



OUTSIDE THE BOX



Earth's upper atmosphere shot by an onboard camera affixed to a CCA student experiment, just after the payload's initial descent from 99,000 feet. Below, sunrise just above the clouds as an experimental box attached to a latex balloon breaks through the lower atmosphere.

Experiments allow 16 to reach for sky



It's just after 6 a.m. on April 13 outside a middle school in Eaton, Colo., the sun is just peeking over the horizon, and three months of work is literally about to disappear into thin air.

Experiments attached to a BalloonSat are ready to go airborne, hopefully to return unscathed. But when you are sending boxes made of foam material filled with delicate computer instrumentation, a camera, batteries, bacteria and other assorted wires and gizmos about 100,000 miles into the stratosphere, one can never be too sure if the payload will arrive back safely.

Four teams of four CCA students apiece from Victor Andersen's Experimental Design Class, though, have a sense of confidence that their meticulously detailed projects will yield productive data - or it may just be the caffeine from the free-flowing coffee on this brisk morning that's doing the talking.

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'Typical student' thrilled to give speech



Crystal Smith will be the student speaker at the Saturday, May 11 commencement ceremony, which will take place at 11 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, DIA.

Crystal Smith's circuitous path to Community College of Aurora's graduation speaker is par for the course for many of the students that she'll be addressing May 11.

It's one reason she may be an ideal choice to deliver a message of perseverance on what will be an important day in so many lives.

"I think I'm a very typical student at CCA," Smith noted. "I'm a mom. I'm an older student. I'm 34, so it's not like I started right out of high school – though when I was 18, I did start CCA right out of high school.

"I think it absolutely speaks to what and who I am and what the school is and who they cater to."

Smith was admittedly young and naïve when she chose the party life instead of sticking out her first college experience. Partying was more important to her at that juncture.

But as she worked at a finance company, then became a full-time housewife, watched siblings gradu-

ate and attend school, and even saw her mother, Arlene, earn a master's degree from Colorado State University, that decision continued to gnaw at her.

"There was always a hole there," she explained. "I felt like I let myself down and that was always huge for me."

Others offered the usual excuses to not return to the classroom. The kids. The number of years that had passed since she'd hit the books. A lack of time. Even, as she put it, the fact that she "wasn't that good at it the first time."

Ultimately, it was all chalked up to faulty logic.

"I was like, 'Wait a minute. Why can't I go back? Why wouldn't I go back? This is something I always, always wanted. This is so silly of me to think I have to continue to stay a college dropout. That's ridiculous."

Smith re-enrolled at CCA in the summer of 2009. Her path to a piece

Corchado's post-CCA journey a busy one

Jamie Corchado has had plenty on his plate in the year since serving as CCA's student speaker at graduation.

He transferred to Colorado School of Mines, where he worked last summer as a researcher before beginning his quest for an Engineering/Physics degree. He was a NASA intern developing software for software developers on a launch control team.

Corchado met the state's Congressional delegation during a trip to Washington D.C., where he used his speech-making background to present at the National Space Grant's annual conference. He told the country's state directors about how a space grant he received at CCA helped set him on his current path, which he hopes one day will include a permanent NASA position.

Corchado while at CCA enjoyed his first experience with the space



Corchado

agency when he flew in a contraption nicknamed the 'Vomit Comet' while testing the simulated effects of gravity on the human cardiovascular system through negative air pressure.

And to think, Corchado's journey into the scientific world essentially began with a modified Cheez-It box during a robotics competition at CCA, where he spent about four years in the concurrent enrollment and ASCENT programs before earning an Associate of Science degree last May.

"We grow up thinking we'll work in what we love, and I discovered there's nothing I love more than science," Corchado said.

A child of Mexican immigrants, Corchado is constantly reminded by his parents of the value of education in advancing his future.

"It just reinforces the whole idea that it doesn't matter what your background is, as long as you can build from it," he added.

of paper wasn't always easy. She endured two back surgeries, one an emergency procedure two days before classes were to begin. That forced her to double up on science classes in a single semester and take an online math class, just so she could stay on track to earn her diploma this month.

Along the way, she deftly juggled family responsibilities while discovering a small piece of independence.

"CCA was my little oasis," she said. "I'm a little sad I have to close that little chapter of my life. In the same breath, I'm ecstatic and can't wait for the next moment, and I want to stand up on that stage, really look at people and just say, 'Wow.'"

Smith's experience at CCA was so invigorating, she joked that every semester she would change the path of her future academic pursuits. Her English course made her want to teach English. Her Geology course inspired her to want to explore mountains and caves.

She ultimately has decided to pursue a career teaching grade school children, in large part because at the core, what made her CCA experience so life-altering was its "amazing

teachers."

Smith is headed to Metropolitan State University in the fall, but not before grabbing a diploma that was such a driving force in her life the last four years. Topping it all off is her speech, which she called "a dream come true."

Her message to the Class of 2013 has a simplicity to it that makes it universal, no matter the stories held within the people she'll address from the dais at commencement.

Smith promised to make eye contact with husband David, sons Wesley and Lucas and daughter Annalise at various points during her speech to really drive her message of strength and perseverance home – but mainly to reinforce to her kids the importance of college.

At the same time, "The main thing I want to tell people is enjoy the moment," she said. "So many times you think back at all you've done and look forward to all that you are going to do, and they never stop for that moment. And there are so many days that you need to stop and focus on that very minute. I want them to do that on graduation day, be proud of that moment and soak it in."



Model United Nations 2013 Model Liberty in North West DC

MODEL UNITED NATIONS



The first Model United Nations at a Colorado community college since 1975 was held April 5-6 on the CentreTech campus. Students discussed pressing world issues within the General Assembly and Human Rights, Security and Economic councils. There was formal and informal debate, and the reading of, and voting upon, resolutions during this multi-disciplinary exercise that spanned 13 classes since January, including Political Science, Psychology, Anthropology and English. Dr. Bobby Pace spearheaded the exercise, which was funded by the game-based learning grants bestowed by the Colorado Community College System.



Opportunity is best medicine

Prestigious health program a boon for pair

Fernando Garcia came to CCA beginning in Spring 2010, gun shy about an educational experience, which to that point had included a GED and a departure from high school precipitated by family and financial difficulties.

Blessed Otabil around that same time was on a plane to America from his native Ghana with \$100 in his pocket and unsure about what his future held after teaching in his village at a private school for no pay, but with a dream to one day become a doctor.

Now, Garcia is well on his way to becoming a nurse. Otabil is taking steps to perhaps one day become a neurosurgeon. And each recently was given a boost that should serve as a stepping stone to those futures in medicine.

The pair both gained acceptance into a 13-month Undergraduate Pre-Health Program (UPP) run by the University of Colorado-Denver in conjunction with the Anschutz Medical Campus Office of Diversity and Inclusion and Kaiser Permanente Health Plan of Colorado.

The highly competitive program allows students to pursue numerous options within a broad spectrum of the medical profession, including dentistry, nursing, public health, medical school and more.

Any in-state undergraduate can apply for a fellowship within the small cohort that's chosen annually. The overriding focus of this particular program is on health disparities and focuses on students of color. Courses are taught by UCD faculty, staff and students and consist of lectures, demonstrations, and professional development.

According to data obtained from the program's website, only three community college students have survived the rigorous selection process and emerged with a cohort spot in the last three years. All three have attended CCA, including Otabil and Garcia, who received both academic and moral support from the Student Success Center as primers to help attain their goals.

