

The College of

# LIBERAL ARTS

Fall 2008

## Liberal Arts Faculty Members Take on Climate Change

It started with a discussion at the kitchen table of husband-and-wife English professors **John Calderazzo** and **Sue Ellen Campbell**.

“One evening more than a year ago, John and I were talking with each other about climate change,” Campbell explains. “We were fretting about how such a momentous issue wasn’t being addressed nationally nearly as seriously as it should have been.” This led to discussion about faculty roles, and “we started to rethink our responsibilities as teachers – how we could stretch beyond our own students out into the rest of the University and the community.”

As they talked more about the complex issues and implications of climate change, their conversation moved beyond themselves. Was there any department at Colorado State University, they wondered, that would not have something to add to the conversation about meeting the challenges of a warming world?

“Biology, political science, atmospheric science – obviously, those disciplines have lots to say about this subject, and we’d already both been thinking about connections to writing and literature,” Calderazzo adds. “But once we started thinking about it, we couldn’t come up with any subject on campus that would have no link to climate change at all.”

The complexity of the issue initially was daunting. “It’s hard to feel comfortable talking about the science if you’re an English teacher or the politics if you’re a scientist,” notes Campbell. The first step, the pair decided, was to try to help other faculty members learn more about climate change from a variety of perspectives, which might make them more comfortable including the topic in their courses.

The result was the creation of Changing Climates @ CSU. This initiative, which Campbell and Calderazzo co-direct, involves a network of faculty members and researchers from every college at Colorado State whose interests and research coalesce around climate change. The response of the faculty

has amazed the two English professors.

The initial project was a series of nine faculty-teaching-faculty seminars offered during the 2007-2008 academic year. The seminars were well attended and highly praised.

Then in January, Campbell, Calderazzo, and Phil Cafaro from the Department of Philosophy organized Colorado State’s participation in the national Focus the Nation teach-in, a two-day series of presentations by faculty members, students, community members, and local officials that centered on global warming solutions. The teach-in at Colorado State featured more than 60 speakers from 19 CSU departments and 15 additional entities on and off campus. Head count at the events was more than 3,000.

“Focus the Nation was about preparing students to become informed citizens and leaders in what may be one of the greatest challenges of the future, and obviously it fit perfectly with what Sue Ellen and I were doing with Changing Climates,” Calderazzo says. “We especially liked working with the great group of students who volunteered their time, energy, and skills to help us run this event.”

This academic year, Changing Climates @ CSU will offer a series of lectures open to both the campus and local community. Another new feature is the Climate Ambassador Team – faculty members who will be available to help their colleagues incorporate climate change material into their courses.



“Climate change is a multidimensional, complex, broad issue, one that requires talents from all fields of knowledge and research. A university – and especially CSU – is the perfect vehicle for collaboration among people from all academic backgrounds,” according to Calderazzo.

It has not escaped notice that Climate Change @ CSU was created and organized by two liberal arts professors. “Most people don’t think of a college of liberal arts as being central to the question of how we will deal with climate change. They think it’s mostly a scientific issue,” Campbell contends. “But we want to emphasize that it is a citizen’s issue, a human issue.”

**For a full schedule of campus climate change talks and other events this school year, visit <http://changingclimates.colostate.edu>.**

# Spotlight on Research in Liberal Arts

Research by College of Liberal Arts faculty addresses changing climate.



Michele Betsill

## Observing the politics of climate change

After 14 years of observation, she has learned there are no easy answers.

**Michele Betsill**, associate professor of political science, takes an all-encompassing approach to studying climate change politics. She looks at all of the components – national governments, international businesses, nongovernmental organizations, the market, individual choices – on a “big-picture scale” and assesses how the pieces fit together. Or how they don’t.

“My research allows me to have a better sense of the large landscape of the politics of climate change from the local to the global level. I watch the debate about who gets what, when, and how,” she explains.

“By this point, most people recognize that climate change is a problem, but what everyone is asking now is what we are going to do about it. Climate change has huge implications because it fundamentally changes the earth’s natural systems. It is directly related to how we produce and use energy to meet our daily needs. Tough ethical issues arise, and there are no clear or easy solutions,” says Betsill.

In addition to the larger context, Betsill also is interested in mitigation policies aimed at limiting greenhouse gas emissions. She hopes the United States will become a bigger player in this area after the upcoming presidential election.

“The United States has not been a leader in the international community in climate change policy. However, many state and local governments have ramped up efforts in policy creation to fill a leadership void on the federal level,” she explains. “The nation is facing pressures from the international community, particularly from the European Union, and bottom-up pressure domestically to address climate change policy in this country. The time is ripe for the federal government to take action.”

