Four regent posts up for election in November[1]

Four of the nine seats on the University of Colorado Board of Regents will be decided in November's general election, with a guarantee of at least one new member joining.

The six-year terms of three of the regents elected Nov. 6 will begin in January.

The winner of the fourth race, representing the state's 7th Congressional District, will serve the final two years of the term begun by former Regent Monisha Merchant, who resigned last year to join Sen. Michael Bennet's staff. The seat is currently held by Irene Griego, Ph.D., D-Lakewood, who was appointed by Gov. John Hickenlooper. Griego is running against Mary Dambman, a Westminster Republican, and Eric Robinson, a Lakewood Libertarian.
[2]
Griego's 38-year education career – as a teacher, principal, administrator and university instructor – took root at CU. She earned her bachelor's degree at CU-Boulder and doctorate at CU Denver, with a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado in between. Her campaign website is linked here.[3][4]
Dambman is a former Colorado state representative who served three terms. She also is a former teacher. She has served as a Republican national committeewoman and Adams County Republican chair. Her campaign website is linked here.[5]
In Colorado's 3rd District, incumbent Tilman "Tillie" Bishop, R-Grand Junction, announced in January that he would not seek a second term. Candidates running for his seat are Glen Gallegos, a Grand Junction Republican; Jessica Garrow, a Carbondale Democrat; and Gennaro Connors, a Fruita Libertarian.
[6]
Gallegos worked for 26 years as a teacher, coach, principal and executive director of instruction for Eagle and Mesa County school districts. He is a former member and chair of the Mesa State Board of Trustees and currently serves on the Governor's Education Statewide Leadership Council. His website is linked here.[7][8]
Garrow, long-range planner for the city of Aspen, is a University of Colorado Boulder graduate. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with a political science degree before earning a master's in city and regional planning from The Ohio State University. Her website is linked here.[9]
The remaining two seats are held by regents first elected in 2006 and who are seeking second terms.

For the at-large seat, which is elected statewide, incumbent Stephen Ludwig, D-Denver, is running against Brian Davidson, M.D., an Arvada Republican who also ran against Ludwig in 2006; Daniel Ong, a Boulder Libertarian; and Tyler Belmont, a 17-year-old American Constitution candidate from Colorado Springs.
[10]
Ludwig is a University of Colorado Colorado Springs graduate and longtime public relations, marketing and journalism professional. He led the effort for a new guaranteed admissions program across CU, and served as vice chair of the Board of Regents in 2010-11. His website is linked here[11]. [12]
Davidson earned medical and master's degrees at CU, and is physician and anesthesiologist at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. He serves on many hospital and medical boards, including the University of Colorado Hospital Medical Board. His website is linked here[13].
In the 5th District, Kyle Hybl, R-Colorado Springs, is unopposed by a Democratic candidate. Steven Hartmann, a Colorado Springs Libertarian, and Gina Biolchini, American Constitution candidate from Colorado Springs, also are vying for the seat.
[14]
Hybl earned a bachelor's and a law degree at the University of Colorado Boulder. He is a Colorado Springs attorney, civic leader and Air Force veteran who served as chair of the Board of Regents 2010-12.
Editor's note: Biographical information for this story was compiled from candidates' campaign websites, which are linked throughout. Details were not available for candidates without campaign websites.

Five questions for Lori James[15]

[16]

We tend to take memory for granted, unless we are 17 and need to know 108 physics equations or we have reached the half-century mark and can't find our keys. And we probably don't consider that memory is attached to language, which is the focus of Lori James' research. James is an associate professor and director of undergraduate training at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Both James' father and brother studied psychology and that helped spur her interest in the topic. She was introduced to cognitive psychology in college and, during graduate school, met her mentor, Deborah Burke, who helped her solidify her interests in studying language and memory abilities.

James and a colleague also are hoping to find ways to help victims of tragedies by studying what tools are most likely to diminish stress and anxiety. She is seeking 200 survivors of the recent Waldo Canyon Fire to participate in research that she hopes will provide information about how people can increase their coping skills.

James understands about the distress that evacuees and others felt during those frightening June days when the state's most costly fire swept through neighborhoods. "I was evacuated, and as I sat in my car – along with the thousands of other people around me – trying to leave the area, I experienced quite a bit of distress. I was very fortunate that my home and my immediate neighborhood were spared," she said.

