Vancouver Bound

UCCS Heads to Vancouver for Winter Olympics

UCCS students will get a taste of what it’s like to be an Olympic athlete this winter as Nanna Meyer, assistant professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, heads to Vancouver for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

Meyer, who is also director of the UCCS master of science in sport nutrition, will oversee menu planning and meal preparation for the Men’s and Women’s Short and Long Track US Speed Skating Team. With the assistance of two graduate students (Kelly Ping, RD and Jane Taggart, CSCS), Meyer will work at Safe Houses outside the Olympic Village that provide a retreat for athletes to refuel and refocus both before and after competition. The Safe Houses, open only to the skating team and its coaches, provide Meyer and her students with the opportunity to make a significant impact on the team’s Olympic success.

UCCS students unable to attend the games in person will still experience Vancouver as on-campus dining in the Housing Village Lodge retools its February menu to reflect Olympic-style cuisine. Athlete-focused meals will be served daily and compared to dining options that are more appropriate for less-active individuals. To further catch the Olympic spirit, a big screen TV in the Lodge will broadcast the Games.

Meyer is no stranger to the Olympic movement. She began participating as a Swiss Olympic Consultant for meal service at the 1998 Nagano Winter Games. Since then, she has participated in the Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002 and Torino in 2006. Meyer has also served as the US Speed Skating Team’s sports dietitian since 1999.

The 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver will be broadcast around the world from February 12 – 27.
UCCS welcomed its largest enrollment ever last fall with 8,450 students – a more than 6 percent increase both in headcount and student credit hours from the previous year, and a 27 percent increase over the past decade.

“Students who want to reach higher in their lives are selecting the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs,” Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak said. “Our superior facilities, high-quality faculty, and programs that are in demand are attracting students who have ambition and goals.”

Other enrollment highlights include:

- Men: 3,702, up 8%
- Women: 4,762, up 5.1%
- Average credit hour load: 11.52, up .3%
- Undergraduates: 6,770, up 4.3 %
- Graduates: 1,694, up 15.6 %

“The number of students who self-identify as members of an ethnic minority group also increased in 2009. Compared to 2008, 154 more minority students enrolled, a 10.6 percent increase bringing total enrollment of minority students to 1,604. Minority students are 19 percent of the campus population.

UCCS is no stranger to change. For many of our over 30,000 alumni, the campus has been incredibly altered since you were here ten years ago, five years ago, or even five months ago. Seeing these changes is believing – both in our mission and in our potential to impact the future of Southern Colorado.

Last fall, we reached a record of 8,464 students enrolled. That is a more than 6% increase from last year and, over the decade, a 27% increase. The freshman class is more than 1,000 strong and the university posted substantial increases in the number of transfer students, as well as in the number of people who are the first in their families to attend college. Just as it was for you, UCCS remains an institution that prides itself both on its quality and its accessibility.

We are equally proud of our latest US News and World Report ranking that says we are among the best universities in the Western United States and that 92% of our students are from Colorado.

This is our foundation and the base upon which we will build - and build we will! We recently dedicated a new Science & Engineering Building, now the largest building on campus, offering state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories and energy-saving features that make it a model for the future. Our Science Building is now under renovation from top to bottom. By next fall, UCCS will have the best science laboratories in Colorado. We also recently completed a 1,200 seat Event Center that will change the face of athletics on our campus.

Clearly, UCCS is a university on the move. We have much to be proud of. But a university is only as good as its people. We are a community of life-long learners, one that welcomes you back and one that I hope continues to help you achieve your goal of reaching ever higher. Your impact and success are the true story of UCCS and its potential to shape lives.

Go Mountain Lions!

Pam Shockley-Zalabak
Chancellor
Alumnus Funds Scholarship in Professor’s Honor

Dr. Devin Mikles (BA, ’79) knows the impact a professor can have on a student. While studying biology at UCCS, many professors contributed to Mikles’ success, yet one in particular stood out: Dr. Donald Van Horn. Through encouragement, special field outings and projects that revealed the possibilities of work in the biological sciences, Van Horn taught Mikles about the components of both academic and personal success.

