Campus Diary

Come Fly with Me
When Special Events Director Chris Comer read in an Insider article that Vivienne Smith, manager of Medical Staff Services, was going to follow a lifelong dream and learn how to fly, he rushed over to her office to find out if her crazy plan was true. Why was he so curious? Turns out he, too, is an aviation enthusiast who shares her dreams of air travel. The two will soon be flying the friendly skies together, they hope.

Chris, when did you decide you wanted to learn how to fly?
CC: My dream was always to be a professional pilot. I went to flight school about 20 years ago and got my commercial pilot’s license.

What did you do once you earned it?
CC: I used to teach people how to fly. Also, my dad’s company had two planes and I was going to fly one of them. And then in the early 90s, aviation started tanking, and corporate aviation was the first thing to get cut. So the corporation I was going to fly for got rid of their planes. I couldn’t make a living just teaching people to fly so I gave flying up to get a “real” job.

What made you want to take up flying again after all this time?
CC: Flying never really leaves your body. You either like it or you don’t. After hearing Vivienne’s story I decided that I want to get current – which is sort of like taking a series of

Welcomes
Who’s new on campus

Caitlin Ahern, Clinical Nurse
Neuro ICU

Melynda Ancell, Echocardiographer
Echocardiography

Haley Anderson, Clinical Nurse
Neuro ICU

Julie Ansara, Clinical Nurse
Cardiac Vascular Holding

Ashley Austin, Clinical Nurse
Oncology

Carrie Baker, Practice Manager
AS Administration

Ellen Baldwin, Clinical Nurse
Oncology

Katie Ballard, Clinical Nurse
Neuro ICU

Nicole Bauer, Clinical Nurse
Oncology

Stephanie Bedingfield, Clinical Nurse
NICU

Bridgett Berg, Administrative Assistant
Purchasing

Kenneth Berryhill, Addiction Case Manager
CeDAR Residential Care

Gregory Bills, Clinical Nurse
OR - ACAM

Jordan Brown, Clinical Nurse
Neuro ICU

Megan Bruch, Clinical Nurse
Oncology

Callie Burton, Traveler RN
Oncology

Sean Caldwell, Admin. Fellow Special Programs
CEO Administrative

Continued
Campus Diary continued

refresher courses – so I can fly again. I’ll start taking lessons again in September.

So, Vivienne, what’s your story?

VS: I never flew before. My career was in nursing but I’ve always loved aviation. I grew up in Belfast, Ireland. You don’t grow up in Belfast and expect to get a job flying jets. Through my nursing career I realized there were ways for me to get involved in aviation. I became a Flight for Life nurse. That was mostly helicopters but a lot of small airplanes as well. I was on board, around it, in that world, but I never learned how to fly. Eventually I quit flight nursing when I had kids – and life goes on. Now my kids are older and about a year ago I started thinking, maybe it’s time for me to learn how to fly.

What did you do about it?

VS: I started in January at the Aspen Flight School at Centennial Airport. Took my first discovery flight.

How was it? Was it everything you thought it would be?

VS: I just loved it. I’ve been taking lessons with the same instructor about once a week since then. As Chris says, it’s either in you or it’s not. You either have that drive, and it lights your fire, or you don’t.

Can you and Chris just rent a plane and take off whenever you want?

CC: I need to get current and she needs to take about 40 to 60 hours of flight lessons to get her private pilot license, but before that, she needs to do a solo flight.

How do you feel about doing a solo flight?

VS: It scares the crap out of me. But I always try to live by the mantra of “Always do what you’re afraid to do.”

Is your plan, once you get your license, you can call each other up and instead of grabbing breakfast and then going for a hike, you can grab breakfast and then go for a flight?

VS: We can go get breakfast in Santa Fe! That’s part of the adventure – it’s the airplane and the flight and figuring it all out.

Listings Cont.

