Five questions for Deborah Keyek-Franssen[1]

[2]
A troika of “love” interests helped place Deborah Keyek-Franssen at the intersection of education and technology. First, she fell in love with higher education. Her parents’ stories about their college experience and books she read that featured college life in the 1920s gave her an idealized vision of the quintessential American college experience. She felt drawn to college and teaching from an early age, and followed a path that led to teaching high school and at universities, and to a Ph.D. in German literature.

Second, while an undergraduate at Dartmouth College, she was required to learn BASIC or Beginner’s All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. (The original computer language was developed at Dartmouth.) She loved using the library terminals that were networked to the entire East Coast even before the commercial Internet was around and enjoyed the creativity technology granted. Later, she used tech tools to help her students learn.

Finally, after moving to Boulder (following a dare from a brother), she immediately was attracted to the University of Colorado Boulder campus and knew she would work there. Not long after, in September 1998, she began working for the university’s first chief information officer. Her first challenge – buoyed by her strong background in teaching and as a technology power user – was Y2K and the fear that computer systems would stop functioning at the beginning of the millennium. During her time at Boulder, she also was involved with ATLAS (Alliance for Technology, Learning, and Society), and helped it achieve its status as an institute.

[3]
Keyek-Franssen recently moved from the Boulder campus, where she was director of Academic Technology, to the CU system’s Office of Academic Affairs as the Associate Vice President for Digital Education and Engagement. She will help CU campuses with the implementation of digital and online education solutions.

“The mission of higher education is to create and disseminate knowledge in the service of the citizenry. I can’t think of a more noble mission to follow,” she says. “A couple of years ago, I realized everything was coming together and I was in the right place at the right time with the right set of expertise to help CU continue to do great things, benefitting from the changing landscape of higher education.”

1. What goals do you have for the university?

My role as a system employee is to be of service to the campuses in their development and implementation of strategic plans for digital education. That might encompass thinking about everything from teaching and learning with technology to online courses and programs, and as a subset, MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses).

I’ll be there to help campuses set strategy and identify the structures, services and support needed to achieve their goals. There’s an acknowledgement that higher education in general needs to do a better job, first with teaching and learning and then with digital education, as a way to increase access to higher education, to maintain or improve the quality of students’ learning experiences, and to lower costs for students. The appropriate implementation of technology solutions can help us get there.

In my work, I’ll also look at points of commonality across campuses. If we can combine resources or implement similar solutions, then we’ll get to where we want to be much faster. Of course, CU’s campuses are differentiated by mission and student body and therefore there will be differentiation in some of the goals and solutions. Still, I’m a firm believer in the principle that we can do more together than we can do separately.

Wherever possible, I’ll be developing communities of practice, pulling together the passionate, intelligent and dedicated people I have the honor of meeting and working with. Together we can work to find solutions for all of us.

2. What do you see as some of the current issues surrounding digital education for students and educators?

Access to education and technology, exploiting data to understand how people learn, and expanding understanding of effective uses of technology in teaching and learning are three issues that are on my radar.

Technology both enhances and inhibits access to education. With content readily and freely available online, it's easy to get information. The caveat is that we shouldn't confuse access to information with education. Even when you have innovators in instructional design teaming with content providers to develop effective hybrid or face-to-face learning opportunities, if students don't have access to broadband or to the appropriate hardware or software, then they don't have access to education.

Technology can help us better understand how people learn if we apply the resources to analyze the data that are generated by the many tools used for teaching and learning. At this time, though, we don't have enough people with expertise to crunch the data, or to help develop or implement adaptive learning tools. That will be the next frontier for CU.

Finally, the record-breaking attendance at our annual COLTT (Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology) conference two weeks ago shows the demand for researching and sharing effective practices in the world of digital education. We're looking forward to expanding opportunities for networking, learning and professional development for faculty and instructional technology support staff with "Galloping COLTT" presentations throughout the year and on all CU campuses.

3. Studies have shown that students prefer to use traditional textbooks rather than digital ones, for instance. So, in some ways, is technology the tail that's wagging the dog?

Based on research by Mark Werner and Caroline Sinkinson on the CU-Boulder campus, e-textbooks are not quite there yet. In addition to some functionality issues, their study also raised considerations about licensing, payment and even privacy. People seem relatively complacent about the personal information they provide to Google or Amazon. E-books go a little further because data is collected about what students are reading and taking notes on.

That said, the adoption of disruptive and new technologies gives us a valuable opportunity to have discussions we need to have about effective teaching and learning. Witness how MOOCs have pushed discussions about the mission of postsecondary education, the roles of faculty, and access to technology and education. So is the tail wagging the dog? No. Is the tail providing us a new opportunity to have discussions that we've needed to have on a broader scale for decades? Yes.

4. MOOCs have dominated educational news lately. Will these types of classes be a focal point for you?

MOOCs are taking much of my attention now, but there is a spectrum of teaching and learning issues that I will focus on in my job. I'll continue supporting MOOCs, but also will be involved with strategy for a range of teaching and learning activities, from in-classroom teaching to hybrid classes, where some of the face-to-face time is supplanted by online learning, to flipped classrooms and fully online courses and programs.

