

around the **BLOCK**

A Newsletter of the Colorado College Community

Block 5 • 2009

notice

Due to budget constraints and sustainability issues, this will be the last printed version of *Around the Block*. Future issues will be available online at www.coloradocollege.edu/news_events/publications/campus/

A tower of trash – for a cause

Colorado College's location near the foot of Pikes Peak has always been a source of pride. But last week, CC students and staff built a different kind of mountain on campus.

This one was made of trash.

The brainchild of environmentally minded students such as senior Sophie Glass, Trash Peak was constructed in a mound around Earle Flagpole by a team of students and staff members from facilities services. It contained one day's worth of CC's trash, collected from residence halls and administrative buildings, and provided a visual cue of how much waste the campus

generates.

"By seeing how much trash we produce in a single day, we hope people will make more responsible decisions regarding the goods they purchase and how they dispose of them," said Glass. "More than anything, we hope Trash Peak demonstrates the adage: 'You can't throw garbage out, just around.'"



After building the mountain, volunteers sorted through the trash to see what was thrown away that could have been recycled. About 40 percent of the trash collected and sorted at Trash Peak could have been either recycled or composted, according to

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Get to know: Claire Garcia

Claire Oberon Garcia may be the only Colorado College Ph.D. who doesn't have a high school diploma.

After her junior year in high school, CC English Professor Garcia enrolled at Bard College at Simon's Rock, spending a year at the Massachusetts liberal arts college, which is known for enrolling high school students before they graduate.

Garcia got to Simon's Rock by way of Uganda and Switzerland. Her father was the American ambassador to Uganda, and was halfway through his three-year posting

there when Idi Amin launched a military coup in January 1971. Amin waited until the American ambassador was out of the country, taking his daughter back to the international high school she attended outside Geneva. Garcia spent ninth and tenth grade in Switzerland, before returning to high school in the United States.

Garcia studied dance in New York City prior to

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KUDOS

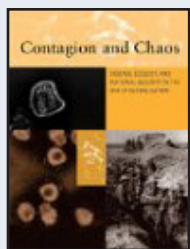
CC wins \$60,000 grant for student research

Colorado College has received a three-year, \$60,000 grant to support summer stipends for students conducting interdisciplinary research. The grant, from the Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program, will enable 18 students over three summers to pursue research in biology and chemistry. Nate Bower, professor of chemistry; Marc Snyder, associate professor of biology; Murphy Brasuel, assistant professor of chemistry;

Margaret Daugherty, assistant professor of chemistry; Phoebe Lostroh, assistant professor of biology; and Nancy Huang, assistant professor of biology, were listed as the collaborators within the proposal, with Bower heading the proposal.

The 2009 grant competition is the last year of the Merck/AAAS Undergraduate Science Research Program, which began in 1994. The grant term ends in 2011.

Price-Smith publishes new book



“Contagion and Chaos: Disease, Ecology, and National Security in the Era of Globalization” by Andrew Price-Smith, assistant political science professor, was recently published by the MIT Press. Price-Smith’s new book analyzes, through various case studies, the relationship between public health and governance, particularly looking

at how disease affects national security. His newest publication adds to his previous work on the subject including “The Health of Nations” (MIT Press, 2002), the book “Downward Spiral: HIV/AIDS, State Capacity, and Political Conflict in Zimbabwe” which he co-authored with John L Daly (USIP Press 2004), and the book “Plagues and Politics: Infectious Disease and International Relations” of which he was editor (Palgrave 2001).

CC students to present at ACM symposium

Colorado College students Brianna Buljung '09 and Ryan Casserly '09 will present research projects conducted during off-campus semesters at the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) Student Symposium on Off-Campus Study in Chicago on April 17-18. Buljung will present her research on female journalists in WWII, which was completed on the Newberry Semester program in Chicago. Casserly will present his research on migrant coffee farm workers, which he completed during the

ACM semester in Costa Rica. Accompanying the students to Chicago is faculty representative David Torres-Rouff. The symposium is being held in honor of ACM’s 50th anniversary. Two students from each of the member colleges (Beloit, Carleton, Coe, Colorado, Cornell, Grinnell, Knox, Lake Forest, Lawrence, Macalester, Monmouth, Ripon, and St. Olaf) will travel to present their research, which had to have been completed during domestic or international semesters off campus.

