



## HOME SCHOOLED

The Hendersons of Aurora may be the first family of CCA, with seven students already through the doors and two more on the way. They'll literally sing the college's praises, and much more.

It's reality show material, all things considered

A family of nine from Aurora. All seven children are, or have been, home-schooled by mom, a part-time model.

The first names of the Henderson clan alone are pitch ready to a cable network: Janelle, Jayde, Jeven, Jhia, Jarec, Jake, Jenna, Jordan. Only the family patriarch, Wayde, has averted the love affair with 'J' ... but he proudly proclaims he has a "Jr." punctuating his surname.

And, get this: every single Henderson is in the family band.

Here's the story of a man named Brady? Heck, they had a live-in maid. This is dirt-under-the-fingernails stuff.

There's only one problem that assuredly would prompt rejection from A and E to MTV: This is normalcy, efficiency and common sense at its finest.

You need a heavy dose of crazy to get face time these days on what has in many cases truly has become the boob tube. The Hendersons seemingly don't have a lick of irrationality in them at first or even second glance.

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# Silver screen, behind scenes merge as one

## Half dozen classes united with funding on the line

Aurora is about to get the Hollywood treatment.

Up for grabs to numerous teams of CCA film-school producers and their interdisciplinary teams: a piece of real grant funding secured via already approved Colorado Community College System grants.

Some will be met by disappointment upon the completion of their movie pitches in April. But three other groups ultimately will succeed during two sessions in convincing a panel of seven judges – many of them local business leaders – to green light their projects. The top three pitches secure the funding, with the biggest financial windfall going to the No. 1 idea.

It's a realistic taste of the studio system, setbacks and all, brought into the classroom – or several classrooms in this case. Four departments and six classes, in total, will be involved.

If it sounds a little like the TV show, "Shark Tank," it has a bit of those elements squeezed into the project. It's about getting buy-in before buying.

The overall endeavor, though, still is known by its original name "The Apprentice Project." That idea since has been greatly modified since its inception, partly because "firing" students who failed individual tasks was understandably deemed a non-starter.

Still, these figures to be boardroom drama, even if it's without Donald Trump's hair as a distraction.

"You'll actually see students pitching for their lives to get their movies made," said William Hicks, who's at the helm of the project and also the Creative Producing class tasked with commissioning scripts.

Multimedia presentations encompassing artwork and other marketing materials, demographic study, revenue streams, and return on investment all are part of the semester-long development of the pitch that will ultimately result in the creation of the three winning "sizzle reels." Those will likely debut next fall and are essentially a long trailer that gives a glimpse into the storytelling aspects.



**Will Hicks for the first time introduces some of the conceptual ideas behind the "Apprentice Project" to Charlie Cape's Computer Science 118 course on Feb. 18. The computer students were paired with film producers that day as part of the interdisciplinary exercise designed to give a big-picture view of making movies.**

Some of the ideas that are currently in the works in this disciplinary exercise are steeped in comedy, science fiction and drama. One producer is working on a premise about a chip implanted in humans that allows them to pay for food, but penalizes them for choosing unhealthy items. One examines the question of whether Prince Charming never arrived in time to kiss Sleeping Beauty. Another focuses on the power of imagination, and whether blindness may actually be beneficial because the sometimes ugly world in which we live is out of view.

The producer is the front man on each project, with others playing a more ancillary capacity. The marketing, ROI reports, revenue streams, demographic studies and promotional pieces such as movie posters, DVD cases and art components for such films will be handled by numerous classes including Graphic Design, Business Communications, Intro to PC Applications, Accounting Principles II and Principles of Marketing.

"It's going to be super-intense," said Andrew Scites, one of the student producers. "And it's going to be great."

There are upwards of 100 people in total participating on the seven competing teams.

"One of the things we obviously want to get out of the project is more funding after the project is over," said Maria Guillory-Flippen, CCA grant project manager for the School of Business. "This is a 13-month grant funded by CCCS, and once it's over, it's over."

Other schools could model this since it's a model arguably unique

among United States film schools. But the hope is that a similar project can be financed by private entities in the future for an even more expansive competition and that it can become a staple of curriculum.

"What we were looking for was a deliverable that we can then invite people to," Hicks said, adding that time constraints in a half-semester's work mean that credit producers will make their trailers in a future semester for viewing. "The natural thing was to create these films and showcase them with a screening."

It also, at its very core, was another way CCA is trying to bring real-life learning into the classroom. Other projects, among many, have used Crime Scene Investigation techniques to solve a faux murder, with accompanying trial, and will soon bring the concept of the United Nations to campus to explore world issues, conflicts and cultures.

CCA recently was awarded \$435,000 in grant funding to implement five new immersive-learning projects through June 2014.

"We're basically putting the studio system on campus. It's a mini-version of it," Hicks said. "What we're doing is creating divisions: an art division of a studio, a marketing arm, etc. All the major studios have these arms. Not only that, we're creating things and the producers are acting more like managers bringing everyone together on a single project and communicating the vision very clearly."

A documentary crew will follow the process before the two big pitch sessions in April.

"I'm excited to see where this goes," Hicks added.

## Selling Celluloid

Some of the tasks for individual classes in the 2012-13 so-called "Apprentice Project."

### Creative Producing:

- Identify and describe the creative role of the Producer
- Critically evaluate, analyze and assess the value of written material for the screen.
- Predict, estimate and discuss possible issues and consequences in advance of production.

### Accounting:

- Identify and apply appropriate cost concepts
- Develop sales forecasts considering product release and lifecycles
- Develop budgets and forecast profits.
- Apply cost-volume-profit-analysis to determine break-even levels

### Marketing:

- Identify and apply film demographic and psychographic information to define market segmentation
- Use product life cycle knowledge and target market data to create a soft good marketing strategy
- Identify and consider buying behavior of target market in strategy development

### Computer Info. Systems:

- Team building
- Learn how IT is incorporated with other business aspects
- Develop presentation materials, spreadsheets, ROI
- Track prospective clients

### Graphic Design:

- Use a variety of media and process to create advanced graphic designs.
- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of vocabulary, materials and technology used in generating graphic designs
- Identify and apply the visual elements to advanced graphic design problems

### Business Communications:

- Facilitate effective teamwork, including collaborative communication and productive meetings using relevant meeting technology and ensuring document accessibility.
- Identify and address issues creating a barrier to effective team communication
- Lead team to plan and create appropriate business messaging for the project,

# Aurora mayor lauds CCA's impact on area

One of the primary components of the pending Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit is that Community College of Aurora demonstrates value to the community.

That notion was underscored in mid-February when Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan stopped by CCA's Tax Help Colorado site while many of his citizens received free help with their 2012 returns.

