

# around the **B L O C K**

A Newsletter of the Colorado College Community

Block 8 • 2007

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## Non-traditional CC student is a 'Rising Star'

Carrie Riffie is not your average Colorado College student. She is a formerly homeless unemployed mother of three who fled her abusive husband after years of physical and emotional abuse.

Riffie, who started at CC last year after earning an associate degree from Pikes Peak Community College, received a Rising Star Award from the *Colorado Springs Business Journal* in April. The award recognizes upcoming business leaders under the age of 40.

While she may not be the average CC student, she is akin to them in many ways.

Finding herself homeless after a divorce in 1998,

she tackled the problem of obtaining housing for herself and her three sons, then ages 7, 8, and 9. Riffie and her sons spent a year living in various church shelters, which, while it solved the housing problem, proved to be an obstacle that almost prevented her from attending college. "I remember filling out the application and pausing at the address, wondering how in the world I would be able to go to school when I didn't even have a permanent address," she says.

She lost her job after an extensive hospital stay, but as soon as she was able she started pounding the pavement again. "Everywhere I applied people reminded me that this was after 9/11 and I didn't have a college degree," she

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## Get to know: CC Volunteers

The Center for Service and Learning held a service awards recognition dessert on May 2 in Gaylord Hall, providing an opportunity for the numerous CC volunteers to receive their "just desserts." Gay Victoria, director of the center, says that 80 percent of graduating CC students have participated in service while in college, compared with 34 percent nationally.

Those receiving the **Spirit Award** were:

Jennie Crittenden  
Krystle Richman

Steve Bass  
AliciaRose Martinez  
Sarah McKellar  
Hunter Oliver Allen  
Thanh Nguyen  
Laura Lenhardt



Garrett Meek and Jessica Coyle

**Commitment Beyond the Course Work Award:**

Mike Shum  
Amanda Jones

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# KUDOS

## CC nets three Humanity in Action awards



Three Colorado College students have been awarded Humanity in Action fellowships for the summer. Billy Blaustein, Stefan Allen-Hickey, and Lydia Downing will visit various European countries for five weeks to study human rights issues that have affected the continent. Blaustein '08 will be in Berlin, Allen-Hickey '07 in Paris, and Downing '08 in Warsaw. Each will be paired with a fellow from their respective country; each pair will write a research paper on a humanitarian issue

that has influenced that country. Blaustein plans to research the assimilation of Jews into German society after World War II and the Holocaust. Allen-Hickey will explore the building tension between mainstream French society and non-native immigrant communities, focusing predominately on the Algerian population. Downing will examine Polish human rights history, current human rights and minority rights issues that affect the country.



## Dennis Showalter wins Spencer Tucker Award



Dennis Showalter, professor of history, was awarded the 2007 Spencer Tucker Award by ABC-CLIO, publisher of history and social studies reference and educational books for higher education

institutions and secondary schools. The award honors inspiring scholars who engage in activities that enhance the intellectual development of secondary-school history teachers and/or students, and who have made path-breaking efforts to build bridges between higher-education and secondary-school history teachers.

## Tyler McMahon named a Fulbright Scholar

Senior Tyler McMahon, an economics major, was awarded a Fulbright grant, which will enable him to research alternative water supply systems in the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal for 10 months beginning in September. McMahon will focus on rainwater harvesting during his fellowship year. "I will be focusing on the potential for the development of this sector on a large

scale, what role the private and public sectors will play, potential integration with micro-credit sectors, and the development of rainwater harvesting systems and their impacts on the economy," McMahon said.



## Michael Shum receives 100 Projects for Peace grant

Michael Shum '07 was awarded \$10,000 from the Kathryn Wasserman Davis 100 Projects for Peace program to film a documentary in Nigeria. Shum plans to use the film to raise awareness about world poverty and



health and disease issues in Nigeria. The project combines many of Shum's interests: sociology, his major, as well as film and African studies, his minors. Citing the visual and emotional draw of documentary film, Shum says, "It really connects people in a way a [legislative] bill cannot. I want to be that middle ground to bring substantial change."

