

# ON THE SCENE

A Publication of the Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section

Spring 2011



## National EMS Memorial Service by D. Randy Kuykendall

Last year, the National EMS Memorial Service held its first induction service at its new home in Colorado Springs. Several hundred EMS professionals, family members and medical professionals attended what proved to be one of the most moving services I've ever witnessed in our profession.

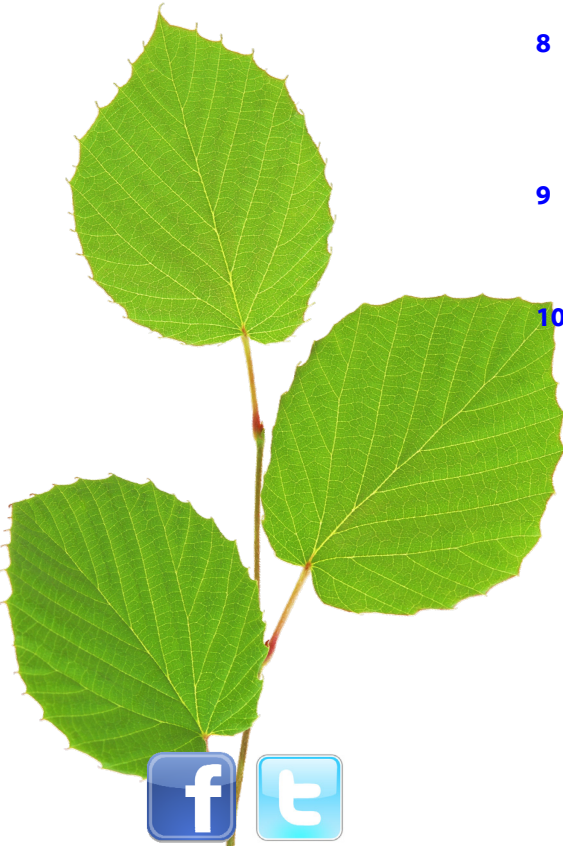
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## Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

**ON THE SCENE** is a quarterly publication of the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section of the Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and serves the emergency medical services and trauma communities of Colorado.



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### **Cover National EMS Memorial Service**

This year, the National EMS Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 25 at 6 p.m. in Colorado Springs. The annual Memorial Service bicycle ride will be held during the days preceding the service with several other events scheduled around the service itself.

### **4 The Ultimate Sacrifice**

Forty-three individuals from 18 states, all EMS professionals, gave of their lives to provide emergency services to their communities and then made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the line of duty.

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Grab your bicycle gear and join "The Muddy Angels" for the 2011 National EMS Memorial Bike Ride. The ride pays homage to fallen EMS providers.

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Early results indicate great things happen when the community comes together to face a crisis and everyone involved is empowered and passionately dedicated to continuing this invaluable endeavor.

### **8 Data Collection System Upgrade**

The upgrade of Colorado's EMS data collection system provides a unique opportunity to increase our capacity for using patient care data for clinical decision-making.

### **9 3rd Annual EMS and Trauma Day at the Capitol**

Jan. 14, 2011 marked the third annual EMS and Trauma Day at the Capitol. By all accounts, the event was a success.

### **10 Krystal Banks and Michael Gerber Join the Team**

Please help us welcome Krystal and Michael.

Special thanks to **Tawyna Silloway** for providing the cover picture and the pictures of the EMS Memorial Bike Ride.



# National EMS Memorial Service

by D. Randy Kuykendall

Continued from the Cover

The National EMS Memorial Service Foundation was established to remember and honor those emergency medical services personnel who have died in the line of duty and to recognize the ultimate sacrifice they have made. It was initially established in the Commonwealth of Virginia and, until 2010, the induction services were held in Roanoke, VA. When the decision was made to make Colorado the permanent home of the service, doubts existed as to whether moving the location to the western United States might inhibit attendance and support. The services in Roanoke were well attended by more than 1,500 EMS professionals and agencies each year.

“The measure of a profession is how that profession establishes and observes its customs.”