Another element of my job is apparent in my title: "engagement." Engagement is a nicely loaded term. Within that concept you can talk about teaching and learning activities to engage students so they can succeed. You can also look at the data being generated by core systems and learning management systems and other tools to understand when students are engaged and when they are not. I hope to be able to work with campuses to determine when a student could be at risk because of the behaviors he or she displays when using technology so that campuses can create appropriate interventions to help those students re-engage.

Engagement can also describe the social aspects of learning. Technology appropriately implemented has the ability to engage students in valuable social, active and peer learning opportunities.

5. Outside of technology, what are some of your favorite activities?

Being with my family. My husband, Dean, owns Pete's Electric Bikes and is building an industry to change the way people transport themselves. This semester, both of our sons will be students at CU-Boulder. I have been a Shotokan karate student for 15 years, a black belt for 10 of those years, and teach children's classes every week at our dojo in Louisville. I like to read and have written one murder mystery. I wrote it during National Novel Writing Month a few

years back, which was an awesome experience. I want to get a T-shirt that says, “Be careful or you’ll end up in my novel.”

Staff Council looks to improve communication, increase collaboration[4]

Members of the University of Colorado Staff Council held their first meeting of the year Aug. 15 at 1800 Grant St. and discussed potential areas of emphasis to address in the upcoming months. The group will hold its annual retreat in September and make a final determination of the year’s agenda then, but new council chair Deserae Frisk began the conversation by reiterating topics discussed at previous council sessions.

Frisk said the first issue to discuss is improved communication, especially important in relaying information to constituents. Staff council talked about improving their website, and using social media, CU Connections and other resources to reach out to staff as well as other councils and governance boards within the system.

“I would like to help increase our presence across the campuses to let people know that we are there and we are advocating for them within the system, and that they have a place to bring their issues and their voices,” Frisk said.

A second issue discussed was collaboration with other councils and governance groups. One way to better understand each other, Frisk said, is to share information about group procedures and best practices. Another suggested way is to build community through a systemwide shared project.

“I’d like to work toward building a collaborative effort for staff across the system, so they aren’t just tied to a campus but feel tied to CU at large,” Frisk said. One way to do that would be a joint service project that all governance groups would endorse and promote.

Some campuses allow leave time for community service, as prescribed by a Colorado statute, while others do not. Council previously has discussed ways to encourage administration to implement and enforce a systemwide policy that would allow employees time to participate in a service project.

A third issue considered was career readiness. Staff members would like to see a beefed-up development program to help current employees advance in current careers or train for other positions within the system.

Finally, council discussed guest speaker opportunities, including inviting people to staff council meetings to clarify topics of importance to constituents as issues unfold throughout the year.

Members of the council also received administrative updates from E. Jill Pollock, vice president for employee and information services.

She said the university is embarking on a multi-year financial education project, and asked council to recommend one or two people who might serve on an advisory group for the project. Financial information would be tailored to all employees and be delivered in a variety of ways, including through individual consultation, small group workshops, or online.

Pollock said CU will be one of the first universities in the country to provide this service and said this project is a great opportunity to build something useful for employees.

Pollock also discussed the Total Rewards Project for university staff, a group that encompasses officers and exempt employees. Phase 1 of the project, which has been completed, examined base compensation and comparable market information. The next two phases of the project are underway, Pollock said. One is determining how to evaluate top performers, and the second is to examine “variable” pay, which is akin to a bonus or incentive in private industry. Senior leaders, Pollock said, want to set special performance objectives and reward employees accordingly when goals are met.

In an effort to improve personal career development, new software that describes employee competencies is being tested and will be used to help standardize job descriptions. Pollock said the tool will make it easier for supervisors to discuss with employees which competencies need to be worked on and which are exemplary. The software, which uses specific words to describe skills, also will help employees understand the specific abilities needed in other positions they might be interested in.

Pollock also talked about issues involving the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust:
This year, the Trust has a 4 percent reserve. She said the target reserve is about 2 percent because the money should be used to serve employees who are enrolled in the trust health plans. In cases where the reserve is very large, refunds or premium holidays may be implemented, she said. President Bruce D. Benson has appointed John McDowell, a faculty member from the Anschutz Medical Campus and former Chair of Faculty Council, as a faculty representative on the Trust to communicate employee interests. McDowell was one of two faculty members nominated for the position. New in the health and wellness plan this year is a smoking cessation program that will kick off in October, in conjunction with Boulder's ban on campus smoking (see story). Another addition to the base health plan is free supplies and medications for those with Type 2 Diabetes who strictly adhere to their prescribed management plan. A hearing aid benefit also has been added to the plan.
Bruce Neumann, chair of University Benefits Advisory Board (UBAB), talked about some broad issues concerning the Trust, including the way rates are set by medical providers. He said that although university employees pay lower premiums on average than those paid nationally, UBAB is concerned that provider rates might be unreasonably high.

