CU to launch MOOC on past, present, future of energy[1]

In close vote, Board of Regents OKs closure of SJMC[2]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents voted 5-4 to close the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at CU-Boulder during a special meeting Thursday, March 14, at Qwest Research Park.

The school, which is nearly 50 years old, will effectively close June 30.

While it is the first time in the university's history that a school has been discontinued, journalism education at CU will continue. Beginning next fall and for the next few years, the university will incorporate a "Journalism Plus" plan[3] that requires undergraduates to earn a dual degree in journalism and another discipline, or earn a certificate in journalism and a bachelor's degree in a separate discipline. The dean of the Graduate School will oversee the program until plans for a new college emphasizing information and technology are cemented.

Chair Kyle Hybl voted "yes" to break a 4-4 tie on the vote for discontinuance. Other regents voting to accept the recommendation of President Bruce D. Benson and Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano to close the school were Steve Bosley, Michael Carrigan, Stephen Ludwig and Tilman "Tillie" Bishop. Those voting "no" were Joe Neguse, Sue Sharkey, James Geddes and Monisha Merchant.

Both Benson and DiStefano had recommended discontinuance of the school after a yearlong process of hearings, public meetings and committee recommendations.

"Everyone on this board values journalism – wants journalism studies to continue," said Carrigan before the vote. "I did not come to my conclusion to support this proposal easily. ... The chancellor has come forward with this new and innovative way for us to offer journalism studies here at the University of Colorado, and ultimately I think we cannot be afraid to change."

Ludwig said higher education needs a re-think, and the time to begin is now.

"This won't be the first school we'll close or change. It can't be. ... (Higher education) is getting too expensive and we're leaving too many people outside our doors because of the way we've been structured, the way we've matured," he said. "We need to re-envision how we deliver higher education and this is a beginning."

Voting against discontinuance was Neguse, who has steadily questioned why closure was necessary to make improvements to the school. While proposals for a new school have made sense, he said, they do not answer the question of what structure will be used to ultimately achieve the goals of discontinuance.

"I certainly believe that it would be more prudent if we are going to discontinue a school to decide what the future of that school will be and to not simply rush into discontinuing something without knowing at the end of the day what the school will look like," Neguse said. "As a result of today's vote, the journalism program will no longer be a stand-alone school; it will be housed in the Graduate School on an impermanent basis for an unknown period of time. The future of journalism education at CU-Boulder beyond the president's promise ... and I certainly take him at his word ... is unclear. I simply cannot support a road map that doesn't tell me, or the students at CU, where we are going to go in the future."

Sharkey, whose daughter is a journalism student at CU-Boulder, agreed with Neguse.

"I believe the university has failed the School of Journalism," she said. "I am not convinced the best course for restructuring the program is to close the journalism school and start a new journalism program housed in some other department or school. Many of the recommended changes are good but they can be implemented in the existing school."

At the beginning of the 45-minute meeting, members of the public were allowed to speak. Some gave opposing views of the quality of the faculty and the graduates the school produced. Another asked for a postponement of the decision for the sake of the reputation of the school, while others applauded the closure as a step forward.

Gary Burandt, vice chair of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication Advisory Board, said his advertising agencies have hired bright, hard-working, well-schooled students from CU.

"However, in interviews they will tell you they feel their coursework did not prepare them for the dynamic media marketplace they are in," he said. "The proposed new school of Information, Communication, Media and Technology is designed to break down the traditional academic silos and give our students access to all the appropriate and beneficial resources this campus has to offer. It gives CU the opportunity to set the contemporary education standard."

Speaking for the Colorado Press Association (CPA), which represents newspapers across the state, was Jeanette Chavez, chair of the board of CPA and managing editor of The Denver Post. Chavez also is a graduate of the CU School of Journalism.

"CPA was stunned last year to hear that the university was contemplating discontinuing the journalism program," she said. Any new program "needs to focus on core principals of the profession including ethics and the First Amendment, which is so important to our nation and society. Developing critical thinking skills is crucial. Include courses that ready students for the digital world and whatever new platforms follow, but recognize that a strong foundation and fundamental skills and principles trumps the importance of whatever the latest means of delivering the news is."

The regents' vote is the final step in the discontinuance process. DiStefano has recommended that the "dean of the Graduate School appoint a chair for the department effective July 1, 2011. The chair – working with faculty, members of professional associations and media leaders – will begin to develop the journalism education curriculum" that would take effect in the fall of 2012.

Regents mixed over proposed 3 percent salary pool[4]

Revenue from increased tuition rates in the next fiscal year would help offset some of the cuts in state funding to the University of Colorado in recent years, administrators told the Board of Regents during last week's meeting at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Among the priorities presented to the board is $11.7 million for a salary pool, representing a 3 percent increase over current pay for faculty and staff, who have not received raises for three years. Such a pool would not equate to across-the-board, uniform raises, but would enable merit pay increases for many. Some members of the board, which will be asked to vote on tuition increases later this spring, expressed reservations about dedicating money to increasing faculty and staff pay.

During an April 8 presentation by Kelly Fox, vice president and chief financial officer, Regent Jim Geddes, R-Sedalia, said he is more interested in seeing data that compares salaries for university employees to workers in the private sector, rather than comparisons with public universities around the country. But he also pointed to North Carolina, a state that is cutting its typically high funding for the University of North Carolina, which is resulting in layoffs and furloughs.