Stephanie Chase, Pharmacy Resident
Pharmacy IP

Dustin Clelen, Clinical Nurse
Medical ICU

Erin Clugston, Pharmacy Tech Level I
Pharmacy IP

Danielle Cole, Clinical Nurse
Medicine Specialties

Sydney Cook, Clinical Nurse
Oncology

Benjamin Cort, Marketing Program Manager-CeDAR
CeDAR Administration

Hanna Crosby, Clinical Nurse
Oncology

Johnathan Crowell, Respiratory Therapist
Respiratory Care - Main

Carolyn Cunningham, Clinical Nurse
ACE Unit

Rachel DeCosta, Clinical Nurse
Medicine Specialties

Rachel DeMella, Traveler RN
Resource Pool

Susan Deiss, Clinical Nurse
Pulmonary

Brenn Donnelly, Clinical Nurse
BMT

Annalise Eaton, Clinical Nurse
Cardiac Intermediate Care Unit

Robyn Eck, Clinical Nurse
Surgery

Lynne Ellerbrock, Accounting Clerk
UCHth Cash Applications

Cesar Estrada Rodriquez, Cook
Food & Nutr. Svcs. - AIP

Amber Fenstermacher, Medical Assistant
Employee Health & Wellness

Continued
Campus Diary continued

Campus Couture
When I saw Public Service Credit Union employee Lauren Murphy sauntering into a campus Dazbog in some seriously twisted shoes, I had to ask her about them.

How would you describe your style?
Laid back.

Have you ever gotten comments about your style or what you’re wearing?
All the time.

What do they say?
People tell me my style is really cute.

Do you think those shoes are laid back or cute? They look kind of like torture devices.
Yeah, they do. They’re very unique.

Would you say they’re laid back?
Probably not. They’re probably out there a little bit.

Public Service Credit Union employee Lauren Murphy calls her style laid back. Except for her shoes.

Please send your fashionista suggestions to joelleklein@yahoo.com or uch-insiderfeedback@uchealth.org.

Listings Cont.

Hilary Fischer, Clinical Nurse
Cardiac ICU

Jordan Flage, Clinical Nurse
Emergency Dept.

John Fleck, Physical Therapist
Outpatient Physical Therapy

Kozmo Flores, Certified Nursing Assistant
BMT

Marisha Florissant, Clinical Nurse
Medical ICU

Melissa Gaffey, Certified Nursing Assistant
Oncology

Michelle Gednalske, EPIC Pharmacy Specialist
EPIC - PVHS

Andrew Gemmer, Clinical Nurse
Medicine Specialties

Claudine Georges, Surgical Technologist
OR - AIP

Carrie Hagan, Clinical Nurse
Otolaryngology

Alyssa Hall, Scheduler - OR
Anesthesiology - Main

Theresa Hansen, Traveler RN
Resource Pool

Shirley Harris, Traveler RN
Cardiac ICU

Rose Hartwig, Clinical Nurse
PACU - AIP

Shannon Hashiguchi, Clinical Nurse
Pulmonary

Veronica Hernandez, Care Team Assistant
General Surgery

Linda Hills, Practice Manager
AS Administration

Katherine Hofmann, EPIC Pharmacy Specialist
EPIC - PVHS
Hurricane Katrina Training
Getting to Know: Opal Lonon, anesthesia tech lead

What does an anesthesia tech lead do?
As the lead you’re responsible for your techs. I help them learn different things about their job duties and when any other techs come I help train them and get them set and ready to help assist the anesthesiologist or any anesthesia provider. I also order supplies, conduct interviews, a whole lot of things.

How many people report to you?
Right now there are 12.

How did you get into that field?
Back in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina at Ochsner [Medical Center], they lost a lot of their anesthesia techs. I was already going to school to be a medical lab technician. They needed these techs so I was basically trained on the job.

How was that type of training?
It was very intense. Fast moving. It taught me a whole lot. Basically I trained for three days and then they threw me to the wolves. Training is usually about six weeks.

What brought you to Colorado/UCH?
UCH called me. I had put my résumé online, just fishing around to see what was going to happen. They called me and were interested and scheduled an interview. They were going to do it by Skype but I chose to fly out here to do a face-to-face interview and also to get a chance to see Denver. I fell in love with all you have. The atmosphere is beautiful; the air quality is great.

What did you do prior to UCH?
I worked at Ochsner Medical [Center] for nine years.

