Rare, one-day-only Van Briggle pottery tour, sponsored by WES

Many people know Artus Van Briggle as a legendary Colorado Springs fine arts icon and one of the country’s most recognized potters. But many might not know the talented artist rose to such prominence before tragically dying of tuberculosis at age 35. A special one-day-only tour of the historic Van Briggle pottery studio on Sept. 20 will examine the life, times and remarkable artistry of Artus Van Briggle.

The Woman’s Educational Society of Colorado College is sponsoring the event to raise money for scholarships and projects for CC students, the leaders of tomorrow. Tour participants will hear from fine arts experts about the unique aspects of Van Briggle pottery and what sets it apart from other works created during the Art Nouveau period, generally regarded as a brief but landmark era of artistry that flourished in the United States and Europe between 1890 and 1910. Experienced potters will demonstrate their craft for tour participants, and the original Van Briggle tile press will be on display.

Renowned Van Briggle author and collector, Kathy Honea, will show her private collection of Van Briggle art and discuss efforts to preserve the fragile pottery treasures. Honea will also authenticate any personal Van Briggle pieces that tour participants care to bring.

Artus Van Briggle came to Colorado Springs in 1899 after contracting tuberculosis in Paris, where he trained under master artists as a painter. He later laid down his brush when he discovered a passion for working with clay. Many people suffering from tuberculosis at that time came to places like Colorado Springs in search of a dry climate and high altitude as treatment for the lung disease. He must have found Colorado Springs to be much different from the flourishing arts community he was used to in Paris, but he quickly began working with a Colorado College chemistry professor to perfect the lost art of the Chinese Ming Matte glaze.

Van Briggle worked prolifically, producing thousands of pieces here in Colorado Springs, until his death in 1904. Four years after his passing, in 1908, Van Briggle’s wife, Anne, opened the studio that bore her husband’s name and still stands north of the Colorado College campus today. The building was designed by Dutch architect, Nicholas Van den Arend and completed with financial assistance from Colorado Springs founder, Gen. William J. Palmer.

While working in Colorado Springs, Artus Van Briggle tirelessly pursued his goal of recapturing the lost Chinese potting technique, and one day in the spring of 1901 he reached into the kiln, with the familiar anticipation and finally pulled out the perfect, rich, matte-glazed pottery, the first of which were created centuries ago, and Van Briggle’s were the first ever on this side of the world. The Van Briggle building stands today as an historic landmark of Artus Van Briggle’s artistic accomplishments and his legacy to Colorado Springs.

Please do not miss this opportunity for an intimate tour of the Van Briggle building with the Woman’s Educational Society of Colorado College.
The WOMAN’S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY (WES) is an autonomous community organization founded on April 20, 1889, to foster support of Colorado College. Its purposes are to bring community and college together, to give assistance to students of the college, and to undertake programs and projects to benefit the college, particularly women of the college. Gifts to WES are tax-deductible. Newsfocus is published twice a year as a service to members and friends of WES.

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Message from the Co-Presidents

We are excited to launch the 2014-2015 academic year and look forward to meeting our WES freshman scholars, another outstanding group of young women!

The WES committees have been very productive this past year, working on scholarship, finance, programs, membership, publicity, and fundraising. The Woman’s Educational Society is now partnering with PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning to plan educational and fundraising trips. The first of these trips, From Atoms to the Cosmos: Explore Science in New Mexico, this spring proved to be a very successful one. These popular trips, begun by Dr. Marianne Stoller, continue to raise scholarship funds and innovative ideas for future trips on the horizon. The Yellowstone Trip, on the minds of the Fundraising Committee for a few years, became a reality at the end August, 2014. The Scholarship and Program Committees have planned activities for the upcoming year that will be interesting to all, and our Publicity Committee continues to provide the support to make events happen, including the return of the Van Briggle Tours Sept. 20. Additionally, the Membership Committee continues to broaden the base of the organization.

