**Bert’s Alerts (March 25, 2005 issue)**

**ACC Mission Statement**

To provide an accessible, responsive learning environment that facilitates the achievement of educational, professional and personal goals by our students and other members of our communities in an atmosphere that embraces academic excellence, diversity and innovation.

- **Did you know that?**
  
  **Colorado’s community colleges educate over 90% of our state’s First Responders (paramedics, police officers, firefighters, etc.)**

- Tying in with the above “talking point,” I am requesting your help. We need to update ACC’s talking points. Please e-mail brief anecdotes, statistics (licensing exam passing rates, etc.), and success stories to Lydia Elsom.

- Deahn Hendrixson, an ACC architectural student of Doug Mugge’s, won an internal competition to redesign the hardscape in front of Channel 7’s building at Speer and Lincoln. She was given the opportunity to present her design to the top level administrators at Channel 7 on March 15. *(See attached photo.)* Both Deahn’s design and her presentation won high praise from Channel 7’s General Manager Darrell Brown and his staff. Congratulations to Deahn, Doug Mugge, ACC instructor Foroozan Manoochehri and former ACC student Dan Gargan for their efforts on behalf of this real-life, hands-on student learning project.

- ACC’s Art Student Exhibition 2005 will open in the Colorado Gallery of the Arts in the Annex on March 30. The public Opening Reception will be Friday, April 1 from 5 -7 p.m. Stop by and enjoy the best works of our talented students.

- Our Diversity Council will partner with Spring International Language Center, the Littleton Museum and Bemis Library for a week-long “Celebration of Cultures” running from Sunday, April 3 through Saturday, April 9. I urge you to support these opportunities for learning.

  “Celebration of Cultures” events at ACC will feature:

  Monday, April 4: “Hotel Rwanda” will be shown in the ACC cafeteria at 7 p.m. Admission is a can of food to be donated to The Sharing Closet run by ACC’s Child Development Center. This film, rated PG-13, is a pre-release and is not yet available for retail rental.

  Tuesday, April 5: Tlaloc Danza Azteca, a Native American dance group, will perform in the ACC cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Admission is free.

  Wednesday, April 6: The 25th Annual ACC International Day will be the highlight of the week’s festivities. From 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., visitors to this free event in ACC’s cafeteria can visit booths from more than 20 countries in Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Africa. Visitors can sample native foods, have their names written in every language from Mongolian to Thai, gather cultural information, and try their hand at a World Cultures Quiz. Entertainment will include music and dancing from around the world with the Aquilas de Mexico mariachis kicking off the celebration at 11 a.m. This year, Littleton residents from other countries will join Spring International Language Center students and ACC international students in sharing their cultures.
Friday, April 7: “Hotel Rwanda” will be shown in the ACC cafeteria at 7 p.m. Same admission as above.

- Surely everyone has marked their calendars for the Thirty-eighth Annual Commencement on Saturday, May 14. The graduation ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m. on the South Lawn of the campus. Dr. Cheryl McFarren has graciously agreed to deliver the Commencement address. The address for the GEC graduation ceremony, supported by Community Ed and the Testing Center, will be delivered by Scott Finger. In the unlikely event of “bad weather,” (Matt Jamison assures us he’s had a discussion about this with the man upstairs…) the alternate Graduation site is Englewood High School.

- **Learning Connection (aka Scott’s Spot)**

  - Continuing with information about the core disciplines defining ACC as “A Learning College” based on “The Fifth Discipline: The Art & Practice of the Learning Organization” by Peter M. Senge:
    1) Personal Mastery
    2) Mental Models (core discipline of the week!)
    3) Shared Vision
    4) Team Learning

  According to Senge, “…new insights fail to get put into practice because they conflict with deeply held internal images of how the world works, images that limit us to familiar ways of thinking and acting.” We are often astounded by how two people can witness the same event and have totally different “takes” on what happened. The two people have adopted different mental models (one may believe that people are inherently trustworthy, while the other’s experience has lead him/her to be wary of everyone) that cause them to focus their attention on different details of the situation. When we are “unaware” of the mental models we use to evaluate and we are working with people who are similarly unaware of the “guidance” provided by their mental models, conflict is inevitable.

  - At today’s Brown Bag lunch meeting with faculty, Dave Trott was presented with an award for his contributions of nonperishable food to the Child Development Center’s Sharing Closet. (See photo attached.) Keep those nominations for recognition coming to Sarah Meyer!

  “Whether you think that you can, or that you can’t, you are usually right.”
  - Henry Ford