Outfitted in an Aeropostle sweatshirt and jeans, with a long mane of black hair and a ready smile, Thanh Nguyen appears much younger than the soon-to-be 30 years old she’ll become in June.

Her 12 years working in a nail salon seemed to have treated her well. The money was fine. The job was easy. But having spoken fluent English, she intrinsically knew that she had options some of her co-workers didn’t in that line of work.

Nguyen had pangs of guilt, too, because of unfulfilled opportunities that were pushed down deep by a competing laziness to move to action. She’d convinced herself it was somehow enough having earned straight A’s before suddenly shifting directions and dropping out of high school, and that doing manicures and pedicures was OK. Yet the knowledge she could do much more than scrub feet and paint ornate patterns on nails always served as a mental fly, buzzing around her head, hard to ignore.

Then there were the voices: the ‘story’ that always added weight to her uneasy consciousness. It was a tale repeated periodically by her mother over three decades, filled with additional detail as the years passed and Thanh could fully understand context. Her father, working odd jobs as a landscaper, airplane cleaner and window-factory worker in Denver, would chime in too, explaining that the struggles he and his wife endured in their past were for a reason not to be wasted – their
Physical limitations don’t deter pianist Italiano on eclectic musical journey

The outfit may appear conservative, underlying music faculty Rich Italiano’s penchant for playing and teaching classical pieces. Black dress jacket, a crisply pressed black dress shirt and black slacks.

It’s a getup that definitely screams J.S. Bach, not Punk Rock. But underneath it all, serving as the foundation for his recital-ready look, is a pair of Doc Martens, which, when unearthed, suddenly earns him some skateboarder-level street cred, and hints at some hipness that resides inside even when played against a pentatonic scale soundtrack.

The shoes harken back to Italiano’s foray outside of his regular world of solo recitals and teaching and into the club scenes of New York and Washington D.C. in his 20s, after he first left his Denver roots.

Back then, it was Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore-by-day; the 9:30 Club by night.

Long lessons in the church basement of an east-coast borough were punctuated by the Peppermint Lounge and the Ritz to see alternative and punk acts such as INXS and Let’s Active.

At those shows, it would seem contradictory that his real music idols were as threatening as declawed kittens: Murray Perahia, Maurizio Pollini, Peter Serkin. Alfred Brendel – piano legends all.

They all may have created a mob scene at a Steinway store but to many in the club scene he’d infiltrated, those folks the Pollinis and Brendels may just as well have been imported brand names from the supermarket freezer section.

“It’s a very strange thing that I had this dichotomy in my life to a lot of people,” said Italiano, who joined CCA in 1989 and currently teaches private piano lessons, music theory, music appreciation and composition to students.

Not that Italiano crossed those worlds to the fullest extent.

He never went the way of piercings or tattoos, or, heaven forbid, a Mohawk.

The Doc Martens were as close to the edge as he was willing to get to the alternative and punk lifestyle, outside of the music itself.

“You look through my collection and it’s full of contemporary classical – Philip Glass; Steve Reich. I love Bach. I have a lot of that. But then you’ll find newer bands like Liars. Radiohead is one of my favorites.”

It took a hard fall into electronic music and early work with MOOG synthesizers as a musician in the mid-80s to help usher him towards the darker edge. Add in what had become a profound interest in music videos and it’s no wonder that when he returned to Denver, he began working behind the scenes at local cult TV favorite Teletunes on KBDI, which featured the video creations of bands such as Depeche Mode, DEVO, Nine Inch Nails, Yello, Front 242, Aphex Twin and Massive Attack. Italiano helped run the cult show as a producer behind the scenes from 1988-2001, leaving shortly before Teletunes went off the air.

“It was kind of a defining moment in time,” Italiano recalled. “It really connected me with music I had a passion about and also I was able to share that with others. It was kind of like performing.”

But classical music was always on the front burner.

“That was my performing life,” he added. One that came with its own surprising twists.

Italiano may have been levelheaded throughout his classical-by-day, alternative-by-night period, but his expertise playing his instrument was becoming less and less steady-handed.

The signs began as far back as his early 20s. The issues grew more problematic as time passed. A severe imbalance between Italiano’s left and right hands was more than evident at close inspection. One teacher inquired about a possible prior injury. The person who would take his musical life to the edge, but never further, was now being forced to do so again. Acupuncture, herbs, and physical therapy – none worked.

