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Letter from the Editor

Newsletter publishes biweekly for part of summer

The *Faculty and Staff Newsletter* will continue to bring you news and information throughout the summer. For the most part, we remain on a weekly schedule, though we won't publish new issues on the following dates (subject to change):

June 9 and 23, July 7 and 21, and Aug. 4

Though there are fewer students on our campuses this time of year, there's no shortage of activity. We welcome your letters to the editor on topics of interest to current and retired CU faculty and staff. Please send submissions to newsletter@cu.edu.

If you have a news item you'd like to share, please send it to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu.

— Jay Dedrick

Regents reaffirm nondiscrimination policy

Resolution stops short of changing university law

By Jay Dedrick

Responding to University of Colorado community members who say they've experienced or witnessed discrimination based on gender identity and gender expression, the Board of Regents on Thursday, June 24, passed a resolution restating its commitment to prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

About 45 people attended the meeting to show support. Many had been urging the regents to add language to their laws that would specify gender identity and gender expression as traits subject to group protection.

"This resolution is not everything you've asked for," said Regent Michael Carrigan, D-Denver. "(But) this is an important affirmation of our commitment to your community and the entire community."

Carrigan said the regents won't pursue an amendment to their laws after heeding the advice of the CU legal team.

"The closer our laws track to the state of Colorado's laws, the better off we are," Carrigan said.

The resolution stresses that gender identity and gender expression are considered covered by "sexual orientation" as written in Article 10 of the regent laws. Last month, President Bruce D. Benson sent a memo stressing the same point to chancellors and human resources representatives.

The regents voted 8-1 to pass the resolution; Regent Tom Lucero, R-Berthoud, dissented.

The board met on the CU-Boulder East Campus Thursday and Friday. In other action, the regents:

- Voted to fight the court decision that allows concealed weapons on CU campuses. See story [here](#).
- Heard annual diversity reports from campus representatives. See story [here](#).
- Passed an operating budget of \$2.76 billion for the CU system, a 3.3 percent increase over last year. See story [here](#).
- Approved minor changes to language in the regents' Guiding Principles, but postponed a vote on a passage about intellectual and philosophical diversity among faculty. Regent Jim Geddes, R-Sedalia, who has advocated the new language, said he first wants to meet with more faculty members – most likely at an upcoming Faculty Council meeting – before a vote by the board.
- Approved a new formula for composing future presidential search committees. The 14-member group would consist of four faculty members (one from each campus), four community members, two alumni, a dean, a regent, a staff member and a student. An amendment proposed at the meeting to add a second student and staff member failed.
- Recognized Jean Stewart with a resolution of appreciation. The director of internal audit is retiring after a 13-year career at CU.
- Heard proposals for new degree programs at CU-Boulder (master of science in information and communication technology for development) and UCCS (bachelor of arts and bachelor of science in biochemistry). The board is expected to vote on the proposals at the July meeting.
- Elected new officers for the coming year. Regent Kyle Hybl, R-Colorado Springs, is the new chair, taking over for Regent Steve Bosley, R-Broomfield. Regent Stephen Ludwig, D-Lone Tree, is the new vice chair, following Regent Tilman "Tillie" Bishop, R-Grand Junction.

Diversity officers: Outreach, pipeline programs crucial for student recruitment

Student, faculty and staff diversity improves, but numbers could be better

By Deborah Méndez-Wilson

To recruit more of Colorado's gifted students of color and first-generation scholars, the University of Colorado must step up efforts to convince them that they belong at a four-year college, the university's three diversity officers told the CU Board of Regents on Friday, June 25.

Zen Camacho, vice provost and associate vice chancellor of diversity and inclusion at the University of Colorado Denver; Kee Warner, associate vice chancellor for diversity at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs; and Alphonse Keasley, interim vice chancellor for diversity at the University of Colorado at Boulder, delivered [annual diversity reports](#) for the 2009-10 academic year during the regents' regular meeting.

In their presentations to the regents, campus diversity officers and chancellors shared a common theme of expanding outreach to underserved communities around the state, and strengthening academic pipeline programs in partnership with Colorado school districts, community colleges, scholarship foundations and families.

In meeting with students and families in southern Colorado and other parts of the state outside the Front Range, CU administrators have found that many first-generation and ethnic minority students who are qualified to attend a four-year college instead enroll at two-year colleges or decide not to pursue higher education opportunities at all.

"There is a large talent drain," said UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. "That's what concerns me. They were qualified to go."

According to CU's Office of Academic Affairs, the university's annual diversity report monitors CU's progress in increasing racial and ethnic diversity on all four campuses. It has traditionally included data on student enrollment, degrees awarded and graduation and retention rates. The report also presents racial, ethnic and gender information on faculty and staff diversity at each campus and at system administration.

Recently, the university expanded the report to recognize a more inclusive definition of diversity by presenting data on enrollment of first-generation students (those who are first in their families to attend college), students from low-income families, students with disabilities and students who represent Colorado's broad array of geographic regions, each with a unique history and culture.

According to the 2009-10 report, all four CU campuses have experienced steady enrollment increases in recent years. Enrollment of students of color has kept pace with overall growth, and in some cases has even increased at a slightly faster rate.

"This has led to greater racial and ethnic diversity on the campuses, but the change has been more modest than many people would hope," the report said. "The challenge of the university is not only to identify the most effective strategies for improving the recruitment and retention of students from all backgrounds, but to effectively implement those strategies at a time when resources are so tightly restrained."

UC Denver remains among the most ethnically diverse campuses in Colorado, and Camacho said the campus is proud of progress it has made with outreach programs, including a partnership with Aurora Public Schools that is being funded by a \$4 million National Science Foundation grant. The grant enables UC Denver and the

school district to work with students starting in the sixth-grade in hopes of ushering them through college and into health professions; 500 students are participating in the program this year.

For many students of color and first-generation scholars, deciding whether to attend a two-year or four-year college often comes down to the availability of scholarships and other financial aid, especially within health-care professions. In the past, CU has seen gifted students of color choose Stanford or another university that offered more financial aid, diversity officers told the regents.

In response, Boulder Regent Joe Neguse said, "I assume you would all agree that increased funding for student aid and these programs may keep some of these talented minority students at CU rather than going to Stanford or some of these other institutions."

Warner said the Colorado Springs campus is a "good launching point for the University of Colorado," especially in southeastern Colorado, but that the university system needs to grow its pool of qualified students of color from around the state.

CU-Boulder, meanwhile, has multiple high-quality, pre-collegiate programs in place under the umbrella CU-Lead Alliance and Scholarship Program, but administrators still are finding it difficult to recruit gifted students of color and first-generation students, who often have preconceived notions about studying in Boulder. "Two students informed me they almost didn't come to the University of Colorado at Boulder. Both are now going to graduate school," Kasley said.

Regent Michael Carrigan told Kasley and the other diversity officers that he and the other regents would "love to be part of closing the deal" when it comes to convincing talented and gifted students of color and first-generation students to attend CU.

"I would love to get a spreadsheet, sit down on the phone, and tell them that, as one of the university's regents, we'd love to have you at our university," Carrigan said.

The annual diversity report also indicated that the percentage of tenured and tenure-track faculty positions held by people of color and by women is highest at the assistant professor level on all campuses, which suggests that a more diverse group of people is entering academia.

"This bodes well for the future, but means that retention is critical," the report said. "It is a long path from assistant professor to full professor, so it will take time to see what pattern emerges."

At UC Denver, 9 percent of faculty members who are ethnic minorities are full professors, 11 percent are associate professors and 16 percent are assistant professors. At UCCS, 9 percent of faculty members who are ethnic minorities are full professors, 12 percent are associate professors, and 13 percent are assistant professors. At CU-Boulder, 12 percent of faculty members who are ethnic minorities are full professors, 20 percent are associate professors, and 26 percent are assistant professors.

