

around the **BLOCK**

A Newsletter of the Colorado College Community

Block 1 • 2007

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Struck by lightning

The wedding party rehearsing in Shove Memorial Chapel at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17, may have taken it as a sign

from God: About 10 minutes into the rehearsal, a bolt of lightning struck the chapel’s south turret, knocking off huge chunks of stone. “We heard this awful bang,” said Sandy Papuga, office coordinator for the history department, who was assisting with the rehearsal. “It was really scary. The double west doors were open and we could see what we thought was smoke. It must have been residue from the rock, but it really looked like smoke.”

After calling CC chaplain Bruce Coriell and security officers, Papuga continued with the wedding rehearsal. Coriell, security officers, and facilities services personnel

inspected the damage, and the area was cordoned off. Facilities services contacted a professional restoration company to stabilize the turret and clean up the debris, and by 11 a.m. Saturday, the chapel was ready for the two weddings scheduled for that day.

Paul Myrow, geology professor, was standing at the window of the geology department seminar room talking with Tim Fuller, political science professor, when he saw a bright flash and immediately heard a loud boom. “I was shocked at the short interval between the light and the thunder,” he says. “I thought the lightning must have struck within 400 yards of where we were standing because it was only a small fraction of a second between the two.”

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Get to know: Lynnette DiRaddo

Hardly a thing happens on the CC campus that Lynnette DiRaddo doesn’t know about. If it’s not on her radar, then it wasn’t booked, logged, planned, or coordinated through the

Worner Campus Center Information Desk.

DiRaddo, the Worner Center and campus reservations manager, oversees the Worner Information Desk – the campus’s nerve center. She’s been at CC since 1994, and at the Worner Desk for the past six years.

“The Worner Desk is a central information point,” she says. “We tend to know a little bit about a lot of things.”

DiRaddo oversees 10 students working at the Worner Desk, and another five who work at the Tiger Pit, on the lower level of the Worner Center.

Those working the desk do the expected, such as selling tickets to campus events and answering questions ranging from what time the library opens to when the city buses run. They also do the unexpected, such as loaning students everything from hammers and tape to bike pumps and locks.

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What CC did on its summer vacation

Lisa B. Hughes adjunct assistant English professor, and **Barry Sarchett**, English professor: They spent a week at Stella Vineyard, a small boutique vineyard on the island of Cephalonia, in the Mediterranean Sea. There, in honor of the year (2)007, they read “Casino Royale” aloud to each other on the beach. The book is the first of Ian Fleming’s James Bond novels, and is set in the Mediterranean. The owner and vintner of Stella Vineyards, Elefteris Miliaris, is creating a new blend from the native Greek grape Mavrodaphne and the classic Bordeaux grape Cabernet Sauvignon, which turned out to be a perfect accompaniment to Bond-reading.

Ann DeStefano, psychology staff assistant: My 10-year-old grandson, Aidan, is a baseball fanatic. So, we decided that one of our goals is to watch a game together in every major league stadium. This summer his grandfather and I took Aidan to games in Denver, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, New York (Yankee and Shea stadiums), Washington, D.C. (where Ed and Cathey Weir Parker joined us for a game), and Baltimore. Over Labor Day weekend we went to Phoenix to watch the Rockies play the Diamondbacks. We’ve seen the Giants in San Francisco previously, so now there are only 17 stadiums left to visit!

Kate Holbrook, assistant chaplain: I spent most of the summer in Northern Ireland where I volunteered with the Corrymeela Community, an intentional community committed to reconciliation in Ireland and the rest of the world. When I wasn’t drenched by rain or drinking caffeinated tea, I was support staff to visiting groups, seeking to help embody Corrymeela’s objective of “promoting reconciliation and peace-building through the healing of social, religious and political divisions in Northern Ireland.”

Diane Benninghoff, assistant VP for advancement:
Mark Smith (economics professor) and I took CC alumni

down the Colorado River in late August. Mark taught us all about western water policy, especially as it affects the Colorado River system. We hiked the amazing side canyons, played in waterfalls, hiked, swam in pools, hiked, ran the rapids, hiked, paddled the ‘shredder,’ and let the canyon have its way with us for 14 days. As an interesting side note, **David Spiegel** ’11 was the youngest member of the party, and along with Mark, kayaked.



Richard P. Peralta, residential life coordinator, Mathias Hall: Richard and his family visited relatives in the Philippines. Before leaving the U.S., they collected donations of school supplies and living necessities, then distributed them to those in need in Manaoag, a small, rural town. Among the items distributed were backpacks, basic school supplies, and hygiene products.

