

NEW LOOK & FEEL!

community

MORGRIDGE NEWSLETTER

College of Education

NOVEMBER 2007

Morgridge Faces

Amy DelCastillo has always had a song in her heart. The best way to share it, she has learned, is to help others find their own special music.

After earning a bachelor's and master's degree in music performance from Washington State University, DelCastillo thought she wanted to pursue a doctorate in musicology. A turn in a theory-rich program in the Midwest hit a sour note with her, so she bumped from job to job, trying cooking and retail sales. Eventually, she ended up in Denver.

"I realized that my exploration of self was over," she recalls. "I had to figure out what I wanted to do." *continued »*



Amy DelCastillo

MORGRIDGE FACES

Amy DelCastillo

What she discovered was the Library and Information Science Program at the Morgridge College of Education.

"I love learning about music, and I love giving people access to the music," she explains.



The MLIS program helps her do just that, with professors eager to assist her in shaping a course of study that fits her passions. She's focusing on music cataloging, conducting a service learning project by helping DU's Lamont School of Music catalog a rare collection of accordion music.

"The faculty here is really about the students," she says. "Some schools can have such a huge emphasis on publishing and research, and what you lose is that interest in the students. Here, it's more like a collaboration. It's a peer group. It's great."

DelCastillo expects to graduate in spring 2008. Although she still enjoys performing on the piano for friends and small groups, she looks forward to taking center stage as a music librarian. **MCE**

Dean's Message

We're off to an exciting start this year with several new programmatic initiatives and the public launch of our Campaign for the Morgridge College of Education. We are serving the largest number of students in the College's history, with over 800 well-qualified and motivated graduate students receiving their professional preparation from us this academic year. We have several alumni and student events coming up, with active volunteers from our community helping to plan and promote these gatherings. These are busy and productive times at Morgridge as we truly embrace our dedication to excellence and community engagement.



Dean Ginger Maloney

This summer, we began the first cohort of our new Buell Early Childhood Leadership Program, one of the first programs in the country of its kind. Twenty students were selected from over 80 applicants to receive full scholarships from the Buell Foundation to participate in this graduate-level certificate program designed to prepare highly effective leaders to serve in the early childhood field. This program is bringing national attention to the MCE as an innovator in early childhood leadership development.

Our Campaign for the Morgridge College of Education is going very well. We have approximately \$21.3 million committed to our building project from very generous donors and the University's own resources. We are trying to reach our target goal of \$25 million for Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall. We will be working with the firm of Bennett, Wagner, and Grody, in partnership with architect Tony Atkin, to design a truly extraordinary facility that will celebrate the importance of learning. Please consider investing in the future by making as generous a gift as you can to this campaign. Gifts of any size will help us achieve our goal and will demonstrate to our major donors that the MCE community is as committed as they are to this exciting new opportunity for our programs here at DU.

We are welcoming several new, highly accomplished faculty members this year. Additionally, we are starting searches for several open positions, both in the faculty and administrative ranks. Please visit us online to learn about our new colleagues, as well as positions currently available. We'd appreciate your help in recruiting talented individuals for these positions, so please pass along these opportunities to your professional networks.

I hope this newsletter will bring you up to date on the many activities we have underway this fall. Please come for a visit or visit us virtually on our new Web site to learn more about all the ways we're making a positive impact on our diverse community.

COMMUNITY WORKS

Community-Based Research Promotes Social Change

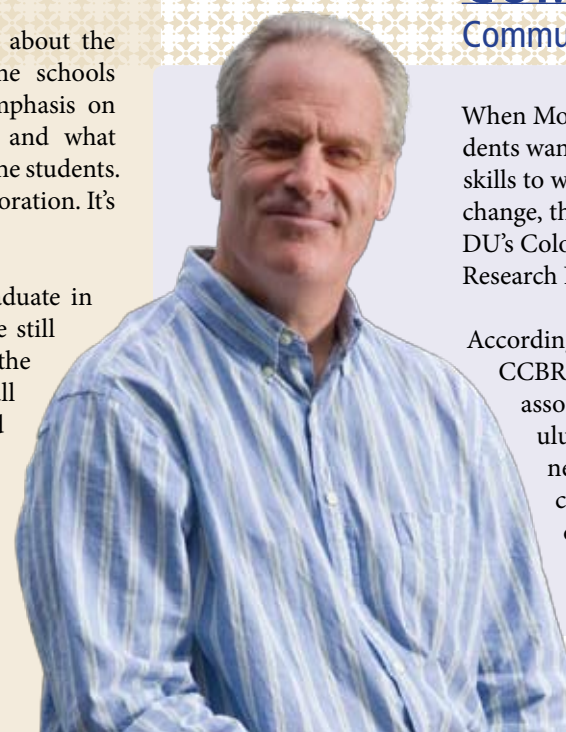
When Morgridge College students want to put their research skills to work promoting social change, they take on a project with DU's Colorado Community-Based Research Network (CCBRN).

According to Nick Cutforth, CCBRN coordinator and an associate professor in curriculum and instruction, the network tackles research challenges presented by its dozen or so community partners.

"Community-based research means that the research issue or need comes from the organization, and we work with them on developing a rigorous study that they can immediately use," Cutforth explains. That differs from traditional research, in which research questions originate in the academic disciplines.

A recent commission from Work-Styles, a program that prepares refugees and asylum seekers for the realities of the U.S. workplace, asked researchers for a quantitative and a qualitative study. Jini Puma, then a

continued »



Nick Cutforth

COMMUNITY WORKS



Cheryl Lovell and Annemarie Vaccaro

EDUCATION TODAY

STUDENTS TO JOURNEY TO SOUTH AFRICA TO STUDY EDUCATION SYSTEMS

In the past, when Morgridge College Associate Dean Cheryl Lovell taught National Systems of Higher Education, she traveled to other countries and returned with information for her students.

