

THE NEWSLETTER

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SPOTLIGHT

Academic Advising
Five Fast Facts



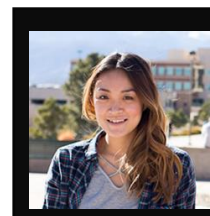
GIVING BACK

Global Medical Brigades
Life Changing Student Service



PEOPLE

Student Success Employees
Russ Saunkeah
Agatha Graselia



STUDENT POLL

Which frozen delight will you choose April 12th during ice cream with the Vice Chancellor of Student Success?

CAST YOUR VOTE ON FACEBOOK

@UCCSSTUDENTSUCCESS



NEWSLETTER WELCOME

**Vice Chancellor for Student Success
Dr. Sentwali Bakari**

Welcome to our first Student Success Newsletter. This Newsletter is designed to provide insight and perspective about UCCS's exceptional students, staff, programs, facilities, and services. We desire to raise awareness and keep you informed about student and staff engagement that's happening across campus to advance student learning, student persistence, and campus communication and collaboration. We hope you find this communication informative.



UCCS ACADEMIC ADVISING TEAM

SPOTLIGHT

Five Facts about Academic Advising

1. Responded to 1,924 early alerts submitted by faculty this past fall
2. Offer 11,400 appointments each semester
3. 25,884 individual contacts between students and their advisor this fall
4. 7,514 1-1 advising sessions with students this Fall
5. 22 full-time and 9 student employees serve 9616 undergraduate students

Student Success Terms

See if you can find some of the amazing words that represent the Division of Student Success

GDCXKMUFYFBOOKSTOREPOHGGMENBFHECELF
 WZFOSSUCCESSODQDUCCSAUXILIARYHPSULMJ
 DININGVETERANSNFXCLUBSGGRMGCHSBFBOJ
 KNGLTAONNWTTEENGAGEMENTFLATHLETICSSL
 DPMJOJEYPZPOFVUSRKONNOHOUSINGUDJEAR
 IZDJWDMOIHFCAREERYBNXGBPULXLOFCRIL
 WXLBUBIFXSGLORRHVMPVVZUALLJUIZSPVCB
 XIZTRFQZKSNTMHMNOBMJOILECOUNSELING
 AZSXRECREATIONADVISINGIWUIVOELATFAU
 AIIZIKDAZBOVVSZJWUYJXMLBEBEOMWJULZO

WORD LIST

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| SUCCESS | HOUSING |
| STUDENTS | AUXILIARY |
| WELLNESS | VETERANS |
| ADVISING | CLUBS |
| ATHLETICS | BOOKSTORE |
| MOSAIC | FARM |
| DINING | RECREATION |
| UCCS | COUNSELING |
| GLOBAL | CAREER |

**Can you find the hidden word?*



GIVING BACK

Global Medical Brigades

When we think of giving back, sometimes we reflect of a time we volunteered for a local organization or shelter. But when you ask a member of the UCCS Global Medical Brigades, they will tell you about the time they flew to Nicaragua or Panama on a service trip. The UCCS Global Medical Brigades is a student club on campus that conducts brigades in Central American countries to provide aid in medical care, dentistry and public health. The club was founded in 2015 and only a year later they boarded a plane to Panama on their first ever medical brigade. At the time a group of students approached Sabine Allenspach, a faculty in the biology department, to be their club advisor. Sabine helped the students initiate fundraising events and quickly mobilized to get paperwork in place to make their first service trip a success. After coming back from their Panama, the club expanded and gained more members.

