



THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY  
of COLORADO COLLEGE

# Newsfocus

FALL 2016

FOUNDED IN 1889 TO GIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE STUDENTS OF COLORADO COLLEGE

## WES Welcomes Five New Scholars



Cinea Jenkins



Eva Parra



Valeria Peralta



Jessica Ramos



Kristie Shirley

**C**inea Nicole Jenkins was born in Kansas and grew-up in Colorado. She has lived off of a small, abandoned farm about 30 minutes north of Brighton, Colorado. Cinea describes the farm as abandoned because it is adorned with an old barn and an old chicken shed, although her family has never kept animals (except for the occasional wandering skunk or raccoon). She loved living in the country — only 1.2 miles away from her grandparent's farm and the rest of her family. Cinea grew up surrounded by uncles, cousins, and a pesky brother. She said, "My family means the world to me." Ever since childhood, she loved reading, writing, and any form of art. Beginning in elementary school, she has been involved with art in one form or another, whether it was painting or molding clay, playing the cello, or acting on stage. Over the years, drama and writing have taken a stronger foothold in her life. Cinea has been in several shows, her favorite being the production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" during her senior year of high school when she played a Brooklyn cop. She

writes constantly, so keep your eyes out for her book in a few years! Aside from this, she has always been extremely involved in her school community, whether it be through National Honor Society or student council. Cinea is fluent not only in English and partially in Spanish, but also in numbers. Math is a whole other world that she loves to visit frequently.

**E**va Parra was born in Fargo, North Dakota, and grew up in Tucson, Arizona. She grew up with a love of reading and music. Eva has played the flute since fourth grade and continued her musical education through high school. She marched in her high school marching band all four years and held a student leadership position for two years. Her love of performance led her to participate in the winter guard for three years. Eva was also a member of her high school's Gay-Straight Alliance club. She attended University High School, which encouraged academic excellence and led to her love of psychology and creative writing. She took ten Advanced Placement exams and was a National

Scholar with Distinction. She graduated with honors and was also a National Hispanic Scholar. Eva is also an active member of her church. She is super excited to be a Woman's Educational Society scholar and extremely grateful for the opportunity to join this wonderful group!

**V**aleria Peralta is a graduate of Coral Reef High School in Miami, Florida. She was born in Lima, Peru, and spent her first few years with a large and constantly buzzing extended family. At four years old, Valeria immigrated to the United States to live with her mother and aunt in Miami, where she remained until making the move to Colorado for college.

As a low-income student, immigrant, and proud first-generation college student, Valeria is immensely grateful for the opportunities provided to her by Colorado College and WES. With this college and scholarship opportunity, she can pursue her passions in poetry and computer science. Valeria's goals include using her degree

*continues on page 3...*



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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Tell your friends about us and like us on Facebook! Keep in contact with us at **WES@coloradocollege.edu** or **(719) 389-7699**.

**Message from the WES Co-Presidents**

Ann Burek and Meg Chojnacki



**W**elcome to the 2016–2017 academic year. We were proud to “Meet and Greet” five new scholars at our annual welcoming event on Saturday, August 20. At the Scholars’ Tea on Monday, September, 12, our general membership and our special guest President Jill Tiefenthaler had an opportunity to meet all of our scholars and their mentors.

On Saturday, September 10, we held our annual Van Briggie Festival. Each year, the wonderful committee adds new and exciting things. Participants enjoyed the new film and new products like Van Briggie/WES coffee mugs.

This year is bringing many changes to the college. Externally, we feel sure you have seen all the construction for an even more impressive campus; internally, the college has changed some of the rules and regulations for how events are scheduled. Because of this, our yearly calendar is not yet set in stone. Please check our social media sites for information.

Because of job and/or family commitments, many people who are interested in our group are not able to attend our monthly Thursday Board of Managers meeting. However, they are still interested in contributing as Mentors, Committee Members, etc. Our Members-at-Large category fills this need. If you are interested in joining us in this capacity, please contact Judy Casey or another member of the Nominating Committee. Our Members-at-Large function in a variety of roles. Shirley Woolley has been perfecting our Constitution and organizing our Notebooks. Caroline Vulgamore and Diane Benninghoff serve on the Nominating Committee. Sarah Healy heads the Van Briggie Festival Committee. A brand new member and former scholar Mackenzie Buckmiller-Mulligan will be serving on the Program and Scholarship Committees. Last, but certainly not least, Sharon Rice and Cathy Wilson-O’Donnell serve as our WES Trip Coordinators.