And at age 48, he finally heard the words Multiple Sclerosis for the first time from doctors that had searched two decades without finding a root cause for his growing problem.

“It got to a point where the more I practiced, the worse my hands got,” he said. “The day my dad died, I was going to play at this funeral and my left hand went paralyzed. It was just a strange coincidence. Literally. I couldn’t even move it. It’s when they finally made a diagnosis.”

Steroid infusions and monthly Intravenous Immunoglobulin infusions have stabilized the problem but his two sides will never be the same. The same person who would go see stage divers at concerts but not participate himself now had an inkling why he never quite made a professional musical leap he might have expected.

“I think it has defined my personality in many ways,” he admitted, adding, “I’m absolutely sure the physical aspect has kept me back. I think I’d be performing a lot more and out there in the world.”

Nevertheless, there is no hint of regret in Italiano’s voice as he uttered those words.

He plays what music he can play. He showcases what he can showcase. But if the piece he’s playing requires left-handed dexterity, he compensates in hidden ways to most not classically trained.

There are other counterbalances for Italiano now; foremost, the joy in the students that he has helped, both at CCA and privately. The former music department coordinator (1997-2013) still can connect to a solo recital piece intellectually and emotionally, even if he can’t mimic the notes physically due to his movement imbalance. And for him, that’s plenty.

“I always knew I’d teach anyway,” he said. “I don’t know of a classical musician that doesn’t teach. We all teach and I’m so grateful for the opportunity to teach here at CCA and what I’ve learned here. I’ve really helped the careers of a few of my students who are now playing and gone on to higher-level things. It’s been very satisfying, sharing my knowledge.”

And if a question about Canadian electronic music group Skinny Puppy pops up, he can answer that, too.
College given high marks as HLC approves

Latest accreditation runs through 2022-23

CCA received accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission that will last through the next decade, pushing the next full approval process to 2022-2023.

In giving the final OK to the college’s application on Sept. 25, CCA received the highest ratings in all but two of the areas examined by the HLC.

“I think it really shows students that the institution they’re attending is high quality all across the board – in instruction, in the kinds of student services they get. The HLC looks at everything in an incredibly rigorous review process,” said Chris Ward, the college’s executive director of grants and planning and a member of CCA’s three-person HLC executive team.

The in-house preparation first started in the spring 2011 with a series of committees that compiled information on how CCA was meeting pre-established criteria. The reports were filed about a year later and the process of putting together a self-study began in earnest. A three-person HLC executive team including Ward, Social Sciences chair Geoff Hunt and former Performing Arts and Humanities chair Ruthanne Orihuela shepherded the final documents through Cabinet and into a finished form.

It was the third time CCA has received a 10-year accreditation, following similar processes in 1993 and 2003.

Overall, the peer-driven report has helped the college take a hard look at itself and plot its course moving forward. Assessment of student learning and strategic planning currently are ongoing focuses of the current administration based on HLC recommendations.

“As you know, we are moving along in our strategic planning process and will have a plan in place by early spring semester,” Interim President Betsy Oudenhoven told employees. “As part of this planning we are also working on unit level plans includ-

Oudenhoven experiences slices of CCA campus life

Interim President Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven shook hands and addressed students concerns during a pair of “Pizza with the President” events in late October, sponsored by Student Life. Oudenhoven used the informal gatherings at Lowry and CentreTech to meet some of the eclectic mix of people who matriculate at the college, including Christine Ashford, who is a second-year student earning her prerequisites within the nursing program.
only child.

It was that combination of guilt, drive and family history that finally drove Thanh to action.

She received her General Equivalency Diploma before simply walking into Community College of Aurora to enroll in the pursuit of something better, whatever that may turn out to be.

“T’m still shaking now,” said Thanh, who is leaning towards a degree in a health-care related field. “I mean, I still can’t believe I made all the steps. I got the GED, walked in here myself. I filled out the paperwork. I did everything it took to take classes and I still can’t believe ‘Wow, I did it all.’”

It’s been a trip, but not the trip of her life.

The year 1975 saw the Vietnam War slogging to a messy conclusion. Members of the South Vietnamese, fighting in lockstep with the United States before the latter’s sudden departure, now were being targeted by the North for their perceived disloyalty and, upon capture, faced imprisonment or worse.

Hoanh Nguyen was one of the men trying to stay one step ahead of the pursuit, moving from jungle, into rice fields and caves, from village to village, carrying rice bags among other odd jobs for money then quickly disappearing from sight in an effort to remain free.

