Mass Casualty Training Exercise: It’s only a drill

CCA’s First Responder Training Program, in collaboration with the Emergency Medicine Program at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, will conduct a Mass Casualty Training Exercise from 9 a.m. to noon on Nov. 11. The drill will take place on the Lowry campus, adjacent to Building 859, and will involve multiple emergency responder organizations from throughout the region.

According to CCA organizers, the goal of the exercise is to produce a high-quality mass casualty simulation to facilitate higher learning objectives that will better prepare the future responders of tomorrow, as well as those currently working in the field.

On the day of the exercise, nearby residents and businesses may hear sirens and see a heavy cloud of smoke, and efforts have been made by the college to inform and educate the campus and neighborhood about the drill.

The exercise will offer a unique opportunity for CCA paramedic and EMS students to experience a simulation of a real-world emergency and obtain hands-on learning outside the classroom. In addition, numerous students from CCA’s theatre program and Colorado Film School will serve as pseudo-victims.

Wall of Honor dedication slated for Nov. 11

An idea hatched months ago by two CCA staff members has evolved into a permanent installation at the college that will forever honor the commitment of the U.S. Armed Forces to keep our country safe and free. A special event to dedicate the Military Wall of Honor will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 11 in the Student Centre Rotunda, CentreTech campus, and will move to the Administration Building for the installation. A reception will follow in the Rotunda. U.S. Rep. Ed Perlmutter (CO-07) and other dignitaries will be on hand for the ceremony.

The seed of the idea for the Wall came about in April thanks to CCA staff members Diana Counterman and Traci Fielden, both of whom have family members who have served or are serving in Iraq. “Someone kept stealing the yellow ribbons that Traci put on the tree in her yard,” Counterman explains. “And we got to thinking about expanding the yellow ribbons, this time bringing them to

the CCA campus walkways.” Counterman and Fielden talked up their idea with other CCA staff, and another idea evolved: something more permanent should be created to honor all of our country’s veterans.

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www.CCAurora.edu/news/events
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and as news media reporting on the simulated disaster. In all, hundreds of people, both civilian and military, will be involved in the exercise.

In addition to its education purposes, the drill will allow for on-the-ground practice and testing of interagency communications, policies, and procedures.

The coordination of the exercise is being led by professional staff from CCA's Critical Incident Theater. The CIT provides cross-disciplinary training for response to complex natural or security emergencies and is housed in CCA's Center for Simulation at Lowry.

CCA students, faculty, and staff are asked not to attend in order to minimize confusion.

CCA’s inventive “recession-proof” workshops reach out to many audiences

As a part of the eXpress Ed initiative launched earlier this year in response to the economic downturn, CCA has established numerous convenient and affordable ways for people to get retrained and upgrade jobs skills so they can compete for jobs that are in demand in the new economy.

eXpress Ed classes are popular at CCA, but so are the new Recession-Proof Workshops. The college's Career Center offers sessions on résumé and cover letter writing, career exploration, employment strategies, and financial aid, and provides a host of resources such as books and reference materials on careers, a computer and a printer for job searching, and the ever-popular Job Club.

And now CCA announces a brand new slate of workshops: an Entrepreneur Series, featuring How to Start Your Own Business, Market Essentials for a Small Business, and Show Me The Money; Finding a College Major; Getting a Job After 50; Social Networking: Business Etiquette; How Not to Get a Job; and a Career Fitness Week in the spring designed especially for CCA grads-to-be. Visit http://www.ccaurora.edu/students/enrollment/advising/career/ for more information on workshop dates and times.

CCA continues to respond to the educational needs of the community with eXpress Ed programs, workshops, recession-proof strategies, and more. Stay tuned for additional news!

Final days of “Lookingglass Alice”: Don’t miss it!

Time is running out to catch CCA’s fall theatre production of “Lookingglass Alice,” written by David Catlin and adapted from the stories of Lewis Carroll.

The show will run through Nov. 8; see http://www.ccaurora.edu/theatre/ for dates and times.

According to CCA Theater Director Stacey D’Angelo, the CCA staging is unique. “This is a show intended for the entire family, and it features our incredibly talented CCA student body as a contortionist caterpillar, tap-dancing tweedles, tumbling hedgehogs, and more,” she says. “We are taking a physical approach to the production, with lots of movement, acrobatics, and gymnastics.”

