Dr. Matt Gianneschi of Aurora has been named Vice President for Student Services and Enrollment Management at the college.

Gianneschi’s appointment follows a lengthy search. Until his appointment to CCA, Gianneschi served as Senior Policy Advisor for Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr. He formerly served as Chief Academic Officer for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Director of Systems and Information for the Daniels Fund, Assistant Director of Admission for the University of Puget Sound, and Regional Director of Admission for the University of Denver, among other roles, according to CCA President Linda Bowman.

Gianneschi holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Arizona, M.A. in History from the University of Denver, and B.A. in History and Public Affairs from the University of Denver.

“He is known not only statewide, but nationally, for his work on the Colorado Promise, P-20 agenda, Concurrent Enrollment, and CAP4K legislation,” Bowman said. “He also is recognized for his work on many other critical policies that impact our work and our future.”

Gianneschi is married to Aurora Public Schools educator Stephanie Gianneschi. He is expected to start work at CCA in mid-December.

Bowman extended her thanks to the Vice President Search Committee for its hard work, along with special gratitude to Interim Vice President Libby Broughton.

Gripping stories shared at Student Success Award ceremony

Each year, a select number of CCA students are acknowledged for their extraordinary perseverance, and on Dec. 4, 19 such individuals were honored at the annual Student Success Awards ceremony for their determination against the odds.

This year’s recipients were Kim Banks, Barbara “Bobbie” Boykin, Luisanna Contreras-Tovar, Benjamin Costello, Avery Dopher, Brittany Goettling, Tiffany Grimm, Tiffani Hardy, Johnny Hau-Dzib, Christopher Mayers, Randall Matale, Briana McCaw, Thomas Milroy, Nelly Montano, Keisha Scott, Youlanda Scott, Amy Showalter, Darius Smith, and Delphine Williams.

“This is one of my favorite days of the year. I am so inspired by all of you,” CCA President Linda Bowman told the honorees. “We have in this room today ‘diversity’ in every sense of the word, and it represents a coming together as a community in support of our future together.”

Bowman added: “I want to extract from all of you a promise that you will continue to work hard to succeed, and that you will contribute your leadership to this community.”

Keynote speaker was Dale Mingilton, an officer on the CCA Foundation board of directors and president/CEO of the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau.

Mingilton spoke of how his life changed when, as a young person, an adult recognized his aptitude and pushed him to excel. Shortly thereafter, “I joined a service organization, and I learned how to lead,” he said.

...continued on page 2
Hundreds take part in Mass Casualty Training Exercise

“Hurry! Over here – laceration! Next – quick – over here – impalement!” The urgency suggested a dire situation, but the directives instead were meant to hurry things along so that hundreds of CCA students could receive “moulage” treatment in advance of a large-scale disaster drill. In moulage, makeup is applied to simulate burns, abrasions, fractures, and worse.

This drill, a “mass casualty exercise,” was organized by CCA’s First Responder Training Program in collaboration with the Emergency Medicine Program at the University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine. The Nov. 11 drill was staged on the Lowry campus and involved multiple emergency responders from throughout the region. In all, hundreds of people, both civilian and military, were involved.

Students from CCA’s theatre and Colorado Film School programs portrayed victims, event protestors, and news media. For the “victims,” moulage was only a part of their morning; they also were sprayed with simulated odors representing environmental smells (raw sewage, gunpowder) and biological smells (burnt flesh/hair, vomit, blood).

These “olfactory cues,” a cutting-edge development in simulation training, were furnished by the U.S. Army, and offered practicing responders an additional dose of “reality.” According to Clinton Andersen, director of the college’s Critical Incident Theater, the goal of the exercise was “to produce a high-quality simulation to better prepare the future responders of tomorrow, as well as those currently working in the field.”

CCA paramedic, emergency medical services, and police academy students took part in the day’s activities.

Patrick Schooler, EMS department chair, was interviewed afterward by the Aurora Sentinel and said that the simulation went well. “We had positive feedback from the professionals and the students, and from a learning standpoint, everyone came away with the idea that there was valuable information gained from the experience,” he said.
Military Wall of Honor dedication a solemn event

In a solemn ceremony held on Veterans Day, the college dedicated its Military Wall of Honor before an audience of community members and dignitaries.

The idea for the Wall was hatched by CCA staffers Diana Counterman and Traci Fielden, who wanted a permanent installation to honor the commitment of the U.S. Armed Forces. Counterman and Fielden have family members who have served or are serving in Iraq.


Simard recognized the Wall sponsors: Diana Counterman, Bellco Credit Union, Navy Federal Credit Union, Wells Fargo, the CCA Foundation, and CCA’s Military and Veterans Services office.

Following a posting of the colors by the Buckley Air Force Base Joint Color Guard, the National Anthem was sung by Randall Matale, a CCA theater student.

Simard explained that the Wall recognizes “those who are serving today, have served in the past, and those brave men and women who have given their lives for our country.” He continued: “This wall pays tribute to members of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, who have served in all wars.” As Simard read a description of each of the service seals from each branch of the military, an Army Joint Color Guard member slowly processed down the aisle with the seal of their service in hand. Each seal was then walked from the Rotunda to the administration building, where the Wall was installed.