"Personally, it's a huge step because pretty much our cohort – there's 27,

and 10 of them already have been accepted to medical school; the rest are gifted students, with 4.0 GPAs -- hard workers," Garcia said. "And for me to be in there, I'm extremely lucky."

Garcia has benefited from more than good fortune. He landed in the TRiO program while trying to once again adjust to academics, and he began to pursue his goals. An interest in health care was reinforced when he visited the emergency room with his father and began asking the nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital about their starts in the profession. Volunteering was suggested, and since 2010, Garcia has done just that at the facility – in addition to construction work and schooling.

He wasn't even going to apply for the UPP fellowship but completed the rigorous application and interview process with help, in particular, from Stephanie Plum, an academic advisor in the Student Success Center. He not only was accepted but already has had a chance to complete Step 1, which was a Kaiser Permanente internship that allowed him to network and get exposure to internal medicine, primary care, after-hours care, nursery, X-ray and other departments.

Garcia's scheduled to graduate CCA in May and begin the Pre-Health Program, with an eye on perhaps a future full-time position with Kaiser.

"For me personally, and I think for Blessed, much of my success has stemmed from the support we've gotten from this office," he said while perched just a few feet from his desk in the Student Success Center, where he works part-time. "I get my energy from the people that have believed in me."

The advisors in that office not only helped ensure both students would enjoy a smoother path towards graduation but, in fact, discovered the information on the UPP program and guided the pair's preparation for interviews, essays and applications.

Garcia – who begins next month in the University of Colorado Nursing Program, already had gone through the application process and also could serve as a peer mentor for Otabil, who



Blessed Otabil, left, and Fernando Garcia are rare community college students admitted to the Undergraduate Pre-Health Program at CU-Denver.

will go through his Kaiser internship this summer, then move on to the full UPP program. His long-term plan is to attend Colorado State University. He's expected to graduate CCA in the fall.

It's a far cry from the school where Otabil taught before winning the lottery to come to the United States. There, in the small town of Prestea, the academic buildings were not completed and there was no spare room for teachers – who didn't even get paid.

"My future was pretty much taken, because down there, and I always say this, if I hadn't come here, I may have taken a different path and that wouldn't have interested me. I'd probably be teaching. It wouldn't have made me happy," said Otabil, who, for the last seven months, has worked full-time at Denver Health Medical Center as a nursing assistant. "Now I feel I'm on the right track and whatever I'm doing, I'm seeing the reward and know that I can get there."

Application requirements for the UPP program included a minimum 3.5 grade-point average; two letters of

recommendation, including at least one from science faculty; a personal statement on career goals; essay questions; a commitment to forego enrollment in courses or take summer jobs; and an interview.

"I'm excited for our students to have this opportunity because they are first in their families to go to college. They are students of color from under resourced financial backgrounds who are having great academic success. So they are high-achieving students with big goals," said Libby Klingsmith, CCA's coordinator of retention and transitions.

"Fernando wants to be a nurse; Blessed wants to be a neurosurgeon. And for me, this is a great step forward for them in pursuing that goal."

Doris "Didi" Gordon from CCA also is in the 2012-13 Undergraduate Pre-Health Program as part of Garcia's cohort but didn't go through the Student Success Center. The wife and mother of three is finishing her pre-requisites at the college to apply at Nursing schools, with the University of Colorado School of Nursing atop her list.

MOVING EXPERIENCE



Admitted 'dabbler' finally settles down at CCA, discovers happiness teaching

Ruby Eichenour considers herself "a dabbler."

It's an apt description given her nomadic career journey.

She's been a grocery store clerk, hotel maid, registered nurse, waitress, bartender, store manager, floral designer, dance and aerobics instructor, and author.

Eichenour also has tried her hand as a wholesale and retail sales manager, restaurant hostess, landscaper and gardener.

But Eichenour finally has settled down, and for good reason.

She's finally found her calling.

Eichenour is in fifth year as an adjunct instructor in CCA's English as a Second Language Program – a lifetime on her resume. It wasn't until she took the advice of her late mother, Norma, and entered the teaching profession that she felt a sense of calm satisfaction pervade her work life.

"I'm really a restless person," Eichenour admitted. "I've done many careers and trained in many things. But I just keep getting called deeper and deeper into it instead of being called away. Now, when I'm called away, it's maybe for an experience to teach in a new context or take an interesting training position somewhere. But I'm not being called away."

Eichenour was 53 years old when she discovered what appears to be a permanent calling.

That journey began in Costa Rica in 2004, when she began her quest for certification in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). Eichenour was particularly drawn to the experiential techniques put forth by the School for International Training and landed in a tiny village of EL VINU about 30 minutes from Arenal Volcano. She lived in a housing development -- and learned, without distraction.

It ended up being a place where she could not only fulfill her desire to become bilingual, but strive to meet her destiny. Her early professional life as a nurse seemingly had been a reaction to the severe illness of her cousin, Paul, one of the nation's first kidney



Adjunct faculty Ruby Eichenour was at home during a dance demonstration at International Day in March. Eichenour and her husband have spent time in Mexico learning to dance in one of her many sojourns prior to teaching.

transplants, who died at age 23.

Her nomadic journey through her work life then began. But the experimentation finally ended after she took a small inheritance to return to school with the goal of teaching students and future teachers alike.

"Two weeks into the first program at SIT, I was absolutely in love with the whole style of what they did and how they taught," Eichenour said. "I was so in love with it, for the first two weeks of the course I cried. I had waited my whole life for it to find me, and I never enjoyed education so much since kindergarten."

Eichenour eventually landed at a SIT academy in Brattleboro, VT, completed her training by August '05 and headed back to Vera Cruz, Mexico – where she once studied dance with her husband – to begin the next career phase.

She spent about 18 months south of the border, where, "I really started to learn my craft," Eichenour said.

Yet, her goal of training teachers needed a more stable financial base than Mexico could provide. It was then she landed at CCA, where the diverse student population, both in background and age, was in stark contrast to the single-culture experience to which she had become accustomed heading a classroom in Vera Cruz.

"I can remember when I first started, in my second or third week, a man raised his hand and said, 'I'm sorry, ma'am, but do you know what you're doing,'" Eichenour remembered with a laugh. "I knew what I was doing, but I certainly didn't know how to make it clear and explicit to them in a way that they could understand and appreciate what I was doing. That's something I still work on – letting adults know what you're doing and why you're doing it so they can get on board."

Still, Eichenour by this time had learned plenty about adapting to new experiences.

What keeps the teaching experience fresh for her now is rooted in the reciprocal relationship she consistently builds at CCA with students, who help her become a better educator while simultaneously aiding them in improving in the classroom.

The support she receives from department chair Chris Tombari and her connection to her ESL colleagues also keeps Eichenour firmly committed to the college.

She has trained between 100-200 teachers since 2009 in an ancillary role.

And while she's stayed put physically, mentally her desire to explore has hardly been tamed. As Eichenour put it, "I'm always looking ahead to see what's the next cool thing."

CCA aiming to continue TSA grads' college stay

A group of 32 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees became the first-ever class in the Denver Metro area to earn a TSA Homeland Security Certificate. Their educational commitment, executed through coursework at CCA, was recognized at an April 10 ceremony.

The TSA Associates Program, partners with community colleges across the country and offers three classes: Introduction to Homeland Security, Intelligence Analysis & Security Technology, and Transportation and Border Security.

Officers received a certificate of achievement upon successful completion of the three classes, but the CCA program also gives them a potential jump start to pursue a two-year via the college's modification of its Associate of Applied Science degree.