"We're being lobbied to increase a faculty salary pool and the major reason is, if we don't, we'll lose good faculty to other universities," Geddes said. "And here (the University of North Carolina) is going to be releasing a lot of their faculty."

Regent Joe Neguse, D-Boulder, said he understands the need for an increase to the salary pool. He said he mostly

hears complaints related to quality of education – large class sizes, wait lists, low availability of academic advising for students.

"I understand we want to keep our best and brightest faculty here, but there will be tough choices to make in the coming weeks," Neguse said. "There are faculty we may very well lose after asking them to share in the sacrifice over the past three years."

Regent Stephen Ludwig, D-Lone Tree, said he's concerned about the message that would be sent to faculty and staff should the board not support the salary pool increase – that individuals are "replaceable like a wing nut."

"If I were an employee who'd gone three years without a raise, I'd start looking," Ludwig said.

Chancellors also defended the request for the salary pool increase. Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs said "faculty and staff have been extraordinary" during the funding crisis. "In some respects, 3 percent is a vote of confidence in the value our faculty and staff are providing." She said the amount may not be enough to retain all current faculty and staff.

Chancellor Philip DiStefano of the University of Colorado Boulder said more faculty are seeking positions at other institutions this year than in recent years. He said job listings in The Chronicle of Higher Education indicate there is demand, despite funding woes across the country.

"When we look at the cost of retention and what effect will losing a faculty member have on a department ... I'd much rather keep a faculty member," DiStefano said. "Will 3 percent do it? I think it would."

University of Colorado Denver Chancellor Jerry Wartgow said he used to advocate for early retirement programs as a way of reducing salary costs, but changes in the economy make that strategy obsolete. "You cannot replace people for less – in fact, they cost much more," he said.

Lilly Marks, vice president for health affairs and executive vice chancellor for Anschutz Medical Campus, likened the funding crisis to a patient losing blood.

"Taxes may be higher than people want, the recession may be more prolonged than people want, but the obligation here is the survival of this institution," Marks said. "Have we lost so much blood volume that our very revival is at stake? ... There's very little left to cut."

President Bruce D. Benson also expressed concern about the threat to quality posed by ongoing cuts in state funding. In the state budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 introduced last week at the Capitol by the Join Budget Committee, higher education funding was reduced an additional $36 million, for a total reduction of $188 million. For CU, it means another $13 million cut, totaling $64 million cut since 2009.

"We're pretty lean now and we continue to get lean all the time," Benson said.

In other business at the April 7-8 meeting:
Benson made official his recommendation for discontinuance of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at CU-Boulder.
"I want a stronger journalism education provided at the University of Colorado Boulder," he said. "I'm confident the plan they've come up with will do that."

The board will vote on the matter at a special meeting set for 1 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the CU-Boulder East Campus, 4001 Discovery Drive, first floor conference room. Public comment will be taken from 1 to 1:30 p.m. The board heard a presentation on a proposal for a new doctoral degree in engineering and applied science at CU Denver. Regents Tilman "Tillie" Bishop, R-Grand Junction, and Monisha Merchant, D-Lakewood, expressed reservations over adding degree programs during a budget crisis, with Merchant asking that the university consider not approving any new degree programs during the next fiscal year. Provost Rod Nairn and other leaders said they are confident that market demand indicated for the new degree would justify adding the program, which would not require additional

funding. The board approved the sale of the former medical campus at East Ninth Avenue and Colorado Boulevard to the Sembler Co., a Florida real estate developer, for $34.8 million. The 30-acre site includes 3 million square feet of existing building space. The board approved the creation of a new volunteer post, alumni adviser to the regents, an effort introduced by Neguse and co-sponsored by Regent Michael Carrigan, D-Denver Ken McConnellogue, associate vice president for university relations, gave a presentation on the CU Outreach website[5], a resource for local communities and businesses to tap into expert help from the university. The board formally recognized the national championship season by the ski team at CU-Boulder.

Candidates for Denver mayor take to campus for debate[6]

By Diane Carman
Photos by Karl Gehring of the Denver Post
Paul Teske, dean of the School of Public Affairs
Photos by Karl Gehring of the Denver PostPaul Teske, dean of the School of Public Affairs

Six of the 10 candidates vying to be Denver's next mayor faced off Tuesday, April 12, at the Tivoli Center in what has become an almost daily routine of debates and joint public forums in the crowded race to the May 3 election. The event was co-sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs.

The candidates – City Councilwoman Carol Boigon, attorney Theresa Spahn, former state Sen. Chris Romer, city councilmen Michael Hancock and Doug Linkhart, and James Mejia, former CEO of the Denver Preschool Program – focused intently on the need for greater efficiency and new revenue sources for the city, which faces another tough budget this year.

"We have to build the retail tax base," Romer said.

"We need to diversify the revenue base," Linkhart countered, suggesting imposing trash-hauling fees on residents and "leveraging parking meter fees to generate more revenue."

Mejia called for aggressive action to "bring in grant money" from foundations and the federal government, while Spahn proposes a new retail sales plan and an initiative to "get behind tourism and be very aggressive about it."

Boigon wants line-by-line review of the city budget to eliminate unnecessary spending, and Hancock contends the best way to address the budget problem is through economic development and job growth.

