

# Communique

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-COLORADO SPRINGS

## New workers bring fresh perspective

There are some new workers on campus and they're shaking things up.

Facilities Service, a department where workers think it's not only normal to have lunch together every day but to actually look forward to it, recently hired a deaf tradesman and two cognitively impaired custodians via Goodwill Staffing Services in an effort to expand the notion of what comprises a traditional hiring pool.

The results are surprising.

One worker says he feels a sense of gratitude for the opportunity. Another says he feels a bit humbled by the experience.

And these comments aren't coming from the new hires.

Dave Tafoya, an apprentice tradesman, when queried about his deaf co-worker, Sam Wilding replied: "I don't see Sammy as having a disability. He's teaching me. Every day I learn something new."

Diane Ferrell, accounting technician, Facilities Service, was promptly given a five-minute lecture by one of the Goodwill custodians on how to improve her self-esteem after saying, "what I did was so stupid," after noticing an office mistake.

"Jerry told me that people just have different abilities and that nobody is stupid," Ferrell said shaking her head incredulously. "He and Todd are two of the sweetest guys you ever want to meet."

Jerry Wasinger and Todd Pritchard, hired as dayshift custodians under a job-share arrangement, fill a void for hard-working and loyal janitors.

"They want to do the job and they want to get it right," said fellow custodian Monroe McDade, more commonly known on campus as "Mac." "They take a lot of pride in their work."



### Chat —

Dave Tafoya and Sam Wilding communicate while working on a project in the Campus Services Building.

Tom Ostenberg, who heads the Department of Facilities Service, says he encourages his staff to look beyond conventional applicants in an effort to bring diversity to the department. He's quick to point out, however, that these recent hires were more a case of best-man-for-the-job than anything else.

To help the new hires fit in even better, several months ago Ostenberg offered two free sign-language classes for any staffers who might be interested in learning to work with Wilding.

To Ostenberg's delight, 14 staffers took the sign language course.

Tafoya, who works with Wilding on a daily basis, quickly moved beyond the signs for "hammer," "key," "work-order," and "screwdriver," in order to speak with Wilding about more pressing matters such as a recent deer hunt.

"Sammy has become my teacher," said Tafoya. "He's teaching me two to three new words a day. And it's not just me. We all are learning to talk to him on his terms. Our repertoire is just growing."

Wilding says that the enthusiasm displayed by all the staff has made his job easier.

"I just want to say that I have never worked where everybody is very overwhelmingly willing to work with me and where everybody cares for each other," said Wilding.

### Overheard

*There are more similarities between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity than differences.*

— Arshad Yousufi, at a recent Ramadan dinner

## Chancellor search committee seeks input, names

The committee charged with selecting the eighth CU-Colorado Springs chancellor wants nominations for the position from the campus and greater Colorado Springs community.

Leslie Manning, dean, Kraemer Family Library and search committee chair, said each committee member is charged with submitting five names for consideration as the chancellor search begins in earnest.



Leslie Manning

“President Hoffman charged each of us to come up with five names of people we think might make a good chancellor for the campus,” Manning said. “The committee decided to seek input from the entire campus community as we strive to build an exceptional pool of candidates.”

Nominations can be submitted through a search committee member, directly to Manning or through the firm, Heidrick and Struggles, which was hired to assist with the search.

At the first search committee meeting Nov. 3, Hoffman charged the group with providing a recommendation of who should succeed Linda Bunnell Shade as chancellor. After eight years as chancellor, Bunnell Shade resigned in October for a position with the New York-based College Board. Pam Shockley, vice chancellor for student success, serves as interim chancellor.

Advertisements in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Black Issues in Higher Education* and *Hispanic Outlook* will be published next week and again in January. The committee

hopes to screen and evaluate applicants in March, and provide a recommendation to Hoffman in April.

