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December 2, 2009

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Notes from the Editor

A big thank you to Newsletter readers for taking time to respond to our online survey. Nearly 500 responses have been collected, and we'll be telling you about the findings in the weeks to come. It's the end of this first survey, but just the start of this Web site's evolution.

As always, I invite you to send in story ideas, suggestions, comments and criticism. Send feedback to newsletter@cu.edu. If you have a news item you'd like to share with the CU community, please send it to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu.

Finally, a reminder that the CU Faculty and Staff Newsletter will not publish Dec. 23 and 30. Submissions for the Jan. 6 issue must be received by Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Benson calls for 'new partnership' with state

President to Joint Budget Committee: 'We cannot afford to starve our universities'

University of Colorado President Bruce Benson today asked state lawmakers and Coloradans to enter into a new partnership with higher education aimed at sustaining the state's public colleges and universities through continued budget difficulties.

Benson was one of several college and university presidents who made presentations to the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee (JBC) on Wednesday, Dec. 2, and answered questions from lawmakers on the committee, which sets the state budget.

"I would propose a new partnership with the state and with the people of Colorado, one that ensures accountability, guarantees access, promotes excellence and allows higher education to continue to do its part to make our state great," he said. "We cannot afford to starve our colleges and universities. They are key drivers of Colorado's economic, social and cultural health and have been since 1876."

Benson cited four primary facets of the new partnership: allowing universities to "appropriately price tuition," rather than have caps set by the state; investing in professional health programs, particularly the School of Medicine; adjusting the restrictions on how many days PERA retirees can work from 110 days to 150 days; and promoting flexibility legislation to allow colleges and universities to operate more efficiently.

Flexibility legislation already has been crafted by higher education leaders along with state Sen. John Morse (D-Colorado Springs), who will carry the bill with Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver), a JBC member. Benson cited two parts of the legislation that are particularly important to CU: removing international students from nonresident enrollment caps and allowing higher education to establish its own fiscal rules, apart from what many see as unnecessary red tape.

Benson said flexibility legislation is a step in the right direction, but by no means a cure-all. "It won't solve our problems, but it will allow us to operate more efficiently," he said.

JBC members were cautiously supportive of the proposal. Chairman Pommer asked if tuition flexibility would allow the university to provide more financial aid. Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Kelly Fox, who was on hand to help answer questions, said it would particularly help middle-income families, who often do not qualify for financial aid, by making them eligible for more funding. Benson said CU has increased its internally generated financial aid from \$38 million in 2002 to just over \$100 million today.

Benson also recognized that higher education is unlikely to achieve tuition flexibility this legislative session. Gov. Bill Ritter already has stated that tuition increases will be capped at 9 percent for the next academic year.

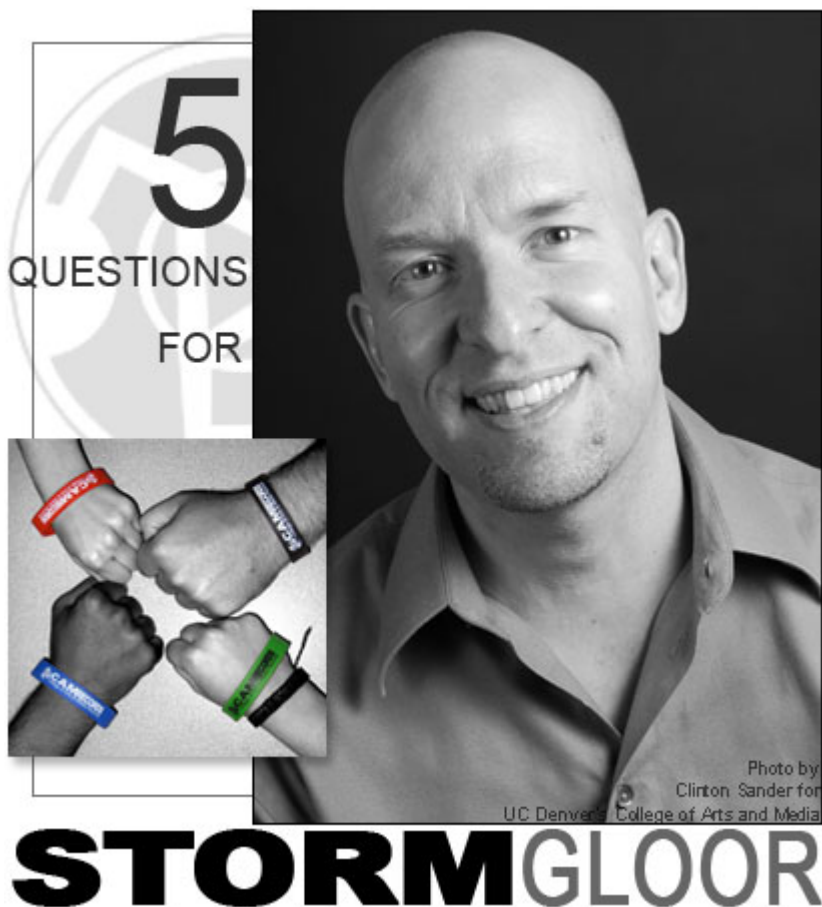
Rep. Al White (R-Hayden) asked if CU is considering additional revenue streams, such as refinancing the Fitzsimons certificates of participation bonds or exploring the possibility of creating an authority similar to the University of Colorado Hospital authority.