The debate, co-sponsored by the School of Public Affairs, theDenver Post, Denver 8 TV, the League of Women Voters of Denver, Historic Denver and Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation, revealed subtle differences among the leading contenders. About 200 people attended the event, which will be broadcast on Channel 8 this week and available on its website[8].
Photos by Karl Gehring of the Denver Post
Denver mayoral candidates gathered Tuesday on the CU Denver campus for a debate.
Photos by Karl Gehring of the Denver PostDenver mayoral candidates gathered Tuesday on the CU Denver campus for a debate.

While Romer said he would look for opportunities to lure big-box retailers to the city because it's "very frustrating" that Denver shoppers flock to Target in Glendale instead of boosting the city's tax revenues by shopping here, Linkhart said he'd rather see locally owned retailers thrive. "I don't like Walmart," he said.

As for public safety, all the candidates expressed concern about the police department and each offered different ideas about how to address the various problems.

"We need to streamline the discipline process," Mejia said. Boigon called for modernizing the internal affairs bureau, and Hancock proposed a greater commitment to community policing.

Danny F. Lopez, Jeff Peckman, Kenneth Simpson and Thomas Wolf also are running for mayor.

Boulder concert to benefit victims of disasters in Japan[10]

Faculty, students and alumni from the University of Colorado Boulder College of Music will perform a concert to benefit relief efforts in Japan. The event begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 17, in the Music Theater (N1B95) at the Imig Music Building.

"This tragedy is difficult to comprehend and deeply saddens all of us," said Kaori Uno, bassoonist, who helped organize the event with the CU-Boulder College of Music, CU Stands With Japan, CU Japanese Student Association and the other performers. "We hope to assist the victims through our thoughts and donations, 100 percent of which will go to the Red Cross."

Checks given at the event should be made payable to the University of Colorado Boulder.

Performers besides Uno are Yoshi Ishikawa, bassoon; Mutsumi Moteki, piano; Yoriko Morita, cello; Annamaria Karacson, violin; Aniel Caban, viola; Lori Walker, piano; David Wheeler, shakhuachi; Yoko Hiraoka, koto; Crystal Lee, piano; Kaori Uno, bassoon; Christine Scheetz, voice; and the CU Japanese Ensemble.

Campus receives Tree Campus USA designation[11]
Photo by Patrick Campbell/University of Colorado
Trees like these that caught the attention of a grade-school tour last year have earned the CU-Boulder campus honors from the Arbor Day Foundation.
Photo by Patrick Campbell/University of ColoradoTrees like these that caught the attention of a grade-school tour last year have earned the CU-Boulder campus honors from the Arbor Day Foundation.

The University of Colorado Boulder is being recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus USA for excellence in tree management, as well as student and community involvement.

The Arbor Foundation issues the Tree Campus USA designation to campuses that meet five requirements including convening a tree advisory committee, creating a tree-care plan, implementing a tree program, holding an Arbor Day observance and offering a service learning project.

"Not only do the trees on campus complement the architecture and support the ecosystem," said Frank Bruno, vice chancellor for administration, "they've brought our community together since 1888 when students and faculty started planting trees on Arbor Day."

CU-Boulder will be presented the Tree Campus USA designation and will celebrate Arbor Day with the planting of two

Sweet Gum trees from 11 to 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 15, on the grounds across University Avenue from the Armory Building. Speakers will include campus leaders as well as forestry representatives from the state of Colorado and the city of Boulder.

The event is free and open to the public, and will be followed by refreshments and the opportunity to speak with professionals about tree care. Attendees are advised to wear comfortable shoes appropriate for potentially moist grounds.

From the late 1880s, when one of the first trees, a Plains Cottonwood, was planted near Old Main, CU-Boulder's tree population has grown to more than 4,100 trees comprising more than 100 species.

Senior Grounds Specialist Alan Nelson credits the stone construction, size and positioning of many campus buildings for helping to create microclimates conducive to a variety of trees that would not typically grow in Colorado.

"We've got some really unique things here on campus," Nelson said. "In many ways it's a tribute to my predecessors, in that they were willing to push the envelope and try things that on paper may not grow here. They were able to have success with some of these exotic things."

Nelson leads tree walks on campus in conjunction with the CU Museum of Natural History and the CU Heritage Center, educating participants on the history and significance of CU-Boulder's trees.

The next two tree walks, which are free and open to the public, will be at 5 p.m. May 17 and 18 on the west steps outside of Norlin Library. Participants do not need to register ahead of time but should wear comfortable walking shoes.

For details on CU-Boulder's tree-care plan, contact Megan Rose of facilities management. To explore tree-related and other volunteer opportunities visithttp://ecenter.colorado.edu/resources/get-involved[13]. For more information on Tree Campus USA visit http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/[14].

Proposed bill adds research to university's mission[15]

[16]
A bill recently introduced in the Colorado General Assembly would formally add research to the UCCS role and mission.

On March 25, Senate Bill 11-204 was introduced by Sen. John Morse, D-Colorado Springs, and Angela Giron, D-Pueblo. Morse and Giron are the bill's sponsors in the Senate. In the Colorado House of Representatives, the bill is sponsored by Keith Swerdferger, R-Pueblo; Amy Stephens, R-Colorado Springs; Mark Barker, R-Colorado Springs; Bob Gardner, R-Colorado Springs; and Pete Lee, D-Colorado Springs.

