



VOL. 10

EMSA

(Enrollment Management and Student Affairs)

NEWSLETTER

Winter Break

December 2025 - January 2026



UCCS FINANCIAL AID OFFICE HELPS
THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS EACH YEAR P.6-7





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WISHING YOU A JOYFUL HOLIDAY SEASON



UCCS EMSA Family,

As we approach the end of the year, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for all that you do to support our students and our campus community. Your dedication and hard work make a tremendous difference, and I am honored to lead such an outstanding group of professionals across our 40 AMAZING departments, programs, and areas.

I hope you enjoy the upcoming [winter break](#) from December 24 through January 2. Please take this time to relax, recharge, and spend time doing what brings you joy. You've earned it!

If you haven't already, I encourage you to find time to utilize your two [floating holidays](#) before the end of the fiscal year. Please coordinate with your supervisor to schedule these days so you can make the most of this well-deserved time off.

Thank you again for your commitment and care throughout the year. Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season and a happy, healthy New Year. Looking forward to an amazing 2026 together!

In appreciation,

Stephanie

**Enrollment Management
and Student Affairs Division**

EMSA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BEN CAMPOS

Drawn to UCCS by his sister's positive experience, Ben Campos chose the university for its strong academics and the breathtaking mountain views that make the campus truly one of a kind. Now a sophomore, Ben is pursuing a business degree with a concentration in Finance, while keeping his long-term goal in sight: attending medical school at CU Anschutz.

Since joining the Financial Aid Office as a student employee in September 2024, Ben has made a meaningful impact as a Financial Aid Assistant. He supports students in person, by email, and over the phone—guiding them through everything from FAFSA and scholarships to loans and student employment opportunities. In the process, he has sharpened his financial expertise, strengthened his communication skills, and gained valuable insight into the operations of higher education, all while building connections across multiple departments.

For Ben, the most rewarding part of the role is the knowledge he's gained and the opportunity to help students fully utilize the resources available to them. His advice to fellow students is clear: "Take advantage of campus activities, stay on top of financial aid, and use the resources you're paying for—like the Wellness Center. We're here to help you succeed."



*Ben Campos



*Ben Campos with his Sister and Mom

When he is not helping students, Ben enjoys cooking (he actually cooked almost all of Thanksgiving dinner for his family), playing video games and scrolling social media to keep up with the trends. He is involved in several campus clubs, including the UCCS Global Medical Brigades Club, the UCCS Reisher Scholars Club and the UCCS Beekeeping Club!



EMSA STAFF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

JEVITA ROGERS

After nearly two decades at George Mason University, Jevita Rogers made the move to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) 14 years ago, seeking to be closer to her family and her soon-to-arrive niece. Since then, she has become a central figure in the university's Division of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, where she oversees the Enrollment Management offices Academic Advising, Admissions, Career Services, Financial Aid, Office of the Registrar, Orientation and New Student Outreach, Student Employment, and Pre-Collegiate.



^Jevita Rogers

Rogers' career spans national financial aid associations, federal training programs, and even a memorable trip to the Final Four with Mason's basketball team. At UCCS, her responsibilities include ensuring compliance with complex federal and state regulations, managing critical reports, and serving on committees across both UCCS and the CU system.

Despite the administrative demands, Rogers says the most rewarding part of her role remains clear: helping students begin their academic journey and celebrating their success at graduation. She takes immense pride in her dedicated staff, describing them as caring and hardworking professionals who support each and every UCCS student.

Outside of work, Rogers calls Colorado Springs home, where she lives with her husband, Marc (UCCS Class of 2015), her father, and their two cats, Elvis and Gizmo. Known for her love of food and football, she is a devoted fan of the Washington Commanders and is rarely seen without her trademark red nail polish.



^Jevita with Olympic skater Apolo Ohno



^Jevita and her family

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON FINANCIAL AID (FA)



The Office of Financial Aid is a lifeline for thousands of students navigating the cost of higher education. ~70% of the student body receives some form of financial assistance annually, ranging from scholarships and grants to loans and work-study opportunities.

