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Letter from the Editor

Newsletter sets summer publication calendar

Even if you're away from your campus for part or all of this summer, you still can keep tabs on what's happening throughout the system with the *Faculty and Staff Newsletter*.

In June and July, we shift to a biweekly publication schedule, so no new issues will appear on the following dates (subject to change): **June 1, 15 and 29, July 13 and 27**

Sending postcards from vacation? Keep us in the loop, too. We always welcome letters to the editor on topics of interest to current and retired CU faculty and staff. Please send submissions to newsletter@cu.edu. And if you have a news item or story suggestion you'd like to pass along, please send it to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday prior to the Wednesday publication.

— Jay Dedrick

CU Online champion Marv Loflin receives inaugural Innovation Award

eLearning at CU Denver celebrates continued growth, success at symposium

By Cathy Beuten

Some 15 years ago, the tenacious Marv Loflin leaned across his desk and reassured Terri Straut, "When we launch CU Online, it will never go away."

It hasn't. In its first three semesters, online courses at the university went from zero to 35. More than 450 courses now are offered.

Loflin, central to the creation of CU Online and the former dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, received the inaugural [CU Online](#) Innovation Award on May 19 during the 10th Annual CU Online Spring Symposium at Anschutz Medical Campus. Straut, who has managed eLearning implementations for institutions of higher education including the University of Colorado, introduced Loflin as "the most entrepreneurial person I've ever known."



"CU Online was a smash success instantly because the world needed it," said [Straut](#), who now works with Loflin at the [International Hispanic Online University](#) (IHOU). "The student body was desperate to find alternatives to driving to campus, parking and paying money for day care."

[Loflin](#), president of IHOU, is credited with having the foresight, sass and stick-to-itiveness needed to establish online learning at CU Denver. Consistently, he was told, "We've never done that before, so we can't do it." Said Loflin: "I just started ignoring it when people said that to me."

Online courses offer students and faculty greater flexibility and opportunities to develop myriad diverse courses in all departments.

"Faculty are able to experiment with new ways to teach; to do things that haven't been able to be done before," he said. Plus online learning is cost effective for the university, with a course start-up cost of about \$5,000.

"If you apply yourself, you can learn more with courses online," Loflin said. "The potential for reaching people in education online is much greater."

Bob Tolsma, assistant vice chancellor of Academic Technology/Extended Learning, noted online course enrollment was up 19 percent from last year. While some have dismissed online learning, saying the completion rate of online courses is lower than for on-campus classes, Tolsma reported the rate is now indistinguishable from on-campus courses. Plus, he added, completion of online graduate courses is now greater than those taken on campus.

In its 10th year, the CU Online Spring Symposium highlighted trends in academic technology, demonstrated the best in online pedagogy and stimulated conversation about what's around the corner. Sessions ranged from the latest technological tools, adapting from text books to an online environment, better course creation and best practices for interaction with students.

Never short on wit, the symposium opened with a brief history of the greatest innovations in learning, hosted by none other than Mark Twain.

Five questions for Paul Harvey

President's Teaching Scholar, history department, UCCS

History is both art and science, says Paul Harvey, a professor and President's Teaching Scholar at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. History is "art" because a beautiful narrative is crafted from many complicated strands; it is "science" because it is bound by evidence, careful scrutiny and peer review, and logical analysis.

He wants his students to understand this "perfect balance ... that fully engages creativity while remaining bound by evidence, logic and tough criticism. I want all voices/interpretations to be heard, but that does not mean that all voices/interpretations will carry equal weight once the evidence has been evaluated and measured."

A prolific researcher and writer, [Harvey's](#) specialization is the history of American religion. His 2005 book "Freedom's Coming" is an interracial history of religion in the South that represented research in dozens of libraries and archives throughout the country. He believes the book has had a significant impact on the field of study. Another book being published, "Through the Storm, Through the Night: A History of African American Christianity," is aimed at general readers; he hopes it will become a textbook for classes involving African American history and religious history.



Paul Harvey

Harvey came to UCCS in 1996. He was a visiting professor at Colorado College and was living in Colorado Springs when a job opening was posted at UCCS.

"I was very fortunate to get that position, and even luckier to get a tenured position in a history department where I love working with fantastic colleagues," he says. "I am blessed and lucky."