The bill proposes that the missions of Colorado State University Pueblo and UCCS be changed. For UCCS, the words "and specialized graduate research" are added to the university's existing statutory role and mission statement.

The proposed role and mission reads:

"The Colorado Springs campus of the University of Colorado shall be a comprehensive baccalaureate and specialized graduate research university with selective admission standards. The Colorado Springs campus shall offer liberal arts and sciences, business, engineering, health sciences, and teacher preparation undergraduate degree programs and a selected number of master's and doctoral degree programs."

For CSU Pueblo, the words "a limited number of" are inserted in a sentence that now reads, "The university shall also

offer a limited number of graduate programs."

The proposed changes are a model of bipartisan and community support, said Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak, with both universities and their surrounding communities benefiting.

For UCCS, having research in its official role and mission means that applicants for federal and state funding no longer have to explain the absence of the word.

"Our faculty and researchers have made extraordinary strides in establishing this campus as a research university," Shockley-Zalabak said. "But nearly every application had to explain why the word 'research' was not there. I hope we will soon no longer have that obstacle."

The bill is posted at http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2011A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/E6E2DE2839A236C88725783E006F8C69?Open&file=204_01.pdf[17]

Red flags raise awareness about abusive relationships[18]

[19]
The tri-institutional Phoenix Center at Auraria[20]hosted a Red Flag[21] Rally during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Students joined the rally to raise awareness of interpersonal, sexual and stalking violence and the ways in which they can help their friends identify red flags in relationships.

Some 1,200 red flags around the Auraria Campus, accompanied by educational posters from the Red Flag Campaign [22], identify ways that abuse manifests in relationships.

Kathy Robertson, above, mother of Abby Robertson, a Metropolitan State College of Denver student who was stalked and murdered by her ex-boyfriend in 2007, spoke along with other guests at the April 7 event on the Auraria Campus.

The rally was sponsored by the Phoenix Center at Auraria, GLBT Student Services, the Institute for Women's Studies and Services, UCD Student Life, CCD Student Life, UCD Center on Domestic Violence, and Metro State Student Activities.

For information, please contact Lisa Ingarfield, associate director of the Phoenix Center at Auraria, at lisa.ingarfield@ucdenver.edu[23], 303-352-3745.

New facility provides hope for mothers, babies[24]

"I'm here to change my life and to be a better mother and a better woman – I need to be healthy," said Shay, a resident at The Haven[25], a University of Colorado School of Medicine clinical care center that serves women with serious substance abuse problems and addictions. She held her baby and spoke from her heart. "This program has opened my eyes. I'm blessed to be here."

Another resident, Hailey, says it's a hard program but she's learned a lot – she's growing emotionally and can't wait to graduate.

Thanks to nearly three years of planning, a $500,000 gift from the Anschutz Foundation and generous donations from 27 other foundations and individual donors, and with help from the CU Foundation, $3.8 million was successfully raised to build a new 9,000-square-foot Baby Haven Therapeutic Early Childhood Education Center for babies of moms going through treatment at the Haven. The grand opening celebration took place April 8.

The new Baby Haven, a licensed child-care facility for children up to age 5, allows more women like Shay and Hailey and their babies to benefit from the program. This state-of-the art facility provides the prevention program with the opportunity to become Qualistar rated. Once obtained, the Baby Haven will be the only child-care center of its kind in the state of Colorado, designed specifically to treat drug-exposed infants and toddlers.

Established in 1992 on the historic grounds of Fort Logan in Denver, the Haven is part of the Addiction Research and Treatment Services (ARTS) program of the CU School of Medicine. Women are often referred to the Haven from social services department, primary care settings, the criminal justice system, family members, and clients themselves. The Haven has served about 1,250 women and children and claims the lowest recidivism rate of any rehabilitation program: 90 percent of those who finish the program remain drug-free and crime-free as a result. As its mission, the Haven strives to provide a safe and empowering environment for pregnant women and their infant children – a place where women can recover from addictions and co-occurring illnesses; deliver healthy, drug-free infants; improve parenting skills; maintain their cultural and family connections; and become self-sufficient, confident and productive members of the community.

On average, a mother takes part in the Haven program for nine to 12 months in residential treatment and 12 months in after-care, where she receives substance-abuse treatment, participates in a therapeutic community, and learns how to build a new and positive life path for herself and her baby.

ARTS Deputy Executive Director Julie Krow says that without the Haven, many of the mothers would continue to use drugs or alcohol during their pregnancies and might not access prenatal care. These infants would likely be placed in relative or foster care, separated from mother at birth.

The Baby Haven is near the residences where the women and their children live; the women have no form of transportation to get to child-care facilities. They also need to be in treatment activities the majority of each day.

Friends of the Haven is a non-profit organization that was created with the sole purpose of providing financial and volunteer support for the Haven and its programs. In early 2008, Friends of the Haven initiated a capital campaign to secure the financial resources to build a new Baby Haven complex, expanding and improving care for babies.

"The Anschutz Foundation and Daniels Fund were the early enthusiastic donors that catalyzed the capital campaign," said Bill Winn, president of Friends of the Haven.

