Ibrahim receives social justice advocacy award[1]

Ibrahim

Farah Ibrahim, a professor in the counseling program at CU Denver's School of Education and Human Development, recently received the Reese House Social Justice Advocate of the Year Award from the Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ), a national professional organization, during the American Counseling Association's annual convention.

She was selected for the award because of her service to public schools focusing on social justice and cultural responsiveness over her academic career, and specifically for the new school counseling educational curriculum that she developed in 2010, designed to close the achievement gap, using a service learning model.

The award is named for Reese House, who started the Education Trust, as an avid proponent for confronting and addressing the achievement and opportunity gap in public education.

Also during the March conference, Ibrahim presented "ACA Code of Ethics and Social Justice" during a panel discussion on Integrating Social Justice into the New ACA Code of Ethics and "Infusing Social Justice and Cultural Responsiveness in Group Counseling Training," which discussed how she helps counseling students build trust among group members, understand their cultural identities, privilege and oppression.

J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities establishes partnership with education, industry[3]

[4]

J.P. Morgan and the University of Colorado Denver last week announced the opening of the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities, a first-of-its-kind partnership in the academic world that will provide innovative programs and academic work in the field of commodity finance, economics and policy. The J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities is supported by the firm's $5.5 million gift to the University of Colorado Denver Business School and aims to solidify Denver as the world's hub for this field of study.

"No academic program matches what the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities will provide," said Don Elliman, University of Colorado Denver chancellor. "J.P. Morgan will partner with the CU Denver Business School to create that vital intersection for commodities education and the industry. This partnership will not only prepare future leaders in the industry but also will help the public better understand the important role commodities play in our local, national and global economy."

Said Blythe Masters, head of J.P. Morgan Global Commodities and a member of the JPMorgan Chase Executive Committee, "We are thrilled to support the University of Colorado Denver as they expand academic and public understanding of the commodities industry. We don't see this as simply a gift to the school; it is an investment to better prepare our future and existing talent and improve public understanding through exciting new research."

The J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities will offer students and the industry innovative courses and research on commodity markets, sustainable development, regulations, investing and trading, risk management and ethics. No other university in the world combines these fields of study and industry practices into one focused curriculum.

The J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities occupies an iconic location on the first floor of the new 120,000-square-foot CU Denver Business School building in downtown Denver. The center features a state-of-the-art Finance and Commodities Lab, using industry-standard financial software and technology tools, donated by CQG, I H S and Trading Technologies, as part of students' curriculum. The lab will provide students with hands-on experience and a better understanding of how trading can help commodity producers and consumers alleviate some physical risks and financial

uncertainty in these industries.

The center will make a high-profile addition to the University of Colorado Denver and leverage the school's global reputation for academic excellence.

"The partnership between J.P. Morgan and the CU Denver Business School represents a tremendous opportunity to establish a new and innovative place of learning that will link business education and real world experience in the commodities industry," said Sueann Ambron, dean of the Business School. "We see the center as a tangible validation of J.P. Morgan's leadership in commodities and a dedication to education."

Faculty and staff at the center will collaborate with the commodities industry to develop relevant course work and research in industries such as agriculture, energy and minerals. Courses will feature internationally renowned professors and guest speakers from the industry. The firm's gift also will support the J.P. Morgan Endowed Chair for Commodity Finance, Economics and Policy, as well as several scholarships for high-achieving students earning degrees related to commodities with plans to enter the industry.

Environmental sustainability and socially responsible development will be an integral aspect of the education offered at the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities. Students will gain exposure to this vital dimension of natural resource management and the broader implications for business and the community.

The CU Denver Business School[5] will offer specialization certificates, undergraduate and graduate emphases and degrees and professional education through the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities. Students may currently take courses in areas such as finance, risk management, sustainability and international business related to commodities. Beginning in fall 2012, students may take a specialization in finance, risk management and commodities. Also, professional education courses will begin at the Center in 2013.

The vision is to create a world-class educational program that will support the increasingly significant role of commodities in Colorado, the U.S. and the world. Colorado's history as a leader in agriculture, energy and mining make Denver an excellent location for the center. Even today, Colorado's economy is heavily driven by commodities enterprises. For example, 27 percent of U.S. natural gas resources are located in the Rocky Mountain West.

