Efficiency bill looks to build on last year's success[1]

A sequel of sorts to last year's Senate Bill 3, new higher education efficiency legislation introduced at the Capitol this week is aimed at helping the University of Colorado and other institutions carry out their missions with less red tape.

House Bill 11-1301 – with lead sponsors Sen. Mark Waller, R-Colorado Springs, and Sen. Gail Schwartz, D-Snowmass – is expected to be heard in committee late this week or early next.

After the success of last year's legislation, which improved efficiency at CU and other institutions, CU President Bruce Benson asked campus leadership to search for other areas where similar provisions could be made.

The legislation keys on four areas:
Capital construction and facilities Student issues Employee issues Operational flexibility
Among the proposed changes to capital construction are a streamlining of the approval process for cash-funded capital construction projects, an increase in flexibility to use surplus revenue for a broader array of items as allowed by current law, and removal of purchases of land and education-related science equipment from the current definition of "capital construction."

For students, changes would include a streamlined process for implementation of a guaranteed tuition program, where students lock in a tuition rate for four years.

Employee issues include a proposed expansion of health plan choices. Institutions would be allowed to offer group benefit plans to classified staff in addition to or in place of state plans.

Proposed changes related to operational flexibility include exempting higher education institutions from the requirement to use the Department of Corrections when disposing of surplus state property, and requirements that goods and services be purchased from Colorado Correctional Industries.

To read the bill in its entirety, click here[2].

Governor signs CU-endorsed bills[3]

A bill signed today by Gov. John Hickenlooper enables the University of Colorado president to designate an executive of the Anschutz Medical Campus as director of the University of Colorado Hospital Authority Board.

The change detailed in House Bill 11-1164 clarifies the composition of the hospital's board, which previously had been chaired by the chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver. M. Roy Wilson had served as chancellor; after he stepped down, Jerry Wartgow was named chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver, while Lilly Marks was named vice president for health affairs and executive vice chancellor for the Anschutz Medical Campus. Marks now will chair the hospital board.

CU President Bruce Benson restructured leadership last year as a way of addressing distinct challenges at each campus. The bill allows the current and future CU presidents to appoint the executive of the medical campus, regardless of future changes to leadership titles.

"This was a great bill to work on. The entire House and Senate passed it with unanimous support," said Kirsten Schuchman, senior director of state relations. "Our Colorado legislators are so supportive of the Anschutz Medical Campus and continually praised the work being done there."

Rep. Rhonda Fields, D-Aurora, a sponsor of the bill, requested today's bill-signing ceremony at the governor's office,

where several representatives of CU were slated to attend, including Marks; President Bruce Benson; Bruce Schroffel, president and CEO of University of Colorado Hospital; Dan Wilkerson, general counsel and secretary to the Board of Regents; Tanya Kelly-Bowry, vice president of government affairs; and Jeff Thompson, director of government and corporate relations at University of Colorado Hospital. Fields' fellow sponsors, Rep. Kevin Priola, R-Henderson, and Sen. Betty Boyd, D-Lakewood, also were scheduled to attend.

Also signed by the governor at today's ceremony was House Bill 11-1169, aimed at eliminating barriers in information sharing between campus police and administrators pertaining to student safety at higher education institutions. The bill ensures that student privacy is maintained while optimizing the use of safety resources.

Five questions for Jane Menken[4]

Jane Menken

The new Institute of Behavioral Science (IBS) building will be dedicated April 28, and its director, Jane Menken, couldn't be happier. Previously, most IBS faculty members were scattered all over the University of Colorado Boulder campus, making it difficult to carry out interdisciplinary, collaborative research concerning societal issues.

To celebrate the new building, a Dedication Symposium[6]will bring together a number of distinguished academics to Boulder to discuss "Behavioral Science in the Twenty-First Century: Prospects and Challenges." The event, open to the campus and anyone interested in the future of behavioral science, is set for 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. April 28 in the main conference room at the new building, 1440 15th St., at the corner of Grandview Avenue.

Currently, there are five programs and several centers within the institute whose mission it is to translate research into policy and practice. These programs and centers are: health and society; institutions; environment and society; problem behavior; population, Menken's main research home; the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence; and the Natural Hazards Center.

Menken arrived at CU in 1997 as a professor of sociology and a faculty associate at the IBS, which was established in 1957. She became director in 2001. She provides support for the faculty, especially when it comes to finding funding for research projects. She also acts as liaison with upper administration and works with the other departments – such as anthropology, psychology and political science – where faculty members are housed.

