A Smile

It's hard to believe that just two weeks ago we were becoming aware of the tragic loss of our team member Carlos Moreno. The camaraderie of the “One Auraria” team runs deep—it goes without saying that we've been profoundly impacted by his passing. The outpouring of concern and generosity from AHEC staff and our institutional counterparts has been sincere, as well as appreciated on all fronts.

Having been here 18 years, Carlos was a friend and colleague who provided exceptional service to our community. And that service was clearly valued. During his long tenure, he developed friendships with countless individuals and departments across the campus.

Everyone knew family was his highest priority. He also treasured the Auraria community—co-workers and customers alike. His family, in their unimaginable grief, graciously found time to acknowledge the Auraria team as his second family. They are also part of Auraria’s family, and our thoughts remain with them during this difficult time.

We were fortunate to have known him. He always had a twinkle in his eye and a captivating smile.

Even for those who didn’t know Carlos, the beaming smile in his photo conveys that he was a generous and kind soul.
CCD Hosts 50th Birthday Party

On October 12th, CCD hosted a celebration in honor of their 50th anniversary. Held in the Confluence building, the birthday party attracted city VIPs, including Mayor Michael Hancock and Denver City Council President Albus Brooks, as well as faculty, alumni, long-time staff, board members, students, and the community.

“The most satisfying thing about being president when an institution turns 50 years old, is that you know you’re standing on the shoulders of others,” said President Everette Freeman, Ph.D in CCD’s 50th anniversary video. “I’m privileged to be here at the moment we’re celebrating 50 years because it’s a story where I get to watch and get to celebrate the successes that others have made possible before my arrival.”

A joint proclamation was delivered to President Freeman by City Council President Albus Brooks, Mayor Michael Hancock, and the Governor’s Office in recognition of CCD’s efforts to aid in giving students a successful pathway for education and future endeavors.
NCIS Director Speaks to MSU Denver Students

Everyone knows “NCIS,” the TV show that has been lighting up the small screen for the last 15 years. But not everyone knows the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the federal agency on which the show is based. Thanks to Andrew Traver, Director of the real NCIS, a lot more people now do.

Traver was on campus on October 12th to discuss his work at the agency, as well as share advice with MSU Denver students looking to get into the field. Speaking to a standing-room only crowd, he set the record straight on the differences between real life and TV.

“The actual stuff we do is not that exciting,” he said. “None of it gets done in 48 minutes. It wouldn’t make for compelling television.”

NCIS’s work includes investigating criminal activity that impacts the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps—everything from local investigations to international counterterrorism operations to cyberwarfare.

Traver became the NCIS director in 2013. His favorite part of the job: “Going to places I never thought I’d go,” he said. “I get to travel to our host nations, share best practices, and help them get better, so we can get better.”
CU Denver’s New Alumni Tradition Welcomes Big Crowd for Food, Fun, and Tours

LynxFest, CU Denver’s newest alumni tradition, proved to be a smashing success the weekend of October 15th, bringing over 150 alumni and their families back to campus for food, fun, and campus tours.

Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, who earned his master’s degree in public administration from CU Denver, delivered the keynote speech during Saturday’s barbecue, saying, “I use my degree every single day at the Mayor’s office.” The mayor bestowed praise on CU Denver’s mascot, Milo the Lynx, reflecting on his time as Huddles, the one-time mascot for the Denver Broncos.

At the Alumni Service Celebration, CU Denver Alumni Relations recognized outstanding alumni achievement, scholarship support, and board service. Other highlights included a sold-out Auraria Campus history tour by CU Denver History Professor Tom Noel (Dr. Colorado) and “Lightning Lectures” by Jamie Hodgkins (Anthropology); Omar Montgomery (Black Student Services); and Storm Gloor (Music and Entertainment Studies).

AELC programs are designed to meet each child’s individual needs, to foster development in intellectual and social skills, and to provide a safe, nurturing environment.