"This still really is *the* higher education institution in the city of Aurora," Hogan said after meeting with local residents at Lowry. "Certainly, we have a relationship with the University of Colorado at the Fitzsimons campus, but that's very focused and a medical connection. This is the community and this serves the community."

The partnership between the City of Aurora and the college always has run deep. It's evidenced by events such as Tax Help Colorado, America's Promise, the Community English as a Second Language Program, the annual High Line Canal Cleanup and more.

It's strengthened by the bonds forged in numerous committees, simultaneously manned by local government and CCA officials.

College President Alton D. Scales is a member of the Executive Board of the Aurora Economic Development Council, has heavy involvement in the Arapahoe/Douglas Works Program and Leadership Aurora through the city's Chamber of Commerce.

Hogan, in turn, has had a nearly two-decade association with CCA, back to his City Council days and has helped with appropriations to the institution while putting key local political figures on the boards for the Foundation board and College Adv-



From left, Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, CCA President Alton D. Scales and multi-departmental dean Victor Vialpando share a laugh with Diane DiGiacomo, director of the Piton Foundation, which runs Tax Help Colorado at sites throughout the state during a February 8 event at Lowry campus.

## HLC Calendar of Events

### March

19 - Mock visit, 1-5 p.m.

### April

1-5 - HLC Accreditation Awareness Week

2 - All-College Meeting, 4 p.m., CentreTech Fin Arts F100

4 - All-College Meeting, 4 p.m., Lowry campus, Bergren Room

15-17 - HLC team visit

sory Council.

"The city has changed so much and the college has changed with it," Hogan said. "Bigger. More community involved. More diverse. More aware of what's happening in the whole community college system. More willing to step forward and take an advocacy role. Just a whole host of things."

One constant, though, is that CCA has been able to maintain and, in many cases, increase its quality stan-

dard while adhering to its mission of creating lifelong educational opportunities for citizens and working to prepare the current and future workforce for the job market in the college's service area.

"We know people, no matter what job they have, will come here for more training," Hogan said. "They'll come here to take classes. They'll come here to get their associates degree and take that step toward moving on to some other program.

"The fact that CCA has more than one location indicates that it really is Aurora's institution. We do everything we can to be helpful. ... because we want to be involved and make it work. It's something that's critical to this city at this point in time."

CCA has engaged in a two-year, comprehensive self-study that has led to a closer understanding of the institutions strengths, challenges and opportunities. The document also hits

on five main HLC criteria that are predetermined national standards the college must meet in order to gain reaccreditation.

One of those major tenets at CCA ties into promoting lifelong skills in the classroom such as critical inquiry, communication, interpersonal and intrapersonal responsibility and technology that will prepare graduates to become community assets as employers, citizens and the workforce.

Hogan is confident that approach has produced a palpable quality standard.

"That's evidenced in several ways," he said, pointing to infrastructure improvements as one evidentiary piece, adding, "This is a big city. There are 335,000 people here and a lot going on. We don't, very frankly, have time to pay attention to institutions that aren't worth it. When we pay attention, it's because they're worth it."

One of the hopes that the Higher Learning Commission visit in April will prove unequivocally is that not only are students, faculty and administration steeped in the principles guiding the college, but that the community at large is aware of the benefits of having CCA in the service area to improve the lives of the population.

"I think CCA's reputation is excellent," Hogan said. "People are aware of it. They know the physical locations. When you get into providing services in the community, if you say, 'At the Community College of Aurora, Lowry campus,' they know how to get there. So it's known, it's respected and it's value is constantly reinforced by the expansion in the number of students, programs and the recognition of the excellence of the programs."

## HLC Points of Discussion to consider for CCA faculty, staff

Some suggested items to contemplate in preparation for the April's Higher Learning Commission's visit this April. Stakeholders should consider honing in on one or two salient topics that resonate personally.

- Which of the college's values resonate most?
- What involvement have you had towards ensuring CCA meets or exceeds its Strategic Goals? Discuss the ways in which you have seen CCA's strategic goals guiding its operations and initiatives.
- Which Lifelong Skills are students developing in your class or office? Discuss ways in which you have explicitly taught to the Lifelong Skills when working with our student body
- Consider the systems of checks and balances that you encounter in your

work that help ensure CCA's integrity.

- Consider the role you play in maintaining the integrity of the College's operations. If you are an instructor, consider whether you are permitted sufficient academic freedom to teach effectively.
- Consider your professional development needs and discuss opportunities you would like to see offered. Discuss the support resources available to you and to your students and whether they meet your needs and those of our students
- Discuss CCA's assessment cycle and assessment efforts in your division.
- Share any ideas about ways to reduce costs or increase efficiencies at CCA.

# ALWAYS COVERING NEW GROUND

*Geology instructor rocks when it comes to ensuring outside-the-box thought*

Melanie Briscoe as a young girl wasn't afraid to get her hands dirty.

"If you talk to groups of rock hounds, people who collect rocks and minerals, they now have a term called 'pebble pups,' that refers to little kids who are getting interested," Briscoe recalled. "I was a 'pebble pup' before the term was even coined because I come from a science family background and learned about wildflowers, rocks and other science beginning when I was four."

That learning process has never stopped, whether it's exploring glaciers in Norway, salt lakes in Australia or volcanoes in Iceland, or examining soil and sand samples from the beaches of Fiji and the Galapagos Islands, Morocco, Canada, New Zealand and numerous other locales.

Now approaching her third decade as an adjunct at Community College of Aurora, the physical geology instructor has been around the globe collecting soil, mineral and sand samples, and has accumulated similar gifts from others. and even recently had a collection from a late friend donated to the college for its use.

Her personal collection measures in the hundreds and encompasses about 40 countries, which is about the number of places Briscoe's been on her own personal Where's Waldo journey.

"I have a lot of friends who know me well enough to know that when they get rid of their medicine bottles, they take the labels off and hand them to me," she said with a laugh. "I carry them around and collect samples lots of places."

But beyond the samples themselves, her real-world experiences have transferred to the classroom in numerous ways that have morphed through her CCA tenure. Students have examined countless vials of dirt, rock, and sand for years, with the overriding goal of showing them that these items "have a use" and how they uniquely influence their environments in ways that may not initially be evident.

"One of the things I'm always telling my students is that geology



**Melanie Briscoe, right, and fellow CCA faculty Jim Weedin flank a ranger at the Darwin Center on the Galapagos Islands during a 2007 trip. Briscoe has been an adjunct at CCA for 29 years and along the way has traveled to all corners of the world.**

doesn't stay in a box," Briscoe said. "And I try to get my students to see by the time the semester's over how geology and law interact. And we talk about all kinds of ways that happens, with water rights, mineral rights and geologic hazards."