Benson said CU has had initial discussions along those lines, both internally and with other colleges and universities, but has not developed concrete proposals.

Five Questions for Storm Gloor

Assistant professor in the department of music and entertainment industry studies, University of Colorado Denver

Storm Gloor is in his fourth year at the College of Arts and Media, where his CAM Records course gives students real-world experience in the music business. The label recently began marketing an unconventional music product: USB wristbands pre-loaded with music and other media. The \$10 item is available for purchase from current CAM Records students, at the Auraria Campus bookstore and online at www.camrecords.org. Before coming to UC Denver, Gloor spent 13 years in music retail and wholesale, most as director of music operations for the Texas-based Hastings Entertainment.



As faculty sponsor of CAM Records, what does your role entail?

It's a course, and I teach the class. It's also a fully functioning record label, though we only meet twice a week. I'm more than a teacher or instructor — I'm also a manager, so it's like a business would be. CAM Records is a hands-on application of what the students learn in their other classes: getting contracts, working on the business and legal aspects of the business, utilizing what they learned in marketing class. What the label does generally depends on what the students in the class come up with. For instance, in the last class, we found six potential artists for future releases. We narrowed the list down to two this semester, and we hope to put out recordings by those two at the beginning of the next semester. One group of students proposed that we put out a full-length album by an artist, one group suggested we just promote the artist on campus and another group proposed we help the artist make a music video. Students are getting hands-on experience, actually working with artists, finding out what an artist does or doesn't like — learning more personally what that involves.

How did the idea for the USB wristbands come about?

We're always looking at different forms of distribution. Once, we produced a drop card, a plastic card with a code on it that enables a user to go to a Web site and download three free tracks. I challenged the students to think differently, not just putting out a CD with a bunch of tracks on it. One student, Jared Berger, started the ball rolling: What if we did a USB wristband? There were "a-ha" moments all along the way, which is what you strive for as a professor. It's still evolving, because we keep figuring out different things we can do with those

wristbands. You can put Word documents and PDFs on there, so recently we thought, what if we put on there a guide to the music scene in Denver for incoming freshmen? What if we included informational pieces, like podcasts or videos about things to do in Denver?

You're from the era of vinyl, 8-track tapes, cassettes — what is it like for faculty working with students who are immersed in new technology?

I still have all of my 8-tracks and vinyl. However, I'm also a huge digital music fan. Professors always are at risk of finding themselves just behind the students in terms of technology, but I guess I would say I'm pretty hip to it. I'm a huge music fan, which is what inspired me to do what I do. I don't find the distance in technology appreciation to be that wide for me. On the other hand, I certainly enjoy working with students and learning from them. Their musical interests are different and they are much more prone to thinking outside of the box. Especially with the CAM Records class, we get in discussions about what we can do better, and they are definitely full of great ideas that aren't limited to the technology I've been used to. That is a pleasure I get from teaching.