The report also reveals greater diversity among staff on the campuses and system administration, but "there is room for improvement among the higher levels of employment." According to diversity officers, a majority of staff members from ethnic minority groups work in the service and maintenance areas.

At UC Denver, 43 percent of staff members who work in the service or maintenance areas are people of color; at UCCS, 36 percent; at CU-Boulder, 67 percent.

Regents OK annual budget, hear warnings of looming financial challenges

Poor state funding, loss of federal stimulus money pose concern

The University of Colorado Board of Regents on Friday, June 25, approved the institution's \$2.76 billion budget for fiscal year 2010-11 amid warnings that the university will continue to face financial difficulties driven by poor state funding and evaporating stimulus money.

Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Kelly Fox told the board that CU could face a shortfall of \$62.8 million in fiscal year 2011-12, largely the result of federal stimulus money going away. In the fiscal year that starts Thursday, July 1, CU is slated to receive some \$35 million in stimulus funds, which must be spent by Sept. 30. That money will fund instructional salaries over the first quarter of the fiscal year.

The ongoing shortfall will be addressed through a combination of strategic cuts, revenue enhancements (largely from tuition) and operational efficiencies. The approach has been used to balance some \$51 million to date: \$21.8 million in personnel reductions (338 FTE), \$20.7 million in operational efficiencies and \$8.6 million in revenue generation.

Additional pressures on the budget will continue to squeeze the university and its employees, Fox said. Employees are on their second year without salary increases, health-care costs have risen, and employees in PERA have to take a 2.5 percent salary decrease as a result of a state mandate to assist the ailing fund. The result, Fox said, is that take-home pay is less than it was two years ago.

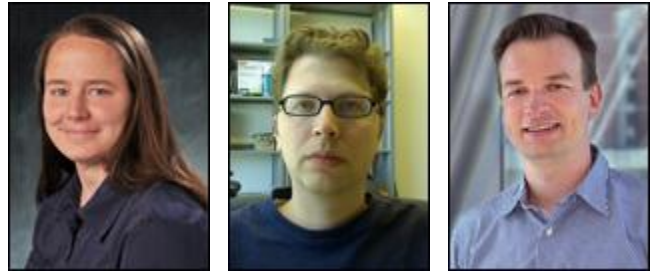
Additionally, record enrollments on each campus increase the demand for class sections, instructors and support staff. CU also faces a considerable backlog of deferred maintenance on buildings.

Tuition and fees, at 28 percent, make up the largest portion of CU's revenues. Of that, nonresident tuition accounts for 30.5 percent of revenue while resident tuition accounts for 33.1 percent. The breakdown underscores CU's reliance on revenue from nonresident students, who comprise about one-third of CU's enrollment. Fox said state funding per resident FTE has plummeted to \$2,839, down from \$8,633 a decade ago.

First class of Boettcher Investigators taking on cancer, Parkinson's, more

Promising research gets \$700,000 boost from new grant program

Three University of Colorado researchers are among an elite corps of Colorado scientists who have earned the title "Boettcher Investigator" under a new grant program that will support biomedical research, advance the world's understanding of cancer, Parkinson's and other human health challenges, and speed therapies to patients.



Dowell

Felsen

Jedlicka

CU's 2010 Boettcher Investigators are Robin Dowell, Ph.D., an assistant professor at CU's Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology, or CIMB, and Gidon Felsen, Ph.D., and Paul Jedlicka, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professors at the CU School of Medicine. All will share in \$700,000 of grant money that will fund up to three years of their research starting Thursday, July 1.

The Boettcher Foundation introduced its first class of grant recipients today at the governor's mansion during a news conference attended by Gov. Bill Ritter, CU President Bruce D. Benson, Boettcher Foundation President and Executive Director Tim Schultz and others.

"We are proud of our young biomedical researchers and all of the promise their work holds for the future," Benson said. "We look forward to following their progress as they strive to unravel some of humanity's greatest medical dilemmas. Of course, we are grateful for the support of the Boettcher and Webb-Waring foundations. Like CU, they believe that by investing in education and research we can advance Colorado and our citizens."

The Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program (www.cu.edu/boettcher) will support the research of early career biomedical investigators whose work has a direct impact on human health. It is the result of an innovative agreement among the Boettcher Foundation, the Webb-Waring Foundation for Biomedical Research, the University of Colorado Foundation and CU, but scientists from other Colorado research institutions qualify for similar grants. The program's goals are to help Colorado researchers become more competitive, keep high-quality research in the state, and contribute to Colorado's fast-growing biomedical industry.

Some \$600 million of the \$1 billion in grants and contracts awarded each year to Colorado's research institutions supports biomedical research. Thirty-eight bioscience companies based on CU intellectual property were formed between 2002 and 2007. In fiscal year 2008, CU tied for 10th nationally among major universities for its 11 startups, according to the CU Technology Transfer Office.

"Two-thirds of the university's tech transfer activities are related to bioscience inventions," said Enid Ablowitz, program manager of CU's Webb-Waring grant program. "CU is committed to supporting this important and growing sector of the Colorado economy, and the work of these up-and-coming and very gifted researchers."

CU-Boulder's Dowell is an assistant professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, and will use her grant to advance research into why closely related people respond differently to drug treatments. Her work has the potential to assess more accurately the efficacy of specific treatments for individual patients.

"The rapid drop in the cost of genome sequencing promises to usher in an era of personalized medicine, where genome information will be utilized in determining appropriate medical treatment," she wrote in her grant proposal.

Of her grant award, she said, "The Boettcher Award provides the resources necessary to establish my laboratory at the forefront of translational bioinformatics. I am excited about this opportunity."

Felsen, an assistant professor of physiology and biophysics in the CU School of Medicine, will use his grant to explore how deep brain stimulation of patients with Parkinson's disease can relieve gait and balance problems.

"The motor impairments that make Parkinson's disease so debilitating most directly result from abnormal levels of activity in brain regions that control motor output," he wrote in his grant proposal.

He said he was grateful for the grant because it will provide him the opportunity to carry out his project, which "should lead to a better understanding of how brain activity is changed by Parkinson's disease, and perhaps how normal brain function may be restored."

Jedlicka, a pediatric pathologist and cancer biologist at the CU School of Medicine, will use his grant to further research the causes and treatment of Ewing's sarcoma, a cancer that afflicts the bones and soft tissues of children and young adults. When the cancer spreads, a child's chances of surviving the disease is 25 percent, and plummets to 10 percent among children who have a relapse, he said.

"It is a very aggressive cancer with a poor long-term outcome. Even with the best chemotherapy, long-term patient survival is about 50 percent," Jedlicka wrote in his grant application letter.

Of his grant he said, "As a starting independent investigator in tight economic times, getting support from the Boettcher Foundation's Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program is a tremendous boost for our research efforts. The grant will provide critical resources to help move our work forward."

The three were chosen from 65 researchers from all four CU campuses who applied for the grants. Applications were reviewed first at the campus level, then by a [panel of distinguished faculty](#) representing the campuses and multiple disciplines. The panel was chaired by Ronald Sokol, M.D.

Said David Braddock, associate vice president who served as research officer for the new Boettcher Foundation program, "In this first year, we've learned a lot about the strength and quality of CU's early career researchers and about the implementation of this exciting new source for grant support. We look forward to building a cadre of Boettcher Investigators and to the impact of their research."

Ablowitz said the Boettcher Foundation, which hopes to continue the program annually, has pre-allocated at least another \$700,000 for 2011 and 2012 CU grant competitions. CU's Boettcher Investigators will use the grants to advance their biomedical research at CU-Boulder and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

The Office of the President manages the competitive program and peer review process for CU grant applications. Information about the 2011 grant application process will be available in October; for more information, visit the CU Boettcher Grants website at www.cu.edu/boettcher.

Office of Policy and Efficiency's latest policy changes take effect Thursday

In less than two years, number of administrative policies cut in half

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) continues to streamline and simplify the university's administrative policies, with changes to 15 system policies in the functional areas of academic affairs, facilities, fiscal, and human resources that take effect Thursday, July 1.

