



EAGLE EYES

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JUDY GILBERT, DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, PASSES ON

On June 9, Judy Gilbert, Eagle Rock's Director of Curriculum, died unexpectedly of a pulmonary embolism. Judy, among the first to be hired to design Eagle Rock's program, both endeared herself to Eagle Rock students and staff and created an outstanding, cutting edge curriculum that is being recognized locally and nationally. She is deeply missed. The following was written by her daughters Christine and Cindy for the program for her memorial service held July 13 at Eagle Rock.

Judith Carol Decker blessed the world with her presence on February 26, 1940. She was born to Donald Gilmore Decker and Annette Doris Ritter Decker in Greeley, Colorado. Education was Judy's birthright. Her father was a science professor, textbook writer, and a president of Colorado Teacher's College (now the University of Northern Colorado). Her grandmother, Nellie Fisher, taught in a one-room school house in Elizabeth, Colorado.



As a child Judy lived in Greeley, but also in New York City, Tennessee, and Arizona while her father worked on the Manhattan Project. At the age of 13, Judy lost her mother after a long illness. Two years later, Doris Strickland became her stepmother. Judy attended College High School in Greeley, graduating in 1957. She attended Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa, from 1957 to 1960, where she majored in speech and drama, and is acclaimed still for her legendary role as a woodchuck in a school production. In September 1960, she married John Gilbert, and in 1961 she graduated from UNC in Greeley.

She gave life to and nurtured three children, Cindy, Michael, and Christine. Judy began her teaching career in 1970 at Skinner Junior High in west Denver. Her teaching career also took her to McCook Jr. High School in McCook, Nebraska, and Yuma High School in Yuma, Colorado. After teaching at Yuma High, Judy felt the need to share her educational expertise and started Gilbert and Stoops, an educational consulting firm. She was a driving force in the Yuma Area Community Theater and will long be remembered for her performance as the Queen in "Once Upon a Mattress."

In 1984 she was hired by the Colorado Department of Education to serve as the Language Arts Consultant for the School Effectiveness Unit, and she moved to Boulder. Judy joyously accepted her Master's Degree from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 1986. In 1991, Judy was hired by Honda, and Eagle Rock School was born. She became the Director of Curriculum and moved to Estes Park in 1992.

Judy's witty and engaging personality, along with her knowledge and vision for educational improvement, led to speaking engagements all over the USA, and international travel and recognition. She was selected by Governor Romer to serve as co-chair of the Standards and Assessment Development and Implementation Council which is responsible for developing the education standards for the state of Colorado.

Judy embraced her daughter-in-law and sons-in-law as a joyful extension of her family. According to Denise, David, and Kevin, she was more mother than in-law. A playful and energetic grandma to Kris, Caleb, Nathan, and Corbin, she shared a deep and personal relationship with each of her grandsons. An enthusiastic traveler, Judy visited Tahiti, Bora Bora, Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, Mexico, England, France, Germany, Egypt, Taiwan, the Caribbean, and much of the USA. She loved to sail and found serenity on the ocean and in the mountains. A truly remarkable woman, Judy touched all she met with her wisdom, compassion, adventurous spirit, vibrancy, selflessness, spirituality, and sense of humor.

Contributions may be made to the Judy Gilbert Memorial Scholarship fund at Eagle Rock.

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A CHANCE TO LEARN, A CHANCE TO TEACH: INTERNS LEAVE AND ARRIVE

by Clayton Cooper, Adjunct
Professional Development Center

"Interns keep us honest and inoculate us with their spirit and enthusiasm. [They] help us to see Eagle Rock through new eyes."

-- Philbert Smith
Director of Students

"Out with the old and in with the new!" The yearly ritual of letting the current interns go and bringing in new interns occurred as the 1997 Summer Trimester ended and before the 1997 Fall Trimester began. The 1996-97 interns made a positive impact on the school, but August 1997 marked the time for them to venture out into the world to share what they learned during their year at Eagle Rock. In fact, as part of the professional development effort at Eagle Rock, interns are expected to use what they gained at Eagle Rock in their next work environment--teaching in public or independent schools, participating in service organizations, leading wilderness trips, or returning to graduate schools.

