Two CCA experiments, two mission payloads, two balloons . . . one launch, up, up, and away . . . and where they land, nobody knows. At least, not until sometime mid-morning on Saturday, Jan. 16, after two CCA student-built missions are launched via high-altitude balloons in the predawn hours from Windsor, Colorado, alongside missions from three other Colorado community colleges.

Earlier this year, CCA was selected as an affiliate institution of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium, which is funded by NASA. The Consortium is a statewide organization involving 13 colleges, universities and institutions around Colorado, and two teams of CCA sciences students are now immersed in an exciting semester-long project that will see results in January.

The Space Grant Consortium gives students skills and knowledge to allow them to become part of the aerospace and space science workforce. As part of this experience, two CCA student teams are designing and building scientific payloads for the winter launch. The data from their flights will be analyzed and presented by the students to scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. CCA is participating in this semester’s project alongside students from Community College of Denver, Pueblo Community College, and Trinidad State Junior College.

It’s a great opportunity for CCA students because “they get to go through the entire process; it’s real-life, hands-on stuff,” says Victor Andersen, CCA faculty member in astronomy and physics and space grant affiliate director to the Consortium for the CCA teams. Through the Consortium, students interact with engineers and scientists from NASA and aerospace companies to develop, test, and fly new space technologies.

Payloads among teams and colleges will vary for this all eyes on the skies: CCA students to launch BalloonSat missions

Contortionist caterpillars and twirling tweedles: don’t miss “Lookingglass Alice”

“Lookingglass Alice,” written by David Catlin and adapted from the stories of Lewis Carroll, will be performed as the college’s fall production beginning Oct. 29 and running through Nov. 8. Reviewers have called the original show “a witty, acrobatic treat” where “wondrous worlds collide.”

According to CCA Theater Director Stacey D’Angelo, the CCA staging will be 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.” She notes that the cast comprises 21 CCA students, as well as technical students working on the set design and lights.

Evan Kirk, a CCA adjunct music faculty member, has composed original music for the production.

D’Angelo notes that the college will offer trick or treating after both shows on Halloween (Oct. 31). “We would like children to come to the performance in...continued page 2

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Published by: College Communications
Contact: Sarah Pretzer 303-360-4728
Sarah.Pretzer@ccaurora.edu
www.CCAurora.edu/news/events

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BalloonSat mission continued from page 1…

semester’s project. Team A from CCA will conduct a biological experiment in which a bacteria strain is launched and examined after it lands to see how it reacted under extreme climate conditions. Team B’s payload will contain a substance similar to what one would create building of the experiments. According to Andersen, the mission contents are shielded against high-altitude radiation. The payloads will see liftoff well before the 7:19 a.m. January sunrise, and payload recovery likely will be several hours later, generally to the east, a few miles away—although Andersen admits that the balloons may travel as far as Nebraska, if conditions allow. A separate team of volunteers will “chase” the balloons, which will be tracked by GPS, so that the missions may be recovered and studied.

“About the highest these balloons can go before they burst and fall is 100,000 feet,” says Andersen. “At that altitude, the atmosphere is similar to what’s on Mars, believe it or not.” He added that the necessary FAA clearances have already been obtained for the launch.

The Bowmans bring back tales from Africa

Enjoying the culture, the kind people, the myriad colors, and the marvels of the unfamiliar were one thing, but navigating the challenges of malaria pills, crocodiles, 12-foot-high ant hills, and dangerous roads may be some of the things CCA President Linda Bowman and her husband, Roger, will also remember about their recent trip to West Africa.

Sure, it will easy to recall things like the monstrous African millipedes they witnessed—they can grow up to a foot in length—but Bowman pointed out during a recent presentation that they will be certain to remember “the people who were always wonderful and welcoming” during their journey.

The Bowmans spent nearly two weeks this summer touring several countries throughout West Africa, taking in not the “typical” tourist attractions but rather immersing themselves in the culture and meeting as many people as they could who are living traditional African lives.

In many places they encountered reminders of the slave trade, which Bowman said were “sobering.” They toured the history museum in Ouida, Benin, and learned more about the sometimes surprising history of African slavery.