JPMorgan Chase, which has roots in Colorado dating back to 1874, provided $3.2 million in grants and in-kind value to Colorado nonprofits in 2011. Along the Front Range, Chase has 125 branches that serve more than 1 million Colorado customers.

The CU Denver Business School[5] is the largest accredited graduate school of business in the Rocky Mountain West, with 1,400 undergraduate and 1,500 graduate students, and is known as an innovator with strong business partnerships. It has programs that are the building blocks for commodities, including programs in finance, risk management, energy, sustainability, and international business.

Expanded tuition waiver to take effect for summer[6]

[7]
The University of Colorado has officially launched the newly expanded tuition benefit, which takes effect for the 2012 summer term.

As in the past, the tuition waiver continues to cover nine credits per year at any CU campus. This year's much-requested change allows the credit to be transferred from the employee to eligible dependents for use on the campus of employment. Dependents of system administration employees may enroll at any CU campus.

Dependents in this context are spouse or partner and IRS-defined dependent children.

In separate votes in February, the Staff Council and Faculty Council gave unanimous approval supporting the benefit expansion.[8] Some members of both groups have said they hoped for an even broader expansion of the benefit, and university leadership has indicated it hopes to consider a wider program when finances permit.

Details on the Tuition Benefit APS are posted at http://www.cu.edu/pbs/tuition-benefit/[9].

If you or an eligible dependent are interested in taking classes this summer, be sure to start the process early and submit the Tuition Benefit Application Form[10] to Payroll & Benefit Services.

Questions: Refer to the contact list provided on the website[9].

Mountain Lion Research Day set for Friday[11]

Faculty examine a poster at the 2011 Mountain Lion Research Day. Photo by Jeff Foster

Workplace burnout, privacy, domestic violence and wireless communication are among topics featured Friday at the 2012 Mountain Lion Research Day in the Gallogy Events Center.

So are capillary electrophoresis, disruptive diffusion, wireless torque sensing and other subjects that probably aren't familiar to the rank-and-file population. Yet these are all among the wide range of areas UCCS researchers are investigating and presenting at the fourth annual research showcase. The event is sponsored by the El Pomar Institute for Innovation and Commercialization and the Office of Research and Innovation.

Activities begin at 8:30 a.m. with poster displays of 80 research projects undertaken by UCCS faculty, staff and students. Featured speakers and presentations begin at 9 a.m. and continue through the morning. Visitors may attend any sessions they choose; a luncheon and keynote address require reservations.

Michael Larson, El Pomar Endowed Chair of Engineering and Innovation, and associate vice chancellor, Research and Innovation, described the two major objectives for Mountain Lion Research Day.

The event allows UCCS faculty to become better acquainted with the research being conducted by colleagues at the university with the hope of stimulating cross-campus collaborations, he said. It also introduces potential partners in the Pikes Peak region to the research happening at UCCS.

"As a regional university, it behooves UCCS researchers to engage with entities in Colorado Springs," he said. "UCCS is important to the future growth of southern Colorado in many ways, not the least of which is by being a vibrant research university providing support for the companies who are already here or who may relocate here."

The Mountain Lion Research Day 2012 schedule of events:
7:30 a.m. – Presenter set-up. Posters available for viewing all morning. 8:30 a.m. – Poster presentations. 9 a.m. – Featured speaker John Crumlin, assistant research professor, CU Aging Center. 10 a.m. – Featured speaker Charles "Chip" Benight, professor, Psychology Department, and director, Trauma, Health and Hazards Center. 11 a.m. – Featured speaker Eugenia Olesnicky Killian, assistant professor, Biology Department. 11:45 a.m. – Luncheon featuring keynote speaker James O. Hill, executive director, Colorado Center for Health and Wellness, CU Anschutz Medical Campus, and current director, Center for Human Nutrition, CU Anschutz Medical Campus. For more information about Hill, visit http://HealthWellnessCenter.ucdenver.edu[13].
There is no cost to attend but luncheon reservations are required. Contact Bev Wasinger, program assistant, El Pomar Institute for Innovation and Commercialization, bwasinge@uccs.edu[14], or 719-255-3631.

DeGette: Gains being made on ensuring food safety[15]

Judith Albino, right, dean of the Colorado School of Public Health, presents a plaque of appreciation to U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette after DeGette's talk on "Protecting Our Nation's Food Supply" at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The United States is on course for a comprehensive food safety system for the 21st century, but bureaucratic and financial hurdles remain, U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette, D-Colo., said Monday.