Briscoe's focus is broad-based and touches on countless facets of life on Earth.

"I try to get them to see how geology interacts with art," she added. "We talk about paint and ceramics from other countries that have toxins in them. When we take a field trip we look at houses built in a place that is geologically lousy for about five different reasons. We ask why anybody would allow this. I then ask them when they're buying a house whether they would know what to look for regarding their own safety and geology of the land."

Other discussions have touched upon the whole notion of glaciers changing with global warming, studying glacial positions and glacial melt and examining how glaciers have moved minerals.

Overall, that worldview has been an overwhelming positive effect for students.

Briscoe recalled some of her early lectures on soils that centered on agriculture and food supply were difficult to inspire enthusiasm.

But, about five years ago, she in-



## Pitbull attack on dog halted

Four CCA employees helped thwart an attack by two Pitbulls on a mixed-breed dog that was being walked by its 28-year-old female owner Feb. 8 on the Lowry campus.

Information Technology employees Roger Dickson, Daniel Bapple and Luis Sura were first on the scene along with a delivery driver, soon to be joined by adjunct faculty Pete Newman, as they extricated the small white dog after the Pitbulls had latched on.

No one was hurt in the incident. A unit from Aurora Animal Control picked up both Pitbulls, neither of which had tags or collars.

During the attack, one of the aggressive canines had the small white dog pinned with its teeth by the throat while the other Pitbull bit at the lower torso of the clamped-down animal that recently had been rescued from a shelter.

"I just felt we all did what we needed to do," Dickson said. "And it was the right thing to do."

Dickson, Bapple and Sura were driving to a meeting at the Center for Simulation when they halted at a stop sign and noticed the Pitbulls racing around the corner of Building 900. They thought the dogs were playing and kept moving. But when the trio arrived at the parking lot of Building 859, they looked back and saw the woman with two leashed dogs seemingly in distress.

The IT employees quickly doubled back to help defuse the situation, with Dickson and Sura taking with them half-inch thick computer cables they had on hand and Bapple pulling an ice scraper out of the back seat. The delivery driver already was at the site of the attack but left soon after.

Sura and Dickson proceeded to swing and repeatedly strike the Pitbulls with the cables. It wasn't until Bapple broke off the end of his ice scraper and used the jagged edge of the stick that one Pitbull relented and ran away. (It was eventually caught near Dayton St.).

The second Pitbull grudgingly stopped biting shortly thereafter but circled the scene and seemed ready to re-engage. By that time Newman had arrived. The four employees set up a perimeter to get the Pitbull out of its aggressive posture. Newman eventually got that dog on one of the woman's leashes as Lowry Security and the animal-control unit arrived.

troduced – with the help of fellow adjunct Gary Scott in anthropology – principles of forensics to soil study and how it can factor into the evidentiary process. It's brought another prism with which to study geology and its interconnectivity with the world that's been inspirational for students and teacher alike.

"I love it. It's given us an interdisciplinary relationship between forensics and geology within CCA and I think that's wonderful."

The rarest soil sample in Briscoe's collection comes from a mine in Finland comprised of rare heavier metals. She also has a mineral called a diopside that she acquired from what used to be the Belgian Congo.

But her search continues for the even more exotic.

Her next excursion is forthcoming to Greece, where she plans on broadening her horizons – and her collection – even more. And, of course, bringing her hands-on experiences back to CCA when she's done.

"I'm a complete geology geek," Briscoe said unapologetically.

*Each month, InterCom will feature a different faculty member and delve into how their expertise translates to educating students by using real-world experience. Please e-mail [Lee.Rasizer@caurora.edu](mailto:Lee.Rasizer@caurora.edu) if you would like to nominate someone for a future article.*

# ARTIST AT HIS PEAK

## *Small in stature, tiny cone is big inspiration*

Charles Parson's award-winning artistic work spans numerous motifs and has appeared in galleries, art centers and museums throughout the United States. He's been featured in more than 65 one-man shows, as well as numerous regional and national group showings.

But when it came to picking a venue for a sneak preview of his latest works he didn't go big, he stayed home.

Parson unveiled "Drawing from Badito Cone" at the intimate Donna Moravec Gallery at Community College of Aurora on Feb. 15 on the Lowry campus.

About 22-25 pieces are featured in the show that runs through April 5. It includes several types of drawings, including an 18-foot, one-dimensional piece, small sculptures and one large sculpture.

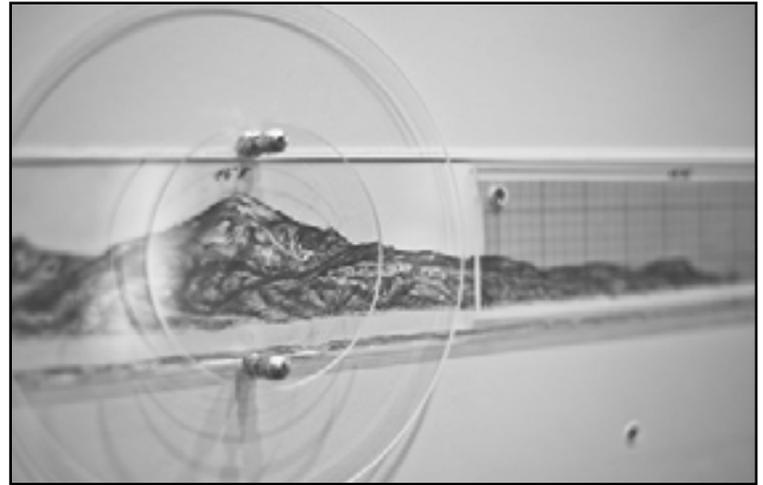
All focus on the Badito Cone, which is embedded in a small mountain peak in southern Colorado as part of a broader horizon line in the

Sangre de Cristo range that's been Parson's main inspiration for the last two years.

A large, four-by-eight foot schematic also was introduced to give gallery patrons a glimpse of how the Badito series fits within Parson's broader "Still in Centered Point" show that in 2014 will fill about half of a 24,000 square foot exhibit floor at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. That particular exhibition will include about 70-100 pieces, including a 167-foot interior sculpture/drawing combination.

"I'm in between large exhibits and I want to show the new thinking, so the smallness of the Moravec Gallery at CCA allows for showing just a portion," said Parson, a native of the Detroit area who moved out west after graduate school at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in the 1970s.

"This show is like presenting a musical phrase," he added. "And it's enough of a phrase to give you an inkling of what the larger symphonic



work will be."

There's little doubt Badito Cone has struck a cord with Parson.

He's been mesmerized by Colorado's Eastern plains from Kiowa to Trinidad for about four decades. His family built an adobe and steel cabin in the Southern part of the state about 10 years ago and he's over time drawn inspiration from the surroundings. But, despite it residing in his own backyard, it took some life changes for him to finally hone in on this subtle little cone dwarfed by the surrounding mountainous landscape.

