ATLAS welcomes new grad students  
...Pages 2-3  
Technology infuses Speaker Series  
...Pages 4-5  
Black Box performances scheduled  
...Page 9
ATLAS Director John Bennett, lower right, and other ATLAS staff and faculty welcomed new and continuing ATLAS ICTD master’s students and ATLAS Ph.D. students during an orientation session in the ATLAS Board room as fall classes got under way in late August.
Ten students have joined the ATLAS master’s degree program in Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICTD), bringing the total number of students in the two-year program to 20.

The first three students to graduate from the program were Matthew Crum, Kevin McElhinney and Nicole Stephan, who received their degrees in the spring.

Joining the program this fall are:

Deborah Assefa, also known as “Dee,” has an academic background in Media Studies from the University of Colorado department of Journalism. She is a writer and poet, and is interested in how stories, symbols and creative expression facilitate social development.

This summer she was a business development intern at Sonjara Inc., a small woman-owned technology consulting business.

John Buckner received his undergraduate degree in Mass Media Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations from Hampton University, a historically and predominantly black university in Hampton, Va.

He has worked as a business specialist in mobile deployment for Apple and currently is a project manager for a digital signage software company.

Asia Fajardo-Wright has a bachelor’s degree in Music Performance and Management from the University of Colorado at Denver. She is an alto and soprano saxophonist, avant-garde composer and traditional Aztec Dancer.

She has worked with Denver inner-city youth for the past 15 years through the Colorado Folk Arts Council.

Alex Green currently is a systems administrator for the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

Diana Pesenti is a graduate of Naropa Institute in Boulder.

Rachel Powers earned a bachelor’s degree with honors in Linguistics from the University of Washington in 2009. Her thesis work focused on sociolinguistics and examined language features of multilingual people.

She won both a Pac-10 and NCAA national championship in women’s crew in 2008 and served as assistant varsity rowing coach at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell. She later worked for the Merck Family Fund, where she was a grant evaluator.

Powers joined the program in January and this summer went to Nairobi, Kenya, to work as a research assistant on an ICTD project aimed at improving maternal health through the use of digital pens in hospital labor wards.

Leland Smith has a degree in Classics from Wesleyan University and currently works for Ashoka Changemakers as a technology analyst, building an online funding and collaboration platform for social entrepreneurs.

Rachel Strobel received her undergraduate degrees in Communication and the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media (TAM) program from the University of Colorado.

She has worked with counter human trafficking efforts in Mexico City and wants to develop mobile applications for counter human trafficking initiatives.

Aaron Vimont received a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science with a minor from the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media (TAM) program from the University of Colorado in 2011.

He worked at Cardinal Peak, a computer engineering company in Lafayette.

Alexandra Wagnon received a bachelor’s degree in Communications, with a specialty in Marketing, from Texas A&M University.

She has a background in online marketing and digital communications.

Harriman, Kilde join ATLAS Ph.D. program

Jiffer Harriman, who has an interest in music and technology, and Josephine Kilde, a native of Kenya who has an interest in technology and education, have joined the ATLAS Ph.D. program in Technology, Media and Society.

Harriman received a master’s degree in Music, Science and Technology in 2010 from the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics at Stanford University and is a 2002 graduate in Electrical Engineering at CU. While at Stanford, he explored networked music, new instruments for musical expression, processing techniques as well as interactive and kinetic art.

Kilde moved to the United States in 2005 and received an associate degree in Applied Science as an Information Technology-Network Specialist from the Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire, Wis.

She currently is finishing her Information and Communications Technologies bachelor’s degree at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. As a Ph.D. student, she plans to study educational technologies and then return to Kenya.
SWARM WALL: Michael Theodore, director of the ATLAS Center for Media, Arts and Performance and a CU College of Music faculty member, created this wall of tubes that wiggled with the movements of people as part of a large installation entitled “Field Theory” at the CU Art Museum in June and July. Theodore talked about his creative works during an ATLAS Speaker Series event in June. Theodore’s artworks also are being featured as part of the David B. Smith gallery in Denver.

SATELLITE IMAGES: Walter S. Scott, the founder of DigitalGlobe, a leading global provider of commercial high-resolution Earth imagery products and services with corporate offices in Longmont, discussed the origins of DigitalGlobe, its operation of a three-satellite imaging constellation, plus the birth, growth and future of the industry during an ATLAS Speaker Series event on Sept. 17.