Pop music history is filled with stories of artists who weren't smart about business — and who suffered financially because of that. Are there performers who were knowledgeable about business and therefore remained successful?

Oh, yeah, and a lot of them are superstars, like Prince and Madonna. They showed entrepreneurial prowess and the ability to market themselves very, very well. As of late, there are a lot of independent artists — Amanda Palmer, Imogen Heap — and established bands like Phish and the Dave Matthews Band who have been smart about business. Rather than fight the technology, they embrace it. They make recordings of shows available for download, they connect with fans on social networks. They're not fighting progress the way some artists do.

How challenging is it to teach about an industry that is in crisis?

It's challenging from two perspectives. One, things change so quickly, it's tough even keeping up with everything to keep students well-informed. I might tell them about a company at the beginning of the semester that seems to have a great model, and it could be bankrupt by the end of the semester. The second challenge is, how do you maintain the students' enthusiasm when they're concerned about whether they'll even land a job in this industry? I continually remind them that music consumption is the highest it's ever been. Most people aren't paying for it, granted, but there's a business out there. It's just evolving right now. It's like the outfielder who doesn't run to the ball, but runs where the ball is going to be. I keep encouraging students to run where the ball is going to be. I still think that there's a future. We just have to figure out how to monetize it for all the parties concerned.

Over 100 years of the music business, it's been through four evolutions. And every time it's come out as an even stronger, more viable business. We've got to believe that will continue to happen. The glass really is half-full, even if you don't see that right now.

Faculty Council subcommittee has input on early retirement incentive

Group will suggest expansion of proposal under consideration

Faculty suggestions for an early retirement incentive plan being considered by administration and pending changes to administrative policy statements are on the agenda for Thursday's meeting of the Faculty Council.

The council's budget committee will present a resolution it passed Monday, a response to a proposed early retirement incentive for tenured faculty. E. Jill Pollock, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, presented her review of the university's early retirement programs at last month's Faculty Council meeting.

Under consideration is a new addition to a faculty member's phased retirement program: an early retirement incentive, tied to immediate retirement on a date agreed upon by the faculty member and university administration. The incentive might be paid in a lump sum or over a period of time.

The budget committee's resolution recommends increasing the proposed offer of two years' base salary to three years' base salary. It also suggests that a revenue source — such as tax anticipation notes or bonds — be developed specifically to fund the early retirement incentive program.

Also at Thursday's meeting, set for noon to 3 p.m. at 1800 Grant St., Denver, the council's personnel committee and educational policy and university standards committee will suggest minor revisions to administrative policy statements on conflict of interest and commitment, intercampus transfer of students, and performance ratings for faculty.

Behind-the-scenes star earns president's Employee of the Year award

Yuki Busch of University Information Systems takes prize at reception

Yuki Busch, an information technology professional working as an Oracle database administrator in University Information Systems, recently was honored with the president's system administration Employee of the Year award.

The award and \$1,000 prize were given in recognition and appreciation of exceptional job performance.

"Yuki is responsible for approximately 50 databases," wrote her supervisor, Carl Sorenson, in a nominating letter.

"This is a lot of work, and yet Yuki also is our primary PeopleSoft Application technology expert, managing upgrades and troubleshooting problems at this equally complicated layer of the technology."

Jason Armbruster, director of operations and infrastructure for University Information Systems, wrote of Busch's "quiet leadership" and her ability to deal "with tight deadlines and high levels of pressure with grace."

Scott Munson, director of application development with University Information Systems, wrote that he'd "never worked with such a skilled, yet humble, person who works behind the scenes."

Busch was honored at a reception at 1800 Grant St., Denver, where several system employees also were recognized for their years of service to CU:

35 Years:

- Marcella Cruz-Lucero, Office of the President

25 Years:

- Martha DeRose, Office of University Counsel
- Marguerite Faber, University Information Systems
- Marc Leshner, University Information Systems

20 Years:

- Trudy Boudreau, Technology Transfer
- Maria Buerman, Office Procurement Service Center
- Vicki Nichol, Office of University Controller
- Jenny Rattana, Payroll and Benefits Services
- Ashok Sharma, Procurement Service Center

15 Years:

- Stephen Fincher, Procurement Service Center
- Alexis Kelly, Office of the Treasurer
- Theresa Pew, Office of Budget and Finance