The proposed actions – seven eliminations, five revisions and three additions – were approved by President Bruce D. Benson and campus chancellors following staff engagement with key stakeholders and constituency groups and general postings on the university policy website.

As approved, the changes reduce the number of system policies from 105 to 101.

Eliminations

1. Proposals for Decentralizing Graduate Programs (*Academic Affairs*)
2. Facilities Space Inventory (*Facilities*)
3. Procedures for Selecting Architects and Engineers for Planning, Design and Construction Projects (*Facilities*)
4. Indirect Cost Recoveries (*Fiscal*)
5. Political Expenses (*Fiscal*)
6. Leave Sharing for Officers, Exempt Professionals and Faculty on 12-month Appointments (*Human Resources*)
7. Leave Sharing for Permanent State Classified Staff (*Human Resources*)

Revisions

1. Implementation of Regent Policy on Program Review [Formerly: Implementation of Regent Policy on Program Review and Newly Approved Program Review] (*Academic Affairs*)
2. Sponsored Research Policies (*Academic Affairs*)
3. Capital Construction Planning and Projects [Formerly: Developing, Requesting and Monitoring Capital Construction Projects] (*Facilities*)
4. Alcoholic Beverages at University Events [Formerly: Alcohol Purchase and Provision] (*Fiscal*)
5. Delegation of Personnel Authority for Employees Exempt from the State Personnel System (*Human Resources*)

New

1. Roles and Responsibilities of Department Chairs (*Academic Affairs*)
2. Leave Sharing for Officers, Exempt Professionals, Faculty on 12-month Appointments and Classified Staff (*Human Resources*)
3. Alternative Work Schedules (*Human Resources*)

The alternative work schedules policy was developed at the request of the Staff Council, which coauthored it.

"Staff Council is pleased to see the administrative policy statement for alternative work arrangements take effect on July 1," said Lori Krug, council co-chair. "This is an issue that was brought forward from the campus staff council for system administration back in 2008. Since that time, Staff Council has worked in coordination with the campus human resources office and the Department of Personnel Administration to research and review the tools and resources available to implement alternative work arrangements at CU. We would like to especially thank E. Jill Pollock, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, for the time and effort she has put into helping us reach this goal."

For more information on these policy changes or to see a list of changes to system procedures and/or forms, visit the University Policy Website at <https://www.cu.edu/policies>.

OPE also has created a new policy distribution list for anyone wishing to keep up on the latest policy news and updates. To be added, please e-mail your request to ope@cu.edu.

Policies and procedures are changed only twice a year, to reduce the impact on campuses; the next round of changes will take effect Jan. 1, 2011. As a result of the streamlining efforts, the number of university policies has been reduced to 101 from 210 since November 2008.

Staff survey indicates wide-ranging opinions on hot topics

Input gives Staff Council direction on guiding principles, nondiscrimination law

By Cynthia Pasquale

Respondents of a recent staff survey were split on whether a guiding principle of the university proposed by Regent Jim Geddes that specifically focuses on philosophical diversity of faculty should be adopted.

In the same survey, respondents favored a recommendation to add the terms "gender identity" and "gender expression" to a regents' nondiscrimination law. (See related story [here](#).)

About 600 people – including classified and exempt staff – responded to the opinion survey, in which 41.7 percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the guiding principle proposed by Geddes, R-Sedalia, in April; 40.1 percent said they disagreed or strongly disagreed.

The proposed principle reads:

"Promote faculty, student and staff diversity to ensure the rich interchange of ideas in the pursuit of truth and learning, specifically including faculty diversity of political, intellectual and philosophical perspectives."

Geddes has said the principle is "meant for all members of our complex university family, but places with our esteemed faculty the prime responsibility of fostering political, philosophical and intellectual diversity."

But some, including members of the University of Colorado Staff Council, said the principle is too narrow and should be rewritten to include all members of the university. The staff council has suggested that the principle read: "Attract, develop and support a diverse faculty, staff and student body to promote the rich interchange of ideas in the pursuit of truth and learning, including diversity of political, geographic, cultural, intellectual and philosophical perspectives."

Faculty Council and Regents Monisha Merchant, D-Lakewood, and Stephen Ludwig, D-Lone Tree, also have suggested changes to the principle.

In all, respondents to the survey were asked about eight different versions or parts of the principle, which many said was confusing. Other respondents, however, agreed with Geddes' proposal, saying faculty should be held to a higher standard concerning diversity. Some said the principle could not be enforced.

"I was pleased with the number of participants, as well as the variety of comments that were submitted to Staff Council," said Lori Krug, council co-chair. "The last electronic survey that we administered to all university staff was the 2008 survey to obtain staff opinions on work environment, training, resources, benefits, etc."

Results of the 2008 survey are posted at <https://www.cu.edu/StaffCouncil/survey.html>; Krug said the most recently completed survey will be added to the site soon.

At its June 24-25 meeting, the Board of Regents put the issue on hold until those who had drafted changes could meet with governance groups to determine language that would be acceptable to everyone involved.

Krug said final changes in the language are expected to be ready for the September meeting of the Board of Regents.

Another question on the survey dealt with Article 10 of the Laws of the Regents concerning nondiscrimination. Of those who responded to the survey, taken from May 25 through June 21, 43.6 percent said they agreed or strongly agreed that the terms "gender identity" and "gender expression" should be added to the law, while 36 percent indicated they disagreed or strongly disagreed.

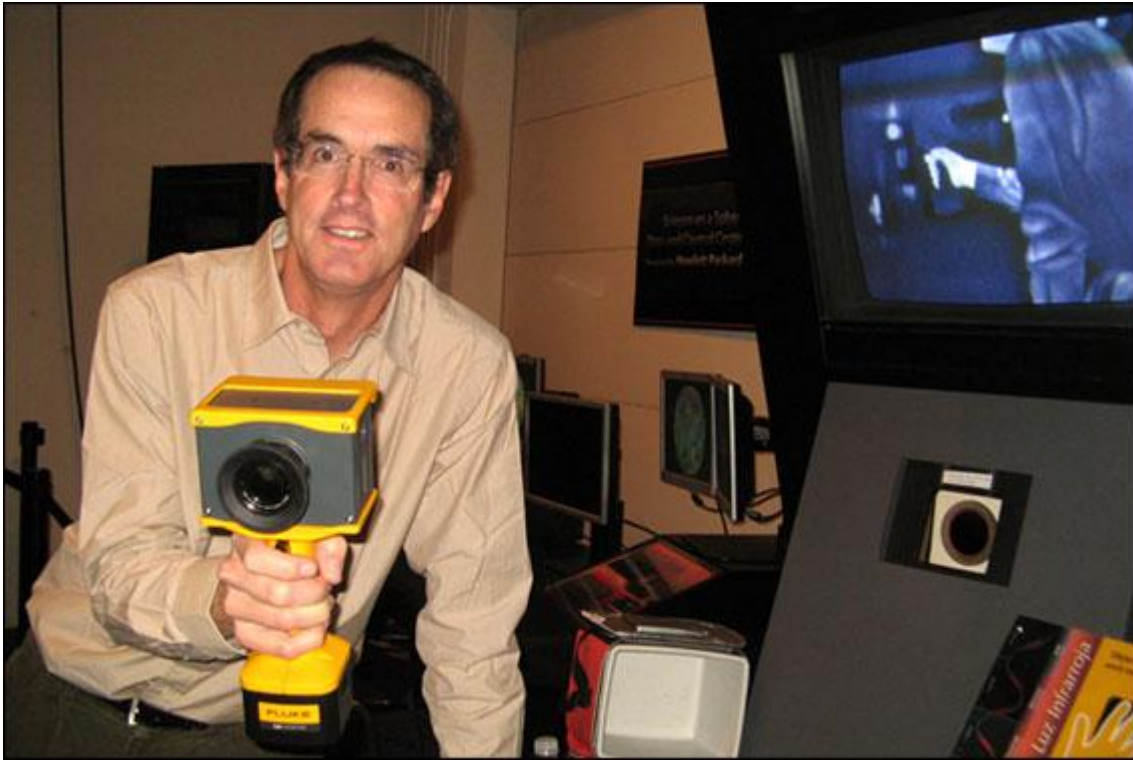
The Board of Regents has said that CU's nondiscrimination law is in line with current state laws prohibiting discrimination, but students, governing boards and others have strongly advocated for the language.