1. Is it inevitable that cognitive performance declines in older people?

Age is not all about decline. There are aspects of cognition in which healthy older adults experience declines, but my own research has shown that many aspects of older adults' language skills, such as their vocabulary knowledge and story-telling ability, are actually better than young adult skills.

2. You've also researched memory of proper names. What have you found and how have or how will your studies impact humanity?

My lab has now conducted more than a dozen experiments on memory of proper names, and names really are harder to remember than other information. The findings are beginning to shape a theory of name representation that will help us further understand their difficulty. I really am a basic scientist, so to me the most important impact is knowledge. Sometimes, just letting people know that names are much harder to learn and remember than other information provides them relief, especially older adults, who worry that forgetting names might indicate impending dementia. Other researchers or practitioners might be able to develop interventions to help "name memory" based on my work.

Names are harder to remember than any information that has meaning. When we meet someone, we find out what they do for a living and we can learn their occupation pretty easily, and that's true even as we get older. But to learn a name is much harder. What's interesting is that this is true even when the name comes from a word that has meaning. We can learn that someone is a farmer, but as soon as you say Mr. Framer, we have trouble learning that information. It gets even worse as we get older.

However, we learn other information that doesn't have real meaning to it. For instance, you learn a ZIP code or an identification number. We're testing one possibility that it's hard to learn names because we have a particular anxiety about names. The pressure is on when you try to remember someone's name. If you mess it up, you run the risk of looking a fool. The question of whether anxiety might contribute is one external factor I've started looking at. The other thing about names is that they run the possibility of coming from a wider selection of sounds. So a name might not sound like anything we'd consider linguistic in English, so that might contribute to the difficulty of remembering.

We've done studies to see what happens when we give people names that are descriptive, but it turns out the meaning has to be linked to the individual. For instance, we showed people new cartoon characters and asked them to remember the names. If we said that a character was named "Flirty," but there was nothing flirtatious about the cartoon, people had no better luck learning the name. But if we said the character was named "Drowsy," and the cartoon looked tired, the label was easy for everyone –young and old – to remember.

In addition, some people have extraordinary memories while others are terrible. We're all on a continuum.

3. How did you become involved with the Waldo Canyon Fire research project and what do you home to learn?

In 2010, my colleague, Chip Benight, invited me to help on a project that involves testing the effectiveness of a website designed to help people cope with the aftermath of a disaster. Trauma research is one of his specialties and I was brought on board because of my expertise in research methodology and data analysis. The website is based on sound scientific principles that have been shown to help people increase their coping, but we want to know whether the Internet provides a viable way of delivering this information to large groups of people affected by a traumatic event. It was by chance that there was a disaster in my town, but we are prepared to conduct the website study in many places across the country.

We pilot tested earlier versions of the website following other disasters. Data concerning website use and effectiveness following Hurricane Ike (in Galveston, Texas) are in press, and we have some pilot data from the fires in Bastrop, Texas, last summer suggesting that the information on the website can be helpful in coping.

For more information, contact study personnel at 719-255-3709 or bjohns17@uccs.edu[17]. To participate immediately, go directly to the survey website: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/waldorecovery[18]

4. What are your favorite memories from your time at CU?

My department has been a great fit for me, personally and professionally. I have colleagues and students who are really bright and productive, but also see the value of family, friendships and fun.

5. Do you have hobbies or activities you enjoy in your leisure time?

I do Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, like to go for hikes and enjoy soaking in hot springs. I also travel quite a bit to conferences, for fun and to see my family. One of the hikes I do most often is in Ute Valley Park, which is just behind my subdivision. I just visited Mount Princeton Hot Springs recently. It's beautiful there.

Analysis of election factors points to Romney win, CU study says[19]

A University of Colorado analysis of state-by-state factors leading to the Electoral College selection of every U.S. president since 1980 forecasts that the 2012 winner will be Mitt Romney.

The key is the economy, say political science professors Kenneth Bickers of CU-Boulder and Michael Berry of CU Denver. Their prediction model stresses economic data from the 50 states and the District of Columbia, including state and national unemployment figures as well as changes in real per capita income, among other factors.

"Based on our forecasting model, it becomes clear that the president is in electoral trouble," said Bickers, also director of the CU in DC Internship Program.

According to their analysis, President Barack Obama will win 218 votes in the Electoral College, short of the 270 he needs. And though they chiefly focus on the Electoral College, the political scientists predict Romney will win 52.9 percent of the popular vote to Obama's 47.1 percent, when considering only the two major political parties.

