

# InterCom

Community College of Aurora Newsletter

Summer 2009



Community College of Aurora

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## Richard Maestas named VP for Administrative Services



Richard Maestas

**Formerly the Controller for the Community College of Denver, Richard Maestas has been named CCA's Vice President for Administrative Services.**

Maestas has extensive experience in higher education, including serving as Field Controller for the Colorado Community College System, Controller and Director of Fiscal and Purchasing Services for Pikes Peak Community College, and Associate Controller for Colorado College, as well as experience in business and in the military. He holds an MBA and a BS in Business Administration in Accounting.

Maestas joined the college on July 9.



Dr. Jill Biden, center, with CCCS President Nancy McCallin (left) and CCA President Linda Bowman

## Dr. Jill Biden tours CCA

**Dr. Jill Biden, wife of U.S. Vice President**

**Joe Biden, visited CCA's Lowry Campus on May 26 and toured the EMS**

**simulation studios, the biotechnology workplace lab, and the future site of the Critical Incident Theater.**

Among those accompanying Dr. Biden were U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter, President of CCCS Nancy McCallin, President of CCA Linda S. Bowman, General Manager of Rural Metro Ambulance and CCA Foundation Board Member David Patterson, CCCS Director of Media and Legislative Communications Rhonda Bentz, CCA Director of Grants and Planning/Aurora Language Center and ESL Program Director Dr. Chris Ward, Rural Metro Ambulance employee and CCA adjunct instructor and graduate of CCA EMS

Timothy Dill, and EMS student Joshua Odden.

Biotechnology faculty Todd Bergren, Science Lab Coordinator Tara Croom, and Interim Dean of CTE, Business, Computers and Science Department Martha Jackson-Carter were on hand in the bioscience lab to welcome Dr. Biden, who viewed 16 Laerdal full-body patient simulators and interacted with a Laerdal SimMan in the ambulance. She visited CCA's three simulation studios and watched a chest pain scenario in the Street Cafe. Before departing, Dr. Biden shook hands with the police cadets who were in class during her visit and with CCA staff and faculty who prepared for her visit. Dr. Biden's visit was part of her ongoing work to showcase how the Obama-Biden administration is committed to supporting America's community colleges and their students.

## NSF Grant to fund CCA Faculty Institute in GIS

**The National Science Foundation has awarded a grant of \$149,909 to CCA for support of a project titled "Community College GIS Faculty Institute," which will be under the direction of Dr. Geoff Hunt and Elizabeth Hirsh. The award is effective August 1.**

GIS stands for "Geographic Information Systems," and GIS can capture, store, and analyze data to be used in numerous applications.

Housed right here at CCA, the Institute will train faculty members across the disciplines in the application of these technologies to the classroom. According to Hunt and Hirsh, CCA is committed to building awareness and enthusiasm for the study of GIS among faculty. It is expected that, within the next few years, students can begin a GIS degree or certificate program at the college.

Institute organizers are eager to establish the program to invest in Colorado and attract Colorado students to this new, high-demand occupational field. The Institute gets under way this fall, and faculty will learn to use basic GIS applications and receive support in designing and delivering their own module for use in a class in the spring 2010 semester. Faculty also will learn about occupational applications of GIS in the Denver/Aurora Metro region so that they can better inform CCA

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# Event at CCA honors outstanding business students from APS

**Aspiring business students from Aurora Public Schools were recognized at the annual scholarship banquet at CCA on April 30, and four outstanding young people accepted scholarships toward the college of their choice.**

The APS Business Advisory Committee annually selects deserving students and honors them publicly at the event. The Committee comprises a cross-section of business organizations, companies, and individuals throughout Aurora who are dedicated to developing and nurturing APS'

business programs and students.

The Committee's first scholarships, awarded more than 10 years ago, were given in the amount of \$500.

"The Aurora Public School system produces quality students through a quality business educational program for those students," says Karla Adamson-Lesko of CCA's accounting, business, and computers department. "Their efforts make these scholarships particularly meaningful."

The scholarships are awarded to students based on their achievement in business classes, along with teacher recommendations. Students this year each received a scholarship in the amount of \$912.50.



This year's recipients are: Christina Rudy of Hinkley High School, who plans to further her education in business management at CCA; Daria Tolmacheva, Rangeview High School, who will pursue computer engineering at the Colorado School of Mines; Glen Deal, Central High School, who will study business administration at Johnson

& Wales University, and Payson Kelsey, Gateway High School, who has not yet determined a college and a course of study.

