EXPANSION: The main classroom lab in ATLAS was remodeled and expanded over the summer. The lab features 31 dual-boot iMacs, a high-tech sound system, high-definition projection and maple woodwork. The space also will be used for special events. An adjacent room also was converted to classroom lab space. (More photos, Page 2)
ATLAS lab expands, adjacent lab created

Renovations in ATLAS over the summer included expansion of the main classroom lab in ATLS 113 and the creation of a new lab/classroom in ATLS 105.

Both labs are located in the hallway just west of the ATLAS lobby.

The three photos at left show ATLS 113 before, after and during construction:

• The top photo shows the lab before the expansion, with students working on laptops at various places throughout the room.
• The middle photo shows the larger lab, made possible by the rearrangement of several walls for adjoining rooms.
• The lower of the three photos shows where a wall was removed at the right part of the photo.

Directly below is a portion of the new lab in ATLS 105, created out of a group design room and reconfiguration of existing walls.

An additional space (not pictured) was created for student research projects, such as the creation of high-tech hardware.

At bottom left, ATLAS curriculum director Joel Swanson shows paint samples to a group of ATLAS staff, including ATLAS director John Bennett at right.
Michael Theodore new arts director

Michael Theodore, an associate professor of composition in the College of Music at the University of Colorado, has been appointed director of the ATLAS Center for Arts, Media and Performance.

Theodore is a composer, visual artist and technologist. He has studied at the New England Conservatory, Amherst College, the Yale School of Music and the University of California, San Diego. Theodore has taught music composition and interactive technology since 1998 at CU.

Theodore has been involved with ATLAS as a CU faculty member since 1998 and worked with others on campus to help create the center. The center’s mission is to foster interdisciplinary curriculum and creative works involving technology and the arts.

In recent years, Theodore’s music and/or moving images have been presented in China, Japan, Australia, Greece, Sweden, Germany, France, Spain, and across the United States.

Active in intermedia theater, Theodore has collaborated with dancer and performer Michelle Ellsworth, an associate professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance at CU who is known for her innovative solo performance work. They have worked on a number of touring shows, including an upcoming work to be premiered in the spring of 2010 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver.

Theodore’s most recent large-scale work was “What I Saw At The Apocalypse,” presented in February in the ATLAS Black Box Studio. The production featured an innovative mix of the creative works of legendary folk ballad singer Tim Eriksen, along with close to 40 performers from music, dance, theater, fine arts and film.

ANTHEA ROOEN

Anthea Johnson Rooen named director of outreach programs

Anthea Johnson Rooen, who has 14 years of experience in diversity and recruitment, has been named director of outreach programs for ATLAS.

Rooen has won several awards for her work related to advising and outreach, such as the 2007 service award from Colorado Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) and outstanding staff member in 2003 and 2009 at the Multicultural Engineering Program at CU.

She has a master of Business Administration degree from the University of Denver and a Bachelor of Arts and Science in Communication from the University of Colorado.

Rooen will work with faculty, students and staff and others across campus to nurture partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Hispanic Serving Institutions.

She will work on initiatives such as Digital Curren ts, and with the National Center for Women and Information Technology, which is housed in ATLAS.

Prior to joining ATLAS, Rooen was acting director for the Multicultural Engineering Program from 2002-2009.

She was responsible for recruiting and retaining historically underrepresented students of color to the College of Engineering and Applied Science. She also coordinated MEP’s K-12 outreach activities.

KATHIE BROYLES

Kathie Broyles teaching in ATLAS

Kathie Broyles, an ATLAS Advisory Board member with 25 years of experience in the entertainment advertising and promotion business, is teaching an ATLAS course called “Creating Identity” this fall.

Broyles recently was senior vice president and creative director of CBS Marketing Group, CBS network. She has created successful and award-winning campaigns in all aspects of entertainment – music, movies and television – across all platforms.

Before joining CBS, she ran her own boutique agency where her clients included Disney, Warner Bros, Sony, 20th Century Fox, DreamWorks, Fox Television, The WB, E! and HBO.

She also has served on several advisory boards and has been a teacher and guest lecturer.
Telecom course draws regulators, executives from around the world

Twenty-one telecommunications regulators and executives from around the world came to ATLAS in July for an intensive, one-week course entitled “Managing Effectively in a Changing Telecommunications Environment.”

