

# around the **BLOCK**

A Newsletter of the Colorado College Community

Block 2 • 2007

## inside

CC welcomes eclectic class of 2011

Bicycle patrols on campus

Bob Loevy's expertise in high demand

2,500 cups of free coffee

New hires and promotions

Library book-truck drill team marches to a different beat



## NSF grant enables student-faculty research

Colorado College has received a \$234,200 National Science Foundation grant to support interdisciplinary research in mathematical biology. The grant will support the research of 16 students, who will work in interdisciplinary pairs, over the course of a three-year period.

CC faculty members consider supervising undergraduate research to be one of their most important activities. Figures from the last North Central Association reaccreditation process revealed that 85 percent of CC students worked on independent research projects, compared with 68 percent at peer schools.

Under the direction of principal investigator David Brown, assistant professor of mathematics, the grant will provide CC undergraduates with the opportunity to conduct in-depth research in mathematical biology with faculty from the mathematics, biology, and environmental

science departments.

In addition to Brown, other participating faculty members are Ralph Bertrand, Steven Janke, Miro Kummel, Brian Linkhart, Phoebe Lostroh, Luis Melara, and Amelia Taylor.

### Research topics include:

- Microbial gene expression (Brown, mathematics, and Lostroh, biology)
- Plant-insect mutualisms (Kummel, environmental science, and Melara, mathematics)
- Algebraic phylogenetics (Bertrand, biology, and Taylor, mathematics)

○ continued page 8 ○



## Get to know: Geoff Falen

A college career center should not be viewed just as the “life after college office,” says CC’s new career center director Geoff Falen. While most seniors develop an increasingly keen interest in the center as graduation approaches, Falen would like to see students incorporate career exploration into all four years of their college experience.

Falen came to CC in July from Bryn Mawr College, where he was associate director of career development. Before that, Falen, who holds an M.A. in European history and a B.A. in history and German language and literature from the University of Pennsylvania, worked at the Annenberg School at the University of Pennsylvania.

When interviewing at Colorado College, he was struck by its creative energy. “It’s a different kind of environment here,” he said. “It’s an opportunity to grow professionally

○ continued page 8 ○

# CC welcomes eclectic class of 2011

Colorado College welcomed 525 first-year students to campus on Monday, Sept. 3 during the college's annual Opening Convocation and first day of classes. Included among this year's entering class are 17 high school valedictorians, three black belts in martial arts, the Swiss Junior Olympic Men's Nordic Teleskiing champion, and an international boomerang competitor.

## Other first-year class highlights include:

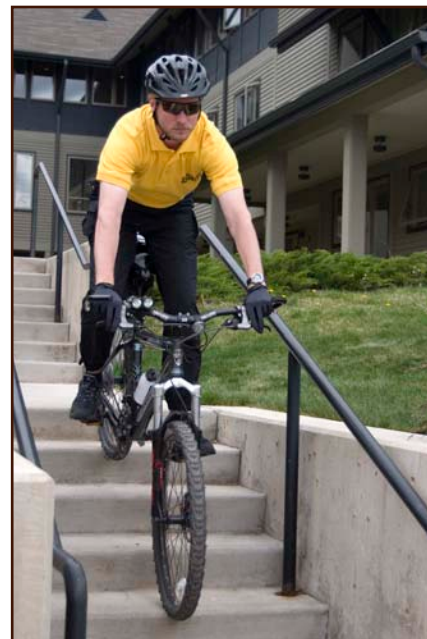
- 44 are in the top 1 percent of their graduating classes
- 26 percent of the class served as athletic team captains during their high school careers, totaling 178 captaincies over four years
- 28 percent of the class has engaged in extensive community service while abroad
- 39 students were editors for their schools' yearbooks, literary magazines, newspapers, or TV stations
- 9 students were their classes' elected presidents
- 9 students were the presidents of their schools' student councils
- 2 students have completed novels, one as an eighth grader
- 1 student started a baseball camp with his brothers that he now runs and coaches
- 5 are Junior Olympians
- 2 are nationally competitive snowboarders
- 17 international students are from 15 different countries
- 38 have lived abroad for a significant portion of their lives, and bring 12 different languages to campus
- 32 are citizens of two or more countries
- 1 began his own film production company and has shot 40 films
- 1 is the co-owner of an espresso shop
- 2 assisted national leaders on congressional campaigns
- 1 created and maintains subwaynut.com, a Web site dedicated to his passion for mass transit
- 1 spent a year on a boat from the Bahamas to the East Coast while being home-schooled
- 3 are tri-lingual and one speaks four languages fluently

○ *Compiled by the Admission Office*

## Bicycle patrols

CC's security office began bicycle patrols in April in an effort to make officers more visible around campus. An added benefit, says Ron Smith, chief of security, is that bikes can get into areas where a vehicle cannot, as evidenced here by officer Darren Salkil.

