Record-breaking Gift Funds CASAE Scholarship

Sami Bedell, a graduating senior in the College of Liberal Arts, gifted twenty-thousand dollars in November to CASAE’s scholarship fund. Another sixty-thousand dollar donation from Bedell will establish the Bedell World Citizenship Fund Scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts.

Bedell’s gift is the largest ever in CASAE’s history. The Bedell World Citizenship Fund was founded by Bedell’s father and each member of the family-governed board has a set amount of money to donate.

According to Bedell, she did not know about CASAE, but Irene Vernon, CASAE’s Director, “sold me on it,” said Bedell. She also commented that she was impressed with CASAE’s future goals and “where it’s going.”

“Diversity issues are important to me and they hit me on a personal level,” said Bedell. “My mom was born and raised in Taiwan and my dad is a fourth generation Iowan. Learning your background and learning your culture and where you come from is something that is very important to me. I don’t think that’s something that’s really emphasized as being very important in our society,” she said.

“I get to experience the wonderful joy of giving our money away...We like to try to give to things that are going to really impact somebody – really help – not just say, ‘here is some money,’” said Bedell.

The CASAE scholarship was established in 2004 to support students in need. This year’s scholarship recipient is CASAE student Tania Valdez. Valdez is highlighted on page five.

“My hope is that this donation will help the program grow.”

CASAE’s Mission:
The Center for Applied Studies in American Ethnicity (CASAE) critically examines the interlocking forces of domination that are rooted in socially constructed categories of gender, sexuality, class, and race. Our faculty and researchers are committed to theoretical, empirical, qualitative, textual, and community-based research, pedagogy, service, and outreach. Utilizing interdisciplinary, international, and comparative approaches, we challenge paradigms that systematically marginalize the experiences of diverse populations. In doing so, we bring to bear issues of power, privilege, and social justice pertinent to aggrieved groups in the United States and abroad. We are especially committed to nurturing civic-minded and culturally informed students who strive to strengthen the communities in which they reside. In support of the land-grant mission of Colorado State University, CASAE engages with communities on and off campus in order to effect meaningful change in public policy and social life.

Happy New Year,
Irene Vernon, Director, CASAE
Faculty were asked to suggest music, books and Web sites...here are some of their responses:

“I’ve Got the Light of Freedom” by Charles Payne for its nuanced history of the Mississippi freedom struggle in the 1960s. Payne reveals how the most ordinary women, men, and young people - people like you and me - built powerful grassroots movements that transformed society and, in the process, themselves.” (May Fu)

“Pedagogy of the Oppressed” by Paulo Freire because it is a model for poor people or rich people, women or men, oppressed or oppressor, or any category of humans to find themselves in this complex and violent world and to recognize that they have power to help change it.” (Norberto Valdez)

“I am interested in anything that combines or juxtaposes seemingly-incomensurate genres: John Coltrane, Sudden Rush, Ozomatli, King Chango, some of the more clever mash-ups posted on www.bootiesf.com.” (Eric Ishiwata)
CASAE Faculty Highlight

Professor Holling Selected for Oxford Round Table

Professor Michelle Holling, who holds a joint appointment with CASAE and the Speech Communication Department, was honored as the first CASAE Professor to attend the five-day Oxford Round Table in March 2005.

According to their Web site, the Oxford Round Table’s intention is to “promote human advancement and understanding through the improvement of education. To this end, the Oxford Round Table provides a forum for the study and consideration of current issues facing state and national systems of education.”

Holling called the Round Table “a wonderful experience and an honor.” She also added that it helped provide an opportunity to network with “an interesting conglomeration of people concerned with women’s rights either by virtue of their own experience or scholars who look at women’s related issues in academe regardless of their training.”

While at the Round Table, Holling was assigned to respond to two papers, the first of which “addressed poor women’s rights on a national level in terms of Australia’s Aboriginal culture” and the second paper “explored Chinese women students’ perceptions of job prospects within the context of the U.S.,” said Holling.

Dr. Irene Vernon, Executive Director of CASAE said, “It was a great honor to have one of our faculty members participate in the prestigious Oxford Round Table session. Dr. Holling was provided with an incredible opportunity and her selection and participation in the Oxford Round Table is a great compliment to her and the work that she has done.”

CASAE Faculty Awards

Roe Bubar was recently recognized for her service and professional contributions by the Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award in April of 2006 and by the Larimer County Child Advocacy Guardian Award in May 2006.