"At this time, the reworked version of the Regents Laws, article 10 (nondiscrimination) that was completed in the Laws and Policies committee has been tabled," Krug said. "It will be up to the new chair, Regent Kyle Hybl, to provide us with some direction about when this revision will be formally presented to the board."

Survey respondents were asked to comment on issues or concerns Staff Council should address in the upcoming year. While responses ran the gamut, many who commented said they want better health benefits and tuition benefits, an examination of pay that might include reassessing of pay grades and ensuring work descriptions match actual duties, alternative work schedules, and pay raises.

"As many expected, many comments from staff were focused on a common theme: how to address stagnant staff pay rates, coupled with increased job duties due to a two-and-a-half-year hiring freeze and staff reductions due to budget cuts and increased benefit costs," said Krug, who pointed to medical and dental plan increases and [PERA's 2.5 percent shift for fiscal year 2011](#). "The employees at CU are grateful to have continued employment but are approaching a breaking point."

Five questions for Doug Duncan



Astrophysical and planetary sciences professor, director of Fiske Planetarium, CU-Boulder

In the late 1960s, NBC threatened to cancel the original "Star Trek" because of low ratings. A letter-writing campaign ensued and several hundred fans marched at the studio in Burbank. The group hoped to save the series, which they called the most imaginative show on television. Doug Duncan was among the marchers and he still feels the same about exploring a universe filled with surprises and sublime images. It's one of the most imaginative things the human race does.

Duncan is a professor in the department of astrophysical and planetary sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder and director of [Fiske Planetarium](#).

His interest in space began not with Capt. James T. Kirk and the starship Enterprise, but in second grade. Because there were no standards for teaching science, the subject was ignored. When Duncan's second-grade teacher was ill for a month, the principal stepped in. He taught the class about stars and planets, and even loaned Duncan "The Golden Book of Astronomy: A Child's Introduction to the Wonders of Space."

Duncan was hooked. Now he not only studies the universe but is dedicated to improving the way science is taught and how discoveries are communicated to the public. For several years he was a science commentator on National Public Radio; this month, he taped a History Channel program concerning the upcoming death of the sun – 5 billion years from now.

He's also led tours around the world to photograph Halley's Comet, total eclipses and the spectacular northern lights. Duncan came to CU in 2002.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. You helped modernize a planetarium at the University of Chicago. What does that entail? What have you done or what do you hope to accomplish at Fiske?

Part of that position was to spend \$50 million to modernize Adler Planetarium. It was easy spending the money; the hard part was getting people who for years had taught just one part of astronomy to re-orient themselves – to teach what's happening in astronomy today.

Planetariums were the first virtual reality environment. When Zeiss invented the planetarium (in 1924 in Germany), people were amazed that you could go inside and it would be just like you were under the stars outside. Almost 100 years have gone by and what astronomers study has changed a lot. Most of us don't spend our time measuring the positions of stars, we spend our time studying the evolution of stars and galaxies; we study black holes; we study cosmology and what's at the end of the universe. A lot of planetariums, sadly, have not changed as fast as the science of astronomy. Modernizing is partly about technology, but it's even more about teaching.



The changes at Fiske are significant. I was able to bring in approximately \$1 million in grant support and turned the lobby into a hands-on science museum. What gets the most attention is called "science on a sphere." When projectors shine on the 6-foot sphere, it comes to life. It's like you're looking down on Earth. We have a direct connection to the Earth's weather satellites and can see hurricanes form and move across the planet; we can see tsunamis go across the ocean. Then we flick the switch on the computer and can change the sphere into the moon or Mars.

We've also started to distribute nationally the shows produced at Fiske. I have created a consortium where all the leading universities with planetariums have agreed to use what we produce in astronomy courses all around the States.

Planetariums are going digital. It used to be they all had these big machines in the center to make the stars project on the dome. But the really interesting things in astronomy are black holes and colliding galaxies and you need to show that as a video.

Consequently, it is now possible to turn the entire dome into the equivalent of an IMAX screen with special projectors. On the evening of July 30, we're going to have a free demonstration of an all-video, 21st-century theater at Fiske. We're hoping university and community members will support this new theater. If anyone wants to attend, they should call Fiske (303-492-5002) and ask for a personal invitation. This will ensure CU has the leading planetarium in the country.

2. What do you hope students take away from your teaching?

For two years, I've taught freshmen and sophomores in my intro astronomy course. They're going to be journalists, business majors, poets – but not scientists. Every other week I have them go to the Web to find something that is good science and find something that is fake or pseudo science that is trying to fool them.

We discuss in class how the science they've learned helps them decide whether what they've found is believable or not. An educated student in the year 2010 has to be able to work with the media we live with. It's not about learning to use an iPhone; the important part is learning how to critically interpret what you download. Much of our current world depends on science. Unless you understand it – global warming, capping oil wells, energy –

you're left out. It's important that the average citizen learns enough science to function well in the world in 2010. And besides, some of them will grow up to be congressmen and senators and control our future.

3. Do you believe there is intelligent life in the universe?

You have to look. The thing that distinguishes science from philosophy is that science has to be tested. When I was doing radio broadcasting, people would call in and ask, "Are there other planets out there with life?" I would tell them that when we started to look seriously for planets we would find out if they were there or not. Sure enough, during the past 10 years, we have found hundreds of planets and they are made of the same stuff that planets in our solar system are made of. Whether there is life or not? You have to look.

4. There's been a lot of debate about where the U.S. space program should direct its funding. What are your thoughts?

I think the funds we have for all kinds of key things – universities, space exploration, teaching – are all artificially reduced because we spend so much money on military expenditures. A thousand times as many Americans will die from heart attacks and strokes than will die because of terrorists. That's not to say that the U.S. doesn't need a strong military, but it is to say that if the U.S. was wise, it would readjust the balance on what it spends domestically on its own citizens compared to what we spend on war.

I took 100 Americans to see a total eclipse of the sun in China. What we all saw is that China is investing proportionally much more in universities and industries of the future. Every apartment building has solar heating on the roof. That's the kind of investment in science that I advocate.

5. You've written a book, "Clickers in the Classroom," that describes how wireless technology improves science teaching. In what ways do clickers, or classroom response systems, help?

There's an enormous amount of research that says the key thing to how much someone learns is how active their mind is – how engaged they are – not how active the teacher's mind is. A lot of what we were taught in the past is that the greatest teacher is the sage on the stage. A lot of us have been taught to be clear and exciting and expressive and be interesting and move around the classroom, then call on one student. But one student responds and 99 others switch off their brain and just listen. So the idea that you can get every single student engaged at one time is remarkable. Clickers simply make it easier to do something that we all thought important, and that is to keep the student engaged. You ask them a question that is challenging and give them several minutes to talk with neighbors. The process of trying to convince someone else is when you learn the most.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu

Shakespeare Fest actors turn to words of Founding Fathers

Free reading of Declaration of Independence set for July 3

Furthering a trend among Shakespeare theater companies across the country, actors from the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (CSF) will read the Declaration of Independence at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 3, at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The event – free and open to the public – will take place at Boulder on the Green near the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre.

The festival notes that, like Shakespeare, the signers of the Declaration loved language and understood the power of rhetoric. Scholars say that the Founding Fathers read and watched performances of several Shakespeare plays in the weeks and months leading up to the signing.

