



# Rebecca's Reflections



113 N. Martinson—Wichita, KS 67203—316.683.6426—Rebecca@jfaweb.org

October 2011

## Auraria—Denver, CO

(Home of University of Colorado-Denver, Metro State College of Denver and Community College of Denver)

April 11-12, 2011

Justice For All (JFA) returned to Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC), the home of three separate schools; University of Colorado-Denver, Metro State College of Denver and Community College of Denver. Because three schools are combined, AHEC boasts the largest enrollment of any Colorado university.

Although it is very difficult to get on the campus as far as reserving the space, it is a prime location for great conversations. Located near downtown Denver, this bustling campus has a lot of foot traffic. The Catholic News Agency's Conor Gilliland wrote a balanced piece of our time on campus those two days.

"Some students were shocked at the images, some were moved, and some refused to look.

'The images stick with people when they see them,' Cook observed. 'Some women who saw these images when we were here in the past come to me now and say they decided not to have an abortion just from seeing the images.'

**"We're simply not taught the facts of it all in our education. We have never seen the sight of it, and that's not fair."**

Alaina Parsons, Auraria Student

Others were not so convinced that the shocking images have value. 'You're doing it the wrong way!' a defiant young man bellowed several times as he walked past the display. Another student blocked the images from his sight with a notebook.

Underneath the charged surface, however, there was productive dialogue taking place among the students and volunteers. Alaina Parsons, 19, said that the discussions she had were mostly fruitful. 'I was enriched and enlightened.' Parsons, who is in

favor of legalized abortion, said she was upset with the educational system for not presenting the facts of abortion that she learned from Justice for All. 'We're simply not taught the facts of it all in our education. We have never seen the sight of it, and that's not fair.'

Metro State student, James Yarovoy, said that the dialogue he engaged in with Justice for All volunteers persuaded him to change his view on a few particular issues. 'I'm still pro-choice,' Yarovoy said, 'But I was persuaded that late-term abortions are morally impermissible and that affirming unborn life as much as possible is a general principle we ought to hold.' "

For the complete April 26, 2011 article, please find it on line at <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/abortion-debate-takes-center-stage-at-downtown-denver-campus/>



Students conversing with trained volunteers on the Auraria Campus

JFA equipped two Colorado high schools and the Focus Leadership Institute to join us on campus for a day of outreach. In addition, Auraria students and local Denver community members learned the basics in our Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue seminar.

We had a total of four seminars with 137 participants. Of those trained, 86 joined us for at least one day of outreach at Auraria! Thank you for your support of my work which makes it possible for JFA to reach so many with our Pro-Life Training Program!

## Wichita State University (WSU)

August 29, 2011

As we spend a great deal of time on the road, we also need to be sure not to miss training and reaching those here in our home city, Wichita. Therefore, at least every other year, if not every year, we offer Abortion: From Debate to Dialogue (ADD) seminar to those in the Wichita area.

This year we had thirty-three Wichita community members join us for our ADD seminar in August. This group was comprised of high school and college students, plus moms and dads of the Wichita community. For many, it was their first time attending the seminar.

Giving our seminar attendees a local place to practice FEET WORK was lacking from our last seminar in 2009. This year, however, Justice For All, conducted our small exhibit and poll table outreach (*pictured right*) at Wichita State University (WSU) and we were pleased to be joined by eleven seminar participants.



“Should Abortion Remain Legal” poll table at Wichita State with the small Exhibit in the background.

## University of Kansas (KU)

September 12-14, 2011



Tricia Sprouse (above right), Vice President of the Culture of Life Club at the University of Kansas, discusses abortion with a fellow student near JFA's poll table and small exhibit.

After a bit of hurdle-jumping to get a completed reservation on KU's campus, JFA was able to conduct three days of outreach. Had it not been for the perseverance of Tricia, pictured above, and her husband, JFA would not have had the following story to tell.

JFA partnered with Benedictine College (BC) again and one of our trained BC students wrote the following in her reflection.

“At the end of our day, we sat down for the debriefing session. That was when my favorite part of the day happened.

David Lee (JFA's executive director) walked over to tell us what had just happened to him. He had talked to a young woman by the display who was looking at the various pictures. She was

a freshman and was two months pregnant. Her friends were pressuring her to have an abortion, saying she would fail her classes and have to drop out of college.

The girl looked at the images of the aborted babies and told David she wanted to take a picture of them. She wanted to send the pictures to her friends and ask them if that was what they wanted her to do. Most importantly, the girl had not been sure whether she wanted to keep her baby, but she left the JFA display convinced that she would choose life. The entire three-day display at KU and the training session were all worth it for that life-changing moment. I still get chills when I re-tell the story!

...Thank you so much, JFA, for all that you're doing. Through your outreach, I truly believe we can change hearts, minds, and lives.”

**Erin McDonough**

Benedictine College student



Defending life together,

*Rebecca L. Haschke*

Rebecca L. Haschke

KU student and I conversing about abortion and atheism.