Busch

- Dean Rossi, University Information Systems
- Linda Wax, University Information Systems

10 Years:

- Susan Anderson, University Information Systems
- Howard Brazee, University Information Systems
- Yuki Busch, University Information Systems
- Debbie Chapman, Department of Internal Audit
- Anthony Deangelis, University Information Systems
- Carolyn Donadio, Payroll and Benefits Services
- Betty Heimansohn, Procurement Service Center
- Sharon Hetteima, Payroll and Benefits Services
- Anne Kelley, University Information Systems
- Tanya Kelly-Bowry, Office of Government Relations
- James Kucera, University Information Systems
- John Lear, University Information Systems
- Thuylan Nguyen, Procurement Service Center
- Karen O'Dell, Department of Internal Audit
- Normandy Roden, Office of University Controller
- Mark Stanker, Payroll and Benefits Services

5 Years:

- Cordelia Angel, Procurement Service Center
- Christine Bauder, University Information Systems
- Aaron Betterton, University Information Systems
- Roger Cusworth, Office of University Controller
- Alicia Dandeneau, Payroll and Benefits Services
- Kelly Fox, Office of Budget and Finance
- Karyn Hardy, Office of University Counsel
- Jacqueline Harris, Procurement Service Center
- Heather Hoyer, Office of University Controller
- Jeannette Lund, Office of Budget and Finance
- Mary Martin, Procurement Service Center
- Kevin McClanahan, University Information Systems
- Teresa Osborne, Office of Budget and Finance
- Carolyn Proctor, University Information Systems
- Jennifer Watson, Office of University Counsel
- Kenneth Witt, Procurement Service Center
- Kendra Zafiratos, Payroll and Benefits Services

News briefs

Donors, alumni receive video "thank you"

Short videos were e-mailed to about 150,000 alumni and parents last month to say "thank you" for supporting the University of Colorado and to show the positive impact that donations have on students and faculty. The CU Foundation produced and e-mailed the videos — featuring the theme "Why Are Students Thankful?" — the week of Nov. 16. To view the videos, tailored for individual campuses, follow these links: [Boulder](#), [Denver](#), [Colorado Springs](#).

CU Book Store sets open house, sale

Decorate sugar cookies, take pictures with Santa, and receive 20 percent off most purchases at the CU Book Store open house from noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 3. Live entertainment and refreshments also will be available at the 12th annual event. Donate a personal hygiene item and receive \$75 off a new Mac purchase. For more information, visit: <http://www.cubookstore.com>

Hazel Barnes Prize nominations to be accepted in January

Nominations for the Hazel Barnes Prize, the largest and most prestigious faculty award funded by the University of Colorado at Boulder, will be accepted beginning January 2010. Past recipients of the \$20,000 honor are regionally and nationally recognized, tenured faculty members who not only are outstanding educators but also have distinguished records in research and scholarship.

Additional information about the Hazel Barnes Prize and the nomination process is at <http://www.colorado.edu/chancellor/awards/> or contact Scott Bocim at 303-492-0318, scott.bocim@colorado.edu.

Nominate Boulder faculty for excellence awards

Up to 12 awards of \$3,000 each will be given to Boulder faculty members in the spring of 2010 to honor excellence. The awards, announced by the Boulder Faculty Assembly, will be presented in the categories of teaching; service; and research, scholarly and creative work. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 5. Award details and nomination instructions are at <http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/awards/> or contact Maureen Ryan at maureen.ryan@colorado.edu or 303-492-6271.

People

Boulder professor earns lifetime bioscience honors

Leslie Leinwand recently was honored with the Lifetime Achievement award by the Colorado BioScience Association for her contributions to Colorado's bioscience industry.

Leinwand, a professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, is the interim director of the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome and director of the Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology (CIMB).

Leinwand led the initiative to begin CIMB and foster cutting-edge research, teaching and technology development in life sciences, physical sciences, math, computational sciences and engineering. She also co-founded Myogen Inc., a successful university venture that was acquired by Gilead, a biopharmaceutical company. Following the acquisition, she began Hiberna Corp., a drug discovery company that is studying the Burmese python in order to develop treatments to combat cardiac hypertrophy, or an increased thickness of the heart muscle.

