Five questions for Irene Griego[1]

[2]

By taking an oath on Friday at the Capitol, Irene Griego will do more than become the newest member of the University of Colorado Board of Regents[3]: She'll enjoy a homecoming.

Her career in education – 38 years 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.

Asked about memories of her time on CU's campuses, her list is long: "the excitement of learning; professional growth experiences; educational challenges; stimulating, engaging conversations with professors and colleagues; pride and sense of accomplishment; and the university culture in general."

The director for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at Jefferson County Public Schools, Griego was chosen by Gov. John Hickenlooper[4] to take the place of Monisha Merchant, who resigned[5] from the Board of Regents this fall. Griego's resume includes a decade as community superintendent for the Jeffco school district; she also worked as part-time faculty at CU Denver and Metropolitan State College of Denver; principal and assistant principal at elementary schools in Jefferson County, Denver and San Jose, Calif.; and teacher in Denver Public Schools.

Griego's husband, Albert Aguayo, earned a bachelor's degree and doctorate from CU-Boulder; they have three children and six grandchildren. She enjoys photography, travel, yoga and genealogy.

"My late father fought in North Africa, Sicily and Germany during World War II. He was one of the first soldiers to arrive at the infamous concentration camp Dachau," she says. "My mother, who turned 90 on Tuesday, is immensely proud of my being appointed to the board.

"Life is good! There is no other country in the world that would have provided me with so many opportunities and challenges."

1. What made you interested in serving on the CU Board of Regents?

As a lifelong resident of Colorado and a graduate of CU, my professional credentials are an initial basis for my interest in serving. Those credentials – including education, from the bachelor of science degree through a doctorate in philosophy – have allowed me to serve in public education as a classroom teacher, elementary school principal, community superintendent, instructor for aspiring school administrators and in a post-retirement responsibility for Jeffco Schools as director of diversity and inclusion. Such service gives me a unique perspective of education – pre-K through college – and how such opportunities are made available to communities with distinct demographics.

When the governor appointed me, it was a positive yet humbling experience, since I am certain that there were other worthy candidates who would appreciate the opportunity to work with the other regents and President Bruce Benson on collaborative efforts to address the many needs of CU's stakeholders. I look forward to such opportunities!

2. As you said, you have held many different posts in public schools. What do you see as the common thread connecting your experiences in those various roles?

Organizations are constantly changing systems of people. The common thread of my involvement in such a dynamic change process has been, and will continue to be, my commitment to the organization and to those involved in the many collaborative efforts, but most importantly to help provide opportunity and equal access to those served by a given organization.

3. How do you see your expertise in K-12 education influencing your perspective as a regent?

Education is the miracle machine of our society. Many of us make up the human element responsible for the effective and efficient operation of such a machine. It is my belief that I bring a “where the rubber meets the road” perspective to my appointment as a regent. I understand diversity, inclusion, academic performance of resilient and diverse student populations, and the hopes and aspirations of youth who seek post-secondary opportunities. Equally important is my experiential understanding of the performance of teachers educated at the university level and the skills they must demonstrate to effectively serve students.

4. You mentioned your work at Jeffco on diversity and inclusion. In the context of higher education, how do you define those principles?

Higher education must strengthen its efforts to provide equity and equal access to all students, no matter if they are rich or poor, whether they’re disabled, and regardless of sexual orientation, gender, religion and ethnicity. This should be the focus of diversity.

In terms of inclusion, higher education must support schools in emerging efforts to include students in meaningful, responsible opportunities that will support an organization’s mission, vision and major goals so students can become contributing members of our society.

5. It’s only been days, but what have you learned about the University of Colorado that you didn’t know before you were appointed to the Board of Regents?

Several critical needs: improve fundraising; budgetary challenges; seeing CU from a broader perspective; the need for collaborative thinking to provide new approaches for CU; and the important need to work as a team given challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Biofrontiers scientist makes the computer his virtual laboratory[6]

Biofrontiers computer scientist Aaron Clauset harnesses the power of computing to unlock biological mysteries. (Photo: Patrick Campbell/University of Colorado)

Stereotypes tell us that computer scientists are all about hardware, software and servers. They are all about sifting through crowded lines of code in the dim basement of the engineering school. If this is what you believe about computer scientists, Aaron Clauset is about to burst that misconception. An assistant professor in computer science and a faculty member of the Biofrontiers Institute at CU-Boulder, he is more interested in using computational tools to understand how complex biological and social systems work.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in physics, Clauset was impressed by the computer’s ability to simulate the real world and make predictions that could be tested in the laboratory. Computers also could model things that couldn’t be done on live subjects, or over impossibly long periods of time. He went on to get his Ph.D. in computer science and now develops computational tools for modeling phenomena in biological, technological and social systems.

“I saw an opportunity to use the computer as a virtual laboratory,” he says. “Although I came out of the natural sciences, I was fascinated by the complexity of messy systems like biological evolution and human behavior.”

Clauset’s timing couldn’t have been better. The complexity of biology came into focus in 2001 when the Human Genome Project was completed. More than 1,000 scientists around the world sifted through 3 billion bits of data in human cells to map the ordering of all human genes. This breakthrough was just the beginning of science’s understanding of how genomes actually build life.

“In many areas, we're practically swimming in data and it can be difficult to turn this mountain of information into actual

scientific understanding," says Clauset. "The traditional approach is to drill down and isolate things from each other. But this leaves out the interactions between those pieces that make a complex system work. So I try to 'drill up' to get a wider view of how the pieces fit together. This often requires developing completely new mathematical and computational techniques to figure out what's important and what's not."

Clauset looks at data on a macro level, seeking patterns. For example, biologists have extensively studied how species change size as they evolve. The sizes of fish species around the world are relatively small when averaged statistically across all fish species. But the largest members of the fish family, say a whale shark, are large to an extreme — sometimes thousands or millions of times bigger than anything in their taxonomic family.

Clauset developed a deceptively simple computational model that could predict this seemingly quantum leap of evolution. First, he put a strict limit on how small a species could become and still survive, and then slowly increased the extinction rate with the size of the species. Otherwise, Darwin's rules held: A species inherits its size from its parent, but with a small amount of variability. Surprisingly, he ignored some of the more traditional rules of evolution and ecology, filtering out species interactions and the dynamics of growing populations.

Then he let evolution unfold in his computer, over millions of years, to show that a species' tendency to grow larger is offset by its tendency to become extinct more quickly. In other words, living large as a species is risky and tends to earn you a shorter time on Earth. By recreating evolution in his computer, he was able to identify patterns in species size over time.

To check his work, Clauset used fossil data from extinct mammal species going back 90 million years. He was able to show that his "virtual evolution" calculations accurately reproduced both the diversity of 4,000 living species and the fossil record patterns over the past 60 million years. Clauset's solution was an elegant one: It stripped away enough complexity to keep the computational model very compact, but was able to accurately predict something as large as global diversity of mammal sizes.

His work on this elegant solution crossed into several academic areas: biology, paleontology, mathematics and physics, in addition to computer science. A multi-discipline approach suits Clauset's need to roam across academic subjects, and his ability to grasp the larger picture.

"You have to be interested in the synthesis of ideas to truly be interdisciplinary," Clauset says. "To build elegant solutions around how parts interact to create a working complex system almost always requires combining ideas from multiple disciplines."

Communication essay earns associate professor national award[8]

Hartnett

The National Communication Association (NCA) has selected **Stephen Hartnett**, Ph.D., of the University of Colorado Denver for the Golden Anniversary Monograph Award for his essay, "Communication, Social Justice, and Joyful Commitment[10]." Hartnett is an associate professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at CU Denver.

Hartnett said the essay is an intellectual history of the field of communication, showing its history and ending by promoting engaged scholarship in communities.

By charting important changes in the field with impassioned, creative and sometimes humorous words, Hartnett shows

how communication has been used in the past, what changes it's undergoing, and stresses the potential it has to enhance democracy and stop injustice. He explains how universities can make large, positive impacts in communities and outlines how American academe can improve its present influence.

"It says what everybody thinks but hasn't said before," Hartnett said of his essay. "I wrote about what people were already thinking to do."

Hartnett said he has seen much of what he advocates in his essay during his four years at CU Denver.

"We as a university need to recognize that we need to help the community," Hartnett said. "We're training young people to be the leaders of the next generation, but they won't be if they don't have their feet firmly planted in the community."

Hartnett was presented with the award at the annual NCA convention Nov. 17-20 in New Orleans. The NCA is the largest communication association in the United States. The annual Golden Anniversary Monograph award was created in 1964 to mark the NCA's 50-year anniversary and is awarded to the most outstanding scholarly monographs published during the previous calendar year.

Throughout his 20-year career, Hartnett has worked to bring about democracy and justice by teaching communication. "It makes me feel very, very lucky," he said about his post at CU Denver. "I get to read great books, teach great students and write about it. What a great deal."

SEEDS Expo set for Saturday [11]

A Saturday event at CU-Boulder offers a chance to visit the newest, most energy-efficient building on campus.

Social Entrepreneurship for Equitable Development and Sustainability (SEEDS) is presenting the First Year Design Expo in conjunction with the Engineering Design Expo. The multi-disciplinary event focuses on sustainability, and is set for 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 3, at Williams Village North.

The event will feature posters and presentations by student groups who have been studying food and local resources in the context of sustainability and entrepreneurship, incorporating the building's LEED features and exploring ideas for the unbuilt retail space in the courtyard. Posters will be judged by CU faculty; an awards ceremony is at 11:30 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, click here[12] or contact Stephanie Barnhizer, 303-735-1330, Stephanie.Barnhizer@Colorado.EDU[13].

UIS's go-to guy named President's Employee of the Year[14]

President Bruce Benson presents the Employee of the Year Award to Brad Baker of UIS during the Wednesday, Nov. 30, reception at 1800 Grant St. (Photo: Cathy Beuten/University of Colorado)

Brad Baker, financial aid technical analyst with University Information Systems (UIS), is a skilled problem solver, an

excellent developer and a consistent go-to guy. But those are not the only reasons Baker was chosen the 2011 president's Employee of the Year.

"Brad has admirably maintained his professionalism during some challenging times in this organization," wrote Baker's supervisor, Scott Ausband, ISIS development manager at UIS. "He not only has become a technical expert in an amazingly short time frame, but shows patience and understanding when working with others."

Baker was honored at the Office of the President and System Staff Council's Years of Service/President's Employee of the Year awards reception Wednesday, Nov. 30. See more photos from the event at the Office of the President Facebook page.[16]

CU President Bruce Benson presented the award to Baker, quoting nominator Matt Lemme, senior associate director of operations, who said, "Here in Denver we like to play a game we call Stump Brad. We send him a problem we have been struggling with for days and count the minutes until we see a reply — usually not only with an explanation but a solution, which may be a change to code or business process."

In nominating Baker, Ausband said, "Not once since I've been Brad's supervisor have I heard a single negative remark and, on the contrary, regularly receive glowing praise."

"Brad takes pride in his work every day," said nominator Art Figel, financial aid application manager. "He is detail oriented and is able to uncover the most obscure issues – oftentimes before they've manifested themselves."

Besides Baker, the president honored system employees for their years of service at the reception at 1800 Grant St.

Judy Ann Hoffman, left, Deborah Kolanowski Ryan and Jonathan L. Thomas were each recognized for 25 years of service to the university. (Photo: Cathy Beuten/University of Colorado)

25 years: Judy Ann Hoffman, Payroll & Benefit Services Deborah Kolanowski Ryan, Payroll & Benefit Services Jonathan L. Thomas, University Information Services

20 years: Vicki P. Davis, Human Resources Frank D. Hammitt, Risk Management Mari Ann Shake, Payroll & Benefit Services Louise Vale, Internal Audit Linda J. Warren, University Information Systems