Information
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ENGINEERING NEWS-RECORD RECOGNIZES AURARIA LIBRARY

ENR Mountain States announced the winners of its 2017 Best Projects competition across a seven-state region. The Auraria Library renovation project won the award for Government/Public Building.

A panel of nine judges from all areas of the industry—architects, general contractors, green consultants, virtual designers, and engineers—selected winners and merit awards.

NEW HIRES & RETIREES

Discover colleagues who have recently joined the “One Auraria” community, and recognize those colleagues who have retired.

NEW HIRES

ACCOUNTING
Erin Brown
Auxiliary Services Coordinator
Ron Mitchell
Director, Information Technology

Ron Mitchell is no stranger to technology. A self-proclaimed nerd, he fell in love with computers at a young age. In 1981, he bought his first computer—a Tandy TRS-80, which had to be hooked up to a TV for its monitor. His passion for technology took off from there. He earned an associate’s degree in data processing in 1987, followed by a bachelor’s in network administration in 2002.

Mitchell grew up and started his career in Queens, New York. His first IT job was with AMC Theaters, where he was the help desk manager. He supported the point of sales systems for all of the company’s movie theaters. AMC transferred Mitchell to Denver in 1990, but when the company changed directions, he decided to look for a new opportunity.

That’s when he joined AHEC, which was a little over 11 years ago. Mitchell was hired as the systems manager to support all of the student auxiliaries and point of sales systems for the agency. Mitchell’s dedication and leadership shined, as he was recently named the new Director of Information Technology, a change he’s thrilled about. “We have a great team and a great agency to support,” he said.

Mitchell says he believes whole-heartedly in the “Yes Before No” Guiding Principle. “My goal as IT Director is to develop a more cohesive team where we can deliver the best customer service,” Mitchell explained. “I want it to be possible for anyone in the agency to reach anyone on the IT team for support—no silos.”

While computers and technology occupy his attention during working hours, he enjoys spending his free time with his wife and three kids, golfing, and volunteering as a deacon at his church. Back in the day (starting at age 13), he was a DJ, spinning music for weddings, birthdays, and block parties. (So, next time you have a party, you know who to call for entertainment!)

FAVORITE PLACE EVER VISITED
Barbados—The weather, island, and water are beautiful…and in 1924, both of my grandparents on my mother’s side emigrated from there through Ellis Island in NYC.
Facilities Services Staff to the Rescue

On October 4th, the annual tri-institutional Accessibility Awareness Festival drew a crowd to the Tivoli Quad to raise awareness for the importance of accessible environments for individuals with disabilities.

Approximately 60 community and campus partners had a presence at this year’s festival, so it was a busy day for the campus.

During the festival, an Auraria Campus student who has a guide dog and uses a wheelchair was visiting with one of the vendors when her dog’s leash got caught in the wheel of her chair. It was extremely stressful for the student and her dog. The leash was badly tangled, which meant she couldn’t move her chair and her dog was unable to support her.

Neighborhood Community Officers contacted Facilities Services for assistance. Taking the “Respond with Urgency” Guiding Principle to heart, Andy Chase, from Electrical Services, and Steve Clay, from Auxiliary Construction Services, quickly answered the call.

While it took some time, they had the tools and dedication necessary to untangle the leash from the wheel. The student was eternally grateful for their swift response and support.
CALENDAR & REMINDERS

November 20–26, 2017
Fall Break (no classes)

November 23–24, 2017
Thanksgiving and Governor’s Holiday (campus closed)

December 15, 2017 | 2–3:30 p.m.
Winterfest, Tivoli Turnhalle

December 25, 2017–January 1, 2018
Winter Break (no classes, campus closed)

January 16
Spring Semester begins

Story Ideas & Newsletter Feedback
Contact: Katy Brown, 9th Street News Editor (katy.brown@ahec.edu or 303.556.8090)

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