And she finds time for her own research endeavors. Her undergraduate degree in mathematics and a master's in biostatistics were a good base for an opportunity at the Harvard School of Public Health to work with people whose research was on population. The research, on maternal and child health and family planning in South Asia, led to an interest in fertility and a fundamental question of why lifetime fertility varied widely in populations that did not practice deliberate fertility control.

During time off, she likes to put population and statistics out of her mind and appreciate the world. She and her husband have biked across Italy and France. "It's wonderful to be able to take a week or 10 days, and have nothing to do but get on your bike," she says.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. The IBS is moving into a new space – an inside/outside building – making it the first time in 40 years the entire faculty and staff will be under one roof. Why is this so important?

The programs were in different buildings – some separated by more than a mile. All the faculty members have two

homes, one in IBS and one in a disciplinary department. My hope is that better research and innovative research will come out of it.

The building is called inside/outside because it is important to have light and communication with the outdoors while at work. We used glass in doors, skylights, clerestory windows inside offices, terraces on each floor and sitting areas with views of the outdoors.

We believe it is important to be able to take a few seconds from work to appreciate the world around us – and in Boulder, that's a beautiful world. This kind of building encourages connections among the people working in it – and, we believe, benefits us and benefits our work.

Institute of Behavioral Science Building, CU-Boulder

2. Population growth has profoundly affected the world in many ways over the years. What types of problems or benefits do you foresee in the future should the world's population continue to grow?

There's a wonderful book by Joel Cohen titled, "How Many People Can the World Support?" He points out that the answer depends on the standard of living for each person. Africa, for example, is much less densely populated than the rest of the world. All the population of Africa could move to one country, the Sudan, which would be less densely populated than the United States is today. Bangladesh, by contrast, has a population about one-third the size of the U.S. population, but is squeezed into an area the size of Wisconsin. So the question has to do with how we live.

Europe, by contrast, is decreasing in population because it has such low fertility. So there are problems associated with growing rapidly and with growing slowly. I focus more on determinants of population growth and on the composition and health and economic opportunity of populations. For example, Europe is faced with aging populations and the problems of immigration, whereas Africa is faced with outmigration of skilled people, a recent sharp rise in communicable diseases (AIDS and tuberculosis) and, at the same time, a rise in noncommunicable diseases (heart disease and stroke, diabetes).

3. What have you accomplished with your work in Africa?

The work in Africa has two parts – research and capacity building. We work with two institutions, the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and the African Population and Health Research Center. We have been instrumental in helping develop graduate programs in population sciences at Wits and in supporting postdoctoral fellows at APHRC. The work at Wits has provided opportunities for U.S. postdoctoral fellows to teach and carry out research in Africa and for CU grad students to participate. So the benefit goes both ways. We hope we're developing increased capacity in U.S. institutions for work on and in Africa.

Our research thus far has focused on HIV/AIDS – both estimating the prevalence of AIDS and on understanding the ways in which communities, households, families and individuals are affected by and cope with AIDS. We are also looking at the rising rates of noncommunicable diseases.

4. What is your most interesting work to date?

What's been most interesting has changed over the course of my career. Earlier, it was the mathematical models that promoted understanding of fertility and fertility change. That led to a strong interest in status of women and women's health, primarily working in Bangladesh. Now my interests go in two directions: AIDS and its impacts and the longer-term effects of intervention through programs like maternal and child health and family planning.

For instance, in Bangladesh, we're looking at whether families that chose to have smaller numbers of children actually have children who are better off in their adulthood.

There's 40 years of information that has been collected regularly in Bangladesh. We are planning to trace out families, some of whom could have taken advantage of the family planning program and some who live in areas where it was

not offered. We're asking if people who had fewer children were able to give them greater opportunity, and whether the children were better off in terms of education. We're also asking whether parents were better or worse off. In other words, for parents who had fewer children, were those children better able to support their parents in old age.

The other question would be what is the impact on status of women? Were girls given more opportunity and are they valuable?

5. The Dedication Symposium will focus on the challenges of behavioral science in this century. What do you see as the biggest challenge?
There are multiple big challenges: One is the disparity in income and resources between the developing world and the developed world. A second is the disparity in health between those who are well off and those who are not. Prospects for handling all of these challenges have to do with knowledge of the problems as well as technical inputs. Improvements in medical findings are clearly important, but understanding how people live in the environment and how problems are handled or not handled will play a role in how that disparity is reduced.

Three honored for service at All Staff Council Conference[8]
Photo by Cynthia Pasquale
Cary Ihme and Dan Wilkerson
Photo by Cynthia PasqualeCary Ihme and Dan Wilkerson

Photo by Cynthia Pasquale
Mary Lou Kartis, center, with her supervisor, Terry Schwartz, and presenter Brian Burnett.
Photo by Cynthia PasqualeMary Lou Kartis, center, with her supervisor, Terry Schwartz, and presenter Brian Burnett.