This year, the National EMS Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, June 25 at 6 p.m. in Colorado Springs. The annual Memorial Service bicycle ride will be held during the days preceding the service with several other events scheduled around the service itself. As the permanent home of this important part of our professional community, I believe that Colorado has a duty to ensure that, each year, the church hosting the event in Colorado Springs is overflowing with uniformed EMS personnel. The measure of a profession is how that profession establishes and observes its customs. Understanding that ours is a dangerous profession and that EMS professionals risk their lives each and every day in the service of those in need, it is important that we remember those of our number who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This year's service has another special meaning to me personally. Two of the inductees into the memorial are individuals I've known. Both lost their lives in an air medical accident in El Paso, TX in February of 2010. One of these paramedics trained and worked here in Colorado by serving the Colorado EMS and trauma community as a member of the Platte Valley EMS service. The other was a young man who I had the privilege of training and working with as a part of my EMS field career in southern New Mexico. Both were outstanding professionals who dedicated their lives to serving those in need and, in doing so, have left wives and children behind.

The 2011 National EMS Memorial Service will honor 43 EMS professionals from 18 states. We've included a list of this year's honorees on page four of this newsletter and hope everyone will take a few moments to read about them. The Memorial Service supports the families of the inductees to travel to Colorado Springs and receive an American flag, a medal commemorating their loved one's service and a white rose. This support requires financial resources and I would ask that all of Colorado's EMS and trauma services consider supporting this effort through financial contributions. Information regarding the need and how to help can be found at [www.nemsms.org](http://www.nemsms.org).

Each year, there are survivor families who are unable to attend due to the costs. As the home of this important national memorial, we must work to ensure that each and every family has the opportunity to see where their loved ones memory will be enshrined and witness the gratitude of our profession.

Supporting the National EMS Memorial Service is an important responsibility and I am challenging the Colorado EMS and trauma community to demonstrate our commitment by seeing that no less than **500 uniformed EMS, fire and law enforcement professionals meet in Colorado Springs at 6 p.m. on Saturday, June 25**, to commemorate the service of the 43 EMS professionals to be honored this year.

Colorado's EMS and trauma community is dedicated to supporting this important responsibility and we look forward to this year's ceremony. Please don't hesitate to contact our office for any additional information regarding this year's National EMS Memorial Service or associated events. I look forward to seeing you there.



D. Randy Kuykendall, MLS, NREMT-P, is the chief of the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section and can be reached at [randy.kuykendall@state.co.us](mailto:randy.kuykendall@state.co.us).

Randy Kuykendall 1977

# The Ultimate Sacrifice

by Arthur Kanowitz

The following names are those EMS professionals who gave their lives in the line of duty and who will be inducted this year:

Dale Eidsvig	MN	Oct. 29, 1972
Frank P Libraro	NY	Sep. 2, 1975
James L Sutter	NJ	Nov. 1, 1976
John R Alison	KS	Feb. 2, 1978
Nelson Schaefer	MN	Jan. 14, 1985
William Chapin	NY	Mar. 19, 1986
Ryan M Sorek	MN	Mar. 9, 2007
Norman H Haines	NY	Jul. 19, 2007
Paul Bazinet	NY	Jan. 3, 2010
Mark Vernick	AZ	Jan. 8, 2010
LeRoy A Kemp	NY	Jan. 13, 2010
Anthony Archuleta	NM	Feb. 5, 2010
William Montgomery	NM	Feb. 5, 2010
John Sutter	NM	Feb. 5, 2010
Daniel McIntosh	PA	Mar. 7, 2010
Misty Oakley Brogdon	TN	Mar. 25, 2010
Cynthia A "Cindy" Parker	TN	Mar. 25, 2010
William Douglas "Doug" Phillips	TN	Mar. 25, 2010
Esteban Angel Bahena	CA	Apr. 1, 2010
Sheryl M Stoolman	IA	May 13, 2010
Guy del Giudice	TX	Jun. 2, 2010
Stephen Durler	TX	Jun. 2, 2010
William Bill Kirby	IN	Jul. 2, 2010
Ted Caffarel	TX	Jul. 4, 2010
Tracy Chambers	TX	Jul. 4, 2010
Sharon Falkner	TX	Jul. 4, 2010
Ryan Marshall Duke	OK	Jul. 22, 2010
Alan Harrison	OK	Jul. 22, 2010
Brenda French	AZ	Jul. 28, 2010
Alexander Kelley	AZ	Jul. 28, 2010
Parker Summons	AZ	Jul. 28, 2010
Gayla Lynn Gregory	AR	Aug. 31, 2010
Ken Meyer, Jr.	AR	Aug. 31, 2010
Ken Robertson	AR	Aug. 31, 2010
James Ray Bailey	WV	Sep. 8, 2010
Karen A Hand	NY	Oct. 5, 2010
Richard Poorman	IL	Oct. 9, 2010
Casey Steenland	TX	Oct. 12, 2010
Shawn Baker	OH	Oct. 19, 2010
John R Demkosky	PA	Nov. 29, 2010
David Gundle	IN	Dec. 8, 2010
Laura E Pullam	AL	Dec. 15, 2010
Chad Null	IN	Dec. 16, 2010