The chancellor’s search committee members are: Manning, chair; Gene Abrams, professor, Mathematics; Rebecca Duray, assistant professor, Business; Tom Huber, professor, Geography and Environmental Studies; Kathy La Sala, associate professor, Nursing; Mark Malone, professor, Education; Randy Cubero, director, Athletics; Diane Alberico, general professional, Administration and Finance; John Michael Warner, student body co-executive; Robert Gardner, resident director, Housing; Mary Ellen McNally, Colorado Springs; David Palenchar, Colorado Springs; and Steve Schuck, Colorado Springs. Ex-officio members are: Jerry Rutledge, CU Board of Regents; J.D. Beatty, chief of staff, President’s Office; Claudia Cardozo, staff assistant, Office of the Vice President for Budget and Finance; Kathy Griffith, director, University Events and Outreach; Paul Perales, director, Human Resources, System Administration; and Jan Tharp, director, Office of Affirmative Action.

### Forum on tap for Friday

Fresh from the CU Board of Regents meeting in Boulder, Chancellor Pam Shockley will lead a University Forum beginning at 10 a.m. Friday at the University Center theater.

Expected topics for the forum, in addition to the Regents meeting, are updates on the actions of the Colorado Legislature’s Capital Development Committee, the Blue Ribbon Panel report, university budgets, enrollment, faculty positions and fundraising.

“I know this is a busy time of year because of finals and a variety of other commitments,” Shockley said. “However, I wanted to be able to convey to those who can attend the latest information about many of the important issues we face.”

All faculty and staff are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.



### Support

Colorado Springs Wal-Mart stores recently donated \$5,000 to support CU-Colorado Springs athletics. Joining in the check presentation from left were: Randy Cubero, director, Athletics; Cleve McDaniel, vice chancellor for administration and finance; George Egan, assistant director, Athletics; Mike Anderson, Wal-Mart store manager; Teresa Loughran, Wal-Mart store manager; Shannon Reese, Wal-Mart store manager; John Jones, Wal-Mart store manager; and Joe Berry, Wal-Mart regional manager.



## CU holiday service project serves up joy

Joy, a student and a mother to a pre-teen daughter, usually shopped at yard sales or thrift stores. But, for the first-time, her daughter had a brand-new outfit for the holidays last year thanks to the campus Holiday Service Project.

In addition to the clothing, the campus provided a king-size box of food, boxes of gifts, a telephone answering machine, gift certificates for dinner at Fazoli's and certificates for a movie.

"This is my school. They really know I'm here," said Joy. "I really felt in my heart that I was more connected, that there was a true sense of community spirit."

This year's 13th annual Holiday Service Project helped 19 CU families of students, staff or faculty with gifts and holiday meals. The campus community helped by placing food and household products in the Holidrop boxes around campus, by sponsoring a family through the Adopt-A-Family program, or selecting an ornament from the Giving Tree and purchasing a small gift for that individual. Some faculty and staff made cash contributions.

The students don't ask for help. The Student Financial Aid office verifies the need and Sandy Harness, financial aid counselor, calls to see if the student wants help. If they agree, recipients receive a number and go to a room filled with food and gifts. No names are provided — just help for the holidays for those in need.

The Holiday Service Project is co-chaired by Gudrun McCollum, library technician, Kraemer Family Library, and Hettie Myers, administrative assistant, College of Education. Other committee members include Deidre Green, administrative assistant, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Beverly Kratzer, academic advisor, Student Success Center; Gail Lane, administrative assistant, Information Technology; Nancy Lindenmier, administrative assistant, Student Success Center; Kathy Marshall, library technician, Kraemer Family Library; Karen Norris, program assistant, Communication

Department; Ella Stanton, analyst, Budget Office; and Jennifer Quick, library technician, Kraemer Family Library.

Organizations that donated time, supplies, or money include: CU Federal Credit Union, Barnes and Noble Booksellers, Wal Mart, Media Play, Wendy's, Creative Nails & Hair, Physical Plant, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, Bookstore, The Scribe, Silver & Gold Record, Family Development Center and Print Shop.

Departments that adopted families were Kraemer Family Library, Public Safety Department, University Center, Women and Ethnic Studies, Financial Aid, Graduate School of Public Affairs, Student Government and Latter-Day Saints Student Association, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Budget Office, Retirement Association, College of Education, Admission and Records, the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Bookstore, Intercollegiate Athletics and Student Success.





**Assessment corner**

# Survey shows freshmen value academic quality, selection

More than 37 percent of the CU-Colorado Springs freshmen class chose the university because of its academic reputation, according a survey administered by the Office of Institutional Research.

