Ph.D. Program Grows
Five More Students Admitted to Program

The ATLAS interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Technology, Media and Society is doubling in size with the acceptance of five new students for the fall.

The program involves dozens of faculty from disciplines ranging from the arts, humanities and social sciences to sciences, engineering, business and law.

Each student in the program forms a faculty committee appropriate to his or her interests from the outset and works with that committee to develop a set of courses and candidacy exams customized to those interests.

The five new students and their research interests are:

Meg Ambrose
Meg Leta Ambrose graduated from the University of Illinois in three years with a bachelor’s degree in Sociology, focusing on music-related subcultures.

After working for a year at a financial planning company, she attended law school at the University of Illinois and co-founded a campus record label. Over the course of law school, Meg worked with the Hon. Michael Mihm in the Central District of Illinois, the University Office of General Council, the Animal Welfare Trust, and an entertainment law firm.

In that time, she was also active in community radio.

As an ATLAS Ph.D. student, she plans to focus her research on the sociological and legal aspects of digital music.

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Becky Roser Donates Paintings to ATLAS

‘COLORADO CANYONS’: ATLAS Advisory Board member Becky Roser stands in front of the painting “Colorado Canyons,” one of two paintings she has donated to ATLAS. The painting was commissioned by Becky’s late husband, Jim, and painted by Colorado artist Elisa Love in 1986. The painting hangs near the student lounge area on the second floor of the ATLAS building. Becky also donated “Sand Station, Columbia River,” by artist Charlie Palmer. Jim and Becky co-chaired the ATLAS Advisory Board for many years. Jim passed away in January after a decade of extraordinary service and leadership for ATLAS.

Lecia Barker Heading for Texas
Sanders to Direct ARC

Lecia Barker, director of the ATLAS Assessment & Research Center (ARC), has accepted the position of research associate professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin.

Lecia will continue in her role as senior research scientist for the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) and will provide consultation for Broadening Participation in Computing projects.

Lucy Sanders, director of NCWIT, will become director of ARC.

LECIA BARKER LUCY SANDERS

Lecia’s new position begins in fall 2008.

Lecia has directed the research arm of ATLAS since 1998. ARC collaborates with faculty, scientists, outreach partners and K-12 educators.
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Jacqueline Berger
Jacqueline Lindfors Berger has a bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Audio-Visual department of the Gerrit Rietveld Academy, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She studied computer programming and game development at Gotland University, Sweden. She has also been doing an internship at the Interactive Institute, Stockholm – an IT-research institute that combines art, design and technology. Jacqueline currently is living and working as a museum educator in Stockholm, Sweden. Jacqueline’s research interests are moving images, digital media (especially computer graphics), artificial intelligence and social psychology. She will be developing a computer-based platform that investigates the history of humankind.

Bradley Morse
Bradley Dean Morse is a native of Colorado and received a bachelor of arts degree from Colorado State University in Anthropology and Journalism. He also obtained a master’s degree in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Colorado, Denver, where he focused on sustainable development in disadvantaged communities. Currently Brad is employed at the American Indian Alaska Native Programs at the University of Colorado in Denver, where he is working on issues involving communication technology and health-related education.

Most of Brad’s field research has been conducted in South Dakota and Oklahoma within American Indian communities. He plans to continue this work at the ATLAS Institute, focusing on culturally relevant adaptations of emerging technologies, including participatory video and Web-based development, to create learning opportunities in remote rural areas.

Calvin C. Pohawpatchoko Jr.
Calvin C. Pohawpatchoko Jr. is a member of the Numunu People (Comanche Tribe) from the Quahada (Antelope) clan. He has a bachelor of science degree in Computer Science from Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, Okla.; a master’s degree in Computer Information Systems from Regis University, Denver; and has done doctoral studies in Educational Technology at Colorado State University.

He has worked for 25 years in the IT industry, largely in the area of financial system development, maintenance, system conversions, team leadership and management. Calvin currently serves on the University of Colorado’s Multi-Cultural Engineering Program Advisory Council, and has served with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE).

He has a strong interest in economic development, urban education and policy, technology and how it can be used in tribal development, K-16 education, leadership and research for Native Americans.

His goal is to obtain a Ph.D. in an area that would benefit the Native American community and possibly teach at a tribal college or university.