Forty-three individuals from 18 states, all EMS professionals, dedicated their lives to provide emergency services to their communities and then made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives in the line of duty. Nineteen died from medical aviation accidents, eleven died from duty related cardiac events, eight died from ground ambulance motor vehicle collisions and three died from accidents that occurred while performing rescues or from on the scene of accidents. One died from carbon monoxide poisoning and one died from medical complications of work exposure. They all died because they were willing to put their lives at risk to save someone else or to alleviate others' pain and suffering. They all made the ultimate sacrifice.

On Saturday, June 25, the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual National EMS Memorial Service will be held in Colorado Springs. The memorial service will honor 43 individuals who will join the 538 others previously honored by the National EMS Memorial Service. The honoree's families will be presented a medallion, symbolizing eternal memory; a United States Flag which has flown over the Nation's Capital, symbolizing service to the country; and a white rose, symbolizing their undying love. In addition, each honoree's name will be engraved on a bronze oak leaf which is added to the "Tree of Life" at the National EMS Memorial.

The day before the memorial, Friday, June 24, the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride will travel from Littleton to Colorado Springs. I am planning to make that ride to honor our EMS professionals who have made the ultimate sacrifice. I am asking EMS providers throughout Colorado to join me on this ride honoring our EMS colleagues. Please make a commitment to do the ride. It is approximately 65 miles.

If you make the commitment to ride, make the commitment to adequately train for the ride. Information regarding training and equipment, details of the bike route from Littleton to Colorado Springs and ways to support the ride can be found at <http://muddyangels.org>.

See the related article entitled **Preventable Deaths in EMS Workers** in the *On the Scene* Newsletter: Fall, 2010 at [www.cdphe.state.co.us/em/Newsletters/](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/em/Newsletters/)



Fall10.pdf



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Art Kanowitz 1978

# National EMS Memorial Bike Ride

by Tate Ulrich



Grab your bicycle gear and join "The Muddy Angels" for the 2011 National EMS Memorial Bike Ride! The ride pays homage to fallen EMS providers. The event will start in Laramie, WY on June 22 and will conclude in Colorado Springs, the site of the EMS Memorial, on June 24. The number of riders has been capped at 200 for this ride, so register soon. Feel free to join us for one, two or all three days of this worthwhile experience.

annually for the last several years to put together a moving memorial service in honor of the fallen and to create a permanent memorial site for EMS providers where the names of the fallen will forever be displayed on the "tree of life"; a place where respects can be paid and solace can be found. The other group, The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride Inc. (also known as The Muddy Angels), has banded together by pedaling thousands of miles to raise awareness, show solidarity and respect, and to raise money for the Muddy Angels Fund, which provides aid and comfort to families of ill, injured or fallen EMS providers.

If you or someone you know would be interested in participating in this worthwhile event, log on to [www.muddyangels.org](http://www.muddyangels.org) for ride details and registration information. Further sources of information can be found on Facebook and at [www.emsunited.com](http://www.emsunited.com).

Not a bicycle rider? Help out by volunteering to be a support member or to donate money or other essential goods.

