CU employee benefits have grown healthier[1]

A 2013 study comparing University of Colorado employee benefits to those provided by similar institutions of higher education shows the university has made improvements since the same benchmark study was conducted in 2010. The university now ranks at or near the top 25 percent of peers for both faculty and staff benefits.

A synopsis of the report was presented to the University of Colorado Staff Council by E. Jill Pollock, vice president of Employee and Information Services, during the council's regular meeting March 13 at 1800 Grant.

CU's ranking was upgraded from a position near the 50th percentile in the previous examination, in part because of "an above-market retirement program and higher medical subsidies," according to Aon Hewitt, the consulting firm that conducted both studies.

Also, CU's ranking increased because the university made a "handful of modest benefit improvements" and because of "some downward movement" in retirement benefits and larger increases in costs for health care offered at the 16 universities that were used for comparison.

Overall faculty benefits are about 9 percent above average while staff benefits are 7 percent above average, according to the study.

RELATED: Changes coming for this year's Open Enrollment[2]

Pollock said in 2010 that the university was "deficient" in two areas: the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) and long-term disability. She said CU has since removed the one-year wait for eligibility in the savings plan, which improved the plan value, and increased the monthly maximum for long-term disability.

The university ranked near average for its retiree health care.

However, the university was well below average when it came to death benefits (life insurance) and dependent tuition. The study found that six peer universities provided one times pay or more life insurance benefits. It also found that nine peers provided a dependent tuition benefit; however, CU ranked below all of them because of its limit on credit hours (nine).

Pollock said the university has solicited quotes for better life insurance plans and is still exploring options to improve tuition benefits

Boulder recently decided to move forward with a 10 percent tuition discount that dependents may use during any semester, in lieu of a specific number of credit hours. Previously, dependents enrolled full-time were restricted to using credits during the summer semester.

The study also found that while CU offers a slightly higher than average amount of paid vacation days than its peers, its 10 paid holidays — set by the state of Colorado – rank below average.

The study compared CU to these higher education institutions: Colorado State University, Indiana University, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, University of California, University of Illinois, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Missouri System, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Texas System, University of Virginia, University of Washington, and the University of Wisconsin.

To see the complete report online, visit www.cu.edu/benefits-index[3]

Pollock also told council members that health plan costs will increase – somewhere in the 7 percent to 9 percent range -- this year. She said the Health and Welfare Trust also plans a series of communications in an effort to reduce the number of non-emergency cases treated at hospital emergency departments.

In other business, Staff Council members chose the recipients of the annual Service Excellence Awards, which recognize staff members who have provided outstanding and sustained volunteer service to their campus, community/civic/professional organizations, and the university as a whole.

Winners of the award – one from each campus and from system – will be announced during the All Staff Conference on April 18. Each honoree receives a plaque and a $1,000 cash award.

Social Climate Survey underway[4]

A survey aimed at determining how well the University of Colorado is promoting the many forms of diversity is underway, with all faculty, staff and students encouraged to complete the brief online questionnaire.

The Social Climate Survey, which requires about 10 minutes to finish, must be accessed via a link included in emails that were sent systemwide on Wednesday. All members of the CU community are reminded to check their inboxes and take the survey.

If you believe you did not receive the survey email, please contact the regents' office by emailing CU Board of Regents@cu.edu[5].

While the survey asks respondents for general identifying information, all answers are confidential and are being coordinated by an independent third-party vendor, McLaughlin and Associates, which was engaged by the Board of Regents.

This is the first systemwide survey of its type to gauge how CU faculty, staff and students welcome and foster multiple aspects of diversity. CU leaders say the data will give the university community a more complete picture of where we are succeeding and where we need to devote more effort.

Administration will share results when available and begin discussions through our ordinary governance processes about how data may be used to ensure CU provides the best educational and workplace experience possible.

Diversity is among the Board of Regents' 12 guiding principles[6]. It states the university commitment to, "Promote faculty, student and staff diversity to ensure the rich interchange of ideas in the pursuit of truth and learning, including diversity of political, geographic, cultural, intellectual and philosophical perspectives."

The survey took root after the board voted unanimously last fall to gauge how well CU meets the guiding principle related to diversity. The initiative came on the heels of a change to the Laws of the Regents to protect members of the university community from discrimination. The change prohibits discrimination based on political affiliation, political philosophy, gender identity and gender expression.

