It was one of the freshest ideas to come out of the nursing profession; perhaps a model that would ultimately be repeated around the country and give Community College of Aurora national visibility once data is compiled and information is disseminated.

But just three years ago, as the first class assembled at the college in what would be named the Integrated Nursing Pathway – which merged two institutions and one program – it was difficult to envision it becoming groundbreaking in nursing education.

No, not when the first group or “cohort” treated each class in classroom 218 at Lowry as much as survivalists as students.

“It was freezing,” Nancy Case, CCA’s former Dean of Health Sciences, recalled of those early days. “The students used to come in sweat-shirts, and gloves, and hats. But it kept them awake.”

In hindsight, the freeze out could have been Case’s unstated mission to ensure that this new group of learners, joining a new enterprise by leaps of faith, paid close attention to the curriculum, designed to ultimately lead to a bachelor’s degree at the University of Colorado College of Nursing.

“I’m sure they suspected that,” Case added with a chuckle.

The temperatures only seemed to serve to move the original 18 within the cohort even closer. They already learned to lean on one another to succeed. So, huddling for warmth really wasn’t much of a stretch.

Many in this first pioneering group remain strongly bonded together as graduation approaches this spring. There are 13 students left from the original group finishing their nursing
Peace is the word as U.N. event hits CCA

First time at a state community college since ’75

The Model United Nations is poised to make a comeback at a Colorado community college for the first time since 1975.

Political Science faculty Bobby Pace is in charge of the undertaking, which will take place at Community College of Aurora from April 5-6 and involve not only the classes within his own discipline but occur in coordination with numerous other classes.

Anthropology, Psychology, Communications, Foreign Languages and History are among those expected to integrate the curriculum into their courses as well for the project, which used the fall semester to implement planning and will use spring for training purposes.

“We have such a diverse and broad international population at CCA and what I really wanted to do was something that would be interdisciplinary that would allow for our student body to bring the perspective and knowledge that they have, particularly our immigrant populations, as an opportunity to demonstrate how politics work in the rest of the world and to cover themes that are broad and engaging to a global population.”

The overarching theme for the exercise, which ultimately should include 70-80 countries, will be “Human Rights and Human Dignity,” Separate simulations will be held that mimic the UN’s General Assembly; Economic and Social Committee; Office of High Commissioners of Human Rights and the Security Council.

Pace has successfully simulated the Security Council simulation within his Comparative Politics class, but only about 15 people are needed to effectively replicate those conditions. Now, it’s being taken to a larger scale, with the hope that the Model U.N. will soon secure funding under the Colorado Community College System initiative to promote game-based and interactive learning.

Should that funding be allocated — about $70,000 was requested — Pace hopes to include speakers that can knowledgeably impart wisdom about human-rights issues into the project, while at the same time purchasing books that can fill a section of CCA’s library on international politics and political science.

Model United Nations

The overarching theme of “Human Rights and Human Dignity” will be the overarching theme for the exercise, which ultimately should include 70-80 countries. The four Main UN bodies that will hold separate simulation subthemes during the April 5-6, 2013 event. They are:

The General Assembly
- Advance of Women
- Global Food Security
- Question of Palestine

The Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC)
- Social Development and the Eradication of Poverty
- International Trade
- Environmental Sustainability

Office of High Commissioners of Human Rights
- Children in Armed Conflict
- Indigenous Populations
- Human Trafficking

United Nations Security Council
- The Nuclear Crisis in North Korea
- The Crisis in Sudan
- Global Counter-Terrorism Efforts

The project is already deep into organizing facilities, drafting topics and mulling ways to introduce the process to faculty and students alike. The upcoming semester will largely be about training students how to draft U.N. resolutions, understanding the underlying materials behind broad topics such as Global Food Security, International Trade and Children in Armed Conflict, and applying them in various classes in the run-up to the Model U.N.

“It's also about motivating students to participate,” Pace explained. Pace’s motivation to hold a model U.N. event has been longstanding.

It dates back to the 1990s, during the George H.W. Bush presidency, when the President’s “1,000 points of light” platform surfaced and a sense of internationalism began a comeback after a long dormant period. Around the same time, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali wrote a book entitled An Agenda for Peace that strongly suggested that the United Nations could be a key player again in tackling tricky global issues.

