Five questions for Erin Tripp[1]
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Lichens — small but complex organisms — can grow nearly anywhere, but new species usually are found in hard-to-reach places far from urban areas. Yet Erin Tripp recently found two confirmed never-before-seen lichens at White Rocks Open Space, a short drive from Boulder. She also located two other specimens that might be new species.

Tripp, curator of botany at CU's Museum of Natural History and an assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at CU-Boulder, discovered the new species at White Rocks while inventorying the lichens there.

She has been at CU for two and one-half years, coming to the university after doing post-doctoral work at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in California for four years. Lichens, a combination of fungus and alga, aren't her only specialty. She also studies the systematics (evolutionary relationships) and taxonomy of a large lineage of flowering plants (Ruellieae: Acanthaceae), composed of about 1,200 species. Two current research projects that she is pursuing are the evolution and speciation within a radiation of Acanthaceae (the genus Petalidium) in the ultra-arid ecosystems of Namibia, and lichen biodiversity and evolution in the southern Appalachian Mountains, particularly Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where she and a colleague have been working for nearly a decade.

"That's life as a biologist — never short on projects or ideas but only short on time and, on occasion, funding. You know you have found the right career when you love your job so much that it doesn't feel like work. If I weren't a professional biologist, I would be doing it in my free time," Tripp said. "I don't understand how our species can be anything other than completely fascinated and baffled by the natural world that surrounds us. There is so much to learn, so much more than can be achieved in any person's lifetime, which is what makes 'the science of life' simply the best subject on Earth."

As curator at Herbarium COLO – the botany section of the museum — Tripp is a steward of the collections housed there. "Curation starts with collecting museum vouchers in the field and proceeds through several stages including specimen drying, specimen mounting, identification (usually the longest and most persistent task/challenge), accessioning, filing into cabinetry, then continued curation (repairs, re-identifications, etc.) through time," she said. Tripp also is a fundraiser, responsible for soliciting major grants.

Although the discovery of new species is exciting, Tripp said her biggest achievements are the scientific papers she has written.

"Science is for naught unless you publish your data and get the word out. The feeling of finally synthesizing results from a project that you have worked on for years is an incredible one and like no other."

One of her personal and professional goals is to see every species in the genus Ruellia alive, in the field – or "in the cellulose," as botanists say. "There are probably 350 species of Ruellia on Earth, at least in modern times. Probably only 260 of these are still alive; the others have gone extinct from human activities such as habitat destruction. I have probably searched for something close to 150 of these species in the field and successfully seen 84."

1. How did you choose biology/botany as a career?

I bought my first backpacking pack in the summer of 1993 (a Lowe Alpine Australis 70, now vintage). I was in middle school and looking for a means to spend as much time outside exploring the natural world as possible. I spent those years of my life in northern Alabama, and remember sitting in the forests in the Sipsey Wilderness, being as still as possible so as to have birds and insects do their thing around me. In college, I immediately declared a major in biology. At the University of North Carolina-Asheville, I took a plethora of amazing classes from amazing professors that sealed the deal: ornithology from Dr. Jim Petranka, entomology from Dr. Tim Forrest, and botany from Dr. David Clarke. David, now a close colleague and friend, was particularly inspiring. He used to tell crazy stories about leading plant-collecting expeditions to some of the most remote areas remaining on Earth — the tepui highlands of Guyana. The stories were about slogging through cloud forests where it never stops raining with 80-pound backpacks, with buckets and fuel and only the gods-know-what-else strapped to the outside. There were stories about running out of ration four weeks into a six-week expedition with no solutions in sight and stories about setting foot and collecting tropical plants in

places no human had, nor will ever again, visit.

