources Department, Heller Pérache was named Head of Mission in South Sudan and was elected to MSF USA's Board of Directors. Heller Pérache recently completed his studies for a master's degree in comparative politics and conflict studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science.



George Seward, political science, '72
Distinguished Athletics Award

George Seward has been a Colorado State University athletics fan since he was a student yell leader in the early '70s. He continually provides support to the Department of Athletics and has assisted in the creation of outreach programs and funding sources, as well as provided individual support.

Seward started the Yuma Golf Tournament, spearheaded the Ram Football Leaders group, and was part of a small group of people who started the Beef Club. Under Seward's guidance, the Beef Club has donated more than \$600,000 to fund scholarships and capital projects, including the weight room, football locker room, video and communication equipment and, most recently, the Keli McGregor Memorial Endowment.

Seward served as a Development Council member to support University Advancement and is a member of the Athletics Director's Cabinet, which supports the athletics department's campaign efforts.

Faculty Excellence

College Names Associate Deans



Bruce Ronda

Former chair of the Department of English, **Bruce Ronda** (above left), has been appointed to a five-year term as associate dean for faculty and graduate studies in the College of Liberal Arts. A scholar of 19th-century American literature and American studies, he has written or edited five books and numerous articles on American transcendentalism, children's literature, religion in literature, and the depictions of education in literary texts. His current book project is called *The Fate of Transcendentalism*, which traces the impact of that movement on writers, artists, and intellectuals in the last century and a half. He received his B.A. from Hope College, and his M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Yale University.

Greg Dickinson (above right), a professor of communication studies, has been named interim associate dean for undergraduate studies. He is an award-winning teacher having won the college's Excellence in Teaching Award and the Alumni Association's Best Teacher Award. He has taught undergraduate and graduate courses in rhetoric including more than 20 sections of Rhetoric and Western Thought. He also is an award-winning scholar, writing about the ways buildings and human landscapes engage viewers and users. He has published in numerous communication sections of rhetoric journals on places such as Starbucks coffee shops, shopping malls, and Old Pasadena. He is completing two books, one on the suburbs and a second, with his co-authors Eric Aoki and Brian Ott, on the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.



Greg Dickinson

Liberal arts faculty recognized for outstanding achievements

The college's John N. Stern Award, which recognizes exemplary professional accomplishments, was awarded to **Pattie Cowell**, English, and **John Straayer**, political science. The Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to **Sue Doe**, English, and **Eric Aoki**, communication studies, for tenure-track faculty; **Elizabeth Sink**, communication studies, for special instructors; and **John Hultgren**, political science, for graduate teaching assistants.

Greg Luft, journalism and technical communication, and **Todd Queen**, music, theater and dance, were presented the college's Award for Distinction in Advancement, and **Blythe LaGasse**, music, theatre and dance, and **Cindy O'Donnell-Allen**, English, received the Award for Distinction in Outreach. The college's Outstanding Service Award was given to **Lisa Langstraat**, English, and **Del Harrow**, art, received the Curricular Innovation Award.

Faculty Development Awards were presented to six faculty members to facilitate outstanding research and creative activities: **Dan Beachy-Quick**, English; **Joe Champ**, journalism and technical communication; **Hye Seung Chung**, communication studies; **Roze Hentschell**, English; **Eleanor Moseman**, art; and **Daniele Tavani**, economics.

Eric Aoki, communication studies, and **Jared Orsi**, history, received Best Teacher Awards from the Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Connection.

The University's Office of International Programs Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Peter Seel**, journalism and technical communication. **Maura Velazquez-Castillo**, foreign languages and literatures, was awarded the Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award, and **Maricela DeMirjyn**, ethnic studies, received the Margaret B. Hazaleus Award for her efforts to enhance the opportunities for women on campus. **Natalie Barnes**, art, received the Jack E. Cermak Outstanding Advisor Award and the Advisor Gratitude Award was presented to **Rabbi Yerachmiel Gorelik**, philosophy.

Risbeck Named University Distinguished Professor

Phil Risbeck, art, was named a University Distinguished Professor, the highest academic recognition awarded by the University, on the basis of outstanding scholarship and achievement.

Risbeck, who has been teaching at CSU for almost 50 years, is the founding co-director of the world-renowned Colorado International Invitational Poster Exhibition. The CIIPE debuted in 1979 and is considered one of the premier poster shows in the world. The 2011 show, the 17th edition, featured works of 90 artists from 33 countries.