That sense seemingly died down until more recently, when “we’re seeing the Arab Spring and democratization across the world and a return to institutions like the U.N. as an opportunity for global collaboration,” Pace said.

Numerous Model U.N. events are taking place at places like the University of Colorado-Boulder, Adams State, University of Denver, among others and a handful of high schools. But CCA is the only community college with a similar event in the works. Concurrent enrollment students will participate, it’s hoped, along with a large swath of representatives of students around the globe taking classes around the globe taking classes around the globe.

“You can do a Congressional simulation or a U.N. simulation, that's it,” Pace said, adding with a laugh, “And everybody hates Congress, so we chose the U.N.”
Dr. Jeffrey Bennett stuck to scientific protocol Nov. 30 to address the notion of extraterrestrial life at the bi-annual Sherlin Lecture on Astronomy and Space Science, sticking to what is proven vs. what is proselytized.

But it the longtime astrophysicist’s anecdotal evidence that proved most powerful in opening minds to at least the possibilities of alien life forms to the large crowd gathered at Community College of Aurora’s for the bi-annual event at the Fine Arts Forum at CentreTech.

“Every grain of sand on every beach on Earth put together, there’s as many or more stars than that with planets – very likely with Earth-like planets,” Bennett noted. “Could it really be that we’re the only grain of sand where anybody’s thinking about any of this? Yes, it could be, because we haven’t proven otherwise. But wow, it really makes you start to think.”

Bennett discussed three key areas in which Science is addressing the search for alien life and how they fit into the notion that there could be alien life elsewhere.

The Planetary context: Aliens would need possible homes. Since 2005, thanks in large part to the Kepler mission, there’s been an in which Science is addressing the search for alien life and how they fit into the notion that there could be alien life elsewhere.

The Biological context: Alien life would need possible homes. Since 2005, thanks in large part to the Kepler mission, there’s been an incredible evolution in this search for planets around other stars. Already 3,000 likely planets have been identified and is growing rapidly; at minimum, at least one-quarter of all stars have planets and are very likely 95 percent have them, Kepler data suggests.

The Astronomical context: In the Milky Way galaxy, there are at least 100 billion stars, probably more. There are so many stars, that it would take more than 3,200 years to even count that high. Add in the likelihood that 95 percent of those stars have planets and are in orbits in principle like Earth, “It makes the odds for life pretty good, unless we’re missing something in our picture,” Bennett said, adding, “And that’s just our galaxy. There’s also about 100 billion galaxies in the universe.”

If only one in a million of the stars in our galaxy had a civilization, that means 100,000 are possible.

And with the expectation that civilizations would be spread out over time, then 50,000 years spanned between each of those cultures. Bennett said that, given that backdoor, humans are the latest and likely dumbest of the lot from a technology standpoint and likely wouldn’t recognize their extraterrestrial counterparts.

“If aliens really are visiting us, they are so smart that as far as we’re concerned they can do magic. It’s not really magic, but to us, it looks like magic.”

Dr. Jeffrey Bennett didn’t spend much time on the concept of UFOs but instead based assumptions about other intelligent life in the universe on scientific fact as it’s currently known. He put the odds at extraterrestrial life as high, based on biological, planetary and astronomical factors and discussed why, if aliens do exist, there hasn’t been any confirmed contact with humans. “If aliens really are visiting us, they are so smart that as far as we’re concerned they can do magic. It’s not really magic, but to us, it looks like magic.”

If aliens really are visiting us, they are so smart that as far as we’re concerned they can do magic. He explained, “It’s not really magic, but to us, it looks like magic.”

But why? There ought to be life and civilizations based on scientific fact; yet, nothing but silence.

Bennett put the likely answer into three possible categories, none scientifically proven, but each with a stunning implication attached, if true:

We are alone in the Universe: “It seems hard to very hard to believe ... but it’s scientifically possible.” One commonality among virtually every religion and philosopher, Bennett said, is to become self-aware. That we are alone posits that the universe was born 14 billion years ago and it didn’t know it existed until we got here. “It’s a pretty heavy responsibility when you think about it,” he added.

Civilizations are common, but no one has colonized the galaxy: There are numerous possibilities, including the choice by extraterrestrial beings to bypass Earth or having never gotten a chance to do so because they destroyed themselves before reaching that level of technology. “This is not at all unlikely,” Bennett said. “We can easily destroy ourselves today ... whether through nuclear means, terrorism ... or the rapidly rising concentration of carbon dioxide in Earth’s atmosphere ... We’re in territory the Earth hasn’t seen for a million years.”