Bubar was awarded the Multi-Ethnic Distinguished Service Award for her service in tribal communities throughout the country and her involvement locally and nationally with tribal organizations that address child maltreatment and family violence.

The Guardian Award from the Larimer County Child Advocacy Center recognized Bubar’s work in the areas of multidisciplinary teaming, development of Children’s Advocacy Centers, and her expertise in the forensic interviews of children in child sexual abuse cases.

Joon Kim received an Academic Enrichment Award from the College of Liberal Arts and was selected for the Field Research Fellowship by the Korea Foundation.

Kim’s project for the Academic Enrichment Award addresses the continuities and changes in South Korea’s foreign worker policies and the attendant politicization of struggles by labor unions, religious organizations, and advocacy NGOs.

The Korea Foundation is an independent organization affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was established with the aim of enhancing Korea’s image and reputation through the promotion of various academic and cultural exchange programs.

Michelle Holling’s essay “El Simpatico Boxer” received the B. Aubrey Fisher Award, which is presented annually to the best paper published in the Western Journal of Communication during the preceding year.

Essays are judged according to several criteria, including significance of contribution to scholarship, innovation of substance and design, rigor, grace, parsimony, and evocativeness of expression.

If we missed an award you received recently, please contact Becky Anderson in the CASAE office.

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CASAE Staff

Jodi Griffin has worked in the CASAE office for five years. She enjoys dealing with faculty, staff and students. Jodi is a proud grandmother of Tate, who has a little brother or sister on the way!!

Sherry Hunter is a brand new addition to CASAE’s staff. Sherry has worked in higher education for over seventeen years and enjoys working with students. “I am very excited about working in the CASAE office and with an outstanding group of people,” she said.

Samantha Farro is a graduate student in counseling psychology and has worked for CASAE for three years. Originally from Florida, she plans to pursue a career in research and social justice as it relates to mental health.

Becky Anderson is a graduate student in the Journalism and Technical Communication department. Her research involves perceptions of credibility in visual communication. She is responsible for all visual publications for CASAE.

Anthony Grimes is an undergraduate work-study at CASAE majoring in Speech Communication with a minor in Ethnic Studies. He is originally from Denver and plans to enter ministry work upon graduation.

Cynarra Tweed has been working as an undergraduate work-study at CASAE since 2004. Cynarra is a Speech Communication major and a CASAE student. Cynarra is a native of Park Hill in Denver.

Carly Roberson is pursuing an Ethnic Studies major with a minor in Spanish. She is an undergraduate work-study and hopes to pursue a Master’s Degree in Speech Therapy.

CASAE Adjunct Faculty

Blane Harding has been at CSU since 1991 and he teaches upper division Black Studies courses. Blane is this newsletter’s highlighted adjunct faculty member (at right).

Eileen Connell recently completed here Ph.D. in Sociology here at CSU. She has taught sociology and women’s studies at UNC and CSU. She has taught Ethnicity in America and Ethnicity in the Media for CASAE.

Alyssa Samek received her Master of Arts in Speech Communication from CSU in 2005. Her research focuses on rhetoric, contemporary political culture, personal and political identities, and media.

Julie Sullivan is the CASAE representative to the College of Liberal Arts Adjunct Faculty Council. She is working with and doing research for the Zapatista Health Care System in Chiapas, Mexico.

CASAE Adjunct Highlight

Harding an Asset to Students and University

Blane Harding has been an asset to students and the University since his arrival in 1991. His many accolades speak to this fact as do his students. “Professor Harding does a really good job connecting with his students in a way other professors can’t or won’t,” said Sami Bedell, who did her Senior Capstone with Harding. “He’s refreshing,” she said.

Harding currently serves as the Director of Advising, Recruitment, and Retention for the College of Liberal Arts, the Prelaw Advisor, and as an adjunct faculty member for CASAE. Harding also serves as a retention faculty member with the Council for Opportunity in Education which oversees the national TRIO programs.

He is involved in a variety of activities, workshops, and multicultural training sessions for area schools and organizations. He serves as the faculty advisor for several student organizations on campus which include the Ethiopian Student Organization and the Baptist Bible Study.

