



President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney

September/October 2023

Transform the student experience

- **In the link you will find numerous pictures of our fire academy students participating in the stair climb honoring those who died in the 911 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center. Some notable actions.**
<https://5280fire.com/2023-incidents/black-hawk-9-11-memorial-stair-climb-2023/>
- They were asked to lead the event as the lead team, starting before everyone else did.
- This was the first Red Rocks Fire Academy to participate the 911 stair climb at this location.
- We assisted the State Division of Fire Prevention and Control by providing standby and participating personnel to help a wheelchair bound Iraqi War veteran climb the stairs in his wheelchair to honor those on 911.
- 35 floors were climbed 4 to 5 times with some of our recruits in full turn out gear (which added numerous weighs to this endeavor). The World Trade Center is 110 stories high. They exceeded this.
- The Clear Creek Fire Drill Master. Captain Don Koogle and his son attended this event on his off Day to support the RRCC academy. Don leads our contract site for teaching our students here at Red Rocks for our fire academy.
- RRCC FST and EMP Department Chair, (Retired Fire Chief) John Padgett also participated in the stair climb walking along with other fire department members, our academy students, and civilian personnel.
- RRCC Faculty Chair made contacts with several smaller fire departments who were at this event, which showed interest in joining our future academies and programs here at RRCC.
- Thomas Williams is creating a part-time program in the Law Enforcement Academy to be able to serve students that are unable to attend the program full-time. We will be piloting the part-time program Summer 2024. The academy currently has a wait list to enter for Spring 2024.
- In Workforce Services, we launched a new Meta Spark AR course for students at RRCC. It is non-credit, but completing students can receive a stipend, present a unique AR experience at the end of semester student showcase, and sit for a professional certification from Meta.

- **RMEC** partnered with the Theater department to launch a faculty led non-credit course “*Voice Play*”. The course helps community members that identify at LGBTQIA + to understand the dynamics of their voice.
- **RMEC** recently launched a free **Meta Spark Augmented Reality (AR)** course for students. We originally registered about 28 students, but 3 weeks into it, there are about 15 students really engaging in the content. Students are learning how to create Augmented Reality experiences using the Meta Spark Studio Software. This 8-week course culminates in a student showcase (scheduled for 11/30) that will allow them to show off what they have learned in the class and their own unique experience.
- **RRCC Campus Police Department to Host Safety Fair in Arvada/Lakewood**
The Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Campus Police Department will host a Safety Fair on the Arvada Campus on Thursday, October 26 from 10am-2pm. Public safety agencies from surrounding areas will be on campus for a day of safety awareness and community engagement. Participants include: RRCC Campus Police, Colorado State Patrol (CSP), Alive at 25 – CSP Family Foundation, Jefferson County Health Equity, Jefferson County Public Health and student engagement, Servicios de La Raza, Lakewood Community Emergency Response Team Program (CERT), RRCC Fire Science/EMS/Law Enforcement students, and more. Attendees will have the chance to enter a drawing for a \$500 tuition voucher. One lucky winner will be chosen.
- **RRCC to Produce Family Friendly Show: *Bunnacula***
Written by Jon Klein, based on the book by James and Deborah Howe, with music composed by Chris Jeffries. The Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) Theatre Arts and Dance Department will present the classic children’s story *Bunnacula*, on October 26 & 27 at 7 pm, October 28 at 1 pm, November 2 & 3 at 7 pm, and November 4 at 1 pm, at the RRCC Theater. BUNNICULA is directed by Kelly Jo Eldredge, and produced by special arrangement with Plays for New Audiences. This musical version of the popular children’s book is a great opportunity for the entire family to celebrate the fall season. Guest puppet artist Cyndi Parr worked with RRCC students to build the Bunnacula puppet, with a few fun surprises hidden in its fur. *Bunnacula* begins when the Monroe family goes to see the movie Dracula and discovers a cute little bunny on one of their seats. They bring him home, and that is when everything gets a little weird. Vegetables start turning white and the family pets start acting strangely. Through a series of hilarious mishaps, the entire family learns the hidden secrets of their new furry family member. The story is told from the perspective of the family pets—Harold, the dog, and Chester, the cat.