Jeremy Hueth, Trust counsel, said that while medical institutions might set artificially high rates initially, the Trust is able to negotiate lower costs for services and always looks for ways to both decrease costs and increase benefits.

In another matter, council members discussed talking with system administration to ensure that staff council is given ample opportunity to interview prospective hires. Recently, Frisk said, because of short notice, she was the only person available to meet with a candidate. Members said that while they understood the need to hurry the hiring process in some cases, they also believe that staff council members should be involved in the process so that staff views can be conveyed to job candidates.

CU Health Plan wants smokers to breathe easy[5]

[6]
Help with quitting smoking is the latest addition to the health and wellness toolkit for members of the CU Health Plan.

Starting Oct. 1, CU Health Plan members will have full, covered access to the CU Health Plan – Breathe With Quitline, a smoking-cessation program that combines personalized coaching sessions with an eight-week supply of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), including certain prescribed medications. Breathe With Quitline participants work through their addictions with coaches and, eventually, commit to a quit date, at which point coaches will order NRT.

The coaching sessions — phone calls with professionally trained counselors — are Breathe With Quitline's emotionally connected selling point. From their large office in south Denver, counselors make and take hundreds of calls each day. The conversations—around cigarette cravings, willpower, setbacks and downright breakdowns—are peppered with sincere concern, helpful guidance and the occasional lighthearted joke.

There's no set script for these coaching sessions, says Hilary Baca, client relationship manager for National Jewish Health, which runs employer programs across the country. Instead, Breathe With Quitline coaches use motivational interviewing techniques to help smokers move through the sessions at their own pace. Similarly, coaches will only

order nicotine replacement therapy for participants when they've verbally committed to quit smoking.

CU-Boulder goes smoke-free this week

Breathe With Quitline is the latest in a stream of programs available to CU Health Plan members who want help kicking their smoking and/or tobacco habits. And for smoke-free advocates at the University of Colorado Boulder, which marked the official launch of its smoke-free policy on Monday — these additional smoking-cessation resources will be a key component of the policy's effectiveness.

The Boulder campus's smoke-free policy provides smokers a timeline for gradually quitting through its designation of a handful of temporary, on-campus smoking areas[7], says Louise Vale, vice chancellor for administration. The policy covers all products that emit smoke, as well as electronic cigarettes. Members of the committee that created the policy hope to one day adopt a more rigorous tobacco-free policy.

For now, proactive campus staff members are providing resources to help the 8 percent of CU-Boulder students and the yet-to-be-tallied amount of employees who smoke to kick their habits. Robin Kolble, community health manager at the Wardenburg Health Center, helped create smoking-cessation kits (squeezable stress balls, candy, gum, toothpicks, etc.), which they've been handing out to employees and students since spring. Janeen Haller-Abernethy, member of the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP), used a grant from the Colorado Health Department to run smoking-cessation workshops. The efforts will continue throughout the year.

Now, with the addition of the Breathe With Quitline program, Boulder campus employees on the CU Health Plan have double the support to give smoking the boot, whether attending Haller Abernethy's campus support groups[8] or picking up the phone and asking a Breathe With Quitline representative for help.

Help is here if you need it

Breathe With Quitline for CU Health Plan members launches Oct. 1. Find updates as the launch approaches at www.anthem/cuhealthplan[9] and http://my.kaiserpermanente.org/universityofcolorado[10].

Use these other resources, covered by each specified employer, to help in your quest to quit smoking:
University of Colorado Boulder Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP)
11 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday
Administrative Research Center
CU-Boulder East Campus
3100 Marine St., Room A353 (third floor)
Phone: 303-492-3020
Email: Yee.Chan@colorado.edu
[11]http://hr.colorado.edu/fsap/Pages/default.aspx[12]
Get free, confidential counseling and consultation from licensed counselors and psychologists who can refer you to further resources. **Colorado State Employee Assistance Program** (for University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus employees)
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday
Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration
633 17th St., Suite 1520
Denver 80202
Phone: 303-866-4314; 1-800-821-8154
http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DPA-EO/DEO/1214905946179[13]
Take advantage of free, confidential, short-term counseling, by phone or in person.

Perlmutter thanked for CU support at Anschutz Medical Campus[14]

Lilly Marks, Rep. Ed Perlmutter (wearing an honorary doctor's coat), Don Elliman and Bruce Benson.

[16]
Rep. Ed Perlmutter was honored Tuesday at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center for his longtime support of CU and his work on behalf of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and the surrounding community. Before redistricting last year, the campus was part of the state's 7th Congressional District, which Perlmutter still represents.

Among the CU representatives thanking Perlmutter at the morning event: President Bruce Benson; campus leaders Don Elliman and Lilly Marks; Regents Steve Bosley and Irene Griego; and Vice Presidents Leonard Dinegar, Tanya Kelly-Bowry, E. Jill Pollock and Todd Saliman.