As an educator, Harvey says it is important to cultivate improvisation, where interpretation rather than factual black or white answers is the rule. He says his teaching philosophy "places a considerable burden – or, as I prefer to look at it, opportunity – on the students to carry their weight."

Along with being named a President's Teaching Scholar, he has earned numerous other awards for teaching and research excellence.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. How did you become interested in history – and the history of religion?

I was a biology and economics major in college for two years, and while I liked both, I didn't love them in

the way it turned out I loved history. It seemed to me history was a way I could dabble in all other fields at once – literature, economics, biology, etc. – while also getting to snoop in other people's mail in the archives, dig up dirt, read diaries, all in the name of explaining something of the origins of how we got to where we are. I decided that the most important questions of American history involved slavery and race, and those questions came out of the history of the South. I was drawn to that subject like the proverbial moth to the flame. After studying Southern history, the study of religious history was more or less inevitable, given the centrality of religion to the history of the South.

2. You developed a blog - <http://usreligion.blogspot.com> – which is the only professional academic/scholarly blog devoted to posting on research and teaching in the field of American religious history. Why did you develop this and what are your goals for the blog?

I started this blog in 2007 as an experiment to see what would happen with this particular mode of professional/scholarly communication, and to encourage a growth in dialogue among people who specialize in American religious history. It has grown exponentially since then. Now I have two co-blogmeisters and about 30 contributors who range the gamut of interests/specialties in American religious history. We get about 500 to 800 "hits" daily, including a sizable cadre of regular readers as well as people who arrive randomly through Google searches.

When I go to conferences, I can scarcely walk down the hall without being stopped repeatedly by people I've never met who are eager to talk about the blog, something they saw there that interested them and started them on a research path, or something I posted there that they agreed or disagreed with. As it turns out, the blog has become the most fruitful, engaging and constantly stimulating professional venture I have ever been involved with, and I use it in classes frequently as a teaching tool since blogs show scholars "thinking out loud" about subjects they're trying to understand. The blog also has opened up opportunities for me to write for other public venues, including pieces for a well-known online journal, *Religion Dispatches*, as well as for other periodicals and newspapers such as the *Wall Street Journal*.

3. Your current book project, "Jesus in Red, White, and Black," looks at how whites created an American Jesus that sanctified exploitation of Native Americans and African Americans, blessed materialism and promoted subjugation. The book also discusses how alternate images were used to undermine these efforts. Can you give an example?

We begin the book by telling the story of the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., on Sept. 15, 1963, where four girls were killed and numerous others injured. The blast at the church blew out all the stained glass windows, save for the one containing an image of Jesus; that window and frame survived, but the blast blew out the face and body of Jesus in the window. Jesus as depicted in that window was white, a replica of Warner Sallman's painting "Head of Christ," which is the single most reproduced image in the history of art, and depicts Jesus with white European features and straight, flowing hair. The depiction is a legacy of the so-called "Publius Lentulus" letter, a medieval forgery of an alleged (albeit nonexistent) ancient text describing the physical features of Jesus. Everyone in colonial and early 19th-century America knew the letter was a fraud, but it eventually came to be accepted by many as real, and the image of Jesus became dominant, one that arose between the Civil War and World War I as white supremacist thought and rhetoric grew in power.

Money raised in part by schoolchildren and others in Wales helped replace that window in the 16th Street Baptist Church. The new window featured a darker-skinned Jesus who was depicted leading not only black Americans but also South Africans in a freedom struggle.

4. It has been said that history is subjective, and in many cases, written history has been

changed, including in textbooks (most recently in Texas). As an author and educator, what do you consider to be your role in writing history? Are we adequately teaching the next generation about history?

All history is "revisionist" history; the fact that the term "revisionist" history has come to have a negative connotation is ridiculous and a complete misunderstanding of what historians do as part of their daily bread and butter.

The Texas textbook case is different, because some of the changes proposed simply represented the imposition of a particular ideological agenda on history, and an outrageously bald-faced attempt to "erase" people (ranging from Anne Hutchinson to Cesar Chavez) from history texts.

Historians' role in writing and communicating history is to be faithful to the evidence while telling a narrative story that draws people in and makes them interested in history. "Facts" without context and story are meaningless, but story and narratives that stray from or betray the documentary record of evidence are myths rather than history.

Congress is just about to de-fund the "Teaching American History" program, which has done so much to help high school teachers across the country, at the time when levels of civic and historical knowledge are most needed. So, it's clear we are not teaching history adequately to the next generation, even as access to historical sources and resources has expanded far beyond anything I would have dreamed of 20 years ago.