CCA has been able to retain 31 of the 32 graduates to continue into a nationally unique fourth course covering Homeland Security. That class in addition to the previous three already completed means TSA employees already will have reached one-fifth of the credits needed within a Criminal Justice course of study.

"I can already tell you we've just added an extra layer of security to the airport community because these folks are more aware of their surroundings. I think that's key," said Lawrence Nau, Acting Federal Security Director for TSA Denver.

Aurora Police Det. Michael Thrapp and Michael Carter, the college's Homeland Security chair and TSA Grant Administrator/Instructor taught the initial three classes over 18 months.

CCA already has numerous commitments from students seeking to further their education at the college and hopefully increase their upward mobility and excitement about their chosen professions.

"Community College of Aurora truly is a family and we want these students to understand that, come back to us, and work with us so they can see what the opportunities and possibilities are," Carter said. "They will not get lost here at CCA."



Clockwise from top: Philip Journey and Aaron Bartlett do some bench testing on their box several weeks before launch; Hartley Ihrig, Jim Kim and Gerardo Pulido do three-dimensional computer modeling; Team Bacto-Box gives a pre-flight presentation to University of Colorado scientists, who listen on speakerphone in a CCA classroom, that explains the design, cost, and hypothetical findings that are expected; a view of the interior of one of the experimental boxes, with only the point-and-shoot camera placed on the inside; the Arduino computer board is one of the most important aspects of the mission, since it records much of the flight data that will be reviewed in the week following the April 13 launch.

Flight preparation simulates real thing

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The project, sponsored by the Colorado Space Grant Consortium, already has gone through most of the steps of a real NASA mission, with the same stepladder approach of planning, testing and designing involved. But it's all come down to this: launch day.

There have been bench tests on the rectangular boxes that will hold their experiments. Before that, students were required to write proposals that gained approval before projects even were allowed to reach the design phase.

There were a series of reviews, including speakerphone critiques by University of Colorado scientists of PowerPoint presentations that laid out each of the teams' pre-flight theses. A flight director and his team have attempted to ensure safety with a final launch readiness review.

But the hydrogen filled balloon that carries much of the project's fate can be fickle, once a parachute-topped string with experiments resembling a kite's tail is attached and the whole shebang goes airborne.

The best-case scenario is everything lands smoothly about 75 miles away, an estimate based on this par-

ticular Saturday's weather predictions. The fervent hope is that after the experiments are unpacked, something heretofore undiscovered is revealed.

The worst-case scenario? CCA's four teams – named The Voltanators, Revolution, Bacto-box, and Charlie – have some ideas.

"When it falls down, it falls down on the highway and a semi-truck hits it and we get no data back," one student says.

"A Cessna could hit it, too," another chimes in.

The Federal Aviation Administration has been notified that objects will be entering this particular airspace, so that latter scenario's doubtful. It's the primary reason that this launch, the fourth straight year this project aimed at developing and training the next generation of scientists and engineers, has moved outside of the more crowded Denver-area airspace to more rural settings for liftoff.

"Another fear is it lands in a field of bulls somewhere in Kansas. Who'll get it then?," one of the more imaginative males in the CCA group said.

"Ladies first ...," he added, making the assembled CCA class members burst out into laughter.

If anything, this project already has been a success as a team-building exercise. Amongst all the sweat, thought and Skittles that went into these projects, there were equal parts jokes and camaraderie.

"I'm going to have to change the Chuck Norris fact book if we don't get our readings," promises student Hartley Ihrig, who has named the Voltanators' payload after the actor whose powers, according to Internet legend, are superhuman.

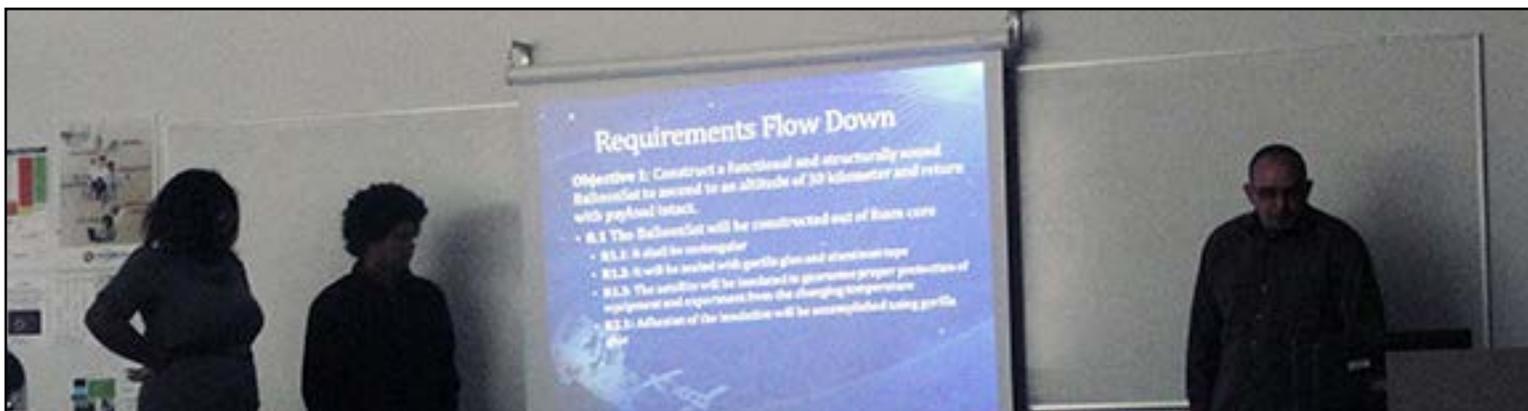
"Because," Ihrig explained. "Nothing goes wrong when you have Chuck Norris involved."

Ready or not, it's go time.

Seven boxes attached by cord – four from CCA, the others from the University of Colorado and Pikes Peak Community College – begin to be transported to the nearby open field. One student from each team carries the payload on which he's toiled. Their march goes past the giant balloon that will send this whole mission into the sky. The hissing sound as the eight-foot dirigible is inflated is unmistakable.

Steve Meer, working for Edge of Space Sciences, which will track and recover the payloads once they've

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Takeoff described as 'surreal'

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floated via parachute back to solid ground, begins to shout out launch instructions.

The payload string is about 80 feet long, and several individuals begin the process of affixing the hydrogen-filled balloon to that cord. All of the payloads have been weighed in advance so that the precise amount of inflation fills the balloon.

"When I tell you to pick up the payloads, pick up the payloads, turn it on, walk it over and when we launch it, hold it away from you and let it drift out of your hand," Meer shouts to the students.

The payload handlers oblige, stretching out the string tighly.

"Up and away from your face," Meer adds. "You don't want part of your lips to go into space today."

Up, up and away it goes – air-filled latex, not any Chapsticked appendages.

It didn't take long before the BalloonSat was out of view using the naked eye. GPS and radio transmission devices in SUVs that will track and trail its voyage can now take over the chase.

"It was a little surreal moment, I would say," student Bonnie Levitt, another Voltanators team member



Clockwise from top: Sunrise over farmhouses near Eaton, Colo., on April 13; workers ensure that the latex balloon that will carry experiments into the stratosphere is properly inflated; Team Revolution's box featured a whirling blades that created a shutter effect; the experimental boxes from CCA, University of Colorado and Pikes Peak Community College are carefully laid out and attached to the parachute that will carry them to the ground after flight, in a snapshot taken minutes before takeoff.

said moments after launch. "I couldn't stop watching the balloon. I couldn't keep my eyes off it."