Q&A: Michel Chonchol[7]

[8]
Professor Michel Chonchol, M.D., received his medical training at the Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas. He did his internship and residency programs at the University of Texas at Houston. In 1997, Dr. Chonchol initiated a fellowship in Nephrology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Since 2008, he has served as the Director of Clinical Research in the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension. In 2012, he was promoted to professor and has served as Director of the End Stage Renal Disease program since 2013.

1. How did you become interested in science and medicine?

While in high school I enjoyed biology and science. I had the fortune of having good teachers and mentors who steered me toward medicine.

2. What interested you in the career path you have chosen (academia)?
Academia offers many opportunities, which include taking care of patients, medical research and teaching/mentoring younger generations of physician-scientists. It truly is one of the best professions in the world.

3. Is there a teacher or mentor who helped shape your career?
Dr. Tomas Berl. I was a fellow under him while he was the division head. He is one of the brightest people I have met in academic medicine.

4. How would you describe your professional interests?
The overall goal of my research is to explore traditional and nontraditional risk factors in patients with kidney disease that could explain the high rate of death and cardiovascular events as well as kidney disease progression observed in this patient population. The risk factors that we have focused include: abnormalities of mineral metabolism, hypertension, fatty liver disease and vascular disease.

5. Why did you choose the University of Colorado?
My mentor (Dr. Tomas Dubose) at the University of Texas-Houston, who was the division head of Nephrology, knew that I had lined up interviews on both East and West Coasts. He suggested that I should to go Denver because of the long-standing academic tradition of the Nephrology program at the University of Colorado. This Nephrology training program has always had an outstanding clinical and research program.

6. What kinds of professional opportunities or advantages does being a faculty member at an academic medical center provide?
Relationships both on this campus as well as nationally and internationally. Because you are an expert in a specific disease state, you are asked for your opinion and you can consult with other colleagues as well as national peers.

7. If you could change one thing about the world of medicine what would it be?
Regulations – medicine has changed to include more restrictions and rules. More hurdles to jump over for both research and clinical medicine. It is an art to cultivate the excitement to be a physician-scientist; however, the rules and regulations can be at times somewhat discouraging.

8. What do you see as "the future" of medicine?
The future of medicine will bring new advances in the diagnosis and therapeutics of chronic diseases. We must continue to be optimistic about the future and follow the passion in our hearts of making a difference in the lives of patients.

9. What are some of your outside interests?
I enjoy spending time with family and outdoors activities.

Kathleen Sebelius to give keynote at CU's Conference on World Affairs[9]

[10]

Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will deliver the keynote address at the University of Colorado Boulder's annual Conference on World Affairs[12], to be held Monday through April 11.

Sebelius' address, "The Globalization of Health," will be presented at 11:30 a.m. Monday in Macky Auditorium. All of the conference's 200 panel discussions, performances and plenaries are free and open to the public.

Among this year's topics are sessions on terrorism, entrepreneurs, Iran, depression, vengeance, the military, STEM education and poverty. Unlike other conferences, which set an agenda for speakers, CWA panels are created from topics suggested by the participants.

More than 100 participants from around the country and the globe will pay their own way to travel to Boulder for the 66th gathering of what the late Roger Ebert dubbed "the Conference on Everything Conceivable."

Gordon Adams, a distinguished fellow at Washington's Stimson Center and a veteran CWA participant, says the conference is the standout event of his year.

"It is the only meeting in the country where I can feed my right and left brains simultaneously," he said. "It is a cornucopia of gifts, from culture and the arts to science, politics and economics, provided by some of the most entertaining and intelligent people I know.

"Where else can I read poetry in the morning, solve the federal budget crisis in the afternoon, and the next day do it all over again?"

New York Post associate editorial page editor Robert George, who describes the CWA as his "intellectual spring break," will mark his seventh year of participation at this year's conference.

"That's what the Conference on World Affairs has become for me—a place to engage in lively conversation with some of the brightest people around," George said. This year he will serve on panels ranging from "Put Your Weiner Away: Best Scandals Ever" to "Heroin's Strange Return." Says George, "I've been fortunate to be part of panels on politics, journalism, humor, improv, comic books, popular music, television, etc.—truly everything possible."

Sebelius' keynote address will be preceded by CWA's colorful, annual opening procession. Led by Sebelius and CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano, the procession will advance at 11:10 a.m. through the avenue of international flags on display in Norlin Quad and into Macky Auditorium, where DiStefano will introduce Sebelius.

Other highlights from the 2014 schedule include:

--Massachusetts Institute of Technology international security expert Jim Walsh's plenary address, "Crisis Diplomacy," in the University Memorial Center's Glenn Miller Ballroom at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 9.