No matter what they do, or where they go, former interns act as ambassadors armed with the values for which Eagle Rock stands. Interns leaving after serving a year at Eagle Rock are Anne Crook, Becky Manchester, Jason Cushner, Mary Beth Cote, Shawna Hedlund, Skye Delano-Nuttall, and Tazamisha Alexander.

No longer an intern, Clay Cooper remains as adjunct faculty, assisting Lois Easton in the Professional Development Center; Peter Smith remains to manage the on-site service program until his replacement, Josh Blomquist, arrives in October; and Linde Lisbona completes his year-long internship in January 1998.

Each year's new class of interns has the challenge of meeting and exceeding the standards set by the previous year's interns--in terms of student activities and campus life as well as classroom teaching and management. The incoming class looks up to that challenge:

Travis Beck: English/Foreign Language, Colorado, BA from Swathmore College

Josh Blomquist: Service Learning, Colorado, BS from the University of Colorado

Tonya Collins: Professional Development Center, Mississippi, MEd from University of Mississippi

Christine Hall: Human Performance, California, BA from San Francisco State University

Miranda Johnson: Social Studies, Illinois, BA from Dartmouth College

Guy Mossman: Art, North Carolina, BA from Colorado College

Mary Beth Mulcahy: Science/Foreign Language, Belgium, BA from Colorado College

Carla Neely: Mathematics, Indiana, BA from Hanover College

Cristina Paglinauan: Life After Eagle Rock, Maryland, BA from Harvard

THREE SUMMER GRADS BRING TOTAL TO 19; SEVERAL RECEIVE AWARDS

Brian Hansen, Brianna Lopez, and Erin Saunders graduated from Eagle Rock on Friday, August 8, bringing the total number of Eagle Rock graduates to 19. Brian from Tennessee, Brianna from Broomfield, Colorado, and Erin from Georgia completed their graduation requirements based on the Colorado State Model Content Standards and demonstrated their proficiency before the entire community at Graduation Presentations of Learning on Thursday and Friday, August 7 and 8. As a Colorado student, Brianna sought and received a second diploma from Broomfield High School.

Eagle Rock Excellence Awards

Receiving Eagle Rock Excellence Awards during graduation ceremonies this trimester for work "above and beyond the call of duty" and manifestation of the Eagle Rock spirit were students Talia Alarcon, Rebecca Hamilton, Elizabeth Hennigan, Alex Ortiz, and Rose Peredia. Former interns Boo (Garrett) Martin and Jenny Mayher who met at Eagle Rock and married at the end of August also received awards. Finally an award was given posthumously to Judy Gilbert, Director of Curriculum (see related story).

Scholarships

Receiving the first Judy Gilbert Memorial Scholarship was Erin Saunders. Brian Hansen received the community service scholarship.

“OZ” HAS THE HEART, BRAINS, AND COURAGE TO SUCCEED

by Lois Easton

Director of Professional Development

Pyrotechnics, flying witches and monkeys, rear projection slides and video, sixties style Munchkins (including an inordinately TALL one), an outdoor stage highlighted with one rainbow opening night and two on Saturday -- these features of the third Eagle Rock “summer extravaganza” production made “Wizard of Oz” memorable for students, staff, families, and residents and visitors to Estes Park.

The musical was presented on three consecutive evenings, July 25, 26, and 27. In addition, excerpts were presented in Estes Park on Saturday, August 2.



It took heart, brains, and courage to pull off such a complex production, one that (in addition to the features above) also included an orchestra, dance numbers, gymnastic feats, and solo and ensemble singing. Directors Alison Trattner and Chris Meehan (a former intern who returned from acting school in New York to co-direct the production) commented in the program:

“Frequently, most of us look someplace else for strength, wisdom, and

peace. Some of us have discovered, much like Dorothy, that we need to look no further than at our own abilities and creativity. . . After 18 hour days of music, set building, and rehearsals, we have all had to draw on something we were not certain existed. FAITH. We all have been given gifts that frequently are underused. So many of us spend our lives packing our bags for the journey without ever actually taking the trip. Why? Perhaps FEAR. Reasons: ‘I’m not smart enough.’ ‘I’m afraid.’ Or, ‘I can’t risk having my heart broken again.’ Etc., etc.”

