Xeturah Woodley’s new job combines three key loves: student achievement, community colleges and a return to her home state.

There are win-wins, and then there’s the situation in which Xeturah Woodley found herself when she was hired as the Community College of Aurora’s new Vice President of Instruction beginning April 2.

It was the perfect storm of circumstances.

The scenario not only allowed her to stay active in the community college system, her primary goal, but to continue her own family’s rich history with such institutions.

Her aunt, Deb Gantt, is a former CCA student at Lowry. Her mother, Cheryl Clayton, completed her associates degree at Central New Mexico Community College at a time when Woodley was serving there as associate dean in 2006.

Several other family members have gone to Pikes Peak Community College. So the power of this particular educational route is steeped within Woodley in part due to those life experiences.

Woodley’s new position also serves as a continuation of multiple years of instructional work that have brought her to this career juncture. Significantly, she also gets to take the next step at home.

“In my heart of hearts, I really wanted to come back to Colorado,” she said. “The job at Community College of Aurora is the perfect opportunity to continue working at community colleges, which I love, and also come home. It’s a really good match.”

Woodley was reared in a military family but her primary roots are in the state. She went to elementary school there.

Musical journey to CCA a long and winding road

English as a Second Language student Hui Ma, the opening act at the upcoming International Festival, resembles many young Americans dotting reality-TV talent shows. She seeks fame and fortune in the music business.

The difference being, Hui’s already been paid to perform in front of audiences in the thousands and part of several tours in a country where idols aren’t of the American variety, but real-life artifacts that are Taoist and Buddhist in origin.

Her journey began with performing parents in Shenyang, part of the Liaoning province in the southern part of northeast China sometimes called ‘The Golden Triangle” because of its superior geographical location.

Her father, Fumin, was a promoter of traveling shows featuring singers, dancers, comics and acrobats; her mother, Qing Rong Lee, one of the performers.

Hui would tag along to places like Shanghai, Fujian and Guangzhou and watch daily from the wings, already enamored with what she was witnessing. Her grandmother would tell her that even as a toddler the precocious youngster would happily mimic songs she saw during movie credits, so it wasn’t surprising.

Her parents eventually recognized Hui’s talent, coaching her on stage mannerisms and chatter and allowing her to take the stage herself. Hui toured for two years, singing a famous song from a TV series, “Qian Nian Deng Yi Hui,” which loosely translated means ‘Waiting for a Thousand Years.’

Hui’s wait for show business had been much shorter.

She was five at the time.

“Two years later, because I have to go to school, they send me back to my grandma,” Hui recalled re-
Woodley directs degree, certificate programs

Woodley plans on attacking that issue, like everything else, with an open mind.

“If there’s any philosophy that I subscribe to, it’s about meeting the needs of students to really make a difference in their lives and those of the people that they support and are around.”

-- Xeturah Woodley

Woodley directs degree, certificate programs

Continued from page 1

school and high school in Colorado Springs. She earned her undergraduate degree at Metro State and her masters in Social Sciences at the University of Colorado-Denver.

But after teaching women’s studies at Metro State for six years then serving as a seminar leader in a private educational firm in Denver, she’s spent most of the last 10-plus years in various dean’s, director, administrative and vice presidential roles in Albuquerque at CNMCC.

“Community colleges in general are about access and accessibility for working class people. And, for me, if there’s any philosophy that I subscribe to, it’s about meeting the needs of students to really make a difference in their lives and those of the people that they support and are around.”

Coming back to greater Denver will afford her opportunities to rekindle relationships with old friends and colleagues and, surely, to get back to some restaurant favorites.

But the primary goal is centered upon Woodley’s passion to make an imprint at CCA in conjunction with present executives, deans and faculty.

The chief component of Woodley’s new role encompasses responsibility for the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of instructional services offered by CCA, including degree and certificate programs.

She strongly suggested she will be inclusive on that front, especially initially as she hits the CCA campus as a first-time employee.