In my junior year, I asked David if he ever took students along with him. He said “no,” that it was far too dangerous and risky. I told him too bad—that I was coming on his next trip. That was the start of a long journey exploring the highly endemic botany of the tepuis. I have since participated in or led four major expeditions to never-before traversed landscapes — Mt. Ayanganna, Mt. Wokomung, Maringa Tepui, and Kamakusa Tepui — which yielded something close to 5,000 hard-earned museum voucher specimens (collected usually in duplicates of seven for distribution to worldwide museums). It’s been a wild ride. Boulders have come loose from mountainsides and crushed the hips of our expedition members. Others have had to be evacuated because of various medical emergencies. We’ve treated numerous malaria cases in the field. I can’t count how many times we have been woken in the middle of the night by raging floodwaters, having to abandon camp and transport 3,000 pounds of gear to higher ground before it all washed away. We have lost countless numbers of 5-gallon buckets (in which we pack all of our food) in countless different rivers. We have had numerous boat incidents, including a full-on swamping on the Potaro River that cost us a lot of crucial gear (machetes, chainsaws, tree-climbing spikes, short wave radio equipment, ration) and a week of the expedition’s time. But I loved every moment of it. It began my tropical fever. It was also during my first tepui trip during the summer of 2001 that David told me about an internship opportunity that would eventually launch my career in Acanthaceae systematics.

2. Why haven’t lichens been studied more?

Research on these organisms tends to be about 100 years behind the research of most other organisms. We figured out a long time ago precisely how flowering plants reproduce, but we are still puzzling over this very basic element of natural history in lichens. You would be surprised at the level of uncertainty and disagreement among lichen professionals. I suspect this deficiency can be attributed to comparably less attention given to lichens over the years. Lichens belong to an informal group of organisms commonly referred to as “cryptogams” (translation: hidden reproductive parts). Cryptogams include organisms such as mosses, liverworts and hornworts. Lichens are smaller than most plants, but they are just as complex and intriguing biologically as larger, more macroscopic organisms.

Lichens are found in almost every ecosystem on Earth and will grow on almost any object that remains motionless and/or inert for long enough. In fact, many scientists have considered lichens to be “extremeophiles,” or capable of colonizing harsh and inhospitable landscapes that most other organisms cannot cope with physiologically.

3. Is it common to find a new lichen species and how did you find them?

In North American botany, finding new species of plants is very much an exception, to be sure. But in North American (or anywhere) lichenology, finding new species isn’t all that uncommon. The reason is simply because they have been far less studied than plants. Botanists outnumber lichenologists in western North America by at least 1,000 to 5. Part of the reason I study lichens is because there is still so much left to discover, but comparably far fewer warmer bodies to do the work.

I found both new species of lichens under very memorable occasions. I first set foot onto White Rocks Open Space in June of 2013. I was given a small research grant from the city of Boulder’s Open Space and Mountain Parks program to inventory the lichen biota of this 100-acre sandstone outcropping. The first rock I walked toward on my very first day had growing on it a most awkward lichen with a thick, chalky white thallus and fruiting bodies raised up above the surface of the organism. Viewed from the side, it looked like a miniature forest. I had no idea what it was, though suspected it was special and thus chiseled it off the rock and immediately shoved it into a No. 2 brown paper bag. Fast forward five weeks. I was preparing to leave White Rocks for the last time that field season when my graduate student, Vanessa Díaz, and I stopped just short of our car to photograph and collect one last specimen. As Vanessa was hard at work capturing the right aspect and light for her photograph, I glanced down between my feet and saw something of a scintillating, chartreuse-colored species, and said something to the effect of “what the … is that?” It was yet another lichen that I had never laid eyes on, but one so spectacular that I knew right away it was also special.

I thought it would be fitting to honor the lives and careers of two amazing co-workers (and very good friends) with names for these new species. My colleague James Lendemer (New York Botanical Garden) and I thus named them Candelariella clarkiae (in honor of Dina Clark) andLecidea hoganii (in honor of Tim Hogan). Dina and Tim are the

two collections managers at the Herbarium (SEE SIDEBAR). They are also widely regarded as two of the most talented botanists in the state of Colorado. Their contributions to the University of Colorado are immense and immeasurable, making them perfect “substrates” for these new species names.