For many, the biggest question is simple: How can I get more money? According to staff, the answer often lies in applying early. Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the UCCS scholarship application can open doors to funding students didn't realize they qualified for.

Jevita Rogers, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management, says the most overlooked resource is the office itself. "We have a full-time, dedicated staff and constantly updated online information," Rogers explained. "Our goal is to help students access grants, scholarships, loans, and job opportunities while guiding them toward smart financial decisions."

While interest in grants and scholarships continues to grow, loans remain the largest source of aid for students and parents. Still, the mission of the office remains unchanged: to ensure students can finance their education with accurate, timely, and equitable support.

SHINING A SPOTLIGHT (CONT.)

The greatest challenge they face is the reality that there is never enough aid to meet every student's needs. Still, Jevita and her team remain steadfast in their commitment to doing everything possible. Navigating constant changes in federal regulations requires vigilance and adaptability, but she never loses sight of her student-centered mission. Her advice to students is straightforward: "Never be afraid to ask questions." Whether directed to a professor, staff member, or campus employee, she believes curiosity is the key to academic success.

What often surprises people is the breadth of knowledge financial aid staff must carry—spanning university processes, admissions, academics, campus resources, and federal law. The variety keeps the work engaging, and that's part of what Jevita loves most about her role. Ultimately, her motivation comes from watching students grow meeting them as new arrivals, then seeing them graduate and launch their careers.



Learn more about the **Financial Aid** by visiting their website at <https://finaid.uccs.edu/>.

Office Location: UCCS Cragmor Hall 201

Hours: 8am - 4pm

Phone: [\(719\) 255-3460](tel:(719)255-3460)

Email: *Financial Aid:* finaidse@uccs.edu
or *Scholarships:* scholarships@uccs.edu

Financial Aid Facts

1. FA is supported by 16 staff and 14 student staff members.

2. Last year, UCCS students received \$114.1 million in grants, scholarships, and loans.

3. A total of 8,126 students benefited from these financial aid funds.

4. The department processed 15,089 FAFSAs and awarded aid to 12,197 students.

5. The Student Employment Office provided over \$2 million in wages to 1,700+ students.

FOLLOW US



UCCS Financial Aid



@uccsfinaid

Winter Recipes

White Hot Chocolate

Ingredients:

- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup white chocolate chips
- ¼ tsp vanilla extract (optional)
- Whipped cream or marshmallows

Instructions:

1. Microwave milk in a mug 1–1½ min.
2. Stir in white chocolate chips, heat 20 sec more.
3. Mix smooth, add vanilla.
4. Top with whipped cream.



**Picture of white hot chocolate*

Strawberry Cheesecake Santa Hats



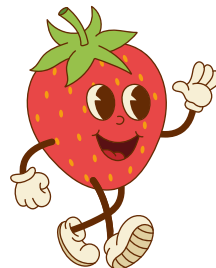
**Picture of strawberry cheesecake Santa hats*

Ingredients:

- 16 ounces of fresh strawberries
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 5 tablespoons powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Chocolate sprinkles

Instructions:

1. Cut stems off strawberries, then slice off the top third for hats.
2. Mix cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla.
3. Fill a bag with mixture, snip corner, and pipe onto strawberry bases.
4. Place hats on top, add sprinkles for eyes, and decorate.



EMSA PARTNERING HIGHLIGHT: FINANCIAL AID AND DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

Students at UCCS are experiencing a more streamlined and supportive approach to getting help, thanks to a long-standing partnership between the Dean of Students (DoS) and Financial Aid (FA) offices. This collaboration ensures that students no longer have to navigate multiple departments on their own. Instead, these offices work behind the scenes to share information, consult, and provide smooth hand-offs—making assistance quick and efficient.

Rooted in collaboration, compassion, and care, the partnership goes beyond financial concerns. It addresses mental health challenges, academic struggles, basic needs, and overall student well-being. By working together, staff can quickly assess a student's situation and determine the best course of action—all while maintaining a timely response.

What began over 14 years ago as simple conversations has evolved into a campus-wide effort built on trust and a shared commitment to student success. Today, students can expect a welcoming face and clear guidance, rather than worrying about which office to contact.