The department has two bicycles, and officers took a 24-hour course offered by the Colorado Springs Police Department. Asked about the reaction of the department and of the students, Smith says, "Everyone loves it."



*Photo by  
Meghan Stebbins*

## Bob Loevy's expertise in high demand

It's nearly Bob Loevy's season.

As election season picks up, he's seemingly everywhere. Turn on the TV, and there's Bob, usually in a navy blazer in front of Palmer Hall. Listen in to KVOR talk radio with Richard Randall, and you'll hear his voice. Pick up a newspaper or read the news on the Internet, and you'll see his quotes. Just in the past two years, he's been quoted in *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Denver Post*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *The Gazette* and many other newspapers.

He's so much in demand that two Denver newspaper columns in the past year called for political reporters to expand their source lists, rather than relying on Loevy and three other top political analysts in the state. But the calls and camera trucks keep coming. And Loevy, a professor of political science at CC since 1968, is fine with that.

"It's the world's most wonderful hobby," he says. "It's tremendously fun to do, and it gives you a whole new group of students. That's particularly true of the TV and radio reporters, because they turn over so fast. ... It's a whole new group of people to educate about the politics of Colorado."

It helps that Loevy worked on the other side of the equation, as a *Baltimore News-Post* reporter in the late '50s and early '60s. (Years later, he was instrumental in creating the thematic minor in journalism at CC.)

"I worked my way through graduate school writing for the *News-Post* about state and local politics and state and local government," says Loevy. "At the same time I was writing my doctoral dissertation on voting behavior in Baltimore. It was a happy confluence. ... At a very young age, I became a political commentator on state and local politics, and then I was on TV and radio. So when I came to CC in 1968, my reputation came with me."

Now, he patiently spends 30 to 45 minutes bringing a TV reporter up to speed on Colorado politics, before being

interviewed on camera for a piece that will be edited down to a mere 15 or 30 seconds. He says it makes him a better professor.

"Answering reporters' questions refines your thinking about things. It helps your teaching. And you find out about developments as soon as they happen."

Loevy's political understanding is bolstered by real-world experience: He worked on Capitol Hill in the 1960s and was a campaign consultant and campaign manager. In 1996, he took 18 students to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. (Two CC students managed to wangle an invitation to the biggest party in town – the one hosted by John Kennedy Jr. "They even got a limo ride," Loevy says.)

He plans to help Professor Tom Cronin in August 2008

when Cronin oversees the curriculum for a Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars program where college students from around the nation participate in convention briefings, seminars and internships with candidates.

"It's heaven on earth that the convention will be in Denver," Loevy says.

While Palmer Hall underwent renovations in 2004, political science

professors were temporarily moved from their offices into a common room. All the media calls for Loevy were quite evident to colleagues Bob Lee and Lief Carter, who couldn't resist playing armchair quarterback, joshing after an interview that Loevy should have said something different.

"Oh yes, they would sit around and razz me," Loevy says, laughing. He defended his media sideline, however.

"It is a hobby. True, it does not advance your career. Your career only advances when you publish another book," he says. "But it enriches my teaching, and reporters, TV and radio people are generally interesting to be with. They share with me this deep interest in state and local politics."



# block 2 CALENDAR of events

## Monday, October 1

**Lecture:** Explaining Religion: Naturalism With and Without Scientism, 3:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

**Lecture:** Nigel Glenny: Northern Ireland: A Shared Vision For a Divided People, 7 p.m., Gaylord Hall

## Tuesday, October 2

**Concert:** EDITH with local musicians Sarah Hope and Hilary Studebaker, 12:15 p.m., Coburn Gallery

**Exhibit:** Laura Ross-Paul: The Allusive Self (through Oct. 5), 12:30 p.m., Coburn Gallery

**Concert:** Colcannon, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free, but tickets required, available at Worner Campus Center Information Desk

## Thursday, October 4

**Exhibit:** Energy Expo, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel

**Reading:** Jeffrey Lent, 7 p.m., Gates Common Room

**Lecture:** Zorro: What Goes on Behind the Mask? 7 p.m., Slocum Commons

**Lecture:** James Woolsey: Solutions to America's Energy Crisis, 7:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel

## Saturday, October 6

**Performance:** Tekcno Powwow, 7:30 p.m., Cossitt Hall

## Sunday, October 7

**Performance:** Core Ensemble presents "Tres Vidas," 3 p.m., Packard Hall

## Monday, October 8

**Lecture:** Why Would a Loving God Promote Hate? 7 p.m., W.E.S. Room, lower level of Worner Campus Center

## Tuesday, October 9

**Open house:** Graduate School Fair, 11 a.m., Worner Campus Center

**Concert:** Distinguished Organist Jurgen Essl, 7:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel

**Lecture:** Peter Landres: Is There a Future for Wilderness? 7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

## Wednesday, October 10

**Lecture:** Aficionados Lecture and Luncheon featuring David Mason, Noon, Gaylord Hall, \$12.50, reservations due Oct. 8; 389-6649

**Reading:** Christopher Bakken and Kerry Neville Bakken, 7 p.m., Jerome P. McHugh Student Commons

**Lecture:** Morris Berman: Religious Roots and American Foreign Policy, 7:30 p.m., Gaylord Hall

**Concert:** Papa Susso & the Manding Music and Dance Society Limited, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

## Friday, October 12

**Reception:** Cyberskins: Meet Bently Spang, 4:30 p.m., Coburn Gallery

**Exhibit:** Cyberskins (through Dec. 12), Coburn Gallery, hours: 12:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays

## Monday, October 15

**Lecture:** Buddha and the Brain, 7:30 p.m., Gates Common Room

## Tuesday, October 16

**Lecture:** William Bolcom, Distinguished Visiting Composer, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

## Wednesday, October 17

**Concert:** Music at Midday, 12:15 p.m., Packard Hall

**Concert:** Cabaret by William Bolcom & Joan Morris,

7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free but tickets required; available at Worner Campus Center Information Desk starting Oct. 5.

## Thursday, October 18

**Concert:** The Music of William Bolcom, Distinguished Visiting Composer, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

## Sunday, October 21

**Reading:** Salman Rushdie, 7 p.m., Armstrong Theatre

## Tuesday, October 23

**Concert:** Music of the Mediterranean, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall

## Coffee anyone – day or night?

Jess Arnsteen and Kyle Cureau, co-founders of BuyWell International, have packed up their tents on Autrey Field. The two camped out there for 20 days – from Sept. 7 to 27, while their roasting facility was being remodeled to make it production-ready.



Senior Adriane Ohanesian serves as a volunteer barista last week in the BuyWell tents on Autrey Field.

Arnsteen says they served approximately 2,500 drinks from their tent encampment, which they manned 24 hours a day. The last coffee drinkers would come by about 3 or 4 a.m., while the first – usually a certain chemistry professor – would show up about 6:30 a.m. “It’s OK – we don’t sleep much anyway,” Arnsteen says, although there was a cot in the tent.

The most popular request was a double espresso, but by the end of their stay, they were getting into “the art of lattes,” he says. Decaf was a rare request.

BuyWell purchases its coffee directly from farmers for fair trade prices and practices. The company’s temporary tents were pitched between the Synergy House and the InterFaith House, which Arnsteen said was a happy coincidence. “They were great neighbors – and right in line with what we’re doing.”