DeGette, who represents Colorado's First Congressional District, spoke about "From Farm to Fork: Protecting Our Nation's Food Supply" at the Anschutz Medical Campus. About 60 people attended the Colorado School of Public Health[17] event.

DeGette said food safety has made gains, especially thanks to the Food Safety Modernization Act[18] passed by Congress and signed by President Obama about a year ago.

"American families can know that the food safety system we're trying to put in place is a food safety system for the 21st century," she said. "Before this law, food safety structure in America was largely unchanged since the 1930s."

It remains a significant problem, however, as last summer's listeria outbreak shows. That outbreak, traced to a Holly, Colo., cantaloupe grower, was the nation's deadliest foodborne-illness outbreak since 1924, infecting 146 people in 28 states and causing 30 fatalities, DeGette said. In all, foodborne illnesses cost the United States $152 billion annually.

The Centers for Disease Control report that food hazards cause 48 million illnesses in the nation each year, including 128,000 hospitalizations and 3,000 deaths, DeGette said.

"These are staggering numbers, and when you hear them in the abstract they're horrifying. But they're not nearly as horrifying as the stories we hear from actual victims of food poisoning."

An Energy and Commerce Committee (DeGette is a member) investigation into the listeria outbreak found systemic problems in food handling and "underscored the critical need for a more effective food safety infrastructure," the congresswoman said.

The Food Safety Modernization Act includes two provisions that DeGette said she was in charge of getting in the legislation: traceability and mandatory recalls.

"The first thing the bill does is it has the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) work with the food industry to develop traceability so that, through interoperable computer systems, we can trace the food from the field to the fork," she said. "The mandatory recall provision gives the FDA the ability to have mandatory recall for contaminated foods. People are surprised to learn that until now, all recalls we had for food were voluntary."

Challenges remain of adequately funding the food safety act and of the bureaucratic difficulties posed by the FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture handling different aspects of food safety.

DeGette took questions from the audience, whose concerns ranged from safety testing of food supplements to how organic and animal food products are regulated.

At the end of the presentation, Judith Albino, dean of the Colorado School of Public Health, presented DeGette with a plaque of appreciation for her food safety efforts in Congress.

DeGette said she is pleased to see that the Colorado School of Public Health has proposed a Center for Food Safety and Prevention of Foodborne Illness.

"Given the challenges we face almost every month with foodborne outbreaks, I can't think of a better place than this to

have a center in the metropolitan area," DeGette said.

CU Denver EPA announces recognition program[19]

The University of Colorado Denver Exempt Professional Assembly has announced the launch of Let Your Light Shine, a program honoring an Exempt Professional Employee each month. Guidelines and the nomination form are posted the EPA website[20].

Besides the prestigious monthly recognition, the selected employee for the month also will receive a $100 gift card.

To end this fiscal year, EPA will honor a recipient for May 2012 and June 2012. Deadline to submit a nomination for May 2012 has been extended to Tuesday, April 17. Nominations for a June recipient must be received by May 5.

It's also time to get your nominations submitted for next year's EPA Board. Nominations are being taken now through April 30. Visit EPA's website and submit nominations through the Questions/Ideas form.

Matt Wasserman named development VP at CU Denver[21]

Wasserman

The University of Colorado Foundation has promoted Matthew Wasserman to the newly established position of vice president of development for the University of Colorado Denver campus based in downtown Denver. As a vice president, Wasserman leads a fundraising effort that has raised more than $13 million to date this fiscal year, and oversees a staff of eight.

Wasserman, a 2004 MBA alumnus of the CU Denver Business School, has been the chief fundraiser for the downtown Denver campus since January 2010. Since arriving at the foundation in 2007, he has played a prominent role in the campaign for the Business School's new home, which opened earlier this year.

Prior to working at the foundation, Wasserman served in various fundraising and management roles including co-owner and president of the Denver Development Group and membership director for the Denver Art Museum.

To date, both the CU Denver campus and Anschutz Medical Campus have been led by a single vice president, Cheryl Kisling. Wasserman's new appointment reflects the CU Foundation's increased fundraising focus at CU Denver, as its campuses have seen unprecedented recent success and are being positioned for continued growth. Kisling continues as vice president overseeing and focusing exclusively on the Anschutz Medical Campus, which raised over $40 million during the most recent fiscal year.