This flight for life went on for nearly a decade. It was no way to live, especially after Hoanh stepped on a landmine and severely injured his ears, which sapped his hearing. His ears bled constantly. There were outward signs of infection, as well. But getting treatment meant possibly getting caught, so he suffered in silence.

While hiding in CaMau, at the southern tip of Vietnam, Hoanh Nguyen met Huong Hong, who took pity on this injured fugitive and began tending to his injuries. She’d sneak him food in the jungle, where Hoanh used banana leaves to shield from the rain. Their relationship soon turned to love, with a baby on the way. Huong’s growing belly, though, brought suspicion as a single, pregnant woman in Vietnam. She was left with two choices: abandon, where the pregnant mother could live single and likely in shame, due to cultural morays at the time; or, fleeing the country.

It was now 1984. and through his travels, Hoanh Nguyen had met plenty of people, like himself, who wanted better situations and were unhappy of living under a repressive government. They got a hold of a small boat that held 15-20 people at full capacity. Plans began to emerge about sailing into the unknown as Vietnamese boat people.

Families sold small jewelry and clothing to buy the boat. Oil, food and water supplies were hidden in the sand near the departure site to be unearthed only at the exact moment of their clandestine mission.

No one knew where they were going, only that it would be off into the Pacific Ocean. But it was at that point that Huong Hong, while extremely pregnant, decided she was going along. Thousands had tried similar voyages before. Some were rescued. Many never returned. It was a one-time chance with either the ultimate payoff – survival – or a one-way ticket never to be seen again.

“My mom told my dad it as a life or death chance, 50-50,” Thanh related. “She was so afraid because if anything happened she knew she would go down first, because she was already very pregnant.”

Smooth sailing began the trek, lasting several weeks. Nights were so dark hands were barely visible directly in front of faces. Everyone was relatively calm, until a massive storm hit. Huge waves. Thunder. The boat rocking all over the place.

“They were waiting to die,” Thanh related.

“My dad was holding onto my mom like, ‘OK, it’s time. Anytime now.’ I think my dad felt bad for dragging my mom along because she could have survived just fine in Vietnam as a single mom. He would have left anyway if my mom didn’t come along, but since my mom came along, my dad just held onto her.”

It was then that panic appeared to set in onboard. A woman with two teenage children began to get extremely anxious about the dire circumstances the group was facing. The woman, according to Thanh’s mother, at that point fell to her knees and prayed as hard as possible, saying aloud that if she gave her life at that moment, she was asking God or whoever was guiding this voyage, to stop the storm.
Shock immediately hit the boat when the woman followed through with her promise, jumping overboard. No one had believed she would follow through, but in only a matter of seconds, the woman was washed away, despite the best efforts of male crew members to link themselves together in a rescue attempt.

It was over.

The women’s children were left screaming. The rest of the boat was crying. Then, suddenly, the rain stopped. Everything calmed.

“My parents would like to believe it was an act of God. There didn’t seem to be any other way to explain it.”

Groaning sounds followed shortly thereafter, of which there was no mistaking. Huong Hong’s water had broken and she had begun to go into labor on the open sea.

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The women on the boat held up blankets to form a curtain for privacy, but the boat was cramped and certainly no place for a proper delivery. As Huong began to push, she looked upward at what she swears to this day was a green sky as a backdrop.

And whether that could be chalked up to the pain she was no doubt experiencing or happenstance, it’s now an act of God. There didn’t seem to be any other way to explain it.

The ordeal was seemingly over.

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Malaysian authorities immediately provided medical care for Huong at a local hospital. Hoanh’s injured ears finally were addressed. A weathered document held together by tape serves as a handwritten record of Thanh’s birth certificate from that Malaysian medical care facility.

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The Nguyen family spent about a year in Kuala Lumpur before a Colorado family sponsored them as refugees, opening up a whole new journey into the unexpected.

“When I first heard the story, I was younger, and I thought it was amazing and awesome,” Thanh says today of her perilous birth at sea. “But then I thought they just wanted me to do well and do something great in life because they didn’t come here for no reason. Now, I truly believe it. Maybe it’s because of me that we believe in a greater power rather than science.”

Thanh Nguyen hadn’t told many people the story, until she was asked to write about herself in an essay in Angele Davenport’s English 121 class. Yet it’s all part of Thanh discovering new paths in life, if less dangerous ones.