LONG-DISTANCE WIRELESS: Laura Hosman, an assistant professor of political science at the Illinois Institute of Technology, talked about her Information and Communications Technology for Development (ICTD) work setting up solar powered long-distance wireless connectivity in Micronesia during an ATLAS Speaker Series event on Sept. 13.

The ATLAS Speaker Series is made possible by a generous donation by Idit Harel Caperton and Anat Harel.
The Fall 2012 ATLAS Speaker Series

4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 17  The Earth Imagery Industry
Walter S. Scott is founder, chief technology officer (CTO) and executive vice president of DigitalGlobe, a geospatial information service provider with commercial access to a rapidly expanding supply of high-quality Earth imagery and geospatial information products. He will discuss the origins of DigitalGlobe, its operation of a three-satellite imaging constellation, plus the birth, growth and future of the industry.

4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 1  How has technology changed writing & literature?
Matthew G. Kirschenbaum, a professor of English at the University of Maryland and associate director of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, will draw from his book, “Track Changes: A Literary History of Word Processing.” How has the word processor changed the history and culture of authorship? How has technology changed the relationship of writers to their craft? The talk will explore questions of technology, research, content and writing at the intersection of literary and technological history.

4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 8  Help! My avatar was robbed!
Greg Lastowka, a professor at Rutgers University Law School and author of “Virtual Justice: The New Laws of Online Worlds,” will discuss how real-world laws are being adapted to virtual worlds. As billions of dollars are exchanged in virtual worlds like Second Life, criminals are defrauding online communities. People feel cheated and increasingly seek legal remedies. But what laws assist a person whose avatar is robbed? Lastowka will discuss how governments respond to cyberspace chaos and explore the laws of property, crime and copyright.

4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 15  The Entrepreneurial Ecosystem
Nicole Glaros is an entrepreneur and managing director of TechStars Boulder, a tech accelerator program, where she works with seed-stage Web software companies. Glaros will talk about the importance of innovation, fearlessness and leadership in entrepreneurship.

4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22  Is Google making us stupid?
Nicholas Carr, a Boulder-based author of the Pulitzer Prize-nominated bestseller, “The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains,” will examine how digital media influence the ways people think, read and interact. Referencing media theorist Marshall McLuhan, Carr points out, “media are not just passive channels of information. They supply the stuff of thought, but also shape the process of thought.” If the Web is shaping thought processes, what are people gaining & losing? How are they changing? Carr will discuss these issues.

4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 5  Digital Media Design, Gender & Games
Yasmin Kafai, a professor of Learning Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, has been instrumental in launching youth digital media design activities and communities for learning, supported by several grants that include the NSF and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She will discuss youthful digital media design with examples from the Scratch community, the world’s largest youth programming site, as well as eCrafting Circles, an e-textile community for the Lilypad Arduino microcontroller.

6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3  Entrepreneurship, Lessons & Challenges
Wendy Lea, an entrepreneur and CEO of Get Satisfaction, a leading customer engagement platform, will discuss her experience and lessons as a successful entrepreneur. An investor, strategic adviser and mentor to TechStars Boulder, she is recognized as a Top 100 Women in Influence in Silicon Valley. The talk is part of the Entrepreneurs Unplugged series and is co-sponsored by the ATLAS Speaker Series, Silicon Flatirons and the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT).
Meg Leta Ambrose, an ATLAS Ph.D. student, will explore the legal, social and technical issues surrounding the proposed digital right to be forgotten as a fellow with the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University for the 2012-2013 academic year.

The Berkman Center is a research program founded to explore cyberspace, share its study and help pioneer its development.

Ambrose has a law degree from the University of Illinois, where she focused on digital copyright issues. Her Ph.D. research explores issues of privacy, data-governance, data-lifecycles and cybersociology. Her dissertation analyzes U.S. issues related to the European right to be forgotten, an issue related to information on the Internet about individuals.

Founded in 1997, the Berkman program aims to encourage and support fellows in an inviting and rigorous intellectual environment, with community activities designed to foster inquiry and collaboration.