The discovery of Candelariella clarkiae and Lecidea hoganii is noteworthy for at least two reasons. First, these species were found within a densely populated and developed region of the Front Range of the Southern Rocky Mountains: the Boulder-Denver-Longmont urban triangle. Second, these two new species are apparently restricted and endemic to rare outcroppings of Fox Hills sandstone, which derives from the Cretaceous and is exposed to the Earth’s surface at various locations between Arkansas and Canada. In the Front Range, exposed Fox Hills sandstone is quite rare, but obviously very important from a biodiversity standpoint. This lichen research within the city limits of Boulder thus highlights the overall ecological significance of open spaces throughout the United States, particularly in densely populated urban areas. In this case, the discoveries were made within a 10-minute drive of the University of Colorado.

4. You mentioned your interest in Acanthaceae. Why were you drawn to these plants?

I’m professionally trained as a botanist with expertise in the plant family Acanthaceae, and discovered lichens much later in life. Funny enough, my life in Acanthaceae began on the side of a tepui, where no Acanths actually grow. Over our usual expedition lunch of salt biscuits, peanut butter, and guava jam, David told me about a one-year internship opportunity with a woman named Lucinda in Philadelphia. The “Flora of Pennsylvania” internship was a joint position between the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania and the Academy of Natural Sciences in downtown Philadelphia, which is the oldest natural history museum in the Western Hemisphere. My job as an intern was to devise an independent research project on some aspect of the state flora. That sounded fine, except for my recent tropical botany disease. Pennsylvania hasn’t been tropical since the Eocene. So there I was, trying to devise a project that investigated some aspect of the plants of Pennsylvania, but seriously afflicted by tropical botany.

I needed a group of plants that was both tropical and temperate (and one that occurred specifically in Pennsylvania). I also quested after a group of plants that was relatively widespread across the planet because, if this whole gig was to work out for the long term, I wanted an excuse to travel to distant locations. At the time, I was also interested in rare species and conservation biology, and hot on big, sexy flowers. Lucinda McDade, curator of the Philadelphia Herbarium at the Academy, happened to work on some plant family named Acanthaceae, so I checked it out in the Academy herbarium. Enter the genus Ruellia: globally distributed and reaching its northern limit of distribution in Pennsylvania where species are rare or endangered. It had gaudy, beautiful flowers. And nobody else was actively working on it. I asked Lucinda if I could work on the genus and she graciously welcomed me to team Acanthaceae.

5. Do you have other interests or hobbies outside of botany?

Sometimes I wish that I had no other interests or hobbies. Life would be much simpler, and I could then focus all of my time on research. But alas, I spend much of my free mental space devising new ways of packing mucho activities into a seven-day week. I love sports: trail running, soccer, rowing and, most recently, I have developed a severe tennis addiction. I ride my bicycle to work to and from Lefthand Canyon as much as possible. Cycling is probably my favorite sport. For me, an active body is an active brain. I also love working with my hands. If I weren’t a professional biologist, I would have been a carpenter, or some sort of engineer. Or maybe a meteorologist. I cook a lot and play my instruments when I can. When the weather holds, I do as much fieldwork and exploring as possible in the southern Rockies, in the southern Appalachians, and across the world. Other than the above, I spend most of my “free” hours hovering over microscopes in my home lab, usually while streaming some football game or tennis match on a laptop.
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Top row: Lichens come in all sorts of fascinating shapes and colors, as witnessed by these specimens, including the two new species Tripp recently found, Lecidea hoganii (2nd photo, named for Tim Hogan) and Candelariella clarkiae

(4th photo, named for Dina Clark). (Top row of photos courtesy Erin Tripp)
Bottom row from left: Specimens in the Herbarium include Echinocereus triglochidiatus (commonly known as a Hedgehog cactus) found near Penrose, Colorado; Helianthus annuus L. (common sunflower) found in North Carolina; and Pneumonanthe affinis (commonly known as Bottle Gentian) found in Teller County, Colorado. (Bottom row of photos courtesy Dina Clark)