There are galactic civilizations out there that have colonized and had billions of years before we got here to do it: “This is really mind-blowing. Based on our current understanding of the scientific search for extraterrestrial life, as long as we take away the ‘they all killed themselves (hypotheses)’ ... we’re left with the most likely possibility being that there is already a galactic civilization and the only reason we don’t know it is there technology to us looks like magic and they haven’t chosen to tell us that they’re there yet. Which means, some time in the future, we’re going to meet them. And it’ll be like a baby meeting an adult world.”

Bennett calls the current state a turning point in history because we’re the first generation to have the power to destroy ourselves, but if not, can set our descendants on a path that eventually takes them to the stars to meet a galactic civilization that exists or start one ourselves.

“That means there’s only one question left about the search for intelligent life in the universe: And that is, is there any intelligent life on Earth,” he said. “That one is the one we need to answer.”
General Studies is critical designation

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The idea of the cohort was hatched, according to a PowerPoint presentation shown to potential students, with the thought that the group's academics would benefit from the support and connection of a diverse assembly of talent that would build camaraderie and enhance overall expectations. Further, the group could ultimately establish professional ties lasting beyond the program itself into the professional world while providing that support during the communal academic experience.

- **What is a cohort?** Programs where the same group of students begins a degree program together; take the same sequence of courses; and assuming successful completion of each course, graduate together.
- **How long does the program last?** 22/3 calendar years
- **How does it work?** Students earn an Associate in General Studies at CCA after two semesters in the program. Sixty credits transfer to the University of Colorado, where a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing is earned at the end of the Integrated Nursing Pathway.
- **What are the types of initial prerequisites included within the overall curriculum?** Biology, English Composition, Algebra, Sociology, Chemistry, Psychology, Statistics; Cultural Anthropology, Fine Arts.
- **How are applicants selected to the program?** There is simultaneous admission (CU School of Nursing, CCA) to the Integrated Nursing Pathway based on numerous factors, including grade-point average; essay; writing exercises; ESL Test of English as a Foreign Language; and personal interview.
- **How many applicants are accepted?** A cohort of 30 students is accepted each year. Parallel applications (CCA, CU School of Nursing) are done online March 1-May 1 each year. Classes begin each fall semester.

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The vision for the Integrated Nursing Pathway was clear from the outset, but getting there took time, effort and much discussion.

The educational path for nurses for years consisted of either an associate degree that later led to a bachelor's, or a bachelor's degree from the outset. Articulation agreements for decades among nursing programs helped graduates of the associate degree programs move on to four-year institutions (called a two-plus-two model).

But, Case said, studies nationally showed that less 20 percent of two-year graduates went on to attain their bachelor's – and only 12 percent majored in nursing.

"So we knew when we designed the Pathway program, we had to do something that capitalized on associate degree education but did not allow graduates to go to work as a registered nurse, because that's when we lose them to the educational system."

Thus, the Integrated Nursing Pathway model was formulated, which included simultaneous admission, dual advising and early introduction to the nursing profession to CCA and CU's College of Nursing.

The initial two-year period required completion of an associates degree but with a General Studies -- not a Nursing -- emphasis. Health professions coursework laid a foundation to CU College of Nursing and was a critical, two-class component in the curriculum at CCA.

And, by foregoing an associates in Nursing as an option, Community College of Aurora ensured students couldn't simply get licensed and enter the workforce in the field straightaway.

Academic prerequisites were embedded into the coursework to help ease students into the next step. "We're really introducing them to what nursing education is going to be and to help them with the transition to the College of Nursing, where the caliber of expectation and learning represents the rigor required for nursing," said Jennifer Vander Meer, who joined CCA as Director of Health Sciences this past summer following Case's retirement.

"They're full-time over there and it's rigorous and plain hard. You've got the clinical side, too, over there that you have to manage. So, our part is really to introduce them to nursing and to get them to think like a nurse."

Discussions on forging such a working bond between the two colleges had been percolating for years between Pat Moritz, a former CU College of Nursing dean, and Linda Bowman, president emeritus of CCA. Weekly discussions had been ongoing between the two institutions since January 2009. Case was hired by CCA as the dean of Health Sciences after several months as a consultant in July. The model developed over the next year and kept evolving even as it was being implemented for the first time in August '10 with the first cohort.

