State budget-balancing measure leads to shift in PERA contributions[1]

University of Colorado employees who are PERA members will see a 2.5 percent reduction in wages during the 2010-11 fiscal year in order to comply with a new Colorado law that shifts a portion of retirement fund contributions from the employer to the employee.

Gov. Bill Ritter signed Senate Bill 10-146[2] into law as part of the effort to balance the state budget. The law decreases the employer contribution rate in the state and judicial divisions of PERA by 2.5 percent and increases the member contribution rate by 2.5 percent for one year.

About 11,000 CU employees are Public Employee Retirement Association members.

The law decreases the state's contribution rate to 7.65 percent from 10.15 percent beginning with the July pay period. Employee contribution rates to the fund will rise to 10.5 percent of salary from 8 percent.

"There will be a one-time savings to the university," said Kelly Fox, vice president and chief financial officer. How the savings will be invested is a campus by campus decision, Fox said, but the university likely will use the money to "mitigate what we're anticipating will be a funding cliff." She said how the funding might be invested won't be known until June, when the budget is set.

"One of the first questions I get is that people are worried that the 2.5 percent increase won't be for just one year, it will be indefinite," said Lori Krug, human resources management system functional analyst in Payroll & Benefit Services and chair of the University of Colorado Staff Council. "SB146 very specifically places limits on the increase – it ends on June 30, 2011 – so it would take a separate legislative action."

For employees earning $40,000 a year, the deduction will amount to a $66 decrease in monthly pay, according to university calculations.

The extra money paid to PERA through the payroll deduction will go directly into personal accounts, accrue interest, and that amount is refundable if the member leaves the university, said Katie Kaufmanis, communications director for PERA. (Employer contributions are not refundable to the employee.)

The contributions are tax deferred and will reduce taxable income, Kaufmanis said. The extra 2.5 percent contribution will not reduce an employee's highest average salary, a calculation used to determine retirement benefits.

"The university has to be in compliance with the law," Krug said. While resources including the Payroll & Benefit Services website might answer general questions, Krug advises members with specific questions to contact a PERA representative directly.

Kaufmanis said the law has nothing to do with PERA's funding status. Earlier this year, SB10-001 made numerous changes to PERA's contribution rates and retiree benefits to help shore up the ailing fund. The effects of that bill are summarized in this chart[3] at the Colorado PERA website.

"Like most other people at the university, I'm not pleased to see no pay increases, potential benefit decreases and increases to PERA contributions," Krug said. "I intend to speak with administration officials to see what can be done in future fiscal years to stop the bleeding. As the economic outlook starts to pick up, more businesses are bringing people on and hiring at good rates. University employees have been very patient and dedicated to continuing to do their jobs with more work and less take-home pay. We may start to lose institutional resources to private companies if the university can't get a grip on it."

SB146 will save the state about $37 million during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Lawmakers spent much of this year's session making sharp cuts to the state budget in order to remedy an estimated funding shortfall of about $1.3 billion. The recession has caused many states, including Colorado, to slash programs and find innovative ways to save money.

Both the Colorado House and Senate recently passed the Long Bill – the proposed $18.2 billion state budget for 2010-2011. It awaits the governor's signature.

Despite improving fiscal news, state experts say economic instability makes it hard to determine accurately how the state will close out the year. Some suggest the state might even end up with a surplus. Despite that, Gov. Ritter has said he is not inclined to change proposed cuts in the bill.

UPDATE: Flex bill clears first hurdle at Capitol[4]

The Colorado legislative bill aimed at giving higher education institutions more flexibility in financial affairs and in setting tuition rates was unanimously approved with amendments Thursday, April 29, by the Senate Education Committee. On Friday, April 30, it moves to the Senate floor for second reading.

While most amendments to SB10-003 were technical in nature, one proposed by Sen. Pat Steadman, D-Denver, would place a five-year sunset provision on allowing institutions the freedom to determine tuition.

Steadman said he was struck by testimony Wednesday, April 28, from student representatives who said lawmakers were passing the buck and abdicating their responsibility to higher education.

Senate Majority Leader John Morse, D-Colorado Springs, who sponsored the bill, supported the Steadman amendment, despite previously speaking against a sunset clause.

"We will have a new normal and things will be different than they have been," he said. "But we do need to send a message loud and clear that this is a temporary fix. There is more that we need to do."

The bill, the top legislative priority of this session for the University of Colorado, was introduced the first day of the session but was thoroughly revised in April after negotiations with institution presidents and the Department of Higher Education. Its committee introduction generated three hours of testimony on Wednesday, April 28.

A study commission had drafted the bill during the summer of 2009 to help deal with the state financial crunch. The state cut funding to higher education institutions for the 2010-11 fiscal year, but funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has temporarily backfilled most of it.

Legislators and higher education officials worry that neither state nor federal funding will be available for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, and that could send the institutions into a tailspin.

Legislators acknowledge the bill would be a short-term solution.

"Whittling away at colleges and universities and their programs is a nonstarter," said Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry, R-Grand Junction, who has spearheaded the effort with Morse. He also ruled out tax increases. Instead, he said, lawmakers looked to innovation by giving the colleges and universities a "broader authority to manage their money. Ultimately, students will vote with their feet if the tuition increases are too much."