All performances are in the Larry D. Carter Theatre, Fine Arts Building, CentreTech campus. Tickets are available for presale at 303-340-7529 or at the door. General admission is $10; children 12 and under, $5; CCA students, free admission (sponsored by the Office of Student Life).

“Lookingglass Alice” was originally produced by the Lookingglass Theatre Company in association with The Actor's Gymnasium in 2005. D’Angelo, who is directing the performance, notes that Alice has been a sold-out production in Chicago for the past three years. “I worked this summer to connect with the theatre company to get rights to do the show, and they were generous to share the production with me,” she says. “We are the first to premiere it in Colorado.”
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Counterman admits that while the concept for the Military Wall of Honor at CCA has taken on different variations since its inception, she and Fielden are more than satisfied with its final form, which recognizes all branches of the service. “Since the beginning, the main idea has never shifted from its original mission—to honor our military,” she explains.

“Remember, past, present and future—freedom is not free.” Organizers have a very special ceremony planned for the 11th, which also is Veterans Day. Following opening remarks in the Rotunda, there will be an introduction of distinguished guests and recognition of the sponsors who have made this installation possible. There then will be a posting of the colors by the Buckley Air Force Base’s Joint Color Guard, and the National Anthem will be sung by Randall Matale, a CCA theater student.

Guest speaker John Barry, superintendent of Aurora Public Schools, will deliver keynote remarks. Before becoming superintendent of APS in 2006, Barry had a distinguished military and business career.

He served for more than 30 years as a fighter pilot and a commander in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a “Two-Star” Major General. Following Barry’s talk, President Linda Bowman will offer remarks and acknowledgements.

George Brown key member of College Board’s Accuplacer standards team

George Brown, a faculty member in CCA’s math department, was appointed this summer to a national work group charged with determining the standards for the ACCUPLACER® test offered by The College Board. The College Board, a national association best known for its SAT®, PSAT® and Advanced Placement Program® (AP®), serves some seven million students each year through its programs. As a member of the team, Brown participated in September in a large-scale standard setting study in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., joining faculty members from all over the country in the intensive four-day experience.

The ACCUPLACER® test is used by CCA and by colleges, universities, and technical schools around the world. It provides students and institutions with academic skills assessment in math, English, and reading. The results of the assessment, in conjunction with a student’s academic background, goals, and interests, are used by academic advisors and counselors to determine a student’s course selection.

“Only 15 people were chosen nationwide to participate on the panel, so I figure this makes George one in a million,” joked James Gray, CCA math department chair.

Brown earlier this year was awarded CCA’s annual Tom Brosh Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award.

President Bowman presents at Council of State Governments Meeting

President Linda Bowman delivered a presentation on educational reform at the 62nd Council of State Governments-WEST annual meeting last month. Titled “Race to Success: Policy Strategies for Education Reform,” Bowman’s presentation was delivered to a conference of legislators and other leaders in the theme year “The West: America’s Future.” Her presentation touched on some of the challenges in the educational system and the steps that can be taken to engender improvement. She also shared steps under way to address Gov. Ritter’s “Colorado Promise” to cut the high school dropout rate in half, double the number of college degrees and certificates, and eliminate the achievement gap.

She discussed in detail the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Acts in Colorado and how the programs are designed to empower teens to advance their education.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) includes legislative representatives from thirteen western states. The CSG provides a nonpartisan platform for regional cooperation and collaboration among the legislatures of these 13 states by creating opportunities for legislators and staff to share ideas and experiences with colleagues. This year’s meeting was held in New Mexico.
Holly Petraeus, national director of BBB Military Line® and wife of General David Petraeus, was honored at an Oct. 13 reception at CCA. Petraeus was in the area to work with the Better Business Bureau on the critical issue of the treatment of military families by predatory businesses. Additionally, she spoke at the BBB Torch Awards luncheon. CCA President Linda Bowman and Dale Mingilton, president and CEO of the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau, offered remarks at the CCA event. Bowman pointed out that enrollment by veterans is up approximately 40 percent this semester.

CCA students celebrated the National Day on Writing on Oct. 20 in a variety of ways, and the day’s events culminated in an open mic poetry reading that drew traditional and hip hop writers alike. Aimed at both students and the community, all events were designed to draw attention to how integral writing is to daily life in the 21st century.
A Colorado Combined Campaign Kickoff Event was held Oct. 8 at CCA, and faculty and staff took the opportunity to meet representatives from some of the agencies that are supported by the CCC. The CCC is a workplace campaign that provides a way for Colorado government employees to donate to charities that benefit Coloradans. Donations to the CCC are voluntary, confidential and tax-deductible. Employees may visit the CCC website to view the brochure, print a pledge form, or submit a donation online at http://www.colorado.gov/cc/. The college’s campaign will close on Nov. 13. CCC coordinators for CCA this year are Judy Spitz, Denise Oakeley, Luz Munoz, and Debbie Irvine.