Leeds School economist takes post at national organization

Economist **Richard Wobbekind** recently was named vice president of the National Association for Business Economics.

Wobbekind is director of the business research division at the Leeds School of Business and associate dean for MBA and enterprise programs at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

During his tenure with the association, he plans to develop its educational program and expand membership. Past officers of the association include Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the board of governors for the Federal Reserve System.

Cancer Center members among 2009 Best Doctors

Some 58 University of Colorado Cancer Center clinical members are listed in the 2009 Best Doctors in America. The list results from an annual peer-to-peer survey. The doctors who are members of UCCC are listed [here](#).

[Best Doctors](#) was founded in 1989 by two Harvard Medical School physicians. The annual Best Doctors database relies on peers to identify respected doctors in their fields. Only 5 percent of doctors nationwide make the list.

Associate dean recognized by public health group

Jack Barnette, an associate dean for academic and student affairs at the Colorado School of Public Health, recently was recognized by the American Public Health Association Statistics Section for his "many years of service in public health graduate programs, his outstanding teaching in biostatistics and his important contributions" while serving on the association's action board and council from 2002 to 2004.

Barnette is a professor of biostatistics and informatics at the University of Colorado Denver. He also is a member of the National Board of Public Health Examiners and has consulted with public health programs seeking accreditation.

Want to suggest a colleague — or yourself — for People? Please e-mail information to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu

Did you know...

The IRS requires employers to remind their employees annually to review and make any necessary changes to their W-4 (employee's withholding allowance certificate). This review should help you determine if your filing status and/or number of withholding allowances will need to change for the new tax year.

- Review your W-4 tax status in the tax data box on your pay advice or payroll warrant, upper right-hand corner. You can access your pay advice using your campus portal.
- The following IRS resources will help you to determine whether you need to update your W-4 tax information.
 - [IRS Withholding Calculator](#)
 - [Publication 919 - How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding](#)
 - [Also see Publication 213 for reasons to review your W-4](#)

Note to international employees: Do not submit a W-4 for 2010. International nonresident employees may only make W-4 changes under the supervision of their campus international tax specialist. Contact an international tax specialist at 303-735-6530 if you believe your status has changed.

The university's Payroll & Benefit Services also has compiled other important annual tax-related reminders for employees, which are available at <https://www.cu.edu/pbs/taxreminders.html>.

News from the CU system - CU-Boulder

Particle accelerator relaunched after 14-month hiatus

A group of University of Colorado at Boulder physics department faculty and students involved in the Large Hadron Collider project are celebrating the recent restart of the world's brawniest particle accelerator near Geneva.

A faulty electrical connection between two of the accelerator's magnets only nine days after the original launch Sept. 10, 2008, halted the project for 14 months of investigation and repair. Physicists have now resumed low-intensity particle circulation and hope to transition into full operational capacity in 2010 if the relaunch continues to go smoothly.

The Large Hadron Collider project sends protons and charged atoms whizzing around a 17-mile underground loop on the border of France and Switzerland at 11,000 times per second — nearly the speed of light. Located at the European Organization for Nuclear Research facility known as CERN, the collider will smash particles together at energy levels seven times higher than the previous record by accelerators.

Scientists will use the accelerator to attempt to re-create conditions immediately following the Big Bang, searching for answers about mysterious dark matter, dark energy, gravity and the fundamental laws of physics. The experiments may even shed light on the possibility that other dimensions exist, according to physicists.

CU-Boulder physics department faculty involved in the project include John Cumalat, Bill Ford, Uriel Nauenberg, Jim Smith, Kevin Stenson and Steve Wagner, as well as several postdoctoral researchers, graduate students and technical staff.

The CU-Boulder researchers have been working on the Compact Muon Solenoid, one of two massive particle detectors in the collider. The amount of steel used in the magnetic yoke of the solenoid is equivalent to the

amount of steel used to build the Eiffel Tower, Cumalat said.

The CU-Boulder team has been working with the CMS "forward pixel detectors," which Cumalat called "the eyes of the device." The forward pixel detectors will help researchers measure the direction and momentum of subatomic particles following collisions as they penetrate roughly 25 million different silicon elements, providing clues to their origin and physical structure, he said.