BreakOut ‘magically’ nets at least \$3,360

Taylor Stayton '09 and Susan Kim '10, BreakOut co-chairs, filled Armstrong Theatre with families for the “Art of Imagination” featuring Las Vegas headliner Garry Carson and Kelsey Kara. The fundraiser was in celebration of BreakOut’s 20th anniversary as a student organization at CC; the money raised will help ensure it continues for

another 20 years. The event made at least \$3,360 through Worner Information Desk sales; ticket sales through TicketsWest are not yet available and have not been included in the tally.



Students' sustainability proposal a winner

A proposal by CC sophomores Lizzy Stephan and Beth Kochevar was selected as one of 10 winners in the Climate Crews Contest, sponsored by the UN Foundation and the Sustainable Endowment Institute. They will receive \$500 for their project proposal, titled "Conservation Tools for Behavioral Change," and will attend a training session for successful project management at the UN Foundation headquarters in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 26 and 27, just days before the

Energy Action Coalition's Powershift conference. Stephan will stay on in Washington, D.C. for the Powershift conference, which aims to bring 10,000 young people to Washington to hold elected officials accountable for rebuilding the economy and for bold climate and clean energy policy. The UN Foundation pays for one person's round-trip airfare and two nights at a local hotel. Stephan and Kochevar's proposal also received \$1,000 through the Campus Sustainability Council's Ecofund.

Study-abroad photos place in contest

Three Colorado College students received honorable mentions in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) Off-Campus Study Photo Contest. Students who had studied abroad were asked to submit photos illustrating a part of their experience. Tabitha Hrynich '09 studied in Pune, India, and was selected for her photo, "Incognito"; Sarah Diefendorf '09, who studied in Botswana, was selected for "Dusk"; and Jeannette Osterweil '09, who studied in Botswana, for "Rural Transportation." Hrynich says of her photo, "Incognito," shown here, "Some children were playing on top of the



hills that surround the city. They were showboating for our cameras, picked up some tree branches and hid behind them pretending we couldn't see them.

A traveling exhibit of the 10 winning photos and a selection of honorable mention photos is being hosted by ACM campuses through April and will be shown at the ACM 50th Anniversary Student Symposium on Off-Campus Study in Chicago on April 17-18. The show is scheduled to be on display at CC from March 30 to April 3. The photos also can be viewed on the ACM Web site at www.acm.edu/photocontest.

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

Looking around campus for a favorite faculty member, and not seeing that person? It could be due to sabbatical. Faculty members on sabbatical this year include:

Full-year sabbaticals:

Tamara Bentley
Jane Hilberry
Dan Johnson
Eric Leonard
Vicki Levine
Genevieve Love
Patricia Purdue
Libby Rittenberg

Fall sabbaticals:

Kristi Erdal
Aju Fenn
Eve Grace
Alberto Hernandez-Lemus
Richard Koc
David Weddle

Spring sabbaticals:

John Gould
Harold Jones
Jonathan Lee
Andrew Manley

Winter break in India: 70 compost pits and 70 bathing platforms

Nine Colorado College students, all females, spent their winter break helping villagers dig compost pits and build bathing platforms in India.

The students had 10 days to accomplish their task, and before they left, all 70 families in Chilati, a village in the Melghat region of central India, had both a compost pit and a bathing platform.

“It was an amazing experience,” says junior Lauren Jenkins, a sociology major from Laramie, Wyo. “It was a great way to do something meaningful.”

The CC students and villagers worked together to dig the compost pits, with the students first explaining the importance of the pits and how organic fertilizers work. The pits, which were about 2 meters by 3 meters and a meter deep, were then filled with cow-dung and farm waste.

The students also helped build 70 bathing platforms, which are small, concrete pads placed so that the drainage is not lost, but rather diverted into a garden. This helps utilize water more effectively and reduces standing water.

Other projects the CC students helped with included re-cementing a vital water pump, and sowing 900 seeds for a tree nursery.