As the presidential candidates from both major parties have voiced their interest in making climate change policy a top priority, and with a supportive Congress, she anticipates the United States will assume more leadership on this issue starting in 2009.

Whatever occurs, this political science professor will continue to observe the big-picture politics and to study specific mitigation strategies as the United States and the rest of the world struggle to cope with climate change.

## Talking about a revolution

The scope and complexity of the energy crisis may be unnerving for some, as energy consumption is related to complex political, environmental, and economic issues that may seem impossible for individuals to tackle.

But they aren’t.

What can you do to help the nation’s energy problem? What changes can be made in your daily lives to lessen your impact on the environment?

**Martín Carcasson**, assistant professor of communication studies and director of the Center for Public Deliberation, posed these questions at several community forums and at the Focus the Nation teach-ins since Fall 2007.

Carcasson created the Center for Public Deliberation to “promote the development of a vibrant deliberative democracy in Northern Colorado” by enhancing local civic culture, expanding collaborative decision making, and improving civic pedagogy. Student associates take courses from Carcasson, who trains them in deliberative processes and teaches them to organize and facilitate public forums.

Public forums conducted by the center have dealt with a variety of challenging issues; however, climate change and energy consumption have been a major focus this past academic year.

Explaining the value of community discussion, Carcasson says: “Most of the time, people rely on politicians to champion issues important to them, including climate change and the nation’s energy problem, but too often political communication is more focused on winning votes than solving problems. By bringing politics down to the citizen scale, we get some honest answers and good discussion about what individuals can do to help develop solutions.” As with most difficult issues, “policy change will not be sufficient to address the energy problem; individual and community changes also will have to be a part.”

There are no easy answers to complex and divisive problems such as climate change and energy consumption, but once people start talking with one another, they realize they may have more in common than they previously thought, according to Carcasson. They also realize solutions require collective action and that change begins with individuals and in communities.

Thanks in part to Carcasson and the student associates of the center, deliberative democracy is thriving in Northern Colorado, and the Fort Collins community is tackling issues of energy consumption and climate change at the grassroots level.



Martín Carcasson



Ellie Moseman

### Sculpting the earth

Earth art erupted onto the scene in the late 1960s and early 1970s with a movement among artists to work with the earth as medium or canvas. Michael Heizer contributed to the movement with a piece titled “Double Negative.” He used earthmovers and dug two 50-foot-deep trenches across the edge of Mormon Mesa in Nevada, displacing nearly 250,000 tons of rock.

This art, also known as land art or earthworks, is of interest to **Ellie Moseman**, assistant professor of art history. She explains that “one of the reasons Heizer created this piece was to call attention to the ways people use or abuse the land and to highlight our dysfunctional relationship with nature.”

Heizer and other earth artists also intended to make a statement by creating art beyond the control of the metropolitan gallery and museum circuit.

Many of the earth art strategies used in the 1960s and 1970s are being rethought, reformed, and adapted by contemporary artists who are continuing the theme of communicating the fragility of the planet.

A recent issue of *ARTNews* magazine is devoted to ecology and the ways in which artists are respond-

ing to climate change. According to Moseman, “Climate change is not something that just a few people are thinking about. It has become a central question not only for scientists, historians, economists, and ecologists but also artists who are trying to raise awareness of climate change through art.” The forms this art takes include installations, photography, performance work, and traditional painting.

Moseman explains that art inherently invites interpretation, which is central to the unique ways in which art can address climate change: “Openness is often more powerful than the raw facts.” She continues, “Art can unleash an individual’s imagination and becomes something that a person is encouraged to think about for themselves. You can read the facts, but there is something about casting the climate change issue in artistic terms that reaches yet another level in the ways people work through ideas.”

Perhaps Moseman one day will be able to write an account of how early 21st-century artists who found inspiration in earth art influenced the public climate change debate as well as individuals’ behavior regarding energy consumption.

## Faculty Excellence

*Liberal arts faculty are recognized as distinguished scholars, teachers, and mentors.*

The college’s John N. Stern Award, which recognizes exemplary professional accomplishments, was presented to **Carol Cantrell**, English, and **Richard Kitchener**, philosophy. The Excellence in Teaching Awards were presented to **Lori Peek**, sociology, for tenure-track faculty; **Chuchang Chiu**, foreign languages and literatures, for special instructors; and **Guy McHendry**, communication studies, for graduate teaching assistants. **Martin Carcasson**, communication studies, and **Jason LaBelle**, anthropology, received the award for Distinction in Advancement, which honors outstanding contributions to the advancement of the college.