The main components of the revised bill:
Beginning with the 2011-2012 fiscal year, each institution would be allowed to set the amount of tuition for resident and nonresident students with a cap of 9 percent each year unless there are significant decreases in state support.
Beginning Nov. 10, 2010, and every future Nov. 10, institutions would have to provide detailed funding reports and financial projections to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee. The projections would include details of how the institution would respond to a variety of scenarios, including either

reduced or increased state funding, and other revenues, including tuition. Institution plans also would include details on how governing boards would ensure accessibility and affordability for low- and middle-income students, how financial aid would be distributed and ways to improve student retention. Once each December, institutions would provide the Colorado Commission on Higher Education a five-year plan of performance goals that would include quality of instruction, operational efficiency, improved student success (including post-graduation employment), and improving state residents' access to and affordability to a quality education. The CCHE would then establish benchmarks and review the progress of each institution. If an institution failed to meet one or more benchmark by 5 percent or more, the institution would lose some of its tuition-setting freedom. Remove international students from the statutorily required limit on nonresident students enrolled in colleges. Without denying spots to in-state students, a greater influx of students from around the world would grow enrollment, diversify the campus experience and boost tuition revenue. The University of Colorado at Boulder has the smallest international student population of any institution in the American Association of Universities. CU enrolls nearly 59,000 students on four campuses; 77 percent of those are in-state students. Allow institutions more flexibility to control financial dealings, including purchasing and awarding contracts, along with buying or selling real estate. In most cases, the institutions must get state approval, and that causes expensive delays, according the colleges and universities.
The Legislature wants the institutions to garner more funding from federal dollars and private donations. CU, and some other institutions, rely on foundations to provide endowments that usually are dedicated to certain academic purposes.

CU President Bruce D. Benson on Wednesday said allowing the institution more flexibility would "add an important arrow to our quiver." He said provisions of the bill would allow the university to operate more efficiently and effectively by reducing paperwork, getting rid of redundancies and delays. He also said it would allow campuses to increase diversity and add more revenue by enrolling more foreign students. The bill would cap the number of foreign students at 12 percent; currently, foreign students make up 4 percent of the student population.

And, he promised, "We would not price education out of the market. I'm a businessman. I wouldn't do that."

Other college and university officials testified Wednesday in support of the bill, saying something needed to be done to avert a possible crisis. Most also acknowledged this could not be a long-term fix.

Jim Polsfut, chair of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, said he worried that no sunset provision was in the bill.

Others agreed, including Frank Waterous of the Bell Policy Center. He said the bill shifts the funding responsibilities to families and students. "That's not a good long-term strategy," he said, adding that government has the responsibility to help support an educated workforce.

Andrew Bateman, representing the Associated Students of Colorado, said the organization did not necessarily oppose increasing tuition, but he said students want assurance that the bill ensures the proper amount of oversight is maintained.

"We believe the legislature should have oversight. Someone who is accountable to voters," he said. "We don't need to give institutions carte blanche to do what they want."

Others questioned whether some of the bill's provisions went far enough to ensure that institutions would allow "through the window students" â€“ those who don't meet admission standards â€“ to enroll or whether financial aid would be awarded to those who need it most.

Matt Worthington, with the Associated Students of Colorado State University, said tuition hikes are pricing some students out of an education.

"There's nothing innovative about tuition hikes," he said, referring to legislators who said they sought innovation to deal with the higher education crisis. To ensure accessibility for all students, tuition increases should remain under the oversight of the General Assembly. And, he said, students want to be part of the conversation.

David McDermott, controller for the state of Colorado, said allowing institutions the freedom to control financial

operations, such as awarding of contracts or purchasing, would go against state statutes. "You're giving them self-approval of the rules and self-approval of what they need to report."

Gov. Bill Ritter had put together a task force, the Higher Education Strategic Planning Steering Committee, to study higher education issues, but it is unclear how the revised SB3 would affect the task force recommendations. The outgoing governor has previously said that any legislation would have to fit with the higher education strategic plan from the task force before it could win his signature.

Guiding principles, presidential search go back to governance groups[5]

Diversity was a central theme of last week's University of Colorado Board of Regents meeting as the elected officials discussed how to define the issue within university laws and policies, and students and staff appealed for an expansion that would include gender identity and expression.

In the end, the board agreed to send a set of proposed guiding principles back to CU governance groups for further input on a proposed amendment by Regent Jim Geddes, R-Sedalia, which would put more emphasis on "intellectual diversity" among faculty members. The regents also sent a proposal to update the university's presidential search process back to student, staff and faculty groups for more input.

Both issues are likely to be taken up again at the regents' regular meeting in June, the board's support staff said this week.

"There are two kinds of diversity. We're talking about racial and ethnic diversity. The other is diversity of thought. The two are distinct in my mind. This is to address diversity of thought," Geddes told fellow board members in introducing his amendment to the proposed guiding principles.

But student, staff and faculty governance group leaders asked the board to allow them to discuss the issue with their constituents, saying their members would not accept a principle that singled out faculty for "intellectual diversity."

"Faculty would not support that," said John McDowell, chair of the Faculty Council, a systemwide faculty governance group for all four CU campuses.