"For the last eight presidential elections, this model has correctly predicted the winner," Berry said. "The economy has seen some improvement since President Obama took office. What remains to be seen is whether voters will consider the economy in relative or absolute terms. If it's the former, the president may receive credit for the economy's trajectory and win a second term. In the latter case, Romney should pick up a number of states Obama won in 2008."

Their model correctly predicted all elections since 1980, including two years when independent candidates ran strongly, 1980 and 1992. It also correctly predicted the outcome in 2000, when Al Gore received the most popular votes but George W. Bush won the election.

The study will be published this month in PS: Political Science & Politics, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Political Science Association. It will be among about a dozen election prediction models, but one of only two to focus on the Electoral College.

While many forecast models are based on the popular vote, the Electoral College model developed by Bickers and Berry is the only one of its type to include more than one state-level measure of economic conditions.

In addition to state and national unemployment rates, the authors looked at per capita income, which indicates the extent to which people have more or less disposable income. Research shows that these two factors affect the major parties differently: Voters hold Democrats more responsible for unemployment rates while Republicans are held more responsible for per capita income.

Accordingly -- and depending largely on which party is in the White House at the time -- each factor can either help or hurt the major parties disproportionately.

Their results show that “the apparent advantage of being a Democratic candidate and holding the White House disappears when the national unemployment rate hits 5.6 percent,” Berry said. The results indicate, according to Bickers, “that the incumbency advantage enjoyed by President Obama, though statistically significant, is not great enough to offset high rates of unemployment currently experienced in many of the states.”

In an examination of other factors, the authors found that none of the following had any statistically significant effect on whether a state ultimately went for a particular candidate: the location of a party’s national convention; the home state of the vice president; or the partisanship of state governors.

In 2012, “What is striking about our state-level economic indicator forecast is the expectation that Obama will lose almost all of the states currently considered as swing states, including North Carolina, Virginia, New Hampshire, Colorado, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida,” Bickers said.

In Colorado, which went for Obama in 2008, the model predicts that Romney will receive 51.9 percent of the vote to Obama’s 48.1 percent, again with only the two major parties considered.

The authors also provided caveats. Factors they said may affect their prediction include the time frame of the economic data used in the study and close tallies in certain states. The current data was taken five months in advance of the Nov. 6 election and they plan to update it with more current economic data in September. A second factor is that states very close to a 50-50 split may fall an unexpected direction.

“As scholars and pundits well know, each election has unique elements that could lead one or more states to behave in ways in a particular election that the model is unable to correctly predict,” Berry said.

Election prediction models “suggest that presidential elections are about big things and the stewardship of the national economy,” Bickers said. “It’s not about gaffes, political commercials or day-to-day campaign tactics. I find that heartening for our democracy.”

Louise Vale named CU-Boulder vice chancellor for administration[20]

Vale

The University of Colorado Boulder named Louise Vale vice chancellor for administration starting Sept. 10. Vale is currently director of internal audit for the University of Colorado system.

The position of vice chancellor for administration, which reports to Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Kelly Fox, supervises a division of almost 700 employees and oversees an annual operating budget of $112 million. Areas of responsibility include human resources, facilities management, public safety, emergency management, environmental health and safety, risk management, environmental sustainability, campus logistics, printing and the campus bookstore.

“Louise has served in various administrative, budget, finance and internal audit positions since joining the University of Colorado in 1990, including an appointment on the Boulder campus,” Fox said. “She brings a tremendous amount of experience to this position and will make a wonderful addition to the Boulder campus leadership team.”

The vice chancellor for administration, in conjunction with the campus and system administration, also represents the campus capital development program to the CU Board of Regents and state legislative committees.

Vale previously served as the associate vice chancellor for budget and operations at the University of Colorado Denver. In that position, units she supervised included police, emergency preparedness, electronic security, budget, the bookstore, printing, mailing services, food services, institutional research and fiscal policy and analysis. She also participated in the capital budgeting and planning of new buildings at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Vale served for two years on the Boulder campus beginning in 1998 as an assistant to the dean of budget and planning in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“I’m looking forward to returning to the Boulder campus and I’m very excited about the opportunity to help advance the campus’s Flagship 2030 goals,” Vale said.

Flagship 2030 is the campus’s comprehensive strategic plan, which was approved by the Board of Regents in November 2007.