The Student Assessment Committee, the Student Success Center and Institutional Research joined forces this fall to ask students about their backgrounds, aspirations and their expectations of college.

The data gleaned from 425 new student responses will help the university better understand student needs and make the university more accountable, according to Veronica Gardner, professional research assistant, Office of Institutional Research.

“Assessment at CU-Colorado Springs is not viewed purely as an external demand but instead as an institutional priority – a way of life for the university,” Gardner said. “The campus is committed to meaningful program assessment that results in program improvement and responsiveness.”

The top reasons freshmen chose the university, according to the survey, were:

- The university offered the major I wanted (59 percent)
- The school was cost competitive (42 percent)
- The school’s academic reputation (37 percent)
- I could live in parent’s home while attending the university (32 percent)

Of particular interest to Gardner was a more than 10 percent increase in the number of students who said the university offered the major they desired. Last year’s freshman survey showed that 48.3 percent of those surveyed chose the university because it offered the major they wanted. Additionally, 63 percent of this year’s freshman plan to stay at the university to complete their degree — a more than 20 percent increase from five years ago.

“Prospective students are paying more attention to the academic programs available here,” Gardner said, “and we appear to be attracting a higher proportion of students who intend to stay.”

New freshmen also were asked to rate their abilities. Fully 76 percent of freshmen rated their multicultural awareness



as good or excellent. Most (66 percent) cited their oral communications skills as good or excellent and 61 percent cited their writing skills as either good or excellent. In contrast, the areas freshmen said they may experience “more than a little difficulty” include spelling (15 percent), paying attention (14 percent) and computer use (13 percent).

Gardner pointed out that the statistics show signs of improvement. In 1996, fully 24 percent of freshmen were concerned about their computer use skills.

The survey also showed that students value hands-on practical experience in the community. Of those who responded, 71 percent said they believed it important to gain practical experience within the community as part of their education.

The survey drew a response of 425 from a freshman class of 815, Gardner said, and closely mirrored known statistics about the class. About 65 percent of the respondents were female and the average age was 18. Slightly more than half of the respondents were enrolled in a major within the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, 20 percent were engineering majors, 20 percent were business majors, and 8 percent were nursing majors. Eighteen percent of entering freshmen said they were members of ethnic minority groups.

The Assessment Corner will be a regular *Communique* feature. For more details of the survey, contact Gardner, Institutional Research, 262- 4186.

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## Hats off



Zbigneiw Celinski

Zbigneiw Celinski, associate professor, Physics, is the 2001 recipient of the Faculty Award for Excellence in Research.

Celinski's research is at the forefront of explorations in magnetism. His work has the possibility of revolutionizing high frequency communications (cellular phones and local area networks) and high frequency radar signals that can see through fog (impacting airports and shipping).

Celinski was praised for developing and maintaining a world-class magnetism laboratory with eleven major devices worth about \$1.5 million.

Celinski was also noted for his including of students in his research. In the past five years, he has worked with five graduate students, 11 undergraduates and 12 high school students.

"I relish the chance to provide students with a special opportunity to conduct research in the field that I love," said Celinski. "This work with students has been a rewarding experience for me, and, I hope, for many of the students as well."

Celinski will present a public lecture on his work at a luncheon next semester. Additionally, he received a \$4,000 award.

The research award honors outstanding research, scholarly or creative work. Funding is provided by the vice chancellor for academic affairs.

## Business on-line earns high marks

Brent Weisner, a Dec. 2001 CU-Colorado Springs graduate, won't attend tomorrow's graduate reception and likely won't attend commencement in May.

Instead, the Louisiana-based U.S. Air Force captain will be flying a B-52 over Afghanistan.

Weisner, who is completing a master's in business administration, exemplifies a new breed of student who wants to continue education while maintaining a professional career. Recent ratings in *U.S. News and World Report* show that Weisner is not alone.

According to *U.S. News*, the CU-Colorado Springs online

master's in business administration program is among the best in the country. The CU-Colorado Springs program was the only Colorado-based program cited by the magazine.

"We have more than 200 students enrolled in our distance master's of business administration program making it one of the largest in the country," Joe Rallo, dean, College of Business and Administration said. "Our program is proven and affordable."