Speaking of our trips, The Women’s Educational Society continues to partner with PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning to offer educational and fundraising trips. Last spring, the partnership offered Coronado’s Footsteps, which included Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico. This fall from September 18–22, the partnership is offering a trip a little closer to home entitled Historic and Scenic Gems of Colorado.

As always, we need to say thank you and farewell to wonderful members of our Board. Diane Benninghoff, Lana Coffman, and Beth Zautke have been invaluable to our efforts.

Fortunately, they have all agreed to remain a part of our team.

Again, thank you to those who already participate and to those who are thinking about joining us in the future. Our program and scholars depend on you! ☘

# WES Women in the West Lecture

On March 30, the WES Women in the West Lecture, through the Hulbert Center for Southwest Studies, was honored to hear CC alumna ('94) Sonlatsa "Sunshine" Jim-Martin speak on "Food Restoration and Advocacy in the Navajo Nation." She currently works as program manager for the COPE Project (Community Out-

reach and Patient Empowerment), which strives to reintroduce indigenous foods to the Navajo Nation and restore the food system. She and her CC undergraduate student daughter distributed Navajo seed corn to lucky participants. Sonlatsa and her daughter are pictured below with WES co-presidents Ann Burek and Meg Chojnacki. ✨



WES Co-Presidents Ann Burek and Meg Chojnacki with luncheon speaker, Sonlatsa "Sunshine" Jim-Martin and her daughter.



WES Board Member, Nancy Baxter, shares a moment with Sunshine.

## WES Welcomes Five New Scholars

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to go to graduate school for software engineering while continuing to write and explore the arts.

**J**essica Ramos is the daughter of Martin and Leticia Ramos. She grew up in Oklahoma City and graduated as valedictorian from Putnam City North High School. There, she was involved in soccer, cross country, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honors Society, and Key Club. She held positions as an NHS Junior Representative, President of Spanish Club, Junior Class Historian, and District 10 Secretary. Her awards include Miss Panther Nominee, Student of the Year for Geometry, AP English III, AP Spanish IV, Masonic Student of Today, AP Scholar, College Prep Scholar, and Questbridge Finalist. She now plans to double major in Psychology and Spanish at Colorado College and to one day become a pediatrician.

**K**ristie Shirley began her life in the lively city of Lima, which is located on the coast of Peru. At a young age, Kristie moved from her native country to an extremely small town in the deserts of northern California. It was

here that Kristie became aware of her cultural identity as her family was one of the only Spanish-speaking families in the neighborhood. The diversity of wildlife in the desert cultivated Kristie's love for animals. She spent her time there catching horny toads and snakes as well as learning to appreciate the beauties of nature. Though she is a science-lover at heart, Kristie has a passion for the arts as well. She enjoys photography, rollerblading, and exploring the great outdoors. Later in life, her family moved to south Florida where she began to volunteer with numerous animal rescues. Kristie soon created a volunteer-based club at her high school called the Animal Rescue Club, allowing for others who shared her passion to make a difference. At Palm Beach Central High School, Kristie was involved in French Honor Society, BETA club, EARTH club, and was fully immersed in the AP and AICE programs. She graduated in the top 1% of her class of 745 students and was a Questbridge Finalist. She envisions herself as a veterinarian with the ultimate goal of helping the preservation movement. At Colorado College, Kristie hopes to expand her understanding of the world and to become a better person. Though she is moving away from her longtime home of Florida, she is excited to discover a world away from home. ✨

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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 that benefit outstanding students.

We meet the first Thursday of the month except 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.

## THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY *of* COLORADO COLLEGE

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### MEMBERSHIP FORM

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WES Membership is open to all. Dues are payable anytime during the calendar year from January 1 to December 31. All contributions to WES are for scholarships, programs, and projects that benefit students of Colorado College and are tax deductible. Membership is included in all categories and the amount above the \$30 dues level goes to the scholarship fund.

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- Annual Dues \$30       Baccalaureate \$50 – \$99       Cum Laude \$100 – \$249  
 Magna Cum Laude \$250 – \$499       Summa Cum Laude \$500 – \$999  
 Honorary \$1,000 and above
- 

- New Member     Renewal     Gift to WES Scholarship Fund  
 Please call me about volunteering for WES

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Send completed form with payment to WES at:

THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY *of* COLORADO COLLEGE  
14 East Cache la Poudre Street, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

## 2016 Van Briggle Pottery Festival Expands Community Outreach

This year's Van Briggle Pottery Festival had many new treats in store for Festival attendees. On September 10, WES presented its 19th tour of the Van Briggle Memorial Pottery building. Thanks to a grant from the Colorado College Cultural Attractions Fund, a new video introduced participants to the history of this gorgeous building that now houses the CC Facilities Department. (The video history of Artus and Anne Van Briggle was also viewed before and after the tour.)