Risbeck, whose posters are regarded among the finest in the world, has had solo and group exhibitions on four continents and in some of the world's most influential art centers. His posters have won medals in Europe, North America, and South America, and he has had teaching residencies in Columbia, Argentina, Brazil, China, Russia, Ukraine, France, and Portugal. In 2008, Risbeck was awarded an Honorable Diploma for Contributions to the World and Russian Poster Art.



CSU President Tony Frank congratulates Phil Risbeck on being named a University Distinguished Professor.

The Power of Partnerships

The successfully completed Campaign for Colorado State demonstrated that amazing things are achieved when private donors partner with the College of Liberal Arts. The depth of our appreciation is illustrated nowhere better than in the attendant growth in our ambitions and the redoubling of our efforts to deliver relevant, life-changing academic programs and world-class research and creative activity. There is much we can achieve – together.

Helping us make plans for the next stage of our partnerships are members of our development staff, some of whom are new and others who have taken on new roles. Jonathan Clifton has taken over as director of development. Serving as assistant director of development is Megan Price. Marilyn Bistline is coordinating departmental development activities, and Quinha McBride supports donor relations activities. They are an outstanding team. We hope you will partner with us to reach even greater heights. Among our goals:

Scholarships and Support for Programs.

These gifts will allow our students to discover their passions while at CSU. The ripple effect of such gifts is nearly boundless. More than 1,500 students leave the Colorado State campus each year armed with



Left to right: Megan Price, assistant director of development; Marilyn Bistline, development coordinator; Jonathan Clifton, director of development; and Quinha McBride, donor relations coordinator.

liberal arts degrees and the skills and determination to make a difference in the world.

Endowed Chairs and Professorships. Gifts that create endowed faculty positions, such as the Holmes Rolston III Chair in Environmental Ethics and the Stewart and Sharon Golden Chair in Liturgical and Organ Studies, will enable us to recruit and retain some of the top faculty in the world.

Planned Gifts. Bequests and similar gifts are critical investments in our future, ensuring excellence in liberal arts programs long after we are gone.

University Art Museum Expansion. The University Center for the Arts is a testament to the difference outstanding space makes in programs – world-class faculty and talented students were attracted to the UCA performance spaces, which elevated the level of performances and dramatically increased the reputation of our programs. Our next construction project is a \$2 million expansion of the University Art Museum, which will allow us to accept a multimillion dollar bequest, including an extraordinary private art collection and one of the largest private art libraries in the country.

In Memory

Roger Gilmore (1931-2012)

Roger Gilmore, foreign languages and literatures professor for 29 years, passed away on Feb. 11, 2012. Gilmore completed his undergraduate work at Phillips University in Enid, Okla., and earned his master's degree from the University of Iowa and Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. He was a longtime member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fort Collins.

Roy Meek (1932-2011)

Former associate dean and political science Professor Roy Meek died Sept. 29, 2011. Meek taught constitutional law and civil rights and liberties from 1967-1981 and will be remembered as rigorous, intellectually tough, and unforgiving on fact and theory. His demanding intellectual rigor and style left indelible impressions on scores of students, especially those now practicing law, who fondly remember the "hanging judge."

William Moseley (1927-2011)

William Moseley, former chair and professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, died suddenly Oct. 29, 2011, while visiting Albuquerque, N.M. Moseley served in the U.S. Navy toward the end of World War II then earned degrees from the University of Miami and the University of New Mexico. He and his family traveled extensively and lived in Mexico, Chile, Spain, and Portugal. Following his retirement in 1988, Moseley enjoyed volunteering, reading, and discussing a world of ideas.

Edward Schamberger (1932-2011)

English Professor Edward Schamberger passed away Oct. 29, 2011, after a long illness. After earning a degree in forestry from Colorado A&M, Schamberger served in the U.S. Army and the CIA in Vienna and Paris. It was there that he developed a passion for literature and art that ultimately led to his lifelong career in the humanities.

Schamberger taught at CSU for 37 years and is perhaps best remembered for his vision and leadership of three New England Renaissance Institutes, which enriched countless Colorado teachers' knowledge of the literature and culture of 19th-century New England. He traveled extensively, and was passionate about animal welfare, fishing, and woodworking.

