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...Page 2

Randi Zuckerberg Kicks Off ATLAS Speaker Series

...Page 5

Aerial Dance Among Spring Black Box Events

...Pages 6-7
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Mark D. Gross, a professor of computational design at Carnegie Mellon University who taught from 1990 to 1999 in the CU architecture, planning and design program, has been named director of ATLAS.

“We are delighted to have professor Gross return to the Boulder campus as director of ATLAS,” said Robert Davis, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science. “He has a great vision for interdisciplinary education and research, which will engage students and faculty from across our campus.”

Gross also was appointed a professor of computer science in the CU College of Engineering and Applied Science, which houses ATLAS.

Gross is the co-founder of two Boulder-based companies. Blank Slate Systems was founded in 2013 and creates software-based design tools such as a digital sketchpad that allows users to create blueprints for laser cutters. Modular Robotics was established in 2008 and makes robot construction kits for kids.

His research interests include design methods, modular robotics, computationally enhanced construction kits and crafts, sketch tools and applications, and human interaction with computers as an increasingly common experience in many aspects of the physical world.

In 2009, Gross received a distinguished teaching award from the Association for Computer Aided Design in Architecture, which cited his efforts to bring women researchers into the field. Gross has been a professor of computational design at Carnegie Mellon since 2004. From 1999 to 2004, he was a professor of architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle.

ATLAS People in the News

Dave Kalahar, who has been the sole adviser for the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media (TAM) program for the past 15 years, has been presented the Chancellor’s Employee of the Year Award. The award is presented to CU staff in recognition of exceptional job performance and distinguished contributions to the campus community. Kalahar currently is the adviser for more than 600 students. More information about the award is at http://bit.ly/1fHl0nZ.

Diane Sieber, the associate dean for education in the College of Engineering and Applied Science, has received the annual Excellence in Leadership Award given by the system-wide Excellence in Leadership Program (ELP).

Sieber, who is a President’s Teaching Scholar, was co-director of the ATLAS Institute from 2000-2007 and is a member of the ATLAS Advisory Board. She was director of the Herbst Program of Humanities in Engineering for five years. Before joining the engineering faculty, Sieber, who grew up in Spain, was an associate professor in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. More information about the award is at http://bit.ly/1audufJ.

Katie Ertz, who is the National Center for Women and Information Technology’s operations director, is being honored as a 2014 Distinguished Fellow by the Mississippi State Computer Science and Engineering Department. The honor is given to accomplished alumni. Ertz received her Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from Mississippi State and her master’s in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. As a computer scientist, she brings an IT perspective to the management and operations of NCWIT, which is housed in ATLAS. Ertz will travel to Mississippi State to receive the honor in March. She also will meet with women on campus to talk about computing opportunities.

Joel Swanson, who is the director of the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media (TAM) program, is the featured artist in an exhibition entitled “Left to Right, Top to Bottom” Jan. 17 through March 30 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver. Swanson, shown above working on the exhibit, explores language and its literal and sometimes physical forms. He stretches language to become an image, or multiple images, and uses the structures of grammar and composition as sources for creative production. Swanson received his MFA in digital art at the University of California, San Diego. A video of Swanson working on the installation above is at http://vimeo.com/84040162. A review of the installation by Denver Post fine arts critic Mark Rinaldi is at http://bit.ly/Lfo0vT.

Continued on Page 3

Continued on Page 4
Six students join ATLAS master’s degree program

The ATLAS Information and Communication Technology for Development (MS-ICTD) master’s degree program has admitted six new students for the spring semester.

The program, which now has 20 students, prepares students to effectively leverage Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in underserved communities.

Corey Edwards is an academic coordinator and the tutoring director for the University of Colorado Athletics department. Edwards is an graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, where he studied communication and journalism and received an M.S. in Sport Administration.

Luke Groeninger received his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science from CU. He also served in the United States Army for seven years, where he gained first-hand experience in international development during his three deployments in Iraq.

Nalini Kaplan earned her B.A. in International Studies from The American University and a graduate certificate in Organizational Development from Columbia University’s Teachers College. She has been a CPA, entrepreneur, management consultant, investor, educator, financial and business coach, wealth adviser and is currently a strategist, marketing director, chaplain and spiritual director.