Herbarium COLO a library of botanical DNA[9]

Stacked in metal cabinets in the basement of the Clare Small Building on the CU-Boulder campus are color-coded folders that contain a treasure trove of botanical specimens and the stories they tell about Colorado and parts yonder. The 550,000 flowering plants, mosses and lichens housed in Herbarium COLO, a division of CU's Natural History Museum, not only link the past to the present, but also document how changing climate has affected this place we call home, and illustrate the remarkable biodiversity of the area and our connections to the rest of the world.

"Essentially, what we know about life on a little-known planet called Earth is housed in natural history collections and herbaria," said Tim Hogan, collection manager. "Each specimen is a voucher for a particular species at a particular place at a particular time."

The herbarium, opened in 1902, is a library of information and a storehouse of DNA that can be used, for instance, to positively identify other botanical specimens. Hogan likes to say that while the specimens are not living, they are not quite dead, either. The total collection, says curator Erin Tripp, is widely regarded as one of the most important among natural history museums in western North America.

The herbarium is open to scholars and the curious alike.

"You can't help but learn about plants while you are here," said Dina Clark, collection manager. "You basically can stay in one spot and get a sense of the wealth of species diversity that exists, not just in the state but everywhere. All you have to do is open up a folder and you are transported."

Some people might think preserving flora by pressing them is old-fashioned science, said Hogan, but the specimens only increase in value over time, especially in cases where plant habitat has been replaced by concrete and asphalt.

While collecting samples of plant life might seem an easy endeavor, it is not. It takes a wealth of knowledge, a keen eye and plenty of grit to brave everything from biting bugs to nasty weather to long days in the field searching for a plant that may or may not be there. And that is only half the work involved.

"People don't appreciate how difficult it is to get (specimens) into a collection," Hogan said. "It's a lot of steps from the time you dig up the plant, put it in a field press, get it back to the truck, put it into a wooden press, dry it and then, in the winter, identify it, generate a label, process it into the database, glue it onto a sheet … from the time I take that plant to when it makes it into the cabinets, I have worked with the specimen at least a dozen times."

Hogan came to Colorado because of his love of mountain climbing, so it's no coincidence that he specializes in collecting specimens from hard-to-reach mountain areas, including the San Juan and Sangre de Cristo mountains. He's the perfect complement to Clark, who spends most of her research time on the High Plains, especially in the canyon lands of the Purgatory River.

While some of the specimens at the herbarium are recent additions, others were collected by early botanists, including Charles Christopher Parry, who in the late 1800s discovered new species, including the Torrey Pine and Engelmann Spruce, and named several area mountain peaks after his botanist mentors — John Torrey, Asa Gray and George

Engelmann.

All of the specimens, including those borrowed from other institutions, are made up of the plant and the all-important label that states the name of the plant (or moss or lichen), the location of the site from which it was collected, details about the surrounding habitat, the date it was collected, and other pertinent information about the find. Together, the plant and the label serve as a voucher specimen.

Without a voucher, said Hogan, a plant record is just hearsay because the scientific value hinges on the objective evidence represented by the labeled specimen.

“The collection here is a reference collection,” Hogan said. “In a folder of 20 specimens of the same species, you can see all the variation that a book doesn’t show. A book has an idealized or generalized description of a plant and how it looks, but being able to see how that variation changes over geographic spectrums is important.”

For more information about the herbarium, visit https://cumuseum.colorado.edu/research/botany[10]

Author Nafisi to deliver free lecture at CU-Boulder[11]

Author Azar Nafisi will speak on “The Republic of Imagination: Humanities and the Future of Democracies” at the Best Should Teach Lecture next week at CU-Boulder.

