

around the **BLOCK**

A Newsletter of the Colorado College Community

Block 5 • 2008

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CC first small college to receive big-time microscope

Kristine Lang, assistant professor of physics, doesn't take "no" for an answer. When the National Science Foundation turned down her initial grant request for a scanning tunneling microscope, she reapplied and flew to Washington, D.C. to meet with the program officer to argue her case.

The result of her persistence stands like a silver and gold rocket in her lab in Olin Hall. The \$430,000 instrument is an ultra-high vacuum low temperature scanning tunneling microscope – exactly what NSF said Lang couldn't possibly need because no small liberal arts college does research that requires that type of equipment.



"Colorado College does,"
Lang replied.

Colorado College is the first small college in the United States to own this microscope. Lang said even officials at Omicron Nanotechnology, the company that manufactures the instrument, were surprised when she was awarded the \$350,000 NSF grant. (She also received a \$35,000 grant from the Petroleum Research Fund.)

"There's a lot of demand for students to do research, and it will be really nice for them to be able to do research on their own campus,"

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Get to know: Charlotte Blessing

When Charlotte Blessing, who was born and raised in Copenhagen, moved to the United States from Kenya, she underwent culture shock. The pace of life and consumerism in the U.S. was vastly different from what she was accustomed to after 14 years in East Africa. Blessing, who started as CC's new director of international studies in August, still tries to maintain a simpler lifestyle in her Manitou Springs home with her husband (American), son (Danish-American) and daughter (Kenyan-American).

After holding a range of educational positions in Africa, including serving as academic director in schools in both Tanzania and Kenya, Blessing and her family left Nairobi in July 2005. They sought a smaller community, which they found in Ithaca, N.Y., where her husband was an outdoor educator at Cornell University. Eventually, Blessing saw the job posting from Colorado College, and seeking a still smaller campus



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Music group featured on NPR's "Morning Edition"

Music Professor and Director of the Bowed Piano Ensemble Stephen Scott was commissioned by the Pacific Symphony, based in Orange County, Calif., to write a concerto for them with the Bowed Piano Ensemble. The piece, titled "Pacific Crossroads" was performed Feb. 7, 8, and 9 at Segerstrom Hall in the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa.

The BPE also performed a concert, "Vikings of the Sunrise," Feb. 4 in the same complex, which was featured on NPR's "Morning Edition" on Feb. 5. Hear the interview at: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18666248>



Bob Loevy wins award from neighborhood

Robert Loevy, professor of political science, received the first Good Neighbor award from the Old North End Neighborhood (ONEN) at the association's fall meeting - and a standing ovation from the audience when the award was presented. Dave Munger, president of the association, cited Loevy's significant contributions as a member of the board, as board president, and, in recent

years, as a key member of association's committees.

Munger said, "Bob helped bring the North End National Register Historic District under overlay zoning, historic street lights to Tejon Street, and to make revisions to the ONEN Master Plan. He's also a recognized expert on local politics, and valued by the entire community for his unique insight into local and state elections."



CC's Riley Scholar featured at Fine Arts Center

Christina Marsh, now in her second year as Riley Scholar in Residence at CC, is one of three local and regional artists featured in "Altered Space: 21st Century Installation Art" at the FAC MODERN. Colorado College staff, faculty, and students with proper ID get free general admission to the exhibits at the Fine Arts Center

MODERN and the permanent collection at the Fine Arts Center Main. The exhibit runs through April 26. For information and to watch the FAC video featuring Marsh, go to: <http://www.csfineartscenter.org/Altered.asp>



'Angel Tree' comes through for needy children with \$7,000 worth of gifts

Colorado College students collected nearly \$7,000 worth of toys and gifts for needy children this holiday season - and it took six trips with full cars to deliver all the toys. For the fourth year, the Student/Alumni Association sponsored an "angel tree" to benefit the Community Partnership for Child Development's Head Start program. The program serves infants to children 5 years old in El Paso County.