Edwige Simon
Edwige Simon, a native of France, moved to the U.S. in 1999. She holds master’s degrees in American Studies, French and Education and currently works as a Language Technology Program Coordinator for the Anderson Language Technology Center (ALTEC) at the University of Colorado.

Edwige regularly designs and teaches instructional technology workshops (in-class and online) and works closely with faculty members interested in developing their technology literacy. She also has worked as an independent contractor for the School of Continuing Education and for APEX Learning, a company that designs online language courses.

Her research interests stand at the intersection of technology, education and professional development. She is especially interested in studying how campuses can assist faculty to make the transition from traditional classroom-based teaching to fully online environments.

Continuing Ph.D. Students

Stephen G. Butler
1st-year Ph.D. student; research on the impact of new technologies on education and life-long learning.

Sophia Liu
3rd-year Ph.D. student; research on human-computer interaction, disaster research, communication and visual arts.

Kate Starbird
1st-year Ph.D. student; research on potential new technologies for educational spaces.

Revi Sterling
3rd-year Ph.D. student; research on the use of technology to reduce poverty and empower women in developing regions.

Sara Vieweg
1st year Ph.D. student; research on technology use during crisis and disaster.
Valerie Saltou Leaving ATLAS

Valerie Saltou, assistant to the director for finance and human resources, is leaving ATLAS at the end of the fiscal year.

Val has worked for ATLAS since 1999, when ATLAS was in its formative stages and there were just five employees. Now, she noted, there are about 30 continuing employees, including five full-time support positions.

Val orchestrated the 2006 move into the new ATLAS building, which involved moving offices from eight different areas of campus, obtaining bids from movers, setting up services and negotiating building finishes. She also worked out the building “bugs” with design, services, outside vendors and, she noted, “getting rid of a bee infestation in the walls.”

“I instituted the business procedures, helped formulate and enforce the policies, and generally helped make ATLAS function effectively through these beginning growth years,” Val said. “I feel good about what I’ve contributed for others to build on.”

Prior to ATLAS, Val worked as the assistant to the chair of the Spanish and Portuguese department, and as registrar for the Continuing Education program.

Hutchinson to be Visiting Prof

John Steven Hutchinson, professor of chemistry at Rice University, has been appointed ATLAS visiting professor of Technology, Learning and Society, effective this May and running until August 2009.

“I’ll be working on a number of projects at ATLAS,” said Hutchinson, who has taught general chemistry for the past 20 years and has developed a variety of different approaches to teaching introductory science.

“My primary research interest is in the development of active and interactive teaching and learning methods. At ATLAS, I’d like to explore both how these approaches can be adapted to distance learning and how distance learning technology can be adapted to these teaching approaches,” he said. “Second, I plan to work on a book and several journal articles about teaching introductory chemistry with new pedagogies and materials.

“ATLAS is a perfect place to experiment with these ideas, given the focus on both technology and learning and given the expertise and equipment available in the institute.”

Hutchinson is a 1977 graduate with highest honors of Rice faculty in 1983. During his time at Rice, he has served as associate vice president for Student Affairs, and director of Academic Advising. He was also the resident faculty master of Brown College (2003-2008) and Wiess College (1994-2001), two of the nine residential colleges at Rice.


Seminar to Stimulate Research

A seminar aimed at incubating research collaborations between humanists, artists, scientists and engineers will become a reality through a grant shared by directors of three diverse and innovative programs at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The directors – Michael Zimmerman of the Center for Humanities and the Arts, Diane Sieber of the Herbst Program of Humanities in Engineering, and Rebekah West of the Center for Arts, Media and Performance – will use the $45,000 two-year CU Innovative Grant Program funds to plan and implement the seminar around the theme of “Visual Art/Visual Science: Technology, Aesthetics, Investigation.”

The seminar would bring nationally known speakers to CU to focus on how integrating different research perspectives can help provide solutions to complex problems. The speakers would make presentations to the seminar as well as general audiences.

The center directors also will be planning a colloquium where the participants will present their collaborative proposals.

Participants will include: a faculty facilitator; eight CU Boulder faculty members and four graduate students selected from arts, engineering, humanities, and social and natural sciences; and a representative from Norlin Library. Participants will be selected by a faculty advisory board appointed by Zimmerman, in consultation with John Bennett, director of the Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society (ATLAS) Institute that houses the Center for Arts, Media and Performance; Sieber, who also is a former co-director of ATLAS; and West.