5. During nonwork hours, where might one find you?

I spent most of my graduate school years at Yoshi's Jazz Club in Oakland, Calif., and I remain a great aficionado of jazz and all music. Beyond that, I spend most of my free time running with a group of "noonball" regulars on the basketball court. While I am 50, short, slow, uncoordinated and unable to jump, I still hope to make the NBA someday. I live by the motto, "Look to pass to your teammate first, but when you're open take the shot; if you miss it, grab the rebound and take it again."

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

Did you know...

Open enrollment ends Friday

Open enrollment (OE) for the 2011-12 Plan ends at 5 p.m. Friday, May 27. Final rates, plan changes, plan comparisons, defaults should you not take action, an OE calendar and instructions on how to enroll all are available on the OE website at www.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment.

Final Reminders – YOU MUST TAKE ACTION:

- If you are classified staff currently enrolled in a state medical or dental plan, you *must* take action during open enrollment or you will not have coverage on July 1, 2011.
- If you are adding new dependents for coverage effective July 1, 2011, you must verify their eligibility with Payroll & Benefit Services during the OE period and have required documents submitted by 5 p.m. Friday, May 27. There is no guarantee of dependent coverage if required documents are not received by the due date.

- You must re-enroll and actively elect your annual contributions for flexible spending accounts (health care and dependent care) each year at open enrollment.

Be sure to know what happens if you don't take action during open enrollment:

<https://www.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment/defaults.html>.

If you have questions or concerns, contact a benefits counselor at benefits@cu.edu.

People

CU Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus faculty honored

Winners of the annual faculty awards for the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus recently were announced by Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Roderick Nairn.

The awards recognize excellence in areas of teaching, research, creative activities and librarianship.

Award winners are:

ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

President's Excellence in Teaching Award

Douglas N. Fish, School of Pharmacy (clinical pharmacy); **David Gozalo**, School of Dental Medicine (restorative dentistry); **Robert A. Winn**, School of Medicine (pulmonary medicine and critical care); **Tammy Spencer**, College of Nursing; and **Holly J. Wolf**, Colorado School of Public Health (community and behavioral health).

Chancellor's Teaching Recognition Award

Mark E. Deutchman, School of Medicine (family medicine); **Michael R. Carry**, School of Dental Medicine; **Joseph J. Saseen**, School of Pharmacy (clinical pharmacy); **Jane Kass-Wolff**, College of Nursing; **Christopher C. Franklin**, Graduate School (School of Pharmacy); and **John E. Hokanson**, Colorado School of Public Health (department of epidemiology).

DENVER CAMPUS

Provost's Award for Excellence in Practices Related to Non-Tenure-Track Faculty

This award is presented to an academic unit for excellence in practices regarding non-tenure-track faculty that support the mission of the Denver Campus. The winning unit is the Business School.

Excellence in Faculty Mentoring

The Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring was created through the generosity of Lennie and Bob Damrauer to recognize the process by which faculty serve as role models for each other, promote the professional development of others and create a supportive, positive working environment. The campus

award winner is **Brenda J. Allen**, master mentor for the Tenure Track Faculty Mentoring Program and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Excellence in Research and Creative Activities

Thomas Andrews, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (history); **Vinit Desai**, Business School; James Guo, College of Engineering and Applied Science (civil engineering); **Nancy Leech**, School of Education and Human Development; **Nina McHale**, Auraria Library; **Jeremy Nemeth**, College of Architecture and Planning; **Gregory Walker**, College of Arts and Media; **Christopher Weible**, School of Public Affairs; and **Jake York**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (English). The campus award winner is **Christopher Weible**.

Excellence in Teaching (Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor)

Elizabeth Allen, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (psychology); **Teague Bohlen**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (English); **Christopher Daniels**, College of Arts and Media; **Angela Gover**, School of Public Affairs; **Stefanie Johnson**, Business School; **Charles Musiba**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (anthropology); and **Laura Summers**, School of Education and Human Development. The campus award winner is **Angela Gover**.

Excellence in Teaching (Senior Instructor/Instructor/Lecturer)

Suzanne Adams, School of Education and Human Development; **Aimee Bernard**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (integrative biology); **Jessica Lance**, College of Arts and Media; **Peter Marxhausen**, College of Engineering and Applied Science (civil engineering); and **Peter Miller**, Business School. The campus award winner is **Suzanne Adams**.