During a public comment period earlier in the meeting, a group of students and staff asked the regents to broaden Article 10 of the regents' nondiscrimination law to encompass "gender identity and gender expression." Speakers tried to persuade the regents that the current law, which the regents amended to include nondiscrimination based on "sexual orientation" in 2001, does not go far enough to protect transgendered students, staff and faculty.

"It seems to me the time has come to do what needs to be done. There is a need to protect transgender people in the CU system," said Angela Palermo, a staff member at CU-Boulder's Norlin Library, and one of five people who spoke about gender issues before the board.

According to another group representative, three other universities in the Big 12 have included gender identity and gender expression protection in their nondiscrimination policies.

However, Dan Wilkerson, vice president for university counsel and secretary of the Board of Regents, countered that CU's nondiscrimination law is in line with current state laws prohibiting discrimination, and that "sexual orientation" covers the gay, lesbian and transgendered community.

A proposal to establish a new policy to guide the university's presidential search process will go before CU governance groups again after the regents reviewed initial feedback by students, staff and faculty, and incorporated more proposed

changes. At issue is the makeup of the presidential search committee, which would include the participation of regents, students, faculty and staff.

In other action, the Board of Regents:
Heard campus-level details on budget-balancing measures for the upcoming fiscal year, then offered questions and comments. Read the Newsletter's coverage[6], which was posted last week. The regents are expected to vote on the budget at their June meeting. Approved proposed charges and fee increases for students. Mandatory fees at CU-Boulder will increase 0.4 percent in the 2011 fiscal year. UC Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus fee increases are largely limited to specific courses with higher costs. No mandatory student fees will increase at UCCS, though there will be increases to housing, as there will be at Boulder. The vote was 8-1, with Regent Tom Lucero, R-Loveland, against. Approved new degree proposals: master of science in dentistry, Anschutz Medical Campus; bachelor of arts and sciences in public health, master of science in historic preservation, UC Denver. Formed a Student Health Care Task Force to study potential improvement to insurance rates and efficiencies within health care for students.

Stimulus grant brings $15 million to biotechnology building[7]

The University of Colorado at Boulder has received a $15 million grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to be used toward the ongoing construction of a revolutionary biotechnology and biomedical research facility.

Construction of the new facility began in September 2009. When completed, the building is expected to host more than 60 faculty members and more than 500 graduate students, researchers and support staff. They will use the facility for fundamental research that's expected to affect a wide variety of human health issues ranging from cancer, aging and cardiovascular disease to inherited diseases, vaccine development and regenerative medicine.

The ARRA money was awarded to CU-Boulder's Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology (CIMB) through the National Institutes of Health (NIH), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CU-Boulder Distinguished Professor and CIMB Director Tom Cech said the new facility will serve as a springboard to further research, teaching and technology at the intersection of the life sciences with the physical sciences, math, computational sciences and engineering.

The new biotechnology facility will bolster Colorado's position in the nation's biotechnology economy, Cech said. The first phase of the building comprising 266,400 square feet is slated for completion in fall 2011, with plans for a 70,400-square-foot addition at a later date. It also will house CIMB faculty from the department of chemical and biological engineering, and biochemistry division faculty from the department of chemistry and biochemistry.

"This is such an appropriate use of ARRA funds," Cech said, "because the Biotechnology Building will create jobs at three stages – construction jobs in the near term, laboratory research positions once the building is occupied and biotechnology jobs in Colorado over the following years as we work to enhance that industry in the state."

Before the ARRA award, much of the interior space of the facility now under construction had been destined to remain as shell space pending more funding, Cech said.

"We thank the NIH for approving our request for $15 million, which will build out space for the biochemistry faculty of CU-Boulder," said Cech, who shared the 1989 Nobel Prize in chemistry and served as the Howard Hughes Medical Institute president from 2000 to 2009 while retaining his CU faculty appointment.

NIH's National Center for Research Resources received nearly 1,200 applications for such construction projects totaling more than $10.6 billion. The center received $1 billion in ARRA funds for the program, so the success rate for the winners was less than 10 percent.

Before the ARRA grant to CU-Boulder, more than half of the building's $145 million Phase One cost had already been committed, including more than $60 million from the university and more than $30 million in gifts from generous donors. Fundraising efforts for the new facility are ongoing to cover the remaining costs of the full building plan.

The new facility is named the Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building after an adjunct professor in CU-Boulder's chemistry and biochemistry department and the late wife of CU-Boulder Distinguished Professor Marvin Caruthers. The facility will offer the opportunity for a wide swath of researchers to collaborate, said Professor Leslie Leinwand, Marsico Professor of Excellence and Chief Scientific Officer of CIMB.

Besides interdisciplinary collaboration involving faculty and students, the modern equipment in the facility will give biotech companies the chance to come in and work with CU-Boulder faculty and students, Leinwand said. It also will help CU build on its distinguished record in biotechnology research, which has generated more than a dozen biotech startup companies and currently attracts tens of millions of dollars annually in sponsored research awards.

Colorado boasts particular strength in the biosciences, with its businesses generating more than $400 million in state taxes and supporting 36,000 workers. Coupled with CU's strong startup track record and accomplished faculty researchers, the new building should further bolster the region's biotech strength, Cech said.