This approach not only improves efficiency but also strengthens student success and retention by reducing barriers, resolving issues faster, and fostering a sense of belonging. Looking ahead, the DoS and Financial Aid offices plan to expand their impact through initiatives like the “Carry the Light” campaign and a new DoS crisis webpage, designed to better support students in need.

You can reach the Office of the Dean of Students by calling [\(719\) 255-3091](tel:7192553091) or by email dos@uccs.edu.



**A UCCS student makes a snowman on campus*



**Students enjoying first snowfall of the year*



**Campus Facilities shoveling snow*



**Students walking to class in the snow*



UCCS SCHOLARSHIPS



Each year, UCCS students are awarded almost \$14 million in scholarships from institutional, local, state and national sources. Learn more about these opportunities by visiting the links below!!

Scholarship Tips

Unique Essay

When applying for college-specific or alumni scholarships, make sure your essays stand out from your General Application. Highlight your academics, goals, and experiences while using personal, concrete examples that truly reflect who you are.

External Scholarships

Check the External Opportunities page for trusted outside scholarships.

Never pay to apply and watch for scams! Most legit sites end in .org.

Make It Memorable

Write clearly and include real examples.

Apply for as many scholarships as possible—every application is a chance!

Believe in yourself, and don't get discouraged if you don't receive one; competition is tough and funds are limited. Most importantly, never assume you're not eligible.

Scholarship Deadlines

UCCS offers many scholarships, most available through your student portal. Deadlines vary, so check often and stay on top of them!

[Merit Scholarships: February 1](#)
[Need-Based Scholarships: March 1](#)
[Transfer Scholarships: May 1](#)

Scholarship Links

[Community Scholarships](#)

[UCCS Scholarships](#)

[External Scholarships](#)

FAFSA

The 2026-2027 FAFSA is now open!
March 1, 2026 is UCCS Priority deadline

UCCS Peak Award

This \$25,000 award is automatically awarded over four years to highly achieving first-time, out-of-state (non-WUE) freshmen and transfer students.

UCCS Chancellor's Award

This \$10,000 award is awarded to incoming freshman and transfer students who are from Colorado or on the WUE tuition rate.

**Awarded students are required to complete 30 credit hours per academic year with at least a 3.0 UCCS GPA*



CAMPUS BUZZ

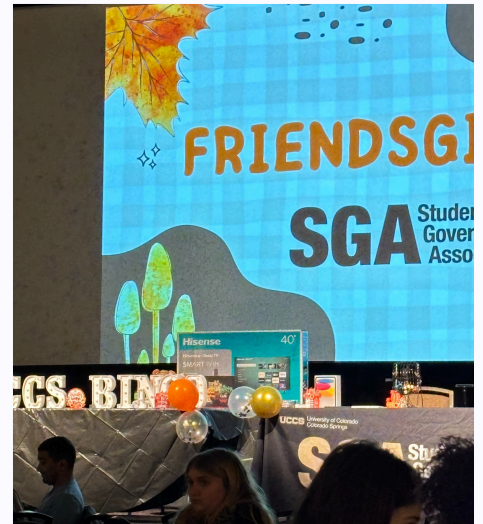
SGA FRIENDSGIVING

This year, the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Department of Student Life (SL) hosted their 4th annual Friendsgiving for all UCCS students—and it was a huge success!

Hundreds of students were joined by some of campus' leadership for an evening filled with great food, laughter, and community. Between the amazing decorations, delicious Thanksgiving staples like apple and pecan pie, free UCCS merchandise, a lively photo booth, and of course BINGO, the event was truly unforgettable.

Congratulations to all of the BINGO winners who walked away with incredible prizes including TVs, LEGO sets, cameras, and more!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the SGA and SL staff, whose hard work and creativity made this event possible. They created a welcoming environment where students could relax, connect with friends, and celebrate the season together.