Fellows participate in exchanges through a weekly fellows hour, various online media, fellows-run working groups and a wide range of events and interactions. With Berkman faculty, students, staff and other affiliates, fellows help develop and advance Berkman Center projects, and learn and teach through courses, curricula and diverse gatherings.

ATLAS Ph.D. student Heather Underwood was featured in a recent Kenyan television report about her work related to improving birth outcomes.

Maternal mortality rates in Kenya are 480 deaths per 100,000 births and the deaths are higher in rural areas. Underwood is working with Kenyatta National Hospital, which is employing her PartoPen and Partograph techniques that help monitor the progress of a delivery.

The article said the hospital “has embraced the use of the paper-based system for monitoring maternal labor that has been able to reduce life-threatening complications in pregnancy in low-resource environments.”

An iPad application developed by a group of CU students, including ATLAS master’s student Joellen Raderstorf, recently won an honorable mention award and $2,000 in prize money in a global Apps for Climate competition in the World Bank’s Climate Challenge.

The app, called Eco Explorer, is a virtual global field trip designed to positively engage 8-14 year olds in the climate change challenges.

The application uses an interactive virtual globe to travel around the planet and combines videos, games and World Bank data in relationship to the location on the planet visited.

Students who also worked on the app were Scott Raderstorf, Devon Tivona, Vickie Everts, Greg O’Brien and Peter Klipfel. They were assisted by ATLAS instructor Aileen Pierce.

The app is available for free through the Apple iTunes Store.

Joanne White attended the Summer Social WebShop at the University of Maryland in August, where she worked with invited faculty and other Ph.D. students from multiple disciplines for four days.

Kevin Moloney will be presenting his Ph.D. research on Transmedia Journalism at the National Press Photographers’ Association’s Business Blitz Road Show in Boston, Austin, Chicago and San Clemente, Calif., on four dates between July and November.

Ph.D. student Calvin Pohawpatakoko Jr. continued to work with students through the Indigenous Alliance Computer Build, which is now in its third year and provides Native American middle and high school students in Colorado an opportunity to learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In June, Pohawpatakoko teamed with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe’s Education Department and worked with six students over two days as they assembled their own computers from components including motherboards, processors and power supplies. At the end of the program, the students took home their own machines. An article about the project was published in the Southern Ute Drum.

Ph.D. student Kara Behnke presented the poster “Ladies of Warcraft: Changing Perceptions of Women and Technology Through Productive Play” at the ACM Foundations of Digital Games Conference in Raleigh, N.C., in June; co-authored, with Ph.D. student Meg Ambrose, a presentation for the National Association for Attorney Generals (NAAG) in June, which discussed the complexities of protecting child privacy in online browser-based gaming; and she recently was awarded a two-year National Science Foundation GK-12 Fellowship through the Engaging Computer Science in Traditional Education (eCSite) Project.

Andy & Renée help celebrate premiere of Boulder Box Set

About 70 people attended the celebration of the premiere of Boulder Box Set, a music series collaboration between the ATLAS Institute and Rocky Mountain PBS, on July 11 in the Roser ATLAS building.

Boulder Box Set features performances by both established and up-and-coming musicians captured with the high definition/high fidelity technology of the ATLAS Black Box theater. The shows are designed to highlight the creativity, energy and spontaneity of live performance in an intimate venue.

Among the guests were award-winning LA-based musicians Andy Hill and Renée Safier, who are featured in the show’s premiere episode. Also in attendance were Colorado bassist Chris Engleman (eTown), who was among the accomplished musicians backing Hill and Safier in the first show, and Grammy-award winning composer, producer and keyboardist Don Grusin, who composed original theme music for the project.

ATLAS director John Bennett and RMPBS chief operating officer Harris Ravine addressed the crowd, expressing their enthusiasm for the project and its future. Kathleen Archuleta, ATLAS director of external relations and the show’s producer, thanked the many members of the Boulder Box Set live and post-production teams for their contributions, including Bret Mann and Gary McCrumb (ATLAS Center for Media Arts and Performance) and Daniel Mercure (RMPBS Director/Editor). She also highlighted the contributions of ATLAS students to the show, particularly the work of BDW graduate students who comprised the creative team that designed the show’s logo, website and motion graphics for the title and credit sequences.