"The old facility is approximately 118 years old and is not programmatically or structurally able to meet the needs of a therapeutic nursery and home for babies," said Krow, who has been with the program for seven years. "This program provides a safe environment and instills a regular routine for moms and babies. Mental health, substance-abuse treatment, and primary care are brought together. Without this program, many of these children would be in foster care. Here, they can be in a safe environment with their moms."

According to Krow, the new Baby Haven provides a greater range of services to nurture and stimulate babies and ensure their mothers' development as parents. And the space allows for an expansion in the number of infants and toddlers served, from 16 to 40. Children served in the past were only up to 12 months old; now, the new Baby Haven can provide for children up to 5 years old. The children can stay in a safe environment during the early years when they are most at risk. The high-quality programming offered at the Baby Haven will prepare them for school. Many of the staff, which has increased to meet licensing and Qualistar standards, are dually certified both as lead teachers and addiction counselors.

"Throughout the last 11 years at University of Colorado Hospital, I have witnessed the detrimental effects that untreated addiction can have on mothers and babies," said Erica L. Schwartz, DNP, executive director of the Sheridan Health Services and director of midwifery at the University of Colorado College of Nursing. "The Baby Haven is a

reputable organization that provides comprehensive, compassionate treatment to women, babies, and families. Pregnant women are generally motivated to seek treatment for their addiction. The Baby Haven offers comprehensive treatment and support, and the outcomes for women who complete the program are impressive."

The state of Colorado pledged the land for the new Baby Haven on the Fort Logan campus where the six Haven programs are located. Because it's a new building on a historic campus, the Baby Haven was designed to blend in to its environment and match the other structures.

The previous Baby Haven will be converted into administration offices and an Intake office that will free up space in other facilities for additional treatment services.

George Lundeen, a world-renowned sculptor living and working in Loveland, Colo., donatedTender Touch, a life-size bronze statue of a woman holding a baby in one arm and a child in the other. It's fitting that the statue will greet all who enter the front doors of the new Baby Haven.

Obama nominates Distinguished Professor for National Science Board[26]

University of Colorado Boulder Distinguished Professor **Carl Lineberger** has been nominated by President Barack Obama to serve on the National Science Board. The nomination has been sent to the U.S. Senate for confirmation.

The National Science Board's duties include establishing the policies of the National Science Foundation and serving as an advisory board to the president and Congress on issues involving science and engineering.

Lineberger also is a fellow of JILA, a joint institute of CU-Boulder and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

"The nomination of Carl Lineberger to this prestigious board is a great honor for him and for the university," said CU-Boulder Chancellor **Philip P. DiStefano**. "He is the third CU faculty member in the last three years to receive a prestigious White House nomination or appointment, which underscores CU-Boulder's national reach in scientific research and public policy."

Last September, CU-Boulder Distinguished Professor and JILA Fellow **Carl Wieman** was confirmed as associate director for science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Former Boulder Chancellor **G.P. "Bud" Peterson** in September 2008 was nominated by President George W. Bush and subsequently appointed to serve on the National Science Board.

Outstanding Staffer 'a lifeline for first-generation students'[27]

Photo courtesy of the Pre-Collegiate Development Program
Benavidez
Photo courtesy of the Pre-Collegiate Development ProgramBenavidez

Josephine Benavidez, director of the Pre-Collegiate Development Program (PCDP) at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, has received the 2011 UCCS Outstanding Staff Award.

The award acknowledges outstanding achievements and contributions of a UCCS staff member who exemplifies excellence in service to the campus and community.

"Josephine has changed more lives than most people do in a lifetime," said **Barbara Gaddis**, executive director, First Year Experience and Student Retention. "She has been a lifeline for first-generation students, providing them with the information they need to transition to college."

Miss B, as she is known by many of her students, said she is honored to be singled out for her contributions. "I was overwhelmed, surprised and honored beyond words. What I do here isn't a job, it's my life work. My passion."

Benavidez first came to UCCS in 1993 as a master's student in communication. After instructing classes for PCDP in the summer of 1997, she was asked to step in as interim director. Since her arrival, the program has grown from 75 to 699 first-generation students enrolled. Of those, 96 percent enroll in a four-year university.

PCDP is a system-wide, institutionally funded academic program for first-generation middle and high school students. The program is designed to motivate and prepare students in pursuit of their higher educational goals.

PCDP is structured to ensure that students are academically prepared to enroll and be successful at UCCS or other CU campuses, or other postsecondary institution.

Chancellor **Pam Shockley-Zalabak** will present Benavidez with the award, as well as a $1,000 prize, at the Campus Awards Ceremony on May 3

Five questions for Andrew Cooperstock[29]

Cooperstock, right, with his Opus Two partner, violinist William Terwilliger.

Andrew Cooperstock's music career has made him somewhat of a globetrotter. As a piano soloist and chamber musician, he's spent time on six continents and has performed in nearly every state in the U.S. He has won numerous awards and has been described as a "technically impeccable and musically profound" pianist.

He and his musical partner, violinist William Terwilliger, also have won awards appearing as Opus Two[31]. The duo has appeared throughout North and South America, Europe, Africa, and Australia, and it made its Asian debut in 2006 with performances across China, Korea, Japan, and the Russian Far East.

Cooperstock, a professor of piano, has been at the University of Colorado Boulder's College of Music for 12 years. He is a graduate of the Julliard School and the Cincinnati and Peabody conservatories.