Excellence in Service

Richard Allen, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (psychology); **Orlando Archibeque**, Auraria Library; **Nancy Ciccone**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (English); **Mary Dodge**, School of Public Affairs; **Michael Jenson**, College of Architecture and Planning; **Manuel Serapio**, Business School; **David Tracer**, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (anthropology); and **Caron Westland**, School of Education and Human Development. The campus award winner is **Mary Dodge**.

Excellence in Librarianship

The winner of this award was selected by the Library Faculty Personnel Committee. This year's winner is **Karen Sobel**.

Colorado Springs professionals name new board members

Board members for the Professional Exempt Staff Association at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs recently were elected. The 2011-2012 board members are:

Stephanie Hanenberg, director, Student Health Center, president; **Ida Dilwood**, director, Office of Disability Services and University Testing, vice president; **Ralph Giese**, director, Office of Residence Life and Housing, treasurer; **Megan Bell**, associate director, University Center, member-at-large; and **Matt Gaden**, director, Campus Recreation Center, member-at-large.

Adjunct professor named a Loeb Fellow at Harvard



Park

Peter Park, associate professor adjunct of planning and design at the University of Colorado Denver and manager of community planning and development for the city and county of Denver, has been selected as a Loeb Fellow by Harvard's Graduate School of Design.

He is one of nine outstanding practitioners whose work shapes the built and natural environment in which we live, work and play and who will be in residence in Cambridge for the 2011-12 academic year, undertaking independent study to improve their professional skills and their leadership abilities. He is interested in new visualization technologies as planning tools. Trained as an architect and urban designer, Park will research new methods for engaging citizens in the planning process and explore opportunities for replacing urban freeways with boulevards in city centers.

Assistant dean awarded grant to boost language program

Kuan-Yi Rose Chang, assistant dean and modern languages instructor at the University of Colorado Denver, has been awarded \$104,132 per year for the next five years by the U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP).

The project aims to assist Denver Language School (DLS), a new immersion charter school within the Denver Public School system, in delivering a comprehensive K-8 curriculum in a full-immersion environment in Mandarin Chinese.

CU Denver will deliver graduate-level teacher training courses for DLS in curriculum design, articulation, teaching methodology, technology integration and program assessment. CU Denver students also will serve as teaching assistants in DLS classrooms. They will participate in academic and homework support activities with children who need additional help. These students also will assist DLS in designing and delivering a four-week summer immersion language camp from mid-June to mid-July.

Dropping names ...

Brenda Allen, associate dean and communication professor at the University of Colorado Denver, is the recipient of Ohio University's 2011 Paul Boase Prize for scholarship for outstanding contributions to the discipline of communication. She will receive the award in October. ... **Nicole Beer**, a senior instructor of English at the University of Colorado Denver, is a finalist for the [Colorado Book Award](#) in the poetry category. Beer, author of *"The Diminishing House"* (Carnegie Mellon University Press), is one of 33 finalists selected for awards in a variety of categories. Winners will be announced June 24. ... **Joni Dunlap**, associate professor in the School of Education and Human Development, and **Patrick Lowenthal**, academic technology coordinator with Academic Technology/Extended Learning and SEHD doctoral student at the University of Colorado Denver, recently published "Learning, unlearning and relearning: Using Web 2.0 technologies to support the development of lifelong learning skills" in G. Magoulas *E-Infrastructures and Technologies for Lifelong Learning: Next Generation Environments*. Also, their article "Tweeting the Night Away" was submitted for the Maryellen Weimer Scholarly Work on Teaching and Learning Award at the upcoming Teaching Professor Conference. ... **Phil Strain** of the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver has been awarded \$1.2 million over three years for a LEAP-USA proposal to the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). Strain's work is a follow-up to determine if differential outcomes for children in the LEAP-USA randomized control trial continue to manifest themselves over a three-year period. ... Also in the School of Education and Human Development, **Bud Talbot's** collaborative proposal with the Boulder Language Technologies submitted to IES in Fall 2010 has been awarded \$102,000 over three years. The project is titled "Comprehension Through Self-Explanation, Enhanced Discussion and Inquiry Generation (SEEDING)." Talbot will provide expertise in developing teacher and student-level measures to be used in the project, assist with the design of teacher training, and lead classroom observation-based research efforts.