--Former U.S. ambassador to Israel and deputy executive director of the International Energy Agency Richard Jones will deliver a plenary address, "What Bitcoin, Space Tourism, 3D Printing, Stem Cells and the New Energy Renaissance Have in Common," at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, in Macky Auditorium.

--Republican strategist and CNN and ABC News commentator Ana Navarro will give a plenary talk on "The Future of the Republican Party" at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 10, in Macky Auditorium.

--TIAA-CREF CEO Roger Ferguson's plenary address in Macky Auditorium on "America's Retirement Crisis" at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 10.

--Gender equality activist Sandra Fluke will deliver the Molly Ivins Freedom Fightin' Memorial Plenary, "Making Our Voices Heard: The Millennial Generation," at 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 11, in Macky Auditorium.

--The Ebert Cinema Interruptus, hosted by author and broadcaster David Bender, will dissect "The Graduate" from Monday through Thursday, April 7-10. The Interruptus takes place each day at 4 p.m. in Macky Auditorium, with an uninterrupted screening of the film in Muenzinger Auditorium at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 6.

CWA attendees are encouraged to use public transportation as there is no event parking on campus. Free parking is

offered on the second level of the Macy's parking structure at the Twenty Ninth Street shopping mall in Boulder, located at the southwest corner of 30th Street and Walnut Street, from which a free HOP bus ride is available to campus during CWA week.

The HOP will run on its normal route arriving every 7 to 10 minutes between the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The two stops nearest the Macy's parking structure are at 29th Street and Walnut Street and 30th Street and Walnut Street.

For a complete schedule and more information visit the Conference on World Affairs website at http://www.colorado.edu/cwa[13].

Special Care Clinic fills dental health care gap[14]

Dental students Christy Kopasz and Bob Johnson replace a filling on patient Harold Fowler as his mother, Reather, watches at the CU School of Dental Medicine's Special Care Clinic. (Photos: Eric Bellamy)

Harold Fowler, a 62-year-old Denver resident with cerebral palsy, sits calmly as gauze gets packed around his teeth and the high-pitched whir of a drill fills the room.

Outside the state-of-the-art clinic in the CU School of Dental Medicine[16] Building sits Harold's mother, Reather Fowler. Reather and her husband have been taking Harold to regular checkups at the dental school's Special Care Clinic for 28 years, making him one of the clinic's longest-standing patients.

On this March afternoon, Harold is getting a filling replaced. This is the first time he's been treated by dental students Christy Kopasz and Bob Johnson, but that's normal. Third-year dental students and second-year international dental students are rotated through the Special Care Clinic to give them hands-on experience treating patients with developmental and physical disabilities.

'They take good care of Harold'

"The students are always really pleasant," Reather says. "They take good care of Harold."

The soon-to-be dentists don't mind being taken out of their comfort zone to treat patients like Harold.

"I love it," Kopasz said after treating Harold. "We had a class on (caring for patients with special needs). It prepares us so we can treat special needs patients when we go into our private practices."

Besides rounding out students' skills, the Special Care Clinic has filled an important health care gap in Colorado since 1979. When it was difficult to find a private-practice dentist who would take Harold as a patient in the mid-'80s, one of his physicians told Reather about the Special Care Clinic at CU.

The clinic originated in the JFK Building on CU's former Health Sciences Center at Ninth Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. In 1986, when Harold started coming to the clinic, it moved inside the School of Dental Medicine Building at the Health Sciences Center.

The constant through the years, besides Harold Fowler, has been JoAnn LeClaire, RDH, MS, who started working in the Special Care Clinic in 1994 and became clinic director in 1997. LeClaire said dental students are generally apprehensive when they first treat a patient with physical or developmental disabilities, but "they're glad they were trained in it (in school) so they know what to expect the next time."

Tailoring treatments to patients' needs

LeClaire said the clinic currently serves about 150 patients, most of whom are adults who have disabilities such as Down syndrome, Autism Spectrum Disorder and cerebral palsy. Many other patients have Sturge-Weber syndrome or seizure disorder.

While the clinic provides needed health care service to the local community, some patients—typically those requiring more complex dental procedures—travel from Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas and other regional states. "If some of them need to be put under general anesthesia, they often come from out of state because that is a pretty rare treatment," LeClaire said.

Dental students learn to use equipment, such as restraint boards and mouth props, that are often required in special-needs care. "We'll do everything we can to see the patients in a traditional setting rather than refer them to an operating room," LeClaire said.

She refers patients whose dental care needs are too difficult to handle in a traditional setting to a conscious-sedation room in the dental school, or to the operating room at the University of Colorado Hospital Anschutz Outpatient Pavilion for general anesthesia.