Faculty member Nancy Jackson gave an October talk on her recent travels to Bhutan, which she described as “a whole new world.” A visual presentation accompanied her narrative. She shared details of long treks on narrow roads, and of the everyday meals of vegetables and red rice occasionally changed up by the addition of ketchup. She spoke of the constant presence of prayer flags and of the many adventures she had in this pristine country during her spring trip, trekking up into the mountains and meeting people who had never seen Westerners before.

Frederic Lahey to serve on Governor’s Creative Economy Panel of Advisors

Frederic Lahey has been invited to participate on the Creative Economy Panel of Advisors co-chaired by Lt. Gov. Barbara O’Brien. The panel will meet three times and will prepare a report for Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr. Lahey says that the purpose of the committee is to meet competitive challenges from other states targeting this “clean, fast-growing sector.”

According to recent findings by the Colorado Council on the Arts, Colorado has recognized that there are 8000 Creative Enterprises employing over 122,000 people along with 64,000 creative occupations in non-creative sectors, making it the fifth largest economic sector in the state. The Council, along with the Colorado Department of Education, conducted a survey that showed that Colorado high schools that offer more arts education have lower dropout rates and higher academic achievement regardless of racial or socioeconomic status. Lahey is director of the Colorado Film School at CCA.
Public Observatory Nights continue in November
CCA’s final Public Observatory Night for 2009 will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20. The public is invited to come out to see various deep sky objects through the only public observatory in Aurora. The observatory is located behind the Fine Arts Building on the CentreTech campus.

Student Success Awards slated for Dec. 4
The annual Student Success Awards will be held from 12-2 p.m. on Dec. 4 in the Student Centre Rotunda on the CentreTech campus. According to organizers, CCA has many students with families and full-time jobs who still put in the time and effort into improving their lives and the lives of those around them through education. The awards were created as a way to give a simple acknowledgement of their stories. Every year, CCA faculty and staff recognize students who exercise determination, leadership, perseverance, and attributes of success other than academic performance.

“Emergency Planning” tip of the month
Fire alarm systems are activated several different ways: manual pull stations, smoke/fire detectors, or sprinkler activation. When the fire alarm system is activated, audible and visual alarms will flash. Employees are asked to become familiar with the equipment and alarms that are installed in their general locations. If a fire alarm sounds, building wardens will make sure all personnel evacuate the premises. When a fire is discovered, pull a manual pull station, call 911, and call CCA Security (CentreTech 303-360-4727, Lowry 303-419-5557). Do not attempt to fight the fire unless you are property trained, and/or the fire is in a small contained area such as a trash can or small appliance. Then leave the area, closing the doors behind you. If the fire alarm sounds, evacuate the building and assemble in a group or with others in your department. Assist handicapped persons to the nearest evacuation location or, if possible, out of the facility. Inform emergency responders if handicapped or injured personnel are left behind.

CCA STUDENT LIFE CULTURAL SERIES: CHIMALTONALLI.
12-1 p.m., Nov. 17. Student Centre Rotunda, CentreTech campus. Chimaltonalli explores the culture and music of the Mexika people. Bilingual. Free and open to CCA students, faculty, and staff.

GLOBAL CITIZENS STUDENT CONFERENCE.
Nov. 18. Hosted by the Global Initiatives Committee and Student Life. The conference will highlight student research on climate change. Visit http://www.ccaurora.edu/facstaff/teaching/global/currentinitiatives.shtml for up-to-date details.

THE AURORA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS “MIGHTY RUSSIA.”
7 p.m., Nov. 7, Simchat Torah Beit Midrash (STBM), 19697 E. Smoky Hill Road, Aurora 80015. Tickets are $12 ($9 students/seniors).

GATEWAY TO THE ROCKIES ART EXHIBIT & SALE.

PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER.
12-1 p.m., Nov. 18. Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway, Aurora 80012. Discover opportunities to know your local prairie. $4 ($3 Aurora residents). Call 303-326-8650 for more information.

For more events, see www.auroragov.org.