Alexandra Martin worked as a research assistant while completing her bachelor’s degree in psychology at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Her undergraduate work focused on the neurological processes of learning and memory. She is a game developer and also has been a web developer in the Boulder area.

Carolyn Moreau, who grew up in New Zealand, is a journalist and filmmaker and currently works as a videographer in the communications department at CU.

Joanne Reid has an undergraduate degree in mathematics from the University of Colorado and has skied on the CU Buffs ski team.

From Page 3

Lise St. Denis recently co-authored a paper with Amanda Hughes, Leysia Palen and Ken Anderson about the online communications of fire and police departments during Hurricane Sandy. The paper will be presented at The Human Factors in Computing (CHI) conference in April. She also is working on a paper about the sophisticated use of social media by the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office during the 2013 Colorado floods. The paper will be presented at the Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management conference in May.

Megan Kinney is teaching a section of The Meaning of Information Technology in the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media (TAM) program this semester. She is using interactive teaching methods, guest speakers and online sessions on topics ranging from democracy to social justice, critical thinking and information technology research. She is submitting documentation to volunteer at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility as part of an independent study working with the library and assessing the technology skills of the inmates. She also has been named the ATLAS representative for the United Government of Graduate Students (UGGS) at CU.

Josephine Kilde had a poster presentation in December at the Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICTD) conference in Cape Town, South Africa, where she also paid tribute to Nelson Mandela. She received funding from Los Alamos National Laboratory to go into fieldwork to collect data in support of building a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) for professional development for K-12 teachers in Pueblo schools in New Mexico. She is in the field from February to July with the plan of testing the MOOC prototype in early fall 2014.

Abigale Stangl is a collaborating author on a work in progress extended abstract, “NatureNet: A Model for Crowdsourcing the Design of Citizen Science Systems,” accepted by the Computer Support for Collaborative Work conference. This a collaboration with the University of Maryland, the University of North Carolina and the University of Colorado. She also is a collaborating author on a work in progress extended abstract, “Tactile Picture Books for Young Children with Visual Impairments,” accepted by the Tangible, Embedded and Embodied Interaction conference. She also has submitted another work in progress on Tactile Picture Books to CHI.
The ATLAS Speaker Series hosts distinguished visitors from academia, industry and the arts as part of the ATLAS Institute’s mission to explore information and communication technologies and their effect on society. The talks are always free and open to the public.

The series is an educational resource for students, faculty and the larger community to discuss the challenges, opportunities and innovative applications of technology.

Unless otherwise noted, talks are presented in ATLAS 100, Cofrin Auditorium, ground floor.

• 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19
   Jer Thorp works at the intersection of science, art and design. Stretching the possibilities of infographics, he will discuss data visualization, information design and opportunities to make data more meaningful and accessible.

• 4 p.m. Monday, March 31
   For 20 years, Ann Mei Chang has held leadership roles in the software engineering industry. As chief innovation officer at Mercy Corps, Chang builds highly scalable social enterprises and leverages mobile/Internet to improve the lives of the poor. At the U.S. Department of State, she served as the senior adviser for Women and Technology in the Office of Global Women’s Issues. At Google, she was a senior engineering director, leading product development for emerging markets. She has also worked at Apple, Macromedia, Intuit and SGI.

• 7 p.m. Thursday, April 10
   Vladislav Delay (aka: Sasu Ripatti) experiments with ambient, broken beat, glitch and house music with soulful vocals – always searching for what’s never been heard. The talk is part of the CommuniKey Festival of Electronic Arts (CMKY).

WIRED LIVES: Randi Zuckerberg, an early executive at Facebook and the sister of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, talked about how technology shaped her career and how it is affecting people, communications and careers during the first ATLAS Speaker Series presentation of the spring semester on Feb. 3. She is the founder and CEO of Zuckerberg Media and editor-in-chief of Dot Complicated, a digital lifestyle website. As part of her appearance, she gave away 100 copies of her book, “Dot Complicated: Untangling our Wired Lives.”
AERIAL DANCE:
Sonya Smith’s MFA dance performance, entitled “Beneath the Text,” asked: What if aerial dance did not always look effortless? What if we were all in the stories? The performances on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 in the ATLAS Black Box featured five dancers, four musicians, two composers and video graphics. Smith is in the photo on the top left.
ATLAS Black Box Events

ATLAS Black Box performances are produced by the ATLAS Center for Media, Arts and Performance and are free and open to the public. The theater is located downstairs, lowest basement level B2 in the Roser ATLAS building.

