

BOULDER'S BIKE AMBASSADORS OFFER SAFETY TIPS

GO (Great Options) Boulder/ city of Boulder has started a new program called Boulder Bike Ambassadors, modeled after a successful Chicago program. Two bike ambassadors have been hired by the city for the summer and will be working to raise public awareness on path and roadway user rights and responsibilities. The ambassadors will travel the bike paths, talking with people and offering educational materials. They will also work with Boulder residents to identify and address local transportation safety concerns.

Throughout July and August, look for the ambassadors in white T-shirts reading "Boulder Bike Ambassador" at community events, the Pearl Street Mall, libraries, recreation centers and parks. Anyone who completes a transportation survey provided by a bike ambassador will be entered into a drawing to win an Xtracycle Free Radical hitchless trailer.

Nearly 2,000 cyclists of all abilities share the Boulder Creek Path with other pathway users. Thousands more cyclists share roads with motor vehicles and crosswalks with pedestrians while making trips on streets throughout Boulder. Currently, 95 percent of Boulder's arterial streets are equipped with bike facilities, and nearly 30 percent of all trips are made on bike and foot.

Boulder is one of only seven U.S. cities to have received the gold medal award of excellence as a "Bicycle Friendly Community" from the League of American Cyclists.

For maps, more information or to schedule the Bike Ambassadors for a special event, visit www.goboulder.net or call Bike Ambassador Coordinator Sue Prant at (303) 564-9681.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP FORECLOSED FAMILIES

Colorado ranked No. 1 nationally in foreclosures in March and April 2006. The Boulder County Housing Authority is working to reverse this trend in Boulder County and is seeking Volunteer Housing Counselors to help individuals or families keep their homes or save their credit. Counselors receive a three-day training and then work with Boulder County residents to resolve financial problems, negotiate loan plans, understand mortgages and state/federal programs, and more.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Leslie Gibson at 303-441-4963 or lgibson@co.boulder.co.us.

CORRECTIONS

In Monday's Colorado Daily, same-sex partners were misidentified in a subordinate headline as "sex-sex" partners (not that there's anything wrong with that!). The Daily regrets the error.

A picture of Kai Eckhardt and Fareed Haque of Garaj Mahal was misidentified in the Colorado Daily issue of July 14. Once again, the Daily regrets the error.

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CU & BOULDER

PAGE 4

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ACADEMIC LIFE

More studying Middle East

SURGE IN INTEREST AT CU, DESPITE NO OFFICIAL MAJOR OR SINGLE FIELD

By PAULA PANT
Colorado Daily Staff Writer

Three years ago, CU didn't offer a single class in Arabic or Hebrew. Now it offers eight each semester — four courses in each language — and has such an enormous waitlist of students clamoring for a spot that it plans to add another sec-

tion to introductory Arabic.

Thanks to global shakeups, professors say, students are increasingly interested in studying the Middle East and the Islamic world.

And while this draw took an exponential leap after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, many scholars say attraction to this field has grown steadily for more than 30 years.

"This has been developing for

quite a long time, long before Sept. 11," said retired CU religious studies professor Frederick Denny, who specializes in Islamic studies.

As far back as 1966, Denny's associates ran a market analysis that found Islamic studies to be a field "you could build a career on."

The economic significance of the Muslim population in an increasingly globalized world —

Indonesia, the fourth most populous nation on earth, is 90 percent Muslim — and tensions in the Middle East contributed to the growing popularity of two distinct fields: Islamic studies, which centers on religion and culture, and Middle Eastern studies, which centers on the geopolitics of the region.

Both fields are cross-discipli-

[See MIDDLE EAST, Page A7]

STATE POLITICS



Jim Rettew at a campaign appearance at CU. [PHOTO COURTESY JIM RETTEW]



Claire Levy speaks at a House District 13 assembly in Nederland. [PHOTO COURTESY ANDREW HYDE]

Levy and Rettew, day two

BOULDER BOARD MEMBERS DUKING IT OUT FOR COLORADO HOUSE DISTRICT 13 SEAT

By RICHARD VALENTY
Colorado Daily Staff Writer

Boulder Democrats Claire Levy and Jim Rettew are running for the Colorado House of Representatives District 13 seat being vacated by Rep. Tom Plant, D-Nederland, who cannot run again due to term limits. District 13 includes western Boulder and western Boulder County, as well as Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties.

The two Democrats will face each other in an Aug. 8 primary election, and early voting for the primary begins July 29. The winner will qualify for the November general election.

The Daily asked both candidates a series of questions last week, and printed the answers to three of the questions Monday.

Tuesday's questions include:

Democrats, fairly or unfairly, are occasionally called "anti-business" by some segments of the community. How can you help the state stay competitive in the business market in the near-term future?

What are some of your top ideas for improving transportation in District 13?

In conclusion, what makes you the best candidate in this race?

JIM RETTEW

Jim Rettew is an assistant professor adjunct of political communications at CU-Boulder and the chair of the City of Boulder's Transportation Advisory Board. He has a master's degree in public policy from Duke University. To learn more, visit his Web site www.jimrettew.com.

QUESTION ONE: BUSINESS

My agenda of fully funding education, reducing health-care costs and promoting renewable energy is not only

[See RETTEW, Page A5]

CLAIRE LEVY

Claire Levy is a land-use attorney and a member of the City of Boulder's Planning Board. She earned a juris doctor degree from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland. To learn more, visit her Web site www.clairelevy.org.