Recently, he and Terwilliger spent a week in Africa on a tour coordinated by U.S. Department of State.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. How long has music been a part of your life?

It's always been a part of my life. I remember singing songs with my mom and having the desire to play the piano before we owned an instrument. I played toy pianos and all my friends' pianos. I was thrilled when we finally got one and I could start taking lessons formally at age 8. I've concentrated on piano the whole time.

2. How did the tour of Ghana come about?

The impetus came from one of my colleagues, Kwasi Ampene, who is one of our associate musicologists and is from Ghana. Over the years, he's suggested that I go to Ghana. I sort of shrugged it off, but then I thought this might be the time. He put me in contact with the University of Ghana, which has one of the main music programs in the country. And then the State Department got involved. In 1993, Opus Two won a competition sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency. They sent us to South America for a two-month tour and ever since we've stayed in touch. We contacted the State Department to see if they were interested, and they took over the tour and created a great schedule for us. Even with a tight budget, the State Department is interested in these types of cultural exchanges and building bridges.
We were residents at the University of Ghana, teaching master classes in violin and piano and performing for the students. They performed, danced and drummed for us. Then we spent time with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ghana, which is state sponsored, performing in Accra. We also performed a recital at the U.S. ambassador's residence for dignitaries.

It was an amazing experience. I had no expectations at all of Africa, but I was pleasantly surprised to see the modern, bustling city of Ghana. The people were very welcoming, very cultural minded. It was a pleasure to learn about the music scene there and to work with everybody.

I consider the tour almost life-changing. The roots of our American popular music really are African and so I thought about our music in a different way. America is, of course, a melting pot, but the roots of even our classical music can't help but be influenced by jazz. Those are the same rhythms we heard when we were in Africa. American popular music influences a lot of the world now, and I think it's influencing African music again.

We played music from our new CD,"Leonard Bernstein: Violin Sonata; Piano Trio; New Transcriptions." And we played some Paul Schoenfield and "Bess, You Is My Woman Now" from "Porgy and Bess." The State Department is particularly interested in us playing American music. We played some standards, too: Beethoven and Brahms.

Then we thought it would be nice to play a couple of African pieces. Kwasi suggested a couple by a composer named J. H. Kwabena Nketia. He is about 90 years old and a wonderful classical African composer whose inspiration is African folk music. He's considered the father of ethnomusicology. He came to our concert and we played for him.

3. How long has Opus Two been together?

Almost 20 years. We have a half-dozen CDs. The Bernstein just came out in November. We recently did a performance in Greenwich Village at this cool spot called Le Poisson Rouge, a nightclub. Leonard Bernstein's son, Alex, came to hear us.

It takes a long time to finish a CD project. Usually you want to live with the music before you record it, so it might be a year or two of performing the pieces, then two or three days to lay it down. You try to get it perfect. Every project I've taken on, it's been like a child, from the conception of the project to seeing it through. I'm very proud of each and every one of the CDs.

4. How did the performance experiences in New York and Ghana differ?

The satisfaction was different with each, but they were both on a high level. In New York you have some of the most sophisticated audiences in the world. There are critics there and record producers, and friends in the business, and to have Bernstein's son there was very exciting.

The audiences in Ghana were a treat, too. They were very attentive. People who attended the recital said they were moved by the music and began to cry. I think some of the music we played was inspiring to them.

We play concerts all the time; we don't have to go clear across the world to do it. We do it to get to know the culture and the people. Knowledge makes performing very special for us.

5. Is there one aspect of your career you enjoy most?

I'm thrilled to be active in the music profession and have the opportunity to have new projects all the time, to be able to record and to travel, to learn new music, and to get to work with other people. I love the way my career has turned out: performing and the teaching. I was just in Iowa judging an international competition and I'll be judging in Hong Kong in July and Baltimore in October. I love hearing young people coming up – people trying to break in with their career. Mentoring the next generation is great, too.

Duening to lead new program at UCCS College of Business[32]

Duening

Tom Duening, director of the Center for Entrepreneurship and El Pomar Chair of Business and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, will lead a new program at the College of Business that will offer a minor in entrepreneurship.

"We are motivated by the belief that entrepreneurship is the next-generation social force," said **Venkat Reddy,** dean of the College of Business. "The more entrepreneurs we create, the stronger the force becomes."

Startup companies in the United States are creating an average of 3 million jobs annually, according to Duening. In contrast, large companies are decreasing their U.S. workforces.

"If we want to dig out of this lingering jobs recession, we have to train, encourage, and assist startup ventures in our community and country," Duening said.

The new minor can be paired with any UCCS major and includes core business courses as well as courses specific to the development of entrepreneurs. The program will begin in fall 2011.

Duening will teach an initial course, New Venture Creation, to introduce students to opportunity identification, evaluation, and feasibility. Students who continue in the program will learn issues surrounding venture creation, including funds needed for launch, growth, and exit. Students will prepare business plans and will present their plans to groups of seasoned investors.

The new minor in entrepreneurship is unique in Colorado Springs and is part of a larger effort undertaken by the Center for Entrepreneurship to build southern Colorado.