The production was dedicated to Judy Gilbert (see related story): “This whole production has been about risk, faith and determination. Several weeks ago, our dear friend, Judy Gilbert, died suddenly. It was devastating to the cast and community. Her spirit has been with us and has been a major contribution to our patience, energy and love.”

The program notes conclude: “When things appeared to be nearly impossible, when there was no time, no energy, and no money, Judy would take a deep breath and say, ‘I CAN DO THIS.’ Judy, you were right, we’ve done it.”

Other Production Staff

The directors were assisted by Rick Roberts from San Francisco State University as Musical Director and Karolee McLaughlin, Estes Park music teacher, as Assistant Musical Director. Mary McGuire, Eagle Rock Instructional Specialist in Art, Music, and Performance, served as Art Director in charge of scenery construction, assisted by Mary Beth Cote, intern.

Although the production utilized the outdoor amphitheater built by a mathematics class for last summer’s production of “Midsummer Night’s

Dream,” the production staff relied on several current classes to customize it for “Oz.” For example, Robyn Hamasaki’s and Shawna Hedlund’s class To Use or Not To Use, which required dumpster diving to understand recycling, provided many construction materials. Dumpster diving after college students vacated campuses in May and June yielded amazing treasures that proved useful in the set design.

The Designing Oz class and the Constructing Oz class were two classes that focused on creating the sets, exciting costumes, and effective props for the production. Mary Beth Cote and Sarah Foster, interns, helped students with props and costumes.

Karelle Scharf, adjunct instructor for technology, designed the rear projection slides and video and special effects. Mike Christner, Wilderness Instructional Specialist, handled aerial stunts and pyrotechnics.



"Oz" continued

The Cast

The Fabulous Four (Dorothy and her three companions) were played by Talia Alarcon of Hayward, California, as Dorothy; Mat Kasper of New Jersey as the Scarecrow; Kevin Skipper, Jr., of Brentwood, California, as the Tin Man; and Joe Ledbetter of Boulder, Colorado, as the Lion.

Other cast members included:

The Wicked Witch - Erin Saunders
 Glinda - Sita Henninger
 The Wizard of Oz/Professor Marvel - Robert Burkhardt
 Auntie Em - Sandra Ramirez
 Uncle Henry - Neger Escano
 Glinda's Assistants - Tara Trimmer-Jewell and Willow Moore
 The Barrister/Coroner - Ariann Wade
 The Mayor - Elizabeth Hennigan
 The Guard - Eric Sterkel

Dorothy was dispatched to Oz as a result of an accidental blow to the head during a riot, rather than a tornado. The rioters were Aaron Napier, Alex Ortiz, Emily Peterson, Haimanot Tesfai, and Eric Sterkel.

The Munchkins who met her there included a number of the children of staff members: Nia Smith, Kacey Vavra, Kether Scharff-Gray, Jeryca Phelps, Jan McLaughlin, Alexis Flaherty, Patrick Burkhardt, and Eileen Burkhardt. Several ERS students also played Munchkin roles, including Stephanie "Sweets" Baldwin, Star Buchanan, Katy Yniguez, and tall Steve McHugh.



The Crows who gave the scarecrow grief and engaged in horrible punning were played by Tara Trimmer-Jewell, Neger Escano, and Dave Nguyen. The Trees who similarly gave the Tin-Man a hard time and engaged in equally bad punning were played by Stephanie "Sweets" Baldwin, Elizabeth Hennigan, and Willow Moore.

Once they have made it to Oz, the Fabulous Four are prepared to see the Wizard by Beauticians Star Buchanan, Tara Trimmer-Jewell, staff member Philbert Smith, and Emily Peterson; the Polishers Stephanie "Sweets" Baldwin, Sandra Ramirez, and Haimanot Tesfai; and the Manicurists Katy Yniguez, Ariann Wade, Willow Moore, and Elizabeth Hennigan.

The spell the Wicked Witch cast on the Fabulous Four required hot and heavy dancing to a jitterbug tune sung by Stephanie "Sweets" Baldwin. Haimanot Tesfai led the jitterbugging, with Sandra Ramirez, Tara Trimmer-Jewell, Neger Escano, Willow Moore, and Alex Ortiz jittering right along.