## Get to know: CC Volunteers *(from p.1)*



*Scott and Kris Stanec*

### **Teamwork Award:**

Relay for Life (team members Courtney Shephard, Caitlin Mallory, Brenna Gomez, Cayla Schreibman)

### **Outstanding Commitment by Faculty Member:**

Miro Kummel

### **Partnership Award:**

Kris and Scott Stanec



*Thanh Nguyen and Kelly Lollar*

## Good advice from Lauri Thomas '04 in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations

Before leaving Colorado College, take time to appreciate all that surrounds campus. Attend CC events you have not attended in the past such as:

- A band or orchestra concert
- Winter ball
- Llamapalooza
- A choir performance

### **Go site seeing around Colorado Springs. Be sure to:**

- Visit Seven Falls
- Visit Cave of the Winds
- Visit the Cliff Dwellings
- Eat at a restaurant in Manitou Springs
- Hike through the Garden of the Gods
- Do the incline up Pikes Peak at least once

### **Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Change:**

Izzy May

Food Chained (Laura Parker, Sara Rubin)

### **Organizational Leadership Award:**

Dan Lustick

### **Outstanding Commitment by a First-Year Student:**

Jennie Vader



*Garrett Meek and Yaro Hetman*



*Sara Rubin and Laura Parker*

### **Innovative Leadership Award:**

Jessica Coyle

Garrett Meek

### **Anabel & Jerry McHugh**

### **Director's Award:**

Dan Nelson-Kangas

### **Class of '81 Outstanding Community Service Award:**

Yaro Hetman



*Dan Nelson-Kangas and Ian*

## St. Baldrick's: Hair today, gone tomorrow

It was a frolicking follicle farewell as more than 372 people helped “shave the way” to conquer childhood cancer in Armstrong Hall on April 6.

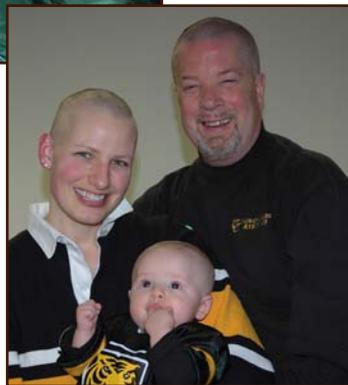
The St. Baldrick's event, held on the stage at Armstrong Theater, raised nearly \$128,000 in the fight against childhood cancer. Twenty Colorado College staff and students, as well as one spouse and three children of staff members, volunteered as “shavees.” The group called themselves “The Coneheads,” and consisted of:

**Communications:** Mark Lee, Dave Reed (with wife Gerri Anne, accompanied by infant son Jackson), Rick Specht, Bob Kerwin, Karen To

**Facilities:** Don Davidson, Rick Greene, Stan Rovira

**Residential Life:** Jon Fink, Clyde Martinez

**Business Office:** Tim Huelsman (with son Tyler Huelsman,



9), Gina Arms (with son Dominic Alvarado, 16), Konner Coles (8-year-old son of Heather Coles)

**Advancement:** Ron Rubin

**Information Management:** Dan Wiencek, Dave Armstrong

**Students:** Genai Odhner, Angela Dang, Victor Fitzjarrald, Megan Reamer, Kori Kinard

Michele Smith, co-owner of Salon Bella, whose stylists have served as the officials “shavers” for the past five years for the event, said she has noticed an increase in the number of women who get their head shaved. “It used to be mostly guys,” she said, “but now I would say that about one in 20 is a female.”

## An interview with two “shavees”

Char Lee '09 interviewed two “shavees” about their St. Baldrick's experience. Genai Odhner is a sophomore with junior standing and Meg Reamer is a sophomore.

**How did you both become involved with St. Baldrick's?**

**MEG:** I saw it [St. Baldrick's] advertised on the CC student digest in January. Once I decided to shave my head, I naturally told Genai because we are good friends. She totally supported me and decided to shave her head, too.

**GENAI:** I had been toying with the idea of shaving my head just for kicks, but wasn't going to until Meg told me she was shaving hers. Then, I figured, why not? I'd be supporting a friend and a good cause to boot.