The free event is set for 7-8:30 p.m. Aug. 20 in Macky Auditorium. Signed copies of her new book, “The Republic of Imagination: America in Three Books,” will be available for purchase before and after the talk.

The ticketed event is open to the academic and local community. General admission seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open at 6 p.m. Order free tickets online at bestshouldteach.eventbrite.com.[12]

Ten years ago, Nafisi’s million-copy bestseller “Reading Lolita in Tehran” told the story of how, against the backdrop of morality squads and executions, she taught “The Great Gatsby” and other classics to her eager students in Iran. Now Nafisi has written the book her fans have been waiting for: an impassioned, beguiling and utterly original tribute to the vital importance of fiction in a democratic society. It is a hymn to the power of fiction to change lives

Azar Nafisi is a Visiting Professor and the Executive Director of Cultural Conversations at the Foreign Policy Institute of Johns Hopkins University’s School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. As a professor of aesthetics, culture and literature, she teaches on the relation between culture and politics.

The Best Should Teach Initiative celebrates excellence in teaching at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels. It supports the preparation of college and university faculty, as well as public school teachers, in their disciplinary fields. Best Should Teach Gold and Silver Awards are presented at the event each year. The Best Should Teach event is co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the Graduate Teacher Program, the School of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Best Should Teach Initiative under the direction of Brian Good.

Tenure list: August 2015[13]

At its meeting Wednesday at 1800 Grant St. in Denver, the CU Board of Regents approved 12 awards and appointments with tenure.

The faculty members are:

University of Colorado Boulder (effective Aug. 17) **James Humbert**, Mechanical Engineering **Joanna Lambert**, Anthropology **Baowen Li**, Mechanical Engineering **Corey Neu**, Mechanical Engineering **Phaedra Pezzullo**, Communication **Ted Striphas**, Communication **Sarah Zechman**, Leeds School of Business University of Colorado Colorado Springs (effective Jan. 12, 2016) **George Cheney**, Communication **Sally Planalp**, Communication University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus (effective Aug. 12) **David Engelke**, Chemistry (effective beginning of employment) **Amanda Law**, Psychiatry **Johan Van Hove**, Pediatrics

Elevate: What you need to know about CU's technology upgrade[14]
[15]

Have you heard about the Elevate project? In November, the University of Colorado will upgrade its financial and human resources software to improve how CU manages and recruits talent, pays employees, handles transactions and much more. Put simply, Elevate will help CU work better for you.

With go-live approaching in November, these resources outline what's happening and what you can expect:
The Elevate White Paper[16] provides background information on the upgrade and reviews key changes and improvements. The Elevate By the Numbers[17] infographic shows how people across CU's four campuses and the system office are working on Elevate and what they're doing to prepare.
With your cooperation and support, we're confident the Elevate upgrade will go as smoothly as possible. If you'd like to learn more about the project, visit www.cu.edu/elevate[18].

New CU Connections debuts next week[19]

On Aug. 20, CU Connections will relaunch in a new, mobile-friendly Web platform with added features and more ways for faculty and staff to connect with news and information from across the University of Colorado.

The redesign follows months of development, with goals informed by reader surveys and input and involvement from faculty and staff governance.

Among the additions and improvements:
Mobile-responsive design: Like cu.edu, CU Connections will boast a display that recognizes and adjusts to the screen you're using, be it a desktop, laptop, tablet or phone. Text, photos and other media on each page will automatically resize to make accessing content simple and swift. The weekly email – automatically delivered to all faculty and staff – also is redesigned to be responsive, providing easy reading and direct access to individual stories. **Reader polls**: Make your voice heard with a click by taking part in regular reader polls, where Connections will pose questions prompted by hot topics and issues around CU, Colorado and higher education. **Better commenting capability**: Give instant feedback to posts with commenting powered by Disqus, the Web's favorite discussion system. **New calendar:** Keep tabs on events and happenings that matter to faculty and staff. **Integrated campus content:** CU Connections will continue to highlight news from across the campuses. Whenever possible, we'll link directly to campus-based Websites, where you can discover more of the news that's important to you. **Headlines from elsewhere:** Besides continuing to provide original content and a digest of what's going on within CU, CU Connections will point you toward relevant media postings from local, state and national news organizations. **Twitter feed:** Get a live look at social media activity across CU. **Tailor your experience:** Sample a wide array of news and information from the CU system and campuses, or quickly sort just the posts that interest you – by campus, peer group or story type.
Watch for the all-new CU Connections on Aug. 20.