Best Teacher Awards are presented by the Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Connection to recognize outstanding educators. This year, two awards were given to College of Liberal Arts faculty: **Eric Hollenbeck**, music, and **Pam Knaus**, history.

**John Calderazzo**, English, and **Sue Ellen Campbell**, English, received the Oliver P. Penock Distinguished Service Award in recognition of their meritorious and outstanding achievements as members of the academic faculty.

The University’s Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award, which honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and the multi-ethnic community, was given to **Mohammed Hirchi**, foreign languages and literatures.

**Stephen Mumme**, political science, received the Office of International Programs’ Distinguished Service Award for his work to internationalize the campus.

The University’s Distinguished Administrative Professional Award was presented to **Blane Harding**, liberal arts director of advising, recruitment, and retention, in recognition of his meritorious and outstanding achievement in the areas of outreach, teaching, and administration.

# Spotlight on Alumni

Alumni are changing the social climate.

**Roles, expectations, and understandings about family, work, and the world we inhabit are undergoing profound shifts. We proudly salute all our alumni, including those featured below, who are helping to change the social climate in this country and around the globe.**



While a student at Colorado State, **Morris Price** (speech communication '87) left no doubt he was going to play a significant role in changing the social climate. He founded Black Cable Television (BCTV), was the president of the Congress of African American Students, and was the first African American homecoming king at the University.

Price currently is the national program officer at the Gill Foundation in Denver, working with gay and lesbian civil rights issues and advocacy organizations and developing leadership programs for GLBT professionals. Price served on the Civic Engagement and Community Outreach committee for the 2008 Democratic National Convention. His work in the gay and lesbian community was honored in 2004 by Colorado State when he received the GLBT Alumni Award; the following year he joined several other Colorado State alumni in forming the GLBT Alumni Alliance.

**Kasie (Bellerby) Murphy** (arts and humanities '90) is doing her part to open the recycling and waste industry to females in her role as director of process engineering for Waste Management Recycle



America. She currently is implementing a continuous improvement strategy in 65 recycling plants in the United States and Canada. When she explains "Lean Manufacturing" strategies to company employees at these various sites, Murphy frequently is the only female in the room, and we are pleased to report

she more than holds her own. After graduation from Colorado State, she started a career in human resources and training, then worked in operations in the telecom industry for 14 years before moving to process engineering in Houston.

From training leaders to save the world's natural resources to counseling individuals on proper nutrition, **Bonnie Coberly** (technical journalism '02) is doing her part to change behaviors. Coberly was communications



manager for Rare in Washington, D.C., a conservation organization working to develop local conservation leaders. Though the environment has always been one of her greatest passions, in November 2007, she decided to pursue another passion – health and nutrition. After completing the Institute for Integrative Nutrition certification program, Coberly started a nutrition counseling practice and facilitates programs and workshops in wellness centers, schools, health care facilities, and corporate wellness programs.

Following military service as a communications specialist in the Persian Gulf War and Mogadishu,



Somalia, **Kelly (Bogdanowicz) Kennedy** (technical journalism '97) now reports on medical issues of war as a civilian reporter with the Times News Service. Her stories focus on traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), suicide, and other medical issues for her armed services

readers. Kennedy's writing not only is helping to educate soldiers and their superiors about how to recognize traumatic brain injuries and PTSD but also is changing the military climate by forcing acknowledgement of these maladies in military personnel. She broke the story on the treatment of soldiers at the Walter Reed Medical Center one day

before the *Washington Post* published its own story. These exposés led to a major shake-up at the military hospital.

On the frontlines of the changing climate for families and work is **Brad Kofoed** (speech communication '89), who resigned his position as vice president of business development for EVault, a software company in Walnut Creek, Calif., to work for and with his wife, Tamara Monosoff. Monosoff started a business out of their home while the children were young. Mom Inventors Inc., was based on a child-proof toilet paper dispenser she invented as well as her desire to help other creative mothers

find entrepreneurial success. Monosoff, who is the face of the company, has appeared on many national television shows, including *Good Morning America* and *Today*, and she has written two books, *The Mom Inventors Handbook* and *Secrets of Millionaire Moms*.

She and Kofoed have worked together to grow the company since he joined her in 2005. Prior to EVault, Kofoed directed Asian business operations for iAsia Works in Hong Kong and earlier served in the Clinton Administration as adviser to the White House with the President's Council on Y2K Conversion.