Vale holds a bachelor’s degree in comprehensive business management from the University of Nebraska-Kearney, a master’s degree in management from the University of Colorado Denver and is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Jeffrey Lipton, who has held the post of vice chancellor for administration on an interim basis since August 2011, will offer transition assistance to Vale.

TTO’s Allen departing after decade at helm[22]

[23]
David N. Allen, Ph.D., University of Colorado associate vice president for technology transfer, is leaving his post after more than a decade at the university.

As leader of the CU Technology Transfer Office, Allen is responsible for intellectual property and technology licensing matters across the CU campuses. He became CU’s assistant vice president for technology transfer in February 2002; in June 2003, he was promoted to associate vice president.

Wednesday will be his last day. Allen is set to become executive director for Tech Launch Arizona at the University of Arizona starting Sept. 4.

“Dave Allen led our technology transfer efforts through a period of tremendous growth and innovation at the University of Colorado,” said CU President Bruce D. Benson. “The 80 companies based on CU technology that were established

over the past decade are a vital, ongoing testament to Dave's leadership in helping to bring the university's research discoveries to market. We're thankful for his work and wish him all the best in his new endeavor."

Allen thanked CU leadership and colleagues "for a rewarding opportunity to serve the university and its research and entrepreneurial communities."

Pro racers warm up route for scholarship ride[24]

[caption id="attachment_4074" align="aligncenter" width="600"][25]
A CU Cycling team member rides Boulder Canyon in June.

[/caption]

Two weeks after professional cyclists race through Boulder and up Boulder Canyon, some riders in the 10th Annual Buffalo Bicycle Classic will follow much of the same route, the most mountainous section of Stage 6 of the 2012 USA Pro Cycling Challenge.

The pros ride through on Saturday, and the Elevations Credit Union Buffalo Bicycle Classic is scheduled for Sept. 9. The classic, which raises scholarship funds for high-performing students who qualify for financial aid, has a new 100-mile "century" route, called the Buff Epic.

During the ride, Boulder Canyon's westbound lane will be closed to traffic from 7 a.m. to approximately 9:30 a.m.

The epic "century" ride will start on campus, ascend the Boulder Canyon to Nederland, follow the Peak to Peak Highway past Ward, descend St. Vrain Canyon to Lyons and then head east to Erie and back to Boulder. While the Pro Cycling Challenge's stage is longer (it starts in Golden and finishes on Flagstaff Mountain), it shares the demanding stretch between Boulder, Nederland and Lyons.

But the Buffalo Bicycle Classic is not just for mountain goats. It still will include all of its five signature events, one for every ability level: the classic 100-mile ride, now called the Foothills Century, plus its 70-mile, 50-mile, 35-mile and 14-mile Little Buff family-friendly community ride.

The 2012 Little Buff is co-sponsored by the Center for People With Disabilities. The center is recruiting participants — including blind riders who could ride on tandem bicycles — from its organization, according to Ian Engle, the center's executive director.

"There are a lot of major athletes around the Boulder area who use adaptive equipment, and we work with a lot of folks who both would love to showcase our talents and abilities using adaptive equipment and people who might not otherwise be able to participate in such an event," Engle said.

The Center for People with Disabilities is promoting the ride as a "fully inclusive community event." It is offering scholarships for disabled riders who can't afford the registration fee, and it is offering to provide adaptive equipment for riders who need it.

"When we include people who are on the margins of our community, it strengthens the moral fabric of our community as a whole," Engle said.

"This year, more than ever, the Buffalo Bicycle Classic will accommodate riders of every ability," said Todd Gleeson, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and one of the ride's founders.

Since 2003, the Buffalo Bicycle Classic has raised more than $1.6 million for scholarships and has funded more than 730 scholarships. The event is the single largest source of scholarships for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on grade-point average and financial need. They cannot apply for the scholarship and don't know they are being considered until they learn they have won.

All net proceeds go toward scholarships, and a portion of the registration fee is tax-deductible.

For more information on the Buffalo Bicycle Classic, see http://www.buffalobicycleclassic.com[26]. To see scholarship recipients discuss what the scholarship meant to them, see http://youtu.be/Pj1l_ihaA8w[27]. To watch CU Cycling team members ride a time trial of the Boulder Canyon segment of the Buff Epic, see http://youtu.be/9v7VHu2IqxM[28].

Evolutionary increase in size of the human brain explained[29]

Researchers have found what they believe is the key to understanding why the human brain is larger and more complex than that of other animals.

The human brain, with its unequaled cognitive capacity, evolved rapidly and dramatically.