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



Allen



Strain

News from across CU

CU-Boulder

Study: Gut microbes heavily influenced by diet

You are what you eat whether you're a lion, a giraffe or a human – at least in terms of the bacteria in your gut.

A new study led by the Washington University School of Medicine and involving the University of Colorado Boulder shows gut microbial communities in humans and in a wildly diverse collection of mammals carry out core physiological functions that are heavily influenced by whether they are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.

The researchers sequenced intestinal microbes in stool samples from 33 mammalian species living in the wild or in zoos in St. Louis and San Diego. Besides identifying the bacterial species living in the mammalian intestines, they characterized the pool of genes present in each microbial community and their related functions, said senior study author Jeffrey Gordon of the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

CU-Boulder professor and study co-author Rob Knight said despite the wide variation of mammals selected for the study, the different gut microbial communities share a set of standard metabolic functions common to all species that play a key role in digestion and immune health. Understanding the variation in human microbial intestine communities holds promise for future clinical research, said Knight, a faculty member in the chemistry and biochemistry department and the computer science department.

A paper on the subject was published in the May 20 issue of *Science*. Other co-authors of the study included CU-Boulder's Justin Kuczynski, Dan Knights, Jose Clemente and Antonio Gonzalez, Washington University School of Medicine's Brian Muegge and Luigi Fontana, and Bernard Henrissat of the Architecture et Fonction des Macromolécules Biologiques in Marseille, France.

"This was the first time we were able to relate the microbial community members to the specific metabolic functions that were being performed," said Knight, who also is a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Early Career Scientist. "This is surprising because even members of the same bacterial species can have genomes that are up to 40 percent different in terms of gene content."

The team extracted DNA from the mammals and humans and used powerful computer methods to sort gene fragments and match them to the DNA of known organisms.

While there was considerable variation of bacterial gut communities between animals, the study showed many of the same microbial genes were found in all of the digestive tracts, with differences in their relative abundance dependent on whether they were meat eaters, vegetarians or omnivores. Among the mammals whose fecal material was used to sequence gut bacteria microbes were giraffe, bighorn sheep, gazelle, kangaroo, hyena, lion, polar bear, elephant, gorilla, baboon, black bear and squirrel.

The team also showed how diet influences microbial communities in the human gut by sampling 18 lean people who purposely had cut their caloric intake by 25 percent or more using many different dietary strategies. The researchers found that the functions of gut microbes varied according to how much protein the individuals ate, and the bacterial species varied according to how much fiber was consumed.

In a related 2009 study led by CU-Boulder's Knight, researchers developed the first atlas of microbial diversity across the human body, charting wide variations in microbe populations from the forehead and feet to noses and navels of individuals. One goal of human bacterial studies is to find out what is normal for healthy people, which should provide a baseline for studies looking at human disease states, said Knight, who also is a fellow at CU's Colorado Initiative for Molecular Biotechnology.

"If we can better understand this microbial variation, we may be able to begin searching for genetic biomarkers for disease," Knight said. It might someday be possible to identify sites on the human body, including the gut, that would be amenable to microbial community transplants with either natural or engineered microbial systems that would be beneficial to the health of the host, he said.

"Because the human microbiome is much more variable than the human genome, and because it also is much easier to modify, it provides a much more logical starting point for personalized medicine," he said.

The latest findings emphasize the need to sample humans across the globe with a variety of extreme lifestyles and diets, including hunter-gatherer groups, said the researchers. Such studies could provide insight into the limits of gut bacteria variation and the possibility that human microbes co-evolved with human bodies and cultures, shaping our physiological differences and environmental adaptations.

Members of Knight's lab and their many collaborators are studying how the human microbiome – all of a person's hereditary information – is assembled in different people and how it varies in conditions such as obesity, malnutrition and Crohn's disease. Besides financial support from HHMI, Knight also has been supported by National Institutes of Health funds to develop new computational tools to better understand the composition and dynamics of microbial communities.

The *Science* magazine study was supported by the NIH and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America.

UCCS

Goodwill drive nets furnishings, food

By Ron Fitz

A couch bought at a Goodwill store by a UCCS student – along with other household furnishings, carpeting, clothes and electronic devices destined for the dumpster – will be used again thanks to the campus Goodwill Project.