**Elizabeth Anderson** (art history '00) helps change children's perspectives with puppets. She is the director of development for Kids on the Block in Portland, Ore. The organization's beginning is credited to a special education teacher who started using puppets to help nondisabled students understand and accept their disabled classmates.

The organization is now in more than 30 countries, with more than 1,000 programs in the United States, the largest of which is in Portland. The puppet pro-



grams have expanded over the years to include topics such as diversity awareness, social concerns, and health and safety issues. Anderson strongly believes that the arts are a powerful way to connect with children, and she uses her many talents to help Kids on the Block meet fundraising goals and develop new community relationships.



A pioneer for changing the social and political climate, **Polly Baca** (political science '62) currently is CEO and executive director of the Latin American Research and Service Agency (LARASA) in Denver. Among her many career "firsts," she was the first Hispanic woman elected to the Colorado State Senate;

first woman elected to chair the Democratic caucus during her 12 years in the Colorado state legislature; first Hispanic woman to co-chair the Democratic National Convention; and first minority woman to serve as Rocky Mountain regional administrator of the General Services Administration. She also served as director of the Office of Consumer Affairs during the Clinton administration. Among her many awards were induction into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame and the National Hispanic Hall of Fame.

The granddaughter of a veterinarian and his wife who created an early 20th-century interracial sustainable community in Brodnax, Va., **Detine Bowers** (M.A. speech communication '83) is carrying on the family tradition. Bowers holds a Ph.D. in communication from Purdue. In addition to more than two decades as a university professor, she works with motion picture, film, and other media projects to empower underrepresented communities and create sustainable lifestyles.

While living in Austin, Texas, she was host and creator of *Common Ground*, a multimedia program honoring inspirational individuals. She currently lives in New York City, where one of her projects is Harmony Blessings, which is



focused on sustainable lifestyles and organic development of an authentically diverse arts community. Bowers also is working on a media project featuring the life and message of her mentor, the late James Farmer Jr., who was subject of the Denzel Washington and Oprah Winfrey film, *The Great Debaters*. She also conducted research for Paramount Produc-

tions' *Freedom Writers* (2007), a story about a teacher and her students who were inspired by the Freedom Rides Farmer led in the early 1960s. As a professor, Bowers initiates innovative communication strategies through community projects to engage students and community organizations in holistic communication practices and community service.

## Liberal Arts Alumni Make U.S. Olympic Team

Former Colorado State outdoor track and field student-athletes and College of Liberal Arts alumni **Casey Malone** (art '00) and **Loree Smith** (English '05) made the U.S. Olympic team for the 2008 summer games in Beijing. Malone competed in the discus throw, and Smith competed in the hammer throw.

Malone (right, top), former Colorado State thrower, Olympian, and current assistant coach at the University of Colorado, was awarded a small scholarship when he came to Colorado State as a freshman. "He was 6 feet 8 inches, he didn't lift, and he played basketball, but he had a big frame and long arms," said track and field Head Coach Brian Bedard. Malone improved his events while at Colorado State and later participated in the 2004 Olympic Games, where he placed sixth in the discus competition.

Smith (right, below) had never seen a hammer before coming to Colorado State. At the end of her college career, she held two school records in the hammer and the shot put, three All-American awards, nine Mountain West Conference titles, and a gold medal from the North American-Central American Championships in the hammer. At one point, she held the NCAA record for hammer throw with a toss of 299'9". She became the first-ever female athlete at Colorado State to win the NCAA title in 2005 with a throw of 224'8".



## Be Forever Green

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or call (800) 286-2586.

Life and annual membership options available.



## New Programs and Name Changes

The college welcomes its 13th department, **Ethnic Studies**. This new designation for the former Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity (CASAE), represents years of work, hope, frustration, and now elation.

The Department of Journalism and Technical Communication is launching a doctoral program in **Public Communications and Technology** this fall. The new Ph.D. program focuses on the role of information in the public's understanding of contemporary issues and the impact of new communication technologies in people's lives.

The **Department of Communication Studies** (formerly known as Speech Communication) was renamed to better reflect the breadth of the department's teaching and research activities.