Regents Irene Griego and Steve Bosley present Perlmutter with a souvenir of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Milo the Lynx ready to time travel at CU Denver[18]

[19]

Earlier this week, CU President Bruce Benson received his invitation to today's CU Denver block party via special delivery. Campus mascot Milo the Lynx arrived in tie-dye attire to present the invite and pose for photos with staff members in the president's office.

For more photos from the visit, see the Office of the President's Facebook page[20].

For details on today's CU Denver block party, celebrating the campus's 40th birthday, click here[21].

Nurse-managed clinic a key to health care reform[22]

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of articles about the activities that will take place inside the Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences.

Jeff Spicher, assistant professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, chats with Megan Fisher, executive director, Development, at the Lane Center's recent topping off ceremony.

U.S. health care is changing. And a Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences faculty member thinks he sees the future.

Jeff Spicher, assistant professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and former chair of the graduate nursing program, will help direct a nurse-managed clinic at the Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences. He believes nurse-run clinics that operate in a holistic manner with other health care professionals are the future.

"Health care is in flux," Spicher said recently. "It's morphing in front of our very eyes. You can say that we're involved in a grand experiment. You can't bring 30 million people into the system without change. We have to innovate."

Spicher's enthusiasm about creating a clinic that changes the model of health care is palpable. It's also not a new concept for him. With more than 15 years of experience as a family nurse practitioner, as a former clinic director of the County City Medical Clinic that served the employees of the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County, and current

involvement with the UCCS Student Health Center, Spicher has seen first-hand how nurse-managed clinics can make a difference.

“Unfortunately, the experience that many people have with their primary care physician is that of a five minute drive by visit,” Spicher said. “The problem is noted, a pill prescribed and the patient dismissed. Next.”

While the current model may work for some people, Spicher envisions a system where patients are given choices about their care and an explanation of the benefits of each choice is shared. Using the example of a patient who visits the clinic because of a sore throat, Spicher sees one treatment option as a throat swab to test for bacteria and, if positive, an antibiotic prescription. Another more holistic approach is to explore with the patient his smoking habit and providing behavioral therapy to help quit smoking which may in turn end the source of the sore throat.

“We want to give control back to the patient,” Spicher said “What we envision is a partnership with the patient and provider making the decisions collaboratively.”

“I can tell somebody that they are 50 pounds overweight,” Spicher said. “But helping them work to create a plan to lose that weight — that’s more difficult and where behavioral health experts assist in creating a plan along with specialists in nutrition and exercise. That’s what is going to make our clinic unique.”

Having advanced practice nurses, exercise specialists, and nutritionists all residing in the same place and working as a team means a referral won’t be across town and a three-week wait. It might be across the hall and three minutes. Spicher even envisions the day a patient is directed to the right health care professional based on responses to an intake questionnaire.

When the Lane Center opens in January 2014, the nurse-managed primary care clinic will be open for business. Faculty, staff, students and community members will be able to visit and receive help with acute issues such as a sore throat, runny nose or minor infection and help with long-term issues including diabetes, hypertension, or weight loss. University and most other insurance plans will be accepted.

The clinic will be staffed by advanced practice nurses and have masters students who are working toward their nurse practitioner certificates. In addition, a few students in the doctorate of nursing practice program will be utilized to help analyze clinic activity and patient response to it. That data will be used to make decisions about what’s working at the clinic, Spicher said, and as the basis for research studies so the experiences at the UCCS clinic can be replicated elsewhere.

“We’re not here to replace your primary care physician,” Spicher said. “We’re another option. We can be your primary health care provider or work to augment services that your primary care provider is already offering.” “The ultimate objective for the Lane center clinics are to partner with you to reach your optimal health and wellness goals.”

Related stories Faculty working to develop Lane Center plan http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=10927[24] Photo Feature: Signed beam tops Lane Center http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=11380[25]

CU professor to use new mobile technology to test for agricultural pathogens in Africa[26]

Photo courtesy African Renewal/United Nations

A University of Colorado Boulder faculty member will travel to Africa later this month to test a mobile smartphone technology developed by his team to rapidly detect and track natural carcinogens, including aflatoxin, which is estimated to contaminate up to 25 percent of the global food supply and cause severe illnesses in humans and

animals.

Associate Professor Don Cooper, co-founder and chief science officer of Mobile Assay Inc., a CU startup company, developed the technology in his laboratory at the Institute for Behavioral Genetics. The trip to Africa is being funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as a follow-on to a 2012 Gates Foundation grant to Mobile Assay Inc. as part of the Grand Challenges Explorations initiative.

The new technology includes using mobile devices, rapid diagnostic test strips (similar to pregnancy test strips), geographical tagging and cloud computing to rapidly detect, quantify and track common crop pathogens in real time to reduce their harmful impacts in developing countries. “Our new method is more sensitive, faster and more quantitative than any of the existing rapid tests out there on the market,” said Cooper.