“I have this drive all of a sudden out of nowhere,” she explained. “I don’t know where it came from: to study, to make it to class, simple things like that. Doing the work. Doing my best. Those are things I wouldn’t have done a few years ago.”

Part of the drive she admitted does come from her own story, and the knowledge that once her parents die, she wants more for herself to honor the sacrifices they made in life.

“They all could have been dead. So why not do something great?” Thanh said.

Thanh’s only been on a boat one other time that she can recall since her maiden voyage. She said she sometimes thinks of the woman who gave her life in the belief that she’d save others on that fateful day nearly three decades earlier.

And, if truth is to be completely told, she’s never seen a green sky to this day. Thanh kids her mom that she was hallucinating way back when. Mom Huong swears it’s true, still describing it in vivid detail, with the sun emerging from the Pacific at sunrise as a backdrop.

“I hope I do see one. That would be amazing,” Thanh said with a smile. “And if I did, I’d definitely, 110 percent believe the story then.”

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Top, a document allowing Thanh to enter the U.S. after her family received sponsorship in Colorado; bottom, Thanh today, working her way towards a possible degree in a health-related field.
Life Preservers

Colorado’s men and women killed in action in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars are remembered not as statistics, but by what made them tick as people, courtesy of an inventive assignment in Rachel Blue Ankney’s English 121 class. The results are a celebration worthy of Veterans Day.

The Fallen Soldiers Project, spearheaded by English faculty Rachel Blue Ankney, isn’t about recounting the loss of military members killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan in recent years as much as remembering these soldiers as human beings.

Or, to put it another way: It’s about capturing the essence of these brave men and women in printed form in a fashion their families continue to see them in their mind’s eye.

These legacies, coming in the form of compositions, are taken from source material gleaned from people closest to these lost loved ones. It’s a difficult task for students in an English 121 class that has had the sum effect of turning some beginning writers into serious-minded documentarians.

Uncomfortable phone calls, numerous social-media inquiries and visits to the homes of families are among the methodologies hoisted upon these students in pursuit of capturing the essence of these heroic men and women. No is always taken for an answer.

The overriding goal, when successful, is providing a document that ensures that those Colorado soldiers killed in action are remembered for the quirks, hobbies, motivations, and senses of humor that lie beyond a stock military mug shot but instead embodied their character.

“When I read some of these pieces it’s a reminder of why I do what I do and my colleagues do their jobs, because it’s making a difference for everyone involved,” said Ankney, who began the project as a former faculty member at Tidewater Community College in Virginia Beach for five years and unveiled the idea at CCA this fall.

“There are times when I’m definitely falling apart and it’s hard. And you have to grade it. But when you get away from the grade book and think about the magnitude and the effort of the students then, to me, it becomes something so much bigger than I ever hoped.”

The project began with Ankney compiling a list from non-profit organization ICasualties.org that records the numbers and names of deceased

“If I was to write a profile off of outward appearances alone, I would not have known that almost all my assumptions and generalizations ... would be incorrect. That the man who I had judged and labeled as not fun, and no nonsense was indeed the polar opposite. He was without question young, but he was also full of life and aspirations. I would not have known that he loved sports and liked to listen to 80’s rock bands, like Motley Crue. I would not have known his love for his family, his wife, and his service dog Flex. For this man was indeed, a proud Marine, but he was so much more. He did so much more.”

-- A snippet from Candance Pollard’s essay on the late David M. Sonka
Colorado soldiers who lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Students then are asked to choose one of the people listed on the website and begin researching, through the Internet, White Pages, and other means in an attempt to reach out to friends and family that knew these late military personnel.

Students that are successful in finding close connections are told specifically not to ask about the circumstances behind their chosen soldier’s demise. Instead, the questions are more a voyage of discovery, built from the ground up by drawing upon childhood stories, special bonds, charitable endeavors and more, until a realistic picture takes shape of the men and women who served.

“We want to give vitality to these people,” Ankney said. “This is who they were, and this is who they will always be for eternity.”

Many of the students who take Ankney’s composition class entered the endeavor having little or no essay-writing experience, or have not written long-form papers for a lengthy stretch. Class members interviewed almost unanimously spoke of having little to no expectations for English 121, but suddenly, they’ve been sucked in – first by writing a paper that looked inward at their own experiences, and now outside themselves by chronicling the lives of a late military member.