Hill and Safier treated the gathering to a short set of original live music before the group adjourned to the adjacent film screening room to enjoy an HD preview of highlights from the first episode, which aired on Rocky Mountain PBS on July 27, Aug. 4 and Sept. 16.

More information about Boulder Box Set is available at http://boulderboxset.org.

Digital CUrrents students show stop-motion movies

Fifteen students celebrated their collective debut as stop-motion movie makers at North High School in Denver after participating in the ATLAS Digital CUrrents workshop in June.

Since its inception in 2002, the three-week workshop, which is sponsored by the ATLAS Institute in partnership with the National Center for Women and Information Technology (NCWIT), has successfully engaged minority and female high school and middle school students in the use of current information and communication technology (ICT), with a goal of increasing the participation of these historically underrepresented groups in the ICT, computer science and engineering disciplines.

Under the direction of David Schaal of ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media (TAM) program, this year’s workshop emphasized creative thinking and learning multimedia skills through a focus on digital storytelling in the form of stop-motion animation.

Each student was responsible for developing a concept for a movie, storyboarding the project, using a digital camera to capture images, and employing software programs to create animations and an accompanying soundtrack.

For more information about the program, contact Kathleen Archuleta, ATLAS director of external relations, or visit the website at http://atlas.colorado.edu/digitalcurrents/.
Sieber adds gaming twist to core course

Diane Sieber has woven a gaming twist into The Meaning of IT ATLAS core course for the fall semester. The class has a large, epic narrative thread running through it so that students understand their relationship to IT and the real-world skills that they will develop as they level up in the course.

The course is divided into three levels, culminating in a final project where they will pool their skills to form guilds that will collaborate on project outcomes. Along the way, they have a large variety of “side-quests” — additional opportunities from which they can choose to learn select topics related to the class in more depth.

Some of the quests are hands-on skill learning, such as using Photoshop to manipulate digital images, composing digital music, building a battery and an electrical circuit to make a telegraph work; some are informational, such as a five-stage quest to understand their own cognition based on John Medina’s book Brain Rules.

Some of the quests are inspirational, such as attending a campus lecture and subsequent discussion run by Sieber and her TAs, or visiting a local hacker space or a local medical IT company to find out how lasers work in surgery.

The course aims to provide immediate feedback on student performance, occasional “easter eggs” to keep them exploring the website (which is a Google site tied to a Google Group), and just-in-time learning opportunities pushed to them through their mobile devices (flashmob-like dashes to an exclusive coffee with a local entrepreneur, Google hangouts with game designers in New Zealand and California, demos of cool projects in CEAS and ITLL laboratories, etc.)

The course redesign is an outcome of a joint Engineering/ATLAS graduate seminar that Sieber led last spring on Game Theory, Massively Multiplayer Games and Higher Education. In that class, nine students examined literature on game design and on educational reform and discussed the question: Which elements that make excellent games (either digital or analog) might be woven into an undergraduate course or even an entire curriculum, such as in the College of Engineering or in a new Technology, Arts and Media major?

Sieber, who was the inaugural director of the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media program and former co-director of ATLAS, is the associate dean for Education in the College of Engineering and Applied Science, director and associate professor in the Herbst Program of Humanities and serves on the ATLAS Advisory Board.

Swanson named Senior Instructor

Joel Swan- son, who is director of the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media (TAM) program, has been promoted to Senior Instructor for ATLAS.

An artist and writer, Swanson teaches digital art, media theory, and the history of design. He received his MFA in digital art at the University of California, San Diego. His artwork includes installations that explore the nature of language.

His works currently are in “Optic Nerve” in the North Miami Museum of Contemporary Art; in “Postscript: Writing after Conceptual Art,” Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, from Oct. 12-Feb. 3; and “Material Engagements” at Redline, Denver, from Oct. 27-Dec. 30.
Slim Cessna’s Auto Club

Slim Cessna’s Auto Club has released a number of critically acclaimed albums on Jello Biafra’s Alternative Tentacles label, and SPIN Online and No Depression have described them as the “best live band in America.” Tickets are $20 or $50 for a special backstage “meet and greet.” Email olga@vilarcreativeagency.com.

The band’s appearance is part of a the Americas Latino Festival.