Duening joined UCCS in 2009. Previously, he directed entrepreneurial programs at Arizona State University, launched the Arizona Technology Investor Forum and directed the University of Houston's Entrepreneur and Venture Development Center and was assistant dean for administration and executive programs in the UH College of Business. He also served as president of U.S. Learning Systems and vice president for content development for Edgia, Inc. He is the author of 12 books, including "Technology Entrepreneurship."

Evaluators to recommend continued accreditation for University of Colorado Denver[34]

Leadership at the University of Colorado Denver expects the institution's accreditation to continue now that an evaluation visit has been completed.

A review team from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) visited the Denver campus and Anschutz Medical Campus on April 4-6.

In a message to students, faculty and staff, Provost Roderick Nairn said, " It was the initial impression of the site visit review team that we had met the standard for all five criteria, and that they plan to recommend continued accreditation for the next 10 years."

The commission's five criteria are:
Mission and integrity Preparing for the future Student learning and effective teaching Acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge Engagement and service
University leaders now wait for the team's report, which will be reviewed for factual errors. Once the report is final, it will be submitted to the HLC for a second-level peer review, then final action, likely this summer.

"We are very pleased with this outcome and will keep you informed as the process moves forward," Nairn said. "Many thanks to everyone – faculty, staff and students – for your outstanding work!"

Dean to return to faculty in physics and energy science[35]

Christensen

Tom Christensen, dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, recently announced plans to return to the faculty in June 2012.

Christensen will return to teaching and research as a professor in the department of physics and energy science. "After considerable reflection, I have decided that next academic year will be my last year as dean," Christensen said in a March 16 memo. "It is time for me to return to the faculty and get back to the things that brought me to UCCS in the first place."

Christensen was named dean in January 2005 and previously served as interim dean and associate dean. He joined UCCS in August 1989 as an assistant professor.

"Tom Christensen has done an outstanding job as dean of our largest college," said **Peg Bacon,** provost. "His successors will have big shoes to fill."

As dean, Christensen was in charge as the college experienced a 22 percent increase in student credit hours (2005-2010) and added new degrees including a doctoral degree in applied science, a bachelor of arts in women's and ethnic studies, a bachelor of science in biology, and a bachelor of science and a bachelor of arts in biochemistry. During his tenure, the department of mathematics moved to the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; the college launched a cooperative venture with the College of Education to encourage more science and math students to pursue teaching certification; a new Science & Engineering Building was constructed; and Centennial Hall was remodeled and the Heller Center for Arts and Humanities opened.

Bacon said search plans are under development and will likely begin in early 2012. The search committee will be chaired by **Teri Switzer**, dean of the Kraemer Family Library.

Landscape architecture faculty make strong showing at national conference[37]

The department of landscape architecture at the University of Colorado Denver had a strong presence at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) conference in Los Angeles March 30-April 2.

Lois Brink, professor, and **Bambi Yost**, Ph.D. student in design and planning and also an assistant professor at Iowa State, participated in a panel titled "Drawing on Children's Ideas of Nature." **Joseph Juhász**, professor emeritus of architecture; **Joern Langhorst**, assistant professor of landscape architecture; **Austin Allen** of Louisiana State University (formerly chair and associate professor of landscape architecture); and **Susan Gunn**, Ph.D. student in design and planning, presented a panel titled "Framing Place Change: Film, Design and Planning in the Post-Apocalyptic Landscape." Individual presentations included Langhorst's "The Ruins of Nature and Culture: Urban Voids as Contested Terrains and Critical Infrastructure"; **Kathleen Kambic**, instructor in landscape architecture studies, "Hydrologic Currency: Reclaiming the Fundamental Armature of Cities"; Yost, "Benefits of Gardening for Denver Latino and Latina Youth"; and **Joni Palmer**, lecturer in landscape architecture, "The Importance of the 'Slow Read' - as a Method of Inquiry and Way of Knowing."

Dropping names ...[38]

Sclafani

Clark

Robert Sclafani, program director of cell biology in the University of Colorado Cancer Center at the Anschutz Medical Campus, was elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology. Sclafani is one of 78 microbiologists elected in February. He joins medical school faculty **Kay and Randy Holmes, Mike Vasil, David Talmage** (now retired), **Ed Janoff**and **Mark Johnston** as a Fellow. Election to fellowship indicates recognition by one's peers of distinction in microbiology. ... **Lynn Clark**, communications manager for the University of Colorado Cancer Center, has been elected to a second term on the National Cancer Institute Public Affairs and Marketing Network's steering committee. She serves as social media chair. ...**Paul Ballantyne**, professor in the department of economics at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, will be recognized April 28 for 44 years of service to the university. He is one of the longest-serving faculty members at UCCS, having joined in 1967, only two years after UCCS was founded. He and others with 25 or more years of service will be honored by Chancellor **Pam Shockley-Zalabak** at a reception April 28 at the University Center Overlook.

Anschutz Medical Campus last stop on president's town hall tour[41]

University of Colorado President Bruce D. Benson's spring series of town hall meetings concludes on Thursday, April 21, on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. He'll speak at 3:30 p.m. in RC2, Trivisible Room, Second Floor.

The format will be similar to the meetings Benson led last fall, with an opportunity for audience questions. The

president, who appeared at the Colorado Springs, downtown Denver and Boulder campuses earlier this month, will focus on the university budget, state funding and other legislative issues affecting CU.