Her first move will be to meet with interim CCA president Dr. Geri J. Anderson, other VPs, deans, faculties and students “trying to figure out from them what direction we’re going as a college currently and if there’s a major need to take anything on.”

Anderson, for her part, said she’s convinced that Woodley will bring to her new role “significant academic leadership to CCA,” while sustaining and improving the community.

“In her previous position, she had great success in finding solutions for complex problems that yield beneficial outcomes for the college,” Anderson added. “Xeturah also has experience in helping an institution achieve its organizational goals through the implementation of its strategic plan. I believe faculty will enjoy partnering with Xeturah in the delivery of our outstanding academic programs.”

Anderson thanked interim VP of Instruction Carla Malmquist for her leadership during the transition prior to Woodley’s arrival and for “continuing to move CCA forward.”

One key project that will immediately be on the front burner for Woodley and other high-ranking CCA officials is the upcoming re-accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission.

March stage production spared the “morose”

Director Robert Bubon hopes Community College of Aurora’s production of “Spoon River Anthology” served as a departure from many previous approaches during its five-show run in March.

The plot’s backstory — told in 52 monologues varying in length between 30 seconds and three minutes — revolved around deceased characters from Spoon River. Each received one last chance to discuss their private lives, personal beliefs, insights, discoveries, grudges and glaring injustices they’d encountered themselves or with their neighbors.

Bubon explained that it was “a trap of this play to make it morbid and morose, because that’s the way it’s been done in the past in other dramatizations: ‘Poor me. I died.’”

Instead, CCA’s production was aimed at injecting humor into the proceedings, even while the characters determinedly set the record straight about their lives or tacked about the true meaning of their existence.

To Bubon, the core of the play was “about these people trying to do something very active to save the rest of Spoon River -- or themselves.”

Woodley directs degree, certificate programs

Continued from page 1

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‘Take Back’ educational platform

Event focuses on prevention of sexual assault, its red flags

There’s no guesswork that goes into Jennifer Dale’s gauge of the impact of the annual ‘Take Back the Night Rally.’

It’s written on the emotional comments the Community College of Aurora psychology coordinator has stacked on index cards inside her desk.

It’s written on the faces of everyday people affected by sexual violence.

At last year’s event, the platform given to discuss rape and its prevention struck an even more personal chord.

A terrified woman took center stage at an open-mic event, and after considerable crying and hyperventilating, shared with 25 others the story she’d never told anyone about her own sexual assault.

The rally first took root in Philadelphia in 1975 and since has spread to college campuses nationwide. The CCA version’s designed to be educational and a platform to discuss issues, like statistics that show one in four women in Colorado have been raped.

But, as that single CCA experience shows -- and it’s not isolated -- it also can be cathartic.

This year’s rally will take place April 19 from 9:30 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Student Centre Rotunda on the CentreTech campus.

It will feature the real-life experiences of sexual assault crime units and victim advocate departments from Aurora law enforcement; the process Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners carefully navigate; and how to fight back via self-defense methodology.

Yet amid the teaching and learning, the hope is eyes will be opened and, if lucky, some minds cleared, too.

“It’s increasing awareness, No. 1,” said Dale, who specializes in teaching Psychology of Gender, Human Sexuality, Child Development and Social Psychology. “People don’t want to think about sexual assault because it’s uncomfortable and scary, but we are what’s considered a rape-prone society. And there are a lot of reasons behind that. But the first step to decreasing that is awareness.

“Educating the public also is important: what it is; what it includes; what are the red flags. The third key is prevention.”

Last year’s event attracted about 500 people, the most ever in CCA’s four years holding the event. Dale stresses that it isn’t only aimed at women but men, too, whose victimization often goes unreported.

She also views it as a teaching moment for younger kids, though parents should be cognizant of the strong language in certain presentations.

“Better life” prompted U.S. move

Continued from page 1

Hui’s previous life as a singer is partly documented on the poster advertising her weekend appearances at the restaurant, where, when Hui’s not singing she serves as a waitress/hostess.

Denver for a few songs on busy nights.