*Welcome sign and Bingo swag



*Students getting food



*Dessert table filled with Apple and Pecan Pies



*100s of UCCS Students filled Berger Hall



*Students connecting



STUDENT HAPPENINGS

**Click on the ads to learn more details on Mountain Lion Connect*



DESTRESS FEST

WHERE: REC AND WELLNESS CENTER
WHEN: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH 4:30-6:30

Your Destress Fest Guide

Grab a bowl of cereal w/ milk

Watch classic cartoons in the Zen Den

Enjoy the painting and coloring stations

Make colorful friendship bracelets

Make an ornament

Create magical glitter jars

Enjoy a seated, heated massage

Wear your pajamas (optional)



*Merry
Christmas*



Grab 'N Go

Free clothes. Good
vibes. Sustainable style.

Sustainability House
10 am - 4 pm

January 30th

GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING

DECEMBER 12
AT 10:00 AM

Location: University Center
RSVP by clicking this ad



Pancakes and Pajamas

Slip into your comfiest PJs and get ready
for a night of fun, food, and prizes!

Pancakes hot off the griddle

Games to keep the energy high

Prizes waiting to be won

WHERE: The Lodge

WHEN: December 15 | 9–11 PM

HOW TO JOIN THE FUN!

You can bring 2 in-demand items for
Clyde's Cupboard, use 1 meal or guest
swipe, OR pay \$11.75 per person (Clyde's
Cash, Flex Dollars, or credit card
accepted).

✨ Don't *sleep* on this event ✨



EMSA STAFF HAPPENINGS AND SHOUT-OUTS



EMSA Staff and their families
are invited to the
2nd Annual EMSA Night Out!!!

January 8, 2026
Gallogly Event Center - Sky box
W/M UCCS vs. CSU Pueblo
5:00pm/7:00pm
*check your email
for the official invitation



**HAPPY
KWANZAA!**



**EMSA 'BIG DEAL' MUG
DECEMBER RECIPIENTS!**



Jacqueline Bisaillon
Jina Fagerburg
Chris LaLone
Kristen LaRoy
Rachel Lucas
Valerie McClinton

**Congratulations
and stay MUG-nificent!!**



**HAPPY
HANUKKAH**

Clyde's  *Kudos*

If you would like to recognize a staff member
for a positive contribution to UCCS, give a kudos!

EMSA DEPARTMENT UPDATES DURING WINTER BREAK

**campus is closed 12/24 - 1/2*

Winter Break Housing & Check-Out Info

Need Help?

- RA on Duty (Winter Break): 719-255-6500 Call for lockouts or urgent help during break.

Keys & Check-Out

- Pick Up Key Envelopes: Monarch & La Plata front desks, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. during Finals Week (starting Dec 15).
- Summit Residents: Drop keys in the Express Checkout slot by Monarch Front Desk.
- Alpine–VAV Residents (Cucharras, La Plata, San Juan): Drop keys in the Express Checkout slot by La Plata Front Desk.
- Antero, Crestone, Shavano Apartments: Keep your keys—no return needed.

Floor Meetings

- RAs will host meetings the week of Dec 8.
- Show up to get final instructions and ask questions.

Move-Out Deadline

- Leave within 24 hours of your last final OR by Friday, Dec 19 (whichever comes first).

Room Checks

- RAs & staff will enter VAV and Summit rooms on Saturday, Dec 20 for health/safety checks and to confirm move-out.

Staying Over Break?

- Application deadline: Friday, Dec 19
 - You can stay in your room once your application is approved.
 - \$40/day, \$125/week, \$500/full break

Before You Leave

- Make sure you:
 - Toss perishable food & take trash to outdoor dumpsters.
 - Pack essentials (passport, meds, retainers/night guards, uniforms, etc.).
 - Close windows/blinds. Submit a work order if a window won't shut.
 - Set thermostat to 70° (or level 3). Keep heaters clear.
 - Unplug personal electronics & defrost/empty mini fridges. (Don't unplug university appliances)
 - Take valuables with you. Lift remaining items off the floor to avoid water damage.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season!
Questions? Contact your RA or call 719-255-6500.

WINTER BREAK UPDATES (CONT.)