Salt flat indicates some of the last vestiges of surface water on Mars, CU-Boulder study finds[20]

A new web design is coming...[21]

UCCS ready to begin $60 million community arts center[22]

Sheridan health center opens two new wings for low-income families[23]

Sheridan Health Services, in cooperation with the University of Colorado College of Nursing, on Wednesday celebrated the opening of two new wings designed to provide increased services to low-income families.

“Led by advanced practice nurses and using an integrated care model, Sheridan addresses barriers to health care for individuals who are under-insured and uninsured,” said Erica Schwartz, CEO, Sheridan Health Services. “Through partnerships with local organizations, we are able to offer services to individuals who would not otherwise be able to pay for specialty care, such as chronic pain and dental care – and recently through a pilot program, we have been able to provide psychiatric consultations via telehealth.”

Sheridan Health Services, working with the CU College of Nursing, is a nurse-managed clinic that promotes wellness and access to cost-effective, comprehensive healthcare to families in Sheridan and surrounding communities.

“Community health care centers work because they care for individuals at the neighborhood level where national policy and social realities meet,” said Amy Barton, PhD, RN, FAAN, associate dean for clinical and community affairs at the College of Nursing. “Caring, compassion, and connectedness are fundamental assets within a community and intertwined into our approach to healthcare delivery – and integral to our curriculum at the College. Providers at the clinic treat the whole family, not as separate individuals but as a unit whose members share an environment of health risks and health opportunities.”

Since Sheridan Health Services expanded to the Fort Logan Campus in March 2011, the facility has grown from one advanced practice nurse practitioner to 35 employees and has served approximately 7,500 patients through 24,000 visits. This new expansion adds 12 exam rooms and seven behavioral health meeting rooms.

“Each year we continue to expand in scope and volume,” Schwartz said. “The physical expansion was necessary to accommodate this growth and optimize the health and wellness of our community. And with over 80 percent of the individuals in the service area living under 200 percent of the federal poverty level, we know that there the need is there.”

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the nurse practitioner – an advanced practice profession first started at University of Colorado – who are prepared by education and certification to assess, diagnose, and manage patient problems, order tests, and prescribe medications. In an increasingly complex health care industry, advanced practice nurses are playing a vital role in delivering cost-effective care and increased access for patients and their families – especially low-income individuals.

Tazik named deputy director of CU-Boulder Office of Contracts and Grants[24]

Pam Tazik officially became the deputy director of the Office of Contracts and Grants (OCG) at CU-Boulder on Aug. 6 and is committed to staff development and training, as well as the profession of research administration.

Tazik most recently served as the manager of operations and finance for CU-Boulder's Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB). Previously, she served as the director of sponsored programs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the research administrative manager at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and the research administrator for the University of Illinois Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

She began her career as an associate research biologist and has more than 20 years of experience in research administration. She served on the board and as the chair of the Research Administrators Certification Council and is a certified research administrator and certified pre-award research administrator.

Tazik will directly oversee OCG's teams responsible for proposal development, grant, contract and subcontract award management.

Rorabaugh to direct UCCS Campus Recreation Center[25]

Skyler Rorabaugh, a recreation manager with more than 15 years of experience, has been named the director of the UCCS Campus Recreation Center.