Among the gifts delivered were three sets of hand-knit hats and mittens made by CC students; 11 Lego sets; three tricycles; a child's CC hockey jersey, stick and puck; 27 sets of books, and more than 25 dolls. CC students put up a tree in the Worner Campus Center at the beginning of Block 4 and decorated it with more than 300 angels with holiday gift requests. "The outpouring of support from students, faculty, staff, and community members has been tremendous," said Isabel Werner '08, one of the organizers.

Among the gifts delivered were three sets of hand-



Book celebrating Packard Hall published

Elaine Freed and Ruth Kolarik have collaborated on and published “Architecture as Teacher,” a book celebrating Colorado College’s Packard Hall, designed by renowned architect Edward Larrabee Barnes. The two spent more than

a year researching and writing the book; Freed served as editor and Kolarik as lead writer. The book is comprised of a series of essays, including one by Carl Reed about the courtyard at Packard Hall. The book is interspersed with interior and exterior photos of the building. “Architecture as Teacher” (\$15.95) is available at the CC Bookstore, or www.ColoradoCollege.edu/Bookstore/

Cipher receives \$3,000 grant from Campus Progress

The Cipher has received a \$3,000 grant from Campus Progress, a branch of the Center for American Progress. The grant offsets printing costs, so the magazine will be hosting more events and sending reporters to further reaches, says Molly Adams '08, an editor with the publication. Additionally, they hope to produce a color issue and go on an educational/reporting field trip, she

said. In the past *Cipher* editors have traveled to major U.S. cities and visited the offices of publications there. Last year, they went to New York City and visited *Vanity Fair*, *n + 1*, and *The Daily Forward*, doing informational interviews. This year they hope to go to a border town in Arizona, New Mexico, or Texas and report on immigration/security issues.

Do you know an outstanding CC volunteer or volunteer program? If so, nominate them for a service award. To do so, go to: <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/servicelearn/servawardnom.asp>

If you have a Kudos for Around the Block, send it to Leslie.Weddell@ColoradoCollege.edu

Anthropology major wins Etch A Sketch competition

Kelsey Gustafson '08, an anthropology major, was the winner of the recent Etch A Sketch Battle, held in Coburn Gallery. Her black and white etched interpretation of “Bird in Space: In Homage to Brancusi” was selected by the judges (Nate Bower, chemistry professor; Judy Genova, philosophy professor; Jason Taylor, events support technician; and Tariana Navas-Nieves, curator of the Hispanic and Native American collection at the Fine Arts Center) as the winner.

“I wasn’t sure what the original art piece looked like, so I took it literally,” Gustafson said. Her bird wore a space pack on his back and was depicted among the

moon and stars. The four contestants, Deva Crouch, Andy Wentz, Mary Kincannon, and Gustafson, had 20 minutes to create their work. Sandy Kinnee, a frequent visiting artist at CC, served as the emcee and Etch a Sketch “etch-pert,” as he regaled the crowd with Etch A Sketch facts during the competition.

Following the event, organized by CC Curator Jessica Hunter Larsen, participants and audience had cake that resembled an Etch A Sketch. Gustafson won a trophy, with a mini Etch A Sketch attached, and an Etch A Sketch frame to immortalize her art work.



block 5 CALENDAR of events

Friday, February 8, 2008

Performance: Colorado College's 4th Annual Fashion Show
7 p.m., City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa St., \$12 presale, \$15
door; tickets at Worner Campus Center Information Desk

Theater: The Vagina Monologues

7 p.m., Cossitt Hall, \$9, \$6 for students; tickets at Worner
Campus Center Information Desk

Performance: BARNUM?!

8 p.m., Armstrong 32, \$5, \$2 with a CC ID; tickets at
Worner Campus Center Information Desk

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Sale: Fashion Show Retail Brunch

Noon, Worner Campus Center

Reception: CC's Business & Community Alliance Hockey
Night, 6 p.m., Wigand Room, World Arena, 3185 Venetucci
Blvd., \$25; tickets at Penrose Club entrance by Gate A,
World Arena, the day of the game

Theater: The Vagina Monologues

7 p.m., Cossitt Hall, \$9, \$6 for students; tickets at Worner
Campus Center Information Desk