“I have family members in the Air Force and a grandfather who is a veteran,” said student Shannon McKay. “None of my family died, so it’s different. It’s given me a whole different respect for families who do lose somebody.”

McKay through her research learned that her assigned soldier, Daniel L. Carlson, as a child was dressed up by his sister in a girls outfit to belt out Twain’s “I Feel Like a Woman.” Further probing by McKay revealed that Carlson’s stepsister Monica was struggling with drugs, and one of her enduring memories was a Thanksgiving dinner when “Danny,” as he was called, locked her eyes in a gaze that had a underlying tone of complete forgiveness.

“I feel like I know him even though I never met him,” McKay said. “I feel like I know how he would have been with his family and his wife.”

Student Brenda Chavez got more than she bargained for in Ankney’s class when she found herself in the home of the late Joshua W. Soto, and face-to-face in an interview with his widow. Chavez looked at old pictures that revealed Soto’s personality. She looked up at the walls to see numerous photos of him. But it really hit home for her when, in the corner of the room, the boots Soto wore at the time of his death – cleaned and returned by a member of his company – sat in the corner of the room.

“It gave me goosebumps,” she said. Soto’s widow, Thelma, eventually would paint a picture of “a really goofy guy who had a really humorous personality” which washed away any awkwardness Chavez had first felt during their conversation.

“They still want people to know about their loved ones,” Chavez insisted. “They want to keep them alive here.”

Chavez’s success in doing so is reflected in an e-mail from Soto’s widow shortly after reading the class assignment written about her former husband. Thelma Soto wrote she “was smiling through the whole thing” at the “wonderful job” Chavez had done capturing Joshua’s spirit.

“This will definitely be put in my husband’s memory box,” Thelma Soto added.

Over the years, Ankney figures that between 100-200 soldiers have been profiled in like fashion. And it’s responses like the one Thelma Soto offered that reinforces the underlying tenets behind the project.

“My hope is always that the students realize that their words can carry some power, that their words can carry sincerity, and their words can carry a record of people in society that we don’t often stop and contribute to,” Ankney said.

That latter point about remembrance definitely is not lost on student Phil Dizon. A former specialist in the Army serving in Afghanistan in 2009 he was twice hit by improvised explosive devices that led to his honorable discharge from the military. Dizon recounted his frustration boiling over when he returned to the United States when he realized that many people were unaware that American troops still were fighting and dying in Afghanistan at the time.

Telling the stories of these soldiers’ lives is invaluable, he added.

Dizon’s own paper was written about a team leader in his own company that was killed. The two had played guitar together, trained together, deployed together. And one day, following a mission, a commander called out all the troops to do roll call. Jerry Ball’s name was shouted out three times without a response. Dizon intrinsically knew his cohort was gone, bringing him to tears.

“I know what it was like in the military and already knew soldiers could be one thing in uniform and another out of it,” Dizon said. “But I find it really cool all the different aspects of people who join the military and become one in uniform.”

Seeing his classmates discover those dichotomies is “a really good thing,” he added.

Fellow student Candace Pollard agreed. “I’ve never done something this significant,” she said. “This is a really important subject. I just want to do a good job so that the family will be honored by my story. I want them to know I’ve been inspired by someone I didn’t even know.”
CCA’S GOT TALENT: NIGHT MOVES

On Oct. 4, students, faculty and staff did the old song and dance to raise $500 for Lowry redevelopment. A look back in pictures at people who helped make the event a success.

Student Doug Sayers of What’s Up Juggling appears to create a rope chain with his whip fast throw of a Frisbee disc stack.
A wig-wearing Diana Whye thanks the audience for supporting the CCA Foundation.

Administrative assistant Mary Westendorf blows off the roof with her operatic talents.
Student Abby Hanouw follows her shadow for a rendition of “Simple Man”

Admissions counselor Gabriel Fischer, aka King Tut

Student James Brunt slams

Dwayne “Cashlos” Conlan raps “A Mile Away”

A scene from student Casey Murphy’s short film, “B 12.”

Liberal Arts Dean Ted Snow does his best Neil Peart
ESI chair Chris Tombari fingers guitar riffs while Math faculty Laura Stone belts out a classic with the support of more than the crowd -- namely, a knee brace and crutch.