Aflatoxins are highly toxic chemical poisons produced primarily by the fungus Aspergillus flavus, a mold that affects nuts, seeds and legumes and is known to cause liver cancer and compromised immune function in animals and humans. “Our new tools should ultimately allow farmers in developing countries to identify and track pathogens infecting seeds and share their data, which could improve crop yields and prevent crop losses,” he said.

The Agricultural Research Connections conference sponsored by the Gates Foundation will take place Aug. 25-30 in Nairobi and the nearby market town of Naivasha in Kenya. The goal of the workshops is to develop new partnerships among scientists doing agricultural research with the potential to create new pathways out of poverty for African farming families. “We are excited to meet with local farmers, community members and scientists to identify how we can best implement our mobile diagnostic tools in order to advance pathogen detection in sub-Saharan Africa,” said Cooper, also in the psychology and neuroscience department.

Identifying and tracking contaminated seeds is especially challenging in places like Africa, where individual farmers often keep their seed stocks stashed in boxes and sacks around the household and regularly trade them at village markets, said Cooper. “There will be a lot of work going on at the conference by scientists using interesting genetic tools to reduce or mitigate problems with aflatoxin,” said Cooper. “But without the ability to detect it, it’s difficult to know if one is actually succeeding.”

The testing method developed by Cooper and his team has been proven to be both fast and accurate. Users first obtain samples of grain suspected to be tainted, liquefy them and expose them to a customized test strip specifically designed to detect aflatoxin. A smartphone or tablet is then held over the test strip for automated image analysis. Within minutes the smartphone screen displays two bands – a control band and a test band to quantify the level of the grain infection.

A key part of the “Lab-on-Mobile Device,” or LMD, platform developed by Cooper’s team is the Mobile Imaging Ratiometry, or MRI, a unique software algorithm developed by Cooper that analyzes the images from the smartphones or tablets in real time. The information is geo-tagged and shared through cloud computing in remote data storage facilities that can be instantly made available to project participants. The LMD technology also will allow for the creation of real-time electronic “push-pin” maps showing places where aflatoxins have been detected.

Cooper’s plan is to eventually put smartphones or electronic tablets into the hands of people working in strategic farm communities. “If we can become operational on 100 different farms, for example, and conduct several tests a week, then we will be able to start aggregating data and looking at trends over time,” he said. “We might be able to detect particular times when aflatoxin in grains starts to appear on the market during informal grain exchanges, allowing us to pinpoint the origin of the infected grain.”

In addition to learning about agriculture in Kenya, Cooper and other participating scientists will tour regional laboratories and facilities. They also will visit local farms and explore possible collaborations with other workshop participants that could contribute to the advancement of agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa.

Such detection could open the door for more effective mitigation strategies to halt the outbreaks, including treating only parts of specific crop fields rather than spraying entire fields with pesticides. “We are looking for strategic partners, in this case community leaders, who can help us implement this technology,” said Cooper.

Rapid test strips are typically made of cellulose nitrate with antibody-impregnated pads designed to react with specific antigens to produce a specific visual signal. There are now LMD-compatible strips used to identify more than 1,000 different pathogens and pollutants.

Cooper said Mobile Assay Inc. is collaborating closely with Neogen Corp., headquartered in Lansing, Mich., which specializes in food and animal safety issues and which produces dozens of lateral test flow strips, including those for aflatoxin. The smartphone or tablet reader developed in the Cooper lab is designed not only to recognize specific test strips, but also to provide other information, including specific bin numbers where the grain is stored as well as grain expiration dates and other data.

Aflatoxins are estimated to contaminate roughly 25 percent of the global food supply according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations with 4.5 billion people exposed to high, unmonitored levels, primarily in developing countries.

Grand Challenges Explorations fund individuals worldwide who are taking innovative approaches to some of the world's toughest and most persistent global health and development challenges. GCE invests in bold ideas that have potential to solve problems people in the developing world face every day, according to the Gates Foundation.

Experts estimate seed-borne diseases cause a loss of 50 million tons of food annually and that losses in developing countries are 60 to 80 percent higher than in industrialized countries. Estimates show 90 to 95 percent of seed used by small-scale and subsistence farmers is acquired through informal sources at the farm and community level.

CU owns exclusive license to the technology developed by Cooper and his team and has an equity share in Mobile Assay Inc. Cooper and Mike Williams, the CEO of Mobile Assay Inc., are working closely with CU's Technology Transfer Office, CU's Entrepreneurial Law Clinic and the Innovation Center of the Rockies to develop a corporate structure and commercialization plans for the CU spinoff company.

For more information on Mobile Assay Inc. visit http://www.mobileassay.com/[28]. For more information on CU's Institute for Behavioral Genetics visit http://ibgwww.colorado.edu/[29].

Response to initial Anschutz Medical Campus Food Truck Row 'phenomenal'[30]

[31]
The response to Food Truck Row on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus last week exceeded every expectation.

"What an overwhelming response," said David Turnquist, associate vice chancellor, Facilities Management. "I was concerned that we wouldn't have enough people to make this interesting/profitable for the food truck operators. Was I ever wrong about that!"