“I was surprised and touched by how welcoming and warm these people were,” Jenkins said. “They invited us into

their homes, invited us to meals, showed us how they cooked. We had really great, personal interactions with these people, especially with the children. I loved playing with the kids.”

The group left Dec. 27 and returned Jan. 16, just before the start of Block 5. Once she returned to the States, Jenkins said she was surprised by how much she missed India. “The village is so removed; I’m not sure if I can ever get back there.”

Getting to the village was no easy task; once the group got to India, it took longer for them to reach the village (24 hours) than it did for them to fly from the United States to India (16 hours). The trek from Mumbai involved a four-hour car ride to Pune, a 13-hour train ride to Badnera, followed by a seven-hour jeep ride to Chilati.

The students started planning the service trip last spring, Jenkins says. First they discussed what kinds of projects they wanted to focus on, then worked with Maitri, the NGO in the area, which conducted a needs assessment and determined what the villagers wanted. In order to raise money for the trip, the group held garage sales, a benefit concert, raked leaves for community members, wrote grants, and sold scarves and other items at the annual CC arts and crafts show in December. Additionally, professors spoke to the group about various cultural aspects of life in India.

The CC group was led by Tonita Lopez, assistant director of the Center for Service and Learning, and Steve Crosby, director of outdoor education. Colorado College has worked with the same NGO on other projects; over the 2006-07 winter break, CC students went to Domi, a rural village in India where they provided solar-powered lights to homes. Last year, CC students worked on combination bathing platforms and toilets in Kutida, another village in India.

Jenkins says the trip changed her. She’s always wanted to go into the social service sector, but after this trip she sees a need for systematic policy changes. “I’d really like to get into public policy and how NGOs function,” she says.



Butler, Utterback named community-wide Rising Stars

Two members of the Colorado College community have been named 2009 Rising Stars by the *Colorado Springs Business Journal*. Christi-Marie Butler, development officer for major gifts, and Delaney Utterback, general manager of KRCC-FM, were named as Rising Stars, an award which recognizes outstanding business leaders under the age of 40. They will be recognized at an award ceremony on March 5 at the Masonic Lodge.

Last year, Connie Dudgeon, Colorado College community relations manager, was named a Rising Star, and CC student Carrie Riffée received the award in 2007.

Butler, who started at Colorado College in January 2008, graduated from UCCS in 2004. Before joining CC, she was director of development for the Girl Scouts-Wagon Wheel Council and director of corporate relations and major gifts for the Girl Scouts of Colorado.

As development officer for major gifts, Butler's areas of responsibility include Texas, New York, and Florida, although she is known to pitch in anywhere help is needed.

Butler began her term as president of the Southern Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in January 2009. She has been involved with the organization since 2006, and has significantly improved their processes, events, and communications. She also has worked on

multiple local committees, including the Diversity Forum, the Women's Foundation, and AFP, and spent time volunteering abroad.

Utterback, who studied English at CC, started as a student volunteer at KRCC and rose through paid positions to become traffic specialist, office manager, and in July 2007, KRCC's general manager. He has overseen an expansion of local news coverage on the radio that wins awards, is frequently aired nationally on NPR, and brings the community together. "Collaboration is a high priority for us," Utterback says. "We'll work with anyone we can. We want to help support anything in the community we can."

Utterback oversees the KRCC Community Advisory Board, and has made tremendous efforts to connect with members of the community and other nonprofit organizations such as the Pikes Peak Arts Council, Smokebrush Theater, and KCME. He has developed a popular live music outreach with concerts such as the E-Town events and Blues Under the Bridge and conducts successful twice-yearly fundraising campaigns.

Both Butler and Utterback were described by those who nominated them as humble, behind-the-scenes team players, whose achievements deserve recognition from the community.



Items now accepted for single-stream recycling at CC

- Plastic: Plastics #1-7 are accepted; check the number on the bottom of the container. Exceptions: No plastic bags, plastic egg cartons, six-pack ring holders, plastic plates, or Styrofoam.
- Cans: Steel, aluminum, tin cans, and empty aerosol cans.
- Glass: Bottles, jars, etc.
- Paper: Newspaper, office paper, bulk, or junk mail, magazines, catalogs, phone books, brown paper bags, chipboard/paperboard (cereal boxes, etc.) No Tyvek (polyethylene fiber); no plastic newspaper bags.
- Cardboard: Both corrugated and chipboard (ex. cereal boxes, paper egg cartons); please flatten boxes. No wax-lined cardboard.