Monday, February 11, 2008

Film: Breaking the Silence: Torture Victims Speak Out
7 p.m., Bemis Hall, free

Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Reading: Kate Light

7 p.m., Jerome P. McHugh Student Commons, above
the Herb 'n' Farm Café; in the Western Ridge Housing
Complex, free

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Performance: Einstein's Mozart: Two Geniuses: Kate Light
& Colorado Chamber Players
7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free

Thursday, February 21, 2008

Lecture: Geoffrey Galt Harpham: "Returning to
Philology: The Scandalous Past and Dubious Future
of Scholarship," 7 p.m., Gates Common Room, free

Lecture: Nobel Laureate Thomas Schelling:
"Managing Nuclear Proliferation"

7:30 p.m., Gaylord Hall, free

Concert: Odetta in Concert

7:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel, free

Thursday, February 21, 2008

Lecture: Charles Hobson: "Cultivating Artists'
Books"

7:30 p.m., Jerome P. McHugh Student Commons, free

Friday, February 22, 2008

Dance: Deeply Rooted

7:30 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, \$22 general floor;
\$10 balcony and free with a CC ID; tickets at
Worner Campus Center Information Desk

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Exhibit: Vickie Meguire: Body of Pattern – From
Feb. 26 through April 9, 12:30 p.m., Coburn
Gallery, free

Class: Becoming a Love And Logic Parent: Spring
Session, 6:30 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, \$70

Reading: Jim Heynen

7 p.m., Jerome P. McHugh Student Commons, free

Symposium: Economics and Business SAB
Symposium: Ray Bracy: "Economic Development:
Global and Local Perspectives"

7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Workshop: Spring Internship and Job Fair
11:30 a.m., Armstrong Theatre, free

Lecture: Aficionados Luncheon and Lecture: Anne

Hyde: “Love and Money in the Early American West: Stories I Can’t Write Down” – Reservations due by Monday, Feb. 25; call 389-6649, noon, Gaylord Hall, \$12.50

Thursday, February 28, 2008

Reading: Craig Arnold: Visiting Writers Series
7 p.m., Jerome P. McHugh Student Commons, free

Lecture: Albert Bartlett: “Sustainability 101: Arithmetic, Population, and Energy”

7 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel, free

Symposium: Economics and Business Student Advisory Board Symposium: Paul Hudnut: “Economic Development: Global and Local Perspectives”

7:30 p.m., Slocum Commons, free

Landscape improvements on south side of Palmer Hall

The landscape areas on the south side of Palmer Hall began to change after the New Year. The Design Review Board reviewed and recommended moving forward with a plan to improve the landscaped areas to reflect the principles and guidelines proposed in the new Long Range Development Plan.

The existing landscape is overgrown and in desperate need of being restored to a condition which will present a dignified image for one of the college’s historic icon buildings. In order to provide an appropriate and dignified institutional appearance, a very serious “makeover” is required. The change may appear to be drastic, requiring removal of most of the existing plant materials, including overgrown trees and junipers. However, the resulting aesthetic outcome will be worth the sacrifice and create a lasting landscape improvement for Palmer Hall.

The facilities grounds crew began thinning out the overgrown trees and shrubbery after winter break. New irrigation system installation and planting will begin in March and April.

Plans also call for the six slate benches on the south side of the building to be moved to the north side. With the geology department’s help, the facilities grounds crew will form a “geology rock garden” around the benches, where the geology department can keep rock specimens brought back from field

trips. Four of the campus’s new standard metal benches will be placed on the south side of the Palmer walkway for casual seating. These will be more comfortable than the slate – especially in the winter.



Before



After

The LRDP guidelines recommend informal use of Colorado native plant materials for the campus quadrangles and historic building landscape areas, however, the plant materials will be selected and placed in a manner presenting just enough formality to provide an appropriately dignified institutional appearance next to these important buildings. The desired result is to honor the unique architecture of Palmer Hall, and to provide unobstructed views of the Palmer Quadrangle through the classroom and office windows.

Some formality will be attained by placing specific plant materials at regular intervals along the 100-foot length of Palmer Hall.