President's Diversity Award includes up to $1,000[42]

Nominations are being accepted for the 2011 President's Diversity Award. The annual honor recognizes significant achievements of faculty, staff, students and academic or administrative units toward developing a more culturally diverse, competent and inclusive university community.

Up to four awards of up to $1,000 each are given for projects or practices that best reflect the implementation of system and/or campus diversity goals. Awardees will be recognized at the President's Diversity Award Reception in early May at the President's Office in downtown Denver, and they will be featured in the CU Faculty and Staff Newsletter.

Nominations are welcome from any member of the university community, and are sought in four categories: (1) faculty, (2) staff, (3) student and (4) academic unit or administrative unit. Faculty must be full-time tenured/tenure track or senior instructors/instructors; staff must be full-time professional exempt or classified employees; and students must be full-time undergraduate or graduate students. Unit refers to academic and administrative offices; staff, faculty, and student committees; and organizations (such as alumni) directly associated with CU.

Click here for details[43] on criteria for selection and nomination letter requirements. The deadline for receipt of nominations and all supporting documents is Friday, April 15.

Voting under way for Boulder Staff Council members[44]

The election ballot for the 2011 University of Colorado Boulder Staff Council nominees is posted and accepting votes. Classified and professional exempt staff may vote for area representatives and at-large representatives.

Voting closes Friday, April 15, with new members taking office July 1.

To vote, go to http://www.colorado.edu/staffcouncil/[45], click on Election Ballots, locate your building and click on area. Questions: scouncil@colorado.edu[46] or 303-492-5473.

Boulder Staff Council hosts blood drive[47]

Boulder Staff Council sponsors a Bonfils Blood drive from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 18-20 at the UMC room 382-386. To make an appointment, go to www.bonfils.org[48] and use site code 0248, or call 303-363-2300.

President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative seeking research proposals[49]

CU faculty from all disciplines are invited to become investigators in the President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative (PTLC), now beginning its sixth year and establishing the 2012 cohort of faculty investigators.

Collaborative members create and publish scholarship in teaching and learning that contributes both to theory and effective teaching practice in and across disciplines. Each faculty researcher designs and undertakes an investigation aimed at deepening understanding of disciplinary pedagogy and related to an issue identified by the researcher in learning.

Faculty researchers design, carry out and publish research on an aspect of learning in a specific course. Each investigator is supported by a coach/mentor and short seminars in how to do education research.

Details are posted at http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/ptlc/PTLCCall2012.html[50]

All application materials must be submitted electronically to Suzanne.Eyerman@colorado.edu[51] by June 1.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-launch-mooc-past-present-future-energy[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/close-vote-board-regents-oks-closure-sjmc[3]
http://academicaffairs.colorado.edu/academicreview/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/02/Journalism-PLUS.pdf[4]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-mixed-over-proposed-3-percent-salary-pool[5]
https://www.cu.edu/content/cuoutreach[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/candidates-denver-mayor-take-campus-debate[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/debate2.jpg[8]
http://www.denvergov.org/DenverDecides/FacetoFaceForums/tabid/440876/Default.aspx[9]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/debate1.jpg[10]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boulder-concert-benefit-victims-disasters-japan[11]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campus-receives-tree-campus-usa-designation[12]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ucb-trees.jpg[13]
http://ecenter.colorado.edu/resources/get-involved[14] http://www.arborday.org/programs/treecampususa/[15]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/proposed-bill-adds-research-universitys-mission[16]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/uccs-bill.jpg[17] http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2011A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/E6E2DE2839A236C88725783E006F8C69?Open&file=204_01.pdf[18]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/red-flags-raise-awareness-about-abusive-relationships[19]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ucd-red.jpg[20] http://www.thepca.org/[21]
http://www.theredflagcampaign.org/[22] http://www.theredflagcampaign.org/index.php/downloads/posters/[23]
mailto:lisa.ingarfield@ucdenver.edu[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-facility-provides-hope-mothers-babies[25] http://havenfriends.org/[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/obama-nominates-distinguished-professor-national-science-board[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/outstanding-staffer-lifeline-first-generation-students[28]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_benavidez.jpg[29]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-andrew-cooperstock[30]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q-cooperstock.jpg[31]
http://www.opustwo.org/[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/duening-lead-new-program-uccs-college-business[33]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_duening.jpg[34]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/evaluators-recommend-continued-accreditation-university-colorado-denver[35]

https://connections.cu.edu/people/dean-return-faculty-physics-and-energy-science[36]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_christensen.jpg[37]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/landscape-architecture-faculty-make-strong-showing-national-conference[38]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-41[39] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_sclafani.jpg[40] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_clark1.jpg[41] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/anschutz-medical-campus-last-stop-presidents-town-hall-tour[42] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/presidents-diversity-award-includes-1000-1[43]
https://www.cu.edu/articles/upload/2011%20Call%20for%20Nominations.pdf[44]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/voting-under-way-boulder-staff-council-members-1[45]
http://www.colorado.edu/staffcouncil/[46] mailto:scouncil@colorado.edu[47] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boulder-staff-council-hosts-blood-drive[48] http://www.bonfils.org/[49] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/presidents-teaching-and-learning-collaborative-seeking-research-proposals-0[50] http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/ptlc/PTLCCall2012.html[51]
mailto:Suzanne.Eyerman@colorado.edu