Get to know: Claire Garcia *(from p.1)*

attending Bennington College in Vermont, which she chose for their modern dance program. She did study dance at Bennington, but earned her B.A. in philosophy and literature. “They didn’t have a comparative literature program, otherwise I would have majored in that,” Garcia says. “This was the only way in the mid-70s that I could talk about what interested me about texts in a theoretical way.”

She met her husband, Jose Garcia, when he was having dinner with other Harvard Law School students at her father’s house. Her father had since returned to the United States, was the first tenured black professor at the law school, and often had students over for dinner.

After they were married, the Garcias moved to Colorado: Jose was working in a Colorado Springs law firm and Claire was planning to get her Ph.D. in comparative literature from the University of Colorado in Boulder. “I really don’t know what I was thinking,” she says. “At that point I had infant twins. I really thought I would spend four days a week in Boulder with the twins, going to school, and commuting back and forth.” Garcia, who now has four grown children, realized she didn’t relish doing that for the next five or six years; she earned her Ph.D. in English and American literature from the University of Denver instead.

Colorado College’s Block Plan is especially conducive to teaching literature, Garcia says. “The quality of what goes on in the classroom is higher than your typical semester or quarter system classroom. Our students demonstrate a high level of academic commitment. Students aren’t juggling a lot of courses, and can really delve into the novels. They can give more than 100 percent to their classes,” she says.

She also says the Block Plan forces professors to be innovative. “You can’t lecture for three hours,” she says.

So, what does she do? “I take the classes out into the field,” says Garcia, the “field” being Paris (“New Negro and Negritude Movements 1900-1960”), Red Cloud, Neb., (“Willa Cather’s West”), and Harlem, N.Y., (“Harlem Renaissance”). She’s taken her students to Paris in Block 2, Block 5, and Block 8: “That way, I see every season in Paris,” she says.

Claire Garcia’s Recommended Reading

The list varies depending on what she is teaching at the moment, but Garcia says these books are ones she considers important:

“**The Ambassadors**,” Henry James (the subject of her thesis)

“**Beloved**,” Toni Morrison

“**Nightwood**,” Djuna Barnes

“**The Song of the Lark**,” Willa Cather

“**Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass**,” Frederick Douglass

“**The House of Mirth**,” Edith Wharton

Currently Garcia is working on a book project, “Selected Works by Jessie Redmon Fauset,” which will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press. Her area of interest is the confluence of American, African, and Caribbean black women writers, and the resulting cross-pollination of their artistic and political philosophies.

Jose Garcia, who served as president of Pikes Peak Community College for five years and has been president of Colorado State University-Pueblo since 2006, has taught two courses at Colorado College, a pre-law course and an introduction to American cultural studies with David Torres-Rouff. “It was an eye-opening experience for him” to see the intensity of the Block Plan, says Garcia, who first came to CC in 1989 while filling in for another professor who was on sabbatical. She served as the Riley Scholar in Residence in 1990-91 before being hired in 1991.

Outside of the classroom, Garcia enjoys dance, yoga, reading, and traveling with her three sons and daughter. Her oldest son, an ’07 CC graduate (his twin is an ’06 graduate from Grinnell College), now lives in China, which offers the Garcias ample reason to travel.

CC student to discuss bees, honey on Food Network

Colorado College senior Meriwether Hardie learned how gentle bees are when she was given her first hive to take care of at age 6. Meriwether will discuss bees and the significance of raw honey on an upcoming program on the Food Network.

Meriwether's father, Todd Hardie, is the owner of Honey Gardens in Ferrisburgh, Vt. Meriwether says Honey Gardens is different from most other honey farms because it produces and distributes honey in its raw form. Because it is so rare to find farmers who produce raw honey, the Food Network was interested in documenting Honey Gardens and its impact on Meriwether's life. The segment "Milk and Honey," part of a larger series called "My Life in Food," is scheduled for broadcast on Saturday, Feb. 14 on the Food Network. (Check local listings for the time.)