Master of Ceremonies, and Social Sciences Chair, Geoff Hunt
PUPPET MASTERS

CCA’s latest theater production “The Little Prince” turns a famous French novella into a dramatic comedy -- with strings attached

Two plays featuring “heavier” subject matter had Theater Director Stacey D’Angelo ready to tackle themes that leaned more towards the whimsical, zany and fun.

So it is that Nov. 7 begins a 10-show run of the “The Little Prince,” based on a French novella and interpreted with comic and dramatic themes that use Bunraku puppetry as a centerpiece element of the storytelling.

“The novel itself is stunning,” said D’Angelo, whose last two CCA productions dealt in large part with community tragedy (“Glimpses”) and coping with loss (“Eurydice”).

“There are so many beautiful, thoughtful quotations on life, possibilities, love, and imagination that thematically, it covers all the bases far as human connection and what perhaps one loses as they navigate adulthood and the stresses and challenges that come up with life,” she added.

“And we’ve created such beautiful imagery with the puppets, with lighting effects, dance, and music that it will take you to another place for a couple of hours.”

The script itself didn’t start heavily draped in comic elements but became lighter with a strong dose of actor interpretation and use of visual flair.

The contributions from the actors has been wide-ranging, too, especially given that there are a whopping 19 cast members in the ensemble.

“The play is as much the students’ vision as it is my own: They created the imagery we’re going to see,” D’Angelo said. “I helped them narrow and edit down. But I would give them task to create a sunset here, or create music that is in the mode of the monologues. And they’d go into another room and come back with something – choreography, music, dance, imagery – from scratch. It’s called moment work. In doing so, we achieved so much more because so much of the actors themselves is in the work.”

Bunraku puppetry is an integral part of the production. It is a form of Japanese puppet theater that dates back to 1864.

Such productions normally would include life-sized, sophisticated puppets. Four operators typically are used per puppet within the form.

But for the “Little Prince,” that total has been pared to two. Costumes have been scaled back, too, but the actors’ approach of creating motion and space with each character in a visually stimulating fashion will be readily apparent. The more minimalist approach to props still manages to enhance the world being created.

“We’ve kind of redefined puppeteering so hopefully no traditional puppeteers will be offended,” D’Angelo said. “We blended puppet and human elements, with the idea that the operators become part of the puppet. So the puppet and operator interact together.”

The play includes two 40-minute acts and is considered family friendly. That D’Angelo is taking on an interpretation of a well-known children’s story is something of a departure. Nevertheless, she likes the fresh feel the genre has provided her and the cast.

“I like to do what nobody expects,” she said. “That’s what I love about this play is that there are so many unexpected, outlandish moments that will surprise people. We take art seriously, but the moments are full of brightness, levity and child’s play.”

The Little Prince

WHEN: November 7-9, 14-16 at 7 p.m.; matinee showings on Nov. 9-10, 16-17 at 1 p.m.
WHERE: Larry D. Carter, 16000 E. CentreTech Parkway, Aurora
TICKETS: General admission - $10; students/seniors, children - $7.
MORE INFORMATION: www.ccaurora.edu/prince or 303-340-7529.
The CCA Foundation is seeking items for inclusion in this year’s holiday silent auction, which will take place Dec. 2-13. Josh Gold, associate director of donor relations, announced via email that this year’s auction will include a new online component.

Some of the items that the Foundation is seeking include gift certificates, gift cards, vacation getaways, sports memorabilia, gift baskets, and more.

There will be a prize for the CCA department that puts together the most creative gift basket.

Experiences with a faculty member also are encouraged, such as Communications faculty Vicki Graham’s offer of two, two-hour speaking/performance coaching sessions.

Any questions about the silent auction can be answered by contacting Gold at 303-360-4947 or Sarah Grace Pretzer at 303-360-4926.

All proceeds will go towards the Foundation’s “Transforming Lowry, Transforming Lives” campaign.

CCCS has been selected to receive a $10,000 grant for those interested in earning their PhD degree. The Capella University/CCCS partnership also offers a 10 percent tuition discount, waived application fee, free transcript requests and the PhD grant.

There are several caveats. The grant will be spread over seven total quarters. Applicants must first pass a course before the grant starts. Continuous enrollment is necessary to receive the full amount per quarter. Enrollment in a program must begin Nov. 4 or Dec. 9.

For more information, please visit www.capella.edu/cccs or call Ashlee Proulx, education alliance manager, at 1-888-227-3552 (ext. 4690) or 612-760-3935.

Three new Degrees With Designation have gone into effect this fall, bumping the total number to 15.