Following Supt. Barry’s keynote address, Congressman Perlmutter and CCA President Linda Bowman offered remarks and acknowledgements. “The Wall is an opportunity for us to be thankful and honor those who have served, are serving, and will serve in the future—not just on Veterans Day, but every day,” Bowman said.
As part of CCA’s Nov. 24 faculty in-service, Jennifer Herman, dean of the Fremont campus at Pueblo Community College, presented “BTW RU Plugged In? Engaging Multiple Generations in the Classroom” to a full house of CCA instructors. Participants examined the traits and influences of four different generations and how those traits affect behavior. The generations discussed were “Veterans/Matures/Greatest Generation,” “Baby Boomers,” “Generation X,” and “Generation Y/Millennials.”

Among those in attendance were Patricia Chavez and Tina Sanchez from Kaiser Permanente; Jennifer Gueddiche and Elizabeth Schroeder from the African Community Center; Eed Cefkin, Colorado Asian Health Education and Promotion; Margee Cannon, City of Aurora; Nita Bratt, The Learning Source; Ahde Avila, Aurora Public Schools; Chrystalynn, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; Kit Taintor, Colorado African Organization; Dr. Kebede Gellen, Colorado African Organization; and Jay Choi of Jay Junekun Choi, P.C.

Chris Tombari, CCA chair of college preparatory ESL, Stephanie Lawton, program coordinator of the CCA Community ESL program, and Shelley Wood, director of strategic partnerships for CCA, greeted guests as they arrived. In addition to Bowman’s remarks, participants heard from Chris Ward, CCA director of grants and planning/Aurora Language Center and ESL program director. “Nearly one of three Aurora residents speaks a language other than English at home,” Ward said. “CCA has responded by creating the Aurora Language Center, which includes two separate but complementary programs: the College Preparatory English as a Second Language Program, and the Community ESL Program.”

Presentations by ESL students highlighted the event; three individuals shared personal experiences of the successes they have achieved through classes at CCA.
Exercise boosts brain power. We don’t pay attention to boring things. Male and female brains are different. Stressed brains don’t learn the same way. These are just some of the “brain rules” examined during a Nov. 17 campus discussion facilitated by Dr. Linda Bowman. The rules are from Dr. John Medina’s book “Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School.”

Bowman’s presentation touched on many of the concepts in Medina’s book, among them that there is a 10-minute window in which to engage people (such as in the classroom), that vision trumps all senses, and that multitasking has a negative effect on productivity, as well as on health and sleep. Bowman left faculty and staff with the question: “What are the lessons for us as educators?”

With the words “Bula – ni sa bula vinaka,” or “Hello – wishing you happiness and good health,” photography instructor Mark Smith introduced his presentation on Fiji to a CCA luncheon audience on Nov. 3. Titled “Fiji: the Scenic Views, People, and a Peek Thirty Feet Below the Water’s Surface,” Smith gave attendees an overview of the geology, history, and geography of the archipelago of the Republic of the Fiji Islands. Smith’s travels to Fiji took place this past May.

Carol Tombari of the National Renewal Energy Lab was keynote speaker for the Nov. 18 Global Citizens Student Conference at CCA. She addressed climate change and renewable energy and left the audience with a few things to think about: The standard electric light bulb, one of the most wasteful energy consumers, is essentially unchanged since the 19th century—it gives off heat, when we want light. We waste more than half of the energy we consume. The U.S. utility system wastes enough energy each year to meet the power demands of Japan. And buildings consume 72 percent of the nation’s electricity and 55 percent of our natural gas.

As a part of the Conference, Julie Johnson conducted a round of SGA Jeopardy and challenged students on their Energy IQ.

Dozens of posters representing student research on climate change were on display throughout the day. Disciplines represented included psychology, biology, anthropology, political science, history, Spanish, math, astronomy, and renewable energies.
CCA HOLIDAY PARTY.
Dec. 14, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Bring your family to enjoy an evening of fun and celebration. Classified and Exempt/Administrative Employee of the Year Awards will be presented at the party. Student Centre Rotunda, CentreTech campus.

SAVE THE DATE: CCA STUDENT LIFE CULTURAL SERIES.
Black History Month with the Black Hands Drum Duo. 12-1 p.m., Feb. 17. Experience this well polished and professional dance troupe that brings to life the rhythm of Africa. Student Centre Rotunda, CentreTech campus.

GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES ART EXHIBIT & SALE.

STORIES AND SONGS OF WINTER IN THE WEST.
12-1 p.m., Dec. 16. Join storyteller and songwriter Mitch Pingel for an hour of songs and stories about winter in the west. Bring a lunch. Aurora History Museum 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora 80012. $4, $3 for Aurora residents.

VICTORIAN HOLIDAYS OPEN HOUSE.

For more events, see www.auroragov.org.

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...and to Patrick Loehr, chair of Art and New Media Design, whose short film debut “The Unrecoverable Loss of Eugene” was accepted into the 32nd STARZ Denver Film Festival. From denverfilm.org: “Set within a kitschy, nostalgic Victorian Gothic universe, this stunningly odd but oddly charming short about a troubled man and his beloved puppet addresses issues of fetishism, mental illness, and repression — all within the space of four minutes.”

Colorado Film School Student Show slated for Dec. 10
The Colorado Film School at CCA has announced that its Fall 2009 Student Show will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10. The event is free and open to the public. All films will be screened at the Harkins Theatres at Northfield Stapleton, 8300 E. 49th Ave., Denver 80238. An end-of-semester party will be held immediately following at nearby La Sandia. For more information, call 303-340-7321.

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