The highlight of this year was our gala event on April 26 in historic Bemis Hall, celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Woman’s Educational Society, organized by Mary Slocum in 1889. We want to extend a special thanks to the Anniversary Committee, chaired by Sally Metzger and Sue Dilloway, for the time and effort given to the supplemental publication A Quiet Work Continues: WES in Its Second Century, 1989-2014 and for all of their hard work over the past two years toward this fun celebration! We were also very pleased and surprised to have Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler join us and present a beautifully printed and framed Resolution from the Colorado College Board of Trustees. See page 8 to read the full resolution.

We have said farewell to long-serving board members but look forward to seeing them at future events. We look forward to the 2014-2015 academic year with the great team that we presently have! Please consider joining us as we continue to help outstanding students at Colorado College. Thank you to all loyal WES members with the reminder that our membership remains a key factor in the financial support of our scholars. Please renew your dues, spread the word to your friends, and continue to check our website and contact us at WES@coloradocollege.edu or (719) 389-7699.

—Lana Coffman & Beth Zautke
Neutrons? Isotopes? Black holes? One participant commented, “We covered a semester of information—with camaraderie, scenery and great food!” Last spring WES teamed with PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning to create an educational trip with donations to WES scholarships and to PILLAR as well. The trip took the group to Los Alamos, Albuquerque, Socorro, Alamogordo and Santa Fe.

Physicist Henry Gertzman of PILLAR lectured on basics of nuclear science and space technology, providing each traveler with a comprehensive “textbook” outlining concepts from the periodic table to solar system forces. He arranged for a parade of expert speakers at a long list of sites including Bradbury Science Museum, LANSCE Nuclear Science Center, the New Mexico Museum of Space History, the National Museum of Nuclear Science and History and the National Solar Observatory. Between bus stops, he showed videos to flush out subjects like the development of the atom bomb, nuclear fusion and radio telescopes.

New Mexico offers a wealth of facilities committed to scientific research and museums that celebrate science. Participants learned about the Manhattan Project, Trinity Site and the genius of J. Robert Oppenheimer along with his refusal to develop the hydrogen bomb and later suspicions that he shared secrets with Russia. They explored issues of national security, applying nuclear science to medicine, encouraging young Americans—especially women—to study physics, and supplying energy to all world citizens. The Universe is rapidly changing; our Milky Way is only one of countless billions of other galaxies.

Many aboard had traveled with WES before, back when CC Professor Emerita of Anthropology Marianne Stoller first organized educational, fundraising trips for WES. Others were first-timers, signing up through PILLAR’s catalog. WES salutes all for their donations: James Bishop, Janet Brazil, Sharon DeVaney, David Frediani, Joan Frederick, Peg Jergensen, Jim and Marty Keene, Barbara May, Lucy and Lynn McLeod, Monique Michaud, Naoko Murphy, Sean O’Donnell, Anita and Kirk Paraday, Rick and Sue Paraday, Thelma Peck, Jan Prince, Sandy Raudabough, Laurel Rogers, Barbara Sjaastad, Caroline and Harry Vulgamore, and Richard Waltman. Ann Burek also donated but was unable to come. A special thanks to Sharon Rice and Cathy Wilson O’Donnell who took good care of travelers and helped coordinate accommodations and itineraries. And as in prior trips, bus driver Marilyn Panco demonstrated competence and support.

WES joined PILLAR again August 24-September 1 traveling to the Teton, Yellowstone National Park and the Black Hills focusing on history, geology, wildlife and vegetation. Professional guide, former ranger and college department chair Kent Taylor provided expertise, and Sharon and Cathy again coordinated arrangements.

Stay tuned for future fun and educational WES/PILLAR trips. It’s an excellent opportunity to learn something new, connect with others, and support scholarships and projects for Colorado College students.
April 26 dawned sunny and warm, and the day just got better and better. In all, 87 people attended the 125th anniversary celebration: current scholars, members, past scholars, friends and family. Judy Jones and Jean Keeley created provided gorgeous invitations and matching name tags for the event.

The lounge, hallway and Great Hall at Bemis Hall were festooned in Colorado College colors: black tablecloths, black and gold balloons, and table centerpieces in bright yellow flowers. The hallway was set with tables for checking in, a display of the new publication to accompany *A Quiet Work*, and a chance to donate to WES through Van Briggle cards and bookmarks.