Other activities within the new building will involve CU-Boulder undergraduates. The university offers funding to hundreds of undergraduates annually for biomedical research, Cech said.

More information on the Biotechnology Building and the Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology is available at http://cimb.colorado.edu/[8].

Breast cancer risk factors differ among races[9]

Lisa Hines

A new study led by Lisa Hines, assistant professor of biology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, finds that factors known to increase the risk of breast cancer among white women have less influence in Hispanic women.

Published early online in CANCER, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society, the study indicates that research is needed to evaluate how breast cancer risk factors differ among ethnic and racial populations.

Breast cancer occurs more frequently in certain ethnic and racial groups, but the reasons behind these differences are not fully understood. To investigate the issue, Hines led a study that considered how established breast cancer risk factors – including reproductive history, family history of breast cancer, menstrual history, hormone use, alcohol consumption, physical activity, height and body mass index – might be involved in explaining some of the observed differences in the occurrence of breast cancer among racial and ethnic groups.
They studied breast cancer among women from the Southwest United States who were enrolled in the population-based, case-control Four Corners Breast Cancer Study, which was designed to investigate factors that contribute to the difference in breast cancer incidence rates observed between Hispanic and non-Hispanic white women.

Prior studies have shown that non-Hispanic white women have a higher incidence of breast cancer than Hispanic women. In this current study, the researchers found that 62 percent to 75 percent of breast cancer cases among non-Hispanic white women were attributed to known breast cancer risk factors, compared with only 7 to 36 percent of cases among Hispanic women. Hispanic women were more likely to have characteristics associated with lower breast cancer risk, such as earlier age at first childbirth, having more children, shorter height, less hormone use and less alcohol consumption. Among premenopausal women, taller height and family history of breast cancer were associated with

increased risk in non-Hispanic white women but were not among Hispanic women. Among postmenopausal women, certain breast cancer risk factors in non-Hispanic whites (such as recent hormone therapy use and younger age at menarche) had no or only weak associations with breast cancer in Hispanics.

These findings suggest that many of the risk factors studied to date explain fewer of the breast cancer cases that arise in Hispanic women compared with non-Hispanic white women.
"These differences are likely to contribute to disparities in breast cancer incidence rates, and could potentially reflect differences in breast cancer development among these ethnic groups," Hines said. For example, ethnic differences in genetic and environmental or lifestyle factors might affect individuals' susceptibility to the development of breast cancer.

The authors noted that the study's findings also indicate that the use of models to estimate a woman's risk of breast cancer that were developed from studies among non-Hispanic white populations need to be evaluated among other ethnic and racial populations.

Successful blog creator shares experience with students[11]

A passion for music is what drives music blog creator Heather Browne. She told her story of the blog I Am Fuel, You Are Friends.[12] to University of Colorado Denver students in College of Arts and Music Assistant Professor Storm Gloor's music marketing class earlier this month.

"After three years of college, I began to feel like I was out of touch with my passion (music). This blog was my way of getting back to it," Browne told students. "Never in a million years would I have imagined it taking off the way it did."

Browne's blog is a true passion. With a separate full-time job, friends and family, Browne wouldn't be doing it (the blog) if she didn't love it. To her, the blog was a way to keep up with new music, and with its success. It's now the blog every musician wants in on. I Am Fuel, You Are Friends has been viewed by more than 6 million people, and more than 1 million are return site visitors. With site statistics like that, artists are eager to have Browne listen and review their music on her blog. Browne confirms that her blog is in some ways a counter argument to those who say music is a dying art.

Browne offered the UC Denver students advice on getting their music heard by major music blogs.

"When you are sending out your music, attach something to it that tells us about it," she said. "Often people just send me tracks and say, 'Yo, check this out.' I am much more likely to listen if you grab my attention with a story or reason why you think I should listen to your music. Explain to me why you love it."

Online marketing is a great tool for getting music heard and recognized, and for many bands, Browne's blog has done precisely that.

Some pediatric brain tumors might be worsened by immune gene expression[13]

Nicholas Foreman, M.D.

More than half of children diagnosed with ependymoma brain tumors will have them recur after standard treatment — surgery and radiation — and lead to death. University of Colorado Cancer Center researcher Nicholas Foreman, M.D., calls it "one of the most significant problems in pediatric neuro-oncology."

Foreman, director of pediatric neuro-oncology at The Children's Hospital and professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and colleagues last year identified the reason why half of the tumors recur. He has just been awarded a $1.2 million, four-year grant from the National Cancer Institute to dig deeper into the discovery that expression of certain genes linked with immune function predicted good outcomes.

About one in 11 pediatric brain tumors are ependymomas, with about 200 new diagnoses of the disease in the United States each year. Brain tumors are the most common cause of childhood cancer death, according to the National Cancer Institute.

"As we looked closely at the tumor cells, we realized this immune expression wasn't a function of the tumor, but of the immune cells which, in some cases, were in large quantities in the tumor," Foreman said. "It turned out to be the first demonstration in any brain tumor that the immune status of the individual at diagnosis is directly related to his or her chance of being cured."

The researchers also found that certain aspects of the immune function could be blocking treatment's effectiveness, which flies against common belief that all immune reactions to a tumor are positive. Activation of macrophages, a type of immune cell, could trigger release of antibodies that work counter to treatment. These antibodies might serve both as a marker for poor outcome and a treatment target, Foreman says.