Nate Bower, chemistry professor: I oversaw four research students during the summer on topics that included an analysis of the sap from Caribbean pine trees from Belize and ponderosa pine from Colorado and New Mexico in order to better understand how pine beetles know which trees to attack; new ways to analyze arrowheads and similar artifacts from archaeological sites such as Chaco Canyon in order to tell where they are from without destroying them; and measured levels of metals in urban gardens in the Colorado Springs area to track where toxic metals might come from. These student-faculty collaborations (two involved **Marc Snyder** in biology as well) resulted in four different presentations at professional meetings in locations ranging from California to New Orleans.

I also hosted and helped teach portions of a weeklong workshop on “chemistry and art” that involved both artist and chemistry faculty from across the country.

Cossitt Hall upgrade a labor of love

For safety and ADA compliance reasons, facilities services brought the rotunda circular guardrail and stairway handrail in Cossitt Hall up to current building and regulatory codes last spring.



This was done by increasing the height of the guardrail and stairway handrail by adding on to the existing work.

The college was able to do this in a manner that not only preserved, but enhanced the historic architectural details. “We couldn’t just tack on the additions,” says Dan Crossey of facilities services, “and it would be a crime to tear out the existing work.” In the process of maintaining the architectural detail, the challenge appeared to be extremely complicated, but with the help of some highly competent and caring craftspeople, the result was just short of a miracle.

Basically, there were three code and ADA deficiencies associated with the railings constructed in 1913. The oak cap railing for a stairway cannot be any larger than 2 1/4 inches maximum width, with a 6 1/4 inches maximum circumference, so that it will accommodate a human handgrip comfortably.

Secondly, the spacing of any openings in the railings cannot exceed four inches, or a child could either fall through or get stuck between the bars. This was rectified by adding dividers between vertical railings, some of which were eight inches apart. “You have to look pretty hard to see that they were added on,” Crossey says.

Lastly, the guardrail was much lower than the required height of 42 inches to prevent a person from accidentally falling, and the stair railings were much lower than the required 34- to 38-inch height.

Jeff Carlson, Leiser Painting and Decorating Company, stripped the nearly black stain off of the original oak railing, then carefully matched the final staining of the older oak with the newer oak railing in a lighter color to allow the oak wood grain to be seen.

The credit for the design goes to Kevin Shell, of Michael H. Collins Architects, AIA. The credit for the metal work goes to Sigma Metals Inc., Jerry Canavan, and his helper Raul Pulido. The credit for the curved oak railings goes to CC facilities services, Crossey, remodeling specialist Chuck Carlson, and student helpers Peter Benoit '07 and Bailey Peck '10.



○ George Eckhardt, Facilities Services

Saturday, September 1

Exhibit: Laura Ross-Paul: The Allusive Self (through Oct. 5) 12:30 p.m., Coburn Gallery, main floor of Worner Campus Center

Monday, September 3

Service: Opening Convocation: 9 a.m., Shove Memorial Chapel

Presentation: Returning Student Registration, 1 p.m., Gaylord Hall

Tuesday, September 4

Presentation: Returning Student Registration, noon, Gaylord Hall

Monday, September 10

Workshop: Becoming a Love and Logic Parent, 6:30 p.m., Worner Campus Center

Wednesday, September 12

Lecture: Judith Rice-Jones: Monument Valley Park at 100, noon, Gaylord Hall, \$12.50. Reservations due Monday, Sept. 10; call 389-6649.

Performance: Sbandieratori dei Borghi e Sestieri Fiorentini, 12:30 p.m., Armstrong Quad

Gallery talk: Laura Ross-Paul Reception & Talk, 4:30 p.m., Coburn Gallery, main floor of Worner Campus Center

Thursday, September 13

Reading: Edward P. Jones, 7 p.m., Gates Common Room

Saturday, September 15

Tour: Van Briggles Pottery Tours, 9 a.m., Facilities Services, \$5

Monday, September 17

Lecture: William Rogers & Suzanne Jones, Wilderness/Wildlands: Is There Enough? 7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

Tuesday, September 18

Lecture: Environmentalist Bill McKibben: Building the Climate Movement 7:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel

Wednesday, September 19

Concert: Mbera African Music 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

Thursday, September 20

Lecture: The Great Porn Debate 7 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel

Friday, September 21

Performance: Colorado Festival of World Theatre: Truth in Translation, 8 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, inside Armstrong Hall, \$20-45, \$20 with a CC ID; tickets at the Worner Information Desk for the CC community; at www.cfw.org or 227-0086 for the general public.