CSF's readers of the Declaration of Independence will include Timothy Orr, Anne Sandoe, Seth Panitch, Chuck Wilcox, Emily Van Fleet, Sam Sandoe, Ben Bonenfant and others.

Similar readings are promoted across the country by the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America; its 2011 conference will be hosted in January by the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

"Last year, 16 theaters participated and we expect the number to grow this summer," said Philip Sneed, producing artistic director of the festival. "Using language not unlike Shakespeare's, our Founding Fathers wrote a country into being through the power of language.

"We believe that this reading is a way for us to contribute to our community's celebration of our nation's founding—and by making it free and open to the public, we invite everyone to join us, whether they're attending the festival that night or not."

The festival presents "The Fantasticks" and "King Lear" the evening of July 3. For information on tickets and the rest of the schedule, go to the [CSF website](#).

Clothing drive benefits job seekers, student scholarships

CU-Boulder Career Services collecting suits to be sold at low cost in fall

In a tough economic climate, the extra expense of buying a new interviewing suit is especially daunting for some students and alumni.

To help, CU-Boulder Career Services partners with the Engineering BOLD Center (formerly the Multicultural Engineering Program, or MEP) and the Multicultural Business Students Association (MBSA) to collect clean, gently worn business attire from the community during the summer.

The goal is to outfit a job seeker in a quality suit that provides confidence without breaking the bank. Clothes collected are sold to students and alumni at low cost (full suits go for \$20) at the Suit Yourself clothing sale in the fall, helping job seekers to be well-dressed for interviews and career fairs.

Proceeds from the sale benefit the Engineering BOLD Center and the Multicultural Business Students Association. More than \$6,000 has been raised each of the past six years to help fund student scholarships.

Clothing donations are being sought now through Sept. 15. Men's and women's suits, jackets, pants, shirts, skirts, ties and handbags will be accepted at Career Services (Willard Hall), the Alumni Association and all Art Cleaners stores in Boulder.

For more information about the Suit Yourself program, please contact Lisa Lovett at Lisa.Lovett@colorado.edu.

Phoenix Center earns confidentiality pledge from campus leadership

UC Denver joins with rest of Auraria in supporting victims of domestic violence

Leadership at the University of Colorado Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver and Community College of Denver all have declared their support for victim confidentiality at the [Phoenix Center at Auraria](#).

"Many schools don't honor confidentiality in this way," said Sam Cole, director of community relations at the Center on Domestic Violence in the UC Denver School of Public Affairs. "In so doing, the leadership is demonstrating that they value confidentiality in the work of the center."

The Phoenix Center at Auraria, which opened in October, serves students, faculty and staff at all three campus institutions, as well as staff at the Auraria Higher Education Center. Goals of the Phoenix Center at Auraria include establishing victim services, increasing offender accountability, coordinating campus response to incidents of interpersonal violence, and developing prevention and awareness activities.

The Phoenix Center at Auraria was funded by U.S. Department of Justice grant money — \$500,000 over three years — awarded in November 2008 to the Center on Domestic Violence in the School of Public Affairs at UC Denver. The money was given to develop a program for prevention of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking on the Auraria Campus.

The center offers a 24-hour confidential helpline (303-556-CALL or -2255), victim support, advocacy and other services. It also conducts programming to raise understanding among students, faculty and staff of sexual

assault, stalking, and dating and domestic violence on campus. The center also utilizes student volunteer violence-prevention educators who conduct peer-to-peer education, operate booths and tables at Auraria events, distribute literature and increase visibility of the issue on campus.

Conference to examine big questions of society's health, social issues

Registration open for October event in Keystone

Registration is open for the first Joint Colloquium of the Campbell and Cochrane Collaborations: Bringing Evidence-Based Decision-Making to New Heights, set for Oct. 18-22 in Keystone.

The conference, hosted by the University of Colorado Denver, will feature as many as 1,200 attendees from leading research and policy-making organizations around the world.

The primary focus of the joint colloquium will be the methodology behind systematic reviews and meta-analyses of the effectiveness of interventions and programs in the fields of health and social care.

Each day, health care providers, policy makers, educators, researchers and citizens across the world ask themselves questions about health and social issues, and the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations are dedicated to finding the answers. By systematically and critically reviewing the literature on pressing topics in medicine, health care, education, crime and social welfare, they strive to answer the question, "What works?"

The colloquium represents the first time these groups will join forces, and represents the 18th annual Cochrane and the 10th annual Campbell Colloquia. A colloquium is an academic activity, typically involving a lecture by an academic about his or her work to colleagues. The audience is expected to ask questions and to evaluate the work presented. Colloquia provide scholars with the opportunity to face and respond to criticism in the early stages of the development of new ideas.

The program includes more than 100 hands-on workshops and 80 oral sessions, and networking with representatives from leading research and policy-making organizations from around the world.

Speakers include Patricia Schroeder, former U.S. representative from Colorado; Bob Wachter, M.D., professor and associate chairman of the [Department of Medicine](#) at the [University of California, San Francisco](#) and national leader in patient safety and health care quality; Ida Sims, M.D, Ph.D., director of the [Center for Clinical and Translational Informatics, UCSF](#); and David Weisburd, holder of the Stockholm Prize for Criminology.

Social events include an opening gala, Western-style barn dance and the annual Jerry Lee lecture and reception. Attendees also may join the Cochrane Collaboration team for the Rock 'n' Roll Denver Half Marathon on Oct. 17.

For more information, visit www.regonline.com/colloquium2010 or contact local organizer Robert Dellavalle M.D., Ph.D., M.S.P.H., at 303-399-8020, ext. 2475, or Robert.Dellavalle@ucdenver.edu.

Obituary: Patricia Morris, University Libraries, CU-Boulder

Patricia Morris, associate professor and faculty director of preservation for University Libraries at the University of Colorado at Boulder, died on May 7, 2010.

As detailed on the [American Library Association](#) Preservation Administration Discussion Group, Morris had a long history in collections preservation. Prior to her position at CU-Boulder she worked at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for 11 years as director of collections management, and two earlier years as supervisor of conservation services.

From 1993 to 2001, she served as adjunct faculty at the University of South Carolina in the College of Library and Information Science teaching preservation administration. She served on the South Carolina State Historical Records Advisory Board as deputy coordinator for most of the 1990s. She was archivist for the Tennessee State Library and Archives from 1980 to 1987.

Morris published extensively on topics such as managing the preservation environment, survey tools and emergency planning and response, and gave many excellent presentations.

Her service at the University Libraries was characterized by a broad vision that encompassed the management and preservation of library resources; the design and operation of buildings and facilities that contribute to the longevity of materials; and the utilization of all available technologies to assure the protection and preservation of physical objects, to enable greater access to them by students and scholars; and to preserve their intellectual content.

Her vision, determination, skill in planning and carrying through immense and complex projects, and her ability to perceive problems in terms of their total context, will be greatly missed by the libraries.

A memorial service for Pat Morris will be held in the fall in Estes Park to coincide with the Estes Park Highland Festival. Contributions in her name may be made to the Rocky Mountain Scottish Terrier Club Rescue Fund (www.rockymountaincottierescue.org).

Did you know...

June payroll date is July 1

Like employees of all state agencies, University of Colorado employees will see their June pay deposited on **Thursday, July 1.**

For more information, see the [latest newsletter](#) from Payroll & Benefit Services.

People

Colorado School of Public Health professor appointed FDA adviser



Kittelson

John Kittelson, Ph.D., associate professor in the department of biostatistics and informatics at the Colorado School of Public Health, has been appointed to a three-year term on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) reproductive health drugs advisory committee. As a member of the committee, Kittelson advises the FDA on issues related to the marketing and use of drugs targeting reproductive and urologic health.