Transform our own workforce experience.

- **Revitalizing Colorado’s healthcare workforce with zero-cost, short-term training programs of community and technical colleges.** Care Forward Colorado is revitalizing Colorado’s healthcare workforce through zero-cost, short-term training programs at community and technical colleges. In a year or less, trainees can learn skills to become a certified nursing assistant, emergency services professional, and many more professions that are desperately needed in Colorado’s healthcare facilities. Why Healthcare? Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Colorado faced deep shortages in entry-level health care

- positions. Care Forward Colorado will help the state rebuild its depleted healthcare workforce while providing zero-cost pathways that lead to living-wage, high-growth careers.
- The **Health Sciences programs** experienced an increase in enrollment this fall semester due in part to efforts in Recruitment and Outreach and Care Forward funding. The programs with the most increase in enrollment with additional sections being added were Integrated Health, Medical Assisting, and Medical Billing / Coding.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- On Thursday, September 26, RRCC held its annual **Health Fair**. Free offerings of a Biometric (Blood Draw) and/or Anthem Flu Shot Appointments – **Note:** Blood draw for ALL employees and Flu Shot for Employees with Anthem Coverage is scheduled here.
- Bone Density and Facial Scanner Appointment – **Note:** Scanning for ALL employees is scheduled here. Walgreens Flu, High Dose Flu (Patients >65), Pneumonia and Tdap shots – **Note:** Shots for Employees with Kaiser and Cigna Coverage and most other insurance coverages is scheduled here. We stopped by to speak with health providers and local vendors and collect information on a variety of benefits as well as free goodies!! Also take advantage of our other FREE health screens, healthy (and not so healthy!) snacks and register to win a variety of door prizes. The following screenings and services were available for free: Blood pressure check, height, weight and BMI, Facial screening, and a chair massage.
- "The **Theatre Arts & Dance Department** hosted the **Jenkins Family and Trustees** for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on September 27th. The ceremony was in appreciation of the **Jenkins Family**, whose substantial endowment will be a game changer for the department, bringing scholarships, resources, and funding to help increase production values and opportunities for students pursuing careers in technical theatre and performance."

Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

- Faculty member **Paul Weinrauch** was honored by the Jeffco School Board for his community work in acknowledging the 16 schools that were closed this last year and the students from both those schools and the new schools they will be attending. It was nice having school board chair and RRCC faculty member Stephanie Schooley present the honor to Paul.
- **Library Services** has expanded and improved the **Sterling Jenkins Memorial Theatre Arts Collection**. They have moved the collection into a section of the library where it will have greater visibility. They have also displayed new signage and posters for upcoming Theatre performances. Our agreement with the donors, the Harry F. and Donna M. Jenkins and Family Endowment, requires the library to grow the collection annually using financial support from the Endowment. Library Services has acquired new books for the collection to meet our annual requirement; as well as to increase the diversity of content and

provide more contemporary selections. The new look and location of the collection was showcased to the Board of Directors of the Harry F. and Donna M. Jenkins and Family Endowment during their recent tour of the library and Theatre Department. This collection supports student in the Theatre Department and students taking Theatre classes or interested in learning more about theatre. The books and playscripts in the collection provide students with information related to all aspects of theatre, including scripts, stage design, directing, acting, lighting, costume design, and history of theatre. Titles found on Theatre syllabi are available in this collection, ensuring students have access to required materials.