The course was co-sponsored by Silicon Flatirons, which is a center for law, technology and entrepreneurship at CU, and the ATLAS Institute.

It was a joint effort with the United States Telecommunications Training Institute, a non-profit public-private partnership between senior federal officials and leaders of the U.S. information and communication technology and broadcast industries.

The course focused on effective management techniques, the telecommunications climate and efficient operational decisions.

Participants came from Bangladesh, Bermuda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, Suriname, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. In addition, 11 CU students participated. The majority were graduate students in the Interdisciplinary Telecommunications Program, though students also came from the Aerospace and Engineering Management programs.

The course began with a technological overview by Dale Hatfield, the former chief technologist of the FCC who currently is executive director of Silicon Flatirons. Hatfield also is an adjunct professor in the Interdisciplinary Telecommunications Program.

The course also featured guest lectures by CU professors and top executives with in-depth knowledge and understanding of management techniques, economics, marketing, privacy regulations, data security, telecommunications regulation and operational decision-making.

Richard Green, the president and CEO of CableLabs and a member of the ATLAS Advisory Board, gave a tour of the CableLabs facilities and spoke about project management and standards development. The course concluded with a keynote address by Phil Weiser, the former head of Silicon Flatirons who is now with the U.S. Department of Justice and is on leave as an ATLAS Advisory Board member.

During a lunch hosted by ATLAS, Revi Sterling of ATLAS and Robyn Sandekian of the Engineering for Developing Communities program at CU gave an overview of CU’s development efforts.
Bridging development and technology in Peru

Revi Sterling, ATLAS director of graduate studies in Information and Communication Technologies for Development, and CU Electrical Engineering professor Alan Mickelson led an explorative trip along the Napo River in Peru this summer and now are planning a pilot project that connects communication exchange and educational efforts in order to raise the level of skill and economic capacity of the river communities.

The trip built on previous CU communications with community leaders in Loreto, who unanimously explained the need for development services along the Napo River, especially in the wake of conflict between indigenous populations, the Peruvian military and oil companies.

The mid and upper Napo regions represent one of Peru’s major development challenges due to the remote geography and lack of infrastructure.

The mounting challenges and pressures of globalization – especially oil and timber concessions – are adversely affecting these communities.

Already poor and underserved, the rise in commodity prices is introducing even greater levels of poverty, including hunger and jealousy between communities.

The communities placed education as their highest need. They approached the CU professors to help them enable opportunities for teens and adults to pass the Peruvian high school degree equivalency exams, which would open a world of opportunities previously out of reach, including jobs and vocational training programs.

These would feed back into the community, raise the standard of living and promote the cycle of education. With 50% of the population under 18, education is critical to communities.

Program director Revi Sterling has been highlighting the program – the first of its kind in the United States, and the sixth worldwide – at venues that include top tier international development and technology conferences, as well as the United Nations Department of Economics and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), which sets ICTD standards and requirements throughout the UN system.

Sterling and ATLAS director John Bennett recently presented the ATLAS MS-ICTD vision to the Computing Community Consortium, an influential group of academic technologists responsible for driving the curriculum and research agendas for US research institutions to the National Science Foundation and Congressional academic funding subcommittees.

The MS-ICTD program offers a curriculum unique from the programs offered in the European Union by requiring strong science areas, as well as mandating courses in public health, development economics, agriculture, gender and other subjects that are integral to successful community development initiatives.

ATLAS MS-ICTD students will be immersed in the interrelated and complicated nature of technology, policy and development. Additional program information can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/MS-ICTD/.

Master’s degree in ICTD poised for fall 2010 launch

The ATLAS master’s degree in Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICTD) is poised for a launch in fall 2010.

However, core courses – an ICTD case studies and a field practitioner methods course – are being taught in the current academic year.

Participants in the United States Telecommunications Training Institute workshop, which was held in ATLAS in July (see story, Page 4), expressed significant interest in the program.

ATLAS hopes to be able to offer positions to international students in addition to U.S. applicants, pending available funding.

YOUTUBE VIDEO: Revi Sterling, upper right, explored development issues in Peru this summer. A YouTube video about the trip is at: http://www.youtube.com/user/CUEngineeringOnline#play/user/B43898344DBB82B4/1/X7t71DDNOnY.

