



College of Arts & Media

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER



June 22, 2020

To: CAM Faculty and Staff

From: Larry Kaptain

Last week there was CU Denver Alumni Awards Night that drew a large audience to honor 5 CU Denver alums. CAM played a major role in the ambiance and production of this successful event.

- [Sister Neapolitan](#), a band comprised of two alumni and one current student of the College of Arts & Media: Megan Ellsworth '20, Katie Smith '20, and Alana Margolis, provided event entertainment.
- College of Arts & Media students created each of the awardee videos featured during the event:
 - Ayden Adair produced [Gage Chapel's video](#) and [Curtis Esquibel's video](#)
 - Faith Krause produced [Barb Weiske's video](#)
 - Savanna Poelma produced [Chris Herr's video](#)
 - Tomas Bernal produced [Susan Wood's video](#)
- Ayden Adair, a College of Arts & Media student, also created the [highlights video](#)

Comings and goings:

While we have been excited to welcome Mark Rabideau as the new Associate Dean of Academic and Faculty Affairs, and Brett Rutland to the faculty of the 3D Graphics & Animation program, we are bidding farewell to a faculty member and staff leader:

- 1) Benom Plumb (MEIS) has accepted an attractive position to head up the music business program at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. We wish Benom well, thank him for his years at CU Denver, and are working on identifying a visiting scholar to join the music business faculty in teaching the essential skill sets of music licensing and publishing.
- 2) Our Director of IT has accepted another head of IT position at the Gazette and will be leaving at the end of the month. Ben Cornella came to CAM and has worked steadily toward advancing technology for teaching, learning, creativity, and research. Among Ben's contributions was starting the CAM IT Help Desk—that is run by student workers.

We wish both of these talented individuals well and are working on the next steps of assuring continuity in MEIS and CAM.

Fall Teaching and the Safe Return to CU Denver:

Please use care in your communications with students and parents. Not everything has been decided yet, and providing intended modes and locations, needs to be framed with a number of considerations.

- The CAM Executive Committee will craft a CAM concept document that will address the three modes of learning and teaching, and how CAM has exceptional expertise to fulfill these. One document for CAM—that will precede direct information about learning modes, locations and above all—a safe return.
- All CAM faculty need to plan on including feedback mechanisms that assure student learning, understanding, participation, and creative success—no matter what the mode of learning is.
- Faculty, students, and parents need to understand the extensive investment CAM is making in people to teach, facilitate, and support. This is so important, and any message that does not detail this, does us all a disservice. We are employing IT specialists (Gavin Cook and a team of trained and responsive students), lab managers in MEIS (Burgess), FiTV (Hunter), VA (Lemon), then we have experienced program assistants who (in some cases) have expertise in subject matters and technology.

More information will be coming soon—the planning for all of this is complex and I appreciate the work of the following folks on various safe return groups: Richard Strasser and Beth Pugliano in the Teaching and Learning, Laurie Baefsky in the Research and Creative Work, Karen Ludington in the Safety Committee, and Dave Walter representing CAM in the Student Return to Campus.