The Winkies, led by General of the Winkies Aaron Napier, sang an unforgettable work song and were played by Alex Ortiz, Dave Nguyen, staff member Philbert Smith, Elizabeth Hennigan, and Steve McHugh.

Dave Nguyen also played Nikko, the Head Monkey, assisted by monkeys Katy Yniguez, Aaron Napier, Alex Ortiz, and Emily Peterson.

Toto was played by Misty, the canine friend of staff member L'Tanya Perkins.

Orchestra members providing expert accompaniment and interludes were Karolee McLaughlin, Elizabeth Halas, Gillian Jones, Robert Burkhardt, Zanzibar Freeman, and Brianna Liesveld.

A Deeper Meaning to the Musical

The directors commented in the program notes that "Oz" was almost overlooked as a possibility for the summer production. "We almost overlooked the obvious choice. The quest for a brain, a heart, courage, and the life-affirming realization that these qualities lie within us all along--what could better suit each one of us here at Eagle Rock--and beyond?"

Eagle Rock School (Continued)

Lois Easton
Director of Professional Development

Judy Gilbert
Director of Curriculum

Colleen Graham
Human Performance

Robyn Hamasaki
Environmental Science

Dick Herb
Director of Operations

Michelle Jacobs
Assistant Food Service Instructor

Jeff Lemon
Head Cook Assistant

Garth Lewis
Career and Service Learning

Ted Long
Assistant Facilities

Jenny Mayher
Admissions Specialist

Mary McGuire
Arts, Music, Performance

John Oubre
Assistant Director of Students

L'Tanya Perkins
Admissions Associate

Tim Phelps
Chef, Instructor

Fred Quinonez
Society and Social Studies

Philbert Smith
Director of Students

Michael Soguero
Science and Math

Audrey Stevens
Administrative Assistant

Alison Trattner
Language and Literature

Bonnie Vavra
Business Assistant

Bob Van Der Wege
Learning Resources and Information

PDC HOSTS NEARLY 200 EVENTS, NEARLY 2000 VISITORS DURING YEAR

by Lois Easton

Director of Professional Development

Nearly 200 educational events sponsored by Eagle Rock occurred from September 1, 1996 to August 31, 1997. Nearly 2,000 visitors were guests at Eagle Rock's Professional Development Center or participated in off-campus programs related to Eagle Rock during the same time period.

Regular Wednesday and Saturday tours brought approximately 576 people to the campus--interested educators, families seeking admission, prospective interns and staff members, and the general public. Tours of an hour and a half or two hours were conducted by staff members and students and included an orientation in the PDC Reception Area as well as a walking tour of the campus, with remarks by the tour guides and lots of time for Q & A.

Educational visits numbered approximately 91, bringing 637 educators to the campus for visits that lasted between one-half and four days. Visitors' purposes varied. Some came to learn in general how Eagle Rock works with students who are not succeeding in other environments. Some came to learn how to create interdisciplinary curriculum, teach in a way that values various learning styles, or develop innovative assessments. Others came to learn how to build community or incorporate service learning into the curriculum.

Educational visits are custom-designed to meet the visitors' purposes by either Lois Easton, Director of Professional Development, or Clayton Cooper, Adjunct Faculty, Professional Development Center. They usually include an orientation and tour (most often led by students), shadowing students to classes or visiting classes of interest. Then, depending upon purpose, special student and staff seminars or panel discussions are arranged. Debriefing times allow visitors to process what they are experiencing and ask how they can apply Eagle Rock's strategies to

their own environments. "The most effective visit," commented Clayton, "is one that brings visitors to campus overnight. They get immersed in our community and can't help but learn."

Approximately 15 meetings, retreats or workshops were held from September 1996 to the end of August 1997. These included co-sponsored workshops such as three designed with the Northern Colorado BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) called "Experiencing Standards"; schoolwide or department (such as an English Department) retreats; or meetings of groups such as Americorps. In all cases, the 261 people meeting here benefited from interaction with the Eagle Rock community.

Eagle Rock does not schedule groups who only want to make use of the facility and might just as well be at a bank's public meeting room. People holding meetings, retreats or workshops at Eagle Rock must have an agenda that fits the PDC mission to improve education for America's youth and, if possible, contribute to the community at Eagle Rock. "A good example of the type of group we want," suggested Clayton, "is the Expeditionary Learning Outward Bound folks. They were here to teach an expeditionary approach to science, and they involved us in their learning. Our students got to dissect hearts with them, for example."