Some of the most challenging moments in life involve the illness, injury and, at times, death of loved ones. During these stressful moments, having the support of others is paramount to one's ability to cope with the immediate situation, and, ultimately, to a person's overall well being. Emergency medical services (EMS) providers are often an integral part of the support network for people facing the most difficult moments in life. EMS providers give of themselves every day, often putting themselves at risk in the interest of others. They provide lifesaving knowledge and skill, as well as comfort and reassurance. They selflessly give of their time, willingly enter into tenuous situations, and, all too often, tragically make the ultimate sacrifice of their own life. These sacrifices have sadly gone unrecognized for far too long.

For a multitude of reasons, support for the EMS community has been sorely lacking for many years. While there are police and firefighter memorials, there historically has been little or no mechanism to properly honor fallen paramedics, EMTs or medical flight personnel. After the devastation of 9/11, two distinct organizations emerged to raise awareness and to offer an outlet for support.

One group, The National EMS Memorial Service ([www.nemsms.org](http://www.nemsms.org)), has worked

Participation in this event is not limited to riding. Donors and volunteers are crucial to making this annual event a success. Volunteers fill many roles, including help with rest/rehab of riders, coordination of logistics and ensuring rider safety. Donors and sponsors provide much needed cash or donate essentials such as food, water, snacks or the sponsorship of evening meals.

We look forward to seeing you at the ride!

Tate Ulrich is a flight nurse with AirLife Denver and can be reached at [tateulrich@msn.com](mailto:tateulrich@msn.com).





## Implementation of a Crying Baby Program

In response to rising trends in abusive pediatric head trauma during 2008, Memorial Health System's injury prevention coordinator and pediatric neurosurgeon searched through the literature for an effective, evidenced-based prevention program to implement in our community. The program includes shaken baby syndrome as well as brain injuries from being hit or tossed against a surface. El Paso County began the 2009 year experiencing a dramatic increase in Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) cases, with death rates in the first quarter alone that had risen to match those of the previous year, and reported cases of abuse already were nearly half of the previous year's rate.

Through literature review and networking, Memorial Health System chose the program designed by Dr. Mark Dias of Hershey Medical Center at Penn State University as a perfect match for our community. Dr. Dias and his colleagues have demonstrated significant reduction in abusive head trauma through a stand-alone, bedside educational program provided to all new parents and caregivers. This education focuses on preparing caregivers for the stresses associated with normal baby care and options for managing this stress. In addition, it presents the damage that results if a caregiver responds inappropriately with shaking, hitting or throwing a child. The program includes the viewing of an educational film, sharing of printed materials and signing an agreement.

Our ability to rapidly implement this extensive education program was not without potential barriers and challenges. In the face of the rising crisis, we found we were able to open up communication through layers of stakeholders, both within the system and community, and inspire stakeholders to participate in this potentially lifesaving plan. Additional factors contributed to the process, including verifiable data evaluation, no previous presence of a broad-based plan for child abuse prevention in our community, economic pressures creating an environment for cooperation, and the media actively drawing community interest in this heart-wrenching dilemma.

One of the key factors contributing to the success of our program was engaging experts from a variety of fields. Participants ranged from social work, Department of Human Services, nursing, education, neurosurgery, emergency medicine, the police department's Crimes Against Children, the District Attorney's office and marketing. Input and creativity from these areas helped create the details necessary to implement Dr. Dias's program in the most effective way possible.

Although there are several well-recognized programs that address this particular problem, the Crying Baby Program from Memorial Health System has been identified as one of the top four Innovative Initiatives in the country by Safe States, a national professional organization that supports injury and violence prevention professionals engaged in building a healthier, safer America.

Our program is unique in several ways. It is inspired by Dr. Mark Dias's research and is driven by the collegial, collaborative relationship from nursing and social work. Open, honest communication moved freely between Department of Human Service social workers, Memorial Health System leadership, colleagues from the emergency department, intensive care unit, special victims unit, district attorney's office, physicians and trauma services and more to target the problem most effectively. In addition, we have been able to provide a safety net through KPC Respite Center, an emergency care provider for children of families in crisis.

