Internationally-known artist Jen Lewin adds a human touch to technology with her interactive “MOTH” installation on display through Feb. 15 in the ATLAS Institute lobby.

The installation features three silk-winged moths suspended from the ceiling. The moths begin to move when a person touches orbs that are wirelessly linked to the robotic artworks.

“Through my art, I play with the relationship between the physical and the digital; the virtual and the real,” Lewin said. “In this interplay, the user and the piece participate in a unique ‘moment’ that is often unpredictable and spontaneous. Some of my pieces seem to exist only in their interaction.”

The MOTH exhibit is emblematic of how the ATLAS Institute’s Center for Arts, Media & Performance brings together art, technology and interdisciplinary creative work – and how combining technology with a human touch promotes gentle change at human speed.

“Part of our manifesto is that the human heart and mind are expressed and refined through artistic-technological discoveries,” said Center for Arts, Media & Performance director Rebekah West.

Lewin is a Boulder-based artist whose work has been shown throughout the country, including exhibits at New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts, the Lincoln Center, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Wired NextFest in New York and Los Angeles and the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea.

She has worked as an adjunct professor teaching advanced multimedia, interactive design, sculpture, three-dimensional modeling and microcomputing at CU-Boulder and NYU.

Her design and multimedia work has appeared in National Geographic, proceedings of Siggraph 1998, Computer Assisted Architectural Design Futures and Automation in Construction.

Meet Lewin in a lecture-demonstration of her works as part of the ATLAS Distinguished Speaker Series at 3:00-4:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, in the ATLAS Cofrin Auditorium.

A Valentine’s Day celebration of MOTH also will be held from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the ATLAS lobby.
National Radio Show Features
Lecia Barker, ARC Research

Lecia Barker, director of the Assessment & Research Center (ARC) in the ATLAS Institute, described her research on encouraging girls to engage in computing education and careers as part of a public radio program broadcast January 7.

The broadcast aired on “The Best of Our Knowledge,” one of several national programs produced by WAMC/Northeast Public Radio in Albany, NY. “The Best of Our Knowledge” covers issues unique to college campuses, including descriptions of research and commentary from experts and administrators.

The broadcast is available as an MP3 at http://stream.publicbroadcasting.net/production/mp3/wamc/local-wamc-660942.mp3.

CAMP Shows Fill ATLAS

Junior Burke, accompanied by four musicians, celebrated the release of his CD “When You Were Gone” as part of a night of music Oct. 6 in the Black Box Theatre.

Three CU Alumni from Persistent Films screened a rough cut of “Deep in the Valley” with the intention of getting student reaction and input early in the editing process. Two screenings of the film were held Oct. 7 in the ATLAS building.

The Center for Arts, Media & Performance used an ultra-high technology Internet connection Oct. 12 to bring a live performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra to the Black Box Theater. The Philadelphia Orchestra is the first major orchestra to multicast a concert to large screens through the Internet2 network. The live concert was transmitted using seven high-definition robotic cameras installed in Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia.

The Boulder-based Octopus League performed “Portrait” in several theater-in-the-round productions in late November and early December in the Black Box Theatre.

Students from FILM 4600 Creative Cinematography, DNCE 4053/5053 Advanced Dance Composition, and FILM 3010 Audio Environments presented their interdisciplinary and collaborative projects Dec. 12 in the Black Box Theatre.

The Ninth Annual Festival of the New West Electro-Acoustic Music Organization (NWEAMO) brought avant-garde music, images, and performance (including a solo on the “e-clambone”!) to the ATLAS Black Box Theater on Oct. 13.

Computer scientist Liz Bradley and dancer/choreographer David Capps present “Con/cantation: chaotic variations,” involving one live dancer, three computer-animated avatars, a movement phrase recorded via motion capture, computer- and human-generated variations on the phrase, and a spoken “guide” to the piece. At the Black Box Theater on Jan. 18 at 5pm.
A 30-poster exhibit depicting the impact of the atomic bomb on the City of Hiroshima was on display in the ATLAS building from Oct. 21-Nov. 20. The exhibit was held in conjunction with a campus visit by bombing survivors Yukio Yoshioka and Susumu Yoneda on behalf of Hiroshima’s mayor and the 260,000 Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors alive today. Yoneda and Yoshioka said they hope that sharing their haunting memories will assure that no one will ever have to live through another atomic attack.

