Relay for Life raises money, recognizes cancer survivors[1]

[2]
About 300 participants turned out for the ninth annual Relay for Life event at UCCS April 13 to recognize cancer survivors and raise money for the American Cancer Society.

Activity continued through the night with members of student clubs and other organizations running and walking the pavement adjacent to the west lawn, where supporters provided food and beverages and collected donations.

Members of Team APISU try to stay warm as they wait for their turns to run in the Relay for Life. The Asian Pacific Islander Union was one of the UCCS student clubs fielding a team in the event. Photo by Nicholas Burns, courtesy of The Scribe

There were eight cancer survivors on hand to celebrate survivorship, share their experiences and inspire the teams and volunteers. There were 25 teams taking part.

“I’m so pleased Relay for Life is back on campus and close to the housing village this year,” said Nancy Gadachy, program assistant, Student Health Center. “I don’t think it attracted as many participants when it was held at 4 Diamonds in previous years.”

The event on campus raised just over $1,800, but the fundraising campaign is scheduled through Aug. 15.

Relay for Life is an overnight event designed to raise funds for research, promoting cancer awareness and other programs the American Cancer Society sponsors. It is also an opportunity for cancer survivors to show the success medical research has made in the fight against cancer. Participating teams run or walk laps on a designated course, with members taking turns, but always keeping one member on the course at all times.

Online information about Relay for Life is at http://www.cancer.org/Involved/Participate/RelayForLife/index[3].

Weiner recognized by Colorado Psychiatric Society[4]

Weiner

Kenneth L. Weiner, an assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, recently received the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Colorado Psychiatric Society. Weiner specializes in the treatment of eating disorders.

The honor recognizes his outstanding contribution to the field of mental health. Weiner, who founded and serves as chief medical officer and chief executive officer of Eating Recovery Center, was selected because of his “thought leadership in eating disorders diagnosis, innovation and effective treatment design and delivery.”

"The psychiatric community has long-recognized the complexity of eating disorders and the difficulties associated with the development and delivery of effective treatment for this growing patient population," says Robert House, M.D., director of behavioral health services at Denver Health Medical Center and president of the Colorado Psychiatric Society. "Dr. Weiner's efforts to create comprehensive, cutting-edge treatment resources for patients, families and referring professionals -- both locally and nationally -- have been instrumental in expanding access to quality care for individuals struggling with anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder and EDNOS."

Weiner founded the Eating Recovery Center in 2008 to address the regional gap in treatment resources for eating disordered patients requiring a higher level of care. Patients from around the world have received treatment at the Denver-based facility, as well as those facilities in California. He also is committed to educating the next generation of

professionals on eating disorders, receiving the Gold Apple Teaching Award from the CU School of Medicine and the Best Teacher Award from the Psychiatric Residency Training Program.

Five questions for M. Deane Bowers[6]

[7]
It was common to find live butterflies flitting around and jars of caterpillars and collections of sea shells and feathers and pressed leaves decorating M. Deane Bowers' room when she was growing up in Florida. Her parents were supportive of her fondness for the natural world, and so were college professors. Now, she says, she's lucky enough to get paid for doing what she loves.

Bowers is curator of entomology at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History and is a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Before coming to CU in 1989, she was associate professor of biology and the Hessel Associate Curator of Lepidoptera at Harvard University. As a post-doc at Stanford, she worked on checkerspot butterflies in California, and the species still remains one of her favorites.

Her research looks at how plants and insects interact with the environment and each other, as well as the effects that climate change and human disturbance have on communities of insects. She teaches a variety of courses, including insect biology, and through the museum, a course in collections management. She especially likes this class because students come from many different disciplines, from botany to paleontology to anthropology to art and art history, education and even exhibit design.

"What I really love about my job is teaching -- both grad students and undergrads," she says. "I like seeing them excited about learning how to do research and excited about their results. I enjoy watching them develop into successful scientists who love what they do."

1. What are some recent developments at the museum?

[8]
We just found out we got a grant from the National Science Foundation to fund a program to digitize collections. This is a consortium of 10 different universities in the Southwest that will take the information associated with insect specimens, and for some, to photograph them, and to make the information available through several different web-based portals so that investigators can access the collections. That will start probably in July and August. This is one of the big goals of a lot of museums. Data from museum collections is one way to find out where climate change is affecting insects. We can use data to determine when plants were blooming 50 to 100 years ago, or at what elevation you find particular species, or when a particular species of bumblebee was flying. It's the kind of information people have used to determine how climate change is affecting the population of plants and animals.