"When I started looking at Badito Cone, it was like this almost sacred place," he recalled. "So I did some historical reading and found out it was a sacred place in Native American cultures 200 years ago. I found out there were massacres there. I found out that at the base of it there had been in 1811 a French fort. I found out all this stuff and was just intrigued. I found myself looking harder and harder at it."

Parson's visit is part of an ongoing series at the Donna Moravec Gallery at CCA that features local, regional and national artists annually.

## Speaker blends inspiration, motivation

### *Student Success Center users "will not be alone"*

Dr. Regina A. Lewis' journey from food stamps, single motherhood and nominal education to a life filled with degrees on the wall and physical and mental accomplishments she'd once never even considered held members of the college's Student Success Center in rapt attention Feb. 1 during a welcome-back ceremony.

Lewis currently works at Pikes Peak Community College, where she is the department chair of the Communications department, assistant dean of Communications, Humanities and Technical Studies, and director of the Women's Forum. She also is an author and adjunct at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

But not long ago, she was an adult student testing at a seventh and eighth grade level attempting to further her education and trying to live on \$89 a month. Her husband having passed away in a helicopter crash while her son was just 8 1/2 years old, she decid-

ed to engage her only child in an 'Action Pact' that eventually resulted in her obtaining her Ph.D. and her offspring, Charles III, graduating from the Air Force Academy.

"When you no longer recognize yourself, where you are now, change will come," she promised.

Lewis chalked up much of her success to motivation, inspiration and letting "haters be motivators." She not only earned a bachelor's degree (with a double major), a masters and a Ph.D., but inspired by a septuagenarian, she later rebuilt her body in her middle age and grabbed first-place awards in a body-building competition.

"Was it easy? No," she explained. "When you start with a defeat, you're always playing catch up ... but I was determined and inspired and I kept going."

Lewis challenged the Student Success Center members to create their own momentum and take on their own lofty visions with determination.

"What will be your inspiration?" she asked.

She stressed to the audience that it should never rest on laurels and must continually re-set the bar, even when goals are attained.

"You don't stop, you keep going. You keep setting goals," she said.

"... I'm looking for my next summit."

Some of the lessons she told the audience to apply toward their own personal journeys included: possessing discipline and authenticity; not stopping until it's done; and looking beyond the current state and staying focused on the result.

Lewis mentioned that having a "success entourage" is key, and that the Student Success Center is undoubtedly part of that group for them as individuals striving for better things.

The CCA Student Success Center is comprised of participants in the Transfer Success Program, TRiO SSS and Scholar Support and Programming and includes individuals -- many of whom are the first in their families to attend college -- that have faced their own financial and other



**Dr. Regina A. Lewis used her own journey to frame her inspirational message to students who may be looking for the spark that ignites their future treks.**

barriers to academic success.

The group offers academic success seminars, transfer and career workshops, money management counseling, and run a college visit program to help their students graduate from CCA and transfer to four-year institutions.

"You will not be alone," Lewis said. "If you push people away, you're pushing away opportunity."

# Family likes 'confidence boost' that CCA offers

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Jordan, at 13 the youngest, once made Kool Aid with salt instead of sugar while making dinner as part of rotating family chores but that was an honest mistake, not an attention-grabbing stunt.

That's not to say the Hendersons aren't unique in their own fashion.

It's just that they are real, not what has become 'reality.'

Both parents agreed long ago that if they had any chance of putting their seven children through college that all of them would go the community college route, and would do so right in their backyard, which incidentally lies right between Community College of Aurora's two campuses.

Dad worked three jobs to support the family in an effort to ensure those educational futures. In fact, he was the one who started the parade of Hendersons through CCA. Wayde took a couple of courses in the early 1990s before being shipped overseas for Desert Storm as part of the Army Reserves following a career in the Air Force.

Jayde (2008), Jeven ('11) and Jhia ('11) were the first three children to receive their associate degrees, with mom graduating cum laude from CCA in between. The latter three all are currently attending Metropolitan State University in Denver, while Jayde already has earned his diploma with a Communications degree.

That pipeline is bound to continue, with Jarec and Jake currently attending CCA, and 15-year-old Jenna and Jordan nearly ready to set foot on campus.

On second thought, perhaps The Learning Channel has an opening in

its fall lineup.

"I just think it's an easier way to ease into college and I like the idea that you can obtain a degree," Janelle Henderson said about consistently choosing an educational bridge for her family on the path between home school and university studies.

"How many kids do you know who start at four-year schools but don't finish? To me, the two-year degree provides that extra boost of confidence, where when you get to the four-year college, you're like, 'I've done it once, I can do it again' "

At CCA, it also has continually exposed her children to a range of teaching methodologies and allowed them to discover (or confirm) their professional goals. At the same time,



Four members of the Henderson family already have earned their associates degrees: from left, Jhia (2011); mother Janelle (cum laude, 2007); Jayde (2008) and Jeven (2011). All currently attend Metro State University.

it's saved thousands of dollars and racked up foundational credits that seamlessly transfer to four-year institutions.

"Jayde was kind of the guinea pig," father Wayde said of his oldest son. "It was kind of like, 'Let's see how this goes, and what do we have to learn to make sure things go well?' Once he got through CCA, it made it easier for everyone else to already know the steps and what needed to be done."

Yet only a select few people on the college's campuses have put together the fact that so many related Hendersons have filled the classrooms of Lowry and CentreTech.

"My ceramics teacher says all the time, 'Your whole family's going to be the President, CEO and all the teachers of CCA' because we've had so many people through there," Jeven

said at one of the family's usual Sunday gatherings.

A brief pause followed.

"He may be right," big brother Jayde chimed in, eliciting laughter from this brood of parents and siblings.

## Starting from scratch

As calculated as the Hendersons' educational plan became relating to community college, the opposite was true regarding the foundational step of teaching the children at home.

Wayde and Janelle were married in 1987 and "decided to do the whole kid thing." But there was no thought of the latter being a stay-at-home mother until she sent her first born to a preschool down the street

There would be no stopping it.

Soon enough, Janelle was home-schooling all seven kids at the same time. She had the procedures down to a science and, at the same time, managed to keep sane.

"If there's one thing I'd never change was that decision to home school," Janelle said. "It's the best stumble I've ever made."

There were tense moments. Janelle is human after all. Daughter Jhia joked that sometimes her mother "sleeps for a long time," but this was a woman who in her single days ran marathons and, before the children got accustomed to the daily routine and became more self-sufficient, woke up at 4:30 a.m. for some 'me' time that included her daily run.