NASA's Kepler planet-hunting mission, controlled by CU-Boulder students, to continue[23]

Bill Possel, director of Mission Operations and Data Systems for the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder, second from right, works with Matt Lenda, a former aerospace engineering undergraduate student, as he goes through a mock flight test in the command center for the NASA planet-finding

mission called Kepler in 2010. (Photo by Glenn J. Asakawa/University of Colorado)

University of Colorado Boulder students will have another four years at the controls of NASA's Kepler mission, launched in 2009 to hunt down Earth-like rocky planets in other solar systems and which has succeeded in spectacular fashion.

NASA last week announced the Kepler mission has been approved for extension through fiscal year 2016 based on a recommendation from NASA's Senior Review panel. Since 2009, the Kepler spacecraft has been used to identify more than 2,300 planet candidates by pointing at Milky Way stars and looking for faint, periodic dips in starlight signaling the transits of orbiting planets passing across the faces of star surfaces.

The mission extension will allow planetary scientists to continue to look for Earth-size planets in the habitable zone – the region in a planetary system where liquid water could exist on the surface of an orbiting planet – around sun-like stars in our galaxy.

A team of 20 students and 16 professionals from CU-Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) has been operating the spacecraft from the LASP Space Technology Building in the CU Research Park following Kepler's launch in March 2009. The spacecraft was built by Ball Aerospace Technologies Corp. of Boulder.

"We are very excited to have the Kepler mission extended," said Bill Possel, LASP mission operations and data systems director. "Kepler is one of the most exciting missions ever operated by LASP, and the scientific findings are truly remarkable."

Possel said LASP hires students to support spacecraft operations each year, including a new group of students that will begin training at the end of May.

"When our students graduate from CU-Boulder with their LASP experience, they have extensive knowledge of spacecraft systems and operations," he said. "This makes them highly sought after by NASA centers and aerospace companies."

Tyler Fox, a junior majoring in computer science from Eads, Colo., said the experience is invaluable.

"When I came to CU, I had no idea there were opportunities like this for undergraduates, and I didn't know the university had such a great space program," he said. "It has been an awesome experience to be involved in a mission like Kepler, and having two or three years of experience controlling satellites as undergraduates definitely gives students here a head start in the job market."

Kepler mission discoveries beyond our solar system include the first rocky planet; the first multiple-transiting planet system; the first small planet in the habitable zone; the first Earth-size planets; the smallest Mars-size planets; and the confirmation of a new class of double-star planetary systems.

"Kepler has revolutionized our understanding of exo-planets and the study of stellar seismology and variability," said Roger Hunter, Kepler project manager at NASA's Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Calif. "There is currently no other mission in development that can replace or surpass the precision of Kepler. This extended mission will afford Kepler a unique opportunity to rewrite our understanding of the galaxy and our place in it."

The CU-Boulder mission operations team works closely with Ball, which built the primary instrument for Kepler -- a 1-meter telescope with a host of light-sensitive microchips -- and is the main mission contractor for the spacecraft. Ball also developed the Kepler spacecraft flight system and is supporting mission operations.

Since Kepler moved into its planet-hunting phase in June 2009, the LASP control team has been contacting the spacecraft twice a week to monitor onboard systems, including sensors, batteries, positioning control, voltages and temperatures, and to upload commands. The spacecraft is directed to point toward Earth once a month and to "dump" its science data to NASA's Deep Space Network, a collection of antennas around the globe that support planetary and

astronomical missions. The data is then transmitted to LASP during individual sessions lasting from 24 to 36 hours, Possel said.

LASP sends the data on to the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, Possel said. Science data analysis will be carried out by NASA's Ames Research Center.

"It's exciting to know our controllers are the first people to see the data from Kepler, even if we are not involved in the analysis," Possel said.

LASP currently controls three other NASA spacecraft, including the Aeronomy of Ice in the Mesosphere, or AIM, the Solar Radiation and Climate Experiment, or SORCE, and the Quick Scatterometer, or QuikSCAT.