Jerry Vedvik (1936-2011)

Jerry Vedvik, foreign languages and literatures professor for 30 years, died Sept. 28, 2011, after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Vedvik served in the U.S. Army in Okinawa and Japan, then earned degrees from the universities of Wisconsin and Missouri. At CSU, he taught French and served as chair of the foreign languages and literatures department. Vedvik touched many students with his vibrant teaching and concern for their learning. He was a renaissance man who could discuss any issue with insight, fix any car, and solve any mechanical problem.



Great Conversations members, left to right: Sue Froseth, '74, (art); Marla Trumper; Rocci Trumper; Kellie Holcomb, '92, (technical communication); and Steve Sponberg.

Great Conversations

For 16 years, the college has hosted a series of community events known as “Great Conversations.” Individuals purchase annual memberships, and members are invited to several events over the course of the year. The events are held in some of the area’s most beautiful homes and begin with a reception. A liberal arts faculty member then gives a talk, which is followed by lively conversations about that topic. This past year, the programs were:

- “Behind the Scenes with the Greatest Show on Turf: The CSU Marching Band,” presented by Dr. Christopher Nicholas, Department of Music, Theatre and Dance.
- “The Middle East in Revolt: Egypt and Beyond,” presented by Dr. Gamze Cavdar, Department of Political Science.

- “Buddhist Concepts of Self and Consciousness,” presented by Dr. Matthew MacKenzie, Department of Philosophy.
- “From the Ice Age to the Space Age: The Search for Ancient Native Americans of the Colorado Plains and Rocky Mountains,” presented by Dr. Jason LaBelle, Department of Anthropology.

A special event in the spring featured CSU President Tony Frank speaking on “The Role of Athletics at a University” to members and their invited guests. Income from Great Conversations membership fees helps support the research and creative activity of the liberal arts faculty.

2011-2012 Retiring Faculty and Staff

Blane Harding, advising center,
22 years

Jack Lovelace, journalism and
technical communication, 10 years

Jonna Lian Pearson, journalism and
technical communication, 21 years

Jimmie Robinson, music, theatre
and dance, 14 years

Rosalie Samaniego, anthropology,
33 years

Dave Yust, art, 47 years

Don Zimmerman, journalism and
technical communication, 35 years

Live Your Passion, 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.

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Colorado State University
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

College News

Work will begin sometime this year on infilling space between two wings of the **Visual Arts Building** that will house a new concentration in electronic art. This concentration will take our internationally recognized graphic arts program to new heights and ensure that art graduates are highly competitive for positions in business as well as art.



The **Jann Benson Ethics Center** in the philosophy department serves undergraduates in core curriculum ethics courses as well as courses that examine ethical issues in the sciences and professional settings. It also serves instructors from across campus who want to integrate discussions of professional ethics into their courses. The center provides training to facilitate such discussions, help in identifying and using relevant software, and information regarding various ethical theories.



Several other curricular innovations are planned in the college. A **music, stage, and sports production minor** will prepare students to produce University performances. The programs they produce will be carried on the CSU cable access channel, webcast, and marketed to regional television stations. A film studies minor will bring together the cinematic expertise of faculty in communication studies, journalism and technical communication, and foreign languages and literatures. The performing arts are creating a minor in arts leadership, entrepreneurship, and administration. This program will draw students not only from campus but also the wider arts community. The ethnic studies department is planning an interdisciplinary major in women's studies.



As part of Universitywide efforts to better serve **CSU students who are veterans of the armed forces**, a few members of the English department teach sections of the required composition course in which enrollment is limited to veterans. These sections receive high praise. Veterans whose military assignments had not involved writing are able to significantly improve their writing skills. Members of the class also are able to help one another with the transition from military to civilian and University life. Their composition class is a safe environment in which to share their experiences with others who have been on active duty in the military and, in many cases, combat situations.



More than 1,700 theatre students from universities in the western United States converged on the University Center for the Arts in February for the **Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival** regional competition. Our theatre faculty, staff, and students received rave reviews from those in attendance for their outstanding job hosting the festival and, for the fifth consecutive year, students from our program won significant awards.

The number of international students who attend Colorado State will increase significantly as a result of the University's partnership with a private international recruiting corporation, **INTO**. Liberal arts will have significant involvement in what has been named the "pathways program" for these students. The intensive English program will teach language courses. Faculty with expertise teaching English-as-second-language students from the departments of communication studies and English will teach sections of core curriculum courses in their departments that will enroll both international students and domestic students in our global village living-and-learning program.