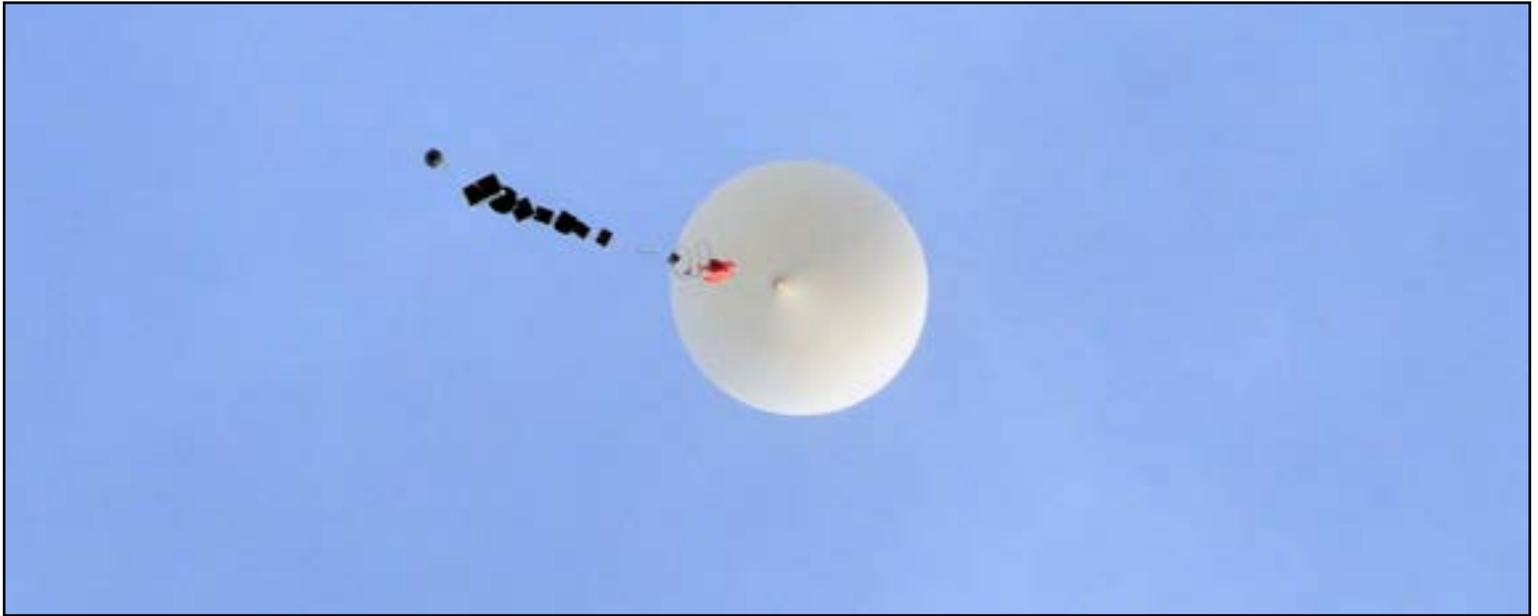
Four years and running

The BalloonSat launch also is backed by NASA, and, in reality, is workforce development to help train the next generation of scientists and engineers so that they're employable at the space agency or similar contractors in the field following the students' departure from college.

There are numerous constraints

placed on each team, comprised of individuals who largely volunteer for inclusion in this project.

There's a monetary budget. The entirety of the payload can only weight about 1.5 pounds. Pressure and temperature sensors measure the environment on the way up. An Arduino computer board helps measure the output. The onboard camera takes continual photos of ascent and descent, if all goes according to plan. Most of the raw materials are found at



Clockwise from top: The high-altitude latex balloon carries a parachute, tracking machinery and experimental boxes airborne from a middle school field in Eaton, Colo.; a computer screen set into one of the tracking vehicles on the ground shows the anticipated path of the BalloonSat and what was actually encountered during flight; a member of the Morgan County Electric Co. uses a cherry picker to cut down the payloads after the cord carrying them snagged on a power line.

'This is why space-grant students are prized by companies'

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hobby stores, like foam core poster board. Much of the payload is held together with hot glue.

As Andersen put it, "There's a premium on cheap and light."

At its apex, the high-altitude balloon is expected to travel about 30 kilometers above the surface. One advantage to conducting tests at that height is that the en-

vironment is very similar to what's seen on the surface of Mars, in terms of temperature and pressure.

"It's really an interesting part of the Earth because it's pretty hard to get access to that part," Andersen explained. "You can get to lower levels of the atmosphere just by flying an airplane. You want to get higher, you fly a satellite. But at that level you're still in the atmosphere but you're too high for nor-

mal airplane flight.

"In some ways it's part of the Earth we know surprisingly little about, which is surprising given that it's only 20 miles away from us."

Four separate experiments were to be in play amongst CCA's payloads.

The Voltanators ventured to test the use of rechargeable lithium-polymer batteries as a replacement for alkaline batteries on balloon flights. Team Revolution designed

and built an electric field mill to gauge its structural integrity and collect electric field data. Team Bacto-Box wanted to examine the effects of the near-space environment on human skin flora and the shielding effect of minerals.

Team Charlie was to send up endospore forming and non-endospore forming bacteria and expose them to stratospheric conditions.

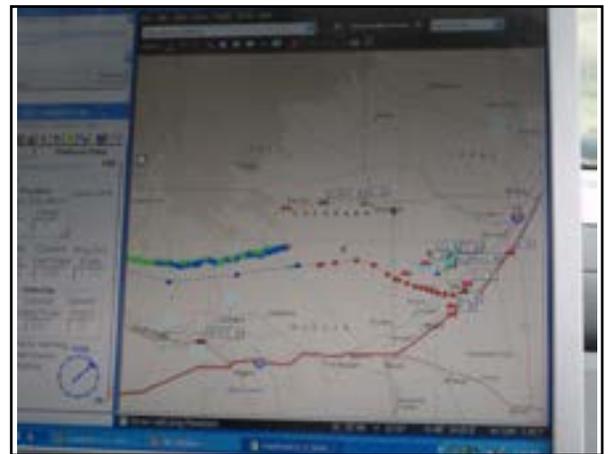
"They will come out of the process with a set of skills and confidence that they know what they're doing and can tackle bigger and better projects. It's what all this is about," Andersen said. "This is why we put them through the program. This is why space-grant students are prized by

companies when they graduate from whatever institution because they know they're ready. It's as close to the real world experience that you can give them in an educational setting, almost."

CCA's 2013 spring launch represents the fourth straight year it's taken place. A group of students from the college won best prize during the inaugural launch when bacteria placed in the extreme environment was examined at the DNA level and a significant, two percent difference in genetic code resulted.

"Every cohort that's come through has students that are going to go on to do great

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things,” Anderson said. “We just need to give them a chance to do it. That’s all.”

What goes up ...

The call came from Andersen’s cell phone, ironically, at 9:11 a.m.

“Turn right on Road 11,” he said. “The balloon got caught on a power line, so this should be interesting.”

Sure enough, the long cord holding the experiments draped over the electrical line like a towel on a shower rack, the parachute whipping in the wind to the other side.

The chase leaders in their SUVs flashed lights and kept students and other observers away, while sparks flew off the lead box, which was touching 40,000 watts of juice.

When people describe somewhere as the middle of nowhere, this area just about qualified, making it even more amazing that something traveling at 1,100 feet a minute on its downward fall could position itself just right to find this point to snag.