"One of my colleagues, Gayle Preheim, (director of the baccalaureate program) at the University has always said we were laying the tracks and driving the train at the same time, and that's a very apt analogy, because we barely finished the curriculum at the end of April, had three maybe four weeks of an admissions process that was being developed as we went, accepted the class, signed up the faculty, created the courses and continued to solidify the program itself. We weren't done by any means," Case said.

Yet the goal behind the idea was ironclad, that patient outcomes are better when the nursing workforce is highly educated. An Institute of Medicine nursing report only reinforced that notion and demonstrated the program was on the right track. That study called for 80 percent of those employed in the profession nationwide by 2020 to possess a bachelor's degree or above.

The agreement with CU outlined for CCA that a maximum of 30 students could comprise a nursing cohort. Agreements with five large clinical partners ensured those placements would be accommodated without taking away opportunities from CU's existing student population.

The concept was tweaked to include admissions, faculty and curriculum into a truly joint program. "We just kept hammering at it," Case
recalled.

And a win-win proposition emanated.

CCA’s Science department had a stellar reputation, so CU knew that the students would enter its portion of the Pathway well prepared. The introduction in the health professions courses to concepts such as evidence-based practice prior to the third year meant that students transitioning to CU already were exposed to they would build upon later in their education.

CCA at the same time could boast degree ‘completers’, a driving force among community colleges, while CU received a boon to its diversity both at the institutional level and within a profession that is sorely lacking in that regard. University Hospital’s move to Aurora and the Anschutz Campus only solidified the idea.

The Integrated Nursing Pathway model had never been done in the country in exactly this fashion. The collaboration between CCA and CU continues to be unique since it does not include an associate’s degree in Nursing but gets students directly to a Bachelor’s of Science in the subject.

Bridget Rager, another member of the first CCA cohort, said she was probably one of the first people to sign up because she had heard about the program and was waiting for it to come to fruition.

An excitement filled the room the first time the group finally met in a classroom setting.

“You could just feel it,” Rager noted. “Everybody really wanted this and we were finally going to start.”

Martin was recently sitting in University Hospital during a break in his studies trying to name the entire original cohort off the top of his head.

“Of course there’s Bridget, then we have Allie, Lacey, Lisa. Wasn’t Nicole at the beginning? She’s here the second time around. Belinda. All the girls would want to be shooting me right now. ‘You didn’t remember my name!’ Chelsea, of course. Amanda, of course …”

“You’re missing Denise,” Rager chimed in. “And M.J. …”

Tsion, Keisha and Beverly, too.

It may be harder for current cohort students to get even this close, now that the program is beginning to hit full steam. The second CCA group swelled to 25, with 19 remaining. The current third class filled the maximum 30 spots.

There’s momentum, surely, built upon the early planning that turned into the initial foundational pieces. The memorandum of understanding between CCA and CU limits the program participants due to the intense competition for clinical site placements. There are limited clinical slots in the Denver metro area and the Pathway students are competing with all of the nursing students across the state.

“But if they see some of the success of completing this many baccalaureate students, increasing diversity in nursing, doing all those things, maybe the model of bringing them from a community college setting is one we have to expand,” Vander Meer said.

At CCA, the goal is engaging potential students interested in the program as soon as possible so they get on track right away and into the prerequisites to prepare for the Pathway.

At CU, the first cohort is simply trying to survive a few more months before they can realize their dreams.

Rager started a family and a business before life finally allowed her to take a step towards achieving her lifelong goal. Martin is ecstatic to take after his inspirational mother, a nurse herself.

“If my heart’s right with serving others and that’s my goal, then everything else falls into place,” he said.

Rager’s clinical rotation at a rehabilitation hospital, and working with families, making care plans and checking medications only served to reinforce her decision to attend CCA after a three-decade break in schooling and begin her path into nursing. Her initial resolve has only strengthened over time.

“I just think all of us are just really grateful and excited and we all can’t wait for graduation,” she said. “We’re all talking about it. ‘We’re close. We’re close,’ because the course work is tough. It’s doable but it’s a lot of work.

