The Rhythm of Fall

A campus is certainly a wonderful place to be during the fall season. The air is cooler, the leaves are turning, the students are relaxed, and people are enjoying being outdoors. As I crunched through the leaves on 9th Street Park and strolled up the Lawrence Mall, I realized I heard music all around me: one person strummed a guitar, another sang with his iPod, another played the accordion (yes, a real live accordion player), and yet another was drawing her bow across her cello strings.

But, the music was also in the voices – talking to each other, debating issues, practicing for their role in upcoming performances, and just all-around laughing. All of this sweet “music” has great significance on a campus. It means that we have shaped an environment where people are comfortable to express themselves. It means that we have developed spaces that are both beautiful and unique, where individuals feel safe to spend time and not just pass through. And, it means that our community can gather because they feel ownership for where they are.

Find a moment to take a walk through campus and listen to the music. The success of having created a terrific campus is evident in the “rhythm of fall.”

Barb Weiske
Executive Vice President for Administration
Agency Chief Executive Officer

On August 8th, AHEC employees gathered for the “One Auraria” Employee Appreciation event. It was a chance for employees to socialize, relax, and enjoy good food before the start of the new school year.

Confucius Institute Celebrates 10th Anniversary

The traditional Chinese Lion Dance with its vibrant costumes and rhythmic drumbeats opened the Community College of Denver (CCD) Confucius Institute’s Tenth Anniversary and 2014 Global Confucius Institute Day held on Saturday, September 27th. This impressive dance mimics the movements of a lion to chase away evil spirits and ensure good fortune.

Established in 2007 with the support of the Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), the CCD Confucius Institute is the only such center in the world to be housed on a community college campus. Currently, there are over 450 Confucius Institutes in over 100 countries worldwide, with only two in the state of Colorado. The tenth anniversary celebration was held in unison with the 2014 Global Confucius Day, which was celebrated throughout the world to promote Chinese language and culture.

This free celebration featured dancing, music, outdoor performers, and cultural activities to allow visitors to experience the traditions of China.

For more information, visit www.CCD.edu/ConfuciusInstitute.

Amber Cook
Production Manager, King Center

Amber Cook has been a part of the Auraria Campus community for over 12 years. She has been working for AHEC for the past eight years, and before that she was a student at the University of Colorado Denver where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Theatre with an emphasis in Theatrical Production.

Although she enjoys story and performance, Cook’s favorite elements of the theatre are lighting, music, and costumes. Staying close to her theatrical roots, Cook currently works as the Production Manager for the King Center, where she focuses on scheduling and coordinating support for the institutions’ theatre and music departments.

A Colorado native, Cook likes to share outdoor activities with her one-year-old, Addison, and her husband, Jarid. Some of their family favorites include hiking and going to the zoo. Another member of her family, Westley, is a Husky who likes to tag along on the outdoor adventures whenever possible.

Aerospace & Engineering Sciences Building Awarded $5.2 Million in State Funding

Metropolitan State University of Denver’s proposed Aerospace and Engineering Sciences building (AES) is one step closer to becoming a reality, with the release of $5.2 million from the Spillover Appropriation Fund by the state Capital Development Committee. This will help fund planning, pre-construction, and utility work of this new and innovative facility.

Planning and design for the 142,000-square-foot, $60 million AES building is expected to take 12 months, with construction estimated at between 16 and 20 months. MSU Denver has committed $20 million
of its own capital improvement funds to the project, and will seek an additional $15 million from the state, and $20 million from the private sector. The goal is to break ground in fall 2015 and open the facility in spring 2017. The building will be located at the southwest corner of 7th Street and Auraria Parkway.

Visit the AES building website at www.msudenver.edu/timeoftransformation/aes/ for more information.

AURARIA LIBRARY

Auraria Library Awarded Final $5 Million by State of Colorado

In April, the 2014-15 State of Colorado Long Bill funded $17.8 million towards the Auraria Library renovation project. The final $5 million to complete the project was contingent upon final state revenue levels for 2013-14. In September, it was announced that the State would release the final $5 million for the Auraria Library project.

5 Questions for Amber

1. Before working for AHEC, what is the most interesting or unusual job you’ve had?

I’ve really held some pretty standard jobs from busing tables to working customer service in a retail store. I did work for a before-and-after school program for children while I was in high school—that job has always been one of the most challenging and rewarding jobs I’ve had.

2. If you could choose any period of history to live, when would it be and why?

I think I was supposed to grow up in the sixties. Everything [about that decade], from the music to the fashion to the political issues, really interests me.

3. What is a tool you use for work that you couldn’t live without?

My job revolves around my computer, but the program that helps me stay on track the most is Outlook. I would be lost without my color-coded calendar.

4. If you could travel anywhere in the world for a week, where would you go?

Oh geez…a week is such a short amount of time to spend someplace. I would love to visit Greece. It would be great to relax on one of Greece’s white sandy beaches, and then travel to Athens and take in all of its rich history, not to mention all the wonderful food!