**campus is closed 12/24 - 1/2*

Alpine Express

12/19: 7:00a - 8:00p

12/22 - 1/16: *Closed*

1/17 - 1/18: 7:00a - 7:00p

1/19: 7:00a - 11:00p

The Lodge

12/19:

Breakfast: 7:00a - 9:30a

Lunch: 10:30a - 2:00p

No Dinner Service

12/20 - 1/16: *Closed*

1/17: Normal Ops Resume

Clyde's

12/19 - 1/4: *Closed*

1/5 - 1/16: 11:00a - 2:00p

1/17 - 1/19: *Closed*

Big Cat Coffee

12/19: 7:00a - 2:00p

12/20 - 1/4: *Closed*

1/5 - 1/16: 7:00a - 2:00p

1/17 - 1/19: *Closed*

Cafe '65 and Hybl Cafe

12/19 - 1/19: *Closed*

**Normal Dining Operations
resume on 1/20
for Clyde's, Big Cat Coffee,
Hybl Cafe, Cafe '65,
and Alpine Express.**

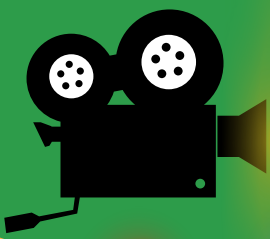
Urgent Support Resource

- Anyone can access mental health support through the national crisis lifeline by dialing 988.
- Emergencies related to the UCCS community, please contact UCCS Police at 719-255-3111. They are available 24/7, even when the campus is closed.
- **Students** can access 24/7 free mental health support through TELUS Health.
 - This service is available on holidays and when the campus is closed.
 - It's easy to use; click the link to learn more via the [TELUS Health Flyer](#).
- **Faculty and Staff**, unsure if the situation is an emergency, faculty and staff can consult on student support response with TELUS Health by calling 1-866-743-7732 or click the link to learn more via the [Faculty and Staff Flyer](#).



Non-Emergency Support Resources

- If it is not an emergency, you may submit a CARE Team referral here: <https://dos.uccs.edu/care/submit-a-concern-report-an-incident>.
- Visit the [Dean of Students](#) website for more non-emergency resource.