*U.S. News* lists 146 online graduate degree programs in five disciplines. All programs cited are approved by regional accrediting boards, which set rigorous standards and make students eligible for federal aid programs.

## Changes in store for [www.uccs.edu](http://www.uccs.edu)

The New Year will bring a new look to the university's home page, according to Craig Decker, university webmaster.



The appearance of [www.uccs.edu](http://www.uccs.edu) will change, Decker says, and with the change he hopes to shorten download time.

"I had heard from quite a few people who use modems that our page took a long time to download,"

Decker said. "As we set out to improve the speed, we ended up changing the entire appearance of the site."

The new page will feature photographs of students that change hourly as well as prominently displaying the news releases issued by the university and the all-university events calendar. The page also provides links to hundreds of other university information sources.

Decker developed a prototype page and shared it with the university's web advisory committee of faculty and staff. That committee is chaired by Jere Haefner, senior faculty associate for information technology.

Decker hopes to take the site "live" by the first day of classes for the spring semester, Jan. 22.

# Holiday schedule — winter break



## WEEK OF DEC. 10

**Monday, Dec. 10 – Saturday, Dec. 15**

Final exams

**Thursday, Dec. 13**

Graduation recognition ceremony, 6 - 8 p.m., The Lodge.

To attend, rsvp to 262-3436

**Friday, Dec. 14**

All food service regular hours

Kraemer Family Library open 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 15**

Semester ends

All food service closed

Kraemer Family Library open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

University Center open 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 16**

Closed: Kraemer Family Library, all food service and University Center

## WEEK OF DEC. 17

**Monday, Dec. 17 – Friday, Dec. 21**

Java Hut open 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. with soup and sandwiches

Gym and fitness center open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

University Center open 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 17 and Tuesday, Dec. 18**

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 18**

Campus holiday party, 3 p.m., The Lodge.

To attend, rsvp to 262-3436

**Wednesday, Dec. 19 through Friday, Dec. 21**

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 22 and Sunday, Dec. 23**

Closed: Kraemer Family Library and University Center

## WEEK OF DEC. 24

**Monday, Dec. 24 Governor's holiday**

Closed: All campus offices, food service, Kraemer Family Library, University Center and gym and fitness center.

**Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas holiday**

Closed: All campus offices, food service, Kraemer Family Library, University Center and gym and fitness center

**Wednesday, Dec. 26 – Friday, Dec. 28**

Java Hut open 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. with soup and sandwiches

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

University Center open 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 29-30**

Closed: Kraemer Family Library and University Center

Gym and fitness center open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

## WEEK OF DEC. 31

**Monday, Dec. 31**

Java Hut open 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. with soup and sandwiches

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Gym and fitness center open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

University Center open 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2002 New Year's Day holiday**

Closed: All campus offices, food service, Kraemer Family Library, University Center and gym and fitness center

**Wednesday, Jan 2 – Friday, Jan. 4**

Java Hut open 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. with soup and sandwiches

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Gym and fitness center open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

University Center open 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 5-6**

Closed: Kraemer Family Library and University Center

## WEEK OF JAN. 7

**Monday, Jan. 7 – Friday, Jan. 11**

Java Hut open 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. with soup and sandwiches

Gym and fitness center open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

University Center open 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 7 and Tuesday, Jan. 8**

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 9 through Friday, Jan. 11**

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 12-13**

Closed: Kraemer Family Library and University Center.

## WEEK OF JAN. 14

**Monday, Jan. 14 – Friday, Jan. 18**

Java Hut open 7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. with soup and sandwiches

Gym and fitness center open 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

University Center open 7:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 14 and Tuesday, Jan. 15**

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 16 through Friday, Jan. 18**

Kraemer Family Library open 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 19**

University Center open 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Kraemer Family library closed

**Sunday, Jan. 20**

Pub open regular hours

The Lodge open 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m., 5-7 p.m.

University Center open noon – 9 p.m.

Kraemer Family Library closed

## WEEK OF JAN. 21

**Monday, Jan. 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday**

Closed: All campus offices, Kraemer Family Library, and gym and fitness center.

Pub and The Lodge open regular hours

University Center open noon – 9 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 22**

All food service resume regular hours

First day of classes for spring semester