## College Retirements

### 2007-2008 Retiring Faculty

**Carol Cantrell**, English, 39 years of service  
**David Ellerby**, art, 40 years of service  
**Kenneth Hendry**, art, 37 years of service  
**Irmgard Hunt**, foreign languages and literatures, 19 years of service  
**Peter Jacobs**, art, 33 years of service  
**Carol Mitchell**, English, 38 years of service  
**John Roberts**, liberal arts, 10 years of service  
**Holmes Rolston**, philosophy, 40 years of service  
**Ron Stanfield**, economics, 33 years of service  
**Jon Thiem**, English, 29 years of service  
**Evan Vlachos**, sociology, 40 years of service  
**Randy Wassell**, art, 41 years of service



*The new College of Liberal Arts Development Council is posed by the Casavant Phelps Organ in the Recital Hall of the University Center for the Arts. Council members are (from left) Mike Nosler, Tom Meyer, Paula Edwards, Sami Bedell, Carol Ann Hixon, Dave Edwards, Gary Hixon, Thad Smith, Gene Lang, and Steve Hillard. Not pictured is Geoff Holmes.*

## College Highlights

**Mark Fiege**, an associate professor in the Department of History, has been named the William E. Morgan Chair for a five-year period beginning July 2008.

This endowed chair was created by friends and family of the late president of Colorado State University, Bill Morgan, who served from 1949 to 1969. During his tenure, the school saw unprecedented growth in physical facilities, academic offerings – including liberal arts disciplines – and institutional prestige. During those 20 years, the student population grew from less than 4,000 to more than 16,000.

Contributors to the fund specified that the endowed chair be in the College of Liberal Arts to honor the commitment of Morgan and his wife, Lilla B. Morgan, to support the arts and cultural vitality at the school and in the Fort Collins community. The fund charges the dean of liberal arts to select the chair and indicates a preference may be given to individuals in several specified disciplines, including history. It also specifies that the appointee have “an excellent teaching record, a strong commitment to and record of research and/or artistry, and a commitment to service and outreach.”



Fiege has established an outstanding record in each of these areas. He has a national reputation as an environmental historian, indicated by the large number of invited lectures he has delivered at universities across the country. In addition, one of a number of articles he has written, “The Weedy West: Mobile Nature, Boundaries, and Common Space in the Montana Landscape,” won four prestigious awards, and his book *Irrigated Eden: The Making of an Agricultural Landscape in the American West* also won two awards. He is completing another book, *The Republic of Nature*, which will be published by the University of Washington Press and is projected to reshape the way historians integrate the environment into American history.

In addition to outstanding teaching and advising at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, Fiege is a leader of Colorado State's Center for Public History and Archaeology, which currently has grants to write a number of research reports and histories for public agencies such as the National Park Service.

We anticipate that Fiege's tenure as the Morgan Chair will play an important role in building on the reputation of the college and the University for environmental research and scholarship.

**Pattie Cowell** has joined the liberal arts staff as associate dean for Faculty and Graduate Studies.

Cowell was appointed to the Department of English at Colorado State in 1978 with a specialization in American literature. Since then, she has gained significant administrative experience, serving 10 years as chair of the Department of English and two years as interim chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures with short stints as acting associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and acting assistant dean of the Graduate School.

Among her many honors and awards for teaching, scholarship, and service, Cowell was named a University Distinguished Teaching Scholar and received the prestigious Honored Scholar Award from the Division of American Literature to 1800 of the Modern Language Association. Outside of academic pursuits, Cowell enjoys fly-fishing and storytelling.



## Environmental Victory at the Visual Arts Building



**Before** (Above) After a several-year campaign, we finally persuaded the University to move this trash compactor, which was located at the south entrance to the Visual Arts Building.



**After** (Above and right) Celebrating a cleaner environment on the former site of the compactor are, from left, Gary Voss, chair of the art department; Linn Frickman, director of the art museum; Ann Gill, dean; and Patrick Fahey, former chair. Also celebratory are visitors to the Clara Hatton Gallery who no longer have to suffer olfactory assault in order to enter the building.



## In Memory

### **Rebecca (Gumtow) Allen** *(technical journalism '02), 1976-2008*

Rebecca Allen was a friendly competitor in sports, a gentle soul, a conscientious worker, an avid cyclist, a volunteer for charity, and an advocate for environmental awareness. She died on July 22, when she was struck by a car while riding her bike. In 2002, Allen graduated cum laude from the Department of Journalism and Technical Communication and was named one of the department's outstanding graduates. She returned to JTC in 2007 as the undergraduate program administrator where she made a dramatic impact. Allen loved her job and took a personal interest in helping hundreds of students, devoting her full effort to assist each individually. She will be remembered as a great friend and a stellar employee with a wonderful spirit.