"We wanted to know why," says James Sikela, Ph.D., who headed the international research team that included researchers from the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine and the National Institutes of Mental Health. "The size and cognitive capacity of the human brain sets us apart. But how did that happen?"

"This research indicates that what drove the evolutionary expansion of the human brain may well be a specific unit within a protein – called a protein domain -- that is far more numerous in humans than other species."

The protein domain at issue is DUF1220. Humans have more than 270 copies of DUF1220 encoded in the genome, far more than other species. The closer a species is to humans, the more copies of DUF1220 show up. Chimpanzees have the next highest number, 125. Gorillas have 99, marmosets 30 and mice just one. "The one over-riding theme that we saw repeatedly was that the more copies of DUF1220 in the genome, the bigger the brain. And this held true whether we looked at different species or within the human population."

Sikela, a professor at the CU medical school, and his team also linked DUF1220 to brain disorders. They associated lower numbers of DUF1220 with microcephaly, when the brain is too small; larger numbers of the protein domain were associated with macrocephaly, when the brain is too large.

The findings were reported in the online edition[30] of The American Journal of Human Genetics. The researchers drew their conclusions by comparing genome sequences from humans and other animals as well as by looking at the DNA of individuals with microcephaly and macrocephaly and of people from a non-disease population.

"The take home message was that brain size may be to a large degree a matter of protein domain dosage," Sikela says. "This discovery opens many new doors. It provides new tools to diagnose diseases related to brain size. And more broadly, it points to a new way to study the human brain and its dramatic increase in size and ability over what, in evolutionary terms, is a short amount of time."

CU-Boulder planetarium upgrading to giant-screen theater[31]

If you're a planetarium junkie in the Boulder area, your experience is about to get a major upgrade.

The astrophysical and planetary sciences department, home to Fiske Planetarium, recently announced the launch of a complete upgrade to the projection and other presentation systems that power the planetarium's big-screen

experience. The remodel will turn the dome of the planetarium into an all-encompassing video theater.

“This upgrade will transform Fiske into one of the most sophisticated planetariums and multimedia centers in the country,” said Douglas Duncan, director of Fiske Planetarium. “We will be able to show the universe, and our local neighborhood, in unrivaled detail -- 360 degrees, surround video and sound.”

Since 1975, Fiske Planetarium has provided students and community members an interactive tour of the night sky. The facility’s star projector, known affectionately as “Fritz,” has taught a generation how to find the North Star, constellations and the motions the planets trace in the heavens.

While Fritz heads into a well-deserved retirement, the education experience will move into the digital age. Currently, the star projector can show 6,000 stars and other extra-planetary objects. The new system will have a modern star ball that shows 20 million stars and objects, and now they will even twinkle -- just like the skyscape one might observe on a clear, dark night.

The equipment overhaul also will allow Fiske to feature travel, education, art videos and other programs designed especially for this type of high-end projection system.

“We’ll be projecting video equal to covering the entire dome with close to 40 high-definition TVs,” Duncan said. “The amount of detail will be spectacular, rivaling the best theaters in the country. We expect it to become a major Boulder weekend destination.”

Other upgrades include new LED lighting and a new laser system, which should make the Friday and Saturday night laser shows even more eye grabbing.

The improvements also will yield new opportunities for faculty, staff and students on the Boulder campus. The planetarium expects to expand its student intern staff, already responsible for productions like last year’s successful “Max Goes to the Moon” children’s planetarium show. The dome will be available to researchers for video conferencing, and HD and Ultra HD modeling of their work.

Within the last decade, several of the nation’s major planetariums have undergone similar remodeling projects. The Fiske project will take advantage of lower digital technology prices and innovations in the field to perform similar improvements at one-fifth the cost, according to Duncan.

The remodel project will launch in December 2012 and a grand opening is expected in fall 2013.

UCCS selected for prestigious program to build ties with universities in India[32]

The Institute of International Education in New York, N.Y., recently selected the University of Colorado Colorado Springs to participate in a program designed to increase higher education ties between U.S. and Indian colleges and universities.

UCCS was one of only five U.S. colleges selected for the 2012 India initiative of the International Academic Partnership Program. UCCS has strong ties to India and Indian universities and is committed to expanding those ties as part of efforts to help UCCS students compete globally.