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Boulder Sister City delegation visits ATLAS

A 20-person delegation from Boulder’s Sister City of Kisumu, Kenya, visited ATLAS in August as part of a week-long series of meetings with officials and organizations in Boulder.

Revi Sterling, who is director of graduate studies in Information and Communication Technologies for Development at ATLAS, hosted the delegation, their Boulder host families, and CU researchers interested in establishing contacts with Kisumu.

ATLAS director John Bennett and ATLAS associate director Jill VanMatre welcomed the group and encouraged dialog about potential collaborations between ATLAS and Kisumu.

The Kisumu city officials who visited included town commissioners, pastors, educators, microcredit entrepreneurs, and one high school student who was able to attend both Boulder and Fairview high schools to connect with groups interested in international relations.

ATLAS has committed itself to facilitating cultural and educational exchange between the Sister Cities, and assisting local physicians, educators and entrepreneurs in potential partnerships through ATLAS’ advanced networking and communications technologies.

Cultural exchange opportunities, including the production of plays using virtual cast members from Kisumu, may be held in the ATLAS Black Box Studio; Kisumu college students may be able to audit ATLAS courses from afar through the use of “smart” classrooms.

Sterling will visit Kisumu as part of her extended work in Kenya to better understand local community priorities and to facilitate support and ongoing interest in Boulder.

Sterling attends UN forum in Mexico

ATLAS graduate studies director Revi Sterling attended the Global Forum on ICT and Innovation for Education in September in Monterrey, Mexico.

The forum brought together information technology leaders and the development community under the umbrella of the United Nations Global Alliance for ICT and Development for a focused dialogue on emerging issues and challenges in the field of information and communications technologies (ICT) for development to foster cooperation among governments and the private sector.

Ph.D. student featured in video

Calvin Pohawpatchoko helps encourage kids to enter careers in IT

ATLAS Ph.D. student Calvin C. Pohawpatchoko Jr. is featured in a video aimed at encouraging young people to enter information technology careers through the Metro Denver WIRED initiative.

Pohawpatchoko, a member of the Comanche Tribe and the Quahada clan, has 20 years of experience in the information technology field. He is currently designing software to help kids improve their computer skills.

In the video, Pohawpatchoko talks about how important computer skills are for obtaining jobs. The video also shows various scenes around ATLAS and CU. It also features interviews with people in several different technology fields.

WIRED is an acronym for Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development. It is a partnership of industry, workforce, education and economic development in the nine-county Metro Denver region.

WIRED, which is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, is working on strengthening the talent pipeline at all levels to produce a workforce skilled in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) for some of the region’s fastest growing, high-wage industries that are also experiencing labor shortages – aerospace, bioscience, energy and information technology software.

Global Forum: Revi Sterling, right, talks with Jane Prey of Microsoft Research and James Poisant, secretary general of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance.

YOUTUBE: Calvin Pohawpatchoko can be viewed at http://www.youtube.com/MetroDenverWIRED.
Emergency response in the age of social media

This article, which details the research of ATLAS Ph.D. students Sophia Liu and Sarah Vieweg, originally appeared in CUEngineering 2009 magazine.

It was 3 p.m. on Jan. 7 when Sophia B. Liu got a phone call from her landlady, relaying a reverse 911 message ordering evacuation of the Crestview neighborhood. Within the hour, after Liu had complied with the order, she logged onto Twitter to begin sharing information about the two fires threatening 11,000 homes north of Boulder.

For Liu, messaging on Twitter (a micro-blogging site where users communicate with followers via short, 140-character messages) was more than idle chatter. As a doctoral student in assistant professor Leysia Palen’s ConnectiveIT Lab researching crisis informatics, Liu is something of an expert on the use of social media in emergency situations.

The group has studied the use of blogs, wikis, and Web 2.0 sites such as Facebook, Flickr, and Twitter in the aftermath of wildfires, hurricanes, school shootings, and other tragic events. These peer-to-peer communication tools, although they have shortcomings, have helped people to collect and share information with others affected by a crisis without having to depend solely on the reporting of news media.

“This was the first community crisis that directly affected me,” Liu says about her Boulder fire experience, “and since I was a part of this crisis story, I instinctively applied my research and put it into action using social media.”