**MEG:** When I told my resident assistant, Angela Dang, I believe that she had already heard about it, was thinking about doing it too, and was really excited that I was doing it and immediately signed up.

**For the majority of the population, the decision to shave one's head is a hard one. How difficult of a decision was it?**

**MEG:** I felt somehow drawn to it and even though I was scared, I knew there was no other decision I could make. I felt a little like it would be selfish of me to not do it. The hardest part was to sign up and start telling people. Once I did that there was no going back.



**GENAI:** I'd shaved my head once before so it was less of a factor. And what safer place to shave one's head than on a liberal college campus surrounded by friends?

**Genai, how was the experience the first time around?**

**GENAI:** Well, the first time was just before starting ninth grade. The hard part was growing hair out, going through the awkward stages, and eventually getting sick of people making assumptions about my sexuality based on my hair-



cut. I think this happens largely because we live in a culture where women's hair is a huge part of their beauty. This time, I think it will be easier in many ways. Part of that is people

having more respect for me shaving my head because it's for a cause. Also, I've gotten clearer about who I am and my hair has virtually nothing to do with that. I can walk around bald and have the same sense of self.

**What are three words to describe the experience?**

**MEG:** Empowering, exhilarating, encouraging.

**GENAI:** Exciting, fun, humbling.

**GENAI:** Everyone has been so supportive! At the actual event, I was surprised there were so many people, that we shaved our heads on stage, and that they even had live Celtic music! My favorite thing has been talking to other people on campus who shaved their heads. It's almost like a community of people with shaved heads because we've

all shared the same experience. In terms of reactions to my shaved head, one funny experience I recently had was that Meg and I were at the grocery store and this woman thought we were sages!

When she found out we weren't she was disappointed, which was pretty funny. Overall, everything worked out and I would do the experience again, although I might wait a couple of years.



**MEG:** The experience was amazing and I would definitely do it again. Last block, I took a course called Desert Spirituality, which made me think a lot about my St. Baldrick's experience. Through the class and through St. Baldrick's, I've really come to realize that frivolous things don't matter. Although most people don't know I shaved my head for St. Baldrick's, it's been great knowing that I'm sharing a common experience with others. I've also learned that once you let go or sacrifice something, you learn that you can get along without it. As a whole, the experience has been liberating and made me really respect simplicity and lack of frivolity.



# block 8 CALENDAR of events

## Tuesday, May 1

**Class:** Using Sign Language with Babies, Toddlers and Young Children, 6 p.m., Woman's Club building, \$60/\$80

**Concert:** Colorado College Chamber Orchestra  
7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free

## Wednesday, May 2

**Lecture:** Aficionados Luncheon and Lecture: "The Devil's Wire: The Death of the Open Range in Mexico"  
Noon, Gaylord Hall, \$12.50

**Lecture:** Peter Matthiessen, 7 p.m., Packard Hall, free

## Thursday, May 3

**Reading:** Aimee Bender  
7 p.m., Jerome P. McHugh Student Commons, free

**Service:** National Day of Prayer  
7 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel, free

**Lecture:** Big Wall Climbing in Pakistan and Patagonia: A Slide Show by Josh Wharton

7 p.m., Tutt Science Center Lecture Hall, free

**Concert:** Honors Concert, 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free

**Lecture:** Stephen Zunes: IRAQ: How the U.S. Got In and How We Can Get Out, 7:30 p.m., Slocum Commons, free

## Friday, May 4

**Benefit:** Second Annual Relay For Life at Colorado College  
7 p.m., Washburn Field, free

**Reading:** Zenz, 7 p.m., Armstrong 32, free

**Concert:** Colorado College Chamber Chorus: "Music of the Americas," 7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free

**Lecture:** John Spong: "The Source of Religious Anger"  
7:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel, free