Her next course is a different story. Because she and Clinical Assistant Professor Annemarie Vaccaro are examining the evolving South African system, which is still adjusting to the lifting of apartheid, the two decided to take students to the source for firsthand experience.



In August 2007, Lovell and Vaccaro spent 12 days in South Africa preparing for a course they will teach next July. Students will include higher education graduate students from across the nation. They will be in South Africa for 15 to 21 days and will visit up to eight institutions.

"There are things happening in South Africa that make it a great laboratory," says Lovell. "Their higher education institutions are going through a series of mergers in which they are taking institutions that are known as 'disadvantaged' and combining them with 'privileged' institutions. Of course, in many cases, that means combining predominantly black institutions with predominantly white ones."

With their trip just recently behind them, the scholars are coping with the emotional impact of what they saw—a challenge that will face their students as well. After all, participants will not study education in a vacuum; they will examine the entire social setting in which it exists.

"It's tough to see a township where people still live in cardboard and have no running water," says Vaccaro.

Visit Us Online

To keep up-to-date with the Morgridge College of Education's many programs and initiatives, bookmark our Web site and make frequent visits. While you're there, meet some of our students, learn about our many community-engagement efforts, and catch up with some of the professors who are breaking new ground in their disciplines. And don't forget to update your contact information, so we can stay in touch.

Look for us at www.du.edu/education.

New Buildings Reflect a Dynamic Community

When alumni return to DU in the coming months, they will find some new landmarks—both on and off campus—to mark their way.

Construction continues on Nagel Hall, a residence building scheduled for completion next summer. On East Evans Avenue, the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity building is structurally complete and should be finished by winter quarter. Meanwhile, four trailers stand in place of Mary-Mac, a two-story office building that stood for 53 years before its recent demolition. The trailers will serve as temporary space for personnel displaced by construction and remodeling projects.

Off campus, a number of new residential structures have changed the face of University Boulevard. University Lofts at DU, a six-floor student rental apartment, opened for business Sept. 1. The building, which is not affiliated with the University, sits on the northeast corner of University and Evans. A second student-only building, Vistaloft, is underway one block north. Directly east of Vistaloft, construction is slated to begin in spring 2008 on a nine-story condo project called The Place at University Station.

At the southeast corner of University and Warren Avenue, work is nearly done on the five-story Observatory Place, home to 75 upscale condominiums. The three-story Scholars Walk, just to the south, features several high-end units and should be finished in the spring. Still another project, the South Josephine Brownstones, will be completed in fall 2008.

In the midst of all the building activity, some University entities have relocated. The Eleanor Roosevelt Institute moved to campus from its home near City Park, while University Advancement, once housed in Mary-Mac, shifted the bulk of its operations to rental digs at 990 S. Broadway.

Even Chancellor Robert Coombe has a new place to live—the renovated Buchtel Bungalow, which once housed DU's third chancellor and ex-Colorado Gov. Henry Buchtel.



Nagel Hall

Scholarship That Counts

MCE leads education innovation for the 21st century: P-20 commitment moving forward in the MCE

There is a growing policy trend in a number of states to establish "P-16" and "P-20" councils related to the governance of education. "P" represents pre-school or other early childhood supports for education, and the "20" represents graduate school and beyond. Colorado's governor recently organized such a council to look for ways to smooth out the transitions between one level of formal education and another, toward ensuring that more students are able to successfully enter and graduate from college.

In addition to our concern over college access and success, Morgridge is taking our P-20 cues from a broader set of trends affecting all learners of

all ages in 21st century society, including:

- increasing globalization and shifting workforce demands, emphasizing a need for creativity, innovation, interdisciplinary thinking and problem-solving
- an expectation that all learners are capable of high levels of achievement, and that our society needs all citizens to reach their maximum educational potential
- an increasingly diverse citizenry; linguistically, culturally and socially
- expanded understanding, through research, of how people learn and an appreciation of and support for diverse learning styles
- rapidly advancing technological changes and an accompanying explosion of knowledge;
- a workforce composed of workers

who likely will change jobs, even careers, many times

- an explosion of informal sources of learning such as Internet, blogs, pod-casts, television and other media that change how individuals learn and relate to the world.

All of these characteristics of modern society create a perspective on the world and education's place in it. They also influence and enhance the shaping of our P-20 work in the Morgridge College of Education. For us, the "P" stands for "Pre-natal," and represents the first point at which education and community institutions support parents to ensure long-term success of their children. The "20" represents students seeking standard undergraduate and

graduate degrees, as well as lifelong learners changing careers or just expanding their personal horizons.

Our support of P-20 innovations signals a commitment to changing how we teach our students, modeling effective forms of collaboration and integration, and how we engage as true partners with the community around us. We believe that through working together we can understand and enact the best ways to support all members of our society in active lifelong learning.

Please visit us online for more information about our engagement with P-20 education.

Still another project was commissioned by El Centro Humanitario, an immigrant day laborer organization working to defend workers' human rights. "They came to us saying, we would really like to be more articulate about the experiences of day laborers," Cutforth recalls.

A conventional approach would have relied upon interviews, but because many of the immigrants were fearful of structured questions, that proved impossible. Instead, the research team developed a series of writing workshops and asked participants to compose poems about life back home and life in Denver.

"Since 1997, we've done about two dozen projects," Cutforth says. "Our doctoral students develop a sensitivity to the needs of organizations that help people on the margins." **MCE**