The **BRAINY (Bringing Arts Integration to Youth)** program brings third- and fourth-grade students from area schools to the University Center for the Arts for a full day of integrated activities in art, dance, music, and theatre. Each BRAINY session features meaningful activities anchored by the current exhibition at the University Art Museum. This past year, video by an Icelandic-born artist became the basis for lessons on Icelandic folk music, ocean voyages, and the unique geography and geology of the island. An exhibition of European portrait miniatures led to creation of tiny self-portraits and clever choreographic exercises in groups of three that concluded with two children in each group "framing" the third in a portrait-like pose.



The **Public Lands History Center** recently received a 2012 Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network Award. The center is one of three winners of the national award. Nominators cited the center's "state-of-the-art research" for the National Park Service, the "diverse scope of the center's work and products, their consistent incorporation of student energy and talent, and their capacity to deliver ... in a cost-effective, timely, and collegial manner," as among the center's valuable contributions to CESU.

The long-running legislative internship program in political science was recognized this spring when its director, political science Professor **John Straayer**, was honored by Colorado House Republicans who, in praising the program, also noted that over the last 32 years, John has driven 109,824 miles on 1,664 trips from Fort Collins to Denver, ushering more than 900 student interns to the State Capitol.



This fall the **communication studies** department celebrated its **50th anniversary** with career panels, an M.A. alumni brunch, and Dr. Raymie McKerrow, '68, (M.A., communication studies) giving the G. Jack Gravlee Lecture.



Clockwise from top left: wildland firefighters working the High Park Fire on their way to get rest at Allison Hall; a CSU student works on a building project during CSUnity; School Is Cool co-founder Kathy Phifer; CSU President Tony Frank and members of his band; and Cans Around the Oval.

Dean's Message

"Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do." – Leonardo da Vinci

Many things have kept me in the College of Liberal Arts for well over 30 years but none is more compelling than the extraordinary sense of community that exists at Colorado State University. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are the foundation of this community but by no means its boundaries. The Rams family sees community wherever they encounter a need.

The summer of 2012 will be remembered for the High Park Fire that raged just west of town. Not since the flood of 1997 has the spirit of local community been demonstrated so immediately as in the University's response to this devastating fire. The Foothills Campus was turned into a staging area for fighting the fire. Residence halls were opened to house evacuees and firefighters. The vet school and other animal programs took in evacuated animals. Faculty and student volunteers stayed at our Pingree Park mountain campus after it was evacuated to feed and house firefighters on the western front of the fire. Individuals donated their time and gave to funds established to help those affected by the fire. A member of the sociology faculty, himself an evacuee, battled the blaze with his volunteer fire department. Two members of the music faculty lost their homes, and a number of

our faculty and staff were forced to evacuate, some of them twice over the course of the fire.

There were joyous moments of community this past year as well. Rams fans rejoiced in home-court victories by the men's basketball team and particularly those against top-20 opponents. The self-styled "Ram Ruckus" student section stormed the court as the buzzer sounded, deliriously jumping up and down and sending players bodysurfing on their upstretched arms.

During his fall address on the Oval, the marching band surprised President Tony Frank by sporting T-shirts emblazoned "Tony's Band." The band has become one of the most recognized symbols of the Rams community and never is the cheering louder than when the "Trombone Suicide" section performs. The band has marched each year since 2009 in the Denver Parade of Lights and will march in the 2013 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland.

We are part of the community in which we live. Faculty, staff, and students contribute in many ways each year, including Cans Around the Oval, the largest food drive in Northern Colorado, and School Is Cool, which collects funds to purchase school supplies for children from underprivileged backgrounds. This year, CSUnity day involved more than 2,000 student volunteers doing more than 220 community projects, ranging from painting houses to planting trees to visiting senior citizens.

Our community also extends around the world. The first graduates of the joint degree program between the CSU Department of Economics and

Foreign Trade University in Hanoi, Vietnam, proudly participated in our spring commencement ceremony. The Colorado State orchestra and choirs were joined at the Griffin Concert Hall by vocalists and the conductor from East China Normal University in Shanghai for one of the few performances of the *Yellow River Cantata* ever done outside of China, bringing the Fort Collins audience to its feet.

Not all issues brought the community together. The proposal to build an on-campus stadium sparked intense debate, with public meetings about this topic facilitated by our Center for Public Deliberation. Even in disagreement, however, concern for community was evident; it was a premise in arguments made by both sides.

We pride ourselves on being ordinary people who can be counted on to do extraordinary things. As this edition of the newsletter demonstrates, liberal arts alumni create community wherever we go. We make a difference in the world.



Ann M. Gill

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