**“The Crying Baby Program from Memorial Health System has been identified as one of the top four Innovative Initiatives in the country by Safe States,...”**

After one year, we were able to evaluate the program and compare its effectiveness to the previous two years. The most exciting and promising outcome was the 63 percent decrease of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT) in the educated population compared to prior years. In addition, deaths from AHT decreased by 71 percent overall. Although the numbers are small and all variables are not accounted for, this is very encouraging. Some other less quantifiable but none-the-less important outcomes were newly established partnerships. Using “the crib as a safe place” concept, the AHT prevention program community presentation has been married to the SIDS Risk Reduction Program of the health department to take advantage of these audiences for two important risk areas. Also, the partnership with KPC Respite Center is unique as a child care alternative to abusing children in times of stress. Several joint public education events have created demand for this education from many organizations and individuals statewide.

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# Preventing Pediatric Abusive Head Trauma by Lynn M. Andersen and Sally Duncan

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This program is the result of professionals realizing that the urgency of the crisis outweighed the barriers to rapidly enacting an intensive program. One of the largest barriers was working beyond clinical silos where abuse prevention was relegated to one institution or one department, independent of others. Growing cutbacks that emphasize the bottom line, nursing time constraints and conflicting cultural approaches in program development also needed to be addressed by the organizing group. The most important factor in breaking these barriers was communication and education. Not all professionals involved knew who victims of AHT were, how they suffered, who was victimizing them and why those children were injured. They did not know education could be an essential tool in preventing permanent injury or death in these littlest of our patient population, or the impact these innocent victims had on everyone in contact with their care. Once this awareness grew, professionals across the board were stepping up to carry the torch of AHT prevention.

We recently launched our new video, The Crying Baby Plan, to replace the outdated film we had been using. This video, written and produced by our Crying Baby Plan team, is eight minutes long and has several major themes: babies cry and that can be stressful; you may feel the urge to shake or hurt your child, if you do here are the possible outcomes; alternatives to dealing with the stress of crying; and the importance of sharing this with everyone who cares for your child.

As we move forward with this program, we continue to evaluate all aspects. Input is shared community wide, revisions are implemented as warranted, ongoing data monitoring evaluates our outcome, and guidance is being provided to other institutions and care providers that wish to participate in this initiative to save babies lives. Early results indicate great things happen when the community comes together to face a crisis and everyone involved is empowered and passionately dedicated to continuing this invaluable endeavor.

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Sally Duncan, RN, BSN, NREMT-P is the trauma outreach and injury prevention specialist at the Memorial Health System Trauma Center and can be reached at (719) 365-6389 or at [sally.duncan@memorialhealthsystem.com](mailto:sally.duncan@memorialhealthsystem.com)



# Data Collection System Upgrade

by Holly Hedegaard

In July 2010, the Public Policy and Finance committee of the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council approved funding to purchase a commercial off-the-shelf, web-based, hosted statewide pre-hospital data collection system to serve as the repository for the state's EMS data. A Request for Proposal was released in November 2010 and five vendors bid on the system. A panel consisting of EMTS section staff and community members reviewed the proposals in January 2011 and selected ImageTrend as the state vendor.

With finalization of the contract with ImageTrend, the EMTS Data Program will begin working on the conversion to the new system. Implementation of the new system will include customization of the ImageTrend software (online and laptop versions), migration of the current database to the state data repository on the ImageTrend servers, training of EMS agency staff who choose to use the new software, and interface validation to ensure that the system can both import NEMSIS-compliant data from other third-party systems and export data to the national EMS database.

Included in the contract with ImageTrend is the purchase of a state license for the ImageTrend Field Bridge software. Field Bridge is the laptop version of the online ImageTrend patient care data collection software. The purchase of the state license allows the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section to offer agencies Field Bridge licenses if they want to use the ImageTrend product. Agencies that are already using other vendor products do not need to change, unless they choose to do so. With the new system, agencies using other third party vendor software will still be able to download to the state data base, as long as their software can create the standard NEMSIS export (similar to how the download process is being done now). More details on the

availability of the state Field Bridge license and installation on agency laptops will be forthcoming once the contract with ImageTrend is finalized.