QUESTION ONE: BUSINESS

State government provides many essential services that businesses rely on: efficient transportation systems,

[See LEVY, Page A5]

BOULDER LIFESTYLE

Don't move!

BOULDER 'BEST ALL-AROUND' PLACE TO LIVE, SAYS MAG

By PAULA PANT
Colorado Daily Staff Writer

Outside Magazine, one of the nation's foremost publications on adventure sports, has hailed Boulder the "Best All-Around" outside town in the nation.

The August 2006 issue, which hit newsstands last week, cites Boulder's high density of professional athletes, 300 annual days of sunshine, strong job market and a "microeconomy catering to jocks."

Outside selected towns and cities across the country in categories such as "Best Paddling" (Bellingham, Wash.) and "Best Mountain Biking" (Durango, Colo.).

"You don't get that kind of recognition by resting on your laurels," City Manager Frank Bruno told the Colorado Daily Monday. "You have to do things, year in and year out, to remain competitive."

City planners are also hoping to create "state-of-the-art recreation

[See BOULDER, Page A7]

THE ROAD WARRIOR FITNESS GUIDE
17 NEW WAYS TO STAY IN SHAPE ON THE GO

Outside
LIVE HERE. NOW.
20 DREAM TOWNS
FIT, HEALTHY, AND FULL OF ADVENTURE

PLUS: HATE BOULDER, COLORADO! Why Perfectville Drives Me Nuts

WHAT'S HOTTER: INFO MEET AND FILTERS: SICKEST TRAVEL STORIES

Take Your iPod Underwater
The Best New Gear for Summer

CU & BOULDER

MIDDLE EAST: Field is attractive for undergrad & grad students

[MIDDLE EAST, from page A4]

nary by nature, and neither is housed by any particular department at CU. Experts in Middle Eastern studies span the political science, anthropology, sociology, history, geography and religious studies departments.

Arabic is taught by the Spanish department. Hebrew is found under the course catalogue of Germanic and Slavic languages.

No official framework binds these scholars together – students cannot, for example, receive a certificate in Middle Eastern affairs.

Yet that hasn't quenched student thirst for picking up courses – often taken as electives – that enlighten them about the Middle East and Islam.

"You've got several variables working together (to peak curiosity)," said emeritus political science professor Richard Pfaff. "There's

long been a factor involving the Jewish population in the U.S. and the creation of Israel. They have relatives, they have friends, who live in Israel."

"Obviously, oil is very important... and (so are politics). If you want to be involved in world affairs in any way, you better know about the Middle East," said Pfaff.

Born in Saudi Arabia to a father from Afghanistan, Adina Ludin moved to Colorado at the age of five

and was "upset" as a teenager when her parents announced the family would move to the United Arab Emirates.

But the recent CU grad, who this fall will be starting a master's program for Middle Eastern studies at the University of Chicago, said her two years living in the U.A.E. changed her life.

"I suddenly became very aware about American foreign policy and how it affects other people through-

out the world," said Ludin, who pursued that interest at CU as a cultural geography major.

She notes that there's a strategic advantage to entering this field, as well – marketability.

"When I tell anybody what I'm studying, they say 'Oh, you'll get a job for sure,'" said Ludin, adding that she "personally... wasn't thinking along those lines" when she chose the field.

Denny said introductory courses became swamped with interest by students of all backgrounds after Sept. 11.

But, he added, often students pursuing higher-level Islamic studies "are in many cases... second-generation students," of Middle Eastern origin, like Ludin.

Those who pursue graduate-level Islamic studies but don't hail from an Islamic background usually don't convert, he said.

With the rapidly rising demand for courses comes the need for more faculty. Robert Schulzinger, director of the International Affairs program at CU, says his department has hired adjunct instructors and a professor from the history department, and continues to search for several more faculty.

But, he acknowledges, "nobody knows" if the intense interest in the Middle East represents a quick fad or a new era.

Adding permanent faculty is premised upon the idea that there will be enough student interest to support their position for the rest of their career.

"After the war in Vietnam ended, there wasn't that demand for courses in South Asia," said Schulzinger. "That's why we're doing a mix and adding tenure-track and visiting professors."

Contact Paula Pant about this story at pant@coloradodaily.com or (303) 443-6272 ext 111.

A full page ad at the price of a quarter page! Whoa!

FULL PAGE MANIA!
TUESDAY, JULY 25TH FOR JUST 30 MINUTES!

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This is a way for you to get the response you need at prices you won't believe!

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Starting Monday, July 31 through Thursday, August 24 we're publishing full page ads to be sold at special rates.

It works like this:

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**Hey!
This is
fun!**

BOULDER:

The place for outdoorsniks

[BOULDER, from page A4]

centers" and – "state-of-the-art disc golf (courses)."

Outside magazine also poked fun at Boulder's overzealous pursuit of fitness.

"The Dunkin' Donuts went out of business, but the oxygen bar next to the gay-and-lesbian bookstore seems to be doing well," wrote the magazine.

In the past four months, Boulder was also named the "Place You Dream of Living" by Backpacker Magazine and deemed the "Top Biking City" by Bicycling Magazine.

In all, Boulder has won 11 recognitions by national publications in 2006 alone.

Contact Paula Pant at pant@coloradodaily.com or 303-443-6272 ext 111.

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