### **Mary Fagan Bates** *(art B.A. '63), 1922-2008*

Professor Mary Fagan Bates passed away Jan. 11. An instructor in the Department of Art, Bates was an accomplished calligrapher and artist who painted in oils and sketched in charcoal and pencil. She ran for

Congress from the 4th District of Colorado in 1984. Well known as a peace activist, Bates was a member of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and in a notable incident, she and six other people stopped a train going through Fort Collins carrying nuclear weapon parts by kneeling on the tracks to pray. Bates spent her last year in California gardening and enjoying her lifelong love of flowers.

### **Robert Cavarra, 1934-2008**

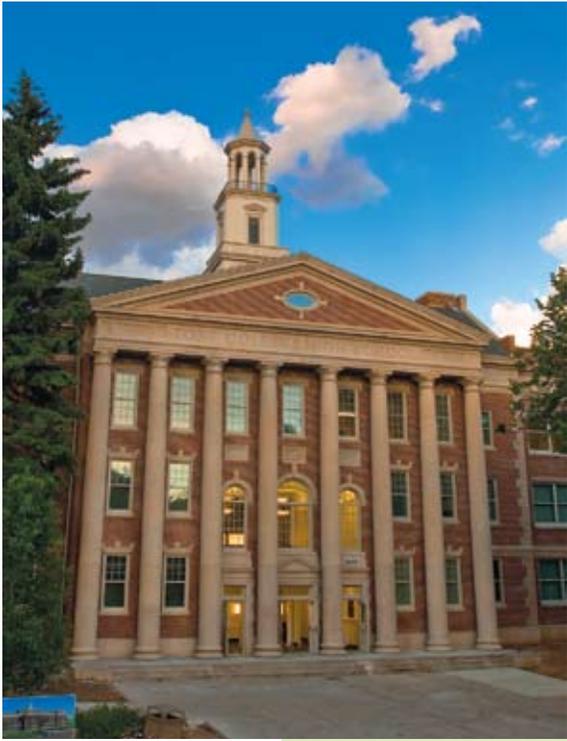
Professor Emeritus Robert Cavarra passed away Feb. 8. A member of the music faculty from 1963 to 2000, Cavarra was a noted concert organist and a leading participant in the revival of the classical organ tradition in North America, bringing international acclaim to Colorado State as a center for organ scholarship and performance. He was central in bringing the Casavant Phelps organ to Colorado State in 1969, and through his own international reputation and that of the Casavant, the great organists of Europe came to campus to perform on the organ. Cavarra played a central role in planning the move of the organ to the Recital Hall at the new University Center for the Arts.

### **Keith Foskin** *(art B.F.A. '86, M.F.A. '89), 1956-2008*

Keith Foskin passed away suddenly Feb. 3 while doing one of the things he loved – skiing. Foskin was a painter; his artistry is on display on the College of Liberal Arts web pages, which he created. He also taught courses in the art department and was a valued and beloved member of the dean's office. Foskin was a free spirit who cared deeply about the welfare of his fellow human beings around the world and who lived his life with integrity and great passion. A show of his paintings was held this spring at North-eastern Community College in Sterling.

### **Otto Werner, 1927-2008**

Professor Emeritus Otto Werner was a faculty member in music at Colorado State from 1961 until his retirement in 1986. During that time, Werner served as director of bands and was well known for his direction of the marching and pep bands. He also developed and directed the Summer Music Camp, which continues to be an outstanding recruiting tool for music students. Werner was a member of a local jazz combo, The Music Staff, and he continued to teach his popular course, History of Jazz, every summer through 2007.



*We Celebrate the Transformation  
of the **Old Fort Collins High School**  
into the **University Center for the Arts***

A highlight of Fall Semester will be a ribbon-cutting to celebrate completion of the University Center for the Arts. Remodeled and newly constructed space have created extraordinary performance and teaching venues for music, dance, and theater as well as art and historic costume museums. The museums will open in Spring 2009.



# Student Spotlight

*Liberal Arts students are making a difference as they venture out into society and the world.*

**Tania Valdez is an inspiration.** While an undergraduate, she found her passion and her future in seeking social justice.



Valdez believes that, while her academic performance greatly contributed to her development, other aspects of her college experience also were crucial. “One life-changing experience has been mentoring 56 first-year undergraduate students over the past 2½ years,” she explains. “Through building relationships with these students, I found my voice and began to recognize that education greatly enhances one’s ability to positively influence the lives of others.”

Another experience that was central to Valdez’s leadership development was the Alternative Spring Break trip she helped plan and organize. A delegation of 10 students and two faculty members traveled to Juarez, Mexico, to learn about the femicide of more than 500 young women living and working in factories on the Mexican border. Valdez assisted a Mexican women’s organization that supports families of femicide victims.