Pendulum New Music Concert Series
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26
The College of Music’s monthly concert series features original electro-acoustic music composed and performed by students, faculty and guests.

• BLOrk – The Boulder Laptop Orchestra
7:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday, Feb. 28 – March 1
BLOrk will perform new works composed by ensemble members and featured performers using traditional/acoustic instruments blended with or modified by controllers, laptops and software.

• The Brakhage Center Symposium
March 7-8
The Brakhage Center Symposium brings guest contemporary filmmakers, scholars, critics and curators to ATLAS and the CU Film Studies’ Brakhage Center, named in honor of Stan Brakhage, an experimental filmmaker and CU instructor who died in 2003.

• The Pain of Becoming
Multimedia concert with dance
7:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday, April 4-5
This performance explores the threads that connect the ego to the self. Produced by College of Music doctoral student and ATLAS fellow Hugh Lobel, the performance features six musicians, four dancers and live, real-time video; choreography by CU MFA Chrissy Nelson and videography by Kyle Monks.

Conference on World Affairs (CWA)
April 7-11
The Conference on World Affairs, originally founded in 1948 as a forum on international affairs, now includes panels on the arts, media, science, diplomacy, technology, environment, spirituality, politics, business, medicine, and human rights, all at different venues on campus, including ATLAS. Complete information and schedules are at http://www.colorado.edu/cwa.

• Communikey (CMKY)
April 10-13
The Communikey Festival of Electronic Arts will feature interdisciplinary electronic artist performances at various Boulder locations including the ATLAS Black Box theater. Visit: http://cmky.org/festival2014/festival. There is a charge for attending some of the events.

SETTLE: Thirteen dancers from several generations used common symbols of domesticity and family tradition to ask questions about fundamental life choices – such as Do we settle down with someone? Do we follow our heart’s ambition? – in two productions of “Settle” on Jan. 17-18 in the ATLAS Black Box.
ATLAS director Gross speaks at opening of Innovation Center in St. Vrain School District

ATLAS director Mark Gross spoke about education, invention and entrepreneurship during the open house launch of the St. Vrain Valley School District’s Innovation Center Jan. 30 in Longmont.

The center gives Skyline High School students access to a 3D printer, a scanner, a laser cutter, a paint room and other high-tech resources to invent and build prototypes as part of a federal Race to the Top grant received by the St. Vrain Valley School District. The center also gives students a chance to collaborate with businesses to develop apps, websites and more.

The $16.5 million grant supports science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education and also funded Skyline’s STEM Academy, which now has 400 students.

Gross noted the parallels between ATLAS programs and the Innovation Center, including the relationships between having fun, education, making and inventing, and entrepreneurship.

Gross also talked about co-founding two Boulder-based companies: Blank Slate Systems, which creates software-based design tools such as a digital sketchpad that allows users to create blueprints for laser cutters, and Modular Robotics, which makes robot construction kits for kids.

FUN FIRST: ATLAS director Mark Gross talked about combining fun, learning and entrepreneurship during the opening celebration of St. Vrain School District’s Innovation Center Jan. 30 in Longmont.

CAPSTONE PROJECTS: A variety of ATLAS student projects, including original videos and interactive websites, are now online at http://bit.ly/1fhtLAN. The projects are from ATLAS capstone courses during the fall semester.

ATLAS Institute

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

The ATLAS Institute is an innovative campus-wide initiative in education, research, creative work and outreach in which information and communication technology (ICT) is the enabling force. ATLAS programs bring together students, educators, artists, writers, scholars and leaders from the academy, industry, non-profits and government to create a multidisciplinary environment that contributes to the understanding of the interaction of ICT and human society, and to the realization of the full potential of that interaction. 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. Follow ATLAS on the Web on a variety of platforms: