John Bennett New ATLAS Director
Associate Engineering Dean Appointed July 1

John Bennett, the University of Colorado at Boulder’s associate dean of engineering for education and an ATLAS Board member who helped create the new Ph.D. program, is the new director of ATLAS.

Bennett, who also serves as an ATLAS fellow, replaces ATLAS founder Bobby Schnabel, who has become dean of the Indiana University School of Informatics. Bennett’s appointment was effective July 1.

Bennett, Schnabel, and former ATLAS co-director Diane Sieber created the ATLAS Ph.D. program, which formally was approved in October 2006. The Ph.D. program now has an enrollment of five students.

Bennett, who has served as associate dean for the College of Engineering and Applied Science since 2002, holds joint appointments in the computer science department, the electrical and computer engineering department and the interdisciplinary telecommunications program.

Bennett holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Rice University in electrical and computer engineering and a doctorate in computer science from the University of Washington.

He was co-founder and president of Pacific Mountain Research of Seattle, which provided hardware and software engineering services to startup technology companies. Prior to graduate school, Bennett was an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Bennett also currently is president of the national Governing Board of Engineers Without Borders-USA, a nonprofit, humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide to improve their quality of life.

Updates September 2007
http://atlas.colorado.edu

New ATLAS Web Site Goes Live

The new ATLAS Web site went live in September after months of design work involving students, the ATLAS Advisory Board and ATLAS staff.

The new site benefited from a student-conducted usability study that resulted in a new navigation structure that should help users find information that they are seeking.

Jennifer Gunther, a Spring 2007 TAM graduate, created the design templates that were implemented with greatly expanded and updated content over the summer.
Rebekah West Heads Center for Arts, Media & Performance

Rebekah West is the new director of the Center for Arts, Media & Performance. Her directorship offers an opportunity to produce, collaborate in, and spark multi-media, interdisciplinary exploration and expression in the Black Box Theater, Production Studio, and through other tantalizing physical and digital spaces and times.

Officially, her multi-media artistry includes critically acclaimed theater, dance, video, television, photography and writing; an MA in Interdisciplinary Studies (writing & poetics and visual art); 10 years as producing director of the Space for Dance Theatre/Boulder Dance Alliance; and, she says, a commitment to wonder.

Unofficially, she credits a certain reluctant dragon in a blue bedspread (above).

Center for Arts, Media & Performance Holds Reception

The Center for Arts, Media & Performance held a reception, artist presentation and multimedia performance in the Black Box on Sept. 13.

Andrea Polli’s “Airlight” sound/video installation was presented on the video wall. Andrea, a digital media artist living in New York, explained how her installation combines video images from areas in Taipei, Southern California and Boulder with pollution monitoring devices in those areas to create an artistic aural experience. The video and audio display will be featured on the video wall through Oct. 6 as part of the Boulder EcoArts area arts exhibits from Sept. 14-Oct. 6.

The evening also included a Black Box multimedia performance entitled “Nightmare in Rio,” featuring CU-Denver music faculty member Gregory Walker. Guitarist Walker, percussionist Doug Walter and bassist Carter Smith combined improvisation with Latin-tinged jazz fusion, spoken word and video projection.

In addition, short films from faculty and staff were displayed as “Gotta Minute” video display on the external ATLAS LCD screens while short CU dance films were displayed on the lobby digital projectors.

Entries in the Constitution Day Art Competition from students and groups on campus also were installed for the event. The artworks convey freedom of speech issues around the topic of hate speech codes.

Joel Swanson Named Director of Technology, Arts & Media

After instructing in the program for two years, Joel Swanson has replaced Diane Sieber as the director of the Technology, Arts & Media Program at the ATLAS Institute.

Joel, a former TAM student, completed his graduate work at the University of California, San Diego, where he studied visual art with an emphasis in digital media.

He was also a graduate researcher at CRCA, the Center for Research in Computing and the Arts. He is a practicing artist and specializes in digital literature, media theory and digital aesthetics.

Computer Science Student is New President of TAM Club

Paul Gerhardt, a computer science student, is the new president for the TAM Club. Paul will be planning special events, coordinating technical help sessions and providing a student voice for the TAM Program.
WITI to Induct Lucy Sanders into Hall of Fame Sept. 27

Lucy Sanders, executive director of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), will be inducted into the Women in Technology, International (WITI), Hall of Fame on Sept. 27 in Santa Clara, Calif.

WITI is the nation’s leading trade association for professional, tech-savvy women committed to using technology, resources and connections to advance women worldwide.

The WITI Hall of Fame award is considered the most prestigious recognition for women in technology and science. The award was designed to recognize innovative women across different fields of technology, and to encourage young girls and women to become more technology literate and pursue careers in these fields.

NCWIT K-12 Alliance Distributes ‘Gotta Have IT’

NCWIT’s K-12 Alliance launched its first project June 25 - 27 at the ISTE-sponsored National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in Atlanta. The conference brought together more than 18,000 educators focused on technology’s role in developing 21st-century learners.

The K-12 Alliance gave away 4,000 copies of its “Gotta Have IT” kit, a selection of guides, brochures, activities, posters and other resources hand-picked to attract middle through high-school students to computing and designed with educators in mind.

The K-12 Alliance also plans to create a permanent, national distribution channel that will connect each organization’s region of influence with the educators, parents, and children who can most benefit from them.

NCWIT Gives First ‘Award for Aspirations’ to Seven Women

In conjunction with the Summit on K-12 IT Education in May, NCWIT recognized seven young women from the Boulder/Denver area with its inaugural Award for Aspirations in Computing.

The NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing recognizes young women at the high-school level for their computing-related aspirations and raises the visibility of their work and interests within their local community.

Nominees were selected from local metropolitan-area high schools for their demonstrated, outstanding aptitude and interest in information technology/computing; solid leadership ability; good academic history; and plans for post-secondary education. Jared Polis, of the Polis Foundation, presented the winners with an engraved award and a $500 prize.

Promising Practices Feature of NCWIT November Meetings

NCWIT’s next meetings take place Nov. 5-7 and will be co-hosted with Microsoft and the University of Washington. The meetings will feature a Promising Practices Workshop that will look beyond numerical equality to discuss aspects of gender diversity in IT.

Confirmed speakers include Curt Coffman (former Gallup researcher and author of the best-seller, First Break all the Rules); Dr. Evelyn M. Hammonds (professor of the History of Science and African and African-American Studies and senior vice provost for faculty development and diversity at Harvard University); and Dr. Ed Lazowska (the Bill and Melinda Gates Chair at the University of Washington and member of the National Academy of Engineering). Ray Ozzie, chief software architect at Microsoft, will give the opening remarks.
Lecia Barker Leads Project for Broadening Participation

Lecia Barker, director of the ATLAS Assessment & Research Center (ARC), is the principal investigator on a new National Science Foundation project to develop a collection of digital resources for broadening participation of under-represented groups in computing.

With leadership from NCWIT’s Lucy Sanders, the “Practices Aggregation, Infrastructure, and Retrieval Service” (PAIRS) project also will develop a customizable search “appliance” that any group can put on a Web site to make searches more efficient and effective.

Collaborators include researchers at UC-Berkeley, Auburn University and the Colorado School of Mines.

Lecia is now the lead evaluator for three Broadening Participation in Computing alliances, all of which involve undergraduate research, and is also leading an interview-based study funded by the Computing Research Association’s Committee on the Status of Women in Computing to better understand ways computer scientists can create a research project that undergraduates can successfully complete.

NSF Awards Tim Weston Grant for Student Assessment

Tim Weston from ATLAS ARC has been awarded funding from the National Science Foundation to develop a revamped version of the Student Assessment of their Learning Gains, a customizable online survey taken by over 100,000 undergraduates. Faculties at universities around the country routinely use the survey results to redesign their courses.

Cumulative Graduation Total for TAM Nearing 300 Students

This December, 26 students will complete the TAM certificate and three students will complete the MAT certificate, bringing the cumulative graduate total to 299.

These graduates represent five colleges (Engineering, Arts & Sciences, Journalism, Architecture & Planning, and Business), and 17 majors (Finance, Economics, Computer Science, Studio Arts, Art History, Media Studies, Design, English, History, Advertising, Political Science, Psychology, News Editorial, Film Studies, Communication, International Affairs and Architecture). There are 13 women and 16 men.

CCGIT Conducts Inaugural Training Workshop

The Colorado Coalition for Gender & IT, led by co-director Deborah Keyek-Franssen, held its inaugural training workshop for presenters of its regional computer science and information technology recruiting road show.

Students and faculty from five local institutions – CU-Boulder, Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, The Women’s College of the University of Denver, and the University of Wyoming – gathered for a day-long intensive to learn do’s and don’t’s of classroom management in middle and high schools, as well as techniques and activities to engage students, raise awareness about computer science and IT careers, and encourage students to opt for an educational path into computer science and IT.

Participating universities also customized a digital presentation to highlight their own faculty and students for local audiences.
Ph.D. Students Gain Office Space in ATLAS Building

Three doctoral students began their studies in the ATLAS Ph.D. program this August, joining the two students accepted through the computer science department in 2005.

This year, all Ph.D. students received office space within the ATLAS building in an effort to facilitate community within the growing program.

The interdisciplinary Ph.D. program has already attracted marked interest for the 2008-09 school year. More than 25 prospective students sought information about the ATLAS Ph.D. this fall.

The three new students are:
- Sarah Vieweg, whose background is in Linguistics and Computer Science, is pursuing research in Human-Computer Interface Design.
- Kate Starbird, who is interested in the multi-dimensional impact of emerging technologies on youth culture, along with the relationship between gender and technology, its roots and effects.
- Stephen Butler, currently IT director at the Dawson School, who will conduct research at the intersection of education, ubiquitous computing and the physical sciences.

Kim Kalahar Joins NCWIT as Program Manager

Kim Kalahar is now program manager for two NCWIT projects: Extension Services and PAIRS. Before joining NCWIT, Kim analyzed primary and secondary product research for several technology firms.

Sarah Hug Named Researcher

Dr. Sarah Hug, a former graduate student in the Colorado Coalition for Gender and Information Technology (CCGIT), is now working as a research associate for the Assessment & Research Center. She works on evaluation for the Empowering Leadership Alliance. She received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from CU in 2007.