MOVIE BINGO

**How many have you seen?
Enough to get a Bingo?*



SELF-CARE CHALLENGE

DAY 1

Journal
Write freely
in your
journal

DAY 2

Make smart
goals for
the month

DAY 3

Write and
say
affirmations

DAY 4

Watch your
a movie

DAY 5

Go to the
book
store, buy a
book

DAY 6

Have a spa
day

DAY 7

Call a friend
or two

DAY 8

Meditate

DAY 9

Create a
playlist of
fav music,
or podcast

DAY 10

Sleep in

DAY 11

Make a
bucket list of
things to do,
places to
visit

DAY 12

Have a yoga
session

DAY 13

Dance to
your favorite
music

DAY 14

Declutter, a
room, or
rooms

DAY 15

Cook your
favorite
meal

DAY 16

Do a social
media
surge

DAY 17

Take a walk
in nature

DAY 18

Create a
vision board

DAY 19

Enjoy
some
coloring

DAY 20

Dine at your
favorite
restaurant

DAY 21

Read your
favorite
inspiration
quotes

DAY 22

Read a good
book

DAY 23

Enjoy a
creative
hobby

DAY 24

Write a
gratitude list

DAY 25

Drink water

DAY 26

Create a
morning
routine

DAY 27

Create a
calming
night
routine

DAY 28

Make a meal
plan

DAY 29

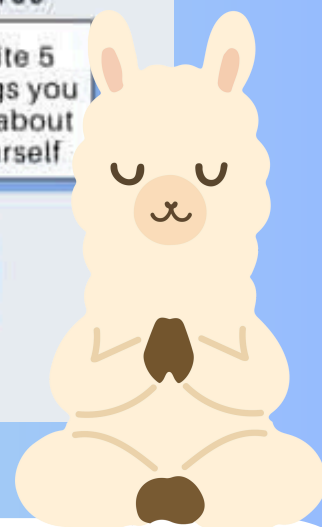
Go for a
picnic

DAY 30

Write 5
things you
like about
yourself

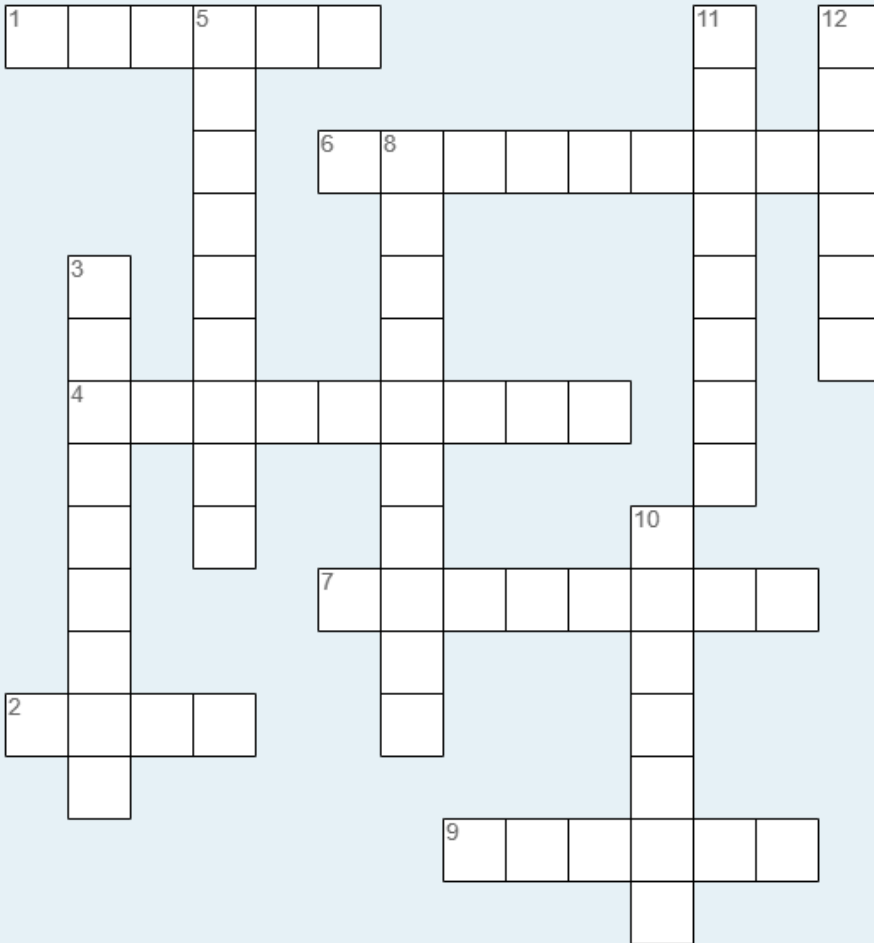
DAY 31

Unplug





WINTER CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Hanging frozen spike of ice
2. Comfortable and warm
4. Intricate ice crystal that falls from the sky-no two are the same
6. Damage caused by extreme cold
7. Cozy spot to warm up by
9. Classic holiday beverage

DOWN

3. Hanging plant where couples steal a kiss
5. What you do the last 10 seconds on NYE
8. New Year's goal
10. Warm hand coverings
11. Severe winter storm
12. Vehicle used by Santa Claus

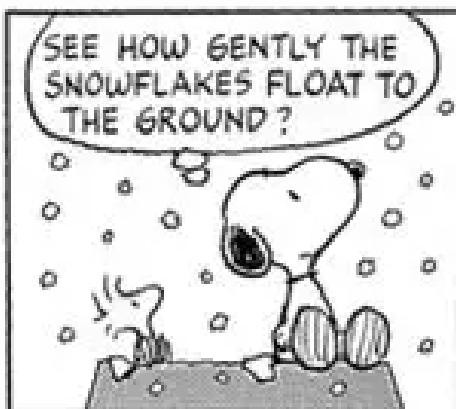
Crossword Puzzle Answers:

1. Icicle 2. Cozy 3. Mistletoe 4. Snowflake
5. Countdown 6. Frostbite 7. Fireside
8. Resolution 9. Eggnog 10. Mittens
11. Blizzard 12. Sleigh



Q: What did Santa say to Mrs. Clause as she walked by?

A: 'Sleigh' Girl



EMSA Newsletter Team:

Heather Allen (staff), Kayli Policicchio (student), and Hannah DeVries (student)