Liu used Twitter not only to document the information she received from the Boulder County Web site, mainstream news sources, and press conferences, but also to share that information with the Twitter community and find answers to other questions about the evacuation and fire area from those affected.

One resident posted a Google map of the burn area based on his personal knowledge, and others, including Liu, added annotations, photographs, and video to reflect their own experiences. The same thing happened during the fall 2007 fires in southern California—one of the earliest instances of such activity, their research shows.

Tragedy was mostly averted in the Boulder instance, as firefighters were able to contain the 3,000-acre blaze the day after it started. However, the consequences of many other emergencies have been dire, so the researchers are trying to understand and bolster communication to mitigate tragedy as much as possible.

The Virginia Tech shooting in April 2007 was one such event.

Liu and fellow doctoral student Sarah Vieweg went to Virginia Tech to further their research, an experience they described as “harrowing for both of us,” but quite informative and groundbreaking for this budding research area. Among their findings is that campus residents had launched an “I’m OK at VT” group on Facebook only 90 minutes after the shootings but before details about the extent of the crime were known. Students also successfully compiled information about victims’ identities in advance of official notification through several discussion threads.

Palen’s group, which includes a mix of computer science and ATLAS students interested in human-computer interactions, is looking at developing new software tools to help improve emergency response.

The researchers want to facilitate the positives about technology and peer-to-peer communications, while dealing with some of the drawbacks, such as the difficulty of determining the reliability and timeliness of posted information.

They envision a software environment that can consolidate, authenticate, and process postings from different online sources using specialized interfaces that offer additional support for emergency responders and members of the public alike.

Tools also are needed to identify the most reputable online posters versus those who might be misinformed or those who might even manipulate messaging functions to perpetrate violence, as occurred during last year’s attacks in Mumbai, India.
The Technology, Arts and Media program now is offering a 21-credit minor in Technology, Arts and Media, as well as a nine-credit certificate in Digital Media. The minor provides a broad multidisciplinary perspective that integrates technological skills with a critical, theoretical and historical understanding of technology, media and the arts. The curriculum includes creative production courses, as well as classes that impart foundational knowledge and critical perspectives on the role of technology in society.

Students from a wide range of majors receive instruction in digital media production, design, art criticism, computer programming, information technology, media and societal analysis, and project development. Many students use the program to prepare for careers in information technologies, media production and the arts.

Students must submit an application to be accepted for the minor.

The certificate in Digital Media provides basic understanding of the interaction of information and communication technology and society, basic digital literacy skills and motivation to think critically about ICT and its impacts on society. Students from a wide range of majors receive instruction in digital media production, design, art criticism, computer programming, information technology, media and societal analysis, and project development.

Many students use the program to prepare for careers in information technologies, media production and the arts.

Students must submit an application to be accepted for the minor.

The certificate is intended for students who either do not have time to complete the minor or for students who are not accepted for the minor.
K-12 Alliance focuses on outreach

The National Center for Women and Information Technology’s K-12 Alliance has focused on outreach with transformational programs in both formal and informal education, and is working to promote computing as a critical knowledge skill of the 21st century. The K-12 Alliance has established a strong presence among technology educators with a number of outreach projects:

• Distribution of more than 7,000 free “Gotta Have IT” computing resource kits at two National Educational Computing Conferences (NECC).
• Development of a “Why should young women consider a career in Information Technology?” Talking Points card, available in English and Spanish.
• Coming soon, Talking Points on why and how to start a computing summer camp, with links to do-it-now resources.
• An audit of the Alliance members’ distribution channels and reach, which revealed that the Alliance currently has the potential to reach out to half of all girls in the U.S.

NCWIT gets Microsoft funds

The Microsoft Research Faculty Summit on July 14 offered an opportunity for the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT) to highlight its partnerships with Microsoft.

NCWIT announced a new grant from Microsoft, bringing Microsoft’s support to $2 million over the last five years.

NCWIT also advertised the fifth-round winners of the NCWIT Academic Alliance Seed Fund, which provides U.S. academic institutions with start-up funds to develop and implement initiatives for recruiting and retaining women in computer science and information technology fields of study.

The Seed Fund was initiated in 2007 with funding from Microsoft Research and has received a total of $220,450.

In addition, NCWIT participated on a number of computer science diversity and recruitment and retention panels.

Award for Aspirations in Computing is expanding

Competition for the NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing opens Oct. 1.

