

## Ryan Haygood '97

RYAN HAYGOOD is the co-director of the Political Participation Group at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF), Inc. He administers LDF's voting rights docket and litigates cases that challenge racially discriminatory practices in the political process on behalf of African-Americans and other racial minority groups.

During his time at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Ryan has contributed to great successes in high profile cases, including *Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. One v. Holder*, a 2009 Supreme Court case in which he defended Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act against a Texas district challenge. Section 5 requires proof that proposed voting changes in certain jurisdictions do not deny or abridge the right to vote on account of race, color, or membership in a language or minority group. Ryan helped to successfully defend this legislation, ensuring constitutional voting rights for racial minorities.

Ryan earned his J.D. from the University of Colorado School of Law in 2001 and began his career as a litigator soon thereafter. Prior to joining the LDF Ryan served as a litigation associate at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver, and Jacobson, a New York law firm, where he worked on complex commercial and workplace discrimination cases.

Ryan's current work is in an area that many people refer to as the next phase of the voting rights movement: ensuring voting rights for people with felony convictions. To that end, Ryan has successfully argued a case before the Ninth Circuit, published and lectured on the subject, and recently contributed to "Free the Vote: Unlocking Democracy in the Cells and On the Streets," an LDF publication.

Ryan graduated from Colorado College in 1997, *cum laude*, with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and American history and a Rhodes Scholarship nomination. As a CC student Ryan excelled in the classroom and on the football field, distinguishing himself as the first student in the college's history to earn both First-Team Academic and Athletic All-American honors. Ryan is also the cofounder of the Glass House, a student residential community which empowers racial and ethnic diversity and promotes leadership development among multicultural students.

One highlight of his experience at Colorado College illustrates both Ryan's intellectual ability and one of the tenets of a liberal arts education: "In class I was challenged to think critically about issues," Ryan says, "not just feel them." Learning to think critically about issues, coupled with an outstanding drive and sense of purpose, has positioned Ryan Haygood as a preeminent civil rights litigator and a valued alumnus of Colorado College.

— MIKE EDMONDS,  
dean of students/vice president for student life

## Susan Patrick '92

SUSAN PATRICK came to Colorado College in the late 1980's, from Virginia, and graduated as an English major in May 1992. She later earned a master's degree from the University of Southern California's noted Annenberg School for Communication.

Susan is part of a CC family. Her mother graduated from Colorado College in 1964 and her younger sister in 2000.

As a student at CC, Susan volunteered with the Alumni Association, helping to organize Homecoming and Commencement activities, and arranging student panels so members of the Board of Trustees could hear about students' concerns firsthand. Susan remains active in the CC Alumni Association, and serves on advisory panels for CC's information technology program.

Susan's leadership initiatives at Colorado College famously included showing up one day at the intramural director's office at the El Pomar Sports Center. She explained that she was captain of her own men's intramural football team, much to his surprise. She persuaded the director of the merit of her position, and with his consent became the first woman Tiger to play in the men's intramural football league at Colorado College. When asked recently what position she played, she replied, "I played defensive end — I rushed quarterbacks!"

Susan has been a trailblazing Tiger ever since.

She has become a national leader in online educational learning and has served as an adviser to the governor of Arizona, and on the staffs of a member of Congress and of the U.S. secretary of education. She currently advises elected officials both in the U.S. and abroad on innovation in online learning.

Susan is now president and CEO of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning. In 2007, she was named (along with Bill Gates of Microsoft) as one of the top leaders in the U.S. who have significantly influenced the future of educational technology.

Her essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, and *Forbes* magazine, and she has been interviewed on major news networks such as ABC, NBC, CBS, and NPR.

Even with her national profile, Susan stays in close touch with a number of her old CC classmates, including ten friends who get together to ski, camp, or travel every year — "a tradition," she notes, "that has lasted 20 years!"

At Colorado College, Susan says, "I learned to be open to diverse perspectives and to explore all kinds of possibilities."

"I have a special love for Colorado College and its professors who inspired me to stretch my mind and view distant horizons in ways I never imagined possible. Colorado College unlocked my hope and optimism to believe in what might seem impossible to others."

— TOM CRONIN,  
professor of political science

## Kim Simon '92

KIM SIMON is the managing director of Shoah Foundation Institute at the University of Southern California. She is responsible for overseeing the institute's day-to-day work, including its educational programs, research, documentation activity, public outreach, and administration. Ms. Simon received her B.A. in history, with honors, from Colorado College in 1992, and immediately moved to Prague, Czech Republic, to work in film production, most notably New Line Cinema's "Delta of Venus" and HBO Pictures' "Fatherland."

She was hired in 1994 to coordinate the Shoah Foundation's efforts to collect interviews around the world with Holocaust survivors and other witnesses. After the testimony collection phase, Ms. Simon established the institute's office of global partnerships, creating and developing its international program agenda, overseeing its work in 17 countries. Kim Simon spent the last 15 years in the field of Holocaust video documentation and education, spearheading the use of Internet 2 resources to archive the testimonies at the University of Southern California.

Prior to her post as managing director, Ms. Simon served as the institute's interim executive from 2008–09 and director of programs, overseeing its national and international educational agenda. In addition, Simon guided its global communications and public outreach efforts. She served as the executive in charge of production of two of the institute's documentary films, "Volevo solo vivere" (*I Only Wanted To Live*) and "Nazvy Svoie Im'ia" (*Spell Your Name*), produced in Italy and Ukraine, respectively. Ms. Simon presently serves on the U.S. delegation of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance, and Research. She is currently overseeing the development of an educational application, IWitness, and focused on the pedagogical, organizational, and policy considerations of working with Holocaust and genocide survivor and witness testimony in an online environment. IWitness is a multimedia application that aims to engage the intersection of using video testimony on the Internet as a way to explore multi-literacies and the topic of the Holocaust and other genocides in education. Kim Simon lives in Los Angeles with her husband, Yuss Simon, and daughters Eva and Lily Simon.

— TOM LINDBLADE,  
professor of drama