“It is difficult for me to find the words of appreciation for the exceptional teaching and advising that Blane does,” said Irene Vernon, CASAE Director. “His love of students is evident in the classroom as well as in his advising. Winning awards for both, he brings professionalism, humor, energy, enthusiasm, excitement and most importantly, knowledge to the classroom. He is essential to the success and timely graduation of our students and he is definitely vital to CASAE’s mission and programs.”

Harding is the recipient of several honors and awards including: CSU Minority Distinguished Service Award, College of Liberal Arts Excellence in Teaching Award, CSU Alumni Association “Six Best” Teacher Award, and the History Department Phi Alpha Theta Outstanding Professor Award.

“We are here, charged with the task of completing (one might say creating) ourselves.” -- William Cook
Valdez Awarded Scholarship

Tania Valdez, a senior CASAE student pursuing certificates in Chicano/a Studies and Women’s Studies and majoring in Sociology with a minor in Spanish, has been selected as this year’s recipient of a $1,200 dollar CASAE Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded to a student who demonstrates an interest and understanding of diversity and cultures as well as experience with diverse populations.

Valdez, who works two campus jobs, said this scholarship “is highly necessary...throughout the past three years of college, it truly is with the support of my scholarships that I have been able to be involved in all of the activities I do here on campus. Without the support of scholarships, I most likely would have to be working much more, which would severely diminish my experience here.”

As part of an independent study last semester Valdez researched domestic violence against Latinas. The independent study also comprised a service learning component that had Valdez working with Spanish-speaking Latinas at Crossroads Safehouse. Beginning in January 2007 Valdez will work as a “bilingual advocate to assist women in the home after an assault occurs,” said Valdez.

Valdez is also a mentor for the Key Service Community and for the past two years, she has helped conduct pre-college workshops for middle and high school students in Commerce City, Colo.

This March during her spring break, Valdez is a co-site leader for a trip to Juarez, Mexico where students will explore economic issues, specifically focusing on femicides.

“Having been Tania’s advisor and professor for the past few years,” said CASAE Professor Michelle Holling, “I have seen her rise to the challenges presented from course material as well as pursue opportunities that have her experience perspectives and situations that broaden and deepen her commitment to social issues...she is a student-scholar who is oriented toward social justice for all individuals and marginalized communities, in particular.”

“Though most of my involvement has surrounded Latina/o issues,” said Valdez, “I also recognize the importance of educating myself and others about many different cultural groups in order to further build our communities.”

CASAE Assessment and Evaluation

CASAE is actively engaged in Program Improvement and welcomes comments and feedback. For students, faculty and others interested in pathways for researching CASAE’s performance, please visit CSU’s Planning for Improvement and Change Web site: http://improvement.colostate.edu/index.cfm. For login information, please contact Dr. Kim Bender, Director, at 970.491.5388 or via e-mail at Kim.Bender@colostate.edu.

CASAE’s Guiding Principles:

We envision CASAE as a premier Ethnic Studies Program of the 21st century and beyond, committed to teaching, research, outreach, community service-learning, and social justice. Our objective is guided by the following principles:

Access and Success: Provide the underrepresented populations in the State of Colorado with access to higher education and ensure their academic success through mentoring, peer support, and guidance.

Diversity: Initiate new ideas for meeting the University’s diversity goals and build on the existing curricula and programs on diversity to bring greater awareness to its importance.

Social Justice: Promote a University culture that embraces the challenges of social inequality by understanding its nature and dynamics through public forums and discussions, and by working toward correcting the varied kinds of inequalities that undermine the morale of the University community.

Community Empowerment: Serve as a bridge to the underrepresented communities in the State of Colorado by supporting community-based research and teaching that foster community empowerment.

Academic Excellence: Maintain high levels of academic excellence by training students to be critical thinkers and by preparing them to be responsible leaders and citizens in the rapidly changing and increasingly globalizing areas of our social, economic, and political life.

CASAE’s Donors

Sami Bedell
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Thank you to our generous donors. If you are interested in giving to CASAE, please fill-out the form on the back of this newsletter.

“The point is not to pay back kindness but to pass it on.”
{Julia Alvarez}

“As I give, I get.”
{Mary McLeod Bethune}
Researchers Address HIV Prevention in Native Communities

CASAE researchers Pamela Jumper Thurman Ph.D., Barbara Plested Ph.D., and Martha Burnside, B.A. along with CASAE’s Director Irene Vernon are currently working on a project funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The project, **Strengthening Community Access to and Utilization of HIV Prevention Services**, is a five year project to provide capacity building assistance (CBA) to Native Communities, Tribal Health Departments, State Health Departments, other CDC funded CBAs and organizations serving Native Americans (defined as American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians).