Thus, she was accustomed to the notion of working towards the long haul – and experiencing bumps in the road.

"Obviously there were down times and not-so-happy moments and people getting frustrated," Jayde, the eldest child, recalled. "But what we've been taught and reinforced is not to cry on knees or roll on the ground saying, 'I can't do it.' It's not allowed. But more so than it not being allowed, if anyone flipped out another would say, 'What are you doing?' So it's a cultivated environment that keeps it from going over the edge."

There were more practical reasons for the kids' staying even-keeled.

"If we were fighting you didn't have anyone else to talk to. So you had to be like, 'Oh, we're friends again,'" Jeven explained.

That wasn't entirely true. The Henderson children were hardly shut-ins and had plenty of friends. There was no peering out at the outside world through the windows of their home. They met and befriended kids all over town through a bevy of outside activities. It was a family rule that each child had a hobby, interest and a sport.

"My goal was to use their community to introduce them to their talent," Janelle said.

That meant museum and theater

and stopped at a school supply store, where she happened upon a conversation that would shift her thinking.

One of the owners was talking about how she'd completed high school at an early age, and at 19, was already in business with her husband. It wasn't long before the home-schooling concept was broached and curriculum purchased.

By the time Jayde hit five years old, and second son Jeven was already three, that Janelle decided after diligent research to "just keep going" and see where this pathway led.

It was exhilarating in one sense, but pressure-filled in another.

"The whole shebang is on you, and if the kid doesn't know it, it's because of you," she said. "I had to make sure they knew what they had to know."

The train was rolling, though.

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Right, the Henderson family gathers around their Aurora living room for an impromptu jam session in January. Below, mother Janelle sings while sons Jayde and Jake man the keyboards and Jordan plays the bass guitar. The family named the band "No. 7" after the number of family siblings, even adopting a logo that was inspired by a n old Chanel No. 7 perfume bottle.



## Hobby, interest, sports part of planning

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visits, ceramics and dance classes. There was horse-back riding and, starting at around nine years old, mechanical engineering through a mentoring program. If it was local, available, cost-efficient, and kid friendly, the Hendersons were likely there.

They play or have played all manner of athletics at South Middle School and Aurora Central High School, intramurals at CCA and around town at recreation centers. There was hardly a sport that went untested. Basketball, ice hockey, roller skating, soccer, baseball, cross country, track and field, lacrosse, golf, even ultimate Frisbee are among the list of after-school activities on the Henderson kids' docket.

The directive to expand the children's horizons also meant that they all attempt to play some sort of musical instrument, which planted the seeds for the family band.

Yet none of the fun could start unless work was done first.

### No horsing around

The curriculum on which the children were weaned was structured and rigid in contrast to their noticeably laid-back demeanors. There are 10 books for each subject. One by one, the kids advanced a grade at a time, with tests measuring their competency along the way. A daily schedule also was employed to keep everything assembly-line smooth, ensuring only slight deviations from the public-



school experience.

Jenna, who plans on attending CCA beginning next summer, explained a typical school day in the Henderson household, which hasn't changed for years.

"Wake up at 7:30. Get ready. Wash our face, clean our ears, read our scripture and if we don't get it done, we can't eat breakfast – and I want to eat," she said. "Start school at 8:30. Pledge of Allegiance,

then everyone's like, 'OK, be quiet. I need to get this done.' We all sit at the same table. A section of the table is yours. You claim your space with a book. Sometimes the books get mixed up and you're like, 'Is this mine?'

"We start with bible, math, language, science, all for like 45 minutes. We stop at 11:30 and do chores and whoever has kitchen makes lunch."

Usual fare includes peanut butter, tuna, hot dogs or bologna. A fruit and vegetable are always part of the mix.

"Lunch ends at 1:00, then it's history and science and school's over," Jenna continued.

Being in such close quarters all the time has developed a palpable closeness among family members. Jhia talks about the siblings all possessing an "unspoken wavelength" where with a glance, much information could be communicated, then later discussed. Not surprisingly, there are also few secrets.

"I don't think there's anything I don't know about their personalities, mannerisms or habits," added Jhia, who once worked in CCA's Marketing and Communications Department.

The main difference between the Henderson's experience and the rest of the neighborhood kids has been that while most children go to school then go home, for them, it was the opposite.

What also varied at times was the way the home-schooling experience was at first perceived by others, before outsiders got to know the family members. The stereotypical expectation was that

See Hendersons / Page 7

# Home school means Pledge, plenty of work

From Hendersons / Page 7

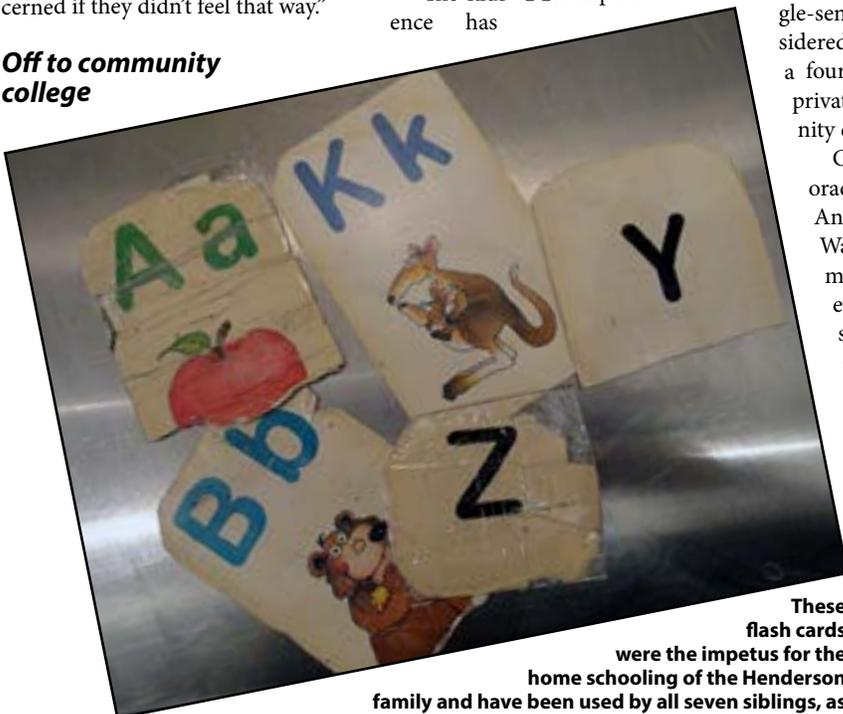
they would be with drawn and socially stunted. People have asked if they do school work in their pajamas or whether they get to eat whenever they want. One widely held assumption was that they were held against their will more than willing participants.