LASP hires 10 to 15 undergraduates annually for training as satellite operators at the conclusion of their sophomore years, said Possel. The students go through an intensive 10-week summer training program followed by practical and written tests leading to certification as satellite controllers by LASP. Starting in the fall, the students work 20 hours per week, including nights, holidays and CU-Boulder's winter and spring breaks.

"It is demanding on these students to juggle their missions operations work with their daily classes," Possel said. Most LASP student controllers are majoring in space science, engineering or computer science, although nothing precludes participation by nonscience majors, he said.

NASA's Ames Research Center manages the Kepler mission. The principal investigator of the mission is William Borucki of NASA Ames.

Mitton to take part in book launch[25]

Mitton

The University of Colorado Boulder's Center of the American West will celebrate the release of Laura Pritchett's book "Great Colorado Bear Stories" (Riverbend Press) with an evening of stories and discussion by Pritchett and CU-Boulder professor and (Boulder) Daily Camera columnist **Jeff Mitton.** The two will talk about the grizzlies that once roamed Colorado and the black bears that still do. The program is at 7 p.m. April 17 in ATLAS Room 100 on the CU-Boulder campus. Books will be for sale at this event, which is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

Pritchett is the author/editor of six books. Her fiction includes the novel "Sky Bridge," which won the WILLA Fiction Award; and the short story collection "Hell's Bottom, Colorado," which won the Milkweed National Fiction Prize and the PEN USA Award. She also is the editor/co-editor of three anthologies: "Pulse of the River," "Home Land" and "Going Green: True Tales From Gleaners, Scavengers and Dumpster Divers."

Mitton, a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, writes a biweekly column, Natural Selections, for the Daily Camera. His columns describe the natural history and ecological interactions of plants and animals in Colorado.

Open enrollment requires action by all[27]

[28]
Open Enrollment (OE), the one time each year when University of Colorado faculty and staff may make changes to benefits plans, begins at 8 a.m. April 30 and ends at 5 p.m. May 25.

The 2012–13 OE is a positive enrollment for all medical and dental benefits-eligible employees, which means you must take action for medical and dental benefits, even if you waived coverage for FY 2011-12. The only exception will be for Medicare-eligible retirees and surviving spouses/same gender domestic partners.

Why a positive enrollment this year? After a competitive process that included evaluators from all four campuses and system administration, the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust awarded Cigna and Kaiser Permanente the administrative services contracts for its group medical plans effective July 1, 2012. With the transition, it is important for all employees to educate themselves about plan updates and reaffirm their elections. Also, federal health care law now requires that employers ask employees who have waived coverage the reasons why they elect to do so.

Payroll & Benefit Services (PBS) is finishing plan details and will be updating the OE website -- **www.cu.edu/openenrollment**[29] **--** with details on plan changes, plan comparisons, rates, instructions on how to enroll, and what will happen if you choose not to take action during open enrollment.

PBS will make additional announcements beginning in April via the OE website, your official university email and in CU Connections.

Faculty Council seeking officer nominations[30]

The University of Colorado Faculty Council is seeking nominations for officers, three positions that will be voted on at the April 26 meeting.

The posts are chair, vice chair and secretary. Nominations for each of these positions were requested at the February and March meetings of the council, and will be “received up to and during the annual organizational meeting” (bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Colorado III.C.7.)

Nominations may be sent to Skip Hamilton, secretary of the Faculty Council, at Skip.Hamilton@Colorado.Edu[31] or to Patricia Strating, recording secretary and former administrative assistant for the Faculty Council, at tricia.strating@cu.edu[32].

General descriptions of the responsibilities may be found at the below links:
Faculty Senate Constitution: Article III. Section A. Sections 2, 3. And Sections B.C.D.E.[33]Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of the University of Colorado: Article III.A – particularly sections A.III.2. and A.III.3[34]

Sutherland to succeed Kelbel[35]

Sutherland

Mollie Sutherland, assistant director of the professional golf management program at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, will serve as acting director of the program following the March 28 death of **Ed Kelbel**, the program’s director since 2008. She also will continue to serve the role of internship coordinator.

Sutherland is an active member of the PGA of America and LPGA Teaching and Club Professional Division. She is one of 160 golf professionals in the world to hold dual certification with both organizations.

Locally, Sutherland serves on several Colorado PGA Section Committees and is the LPGA Central Section Education

Coordinator. Her professional career includes managing and operating private country clubs and public course operations for management companies and private owners in Arizona, Nevada and Colorado. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of New Mexico, where she was a member of the Division I Women's Golf Team.