BECKETT/BUTOH, an experimental treatment of three Beckett plays – “Not I,” “Quad” and “That Time” – was presented Dec. 15 in the Black Box Theatre. The production was designed and directed by Katsura Kan, Naropa University’s MFA guest artist from Kyoto, Japan.

ATLAS Web Site Expands

Three branch Web sites have been added to the ATLAS Web site. The Technology, Arts & Media (TAM) Program now has a site aimed at helping students learn about all aspects of TAM, from courses, to advising to, important dates and news. The site is located at http://tam.colorado.edu.

The Assessment & Research Center’s new site includes information about research and publications and contains resources for others interested in issues related to encouraging young girls and women to enter information technology fields. The site is located at http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/research/arc/.

ARC also has created a Web site related to an NSF-funded research project called Practices, Aggregation, Infrastructure and Retrieval Service (PAIRS) digital library. PAIRS enables educators at all levels, in both formal and informal settings, to easily identify, select, and use educational resources that have been shown by research to be effective for increasing the participation of members of under-represented groups in information technology. The site is located at http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/research/arc/pairs/.

The new sites also are available through the main ATLAS Web site at http://atlas.colorado.edu.

On-line Timeline Shows 10 Years of ATLAS History

The ATLAS Web site now features a graphical 10-year history of ATLAS people, programs and initiatives.

The timeline uses Flash to allow viewers to scroll through the years to learn about ATLAS from its founding in 1997 through the development of ARC, TAM, the Ph.D. program, the building funding and construction, and the 2007 appointment of John Bennett as the new director of ATLAS.

The timeline will continue to be updated as ATLAS evolves. The timeline is located under the About ATLAS/History of ATLAS menu, or at http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/about/history/.
ATLAS UPDATES

NCWIT Conference Includes Third Practices Workshop

NCWIT held its November 2007 meetings and Promising Practices Workshop in Redmond and Seattle, Wash.

NCWIT’s third-annual Practices Workshop at Microsoft on Nov. 6 began with an overview from Jolene Jesse, Program Director for the Division of Human Resource Development at the National Science Foundation. Curt Coffman, former Gallup executive and co-author of the New York Times best-seller, “First Break All the Rules,” followed with a keynote on managing diverse talent. The morning panel featured breakouts on the value of diversity in organizations and teams; the findings and implications of an NCWIT-sponsored study on patenting; and successful mentoring for women doctoral students and junior faculty in engineering and computer science fields.

The afternoon kicked off with a historical and demographic review of women’s participation in the sciences from Evelynn Hammonds, Harvard University’s senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity. The afternoon breakout topics included gender disparities in marriages where both partners have technical careers; myths about bias and diversity; and stereotype threat and unconscious bias. NCWIT’s Academic, Workforce, K-12, and Entrepreneurial Alliances also met for several hours following the workshop to discuss their work.

Nov. 7 included a ceremony celebrating the winners of NCWIT’s second Award for Aspirations in Computing. Visit www.ncwit.org/award to watch the video of award-winners. The day ended with a second round of alliance meetings.

NCWIT Scorecard Indicates Impact of Lack of Women in IT

NCWIT has officially launched the inaugural NCWIT Scorecard, a research report whose findings suggest that women’s lack of participation in the IT workforce is leaving IT professions with a shrinking pool of qualified professionals.

In addition, data in the NCWIT Scorecard imply that women’s participation could have a profound impact on innovation and economic competitiveness.