Photo by Cynthia Pasquale
Frannie Ray-Earle and Chancellor Philip DiStefano.
Photo by Cynthia PasqualeFrannie Ray-Earle and Chancellor Philip DiStefano.

Three University of Colorado staff members were honored with Service Excellence Awards at the All Staff Council Conference on Friday, April 15.

Receiving awards were Cary Ihme, paralegal with University Counsel-Litigation; Mary Lou Kartis, assistant to the dean of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs School of Public Affairs; and Frances Ray-Earle, center coordinator for the department of chemical and biological engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder.

The Service Excellence Awards are given out annually to one employee from each campus and system administration who has performed exemplary service for his or her home campus, the community and the university. Nominations were not received from the Denver campus this year.

Each of the award-winners received a plaque and $1,000.

Ihme was presented the award by Dan Wilkerson, university counsel, vice president and secretary of the Board of Regents. He said Ihme not only performs her own job well, but helps in other departments, including at the Colorado Springs campus. In Central City, where she lives, she worked to develop a mentoring program in Gilpin County Schools to help freshman understand what they need to do to be college-ready. As a member of the Central City Elks Lodge, she is active in numerous programs including acting as a mentor to junior Elks who range in age from 12 to 18. She also is a committee member for the "Tan Your Hide" program, which encourages hunters to donate elk or deer

hides to the Elks Lodge. The hides are processed, tanned and made into gloves for disabled veterans who use wheelchairs.

"Today what we're doing is honoring the champions of service, and there's no better champion – no better example, in our opinion – than the staff service of Mary Lou Kartis," said Brian Burnett, vice chancellor for administration and finance at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

"As assistant to the dean, it's Mary Lou's job to keep track of the dean and we all know how hard keeping track of the dean is," said Burnett, who presented the award to Kartis. She also recruits, advises and helps with the retention of students; serves as personnel manager; and manages the school's fiscal resources.

She also has served on numerous campus committees, and was a member of the University of Colorado Staff Council from 2007-2010.Â She is active in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life program and serves as a Neighborhood Watch coordinator.

As coordinator for the Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels (C2B2), Ray-Earle "essentially runs the program," said her nominator and supervisor, Professor Alan W. Weimer. Along with development work and program organization, she spends much of her time and effort on the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, which recruits students to spend a summer at C2B2's partner institutions: CU, Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines and National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

She serves on the board of Voices for Children, a nonprofit that trains court-appointed special advocates for juveniles who are in the court system. She also serves as a liaison for Kappa Alpha Theta, which has Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) as a national cause.

"It is my honor to congratulate such a high-caliber CU-Boulder employee," said Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano, who presented the award.

Bernstein's bold, original 'Mass' a massive undertaking[12]

[13]
When Leonard Bernstein's "Mass" premiered 40 years ago, The New York Times wrote, "At times the Mass is little more than fashionable kitsch." Today it is a work revered for probing religious commentary and the sheer magnitude of forces required for its performance.

The University of Colorado Boulder College of Music brings the event to Denver's Boettcher Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 26. The performance will feature the CU Opera, the CU Choirs, the University Symphony Orchestra conducted by Gary Lewis, and more.

Subtitled "A Theatre Piece for Singers, Players and Dancers," Bernstein's master work is one of the college's featured events this month, as well as a forward look to the CU New Opera Workshop this summer and the recently announced season beginning in the fall.

Commissioned by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, "Mass" was the opening performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., in 1971. Bernstein combined the Latin Tridentine Mass of the Roman Catholic Church with English-language texts and songs to explore a crisis of faith, blending traditional church music with various popular styles including blues and rock 'n' roll.

Featured ensembles and directors for the performance: University Choir, Jeffrey Gemmell; University Singers, Lawrence Kaptein; Golden Buffalo Men's Chorus, Jim Keller; University Women's Chorus, Riikka Pietilanien-Caffrey;

Collegiate Chorale, Dale Heidebrecht; CU Opera, Leigh Holman; University Symphony Orchestra, Gary Lewis; dancers from CU Theater and Dance, Onye Ozuzu; and Young Voices of Colorado, Jena Dickey.

Single tickets start at $15 for the event, which is sponsored by the University of Colorado Office of the President and CU-Boulder Office of the Chancellor. For tickets or more information, visit http://www.cupresents.org[14], call the CU Presents Box Office at 303-492-8008, or visit the ticket counter at any King Soopers.