Last summer, UCCS and officials from India’s Global Connect Academy signed an agreement that allowed UCCS to offer a master’s degree in engineering to students in India. Earlier, UCCS established a Center for Services Excellence through a partnership with Global Talent Track and Europe Asia Business School that offered a program in information assurance utilizing UCCS engineering faculty and a certificate program in services marketing offered by the UCCS College of Business.

“In our strategic plan, one of our priorities is to strengthen our regional and global reach,” Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak said. “By fostering greater cooperation with partner colleges and universities in India, we help UCCS students have a better understanding of the global marketplace while also helping expand the university’s reach.”

During the next year, international education professionals at each of the five colleges will participate in a series of training activities arranged to help build and sustain partnerships. The program will include a tour of India in early 2013 so participants can learn about the Indian higher education system.

The five U.S. campuses selected to participate in the program are: Arizona State University, Portland State University, UCCS, University of North Carolina, Charlotte, and Washington & Jefferson College. An IIE review panel chose the colleges and universities based on applications that outlined interests in building ties with institutions in India. This is the third group of campuses to take part in the program.

IIE’s Center for International Partnerships in Higher Education developed the IAPP program in 2009 with an initial two-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund from the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

New students encouraged to get involved, expand horizons[33]

[34]

Incoming freshmen at the University of Colorado Denver heard a message loud and clear at Friday's high-spirited convocation: Get connected to your university family and pursue college with courageous zeal.

The program drew a packed house to Tivoli Turnhalle and featured comments by students and university leadership, music by a cappella group UCD Mix, a guest speaker and complimentary CU Denver pins and T-shirts. The ceremony concluded with a barbecue picnic in the quad.

"It was exciting," freshman Zach Hueser of Centennial said of the program. "I really liked the guest speaker (author Jon Vroman), and everybody who presented did very well. They were very poised. I'm really excited (about the start of school), and the convocation made me more excited."

The event's upbeat tone was set by program emcee Mehdi Bandali, a recent CU Denver graduate and former student government representative. Bandali used a ship metaphor to illustrate the university experience. "In a few years here you will be docking at the harbor of success. Whether you're a freshman, transfer or graduate student ... you will have success at the end of this journey."

Raul Cardenas, associate vice chancellor of student affairs, said students can enhance the journey if they get out of their comfort zones and expand their interests. "This is your time -- embrace it."

He noted that the Class of 2016 arrives at the dawning of a new era. He explained that student government last year led an effort to name a mascot for the Denver Campus. "Beginning this year, it's yours. It's exciting. It's part of the legacy that you will leave for many years to come. You guys are the Lynx. ... My question to you is, what's going to be your legacy on our campus? We want you to leave your legacy here -- not only for others to come, but for yourself and your family. We are proud that you have joined the University of Colorado Denver family."

Other speakers included Gordon Hamby, president of the Student Government Association; Peer Advocate Leaders Lubna Mazin and Connor Stanley; Chancellor Don Elliman and Provost Rod Nairn. Getting the more than 200 students to jump out of their chairs, shout, hug each other and tell jokes was special guest Vroman, founder of the Front Row Foundation, which gives people with life-threatening diseases once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

Vroman, author of "Living College Life in the Front Row," explained that there are two kinds of people: those who are victims and those who take ownership of their lives and grow from adversity.

"You've made a wise choice by being here, because when you change your environment you change your life," Vroman said. He got the crowd laughing with video clips of his young son resisting both kale and plain yogurt.

"What's good for you isn't always good going down," Vroman said. "Here's the reason why people don't succeed in life: They seek comfort. And here's the reality: Most of your growth comes from discomfort."

All of the speakers reminded the students to work hard, but also to have fun during college. Hamby and the PALs representatives urged students to get involved in the many clubs and extracurricular activities on campus.

Hamby, noting that he's a "couple days older" than his peers in the room, said he was detached and "too cool for school" the first time he attended college. He isn't making that mistake again. "Engagement, involvement -- this is truly the key to the success of my college career now."

Mazin and Stanley encouraged students to cultivate time management skills and outlined the many support services available on campus. They reminded students about some of the fun events coming up[35] in the next several weeks.

Nairn encouraged students to take advantage of the university's outstanding professors. "Many of them are leaders in their fields," the provost said. "They really are ready, standing by and open to interacting with you and helping you with your educational journey."

Elliman echoed other speakers' comments about having fun during college, and left students with this advice: "Most of the success you achieve here is going to come from you ... We're here to support it, we're here to encourage it, we're here to prop it up if we need to. But you've got to make this happen for yourself."