- **Library Services** staff participated in the DEI Book Club, *Centering Possibility in Black -Education*, and the DEI cohort for the Community of Belonging development series. The DEI Book Club, *Centering Possibility in Black Education*, provides RRCC staff and faculty a forum in which to discuss pedagogy and educational opportunities and approaches to teaching and engaging students of color. The chief objective of the book is to demonstrate the significance of possibility for advancing Black education transformation. Participants in the DEI Book Club discuss approaches to education as they relate to the specific needs and perspectives of Black students. This is done to develop and enhance an awareness that students learn and engage in our educational environment differently based in part on a unique set of histories and experiences. The desired outcome for this group is to develop an understanding and set of tools with which to improve our engagement with students of color, particularly Black students at RRCC. These actions are intended to advance inclusion, equity, and belong among the students with whom we engage in our roles.
- The first impactful thing I want to share is our **Cybersecurity Lab** (pictures below). Today we are doing a walkthrough and demonstrate endpoint functionality (forensic data analysis) as well as network-side hacking simulation. The **Cyber Club** is also being revived, with newly elected officers and interfacing with Leah Porter's office (STEM Leadership Academy). The space will be available to support Hy Flex classes in the Spring.



- **RRCC Faculty ART Exhibition:** Please visit the ART Gallery at RRCC to see the Faculty ART Exhibition. This exhibit includes artwork from the **Visual Arts, VAMA, and Fine Woodworking Faculty**. Come enjoy the wide variety of creative work by instructors on campus. The ART Exhibit runs from Saturday, October 7 through December 1, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. A reception was held October 17, 2023.
- “We are excited to announce the **Humanities Extravaganza Fall 2023**. The Extravaganza is primarily a student retention effort. It was designed based on

research about best practices for retaining students, specifically in the humanities. The event will foster student-instructor interaction as well as cross-disciplinary activity. The event will take place on November 6-7 from 12:00-3:00 in the Great Hall and the Gray's/Torrey's space. There will be four tag team talks of popular interest in Gray's/Torrey's. In the Great Hall, there will be tables for advising and general student-instructor interaction. There will be activities, food, music, and a raffle. Each day, there will be two 50-minute tag team talks starting at 12:10 and 1:40. These talks will be dynamic and interactive. We have scheduled them at these times to encourage instructors to bring their classes."



- **Other News:**



- **Wolfkostin and Tsarevski: Off to a Fast Start**

Ice dance is a discipline that requires patience, it can take years for new teams to build their skill set. But Katarina Wolfkostin and Dmitry Tsarevski's new partnership appears to be on the fast track. The duo has only been skating together since May but has

already won two competitions. This week, they'll compete at the 2023 Autumn Classic in Montreal, their first Challenger Series event. For both skaters, the new partnership is an adventure they're enjoying. Last season, Wolfkostin placed seventh in senior ice dance at the 2023 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships with former partner Jeffrey Chen. A few weeks later, Wolfkostin and Chen ended their four-year partnership. They were the 2021 U.S. junior ice dance champions.

"I think we accomplished a lot in our partnership," Wolfkostin said. "But we had different goals in mind, and just a couple things that weren't going to work out. I think it was definitely necessary for a change." Wolfkostin – known as "Kaya" – soon began looking for a new partner. But she wasn't looking for a new training location; she wanted to stay with coaches Charlie White, Tanith White and Greg Zuerlein at the Michigan Ice Dance Academy (MIDA) in Canton. "I never had any thought of changing rinks, because the environment at MIDA is so positive, and it's such an amazing place," said Wolfkostin, who lives in nearby Ann Arbor, Michigan. "I was set on staying, depending on the partnership." Wolfkostin had several tryouts, but nothing stuck. Until she heard from Dmitry "Dima" Tsarevski. Tsarevski was a successful junior-level skater with former partner Isabella

Flores. The team won two Junior Grand Prix medals and the 2021 U.S. junior pewter medal. But their partnership ended in December 2021 when Tsarevski took a break from the sport. "I was a bit burned out and not quite happy at the time, so I needed a little bit of a break and just to chill," Tsarevski said of his decision.

He also wanted to spend more time on his music studies. Tsarevski has played the cello since he was seven and is considering applying to colleges with specialized music programs. During his break, Tsarevski skated at a rink in the Denver, Colorado, area, where his family lives. At first, it was just for exercise; but soon, he felt his competitive mojo returning. He had some tryouts. Then he reached out to Wolfkostin. "I'd known Kaya from afar for quite a while, because she was the novice national champion at one point [2018, with former partner Howard Zhao]. We competed against each other and met each other. But nothing more than just saying hello," Tsarevski recalled. Their tryout was an instant success.