Waitlists Grow for TAM Classes

Six of seven Technology, Media and Arts Certificate Program core courses have waiting lists for fall enrollments. There are 328 students who currently are part of the certificate program; about 40 students will graduate this spring. The students continue to come from diverse majors, with enrolled students representing 56 different majors from six different colleges on campus.

The program also continues to draw a diversity of students in terms of gender: of those currently in the program, 172 are female and 156 are male.
NCWIT Redesigns Web Site

NCWIT launched its redesigned Web site April 1. The site features a fresh new design; improved navigation; expanded content and better access to resources; more attention to NCWIT alliances, research and reports; a practices “configurator” which allows users to search through collected practices based on categories or keywords; whole-site search functionality; a tricked-out blog; and a portal-style home page with rotating designs that allows NCWIT to highlight internal site features for a broad range of visitors.

The site was revamped by Boulder-based Insight Designs and every page was built and tested to W3 HTML, accessibility, and Google Analytics standards.

NCWIT will be applying the revised design to the NCWIT member site as well, with some of the enhancements there to include customized areas for each alliance; improved access to member-only resources such as logos, art, presentations and alliance documents; and improved member community spaces. Visit the site at www.ncwit.org and offer your feedback at info@ncwit.org.

Resources Launched by NCWIT

NCWIT has launched several new resources in the past few months and will unveil several more at its May meetings at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Here’s a sampling:

- In conjunction with International Women’s Day, March 8, NCWIT launched International Women’s Day-in-a-Box: Raising Awareness, Igniting Change. This all-in-one resource is designed to help companies capitalize on International Women’s Day as an occasion to celebrate successes and address barriers to women’s full participation in IT.

- The NCWIT Workforce Alliance Practices Subcommittee, which is supporting several studies that seek to determine the current climate and barriers for women in IT companies and identify promising practices to address them, co-sponsored a study with Catalyst that surveyed IT employees about the existing culture in IT companies and women’s perceptions, experiences and levels of satisfaction in these companies. The report is entitled “Women in Technology: Maximizing Talent, Minimizing Barriers.”

- NCWIT has syndicated its Entrepreneurial Heroes podcast series with w3w3.com and InformIT (owned by Pearson Prentice Hall). The Entrepreneurial Heroes campaign is a series of magazine-style audio interviews highlighting women entrepreneurs in information technology careers, sponsored by the NCWIT Entrepreneurial Alliance and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

- NCWIT is preparing to launch its newest Program-in-a-Box, Computer Science-in-a-Box: Unplug Your Curriculum. This Box gives middle-school educators an abbreviated version of “Unplugged,” the award-winning curriculum designed by Tim Bell to teach young children the fundamental concepts behind computer science without using computers, and includes worksheets, activities and videos.
Black Box Theatre Hosts 18 Performances

BLACK BOX:
Recent performances include (starting clockwise at immediate right):
Claudia Quintet; Giant’s Eye, Todd Reynolds & Luke Dubois, and Pendulum, from the Interdisciplinary Performance class.

The Black Box Theatre recently hosted undergraduate performance, graduate student projects, university-sponsored professionals, inter-departmental collaborations, and both storytelling and musical performances associated with the Conference on World Affairs (CWA).
Performances included Todd Reynolds & Luke Dubois, Pendulum, FusionChamber, Hunter Ewan’s Giant’s Eye, the Claudia Quintet, the Italian Department’s Pirandello, a dance performance in honor of Jim Roser, and many artists in the CWA.
Artists are beginning to utilize the unique qualities of the Black Box’s volume of space and there was a wide range of experimental music. Integrating technology with performance requires a firm commitment of time and focus; as ATLAS introduces artist residency programs the number of performances will gradually reduce overall but there will be more innovation, higher technological skills, and an increasing thrill for excellence.

Center for Arts, Media & Performance Moves Ahead with 5-Year Plan

The five-year plan of the Center for Arts, Media & Performance is intended to inform the realization of its vision as an international artistic, educational and socially relevant center for innovating in arts, media and performance.
The center has conducted a series of sixteen meetings with faculty, students, community groups, TAM faculty and staff, ATLAS staff, Center for Arts, Media & Performance staff, and professionals in the field. The plan focuses on the top five faculty priorities that emerged through a process of brainstorming and connecting ideas.

The center is following up on minutes, action items, postings and surveys, planning for the remaining meetings, scheduling additional meetings, analyzing survey data and beginning to draft the strategic plan.
Implementation of the plan is to begin in the summer of 2008 and continue through the summer of 2013.
The plan is intended to be a resource that introduces purpose, intentions, priorities, constituents, history, vision and a blueprint for the future. The plan is meant to be easy to use and its content easy to recognize and remember; we are using the language of the people whose voices were part of the process.
The plan will be posted on the ATLAS Web site and printed in a limited run.
Collaborations Produce 9 Broadcast Studio Events

The Center for Arts, Media & Performance had several collaborations through the broadcast facilities this semester. Issues in Commercial Culture connected the Advertising and Journalism departments with the Center’s fine technical savvy. Advertising arranged for famous ad execs to be interviewed by equally famous journalists, the Journalism School directed and conducted the three-camera live shoot, and it was broadcast in a live Webcast from the Black Box.

Studio B, the school-oriented TV show, continues to bring together Journalism School, middle school and high school students in a quality program broadcast on Channel 22, the Boulder Valley School District Channel.

Bret Mann and Rebekah West conducted an interview of Law School graduate student Maxine Burkett for a documentary on changes in Jamaica. Jill Van Matre’s legal debate was broadcast internally from Cofrin to the Black Box for an oversize audience. The Philadelphia Orchestra’s live performance of 2001: A Space Odyssey came in through Internet2 technology to the Black Box.

ATLAS Building Features Festival, Other Installations

Four ATLAS installations included three as part of the Communikey Festival.

ASKAA was an exquisite installation in the Black Box by Skoltz_Kolgen, a plurimedia work cell based in Montreal, comprising Dominique T. Skoltz and Herman W. Kolgen. ASKAA is an interactive ecosystem inspired by vegetation. With this project, Skoltz_Kolgen developed an evolving sound/image platform that reacts to sonic influxes.

Epiphyte featured a stationary bike-powered educational journey into sustainable and non-sustainable practices (an installation requiring constant repairs, adjustments, reprogramming, recabling and even replacing the bike).

Exchange Alteration was the third Communikey Festival installation. It featured stitchers at sewing machines, transforming visitors’ clothing while Jitter-manipulated video showed visitors what transpired…in fast speed.

Andrea Polli returned to ATLAS with a 25-foot solar-powered weather station on the northeast patio. The station was designed to transform weather data into real time video on the LCD screens.
Workshops Focus on Photos, Contemplative Arts and Media

Several workshops recently were conducted in the ATLAS building.

National Geographic and the Journalism School hosted a series of workshops on journalism and photography throughout ATLAS, including the Black Box and Production Studios.

Rebekah West and the contemplative arts community made an initial foray into the integration of media into contemplative arts practices.

Center Presents 2 Speakers

The Center for Arts, Media & Performance was pleased to present Jen Lewin, the MOTH artist, and Andrea Polli weather-audio/video artist, through the ATLAS Speaker Series.

Jen brought her basic "building blocks" and unique interdisciplinary background to share with students.

Andrea, this semester’s Cox Family Visiting Artist, screened her documentary film, GROUND TRUTH. The CU undergraduate students also working on the film are Klew Williams, Brandon Lied and Greg O’Brien. John Cassano, who is a professor of atmospheric science at CU, is one of the stars in the film.

Video Highlights Ph.D. Program

Journalism student Brandon Lied has directed a short video promoting the ATLAS Ph.D. program.

The video features each of the current five Ph.D. candidates, their research, and their reasons for choosing ATLAS.

The video also has been produced as a DVD.

Warehouse 21 Gets New Facility

Construction of new facilities for Warehouse 21, the Sante Fe youth center where ATLAS Board member Nathalie Nuñez works as an artist, is nearing completion.

The facilities feature a two-level 16,845-square-foot warehouse near the same parcel of land where the old building originally resided on the Railyard. A $3.4 million capital campaign supports the development of a digital media arts lab, two performance spaces for theater and concerts, films and other productions, a gallery for the creation of art and its exhibition, a radio station studio, a gift area in which to sell youth-made products, a fashion design studio, a recording studio, a visual arts studio, a darkroom and a local coffee bar. A grand opening is scheduled for June.

