

MORGRIDGE FACES

Janet Lee

When she discovered how to combine her expertise in library science and her passion for Ethiopia, Lee found her ultimate role as a powerful advocate for Ethiopia Reads, a nonprofit that sets up libraries and literacy programs.

Founded in 2003 by Ethiopian native Yohannes Gebregeorgis, Ethiopia Reads provides free libraries for children, creates reading materials in English and local languages, and trains teachers, librarians and caregivers to nurture a love of reading.

Lee helped garner international media attention for Ethiopia Reads when she nominated Gebregeorgis as a CNN Hero. A few months after submitting her nomination, a CNN crew was in Ethiopia interviewing and filming Gebregeorgis, who had won the award. After being chosen as one of 30 heroes, he was later selected as one of the top-10 heroes of 2008.

Lee traveled to Ethiopia last summer to help dedicate a new library. "Janet is 'the patron saint of Ethiopia Reads,' who has so passionately supported and advocated our work," says Gebregeorgis, Ethiopia Reads' executive director. "I'm amazed of all the things she has done. Her love for Ethiopia and our children is boundless."



Dean's Message

It is literally a matter of days before we officially move into our new building and get ready to hold summer classes at Ruffatto Hall beginning June 14. In the final hours of preparation and in anticipation of this monumental moment in the history of the college, I have recently had occasion to take stock of the numerous changes that have occurred during the last 11 months. Rather than provide a laundry list of the many activities that the college has engaged in this past year, I would like instead to highlight a few individuals and groups who stand out for their outstanding contributions to MCE.

First, I would be remiss if I did not express my sincere gratitude to Assistant Dean Bill McGreevy. Bill possesses a tireless work ethic and has thoughtfully and patiently overseen the construction of our new building and all the attendant responsibilities (and headaches) associated with purchasing furniture, overseeing installation as well as making our preparations to move, etc. Second, I need to thank Associate Dean Maria Riva. I could not imagine what this past year would have been like without the integral leadership, ethical advocacy, wisdom, institutional memory and support provided by Professor Riva.

I also want to thank the faculty of the Morgridge College of Education for their collective willingness to embrace change and support what has been at times a frenetic transformation. I feel especially compelled to highlight the contributions of the faculty Program Coordinators as well as the Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Committee at MCE and the numerous search committees (higher education, teacher education, library and information science, and the endowed chair in innovative learning technologies) overseeing the selection of potential hires.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the entire administrative staff of the Morgridge College of Education as well as the many community partnerships and donors that make MCE an exciting and vibrant hub for educational transformation both regional and nationally. The staff in particular has been incredibly gracious and open to the numerous administrative and academic reforms undergirding our efforts to vigilantly improve the college for our students and the surrounding communities MCE serves.

Rest assured that there are many more changes to come in the next months and the following academic year and that transformation inevitably involves sacrifice, sober self-reflection and reorganization of roles, responsibilities, and personnel. But for now as summer has finally arrived, let us bask in our good fortune, our elegant, state-of-the art new building, and in the recognition that the Morgridge College of Education is blessed with a wonderful core of good citizens and engaged and committed students, staff, faculty, community partners, and donors.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dr. Gregory Anderson

Dr. Gregory Anderson

community MORGRIDGE College of Education NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010



Janet Lee

Morgridge Faces

Alumna builds libraries in Ethiopia

Alumna Janet Lee has worked in Ethiopia with a nonprofit that builds libraries and literacy programs. The nonprofit has helped build two public libraries, 24 school libraries and four mobile libraries, or book carts pulled by donkeys.

For years, Janet Lee (MA library science '78) had two separate interests: libraries (her profession) and Ethiopia (her Peace Corps past).

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## Educational conference showcases MCE's research

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) held its 91st annual meeting in Denver April 29 through May 4 in the Colorado Convention Center in downtown Denver and DU had a strong presence. With some 12,000 attendees, the conference hosted education researchers from around the U.S. and the globe to share research findings.