Findings of the report include:
- Girls comprise fewer than 15 percent of all Advanced Placement (AP) computer science exam-takers, the lowest representation of any AP discipline.
- Between 1983 and 2006, the share of computer science bachelor’s degrees awarded to women dropped from 36 to 21 percent.
- In the U.S. workforce, women hold more than half of professional positions overall, but fewer than 22 percent of software engineering positions.
- Within the top Fortune 500 IT companies, fewer than five percent of chief technical officers are women.

NCWIT created the Scorecard to serve as a
benchmark for and increase the visibility of women’s participation in IT. Microsoft provided funding for the inaugural report. The Scorecard is available online at http://www.ncwit.org/pdf/Scorecard.pdf.

Four Projects Get Awards Through NCWIT Seed Fund

The NCWIT Academic Alliance Seed Fund has awarded start-up funds to four projects from NCWIT’s Academic Alliance. The projects will develop and implement initiatives for recruiting and retaining women in computing and information technology.

The projects are:

• “Inspiring AmbITion,” led by the ATLAS Colorado Coalition for Gender and Information Technology (CCGIT), $10,000 to develop and disseminate a multimedia outreach program to recruit women, non-traditional age groups, and underrepresented minorities from community colleges into four-year computing and IT programs. The project will bring together three Colorado universities (the Women’s College of the University of Denver, the Colorado School of Mines, and the University of Colorado at Boulder).

• “Leveling the CS1 Playing Field,” an initiative from DePauw University, $10,000 to engage first-year women students through role modeling, dispelling myths about computing, and showcasing a broad variety of computing careers and lifestyles.

• Oregon State University’s “Computer Science Ambassador Program: Students Recruiting Students,” $15,000 to leverage its highly successful “Ambassadors in Engineering” program as the model for a new student-to-student recruitment initiative focused on attracting college-bound high school students to computing.

• The University of Pennsylvania will receive $10,000 for its “CS Outreach Program to High School Girls,” a project that will perform outreach to high school girls on a national level and culminate in a March 2008 conference. The initiative’s goal is to target students from 2,500 high schools nationwide and encourage their interest in computing by providing them with academic and career advice, as well as mentoring from undergraduate computer science majors.

Motorola Awards CCGIT $20,000 for Inspiring AmbITion

The Colorado Coalition for Gender and Information Technology (CCGIT), which is housed in the ATLAS Institute, has been awarded a $20,000 Motorola Foundation Innovation Generation Grant for a program to encourage K-12 students to enter the field of computer science.

The Inspiring AmbITion program involves five universities in Colorado and Wyoming that seek to recruit students into computer science.

The program includes road shows that will allow undergraduate students studying computer science to visit K-12 students with a program about computing and information technology.

“The shows raise awareness about information technology in education and careers, change perceptions about the nature of information technology work, and encourage girls and under-represented minorities to enter computer science and information technology programs at four-year institutions,” said Deborah Keyek-Franssen, co-director of CCGIT.

Jill Van Matre Named Associate Director of ATLAS

Jill Van Matre has been named the associate director of ATLAS.

Van Matre, a research fellow with CU’s Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship, leads the ATLAS Ph.D. seminar.

She also teaches a writing seminar in the Interdisciplinary Telecommunications Program.

Van Matre has a law degree from the University of Colorado and a bachelor’s degree in finance and international studies from Indiana University.

Prior to law school, Van Matre worked for Lucent Technologies and Microsoft Corporation.
Jennifer Gunther Named Assistant Director of Communications

Jennifer Gunther, a Technology, Arts & Media Certificate graduate who received a bachelor’s degree in studio arts in the spring of 2007, has been named ATLAS assistant director of communications.

Gunther has been associated with ATLAS since 2003, when she served as a student assistant involved with a number of graphics and Web design projects, including the design and lay-out for the ATLAS Colorado Coalition for Gender and IT Web site.

She also served as an intern for the Information Technology Services graphics department, where her projects included design proposals for the redesign of the ATLAS Web site.

She continued the redesign project as an ATLAS employee over the summer and became assistant director of communications in October.

BATHROOM INSPIRATION

Brad Feld, who holds bachelor of science and master of science degrees in management science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, had a bet with a friend that he could sponsor a bathroom at his alma mater.