The payloads went up, and mostly came down, while re-locating north of Messex, Colo., just a few miles west of Interstate 76, about halfway between Fort Sterling and Brush. The Denver metro area at this point is about 150 miles away. Farmland and empty fields fill every direction.

Meer, who has worked eight years in tracking and recovery of BalloonSats, said out of the 186 missions in which he’s participated, only four have endured such a fate – hung up and strung up. Yet, as bad luck would have it, it was the second in a row.



Clockwise from top, one of the CCA experimental boxes finally lands in the snow; burn marks from touching powerlines upon landing; CCA students try to figure out whether their camera remains operational, as it snaps a photo of their stares; Bonnie Levitt, Jim Kim and Gerardo Pulido plug in their SD card to check for pictures from the back of their car; Team Revolution poses; Angel Gatchell, Austin Genger, Kimberly Buchanan and Progress Asoluka.



Morgan County Electric Company was notified by amateur radio of the situation.

“It didn’t come in contact with the ground, so it’s not too bad,” said student Brett Baker of Team Bacto-Box, even though three months of work was, for all intents and purposes, hanging by a thread. “At least we can see where it is and we’re not hunting down some farmhouse trying to access.”

Andersen was asked if there was money in the budget to pay for a cherry picker truck rescue operation. “We did not,” he said with a smile. “So hopefully Space Grant will pick up the tab for this.”

What did go right was that the computerized model of the balloon’s path modeled pre-flight by computer software was nearly dead on – sending it approximately 75 miles east and a little south of Eaton.

From the laptop computer affixed to the passenger side of his vehicle, Meer already could ascertain that the latex balloon exploded after reaching about 99,000 feet at its peak.

People on the ground huddled for about a 45-minute wait. Most chose the comfort and heat of their cars while awaiting the electric company’s arrival to cut the line.



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Sun rays pierce their way through the cloud cover as viewed from the camera attached to one of the CCA payloads sent into the stratosphere and back.

Andersen excited by students' career prospects post-CCA

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Once that snip came, the payloads fell in a cluster into a bank of snow.

"The camera looks like it's still on," a discussion then began.

"See the lens extended on the end there?"

"Unless it's broken, while it's on ..."

"Nah, it won't break while 'on.'"

A pause ensued.

"So, we're just staring at it like dummies?"

As the boxes were picked up, immediate signs of the flight emerged. White Velcro had turned a purplish hue. There were burn marks on the payload that touched the power line. Sorry, CU.

Team Voltanators rushed to the back of their vehicle to pull out the SD card that was supposed to capture photos.

"We got pictures!" Levitt exclaimed a few minutes later. "That's what I'm talking about!"

Team Charlie's camera it turned out wasn't fully operational, failing at around 30,000 feet on ascent. Team

Revolution's Arduino computer chip seemingly died. But these issues are always part and parcel of the final phase of the project: a study of the results, followed by a presentation on team findings at a research symposium a week after launch.

"This was the most difficult, hands on, time intensive experience I've had at CCA," said Team Revolution's Kim Buchanan, an aspiring engineer. "But it was worth it."

"This whole thing was a little surreal to begin with, because I didn't think schools offered anything like this at all. I was actually pretty shocked about it," said Austin Genger, Buchanan's teammate. "But what really hit home is that we can actually do stuff like this in any old lab. So this is sort of perfect training for it, too. It gets us lab ready and ready to be in that work field."

Mixed results

And what of the lessons learned:

- The Voltanators concluded that four alkaline batteries could be replaced by three LiPo batteries, saving about 50 grams of mass and \$20 per

balloon flight.

- Team Revolution's electric mill kept its structural integrity but was unable to collect field data because while post-flight testing showed that the mill was working, an amplifier circuit was needed to boost the mill's signal. The team hopes to fly the mill again in August.

- Team Bacto-Box saw all of its bacteria live through the flight and was able to culture them. The amount of DNA was surprisingly low, so they're working to understand the reasons behind that. Simplifying the experiment and conducting more ground testing were among the lessons learned.

- Team Charlie's samples all successfully grew, but due to the large number of samples, were not able to analyze gram-stain data before the symposium.

"Hopefully, they got good data and saw interesting things from their experiments," Andersen said. "But what really excites me is what are they going to do next? Now that they've had this experiment, how will they take

this experiment and move on to the next phase of their lives and careers."

Meer noted that previous students have gone on to work at prestigious research centers and in other high-tech areas.

"This is exactly what we think about when we think of STEM, is getting it out to the real world, having some fun with it and putting it into a real practical application."

Even if that means staring at a box that's just fallen on the ground and standing agape while a camera one wonders if operational snaps a picture of awkward facial expressions.

However, that image is more than counterbalanced by stunning pictures of the Earth's surface, shot from the darkness, emanating from an experiment built by student hands.

"Spaaaaaacceee!!!!!" Gerardo Pulido exclaimed the first time such a frame from the stratosphere came into view on the computer screen.

Sun rays poked through clouds in another frame. The cosmos somehow now seem attainable, touchable.

"It looks like Neverland," Levitt marveled.

Career Expo links students to employers

40-plus companies discuss opportunities

Peter Wilson, general manager of Star Telecommunications, Inc., had prime real estate just inside the front door of the Lowry campus West quad as employers and agencies rubbed shoulders with CCA students looking to break into the local job force at the April 25 Spring Career Expo.

The proof that location always is key was partially reinforced by the stack of resumes Wilson had accumulated just minutes before the close of the event, which was met by an enthusiastic response by those networking and those potentially hiring.

"It was fantastic," Wilson said. "Much better than I expected. Most people spoke more than one language combined with a huge breadth of personal and professional background and they were just trying to pull together enough credits to take the next step in their lives. They seemed really motivated and positive."

Pointing to the resumes piled on his display table, Wilson added, "There's a lot of new hires in this stack. I don't know if it'll happen in one, three or six months. But they can be placed, for sure."

More than 40 corporate representatives were on hand, in total. CCA ensured students could have access by running a free shuttle from CentreTech to Lowry for the three-hour job fair.

Even Dinger, the Colorado Rockies mascot, made an appearance.

"I think this was a great opportunity for our company to get out in front of people. We post a lot of jobs online, so this is a way to get in front of students and faculty and serve as both a marketing and employment opportunity," Lindsey Starkovich, assistant general manager of Safe Splash Swim School, said.

"Half of them were interested in what we were doing with employment. Half of them were interested in swim lessons."

Barbara Lindsay, coordinator of career services at CCA, had hoped that students would dress appropriately, bring resumes and be ready to network, and "they showed up prepared," she said.



Mitchell Moran acknowledges the family of the late Ryan Jones as he talks about being the initial recipient of a memorial scholarship in the former CCA student's name. Below, James Gray presents the first Student Success Achievement Award in his name to Aisha Spencer, who is beamed into the Foundation luncheon via Skype while she recovers from surgery.

Foundational principles put in action

Financial need was demonstrated in many ways at the Eighth Annual Scholarship Recognition Luncheon on April 24, via inspirational stories, tales of overcoming obstacles, even a genuine sense of thanks that clearly permeated the conference room at the Denver Marriott Tech Center.

Perhaps none hit home harder for the attendees than the tale of the late Ryan Jones, whose family bestowed a memorial scholarship in honor of the late CCA student.

Jones was killed in a car accident about a year after giving a speech at the 2009 Foundation event. The video of his message four years ago was played on a pair of big-screen monitors, drawing tears from many.