9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6

Concert About Nothing: the Music of John Cage

Part of a week-long CU-Boulder festival, the Concert about Nothing will feature the music of John Cage performed by CU students, faculty and special guests Third Coast Percussion. The Chicago Tribune writes that this quartet combines “the energy of a rock concert with the precision and sophistication of classical chamber music.”

7 p.m. & 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12

Pixels in the Closet

In a unique collaboration between Hong Kong dancer Abby Chan and Denver digital artist Bryan Leister, dance, digital images and sound tell a dark tale from childhood memories. Motion capture technology using infrared cameras, inverse kinematics recognition and Kinect software will allow Chan to control and create music in real-time through her dance movements. The combination of Chinese dance and cultural icons melded with the latest in digital game/controller technology and graphics promises to deliver a powerful theater experience.

The production is supported by the Hong Kong Arts Development Council. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Oct. 26-27

Tame Your Man

“Tame Your Man is my first work dealing directly with my sexuality as a gay composer and my experience of masculinity within gay culture,” explained director and composer Nathan Hall. “Over the course of the half-hour piece, a pianist will be bound to his instrument and his abilities to use the full range of the keyboard will become increasingly restricted. The performance will explore surrender, pleasure and trust in an abstract, other worldly atmosphere.”

7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Nov. 9, 10

Pamela Z: Works for Voice & Electronics

Composer, performer and multimedia artist Pamela Z will perform an evening of works for voice with live, electronic processing, a gesture-activated MIDI controller and interactive video. The evening will comprise existing solo works as well as new works produced in collaboration with CU’s Boulder Laptop Orchestra (BLOrk).

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1
Founders of NCWIT win Habermann Award

The founders of the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT), including CEO Lucy Sanders and former ATLAS director Bobby Schnabel, have received the Computing Research Association’s 2012 A. Nico Habermann Award during the organization’s biennial conference at Snowbird, Utah, on July 23.

NCWIT, which is based in the Roser ATLAS building, is a non-profit coalition of corporations, universities and non-profits working to increase women’s participation in computing and technology fields.

The award also was given to NCWIT founder Telle Whitney, CEO and president of the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology.

The Habermann Award is one of the academic computing community’s highest honors, bestowed on individuals whose work has had a positive impact on diversity in computing and technology. It recognizes the success of NCWIT’s founders in creating a sustainable, national resource for improving the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in the field.

The award honors the late A. Nico Habermann, a champion for women and minorities in computing who headed the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate at the National Science Foundation.

NCWIT was founded in 2004 to unite programs, people and organizations – both across the country and across the education and workforce pipeline – focused on increasing the participation of girls and women in computing and technology. Schnabel, who was vice provost/associate vice chancellor for Academic and Campus Technology at CU when NCWIT was founded, currently is dean of the Indiana University School of Informatics and also serves on the ATLAS Board of Directors.

Lulu Davis is Titan of Quarter

Lulu Davis, who is the ATLAS event coordinator, building proctor, human resources liaison and assistant graduate programs adviser, has been named the ATLAS Titan of the Quarter for her work with BDW, the post-digital studio and a post-graduate program of the ATLAS Institute.

The award is given quarterly in recognition of efforts on behalf of ATLAS.

Davis, who joined ATLAS in 2006, was cited for her outstanding work with BDW in the areas of human resources, general operations, as well as extra-curricular needs, particularly pertaining to the launch of the BDW Making (Post) Digital Work conference to be held in Boulder from Oct. 19-21.

Davis is pictured here in April after shaving her head as a fundraiser for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation to fight childhood cancer. She raised more than $2,000 for the foundation.

BDW hires staff, plans workshop

BDW, which is the post-digital studio and a post-graduate program of the ATLAS Institute, has hired two staff members and is planning a major conference for October.

Emma Lawler is the content editor at BDW. A May graduate of CU Boulder, she has a degree in Advertising and certificates in International Media and Spanish.

Brittany Ansay is the academic operations manager at BDW. She graduated from CU in 2011 with bachelor’s degrees in Integrated Arts and Media Studies, as well as a minor in the ATLAS Technology, Arts and Media program. She also has worked as an image specialist and marketing strategist for Microsoft.

BDW’s Making (Post) Digital Work conference, to be held in Boulder from Oct. 19-21, examines the challenges and opportunities presented in an era following the digital revolution.

ATLAS Institute

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

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