

The Auraria Foundation recently committed to raising \$2 million to help fund Auraria's long-awaited Cultural Arts Center. In 1996, the Colorado State Legislature approved

which will be much more economical," said Rosemary Fetter, AHEC public information officer. Auraria launched a new bidding process, which captured the attention of nationally recog-

struction money, it is likely that groundbreaking will take place in July 1998," Fetter added. Assuming the Legislature does fund the money, it still will be \$2

"We're preparing a request for proposals (RFP) for a firm to help us with this fundraising effort," said Hughes. "We'll advertise the RFP within the next couple of weeks."

The Cultural Arts Center, which will be located in the space now occupied by Parking Lot G, will be a state-of-the-art facility. Not only will it support performance as an educational activity, it also will provide educational outreach to the campus and community. Total square footage, including the classroom building, will be approximately 156,000 square feet. The 70,500 square-foot portion designated as the performing arts center will include a 300-seat proscenium theatre, a "black box" theatre, a 400-seat concert hall, a recital hall and support space. Total cost of the center is estimated at \$38 million, Fetter said.

"This center has been our priority ever since the

college moved to Auraria in 1977," said Hal Tamblyn, D.M.A., chair of the Music Department, who has served on numerous committees and focus groups with others from The Met, UCD and CCD during the intervening years. "It's been an issue that has heated up and cooled off from time to time. It took Dr. Kaplan's leadership to recognize the need and put it forward with the Auraria executives to make it the first priority for capital construction. Once there was a consolidated perspective, it really got moving."

The hope is that the center will be completed in time for the beginning of the autumn 2000 semester, according to Tamblyn. "The debut of this facility will be a major cultural event for the Denver metropolitan area and should receive national media attention from those interested in the arts in education," he said.

AURARIA FOUNDATION TO RAISE \$2 MILLION FOR CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

BY JULIE LANCASTER

funds to construct a classroom building for arts education. Earlier this year, the Legislature designated planning funds for an additional performing arts space to be linked to the classroom. "Now that legislators have approved planning funds for the performing arts piece, the building is being redesigned as one project,

nized architectural firms specializing in theatre and concert hall design from New York, Los Angeles and Seattle. The Denver architectural firm of AR-7 Hoover Desmond won the bid. The Legislature still must approve funds to construct the performing arts portion of the project. "If the Legislature funds the con-

million short of the actual amount needed for the project, said Julie Hughes, executive program director for the AHEC office of the executive vice president for administration. That's where the Auraria Foundation comes in. The 11-member foundation board has agreed to launch a campaign to raise the needed funds.

THE MET NAMES FIRST CHICANO DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR

BY ALISON GRABAU

This October marks the debut of the Chicano Distinguished Visiting Professorship at The Metropolitan State College of Denver. The professorship will feature public lectures, classroom visitations, cultural programs and community presentations to enhance an understanding of and appreciation for Chicano/Latino culture, history and contemporary reality within the broader Denver community.



Inspired by The Rachel B. Noel Distinguished Professorship, committee co-chairs Yolanda Ortega-Ericksen, associate vice president and dean for student life, and Monica Russell-Rodriguez, assistant professor of Chicana/Chicano studies, have long wanted to see a similar honor bestowed upon the Chicano/Latino

community. The Chicano Visiting Professorship is heir to the Mexican-Chicano Literacy Symposium, which had brought in authors for speaking appearances with the support of the President's Office.

The inaugural recipient of the Distinguished Professorship, Cherrie Moraga, is an award-winning playwright, poet and essayist whose publications have received national recognition. Moraga was the recipient of a Theatre Communications Group theatre artist residency grant in 1996, the NEA's Theatre Playwrights' Fellowship in 1993 and two Fund for New American Plays Awards (1990 and 1995).

A San Francisco-based writer, Moraga embodies a range of issues in her work, including: ethnic and sexual autonomy, homophobia, indigenous peoples and immigrants' rights, health care, domestic violence and an intra-cultural critique of Chicano culture. Her well-known works include the books, *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, *The Last Generation: Poetry and Prose*, *Loving in the War Years*, and plays such as *Shadow of a Man* and *Heroes and Saints*. Moraga's political involvements have always served as a cata-

lyst for her creative writing as teacher, gay and lesbian youth advocate, woman of color organizer and cultural critic.

"Our goal for the professorship was to allow the campus and community to meet and experience a noted person who made a significant contribution to the Chicano experience, be it whatever discipline," Ortega-Ericksen said. "As our committee gathered, we were very excited about Cherrie Moraga. She was chosen because she transcends a number of different roles and can speak to a number of different issues."

Added Russell-Rodriguez, "We wanted to pick someone who would be seen as important in the Chicano community on a national level. Moraga was a perfect choice. She is so prolific and accomplished in her field and as an activist, many connections can be made between her craft and social justice."

On a personal note, Ortega-Ericksen, who is also an actress, performed in one of Moraga's plays last year—*Shadow of a Man*. "I am excited to finally meet her as she has touched me personally," she said.

On Wed., Oct. 8, Ortega-Ericksen and Russell-Rodriguez's vision will become a reality as students, faculty and the general public are invited to a free reading and reception with Moraga, kicking off three days of lectures, book signings and other festivities for the inauguration of the professorship. Ortega-Ericksen sees this as an opportunity to "really put The Met on the map and give the campus positive, large-scale exposure."

Russell-Rodriguez encourages all to attend. "I believe Cherrie's presence will help us think more broadly about what it means to be Chicano," she said. "I feel strongly that every member of the campus and community will benefit from hearing her speak."

Chicano Distinguished Visiting Professorship CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- WED., OCT. 8 **Reception and Reading**, 4:30-6 p.m., El Museo de las Americas, 861 Santa Fe Drive RSVP to 303-556-3559
- THURS., OCT. 9 **Public Lecture/Reading**, 9:30-10:45 a.m., St. Cajetan's Center
Interactive presentation with Ricardo Bracho (Coordinator of Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida), 11 a.m.-noon, St. Cajetan's Center
Book Signing, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Auraria Book Center
Reception at El Centro Su Teatro, 4725 High St., 7-8 p.m., followed by the opening of *Yerma*. Call for tickets, 303-296-0219.
- FRI., OCT. 10 **Dialogue with representatives from the local theater community**, 2-3 p.m., Tivoli Student Union Room 444

For more information, please call the Department of Chicano Studies at x3121 or the Office of Student Life at x3559.

Break
the Attendance Night!
The Met Roadrunners vs. Regis University Rangers
 Friday, October 10, 1997, 7 p.m.
 Auraria Events Center
 Come support the women's volleyball team and The Met Athletics as we try to break the all-time attendance mark for a volleyball match. Your Roadrunners will battle cross-town rivals Regis University in this Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Showdown.
TICKETS: \$2.50 - The Met faculty, staff, and students with staff/student ID
Free - 65 or older, 12 or under
\$5 - general public
 For information, call The Met Athletics, x8300.