"We are fortunate to have the AERA conference in Denver this year. It is a great opportunity for both the University and the Morgridge College of Education to showcase the depth and richness of our collaborative research and increase awareness of the high level of educational research that is taking place at DU," says Kent Seidel, chair of DU's P20 Education Programs.

DU hosted two big events beginning with a speech by internationally renowned scholar Sonia Nieto and AERA President Carol Lee in collaboration with the Denver Art Museum. DU and Aurora Public Schools collaborated to offer an off-site visit to North Middle School, where participants learned about the work that university, district and industry partners are doing around "P20 Pathways," a program that aims to improve postsecondary options for Aurora students and make science and mathematics education more exciting.

A number of faculty, alumni, and students also presented research at the conference. Some include:

- Seidel and Morgridge College of Education Dean Gregory Anderson participated in mentoring sessions for new faculty researchers, as well as presented their research on education access and success in the 21st century with Maria del Carmen Salazar, an assistant professor in curriculum and instruction.
- Curriculum and instruction Professor Paul Michalec and doctoral student Hilary Burg presented their paper on educational reform.
- Franklin Tuitt, an assistant professor in the higher education program, discussed creating inclusive and diverse learning environments.
- Fernando Guzman, assistant provost in the Center for Multicultural Excellence and a MCE alum, hosted a session discussing faculty diversity.

## EDUCATION today



### Morgridge faculty to help Colorado in education reform

Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter recently created two education task forces to help address and make recommendations for improving the state's education system for K-12 students and to establish the state as a national education leader.

Two faculty members from DU's Morgridge College of Education have been named to the task forces.

Greg Anderson, Morgridge dean, and Kent Seidel, associate professor, will make recommendations for increasing principal and teacher effectiveness and advancing services and programs targeted at young children and their families.

Anderson was appointed to the Early Childhood Leadership Commission to help the state improve early childhood services and ensure all young Coloradans are school ready. In February, Ritter signed an executive order creating the commission and making available \$1.3 million in federal funds to support its work. The commission will help align policies and funding of services for health, mental health, early learning and family support for children through age 8.

Seidel was appointed to the Governor's Council for Educator Effectiveness and will chair the Council's Technical Advisory Group. In this position, he will serve as a point of contact as well as develop and maintain public records on the council's research. Seidel currently chairs Morgridge's P20 Education Programs and has extensive experience in researching educator quality and school reform. He has been involved in the development of models and approaches to better understand teacher effectiveness.

In addition to supporting K-12 initiatives, another Morgridge faculty member has been tapped for leadership in higher education. Cheryl Lovell, professor of higher education, has been named chief academic officer for the state's Department of Higher Education.

## community works



**The Tom and Cydney Marsico Foundation** recently committed an additional \$600,000 gift to support the work of the Marsico Institute for Early Learning and Literacy (MIELL) at the Morgridge College of Education. The Marsico Institute for Early Learning and Literacy works to improve early learning environments and outcomes for the very young through conducting research, developing policy recommendations, and introducing innovative, research-based solutions for tough challenges facing the field of early childhood education. The Institute sponsors a number of community outreach activities, including the Early Childhood Colorado Information Clearinghouse [www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org](http://www.earlychildhoodcolorado.org), and the Early Learning Community Lecture series, providing access to recent research for parents, early childhood professionals and policy makers. Currently, the MIELL is working on several projects related to improving the effectiveness of teachers and caregivers who serve young children, birth through age 8. For more information on the Institute, please visit the MIELL website at [www.du.edu/marsicoinstitute/](http://www.du.edu/marsicoinstitute/)

# SAVE THE DATE 9.17.2010



**Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall Dedication!** For more information about Ruffatto Hall and giving opportunities to Morgridge College of Education, please contact Kim Churches, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Development, at 303-871-2562 or [kimberly.churches@du.edu](mailto:kimberly.churches@du.edu). The dedication is September 17th.

### Keep In Touch

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. Visit us online [www.du.edu/education](http://www.du.edu/education) or write to us at:

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