Like many UCCS students, Mikles was extraordinarily determined. While earning his degree, he worked full-time, raised a family, and even rode his bicycle many miles a day between his downtown job and the campus. Looking back, he appreciates his professors’ support of his studies by embracing his “endless questions and dogged classroom seriousness.”

Mikles recalls, “The UCCS experience was a very positive one for me. I felt greatly supported by the professors and the administration in my quest for a college education.” As a result, Mikles is making a difference in the lives of current biology students through the Van Horn Endowed Scholarship. “Dr. Van Horn was a most memorable professor and mentor for me. I decided that the scholarship I wanted to fund should be in his honor,” Mikles explains.

When asked what advice he would give to others looking for meaningful ways to honor those who helped shape their lives and careers, Mikles replies, “I recommend that all alumni who have had wonderful experiences at UCCS think about giving back in some way. It is vitally important that we all do as much as we can to support the kind of education that will be needed in the critical times ahead for humanity.”

“I felt greatly supported by the professors and also by the University administration in my quest for a college education.”

Mikles is currently the CEO and Medical Director of Choices Integrative Healthcare of Sedona, LLC in Arizona and the Founder and President of the Choices Foundation for Health Education and Research. He earned his MD at the University of Colorado at Denver in 1984.

Recent Campus Recognitions

Buildings
- Recreation Center: LEED Gold Certification
- Science & Engineering Building: LEED Gold Certification
- Colorado Renewable Energy Society Renewable Energy Sustainable Design in Buildings Award
- First Place Colorado Sustainable Design Award (commercial building category)

Programs
- U.S. News & World Report ranked UCCS Sixth in the West
- Undergraduate engineering program, Masters of Nursing and Masters of Public Administration among the best in the nation
- Named a Military Friendly School by GI Jobs Magazine
- Highest marks for sustainability of any southern Colorado public college or university in the “College Sustainability Report 2010”

People
- Don Klingner, School of Public Affairs, named as Distinguished Professor
- Andrea Herrera and Paul Harvey were named as President’s Teaching Scholars
- Campus received $5.5 Million gift from anonymous donor
- UCCS received the Steel & Silver Series Trophy in an annual academic and athletic competition with CSU Pueblo

New Academic Programs add to Campus Prestige

PhD in Applied Science

The PhD in Applied Science will initially act as an umbrella for students seeking advanced study in mathematics, physics and applied bioscience. Additional specific fields of study may be added and students will have the opportunity to work across fields as well.

According to Tom Christensen, dean, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, “This structure allows us to serve discipline-specific students in several areas while also providing opportunities to work in cross-disciplinary ways. We believe working across disciplines will allow for unprecedented opportunities for innovation, an important element in the future of southern Colorado.”

In addition, the new program also represents a major step forward for the campus’ future. As Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak states, “This degree builds on the momentum of the completion of our new Science & Engineering building as well as a southern Colorado innovation strategy that relies on increased research activity by our faculty and advanced students. This degree will position the campus for greater funding in the long term and demonstrates our commitment to regional economic growth.”

Honors Program

UCCS launched its first Honors Program in fall 2009. With two levels, University Honors and Mountain Lion Honors, the program provides opportunities for students to work with faculty in smaller class settings, engage in collaborative learning and living via an honors floor in housing and to receive special recognition at graduation.

To learn more about the specifics of the program, visit the Honors Program web site at www.uccs.edu/honors.
The UCCS campus landscape continues to evolve as we move toward the goal of becoming the premier comprehensive, regional research university in the United States. From state-of-the-art science and engineering labs to top-of-the-line athletic facilities, for many alumni, the campus is nearly unrecognizable.