The list of Valdez’s activities is extraordinary. Among them, she was a founding member of INCITE! Women of Color against Violence; a volunteer for Crossroads Safehouse, Hope Lives! Breast Cancer Support Center, and the Core Center; and an active member of the Key Service Community and University Honors Program. She also tutored Spanish students, played violin in Colorado State’s symphony orchestra, and worked two campus jobs.

While engaged in all these activities, Valdez maintained a stellar 3.94 grade-point average. In May, she graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sociology, a minor in Spanish, and interdisciplinary studies certificates in Chicana/o Studies and Women’s Studies. She is one of 240 applicants from a pool of 7,000 who was accepted to law school at the University of California at Berkeley. “Having a legal background will help me connect people to resources previously inaccessible, and therefore, I will be able to effectively advocate for and empower others,” Valdez says.

Valdez’s leadership, academic achievement, community service, and commitment to excellence were recognized this year by the Alumni Association with the Albert C. Yates Student Leadership Award.

As she ponders her just-completed undergraduate education, Valdez reflects on the opportunities that higher education creates, “not only for careers, but also for learning about who we are as people and solidifying how we want to move in the world. I have changed radically in the past 4½ years – not only because of the material I have learned in classes, but also because of the projects, service, and other campus and community activities.”

Valdez’s passion and energy undoubtedly will effect social change, and by her graceful example, she will give hope to others.

**Johanna Hamburger is a tireless advocate for the protection of our environment.** She also is an outstanding example of how liberal arts students and faculty are actively engaged in interdisciplinary efforts to find solutions to global challenges.

Hamburger will graduate in 2009 with a double major in political science and economics with certificates in biological diversity and environmental studies. While maintaining a 4.0 grade-point average in her array of studies, Hamburger conducted research in Colorado State’s Restoration Ecology lab to find a shrub species that can tolerate high zinc concentrations for use in the restoration of mining sites. She worked as an intern with the Forest Guardians to list the black-tailed prairie dog under the Endangered Species Act, as an intern at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, D.C., and as a research assistant at Colorado State investigating global carbon cap-and-trade schemes.

Her extraordinary environmental achievements were recognized by receipt of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship, which is awarded nationally to future environmental leaders. She is one of two Udall Scholars in the history of Colorado State and the first from the College of Liberal Arts.

Hamburger also is an active member of the campus and Fort Collins communities. She is founder and team captain of the Colorado State Mock Trial Team, co-editor of the University Honors Program literary magazine, an intern for the Larimer County Public Defender’s Office, a tutor for HomeRun, and a volunteer for the Sierra Club. After graduation, she plans to pursue dual master’s and law degrees in environmental studies, followed by a career in environmental law.



## Congratulations, Undergraduate Researchers!

Each year, Colorado State University recognizes and honors the achievements of students in the areas of research and creativity through the Celebrate Undergraduate Research and Creativity Showcase.

This year, Highest Honors were awarded to **Cassie Fiscus**, a senior with double majors in economics and business, for her research project, *Women in Modern Rock Bands*. The College of Liberal Arts Honors were presented to senior economics major **Chauncy Bjork**, for his project, *The Impact of Big Commercial Radio on Innovation in Music*.



*The Mountain West Conference’s best marching band, under the direction of J. Steven Moore, takes the field again this fall to support the Rams.*

# Distinguished Alumni

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



The Distinguished Graduate of the Last Decade, **J.D. McCartney** (technical journalism '98), has always had news in his blood. At the age of 10, he started a neighborhood newspaper, typing out the issues on

an old-fashioned typewriter and highlighting breaking news such as garage sales and Little League scores. McCartney then sold the papers to neighbors for 25 cents.

Expectations were high for McCartney in 1998, when he graduated magna cum laude and departed the journalism and technical communication department as its Outstanding Graduate. It did not take long for him to make us proud.

He is the CEO of Xstatic Public Relations, a Denver agency he co-founded in 2004. Building and fostering relationships comes naturally to McCartney, and he developed a business that thrives by creating positive partnerships. He proudly represents Colorado State in the Denver business community – serving on several boards and committees and frequently speaking at community events.

It has been just 10 years since McCartney walked across the stage at Moby Arena to receive his degree, but he already has established himself as a highly regarded leader in the Denver business community and a very distinguished alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts.



The College of Liberal Arts Honor Alumnus, **John Roberts** (history '64), has devoted his life to serving community college students. As a professor at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill., Roberts has

worked to open minds and create opportunities for young and old alike. He is passionate about teaching and makes a difference every day in the way students see the world and in the choices they make.