# Human Resources news

## New Hires/Rehires

**Marianne Aldrich**, Circulation Services Coordinator, Tutt Library

**Marita Beckert**, Staff Assistant, Math Department

**Charlotte Blessing**, Director of International Studies

**Sara Burst**, Residential Life Coordinator, Residential Life & Housing

**Jason Bushie**, Assistant Athletic Trainer, Athletics

**Eirene Cutolo**, Staff Assistant, Facilities Services

**Stephanie Daigle**, Bookstore Manager, Bookstore

**Jamie Dening**, Budget Analyst, Budget Office (Business Office)

**Janelle Dozar**, Coordinator of Advising/Tutoring, Colket Student Learning Center

**Geoffrey Falen**, Director of the Career Center

**Matthew Gottfried**, Technical Director-GIS, Information Management

**Karen Kwinn**, Admission Counselor, Admission Office

**John Lauer**, Director of Residential Life & Housing

**Kristin Lynch**, 1874 Society Coordinator, Development Office

**Colleen Nuanes**, Staff Assistant, Alumni & Parent Relations

**Kathleen O'Neil**, Colket Center Fellow in Reading/Rhetoric, Colket Student Learning Center

**Kira Pasquesi**, Outreach Program Coordinator, Civic Engagement

**Richard Peralta**, Residential Life Coordinator, Residential Life & Housing

**Lindsae Phillips**, Residential Life Coordinator, Residential Life & Housing

**Ken Ralph**, Director of Athletics

**Eve Reid**, Staff Assistant, Sociology

**Katie Rickel**, Residential Life Coordinator, Residential Life & Housing

**Tammy Riddell**, Staff Nurse/Nights, Boettcher Health Center

**Joseph Sharman**, Systems Administrator, Information Management

**Michael Shum**, Admission Counselor, Admission Office

**Gina Taranto**, Development Officer for Major Gifts, Development Office

**Weston Taylor**, Academic Technology Specialist for Students, Information Management

**Scott Weaver**, Director of Forensics, Forensics/Debate

## Promos/Transfers

**Keith Emmons**, Graphic Design Associate, Communications

**Carl Olson**, Printing Coordinator, Communications

**Gail Rogers**, Staff Assistant, Classics

**Debra Sharpe**, Educational Programs Coordinator, Civic Engagement

**Peter Zeitz**, Security Shift Supervisor, Security

## Disease Management:

Great West Healthcare offers a wide range of resources to help you take control of your health. One valuable resource is the award-winning disease management program that helps individuals with a chronic condition manage their disorder and their quality of life. If you or a family member has any of the conditions below, you may sign up at MyGreatWest.com to receive free information

and support materials specific to your condition.

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Emphysema (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Heart Failure
- Chronic Pain

# Library book-truck drill team marches to a different beat

When the Library Drill Team is drilling,  
It is said that their movements are thrilling,  
This drill team, I am told,  
Is a sight to behold,  
And on campus their gigs get top billing.

When the Drill Team all moves in formation,  
Synchronized in a careful rotation,  
In shapes bibliographical,  
(That some might deem laughable),  
They create an on-campus sensation!

When the book trucks all move, it's a vision,  
As they turn, spin, and twirl with precision,  
With sharp specificity,  
And in synchronicity,  
They steer clear of all crash and collision.

The drill team gets some pretty weird looks,  
As they execute crazy-eight hooks,  
It seems un-librarian,  
To not act like Marian:  
You would think they'd prefer time with books!

When the drill team their antics renew,  
There's no doubt that a crowd will ensue,  
They will march, step, and prance,  
In a whirlwind of dance:  
Marching soon at a campus near you!\*

○ Amy Brooks

*Tutt Library Special Collections Coordinator*



\* The library book-truck drill team will perform at noon, Thursday (Oct. 4) outside the Womer Campus Center to celebrate Banned Books Week. The team also will perform at the Festival of Lights Parade in downtown Colorado Springs at 6 p.m., Dec. 1 – if there is no snow on the streets.

## NSF grant *(from p.1)*

- Owl demographics (Janke, mathematics, and Linkhart, biology)

Mathematical approaches to biology promise to revolutionize both the biological and mathematical sciences over the coming decades. The next generation of researchers in this field will be led by individuals who learn early in their careers to think and communicate across disciplinary boundaries, and who engage in interdisciplinary research as undergraduates.

*“Figures from the last North Central Association reaccreditation process revealed that 85 percent of CC students worked on independent research projects, compared with 68 percent at peer schools.”*

The grant is an important part of a larger effort by the college to enhance its curriculum in mathematical biology.

Over the next few years, the college will develop new courses, create a new minor, and increase the mathematical biology content of classes taken by all math and biology majors. It enables CC to build a permanent community of

teachers and researchers in mathematical biology, thus developing the field as an area of strength at CC.

○ Leslie Weddell

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## Get to know: Geoff Falen *(from p.1)*

and collaborate creatively with people.”

One of his priorities is to offer more internships to students earlier in their college experience. “We’re a link between academics and the career world,” Falen says.

He hopes to “help foster a culture of intentional preparation for life after college.” The career center, which offers unlimited career counseling to students and alumni, can help identify career interests and explore options.

While this often involves planning a career related to a major, it also can involve planning a career unrelated to a major, but associated with one’s interests and activities. Falen says business and economics majors frequently seek jobs on Wall Street, but occasionally so do philosophy majors. “What we tell the philosophy majors is that they need to do something along the way to help with the process. We can help them find those opportunities.”

This summer, CC joined the Selective Liberal Arts Consortium, a group of 14 competitive liberal arts col-

leges. Membership in the organization is important, Falen says, because it increases the number of contacts and career opportunities for graduating seniors.

Satisfaction with one’s field of employment is an important aspect of career counseling, and the center offers a variety of assessment tests that take into account one’s interests, strengths, values, and personality. Falen says the center also handles many of the nuts and bolts aspects of career planning: interview preparation, resume and cover letter writing, and graduate school applications.

It also engages alumni in career-related issues and activities, such as developing internships, networking, and job shadowing.

Falen, an avid disc golfer (who can readily discourse on the differences between disc golfing in high-altitude Colorado and low-lying Pennsylvania) has two children, 7-year-old Connor and 4-year-old Gillian. His wife, Vania, is a pediatric speech language pathologist.

○ Leslie Weddell