She’s performed locally in front of thousands again on Chinese holiday celebrations, and, after learning English at the New American School, even sang the National Anthem at the principal’s request at graduation.

She even combed the lyrics for meaning. “I felt part American,” Hui said.

Next up is her opening act at CCA on April 25. Hui’s half-hour vocal performance precedes blocks that will feature meditation, poetry, a Buddhist Temple Group and other events as part of the International theme, “Expressions of Faith Around the World.”

She hopes to sing opera professionally one day – even delving into Western pieces -- but believes she needs to get classically trained before that can occur. Hui will take a music class at CCA in the summer or fall and already has spoken to a voice teacher at the school about her plans.

Hui even auditioned for the real “American Idol” during the shows local stop but was told opera was a different style than what it was seeking.

No matter. She already has a video of a University of Denver performance on YouTube, --the ultimate red-white-and-blue calling card.

“No I can speak and even sing in English,” she said. “I’m just so proud.”
Preparedness drill ensures precision

Exercise at Lowry campus brings in slew of agencies

It was a scene that could have been straight out of CNN, showcasing a far-off regime teetering on the brink.

There was civil unrest, angry protesters with signs, soldiers clad in riot gear trying to keep the peace.

But this was a drill. The Colorado National Guard Response Force exercise at Lowry Campus on March 3 and was dubbed ‘Occupy 900.’ The fictional scenario began with a security guard happening upon an elaborate lab system while executing a routine campus check, then expanded exponentially from there to suspected terrorism.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, a Denver Fire Department’s hazardous materials crew, the Aurora Police Department and the 8th Civil Support Team – a specialized state asset belonging to the National Guard -- were among those on hand responding to the faux crisis as part of their regular training.

Such exercises are designed carefully to meet pre-planned objectives in the event of a real emergency. Command-level and exercise-design personnel are aware of the full mission beforehand, but many of the key players in the staged event aren’t privy to the details to maintain in-the-field realism.

Community College of Aurora students and community resources acted the part of anti-establishment protesters in the area, while bystanders also dotted the scene. They were supposedly protesting ‘Slurm’ – a term borrowed from the Wormulon juice featured in the animated show “Futurama” – and cruelty to animals.

The group’s collective mindset required the National Guard Response Force to secure the area for several different waves of protesters intent on creating havoc while the government went about its investigative work. Some of the actors broke through the line, tried to provoke the soldiers or tried to sneak their way into the building where the investigation was taking place. They didn’t get far.

Four traffic control points were established. Arrests, in theory, were made.

“These guys play for keeps. I mean, this is a big deal,” said Pony Anderson, CCA’s simulation coordinator, who helped write the exercise scenario. “This is some of the stuff they have to do to certify. So it’s very important training for them.”

This particular exercise had four key elements: communications; on-site incident management; weapons of mass destruction/HazMat response; and emergency public safety and security.

National Guard personnel have to prove they can effectively interface with civil authorities and incident commanders under duress under Defense Support of Civil Authorities initiatives, established shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. These training exercises help ensure their preparedness for real-life crises.

This particular staged event took about a month to create and binds together a target capabilities list on the civilian side and a mission essential task list from a military standpoint into an all-encompassing teaching tool.

Anderson beforehand meets with military personnel to come up with controller evaluator handbook, exercise plan, player-evaluation handout and Master Scenario Events List that meet all the objectives for each participating party but also provides enough flexibility to inject intelligence or additional scenarios into the proceedings to enhance the learning experience and prompt necessary action.

CCA has been a part of more than 15 exercises over the last 2½ years. Operation Mountain Guardian on Sept. 23, 2010 represented not only the largest full-scale prep drill in Colorado history but one of the largest terrorist exercise done in the U.S., with 107 different agencies involved that day.

Other exercises have focused on active shooters, dirty bombs, car accidents, drug houses, domestic violence, crime scene investigation and other malfeasance.