"After about one session, we knew it would be the right decision," Tsarevski concurred. "The coaches thought it was a great match, physically and skating-wise." For Tsarevski, the partnership meant leaving his home base in Colorado, where he comes from a large family of seven children. His family supported the decision to move. "It's been a transition. My family and I are close-knit, and it's the first time living away from them," Tsarevski said. "It's all working out. I go back and visit every so often. It was a hard change, but not too hard."

Tsarevski relishes the chance to work with the coaches and skaters at MIDA, including reigning U.S. silver medalists Caroline Green and Michael Parsons and international competitors Emily Bratti and Ian Somerville.

"Growing up, Charlie [White] was one of my favorite skaters of all time," Tsarevski said. "I was 10 or 11 when he was in his prime, and he was just this iconic skater. Tanith, too. And Greg is an amazing coach. It's very motivating to get out there every day and see great teams like Caroline and Michael, and Emily and Ian."

With the 2023-24 season approaching, Wolfkostin and Tsarevski had to work fast to create programs. For the rhythm dance, they chose "Call Me" by Blondie and "Love Is a Battlefield" by Pat Benatar (after first trying another Benatar song). The duo are all-in on this season's 1980s rhythm dance theme. "It's super fun," Wolfkostin enthused. "We really like our program. It's fun to skate."

"I've noticed a lot of the audience will sing along with the songs," Tsarevski said. "I think that's pretty special, that everyone already knows many of the songs. And they're just loving it." This season, the ice dancers perform a choreographic rhythm sequence based on the Silver Samba. They have considerable freedom in how to present the sequence within the rhythm dance.

"Only one partner must do the [pattern] steps at a time. And it can be either the

guy's or the girl's steps. The rest can be choreography," Wolfkostin explained. He and Wolfkostin elected to switch off doing pattern steps throughout their sequence. Both skaters said they enjoy pattern dances but appreciate the artistic potential of this year's sequence.

"It opens up so many possibilities for what to create, using the pattern dance as a base," Wolfkostin said. "Because there's so much freedom, I don't even think you necessarily need to know the pattern," Tsarevski commented. "You just know the steps, and then anything goes. Choreographic freedom."

For their free dance, the MIDA coaches brought in two tango pieces – "Tanguera" and "Invierno Porteno" – which the team immediately loved. Wolfkostin described the music selections as "majestic." "They have a sweeping feel," she said. "Everyone was in agreement – yes, we're skating to this, no question."

Wolfkostin, 18, and Tsarevski, 20, could have competed in juniors or seniors this season. With their eyes on the future, they chose seniors. "The current U.S. ice dance field is very strong," Tsarevski observed. "Our goals were to begin moving up that ladder, which is very difficult to climb. We and our coaches decided it was a good idea to go senior."

Off the ice, Wolfkostin is a sophomore at the University of Michigan, studying applied exercise science. She's taking a reduced class schedule this fall to allow time for skating. Meanwhile, **Tsarevski is doing online classes at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado.**

Wolfkostin and Tsarevski share another interest off the ice: Both skaters are currently writing novels. "I've always done creative writing," Tsarevski said. "When I was younger, I'd draw pictures and write words and make little books for my mom. The idea to start on a novel came maybe two years ago. I've been working on characters and plot and writing it out." "I'm writing a novel as well. It's a fun thing I like to do on the side," Wolfkostin revealed. "I also like to illustrate; it would be very cool to illustrate my novel myself. Creativity is this team's hallmark. It's a quality Wolfkostin and Tsarevski look forward to sharing with audiences around the world.

Katarina Wolfkostin and Dimitry Tsarevski compete at the Autumn Classic in Montreal Sept. 14-16. For more information about the event and to follow along, visit the Challenger Series Competition Central.