Rorabaugh most recently served as executive director of the Estes Valley Recreation and Park District. As director, Rorabaugh will be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the under-expansion recreation center. The center offers indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for faculty, staff and students as well as student intramural sports. Campus Recreation is under expansion and will grow from its current 54,000 square feet to 95,000 square feet as an evolution to a Recreation and Wellness Center. The Recreation and Wellness Center will house the Student Health Center, University Counseling Center and nutrition services and is expected to be completed in late fall.

At Estes Valley Recreation and Park District, Rorabaugh was responsible for a $4.8 million annual budget and facilities management that included golf courses, a restaurant, a marina, a teen center, aquatic center, parks and a firearm and archery range. Previously, he served as executive director of the Turner Recreation Commission in Kansas City, Kansas, aquatics and recreation manager in Bonner Springs, Kansas, and executive director of the Ellis Recreation Commission, Ellis, Kansas.

Hansen to lead UCCS Global Engagement Office[26]

Mandy Hansen, an associate director for international education at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, has been named the director of GEO: The UCCS Global Engagement Office.

Kee Warner, associate vice chancellor for inclusion and academic engagement, Academic Affairs, announced Hansen's appointment and a change in the name of the office. Previously, the Global Engagement Office was known as the Office of International Affairs.

"The name GEO better reflects the mission of engaging our campus globally by welcoming and supporting international students, by involving UCCS students in education abroad and academic interchanges, and by developing

strong partnerships with a full range of global partners," Warner said.

Since 2006, Hansen worked in various positions at Northern Arizona including a dual appointment as associate director of the Center for International Education and director of international admissions and recruiting, associate director of admissions processing and associate director of admissions and transfer student recruitment. Earlier, she worked in international student admissions and international student advising positions at Alfred (New York) University and Salt Lake (Utah) Community College.

She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, a master's from Alfred University and doctoral degree from Northern Arizona University.

Hansen replaces Anthony Shull,who left the university to pursue other career opportunities.

Perez moves to MOSAIC and LGBT Resource Center[27]

Jesse Perez, adviser, Department of Academic Advising, has been named assistant director for the Multicultural Office for Student Access Inclusiveness and Community and program director for the LGBT Resource Center.

Since July 2013, Perez has worked as an academic adviser for undergraduate students majoring in social sciences, criminal justice and students who have not yet declared a major. He also works as a Gateway Program Seminar instructor. Previously, he was an associate project coordinator for the UCCS SoColo Reach Program, and a mentorship program coordinator for MOSAIC.

He earned bachelor's degrees in communication and geography and environmental studies and a master's in student affairs in higher education from UCCS.

Perez replaces Vanessa Delgado, who accepted a position at another university.

UCCS staff governance group elects officers[28]

Officers for the UCCS Staff Association – a new governance group that was born from the merger of the Professional Exempt Staff Association and Staff Council – recently were elected. The Staff Association advocates for the interests of staff, provides information exchange and professional development, fosters spirit and cooperation among staff members, and provides representation to various boards, councils and committees. All UCCS staff members are automatically members of the Staff Association.

Officers for a revamped UCCS Staff Association are: **Steve Medlin,** director, Student Financial Services, president; **Cindy Norton**, chemical management, Environmental Health and Safety Department, vice president/president-elect; **Andrea Hassler**, trails specialist, Campus Recreation Center, secretary; **Deborah Gillman**, bookkeeper, Bookstore, treasurer; **Kristy Hignite**, administrative assistant, Facilities Services, member-at-large, classified; **Stephanie Smith**, program assistant, Political Science Department and Economics Department, member-at-large, classified; **Stephanie Vigil**, program assistant, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department, chair, Classified Staff Pay and Benefits Committee; **Alejandro De Jesus**, assistant director, University Center, member at large, university staff; **Jolene Schauland**, MBA admissions coordinator, College of Business, member at large, university staff; and **Megann Powell**, assistant director, University Center, chair, University Staff Pay and Benefits Committee.

For more information, visit http://www.uccs.edu/staff/index.html[29]

Links
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