“The perspective that they have is of the kid who sat home all day, every day and never saw the outside,” Jayde said. “I’ll get asked, ‘What did you do, graduate in your living room? That’s the perspective they have. And people always say, ‘You don’t seem like a home-schooled person.’”

In truth, having so many people striving toward the same goal of a college diploma at the Hendersons begins at an early age and is fueled by each successful sibling before the next. The kids all have tested into CCA at around age 16 and have departed by their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. That two-year span culminates, not begins, with them taking their GED tests, since it allows for continued participation in high school athletics.

“A lot of kids lose excitement about education by the time college comes. They don’t,” Janelle said. “I like that they can’t wait to get there. I’d be concerned if they didn’t feel that way.”

## Off to community college



These flash cards were the impetus for the home schooling of the Henderson family and have been used by all seven siblings, as the tape and creases can attest.

The underlying message that the children receive once they head to CCA is one of academic exploration and the acquisition of self-knowledge, along with degree completion.

The Hendersons arrive on campus already equipped with nuggets of information that were harped upon constantly. Things like never letting fear get in the way of what’s right and responsible for their success; that crying was OK, but after the tears, the problem remains and still must be addressed; that there’s nothing wrong with not succeeding the first time.

But in the big picture, it’s about using small classes and a less intimidating and quiet environment than many schools at CCA to fill any pockets of information they may have missed in their educations while prepping for the future in the workforce.

“I was a little nervous to begin trying to figure out what to do and how to do it. I didn’t have my mom there to help me do things,” Jeven said about his CCA arrival. “I had to contact teachers through e-mail, phone or asking and try to figure how I fit in and get along with people I’d never seen in my life. But it was natural to me, since I’d done it before. And it made me more independent.”

The kids’ CCA experience has



This wood table in the Henderson kitchen has been a primary designated study area for the children during their pre-CCA, home-schooling period. Here, Jenna, 15, and Jordan, 13, are deep in concentration on various assignments.

been filled with bus rides to campus and numerous work-study jobs. Mom and dad purchase no cellphones or cars. That responsibility is on each child, who get jobs as teenagers,

The financial ramifications of choosing the community-college route for the family have been substantial, saving them thousands and perhaps tens of thousands of dollars over choosing a four-year school to start each child’s post-secondary education.

A Noel-Levitz study for 2012-13 listed the national averages for a single-semester, full-time student (considered 12 credit hours) at \$8,655 for a four-year institution; \$29,056 for private school; \$3,131 for community colleges.

CCA costs \$2,097 after the Colorado Opportunity Fund stipend. And with help from FAFSA, dad Wayde said the Hendersons have managed to stretch their dollars even further. By comparison, single-semester costs for in-state tuition for a dozen credits are, according to each respective college’s website, \$12,888 at University of Colorado-Boulder; at least \$25,488 at University of Denver; a minimum \$11,700 at Regis University; and \$3,437.40 at Colorado State. All those figures are from the individual college’s websites and include COF credits.

Such potential mon-

etary outlays can go down like a fresh batch of salt Kool Aid for a family of nine in what’s currently become, but hasn’t always been, a single-earner household.

“I wouldn’t say it would have been impossible without CCA but it made it easier,” noted Wayde, the family patriarch, whose primary job is as a coordinator at Denver Rescue Mission. “We were going to do it anyway, so whatever it took, we were going to do. But being at CCA made it a lot easier because when you look at how much education is at some places, it’s kind of like, ‘Really, are you kidding?’ And with CCA being so close, really in our neighborhood, made it the right thing to do.”

Jayde is expected to receive his master’s degree this summer at Metro State. Janelle, Jhia and Jeven are on track for their bachelor’s degrees. Jarec has been at CCA since summer 2011 and was joined by 16-year-old Jake in January. That leaves only Jordan and Jenna to complete what has to be the first family of CCA, in one sense.

“I’m really looking forward to walking there, catching the bus and having the books,” Jenna said. “They’ll be heavy, but I’ll be excited.”

## Strike up the band

It’s Sunday at the Henderson house off Sixth Ave. in early February and the gang’s all here. That’s typical, as the family has made it a point to



The family band: Janelle, Jake, Jarec, Jhia, Jayde, Jeven, Jenna, Jordan and Wayde. The group practices on weekends and frequently plays church concerts.

## 'Somebody starts and we see what happens'

From Hendersons/ Page 8

reconvene weekly. It's time for food, fun and music.

And by the sound of it, the edict to learn an instrument has hardly been wasted.

The entire lot of them has pooled talents to start a band two years ago that now plays monthly gigs and hopes to expand their appearances in the future.

The eclectic mix of musical tastes is evident, encompassing Neo soul, rhythm and blues, hip-hop, rock, pop, and dub step. The cover songs they attempt are a reflection of that array of genres, featuring Bruno Mars, Common, Michael Buble, Aerosmith, One Direction, Frank Sinatra and assorted jazz.

Jhia named the band "No. 7," after a short-lived Chanel perfume from the 1920s.

The name was chosen because it is neutral to any type of music. But it seemingly leaves out the parents, even though Janelle sings and Wayde plays bongos.

"I thought it should be the No. 9," Wayde said.

"But," Jhia responded, "there's no Chanel No. 9."

Just as there are probably no other home-schooled, CCA-trained, family bands.

"We're pretty good as far as osmosis and know-

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"A lot of kids lose excitement about education by the time college comes. They don't. I like that they can't wait to get there. I'd be concerned if they didn't feel that way."

-- Janelle Henderson

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ing what the other is doing," Jeven said. "It's having a connection that takes other artists a long time to discover."

All that time together studying side-by-side has heightened the unspoken language and transferred it to the musical realm.

"We've developed an adaptability to different sounds," Jayde said. "Somebody starts and we see what happens."

Jhia, Jenna and Jarec play the guitar. Jordan plays bass and Jeven the drums. Jayde and Jake are pianists.

"It can start one way and end another way. Some of the jam sessions have been like, 'What can we come up with?'" Jayde said.

Most of the time they play at their local church or practice in their basement. Janelle is a gospel and jazz singer and will use No. 7 as her backing band. Or the group will mesh itself into the church choir's performance.

"They're very good," Janelle said. "I know when they make a mistake. But they're actually very good."

### Happy ending

Yet nothing figures to sound as sweet as hearing Jordan's name called and seeing him grab his diploma from a four-year institution in about seven years. It will mean that all seven Henderson children will have finished college, even if it does seem like yesterday that the first set of flash cards was being purchased.

"I think back at the times when some people would ask me how are you going to do college and I would always say, 'I've done the research, trust me,'" said Janelle, who currently is working towards her



## Family envisions happy outcome

From Hendersons/ Page 9

Mechanical Engineering degree. "And that in a lot of ways was a real motivator because every so often, I'd get a look of, 'Yeah, right.' Not too often. But in my mind it was, 'You just wait and see.' So now that a few of my kids have graduated from there, it's rewarding.