Study: Gulf oil spill similar to Exxon Valdez in social, mental impact[15]

Chart courtesy of Liesel Ritchie, Duane Gill and J. Steven Picou
A comparison of event-related psychological distress among residents of south Mobile County, Ala., in 2010, and Cordova, Alaska, in 1989.
Chart courtesy of Liesel Ritchie, Duane Gill and J. Steven PicouA comparison of event-related psychological distress among residents of south Mobile County, Ala., in 2010, and Cordova, Alaska, in 1989.

The BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill caused social disruption and psychological stress among Gulf residents that is similar to the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez spill and the impacts are likely to persist for years, a new study finds.

"Just ask the residents of Cordova today whether they are over the Exxon Valdez," said study co-author Liesel Ritchie, assistant director for research of the University of Colorado Boulder's Natural Hazards Center. The Alaska community was considered "ground zero" for the 1989 oil spill.

The research was a collaborative effort among Ritchie, Duane Gill of Oklahoma State University and J. Steven Picou of the University of South Alabama, each of whom did similar work in Cordova. Major funding was provided by the National Science Foundation and the study's results have been accepted for publication in two peer-reviewed journals.

The study focused on the residents of south Mobile County, Ala. The area along the Gulf includes the towns of Bayou la Batre and Dauphin Island, and numerous unincorporated communities.

Using a random telephone survey modeled after previous work on the Exxon Valdez spill, the University of South Alabama Polling Group in September 2010 received responses from 412 residents or 46 percent of those contacted. All responders were age 18 or older and had lived in the area for at least a year.

Major findings of the survey included the following:
Event-related psychological stress among residents of south Mobile County, five months after the BP oil spill, was similar to that of residents of Cordova five months after the Exxon Valdez. If the trends observed in Cordova hold true for Alabama, significant spill-related psychological stress can be expected to continue in south Mobile County over the next decade. One-fifth of south Mobile County respondents were in the severe stress category and another one-fourth were in the moderate range. The finding was similar to the sample from Cordova in which more than one-half were classified as either severe or moderate. Higher levels of event-related psychological stress among south Mobile County residents were consistently related to family health concerns, economic loss, concern for future economic loss, ties to ecosystem resources and exposure to oil. Four out of 10 respondents (43 percent) reported a commercial connection to coastal resources, and those with connections to damaged/threatened resources were more likely to experience higher levels of stress. People in lower income categories and lower levels of education were more likely to experience high levels of stress. Approximately one out of three respondents experienced some type of exposure to oil, and such exposure was significantly related to higher levels of stress. Sixty-six percent of respondents reported negative spill-related economic impacts on their households. Fifty-six percent of respondents indicated concern about the threat of economic loss.
People with commercial ties to damaged natural resources suffered the greatest impacts, the authors found.

"Given the social scientific evidence amassed over the years in Prince William Sound, Alaska, we can only conclude that social disruption and psychological stress will characterize residents of Gulf Coast communities for decades to come," the authors wrote.

Like the Exxon Valdez, and technological disasters in general, the aftermath of the BP oil spill will include "contested" scientific evidence concerning ecological damages, secondary traumas resulting from the claims process and litigation, and serious community conflict and mental health problems, the authors wrote.

The study's results will be published in forthcoming editions of the journals American Behavioral Scientist and Contexts.

The Natural Hazards Center is part of CU-Boulder's Institute of Behavioral Science. For more information about the center visit http://www.colorado.edu/hazards[17].

Campus to host state's 28th Math Olympiad[18]

The Colorado Math Olympiad will return to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs for its 28th year Friday, April 22.

An estimated 400 middle and high school students from around the state will meet in Berger Hall and the Gallogly Events Center at 9 a.m. Participants are given four hours to complete five essay-style problems.

The competition – chaired by Alex Soifer, professor in interdepartmental studies – provides a chance for middle and high school students to test their talents and ingenuity while competing for medals, scholarships and other prizes.

The event is the largest mathematical competition in the United States with participants from grades six through 12 competing against one another. Annually, prizes are provided by the competition sponsors, such as Intermap Technologies, Wolfram Research and Texas Instruments.

UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak will offer gold, silver and bronze medalists a scholarship to UCCS. Other prizes include Casio calculators and math software.

Student participation is free and open to all students in grades six through 12. There is no limit on the number of schools or students who may participate.

Winners will be announced at an April 29 awards ceremony in the Upper Lodge. At that time, Soifer will deliver a lecture titled "A Proof From the Book" and present the awards. A reception will follow.

The Colorado Math Olympiad is supported by Casio Inc.; Wolfram Research; Office of the Chancellor; College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; school districts 11 and 20; Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's Office; and Colorado Springs Mayor Lionel Rivera's Office.