A dinner buffet in the Lounge offered sour cherry-crusted pork loin with thyme au jus, tri-color potatoes, grilled asparagus, seasonal salad with sliced apples, dried cranberries, Gorgonzola cheese and candied walnuts, strawberry and lemon shortcake, fresh strawberries, as well as lemon curd and whipped cream. A toast to WES was accompanied by Champagne.
Katy Lapp’s PowerPoint presentation of past scholars was streamed throughout the luncheon, and several copies of Liz Aikin’s booklet with past scholar pictures and quotes were distributed on the tables.

A highlight of the event was when Colorado College President, Jill Tiefenthaler, presented WES with a beautifully framed Resolution put forth by the Board of Trustees, recognizing the many ways that WES has benefited the College since its inception. See page 8 to read the full resolution.

Four of the senior scholars presented their accomplishments and memories.

Pam Marsh emceed the Anniversary Committee’s agenda, recounting WES history and introducing former scholars who spoke about what WES had meant to them while they were at the College and in their careers.

A special thank you to the WES Board of Managers Anniversary Committee: Sally Metzger (chair), Liz Aiken, Judy Jones, Jean Keeley, Katy Lapp, Pam Marsh and Jeanne Stiles for their respective contributions in making this gala a success.
Introducing Our New WES Scholars

Olivia Berlin was born and raised in Bellevue, Washington, and grew up with a healthy obsession for mountains, books, and international sporting events. As a child she enrolled in the Bellevue School District’s Spanish Immersion program, which made Spanish language and culture a big part of her life. She graduated from Interlake High School as an AP Scholar with Distinction, also earning college credit by taking her senior year classes at Bellevue College. She played select soccer for seven years, competing in leagues and tournaments around the state. In 2012 her team traveled to Italy to compete in the Italy Cup, placing second. Olivia also has a passion for theatre, and enjoys performing both at her school and with Issaquah’s Village Theatre. She is an avid skier and hiker, and enjoys reading, writing, and volunteering with her church as well. Among many projects, Olivia volunteered for three years on the Core Team for the middle school youth group, helped to lead five mission trips to Lynden, Washington, and Tijuana, Mexico, and delivered several keynote speeches at the Seattle Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Convention and Archdiocesan Jr. High Rally. As a senior she was one of six students awarded the St. Timothy Award for their leadership and service work with the Catholic Church. Olivia is honored to have been chosen as a WES Scholar and during her time at Colorado College she intends to study Spanish.

Isabelle Nathanson is a Colorado native from Boulder who finds joy in a powder day on her skis, mountain lakes, dancing in the sunshine and a good cup of coffee. At Boulder High School she was involved in Unity Council, a club that promotes equality and educates against bullying, as well as a member of National Honor Society and a commissioner of Panther Pride, a freshman transition and community building organization. She participated in theater, choir, volleyball, soccer and swimming programs at Boulder High as well as continues to be a student company member of The Schiff Dance Collective. Inspirations for future study and service come from volunteering with Amigos de las Americas using art to promote social change in Nicaragua as well as community service and travel in Israel, Costa Rica and here in Colorado. She graduated with an Advanced Placement diploma as well as with Arts Focus distinction and plans to study the social sciences, Spanish and biology. Isabelle is very excited to be a part of the generous WES community and can’t wait to start at CC!