Saturday, September 22

Performance: Colorado Festival of World Theatre: Truth in Translation, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, inside Armstrong Hall, \$20-45, \$20 with a CC ID; tickets at the Worner Information Desk for the CC community; at www.cfw.org or 227-0086 for the general public.

Sunday, September 23

Performance: Colorado Festival of World Theatre: Truth in Translation and "Talk Back" 2 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, inside Armstrong Hall, \$20-45, \$20 with a CC ID; tickets at the Worner Information Desk

for the CC community; at www.cfwf.org or 227-0086 for the general public.

Monday, September 24

Lecture: Rita Felski: The Uses of Literature: An Un-Manifesto 7 p.m., Gates Common Room

Wednesday, September 26

Benefit: Woman's Club Downtown Chic Fashion Show, Luncheon & Sale 11 a.m. Bemis Hall, \$40, or \$30 for those over 65 years old. Reservations required, due by Sept. 19: Contact Diane Bell, 593-1054.

Lightning *(from p.1)*

After the strike, a crowd gathered on the lawn surrounding the chapel, inspecting the damage. Large chunks of stone had been blown over the top of the roof toward the labyrinth and were embedded in the grass. "We picked up as much debris as we could find and saved some large stones which had little or no damage," says George Eckhardt, assistant director of service facilities. Eckhardt says hundreds of antique clay roof tiles also were damaged by the falling rock. The decorative finial at the top of the turret was found by Coriell amid the debris, and will be replaced on the turret when the time comes.

This is the first time lightning has caused physical damage to the building, although in the past, computers, phones, and the chapel's Welte-Tripp organ have suffered electrical damage, says Shove Chapel Manager Linda Madden. None of those were damaged by this strike.

CC has contracted a professional restoration company to repair the damage, and Eckhardt said repairs to the stone and tile will be done in such a way that no one will be able to tell that there was ever any damage.

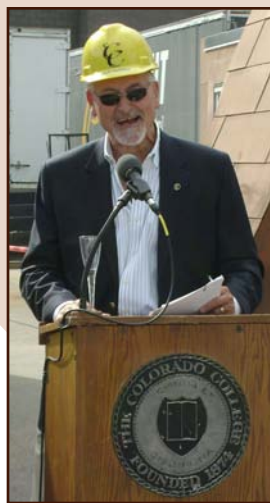
Shove Chapel has lightning protection at its highest point, Eckhardt says, but will have increased protection now, with small lightning rods to be installed at 12-foot



Taken by Bill Holmes with his cell phone camera.

intervals on top of the building. "We put lightning protection on the Van Briggles building after one of the tall kiln stacks was hit by lightning a couple of years ago. The small lightning protection rods look very discreet on this historic building, as they will on Shove," Eckhardt says. He expects the repair work to take several months.

Topping off ceremony



A \$2.5 million gift designated for the I.D.E.A. Space at the Cornerstone Arts Center was announced Aug. 30 at the “topping off” event, held adjacent to the Mortenson Construction building at 810 N. Tejon St.

The funding is the gift of siblings Susan Hoke Smith '77 and William S. Smith '74.

Nearly 170 people attended the event, held to mark the completion of the exterior superstructure of the Cornerstone

Arts Center. The event allowed the college community, donors, and local media to get a “sneak peek” at the building.

Among those addressing the crowd were President Richard F. Celeste, Cornerstone architect Antoine Predock, Craig Goettsch of Mortenson Construction, and Donna Arnink, drama/dance professor.

As the guests, the majority of them wearing bright yellow CC hardhats, nibbled on cookies and punch under a tent, Celeste cited some Cornerstone Arts Center numbers:

- The building is 72,419 square feet (including 7,999 square feet of mechanical basement)
- 35 subcontractors have worked a total of 103,000 hours to date
- 869 tons of steel have been installed in the building
- 28,000 project e-mails have been exchanged so far
- 24,000 cubic yards of soil have been excavated, moved to an off-site location, and will be brought back to backfill as necessary.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a tree atop the Cornerstone Arts Center, symbolizing the “topping off” milestone, was unveiled. The tree, which will be planted

later as part of the Cornerstone Arts Center landscaping, also is symbolic of the college’s commitment to obtaining Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the building.

Celeste then invited attendees to tour the building, where faculty and staff were poised to guide the visitors and answer questions.



Comments Invited

Colorado College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit Oct. 29-31, 2007, by a team representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Colorado College has been accredited by the commission since 1915. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the commission’s criteria for accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college:
Public Comment on Colorado College
The Higher Learning Commission
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400
Chicago, IL 60602

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed; comments cannot be treated as confidential. All comments must be received by Sept. 29, 2007.



The Sound of (CC) Music

Colorado College has its own, although somewhat smaller, version of the von Trapp family – the Brink family.