For more information about the Colorado Math Olympiad, and to view problems from previous years, visit http://www.uccs.edu/olympiad[19].

Symposium showcases student research and creative activities[20]

Undergraduate student Meheret Nega describes her research on patients with severe pulmonary arterial hypertension.

Topics of undergraduate and graduate student work were showcased at the annual Research and Creative Activities Symposium April 15[22] in the atrium of North Classroom on the Auraria Campus.

Students' research and creative activities spanned the spectrum of human study – touching on science, nature, the environment, business, arts, medicine and more.

All students from the Denver campus and Anschutz Medical Campus were eligible to participate in the symposium. Nearly 80 students developed plans, submitted abstracts and were on hand to describe and discuss the results of their efforts.

As an incentive, prizes were offered in various categories. Faculty member Julian Riel-Salvatore, Ph.D., of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was named Outstanding Student Mentor.

Here are the student results:

Awards for Graduate Research: Ingrid Ludeke: Archaeology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
"Contrasting Neanderthal and Homo sapien use of space at Riparo Bombrini, Italy"
Sarah Brannnon and William Donahoo: Health and Behavioral Science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
"A Weighty Matter: Do health behaviors affect the neurocognitive health of obese adults?"

Awards for Undergraduate Research: Mia Smith: Pre-Veterinary, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
"Quantum Effect Can Be Important to Chloride Ion Channel/Transporter Mechanism: A Computational Study"
Manuchehr Aminian: Mathematics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
"Algorithms for Generalized Image Segmentation"

Chancellor's Awards for Excellence

Undergraduate Creative Activity:
Sinjin Jones and Marianna Chavez: Theater, Film and Video Production, College of Arts and Media
"Arts in Community Development"
Graduate Creative Activity:
Paula Marchionda: Preventative Medicine, School of Public Health
"Genado Blessing"
Undergraduate Research:
Anne Mailhot: Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
"Expression Patterns of PAPP-A2 in the Developing Human Placenta"
Graduate Research:
Rebecca Bryan: Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
"Cynomys says: Characteristics of Black-tailed Prairie Dog (Cynomys ludovicianus) Alarm Calls in Response to Simulated Predator Stimuli"

Study: Parental focus on children's vaccines could have negative impact[23]

A new study reports that physicians think parents' level of concern about vaccines has either greatly or moderately increased in the past five years, leading to doctors spending a significant amount of time at well-child visits discussing vaccine safety with parents. Relying only on discussion of vaccines at visits where vaccines are needed might be too

time-consuming and inadequate and could compromise providers' ability to focus on other important health care topics.

The study – led by Allison Kempe, M.D., M.P.H[24]., professor of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine[25] and director of the Children's Outcomes Research (COR) Program at The Children's Hospital – reports the results of a national survey of primary care physicians who deliver vaccinations to children. "Prevalence of Parental Concerns About Childhood Vaccines: The Experience of Primary Care Physicians" was published in the May issue ofAmerican Journal of Preventive Medicine.

According to the study results, in a typical month, 79 percent of physicians report at least one vaccine refusal; 8 percent report refusals for more than 10 percent of children; and 89 percent report at least one request to spread out vaccines (20 percent report these requests for more than 10 percent of children).

Other study findings include:
Some 40 percent of physicians always or often require parents to sign a form if they refuse a vaccination. Most physicians would agree to spread out vaccines in the primary series at least some of the time. About 10 percent of physicians would often or always dismiss families from their practice if they refuse vaccines in the primary series and another 5 percent would sometimes do so. Although few physicians had considered no longer providing vaccines because of the need to discuss vaccine risks and benefits, about one-third of physicians reported that these discussions were negatively impacting their job satisfaction. From the physicians' perspective the most successful messages in convincing skeptical parents were personal ones, such as the fact that they vaccinated their own children or grandchildren, discussions of their personal experiences with vaccine safety or with vaccine-preventable diseases, or a statement that they think it is safer to vaccinate than not to vaccinate.
"Primary care providers in this country have been doing a terrific job trying to counter the misinformation about vaccine safety that is so abundant on the Internet and other media, but they are spending a great deal of their time at well visits discussing these issues alone," Kempe said. "The amount of time physicians have in a well-child care visit to cover a lot of health care topics is very limited and they are not being paid for the lengthy discussions some parents with concerns need to have. Most importantly, they may have to compromise other health care topics if these discussions are long. Clearly, primary care physicians would benefit from a multi-pronged approach, with greater use of educational methods before visits or different educational forums such as group visits and much more effective use of media and social marketing to counter misinformation."