At the same time, some informality will

be achieved by variation in the placement of smaller plants, including some Colorado native species in each of the planting areas. Four-season interest will be provided by uses of grasses, evergreen foliage, flowering trees, shrubs, perennials, and plants offering interesting fall colors.

○ George Eckhardt
Assistant Director of Facilities Services

Get to know: Charlotte Blessing *(from p.1)*

community, they made the move to Colorado last summer.

“This job fits into what I would like to do in the field of international education,” says Blessing, who has a bachelor’s degree in education from Denmark and a master’s degree in international and intercultural management from the School for International Training in Vermont. “I want to become more involved in administration and policy,” she says. “I’d like to set standards for international education, and work with faculty, students, and staff.”

While many may consider study abroad and international education the same, Blessing says they’re not. Study abroad involves students going overseas and immersing themselves in a foreign culture; international education is broader, focusing on integrating a global perspective in a student’s curriculum and course load. “There should be a global perspective in U.S. topics; nothing should be seen in a vacuum. I want students to integrate their study abroad experience into their overall academic pursuits,” she says. “It shouldn’t be an isolated event in a four-year career.”

Blessing would like to increase opportunities for CC students, faculty and staff to go overseas, while at the same time setting and maintaining academic standards. “There are a lot of research and teaching opportunities at international institutions,” she says. International service programs

also are an important component of international study.

“The world is getting smaller. There are so many volunteer programs and internships; I’d like to reach as many people as possible,” she says.

Blessing first went to Africa in 1986, with the Danish equivalent of the Peace Corps. She worked in Tanzania for three years as a development worker on a water project and in Ghana for two years as an educational advisor in an adult training center. She later met her husband in Tanzania, where he was a guide on Mount Kilimanjaro. (Although he has scaled the mountain 15 times, she never has.)

Fluent in Danish and English, Blessing is conversant in Kiswahili, and “rusty” in German and French. An avid biker, hiker, and reader, Blessing also finds time to write, focusing on multicultural children’s literature. She has had numerous non-fiction articles and stories published, and her first picture book, “New Old Shoes,” will be out this fall. She currently has a young-adult book, set in Kenya, with an agent, and is working on a children’s poem.

Blessing’s office is in the Gill House, just north of Tutt Library. If you stop by to visit early in the morning, you may just catch her listening to the tail end of BBC News from Africa, which she tunes in to daily.

○ *Leslie Weddell*

‘Tunnels of Oppression’ Exhibit Encourages Students to Take Action



The two greatest problems preventing an end to oppression are apathy and ignorance, according to Izzy May '08. May hoped to take a step toward overcoming these obstacles by equipping people with the knowledge they need to fight

6 oppression. To help do this, she brought the “Tunnels of Oppression” grassroots initiative to Colorado College and the Colorado Springs community. The museum-like exhibit, which showed in Gaylord Hall Jan. 21-24, featured a variety of installations that showcased different sorts of

oppression that exist in contemporary America.

An interactive, multi-media and multi-sensory experience, the “Tunnels” exhibit is currently active on 20 campuses nationwide. This year’s installation at CC addressed such issues as racism, homophobia, sexism, classism, and religious persecution.

Currently in its second year at CC, “Tunnels of Oppression” was initiated in response to multiple incidents of ignorance, intolerance, and outright hate that have occurred on campus in recent years.

○ *Vanessa Roberts '08*

The sustainability corner: Sustainability interns

YOU have ideas to make Colorado College a more sustainable place. WE have job openings for sustainability interns, AND funding to achieve mutual project goals.

That was the beginning of the job description the office of communications posted on the CC Greenpad blog (<http://www.greenpad.blogspot.com/>) and the EnACT listserv in September.

Our office now has a sustainability intern – Liz Tucker '10 – and a sustainability internship coordinator – Katie Eberle '08.

Tucker is an environmental science major and a member of Delta Gamma sorority and when not at CC, she lives with her family in Saudi Arabia. Eberle is the “elder stateswoman,” having been active in campus environmental groups such as EnACT for several years, a co-founder of the Green Roundtable, and a student member of the Campus Sustainability Council.