2. What is some of your current research focused on?

The species I'm working on, the Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly, is becoming rare because its host plant occurs in wetlands habitats. I'm doing a fair amount of work with people in Maryland to develop some plans for re-establishing sites where the host plants can occur and to re-introduce the butterfly to those sites. I'll be going out there in a month or so to work on restoration projects and figure out what you need to do to make the habitat appropriate for the butterflies. The work has been very satisfying because we've made progress.

Although I'm interested in how human changes to the environment affect insect populations, I'm especially interested in how those changes play out in terms of multitrophic interactions. That would be the plants, and the insect herbivores feeding on those plants – mostly caterpillars -- and how changes affect the interaction of these caterpillars with their own natural enemies, such as predators and parasitoids. For example, if a caterpillar starts feeding on an introduced weed, that might slow its growth rate and that may mean the caterpillars could be vulnerable to getting eaten for a longer period of time. So if it takes four weeks to metamorphose into an adult instead of two weeks, that slower growth

rate may mean they're sitting around on plants, vulnerable to predators for a longer period of time. So I'm interested in how changes in plant chemistry, or plant use patterns, have effects farther up on food chain.

In Colorado, I'm interested in some invasive plant species, especially in how plant chemistry affects the interaction of plants with insect herbivores. The Dalmatian Toadflax, for instance, is an introduced weed that has been incorporated into the diet of native North American herbivores. Some butterfly species native to Colorado have started feeding on introduced weeds because the chemicals in the plants are similar to those of their native hosts. It can be positive, because it gives butterflies more host plants, but it can also be a real problem. Other researchers have found that an invasive weed called garlic mustard attracts native butterflies, which lay eggs on it, but there are chemicals in the plant that are toxic to the caterpillars.

I've also done a lot of work on predators. Parasitoids -- organisms like wasps and flies -- lay eggs inside caterpillars and the larvae of the wasps and flies develop in the caterpillar, ultimately killing it. If you've ever seen the movie "Alien," then you understand a parasitoid. The alien developed inside humans then suddenly it burst out and killed the humans and metamorphosed into another form. That's exactly what these parasitoids are doing in caterpillars. The caterpillar can be filled with hundreds of developing wasp larvae, and when they're ready to pupate, they kill the caterpillar.

3. Do you have a favorite insect and/or plant?

My favorite group of insects are the checkerspot butterflies and my favorite group of plants are ones that the checkerspots feed on, which also happen to be some of our most spectacular wildflowers here in Colorado, like penstemon.

Several different species of checkerspot are in Colorado, occurring in wet meadow habitats. The host plants they feed on are long-lived perennials so during drought years, the plants, such as penstemons, may not be big enough to support the growth of caterpillars so the caterpillars can starve to death.

4. As a gardener, what can you do to attract more insects to your yard?

There are two approaches. If you want to attract adult butterflies, you need to plant flowers that are good nectar sources. One plant, the milkweed, serves as both a nectar source for a lot of different adult butterflies and as a food source for Monarch caterpillars.

Native plants and some cultivated plants attract females to lay their eggs: dill and fennel attract black swallowtails. Good nectar sources are zinnias, butterfly bush (buddleia), sunflowers, and lavender.

Using pesticides is worst thing you can do. A common one, a natural insecticide called bee tea, is really toxic to caterpillars.

5. Do you also incorporate your love of nature in your leisure activities or hobbies?

I love to hike and camp. I also spin wool and weave and I'm into natural dying, especially with insects. In my inspect biology class, we do a lab where we grind up cochineal bugs, which make red, pink and orange dyes. We then tie-dye a silk scarf.

Another insect used for dying is called the lac. True shellac actually comes from this insect, although now, most shellac is synthetic. Once the shellac is extracted from the insects, the bodies are ground up to make a red powder.

I like to dye with plants, too. Indigo is one of the best known and makes blues. Madder makes red or a reddish-orange; Brazil wood makes different shades of purple; and you can get yellow from goldenrod or turmeric. One of the big things about natural dying is that you want something that is lightfast. Beets give you a beautiful pink but it turns grey after it's exposed to light for any period of time. Cochineal, though, is a very lightfast red.

I weave rugs and give most of them away. I make them for my Ph.D. students when they finish and give them to

friends as gifts.

Cover Photo of Butterfly by Larry Harwood /University of Colorado

Regents divided on banning firearms from student housing[9]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents passionately agreed that student safety on campus is a No. 1 priority. They passionately disagreed, however, on how that can or should be enforced.