Off-cycle policy changes in place[37]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) has summarized recent changes to eight system administrative policy statements (APS) from the areas of academic/research, human resources, administrative/general, and facilities – which became effective upon the final approval of President Bruce Benson.

Three academic APSs, which were provisionally approved in December, were given final approval by the president in January to become effective Feb. 1. These remaining APSs were reviewed and approved during off-cycle approvals (other than Jan. 1 or July 1) due to unique timing issues requiring these to be in place before the next normal policy cycle would allow. The actions and effective dates are as follows:

Final Approvals for Jan. 1, 2012 (Provisional Approvals)
APS 1008-Procedures for the Establishment of Centers, Institutes, Laboratories and Bureaus (Effective Feb. 1) APS 1017-Procedures for Implementing Regent Actions on Distinguished Professorships (Effective Feb. 1) APS 1023-Restricted, Proprietary and Classified Research (Effective Feb. 1)
Action on Feb. 24, 2012:
APS 5016 – Faculty Retirement Agreements (Effective Feb. 24)
Action on March 8, 2012:
APS 5024-Tuition Assistance Benefit (Effective March 8) APS 2006-Retention of University Records (Effective April 1) APS 1021-Faculty Development and Mentoring (Effective April 1) APS 3002-Capital Construction Planning and Projects (Effective April 1)
For more information on the latest policy changes go to: http://www.cu.edu/policies/aps-changes.html[38] and for a listing of policies under review for July 2012, go to: http://www.cu.edu/policies/aps-under-review.html[39].

If you would like to receive periodic policy updates from the Office of Policy and Efficiency, please send an email to ope@cu.edu[40] and request to be added to the OPE Distribution List.

Wilson receives alumni merit award[41]

Wilson

Elizabeth Towne Wilson, director of the International Student Program (ISP) at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine, recently received an Alumni Merit Award from the Northwestern Alumni Association (NAA).

Wilson, a 1984 graduate of the Dental School, was honored for bringing compassion, community and inclusivity to today's dental education. The ISP program offers graduates of foreign dental programs the opportunity to earn a DDS and become eligible to practice in the United States. She also works at the Howard Dental Center in Denver, which provides oral health care — often at low or no cost — to adults and children living with HIV/AIDS.

Since 1932, the NAA has honored alumni who have distinguished themselves as outstanding professional and personal achievers in their fields and who have loyally dedicated their time and service to their alma mater.

Wang named to advisory board[43]

Wang

Xiao-Jing Wang, professor in the Department of Pathology at the University of Colorado Denver and the director of the head, neck and squamous cell carcinomas research program at CU Denver, was one of four new members appointed to the Advisory Board of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS).

The council comprises scientific and lay members who have expertise in the mission areas of the institute. Council members provide advice to the institute on broad policy issues, and make recommendations on research proposals. The NIAMS is part of the National Institutes of Health.

Wang has created critical resources for evaluating the mechanisms and efficacy of existing clinical trials for the prevention and treatment of head and neck cancer, the sixth most common cancer type worldwide. Her laboratory developed the first genetically engineered mouse model that mimics human head and neck cancers at both genetic and clinical levels. She published a breakthrough paper that identified a single gene deletion as the cause of 80 percent of mouse head and neck cancer tumors. This research is likely to lead to a targeted treatment for the disease in humans.

The mission of the NIAMS[45], a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Institutes of Health, is to support research into the causes, treatment and prevention of arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases; the training of basic and clinical scientists to carry out this research; and the dissemination of information on research progress in these diseases.

Voice professor earns high honor at CU-Boulder[46]

Patrick Mason (Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

Patrick Mason, a professor of voice at the University of Colorado Boulder's College of Music, has been selected to receive the 2012 Hazel Barnes Prize. The prize is the highest faculty recognition for teaching and research awarded by the university.

Mason will receive an engraved university medal and $20,000, the largest single faculty award funded by CU-Boulder. He will be recognized at spring commencement on May 11 and at a reception in his honor in the fall.

The prize recognizes Mason's prolific body of work in national and international concerts and in the recording studio, along with his exceptional research and teaching record as a CU-Boulder faculty member since 1993.