On a lighter note, they made a point of visiting the local markets when possible—not the tourist markets, but the central areas where locals obtain their goods. “You could buy everything from goat entrails to flips flops—there were flip flops everywhere!—and giant tubs of peanut butter, not to mention plenty of used clothing from Europe and America,” Bowman said.

She shared her love of West African place names such as Ouagadougou, Natitingou, and Burkina Faso, and told of her interest in the variety of huts they saw throughout the countryside. She also highlighted the town of Ganvie, situated, literally, on Lake Nakoué—a series of huts built on stilts in the middle of the lake where the residents in days gone by could be safe from the slave trade and where residents now the residents...
Lookingglass Alice continued from page 1...

their costumes,” she explains. “They will get a special Lookingglass Alice map to follow to find the treats around campus and will have a chance to meet the different characters of the show along the way.”

Show times are 7 p.m. each night from Oct. 29-31 and Nov. 5-7; 2 p.m. on Oct. 31, Nov. 1, 7, and 8; and 12 p.m. on Nov. 6. Performances are in the Larry D. Carter Theatre, Fine Arts Building, CentreTech campus. Tickets are available for presale at 303-340-7529 or may be purchased 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 Actors 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.”

Transfer Fair helps students with seamless transfer to four-year institutions

Students and prospective students throughout the community took the opportunity to learn how to turn a two-year degree into a four-year degree when they attended CCA’s Fall 2009 Transfer Fair on Oct. 13.

Approximately 35 institutions of higher education from throughout the state and the region participated in the fair.

According to Alysyn Middleton, CCA academic advisor and transfer coordinator, fair attendees were able to meet with representatives from four-year institutions, learn about specialty areas of emphasis, verify admissions requirements, determine college costs, and discover prerequisite requirements for particular areas of educational interest.

Although CCA awards only certificates and associate degrees, many students and prospective students are interested in earning a bachelor’s degree. Many students decide to take advantage of the affordability of earning an associate degree at a community college and then transferring to the four-year institution of their choice. The transfer fair is one way CCA makes transfer to a four-year school more seamless for students.

CCA partners with Global Village Academy, APS on grant

The Aurora public charter school Global Village Academy has been awarded a five-year, $1.4 million Foreign Language Assistant Program (FLAP) grant by the U.S. Department and Education, and CCA will be a partner in this newly funded initiative to develop a grades 9-12 Chinese language program for concurrently enrolled students. Aurora Public Schools also is a key partner in the program.

According to Global Village Academy, the FLAP grant monies will enable GVA, a K-8 charter school that offers Mandarin Chinese and Spanish language immersion, to develop a program to address the critical shortfalls that hinder students’ ability to reach advanced levels of proficiency in Chinese as a second language. Among the key elements of the program are a partnership with CCA and APS to offer Chinese language courses that will be open to eligible high school students wishing to participate in concurrent enrollment—meaning students can earn high school credits and CCA college credits simultaneously.

Additionally, GVA will collaborate with CCA, APS and the University of Oregon to develop a 9-12 grade Chinese language curricula framework, course descriptions and online assessments for concurrently enrolled students, according to GVA officials.

“The Community College of Aurora looks forward to collaborating with Global Village Academy and Aurora Public Schools to create a pipeline for high school students to continue their Chinese language studies after graduating from Global Village,” said CCA President Linda Bowman. “This new program will create a bridge to unlimited opportunities for students who reach advanced proficiency in Chinese as a second language. We are honored to be able to create college courses that will be accessible to both high school and college students that will serve as a model for other colleges around the country who are looking to replicate a similar program.”

For more detail on the grant, see http://denver.yourhub.com/Aurora/Stories/Education/Elementary/Story~655502.aspx
CCA's annual Constitution Day, held Sept. 17, drew a full house of students, staff, and faculty who came out to practice civic engagement and test their knowledge of the Constitution Bowl to see how much they know about the nation's second constitution.


This fall’s Sherlin Lecture in Astronomy and Space Science will feature “Near Earth Asteroids: The Ugly, the Bad, and the Good” at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30. The lecture will be presented by Dr. Daniel Durda of the Boulder affiliate of the Southwest Research Institute (SwRI).