Besides those items, the annual Goodwill Project May 9-14 collected about 100 pounds of food for a local food bank, according to event organizer Nancy Gadachy, office manager

of the Student Health Center.



Photos of Gadachy and student donors show dozens of bags and boxes holding items to be given a second life, along with rugs, lamps and what Gadachy called "lots and lots of shelving."

Gadachy thanked all donors and volunteers as well as Goodwill Industries for bringing collection trucks to campus. She also urged the campus community to recycle as much as possible to support sustainability.

For information about this year's project, visit <http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=3738>.

CU Denver

Alumna among teachers honored with U.S. Presidential Award

Flagstone Elementary Teacher Chantel Astler accepted the Presidential Award for Excellence on Wednesday, May 18. She is one of only two Colorado teachers selected for the prestigious honor.

Astler, who earned her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Colorado Denver, has been an elementary educator for 14 years and has spent the past five years as the science teacher at Flagstone Elementary in Douglas County School District. She also has taught Science Methods for Elementary Teachers at Adams State College.

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is awarded annually to outstanding K-12 science and mathematics teachers from across the country. This year's 85 elementary education winners were selected by a panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians and educators following an initial selection process done at the state level.

Winners of the honor receive a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at their discretion. They also receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony and several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and the Administration.



Anschutz Medical Campus

Event raises \$217,000 for School of Medicine program

Denver-area construction-industry leaders came together May 13, for the fourth annual Déjà vu Rendezvous, an event to benefit the [Assistive Technology Partners](#) (ATP) program at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. ATP's mission is for persons with cognitive, sensory, and/or physical disabilities to reach their highest potential at home, school, work and play through the addition of appropriate assistive technologies to their lives. Some 654 attendees at Denver's Mile High Station showed their support for ATP program's pioneering work by raising \$217,000.

The presenting sponsor was UMB Bank, and the event was chaired by GE Johnson vice president Mike Harms and hosted by 20 construction industry leaders. The group was brought together four years ago by retired Trautman & Shreve CEO Bill Caille, who was inspired by ATP's impact on the lives of children and adults with significant disabilities. The annual event has raised nearly \$700,000 to date.

"Assistive Technology Partners supports people with disabilities through innovative technologies and services. ATP provides clinical services, education, professional development, and research and outreach," said Cathy Bodine, executive director of ATP. "Since its founding, ATP has impacted nearly 600,000 people worldwide through technology that assists in learning, speaking, and mobility. We are so grateful to the local construction companies and our generous sponsors for choosing ATP to benefit from such a wonderful annual event."

Funds will be used to support persons with disabilities, their families and others who are unable to afford services.

ATP was established in 1989 under a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education, National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Today, ATP is a program of the [Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado School of Medicine](#).

"This event was first envisioned as a way to unite past and current members of the Colorado construction community annually and celebrate the fantastic industry and relationships we have all established," Harms said. "It has grown beyond our wildest imaginations and we will continue to set our sights higher. The ultimate reward is that we are raising money for such a great cause."

Déjà vu Rendezvous had more than 100 event sponsors. Build sponsors (\$5,000) included:

- CFM Company
- Encore Electric
- Engineered Mechanical Systems
- GE Johnson Construction
- Haselden Construction
- Hensel Phelps Construction
- HITT Contracting
- Ludvik Electric Co.
- Mortenson Construction
- PCL Construction Services
- RK Mechanical
- Saunders Construction
- Surescape Insurance Services
- Trautman & Shreve
- Wholesale Specialties

CU Foundation

Grant of \$1.88 million will help fill state's physician gaps

The University of Colorado established a Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science-Doctor of Medicine (BA/BS-MD) program in 2010 to cultivate more physicians to serve Colorado's underserved communities. This month, a \$1.88 million Colorado Health Foundation grant gives the BA/BS-MD program a critical boost – providing funding for the eight-year curriculum track beginning with undergraduate studies at the [University of Colorado Denver](#) Campus, and concluding at the [School of Medicine](#) at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

This grant, payable over three years, will inspire and enable exceptional Colorado high school students from rural and economically under-resourced backgrounds to pursue the rigorous program, which focuses on readying students for primary care practice.

"The BA/BS-MD program makes a primary care career more viable for young students who have seen firsthand the large and growing health-care needs of their own communities," said Jerry Wartgow, CU Denver chancellor. "The Colorado Health Foundation champions programs that fill Colorado's health-care gaps, and we're thrilled that they are creating futures for our students."