In light of the March 5 Colorado Supreme Court ruling, which determined the board does not have authority to prohibit concealed weapons on its campuses, the board last week debated whether it would advise campus administrators to amend housing contracts to require students who have permits to carry concealed weapons to waive that right.

“Housing contracts are something the Board of Regents has generally delegated to campus leadership,” said Kyle Hybl, chair of the Board of Regents. “But we felt it important for the board to express its opinions for the direction of the chancellors concerning concealed weapons in housing.”

The regents took no action after their April 19 discussion, which came at the conclusion of the board’s two-day meeting on the CU Denver campus. Regent Steve Bosley said it's most appropriate for campus leadership to determine their courses of action.

Regent James Geddes said students with concealed carry permits should be allowed to keep firearms in student housing.

“The state of Colorado and its citizens, in their wisdom, have passed a law to take measures necessary for protection. Anything we do to modify that law on campuses, we have to do it carefully,” he said. Without students having the right to bear arms on campus, “Somebody can walk onto our campus, walk into many situations, and to our children and open fire. There is not a single such incident on a campus that has allowed concealed carry.”

Said Regent Sue Sharkey, “As a parent of two former CU students, most recently my daughter, my concern was for her safety.” Sharkey said her daughter was given a whistle at orientation. “It’s unlikely if she were being attacked that she would be saved by blowing a whistle. My public safety concern is not having guns on the campus.”

Regent Stephen Ludwig said he’s “not antigun, I own a gun. But as much as we don’t like to admit it, students like to experiment with drugs, alcohol and sex and adding firearms to that is a bad idea.” Regent Michael Carrigan also said he is not against gun rights, but that firearms shouldn't be in student housing.

Regent Joe Neguse, having lived in student housing at CU-Boulder a decade ago, said, “I would not be comfortable knowing that another student on my floor or in my dorm had a firearm.”

Regent Tilman “Tillie” Bishop said that prior to making any recommendations, one constituent group needed to weigh in. “We’ve heard from the NRA and gun rights groups and others – we haven’t heard from the mothers and dads. Maybe we ought to refer it to them to let them decide if this is a good idea or not.”

Regent Irene Griego agreed. “The parents who send their children to our schools send us their most precious gift. We have a responsibility to keep them safe. They should not be in fear of their neighbors,” she said. “I think it’s entirely appropriate for the chancellors to use their judgment, to use their discretion. If you amend contracts to disallow firearms in dormitories, I’m in support of that.”

Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak said more work needed to be done before determining any action on prohibiting firearms in student housing and, possibly, entertainment venues.

“The first thing that I hear is the safety of our students, faculty and staff must be No. 1 in how we approach this complex issue,” she said, adding that she plans to work with concealed carry advocates, student groups, military groups and parents before determining a course of action. “I want to be fully informed and make a decision that supports the safety of our students and upholds the laws of Colorado.”

What do you think of the UMC? Survey offers chance at $40 gift card[10]

You love the University Memorial Center - Why? What!?! You don't like the UMC - Why not? Take the CU-Boulder UMC survey and tell why you do or why you don't. You could win a $40 tasteBUD gift card, good in the Alferd Packer Grill and Baby Doe's, home of Peet's coffee.

Click here: http://studentvoice.com/cu/umcsatisfactionsurveyspring2012[11]

School of Medicine researcher devises exercises to treat vertigo[12]

[13]
A University of Colorado School of Medicine researcher who suffers from benign paroxysmal positional vertigo (BPPV) and had to “fix it” before she could go to work one day was using a maneuver to treat herself that only made her sicker.

“So I sat down and thought about it and figured out an alternate way to do it. Then I fixed myself and went in to work” and discovered a new treatment for this type of vertigo.

More than 7 million people in the U.S. can expect to have benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, a common vertigo disorder, especially as they age. The disorder causes more than a quarter of the vertigo experienced worldwide and has a lifetime prevalence of 2.4 percent. This type of vertigo is unusual because it is a purely mechanical disorder in which particles used to sense gravity accidentally enter the spinning-motion sensors of the ear. The symptoms can be relieved by maneuvers that relocate these particles. After treatment there is a tendency for this accidental particle entry to recur, and treatment is needed each time this happens.

Carol Foster, M.D.[14], associate professor in the department of Otolaryngology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, devised a new exercise, the Half Somersault Maneuver. It can be used as an alternative to the more common Epley maneuver.

The Epley maneuver is one that is applied by a physician or physical therapist and can be used at home and is effective in approximately 90 percent of cases. But these exercises can be hard to self-apply, because they cause severe vertigo during the exercise and require a precise sequence of head movements that usually require an assistant. During these maneuvers, there is also a risk that the particles can be moved into other spinning sensors, resulting in an increase in symptoms rather than improvement.

