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ATLAS gets its first doctoral graduate

Brittany Anas
Posted: 12/18/2008 09:12:00 AM MST

Revi Sterling's passions seem all over the place: She bears a technology background but loves international affairs, is interested in feminist studies and possesses a deep sense of justice.

Sterling was able to direct her energy, and skills, into one Ph.D. program at the University of Colorado. Friday, she will earn the first doctoral degree in technology, media and society - a program that has taken her to Kenya, where she connected women with community radio programs as part of her dissertation.

The university will hold its campuswide graduation ceremony Friday. CU will award 1,663 bachelor's degrees, 363 master's degrees, 149 doctoral degrees and 14 law degrees.

After she becomes the inaugural doctoral graduate from the Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society institute, Sterling will continue to track whether technology causes power shifts between the genders in southeast Kenya, a developing area where radio is the dominant mass media. Community radio is growing as an alternative to commercial and government programming, she said.

The Kenyan women are participating in debate programs on wide-ranging topics that include raising healthy goats to sell, witchcraft, HIV and AIDS and religion.

"Men who had formerly considered their wives as property were astounded by the knowledge and poise their wives, daughters and mothers shared on the radio, and many men stated that if the radio station thought that these women were important enough to broadcast, that they themselves would benefit to listen to the women in their families as well," Sterling said.

She created a portable, inexpensive communication device that is able to record, store and replay feedback from women listeners who have no other way to communicate with their community radio station.

"The women are exploring their own public voices," Sterling said.

The budding Ph.D. program in ATLAS blends disciplines that inevitably have been bumping into one another with the rapid emergence of technology. There are 10 doctoral students in the Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society program, according to CU officials.

ATLAS seemed to be the ideal place for Sterling when she was looking for Ph.D. programs because, she said, it didn't confine her to one area of study. The program is unique to Colorado, she said.

"It's fun to be on the ground floor of something, to be the guinea pig," Sterling said.

Prior to joining the ATLAS doctoral program, Sterling was employed by Microsoft for 10 years.

ATLAS was established in 1997 to mix information and communication technology with music, theater and dance, journalism and other areas. The institute advocates for bridging digital divides by providing technology education for people and programs that traditionally do not have access to the equipment.

ATLAS, which is housed in a high-tech building at the center of the campus, also offers an undergraduate certificate program in technology, arts and media.

Archived comments

Kudos... !

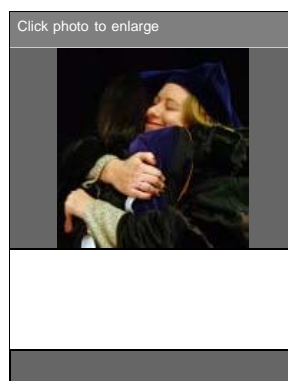
olrobi

12/19/2008 4:30:08 AM

Congratulations to Dr. Sterling and to CU-Boulder for having the vision to break new academic ground.

bnorthrop

12/19/2008 7:49:51 AM



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Have fun driving a taxi cab with that degree.

Ralphie2

12/19/2008 7:58:00 AM

Congratulations!!!

siggy1123@hotmail.com

12/19/2008 8:06:47 AM

what's up with the multicolored tower at the building. I always thought ATLAS was some dance club at the school...

boulderhippie

12/19/2008 8:19:00 AM

In other news: CU-Boulder has just graduated its last doctoral candidate in technology, media and society.

nwaringa

12/19/2008 8:42:48 AM

very cool

t.pull@hotmail.com

12/19/2008 9:44:26 AM

I met Revi a year or so ago and have found her to be a gifted and deeply intelligent soul. Ralphie2: even driving a taxi-cab (and what's wrong with that BTW?) she'd find a way to add back to the community. Great job Revi!

musicgrinder

12/19/2008 11:06:53 AM

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