Honey Gardens has affected Meriwether's life and she has passed on her experience and knowledge to others. Meriwether conducts workshops at the CC Student Garden where she teaches about the farming and

production of honey. She also does honey demonstrations at local health and organic food stores, teaching the customers the difference between raw and heated honey. Most people don't realize how important bees are to the food production. "Bees pollinate one third of the food produced in the U.S.," Meriwether says.

Raw honey is different from what most people are used to. Most honey sold in stores has been heated, and as a result is clearer and in a more liquid state. However, the heating process eliminates most of the propolis, pollen, natural enzymes, and proteins. As Meriwether explains it, "raw honey is not just a food, it is a medicine because it has all of that good stuff in it." Don't be surprised if you find a wing or a leg in the honey either, that's how you know it's the real thing.

Check out "My Life in Food" on the Food Network and if you want to learn more about beekeeping, join Meriwether at the CC Student Garden this spring.

○ Anya Aylesworth '09



Need help communicating?

The CC office of communications has launched a new Web site outlining its various services and how it can help other departments. The office of communications' services – writing and editing, print and Web design, and media, athletic, and community relations – are available free of charge to the Colorado College community. Check out the Web site at: <http://www.coloradocollege.edu/communications/>



Tower of trash *(from p.1)*

Emily Wright, a 2004 CC grad who works on sustainability issues.

Trash Peak was the perfect performance-arty visual to kick off CC's participation in Recyclemania, a competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities. Running from Jan. 18-March 28, Recyclemania has schools report recycling and trash data to a central clearinghouse; they are then ranked according to who collects the most recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least trash per capita, the highest overall recycling rate, and other criteria. Go to www.recyclemaniacs.org/ to view weekly reports and see how CC is stacking up against competitors.

According to Tom Allen, operations manager in environmental services at CC, while Recyclemania is a competition, it also is a gauge of how CC's recycling program is doing compared to others across the country.

"Recycling is an important part of the overall goal of campus sustainability, and one of the easiest ways to positively impact the environment. Through Recyclemania, we hope to increase awareness about campus recycling and encourage recycling instead of trash disposal whenever possible," Allen said. "Recyclemania is going to take campus-wide support and we'd love the support of every student, faculty, and staff member. Please recycle everything that can possibly be recycled," he said.

While Trash Peak and Recyclemania are good attention-grabbing visual aids, it is CC's new single-stream recycling program that is the true core of waste management and resource reduction on campus.

What is single-stream recycling? Simply put, recyclables at CC no longer have to be put into separate bins for paper, plastic, etc.; they can all "co-mingle" in the same bin. This new system, offered by CC's recycling partner Bestway Disposal, aims to reduce traditional waste on campus by

making the recycling process easier for the customer. Each week, Bestway picks up the college's recyclables and hauls them to a facility owned by Waste Management in Denver, where, ultimately, they are separated and sold to markets that buy them as raw materials for new products.

With the economic downturn, the recycling industry also is in a slump. Markets for recyclables such as glass and plastic have all but disappeared for the time being. So far, however, Bestway has continued to haul and accept recyclables, which are then stockpiled at the Denver facility until the market conditions improve.

In the past year, CC has added recycling bins in both residential areas and academic and administrative buildings, according to Allen. There are now single-

stream recycling bins in all residential areas (except for the apartments like Western Ridge that have nearby outdoor recycling). The student recycling team of six students empties the recycling on Mondays and Thursdays each week.

Questions about the single-stream recycling program, overflowing bins, or inadequate signage should be directed to facilities services, ext. #6876. See page 5 of a list of items accepted.

○ Jennifer Kulier

"aCClimate 14"

resource conservation campaign

Reducing waste and increasing the waste diversion rate is a goal of aCClimate14, a resource conservation campaign currently underway at the college.

The effort is spearheaded by the Campus Sustainability Council and EnAct, the student-led environmental action committee. aCClimate14 targets behavioral change and challenges the CC community to reduce the campus energy, water, and other resource use (such as demand for landfill space) by 14 percent by the end of the Spring 2009 semester. To learn more about aCClimate 14, go to <http://sustainability.coloradocollege.edu/acclimate14>