Another fun event coming up for students is today's Block Party[36] in front of the new Business School.

For any questions about support services or other campus programs and events, students should call the Office of Student Life[37] at 303-556-3399.

Open auditions for fall theater productions at CU Denver begin Monday[38]

The CU Denver Department of Theater, Film and Video Production has announced its open auditions for all CU Denver students, faculty and staff, set for Monday and Tuesday.

The department will present:

“One Flea Spare,” by Naomi Wallace, Oct. 4-6, 10-13. Casting: two women, three men.

“Lysistrata,” by Aristophanes, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 5-8. Casting: four women and two men for principal characters, plus female chorus and male chorus

Auditions are set for 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the King Center on the Auraria Campus, Room 175 (CU Denver Production Studio).

Callbacks will be 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

For an appointment or for more information, call 303-556-6591; leave a message with your phone number.

Marks chosen Denver Business Journal outstanding woman in business[39]

[40]
Lilly Marks, vice president of health affairs at the University of Colorado and executive vice chancellor of the Anschutz Medical Campus, received an Outstanding Women in Business award Aug. 16.

Marks received the award in the category of Education, Government and Nonprofits. The 14th annual awards were presented by the Denver Business Journal[41], and the luncheon drew several hundred business leaders to the downtown Marriott.

“It's really humbling to be in a group of such remarkable women and to be recognized in that group," Marks said to the audience after receiving her award. “I have really been blessed in my career for the last 36 years to be able to get up every morning and go to work with some of the smartest people on the planet. Every day it is humbling and inspiring to me to work with the faculty, staff and students at the Anschutz campus who are truly changing lives and saving lives.”

The campus has a $2.5 billion annual economic impact in Colorado and employs 17,000 people.

Jandel Allen-Davis, a director on the CU Foundation Board of Trustees and part of the School of Medicine's clinical faculty, won the Outstanding Women in Business award in the Health Care category. Allen-Davis is vice president of government and external relations for Kaiser Permanente Colorado.

Some 12 women were recognized in various business categories. The two other finalists in the Education, Government and Nonprofits category were Joyce Schlose of Goodwill Industries of Denver and Becky Miller Updike of Colorado's Office of Child Protection.

In her introduction of Marks, event emcee Brooke Wagner (CBS4 news anchor) noted that Marks in 1991 was named executive director of University Physicians Inc., a nonprofit that handles the business aspects of faculty physicians. During her tenure there until 2011, Marks was able to grow revenue annually and put UPI on solid footing. UPI now helps fund the School of Medicine and is considered a national model for medical school funding. The rest of Marks' professional biography can be read here[42].

Marks said she gets to "bask in the reflective glory" of the talents of faculty, staff and students at the Anschutz Medical Campus. She noted that they make tremendous contributions daily to the state and nation. "It would be presumptuous for anyone to say that they lead that campus ... but to be in a position to sometimes nudge and facilitate and enhance the work that goes on there is a great honor for me."

She reminded the crowd that none of the assembled leaders would be here without the ability to "stand on the shoulders of other people who have made opportunities available to us." She specifically thanked university leadership -- including Richard Krugman, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine; University of Colorado President Bruce Benson; and University of Colorado Denver Chancellor Don Elliman -- as well as her husband of 42 years, Bob, and two daughters. "Probably the proudest accomplishment in my life, and how I define my success, is the two extraordinary, amazing women who are my daughters."

Elliman said Marks' award is incredibly well deserved. "She's such an asset for the university and such a wonderful leader for us. I can't say enough about that."

Nominees for Outstanding Women in Business were taken online at the DBJ website for more than six months. Four judges reviewed and scored the more than 300 nominations made for 160 individuals.

Verner named UCCS sports information director[43]

[44]
Jared Verner, previously sports information director at Western State Colorado University (WSCU), Gunnison, will lead sports information efforts at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

“Jared brings a wealth of knowledge about our conference and NCAA Division II to the position,” said Steve Kirkham, director, Department of Athletics. “He also is well-versed in social media and all its abilities to reach our fan base and supporters. As we move forward, I know he will help with our visibility in the community and region.”

As assistant athletic director for sports information, Verner will be responsible for publicity and promotion of UCCS Mountain Lion athletics. The university fields 13 men’s and women’s teams and competes in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and NCAA Division II.