He offered several times, but his gift idea apparently didn’t hold water with the MIT development office.

Feld, who serves on several boards, including the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Board, recently mentioned the MIT story to ATLAS Director John Bennett.

As Feld tells it on his blog, “John said ‘I’d be delighted for you to sponsor a bathroom at ATLAS.’ We quickly came to a price for a gift with one condition – that I got to put a plaque up on the wall outside the bathroom with a quote on it that pertains to entrepreneurship.”

After appealing to his blog readers for help with some “bathroom inspiration,” he received multiple suggestions for the wording. Feld decided on the following phrase:

“The Best Ideas Often Come At Inconvenient Times – Don’t Ever Close Your Mind To Them.”

Feld is a managing director at Foundry Group and Mobius Venture Capital, both in Boulder.

Prior to Mobius, Feld founded Feld Technologies, which was sold to AmeriData Technologies in 1993.

His blog, called “Feld Thoughts,” is located at http://www.feld.com.

There are a number of naming opportunities still available in the new ATLAS building – including sponsorship of seven more bathrooms.
Richard Foy Receives PaceSetter Award

Presented since 1985, these prestigious annual awards recognize people who have made significant contributions in the areas of arts and entertainment, business, community service, education, the environment, quality of life, Youth, and science, medicine or health. They are designed to recognize outstanding people, sometimes known, but often unsung, who make Boulder County more giving and more caring, and a better place to live for everyone.

In 2008, 38 nominations were submitted from various nominators within Boulder and Broomfield counties. Each nomination was comprised of approximately 7 letters of recommendation, a personal introduction, and the nominee’s resume. Those selected as award recipients are chosen by a selection committee comprised of the previous year’s award recipients.

Richard was nominated by Ann Marks Getches. Letters of support were received from members of the Boulder Valley School District, Pearl Street Mall, Colorado Chatauqua Association, Walters & Hogsett Fine Jewelers, the Colorado Music Festival, Downtown Boulder Inc., and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Eric Snow Leaving ARC for Western Oregon University

Eric Snow, a graduate research assistant for the ATLAS Assessment & Research Center for the past seven years, has accepted an offer from Western Oregon University.

Snow’s new title is assessment coordinator in the College of Education. In this new position, Snow will help faculty develop and maintain a system for program improvement.

Rebecca Rowley Named Assistant Building Proctor and Graduate Program Coordinator

Rebecca Rowley has been hired as the assistant building proctor for ATLAS.

The native Coloradoan’s duties include scheduling events and maintaining room calendars; electronic security management; and receiving and delegating building maintenance requests.

Rowley also serves as the program coordinator for the ATLAS Ph.D. program. Her duties include receiving and processing applications and acting as the first point of contact for prospective students.

She also is the supervisor of ATLAS student workers and acts as the telecom liaison and parking services liaison.

Tim Weston Receives NSF Funding for Science Education

Tim Weston of the ATLAS Assessment & Research Center has been funded by the National Science Foundation to study the implementation and adoption of a virtual version of Full Option Science System (FOSS) kits.

FOSS has been adopted by several large states as their main science education vehicle. Weston will explore factors related to teachers, principals and school districts that will impact how the computerized version should be implemented.

Revi Sterling Ph.D. Research Featured

ATLAS Ph.D. student Revi Sterling recently presented a paper on her doctoral research at the ICTD 2007 conference in Bangalore, India. Her work also was featured in two articles in the India Press.
Board Member, Nathalie Nuñez has an update of her own

ATLAS Board Member Nathalie Nuñez will miss the January 2008 Board meeting due to the imminent arrival of her first born.

“I’m 8.5 months pregnant and kind of stuck in Santa Fe until the big day.... The funny thing is that my original due date was the 21st but it got pushed back to the 28th!.... But please pass this on to John and the board that I’m busy prepping for my new little addition:)....and of course eventually a new addition to the CU student body;)!”

Nathalie, we wish all the best to you. We cannot wait to see you and meet your addition at the May Board meeting!