It’s brought CCA into the forefront with National Guard units from Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and California and forged strong bonds from the military side with active duty Special Forces, reserve units and Northcom-Norad. CCA has proven it has the resources and partnerships locally, nationally and with the military to mimic a city in a variety of circumstances.

An offshoot is the ability to provide an enhanced learning environment for students, as well, through all these exercises.

“We are a community asset,” Anderson said. “We’ve got the Disaster Management Institute and DSCA dictates that civilian and military forces need to start training and working together. So in an all-hazards training and preparation program, this just fits right in. There’s more diversity for our students and training with reality, there’s just nothing like it. The more we do it, the better we can get at it.”
A skull used for burial during a campus-wide academic project is sent to the dentist’s office for X-rays so that students can eventually identify the ‘victim’ of an alleged murder for identification purposes as part of a crime scene investigation involving multiple CCA departments. Anthropology, Biology, Chemistry, Criminal Justice/Police Academy, History, Paralegal and Theatre Club all are involved in the ongoing project, in which students began with the suspected disappearance of a woman, then graduated to the excavation of two bodies. There will be a mock trial in April in an effort to identify the potential ‘murderer’ in the faux case, which was a collaborator effort led by faculty members Elizabeth Hirsh, Tim DuFour, Gary Scott, Michael Carter and Margaret Uchner.

Getting your head examined

A half-century of Denver’s folk scene comes to life in historian’s new book

Adjunct history instructor Paul Malkoski has released a new book, “The Denver Folk Music Tradition: An Unplugged history, from Harry Tufts to Swallow Hill and Beyond.” The book explores the local folk scene by tracing the cultural significance of Tufts’ Denver Folklore Center — which featured performers such as Joan Baez, Pete Seeger and Judy Collins, and one of the institution’s offshoots founded by fans of the musical genre, the Swallow Hill Music Association. The History Press is the publisher of the book, which explores the revival of the folklore scene in Denver through the prism of the past 50 years.

CCA students are in the clear as part of the Great Canal Cleanup Caper

There were 570 participants in the Great Canal Cleanup Caper on March 17 (below). The event was organized by the City of Aurora Water Department and used volunteers from various organizations, individuals, CCA Phi Theta Kappa and Student Government Association students and friends (top). Trash and debris were cleared from a 11-mile swath of the High Line, with the overriding goal to reduce the amount of trash being discharged from the canal to the Sand and Toll Gate Creeks in Aurora. It was also a teaching moment, as participants learned about the problems caused by littering and the importance of protecting and caring for our waterways by preventing pollution.
CCA Events

- Job Seeker Development Event at Lowry, April 3, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Opportunity to meet workforce professionals, ask questions and get advice. In the Todd Bergren Room, 1st floor, and Bldg. 903 West Quad.
- “Architectural Lingua,” a series by regional artist Elayne Moseley runs Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. through April 11 at the Donna Moravec Gallery at Lowry (9202 E. Severn Place, Denver, in Building 901, North Quad).
- CCA Concert Series: Out East Organ Trio. Features Trent Antony on drums, Clint Dadian on guitar and Scott Brove on Organ. At the Larry D. Carter Theater on April 12 at 6:30 p.m. Other concert-series events include violinist Jennifer Scott on April 13 (7:30); a drums-woodwinds-bass-guitar quartet April 14 (6:30); Open Mic night April 20 (7:30); a singing performance featuring Kelly Johnson on April 21 (7:30); CCA Dance Performance on April 27 (7:30) and CCA Theatre Student Performance April 28 (7:30). Admission to all events is free.
- International Festival, 2012: “Expressions of Faith Around the World.” CentreTech Student Rotunda. Schedule includes Hui Ma singing performance, (9:30-10 a.m.); Emily Doak, CCA Yoga Instructor, Meditation (10-11); Wayne Gilbert, “The Drunken Universe: A Laughing God,” Poetry of the Sufis (11-11:30); International Potluck, bring your favorite dish (11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.); Performance by Ikeda Youth Ensemble, a Buddhist Temple Group (noon-1 p.m.); SGA “Jeopardy” (1:30-2); ISA “Jeopardy” (2-3).
- Assessing the Potential for Past Life on the Red Planet” is part of the Sherlin Lecture Series in Astronomy and Space Science. Dr. Bryan Hynek of the University of Colorado will be the keynote speaker for the April 19 event at 7:30 p.m. at the Fine Arts Building (F100). Dr. Hynek will discuss evidence of an ancient habitable environment in Gale Crater on the surface of Mars.
- 9Health Fair takes over the CentreTech Campus Student Centre Rotunda on April 22 at 9 a.m. Numerous health resources will be available, including a slew of screenings, Pharmacists and others answer individual questions.
- Commencement ceremony, May 5, 11 a.m. at the Arapahoe County Fairgrounds.