The Colorado Health Foundation grant is the largest gift to date for the BA/BS-MD program, a major

priority for CU Denver and the state's only accredited public medical school, the University of Colorado School of Medicine. The program is at the forefront of a growing number of baccalaureate/MD programs nationally that allow students to work toward a physician career from the moment they leave high school. CU Denver's program is distinct in that it not only addresses student needs, but also the needs of Colorado communities.

Despite CU's outstanding track record educating high-caliber physicians, medical school demographics here and nationwide do not mirror those of the broader population. Meanwhile, 13 of Colorado's 64 counties have one or fewer practicing primary care physicians – forcing citizens to travel many miles for quality care. Even in Colorado's more heavily populated communities, there are many medically underserved pockets due to economic and cultural constraints.

The BA/BS-MD program addresses this need by annually recruiting 10 graduating high school students from diverse Colorado communities, students whose interviews and achievements suggest exceptional enthusiasm and potential for physician careers. They are reserved admission to the School of Medicine pending four successful years on the CU Denver campus: Students must maintain an undergraduate GPA of 3.5 or higher each year, participate in a range of program-related activities, and achieve an MCAT score that indicates preparedness for a medical school curriculum.

"The Colorado Health Foundation supports this effort as a result of the deep impact the program is likely to have in diversifying and strengthening Colorado's future primary care physician workforce," said Colleen Church, a program officer with the Colorado Health Foundation.

The close relationship between the Denver Campus and Anschutz Medical Campus makes the university an ideal base for the program – which incorporates an extensive undergraduate health careers advising program, and lab opportunities that give undergraduates hands-on access to medical research. The first BA/BS-MD cohort will enter the CU School of Medicine in 2014.

Zane Sternberg was selected as part of the initial 2010-11 cohort, and recently completed his freshmen year at CU Denver.

"I have lived on a small ranch outside the rural town of La Veta my entire life," he says. "Many people have asked me whether or not I was ready to narrow down my career choices so early in life. But when I think of going into medicine, I feel as though more doors are being opened than closed: It is such a diverse field. I could teach, volunteer, work in a large hospital, or even practice in a small town – like my parents."

The CU Foundation has embarked on a fundraising effort to bolster the BA/BS-MD program as part of Creating Futures, the University of Colorado's \$1.5 billion fundraising campaign, announced last month, to support teaching, research, outreach and health programs on CU's four campuses. For information on the campaign or to support the BA/BS-MD program, visit www.cufund.org.

Tech Transfer

Fitness feedback technology developed at CU to be commercialized

The University of Colorado and Fort Collins-based Physical Activity Innovations Inc. ([PAI](#)) have executed an exclusive license agreement allowing the company to commercialize a fitness feedback technology developed at CU. The technology is a small, Bluetooth-enabled sensor that allows users to wirelessly track time spent in daily physical activities, calories burned, and progress toward user fitness and weight-loss

goals.

The technology was developed at the University of Colorado School of Medicine by Raymond Browning, Ph.D. (now of the Colorado School of Public Health), and James Hill, Ph.D., with researchers at Clarkson University and the University of Lausanne.

The Fit Companion device is a small, unobtrusive device that may be mounted in any shoe; the device wirelessly transmits data to a cell phone where the user receives easy-to-understand information about their physical activity throughout the entire day. This feature creates a feedback system incorporating calories burned, body weight and physical activity, which can alert the wearer when time spent in sedentary activity exceeds a predetermined threshold, or when a daily physical activity goal has been met.

"When it comes to burning calories, a moderately active person can burn as many calories as a person who sits all day but then has a very vigorous workout," said Browning, who serves as research co-lead at PAI. "Our goal is to provide people with feedback that motivates them to stay at least moderately active every day." PAI received the Bluetooth Innovator of the Year award in the Bluetooth Innovation World Cup 2009.

"PAI is attacking the obesity epidemic head-on with innovative tools such as the Fit Companion," added Paul Tabor of the University of Colorado Technology Transfer Office. "If the company can meet its goal of producing an accurate and comfortable device at a low cost, it will transform the monitoring of physical activity and have an immense impact on human health."

[Physical Activity Innovations Inc.](#) is developing unique, footwear-based systems that motivate users to increase their daily physical activity. Technology in the footwear-based systems is based on research from CU, Colorado State University and Clarkson University.

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