5. What do you enjoy most about your job and working for AHEC?

I really love getting to work with such a diverse group of people; not only within the agency, but being able to interact with the campus community is great.
Auraria Welcomes is an annual tradition and one of the many ways AHEC supports the Auraria Campus students during the first few days of the semester.

The collective effort for this year's Auraria Welcomes resulted in volunteers assisting 6,420 students over the course of two days.

Chief Michael Phibbs was a good sport, accepting 25 buckets of ice water on his head from students, faculty, and staff for the Ice Bucket Challenge. He was nominated to participate by the CU Denver Anschutz Medical Campus Chief of Police Doug Abraham. Chief Phibbs turned the challenge into a way to raise money for the campus food banks.

View the video at http://youtu.be/IV1DDrpilNQ.

‘ONE AURARIA’ NEWS

HUMBLE HEROES

Fire in 7th Street Garage Spurs Response by AHEC Teams

Within seconds of the vehicle that ignited in the 7th Street Garage on September 30th, AHEC staff jumped into action. While waiting on arrival of the Denver Fire Department (DFD), Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) officers and Parking & Transportation Services staff responded immediately with fire extinguishers. However, the fire grew too quickly to manage and they were forced to pull back.

Within minutes of the initial report, the campus emergency alert system was activated by Campus Relations staff to notify students, faculty, and staff of the fire.

In addition to the damage to the vehicles, lighting, and electrical systems, there was considerable smoke and soot damage to first floor and garage offices. Within an hour, Facilities Services came to the scene with a structural engineer to evaluate the damage, and thankfully found there were no structural issues sustained by the fire.

Custodial Services staff assisted with keeping students, faculty, and staff from getting too close to the fire and smoke.

The fire resulted in only surface-level damage thanks to the number of teams and staff from AHEC who responded quickly. A testament to the “One Auraria” mindset, the 7th Street Garage fire response team deserves kudos for being true humble heroes.

ACPD SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

On September 9th, the Auraria Campus Police Department (ACPD) held a swearing-in ceremony for its new and recently promoted officers and communications staff. The ceremony is a public ritual that demonstrates the ACPD’s commitment to ethics and service.

The new Chief of Police Michael Phibbs was administered the Oath of Office by Barb Weiske, Executive Vice President for Administration and CEO, formally affirming his leadership of the ACPD.

This critical financial support is transforming the library into a responsive educational facility to meet the growing and changing needs of the Auraria Campus community. Keep an eye on the dramatic changes that will occur with the building access and entryways in the next phase of development.

Visit libnews.auraria.edu for the renovation updates.
Phibbs presided over the remainder of the ceremony, presenting the new and recently promoted ACPD officers and communications staff with their badges. Colleagues, family, and friends of the officers and staff were invited to participate in the badge pinning portion of the ceremony.

**ACPD Honorees**

- **Jason Mollendor**, Commander, Investigations & Community Relations
- **Greg Stahl**, Commander, Patrol & Operations
- **Victor Brice**, Sergeant
- **Justin Verardi**, Corporal
- **Sherri Feldt**, Communications Supervisor
- **Alicia Valerio**, Neighborhood Community Officer Supervisor
- **Joe Pacheco**, Officer
- **Amanda Snyder**, Dispatcher
- **Yama Gafari**, Neighborhood Community Officer
- **Kyle Peterson**, Neighborhood Community Officer
- **Jessica Ruckle**, Neighborhood Community Officer


**CALENDAR & REMINDERS**

- **October 31, 2014**
  - Employee Wellness Fair
  - 7 a.m.-noon
  - Tivoli Turnhalle

- **October 31, 2014**
  - Mid-Year Performance Appraisals due to [performance@ahec.edu](mailto:performance@ahec.edu)

- **November 1-30, 2014**
  - Benefits Open Enrollment for Non-Classified Employees

- **November 3, 2014**
  - Office Depot becomes official new office supplies vendor for AHEC

- **November 6, 2014**
  - Campus Safe Night
  - 5:30 p.m.

- **December 19, 2014**
  - Winterfest
  - Time TBA

**HR INSIGHT**

**Introducing New HR Benefits Administrator Thomas Whiteley**

Thomas Whiteley recently joined AHEC as the new Human Resources Benefits Administrator. He received his bachelor’s degree in Business Management with a specialization in Human Resources & Organizational Development from CSU-Global Campus. He just completed a master’s degree, specializing in Adult Education and Training at CSU in Fort Collins. A retired member of the Navy and Naval Reserves, Whiteley is a Colorado native who still lives in the Denver area with his wife. He is a father of five, grandfather of four, and enjoys running, biking, and camping. He plans to continue his education in organizational development and would like to teach distance education in human relations and human resources management.

Contact Thomas with questions about benefit changes/elections, leave/paid time off, workers compensation, ergonomic evaluations, and PERA (Public Employees’ Retirement Association).

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