For more information, visit [CERN's Web site](#) and the CU-Boulder [High Energy Physics group Web site](#).

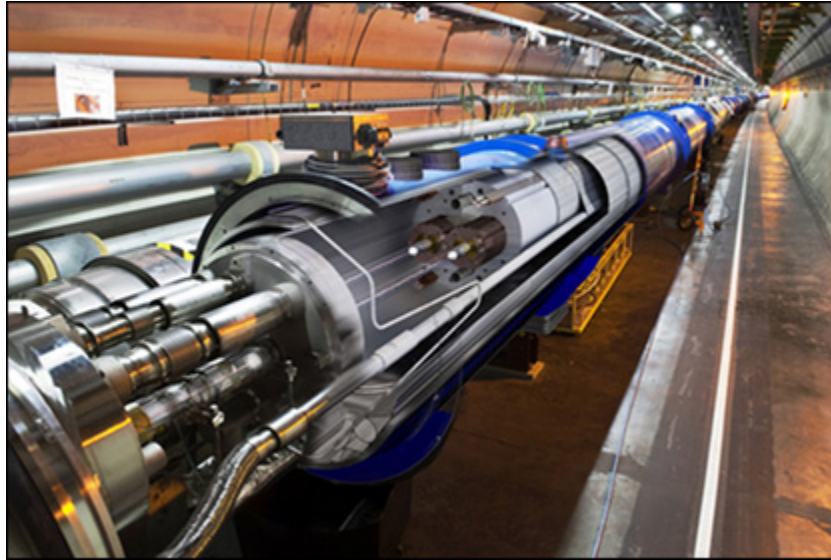


Photo courtesy of CERN

The Large Hadron Collider project involves nearly a dozen CU-Boulder faculty, postdoctoral researchers, graduate students and technical staff.

UCCS

Event Center weeks from completion

In what looked to be a giant game of Jenga, contractors recently assembled 13,000 square feet of hardwood floors as the [University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Event Center](#) moved closer to its official opening at 4 p.m. Jan. 22.

But it was no child's game. The pine planks are the foundation for everything from Mountain Lion athletics to convocation or an oversized wedding reception.

"The floor actually floats, just a bit," said Jim Martin, construction manager with GH Phipps Construction. "The vapor barrier that's between the wood and the concrete could actually line a pond it's



so tough."

The "give" is intentional, providing space for soil expansion as well as providing a shock absorber for the joints of Mountain Lion basketball and volleyball players. But the new Event Center isn't just about improving the campus athletic venue — although UCCS likely will shake its title of smallest gym in the NCAA as game seating jumps from 420 to 1,224.

A back room will store hundreds of pieces of carpet tile. In about 20 hours, the hardwoods can give way to semi-plush carpet, enabling a banquet hall for 700 guests.

"This building truly is designed to maximize our event opportunities," said Susan Szpyrka, associate vice chancellor, administration and finance. "Everything is flexible here — the goals, the lighting, the seating. It's all designed to serve the university's many and varied needs."

Szpyrka promises an exciting grand opening ceremony that will launch both a new venue for Mountain Lion sports and a reinvigorated conference business, part of a plan to boost UCCS revenues.

UC Denver

Science building offers latest in architecture, sustainability

With four floors of classrooms, labs and offices and a vivarium in the basement, the new [Auraria Campus science building](#) already is in commission. A grand opening is tentatively set for Jan. 15.

Set to be used by all three higher education institutions on the campus, the building on Speer Boulevard offers the latest in architecture and sustainability, and is on track for LEED gold certification, a benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. Some first-floor labs and classrooms already are being used by Community College of Denver students. Construction began in December 2007, and also will include renovation of the existing Science Building.

University of Colorado Denver faculty, staff and students will occupy the entire fourth floor and basement vivarium as well as some of the chemistry classrooms on the third floor.

Natural light pours into all four floors thanks to floor-to-ceiling windows in labs and classrooms, distinctive for asymmetrical floor plans. Windows also connect science faculty offices to adjoining laboratories and classrooms.