"Dr. Kittelson's appointment acknowledges the biostatistical expertise that he brings to the FDA advisory panel in this important area," said Richard Hamman, M.D., Dr.P.H., dean of the Colorado School of Public Health. "His wealth of experience in the design and interpretation of clinical trials brings key expertise to the panel as it evaluates the evidence in support of claims for drug efficacy."

The 13-member committee is selected based on each member's knowledge in the fields of obstetrics, gynecology, urology, endocrinology, pediatrics, epidemiology or statistics. Members are responsible for reviewing and evaluating data on the safety and effectiveness of marketed and investigational human drugs for use in the practice of obstetrics, gynecology, urology and related specialties and providing recommendations to the FDA.

As a leading biostatistician, Kittelson was appointed to the FDA panel based upon his research on group sequential methods for the design and monitoring of clinical trials. Currently, he is the director of the Colorado Biostatistics Consortium at the University of Colorado Denver and the director of the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Research Design program of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute. These programs provide biostatistical consultation and collaboration to investigators at partner universities and affiliated hospitals.

Often the work of the committee involves controversial decisions as evidenced in Kittelson's first meeting earlier this month. On June 17-18, the panel was asked to advise the FDA on the approvals of a new emergency contraceptive and on a new treatment for female sexual dysfunction, popularly known as the "female Viagra." Kittelson was honored to participate in the FDA approval process.

"These decisions represent the pinnacle of the evidence base for medical practice in the United States," Kittelson said. "It is a humbling experience to be a part of these decisions as a member of the advisory committee."

The FDA uses 49 advisory committees and panels to obtain independent expert advice on scientific, technical and policy matters and generally follows committee recommendations. Current members of the Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee include experts from Brown University, Stanford University and the University of Chicago.

Biology professor named Pew Scholar



Shen

Jingshi Shen, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado-Boulder, and since February 2010, an associate member of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Cancer Cell Biology Program, has been honored as a Pew Scholar and will receive a four-year grant to further his research. The \$240,000 award will be used to study cell biology and membrane transport.

Shen's research focuses on understanding exocytosis, or how cells direct the contents of vesicles out of the cell membrane. Imbalances in the system can cause disease.

The [Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences](#) identifies and invests in young investigators of outstanding promise in science relevant to the advancement of human health. The program provides support that enables scientists to take calculated risks and follow unanticipated leads to maximize the benefits of their research for society.

Scholars also gain inclusion into a select community of scientists that includes three Nobel Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows and recipients of the Albert Lasker Medical Research Award. Now in its 25th year, the program has invested more than \$125 million to fund over 460 scholars.

American Academy of Nursing taps Beth-El associate dean as fellow



Kenny

Deborah Kenny, Ph.D., R.N., associate dean for research at Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, recently was selected as a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing, one of the nation's most respected professional organizations for nurses.

Kenny directs faculty research within the Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences and also teaches as an associate professor. She joined UCCS in January after retiring as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps following more than 23 years service. She previously served as executive director of TriService Nursing Research Program for Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, Md. Kenny's nursing career dates to 1975.

"This invitation to be a fellow is recognition of Dr. Kenny's past accomplishments as well as her ability to work with others to strengthen our nation's health care system in the future," said Nancy Smith, dean of the Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences. "This is the nursing profession's highest honor."

About 1,500 nurses nationwide are designated as fellows of the American Academy of Nursing, which focuses on enhancing the quality of health and nursing care, promoting healthy aging and human development across the life continuum, reducing health disparities and inequalities, shaping healthy behaviors and environments, integrating mental and physical health care, and strengthening the nursing and health care delivery system both nationally and internationally.

Boulder scientists earn early career awards



Noone

Two University of Colorado at Boulder scientists have received National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) awards.

Assistant Professor **David Noone**, Ph.D., of the atmospheric and oceanic atmospheric sciences department and Assistant Professor **Noah Fierer**, Ph.D., of the ecology and evolutionary biology department received the prestigious awards, which provide recipients with monetary grants to further their research. Noone and Fierer also are fellows at CU-Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences.

The NSF
CAREER
award

supports faculty early in their careers who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research and education as well as the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations.

Noone received a \$722,421 CAREER grant to analyze the exchange of water between the land surface and atmosphere to improve climate models and predictions of climate change. He also will deploy a new precipitation-monitoring network in coordination with middle schools in and around Erie to help engage students in the scientific process.



Fierer

"Professor Noone winning this award highlights the excellent research being undertaken by our faculty," said Waleed Abdalati, director of the Earth Science and Observation Center at CIRES. "David's innovative approach to reinventing traditional water cycle research and his enthusiasm for student training continues to gain recognition and stand out at a time when advancing our understanding of climate is so critical."

Fierer received a \$655,000 CAREER grant to study the effects of nutrient addition on soil microbial communities. Pollution and farming practices, such as the addition of fertilizers, are leading to nitrogen and phosphorous levels in the soil far beyond normal levels. Fierer will study the impact of these additions on microbes that maintain soil fertility.

"I think it is great that Noah received this distinction," said Distinguished Professor Norman Pace of the molecular, cellular and developmental biology department. "It's good for everyone – for Noah, CIRES, his department, and the university. The award is a strong stamp of approval for his work. He is working in an interesting and little-known arena, the interface between humans and the microbial world."

Dropping names ...

The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) has selected **Kristen E. Nordenholz, M.D.**, of the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver to receive the award for Best Faculty Presentation, "The Likelihood of Acute Pulmonary Embolism in ED Patients is Not Lower Among Patients Taking Warfarin," at the SAEM annual meeting June 3-6 in Phoenix. Their decision was based on reviews of the abstract, manuscript and presentation at the meeting. Nordenholz will be recognized and presented an award plaque during the business meeting at the SAEM annual meeting in Boston in June 2011. ... **Jennifer Armstrong-Wells, M.D.**, and **Stacie Daugherty, M.D.**, of the Center for Women's Health Research at the University of Colorado Denver have received major grants, respectively, from the American Heart Association and the National Institutes of Health. Both are training grants and will further support the building of their research careers. Daugherty's grant is "Gender Disparities in Invasive Cardiovascular Disease Procedure Use: The Role of Provider Bias"; Armstrong-Wells' is "American Heart Association Clinical Research Grant." The two grants bring in more than \$800,000. ... **Thomas Cech, Ph.D.**, received an honorary degree from Harvard University and delivered the commencement address at Harvard's spring 2010 ceremony. Cech is director of the Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology ([CIMB](#)), and a Distinguished Professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder. ... The American Board of Radiology has named **James P. Borgstede, M.D.**, to its Board of Trustees for a two-year term. An associate professor of radiology and vice chair of the department of radiology at the University of Colorado Denver, Borgstede has been a trustee since 2005. Board trustees participate in leadership and decision-making to carry out the board's mission and set standards for certification.

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



Nordenholz



Borgstede

Forum

Increasing guns works against safety

Editor's note: This letter was received before the Board of Regents met to discuss and vote on the issue ([see story here](#)).

I write to encourage CU to legally fight the idea that students should be allowed to carry guns on campus. I'll even contribute to the cause.

I teach freshmen and I see many struggling with their first experience living on their own, trying to set their own boundaries and behaviors. Many get depressed, guys try and act macho, girls experiment to see what makes them attractive, they do wild and crazy things they will later regret. Increase access to guns and some will make mistakes they will regret their entire lives.

I had a student stress out so much that he began thinking that I and other students were always watching him. This required professional mediation but the student continued to attend class and there was no official record of paranoia. If I thought there was the chance many students (a lot of whom are stressed, and some of whom are not sober) might be carrying a gun, it would negatively affect my teaching.

According to Livestrong.com, a teenager commits suicide every 100 minutes, usually with a handgun. Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people age 14 to 25. It's much more common to use a gun for suicide or on a friend or relative while really upset than on a criminal. Statistics do *not* suggest that increasing the number of guns on campus will result in fewer deaths. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 10 percent of U.S. college students admitted serious thoughts about suicide. Seven percent had a suicide plan.