Their directive is to build community capacity by offering Community Readiness training to communities who are providing HIV/AIDS related services to Native communities. The mission for this project is to work collaboratively with Native communities to increase effective HIV/AIDS prevention and encourage and support early detection through testing.

To date, this project has served approximately fifty Native communities and provided presentations and workshops at approximately sixty HIV/AIDS focused events.

For more information on the project Strengthening Community Access to and Utilization of HIV Prevention Services, please visit www.happ.colostate.edu.

Last month, CASAE’s researchers received an award from First Nations Behavioral Health Association honoring the work done by the CASAE team and the Community Readiness Model (developed by CASAE and Tri-Ethnic Center researchers) as one of the ten best “most promising” programs nationally. In January 2007 CASAE’s researchers, in collaboration with Kauffman & Associates, Inc., will also begin an evaluation of Native Aspirations II, a project focused on suicide prevention in Native communities.

(Pamela Jumper Thurman, Ph.D.) is a Western Cherokee and Senior Research Scientist with CASAE. She has 18 years of experience in mental health and substance abuse research and epidemiology. She is a co-developer and co-author of the Community Readiness Model.

(Barbara Plested, Ph.D.), a Research Scientist with CASAE, has worked extensively in the provision of direct services to special populations and serves as an evaluator and grant writer for several Native American programs. She is one of the developers of the Community Readiness Model.

(Martha Burnside, B.A.) is a Research Associate with CASAE and serves as the Tribal Liaison/Field Coordinator and Community Readiness trainer. She is an enrolled member of the Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma.

This poster was designed to celebrate National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on March 21, 2007.
CASAE Courses

Spring and Summer 2007 Courses Announced

| {SPRING 2007} | ET 316 | Multiculturalism & the Media |
| {SPRING 2007} | ET 432 | Latina/o Routes To Empowerment |
| ETCC 100 | {Fu} | |
| ETCC 205 | {Samek & Sullivan} | |
| ET 208 | Native American Art & Material Culture |
| ETCC 251 | ET 316 | Multiculturalism & the Media |
| {SPRING 2007} | ET 432 | Latina/o Routes To Empowerment |
| ETCC 252 | ET 444 | Federal Indian Law & Policy |
| ET 234 | Native American Literature |
| ETCC 255 | ET 444 | Federal Indian Law & Policy |
| ET 254 | Native American History Since 1865 |
| ETCC 256 | ET 480 | Capitalism and Ethnic Conflict |
| ET 354 | A Century of Black Cinema |
| ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ETCC 100 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ETCC 205 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ET 208 | Native American Art & Material Culture |
| ETCC 251 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ETCC 252 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ET 234 | Native American Literature |
| ETCC 255 | ET 480 | Capitalism and Ethnic Conflict |
| ET 254 | Native American History Since 1865 |
| ETCC 256 | ET 493 | Ethnic Methods & Writing |
| ET 354 | A Century of Black Cinema |
| ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ETCC 100 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ETCC 205 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ET 208 | Native American Art & Material Culture |
| ETCC 251 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ETCC 252 | ET 312 | African-American Situation |
| ET 234 | Native American Literature |
| ETCC 255 | ET 480 | Capitalism and Ethnic Conflict |
| ET 254 | Native American History Since 1865 |
| ETCC 256 | ET 493 | Ethnic Methods & Writing |
| ET 354 | A Century of Black Cinema |
| ET 312 | African-American Situation |

Media Library

CASAE has an extensive collection of DVDs and videos on topics such as diversity, culture, racism, his/herstory, and sociology. The collection contains films that cover various genres including shorts, documentaries, narratives and television programs. Some of our titles include...

CASAE is proud of our rich collection of current, historical, educational, mainstream, independent, and political DVDs and videos. Feel free to stop by the office for a complete list of our programs or more information about checking out a film. CASAE is also pleased to offer the resource library as a viewing room across from the office to view all films on the premises.

Our media library can be accessed on our Web site at http://www.colostate.edu/Dept/CASAE/list.pdf
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Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-1790

winter | spring | 2007

“The challenge is in the moment, the time is always now.”

James Baldwin