Caley Nicholson was born and raised in Brunswick, Maine. She grew up on an old farm with her two brothers and lots of chickens. She attended Brunswick High School, where she became an active individual in her school’s community. She was a member of Key Club, the Envirothon Team, National Honors Society, and Latin Honors Society. She also was a three season athlete: participating in soccer, indoor track, and lacrosse. In her senior year, she had the honor of being a captain of the varsity soccer and lacrosse team. Along with playing sports, Caley loves working with children. During her junior year, she completed an Educational Leadership Independent Study at the local elementary school. She volunteered in a fifth grade class, where she helped students bring the stories they read alive through skits. She also was a volunteer for ArtVan; a nonprofit organization that provides art therapy to children in low-income neighborhoods. Caley has always loved the outdoors. One of her favorite memories is exploring Utah with her family. She looks forward to more adventures in the West, and also becoming part of CC’s community. She is thankful that WES will be there for support and guidance.
Emma Wilson was born in Denver, Colorado and grew up in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She graduated from Steamboat Springs High School Magna Cum Laude and was a member of the National Honor Society. Throughout high school, Emma spent time pursuing her interests in athletics, art, English, Spanish, travel, and writing. She played a variety of club and varsity sports such as ice hockey, soccer, tennis, and cross-country where she served as a captain of her hockey and tennis teams. During her senior year, she experienced the world of journalism first hand spending time interning for the local newspaper and magazine where she honed her writing skills. She also spent time as a student teacher in a fifth grade class where she was able to share her passion for writing and learning with younger students. Emma also enjoys exploring her love for drawing and painting and has had the privilege to participate in a number of exhibits. In the past four years, Emma’s traveled to Zambia, Guatemala, and Costa Rica where she has nurtured her excitement for travel, language, and other cultures. In her free time she enjoys reading, drawing, painting, and being outdoors. She plans to continue to explore her interests in Spanish, international studies, and world travel at Colorado College and is excited to be a part of the Woman’s Educational Society.

Kendra Wuerth was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. While having lived in the same beautiful location throughout her entire life, she spent her childhood traveling and adventuring with her parents and younger sister. From a young age she developed a keen taste for the outdoors while camping, road tripping, rafting, and traveling to various locations such as Costa Rica and Alaska, through which she learned to see the world as a mosaic of culture and opportunity. She attended Rampart High School and delved into the International Baccalaureate program: a program that suited her desires to think inquisitively and to be challenged. While at Rampart, she was the president of Rampart’s National Honor Society, a member of Key Club, a member of Spanish Club, one of the school’s first freshmen editors of the yearbook, and a cast member of the school’s variety show, Ramantics. During her senior year she participated in the rewarding experience of being a camp counselor at a four-day mountain camp for sixth graders, High Trails, an experience that combined her love of the outdoors with her desire to be involved. Throughout high school she developed a passion for serving the community and volunteered at Rock Ledge Ranch for five years, as well as having participated in various community events throughout her high school years. Kendra is passionate about arts and music, having played the violin since she was five, and she spent time with the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony as well as the Pikes Peak Philharmonic. She looks forward to exploring the people of the world by studying cultural anthropology while at Colorado College and is deeply appreciative for the opportunity of the Woman’s Educational Society Scholarship.

WES is on Facebook!
LIKE our page and click FOLLOW to get news and information in your newsfeed.
Go to www.facebook.com/WESofCC
Colorado College President Jill Tiefenthaler presented WES with this CC Board of Trustees resolution at the 125th anniversary luncheon.

THE COLORADO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION AND PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF
THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS QUASQUICENTENNIAL IN APRIL, 2014

November 9, 2013

Whereas, the Woman’s Educational Society (WES) has supported the mission of Colorado College for 125 years, and has established and maintained a meaningful link between the College and the community through all of those years, commencing from its creation in 1889 by Mary Slocum and continuing to the present day, creating an endowment in support of its efforts; and

Whereas, WES built the College’s first dormitory for women; and

Whereas, WES has supported both capital and programmatic needs of the College, its students and faculty, through all of those years; and

Whereas, over 600 students have received scholarship support from WES for their education at the College; and

Whereas, members of WES have mentored scholars, and provided additional aid for books and special academic projects; and

Whereas, members have attended to their own passion for lifelong learning through programs and educational tours; and

Whereas, the organization has captured its history for all time in two fine books, “A Quiet Work” and “A Quiet Work, Continued”;

Therefore, Be it Resolved, that the Board of Trustees formally acknowledges the many and varied contributions to the success of the College and to the young women who have sought a high quality Liberal Arts education at the College; and

Therefore, Be it Further Resolved, that the Board of Trustees calls upon all members of the College community to join in expressing this appreciation by offering their thanks for the quiet work of WES, and join in a celebration of this important organization’s first 125 years.