We welcomed two new community partners who joined us on site at the Festival: Friends of Monument Valley

Park, and the Manitou Springs Heritage Center. The Horticulture Art Society gave tours of the surrounding gardens, offered bulbs for sale, as well as displayed information on the coming granite Lorelei sculpture for the Heritage Garden by Van Briggle wall and "cat" artist, Larry Terrafranca. Also returning was the Fine Arts Center's Bemis School of Art potters, Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, and the Historic Preservation Alliance of Colorado Springs.

All proceeds from the Festival support WES scholarships and programs. ✦



Bemis potters demonstrate their craft.



WES volunteers and WES scholar, Kristie Shirley.



Larry Terrafranca describes his wall.

### Introducing the WES Board's Newest Addition:

#### **Kenzie Mulligan-Buckmiller, Member at Large**

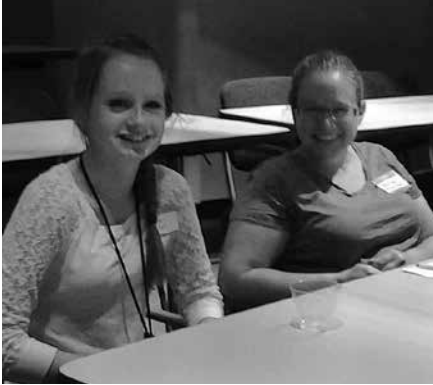
A native of Manitou Springs, and a former WES scholar, Kenzie graduated from CC in 2015 with a degree in Molecular Biology and minors in Chemistry and Feminist and Gender Studies. She's in her second year as the Health Education Specialist at CC's Wellness Resource Center. This school year she will develop substance abuse prevention programs and focus on mental health issues. As a student, she worked with Student Organization for Sexual Safety (SOSS) all four years with a passion for sexual health and violence prevention. She also was involved with CC Outdoor Education and New Student Orientation (NSO). Kenzie loves anything out-of-doors: skiing, biking, running, hiking, backpacking, and camping. She looks forward to working on committees and giving back to WES.



Site for the coming granite "Lorelei" sculpture.

## New Scholar Meet and Greet

This year's WES New Scholar Meet and Greet took place in the WES room at Worner Center on August 20th. WES members enjoyed meeting scholars and their families and welcoming them all to Colorado College.



Cinea Jenkins and her mother pause from conversation with WES members for a photo.



Eva Parra and her mother enjoyed coffee and breakfast treats before they began their CC experience.

## Rodríguez Scholar Luncheon



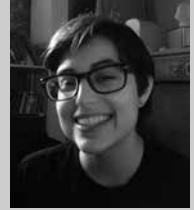
Shirley Woolley and her WES scholar, Tessa Allende Oliveira, speaker Daniel Arroyo-Rodríguez, and WES co-presidents, Meg Chojnacki and Ann Burek.

Last February, Assistant Professor of Spanish Daniel Arroyo-Rodríguez presented a talk on Semana Santa—or, Holy Week—during a WES luncheon replete with paella and flan inspired by his native Seville. Informed by his personal experiences and ties to the southern Spanish Catholic identity, Professor Arroyo-Rodríguez led us through the specific terminologies and symbologies of Semana Santa, expanded on its history, and explained

its distinct transformations and implications during political and cultural shifts since its beginnings in the Middle Ages. In his talk, he introduced us to the importance of Semana Santa not just as a religious celebration or touristic event limited to a week of festivity, but as a dynamic concept that extends throughout the year in the form of social services in the community, that extends back six centuries and continues to transform into the future. ✨

## Scholar's Corner

*Learn what kept scholar Valerie Maravilla busy this summer*



"This summer I did research for the Molecular Biology department under Phoebe Lostroh and Kristine Lang where we removed different genes from a bacteria, *Acinetobacter baylyi*, and examined how it affected its morphology. Once that ended, I started as a mentor in the Bridge Scholars Program. Both opportunities brought me valuable lessons about leadership and confidence, and I am incredibly grateful I got to participate in them! This upcoming year I will continue to work in Phoebe's lab, and I will also be treasurer of the CC student organization SOMOS (Spanish for "we are")."

*Valerie grew up in Tecolotlan, Mexico, graduated from Independence High School in Glendale, AZ, and is currently a sophomore at CC.*

“The WES winter luncheon was held on February 18 in Gaylor Hall of the Worner Center. Daniel Arroyo-Rodríguez of the CC Spanish Department spoke about *Semana Santa* traditions in his native Sevilla, Spain. Over 56 attendees enjoyed his presentation—as well as the Spanish menu!”