**Concert:** The Back Row Spring Concert, 8 p.m.,  
Armstrong Quad, free

## Saturday, May 5

**Concert:** Jose Gonzalez  
7:30 p.m., Centennial Hall, \$25; \$20 for students

## Sunday, May 6

**Celebration:** Shove Memorial Chapel 75th Anniversary Celebration, 4:30 p.m., Shove Memorial Chapel, free

**Concert:** Colorado College Concert Band  
7:30 p.m., Packard Hall, free

## Monday, May 7

**Film:** French Cine-Club presents "Vatel"  
6:30 p.m., Max Kade Theatre, free

## Wednesday, May 9

**Reading:** Novelist Jeffrey Lent, 7 p.m., Gaylord Hall, free

**Presentation:** Student-Athlete Advisory Committee banquet  
7 p.m., Gates Common Room, free

## Saturday, May 12

**Workshop:** Using the Love and Logic Principles in the Early Childhood Classroom, follow-up session  
9 a.m., Slocum Commons, \$35

**Concert:** Tunjung Sari, Balinese Gamelan  
3 p.m., Packard Hall, free

## Sunday, May 13

**Concert:** Collegium Musicum: "Le Chant des Oiseaux"  
3 p.m., Packard Hall, free

## Monday, May 14

**Film:** Higher Ground, 7 p.m., Armstrong Theatre, inside Armstrong Hall, \$10 or \$8 with a CC ID; tickets at Warner Campus Center Information Desk

## Monday, May 21

**Celebration:** Colorado College Commencement; commencement speaker is photojournalist David Burnett '68  
8:30 a.m., Armstrong Quad, free

To post information to the CC calendar, go to the internal home page and access the blue button on the left marked "submit event information." Another option: Go to the form located at [http://www.ColoradoCollege.edu/news\\_events/calendar/create.asp](http://www.ColoradoCollege.edu/news_events/calendar/create.asp)

## CC employees help mentor area students

On Friday, April 20, approximately 30 eighth-graders from Fox Meadow Middle School spent several hours on the CC campus, shadowing employees in various departments.

The 30 students were among more than 2,400 southern Colorado students who participated in Junior Achievement's annual Job Shadow Day. The program provides the students with an up-close look at the world of work and how the skills they are learning in school will be used in the workforce, says Kimberlee Perry, director of secondary education programs for Junior Achievement of Southern Colorado, Inc.

The students visited several departments at Colorado College: the president's office, minority student life, KRCC, music library, children's center, student accounts and athletics. After arriving on campus at 10 a.m. and meeting with Jeff Noblett, associate dean of the faculty, they toured the campus before breaking into groups. The students shadowed CC employees in the various departments until noon,

when they were treated to lunch in Rastall by Colorado College before returning to their school.

Among the CC employees participating in the program were Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi, Rochelle Mason, Rick Swan, Beth Brooks, Cheri Gamble, Daryll Stevens, Gwen Gregory, Mike Procell, Vicky Gregor, Jeannie Wellmann and Anne Goodman James.

"I had a really great time talking with the students and getting to know what their interests were in terms of future occupations. Overall, I think the experience also gave these students an opportunity to explore college life a little more closely," said Lizardy-Hajbi, minority student life specialist.

"The students were very engaged and asked great questions. I feel they really learned something valuable; I gave them my business cards and hope they'll keep in touch with me if they have other questions about college," said Mason, director of minority student life.



## News from HR ...

### Four CC Faculty Members Retiring

Four long-time faculty members are retiring from Colorado College. They are Val Veirs, professor, special senior status, physics; Bill Weida, professor, special senior status, economics and business; Sam Williams, professor of religion; and Catherine Weir, adjunct professor, psychology.

### Benefit Open Enrollment

The benefit open enrollment period has started and will end on May 18. During open enrollment you may add insurance coverage, cancel insurance coverage, change medical plans, and add/drop dependents for medical, dental, and vision. New for 2007/2008 is the vision insurance carrier. EyeMed will be providing the vision insurance. To check if your doctor is participating, visit [www.enrollwiththeyemed.com](http://www.enrollwiththeyemed.com).

Benefit-eligible employees should have received an open

enrollment packet, which contains information on the various plans offered and the premiums.