"The immune system is more complex than people had realized," he said. "Using this new grant, we hope to identify which parts of immune function is good for killing these brain tumors and which parts help keep them alive or help them grow."

Foreman's work is based on a human model of the immune system and outcomes. Most other experiments have been done in animal models, which might work differently than human systems.

In the long run, Foreman hopes the studies lead to a blood test that will tell doctors at diagnosis whether a child will have a good or poor outcome with standard treatment, and a method for manipulating patients' immune system during standard treatment to make it more effective.

The discovery was published in the Nov. 16, 2009, issue of the Journal of Immunology by Foreman and colleagues from the School of Medicine and Children's Oncology Group, a national research group. The experiments were initially done using tumor tissue samples Foreman began collecting when he arrived in Denver in 1995. The new studies will be done on tissue collected by centers across the country.

Professor receives award from Council for Exceptional Children[15]

Strain

Phillip S. Strain, professor of educational psychology and early childhood special education at the University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development, received the Special Education Research Award from the Council for Exceptional Children at its 2010 Convention and Expo in Nashville on April 21.

This national award recognizes an individual or team whose research has significantly advanced the education of children and youth with exceptionalities.

"Many different investigators, including Dr. Strain, have studied the issue of inclusion over the last quarter decade, but few — if any — had the impact Dr. Strain has had," said Mark Wolery, professor of special education at Vanderbilt University who nominated him for the award.

For more than 35 years, Strain has translated groundbreaking research into useful educational assessments and interventions that have improved the quality of life for young children with behavioral and developmental disabilities and their families and are now considered best practices in special education.

Among his greatest achievements is the LEAP Program (Learning Experiences and Alternative Programs for Preschoolers), an evidence-based model for preschoolers with autism. Strain has written more than 250 scientific papers in his career. He also oversees ongoing research, development and clinical programs as director of UC Denver's Positive Early Learning Experiences (PELE) Center.

Biologist named fellow to American Academy of Arts and Sciences[17]

University of Colorado at Boulder molecular biologist **Thomas Blumenthal** has joined a group of luminaries elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences 2010 Class of Fellows.

Blumenthal, professor and chairman of CU's department of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, is among 229 leaders in the fields of sciences, social sciences, the humanities, the arts, business and public affairs named as fellows this year.

Others elected include astrophysicist Geoffrey Marcy, geneticist Timothy Ley, Pulitzer-winning historian Daniel Howe and Oscar-winning film director Francis Ford Coppola.

Blumenthal is the 21st faculty member to be elected a fellow of the academy while at CU. Three others, including Norman Pace, distinguished professor of MCDB, were elected at other institutions prior to joining the CU faculty.

The 230-year-old academy is one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary societies.

CU faculty members previously elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences[18] include three of four of CU's Nobel laureates, three of four of CU's National Medal of Science winners and several of its Guggenheim and MacArthur fellows.

The new class will be inducted at a ceremony on Oct. 9 at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass.

Since its founding by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock and other "scholar-patriots," the academy has elected leading "thinkers and doers" from each generation, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the 19th, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the 20th. The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners.

UC Denver employees recognized for years of service[19]

Chancellor **M. Roy Wilson** recognized more than 250 University of Colorado Denver employees Tuesday, April 27, during an invitation-only reception. The event marked the service anniversaries of employees in five-year increments. Among this year's honorees are 15 individuals who have worked for the university for 25 years, as well as five with 30 years of service and three employees with 35 years at the university. For a complete list of honorees, visit http://www.cudenver.edu/Who%20Am%20I/Network/Tell/Winter2010/Documents/

UCD%202010%20AnniversaryList.pdf[20]

Those with 35 years of service are **Carolyn Waters,** Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) medical library; **Larry Garman,** administration building services; and **Sherron Blanks,** School of Dental Medicine (SDM) clinic support services.

Those with 30 years are **Scott Johnson,** OAA educational support services; **Roselee Robison,** library; **Holly Jones,** SDM dental clinic support services; **Dawn Rohr,** College of Nursing; **Ann Wilson,** administration.

Those celebrating 25 years are **Lynn Lickteig,** College of Architecture and Planning; **Hillary Fowler,** dean's office; **Debra Silva,** OAA medical library; **Cheryl Gibson,** OAA student services administration; **Azim Azimi**, library; **Farhad Vakilitabar,** library; **John Hughes,** university police; **Lynn Whitten-Erickson,** university police; **Peter Donohue III,** CSA-AVCFO; **Ida Lambert,** AVCFO administration; **Diana Taipalus,** finance;**Lisa Gates,** (SDM) dental clinical operations; **Donald Aldrich,** dean, School of Medicine; **Kelly Farris,** School of Medicine; and **Marcia McGowan,** School of Medicine, pediatric critical care.