But Jones' family at least could gain some measure of peace in hearing the words of Mitchell Moran, who vowed to be the first of many to "keep Ryan's name alive," as he told a story that was reminiscent of the scholarship's namesake.

Ryan's grandfather, Bill, went on stage to recall his late grandson's "enthusiastic scholastic efforts" while attending the Colorado Film School. And the powerful stories told at this year's luncheon only reinforced to Patty Jones, Ryan's mother, that money earmarked for the family in wake of her son's death was being put to good use.

"The school meant a lot to him and we couldn't think of a better place to honor his memory," she said.

A single mother at the time, Jones recalled that she wouldn't have been able to send Ryan to CCA without the help of scholarships.



For the academic year 2012-13, CCA's Foundation has, with its community partners, awarded more than \$500,000 to help further the educations of students.

"I just know it would mean a lot to him that someone else is able to go to school in his memory," Patty Jones added.

The luncheon featured many students who overcame severe obstacles that would have sent them in untold directions, instead of on graduation paths, including Student Success Program honorees such as James Fountain, Bethany Even, Jennifer Bird, Michelle Twaddell and Aisha Spencer. The latter, fresh off major surgery and bedridden, joined the festivities via Skype to accept an inaugural \$1,000 scholarship named after CCA math faculty James Gray that now will be given periodically.

"It's very rewarding for us to provide scholarships because a lot of them, we know what they've been

through, just by reading their essays," said Mary K. Gaudet, whose organization, Assistance League of Denver, was honored as Donor of the Year. "So to meet them and to see how far they've come and hear their stories is rewarding or everybody."

Assistance League of Denver since 2003 has awarded \$125,000 in CCA scholarships, including 21 this year, the most ever by the organization.

"These young people really have a lot of hardships and your heart just goes out to them," added Cindy Crane from the organization. "Without assistance, they're probably not going to make it."

To that end, Tom Silzell, Jr., spoke about the benefits of the Wagner Equipment Co. apprentice program in concert with the college. Wagner was the event sponsor.

On the lighter side, Diana Whye, executive director of the CCA Foundation, marked the college's 30th anniversary by wearing 1983 styles – wig, headband and all – and dusting off such old staples as a giant cell phone and Cabbage Patch Doll.

Three members of the CCA original program "Glimpses" – Martell Harding, James Brunt and Jennifer Stone -- closed the program by performing vignettes from the play, with a last-minute video assist from Spencer, a cancer survivor and participant in numerous college stage productions.

"It was an upbeat and motivational day and reflective of what it means to be part of the CCA family," Whye said. "I was truly proud to be part of such an inspirational event."



FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

"Take Back the Night" informational, inspirational

CCA student Sarah Abbott had a very personal reason for taking such a rabid interest in the college's "Take Back the Night" initiative April 18.

It also may help explain why, during the annual interactive self-defense demonstration, she attacked the armored faux attacker with such unabashed fervor.

"I have personal experiences with domestic violence in my personal life as well as in family member's lives and being a part of it, and seeing how downplayed it is, how much it affects not just the person, but everyone around them, there needs to be resources. People need to stop feeling ashamed and dirty for things that happened to them," said Abbott, who plans on becoming a forensic psychologist to study the mental component of criminals, rapists and murders to glean reasons behind their motives.

"If you get hit by another car and your car's totaled, you think bout the other guy, not, 'I must have wrecked my car myself.' And I think that's the thing, is making it OK to be proud of saying, 'I survived,' and here's what I learned."

Attendees to Community College's fifth-annual "Take Back the Night" event were able to participate at their own pace. They could simply watch and listen. Take information. Be an active participant in one of many discussions. And, in a few rare cases, talk for the first time about sexual assaults that hadn't been voiced previously in a safe environment.

Those are the moments that Jennifer Dale, CCA psychology faculty

and event organizer, holds close to her heart when she diligently plans "Take Back the Night" every year. The latest incarnation included talks by a Aurora Police Department detective and victim's advocate, a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), a representative from Rape Assistance and Awareness Program and keynote Kimba Langas of Free the Girls, who explained the sex trafficking trade.

"There are a couple of big pieces that we want people to know, and that it's never the fault of the victim when they're sexually assaulted," John Nelson of RAAP said after his hour-long presentation. "We all have a lot of people who will experience, or have experienced it, and there's a place we can play as far as being a part of trying to help them process or get access to services."

The facts are startling:

-- One out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. The figure for men is 1 in 33.

-- 17.7 million American women have been victims of a completed rape.

-- Girls ages 16-19 are four times more likely than the general population to be rape victims or sexually assaulted.

Some of the lingering aftereffects for these victims could include depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, alcohol or drug abuse, even suicide.

Chris Turnquist from the Parker Academy of Martial Arts, which ran a self-defense demonstration, said that nearly all his classes include someone with a sexual assault, rape or violent



Clockwise from top, members of SANE brief students on its procedures after a sexual assault; event organizer Jenn Dale; a CCA student knees self-defense expert Chris Turnquist as instructed during a demonstration.

Dale estimated that attendance at the 2013 "Take Back the Night" seminars was at its highest peak in the five years she's run the event, with four sessions standing-room only. The collaboration with "Free the Girls" raised \$100 and more than 200 bras which care sold at markets in non-industrialized nations.

Dale said the partnership with "Free the Girls" brought a different level of enthusiasm to the event and added up to a "powerful day."

"Even though it was a day talking about preventing rape – a terrible subject – at least five people came up to me after and said, 'That was so much fun.' They were invested. They were engaged and very into it. I had one gentleman say, 'I want to volunteer for this year every year, even when I'm not here at CCA anymore.'

"The energy was even more amazing than it normally is."

crime in their past. An event like "Take Back the Night" is no different.

"I've always had someone come up to me afterwards, in every single one of them I've done, where they say they've been pinned down on a bed or someone had me in this hold and I didn't know what to do and they raped me. How do I get out of it?" he related. "A lot of times people tense up, freak out and don't know what to do, so hopefully I'm giving them the tools to defend themselves."

HIGHER CALLING

Accreditation visit replete with positive signs



Three members of the Higher Learning Commission's executive team that toured both CCA campuses from April 15-17 listen to feedback from staff, faculty, students and administrators during the opening day of the critical three-day accreditation visit. The group posed questions and sought feedback during the packed session at the Todd Bergren Room at Lowry.

The final HLC report is forthcoming in several weeks.

Nothing is yet binding, nor considered a final recommendation.

Still, comments by the departing five-person executive team that represented the accrediting body as a "reflection of what they saw" strongly indicated that Community College of Aurora made a positive impression during the important site visit April 15-17.

As expected, CCA was – and will be – presented with future opportunities. Integrated strategic planning more aligned to the goals of the college and overarching CCCS system directly tied to budgeting and assessment is one such suggestion.

But President Alton D. Scales in the wake of the visit was pleased that there appeared to be no major hurdles the college cannot meet and was secure in the notion that the two-year self study, in tandem with HLC feedback, already has jump-started the planning process.

"The preparation that went into the HLC visit was palpable, with a wide swathe of individuals from around both campuses pitching in to ensure that the very best face of the college was present," Scales said.

ed," Scales said.

In its summary, HLC used words like "commendable" and "exemplary" to describe the work of the college. It added that the college's mission was lived out by students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community, while CCA's values were effectively and passionately articulated.

The college's Foundation, community outreach efforts, dedication to professional development, comprehensive plan to embed lifelong learning skills across all curriculum, and high quality academic offerings in all different settings were lauded, too, as was the CCA Portal and the strong system surrounding concurrent enrollment.