Trucks open for business

The day started early on the south side of the Henderson parking garage with breakfast sandwiches, French toast and Colorado farm-fresh items available to be washed down with gourmet coffee. At lunch time, four food trucks rolled in to set up in front of Building 500.

So many staff, faculty and students cued up to purchase items which made lines seem very long.

"The trick is to get to the lunch trucks early," observed CJ Klingler from the School of Medicine, Dean's Office. "I went at 1 p.m., stood in line for 20 minutes and realized I would not get served by 2:00; so I had to go elsewhere."

Food for thought

[32]
The Facilities team got the message. There were four lunch trucks but Turnquist said the number of vendors probably needs to double to meet the demand, and it would be best to serve lunch right at 11 a.m. Vendors will be asked for quicker turn around time on individual orders, as well as to work out 'bugs' in taking credit card payments.

Turnquist also hinted at the possibly of expanding from the planned Food Truck Row offering on Wednesday to twice per week. Despite the challenges on opening day, everyone agreed, the mood seemed festive.

"The feedback from everyone I heard from on the variety, quality and value of the food and beverages was that of being excited and impressed by their experience," said Carol Calkins, director, Facilities Support Services?. "There is definitely a hum around campus about Opening Day for Food Truck Row that should serve as great momentum into the future."

"Bringing in Food Truck Row will add such a great variety to our campus," added Maria Portelli, director, Bookstore and Food Service. "Our hope is that when we have this event each week it will allow folks to get out of their offices, enjoy unique food that is basically brought right to them."

Stay tuned. Look for more information and variety as Food Truck Row continues to evolve on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

[33]

Campus welcomes freshmen with simple message: welcome and get involved[34]

[35]
The University of Colorado Denver cranked up the spirit dial at this year's convocation ceremony: academic regalia was worn, Milo the Lynx was afoot, and a rocking seize-your-time message was delivered by a national speaker.

More than 250 incoming freshmen wore gowns to convocation -- a departure from the summery attire typically sported by students. The ceremony serves as a bookend to the graduation ceremony which completes a student's undergraduate academic career.

This year's convocation featured the customary welcoming speeches and barbecue, but added an academic flourish as about 30 faculty members and university leaders donned academic regalia to match the gowns handed out to students at Campus Village Apartments. Throughout the hour-long ceremony at the King Center, a simple message infused the proceedings: Welcome to our family.

Lubna Mazin, vice president of the Student Government Association, told the students that they arrive at an exciting time for the university. This year's freshman class is on pace to be the largest-ever at CU Denver. She also pointed out that "when I began my journey here at CU Denver we had no mascot[36], no club sports[37] and no identity."

That's all changed, she said, and there are more ways than ever to get connected to the university. "Getting involved help me find my place in the world," Mazin said. "... Student Government, as well as every single person in this room is here to help you -- faculty, staff and your classmates sitting next to you."

Jordan Alvarez, SGA president, said he attended other universities, but CU Denver is where he felt most at home. "Your story starts here," he said. "This is your time, this is your university, this is your chance to gain the knowledge and the understanding it takes to make it in any profession."

Provost Rod Nairn and Raul Cardenas, associate vice chancellor of student affairs, highlighted the many university resources available to students. "There really are hundreds of ways you can get involved on the campus," Nairn said. "We stand ready in every way we can to assist you in your education journey and help you figure out what it is you are passionate about."

Chancellor Don Elliman said the freshman class is an incredibly smart, creative and motivated group. The university faculty and staff are charged to help draw out talent and prepare students for their chosen careers. "But more fundamentally, we want to prepare you as thinkers, as innovators, as creators and doers," he said.

After students put their CU pins on their gowns, author and national speaker Jon Vroman pumped the crowd with his blend of humor and insight. Vroman, author of "Living College Life in the Front Row,"[38] said there are two kinds of people: those who spectate and those who take charge of their lives and actually do things.

"A lot of research will tell you that by choosing a front-row seat in college, for example, your grades will go up, your connection with your professor is better," he said. "This seat is highly coveted. It's a metaphor for you lives, but in reality where you choose to be makes a big difference."

Afterward, student Jon Bui said he enjoyed the entire ceremony, from MIX a cappella's[39] rendition of the National Anthem to Vroman's entertaining talk. "That was my first time seeing them," he said of MIX, a CU Denver singing group. "They're really talented."

Yasmin Mansor, an international student, said she especially enjoyed Vroman's message. "If the students had any doubts about being in college, he really motived and inspired them to stay involved."

She added, "Coming from another country, it was a real nice, warm welcome."

Students were reminded about the many fun events coming up[40] in the next several weeks.

Another fun event coming up for students is the Block Party[41] in front of the new Business School on Thursday, Aug. 22. The event will have 1970s theme since CU Denver became an independent institution in 1973, and this year marks our 40th anniversary[42].

For any questions about support services or other campus programs and events, students should call the Office of Student Life[43] at 303-556-3399.