Kempe believes the multi-pronged approach should include the following:
Increased use of social marketing aimed at vaccine hesitant parents. Efforts to directly counter misinformation about vaccines in the media, on talk shows and on the Internet – actively involving parents in this effort may be key in engaging those who are suspicious of "experts" or governmental agencies. Increased use of more efficient educational methods at the practice such as prenatal visit consultations, group parent meetings, Internet site recommendations or mailed materials for parental education prior to well visits. More physician training in effective discussions of risk and benefits of vaccines. Physicians need to be able to bill for time spent discussing parental concerns that are outside of the time usually allotted for well visits. Physicians may be most effective if they use personal messages in their discussions of the risks and benefits of vaccines such as their own decisions to vaccinate their children.
Kempe also is the 2011 winner of the Academic Pediatric Association Research award. The award recognizes the highest level of research excellence and achievement in the field of general pediatrics. Kempe's research has led to improved child health policies in health disparities among underserved populations, state Children's Health Insurance Programs funding, and immunization delivery, policies and practices. She will receive her award during the Pediatric Academic Societies' 2011 Annual Meeting in Denver on May 1.

Rural communities to benefit from $2.2 million grant to develop nurses[26]

A new University of Colorado Colorado Springs partnership will help five Colorado community colleges develop nursing professionals to serve their rural communities, thanks to a $2.22 million grant from the Colorado Health Foundation.

The gift is the largest in the history of the UCCS Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The Southern Colorado Rural Nursing Education and Practice Collaborative launched at Beth-El will enable community college nursing students to earn bachelor of science degrees in nursing by taking courses at their local community college or online. Students will complete their nursing curriculum with many courses taught in real time by Beth-El faculty in Colorado Springs and directed toward students in rural areas such as Lamar, Alamosa, Trinidad and Durango.

The program and the Colorado Health Foundation grant address a critical problem. The U.S. nursing shortage is projected to grow to 260,000 by the year 2025, and Colorado's nursing vacancy rate is double the national average. Rural southern Colorado faces extreme challenges recruiting advanced practice nurses and nursing faculty. Associate nursing degrees offered by the community colleges do not alone qualify graduates for teaching or nurse practitioner roles – thus limiting the availability of high-quality health care in those communities.

"With advanced nursing degrees, nurses can see patients independently and prescribe medications. But here in Lamar, we have not been able to educate for these roles," said Sandy Summers, director of nursing and allied health programs at Lamar Community College. "This grant enables UCCS and its southern Colorado community college partners to collaborate in a way that I have not seen in the 18 years that I have been in nursing education."

The UCCS program aims to increase the number of nursing professionals who serve rural southern Coloradans by at least 45. The program, based on a smaller pilot program Beth-El launched in 2008 at Lamar Community College, will incorporate state-of-the-art Cisco Telepresence conferencing technology to foster greater academic connection for distance learners via high-definition video and other interactive features. UCCS is the first college in the nation to use the technology in its classrooms.

"It is extremely important to streamline nursing education to create access for our rural community college partners and citizens, and enable available and affordable health care services in the future," says Beth-El Dean Nancy Smith.

The program aligns with a core priority of the Colorado Health Foundation, which has made several grants this year that focus on improving access to care in Colorado's rural counties.

"This is an innovative nursing education project with strong partnerships that will address critical nursing work force needs in southern Colorado," said Colleen Church, a program officer with the Colorado Health Foundation. "Ultimately, we think this is an incredible opportunity to keep their nursing talent in southern Colorado in order to maintain and increase access to needed, high-quality care."

The colleges invited to participate in this program are Lamar Community College, Otero Junior College, Pikes Peak Community College, Pueblo Community College and Trinidad State Junior College.

The grant also will support equipment for the Clinical Simulation Learning Center, to help Beth-El faculty "teach the teachers" and provide competency-based testing of students earning clinical training hours required for certification.

The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by investing in grants and initiatives to health-related nonprofits that focus on increasing the number of Coloradans with health insurance; ensuring they have access to quality, coordinated care; and encouraging healthy living. For more information, visitwww.coloradohealth.org[27].

[Postdoc awarded fellowship from American Cancer Society][28]

Scott Stuart, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, has been awarded a $150,000 fellowship from the American Cancer Society.

The award supports cancer researchers at the beginning of their careers. He is working with **Natalie Ahn,**professor of biochemistry, to study the effectiveness of BRAF inhibitors. BRAF is a protein involved in cell signaling and growth; it causes cancer when mutated.

"Early BRAF inhibitors were successful in the lab but largely unsuccessful in the clinic," Stuart said. "But new therapies are showing fairly remarkable responses in the clinic. We want to know why some are successful and others are not. We believe the different responses may be due to targeting different parts of the (protein's) pathway."