The interns have been on the job for four months and the office of communications is excited about what they are accomplishing. For example:

- *The Greenwipe*: Perhaps you have seen these pale green flyers – CC’s blockly eco-sheet – posted in bathroom stalls around campus. They are designed to get the word out about environmental news, green tips, how-tos and factoids, and help us all become better environmental stewards.
- *Catalyst* ad: Once a block, the back page of *The Catalyst* will devote space to environmentalism on campus. The first missive, penned by the mysterious Village Green Preservation Society, was about the Sustainable Endowments Institute’s recent evaluation of Colorado College and our grade of “C.”



Liz Tucker '10



Katie Eberle '08

- Tucker has been awarded a \$266 grant to begin a battery recycling program at CC.

The interns also have been working with others to increase recycling and available bins on campus and researching green options for CC’s van fleet, which will be replaced next year.

How did this happen? Why did the office of communications, which deals with media relations, community relations, marketing, the Web, and publications, decide to get actively involved in working toward a greener campus?

“After the initial Green Roundtable last year, it seemed like all the campus momentum around sustainability could use a point of contact within the administration. The office of communications seemed to

me to be a logical place,” said Bob Kerwin, director of communications. “I felt we could be a good resource for student interns who wanted to work on green efforts.

And, it is one of our core values as a campus – to nurture an ethic of environmental sustainability and a sense of place.”

The CC campus as a whole seems to be taking on a greener hue this year; CC Chaplain Bruce Coriell, who doubles as campus sustainability coordinator, also has appointed three new sustainability interns in his office: Molly Dilg, Katie Elliott, and David Sullivan. Look for more information on what they are doing in a future issue.

○ Jennifer Kulier
Director of Publications



Microscope *(from p.1)*

Lang says. “Even if a student is not going on in graduate research — if they choose to be a doctor or something — it’s important to understand where the science comes from.”

The microscope, which arrived at CC in December, allows researchers to see materials on an atomic scale. Lang and her students can look at the surface of materials and see where the atoms are, as well as the atoms’ properties.

Lang explains the significance of this research, saying, “As computers become smaller, so must the tiny electronic devices inside them. In the next decade these devices will become so small that a single atom out of place could significantly affect their performance.”

The demands on the materials in this new generation of computers will be greater. “It matters what individual atoms are doing,” she says. “We can see if the atoms are in the right place, and what happens if they aren’t. How much will that affect conductivity?”

“I appreciate the diversity of the things I can do” at CC, says Lang, who grew up in Monument.

She says having such a sophisticated instrument on campus “gives students a much lower barrier to doing research, and it’s a way for them to do research in something that’s very current.”

The research is important to the semi-conductor industry, which is moving toward increasingly smaller and thinner devices. Lang collaborates with the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder, where researchers are working on a quantum computer, the next generation of computers. She also has worked with ATMEL, a local semi-conductor manufacturer, using a less sophisticated microscope; with her new microscope, she can expand her research with them.

She and her students will study a particular common device called a tunnel junction, which is shaped like a tiny sandwich with metal as its “bread” and an insulator as its “meat.” While both the metal and insulator are important, the atom-sized properties of the insulator are particularly crucial to making the devices work. A scanning tunneling microscope (STM) can take pictures of the surface of the insulator in which the position of each individual atom can be seen.

In addition to pictures of the atoms, Lang and her students will use the STM to measure whether the region around a certain atom is electrically conducting (like a metal) or insulating (like plastic). By studying the relationship between the atom pictures and the electrical information, researchers will better understand how all the atoms work together to give material its overall properties, and companies can develop more perfect insulating “meat,” and hence better electronic devices.

Lang says the microscope will provide many undergraduate students with their first research experience. “The students will greatly benefit by being involved in a project that is very current but nonetheless accessible — the instrument is relatively user friendly and

the required background science is learned in the first two years of the physics curriculum,” she says. The microscope also will be available to senior physics majors for use in their projects presented at their required senior seminars.

Lang, who joined CC in 2003, received a bachelor’s of science degree from Georgetown University and a master’s and Ph.D. from the University of California-Berkeley. She also conducted post-doctoral research at National Institute of Standards and Technology.