Hill, Wyatt bring ‘Colorado Diet’ to bookshelves[44]

Hill Wyatt

James O. Hill, founding executive director of the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, and **Holly Wyatt,** associate director of the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center and associate professor, will sign their new book, “State of Slim: Fix Your Metabolism and Drop 20 Pounds in 8 Weeks on the Colorado Diet,” at a book signing and cooking demonstration, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 24 at the center.

Hill and Wyatt say they wrote the book because they are “tired of seeing people have wonderful success in losing weight, only to see them regain it all within a few months. As scientists and researchers, we haven’t just theorized about the right weight-loss strategies, we’ve tested them in our clinic to see if they really work — and they do.”

The new book details the elements of the “Colorado mindset” -- finding motivation, expecting success, making healthy decisions and creating a supportive environment – that lead to a lean body and increased energy. Hill and Wyatt tell

readers how to lose 20 pounds in eight weeks and learn to eat and move to work with their body's metabolism. "State of Slim" also teaches readers how to make changes for permanent weight loss.

Hill and Wyatt cover topics that include learning how to squeeze in exercise, conquer cravings, control portion intake and boost willpower. The book also contains recipes, activity plans, and solutions for excuses or stumbling blocks the reader may have.

The book is now on sale at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center at a special introductory price of $18.99 for members, $22.99 for nonmembers.

Hill also is author of "The Step Diet: Count Steps, Not Calories, to Lose Weight and Keep It Off Forever."

For more about the new book, go to www.stateofslim.com[46].

Dr. Colorado's new book chronicles pulse of state's health care[47]

Photo: Chris Casey/University of Colorado

From the state's first doctor to the ailments of early settlers to the gleaming towers at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, **Tom "Dr. Colorado" Noel** covers the colorful history of health care in Colorado in his new book, "University of Colorado Hospital: A History." In the book, Noel, a professor at CU Denver, goes beyond UCH's history, chronicling health care from the days of the Ute Indians and their kivas to the landmark decision to move the CU Health Sciences Center in Denver to the current Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

He discusses how Denver became of health care hub in the early 1900s, thanks to the healing properties of its dry air for people suffering from tuberculosis, asthma and other respiratory ailments.

"This is an unwritten part of Colorado history because I don't think people wanted to talk about it," Noel said recently during a speaking event and book signing. "The chamber of commerce people didn't want to talk about a town filled with people coughing, running around spitting up blood and what not."

Noel has direct ties to UCH and the CU School of Medicine. His mother graduated from the medical school in 1938 (only one other woman was in her class) and his aunt became director of the hospital's social services department.

He is director of Public History and Preservation at CU Denver and co-director of the Center for Colorado and the West at Auraria Library. For a copy of his book, contact Noel at tom.noel@ucdenver.edu[49] or drcolorado.auraria.edu.

Leister receives residency, commission for Nashville exhibit[50]

[51]
Bryan Leister, an assistant professor of visual arts in the College of Arts and Media at the University of Colorado Denver, recently was awarded a month residency and $8,000 commission to create an installation for the Parthenon Museum of Art in Nashville, Tenn.

The international call for proposals asked artists to submit social sculpture, performance and video works to be presented inside the museum or on the grounds of the museum at Centennial Park in downtown Nashville. Leister's contribution, "FLEX IT! MyBody My Temple," will be exhibited for three months in fall 2014.

The theme of Leister's exhibit is to address health and obesity issues through interactive art and performance. His proposal includes creation of an augmented reality mobile game that will encourage exercise around the grounds of the museum. He will be installing five to 10 large sculptures on the grounds that will interact with his mobile game application.

Leister was one of the three artists selected to exhibit on the grounds out of 41 proposals that were received. Five additional artists will be creating work for the interior spaces. The other artists selected come from California, Seattle, Massachusetts and England.

To learn more about Bryan Leister's work please visit: http://bryanleister.com[52]

Brent recognized for toxicology work[53]

Jeffrey Brent, clinical professor at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, has received the Matthew J. Ellenhorn Award from the American College of Medical Toxicology. Each year, the organization bestows the honor on an individual for their contributions to the field medical toxicology.

Brent will be recognized at the annual meeting of the North American Congress of Clinical Toxicology. He will have the opportunity to deliver a keynote address on a topic of his choice or have one presented in his honor. The award is both honorary and financial.

The award is in memory of Ellenhorn, who had a distinguished career as an educator and clinician and was an early member of, and examiner for, the American Board of Medical Toxicology.

Supplier Showcases have got the goods next month[54]

2012 Supplier showcases [Photo courtesy of Amber Williams]

Supplier Showcases provide an opportunity for suppliers to display and demonstrate new products and services. Showcases also provide CU faculty and staff with an opportunity to meet with suppliers they already do business with and discover new goods and services from potential suppliers.

Which Suppliers will be at the Showcases?

