

«EXPERIENCE has guided recently named diversity chief

Coming full circle



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ANITA FLEMING-RIFE, PROFESSOR of Africana studies and journalism, helps sophomore Melanie Stacey with a rewrite of her story in a beginning newswriting class on Tuesday at the University of Northern Colorado. Fleming-Rife has been appointed the special assistant to the president for equity and diversity at UNC.

The world began to open up to Anita Fleming-Rife when she returned to the University of Northern Colorado in 1986 to work on her master's degree in journalism. She took a class in international relations and one day saw a poster about a broadcasting seminar in London. "Here I am a single, divorced parent and I didn't have any resources to attend this seminar," Fleming-Rife said. "I had mentioned (the seminar) to a couple faculty members and, unbeknownst to me, they were out knocking on doors and raising the money for me to go to England."

At the seminar she met faculty from Southern Illinois University, who later recruited her for a doctoral program. Fleming-Rife, who grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, quickly discovered that Southern Illinois had the fifth-largest international student body in the nation, and in fall 1988 she was in her

first doctoral class with students from Malaysia, Taiwan, China, Somalia, Cameroon, Sudan, Nigeria and elsewhere.

"It just opened my mind to diverse perspectives on any given issue," she said. "I came to understand that none were right and none were wrong — that they were different because of political, historical and economic circumstances."

Fleming-Rife was suddenly on track for further globe-trotting and wider perspective gathering. She spent a year at the United Nations in New York City, as project manager for a communications research unit. She then served as a public information officer on a United Nations humanitarian operation

in Somalia, a trip which also took her to Nairobi, Kenya.

The global loop, so to speak, came full circle after Fleming-Rife, who went on to teach at Grambling State, Penn State and a few other universities, returned again to her Greeley alma mater in 2008 as a visiting full professor in Africana studies and journalism.

Fleming-Rife earlier this month was named UNC's special assistant to the president for equity and diversity. Already active in working with the East African refugee community in Greeley, Fleming-Rife will expand diversity and community building efforts across the university. She will represent UNC in discussions about diversity and equity in the wider community.

She's excited by the possibilities, especially considering how much Greeley has changed since she first arrived here in the 1970s. Fleming-Rife earned her bachelor's degree from UNC in communications and her mas-

ter's in journalism.

She found the city in 2008 much changed from the largely homogenous community of the '70s. It has become — especially with the arrival of East Africans and Asians, all attracted by jobs at the meatpacking plant and low cost of living — a melting pot in the heart of Weld County.

Fleming-Rife said she feels honored to be selected to this role. She feels well-suited to the task, since getting people from different cultures to sit around a common table is what she considers one of her talents.

"This is a real good time for me to be in this position and take a leadership role and help others who are interested in moving our students in a very engaging way," she said. "Preparing them for what is in fact a global village. There's so much work to be done. There's work for all of us."

◀ CONTINUED
A10: Northern Blend

Evans cuts 18 city jobs

Layoffs to close \$1M budget gap

By Mike Peters
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EVANS — Eighteen town employees — including the fire marshal, one police officer and five parks employees — were laid off Tuesday to save \$1 million in city costs, according to City Manager Aden Hogan.

"It was a difficult time," Hogan said Tuesday. "When you have a reduction in force, it's hard on everybody."

Hogan said every department in the town had cuts or reductions, mainly because of several business closings in the town, and a \$1 million shortfall.

"We were able to build the staff several years ago when times were better, but now it's starting to catch up on us."

Hogan said the business closings have caused a reduction in tax revenue and contributed to the budget shortfall.

Fire Marshal Doug Melby, connected with the Evans Fire

◀ CONTINUED
A4: Evans jobs

Members of same gang fight each other

Police arrest 5 men after the March 7 riot in south Greeley

By Mike Peters
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It's a nice, clean house in a nice, clear neighborhood in south Greeley, where a pole in front announces the "Neighborhood Watch Program." But this same house was the scene of what police call a full-blown riot, where two men were stabbed and four people — all gang members — were arrested.

The riot and fight involved three units of the same well-known gang in Greeley, and the units were apparently fighting each other, according to Greeley police.

The house where the alleged fight took place last week, 2508 14th Ave. Court, is in the Hillside housing area of Greeley. A resident of the house is a known gang member, according to police records.

In a court affidavit released

◀ CONTINUED
A4: Gang fight

PAWNEE GRASSLAND

Forest service, Weld officials vow better talks

Commissioners: Lack of communication caused the concerns with prescribed burns

By Bill Jackson
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It's likely there will be no prescribed burn on the Pawnee National Grassland by the U.S.

Forest Service this year, but any burns in the future will be better coordinated between the federal agency and Weld County officials.

That was the result of an

hour-long meeting Tuesday between forest service officials and the board of Weld County Commissioners. The meeting came after commissioners passed a resolution on final reading Monday that prohibited prescribed burns in the area of the 19,300 acres of the grassland in northeast Weld. That resolution was passed due to concerns of dry conditions in that area

this year following a year of abnormal moisture that resulted in an abundant amount of forage on the grassland.

But it also was the result of what commissioners viewed as a lack of communication between the forest service and ranchers,

◀ CONTINUED
A4: Communication

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WEATHER

Cold and cloudy, snow showers
High 37° Low 24°
B10: Weather

WHAT'S COMING



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