CU has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in programs to make students safer from drugs and alcohol. Increasing the number of guns on campus works against student and faculty safety, not for it.

Douglas Duncan

Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences
University of Colorado at Boulder

[Forum Archive](#)

Letter Submission Guidelines

The *Faculty and Staff Newsletter* welcomes letter submissions from current or retired University of Colorado faculty and staff about issues of interest to the university community. Submissions may be edited for length, style and clarity. Anonymous submissions will be neither considered nor published. Please send submissions to newsletter@cu.edu.

Please indicate whether or not you would like to see your comment published in the newsletter as a letter to the editor. Thank you.

News from the CU system - CU-Boulder

Renovations to Andrews Hall cross finish line with LEED gold certification

The University of Colorado at Boulder's Andrews Hall, a residential building in the Kittredge Complex, this month received the gold rating in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification issued by the United States Green Building Council.

LEED standards are considered a U.S. benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings. Arnett Hall was the first CU-Boulder residence hall to receive LEED certification in September 2009, receiving a gold rating.

A LEED certification of gold or higher is the campus standard for major renovations and new buildings. The real benefit of meeting LEED standards is the long-term savings for CU-Boulder through energy and water use reduction, said Energy Conservation Officer Moe Tabrizi.

"On this campus, it is tempting to say 'ho-hum, another LEED gold-rated building,' but we should all resist that urge," said Curt Huetson, director of facilities planning and operations for Housing & Dining Services. "This truly is another example of the campus commitment and support for this and other LEED-focused projects, led by staff members who are leaders in the sustainability movement, as well as a great external design-build team."

The green renovations to Andrews Hall help the campus move toward goals laid out in CU-Boulder's carbon neutrality plan to reduce energy consumption 20 percent by 2012. They also are in line with goals of the Governor's Energy Office.

Andrews Hall is expected to experience a 25 percent reduction in energy use and a 20 percent reduction in water usage. New features include insulation, double-pane windows, sensors that suspend heating and cooling systems when windows are open, dual-flush toilets, low-flow showerheads, aerators on faucets, energy-efficient lighting with automatic controls and carpet and other finishes made from recycled materials.

Andrews Hall also is a multi-year residential college housing the Engineering Honors Program and faculty resident Associate Professor Scot Douglass along with his wife and two young daughters. Future renovations in the Kittredge Complex are slated to include similar layouts, accommodating residential colleges in each building.

Other residence hall renovations under way include Buckingham Hall with expected occupancy in August 2010 and Smith Hall with expected occupancy in August 2011. Both buildings are expected to obtain a gold rating in LEED certification. The new Williams Village North residence hall may be the first LEED platinum-rated full-scale residence hall in the nation, set for occupancy by August 2011.



Photo by Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado

Students gather in a common area of the renovated Andrews Hall. The CU-Boulder residence hall recently was LEED certified with a gold rating for green design, construction and operations.

For more information on LEED-certified campus buildings visit <http://www.colorado.edu/facilitiesmanagement/about/conservation/leed.html>.

UCCS

Legacy of Bill Daniels highlighted in special event

The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs recently hosted an event highlighting the legacy of Bill Daniels, a business leader and philanthropist who died in March 2000.

Daniels, a decorated naval aviator in World War II and cable television pioneer, helped establish Colorado as a center of the cable television industry. Upon his death, his estate transferred to the Daniels Fund, which provides grants and scholarships in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

"This event allowed us to celebrate the vision and legacy of Bill Daniels," said Venkat Reddy, dean of the College of Business. "We are privileged to be given the opportunity by the Daniels Fund to further his principles through the Daniels Fund Scholars and the Ethics Initiative."

The Tenth Anniversary of the Daniels Fund was celebrated at the eight partnering universities in the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, an innovative program designed to instill a high standard of business ethics in graduates. UCCS was linked to the other celebration sites through a video simulcast.

"Bill Daniels began life in humble circumstances, but achieved greatness by staying true to the values he learned as a young man: honesty, integrity and the importance of hard work and always playing fair," explained Linda Childears, president and CEO of the Daniels Fund. "His legacy has touched countless lives in its first 10 years, and will continue to do so as long as there are people in need."

The celebration took place in the University Center Ballroom. Special guests included nonprofit and community leaders who were joined by recipients of the Daniels Scholarship. Steve Schuck, a Colorado Springs businessman who recently concluded his term on the Daniels Fund board, served as event emcee.

A total of 1,497 Colorado students have been named Daniels Scholars since the program was launched. This supplemental scholarship provides students in financial need with the opportunity to attend any college or university in the United States once they are accepted.

"These are promising and motivated students determined to succeed in life, but lacking the financial resources to continue their education," Childears said. "They are outstanding young people and the Daniels Fund is proud to partner with them as they fulfill their dreams of attending college."

The Daniels Fund has awarded \$7.3 million in funding for Daniels Opportunity Scholarships for Colorado students. This program provides nontraditional students – such as adults returning to college, returning military personnel, GED recipients, foster care youth, and those exiting juvenile justice facilities – with the opportunity to attend college.



Photos by Tom Kimmell and Tom Hutton

Several students who received Daniels Fund scholarships pose with a life-size photo of the late Bill Daniels, whose entrepreneurship made the Daniels Foundation possible.

Since its inception, the Daniels Fund has approved grants totaling \$169 million in Colorado. In 2010, a projected \$17 million in grants will be awarded in the state. This is in addition to the funding for the Daniels Scholarship and the Daniels Opportunity Scholarship programs.

Among the many nonprofits receiving grants are: the Bill Daniels Center for Children's Hearing at The Children's Hospital, Catholic Charities and Community Services, the Charter Schools Development Corp., Colorado UpLift, the Denver Police Activities League, the Family Resource Center, Teach for America – Colorado, and many others.

UC Denver

Hundreds take part in Bike to Work Day

Bike to Work Day 2010 was a huge success at the Anschutz Medical Campus, the University of Colorado Denver downtown campus and across the metropolitan area. Thousands of people stashed their car keys for the day and pedaled to work, including about 400 participants on the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) and several dozen at the Auraria Campus.

While AMC was bustling with participants, vendors and supporters, cyclists on the Auraria Campus enjoyed the culture and history of the campus from a new angle as they pedaled their way to the breakfast center at the PE Event Center.



The annual Bike to Work Day, organized by the Denver Regional Council of Governments, hosted more than 100 breakfast stops and aid stations, including those at AMC and Auraria.

Some 400 riders were registered before 9 a.m. June 23 at AMC, with about 20 vendors on site to welcome riders. Food from Einstein Bros. and Big City Burrito were on the menu for breakfast as was DazBog coffee. The University of Colorado Hospital supplied fruit and granola bars to riders.

Campus police registered bikes for anyone wanting the service.

Noodles and City Bark Doggie Daycare passed out coupons and information, while the Aurora Fox Arts Center showed up with their woolly mammoth and characters from their production of "Alice in Wonderland." The theater offered riders pieces of cake.

Curves, Integrative Medicine, Bicycle Colorado, Denver Bicycle, Public Service Credit Union and Collegiate Peaks Bank also took part in greeting cyclists. Fitzsimons 21, the apartment complex behind the AMC campus, handed out information and juice, and Sand Creek passed out maps and info on the trail.

Anschutz Medical Campus

First-in-nation program focuses on anti-cancer stem cell therapies

Cancer and stem cell biology researchers at the University of Colorado are launching the nation's first program focused on identifying and testing drugs that target and destroy cells thought to be at the root of cancer —

cancer stem cells (CSCs).

The Cancer Stem Cell-Directed Clinical Trials Program (CCTP) is a collaboration between the University of Colorado Cancer Center and the Charles C. Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology, both at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

"Through the CCTP, we believe we can change the way most cancers are treated by targeting tumor-initiating cells as opposed to conventional therapies that address the bulk of the tumor," said Antonio Jimeno, M.D., Ph.D., program director and head and neck cancer specialist. "We hope that by targeting the cancer stem cells we can bring solid tumor cure rates in line with those for some blood cancers — upwards of 75 percent, although our ultimate goal is 100 percent."