Verner served as sports information director at WSCU since 2009. He was responsible for establishing the department website, WSCUAthletics.com, as well as play-by-play broadcasting duties for the college’s basketball team. He also was responsible for maintaining various blogs and social media sites to promote the teams. In 2010-11, the WSCU sports information staff earned “Best in the Nation” recognition from the College Sports Information Directors of America for the production of a game program.

Prior to joining Western State, Verner worked in the athletic media relations office at Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Mo., including serving as interim director. He earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Northwest Missouri State.

“I am excited to be joining the staff at UCCS,” Verner said. “I’ve been impressed by the coaches and student-athletes in the athletic department as well as by the rest of the staff on campus. I look forward to sharing Mountain Lion success stories.”

Verner replaces Doug Fitzgerald, who left the department last spring.

Schrier honored by American Heart Association[45]

[46]
The American Heart Association has announced that Robert W. Schrier, M.D., is the 2012 recipient of the Eugene Braunwald Academic Mentorship Award from the American Heart Association. The honor identifies and honors individuals whose academic careers have included at least 20-25 years of successful mentoring of promising young academics.

The mentoring can be in any field of fundamental or clinical research consistent with the mission of the American Heart Association or other academic pursuits such as education. The award is given based upon a consistent record of molding the careers of multiple individuals.

Schrier, professor, Medicine-Renal Med Diseases and Hypertension, CU School of Medicine, is a past president of the Association of American Physicians, International Society of Nephrology, American Society of Nephrology and the National Kidney Foundation. His research has included interactions between the heart and kidney. He has mentored more than 100 young physicians who are now leaders around the world.

Schrier will be honored during the opening ceremony of the American Heart Association's Scientific Session on Nov. 4

in Los Angeles.

Bernard facilitates NAS Mountain West Summer Institute[47]

[48]
Aimee Bernard, senior instructor in biology at the University of Colorado Denver, was a facilitator at the National Academies of Sciences 2012 Mountain West Summer Institute July 30 – Aug. 3. The Summer Institute is the direct result of a key recommendation from the 2003 National Research Council report, “Bio2010: Transforming Undergraduate Education for Future Research Biologists,” which called for programs of professional development to engage faculty at research-intensive institutions in taking greater responsibility for high-quality undergraduate biology education.

The report emphasizes the importance of new pedagogical approaches to teaching based on emerging evidence about how people learn and a greater emphasis on interdisciplinary teaching. Teams from research colleges and universities from across the Mountain West assembled for five days of presentations, discussions, intensive group work and other activities focused on enhancing undergraduate education, with themes of active learning, assessment and diversity.

Kerrane leads exhibit at Denver gallery[49]

[50]
Rian Kerrane, associate professor at the College of Arts and Media at the University of Colorado Denver, is the curator and a participant in the exhibit “Hybrid” at Denver’s RedLine gallery, 2350 Arapahoe St., through Sept. 30.

In Hybrid, a “symbolic narrative is reconstructed, one of shooting targets,” Kerrane said. “Staging everyday objects in the gallery allows me to critique the verisimilitude of aesthetics we incorporate in our lives, our habitual routines, and how our actions are simulations of a broader ecological system.”

In her work (see photo), “the ‘clip on’ doves represent a human predicament, a certain blindness or lack of command relating to situations in which we find ourselves. The clustering of the effigies is also a conscious allusion to familial and social groupings. The telegraph poles and wires are a literal analogy to cross-Atlantic communication, with the Morse code soundtrack adding a guise to some of my intimate biographical information," Kerrane said.

Born in Galway, Ireland, Kerrane moved to the United States in 1994. She is vice president of the Western Cast Iron Art Alliance, an eclectic group of iron artists from across the western regions of the states. Her work has shown in sculpture gardens and galleries in the United States, Italy, Austria, Mexico and Ireland.

A sculptor of mixed media including foundry, metal fabrication, installation, printmaking and performance, her recent explorations are "symbolic witness to our self-generated social predicaments and the social constructs applied to control personal environments."

Dropping names …[51]

University of Colorado Denver civil engineering Professor **Jonathan Wu** has been invited to serve on the AASHTO T-15 mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) task force. He was invited as one of the nine international experts on

reinforced soil, and will help chart the direction of bridge design practice in North America and around the world.
… "Gender Stories," a new book by communications research professor **Sonja Foss**, who teaches in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver, has been published by Waveland Press. It was coauthored with graduate student Mary Domenico and Karen Foss of the University of New Mexico.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/four-regent-posts-election-november[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/r_griego.png[3]
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