### New Hires/Rehires NonExempt and Exempt Staff

Mid-January through present

Diane Cobbett, Receptionist, Business Office

Jody Hinz, Staff Assistant, Communications

Linda Kocourek, Senior Accountant, Business Office

Deborah LaPorta, Staff Assistant, Development

Carol Ou, Systems Librarian, Tutt Library

Darren Salkil, Deputy Chief of Security, Security

Lyrae Williams, Director of Budget, Budget/Business Office

Marjory Webster, Research Analyst, Advancement

### Promotions/Transfers

Jill Kluge, Alumni and Parent Program Specialist, Alumni and Parent Relations

## Carrie Riffie: *Rising Star* (from p.1)

said. So she decided to rectify the situation, first at Pikes Peak Community College and then at Colorado College.

“I wanted to support my family, and the only way to do that in this age is to obtain a college degree. It was the only thing holding me back, and I was not going to let that be an excuse. I was the first person in my family to ever graduate from college, and attending Colorado College was just the icing on the cake.”

Riffie attends Colorado College on a full scholarship, is a political science major, and expects to graduate in May '08.

As a student at Pikes Peak Community College, she took full advantage of the opportunities presented there. She served as student body president and received the 2006 Outstanding Student Leadership Award. Riffie was elected to represent the student body on the PPCC Foundation Board of Trustees. As a student she founded the College Republicans and was elected to membership on the El Paso County Republican Party executive committee. In her spare time, she helped tutor students in the college's writing center.

She is taking a full course load at CC; she also drives to Denver three days a week to work as a Colorado House of Representatives legislative aide to Rep. Kent Lambert. Prior

to that, she served as legislative aide to Sens. Lewis Entz and Doug Lamborn. Her work at the Capitol includes policy writing and drafting legislation, both of which will be useful as she pursues a career in public service or public administration.

Her CC professors are impressed with her determination. “Carrie is a remarkable woman and scholar. Determined to succeed, she is a wonderful role model for all students. I'm sure that in the near future, we will be watching her on ‘Meet the Press’ or ‘Face the Nation’ after she's won an election or two,” says Vera Fennell, assistant professor of political science.

Riffie sees her background as a catalyst for her career focus and motivation. “You're only a victim as long as you allow yourself to be,” she said. “The minute you can see yourself above where you're at, that's when you really start to fly and grow.”

She also knows first hand the importance of education, a lesson she continually impresses on her children.

After graduation, Riffie hopes to do policy writing and analysis. Her long-term goals include running for local office and representing Colorado as a United States senator.

○ Leslie Weddell

## ATS launches academic technology incubator projects

This spring, Academic Technology Services (ATS) launched a new faculty program offering – the Academic Technology Incubator Program. The program aims to better address faculty needs related to production support, resource-intensive academic technology projects, course and assignment makeovers, and pilot or research and development initiatives.

After reviewing the submissions, it was confirmed that ATS could support all of the 16 proposals that were submitted. This season's projects represent all the academic divisions and a diverse range of initiatives. Projects include:

- Keith Kester, Tricia Waters - Searchable database and linguistic analysis of e-journaling data
- Anthropology department - Web-based senior paper topic development resource guide
- Rebecca Tucker, Re Evitt - Multimedia “textbook” for Dante and Michelangelo: Art and influence in the Renaissance
- Joan Ericson - Computer-based testing of Japanese language skills

- Mark Smith - Field trip and graphics image library
- Gypsy Ames - Slide and image digitizing
- Re Evitt - Online academic journal
- Eileen Bresnahan - Web literacy and portfolio assignment
- Sally Meyer - Online quiz development/exploration of best practices in PROWL
- Amelia Taylor - Calculus testing solution
- Steven Janke - Learning portal for statistics
- Dennis McEnerney - Web-based course assignment upload system
- Kris Stanec - Technology enhancement of the 2nd annual Girl's Day in the Lab
- Music Department - Classroom access/scheduling software solution
- Mario Montano - Training in Photoshop, image scanning and printing, and image digitizing

The next call for proposals will be in early October. For more information, visit <http://www.ColoradoCollege.edu/ats>