Staff at Eagle Rock frequently make presentations off campus at conferences and meetings and workshops. Through 21 such presentations reaching approximately 500 people, staff often accompanied by one or more students have shared what works at Eagle Rock. Not as effective as an immersion visit to Eagle Rock, these presentations still have an impact. Student voices are especially effective; people tend to listen when a student speaks about what works and what doesn't work in terms of educational practice.

Impact of Visits

Visits have led to creation of schools, especially charter schools, patterned after Eagle Rock. A good example of a school designed to resemble Eagle Rock is the Shakleton School in Massachusetts. Visits have also led to redesign of current

programs. A good example of a redesigned program is the addition of Presentations of Learning to the program at St. Mary's Academy in Denver.

Visitors report that Eagle Rock has had a profound influence on them. Ron Berger, for example, author of the essay "A Culture of Quality," and frequent visitor to Eagle Rock wrote, "The model of a community which serves as an engine for personal growth and academic growth is one of the most compelling I've seen, and I've visited many. Some of the strategies and traditions used at Eagle Rock have become part of my own school community."

Visitors to the Professional Development Center complete feedback forms. Among the many comments on these forms are these in response to the prompt, "What difference your visit will make in your professional life":

"I loved seeing the morning meeting.

We can do these in our school easily and make a great deal of difference."

"For this year, I will try to make my classes more flexible."

"I believe students can accept more responsibility for their learning now."

"I am rejuvenated. I also have some specific ideas to focus on implementing, such as service."

"My philosophy has really changed."

"As a first year teacher, coming here has given me some direction as to what I want from my school."

"[This visit] changed the direction and focus of our planning, so it will eventually change our destination."

"[This visit provided] a valuable model to reflect upon that confirms good things happen from caring people working together."

"We start our integrated class in January, so this was good preparation. I loved some of your programs (3Ps, projects, etc.) that I will implement in my classes."

"I have a much more open mind! I realize that all those good "theories" by the so-called educational experts can really be implemented."

STAFF CHANGES MEAN FAREWELLS & WELCOMES

by Lois Easton
Director of Professional Development Center

The Eagle Rock tradition of "toasting" -- not roasting -- departing staff always yields a comment like this one from a student or staff member: "We'll miss you and we're grateful for all the gifts you've given Eagle Rock, but we're excited about what you're going to do next!" So, it's with these mixed emotions that we say goodbye to these staff members:

Michael Soguero and his wife Cynthia and two children Andrew and Aidan. They are returning home to New York City to be near family, and Michael will be teaching at the School for the Physical City (an Expeditionary Learning-Outward Bound School) while Cynthia works on a book about journaling.

Bob VanDerWege, his wife Carol, and their daughter Katie. They are fulfilling a dream they have always had to live and work in Alaska. Bob will be working as a district library media coordinator, Carol as a reading instructor, and Katie as a student and budding actress.

John Oubre. John has returned to California to be with his wife and four children. He is Program Director at the East Bay Conservation Corps in Oakland.

LeeAnn Wehr is planning to spend more time at her home in Alamos, Mexico, which has been expanded through the acquisition of some ranch land on which she and her husband Jim plan to raise emu. LeeAnn also plans to establish a learning and healing center on the new land. LeeAnn will teach the first six weeks of the fall trimester and may teach summer courses when she returns to Estes Park each summer.

It is with delight, however, that we welcome these new staff members to Eagle Rock:

Richard Gordon to serve as Instructional Specialist, Learning Resources and Information, in the Learning Resource Center.

Dave Hoskins to serve as Instructional Specialist, Science and Mathematics.

James Sherman to serve as Instructional Specialist, Society and Social Studies.

Mirtha Vega to serve as adjunct faculty, foreign languages.

In addition we will be saying farewell to the 1996-97 interns and welcoming nine new interns to the campus (see related story). Two student teachers, Casey Yorkunas from Prescott College, and Jon Anderson from the University of Northern Colorado, will be joining staff as part of the professional development effort. John Shea from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School will be doing a residency focusing on community problem solving (civics and service) during the Fall 1997 trimester.

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