The award recognizes young women at the high-school level for their computing-related achievements and interests.

Since the award’s inception in 2007, NCWIT has honored 81 winners from 14 different states in five cycles. Beginning this fall NCWIT will offer both its national award and three pilot “local affiliate” awards in the states of Texas, Illinois and Florida.

NCWIT hopes to scale the award so that it is recognizing more than 1,500 students annually by 2012.

Funding for the Award is provided by Bank of America, Google and Motorola, and support for a local award has also generated interest from Apple, Intel and Raytheon.

Gotta Have IT and Talking Points are available free at NCWIT’s Web site at http://www.ncwit.org.

Following a summit of K-12 computing leaders in Washington, D.C., in June, co-hosted by NCWIT and the National Science Foundation, several prominent organizations have expressed interest in joining the Alliance – including the Boys/Girls Clubs of America, 4-H, FIRST Robotics, and the Supercomputing Challenge, Mouse Inc., Atlanta Girls School, and IGNITE/Seattle Public Schools.

Research Center news

Tim Weston recently received funding from the National Science Foundation for continuation of the development and evaluation of the Student Assessment of Learning Gains Web site. The funding will further develop online customizable survey templates used to assess student learning and classroom teaching, as well as the development of assessments and specialized Web interfaces. Weston also received funding to continue validation and dissemination of the Undergraduate Research Student Self Assessment, an instrument developed to evaluate undergraduate research programs.

In May, Sarah Hug presented her work on Affinity Research Groups, an intervention of the Computing Alliance for Hispanic-serving Institutions at the third annual Understanding Interventions That Broaden Participation in Research Careers, sponsored in part by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Hug began two new projects this summer—an evaluation of an innovative, mathematics-focused introductory computer science course at the University of Texas at El Paso, and the evaluation of a five-year project with the computer science department at CU Boulder—the Graduate STEM Fellows in K-12 Education program. She developed a new graduate course for the ATLAS Ph.D. program entitled “Technology and the Development of Equitable Learning Environments,” which she is teaching this semester.

Kim Kalahar was involved in the hiring and training of five new Extension Services Consultants (ESCs), bringing the total ESCs to 14. To integrate the veteran ESCs and the newly hired ESCs, Kalahar organized an Extension Services retreat in ATLAS. Each ESC has from 1-4 NCWIT Academic Alliance undergraduate computing department clients and works to help increase women’s recruitment and retention in computing.
Mike Moniz achieves business, climbing milestones

Mike Moniz, an ATLAS Advisory Board member who is president and CEO of Ciradence Corp. in Boulder, recently achieved recognition in both his business endeavors and his passion, and his son’s passion, for climbing.

In June, Moniz was recognized as a finalist for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award in the Rocky Mountain Region. The awards program recognizes entrepreneurs who demonstrate extraordinary success in the areas of innovation, financial performance and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

In August, Ciradence Corp., which has its origins in the multi-user online simulations industry and has grown through multiple acquisitions and strategic partnerships, was named a finalist in the ColoradoBiz Magazine Top Company Awards. The primary criteria for the awards are sustained financial excellence, community involvement, and operational excellence in one or more functional business areas.

As for his climbing passion, Moniz and his son, Matt, who is 11, set a goal to climb 14 of Colorado’s 14,000-foot peaks within 14 days to raise money for his best friend, Iain Hess, 9, who suffers from pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). PAH is a rare blood vessel disorder of the lung that causes shortness of breath.

Matt notes that his friend’s constant shortness of breath is similar to the difficulties breathing in a high-altitude climb -- except Hess experiences that shortness of breath daily. Hess’s medical bills top $100,000 a year.

Mike and Matt climbed the 14 Colorado 14ers in only eight days in July, a total of 71 miles and 41,000 vertical feet, and ended up raising through corporate and private donations over $20,000 for the Iain Hess Breathe Easy Fund. Contributing companies included Mountain Hardwear, which provided equipment and a peak sponsorship for Mt. Elbert.

They also received widespread publicity on the CBS Early Show, and a series of reports on Denver’s channels 4 and 7.

More information, including links to the reports, is at http://climb7.com/.

Feld’s gift to ATLAS keeps on giving

Brad Feld’s $25,000 donation for the naming rights to a men’s bathroom on the second floor of ATLAS continues to generate national publicity for both Feld and ATLAS.