Information bank

Nominations for the Spring 2012 Brosh Award are open.

The endowment is open to a CCA adjunct faculty in good standing with at least five academic years of teaching service at CCA. Nominees must also have taught at least 15 credits during that period.

Completed submissions are due to the selection committee by April 27. They must be sent through campus mail to Victor Andersen, chair of the faculty awards committee, or via e-mail to victor.andersen@ccaurora.edu.

The entire nomination form must be completed and signed. E-mailed nomination forms need not be signed if sent from CCA-issued e-mail addresses.

Nominations can be submitted by faculty and/or staff at the college. Self-nominations are permitted.

Nomination form topics include: demonstration of teaching excellence; instructional service; professional development and demonstrated dedication to CCA.

The award is named after, and funded by, Tom Brosh, a former faculty member and dean.

The CCA Foundation Annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon will be held at the Marriott Denver Tech Center on April 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The event is the premier fundraising event for the Foundation. Wagner Equipment Co. is the presenting sponsor.

Instructors are asked to consider allowing scholarship winners from their classes to be absent and make up any missed work in order to attend, as the students will be having lunch with current, and potential future, donors.

A free, pre-luncheon reception will honor Dr. Linda Bowman on April 18 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Marriott DTC. Please RSVP to Tami.Morrissey@CCAurora.edu by April 4 if planning to attend.

The Retiree Celebration will be held on April 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Student Centre Rotunda on the CentreTech campus.

CCA’s retirees will be invited to join the faculty and staff as they honor their contributions to the college.

Sheryl Broadnax and Carla Hoskins

Broadnax, above left, and Hoskins, above right, were honored as CCA employees of the year during a recognition ceremony for collegiate and Colorado Community College System workers March 13.

The pair are part of the college’s Accessibility Services Department, where Broadnax serves as administrative assistant and Hoskins office advisor.

Broadnax joined CCA in January 1999. Her patient work as a conduit to students with disabilities, along with her professionalism and knowledge, served as key components of her nomination submission.

Hoskins, on staff since 2008, was recognized in large part for ensuring that accessibility challenges relating to software for the blind, CCA’s website and Desire 2 Learn were mitigated. Her ability to adapt technology to individual learning needs and education of CCA staff on engaging students with disabilities also were major factors.

Broadnax won top employee honors in the classified category; Hoskins in the administrator/professional technical area.

Dr. Peggy Mitchell Norwood

The CCA psychology faculty member was interviewed on KUSA’s morning news for a live segment March 9 by anchor TaRhonda Thomas. The topic was overcoming procrastination, as part of ‘National Procrastination Week.’

Norwood also provided assistance to her fellow CCA educators with a professional development workshop presentation on March 16. That event focused on working with students facing mental-health challenges and helpful ways not only to recognize potential warning signs but differentiating misconduct from illness.

Charles Holzheimer

Holzheimer didn’t wait long to get his feet wet at CCA, as he currently is filling in for Chief of Security Steve Marshall while the latter’s taking extended leave throughout April.

Holzheimer began his new position on March 12 after 20 years with Aurora Police Department, most recently as a Lieutenant. Holzheimer brings to his new position steep experience in police management and supervision; law enforcement procedures and practices; and emergency management.

Plaudits and accomplishments at CCA

CCA Events

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