

CU-BOULDER SUPPORTS FIRE-IMPACTED STUDENTS, CAMPUS MEMBERS

The University of Colorado at Boulder has taken several steps to assist faculty, staff and students from Southern California who may be impacted by the catastrophic fires and today announced a series of actions designed to assist them, including the following:

- The university will make residence hall debriefing sessions available for students, faculty and staff who have been adversely affected by the fires and their aftermath. The debriefing sessions are private and not open to the media;
 - Students can meet with counselors on Thursday, Oct. 25, at 3:30 p.m. in the University Memorial Center fifth floor Terrace Room. Faculty and staff can meet with counselors on Friday, Oct. 26, at noon in UMC room 417.
 - Students also will receive assistance in negotiating the administrative systems of the university, should they need help because of the impact the fires have had on them and their families;
 - The university will streamline relevant administrative processes for students impacted by the California fires;
 - Faculty will be encouraged to facilitate arrangements with students from Southern California who need to leave school for a time because of the impact of the fires on their families;
 - The university will release faculty and staff who are members of relief/rescue/emergency organizations and who are called to respond to the fires, or who need to assist family members, subject to approval by appointing authorities;
- Disaster relief information also is available through the Red Cross by calling 1 (800) 733-2767 or at the organization's Web site: <http://www.redcross.org>.

Several campus organizations also are available to faculty, staff and students in need including the following:

Center for Multicultural Affairs: (303) 492-5666 Counseling and Psychological Services: (303) 492-6766 Office of Victim Assistance: (303) 492-8855 Psychological Health and Psychiatry (Wardenburg Health Center): (303) 492-5654 Faculty Staff Assistance Program: (303) 492-3020.

CORRECTION

A Colorado Daily story in Wednesday's paper attributed the statement to CU-Boulder's Director of Institutional Analysis, Lou McClelland, that an increase in tuition rates at the institution could be contributed to decisions made by state lawmakers and the governor last year to cut state financial aid. In fact, McClelland referred not to student financial aid programs, but to a gradually decreasing level of direct support provided by the state government that has allowed a "buydown" of tuition rates in the past. The Colorado Daily regrets the error.

LIFE ON CAMPUS

A match made in heaven

MUSLIM STUDENTS FIND LOVE WITHOUT DATING

By **PAULA PANT**
Colorado Daily Staff Writer

It was, by mainstream American accounts, a rather unusual marriage proposal. After all, they hadn't even been on a first date yet. Nor had they chatted one-on-one. They'd certainly never discussed romance. In fact, when he asked her to be his wife, he didn't know if she was remotely interested in him.

Or maybe he did know. He

knew through unspoken words, through eye contact literally made across a crowded room, and — as he tells it — through God.

"I said to God, 'Is Kelly the one?'," recalls CU junior Abdallah El-Yacoubi, whose wedding to CU junior Kelly Brewer is tonight in the University Memorial Center. "Immediately, the answer was yes."

He was last year's President of

CU's Muslim Student Association; she is this year's President. She first glimpsed his face just more than a year ago, after finishing one of her traditional five daily prayers outside the campus MSA office.

"The first time I saw him I knew," Brewer said. "I called my mom and I said ... I'm nervous around him. I can't even talk to him that much ... but I know this is the person for me."

After that, the two began hanging out in group settings. They talked about the MSA, the Prophet Mohammad, the Qur'an. They traded book recommendations; they discussed politics. Brewer never said aloud what was secretly on her mind — that "God creates people in pairs," and she was certain he was her other half.

Meanwhile, El-Yacoubi had a [See **WEDDING**, Page 5]



FLORES PARA LOS MUERTOS

CU-Boulder sophomore Melina Somoza talks to a visitor to the CU Museum of Natural History's current exhibit: "Cultures Crossing Borders: Day of the Dead," which is on display through Nov. 20. She explains that the altar she constructed, seen behind her, commemorates the deceased in the Lima, Peru earthquake of Aug. 15, 2007. On it, food, drink and favorite clothes are represented as gifts to the dead. This Friday at 1 p.m. the symposium "Cross Cultural Concepts of the Day of the Dead," an exploration of the history and traditions of the event, which stretch back 2,500 to 3,000 years. [ROBERT BERWICK/COLORADO DAILY]

ACADEMIC LIFE

THE SHATTERED MOON

CU-Boulder study confirms belt of satellite chunks

Colorado Daily Staff Report

A narrow belt harboring moonlets as large as football stadiums discovered in Saturn's outermost ring probably resulted when a larger moon was shattered by a wayward asteroid or comet eons ago, according to a University of Colorado at Boulder study.