Twenty-six faculty members with 25 years of service to the university also were recognized by Chancellor Wilson during a reception earlier this month. Those honored were:

Louise Treff-Gangler, Auraria Library; **Lonnie Johnson,** dental medicine; **Diane Dansereau** and **Charles Fergusone,** College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**; Jean Abbott, Mark Abzug, Sylvia Brice, Eric Ennis, John Freed, Frank Frerman, Donald Gilden, Arthur Gutierrez-Hartmann, Benjamin Honigman, David Kaplan, Lawrence Ketch, Giacomo Meschia, Joseph Morelli, Steven Nordeen, Gail Ryan, Robert Sclafani, James Shore, Mark Spitz, William Wood** and **Michael Yaron** at the School of Medicine; **David Ross,** School of Pharmacy; and **Eric Poole,** School of Public Affairs.

Professor trains Minnesotans in health impact assessment[21]

Krizek

Kevin J. Krizek, University of Colorado Denver associate professor of planning and design, director of the Active Communities/Transportation (ACT) Research Group and director of the Ph.D. program in design and planning, delivered an all-day training on Health Impact Assessment for Arden Hills, Minn., on April 16. The training, to prepare a Rapid Assessment HIA, was part of ongoing work with Minnesota Department of Health in St. Paul and was based on products from the multiple-award-winning Design for Health Project, completed with Ann Forsyth (Cornell) and Carissa Schively Slotterback (Minnesota), and provides communities with the foundation and knowledge necessary to weave HIAs into their work.

Krizek also was the featured speaker at the annual symposium for the interdisciplinary doctoral program in design and planning at the University of Washington. The symposium, Charting Our Future by Reflecting on Our Past, was conducted April 22-23 to provide students with perspectives on education, tools of the trade and learning and networking opportunities for students.

Dropping names ...[23]

McGuire

A book by **Sam McGuire,** assistant professor of music at the College of Arts and Media at the University of Colorado Denver, has been published by Focal Press. "The Video Editor's Guide to Soundtrack Pro - Workflows, Tolls and Techniques" includes quips and information from McGuire's colleague **David Liban.**

Billingsley

... Graham Billingsley, an occasional lecturer in the University of Colorado Denver's College of Architecture and Planning, was inducted into the elite membership of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) College of Fellows on April 10 at the American Planning Association's (APA) 2010 National Planning Conference in New Orleans. Characterized by colleagues as a titan of the planning profession, Billingsley was recognized as a fellow for his community service and leadership.

Goldstein

...**Bruce Goldstein,** associate professor of planning and design, College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado Denver, is the lead author of "Expanding the Scope and Impact of Collaborative Planning: Combining Multi-stakeholder Collaboration and Communities of Practice in a Learning Network" in the Journal of the American Planning Association. Goldstein also is the lead author of the article "Fire Learning Network: A Promising Conservation Strategy for Forestry" in the Journal of Forestry 108(3):121-125. These articles are available for viewing in the faculty publications display (third floor, UC Denver Building). Both works were supported by $266,000 in awards from the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and the Nature Conservancy.

Walkosz

... **Barbara Walkosz,** associate professor of communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver, and her colleagues presented "Dosomethingonthe.net: Health Marketing for New Media" and "Effective Strategies for Disseminating a Workplace Sun Safety Program" at the recent Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting in Seattle.

... **Dori Biester**, former president and CEO of The Children's Hospital, becomes interim director of the Center on Bioethics and Humanities, School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver. Biester will work with the faculty of the center and with the CU Foundation to stabilize the program, raise funds for the unfinished Fulginiti Pavilion, and put together a strategic plan for program growth and development.

Open Enrollment [28]

With open enrollment under way, Payroll & Benefit Services (PBS) encourages employees to review materials, attend an open enrollment session, compare plans, ask questions and make educated decisions about their benefits choices.

A couple of common questions asked of benefits counselors every year during open enrollment:

What happens if I want the same elections as last year?
What happens if I take no action during open enrollment?

The answers change from year to year, and depend on your current elections, plans and plan changes.

As is explained in annual reminders, you must actively denote whether your dependent(s) is a qualified federal tax dependent for health coverage purposes every year. If your dependent(s) is a nonqualified federal tax dependent(s) for health coverage purposes, you will be subject to additional taxable income called imputed income.

PBS and legal and tax consultants are analyzing the federal health care reform bill and its provisions for raising the age of coverage for a child to 26. Look for more information on the open enrollment website[29].

Every year during open enrollment, you must re-enroll and actively elect your annual contributions for Health Care and Dependent Care flexible spending accounts. This is a federal requirement for such plans.

This year, all dependents – including your spouse, common law spouse or same gender domestic partner – must be verified to continue their coverage starting July 1. Those verified during the dependent audit through Secova do not need to be re-verified.

If you are adding new dependents for coverage effective July 1, you must verify their eligibility with PBS during the open enrollment period and have required documents submitted by 5 p.m. May 21. The university will not guarantee dependent coverage if required documents are not received by the deadline.

The BluePreferred PPO will no longer be available for the 2010-11 plan year. If you are currently enrolled in the plan and take no action during open enrollment, you will be placed by default into the Lumenos plan at your current coverage level (employee only, employee + spouse, employee + children, family).

The state of Colorado has made many changes to its medical plans this year. If you are classified staff and are currently enrolled in a state of Colorado medical or dental plan, you must take action during open enrollment. If you do not, your medical or dental coverage will lapse July 1.

For more information about what happens if you take no action during open enrollment, go towww.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment[30] and click on the "Defaults" button at the upper right. To see a calendar of open enrollment sessions, what's new for the upcoming plan year, compare plans and learn more about your benefits options, check out the rest of the open enrollment website.