# REFLECTIONS ON FOLLOWING IN CORONADO'S FOOTSTEPS: Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico

By Sharon Grady

From April 25–May 1, 2016, WES/Pillar trip participants explored the sights, sounds, and cultures of Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico. The trip began, and ended, in Tucson, Arizona. Over the course of six days, adventures awaited at numerous locations throughout the journey.

In Arizona, we were met with a dizzying array of blooming cacti, ocotillo, cholla, and prickly pear among them. These displays provided a remarkable contrast to the typical arid landscape of the Arizona desert, which is characterized and punctuated by sparse and widely spaced vegetation. A welcome lunch at the beautiful Calumet and Arizona Bed and Breakfast in Bisbee, Arizona, proved to be a stunning portal to the many treasures we were to encounter in the days ahead!

A visit to the historic Queen Mine, one of the most productive copper mines of the 20th century, allowed us to hear from former miners who offered us an intimate glimpse at the subterranean tunnels in which they toiled. Thereafter, travel from Arizona to Northern Mexico involved a journey through Sonora, Mexico. This Mexican state featured contours and terrain remarkably similar to that of Southern Arizona. Throughout the drive through Sonora, one could observe the numerous small altars and monuments which dotted the hillsides and roadways. Soon enough, however, the drive through Sonora gave way to the almost tropical, green and lush landscape of Chihuahua, Mexico. This is where our exploration of Northern Mexico began in earnest.

Upon our arrival in Chihuahua, Mexico, we were greeted by American anthropologist Spencer MacCallum. His lec-

ture on Mata Ortiz pottery and the Chihuahua community in which he resides, stimulated our interest in learning more about his passion for the pre-Hispanic pottery found around the archaeological site of Paquime. A visit to Paquime, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, did not disappoint, as it revealed the strong partnership between American and Mexican anthropologists and archaeologists who worked, sponsored by the Amerind Foundation, to excavate, conserve, and maintain attributes of this site. Walking the streets of the Mata Ortiz neighborhoods, and watching a live Mata Ortiz pottery-making demonstration, highlighted the skills of the ceramic artists whose pottery graces galleries, homes, and institutions throughout the world.

The return to Arizona allowed us to explore some special tourist attractions of this state. Kartchner Caverns, an Arizona State park, which opened to the public in 1999, is one of those places. The caverns are carved out of limestone and are filled with spectacular formations. The guided tour of these caverns proved to be special and rewarding, while reminding us of the intrepid cavers who undertook exploration of this underground system which hosts living and breathing organisms, as well as bat colonies! A visit to Tumacacori National Historical Park, which protects the ruins of three Spanish mission communities, two of which are National Historic Landmark sites, allowed us to learn about the people and stories of Tumacacori's past. Following that, a visit to San Xavier del Bac, the oldest intact European structure in Arizona and a designated National Historic Landmark, proved to be another trip highlight. While the church is open to the public, its primary mission is to serve the Catholic parishioners who live in the community.

Interspersed between the educational opportunities we enjoyed were side trips to more playful activities. Being 'witnesses' to a shoot out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona, was such an occasion. Another was a trip to the Rooster Cogburn Ostrich Ranch, where trip participants delighted in feeding goats, rabbits, ducks, and the name-sake ostriches! Finally, a visit to the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum enabled us to enjoy the magnificence of desert flora and fauna, and to see the display of the large, tree-like columnar cacti that develop branches as they age. As this species of cactus grows exclusively in the Sonora Desert, which encompasses southern Arizona and western Sonora, Mexico, it was exciting to see their abundance in one of the only places where they can be seen.

To say that this trip was one of remarkable moments would be an understatement! It was so much more, as we experienced getting off the beaten path to examine areas some of us thought we already knew. It is not too dramatic to say that the destinations were all worthy of our time and attention. Most importantly, the totality of the trip was priceless for those of us who value opportunities to learn and grow, far from the confines of the traditional classroom.

Dr. Sharon Rice and Cathy Wilson-O'Donnell, once again, proved to be excellent tour planners and guides. Their efforts were enhanced by the assistance of Dianna Ramirez, who expertly led us through the northern Mexico tours. All of our hosts proved generous and gracious, and we could not have asked for a more skilled and capable bus driver than Vince Urias. ✂

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*Pictures from the trip follow on the next page.*



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THE WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY  
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**FALL 2016** ❧

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**REFLECTIONS ON FOLLOWING IN CORONADO'S FOOTSTEPS: Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico**