Doctors investigate not-so-sweet side of fructose[1]

More and more people have become aware of the dangers of excessive fructose in diet. A new review on fructose in a recent issue of the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology(JASN) indicates just how dangerous this simple sugar may be.

Richard J. Johnson, M.D., F.A.C.P., and Takahiko Nakagawa, M.D., Ph.D., at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, provide a concise overview of recent clinical and experimental studies to understand how excessive amounts of fructose, present in added sugars, may play a role in high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and chronic kidney disease (CKD).

Dietary fructose is present primarily in added dietary sugars, honey and fruit. Americans most frequently ingest fructose from sucrose, a disaccharide containing 50 percent fructose and 50 percent glucose bonded together, and high fructose corn syrup (HFCS), a mixture of free fructose and free glucose, usually in a 55/45 proportion. With the introduction of HFCS in the 1970s, an increased intake of fructose has occurred and obesity rates have risen simultaneously.

The link between excessive intake of fructose and metabolic syndrome is becoming increasingly established. However, in this review of the literature, the authors conclude that there is also increasing evidence that fructose may play a role in hypertension and renal disease.

"Science shows us there is a potentially negative impact of excessive amounts of sugar and high fructose corn syrup on cardiovascular and kidney health," Johnson said. "Excessive fructose intake could be viewed as an increasingly risky food and beverage additive."

Concerned that physicians may be overlooking this health problem when advising CKD patients to follow a low-protein diet, Johnson and Nakagawa recommend that low-protein diets include an attempt to restrict added sugars containing fructose.

Johnson and Nakagawa are listed as inventors on several patent applications related to lowering uric acid for the treatment or prevention of hypertension, diabetes and fatty liver. Johnson also has published a book, "The Sugar Fix," which covers this topic for the general public.

The article, titled "The Effect of Fructose on Renal Biology and Disease," appears online at http://jasn.asnjournals.org[2].

Benson reminds lawmakers of university's economic impact[3]

University of Colorado President Bruce Benson told the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee Tuesday, Nov. 30, that the university is a major contributor to Colorado's economy and will be a force in pulling the state out of recession.

Benson was one of several higher education leaders who presented to the committee, which is charged with crafting the state budget. In his 30-minute talk, he covered CU's contributions to the state's economic, social and cultural health, efforts the university has made to operate more efficiently, and partnerships it has developed with educational entities ranging from K-12 schools to community colleges to other research universities.

"Research universities are major contributors to Colorado's economic health," he told lawmakers. "We create jobs, attract industry and have a collective $9.4 billion economic impact on our state annually."

He noted that CU produces nearly half the undergraduate degrees conferred each year by Colorado's four-year public

institutions, as well as the vast majority of master's, doctorates and first professional degrees. Benson stressed that CU is the only public university producing physicians, dentists and pharmacists. He talked about the university's role in meeting the looming shortage of physicians, nurses and other health-care professionals.
Benson also pointed to CU's focus on partnerships – among its campuses, with other research universities and with community colleges – as a way of operating more efficiently and effectively and giving the state more bang for its buck.

He asked the JBC to maintain Gov. Bill Ritter's proposed budget for higher education for fiscal year 2011-12, which would cut higher education by some $150 million. "Further cuts will hurt higher education and have a potentially devastating impact on Colorado's economy," Benson said.

He also asked the JBC to adhere to a funding allocation formula that CU helped craft, and which several other governing boards and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education have agreed to. It considers an institution's general fund appropriation, total funds and enrollment. The JBC used the formula last year when allocating stimulus funds to backfill budget shortfalls.

Benson also asked the committee to keep the Anschutz Medical Campus (AMC) out of the funding formula should further cuts to higher education become necessary. He pointed to the fact that the School of Medicine is already among the lowest-funded in the nation, and there is no room to make up for shortages by increasing tuition on medical students already saddled with significant debt load.

JBC members lauded CU's efforts to operate more efficiently and expressed concern about funding at AMC. Rep. Cheri Gerou, vice chair of the JBC, asked about progress on School of Medicine accreditation issues. Benson said that while there is not much that can be done about abysmal state funding, the school has made progress with diversity and student debt load. Sen. Rollie Heath asked if the funding situation is leading to "brain drain," losing faculty to better funded institutions. Benson said while the university has been able to retain some faculty who had offers elsewhere, CU also has lost some and is in danger of losing others.

Benson and campus leaders are scheduled to make a presentation today to the Legislature's Capital Development Committee on building and maintenance needs.

Video technology extending reach of UCCS in Southern Colorado[4]
Photo by Jay Dedrick
Cisco's Ron Inouye leads a demonstration via high-definition video for members of the University of Colorado President's Office recently in Denver's Tech Center. Though Inouye was in San Jose, Calif., he and Denver-based participants were able to carry on a real-time conversation as if all were seated at the same table.
Photo by Jay DedrickCisco's Ron Inouye leads a demonstration via high-definition video for members of the University of Colorado President's Office recently in Denver's Tech Center. Though Inouye was in San Jose, Calif., he and Denver-based participants were able to carry on a real-time conversation as if all were seated at the same table.

A newly acquired video communication system is transforming education outreach at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, with further potential for administrative uses at the system level.

Cisco's TelePresence system[6] employs NLR (National Lambda Rail) fiber lines to connect high-definition video cameras and monitors at far-flung locations. UCCS now offers nursing and robotics courses to students in Lamar and LaJunta. Video and audio quality is high, with no detectable transmission delay.

"Classroom extension is the term we use, rather than distance education," said Jerry Wilson, chief technology officer

for UCCS. Because instructors and students in one location can interact in real time with students at another location, the geographic distance becomes an afterthought. "After a few minutes, you forget you're seeing and hearing someone on a video screen. It's as if they're in the same room."

Wilson and UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak provided a demonstration of the system for members of the Board of Regents and other CU administrators during the board's meeting on the UCCS campus Nov. 19. Earlier this fall, administrators from the President's Office received a demonstration at Cisco's Tech Center offices; 1800 Grant St. also recently became a home to one of the TelePresence units.

At the Colorado Springs demonstration, University of Colorado Denver Chancellor Jerry Wartgow told regents how the system could eventually emulate face-to-face meetings with UC Denver employees on the downtown campus and the Anschutz Medical Campus. Shockley-Zalabak also noted the potential reduction of travel time and costs for her and other administrators who travel from Colorado Springs to system administration offices in Denver.

Wartgow also sees applications for the technology with current online classes offered throughout the university.

"The potential is unlimited for online education," he said.

While TelePresence units aimed at corporations now cost several thousand dollars, Cisco representatives say a system aimed at consumers for home use is on the way; it will be priced near $1,000 and can connect to a home's HDTV. With wider availability, the classroom extension can reach from college campuses into high schools in remote areas without easy access to exposure to higher education, Shockley-Zalabak said.

Early budget shows steady state funding for higher ed[7]

While Gov. Bill Ritter's proposed budget for next year maintains the current level of funding for higher education, University of Colorado leadership remains concerned about the possibility of cuts.

"I don't think we can rest easy," said Kelly Fox, vice president and chief financial officer, during last week's meeting of the Board of Regents[8] at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs campus.

"There has been so much controversy over the whole budget proposal," she told the regents during a university budget update. "I'm not convinced that additional cuts aren't coming."

Ritter submitted his budget for the 2011-12 fiscal year[9] Nov. 1. It calls for $555 million in funding for higher education, the same as the current year.

In October, Ritter had submitted a plan for balancing the 2010-11 budget because of a forecast revenue shortfall. The plan included a shift of federal and state funding for higher education, but it did not change the level of funding.

Other financial indicators about the university as presented in an annual "dashboard" report to the Board of Regents: Student FTE and student headcount have risen steadily since the 2003 fiscal year, with CU now educating 57,361 students – up 7,000 during the time period. Some 60 percent of buildings throughout the CU system are 20 years old or older; 46 percent are at least 40 years old. CU lags behind peers in overall funding over the past several years. The Anschutz Medical Campus has funding of 38 percent of the peer average; Colorado Springs and Denver, 72 percent; Boulder, 80 percent. The university would need an additional $321 million to maintain the purchasing power it had in 2003. All campuses have seen the enrollment of students of color rise at a faster rate than that of the total student population.

Five questions for Donald Misch[10]

Donald Misch

Wardenburg Health Center on the Boulder campus operates using a version of the Golden Rule. The "do unto others" motto is something the center's director, Donald Misch, M.D., also aspires to in the rest of his live.

Misch took over the leadership role at Wardenburg in July; he's also the assistant vice chancellor for health and wellness. His responsibilities include overseeing the health center, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), the Office of Victim Assistance (OVA) and the Recreation Center. Much of his time is spent considering alcohol and drug abuse issues. Alcohol abuse is the No. 1 health hazard on college campuses across the country, Misch says, so it's not surprising that in college towns, it's also an issue for the community. He is collaborating with the city, county and other entities to coordinate efforts and programs that will not only help the university but the surrounding area. And he'd like to see some of those programs spread to local high schools.

Next semester, the university will roll out a campaign that Misch hopes will make a big impact on the culture of substance abuse, changing the way students view and address alcohol abusers.

Before joining CU, Misch worked in private practices as an internist and psychiatrist, spent 11 years at the department of psychiatry and health behavior at the Medical College of Georgia, and then seven years as director of the Northwestern University Health Service. He was a Carnegie Scholar and director of the Georgia Governor's Teaching Fellows Program. Universities, he says, have always been his home.

"College students are a great group of people to work with," he said. "They're young and enthusiastic, and pliable – willing to consider changes in their health and wellness behaviors. And they're smart. I've always felt comfortable in academics."

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. One of the mottos you live by is the Golden Rule. Do you have others?

I'm definitely a Golden Rule guy. I think it is a very difficult standard, one to which I aspire, that you should treat people the way you want to be treated. And my version of the health service Golden Rule is that we will try to treat your child in college as we would want our own children treated. I also endorse common sense (Voltaire: "Common sense is not so common.") and common courtesy. I also believe that leadership is a public service position. It's not about self-aggrandizement. We're responsible to and for a whole range of stakeholders. The job is about doing right by others.

2. Wardenburg offers a number of services to students: medical, women's health, sports medicine, psychological health, radiology, a lab and a pharmacy. How many students, on average, do you see and what other roles does the center play?

We have just under 70,000 visits per year. All of the services are heavily utilized, but the ones that are growing the fastest are psychological health and psychiatry, which is consistent with trends across the country, and sports medicine, which isn't surprising given how physically active our students are.

Along with diagnosis, medical treatment and psychological and psychiatric illnesses, we also serve a public health surveillance and intervention role. In a way we're our own department of public health. We work with Boulder County Public Health and the state and we're responsible for attending to and identifying infectious diseases on campus. We also promote health and wellness. The goal is to help students learn healthy ways to live their lives and those healthy coping mechanisms – physical or psychological – that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives when they are under stress or when things don't go as they hope.

We also collaborate with other academic units, for instance, people in nutrition or information technology. One of our student health board members has done a really nice study on how our electronic medical records are used on an everyday basis and whether or not the system is efficient.

3. You are working toward a number of program initiatives at Wardenburg, including the secondhand alcohol campaign and the recovery campus. What are these programs?

Here's the notion of the secondhand alcohol campaign: When I grew up in the '50s and '60s, lots of people smoked and they smoked everywhere. It really wasn't appropriate and you were not empowered to ask someone to stop smoking and not befoul your air. Now, years later, you can't smoke in hospitals, on planes, in many bars or within 15 to 25 feet of public buildings. What happened? One was data, the realization that secondhand smoke is dangerous, not just irritating. The second thing that happened was a cultural shift in which people felt increasingly empowered to say, "Whether or not you smoke is your decision, but you can't foul my air in the process."

We are in a similar situation with alcohol abuse on college campuses. There's plenty of data about how destructive abusive alcohol consumption is to those who are not the drinker: physical and sexual assault, verbal intimidation and threats, property damage, disrupted sleep and study, vomit and urine in places they shouldn't be, and the need to babysit those at risk of alcohol poisoning. The abuse of alcohol doesn't just affect the drinker, it affects everyone around them.

In many ways, we're now where we were with smoking. It's very hard for a student to step up and say, "Whether or not you drink is your business but you can't mess up my life." To do that would mean they would be ostracized by peers.

The notion of the secondhand alcohol campaign is to turn to one of the most powerful motivating forces we know – peer pressure. Instead of feeling peer pressure to drink abusively to fit in, we hope students will take the position that if you want to fit in with my group, you must drink in a way that doesn't disturb us. This is part of our attempt to change the culture of alcohol abuse on campus, at CU and across the nation. We hope to start this next semester.

Another initiative is the recovery campus. It's hard to imagine any other setting that would be worse for a recovering alcoholic than a college campus, which is typically awash with alcohol and other drugs. If recovering students are to negotiate college, they need a lot of support – financial, academic, housing. They need a community of people who know what they are going through. The Association of Recovery Schools is a movement occurring on various college campuses and the notion is to have a series of supports that enables recovering students to succeed in college.

These students also can affect the culture of alcohol abuse on campus. These are peers who can say, "Been there, done that. I was saying the same things two years ago, using the same excuses and justifications, and you know what, I'm not buying any of it. I have experience."

4. Personally, what do you find most gratifying about your job, and if you were not doing this job, what would you love to have as your avocation?

I love working with students and the many great people at CU. I'm very proud of all of our services and our great staff. A lot of people in student health are really committed to health. They see this as a calling. Many of the folks that work here have currently or have had children in college, so they know what it's like to send a child off to college and worry about them.

There are so many opportunities for great collaborations to approach problems and issues in new and creative ways that allow you to integrate ideas across domains. I love doing that.

I desperately wanted to play in the NBA. The trouble was, I wasn't that good. Other than for the fact that I was slow, weak and not a good jumper, I think I was destined to play in the NBA. My son played Division III basketball, so it's been a huge part of my life. And basketball teams have been a metaphor for how I think people should work together. Basketball and sports in general teach you a lot about life.

I still think about going to law school some day. I was admitted to law school when I was an internist and in a rare epiphany, I came to my senses and said this is nuts. You work full time in private practice and are going to go to law school? So I gave up my spot two weeks before I was scheduled to start. There's still a part of me that would love to go to law school. I would be a pretty feisty student; I really love to argue stuff.

5. What activities do you enjoy outside the office?

I enjoy reading, watching sports and classic movies. My wife and I, you can't take us into a book store. It really doesn't matter what aisle we go down, we'll just read anything. Some of what I've read or am reading include classics ("Great Expectations," "Catcher in the Rye"); politics (books on Sarah Palin and John Edwards); novels (Stieg Larsson's "Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" trilogy); psychology ("The Cult of Personality Testing"), which talks about how many of the personality tests we do are utterly invalidated and probably not accurate; sports, especially on the corruption of amateur athletics (e.g., "Play Their Hearts Out"); and just about any other book from super cave exploration to dog search and rescue operations. I'll just read anything. The movers were appalled. One set of movers told my wife and me that they had never seen so many books.

Solemn send-off[12]

Scrooge and Co. return to Boulder campus[13]
Photo: Glenn Asakawa for CU Communications
Bob Buckley is Scrooge and Addison Kleinhans (Agent: Donna Baldwin Talent) is Tiny Tim in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "A Christmas Carol."
Photo: Glenn Asakawa for CU CommunicationsBob Buckley is Scrooge and Addison Kleinhans (Agent: Donna Baldwin Talent) is Tiny Tim in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival's "A Christmas Carol."

Last holiday season, a Colorado Shakespeare Festival staff member wore a button emblazoned with Tiny Tim's innocent, generous, inclusive statement: "God bless us, every one!," his only line in "A Christmas Carol." An airport security Grinch confiscated that button. But with a smile and approval from the staff member, the guard fastened it to his uniform. **Â** Suffice it to say, it continued to cheer many a harried traveler.

"A Christmas Carol" is a holiday stage tradition reminding adults and children alike that generosity of the spirit contributing to the greater good is still a possibility.

The CSF previews the play on Thursday, Dec. 2, with opening night on Friday, Dec. 3, in University Theater on the CU-Boulder campus. The show runs through a matinee performance on Dec. 24. Early 7 p.m. curtains and numerous matinees make it a great family outing or aprÃ¨s-shopping entertainment.

Tickets begin at $16. Opening night tickets are available for half-off with the coupon code BUFF50. The offer for the 7 p.m. Dec. 3 performance is valid for dress circle and orchestra tickets, is not valid on previous purchases, may not be combined with other discounts or offers, and is subject to availability.

To buy tickets or for information on show dates and times, go to www.coloradoshakes.org[15] or call 303-492-0554.

Court of Appeals favors CU in Churchill case[16]

The Colorado Court of Appeals last week upheld a previous verdict in favor of the University of Colorado, affirming that the institution was within its rights in terminating former professor Ward Churchill from his job.

The case is not necessarily closed, because Churchill has legal options. He could file a petition – which would be due next week – for rehearing in the Court of Appeals, or could file a petition with the Colorado Supreme Court by early next month. He also could choose not to pursue further action.

The Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in Churchill's lawsuit against the university on Oct. 20. His appeal began after District Judge Larry Naves denied Churchill's request to be reinstated at the university.

UC Denver set for Giving Back[17]

This season, the University of Colorado Denver will again honor the spirit of giving, with Chancellor Jerry Wartgow announcing the second year for the Giving Back Campaign.

All faculty and staff will be given one half-day of work time (four hours) to participate in a volunteer activity of their choice. Some may choose to use the time to participate in a community activity for which they already volunteer; others may participate in a group activity with neighbors or others from across the university. This year the program has been expanded to include students and alumni.

The campaign, which began Nov. 29 and continues through Feb. 28, will seek to quantify the total volunteer activities and breadth of activities. After completing a volunteer activity, participants are asked to visit the Giving Back Campaign website to provide a brief synopsis of accomplishments[18]. These stories will be used to provide a more complete picture of the contributions the university makes to the community every day.

To participate:
Choose a community service program[19] to volunteer with during the campaign. Talk to your supervisor (if faculty or staff) and agree upon a date and time of volunteer service. Complete the correct Sign-up Form[20]. Perform your volunteer service during this holiday season. Tell about your volunteer experience through the Feedback Form[18]. For more information, visit the Frequently Asked Questions[21] page or contact Genia Larson, director of the Office of Outreach and Events, at 303-315-2059 or Outreach.Events@ucdenver.edu[22].

For specific help in identifying a community organization or to develop a group opportunity, please contact Kyra Tarbell at kyra.tarbell@ucdenver.edu[23] or by call 303-556-3944.

Boettcher biomedical research grant applications available[24]

[25]
University of Colorado biomedical researchers within four years of their first academic appointment can compete for their first independent grants of between $200,000 and $250,000 over up to three years of research.

The Boettcher Foundation's program, now in its second year, is aimed at supporting early career biomedical researchers whose work has a direct impact on human health. Materials for grant applications, due Feb. 15, are available at www.cu.edu/boettcher[26].

Program Manager Enid Ablowitz said CU would receive $700,000 this year through the prestigious grant program, which will allow for three investigator awards. The president's office will manage the competitive peer review process for CU grant applications, and awards will be announced in June to support work beginning July 1, 2011.

Associate Vice President David Braddock, who is serving as the research officer, called the program "an exciting opportunity for early career biomedical researchers," and encouraged all qualified CU candidates to apply. Additional Boettcher investigators will be named at other Colorado research institutions.

"This program targets a critical resource gap in Colorado's biomedical research enterprise and we expect to see not only exciting new discoveries that improve human health, but also the advancement of the careers of the best and brightest of promising scientists at our research institutions," said Tim Schultz, president and executive director of the Boettcher Foundation. "No other program in Colorado is focused on these critical needs and the foundation is proud to contribute to the future of the state in this new program."

Grant recipients will receive the title of Boettcher Investigator. CU's 2010 Boettcher Investigators were: Robin Dowell, Ph.D., an assistant professor at CU's Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology (CIMB), and Gidon Felsen, Ph.D., and Paul Jedlicka, M.D., Ph.D, assistant professors at the CU School of Medicine. They were among 65 researchers from all four CU campuses who applied for the grants.

Interested researchers will find eligibility information, the application, and submission instructions at www.cu.edu/boettcher[26] and should not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly.

Meeting summary: Boulder Faculty Assembly[27]

Editor's note: In addition to news coverage of meetings of the systemwide Faculty Council and Staff Council, theFaculty and Staff Newsletter will post meeting summaries as provided by councils and assemblies at the campus level. To submit material, please e-mail to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[28].

Joint BFA Meeting and CU-Boulder Faculty Senate Meeting
Nov. 4, 2010

The Boulder Faculty Assembly held a joint meeting with the Boulder Faculty Senate on Nov. 4.
Meeting highlights are below. For more detail please visit http://www.colorado.edu/bfa/[29] to read the most recent minutes, reports, current motions before the assembly, or other items of interest to the faculty.

I. Senate Meeting: Reports by President Bruce Benson and Chancellor Phil DiStefano
The president reported that CU is hoping for $158 million in state support in fiscal year 2011, down from $175 million this year including stimulus, but has been told to prepare a budget including less. The president reported that CU and CSU are engaged in an effort to share services in libraries, procurement, IT and travel functions. The faculty alerted the president and the chancellor that graduate student application processing has slowed significantly due to increased workload as a result of software and staff procedural changes. The faculty notified the president and the chancellor that CU's relocation of Boulder's international tax specialists to Denver would impose a large burden on international students and post-docs to commute for required meetings with tax advisers. A Boulder satellite office was suggested.
II. Chair's Report:

New Boulder Campus P&T Chair. The BFA nominated Physics Professor Anna Hasenfratz. The Annual BFA Winter Reception is Monday, Dec. 6. Invitations will arrive by campus
mail in the coming weeks. RSVP to Sierra.Swearingen@colorado.edu[30] or 303-492-6271. BFA Motions on instructor tenure and on program discontinuance. Citing concerns raised by CU's most senior legal counsel, Dan Wilkerson, Faculty Council's EPUS (Educational Policy and University Standards) Committee has indicated it does not support these motions.
Wilkerson will speak at the Dec. 9 BFA meeting to answer the BFA's questions. In the meantime, the BFA Faculty Affairs Committee is exploring alternative ways to improve the employment situation for instructors.

III. Special Report: UCB Alumni Association:

Executive Director Deborah Fowlkes' comments included:
The Alumni Association's mission is to reconnect alumni to one another and to the university, to keep them interested in and excited about what's happening at CU, and motivate them to give back to CU in volunteer time, internships for CU students, and financial support. The Alumni Association does not do direct fundraising, but does work with the CU Foundation to improve access to alumni. Opportunities for faculty involvement include travel to alumni clubs for speaking engagements; international instructional trips; and encouraging students to use the association to find internships, networking opportunities and alumni expertise.
IV. Special Report: Faculty Ombuds and Office of Faculty Relations:

Director of Faculty Relations John Frazee and Faculty Ombuds Lee Potts and Larry Singell answered questions from the floor. Highlights included the following:
The Faculty Ombuds program was created by a BFA initiative in 1997. A chart comparing and contrasting the two offices is available online: http://ombuds.colorado.edu/faculty-ombuds/contrast-chart-of-faculty-ombuds-faculty-relations/[31]
V. The next BFA meeting is 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, in Wolf Law 307.

Speakers include University Counsel Dan Wilkerson, Provost Russell Moore and Senior Associate Vice President Jill Pollock, who will discuss self-funded insurance. All faculty are welcome to attend.

The Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA) Update is a short summary distributed to members following each BFA meeting (or more often as needed). Members are asked to forward BFA Updates to faculty they represent after adding their own comments, if any. For more details, please visit the BFA website at http://www.colorado.edu/BFA[32] .

CU-NASA research center to study sun's effects on Earth's climate[33]

The University of Colorado at Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP)[34] and NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center[35] in Greenbelt, Md., recently announced the formation of a new collaborative research center dedicated to the study of the sun's effect on Earth's climate.

The Sun-Climate Research Center (SCRC) will be co-directed by LASP research scientist Peter Pilewskie as well as Robert Cahalan, who heads Goddard's Climate and Radiation Branch, and Douglas Rabin, head of Goddard's Solar Physics Laboratory.

"The exciting thing about this collaboration is that we believe it will promote studies to help answer key questions about the climate system, including how Earth's atmosphere responds to the sun's variability and how that affects climate," said Pilewskie, a faculty member in CU-Boulder's atmospheric and oceanic sciences department. "This question is particularly important now as we seek to quantify the human-induced impact on Earth's climate."

Made possible by a Federal Space Act Agreement, SCRC will foster collaboration between Earth-atmosphere and solar sciences at the two institutions. Opportunities will include a scientist exchange program between the organizations and the ability for postdoctoral scientists and graduate students in science, engineering and mission operations to move between LASP and Goddard. The partnership also will include international research symposia on sun-climate interactions.

"In recent years Goddard and LASP have worked together on several Earth and sun missions," Cahalan said. "Now we look forward to continuing to drive growth in this key interdisciplinary field of sun-Earth research, bringing new focus to the study of multiyear changes in the sun and its influence on Earth's climate."

According to the center's co-directors, the SCRC represents a rare and innovative step that underscores LASP's ability to take its high-caliber research and program opportunities to a new level with Goddard.

"LASP has developed some remarkable areas of expertise that are key to studying the sun and its effect on climate and on human activities," said LASP Director Daniel Baker. "By working with our colleagues at Goddard, we can leverage our skills and help take an important step toward greater cooperation between NASA centers and leading university research teams."

Staffers among graduates at commencement[36]

Debbie Lapioli

Debbie Lapioli was pragmatic when asked how she would use time off near the Thanksgiving holiday.

"I've got a paper due – that's what I'll be doing on my day off," Lapioli, executive assistant to the vice chancellor for administration and finance, said before elaborating on holiday plans that included visiting family.

It's not the first vacation day devoted to study in Lapioli's 14-year quest to complete a bachelor's degree at UCCS. But it may be the last as she is set to join an estimated 500 graduates Dec. 17 at the World Arena participating in commencement exercises.

For the 56-year-old Lapioli, walking across the stage and accepting her diploma will be the culmination of a dream that began in 1972 when she graduated from high school in Santa Ana, Calif. As she racked up life experiences including two associate's degrees; multiple moves as the trailing spouse of an airman; roles as mother, grandmother and single parent; illness; and a new marriage, she kept the goal of earning a four-year degree in sight.

Applauding her at the ceremonies will be her husband, four children, three grandchildren and several in-laws. Many in the Lapioli section earned degrees from UCCS themselves.

"I've earned a Ph.D. in life," Lapioli said. "But I wanted a B.A. in communication."

Since 1996, Lapioli has taken classes when she could fit them in between work schedules, raising four children and taking active roles in her church and staff governance at UCCS. She used the employee tuition assistance program for many of her classes and believes the courses not only met her personal goals but helped professionally.

"There's a practical side of seeing what students are going through," Lapioli said. "Particularly when I worked in the dean's office in the College of Education, I think I was better equipped to help students having been in their position."

Lapioli encouraged other staff members to take advantage of the tuition assistance program, which provides up to nine

credit hours annually at no charge with supervisor approval. This fall, more than 50 UCCS staff members took courses ranging from general psychology to intermediate German.

Supervisor approval wasn't a problem for Lapioli. Her supervisor, Brian Burnett, vice chancellor of administration and finance, will finish a Ph.D. in education and will participate in Dec. 17 ceremonies. Two student assistants in the vice chancellor's office, Jessica Berry and Brittany Trimble, also will graduate.

Other staff members who plan to graduate include:

Nina Ellis-Frischmann, assistant director at the Teaching and Learning Center, will earn two master's degrees, one in history and a second in leadership. Ellis-Frischmann recently announced her resignation and plans to move to Hawaii.

Rachel Gibson, program assistant at Disability Services and University Testing Center, will earn a master's degree in leadership.

Melissa Reynolds, academic adviser at the Student Success Center, will earn a master's degree in leadership.

"You can do it," Lapioli offered as advice. "Think of the tortoise and the hare. If you keep steady and keep going, you'll get there."

New website to address need for coverage of health care issues[38]

Diane Carman, left, and Katie Kerwin McCrimmon

As traditional news media have cut coverage of health care and policy, the School of Public Affairs has stepped up to fill the void, creatingSolutions[40], a website and weekly electronic newsletter. The site, which debuts Dec. 1, presents health policy analysis, health care stories, opinions and research links in a way that most traditional media are no longer able to do.

"Our goal is to have a dramatic impact on policy by making people more well-informed so they are more effective advocates for their causes," said Diane Carman, photo left, director of communications for the school. "We won't be pushing an agenda and we're not advocates. Our goal is to provide the information."

Two years ago, Robert Reichardt, director for the Center of Education Policy Analysis, suggested the school consider developing a website to explain public policy issues. Reichardt based his idea on Education News Colorado, a website devoted to comprehensive coverage of the state's education policymaking. Dean Paul Teske applauded the plan.

Carman discussed the concept with community leaders and found that a need existed when it came to providing unbiased information surrounding health care policy. The number of journalists covering health issues in the state had declined dramatically and most reports focused on the political dance instead of analysis that would educate an often-confused public.

During the recent health care reform debate, for example, newspapers — even well-respected national publications — spent a majority of the time reporting the political ramifications of reform.

"It was the rare person who understood anything about what was involved in that bill and the impact it would have on Colorado's economy, people's lives, the insurance industry or being a practitioner in this state," Carman said. Even today, because the specifics of reform are under-reported, political ads are able to distort the truth because citizens don't understand the new law.

Solutions is a "source of information that is focused on health policy itself — not merely the politics of it — and what it means and how it works," Carman said. "That way, we begin to elevate the conversation and make the debate in our state legislature and in casual conversations a better informed one."

She developed a project prototype last year and pursued funding. The Colorado Health Foundation and the Piton Foundation are providing a majority of the program's dollars, while the university is providing considerable in-kind support.

Writer Katie Kerwin McCrimmon has teamed with Carman to report and write objective analysis covering a broad range of issues. The site also contains opinion pieces written by university faculty, students, experts and policymakers; links to relevant studies; key facts; and blogging space for readers.

"Health policy impacts all of our lives; it intersects with every other public policy issue," McCrimmon said. "I believe nonprofit journalism is our future, and if we want serious coverage of serious issues, we have to find new models. We are pioneers."

Both Carman and McCrimmon are veteran journalists. Carman spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and columnist before joining the School of Public Affairs in 2007.

McCrimmon recently worked as health policy writer for the Colorado Trust. Previously, she was an awarding-winning reporter for the Rocky Mountain News.

Also contributing to the site are Dan Meyers, director of communications for the School of Medicine, former editor at the Denver Post and past producer at Colorado Public Radio; Lyndsey Crum, director of communications for the Colorado School of Public Health; and student interns.

The site focuses on issues relevant to the state and Rocky Mountain West, along with national issues that have implications for Colorado citizens. Topics include the state's high suicide rate and its rate of low birth-weight babies, the continuing struggle to ensure all children are immunized and the increasing awareness of physical damage caused by repeat concussions.

Carman emphasizes that Solutions is a journalistic endeavor, not an academic one, and that the school is responding to the crucial need for accountability news coverage of health policy issues.

"Paul Teske is behind this as a news medium that will have integrity and value, and he believes the independence of the reporters and writers is critical," she said.

Fundraising report available online[41]

The 2009-10 CU Foundation Annual Report is now available, detailing the CU Foundation's fundraising performance, audited financial details as of June 30, 2010, and numerous features that highlight donors and the reasons they support the University of Colorado.

The report is published in an interactive online Zmags format with several videos that highlight the impact of private support toward projects such as the Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building in Boulder, the University of Colorado Cancer Center at the Anschutz Medical Campus and the UCCS Chancellor's Leadership Class.

Click here[42] to view the Annual Report online. To request a print copy of the brochure, please e-mail maxine.plum@cufund.org[43].

Professors honored for communication achievement[44]

Morreale (left) and Tracy (right)

Two University of Colorado professors received awards from the National Communication Association during its annual convention in San Francisco Nov. 14-17.

Sherwyn "Sherry" Morreale, associate professor of communication, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, received the Samuel L. Becker Distinguished Service Award and **Karen Tracy,** a professor of communications at the University of Colorado at Boulder, was named a Distinguished Scholar. Both were selected by peers for the awards.

The Becker Award is given annually to an NCA member who has given outstanding cumulative service in research, teaching and service to the NCA and the profession.

Morreale served as NCA's associate director from 1997 to 2005. At UCCS, Morreale directs graduate studies for the communication department. Her research and teaching interests include instructional communication, public speaking, interpersonal and gender communication, diversity issues, organizational communication, and the assessment of communication competence.

She is the lead author of two communication textbooks, "Human Communication: Motivation, Knowledge, and Skills" and "Excellence in Public Speaking." Currently, she is working on a new public speaking textbook, a volume on trust in organizations, and the latest iteration of a national survey of the basic communication course.

Tracy is a discourse analyst who studies problems in justice, education-, and governance-linked institutions. Through close study of a communication practice, in combination with interviews of participants, and analysis of documents (e.g., minutes, web pages, legal opinions), she seeks to build a picture of the problems, conversational strategies, and ideals of good conduct in particular communication practices. Her past research has focused on academic colloquia, school board meetings, and exchanges between citizens and police/911 call-takers, with her most recent book being "Challenges of Ordinary Democracy: A Case Study in Deliberation and Dissent" (Penn State University Press).

She is currently at work on a new project investigating the dispute in U.S. society about extending the institution of marriage to same-sex couples.

Professor, alum takes chief justice post at state Supreme Court[46]

Bender

Michael Bender, an adjunct professor at the University of Colorado School of Law, is the new chief justice of the Colorado Supreme Court. He replaces the recently retired Mary Mullarkey.

Bender graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1967 and has served on the State Supreme Court since 1997, when he was appointed by Gov. Roy Romer.

"We are delighted to have one of our alumni, and a stalwart adjunct professor, appointed to the post of chief justice," said Dean David Getches. "Justice Mike Bender has been a loyal alumnus and a model of professionalism. We look forward to working with him in his new capacity."

Colorado School of Public Health dean receives international award[48]

Hamman

Richard Hamman, M.D., founding dean of the Colorado School of Public Health and a diabetes researcher, recently received the 2010 John Snow Award[50] during the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Denver.

Each year the international organizations co-grant the award to a researcher for his or her enduring contributions to the improvement of human health and disease prevention.

"I am honored that you believe my work and that of my colleagues has started to make a difference," Hamman said. "I have had a wonderful career studying the epidemiology of diabetes – both in youth and adults. As our knowledge of the risk factors for adult-onset Type 2 diabetes has expanded, we have been able to show that Type 2 diabetes could be prevented or delayed."

Diabetes has become a worldwide epidemic, occurring in developed and developing nations. According to Hamman, medical advances now extend and improve the lives of people living with the disease. Nevertheless, rates continue to increase and Hamman believes the solution requires research to inform individuals and policy makers of what can be done to limit the risks of the disease.

Doctors recognized at national meeting[51]

At the American College of Rheumatology meeting in November, members of the University of Colorado School of Medicine's division of rheumatology received awards of recognition.

William Arend, M.D. and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, received the ACR Presidential Gold Medal. The highest award of the college, the medal recognizes a lifetime of achievement and contributions to rheumatology.

Sterling West, M.D. and professor, was given the Distinguished Clinician Scholar Award, the college's highest award for a rheumatologist who has made outstanding contributions in clinical medicine, clinical scholarship or education.

Susan Boackle, M.D. and associate professor, gave the Edmund L. Dubois Memorial Lectureship, which recognizes the best lupus research performed in the country. **Jason Kolfenbach,** M.D., became an ACR Distinguished Fellow in recognition of his research, educational and clinical achievements during his recently completed fellowship training.

Researchers receive grants for breast cancer work[52]

Two groups of Colorado breast cancer researchers have received $1.625 million in grants to better understand the role of stem-like breast cancer cells in treatment resistance and recurrence.

University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC) researcher **Carol Sartorius,** Ph.D., received a $1.25 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to investigate the role of stem-like cells in estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) breast cancer. Sartorius, associate professor of endocrinology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine (SOM), was the first person to show that the hormone progesterone regulates a stem-like cell phenotype in breast cancer.

In a July 28, 2010 paper in Breast Cancer Research Treatment[53], Sartorius and UCCC breast-cancer researcher and clinician **Peter Kabos,** M.D., assistant professor of medical oncology at the SOM, identified a pool of cells that lose both estrogen and progesterone receptors and gain expression of the protein cytokeratin 5. They showed that cells expressing cytokeratin 5 tend to survive treatment and endocrine therapy— a hallmark of stem-like cells.

Sartorius says the grant will allow her to figure out how these cytokeratin 5-expressing cells are regulated in ER+ breast cancer and how they make the tumor more drug-resistant. She will collaborate with UCCC researcher **Dan LaBarbara,** Ph.D., assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of Colorado School of Pharmacy, to figure out whether the cells can be targeted with novel drugs.

Sartorius also is working with UCCC researcher **Jennifer Richer,** Ph.D., associate professor of pathology at the SOM, who is an expert in the role of microRNAs in breast cancer. They received a $375,000 Idea Grant from the Department of Defense to narrow down which of a group of microRNAs are involved in changing cells from being differentiated to being stem-like. Kabos also will collaborate on the DOD grant.

Associate dean to chair student affairs group[54]

Garrity

Maureen Garrity, M.D., associate dean for student affairs in the School of Medicine, was named chair of the Group on Student Affairs[56] at a recent meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges. She will serve in that role through the national meeting in Denver next year.

In her role, Garrity will head the group's steering committee. She also will sit on the committee on student financial aid and on the group on diversity and inclusion. These roles will give her the opportunity to help make national policies, to represent Colorado and to bring back innovative programs and best practices to the school.

Three from UCCS honored for economic development contributions[57]

Terry Boult, El Pomar Chair of Innovation and Security, **Michael Larson,** El Pomar Chair of Engineering and Innovation and associate vice chancellor for research and innovation, and **Jesse McClure,** senior assistant research faculty, engineering, at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs were honored recently by the Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corp. and Peak Venture Group.

Larson and McClure received the Chairperson Award for their work with Mind Studios, which provides low-cost design

and engineering services to inventors and small businesses. College of Engineering students work at Mind Studios located in science and engineering.

Boult was named Inventor of the Year in recognition of his nine patented inventions and eight other patents pending. He helped create the Bachelor of Innovation program at UCCS, runs the school's Vision and Security Technology Lab and is co-founder of Securics Inc.

The awards were presented during a reception at Broadmoor West honoring companies and organizations that have helped improve the local business climate, make investments in local facilities, have operated in the Springs for many years, do business internationally, or foster a culture of innovation and growth.

Boulder locations now retail prescription outlets for UA Net members[58]

Effective today, the University of Colorado at Boulder Wardenburg Health Center pharmacy and the University Family Medicine – Boulder pharmacy will be added to the list of University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) retail pharmacies, enabling UA Net health plan members to get the UCH retail pharmacy discount (Tier 1 generic prescription: $12.50 copayment for 30-day supply, $25 for 90-day supply; tier 2 brand-name prescription $30 copayment for 30- day supply, $60 for 90-day supply).

The Wardenburg Health Center is at the corner of 18th Street and Wardenburg Drive; the pharmacy is on the second floor. Phone: 303-492-8553; refills: 303-492-2093. Regular retail hours and more information about the pharmacy are available at http://healthcenter.colorado.edu/services/pharmacy/[59].

The University Family Medicine – Boulder pharmacy is at 350 N. Broadway, Suite 50. Phone: 303-499-2879. Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, or if you have questions about the new retail pharmacy service, contact Payroll & Benefit Services at 303-735-6500, option 3.

Postdoctoral fellow receives award from American Cancer Society[60]

Gump

Jacob Gump, Ph.D, a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of University of Colorado Cancer Center (UCCC) deputy director **Andrew Thorburn,** Ph.D., has received a $150,000, three-year fellowship from the American Cancer Society.

The award helps new cancer researchers who have doctoral degrees with initial funding to pave the road to an independent cancer research career. Gump, who received his Ph.D. in cell biology from the University of California San Diego, is studying the role of autophagy — cellular self-digestion — in leukemia and lymphoma.

"I'm excited and proud to have my first fellowship," Gump said. "This is the first step to securing a junior faculty position."

Gump became interested in cancer research after working in the lab of **Stephen Hunger,** M.D., UCCC associate

director for pediatrics and director of pediatric hematology/oncology at The Children's Hospital.

"When kids get cancer, it's horrible," Gump says. "I think the last 30 to 40 years have taught us that a lot of pediatric cancers are curable, and if we can learn more we can cure those kids who still don't do well. I want to be a part of that."

Specifically, Gump is working to understand if targeting the autophagy process in cancer cells helps or hurts the cancer's survival.

Medical humanities anthology collecting writing, artwork[62]

Submissions are requested for The Human Touch 2011, the University of Colorado School of Medicine anthology of writing and art.

Art, photography, poetry and prose should be sent to thehumantouchjournal@gmail.com[63] by the submission deadline of **Jan. 17.**

Submissions will be reviewed by the editorial board following the submission deadline. Final decisions will be made in March 2011. Though it is expected that some aspect of health care will provide the subject for many entries, submissions on all topics are encouraged.

Submission Guidelines:
Up to three works may be submitted by each author or artist. Each work must be submitted as a separate electronic file. All submissions should include the artist's name, title of the submission, mailing address and e-mail address. A short biography (no more than 50 words) is suggested though not required. Poetry and prose submissions should not exceed 1,500 words. Visual artists should submit work in a digital format (preferably JPEG). If scanned, please ensure that the resolution is 300 DPI or greater. We also request that files be no greater than 30 MB. Please note that it is not possible for all visual media to be printed in color due to budget constraints. Previously published work will be considered, but a citation is required in order to recognize the original publication. Proper acknowledgement and citation is the author/artist's responsibility. Any work that is edited or altered will be returned to the author for approval prior to publication. No work will be accepted that compromises the privacy of patients or health care providers. Names and identifying characteristics or details should be altered prior to submission. Submissions must be received by Jan. 17 in order to be considered for the Spring 2011 publication.
Questions should be emailed to Christina.Crumpecker@ucdenver.edu[64]

Dropping names ...[65]

At its November meeting, the CU Board of Regents approved sabbaticals for three faculty members: from CU-Boulder, **John Daily,** professor of mechanical engineering, effective Spring 2011, and **Zhiqiang John Zhai,** associate professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering, January through December 2011; from the Anschutz Medical Campus, **Robert Murphy,** professor of medicine, January through June 2011. The board also appointed **Robert McIntyre,** M.D., to the board of directors of the University of Colorado Hospital Authority; **Peter F . Steinhauer,** D.D.S., and **John W. Bliss** were reappointed to the board of directors of the Coleman Colorado Foundation.

... **Kathleen Ryan**, an associate professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Colorado at Boulder, is the recipient of a $3,000 Eugene M. Kayden Grant from the College of Arts and Sciences. The grant will cover the costs of processing and digitizing films held by the National Archives for use in her

documentary, Homefront Heroines: The WAVES of World War II, which will integrate Web-based, multimedia and interactive features.

Francis James Hickey

... Recipients of the Career Teaching Scholars Award for 2010, recently announced by the University of Colorado School of Medicine, department of pediatrics, are: **John Ogle**, M.D., professor, director of pediatrics at Denver Health; **Mike Schaffer,** M.D., professor of cardiology at The Children's Hospital; **Karen Leamer,** M.D., a clinical faculty pediatrician in private practice; and **Jody Maes,** M.D., a pediatrician at Denver Health, and also part of the clinical faculty. The department of pediatrics will honor them Dec. 10 in the Mount Oxford Auditorium at The Children's Hospital second floor Conference Center. ...**Francis James Hickey**, M.D., has been named medical director of the Anna and John J. Sie Center for Down Syndrome at The Children's Hospital. The Sie Center for Down Syndrome serves as the clinical care center of the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome at the University of Colorado Medical School. Hickey served for 21 years as an adjunct assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in Ohio.

Kamens

... **Helen Kamens,** a researcher with the Institute for Behavioral Genetics at the University of Colorado at Boulder, participated at a National Drug Facts Week event at Golden High School in Golden. She spoke in an effort to dispute various myths and help students get the facts about substance abuse. The teen health observance week, Nov. 8-14, aims to shatter myths about drugs and drug abuse.

... A documentary film featuring **Beth Osnes,** an assistant professor in the department of theater and dance at the University of Colorado at Boulder, will be presented at the Boulder International Film Festival in February. "Mother: Caring Our Way Out of the Population Dilemma," was produced by Tiroir A Films and traces Osnes' work using theater as a tool for empowering women's voices. Osnes is co-founder of Mothers Acting Up, a movement to mobilize mothers to act on behalf of the world's children.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/doctors-investigate-not-so-sweet-side-fructose[2] http://jasn.asnjournals.org/[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/benson-reminds-lawmakers-universitys-economic-impact[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/video-technology-extending-reach-uccs-southern-colorado[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/vid-conf.jpg[6] http://www.cisco.com/en/US/netsol/ns669/networking_solutions_solution_segment_home.html[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/early-budget-shows-steady-state-funding-higher-ed[8] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/11-17/regents.html[9] http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=OSPB%2FGOVRLayout&cid=1251582132192&pagename=GOVRWrapper[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-donald-misch[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q-misch.jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/solemn-send[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/scrooge-and-co-return-boulder-campus[14] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/scrooge-1.jpg[15] http://www.coloradoshakes.org/[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/court-appeals-favors-cu-churchill-case[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uc-denver-set-giving-back[18] http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/university/communityconnections/CommServiceFeedback[19] http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/university/communityconnections/Pages/CommunityPartnershipOpportunities.aspx[20]

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mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[29] http://www.colorado.edu/bfa/[30] mailto:Sierra.Swearingen@colorado.edu[31]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/doctors-recognized-national-meeting[52]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/researchers-receive-grants-breast-cancer-work[53]
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