Do you miss the fresh seafood?
No, because I can get it shipped up here.
What do you like to do in your spare time?
When I have spare time – I’m a mother of three – my girls and I go out shopping. We have a lot of mother/daughter time on the weekends because I’m not home a lot during the week.

What’s been the highlight of your summer so far?
Moving here.

What’s your favorite thing about UCH so far?
The benefits are great. It is wonderful compared to where I came from. Everyone is really friendly and nice. Even though I’m the lead tech, the rest of the tech staff under me took me under their wing and showed me stuff that I don’t know, because they have different machines here.

What was the last great book you read or movie you saw?
[Laughs] “The 50 Shades Trilogy.” Also, I’ve been reading this series called “The Bindings.” It’s about this werewolf society. I like science fiction books.

Family Unit:
Oldest daughter, Iriana, 17, is going back to New Orleans for her freshman year at University of New Orleans with a full scholarship.
Allissa, 12, is in middle school. She’s the fashionista.
Janell, 10, is just starting in elementary school here in Denver. She’s the sweet little helper.

The Politics of Guest Services
Getting to Know: Kenneth “Jimmy” Naccaratto, guest services representative

Are you Kenneth or Jimmy?
I go by Jimmy. That’s my middle name.

What do you do as a guest services representative?
Essentially helping patients and visitors with information. We have different desks set up at different pavilions in the

Listings Cont.

Arlette Kokeny, Clinical Nurse
PACU - AIP

Emily Krajicek, Food Service Worker
Food & Nutr. Svcs. - AIP

Ashley LaBree, Clinical Nurse
Medicine Specialties

Jennifer Lamb, Addiction Tech
CeDAR Residential Care

Bayli Larson, Pharmacy Tech Level I
Pharmacy Atrium

Kathryn Leighton, Clinical Nurse
Cardiac Intermediate Care Unit

Cynthia Leitner, Care Team Assistant - ED
Emergency Dept.

Kimberly Lemoi, Surgical Technologist
Lone Tree Amb. Surgery Center

Kimberly Liberio, Clinical Nurse
OR - AIP

Opal Lonon, Anesthesia Tech Lead
Anesthesiology - Main

Karina Lopez, Cook
Food & Nutr. Svcs. - AIP

Debra Malone, Charge Nurse RN
PACU - ACAM

Rose Martinez, Clinical Nurse
OR - AIP

Geraldine Martinez, Clinical Nurse
NICU

Megan McClain, Clinical Nurse
BMT

Steven Medina, EPIC Pharmacy Specialist
EPIC - PVHS

Nora Metz, Clinical Nurse
Burn/Trauma Unit

Nagi Mickael, Web Programmer/Developer
UCHlth Application Web Development

Continued
hospital. I’m actually working the new tower, AIP 2, and we’re in
the process of setting up. Visitors and patients come in and we
assist them in finding what they’re looking for and general help.

**How did you get into that field?**
I’ve been mostly in politics and public relations for the majority
of my professional career and I just finished up at the capital
and was referred here by a friend of a friend. I live in the
neighborhood as well and was looking to find a way to be part
of the hospital. I wanted to get my foot in the door here and
[this position] seemed like a good match.

**What did you do prior to UCH?**
I worked for State Representative Rhonda Fields and prior to
that I ran the campaign for Arapahoe County Commissioner
Bill Holen.

**Why did you want to get out of politics?**
Well, I’m still in it. I’m the first vice chair of the Arapahoe
Democratic Party so that keeps me busy on a volunteer basis.
And this being a part time-job close [by] at an institution that I
wanted to be a part of, it just seemed like a good natural fit.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I spend a lot of time in the gym, outdoors and reading. I’m also
involved in different volunteer activities in the community.

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**Listings Cont.**

**Allison Miles, Clinical Nurse**
OR - AIP

**Bethany Miller, Clinical Nurse**
ACE Unit

**Ronni Miller, Pharmacy Resident**
Pharmacy IP

**Matthew Miller, Pharmacy Resident**
Pharmacy IP

**Millissa Morin, Clinical Nurse**
Pulmonary

**Amanda Morris, Pharmacy Resident**
Pharmacy IP

**Nicole Moser, Traveler RN**
SICU

**Grace Munoz, Certified Nursing Assistant**
Med/Surg Progressive Care

**Gavin Munson, Radiographer - Amb.**
Chronic Pain Clinic

**Rachael Myers, Clinical Nurse**
Pulmonary

**Kenneth Naccaratto, Guest Svcs. Rep.**
Guest Services

**Alicia Neumann, Clinical Nurse**
Neuro ICU

**Viola Nguyen, Administrative Assistant**
UCHlth Epic

**Khoa Nguyen, Pharmacy Tech**
Pharmacy Atrium

**Kaylee Novotny, Clinical Nurse**
Emergency Dept.

**Adetola Obiwole, Clinical Pharmacist**
Pharmacy Atrium

**Nancy Olague, Medical Assistant**
Infectious Disease

**Andrew Oliver, Clinical Nurse**
Cardiac ICU
What's been the highlight of your summer?
Starting work here. I've been here a month now and every
day you learn something different and meet new people.

What's your favorite thing about UCH so far?
The people. It's just a good, high-quality, empathetic group.
There are so many talented people that care about what they
do and I'm very happy to be a part of that.

What was the last great book you read or movie
you saw?
"One Last Thing Before I Go," by Jonathan Tropper.

Last words from Jimmy: I'm glad for the opportunity and
look forward to learning new things and being here for the
long term. It's exciting that we're starting a new area in the
hospital from the ground up.

Celebrity Twin
While sipping my coffee at Dazbog the other day I saw a
Dr. Ruth and a Gary Busey look-alike but declined to approach
them for our "Celebrity Twin" spot under the assumption
that no one really wants to hear that they look Dr. Ruth or
Gary Busey. Am I right?

But then I spotted a John Cusack circa 1985 clone (at least
from my vantage point) and knew I had a great candidate for
a celebrity twin. Everyone loves John (aka Lloyd Dobler in
"Say Anything"). MRI Technologist Christopher Thompson
didn't see the resemblance but was definitely a Cusack fan.

Has anyone every told you that you look like
John Cusack?
No. I've gotten Jake Gyllenhaal and when my hair was longer,
Heath Ledger. But I'll take John Cusack.

Do you like any of his movies?
Yeah. "Better off Dead" is great. And what's the one where
he's holding the boom box in the rain?
“Say Anything.”
Yes! I’m definitely a “Say Anything” fan, but “Better off Dead” is my favorite.

Is that the $2 one?
Yes. “I want my $2!”

[Note: If you’ve never seen “Better off Dead,” there’s a psycho paper boy stalking Cusack’s character around most of the movie demanding he pay the $2 he owes him for newspaper delivery.]

MRI Technologist Chris Thompson is a John Cusack fan – and clone.

See anything weird, wonderful, amusing and/or interesting around UCH Anschutz Campus? Please let us know at uch-insiderfeedback@uchealth.org. Or send ideas directly to Diary dynamo Joelle Klein (pictured) at joelleklein@yahoo.com.

Klein is a Denver-based freelance writer who specializes in health and wellness issues. When she’s not searching for quirky UCH campus incidents or interviewing fascinating new employees, she’s reading, enjoying the outdoors or spending quality time with her family.
Listings Cont.

Comfort Twenebo-Koduah,  
*Perioperative Serv. Asst. Day Surgery*
OR - ACAM

Cheryl Vaughn,  *Clinical Nurse*
Surgery

Chelsea Wair,  *EPIC Pharmacy Specialist*
EPIC - PVHS

Rachel Walker,  *Clinical Nurse*
Interventional Radiology

Jason Watkins,  *Emergency Dept. Technician*
Emergency Dept.

Jennifer Welch,  *Clinical Nurse*
OR - AIP

Victoria Westbrook,  *EPIC Pharmacy Specialist*
EPIC - PVHS

Alicia White,  *Clinical Nurse*
BMT

Anna Wilson,  *Pharmacy Resident*
Pharmacy IP

Ashley Withington,  *Clinical Nurse*
Rehabilitation

Jennifer Wolff,  *Program Support Assistant*
Critical Care Admin.