“And we’re ready to go out there and be professional nurses.”
An old hand at CCA has a new handle: No. 1 in the state in a recent North American competition hosted by a worldwide computing leader.

Eric Withrow, who has been attending classes at the college since he was a Grandview High School student in 2001, entered the Cisco Networking Academy NetRiders post-secondary competition essentially for fun. The interactive contest was comprised of three total rounds and tested a range of IT skills through a series of exams and simulation activities.

Hundreds of competitors were whittled down to just 94 finalists reaching the rigorous third and final round. Withrow – who finished first in the initial two rounds among five in-state competitors – was 18th overall in the United States and Canada when the final results were tallied.

“I’m certainly happy with that,” said Withrow, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science from Georgia Tech after his initial CCA experience as a high school student. “There was a lot of competitors that were very talented and I was happy with my ranking. I wasn’t out to get first place or anything. The most important thing to me was just having fun.”

But the offshoot of participating went beyond testing his limits. Withrow, currently Chief Technology Officer at Mattress Firm locally, is seeking to gain certification as a Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA), which is a top-tier designation in the field.

The competition, in a sense, served as a primer for future exams related to that personal mission. “It really helped with that,” he explained, “because after all these rounds, taking probably four theoretical exams and two simulation exams, it’s great preparation for the CCNA. I can probably go into the test and pass it with flying colors with Cisco.”

Even if he attains that goal, Withrow figures to continue filling in the blanks on his resume at the college. He even transferred credits taking summer classes while attending Georgia Tech, and he’s since kept current on computer technology with individual classes at CCA.

“The nice thing is the program is constantly evolving,” he said. “When I started taking computer classes at Grandview at CCA it was something that’s not even relevant today (Visual Basic programming), whereas today I can go take a .NET programming class or whatever. The technology is constantly changing, so I just look up the schedule, see the newest thing and do that.”

Withrow has ‘taken various Cisco coursework at CCA through the spring and fall semesters this year, feeding into his love of technology. “It’s all about continuing education,” he said.

The Cisco Networking Academy NetRiders post-secondary competition started with a first-round qualifier from Oct. 15-26 and the top five scores per academy advanced. Withrow was tops in the state, with four students from Colorado Mesa University/Western Colorado Community College comprising the rest of those moving on from his group. Only two Colorado qualifiers advanced out of Round 2 after a pair of two 60-minute exams between Nov. 5-16.

That led to the finale, which boasted a top prize of a study trip to Cisco Headquarters for the top scorers from Canada and the U.S., plus the next two top scores.

Withrow won’t be making that trip but was hardly defeated by that prospect.

“It was really to have fun and see how far I could go, and I met my goal,” he explained.

“I wasn’t out to get first place or anything. The most important thing was just having fun.” -- Eric Withrow

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The transition to the new testing center is now fully complete in Administration Building Room 205 on the CentreTech campus. Two new proctors – Manny Escarcega and Alfreda Darden have been hired to aid the testing process.

Kelly O’Dell has been hired as Psychology faculty after a nationwide search, Ted Snow, dean of Liberal Arts, announced. O’Dell, an adjunct since 2009 at CCA, will begin full-time duties during the spring semester.

Malinda Peasley has been hired as a full-time Administrative Assistant I in the Financial Aid department, Deborah Hoefler, assistant director of Financial Aid, announced. Peasley has served as work study in Financial Aid for more than a year.

The Colorado Combined Campaign raised $8,382 for numerous charitable organizations through the donations of 41 CCA employees.

The Center for Workforce Development will hold an open house Friday, Jan. 18, from 10:30 a.m.-noon in Building 901, Room 216 on the Lowry campus.

Reneice Jones, the college’s Director of Accessibility Services, will be retiring effective Jan. 18, Dean of Student Success Elena Sandoval-Lucero announced. A farewell party for Jones is scheduled for Jan. 16 at 10:30a.m. A search for her replacement is expected to begin in January.

Kristin Cutai has accepted a position at the CCCS office, exiting her current role of Director of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Development. Her last CCA day was Dec. 14.

Dr. Matt Earnhardt will be leaving his role in the School of Business at the end of the fall semester to become Assistant Professor of Leadership with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

Lonnie Tyler has been hired as Assistant to the Vice President of Instruction. She will work part time in Administration Room 200 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. weekdays.
Success takes many forms at ceremony

Overcoming obstacles is oft-repeated theme

It is one thing to recite some vague notion that there were obstacles to navigate in order for many of the Student Success Award winners to be ultimately recognized for their achievements.