All four members of the Brink family are intricately involved with CC’s music department.

Dan Brink directs the college’s orchestra and the music group Collegium Musicum, dedicated to the performance of works from the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, and the Early Baroque periods. Brink joined the performance faculty at Colorado College in 1987 and was appointed to the full-time faculty as a lecturer in music in 1997.

Ann Brink is an accomplished soprano and voice instructor who also plays the piano and organ. She recently co-directed CC voice students in the “Lady in the Dark,” based on the book by Moss Hart; husband Dan Brink was the music director.

Bernie Brink, who plays the piano, horn and trumpet, graduated as a music major in 2006. He worked as a paraprofessional in the music department during the 2006-07 academic year, and is applying to graduate school to pursue a jazz studies degree.

Daughter Stephanie Brink, a soprano, graduated with distinction in music in May. She also plays the piano and percussion, and will serve as the CC music department paraprofessional for the 2007-08 academic year.

Both Bernie and Stephanie Brink are recipients of the prestigious and highly coveted Cowperthwaite Award, an award instituted at Colorado College in 1962 to honor excellence in music.

While Bernie is interested in pursuing jazz, Stephanie is interested in opera. “I find it challenging and fun to sing,” says the 23-year-old. Stephanie says she found “a completely other voice” when she started singing opera. “I studied with people who have a passion for it, and I developed that passion. I find it way more fulfilling than jazz,” she says, ribbing her brother.

○ *Leslie Weddell*

Parking process starts with a flurry

At 8 a.m. on May 2, the online parking permit application form went active, allowing members of the CC community to request a parking permit for the 2007-08 academic year. In the first hour, there was a flurry of activity, with 361 requests. Things slowed down after that; there were 42 requests in the second hour and 548 for the day, reports **Karen To**, director of new media and web editor. On the following day, there were a paltry 31 requests.



The Brink family



Stephanie and Bernie Brink

Get to know: **Lynnette DiRaddo** *(from p.1)*

“Sooner or later, everyone has to come to the Worner Desk for something,” DiRaddo says. “It’s a great place to work because you know what’s going on.”

It’s also a busy place: DiRaddo counted 864 listings on the master calendar during last year’s Block 7. Some functions were small and aimed at a limited audience, but 155 of those were all-campus events, such as lectures and concerts.

She estimates that close to half of the campus events are student initiated, organized, and run. “I am constantly amazed by the CC students,” she says. “They have these rigorous academics, and they’re playing in concerts and bands and climbing mountains, and they sponsor all these amazing events. They don’t just go to them, they initiate them.”

From her position at the hub of the campus center, DiRaddo has become attuned to the rhythms of the day. “Just sitting at my desk I can tell what time it is by the noise level in Worner Center,” she says. “The everyday

traffic through here has its own pattern, and by noon it’s rocking.”

Working with students when they come in with an event is one of her favorite parts of the job. She helps students think through all the possible scenarios of their event. “I help them with the little details, such as ‘Who is going to take tickets at the door? Do you have a Plan B if it rains?’ It’s a great job for me because I like to keep things organized.

“All public venues are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis,” DiRaddo says. Once the venue is reserved, she then coordinates the behind-the-scenes services that many take for granted: the set-up, audio-visual, food, custodial, and security arrangements.

“Events overall are just fun. You’re planning parties,” she says.

○ *Leslie Weddell*

WWW: Weird, Wacky Worner

Lynnette DiRaddo says the Worner Desk gets a variety of questions. Some of her favorites:

- *We had a student a several years ago who called nearly every weekday morning to ask what time it was. I asked him once if he had a clock in his room. “I don’t need one, I have you,” he said. It became such a habit that if he didn’t call, I got worried about him.*
- *We’ve had students call to ask if it’s raining outside.*
- *One spring, an art class went around campus hanging pieces of art from trees. We got a call wanting to know “what is that in the tree right there?” They were looking out their room window, but we couldn’t see what they were seeing.*
- *A student group wanted to have a wood carving exhibition in Gaylord and so the question was, “Can we use a chain saw in Gaylord?” My first response was, “Why do you need a chain saw in Gaylord?” We had to say no to that one (and we don’t say no very often).*
- *One year a parent called to inquire as to why their son had been here for more than three weeks and no one had been to his room to pick up his dirty laundry.*
- *We get calls from the community all the time and they aren’t exactly sure what they’re asking, but their friends have told them something about a concert or lecture. So, they’ll say things like, “I heard about a concert at CC that’s in that one building where they have concerts. I think it’s the brick building. Can you tell me if there’s a concert there sometime soon?”*