Feld donated the money in 2008. This month, his donation was noted in Forbes Magazine.


Barrett writes about a $100 million gift from Forbes 400 hedge fund manager Stephen Schwarzman that resulted in getting his name on the main building of the New York Public Library, then mentions Feld’s donation for the naming rights to the bathroom.

Barrett writes: “The two facilities can be used for reading, Feld cheekily points out, adding he feels he received full value for his more modest gift. ’Hey, I got a call from FORBES,’ he laughs.”

Feld is a venture capitalist who is co-founder and managing director of the Foundry Group in Boulder.

He also serves as the board chairman for NCWIT.

Rowley’s short story published in anthology

Rebecca Rowley, who received a finalist award in last year’s Colorado Gold fiction writing contest, will be one of the featured authors in the upcoming anthology, “Broken Links, Mended Lives,” published by RMFW Press.

Rowley wrote a young adult short story, “The Prince and Broken Water,” about a runaway teen struggling to find the courage to turn to her father for help after being abandoned by her boyfriend.

Rowley, a native Coloradan, joined ATLAS in June 2007. She is ATLAS assistant to the director and assistant building proctor.
Kathie Broyles is ATLAS Titan of the Quarter

Kathie Broyles, an ATLAS Advisory Board member who has been working to rebrand the print and digital documents for ATLAS, has been named the ATLAS Titan of the Quarter. The award is given in recognition of outstanding efforts on behalf of ATLAS.

Broyles, who has 25 years of experience in the entertainment and promotion business, has redesigned the look and design of all ATLAS documents, including stationery, signage and other materials. She created a new logo for ATLAS and worked with CommArts and ATLAS communications staff on the redesign of the ATLAS Web site.

She has worked tirelessly, collaboratively and collegially with ATLAS staff and others in each phase of the design and rebranding process.

Broyles currently is teaching an ATLAS course called “Creating Identity.”

She recently moved to Boulder following a position as vice president and creative director for CBS Marketing Group, CBS network.

She previously ran her own boutique ad agency, working with several top entertainment industry clients.

Liss wins Audience Choice award for performance

Ira Liss, assistant director of communications at ATLAS, won an Audience Choice award for a performance of his original songs and comedy in a show entitled “Piano, Poetry and Passion,” performed at the Laughing Goat Cafe in Boulder.

Liss won an encore performance by attracting the largest audience for his venue in the 12-day Boulder International Fringe Festival in August.

The festival presented 70 performing artists in music, theater, multi-media and dance from across the USA, Canada and Europe at 15 venues in Boulder. This summer, Liss also performed at the Trident Café with Boulder Playback Theater (boulderplayback.com).

Julie Karbula named director of development for ATLAS

Julie Karbula, who currently is the director of annual giving at Colorado State University, has been named senior director of development for ATLAS and the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. She will assume her new position on Sept. 28.

Karbula has 17 years of experience in raising funds for higher education. Prior to her current CSU position, she served seven years as development director for the College of Agricultural Sciences.

She has a bachelor’s in journalism and a master’s in telecommunications from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She also was a reporter and editor for five years for Sentinel Newspapers in Colorado, and systems officer for seven years on Wall Street for J.P. Morgan & Co.

Karbula will dive into advancement resources training on her first day in her CU Foundation position.

Henderson conducts virtual worlds workshop

Bruce Henderson, director of communications for ATLAS, conducted a 3 1/2 hour hands-on workshop about using virtual worlds for education during the 12th annual Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology Conference (COLTT) in August at the University of Colorado.

The two-day conference attracted hundreds of educators from throughout the CU system and featured more than 50 research presentations and hands-on workshops related to using technology for teaching and learning.

Henderson’s session, with co-presenters Eric Hackathorn of NOAA and former CU business instructor Richard Hackathorn, focused on using the virtual world of Second Life as a classroom and how the Web can interact with Second Life.

Second Life is a virtual world where users interact by creating avatars and using chat or voice to communicate. Objects in Second Life also can be programmed.

Hundreds of universities currently are using Second Life for virtual classrooms. John Bennett, director of ATLAS, has been teaching “Virtual Worlds: An Introduction to Computer Science,” using Second Life.

About 15 educators attended the workshop. Henderson also hosts a Second Life users group from 6-8 p.m. the fourth Thursday of every month in ATLAS 104.

Pekoe Sip House opens in Kay’s

The Pekoe Sip House has opened in Kay’s Cafe in ATLAS. The shop serves a variety of coffees and specialty drinks, breakfast and other sandwiches, pastries and teas.

Pekoe, which was founded in 2000, now has four stores in the Boulder and Denver areas. The company sells tea through retail and wholesale outlets, as well as through the mail.

The company also sells teas through Whole Foods in Boulder and Ft. Collins.
‘Secret Garden’ musical sells out

“The Secret Garden,” the first full-scale musical produced by Broadway in Boulder, quickly sold out most of its 16 performances in the Black Box Studio and was held over for additional sold-out performances during its last weekend in June.

The shows were a collaboration between ATLAS staff and Broadway in Boulder, which is the musical theater and dramatic studio of the Parlando School for the Arts in Boulder. The production featured 50 students from 19 area high schools, middle schools and colleges.

All of the scenery was digitally produced by area animators and matte painters in Frankfurt, Germany.

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts provided the Victorian set pieces, and the production used original Broadway costumes.

The co-producers of Secret Garden were David Ayers and Angela Gaylor, who founded Broadway in Boulder before it merged with Parlando in 2007.

Ayers and Gaylor have extensive performing experience in Broadway productions. Their experiences and contacts allowed them to bring in major entertainment industry professionals to help with technical and artistic aspects of the show.

The professionals held master classes/directors labs for cast and crew members, as well as members of the public, during four weekends in March.
‘Secret Garden’ on the Web

• YouTube video
  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwFhaoiD6ao
• Broadway in Boulder presents “The Secret Garden,” Mark Collins, Daily Camera
  http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/secretgarden/secretgarden.pdf
• Broadway comes to Boulder: Big stars hosting free labs, Brittany Anas, Daily Camera
  http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/about/news/broadwaycamera.html
• Mark Collins on Theater: Broadway in Boulder, CU’s ATLAS Center to host workshops
  http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/about/news/directors.html
• Slideshow
  http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/secretgarden/secretsound.mov
• Photo page
  http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/secretgarden/photos/
Video wall showcases Johnson’s ‘Magic Squares’

“Magic Squares,” a video installation by Jim Johnson, the former director of the ATLAS Center for Arts, Media and Performance, is on display on the ATLAS video wall through Sept. 18.

Johnson, who was a professor in the Department of Art and Art History before his retirement, was the founding director of the ATLAS center.

His artwork reflects a mathematical concept as the squares move around the wall.

“In the process of designing the square forms, I discovered that the odd number figures were the visual negative of the even numbered figures,” Johnson said.

The squares also have designated colors according to their relative positions in the spectrum of visible light. In addition, one sequence represents time (or left brain activity) by a numerically linear progression and space (or right brain activity) as an all at once, everywhere at once occurrence.

The work also incorporates an original soundtrack by Mark McCoin of the CU Film Department.

‘Rocks Karma Arrows’ explores history

“Rocks Karma Arrows,” a multimedia theater piece that explored some of the disturbing history of race and class in Boulder, was performed in July in the ATLAS Black Box Studio.

The performance, directed by ATLAS artist-in-residence Kirsten Wilson, was sponsored by the City of Boulder as part of the community’s Sesquicentennial celebration.

Although the piece focused on the 150 years of history since Boulder was founded, the context for the drama was a larger flow of history from when Boulder was once covered in an ancient, shallow sea.

Historical figures such as the Southern Arapaho Indian Chief Niwot tell their stories of the early founding of Boulder and, in Niwot’s case, his death following the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864.

Interviews with local historians and Buddhist monks were woven with historical photographs and film. The images took over 180 degrees of the Black Box theater space, immersing the actors into the history.

The Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society (ATLAS) at the University of Colorado at Boulder was established in 1997 as a campus-wide interdisciplinary initiative.

ATLAS broadens the benefits of the networked information age by providing multidisciplinary curricular, research and outreach programs that integrate information and communication technology with a wide variety of disciplines and people, both inside and outside the university.

More information about ATLAS and its initiatives can be found at http://atlas.colorado.edu. To contact ATLAS, call 303-735-4577, or e-mail cuatlas@colorado.edu.

ATLAS Institute

University of Colorado at Boulder