*Aurora Public Schools students, at left in each photo: Christina Rudy, Daria Tolmacheva, and Glen Deal are congratulated by representatives of APS at a spring awards ceremony at CCA. Christina, top photo, plans to pursue her studies in business management at CCA.*

## Rubik's Cube takes center stage



*Willy Gettinger of Denver participates in a Rubik's Cube competition at CCA on May 8. Despite Willy's best efforts, Patrick Kelly, one of the top "cubers" in the state, took top honors in the contest.*

Approximately one dozen individuals from the Denver/Metro area competed in a Rubik's Cube Competition at CCA to see who could solve the puzzle in the shortest amount of time. CCA mathematics faculty member James Gray began working with a group of dedicated individuals last January to teach them to solve the 3-D puzzle. The contest winner was Patrick Kelly, a 20-year-old student from the Colorado School of Mines, who completed the puzzle in 18 seconds based on an average of five rounds. His personal best was 16 seconds. Participants ranged in age from preteen to adult.

## NSF Grant (cont.)

students of GIS career opportunities.

Introducing a GIS module in CCA classrooms will bolster the college's already strong programs in STEM, or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The following faculty members have committed to participate in the GIS Faculty Institute: Michael Bleacher (instructional technology), Constance Seiden (information technology), Michael Carter (Chair of

Academies and Public Services), Cliff Hunter (faculty, criminal justice), Tom Dillon (faculty, biology), Sheridan Samano (faculty, biology), Sangeeta Singh (faculty, geography), Jim Weedon (faculty, geology), Robley Welliver (faculty, English literature), Paul Malkoski (faculty, history), Larry Sessions (faculty, astronomy), Rich Bogdanovich (faculty, math), and Jay Devaughn (Director of Library Services).

# Cherry Creek teachers participate in CCA workshop

**Nearly two dozen high school teachers from the Cherry Creek School District participated in a May 15 Dual Credit Professional Development Workshop at CCA on behalf of the district's College Ready Program.**

The participants, primarily English, math, accounting, business, and computer teachers from five schools in the district, will teach high school students who will seek college credit from CCA

in the upcoming school year.

CCA faculty and staff members Karla Adamson-Lesko, James Gray, Scott Reichel, Cheryl Tomlinson, and Tim Wilkerson conducted the sessions, and President Linda S. Bowman stopped by to meet the program participants. A general meeting addressed the benefits of the dual credit program and provided an overview of the College Opportunity Fund, the Banner computer/information system, and how to access and use CCA e-mail accounts.



*CCA faculty and staff hosted a group of Cherry Creek School District teachers for a Dual Credit Professional Development Workshop on May 15.*

Breakout sessions were held for each group by discipline following the general meeting. Sessions covered syllabus development, textbook selection, grading standards, and more. All sessions were held on CCA's Lowry campus.

Cherry Creek's College Ready Program is made possible by the newly enacted Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (CEPA), recently approved by the Colorado

legislature and signed into law by Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr. CEPA lets qualified high school students take college classes for both high school and college credit with college tuition covered by students' corresponding school districts.



*Scott Reichel meets with English teachers from Cherry Creek School District as part of the workshop.*



*Karla Adamson-Lesko directs a breakout session for accounting, business, and computer teachers from the Cherry Creek School District.*

## African Cultural and Educational Event held at CCA



*Richard Nyamboli, communications director at the Cameroon Embassy, addresses those gathered in the Fine Arts Forum.*

**The organization Africa Agenda held a Cameroon Information and Education Day at CCA on May 7, and people filled the Fine Arts Forum to hear music and personal stories about this unique country.**

George Bamu, a CCA graduate and founder of Africa Agenda, arranged for the event to be held at CCA because of Aurora's diverse cultural heritage. The organization aims to inform people about Cameroon and unite the nearly 1,000 Cameroonians living in Colorado.

CCA Associate Professor of Anthropology and Coordinator for

Global Initiatives Elizabeth Hirsh helped to organize the event. Hirsh addressed the audience, speaking of her own desire to know more about Africa and to spread that knowledge to others. President Linda S. Bowman acknowledged the college's role in the global community and spoke of the opportunity at CCA for diverse cultures to share ideas and talents.

The audience included Cameroonian friends, family, and descendants, including Denver City Councilman Michael Hancock, and founder and CEO of Liberty Day Andy McKean. Richard Nyamboli, communications director at the Cameroon Embassy in Washington, D.C., spoke of the political struggles facing Cameroon and of his optimism that change is slowly taking place.

## “In Times of War” screened at national GI Film Festival

Revised and recut for submission to national film festivals, the Colorado Film School’s “The Wars We Fought: Frontline Stories of Colorado Veterans” documentary was transformed into “In Times of War: Colorado Vets” and was selected for screening at the 2009 GI Film Festival. The festival was held in May in Washington, D.C.

A number of CCA faculty and students involved with the project traveled to D.C. to attend the screening. Among those attending were CCA/CFS faculty members Sandra Gabrych and Scott VanOrdstrand, the filmmakers chiefly responsible for the film.

The completion of “The Wars We Fought” was unveiled last fall by U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter on behalf of the 7th Congressional District Veteran’s Oral History Project. Produced for the Library of Congress, the film presents in vivid detail the stories of Colorado veterans who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. CCA faculty and staff were key in capturing and documenting the stories of these courageous individuals.