Jimeno will direct the new program with senior co-directors Dennis Roop, Ph.D., Gates Stem Cell Center director and professor of dermatology at the medical school, and S. Gail Eckhardt, M.D., UCCC deputy director, head of medical oncology at the medical school and leader of UCCC's renowned early phase cancer clinical trials program.

Although CSCs may make up less than 0.1 percent of the tumor, they have a big effect. They're the ones that accumulate DNA damage from sun exposure, tobacco use and other carcinogens, Roop said. Many cancer scientists believe CSCs initiate and maintain cancers, just as normal stem cells maintain normal tissues.

CSCs are different from the cells that make up a tumor's bulk. They are generally impervious to chemotherapy and radiation, and perhaps even new "targeted" therapies. And because CSCs can weather the storm of traditional cancer treatment, many cancer scientists believe they are primarily responsible for cancer recurrence.

"We've already had success in early clinical trials with some drugs that happen to be cancer stem cell-targeting drugs," Jimeno said. "I have patients who are essentially in remission after a year with few side effects."

New treatments the program identifies will likely be complex because they will combine conventional therapies and CSC-targeted drugs. That complexity will require new tools for assessing tumors and blood samples, as well as scaled-down genetic tests that are analyzed by modern bioinformatics tools — none of which are available for clinical trials at most centers.

"I hope that in the near future, we can take a tiny sample of a patient's tumor, do a quick test to see which stem cell targets are active, and quickly come up with a cocktail of drugs that will kill the root of the tumor with fewer side effects to the patient," Jimeno said. "We think this process will truly address the complexities of cancer."

The CCTP, which includes experts in basic cancer research, imaging and bioinformatics, also will design these tests and tools.

"We have the incredible talent and infrastructure in place to build a program around an entirely new way of treating cancer," Roop said. "We have all the required scientific and clinical investigators and extraordinary new technologies in place to do the basic science research and move new treatments quickly to patients."

The program will concentrate on running clinical trials of anti-CSC drugs, and assessing the impact on CSCs, Jimeno said.

"Many pharmaceutical companies are developing anti-CSC drugs right now," he said, "and our program is a platform that will offer possibilities they may not yet be aware exist for clinical applications. We have the patients, tools and infrastructure that no other center in the United States has."

Roop said that creating a hub of cancer stem cell research in Colorado will bring economic dividends to the

state, just as the Gates Stem Cell Center has. Since 2007, that center has grown to 62 full-time employees and received \$29 million in research funding with an additional \$20 million pending — a rate of about 20 percent annual growth in terms of research dollars, faculty members and staff.

"Just by building this program, we will be able to attract top talent to our campus, and they will bring their millions of research dollars and new high-paying jobs with them," he said. "This will also have an immediate impact on the University of Colorado Hospital, where patients are treated, as we bring new anti-CSC drugs into testing. But the best news is that through doing this, we believe we will find treatments that kill the cancer without almost killing the patient."

What's different about the CCTP:

- A clinical trials program focused on developing tools for quickly understanding the impact of candidate anti-cancer stem cell drugs and incorporating them into a clinical setting.
- A collaboration between a National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center and a well-funded stem cell center, both of which have rich scientific and technological infrastructure in place to take this new approach to clinical trials.
- An integrated, multidisciplinary faculty roster that includes clinical and research experts from medical oncology, surgery, radiation oncology, dermatology, cancer biology and bioinformatics, among others. This team composition will prove to be the fastest route to bring successful treatments to patients.
- Dedicated to collaboration over competition, UCCC and the Gates Stem Cell Center are known for forging successful partnerships with others regardless of what school, program or particular medical area they may work in.
- Pairs of advanced animal models of three major cancer types — melanoma, squamous skin cancer and head and neck cancer — developed by teams of Colorado scientists and other advanced technologies will give scientists and doctors cutting-edge tools to rapidly understand how new drugs selectively target CSCs for destruction.

CU Foundation

Cancer Center pledge will promote needed research

Margaret Grohne ('58) knows firsthand the importance of mitigating, preventing and eradicating cancer. She is a breast cancer survivor, and her sister and brother-in-law lost their lives to cancer.



She and her husband, David ('58), also know firsthand the value of a CU education. They met in high school and attended CU-Boulder in the 1950s. While they now live in the Midwest, they've been long-time supporters of numerous CU programs including the University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC).

In recognition of the center's research track record and potential for significant discoveries, the Grohnes recently pledged more than \$2.6 million to support research in the areas of breast cancer, stem cell research and cancer vaccinations.

"The Grohnes want to support high-quality research here in Colorado, and they've been incredibly generous to us," said Andrew Thorburn, Ph.D., UCCC interim director.

Federal grants for medical research most often fund research in later stages of development. For exploration in more cutting-edge realms, it can be hard to obtain grants. Yet in such areas, many of the most promising lines of

inquiry are being pursued. Early stage research is far more dependent on private donors, whose gifts can have a multiplier effect when such seed funding leads to federal research grants down the road.

The Grohnes' generosity is further enhanced because they are unrestricted research funds, increasing the Center's flexibility.

"These sorts of gifts are the lifeblood that keep the Cancer Center going," Thorburn said.

Margaret Grohne says her biggest motivation for the gift was to give back to the university that has given her and her husband so much, and to conquer the devastating disease.

"We all are looking for a cure," she said.

Tech Transfer

Optioned device helps diagnose acid reflux, other esophageal diseases

A diagnostic device developed at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine recently was optioned by Sandhill Scientific Inc., a Colorado company developing diagnostic devices for a variety of gastrointestinal illnesses.

Diagnosing inflammatory conditions of the gastrointestinal tract such as severe gastroesophageal reflux (GERD), eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and a number of other diseases can be difficult. Blood, stool and X-ray tests are not sufficient to diagnose any of these conditions definitively, or to differentiate them, and more invasive methods such as endoscopy are costly and carry potential complications.

The optioned technology provides a less invasive way for doctors to determine the cause and appropriate treatment of esophageal inflammation. The technology, which was developed by Glenn T. Furuta, an associate professor of pediatrics at UC Denver, The Children's Hospital and National Jewish Health, and Steven J. Ackerman, a professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics and medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is an inert capsule that is swallowed, deploying a line into the esophagus. The line binds relevant diagnostic markers that can be measured using standard laboratory techniques.

Development of the technology was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, American Gastroenterological Association and the Campaign Urging Research on Eosinophilic Diseases (CURED).

"This device could greatly improve a physician's ability to diagnose GERD and EoE patients, in particular pediatric patients, since this procedure is far less invasive than the existing techniques," said David Poticha, senior licensing manager at the University of Colorado Technology Transfer Office. "The university is excited to partner for the development of this device with a local company of Sandhill's reputation; we feel they are perfectly situated to bring this simple but elegant new device to market."

Said Jerry E. Mabary, vice president of Sandhill Scientific, "Knowledge of the epidemiology and manifestations of EoE has grown markedly in the past few years, and scientific evidence clearly emphasizes the importance of EoE diagnosis, treatment and post-treatment serial monitoring for recurrence. These diagnostic requirements demand more accurate, minimally invasive diagnostic tools. We are optimistic that innovative, paradigm-shifting diagnostic capabilities can be attained by virtue of this product development effort."

Sandhill Scientific Inc. is a private corporation that develops, manufactures and markets a series of

gastrointestinal diagnostic devices. Founded in 1981, Sandhill Scientific product technologies include leading-edge patented products for diagnosis of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) and esophageal motility disorders. Sandhill is the worldwide technology leader for nonendoscopic esophageal diagnostics with world headquarters in Highlands Ranch, manufacturing in Prague, Czech Republic, and administrative offices in Eynsham, U.K.

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