“The Half Somersault Maneuver however reduces this risk while allowing the particles to be quickly relocated without the need for an assistant,” Foster said. “Our research team compared the Epley maneuver to the Half Somersault Maneuver when used as a home exercise. Both exercises were able to relieve symptoms of the disease; patients reported less dizziness and had fewer complications when self-applying the Half Somersault Maneuver. Because the exercise can be performed by most people with the disease, its home use should result in considerable savings in health care costs both for consumers and health plans.”

This study compares the two procedures and has been accepted and will be published in the new online open-access journal, Audiology and Neurotology EXTRA[15], a subjournal of the prestigious Karger publication, Audiology and

Neurotology.

Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building a revolutionary research, teaching facility [16]

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A revolutionary research and teaching facility opening at the University of Colorado Boulder will facilitate work on a wide swath of pressing societal challenges ranging from biomedical issues such as cancer, heart disease and tissue engineering to the development of new biofuels.

The new Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building will offer opportunities for researchers and students from multiple disciplines to collaborate, said CU-Boulder Distinguished Professor and Nobel laureate Tom Cech.

Cech directs the Biofrontiers Institute, which is using the facility to advance human health and welfare by exploring critical frontiers of unknown biology to further teaching, research and technology at the intersections of the life sciences, physical sciences, math, computational sciences and engineering.

Located on CU-Boulder's East Campus, the new 336,800 square-foot facility will host more than 60 faculty and more than 500 researchers and support staff. In addition to the Biofrontiers Institute, the building will host the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and the Division of Biochemistry, and all three units will benefit from the state-of-the-art research space and equipment, Cech said.

"The university has a remarkable track record in inventing new approaches to human disease, to alternative energy and to other major societal problems," Cech said. "We believe this new facility will accelerate that process."

Graduate students work in a lab in the new Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building at the University of Colorado Boulder. (Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

The biotechnology building's official dedication today will be attended by CU officials and government and industry supporters and will include CU President Bruce Benson, CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano and former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter.

"Students and faculty collaborating in this wonderful new facility will contribute greatly to advances in areas like biotechnology, medicine and alternative fuels, not just in the state of Colorado, but around the world," DiStefano said.

The facility will allow students and faculty to interact with others outside of their departments on problems in modern biology best approached in an interdisciplinary fashion, Cech said. The new building also will allow CU to bridge the gap between academia and business -- biotech companies, for example, can come to the facility and run tests using powerful biochemical, genetic and pharmacological screening instruments to better understand biological processes and further drug design, learning which instruments and techniques might be of most benefit to them.

To promote collaboration, the new facility was designed with "neighborhoods" of efficient and flexible research labs interconnected via a "main street" corridor.

"I find the University of Colorado Boulder to be an exceptionally exciting and collaborative environment for scientific research, and this facility will open up new ways of thinking in terms of technology, concepts and frameworks," Cech said. "People from my group walking down the hall past one of these research neighborhoods, for example, might be brought into a scientific conversation with engineers or computer scientists from another lab, promoting the cross-

fertilization of new ideas."

One interdisciplinary research effort that will take place in the facility is being led by Distinguished Professor Kristi Anseth of the chemical and biological engineering department to continue the development of injectable, biodegradable "scaffolds" to regenerate cartilage for human joints and also the regeneration of skin, blood vessels and bone. Anseth's team also is collaborating with Professor Leslie Leinwand of the molecular, cellular and developmental, or MCD, biology department on a tissue engineering effort to develop replacement heart valves through tissue engineering.

New Lab (Photo by Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado)

In another line of research, Leinwand -- also chief scientific officer of the Biofrontiers Institute and a professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus -- discovered with her research team last November that fatty acids circulating in the blood of feeding pythons and in lab mice promotes healthy heart growth, a finding with promising potential for treating human heart disease.

"One of the things that distinguishes what we have done from many other higher education biotechnology initiatives is hiring faculty who are not tied to particular departments or colleges," said Leinwand, who leads a $1 million undergraduate research and education program and has spun off two successful biotech companies from CU. "This gives them much more flexibility to tackle biomedical challenges by adding brain power and talent from other research disciplines."

Professor Alan Weimer of the chemical and biological engineering department, who directs the Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels, or C2B2, has high hopes the activities in the new facility will lead to new discoveries and partnerships. "With the state-of-the-art equipment, and scientists and students from a number of different areas engaged in collaboration, I see this as a fantastic opportunity," Weimer said.