A proposed timeline for completion of the conversion to the ImageTrend system is outlined below. If everything proceeds according to plan, most agencies should be converted to the new system by December 2011.

If your agency is interested in participating in the pilot program, please contact your regional coordinator or Steve Boylls in the EMTS Data Program at (303) 692-2994 or [steve.boylls@state.co.us](mailto:steve.boylls@state.co.us).

The upgrade of Colorado's EMS data collection system provides a unique opportunity to increase our capacity for using patient care data for clinical decision-making. For questions about the upgrade of the EMS data collection system and project timelines, please contact me at (303) 692-3005.



Holly Hedegaard, MD, MSPH, is the EMS and Trauma Data Program manager and can be reached at [holly.hedegaard@state.co.us](mailto:holly.hedegaard@state.co.us).

Holly Hedegaard 1997

## Proposed Timeline

Mid-March to Mid-April

EMTS Data Program will work with ImageTrend to set up the data repository, customize the software and define processes.

Mid-April to Mid-May

EMTS Data Program and ImageTrend will initiate a pilot project with 20-30 agencies and train system administrators in use of the ImageTrend software. Results from the pilot project will be used to refine the system before going live for additional agencies in July.

July through mid-December

Several regional training sessions will be held for agencies that choose to use the ImageTrend product. EMTS Data Program staff will work with agencies one region at a time to convert to the new system.



# 3rd Annual EMS & Trauma Day

by Celeste White



Visit our Facebook at [www.facebook.com/coloradoems](http://www.facebook.com/coloradoems) and tag yourself or anyone you may know in this picture.



Jan. 14 marked the 3rd Annual EMS and Trauma Day at the Capitol. By all accounts, the event was a success. Many Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (RETAC) coordinators/executive directors staffed tables displaying information on the RETACs highlighting how funds from the EMS Account have benefitted the area. Representatives from Memorial Hospital and The Children's Hospital Denver also participated, as did the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado. Sen. John Morse publicly acknowledged the event from the floor of the senate by introducing a group of EMS and trauma community supporters in the audience. Contributing to the success of this year's event were such factors as the event taking place during the first week of the legislative session, new members of the legislature being receptive to meeting with representatives of the EMS and trauma community, and the invitations sent by the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado to legislators calling attention to the event.

A task force of members from the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council, RETACs, the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, Colorado Fire Chiefs, and other interested stakeholders will work to advance the positive reception to EMS and Trauma Day at the Capitol. Some preliminary suggestions are to alert boards of county commissioners, develop a common theme directed at educating legislators and encourage staff at agencies and facilities to contact their their legislators in advance.

Celeste White is the state RETAC coordinator at the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section and can be reached at [celeste.white@state.co.us](mailto:celeste.white@state.co.us).

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## Krystal Banks and Michael Gerber Join the Team

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We are pleased to welcome Krystal Banks to the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section. She has been an administrative professional for more than 10 years and has been hired to provide administrative support to Grace Sandeno and Margaret Mohan of the Trauma Program.

Prior to working for the trauma team, Krystal was the executive assistant at Denver International Airport for the snow removal team. This included FEMA reporting, creating databases and spreadsheets as well as tracking more than 160 employees.

Krystal received her Associate's Degree in Business Management from the Community College of Aurora. She is currently pursuing her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology at Columbia College.

In Krystal's spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family.

We also are pleased to announce the appointment of Michael Gerber as our newest certification specialist in the Operations Program. Mike was born in Minnesota, but has lived in Colorado since 2000. He graduated from the University of Denver in 2008 with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. He has been working in a variety of customer service positions, has extensive background with data entry and has worked with several types of databases and Windows® based systems.

He is a self proclaimed "gamer and geek." In his spare time, he enjoys building desktop computers, spending time with friends and keeping his cat, Fu, in check. Mike especially enjoys reading science fiction and fantasy novels. He is excited to work in public service and hopes to pursue an advanced degree sometime in the future.

Please help us welcome Krystal and Michael!