Eben S. Moulton, Chair
Colorado College Board of Trustees

Susan S. Burghart, Secretary
Colorado College Board of Trustees
A letter from the parent of Namrita Shirin Singh ’05, a former WES Scholar.

Dear Friends:

On May 20 we attended Namrita’s Ph.D. Convocation at The Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University. The Bloomberg School has been ranked the number one School of Public Health in the country for the past twenty years. It is also the largest and receives the lion’s share of funding. It was a fun and festive occasion, with recipients of post-graduate degrees from 46 different countries. The vast majority were receiving Master’s degrees, such as Masters of Health Administration, Masters of Health Science, Masters of Public Health, Masters of Science, Masters in Public Policy. At the end of the procession came the Ph.D. candidates who wore gold gowns, as opposed to the black gowns for the Masters, and were duly hooded with their doctoral degrees during the ceremony. Namrita was also inducted into the Public Health Honorary, a privilege extended to the top 10% of the class.

On December 16, Namrita successfully defended her doctoral dissertation. At Johns Hopkins University, the defense is preceded by a public seminar to which family and friends are invited. Raj and I were there, of course, and we were awed (even stepping out of the parental perspective) by her poise and professionalism as she presented on her dissertation research. As the techie of the family, her PowerPoint was impressive. Although she was somewhat nervous the day before, her presentation was smooth, which was well attended by professors and graduate students and followed by the actual defense, which took place in another room, with only Namrita and her committee present, of course.

Two hours later she emerged with her advisor who announced her success, and we reassembled for a reception planned by her fellow graduate students, which was a spirited affair. As parents, it was wonderful to hear her advisor speak of her work with such respect and esteem. We also know how much diligence and sweat equity went into it as she independently assembled and trained a team of interviewers in Tbilisi and Zugdidi and worked closely and sensitively with them in researching “Mental health care spaces, trajectories, and social integration among displaced persons in the Republic of Georgia.”

So, now what will she do with her Ph.D.? That remains the big question. Namrita is considering various options, including a post-doc at Hopkins. In August she will do a short consultancy in Lucknow for the Catholic Relief Services and in September she will do a short consultancy in Tajikistan for the World Bank. She also has plans to present a paper at a conference in Oxford in July. Of course, the search for a satisfying job in one’s field, with good prospects, is long and arduous in the current economy. She is looking outside the academic realm.

All the best, Rashna Singh
### Save the Date

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<tr>
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### A QUIET WORK CONTINUES

Copies will be available at the Van Briggle Tour and all WES luncheons.
For question please call 719-389-7699.
THE WOMAN’S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY
of THE COLORADO COLLEGE

MEMBERSHIP FORM

WES membership is open to all. Please select one of the following membership categories and make your check payable to WES. All contributions to WES are for scholarships, programs, and projects which benefit students of Colorado College and are tax deductible. **Payments and contributions for 2014 are due now.**

- □ Annual Dues $25
- □ Baccalaureate $26-$49
- □ Cum Laude $50-$99
- □ Magna Cum Laude $100-$499
- □ Summa Cum Laude $500 and above
- □ Life, Silver Special, Ex-officio, Honorary
- □ New Member
- □ Renewal
- □ Scholarship Fund
- □ Designate my Scholarship Fund donation in honor of Connie Patterson
- □ I’d like for someone to call me about volunteering for WES

Name...........................................................................................................
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**Send to:**
The Woman’s Educational Society of The Colorado College
14 East Cache La Poudre Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Would you like to become more involved with WES? Whether you are part of Colorado College or from the Colorado Springs community at large, we invite you to join the WES Board and become involved with our activities which benefit outstanding students. We meet the first Thursday of the month except in January, July, and August. You may choose from a variety of committees: Finance, Fundraising, Membership, Nominating, Program, Publicity or Scholarship. Board members are also mentors to the WES scholars. Another way to participate is by serving as a Member-at-Large on one of our committees. You **CAN** make a difference in a student's life. If you would like to join our efforts or have questions, please leave a message for us at (719) 389-7699 or at WES@ColoradoCollege.edu.
Fall 2014

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  • Upcoming Events
• The Colorado College Board of Trustees resolution presented to WES.