Headquartered in the new building, C2B2 is a joint center of CU-Boulder, Colorado State University, the Colorado School of Mines, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and industrial partners and was created to increase the production and use of energy from renewable resources, Weimer said. Longmont-based Sundrop Fuels Inc., for example, is using technology developed by Weimer that converts cellulose materials into ultraclean "green gasoline" and other transportation fuels.

Dozens of graduate and undergraduate students are involved in C2B2 research, he said.

"Providing hands-on, inquiry-based research opportunities for CU undergraduates is a major goal," said Cech, who estimated that during any given time there will be roughly 100 undergraduates conducting research in the new facility. "We are going to work hard to see that as many of our science majors as possible leave Boulder having had this sort of transformational experience."

(Photo by Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado)

In addition to basic and applied bioscience research, the faculty in the new building will be educating the next generation of interdisciplinary Ph.D. scientists, beginning with its recently launched Interdisciplinary Quantitative Biology, or IQ Biology program. CU graduate students will be involved in semester-long "rotations" that immerse them in mathematical biology, computational biology, biophysics and bio-imaging as they work toward doctoral degrees. There are more than 30 core faculty members from CU involved in the IQ Biology program.

"CU has always been a big part of Colorado's brand, in part because of its ability to accelerate inventions, ideas and innovations to the point where they are implemented and translated into new jobs," said Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper. "This research facility is going to bring together people with a lot of different backgrounds, and we have great faith that they will be turning over new ground and finding new pathways to help mankind resolve many of our challenges." Colorado's bioscience industry generates more than $400 million in state taxes annually and supports

36,000 employees.

Another MCD biology faculty member, Robert Garcea, heads a team that will use high-tech microscopy in the facility to generate images of single virus particles. The work led by Garcea -- who is collaborating with colleagues at CU-Boulder and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus -- involves developing new delivery methods for vaccines to fight pathogens like the Human Papilloma Virus, which infects skin and mucous membranes and can lead to various types of cancer.

Cech said the breadth of basic science on the Boulder campus is a “great fit” with ongoing clinical and medical research at CU Anschutz. The new CU-Boulder facility will host sophisticated instrumentation in its core labs -- including high-throughput genomic screening equipment that allows researchers to rapidly conduct millions of genetic, chemical and pharmacological tests -- as well as new bio-imaging and DNA sequencing equipment, he said.

Cech, who shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in chemistry, leads a research group that includes CU students and scientific staff employed by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute headquartered in Chevy Chase, Md., that is focused on the activity and regulation of telomerase. Telomerase is a key enzyme for replicating the ends of chromosomes and is linked to both cancer and aging. Cech, who returned to CU in 2009 after a 10-year stint as HHMI president and who remains an HHMI investigator, is teaming up with biophysicists and biologists to further the understanding of telomerase and its potential as a drug target.

Associate Professor Rob Knight, who holds joint appointments in chemistry and biochemistry and computer science, is heading a team to study communities of bacteria that inhabit the human body -- many of which are beneficial -- that can be altered by disease and antibiotics. The team is using high-powered DNA sequencing tools and is comparing microbial differences in individuals as diagnostic tools for disease.

Chemistry and biochemistry Assistant Professor Hubert Yin is using multidisciplinary collaboration to hunt for unconventional drug targets overlooked by the pharmaceutical industry. Collaborating with Professor Natalie Ahn of chemistry and biochemistry and MCD biology faculty member Jennifer Martin, Yin’s focus is on cell membrane proteins, which act as windows and doors to the inner workings of all cells.

Anseth, Garcea, Ahn, Knight and Yin all are Biofrontiers Institute faculty members.

The research teams in the new facility come from five departments on campus, including chemistry and biochemistry, chemical and biological engineering, computer science, MCD biology and physics. Several faculty also have joint appointments with departments at CU’s Anschutz Medical Campus.

The new $160 million building is being funded by private donations, roughly $48 million to date, as well as $15 million from the National Institutes of Health through the America Recovery and Reinvestment Act and funds from the university and the state of Colorado. The university has a goal of raising a total of $75 million in private donations by June of 2014.

Open Enrollment begins Monday[22]

[23]

The 2012-13 benefits Open Enrollment (OE) – a positive enrollment, meaning all employees and retirees under age 65 must take action even if they previously waived coverage – begins at 8 a.m. Monday.

The enrollment requirement does not apply to Medicare-eligible retirees, who may remain with their present choices without participating in open enrollment.

OE continues until 5 p.m. May 25.

This year is more than a positive OE -- the news is positive for employees and retirees, as well. For the first time in many years, employee and retiree health plan costs are decreasing for all plans and coverage levels except one.