## Aurora legislators discuss disability issues



A special “listening session” with Aurora legislators was held at CCA on June 5 to give individuals an opportunity to hear legislative updates specific to disability-

related issues. The event included a series of legislative briefings, a dialogue and question and answer session, and a potluck lunch. According to organizers, the event facilitated an opportunity for Aurora legislators to obtain valuable feedback from the developmental disability community.

*Pictured here, from left: state Rep. Nancy Todd; state Rep. Cindy Acree; state Sen. Morgan Carroll; and state Rep. Su Ryden.*

## Community Jazz Band seeks new members

Dust off that trombone, wet your whistle, and break out the Count Basie – the Community College of Aurora is striking up the band this fall.

Experienced musician and band director Cecil Lewis returns to CCA to conduct its 17-piece jazz ensemble, and new members both young and old are sought to fill out the group. Players must be moderately experienced and be able to read sheet music; Lewis says those who know how to play drums, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, keyboard, bass, or guitar are welcomed. Community musicians may register to participate in the band as a for-credit course or as a continuing education, non-credit course for \$100. Classes/rehearsals will take

place Wednesdays from 6:00-8:30 p.m. from Aug. 26 through Dec. 9.

Lewis’ goal at CCA is to have a core of band members who return each semester to build a consistent musical presence in the community.

Lewis is founder and conductor of Swing 5280 Jazz Ensemble and conductor of the Castle Rock Community Concert Band. A retired U.S. Air Force Band conductor, Lewis and his bands have backed prominent professional musicians over the years, including Tony Bennett, Lou Rawls, Cannonball Adderley, and B.B. King.

The CCA class culminates in a public concert in December.



The staff at The Center for Workforce Development held a June celebration in recognition of the hard work and dedication of the Adams County and Arapahoe County staff. Pictured here, from left: Karina Rodriguez, Diane Postell, Crissy Deen (holding the plaque), Aldo Parra, Elvira Hernandez, Brian Funk, and Nathan Crow. Not pictured: Naazlin Dadani, Yvette Larrea, and Christy Bernal.

# CCA News Briefs

## Kudos to...

George Brown, who earlier this year was awarded the college's annual Tom Brosh Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. In his nomination of Brown for the award, math department chair James Gray wrote: "George does everything he can to help his students on his own time. You will always find George in his classroom an hour before the class begins so that he can help students, and you will find him down in the tutoring lab for an hour after his class finishes. It is one thing to be a skilled teacher, but it is quite another when you add dedication to those skills...the thing that I most admire about George is that he not only sets a very high standard for his students, he also sets a very high standard for himself."

## ...and to

Sylvester Brandon and Naazlin Dadani, who graduated on June 4 from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's

Leadership Aurora program. Additionally, Brandon was named to the Leadership Aurora Board. The program serves to promote and foster the development of leadership in the community.

## CCA team earns second place at spelling bee

A CCA team with members Virginia Nicolai, Kevin Cote, and Gary Brady-Herndon earned a second-place finish in the May 15 Tattered Cover/Learning Source Spelling Bee at Skyline Park in downtown Denver. They beat out nearly 20 teams including those from Denver area law firms and banks, Channel 7 News, the cities of Denver and Lakewood, the Denver Public Library, and a variety of companies and non-profits.

Greg Moss from Channel 9 News was the spelling bee emcee. Judges were Bill Husted from the Denver Post, Pete Mackay from 99.5 The Mountain, and Robert Sanchez from 5280 Magazine.

## Rossenfeld chair of CBA's Dispute Resolution Section

CCA Paralegal and Mediation Program Specialist Robin R. Rossenfeld was selected chairperson of the Dispute Resolution Section of the Colorado Bar Association for a one-year term commencing July 1. She is one of three people on the Executive Planning Committee

for the 2009 Statewide Alternative Dispute Resolution Conference, which will be held October 30. The event is a joint program of the Dispute Resolution Section of the Colorado Bar, the Colorado Council of Mediators and Mediation Organizations, and the Colorado State Judiciary Office of Dispute Resolution.

## "Emergency Procedure" tip of the month

All CCA faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to update their "Your Alert System" information through the MyCommunityEd link. Please update your e-mail, phone, and text information.

This will allow CCA to contact you with college-related information including campus emergencies and closures due to weather conditions.

**Go to:** [www.CCAurora.edu](http://www.CCAurora.edu)

**Click:** "MyCommunityEd" button

**Log on:** with your S#

**Update:** your information

Participants in this summer's Tech Camp 101, a free technology day camp for Aurora Public Schools middle school students, build robots that will be tested by running a maze. The program, hosted by CCA and the Colorado School of Mines, offered instruction in The Alice Project (an educational software that teaches computer programming in a simplified, 3-D environment), GPS technology, and robot-building, as well as overviews of careers in technology.