Durda is a research scientist at SwRI and an adjunct professor in the Department of Sciences at Front Range Community College. His research interests include the evolution of main-belt and near-Earth asteroids, Kuiper belt comets, and interplanetary dust; airborne observations of planetary occultations; the formation and observational detection of asteroidal satellites; and the size distribution of dust from the catastrophic disruption of meteoritic samples.

In addition to his career as a scientist and author of numerous scientific publications, Durda is a certified scuba diver, cave diver, instrument rated pilot, and an accomplished creator of space art.

Southwest Research Institute is one of the oldest and largest independent, nonprofit, applied research and development organizations in the United States. Its mission is to benefit government, industry and the public through innovative science and technology.

Near-earth asteroids the focus of Sherlin Lecture
CCA Faculty and Staff Fall 2009 Picnic

Colorado Film School acting students with their instructor, Galina Boulgakova (second from left).

Jim Marshall and Sylvester Brandon take it all in at the CCA picnic.

Andrea Flynn serves Diane Postell her picnic lunch.

Robert Sokol fills his plate.

Greg Moore, Lowry One-Stop Student Services, helps himself to some burger fixin’s.

CCA students Chris Sweaney, Elisa Nuñez, and Sasha Bacca enjoy time together.
Kudos to . . .
The Community College of Aurora, which was honored in August by the Adams County Human Services Department for its work with TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) and CHOICES. Both programs are under the Center for Workforce Development umbrella and serve welfare recipients in Adams and Arapahoe Counties and low-income working families in Adams County.

College to observe National Writing Day
According to CCA faculty member Susan Achziger, CCA will celebrate the Oct. 20 National Day on Writing, a day sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE). According to NCTE, developing technologies expand the possibilities for composing in multiple media and for speaking to wider audiences and at a faster pace than ever before. “This communication contributes to our academic achievement and rigor, to development of business and commerce, and to our global economy and community,” the organization reports. For more information, see http://www.ncte.org/dayonwriting.

Public Observatory Nights scheduled through November
CCA is offering several public observatory nights this fall. Mark your calendars for 6 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 24; after 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, following the 7:30 p.m. Sherlin Lecture; and 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. All events will take place in the observatory, located behind the Fine Arts Building on the CentreTech campus.

President Bowman to lead discussion on “Brain Rules”
Faculty and staff are invited to participate in a Nov. 17 book talk facilitated by Dr. Linda Bowman. The 2-3:30 p.m. discussion will take place in room 200, Lowry building 903. She will talk about the Dr. John Medina’s book “Brain Rules: 12 Principles for Surviving and Thriving at Work, Home, and School.” In the book, Medina, a molecular biologist, shares his lifelong interest in how the brain sciences might influence the way we teach our children and the way we work. In each chapter, he describes a brain rule, what scientists know for sure about how our brains work, and then offers transformative ideas for our daily lives (source: www.brainrulesbook.com).

Mike Hanley appointed to CCAF Board
Michael Hanley has been appointed to the Community College of Aurora Foundation Board of Directors. Hanley is Vice President, Commercial Installation for ADT Security Services, a Division of Tyco International. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Hanley has spent his professional career with ADT. CCAF Executive Director Diana Whye says that CCAF and the board will benefit greatly from Hanley’s expertise, particularly in the areas of business administration and resource development.

LIFE LINE SCREENING ULTRASOUND STROKE TEST.
Oct. 19. CentreTech Campus. For CCA faculty, staff, students and the public. $50 cost.

CCA STUDENT LIFE WELLNESS SERIES.
12-1 p.m., Oct. 29. Student Centre Rotunda, CentreTech campus. Financial wellness, presented by Wells Fargo. Free and open to CCA students, faculty, and staff.

IKE SLEPT HERE: THE FITZSIMONS STORY.
Through Nov. 8. Aurora History Museum 15051 E. Alameda Parkway Aurora 80012. The story of the Fitzsimons medical complex is intertwined with the history of the U.S. military as well as Aurora itself. Using historical photographs and artifacts, the exhibit traces the development of what now stands as a state-of-the-art medical campus. Free admission. Contact 303-739-6666 for museum hours.

For more events, see www.auroragov.org.