Science & Engineering Building

The road to opening the door of the UCCS Science & Engineering Building was fraught with roadblocks and uncertainty. But it was UCCS’ dogged determination, culture of innovation and downright “stick-to-it-ness” that transformed the dream into a reality. Although officially opened last fall, the Science & Engineering Building is rich with history. Nearly ten years ago, the University of Colorado Board of Regents first approved the project, then titled Beth-El College of Nursing & Health Sciences and Natural & Physical Science. At that time, the project would remedy new construction needs for Beth-El, Engineering and the Natural and Physical Sciences. But the State funds appropriated to execute the planning phase were deappropriated just months later due to the events of 9/11 and a deteriorating economy.

With nothing but designs and architect’s renditions, UCCS sought to find alternative funding and new strategies to secure needed space for a growing campus in a harsh economic environment. While a quick solution was found for Beth-El in the form of purchasing the former headquarters of Compassion International, now University Hall, the Science & Engineering Building had a more treacherous path.

After three years of strategizing, brainstorming and persuading others to take risks, the Board of Regents approved proceeding with the plans for a two-wing Science & Engineering Building, without any promised State funding. Over the course of the next six years, faculty, staff, students and community partners worked diligently to secure needed funding. Ultimately, funding was generated through a variety of sources: pivotal donors and foundations, appropriation bills in the Colorado General Assembly, two gubernatorial administrations, a 20 million dollar state contribution, and system issued enterprise funds.

Today the Science & Engineering Building, at 160,000 gross square feet, is one of the greatest assets on the UCCS campus. This state-of-the-art building is a living testament to the will of the campus, proving no matter the size of the challenge, UCCS delivers quality and accessible education.
Event Center

Many UCCS alumni recall athletic facilities at their alma mater as less than ideal. In fact, for many years, the campus boasted the not-so-proud honor of having the smallest NCAA gym in the country. All that changed on January 22, however, when the campus dedicated a new, top-of-the-line, 1,224 seat Event Center between the former University Center Gymnasium and Dwire Hall.

The new Event Center isn’t all about improving the campus athletic venue, however. In a back room, hundreds of pieces of carpet tiles will be stored. In about 20 hours, the hardwoods can give way to semi-plush carpet and the rancor of a basketball game to a banquet hall for 700 guests.

“This building truly is designed to maximize our event opportunities,” Susan Szpyrka, associate vice chancellor, Administration and Finance, said. “Everything is flexible here – the goals, the lighting, the seating. It’s all designed to serve the university’s many and varied needs.”

The building is significant from an alumni relations perspective as well. James L. “Jim” Gallogly (BA, ’74) and his wife, Janet, on behalf of the Gallogly family, have pledged to donate $1 million to help fund the $9 million project and for other campus needs. The Event Center is the first full UCCS building named in honor of a campus alum.

The Gallogly connection to UCCS began with Jim’s father, Tom Gallogly (BS, ’70, MA, ’73), a non-traditional student. He died in 2000. Seven children of Tom and Margery Gallogly earned degrees from UCCS.

“We are pleased to name the new event center in honor of our father, Tom Gallogly, one of the early graduates of UCCS. He would be extremely proud of how his alma mater has grown and prospered through the years,” Jim Gallogly stated.

Science Building Renovation

Scheduled for completion by fall 2010, the Science Building renovation will transform nearly ¼ of the existing building. Upon completion, the renovated facility will house the chemistry, anthropology and geography departments and the Science Learning Center and will boast 23 research spaces, seven teaching labs and eight classroom/computer labs.

The project includes a complete removal of all the old walls and reconfiguration of the building, new heating, cooling, electrical and plumbing systems, new windows, a new roof and repairs to the brick exterior. The auditorium and landscaping are receiving makeovers as well.

GOCA 121

The UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art opened a downtown location this winter at 121 N. Tejon in the Plaza of the Rockies building.

The space, formerly known as the FAC Modern, was reborn as the UCCS Gallery of Contemporary Art 121, or GOCA 121, and continues to build on the long tradition of contemporary art exhibits at UCCS. Since 1981, UCCS has operated the Gallery of Contemporary Art in the Science Building. This new space will invigorate downtown by bringing extraordinary works to the area.