When it's easier for patients to obtain care, they get better care

Along with LeClaire, Sheila Stille, DMD, an associate professor in surgical dentistry, has a special needs background and oversees the students' work. James Woolum, DDS, MS, an associate professor, and Karen Foster, DDS, who is a volunteer pediatric dentist, also help oversee students in the clinic. The Special Care Clinic currently serves patients on Mondays, but the possibility of adding clinic hours is being studied.

"This is the only dental school in the state, so it's really our job to train dental students so they'll be comfortable treating special needs patients when they go into private practice," Stille said. "And when it's easier for these patients to obtain care, they'll get better health care."

Stille said it's fascinating to see how quickly the students become more empathetic to patients who have disabilities. LeClaire notices this, too. She surveys the students after each clinic rotation. "The majority of the time they give positive feedback," she said. "They're glad they went through the hands-on clinic."

'Lowers the apprehension'

Johnson said he enjoys providing a service to patients who really need it and may not have easy access to dental care elsewhere. "It's good that the school does this training for us. It lowers the apprehension because you've been there. You've treated patients with special needs."

As Johnson and Kopasz finish up the filling work, Johnson gets ready to flip the switch to bring the chair back up. "How are you doing Harold? I'm going to bring you up, OK?"

Harold nods. Despite having undergone two surgeries on his legs when he was younger, he can walk fine, and he lifts himself out of the chair. Harold doesn't talk very much, but his mother can tell he enjoys the trips—about every three months—to the dentist.

"He is so good," Reather said. "He always has been a good, steady kid. And he likes coming out here."

The person he's seen most through the years is LeClaire. In many ways—as Dr. Stille will tell you—LeClaire is the special needs program in the School of Dental Medicine. She's had the chance to pursue other career opportunities, but she's always decided to stay with the clinic.

"It's been really gratifying," LeClaire said. "There have been a few times where I've thought I could do other things, but then I say, 'Oh, my gosh, I'm not going to be able to see this patient or that patient.' It's been really rewarding for me."

Galleries of Contemporary Art to open Destiny Manifest[17]

Holly Parker Dearborn, Extreme Force: Active Ingredients Series, Used-motor-oil and dirt, 2014.

The Galleries of Contemporary Art on Friday will open Destiny Manifest, a multimedia visual art exhibit, at GOCA121, 121 S. Tejon Street in downtown Colorado Springs.

Destiny Manifest features Montreal-based Isabelle Hayeur and Colorado-based Holly Parker Dearborn. A public talk with both artists, as well as a UCCS Sustainability Office student representative, is scheduled for 5 p.m. Friday followed by a reception in the GOCA121 gallery space in the Plaza of the Rockies building.

The exhibit will continue through May 17. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The events are free and open to everyone. Refreshments will be served.

Destiny Manifest is a multimedia visual art exhibit and program that includes an artist residency, public talks on art and environment, and student service projects with a goal of sparking dialogue around the consequences of pollution in North America.

Isabelle Hayeur, Vacance/ Underworlds Series, Color Photographic Print, 2011.

Hayeur's "Underworlds" and "Excavation" exhibits feature a series of large-scale photographic installations that capture polluted waterways and critically explore the impact of human sprawl on urban environments.

Parker Dearborn's "Extreme Force" series and "Destroyer of Worlds" video installations explore the issues related to war, industrial weapons, climate change, and natural resources. The exhibit will feature large-format used motor oil and polluted soil paintings as well as new video work by the artist, directly addressing the legacy of industrial practices in our modern world.

About the artists

Isabelle Hayeur was born in Montreal in 1969. She is a digital image artist known for her large-scale photographic montages, videos, and site-specific installations, where she highlights urban blights and sprawl, among a number of industrial society's pitfalls.

Hayeur's childhood in a Montreal suburb made a lasting impact on her artistic practice. As in many peripheral towns in Quebec, and more generally in the industrialized world, the landscape there has been subject to perpetual transformation. In her works, she is interested in the state of those territories, altered as they are by the array of technology at man's disposal. In 2008, she started exploring waterways. She travels throughout North America to document submerged environments of all kinds, especially in altered sites. She made several shooting trips through the United States and Canada, working in particular in a Staten Island boat cemetery, in the Everglades and in the Louisiana bayous.

Hayeur's works are widely shown. She participated in public shows such as the National Gallery of Canada, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Arts, the Neuer Berliner Kunstverein in Berlin, the Tampa Museum of Art and Akbank Sanat in Istanbul. She also did many artist residencies. In 2006, a first retrospective exhibition was devoted to Hayeur by the Musée National des Beaux-Arts du Québec and Oakville Galleries. Her works are to be found in many collections, including those of the National Gallery of Canada, the Fonds National d'art Contemporain in Paris, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec and the Museum of Contemporary Photography in
Chicago.

Holly Parker Dearborn received her MFA from American University in 2006 where she was awarded the American University Graduate Assistant Scholarship and the Mellon Fund Graduate Research Grant. In 2007, she won "Best Local Exhibition" award by the Pikes Peak Arts Council for her creation of the "Hot Off the Press" Colorado printmakers invitational at the Manitou Art Center. She also was responsible for curating many other award-winning exhibitions and programming for various arts organizations.

Parker Dearborn is a Colorado native who served in the Colorado Springs art community for a number of years. Among other graphic design and advertising director positions, she spent more thanr eight years in management for the Smokebrush Foundation for the Arts.

She currently serves as the independent curator for the new Ivywild School venue, is a member of the Museum Committee of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, and continues to build her studio career.

– Daisy McConnell, Gallery of Contemporary Art

Academic Building already a shining star of Denver architecture[20]

[21]
It's still a few months from opening, but already the accolades are pouring in for the University of Colorado Denver Academic Building.

In its Best of Denver 2014 edition, Westword named the Academic Building under construction[22] at the intersection of Speer Boulevard and Larimer Street "Best New Building in Denver[23]." The building, which is five stories on the Larimer side and two stories along Speer, drew praise for its design touches and strong connection between downtown Denver and the Auraria Campus.

"Its mass is very complex and its materials rich and varied. And although Auraria's standard red brick is carried out in the tower block, the more dazzling white stone that covers much of the lower floors is more eye-catching," Westword wrote. "Prominently situated at the northwest edge of the campus, it provides a gateway that links Auraria to the rest of downtown."

The building was designed by Anderson Mason Dale Architects, which employs several architects who graduated from College of Architecture and Planning[24] at CU Denver. They include Andy Nielsen, one of the Denver firm's four partners; Cynthia Ottenbrite, a project architect on the Academic Building; as well as Dan Williams and Stephan Hall, who are architect interns and have been involved on the project.

"We feel very strongly connected to the university," said David Pfeifer, a partner at Anderson Mason Dale Architects. "I'm very happy that the building is getting this kind of recognition, mostly because the administration has been unbelievably supportive to create a building that will become a home for the university on the Auraria Campus. It's been a pleasure to work on it in that regard."

Pfeifer said university leadership is to be commended for including a "generous amount of public space" in the building, including in the cafe area and the Speer gallery—large gathering areas outside the main lecture halls that are visible through the glass walls along Speer. Pfeifer said his work as lead principal on the project has been done in lockstep with design principal Joey Carrasquillo.

The main contractor on the 156,400-square-foot building – which will provide one-stop-shop student services, including student affairs, admission, disability and financial services – is Saunders Construction. Jordan Dame, a Saunders employee who worked on the proposal phase of the Academic Building project, is also a CU Denver alumnus.

Cary Weatherford, senior institutional planner, Office of Institutional Planning[25], said the three design directives of the new building were: bring some of Larimer Square's character onto the Auraria Campus, reach out into downtown Denver, and maintain views of the Tivoli Building. Also, "the tower is an important design element" at the corner of Speer and Larimer, Weatherford said. "The tower has conference rooms from the second floor to the fifth, punctuated by the frosted glass section at the top that will be illuminated at night."

Weatherford noted that the building's exterior palette features the red brick that is prominent across Auraria, but also

features limestone and aluminum panels that are unique to the campus. The award from Westword is gratifying, he said, especially since the building won't even open until this summer.

"It's pretty amazing for building that's not even open yet," Weatherford said. "That's pretty cool. I think it's a great design. Anderson Mason Dale has done a great job."

CU-Boulder prepares for flood season, will test campus text-messaging system today[26]
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click to view pdf

The University of Colorado Boulder today will test the CU-Boulder Alerts system on to raise awareness of how the campus community will be notified in case of an emergency. The test will include text messages, emails, social media and website announcements. Annual testing of emergency notification systems is required by the Clery Act, a federal law.

Flood season began Tuesday, and it's important that CU-Boulder students, faculty and staff know what to do in the event of flash flooding. The city of Boulder has just released its Spring 2014 Post-Flood Companion Guide[28], providing information on risks specific to post-flood conditions as well as the top eight personal preparedness tips to help residents get ready for the 2014 flood season.