Listing some of these potential impediments, though, puts the journey of this year’s 22 recipients in true perspective.


Those are harsh realities.

One faculty member during the Dec. 7 ceremony described the woman that he nominated as such: “She just never let up.” It’s a characteristic shared by many of the award winners, who spanned the spectrum of diversity, circumstance and background.

“The sum total is individuals who didn’t succumb to obstacles but, as another speaker described it, “embraced them to do inspiring things.”

Words like persistence, desire, achievement, strong-mindedness and heart were commonplace in the descriptions of the winners, who hailed from Sudan to Togo, Guatemala to Morocco, China to Ethiopia and places in between.

Many of these high-achieving students are the first in their families to attend college. All of them appeared to share great pride in their accomplishments, however large or small the barriers they seemingly faced.

“As we listened to the stories of triumph and celebrated our students’ success, there are a couple things that a very clear to me,” CCA President Alton D. Scales said. “We heard repeatedly about people absolutely committed to being successful, and individuals who along the way – in the presence of great adversity – brought joy to the space they occupy.

“When you lead with your heart and are focused, you continue to do things that are absolutely important, adding to the communities we exist in, and leaving them better because we exist.”

One student honored recalled the moment that changed her life as beginning with an exploratory visit to an advisor. While seated, listening to what she might gain from the pursuit of further education, she looked up and saw a sign.

“It read, “If you think college is not for you, think again.”

The inspirational call to arms was apparent with one glance around the CentreTech Rotunda, where the ceremony was held. The importance of the individual journeys was reflected both in smiles and tears as plaques were given; plaudits spoken.

Four recipients – Bethany Even, Jennifer Bird, Michelle Twaddell and James Fountain – received an additional financial boost by earning $500 scholarships, part of the $250,000 dispersed by the CCA Foundation to deserving students throughout the fall semester.

“There definitely are going to be some people here that will go on and remember this, will be better people and pay it forward, so to speak,” said James Gray, the Math department chair who organized the awards, which have now been held for the past eight years.

Gray recalled the impact that the college generally had on him. A former CCA student, Gray spent two years after high school working as a bus boy before deciding to return to school. Many of the faculty at Community College of Aurora left the same kind of impact he feels resides in many of this year’s Student Success Award recipients.

“Those people inspired me to become something more than I ever thought I would,” Gray noted at the conclusion of the ceremony. “And that’s what I always take away from this, is that if we can reach these students like I was reached at one point, we can change lives.”

Clockwise from top: Yessenia Galvan Rosales (middle) is flanked by her aunt Maricela and best friend Edgar A. Alvarez; Catrina Semakula shares a moment with her son Isaiah; Bethany Even listens as adjunct faculty Jeff Paganini recites the reasons for his nomination. Even was awarded one of four CCA Foundation scholarships at the conclusion of the event, along with Jennifer Bird, Michelle Twaddell and James Fountain.
Clockwise from top: Seth Cardin and Jennifer Bird answer questions from the audience following their honors presentations during the Dec. 6 American Literature Lecture Series at the Fine Arts Forum. Cardin spoke about Charles Brockden Brown and his integral role in the evolution of the Gothic novel dating to the late 1700s that went beyond the English tradition and focus on violence and vice within familiar American settings. Bird discussed how Edgar Allan Poe ratcheted up the horror genre, introducing first-person themes of revenge, justification, paranoia, madness, fear and corruption to reflect the author's own worldview.

A delegation from the Hunan province in China tours the Colorado Film School with director Frederic Lahey serving as one of the guides. The Chinese visitors were exploring during meetings with top college brass and a campus tour entering into a partnership with CCA that would bring the CFS model overseas. The family of the late Dr. Todd Bergren -- wife Michelle, son Ben and daughter Dana -- pose next to the plaque unveiled Dec. 5 in the room that already bears his name at Lowry campus. Bergren left an 18-year legacy at CCA as a Biology faculty. His close friend Martha Jackson-Carter said, “The best thing about Todd was he considered everybody equal.” Student Rob Hatcher serves as emcee during a “Not the Same Slam” event at the Fine Arts Forum. The event featured poetry and food provided by the non-profit Same Cafe.