GOCA 121 is situated between two other downtown artistic centers, Nosh and the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region (COPPeR). Together with Nosh’s artistic cuisine and COPPeR’s pulse on the art community, they add vitality to the local arts scene.

“We believe the strength of downtown is vital to our community’s future,” Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak said. “By bringing art to the area, we are contributing to the overall health of downtown.”

The Gallery of Contemporary Art recently launched a new public art program, “AWOL: Art Without Limits,” to create new venues for art through site-specific installations and non-traditional exhibit spaces such as downtown parking garages and beneath the Colorado Avenue bridge. Caitlin Green, interim director, Gallery of Contemporary Art, said the new venue provides an opportunity to reach new audiences and develop a forum for critical discourse on contemporary art.
Reaching Higher Campaign Captures UCCS Spirit

A new promotional campaign is hitting the airwaves, local newspapers and the hands of prospective students.

The “Reach Higher” campaign is being used as part of a coordinated effort with the Office of Admissions and Records to recruit students, according to Allison Swickard-Gorman (MA, ’09), director of marketing, University Advancement. But the campaign is also intended to pull together UCCS marketing efforts beyond student recruitment.

Radio advertisements are being aired on stations with large under-25-year-old audiences. Print advertisements featuring current UCCS students are being published in local and regional newspapers, including high school papers. The “Reach Higher” theme is also being carried through a new set of recruitment-specific materials including direct mail and brochures used by admissions counselors when visiting with high school and transfer students.

“The entire reach higher theme is based on input from students who told us they seek to do more in their lives,” Swickard-Gorman said. “The theme captures the essence of UCCS students who are often working, may be the first in their families to attend college, and who aspire to do great things.”

Swickard-Gorman directed the strategy and coordination of the new campaign and Jeff Foster (BA, ’07), multimedia marketing coordinator, University Advancement, served as art director.

UCCS is committed to sustainability.

Ent Federal Credit Union: Supporting UCCS Alumni Where Life Takes Them

Ent Federal Credit Union has served the Pikes Peak region since 1957 with a full range of financial products and services. As a full service financial institution, Ent is committed to providing members with unbiased financial advice and the tools they need to be successful. Ent is proud to serve UCCS alumni as they move through life’s stages; whether buying a car or a first home, to investment portfolios and retirement planning, Ent is here to serve all the financial needs of the alumni community.

Ent is excited to partner with UCCS as the campus continues to impact the Pikes Peak Region and Southern Colorado through producing quality graduates and developing collaborative ventures to support regional development and advancement. In addition, UCCS initiatives engage business, government, and other community leaders in mutually beneficial programs – most recently resulting in a grant for ethics education to the College of Business.

As Moore again reflects, “Ent is proud to be a partner through participation in campus programs, offering student internships, and providing financial education to help today’s students become better informed users of financial services, wherever they may be. We look forward to continuing to serve our UCCS members and alumni with the financial tools they need to be successful both inside and outside the campus walls.”

To learn more about Ent Federal Credit Union and its services, visit www.ent.com.

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To learn more about the benefits and services available to members of the Alumni and Friends Association, visit: www.uccs.edu/alumni

Meet Our Significant Other

We’ve been partners with the CU Foundation since it was founded in 1967. And our relationship couldn’t be stronger.

At UCCS, we help students reach higher. Our other half, the CU Foundation, raises funds that support our work by connecting donors with their dreams.

Last year, our donors contributed $9,667,340. That is significant, indeed.

To make a gift, contact a member of the University of Colorado Foundation team at 719-255-5100 or uccs@cufund.org

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Alumni Association Special Events
Network with UCCS alumni at special events this spring!
For more information, visit www.uccs.edu/alumni
FEB 26: Roar on the Road Denver
MAR 20: Roar on the Road Alamosa
APR 3: Alumni Advancement Lecture Series
APR 22: Roar on the Road Colorado Springs

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Contact us anytime with feedback, ideas or to get involved at (719) 255-3180 or alumni@uccs.edu.

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