Monthly flood siren tests will begin on Monday, April 7, and continue on the first Monday of the month through August. During an emergency, the sirens are used to alert residents to potential danger from a flood or other immediate threat. Siren tests ensure that all systems and procedures are working properly during the season of peak flood danger. The tests also promote public awareness of the warning sirens located throughout Boulder County.

If a flash flood warning is issued, heed all instructions and stay away from Boulder Creek and other areas where flooding is occurring. Climb to higher ground immediately and avoid drains, ditches, ravines and culverts. For more flood safety tips visit www.colorado.edu/floodsafety[29].

“The CU and Boulder communities know all too well how flood waters can quickly rise and cause damage,” said Stuart Pike, CU-Boulder emergency management director. “It’s critical that faculty, students and staff have their contact information up-to-date in order to receive timely information from the CU-Boulder Alerts system.”

Active CU-Boulder student email addresses (@colorado.edu) are automatically registered and the university encourages students to add mobile phone numbers in order to receive text notifications as well. Faculty, staff or affiliates of the CU-Boulder community with an @colorado.edu (or cufund.org or cu.edu) email address are encouraged to register on a voluntary basis.

Additional information on the CU-Boulder Alerts system is available at http://alerts.colorado.edu[30]. For more details on how to sign up for alert systems in the city of Boulder and other local jurisdictions, see http://www.colorado.edu/emergencymanagement/resources[31].

If an emergency involves a threat to personal safety or a campus closure, a campus alert will be sent using one or all of the communication methods available. Text messaging is the backbone of the system as it reaches the most individuals in the least amount of time.

More than 90 percent of CU-Boulder students, faculty and staff who are signed up for the Campus Alerts system have at least one mobile device registered.

During an emergency that affects the campus, critical updates, additional details and any necessary instructions regarding the nature of the emergency will be posted at http://alerts.colorado.edu[32], campus social media sites and

on the campus Emergency Information Line at 303-492-4636 (303-492-INFO). The university's primary Twitter channels during emergencies are @CUBoulder[33], @CUBoulderPolice[34] and @CUBoulderAlerts[35].

Details on the decision process for determining a closure, how administrative leave should be handled for essential personnel and other employees and answers to questions that frequently arise are covered in "Campus Closing Procedures During Emergencies" located at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/campus-closing-procedures-during-emergencies[36].

Any user who expected to receive an alert and didn't, or who needs help signing up for the system, should call the IT Service Center at 303-735-HELP or email help@colorado.edu[37].

Yoshinaga-Itano to be honored for research[38]

[39]
Christine Yoshinaga-Itano, professor of audiology at CU-Boulder, will be honored by the Lake Drive Foundation for Children Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Mountain Lakes, N.J. , for her research, which sparked universal newborn hearing screenings and revolutionized the early intervention movement.

According to the foundation, millions of newborns worldwide are screened for hearing loss each year as a direct result of Yoshinago-Itano's groundbreaking research. Her work has produced evidence that babies identified with hearing loss who began early intervention within the first six months of life could develop language skills commensurate with their hearing peers.

Universal newborn hearing screening programs have now been implemented in all 50 states. In the U.S., more than 5,000 babies identified annually now have timely access to life changing early intervention services.

In addition to her work in the U.S., she has provided support to many countries advancing their own early hearing detection and intervention programs, including the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, Korea, Belgium, Poland, Spain, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Thailand, Philippines, and South Africa. Recently, she also traveled to China to help audiologists with the infrastructure to improve their services and outcomes.

Yin, Watkins awarded patent for novel medication[40]

Two CU-Boulder faculty members, **Hang 'Hubert' Yin** (chemistry and biochemistry) and **Linda Watkins** (psychology and neuroscience), recently received a patent for novel drugs modulating the toll-like receptor 4 (TLR4) signaling pathway. The drugs are useful as an independent treatment for chronic pain, and can also be used to help make opioid painkillers (such as Percocet and Vicodin) more effective and less likely to result in addiction and dependency. This technology has been optioned to a publicly traded biopharma company for further development.

The CU Technology Transfer Office filed a patent application on behalf of the university in September 2009; patent protection also is pending in Europe, Japan and several other regions. The patent (U.S. 8,642,614, "Toll-like Receptor Modulators and Uses Thereof") was issued on Feb. 4, 2014.

McNowns in Malaysia via Fulbright awards[41]

Lauri McNown, senior instructor of political science at CU-Boulder, is in Penang, Malaysia, on a Fulbright Specialist Award. She has been working with INTI College in their American Studies Program, lecturing on U.S. government as well as reviewing curricular issues for the college. During the fall semester, she taught on the Atlantic Voyage of the Semester at Sea program.