Images taken by a camera onboard the NASA Cassini spacecraft revealed a series of eight propeller-shaped "wakes" in a thin belt of the outermost "A" ring, indicating the presence of corresponding moonlets, said CU-Boulder Research Associate Miodrag Sremcevic, lead author of the study published in the Oct. 25 issue of *Nature*. The propeller wakes highlight tiny areas of the belt where ring material has been perturbed by the gravitational forces caused by individual moonlets, Sremcevic said.

The team calculated that there likely are thousands of moonlets ranging in size from semi-trailers to sports arenas embedded in the "A" ring's thin moonlet belt that circles the planet. At about 2,000 miles across, the belt of moonlets is only about 1/80th the diameter of Saturn's total ring system, which at roughly 155,000 miles across would stretch about two-thirds of the way from Earth to the moon.

[See **SATURN**, Page 7]

ELECTION 2007

APPELBAUM: BROOKLYN TO BOULDER

Former council member trying again

By **RICHARD VALENTY**
Colorado Daily Staff Writer

Like baseball, politics can be a game of inches, strange bounces and controversial plays — and Boulder City Council candidate Matt Appelbaum has seen a bit of all three during his civic career.

Appelbaum was elected to council three times, served as Deputy

Mayor, served on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), represented the city on the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) and currently serves on the city's Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Revenue Stabilization.

But that's just the acronym-soup listing, and the personal story that includes his spending about 30 years

in Boulder's civic systems is a better read.

Appelbaum grew up in what he called "the famous projects of Brooklyn," and in a lower-middle-class upbringing in which his parents weren't poor but didn't have a lot of disposable income.

"We didn't have much money,

[See **APPLEBAUM**, Page 6]

CU & BOULDER

WEDDING: Join in the bliss

[WEDDING, from page 4] startling feeling he was about to get married. He just didn't know to whom.

"I told myself, I don't think this summer's going to pass without me getting married. I had a very strong feeling," El-Yacoubi said. He started praying for an image of his future wife.

"I would [ask God], 'Is this the person?'" he said. "Then I would pray, and the answer would be no, or be patient."

That changed one Friday in September, just after the start of Ramadan.

That night, Brewer threw a party — without alcohol or dancing — in her first-floor Bear Creek apartment. El-Yacoubi arrived late. The apartment was crowded; they spent the evening chatting with a wide circle of friends. He left just before midnight, heading to his apartment one floor above. He washed his face and hands, getting ready for bedtime prayers.

Then he realized he'd left dried dates from Saudi Arabia at Brewer's apartment. He sent her a text message. "Can I get the dates, Allah willing?" She texted back — "Yes, Allah willing."

Before heading downstairs, he began bedtime prayers. Suddenly, he was struck with a vivid image of a ring.

"I finished the prayer and I knew exactly where to find the ring," El-Yacoubi said. He walked to the cabinet over his sink and pulled out a rubber band for his braces. He removed it from its

packaging and started walking downstairs.

YOU'RE INVITED

What: The Muslim Student Association hosts "Sights and Sounds of the Islamic World," featuring the wedding of CU students Abdallah El-Yacoubi and Kelly Brewer
Where: The University Memorial Center's Glenn Miller Ballroom
When: Thursday, Oct. 25, beginning at 6 p.m.

Then he stopped. His stomach was in knots. His heart was racing. Standing in the hallway, he took out his cell phone and called his mother. It was 2 a.m. Eastern time when Jane El-Yacoubi picked up the phone.

"I told her 'mom, I have some exciting news for you,'" he said. "I couldn't bring myself to say it, so I said, 'Mom, take a guess.'"

She knew right away. She gave him her blessings.

"I told her to say a prayer to calm my heart," El-Yacoubi said.

El-Yacoubi knocked on Brewer's door. He nervously played with the rubber band in his left hand.

She answered the knock carrying dried dates and a sheet of prayers from the Qur'an. He took a deep breath. "Kelly, will you be my wife?" he asked.

She turned her face to the right, leaned into the wall, and was silent for what felt like an eternity. When she finally looked up, there were tears in her eyes and a smile on her lips.

"And then I put the rubber band on her finger," El-Yacoubi said. "She loved it."

They made their engagement public at the MSA meeting the following week, where El-Yacoubi proposed again.

"He showed up in a suit and everything just thought, 'What is this guy doing?'" Brewer said.

He stood and asked if he could "have the floor."

"He pulled out a ring box — and nobody knew who he was going to give it to," Brewer said. "Everyone in the room was like, 'Oh my gosh, oh my gosh, who?'"

They made a public engagement at a student-group meeting for the same reason they'll have their wedding on campus, Brewer explained.

"CU is our home," Brewer said. "We had to do it there."

Their marriage will take place tonight at the MSA's annual celebration, Sights and Sounds of Islam, in the UMC Glenn Miller Ballroom. The couple has officially invited the entire campus.

Contact Paula Pant about this story at pant@coloradodaily.com, or at (303) 531-4951.



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Boulder Chamber of Commerce Center • 2440 Pearl St.

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