Faculty members from all three institutions on the Auraria campus provided input during the design of the building. Their choices influenced furniture options, heights of tables and counters, and digital control presentation panels.

Renovation of the existing Science Building begins on Dec. 21 and will be completed in November 2010.



On a tour of the science building, Joyce Carnes, senior project manager for Jacobs Facilities, describes the capabilities of the new teachers' podiums in a third floor corner lab facing Speer Boulevard.



Participants on a recent tour of the science building visit a classroom with floor-to-ceiling window views of the Auraria Campus.

Anschutz Medical Campus

New UC Denver program puts high school grads on pathway to med school

High school students eager to begin their careers in medicine now have the opportunity to "reserve" a seat in a top-ranked medical school immediately after high school, thanks to the University of Colorado Denver's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and UC Denver's School of Medicine combined bachelor of arts/bachelor

of science-doctor of medicine [B.A./B.S.-M.D. program](#). A first of its kind in the state, the program's purpose is to reach out to high school academic achievers from diverse backgrounds who are committed to serving Colorado's health care needs.

The focus of the program's guidelines and eligibility requirements is on selecting eight to 10 diverse graduating high school seniors who not only are committed to practicing medicine, but practicing medicine in Colorado. The students must have proven their academic excellence in the classroom as well as demonstrated exemplary characteristics in their communities.

"Acceptance into the program and successful completion of all requirements gives students a reserved seat in a top-ranked medical school and the freedom to explore other interests during their college years at UC Denver," said Daniel J. Howard, Ph.D., dean of the UC Denver College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The B.A./B.S.-M.D. program takes eight years to accomplish. Selected students enroll in a bachelor's degree of choice and also complete the sequence of required premedical course work. They will participate in medical seminars, both clinical and research related, during the summer months. The program provides focused navigation with yearly reviews to keep students on track for medical school. Upon successful completion of the bachelor's degree and all program requirements, the students enter the School of Medicine.

"Allowing Colorado students to chart a direct course to medical school when they enter UC Denver as undergraduates will ensure that our students have a chance to attend a top-notch school in their own backyards and the state of Colorado can receive the high quality, diverse medical work force it so desperately needs," said UC Denver's Chancellor M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.

The deadline for fall admission is Dec. 15. For admissions information, [click here](#).

CU Foundation

Payroll deductions enable easy giving close to home

Some faculty and staff throughout the University of Colorado system are sending money to the CU programs, initiatives and research they're close to — by making gifts via automated payroll deduction.

"Our appeals to alumni and other prospective donors have more resonance when it's clear we're willing to invest in the program ourselves," said Roger Enoka, a CU-Boulder professor who has promoted such an initiative among faculty in the integrative physiology department, which he chairs.

Enoka, along with nearly a dozen department colleagues and more than 200 staff university-wide, take advantage of the logistic and budgeting convenience of automatic payroll deductions — through which employees can make monthly gifts to a CU college, department or university allocation of their choosing.

The mechanism for setting up automated deductions via the University of Colorado Foundation has been simplified. A secure payroll deduction form is available online [at this link](#), while a paper version of the form is available for download [here](#) (at the bottom of the list under each campus heading). Completed forms may be mailed to Jeni Webster at the CU Foundation at 4740 Walnut St., Boulder CO 80301.

UC Denver staff member and former CU Regent Maureen Ediger's payroll deduction helps two causes: a scholarship fund at the School of Public Affairs, where she is director of external affairs, and toward a scholarship for a student graduating from the western Colorado high school from which she graduated.

"I received so many generous scholarships when I came from the fabulous community of Ouray to start school

at CU, and I feel strongly about giving back to both communities in this way," she said.

In all, payroll gifts provided \$104,000 to the university in fiscal year 2009; the amount is projected to grow by more than 30 percent for the next fiscal year. Such gifts often help departments fill gaps when budgets fall short.

"I told my faculty that the size of the donation wasn't as important as the message that comes across when faculty believe enough in what we do to contribute toward the cause," said CU-Boulder professor Gail Ramsberger, chair of the department of speech, language and hearing sciences. "We've actually raised enough from faculty contributions that we're going to be able to make a substantial purchase for the department."