"I cried when my first son graduated from CCA. I didn't when he did with his bachelor's degree," Janelle added. "I did at CCA because even though I knew what I was doing and what my kids were learning, that piece of paper showed everyone else that they didn't have to take my word for their abilities. It provided a little bit of proof."

The evidence has since just kept piling up. Jayce majored in Communications with a minor in Industrial design and his masters thesis is on the Business of Computer Design. Jeven is working toward a Business degree. Jhia is on track for a Mechanical Engineering degree, like her mom.

Of the two current CCA students, Jarec plans on transferring to CU to pursue an Electrical Engineering degree. Jake has designs on becoming an Architectural Engineer.

All this academia has the makings of the Henderson Engineering Co. if that whole CCA president, CEO and teacher thing doesn't pan out.

"It's kind of been my secret plan," Jeven said with a laugh.

And if anyone knows about making plans work, it's the Hendersons.

"You kind of think about what the story will be like 10 years from now and thinking where we started from," Jayde mused.

No doubt, everything that will be accomplished -- no matter how many years down the line -- will have stemmed from the unity that is a family hallmark along with a positive outlook, encouragement from both parents and, of course, hard work.

"On the one hand I'm like, 'I'm going to Europe, I can't wait,'" Janelle said, adding with a chuckle, "I might go before then. But the thing that drives me the most is I want them to not need me. I'm not raising them for them to need me. I want them to know I'm always there for them.

"But I tell them the biggest disappointment is if they're not able to take care of yourself. It's really about me getting them to not need me and fly on their own."

Jarec has more modest goals when it's all over and everyone returns to the roost to visit.

"I want to see the cars parked together in one place," he said. "Just to see how many we can fit in."



The Henderson children, from oldest (top) to youngest during a recent photo shoot.

# The Hendersons will all be there ...

## HEADS OF HOUSE



**JANELLE:** The family matriarch, has spent time as an avid runner, model, jazz and choir singer, playwright, pencil artist and, especially, mom. .... Home schooled entire family of seven children, often while working simultaneously. .... Strong proponent of education and community involvement, including sports, the arts and theater in the greater Denver/Aurora area ... Opted to return to school herself in 2007 and received an AS degree from CCA ... Currently working toward a Mechanical Engineering degree at Metro State University in Denver. ... Says that she's tried to "use life experiences that seem to come up throughout the educational journey as the other degree of maturity you earn alongside the piece of paper you get at the end."

**WAYDE:** Father of the Henderson family. ... Took Architecture classes at a junior college after high school in Champaign, Ill., but stopped to join the Air Force. ... Joined the Army Reserves at the end of his active military career. ... Worked for an oil drilling company in the purchasing department. ... Attended classes at CCA towards an eventual Accounting degree in 1990 but was called to war in Desert Storm ... Upon his return, opted to attend seminary school, so moved to California with his wife since 1987 and first three children with the stated intention of returning to the Denver area. ... Came back to Aurora in 1996 with five kids in tow ... Took additional CCA classes in spring and fall of '08. ... Currently works at Denver Rescue Mission, where he's served as a teacher and relationships coordinator for nearly 10 years.



## SIBLING GRADS

**JAYDE:** Began college career at CCA in the spring of 2005 and graduated with an AA degree in '08. .... Played intramural basketball at the college sponsored by CCA .... Transferred to Metro State, where he worked in the Information Technology department ... Graduated with a bachelor's degree in Communications with a minor in Industrial Design ... Currently working toward his masters in the Business of Computer Design with an anticipated completion date this summer.

**JEVEN:** Acclimated himself to college by following brother Jayde to CCA in spring 2007 .... Took creative classes to acclimate himself to different teaching styles ... Participated in intramurals and was hired as a CCA work study in the Art and Design Department and computer lab. ... Obtained AA in 2011 .... Enrolled

at Metro State, where he's currently working toward a Business degree in his fourth semester at the university and is employed as a work study in IT.

**JHIA:** Completed CCA in two years, spanning the summers of 2009 through '11 ... Walked in same graduation ceremony as brother Jeven .... Like her two brothers preceding her, started CCA at age 16 and completed curriculum for an AA by 18. ... An avid photographer, worked in the college's Marketing and Communications department. ... On track for a Mechanical Engineering degree at Metro State, where she works for the President's office and is a Young Life, Inc., leader, including service as music coordinator ... Serves as a sixth-grade girls basketball coach for a local Denver school ... Currently attempting to land an engineering internship.

## CURRENT ENROLLEES

**JAREC:** Began CCA career in summer 2011 and is currently enrolled ... Took a class with sister Jhia in first semester at college ... Received paid internship as an engineering intern at RTL Networks at age 16 after completing an eight-week SummerTek course on Computer Networking ... Like his siblings before him, has taken Architecture as well as mechanical, computer, structural and civil engineering coursework at the college. ... Future plan includes graduation from CCA and a transfer to the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he'll pursue an Electrical Engineering degree.



**JAKE:** The fifth Henderson child to attend CCA, and the 7th Henderson in total to attend CCA. ... Began at the college Jan. 22. ... Attending with brother Jarec also currently enrolled ... Math, English and voice classes are part of his initial curriculum ... Has frequently participated in local and church musicals ... Plans on becoming an Architectural Engineer.

## IN THE BULLPEN

**JENNA:** Turns 16 next April, and plans on taking a class at CCA next summer ... Avid basketball player and soon-to-be track athlete ... Penultimate Henderson child says where she is headed motivates her to focus on doing good school work now. ... One of three Henderson children to win leadership awards through the religious organization AWANA (Approved Workman Are Not Ashamed) ... Strong math student, according to mother, Janelle.

**JORDAN:** Plays on basketball team coached by father, Wayne ... Sister Jenna is a former teammate .... On similar track to CCA as his siblings. ... Concentrating on doing well in math with a goal of "passing the Accuplacer test with a high score" prior to college entry.



## Information bank

**Dilpreet Jammu**, co-director of the Khalsa School Denver, where he also teaches religion, history and the Punjabi language, will be featured on Sikh Religion and Traditions on April 11 from 9:30-10:45 a.m. in the CentreTech Rotunda.

The event is free and open to the public.

The talk comes on the heels of a mass shooting last summer at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis. Jammu will talk about Sikh identity, origin and beliefs.

There are no "priests" within the religion but Jammu is one of many lay people who speak on behalf of Colorado Sikhs. In conjunction with the lecture, Global Initiatives and the ESL Department are tentatively planning a tour of the Sikh Temple on 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Tower Rd. on April 13. Please contact [Daniel.Schweissing@ccaaurora.edu](mailto:Daniel.Schweissing@ccaaurora.edu) for more information.