"Professor Mason's vast musical knowledge and experience has been highly influential for his students, many of whom have gone on to be successful in the fiercely competitive world of voice and opera," said CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano. "Exemplary faculty members like professor Mason make learning and teaching one of our greatest pillars of impact at CU-Boulder, and it is with honor that we recognize his service not only to academia, but also to the world of music."

In the 20-year history of the Hazel Barnes Prize, Mason is the first College of Music professor to win. His expertise spans the entire range of notated Western music, from the medieval era to the present, according to nomination materials submitted on Mason's behalf.

The baritone has appeared on stages across the nation and in Tokyo, Rome, Bonn, Paris, Luxembourg, Amsterdam

and Cairo. He has sung with the New York Festival of Song since 1990, with CU-Boulder's Takács Quartet and at chamber music festivals in San Francisco; Steamboat Springs, Colo.; Moab, Utah; and Skaneateles, N.Y.

He was a 2006 Grammy Award finalist in the category of Solo Vocal Performance for his Bridge Records recording of Songs of Amy Beach.

Mason is a Berton Coffin Faculty Fellow at CU-Boulder and is the vocal coordinator of the John Duffy Composer's Institute, an annual two-week event in Norfolk, Va., in which young singers and composers work to create new pieces for the musical stage.

The Hazel Barnes Prize was established in 1991 to recognize the enriching relationship between teaching and research. The prize was named in honor of CU-Boulder philosophy professor emerita Hazel Barnes, who taught at CU-Boulder from 1943 to 1986 and is noted for her interpretations of the works of French philosopher Jean Paul Sartre. Barnes died in 2008 at age 92.

For more information on the Hazel Barnes Prize and a list of recipients visit http://chancellor.colorado.edu/hazel-barnes-prize[48].

Altayli honored with Service Excellence Award[49]

Altayli

Benek Altayli, director of the University Counseling Center, is the winner of the annual Service Excellence Award for her contributions to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

The University of Colorado Staff Council annually recognizes and rewards those individuals from each CU campus and system administration who provide outstanding volunteer service, enriching their campus, community, and the university as a whole.

Altayli's service will be acknowledged and she will receive a $1,000 award at the All-Staff Council Conference later this month.

Altayli has been director of the counseling center since August 2008. She is responsible for supervising interns, conducting counseling sessions with individual students, directing operations and is on call for crisis situations. Most institutions the size of UCCS require seven or more full-time employees to perform the tasks accomplished by Altayli, the interns and two counselors who work part-time.

Altayli also coordinates counseling center activities with the Student Health Center, Disability Services and Public Safety. She is a member of the Student Response Team, serves on the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee, and the Committee for Alcohol Awareness. She teaches courses, too, and receives high praise for taking initiative, working diligently and stretching limited resources to do more than meet minimum requirements.

Finding time and energy for a host of volunteer activities, she actively crusades against suicide, domestic violence and many other ills that afflict society. Altayli shares awareness and education with the campus community and other groups, speaking on mental health issues and bringing in speakers from other agencies. She volunteers at the CU Aging Center as a clinician and works with UCCS women's soccer team players to help them enhance their performance.

One of Altayli's most significant contributions was helping implement a program to counsel area firefighters. Coping with their high-risk occupation, firefighters are subject to post-traumatic stress disorder, among other pressures. They get the help they need through the program.

Finley joins University Advancement staff[51]

Finley

Stephannie Finley of Monument recently was named executive director of university advocacy and partnerships within the University Advancement Division at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Finley previously served as president of the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce Governmental Affairs and Policy Division and executive director of the Center for Regional Advancement. Earlier in her career, Finley held several positions within state government, including chief of staff for the Colorado lieutenant governor, and directed state relations efforts for the CU system. She also served as chief of staff for a member of the United States House of Representatives.

Finley serves as chair of the board for the Colorado Springs Conservatory and leads the Citizens for Effective Government. She also serves on the board of directors for the Tri-Lakes YMCA, Care and Share, the Colorado Springs Incubator, the Department of Human Services Advisory Board and the Colorado Springs Leadership Institute. In 2009, she received the Southern Colorado Women's Chamber Business Person of the Year Award. In 2011, she received the Girl Scout's Women of Distinction Award.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/people/ibrahim-receives-social-justice-advocacy-award[2]
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