Last year, the UCCS Global Medical Brigades Club conducted their second trip. Students were trained by professionals beforehand to insure they were prepared to provide medical aid. The club flew out with Sabine, students, their luggage, and about 18 boxes filled with 45lbs of medical supplies and hygiene kits to Nicaragua. During their 3-day trip, the club partnered with local medical doctors to provide medical and dental care to about 1,865 patients. The UCCS team met individuals who had walked hours just to take advantage of the services they were providing. Sabine said this was a life changing event for every student on that trip. "Seeing them step out of their comfort zone to provide these services was truly amazing", said Sabine. This club is truly an example of service and giving back to a community they are not part of. The UCCS Global Medical Brigades Club is eager to go back to Nicaragua and is preparing to take about 38 students in May 2018 for another service trip. They continue to seek donations and conduct fundraisers to make this giving back trip happen.

PEOPLE

Student Success Employees

Agatha Graselía – Student

As a student, Agatha Graselía, has been actively involved across campus, making an impact in every activity she is part of. Agatha is an international student from Jakarta, Indonesia that has been part of the UCCS community since her freshman year. She came to the United States when she was 16-years of age where she attended high school. Her transition into a new culture and environment was difficult to adapt to, but as she became more involved on campus she felt more accepted. When Agatha first stepped foot on campus, she was unsure of what she wanted to study, had few friends, did not have a job and felt a little overwhelmed. Despite the obstacles she faced Agatha persisted and became interested in business, specifically accounting. Agatha took advantage in classes to build relationships with her peers, that to this day she remains friends with. Her first job on campus was working at one of the coffee shops. This job really gave her the opportunity to meet more students, faculty, and staff.



While working on campus, Agatha had the opportunity to meet Anthony Cordova, director of MOSAIC and MOSAIC Gateway Programs. She became interested in MOSAIC and applied for a student position in his office. After going through an interview process, Agatha became a student employee supporting international students through Anthony's office. Now in her senior year, she continues to work in MOSAIC helping plan events for international students to get involved in. This position has allowed her to support many students that face similar obstacles she did as a freshman. She has helped plan events like the International Student Panel, Kick it! Soccer Tournament, and Annual Leadership Conference to name a few. Being part of MOSAIC, and in a broader sense the Student Success Division, has given her the opportunity to grow professionally but also interact with campus leaders she otherwise would not have had the opportunity to meet. Agatha's hard work in the division was acknowledged this year as she was named Student Employee of the Year. She will be graduating in May 2018 and we wish Agatha success in her future goals.



@UCCSSTUDENTSUCCESS



Russ Saunkeah - Staff

Russ Saunkeah, current Executive Chef and Associate Director of Dining and Food Services, has been part of the UCCS family since 2001 when he came on board as the catering director with Sodexo. Russ attended the University of Oklahoma and the University of Virgin Islands. As a child his parents were missionaries and he attended school wherever his family was located. He lived in Costa Rica and Argentina where he learned to speak Spanish and French. But his passion for both music and food grew within him. Russ later became a musician and started his culinary career at a French restaurant in Oklahoma. Russ has worked in

restaurants and hotels in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, New Mexico, and across Colorado before coming to UCCS. At UCCS Russ is well known for not only his passion for food services but most importantly his passion for students. His student focused leadership style has allowed Russ to tailor food menus and implement sustainable food programs to better serve the needs and wants of students.

Now, 17-years later, Russ is leaving behind a legacy at UCCS as he gets ready for retirement. After becoming the very first employee of UCCS Dining and Hospitality Services in 2013, Russ has implemented many food menu changes and implemented award winning food programs campus wide that have been both successful and sustainable. Over the years, Russ's team has increased from a staff of 40-45 to now over 230 student staff and some professional staff. During his time at UCCS, Russ has helped his team earn many awards and recognitions throughout the state and nation, one of those being the gold award in a National Association of College and University Food Services competition. Russ is proud to have helped UCCS become a fully self-operating institution when it comes to food services. We are honored to have had such an extraordinary chef with us but we know his journey does not end at UCCS. After retiring, he plans to continue being a musician, a volunteer at the UCCS farm, and to be an active volunteer in his community. Despite the personal health challenges Russ has faced within the last year, he continues to stay motivated to serving people. His integrity and passion for students and food will be well recognized at UCCS.

NEWSLETTER TEAM

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