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**Amanda Montandon** has joined Computer Science as its new administrative assistant, the department's dean, Victor Vialpando, announced. Montandon has worked in a similar role at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. She is a native of the state who attended York (Neb.) College.

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The College Transfer Fair will be held March 6, with stops at both CentreTech (11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Rotunda) and Lowry (3:30-5:30 p.m., Bergren Room, West Quad).

A host of four-year universities will be on hand to present to currently enrolled CCA students the programs that make them unique. The main goal for current CCA attendees is to help them find a four-year college that fits their major goals after completing a two-year degree, then transferring. Students can ask important questions first hand with college representatives and get a better sense of their future direction.

Free pizza will be served.

The list of participating schools includes: University of Denver; Adams State University; Johnson and Wales University; Northern Colorado; Columbia College; Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design; Regis University; University of Colorado; Colorado State University; Metropolitan State University of Denver; Art Institute of Colorado, American Public University; Western State Colorado University; University of Phoenix; and Colorado Technical University.

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The Tournees Festival, featuring new French films on campus, will be held March 1-3 at the Colorado Film School. Admission is free to the general public. All movies will be shown in the CFS Screening Room.

An opening reception will take place March 1 at 6:30 p.m., The festival is

## A virtual credit bureau



**Lt. Gov. Joseph A. Garcia unveiled the annual report on concurrent enrollment Feb. 20 at Aurora's Hinkley High School. Garcia invited three successful students who had earned credits towards their college degrees at CCA, faculty James Gray and president Alton D. Scales to speak along with leaders from Aurora Public Schools. Garcia lauded CCA and APS for their take-charge position on admitting high school students to take postsecondary courses. "You were just more aggressive about it and with your partnership with APS, you had a college and a school district that both understood the value of this to both institutions and to the students in the community. You've just done more than other school districts and colleges." Pictured from left are many of the key players in the CCA-APS partnership, including: Tim Wilkerson, Nicole Hockert, Don Keeley, Xeturah Woodley, Renie DelPonte, Jeffrey Kenney, Hinkley counselor Courtney Dauer, Scales, Hinkley vice principal Matthew Willis and Olimpia Marroquin.**

presented by the Colorado Film School in collaboration with the Global Initiatives Committee.

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Two more Open Mic Nights are scheduled during the remainder of the spring semester: March 1 and April 5, both from 7-9 p.m.

Poets, musicians, dancers, spoken word artists and other performers can take the stage at the Larry D. Carter Theater (Fine Arts Bldg., Room 110) and share their talents with the college community.

Performers must check in at 6:30 p.m. Open Mic Nights are free and open to the public.

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Several faculty professional development sessions are available throughout March and April.

Topics include: Dealing with Difficult Students and Having Difficult Conversations (March 7, CentreTech/March 15, Lowry); Recognizing and Referring Student Mental Health Issues (April 5, Lowry/April 6 CentreTech); and Stress Management and Burnout Prevention (April 22 CentreTech/April 24 Lowry).

For more information and to RSVP to

any of these sessions, please contact **Dr. Peggy Norwood**, the college's director of faculty professional development, at 303-340-7708 or via college e-mail.

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The fifth annual "Take Back the Night" event will be held Thursday, April 18, from 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. in the CentreTech campus Rotunda

"Take Back the Night," organized by psychology faculty **Jennifer Dale**, is an event that traditionally promotes the safety and empowerment of women. At CCA, we have made it about the empowerment and safety of all people, regardless of sex, gender, identity, or orientation.

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Techniques to make the classroom more dynamic is one of the topics du jour at the spring semester's mid-semester "Power Talks" workshop slated for March 2 from 9 a.m.-noon at the CentreTech Student Centre Rotunda.

All first-semester instructors are required to attend but all interested faculty are welcome. Breakfast will be provided and adjuncts compensated at the normal hourly rate. For more information please contact [Daniel.Schweissing@ccaaurora.edu](mailto:Daniel.Schweissing@ccaaurora.edu).

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Intent to run submissions for student government positions are due by April 5.

Minimum officer requirements include enrollment in six credit hours; a minimum 2.75 GPA and 20 office hours per semester. Those figures drop to three credit hours, a 2.50 GPA and five office hours for those running for senator.

Candidates must be available on Fridays from 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

For more information, call 303-340-7525 or drop by Student Life at Lowry (West Quad, Room 110).

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Students with a 3.5 GPA or above are invited to a Phi Theta Kappa orientation meeting March 7 from 5-6 p.m. at the Student Centre Rotunda. The spring induction into the international honor society is March 21 at 6 p.m.

Applications are available online or at Lowry Student Life.

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The annual International Festival will be held on March 13. The theme will be "Dance Around The World." The day's events will include participatory sessions and performances with faculty; a Q-and-A session with ESL students; games; Afro-Cuban dance and an international potluck.

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The documentary "Shots Fired" will be shown on March 4 on both campuses (12-1 p.m., CentreTech Student Centre Rotunda and 3:30-4:30 p.m., Lowry Bergren Room). The film touches upon bullying, violence and school shootings and provides guidance for surviving and active shooter situation.

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A walk-up mural project designed to create awareness of the Higher Learning Commission's site visit to CCA in April will be located in the front foyer in the CentreTech Classroom building on March 6 and 7.

Aspiring painters and students of all artistic abilities can participate. Interested parties will be given a small section of the mural to paint on their way to or from class, which will comprise the larger image over a two-day period.

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**Dina Hornreich**, who serves as librarian at Lowry campus as part of a new CTE enterprise, will be available for student drop-in sessions from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Hornreich rotates between open lab in the West quad, the lobby of the Colorado Film School, the Art and Design Macintosh lab in the North quad, and the Legal Resource Center in the Simulation Center.

Other appointment times also are available.

For more information, please click on <http://www.ccaaurora.edu/students/library/lowry>.



## Around campus



Clockwise from top: Members of the CCA staff, faculty and administration listen as Chris Ward, executive director of grants and planning, presents some of the talking points revolving around the April visit by the Higher Learning Commission. Maria Garibay and Jose Guerrero Baez share a lighter moment during Vendor Day at the CentreTech Rotunda; members of the college's co-ed soccer team Jocelyn Mujica, Jennifer Aguirre and Jessica Drayton run a fundraising bake sale on Valentine's Day; student Hui Ma, a soprano opera singer, was a featured attraction during the 11th annual Colorado Chinese New Year Celebration on Feb. 9 at the Paramount Theater in Denver. She is known as the Song Zuying of Denver, which equates to the most renowned female singer in China.