Robert McNown, professor of economics and former director of CU-Boulder's International Affairs Program, also is in Penang on a Fulbright Specialist Award. He has been working at University Science Malaysia conducting faculty workshops on econometric time series modeling with EViews and collaborating with colleagues on research projects. He spent the fall teaching on Semester at Sea voyages.

Robert McNown has previously been awarded two Fulbright Scholar Awards. He was at Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 1979-1981 and at the National Economic University in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2006.

Gillette named to state board by governor[42]

Shannon Elizabeth Gillette, a coordinator at the Department of Pediatrics at CU Denver, has been named to the Sickle-Cell Anemia Board by Gov. John Hickenlooper.

The Governor's Advisory Board on Sickle-Cell Anemia consults with and provides direction to staff and faculty of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Sickle Cell Treatment and Research Center, on the establishment of programs and research initiatives for the care and treatment of persons suffering from sickle-cell anemia.

The Sickle Cell Treatment and Research Center was established in 1974 by Executive Order of the Colorado Legislature. The board is composed of 11 members representing hospitals, voluntary agencies interested in sickle-cell anemia, medical specialists in sickle-cell anemia patient care, and the general public.

Gillette will serve as a member of the public; her term will expire Jan. 31, 2018.

Lee, Button earn Quality Matters recognition[43]

Button

Lee

Sherry Lee, senior instructor at Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at UCCS, and **LindaButton**, instructor in the College of Education, recently were notified that the online courses they teach received Quality Matters recognition.

Quality Matters is a nationally recognized, faculty-centered peer review process designed to highlight the quality of online courses and components.

Lee's "Nursing 3050 Health Assessment-RN" and Button's "Curriculum 5002 Issues, Strategies, and Models in Curriculum Design" are the first two UCCS courses to receive Quality Matters recognition. They are believed to be the first courses recognized at a CU campus.

"We congratulate Sherry and Linda for going through this comprehensive process of course review and revision to achieve this honor," said Jackie Crouch, instructional technologist, Faculty Resource Center. "This recognition assures online students they are receiving the very best education possible."

The Quality Matters rubric is the most widely used set of standards for the design of online and blended courses at the college level. Today, more than 700 colleges and universities subscribe to the nonprofit Quality Matters Program.

Dropping names ...[46]

Career Counseling Across the Lifespan: Community, School and Higher Education

Career Counseling Across the Lifespan: Community, School and Higher Education

Cucchiara

Joe Wehrman, associate professor in UCCS's College of Education, contributed to a chapter in a newly published book, "Career Counseling Across the Lifespan: Community, School and Higher Education." Wehrman contributed to a chapter on career assessment electronic portfolios for professional counselors. The book is published by Information Age Publishing, Charlotte, N.C. For more information, visit http://www.infoagepub.com/products/Career-Counseling-Across-the-Lifespan[47]. … **Stephen Cucchiara**, assistant director of student activities, Office of Student Activities at UCCS, published "Creating Your Programming Swag" in the November/December 2013 edition of the National Association for Campus Activities journal. See the article at http://issuu.com/naca/docs/novdec_2013_plus_web[49] ... UCCS's **Brad Bayer**, executive director, Office of Student Life and Leadership, and **Phillip Morris,** director, Office of Veteran and Military Student Affairs, presented "Building Supportive Student Veteran Communities on College and University Campuses: Innovative and Effective Strategies that Work" on March 18 at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrator annual conference in Baltimore. Joining in the presentation were two administrators from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Bayer

Morris

In memoriam[52]

Names of current and former University of Colorado faculty and staff who have died in recent weeks. List compiled by Employee Services.

CU-Boulder
Janette Klingner, 60, School of Education professor. March 20, 2014. Read more here.[53]
CU Anschutz Medical Campus
David W. Talmage, 94, faculty retiree emeritus. March 6, 2014. Read more here.[54]

Small plan changes could have big impacts this Open Enrollment[55]

Later this month, when CU opens your three-week window to enroll in 2014-15 benefits plans, it will introduce several small changes that could have a huge impact on your final decisions.

Running from 8 a.m. Monday, April 28, through 5 p.m. Friday, May 16, CU's 2014-15 Open Enrollment period is your opportunity to review your medical, dental, vision, life and disability plan options, and select the ones that are best for your lifestyle.

CU's Employee Services department will make that process easier for you with a set of on-campus/in-office Open Enrollment sessions and plan carrier fairs[56], May 6-13. By attending these events, you can meet face-to-face with the professionals who can answer your questions.