A variety of suppliers will be in attendance, representing a wide range of commodities. Showcase sponsors, Staples, Dell, The Parking Spot and Xerox, will be featured at each event. Sponsor representatives and supply partners will be on hand, along with Christopherson Business Travel representatives. Many new suppliers will exhibit, including Temporary Services suppliers. See below for currently confirmed exhibitors. Additional exhibitors are being added, so be sure to check back for new additions.

Several campus and system departments will also be present. You will have the opportunity to visit with Procurement Service Center staff members to talk Travel, mention Marketplace and pose questions about policies and procedures. Financial and Ethics representatives will also be available to discuss issues and topics.

All CU Faculty & Staff are Invited to Attend!Wednesday, Sept. 11 - CU-Boulder, University Memorial Center Glenn Miller Ballroom
10 a.m.-1 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 19 - CU Anschutz Medical Campus,** Research Center 2 (RC2), 2nd Floor Conference Room

9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 25 - UCCS**, University Center Berger Hall
10 a.m.-1 p.m. For more details, go to www.cu.edu/psc[56]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-deborah-keyek-franssen[2] https://connections.cu.edu/news/five-questions-for-deborah-keyek-franssen/deb1[3] https://connections.cu.edu/news/five-questions-for-deborah-keyek-franssen/deb3[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-looks-improve-communication-increase-collaboration[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-health-plan-wants-smokers-breathe-easy[6] https://connections.cu.edu/news/cu-health-plan-wants-smokers-to-breathe-easy/smoking-cessation_p[7] http://www.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/attached-files/Designated%20smoking%20locations_0.pdf[8] http://hr.colorado.edu/fsap/groups/Pages/Smoking-Cessation.aspx[9] http://www.anthem/cuhealthplanand[10] http://my.kaiserpermanente.org/universityofcolorado[11] mailto:Yee.Chan@colorado.edu[12] http://hr.colorado.edu/fsap/Pages/default.aspx[13] http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/DPA-EO/DEO/1214905946179[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/perlmutter-thanked-cu-support-anschutz-medical-campus[15] https://connections.cu.edu/news/perlmutter-thanked-for-cu-support-at-anschutz-medical-campus/pearl_top[16] https://connections.cu.edu/news/perlmutter-thanked-for-cu-support-at-anschutz-medical-campus/pearl1[17] https://connections.cu.edu/news/perlmutter-thanked-for-cu-support-at-anschutz-medical-campus/pearl2-2[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/milo-lynx-ready-time-travel-cu-denver[19] https://connections.cu.edu/news/milo-the-lynx-ready-to-time-travel-at-cu-denver/milo-bruce[20] https://www.facebook.com/CUPresident[21]

[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/nurse-managed-clinic-key-health-care-reform[23] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccs-nurse-clinicpng[24] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=10927[25] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=11380[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-professor-use-new-mobile-technology-test-agricultural-pathogens-africa[27] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucb-africappng[28] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e093%3c%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=7733&Action=Follow+Link[29] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e093%3c%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=7732&Action=Follow+Link[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/response-initial-anschutz-medical-campus-food-truck-row-%E2%80%98phenomenal%E2%80%99[31] https://connections.cu.edu/file/afoodtruck1png[32] https://connections.cu.edu/file/afoodtruck3png[33] https://connections.cu.edu/file/afoodtruck21png[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campus-welcomes-freshmen-simple-message-welcome-and-get-involved[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucd-welcomepng[36] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/clubsports/Pages/CU-DENVER-LYNX-MASCOT.aspx[37] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/clubsports/Pages/Club%20Sports.aspx[38] http://www.frontrowoncampus.com/[39] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/Mix-a-cappella-wins-BOSS.aspx[40] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/housing/prospective-students/Pages/CU%20Launch%21%20New%20Student%20Welcome.aspx[41] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/ExecutiveTeam/OutreachEvents/BlockParty/Pages/default.aspx?utm_source=UCD_Newsroom&utm_medium=CTA_Button&utm_campaign=Block_Party&utm_content=Block_Party_2013_DC[42] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/denver/Pages/40th-Anniversary.aspx[43] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/Pages/StudentLife.aspx[44] https://connections.cu.edu/people/hill-wyatt-bring-%E2%80%98colorado-diet%E2%80%99-bookshelves[45] https://connections.cu.edu/people/hill-wyatt-bring-colorado-diet-to-bookshelves/p_hill-wyatt[46] http://www.stateofslim.com/[47] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dr-colorado%E2%80%99s-new-book-chronicles-pulse-state%E2%80%99s-health-care[48] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdrcopng[49] mailto:tom.noel@ucdenver.edu[50] https://connections.cu.edu/people/leister-receives-residency-commission-nashville-exhibit[51] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pleisterpng[52] http://bryanleister.com/[53] https://connections.cu.edu/people/brent-

recognized-toxicology-work[54] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/supplier-showcases-have-got-goods-next-month[55] https://connections.cu.edu/news/fourth-annual-supplier-showcases-series-to-kick-off-in-september/suppliershowcase02 [56] http://www.cu.edu/psc