At the same time, the greatest compliment bestowed upon the college by HLC was its view that the college's human resources – people – are CCA's best assets.

The chance to become "the signature community college in the area" also was especially heartening.

"Make no mistake, the HLC visit was overwhelmingly positive and our future exciting and replete with promise," Scales said.

Classroom relationship between pair is continental shift

They are study buddies in Maria Halloran's Tuesday and Thursday morning grammar class.

Yet before Haji Abdula and Gama-da Hiribo cracked the books together at CCA, a very different relationship had existed in a far-away place in a far-away time.

Hiribo actually was Abdula's teacher about 15 years ago in Asasa, a town in southeastern Ethiopia in the Oromia zone and West Arsi region.

The native language Oromo, Amharic and English all were taught as part of Hiribo's 28-year teaching career. Abdula at the time was in fourth to sixth grade, learning his p's and q's literally.

But, as if to prove the expression "a small world" true, the two Ethiopians reconnected in Aurora, Colorado, after many years without contact, learning grammar, no less.

The "brilliant student" Hiribo envisioned way back when has today met

his expectations, proving so at CCA in the flesh.

The only difference is that whereas Ethiopian teachers are seen as a level above their students – "like a God," Abdula recalled – they are now considered peers, just slogging through verbs and adverbs together in a community college in metro Denver.

"Amazing," Hiribo said of seeing Abdula in the classroom setting today. "When I see him, he's my result."

It wasn't a complete shock the first time they encountered one another in class. Abdula knew that Hiribo lived in the Denver area and found his contact information through some Muslim friends. Both were planning on starting classes and a new CCA connection was forged, thousands of miles away from their homeland.

At the same time, the first time they set eyes on one another, all these years later, outside of CCA, Hiribo admitted it was a surprise, though, he added, "I feel good for him and myself."

Now, "We work together – homework assignments, everything together," Abdula explained. The biggest



Gama-da Hiribo and ESL faculty Maria Halloran pose after a recent class. Hiribo spent 28 years as a teacher in his native Ethiopia but is now a student, working alongside a familiar face he met in his home country in Halloran's class.

difference being, "We talk as students now."

In Ethiopia, the teachers could shout or hurl insults within the confines of school.

But Hiribo recalled there was never a necessity to do so with Abdula, because even then, he had shown great potential.

"As I saw him before, I see him now here in the class," Hiribo said. "But his knowledge and skills are improving"

Two more of Hiribo's former students also happen to attend CCA: sisters Memuna and Huria Tossa.

And while Hiribo was unfamiliar with the term "a small world," he quickly understood once the seemingly rare reunion was explained in those terms.

"This is very far away," Abdula said of the American educational system, not to mention the distance from his country. "Everybody's civilized."

Aspiring filmmakers right on the money

Three movie-making teams from the Colorado Film School were awarded \$8,000 in game-based and immersive learning grant funding April 26, allowing them to make short films that will be ultimately used to potentially pitch full-length features to investors.

The monetary outlay comes after the culmination of a three-month, interdisciplinary exercise at CCA that involved numerous departments and tackled not only the creative aspects of filmmaking but also the business side.

Production teams pitched their ideas to Denver-area business leaders twice during the month of April in hopes of securing funding that was supplied by the Colorado Community College System.

Classes in accounting, marketing, computer information systems, graphic design, and business communications backed the creative efforts, ensuring that the filmmakers had sales forecasts, developed realistic budgets, identified demographics, invented market strategies, and applied visual elements that reinforced each project's real-world viability.

"There's going to be a time when these kids are going to go out there trying to get something made, and maybe it won't be with the studios but with an investor, trying to put together a presentation that will attract attention," said Donald Zuckerman, commissioner of the Colorado Office of Film, Television and Media, who was on hand for the final round of

judging.

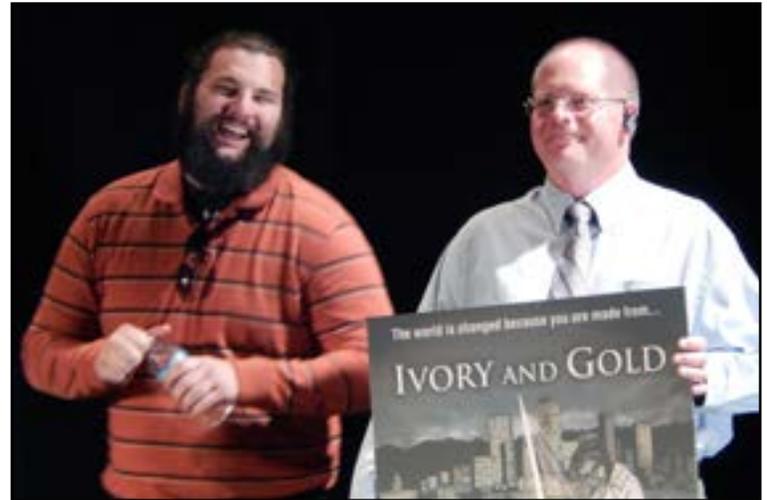
Getting practice with the pitch process at Community College of Aurora, "I think it's a great idea," Zuckerman added. "And I don't know if anybody's done this before. This could be a first of its kind."

Local business leaders including Duane Reed, CEO of CEOFocus Denver; Tery Larrew, of Caddis Capital; Sam C. Searcy of DCMI Data Communications; Larry Baird, principal of blufrog studios; and Diana Whye, director of CCA's Foundation graded each of seven projects on a wide variety of criteria including story, presentation and long-range viability.

The project "Ivory and Gold" was the winner of the first prize of \$4,000 to make a "sizzle reel," ostensibly a short trailer encapsulating the movie. The theme of the movie is about the crippling effects of regret, and the realization that our past choices do not have to dictate our future. The Fates -- who have motives of their own -- grant a college professor an opportunity to correct his perceived miscues.

"Spanish Gold" (\$2,500) by John McSween was the runner-up, followed by Tachyon (\$1,500) by Blake Talley.

Benjamin Erbach, director/writer/producer for the winning entry, said finishing first in the competition gives his team "one less thing to worry about" and the ability to just jump into production. The five- to 10-minute short that ultimately evolves from the funding will be shown next fall



locally.

The experience with the pitch process will then be used again. "We're going to take it to more investors," Erbach said. "We'll take it to people who have money and are interested in film, show them, and say, 'Hey, look. This is what we've done for \$4,000. If you invest and collaborate with us we can make something really special.'"

Four departments and six classes in total were involved in the project.

A documentary by the Colorado Film School has accompanied the entire filmmaking journey, culminated by producers and their teams sweating in front of the judging panel with the money on the line to green light their projects.

But such outside-the-box educational experiences are part of the reason why the Colorado Film School once was recognized by Hollywood Reporter as a top-25 film school in the world and an honorable mention this year.

"The school's impressive," Zuckerman said. "It's got a very hands-on culture. Kids learn how to actually make a movie and not just talk about

film theory. A lot of film schools are very heavy in theory and history and that's not the same as learning how to make a movie. I have seen work here. I've gone to film presentations and seen some really remarkable work."

Will Hicks, faculty at the Colorado Film School, fully expects to see some of the projects involved in this competition one day made by a small Hollywood or independent studio because many of the stories at their core are "marketable ideas."