For more information or questions regarding payroll deductions, contact the CU Foundation at 303-541-1305 or payroll.deductions@cufund.org.

Tech Transfer

Aurora company licenses CU technology for 3-D heart modeling

[ValveXchange Inc.](#), an Aurora company, recently reached a license agreement with the University of Colorado for a process to transform cardiac imaging data into high-quality, three-dimensional models used for heart valve product development, clinician training and pre-procedure planning.

The CU technology converts data from routine medical imaging of soft tissues (ultrasounds and CT and MRI scans) into 3-D models, which are then transformed into physical models using 3-D printers.

ValveXchange will use the technology in conjunction with its implantable heart valve program.

ValveXchange is developing a novel artificial heart valve that has all the advantages of today's tissue-based heart valves, but can be implanted and replaced through a small incision between the ribs. This approach is expected to replace traditional open-heart surgery for many heart valve procedures.

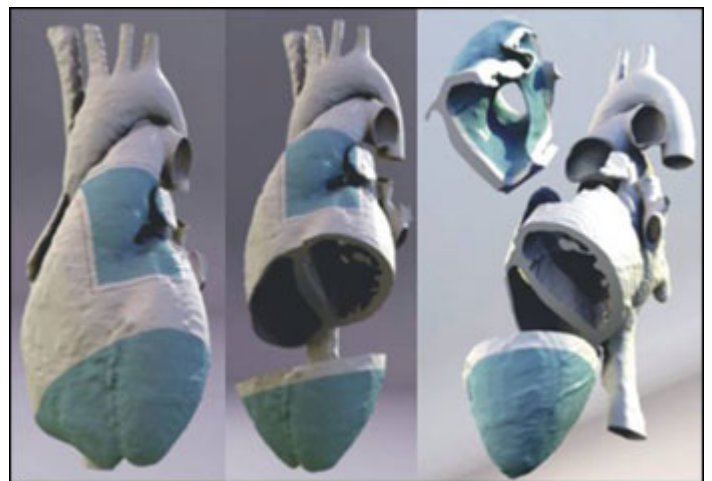


Photo courtesy of ValveXchange

Patient-specific heart models such as this one will improve development of ValveXchange's artificial heart valve.

The licensed 3-D heart modeling technology offers the opportunity to develop the valve technology using patient-specific heart anatomy examples, and later to train physicians in implant techniques in a realistic manner. Improved valve designs coupled with more advanced clinician training and patient-specific procedure planning are expected to significantly improve both treatment and quality of life of patients requiring these implants.

"We expect this advance in 3-D heart modeling to provide ValveXchange with a real advantage in the market space," said ValveXchange CEO Larry Blankenship. "By being able to work with a model of the specific patient's heart before the heart valve replacement procedure, physicians are expected to be able to decrease procedure time and increase success rates. This will be one more reason for them to select the advanced heart valve technology being developed by ValveXchange."

Paul Tabor of the CU Technology Transfer Office said the models provide a powerful tool for procedure planning and physician and patient education.

"We are hopeful the marriage of these technologies results in a leap forward in the design, testing and performance of implantable heart valves," Tabor said.

The licensed technology is based on the work of Adam Hansgen, John D. Carroll, Shih-Yung (James) Chen and Michael Kim, all in the University of Colorado School of Medicine's department of cardiology.

ValveXchange recently was notified of a grant award of \$250,000 to develop this technology under Colorado's Early Stage Bioscience Company Grant Program, one of several funding initiatives created by the state in 2008 to accelerate the commercialization of bioscience technologies developed at the state's research institutions. This state funding is matched by research funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

"Matching funds from the state are critical to filling in the funding gaps that invariably arise when rapidly moving technology companies rely on a centralized funding system designed to support basic research with typically a five-year time horizon," noted Dr. Ivan Vesely, a Ph.D. biophysicist, NIH-funded scientist and founder of ValveXchange.

The CU Technology Transfer Office (TTO) pursues, protects, packages, and licenses to business the intellectual property generated from research at CU. The TTO provides assistance to faculty, staff and students, as well as to businesses looking to license or invest in CU technology. For more information about technology transfer at CU, [click here](#).

University of Colorado Faculty and Staff Newsletter

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