Roberts was born and raised in Chicago and, after graduating from CSU, earned a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a Ph.D. from Illinois State University. As a history professor for 37 years, his engaging teaching style reaches even the toughest students in his classes. Consistently described by his students as a dynamic and enthusiastic teacher, he energizes learners and sparks interests that carry his students to lives of inquiry.

As a Lincoln scholar, Roberts regularly lectures in his community and serves as director of the Springfield Sister City Association and a member of his local school board.

The theme of excellence is a thread that runs throughout Roberts' life, and his commitment to education has brought honor to the College of Liberal Arts.

*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.

Written and edited by Ann Gill and Catherine Coleman Kane with contributions from Kimberly Sorensen and Kim Tobin.

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## Life Changes Offer Occasion to Create a Legacy

Life is ever changing, and it is often when our alumni and faculty are faced with significant change that we have the occasion to work with them. Honoring or marking an important time in their lives by becoming a donor allows them to leave a lasting legacy, while also helping strengthen the College of Liberal Arts for generations to come.

Michael Clark (sociology '01) decided to get involved by supporting an existing scholarship in honor of a former professor, Ronny Turner, when his father started a family foundation a few years ago. After that, he and his wife, Jill (business '00), went on to create the college's first full-tuition scholarship, which will undoubtedly change the lives of students who will receive the scholarships.

Others, such as the Adsit family, find fulfillment by honoring lost loved ones. They created a scholarship to pay tribute to their daughter Kayla, who would have been a freshman this past year but was lost tragically in an automobile accident in summer 2007. Their daughter Janelle, a graduate student in

English, was instrumental in establishing the memorial scholarship, and their family has found some solace through supporting a student in need.

The extraordinary education and preparation for an ever-changing world that our students receive is due in large part to our esteemed faculty. Recognizing the unwavering commitment of our faculty, often as they transition to retirement, is another occasion when people become involved as donors. Steve Hillard (political science '70) established the Council Tree Endowment in honor of his inspiring education from Bernie Rollin, a University Distinguished Professor from the philosophy department, and there are numerous other funds that honor the unwavering commitment of our faculty.

The impact and change that donors make to the College of Liberal Arts and our students, faculty, and staff are immeasurable. Thank you for your generosity. I look forward to working with many more of you in the future.



Kim Tobin  
Director of Development  
College of Liberal Arts  
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**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 gifts will provide encouragement and always make a difference.

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Two Ways to . . .

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Colorado  
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Knowledge to Go Places



## Message from the Dean

**In the midst of much change,  
the very best of liberal arts  
remains unchanged – it is you.**

**A**s we face dramatic change in the world around us, much within the College of Liberal Arts is changing as well. No longer part of an ivory tower that exists apart from the “real world,” the college comprises 13 vibrant departments within an institution committed to public service. The College of Liberal Arts newsletter illustrates this change; it features faculty, students, and alumni who are engaged in an array of activities that seek to address climate change, reduce energy consumption, improve the social climate, and identify responses to other challenges here and abroad.



One transformation in the college is bittersweet. Outstanding and beloved senior faculty members are retiring; at the same time, we are hiring exciting new faculty. This fall, the college welcomes 24 new faces who have expertise ranging from environmental geography to theater lighting design to South Asian philosophy. They are coming to Fort Collins from all over the world, including Hawaii, South Korea, Spain, and Chile.

Many changes are cause for celebration. You are invited to the ribbon-cutting on the final phase of the University Center for the Arts, which is set for Oct. 16; the grand opening of the University Art Museum will occur in April. I hope you get the opportunity to visit these remarkable performance and display venues.

We also increased the number of our endowments by 10 percent, with particular success increasing scholarship endowments. The generosity of our alumni and

friends is supporting a new generation of students who face rapidly rising costs for their education.

Another positive change was a 19 percent increase in grant applications this year. External funding is increasingly necessary to support faculty research and creativity, such as our Center for Biomedical Research in Music, and to develop innovative educational programs, such as the recent U.S. Department of Education grant to two faculty members in Arabic and French to infuse Middle Eastern studies into the curriculum in liberal arts, engineering, construction management, and natural resources.

Looking back over the past academic year, my favorite moments occurred in conversations with alumni. We hosted events or met with individual alumni in Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, Albuquerque, Southern California, Seattle, and along the Front Range. Those interactions served to deepen my conviction that, in the midst of much change, the very best of liberal arts remains unchanged – it is you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy M. Gill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amy M. Gill, Dean  
College of Liberal Arts