"So many schools do not have student-centric programs and this is a very student-centric program," said Reed, one of the judges. "They took students from various aspects -- finance, computer, accounting, film -- and brought that all together in a challenge to come together as a team, which isn't the easiest thing to do, but it's real world. That's the part I really respect."

"Whomever conceived this idea and brought it to fruition really believes in the student population and the mission of helping them become viable people that can go out to the real world and have a job."



Above, Benjamin Erbach, writer/director/producer, and graphic artist Scott Miller get feedback from a panel of judges before learning their project earned first place and the \$4,000 first prize. Below, third-place finisher "Tachyon" demonstrates elements of its story during the final presentation, made by producers Adam Swegarden, right, and Blake Talley, left.

Information bank

The second part of the American Literature Honors Lecture Series, entitled "20th Century Terror: A Study In American Horror Literature," will take place May 2 from 12:30-1:45 p.m. in the Fine Arts Forum at CentreTech.

Jennifer Bird will present H.P. Lovecraft's work during her presentation: "Cosmic Horror for an Uncertain Age." **Seth Cardin** will tackle Stephen King with "Pet Sematary: A Literary Argument."

The event is free and open to the public.

Both students are May graduates and have been working under the tutelage of **Rachel Blue Ankney**, their faculty advisor.

The Performing Arts weekend and showcase events are scheduled the first two weekends of May at the Larry D. Carter Theater.

Theatre (May 3), Dance (May 4) and Music (May 5) are first, followed by the Showcase on May 10, which consolidates the best of the first three shows into one performance. The events are free and open to the public.

Tamra Schmitt left the college April 5 to return to the non-profit sector after five years with the School of Business. Schmitt will be involved in Colorado Department of Human Services cases, representing the best interest of children. She will hold the title of Director of Finance and Operations at the Children's Law Center.

CCA, in conjunction with Aurora PD, Aurora Fire, Aurora Public Schools and several other agencies, will be performing a disaster exercise June 20 at the Fine Arts Building on the CentreTech campus. **Charles S. Holzheimer**, deputy chief of security (CentreTech) announced.

The Fine Arts Building will be closed for the drill. Emergency vehicles will fill some of the parking lots. Classes and events on the rest of the CentreTech and Lowry campuses will go on as normally planned.

There is a need for upwards of 100 people to take on roles during the exercise. Training will start at about 8 a.m. and the exercise will run from about non-4 p.m.

For more information on volunteering for this important exercise, please contact Charles.Holzheimer@ccaurora.edu or Justin.Pfluger@ccaurora.edu.

Please be aware that pre-assessment workshops to assist students and potential students prepare for the Accuplacer test still are scheduled in May. The full schedule is available on the CCA website and on the Student tab as well as in My CCA.

Sessions for fall registration are being held this summer and are being scheduled, too. Confirmed dates are forthcoming.

For more information, please contact academic support coordinator **Patti Nazaryk Molai** at 303-340-7536.

Listen to what the man said



From left, **Matthew Jensen, Michael Merrit and Tylor Bennett** were the top three finishers in the 2013 Persuasive Speaking Competition, held April 19 in the Classroom Building at CentreTech. A four-person judging panel comprised of **Scott Reichel, Natasha Turner, Dr. Bobby Pace and Vicki Graham** used criteria such as delivery, content, structural clarity and completeness, source citations, and overall preparedness as criteria. **Jensen** won a three-credit Communication scholarship for Fall 2013 and advanced to the metro-wide competition May 3 hosted by Community College of Denver. **Merrit and Bennett** received CCA Bookstore gift certificates of \$100 and \$50, respectively, for their second- and third-place finishes.

Admitted Student Day was held on April 13th on the CentreTech Campus. Over 25 faculty and staff members participated in bringing this informative event to life for admitted students.

The purpose of this event was to assist newly admitted students in the getting started process at CCA and provide them with the opportunity to learn more about activities, resources and academic programs at the institution.

More than 30 students participate. One lucky student walked away with a free three-credit hour course.

This was the inaugural run for this event. **Kyla Doddridge**, who spearheaded the activity, said faculty, staff and students appeared very happy with the results of the program and that the program should grow in the future.

Janel Highfill has been hired as CCA's new Director of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Development. Highfill has spent the last eight months helping update and compile college procedures. She most recently served as Denver's director for Stand for Children Colorado and vice president of programs and police for Florence Crittenton Services.

JoAnn Burkhart, associate dean of online learning, contributed to the Center for Digital Education's most recent white paper, entitled "The Road to Transformative Learning in Higher Education: A Three-Part Strategy."

Former CCA English faculty **Kate Goodman** (January 2013) and current Director of Library Services **Megan Kinney** have been accepted to a competitive PhD program at CU-Boulder called ATLAS (Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society).

Steve Marshall retired April 30 following a distinguished term as CCA's chief of security.

Marshall helped with the college's implementation of its Emergency Operations Plan and was vital in ensuring that the campus' Geanne Clery federal reporting was regularly filed. Marshall's work with younger security officers and the

guidance he provided also was invaluable.

The retired police commander from Aurora Police Department now will have plenty of time to devote to three loves: golf, bowling and his wife.

Holzheimer is serving as acting chief and Pfluger acting deputy chief will a search for Marshall's permanent replacement is ongoing.

Open enrollment for insurance plans runs through May 17. **Debbie Irvine** in Human Resources described the period as "passive," meaning those currently enrolled will see their coverage roll over to next year unless flexible spending accounts are part of overall coverage or changes are requested. Irvine can be reached at 303-360-4823 if there are any questions pertaining to benefits.

All CCA iPads distributed to staff and faculty must be updated by Information Technology by May 31. **Glen Murphy** is the point of contact at Lowry; **Eduardo Peralta** at CentreTech. No action is necessary if an update has been done since last summer.

The second annual CSI: Aurora simulation project concluded with its mock trial April 20, with real-world judge **Brian McHugh** presiding.

The semester-long project is funded by the CCCS game-based and immersive learning grants and is an interdisciplinary exercise that links together students and faculty from Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Paralegal, Biology, Chemistry, and Theatre.

A faux kidnapping and murder preceded the trial, which featured character performances by **Martell Epperson, Nick Martinez, Kristine Wilson, Greg Melikian, Stephanie Solis, Marcus Brooks, Benjamin Luebbert, Jessica Filipeli, Elizabeth Vandervelden, Trang Tran and Lesleigh Potter**.

Faculty members with a heavy hand in the project's planning included **Tim Dufour, Elizabeth Hirsh, Gary Scott, Margaret Uchner and Tim Wilkerson**.



Still time remaining

"Don Quixote's Ghost" by **Rosa Knoblock**, executed in oil on canvas, is one of more than 60 artist submissions for the 2013 Spring Student Art Show at the Moravec Gallery. The exhibit runs through May 3.



Around campus



Counterclockwise from above: Alton D. Scales greets a student after the "Pizza With the President" event, designed to provide information to CCA stakeholders on the then-pending HLC visit; the college once again partnered with Bonfils Blood Centers for a blood drive April 1; staff and students took advantage of free coffee and espresso during another event raising awareness of the school's mission and values prior to the HLC accreditation team's arrival; Brad Jacobson, of scholar support and programming, serves as the emcee during HLC Jeopardy; members of the International Student Association and International Mentor Program pose during an April trip to the Denver Art Museum; Dilpreet Jammu, co-founder of Colorado Sikhs, discusses Sikh culture and beliefs during a lecture at the CentreTech Rotunda on April 13. Jammu is co-director of the Khalsa School Denver and also teaches religion, history and the Punjabi language to Sikh children.