Nuñez, who was the first ATLAS TAM graduate, teaches silkscreen classes, mentors kids, maintains the Web site and does most of the graphic design and advertising for Warehouse 21.

FusionChamber is Center’s First Pilot Residency

The Center for Arts, Media & Performance is thrilled to announce its first pilot residency. Students and faculty from the College of Music, in an ensemble called FusionChamber, participated in a four-week experimental residency process.

The group’s artistic team met with center director Rebekah West to talk about expectations, goals and technology. Throughout the residency, the group’s director, Randall Scotting, reported on how the process was going. After the residency, the team met again with West to debrief. Center staff weighed in throughout the process as well.

West believes this model is worth avidly pursuing as it gives artists the opportunity to learn the technology in the ATLAS building, deepen their relationship to it and use of it, and to provide performances of higher quality as a result.

The biggest innovation for FusionChamber was its use of the space: catwalk, audience configuration, choreography all contributed to a full experience of the Black Box Theatre.

West looks forward to a second pilot residency, during a six-month period next school year, for MFA candidate Nicole Predki’s Black Box performance. Nicole is the Roser Fellow.
First ‘ATLAS Award’ Given to Technical Manager Bret Mann

Bret Mann, who is the technical manager of the ATLAS Institute, is the first recipient of the ATLAS Award, which will be given annually “to the person who shoulders a heavy burden for ATLAS.”

Bret has helped design, implement, maintain and manage all of ATLAS’ technical operations, including the Black Box Theatre, production studios, the 150-seat distance-learning equipped auditorium and the video wall.

Rebekah West, who is Bret’s supervisor, consistently credits Bret with the success of the ATLAS Center for Arts, Media & Performance events. She notes Bret’s can-do attitude and willingness to work long hours to ensure that all of the technologies function properly. Bret also spends countless hours ensuring that the students who work with the technology have an in-depth understanding of its complexity.

The award, which consists of a marble, brass and glass statute, was presented to Bret on April 30.

Bret also was recently nominated as the Chancellor’s Employee of the Year.

Rebecca Rowley Receives First ATLAS ‘Titan of the Quarter’ Award

Rebecca Rowley, who as an ATLAS administrative assistant is the first point of contact for all who visit the ATLAS administration offices, has been awarded the first ATLAS Titan of the Quarter Award.

“She always goes above and beyond in the assignments she is given,” said Lulu Davis, ATLAS assistant to the director. “She is able to manage a number of tasks and be interrupted multiple times and is able to handle it all with grace and professionalism. She also has a wonderful sense of humor and enjoys harmless practical jokes on her colleagues.”

Rebecca, who joined ATLAS in June 2007, also is the assistant building proctor and program coordinator for the ATLAS Ph.D. program.

The native Coloradan’s duties include scheduling events and maintaining room calendars; electronic security management; receiving and delegating building maintenance requests; receiving and processing Ph.D. applications; assisting prospective students; supervising ATLAS student workers; and she also acts as the liaison for telecom services and parking services.

ATLAS Advisory Board member Nathalie Nuñez, who has been busy with the expansion of Warehouse 21 where she works in Sante Fe (see story, Page 7), recently had her own kind of expansion: A baby boy. Zenovio was born Feb. 2, 2008 – on Groundhog Day – and weighed in at 8 pounds.

NCWIT Hires Two New Employees

NCWIT has hired two new employees. Michele Leonard, formerly a reality-based television producer/writer, is external relations coordinator. She will be planning NCWIT meetings and events and managing relationships with vendors, members and the general public. Malia Hamilton, a former math teacher and inner-city youth counselor, is an administrative assistant.

Lecia Barker Heading for Texas

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tors in evaluating and researching educational technologies, development and use of self-contained learning modules, and technology-based curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

“My experience here at ATLAS has been formative of my career,” Lecia said. “The support I have received has allowed me to reach real and important goals and I deeply appreciate it. I will miss my colleagues and friends at ATLAS.”

Lecia holds a Ph.D. in communication from the University of Colorado, an MBA in marketing from San Diego State University, and a BA in Spanish, Linguistics and Portuguese from the University of Iowa.

Lucy is CEO and co-founder of NCWIT and also serves as executive-in-residence for ATLAS.