Here's why: First, since its inception July 2010, the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust (Trust) has outperformed other local and national health plans, meaning the Trust plans' year-over-year rate increases are lower than local and national averages. This performance occurred while enhancing your benefits.

Second, the university committed this year to continuing its practice since FY 2008 of providing equal employer contribution for faculty, officers and exempt professionals and classified staff. This year, the employer contribution will be 100 percent of prevailing market, an 11 percent increase in employer contribution over last July. The level was set by the state of Colorado for classified employees, although CU funds its own contributions to the rates.

This is especially significant for classified staff with 50 percent or greater appointments, who will be eligible in July for all the CU plans. One aspect of last year's higher education efficiency bill was to permit the state's public colleges and universities to provide their own benefits to classified employees, and CU exercised that provision. Employees in the state Kaiser health maintenance organization plan will see significant rate decreases by the move to CU Health Plan - Kaiser.

Some other changes for employees and retirees worth noting include:
All plans have been renamed and branded under the CU Health Plan Cigna will serve as the new administrative services organization, providing a network of providers, claims processing and retail prescription drug sites A four-tiered prescription drug formulary, the list of drugs covered by your health plan, will be implemented for all medical plans, which should decrease the time to fill specialty prescriptions The CU Health Plan - Exclusive (formerly UA Net Plan) will have a new bariatric surgery benefit The CU Health Plan - Medicare (formerly Medicare Primary Plan) will no longer include a $150 deductible for mail-order prescriptions Due to a provision of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the maximum deduction for a health care flexible spending account will decrease from $6,000 per plan year to $2,500 per calendar year. Classified staff with less than 50 percent appointments will continue to be eligible for the state's benefit plans Classified staff with 50 percent or greater appointments will no longer be eligible for state plans
The application and final rates will be available on Monday, the first day of OE. To learn more about new plan names, plan changes, OE sessions and carrier fairs, and the consequences if you choose to not take action during OE, go to: www.cu.edu/openenrollment[24].

CU Foundation appeals to faculty, staff[25]

CU Chancellor Don Elliman (right)

In a time of decreased state funding, the university must seek support elsewhere to continue to pursue and fulfill its mission.

A cross section of nearly 60 faculty and staff from Denver Campus schools, colleges and departments met Friday in the Terrace Room at the Lawrence Street Center with Chancellor Don Elliman, CU Foundation Vice President Matt Wasserman and others to talk about fundraising.

Elliman recalled his earlier career experiences helping to raise funds for building the new Children's Hospital Colorado, as well as the university's recent partnership with funding for the J.P. Morgan Commodities Center at the Business School.

"I consider fundraising an important part of my role here," said Elliman, adding that he's looking forward to working

across the university on additional efforts.

Elliman reminded those assembled, "The real assets that we have here at the university, are you."

CU Foundation Vice President Matt Wasserman

Wasserman echoed that in his comments about the process of fundraising and the role each faculty and staff member can play in "building partnerships. It's a process; it takes a lot of time and work,"

While Wasserman also joked that the image of fundraising often is portrayed as 'spending time on the golf course or holding bake sales,' he emphasized the importance of building trust with our donors. "You're the best people to tell our stories to donors," Wasserman said.

Similar conversations are planned for the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Watson awarded college's first honorary doctorate[28]

Watson

Jean Watson, distinguished professor of the Murchison-Scoville Endowed Chair in Caring Science at the University of Colorado Denver and former CU College of Nursing dean, recently was awarded an honorary doctorate at the Japanese Red Cross Tokyo College of Nursing. This was the first honorary doctorate awarded by the college.

Watson presented a banner from the Watson Caring Science Institute to officials at the Japanese Red Cross Tokyo College of Nursing. While in Tokyo, Watson gave a presentation at Jikei University School of Nursing in conjunction with Tokyo Women's Hospital. She also traveled to Hiroshima, Japan, where she was the honorary chair of the International Hiroshima Conference on Caring and Peace, March 24-25, and the First Global Caritas Consortium gathering on March 22. The two conferences were sponsored by Japanese Red Cross Hiroshima CON and the Watson Caring Science Institute.

Watson's caring philosophy is used to guide transformative models of caring and healing practices for nurses and patients alike, in diverse settings worldwide. She has been featured in numerous national videos on nursing theory and the art of nursing, and is the recipient of several national awards, including the Fetzer Institute Norman Cousins Award, in recognition of her commitment to developing, maintaining and exemplifying relationship-centered care practices. She is the author/co-author of more than 14 books on caring, including many that are award-winners.