Did You Know... offers tips and information from CU's Employee Learning and Development office and others. To submit an item, e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[31]

Federal stimulus has brought $151 million to CU for research[32]

[33]
From state fiscal stabilization funds, which enabled the university to backfill its budget amid state higher education cuts, to federal grants that will speed medical research to patient bedsides, the University of Colorado continues to benefit from federal stimulus funding.

On April 22, the CU Board of Regents received a roundup of the positive impacts of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on the CU system.

The regents received a 10-page report that included an overview of various ARRA programs related to research grants, state fiscal stabilization funds, capital construction improvements and job creation, as well as reports on how CU's stimulus awards compared to peer institutions.

As of April 12, researchers around the CU system had received 279 ARRA grants worth $151 million. The university used $121 million in ARRA state fiscal stabilization funds to backfill its budget amid deep cuts to higher education funding by the state. According to a recent report, Colorado universities have been most reliant on federal stimulus funds during the ongoing economic downturn.

Once the funds expire in fiscal year 2011, CU and other Colorado colleges are expected to arrive at a "fiscal cliff," which could mean further job losses and budget reductions that could shape higher education for years to come, administrators have warned.

Teresa Osborne, director of capital assets, compiled ARRA data for the entire CU system, and assisted the Controller's Office with state and federal reporting requirements. The federal stimulus funding act asked recipients to comply with unprecedented reporting requirements. Osborne and other CU administrators worked to file reports with the federal government every three months.

"We had to keep track of 272 different research grants from large federal funding agencies, including the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation, as well as state fiscal stabilization funding administered through the governor's office," Osborne said. "It was quite an undertaking."

Osborne collaborated with contracts and grants officials at the University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and filed regular updates with the president's office and the campuses.

As part of efforts to keep the CU community informed of the university's ARRA research grant awards by campus, agency and other categories, Osborne worked with the CU central administration to establish an ARRA website.The site[34] features profiles of some of the CU faculty researchers who received stimulus funding to support their research, as well as basic background information about ARRA.

"The website was an important part of our efforts to keep our faculty and staff informed on the ARRA process, and it was a way to hold ourselves accountable to our stakeholders and the general public," said Leonard Dinegar, senior vice president for administration and the president's chief of staff.

President Barack Obama signed ARRA into law in Denver on Feb. 17, 2009, providing up to $787 billion in new spending through Sept. 30, 2010.

For more information, visit http://www.colorado.gov/recovery[35] and http://www.recovery.gov[36]

Five Questions for Kerry Paterson[37]

Kerry Paterson, executive chef at the University of Colorado at Boulder, gets cooking in the Kittredge Commons kitchen.

Kerry Paterson has some extremely demanding patrons – as many as 6,000 a day for nine months. They're always on the go and have different needs, but they have one thing in common: They are always hungry.

As executive chef of the University of Colorado at Boulder's housing and dining service, Paterson and his staff of a few hundred have learned how to keep all those students content and build a community where food memories are made.

For the past 10 1/2 years, he has taken care of his culinary team, planned menus and made food selections, trained

staff and helped design dining areas. The business of food has always been part of his life: His father was a butcher, his mother a dietitian, his grandfather a baker. He's worked in restaurants – he became the first regional chef for Nordstrom in San Francisco - and has traveled around the world, including to Antarctica. All of those experiences have helped him shape his dining philosophy. He likes to involve all the senses in cooking. People see the food, smell it, hear the garlic sizzling in the pan and taste the mingling flavors. He believes in food democracy – food for the people – and food that is ethical, casual and in great varieties.

He chose to work at CU because, he says, the "university environment enables a chef to practice the trade he loves but also gives us a life, a real quality of life. I'm not working until 3 a.m. every day. And there's more training and career development at the university. At restaurants, you can get stuck in the middle and just be told to produce."

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. How has university dining changed in the years you've been there?

We used to say, "It's not your parents' dining room anymore." Now there are a lot more choices. Most modern university dining rooms are based around a food court scenario. There are lots of options, not just those comfort foods like mac and cheese. Students are very mobile and they like to have mobile meals. The foods need to be more authentic. The students are more used to travel and they've watched the Food Channel.

We've also taken away the barriers. There are no walls between the diners and the kitchen. The food is in your face. You see the person making the food. There's no mystery meat any more. You can see the quality of the food. The quality of the ingredients has improved, too. There's more scratch cooking versus food that is made at 3 in the afternoon but not served until 5.

And there's more emphasis on healthy food and food integrity. We use organic and natural foods as much as we can.

BY THE NUMBERS So how much food does the University of Colorado at Boulder purchase to feed diners at its five centers and smaller on-the-go food venues during one year?**Shredded mozzarella cheese:** 21 tons or same weight as a fully loaded 84-passenger bus.
Ranch dressing: 4,500 gallons or enough to fill a 12-foot-by-16-foot-by-4-foot-deep swimming pool.

16-inch pizza bases (crusts): 22,650 bases that if placed side by side would stretch for approximately 6 miles.