Among the changes this Open Enrollment:
Classified staff members who work less than 50 percent time will be eligible to enroll in CU Health plans; state of Colorado plans are no longer available. Anyone who selects **CU Health Plan – Exclusive** will be responsible for a $150 copay for each emergency room visit. On July 1, the CU Health Plan will launch a new **childhood wellness program** for children ages 5-11 whom the plan covers. Employees who open flexible spending accounts through CU partner ASI will be issued **ASI Flex debit cards** to pay for eligible medical expenses.
Visit the Open Enrollment website at www.cu.edu/openenrollment[57] for the latest updates as they become available.

Anschutz Medical Campus anthology presents poetry, prose, photos, art[58]

"Solitude," by Anjali Dhurandhar, associate professor in the Department of Medicine.

Artistic flair was on display during a reception to celebrate the launch of the annual anthology, The Human Touch[60], on March 25 at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus[61].

Now in its seventh year of publication, The Human Touch 2014 is a collection of poetry, prose, graphic art, and photography created by the students, staff, faculty and friends of the Anschutz campus.

At the launch, in the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities[62], authors read prose and poetry and art was on display.

Dawn White, administrative assistant in the Barbara Davis Center[63] for Childhood Diabetes Adult Clinic, was one of a number of authors whose work was read at the launch. Her poem "Walking Picasso" was dedicated to "tattoo lovers everywhere." It begins, "I wear with pride/Wonderful designs of life in art."

Kevin Bunnell, retired educator for the Colorado Medical Society and the Health One Hospitals, reduced some audience members to tears while reading his piece "Elegy For Chad," which Bunnell explained was written in reaction to "the premature departure of people we care for and work with." The poem opens:

They say you are tired
Limp from a fight you did not start
And no one knows how to stop.
I grieve among the grievers...

Editor-in-Chief Sara Parke, a medical student whose writing was featured in the School of Medicine publication CU Medicine Today[64], explained that the 14-member editorial board received over 200 submissions for this year's anthology and the selection process for inclusion is always tough. More information about the publication is available online[65].

The Human Touch 2014 will be distributed free by the Anschutz Medical Campus bookstore[66]. It is available online [60] as well. Through mid-June, visual art by contributors to the anthology may be viewed on the first floor of the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities, where copies of The Human Touch also may be found.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-employee-benefits-have-grown-healthier[2] https://connections.cu.edu/did-you-know/small-plan-changes-could-have-big-impacts-this-open-enrollment[3] http://www.cu.edu/benefits-index[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/social-climate-survey-underway[5] mailto:Regents@cu.edu[6] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/mission-and-guiding-principles-university-colorado[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/qa-michel-chonchol[8] https://connections.cu.edu/file/qachoncholpng[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/kathleen-sebelius-give-keynote-cu%E2%80%99s-conference-world-affairs[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/cwa_top.png[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/cwa.png[12] http://www.colorado.edu/cwa/[13] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e3369%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9501&Action=Follow+Link[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/special-care-clinic-fills-dental-health-care-gap [15] https://connections.cu.edu/file/anschutzdental-clinictoppng[16] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/dentalmedicine/Pages/DentalMedicine.aspx[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/galleries-contemporary-art-open-destiny-manifest[18] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccs-art01png[19] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccs-art02png[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/academic-building-already-shining-star-denver-architecture[21] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdacad-bldgpng[22] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/University-community-celebrates-Academic-Building-topping-out.aspx[23] http://www.westword.com/bestof/2014/award/best-new-building-2787635/[24] http://www.ucdenver.edu/Academics/Colleges/ArchitecturePlanning/Pages/default.aspx[25] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/InstitutionalPlanning/Pages/AboutUs-old.aspx[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-prepares-flood-season-will-test-campus-text-messaging-system-today [27] https://www-static.bouldercolorado.gov/docs/flood-companion-guide-personal-preparedness-tips-1-201404010905.pdf[28] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9543&Action=Follow+Link[29] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9542&Action=Follow+Link[30] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9541&Action=Follow+Link[31] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9540&Action=Follow+Link[32] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9539&Action=Follow+Link[33] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9538&Action=Follow+Link[34] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9537&Action=Follow+Link[35] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e338%3a%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9536&Action=Follow+Link[36] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.asp

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https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/p_lee.png[46]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-86[47] http://www.infoagepub.com/products/Career-Counseling-Across-the-Lifespan[48] https://connections.cu.edu/file/p-dncucchiarapng-0[49]
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