Degrees of Designation allow for the smooth transfer from an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree to a four-year institution.

The latest three courses of study that gained Colorado Department of Higher Education final approval – Agriculture Business, Animal Science and Soil and Crop Studies – can’t be obtained fully at CCA, however. Students interested in those fields can complete the bulk of their guaranteed transfer courses at CCA then finish the approximately 24 credits needed at another system community college in those three subjects.

CCA fully offers the other 12 Degrees With Designation, which were first implemented statewide in 2011.

The college will host a Veterans Day tribute on Tuesday, November 12th, at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the CentreTech Rotunda.

Director of Advising Rene Simard will be the emcee for the program, which will feature essays from the Fallen Soldiers Project embarked upon by Rachel Blue Ankey’s English 121 class; a veterans panel comprised of staff, faculty and students; and a ceremony placing ribbons on a tree in honor of the military. A reception and refreshments will follow.

Political Science faculty Dr. Bobby Pace announced that CCA will once again host a Model United Nations next April. An Oct. 24th meeting on U.N. Day served as a precursor to the event by reflecting on the role that political body has in the world today and its possibilities moving forward.

After 12 years of fighting the seemingly endless “War on Terror,” would you consider pursuing a career in the U.S. military? Or for that matter, would you encourage your children to pursue a military career?

The English and ESL Departments invite you to come hear the stories of two seasoned military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share their first-hand experience with military veterans as they share.

Garett Reppenhagen, of the Vet Voice Foundation, will be speaking in favor of pursuing a military career on November 4 from 8:00 to 9:15 a.m.

The CCA Security Department’s annual “Day on Writing” celebration at the college, English faculty Susan Achziger announced. The presenters were well-received and the cooperation of staff members Rachel Ankey, Robley Welliver, Scott Reichel, Tim Cali, Chris Hunt, and Mary Westendorf, in particular, were cited by Achziger in a thank-you note to the college.

Erick C. Johnson’s work has appeared around Lowry, Stapleton and elsewhere in Denver, including the bus stop in front of the Colorado Film School. Now, not only are his sculptures be on display at the Donna Moravec Gallery, the artist will be giving an upcoming lecture and holding a workshop that aren’t to be missed.

The artist’s workshop with Johnson will be held 10 a.m.-Noon on Nov. 1 at Lowry campus, Building 901, North Quad, Room 223. The artist’s lecture is slated for Nov. 7 at 12:40 p.m. at Lowry, North Quad, Room 116.

For those simply wishing to see Johnson’s works, the run for the entire gallery show will last through Nov. 15. Normal hours run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. at Lowry, North quad, Room 118. Please contact Celia Miller-Morrissey at 303-340-7335 for the availability of workshop and lecture spots.

Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, interim CCA president, announced that All-College Forums will be held twice more this fall: Nov. 14 in the Bergren Room at Lowry, Dec. 12 in the CentreTech Student Centre Rotunda.

The CCA Security Department & Office of Conduct, Intervention & Retention is presenting numerous safety/security videos and Q-and-A sessions during the fall semester. CCA Campus Security Personnel will be on hand to answer questions.

On Nov. 4, the CCA Counseling Office presents a Suicide Prevention Informational Event at Lowry, West Quad, 112 from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The event moves to the CentreTech Rotunda at the same time the following day, Tuesday, Nov. 5.

A Stress Management event hosted by the counseling office will take place from 12:30-1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4 (Lowry West Quad, Room 112) and Thursday, Dec. 5 (CentreTech Rotunda).
Snapshots of some of CCA’s October events (clockwise from top): Rev. E.D. Fujii, head minister of the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple, presents an Oct 23 lecture “Building Bridges: A Dialogue with Our Buddhist Neighbors” at the Fine Arts Forum; Suzy Q. Smith, former CCA student, performs slam poetry on the National Day on Writing; a grill’s eye view of the CCA Sizzle at CentreTech; Chris Ward and Christopher Tombari of CCA are joined by Gerhard Ole Korbo, Heribert Körner, Hans Thomas Rosenqvist, Birgitte Andersen, Jakob Dalsgaard Larsen, Neena Babar, and Tove Engedal of the Danish Refugee Council, an NGO that does work both inside and outside of Denmark. The group traveled about the greater metro area looking at various education and service organizations that serve refugees; three pieces from Erick C. Johnson’s exhibit at the Donna Moravec Gallery that runs through Nov. 15.