2. What's your favorite menu item and why? What are some of students' favorite foods?

I like the Asian things we do because of the freshness of the cooking and the authenticity. Students can talk about being healthy, but the most popular items are grilled cheese and chicken nuggets. Students will travel to where they can get those foods.

3. What's your role in the new Center for Community?

I was involved from Day One, figuring out what ideas we were trying to achieve, from moving the bakery to centralizing production. The planning stages evolved into the actual designing – the architectural layout – of what would be included in the dining area based on student surveys. Once the designers mapped it out, I had to decide what food to serve and what equipment is needed and how the food will be presented. There are 10 different stations in the dining area. Then I decided how we would do the training and what the food would be presented in.

The C for C will be the biggest and most modern kitchen in Colorado, and one of the most progressive kitchens in the nation on university campuses. We don't call them dining halls any more. They are restaurants, up there with other middle-of-the-road restaurants. We're just doing it for thousands instead of hundreds.

In my travels I've learned that the meal has to have integrity and how to make sure the cuisine is authentic. We'll serve a lot more street food.

For instance, the Persian station in the C for C will have kabobs. You have to know how to marinate correctly. In all of the stations, there will be small portions and quick meals. There's also a smoker on site, for quick and easy Korean barbecue.

We try to look around and be open. The culinary staff is encouraged to come up with new ideas and experiences; it's not all top down. Some of the best meals we've learned from are made in our down time, when workers come in and start making meals from their home countries. We get lessons from everywhere.

[39]

4. What is your favorite meal? Favorite cooking ingredient?

My favorite ingredient is lamb. I grew up with lamb in New Zealand, so if it's on the menu I don't go any further. In Boulder, I like to eat at the Mediterranean or the Thai Kitchen in Longmont. The Tandoori Grill and The Kitchen Café in Boulder are other favorite restaurants.

Sometimes I miss cooking because most of my day involves administrative duties. But I did participate in a cooking competition between colleges and universities (the National Association of College and University Food Services Regional Culinary Challenge).

CU has competed for the past 11 years and we have won it four of the last seven years. I won it last year. It's a one-hour competition where you produce four plates with a specific ingredient. You only get two burners – no oven – so you have to make it work. I made a trout duo: macadamia-encrusted trout over smoked fruit salsa and a poached trout with lemongrass and ginger cream sauce over spinach with coconut fingerling potatoes. (The same dish earned Paterson a second-place finish in the national competition.)

4. Michelle Obama is spearheading a campaign on childhood obesity and many in our nation are overweight. As a chef, what is your best advice to Michelle or children or those people trying to lose a few pounds?

Watch what you eat. Become educated about what you are eating. People now eat lots of junk food and processed food. Throw that out. Bring in more fresh and organic vegetables. Know where your food is coming from and how it affects your body. Diets don't really work. You lose at first, but if you don't make lifestyle changes, you'll go right back up.

Schools should get rid of processed foods. We also need to educate everyone. I know that costs, but we need the resources to do that.

5. You sign your e-mails with "Think outside the Wells." What does that mean?

In the culinary world, food is often served in metal pans that go in steam tables. They're called "wells." I'm trying to tell people to stop thinking of them as those big pans that go into the table, but to think of them as a platter, as a plate. There is a different way to present the food, not as one big blob on a hotel pan. I want to get everyone thinking and challenging themselves.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[31]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/state-budget-balancing-measure-leads-shift-pera-contributions[2] http://www.statebillinfo.com/bills/bills/10/146_enr.pdf[3] http://www.copera.org/pdf/Misc/2010LegChart2-25.pdf[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/update-flex-bill-clears-first-hurdle-capitol[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/guiding-principles-presidential-search-go-back-governance-groups[6] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/04-21/regent-budget.html[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/stimulus-grant-brings-15-million-biotechnology-building[8] http://cimb.colorado.edu/[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/breast-cancer-risk-factors-differ-among-races[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/uccs_hines.jpg[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/successful-blog-creator-shares-experience-students[12] http://www.fuelfriendsblog.com/[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/some-pediatric-brain-tumors-might-be-worsened-immune-gene-expression[14] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/amc_foreman.jpg[15] https://connections.cu.edu/people/professor-receives-award-council-exceptional-children[16] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/people_strain.jpg[17] https://connections.cu.edu/people/biologist-named-fellow-american-academy-arts-and-sciences[18] http://www.amacad.org/[19] https://connections.cu.edu/people/uc-denver-employees-recognized-years-service[20] http://www.cudenver.edu/Who%20Am%20I/Network/Tell/Winter2010/Documents/%0bUCD%202010%20AnniversaryList.pdf[21] https://connections.cu.edu/people/professor-trains-minnesotans-health-impact-assessment[22] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/people_krizek.jpg[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-6[24] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/people_mcguire.jpg[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/people_billingsley.jpg[26] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/people_goldstein.jpg[27] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/people_walkosz.jpg[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/open-enrollment[29] https://www.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment/[30] https://www.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment[31] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-stimulus-has-brought-151-million-cu-research[33] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/arra-logo.png[34] https://www.cu.edu/stimulus[35] http://www.colorado.gov/recovery[36] http://www.recovery.gov/[37] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-kerry-paterson[38] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Paterson-lead-Seib-photo-04-28-2010.jpg[39] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Paterson-secondary-Seib-photo-04-28-2010.jpg