Accurso's pioneering treatment for cystic fibrosis earns honor[30]

Accurso

Frank Accurso, M.D., a pediatric professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine who practices at Children's Hospital Colorado, recently was honored by the Clinical Research Forum for his work in pioneering a genetically based treatment for cystic fibrosis that is benefiting Colorado kids and young adults.

The clinical trial led by Accurso resulted in federal approval of the new treatment in January. Dozens of children with cystic fibrosis (CF) now are being treated with the drug Kalydeco in Colorado.

In the past, doctors only could treat complications caused by CF, a fatal disease. Two decades ago, scientists figured out that a defect in the protein CFTR causes the disease and that pointed the way for researchers. Kalydeco, developed through efforts of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Vertex Pharmaceuticals Inc., showed promise. Accurso led the clinical trial that showed the new treatment, using the drug Kalydeco, helps about 4 percent of CF patients by targeting the mutation and improving lung function. The New England Journal of Medicine published the results. He hopes as many as 90 percent of CF patients eventually will benefit.

Accurso is one of 10 recipients nationally of the Forum's Clinical Research Achievement Awards. He, along with the other winning researchers were honored during the Clinical Research Forum annual meeting and awards dinner in Washington, D.C., earlier this month, where they also presented their work.

Christensen to be honored at Heller Center celebration[32]

Christensen

A dual celebration on May 15 will fete **Tom Christensen**, dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, who is stepping down from the position July 1, and the completed restoration of the guest house at the Heller Center.

Christensen, one of the Heller Center's biggest advocates, will return to the Department of Physics as a full-time faculty member after seven years as dean of the college.

The Heller Center for Arts and Humanities Guest House will be dedicated in the memory of Colorado Springs artist Herman Raymond, who was associated with Larry Heller. A collection of Raymond's paintings selected by his widow, Karen Raymond, was donated to the Heller Center in his honor. The guest house will host visiting artists and scholars as well as serve as additional space for small meetings and both campus and community retreats, according to Perrin Cunningham, director, Heller Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Raymond (1924-2010) settled in Colorado Springs in 1950 and operated a private art school for many years. The school continues to operate in the Old Colorado City area of Colorado Springs. A painter, Raymond worked in abstract, realistic and impressionistic styles and was known for his open air painting.

Naming the guest house in honor of Raymond was the request of a donor who contributed $400,000 to the project after receiving an impromptu tour of the restored Heller Center for Arts and Humanities main house. The donor wishes to remain anonymous but is in contact with representatives of the CU Foundation and has been kept apprised of the project's progress, according to Jaime McMullen Garcia, associate director of development, CU Foundation.

The guest house will offer amenities that make it suitable to house visitors and for small meetings, according to Stan Rovira, project manager, Facilities Services. The renovations were extensive, beginning with a new foundation and extending to new walls, roof, electrical, lighting, and heating system. The work was completed by Gerald H. Phipps Construction, the same contractor as on the main house, earlier this month.

Naro named Employee of the Quarter[34]

Naro

Iryse Naro is used to giving, not receiving. But Naro, executive assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, and an 11-year University of Colorado Colorado Springs veteran, found herself receiving the appreciation of her colleagues earlier this month when she received Employee of the Quarter honors for the first quarter of 2012.

“You’ve got to be kidding,” Naro exclaimed as she walked into a Main Hall conference room to applause.

Naro previously served on the committee that selects Employee of the Quarter recipients. But she never expected her service on that committee – as well as service in a number of other areas – to be recognized. Winners of the Employee of the Quarter receive one day administrative leave, a $100 stipend, three months free, reserved campus parking and a certificate of recognition.

“Iryse does an amazing job fulfilling her duties in the VCAF Office and assisting as needs arise in other offices as well,” said Debbie Lapioli, executive assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. “People can rely on Iryse’s competent work and her willingness to research answers for various challenges or new issues.”

In addition to citing her work abilities, Lapioli lauded Naro’s service to the campus and community. For several years, Naro has co-chaired the Colorado Combined Campaign and helped increase contributions to local nonprofit organizations. She is active with the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life and Climb to Conquer Cancer efforts.

Naro joined UCCS in October 2001 as an administrative assistant in the Department of Public Safety. She held administrative and accounting positions there until moving to her current position as executive assistant to Susan Szpyrka, senior associate vice chancellor, Administration and Finance, in July 2009.