Besides covering his salary for three years, the fellowship will help pay for Stuart to attend medical research conferences.

Physicist recognized with national award[29]

Cundiff

Steven Cundiff, a physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), has received the 2011 William F. Meggers Award from the Optical Society of America (OSA).

The Meggers Award recognizes outstanding work in spectroscopy, the study and measurement of interactions between light and matter. Cundiff, a fellow of JILA, a joint institute of NIST and the University of Colorado Boulder, is cited for "contributions to the field of ultrafast spectroscopy of semiconductors, including multidimensional Fourier transform techniques, and for contributions to the development of femtosecond frequency comb technology."

Meggers was a prominent scientist who worked at NIST (then called the National Bureau of Standards) from 1914 to 1958 and is considered by many to be the founder of the American field of spectroscopy.

Pediatrics professor honored[31]

Kempe

Allison Kempe, pediatrics professor at the University of Colorado Denver, director of the Children's Outcomes Research Program at The Children's Hospital, and director of the Primary Care Research Fellowship in the School of Medicine, was selected as the 2011 Academic Pediatric Association's (APA) Research Award recipient.

The award recognizes the highest level of research excellence and achievement in the field of general pediatrics.

Kempe's research has led to improved child health policies in health disparities among underserved populations, state Children's Health Insurance Programs funding, and immunization delivery, policies and practices. She is a founding member of the APA Research on Telephone Care special interest group.

Professor, researcher recognized by science union[33]

Fuller-Rowell and Larson

Timothy Fuller-Rowell and **Kristine Larson**, both from the University of Colorado Boulder, have been elected fellows of the American Geophysical Union.

Nominated fellows must have "attained acknowledged eminence in the Earth and space sciences" and have made exceptional scientific contributions to their field.

Fuller-Rowell is a senior research associate at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Science. His current research projects include studying the ionosphere, which is part of the upper atmosphere, and dynamics of the thermosphere, the largest layer of the atmosphere.

Larson is a professor of aerospace engineering sciences whose work focuses on astrodynamics and satellite navigation.

Both will be honored at the union's December meeting in San Francisco.

Environmental Health and Safety honors for Boulder staff, faculty, department[35]

Six University of Colorado Boulder staff and faculty and one department will receive the Environmental Health and Safety Crystal Buffalo Award during an April 29 event.

The awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated consistent and exemplary attention to comply with important environmental and safety regulations and practices. Their commitment and cooperation contribute to the safety and well-being of the campus and its environment.

The awardees are:

The Department of Risk Management and its members: **Tara Lindsay, Gary Longfellow, Carolyn Peet, Melody West, Paul Williams** and **Terry Lee**; **Tarek Sammakia**, chemistry and biochemistry; **Jerry Greene**, molecular, cellular and development biology; **Michael J. Marks**, Institute for Behavioral Genetics;**Christine Seibold**, INSTAAR; **Christopher Cox**, safety manager, facilities management; and **Kevin Cooley**, small construction projects coordinator, facilities management.

Colorado Springs assembly welcomes new members

Newly elected members of the Faculty Representative Assembly at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs were introduced during an April 8 meeting.

After a year as president-elect, **Katie Kaukinen**, associate professor, School of Public Affairs, becomes assembly president. Other office-holders for 2011-2012 are:
President-elect: **Andrea Hutchins**, associate professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Secretary: **Amanda Sinclair**, assistant professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Faculty Council representative: **Elissa Auther**, assistant professor, Visual and Performing Arts.
College representatives are:
College of Business and Administration: **Monique Dooley**, associate professor, and **Morgan Shepherd**, professor. College of Education: **Julaine Field**, associate professor. College of Engineering and Applied Science: **Pam Carter**, senior instructor, and **Rebecca Webb**, assistant professor. Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences: **Jeff Spicher**, assistant professor. School of Public Affairs: **Lonnie Schaible**, assistant professor. Kraemer Family Library: **Beth Kumar**, assistant professor. College of Letter, Arts and Sciences: **Suzanne Cook**, instructor; **Hilary Smith**, assistant professor; and**Michele Companion**, associate professor.
A fourth LAS representative will be announced following a run-off election.