Full coverage of the April Board of Regents meeting[36]

Editor's note: CU Connections published its April 19 edition early in the day; it included coverage of the first of two days of meetings by the Board of Regents. The website was updated later on April 19 with coverage from the second day. Here are links to those stories:

Salary pool of 2 percent receives regents’ approval**[37]**
The Board of Regents today authorized a 2 percent salary pool, enabling merit increases for many faculty, officers and exempt professionals in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

University of Colorado Board of Regents sets 2012-13 tuition rates**[38]**
CU administrators presented two options for tuition, both of which reflected increases over last year, given continued reductions in state funding for higher education. CU absorbs a disproportionate share of those cuts.

Academic Building to be first in new CU Denver neighborhood on Auraria Campus**[39]**
Capital construction for a new academic building on the Auraria Campus to be occupied solely by the University of Colorado Denver faculty, staff and students was approved by the Board of Regents at its April 19 meeting.

CU names Patrick O’Rourke vice president and university counsel/ secretary to Board of Regents**[40]**
O’Rourke, now serves as managing senior associate university counsel, overseeing CU’s litigation efforts in state and federal court for the university’s four campuses.

Regents voice support for new CU Accountability Data Center**[41]**
The Board of Regents on Wednesday recognized a new system website that promotes accountability and quick and easy information access.

Soifer presents at international conference[42]

Alex Soifer, professor in interdepartmental studies at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, presented “Van der Werden and Heisenberg: The Story of One Friendship” at the 43rd Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory and Computing, March 5-9 at Florida International University.

Van der Waerden was a Dutch mathematician who worked as a professor in Nazi Germany. Heisenberg was a 1932 Nobel Prize laureate for creating quantum mechanics who headed the Nazi atomic bomb and nuclear reactor programs.

UCCS Faculty Assembly elects officers[43]

University of Colorado Colorado Springs Faculty Assembly recently announced election results for the 2012-2013 academic year.

President-elect **Andrea Hutchins**, associate professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, will become president. Current President **Katie Kaukinen**, associate professor, School of Public Affairs, will continue to serve on the assembly executive board as past president.

Officers are:

President-elect: **Amanda Elder**, assistant professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Secretary: **Jeff Spicher**, assistant professor-clinical teaching track, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences; and Faculty Council representative: **Christina Martinez**, senior instructor, Kraemer Family Library.

College representatives:

College of Business and Administration: **Monique Dooley**, associate professor, and **Morgan Shepherd**, professor; College of Education: **Christi Kasa**, associate professor, and **Jim Saunders**, senior instructor; College of Engineering and Applied Science: **Pam Carter**, senior instructor, and **Rebecca Webb**, assistant professor; Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences: **Kathy Blair**, professor, and **Craig Elder**, instructor; School of Public Affairs: **Michael Martinez**, senior instructor; Kraemer Family Library: **Carla Myers**, assistant professor; and in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences: **Suzanne Cook**, senior instructor, Department of Languages and Cultures; **Debra Dew**, associate professor, Department of English; **Curt Holder**, associate professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies; **Christine Robinson**, instructor, Department of English; **David Weiss**, associate professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry; and **Andrea Wenker**, instructor, Department of English.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/relay-life-raises-money-recognizes-cancer-survivors[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/uccs_relayforlife.png[3] http://www.cancer.org/Involved/Participate/RelayForLife/index[4] https://connections.cu.edu/people/weiner-recognized-colorado-psychiatric-society[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/p_weiner.png

[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-m-deane-bowers[7]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/5q-deane.png[8]
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[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/what-do-you-think-umc-survey-offers-chance-40-gift-card[11]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/watson-awarded-college%E2%80%99s-first-honorary-doctorate[29]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/p-watson.png[30]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/accurso%E2%80%99s-pioneering-treatment-cystic-fibrosis-earns-honor[31]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/p-accurso.png[32]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/christensen-be-honored-heller-center-celebration[33]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/p_christensen1.png[34]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/naro-named-employee-quarter[35] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/p_naro.png[36] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/full-coverage-april-board-regents-meeting
[37] https://connections.cu.edu/../news/salary-pool-of-2-percent-receives-regents-approval[38]
https://connections.cu.edu/../news/university-of-colorado-board-of-regents-sets-2012-13-tuition-rates[39]
https://connections.cu.edu/../news/academic-building-to-be-first-in-new-cu-denver-neighborhood-on-auraria-campus
[40] https://connections.cu.edu/../news/update-cu-names-patrick-orourke-vice-president-and-university-counsel-secretary-to-board-of-regents[41] https://connections.cu.edu/../news/regents-voice-support-for-new-cu-accountability-data-center[42] https://connections.cu.edu/people/soifer-presents-international-conference[43]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/uccs-faculty-assembly-elects-officers