Dropping names ...[36]

Radelet

Musiba

Purdue University's College of Liberal Arts honored University of Colorado Boulder's **Michael L. Radelet**, along with three other distinguished alumni, during an annual awards banquet April 8. Radelet is a professor in the department of sociology who specializes in studies on capital punishment, particularly that of erroneous convictions, racial bias, public opinion and medical involvement. ... **Ken Andrews**, instructor of architecture at the University of Colorado Denver and Partner/Architect at Arch 11 Inc., Boulder, was honored as the Young Architect of the Year and Instructor of the Year at the American Institute of Architects Colorado (AIA Colorado) awards gala April 8. ... **Laurel Dodds**, director of initiatives and continuing and professional education at the University of Colorado Denver, was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Outreach and Engagement Community of Practice of University Professional and Continuing Education Association (UPCEA) during the association's annual conference April 5-9 in Toronto. ... **Laurel Hartley**, assistant professor of integrative biology at the University of Colorado Denver, presented a paper at the National Association for Research in Science Teaching in Orlando, Fla. The paper, "Pathways to Ecological Literacy: Developing a Biodiversity Learning Progression," pertained to her research with students in grades 6-12. ... **Stephen John Hartnett**, associate professor and chair of the department of communication at the University of Colorado Denver, delivered the annual Grazier Lecture before the department of communication at the University of South Florida. Titled "Prison Stories: Communication, Social Justice, and Education as Empowerment," Hartnett read poems, showed artistic slides and spoke about teaching in prisons as a means of countering mass incarceration. ... University of Colorado Denver's **Charles Musiba,** assistant professor of anthropology**,** recently coordinated excavation work at the Laetoli hominid footprint site in Tanzania. As co-founder of the Tanzania Field School, he led the re-excavation process with a team of invited workers of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. A museum is planned on the site to preserve the footprints. ... **Alison Lakin** has been chosen interim director of regulatory compliance at the University of Colorado Denver. Lakin has been at the institution for a number of years working with COMIRB, COI, Human Subjects, InfoEd and other important compliance areas. Lakin will continue to guide COMIRB with **Warren Cappell**; Lakin will step in for **Angela Wishon,** who will leave the university May 1.

Spring brings changes to travel procedures[39]

Ongoing efforts are enabling greater efficiency in travel operations at the University of Colorado. With the guidance of a Travel Council composed of campus representatives, the Procurement Service Center (PSC) will implement key changes to travel policies and procedures this spring, including:
Beginning May 1, Christopherson Business Travel – which has been on the CU list of approved travel agencies since the end of March – will become the university's sole approved travel agency. Effective May 2, the new Concur travel and expense system will provide online booking capability for air, hotel and rental cars while incorporating university policies and procedures. It will further streamline the travel and expense report preparation process through e-receipts (electronic receipts), itinerary creation and distribution, and travel card transaction matching. Travel assistants (also known as travel arrangers) may be designated to help departmental travelers with bookings and trip preparations. The new corporate liability travel card soon will be available to facilitate individual and group travel. Like the procurement card, the new travel card will be direct paid by the university, further enhancing travel operation efficiency. Beginning May 1, you will not create Travel Authorization (TA) numbers. Travelers must continue to obtain approval from their departments before a trip, and Concur travel and expense will facilitate distribution of trip itineraries to designated travel arrangers and HR supervisors.
The Procurement Service Center (PSC) will be working with the university community to ensure a smooth transition to the new travel management system. Travel training sessions have been scheduled for April and May (to sign up, see the PSC website at www.cu.edu/psc[40]). Questions on the new agency, system or process may be sent to CUTravel@cu.edu[41].

Call for nominations: President's Teaching Scholars[42]

CU President Bruce Benson solicits nominations of University of Colorado faculty for designation of the 2012 President's Teaching Scholars.

The lifetime appointment as a CU President's Teaching Scholar represents the university's highest recognition of excellence in and active commitment to learning and teaching as well as active and substantial contributions to scholarly work in one's discipline or, in the case of a less senior scholar, indications of path-breaking contributions to his or her field. Chancellors, deans, departments and other faculty nominators are encouraged to nominate candidates for this designation and commitment; self-nominations will not be accepted.

All tenured faculty members are eligible to be nominated. Also, Clinical Teaching Track (CTT) faculty members who hold the rank of associate professor or professor are eligible to be nominated, as are tenure-track faculty members in the School of Medicine who hold the rank of associate professor or professor.

The President's Teaching Scholar designation is not an end-of-career-at-CU award, but rather membership in an active society of scholars and teachers involved in outreach to faculty peers. The selection committee will evaluate applications based on past achievements and on furthering the goals of the President's Teaching Scholars Program.Â

Dossiers will be accepted no later than Nov. 11, 2011. For more details, go towww.colorado.edu/ptsp/documents/PTSP2012Call.pdf[43]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/efficiency-bill-looks-build-last-years-success[2] http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/

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https://connections.cu.edu/stories/three-honored-service-all-staff-council-conference[9]
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http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/ResearchDay/Pages/ResearchDay.aspx[23]
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https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_Radelet.jpg[38]
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