15 years:
Aynalem D. Asmare, Human Resources Kathleen Bollard, Academic Affairs Amy Gannon, Procurement Service Center Tony N. Tolin, Procurement Service Center
10 years
Pamela Nadine Andrade, Procurement Service Center Matthew E. Arveson, University Information Systems Paula M. Kirkman, Procurement Service Center Diane L. Main, Internal Audit Alexander M. Meltser, University Information Systems Kathryn G. Rowan, Payroll & Benefit Services Debra Lynne Rowley, Treasurer Joseph Tinucci, Treasurer
Five years:
Lauren Shelley Brown, Payroll & Benefit Services Nathan Linglie Chen, Technology Transfer Cheryl Espinoza, Board of Regents James Gantner, Risk Management Karen Delaney Gifford, Technology Transfer Cary Ihme, University Counsel Patrick O'Rourke, University Counsel David Poticha, Technology Transfer William Skarstad, Payroll & Benefit Services Canghui Song, University Information Systems Christopher Stange, University Information Systems Emilia Tenenbaum-Negrini, University Counsel Kirk Walker, University Information Systems Robert Weverka, Technology Transfer

Staff Council hears details on UCCS strategic plan[18]

A strategic plan that carries the University of Colorado Colorado Springs into 2020 is geared toward accommodating current growth, shoring up diminishing funding from the state and maintaining the institution's identity with an

emphasis on personal touch.

Homer Wesley, UCCS vice chancellor for student success and enrollment management, presented a briefing on the plan to the University of Colorado Staff Council at its regular meeting Thursday, Nov. 17, on the UCCS campus.

The strategic plan is expected to be completed by April 2012.

Wesley said it is important for the university to continue to balance student needs and offer a breadth of experience while still maintaining the university's cultural goals.

"We were founded to serve a more local purpose, and documents from way back show that about 50 percent of new freshmen would be from a 30-mile radius of Colorado Springs," he said, but that's changing rapidly. He said students from 44 countries attend UCCS and applications for fall freshmen are up 250 percent. Fall growth, he said, came from students in Colorado, but not in the Colorado Springs area, and from out-of-state students, especially those from California.

"As we look at our culture, we like the idea of personal touch with students and we think that's what we're supposed to be about. Our personal identity as we grow has to be managed with this idea that we will be bigger," he said. In addition, he said, community input is necessary and valuable to the plan's outcome.

Part of the master plan includes physical facilities. Over the past five years, Wesley said, $140 million has been dedicated to building projects that include new and renovated structures on the campus's 550-acre footprint. Those projects include two new housing towers, athletic facilities and an academic building in partnership with Peak Health and others.

He said growth also will be defined by online and teleconferencing courses, as well as weekend programming.

Wesley said it's also important for the university to backfill funding that the state used to provide. While state support once was as high as 50 percent, it now sits at about 10 percent. The gap will be filled in part by tuition, especially from out-of-state students, and from private giving.

"We feel access is important," said Wesley, adding that the university has to address the gap between education costs and financial aid, especially for students who need the most help. "A greater burden of higher education is shifting back to users. One short-term solution is to take a portion of the tuition and put it back" into financial packages the university provides to students. In addition, he said, more students will have to seek funding from outside sources, including scholarships or part-time jobs.

In other matters, the council:

-- Again discussed drafting a resolution that would make the Board of Regents aware of the negative implications to employees when the board supports financial changes that affect the university. The discussion stems from a continued 2.5 percent contribution shift for PERA. For the past two years, employees have paid not only their defined share, but a portion of the university's contribution to the Public Employees Retirement Association.

-- Discussed volunteer projects that could be performed on each campus under the sponsorship of the council. The group settled on assembling care packages for military personnel in the spring of 2012. Council still is trying to clarify how many paid hours, if any, each campus allows for employees to conduct service work. Boulder employees, for instance, are allowed 16 volunteer hours each year.

-- Council Chair Carla Johnson reiterated the importance of representative attendance at council meetings. "I want to begin evaluating those people who are currently listed as UCSC representatives who have not been in attendance. Our bylaws state specifically that if a person has not attended three or more meetings in a 12-month period, we may decide to remove that person from UCSC," she said. Johnson said that while she understands the issues, including long commutes between campuses and heavier workloads, she also stressed that each council member brings a different perspective to the meetings, which is an important aspect of the representative body.

-- Looked at existing Board of Regent policies and laws, along with university policies, that could be integral to future council discussions. Gov. John Hickenlooper has proposed changes in hiring and firing procedures for state employees, and Johnson said it is important that council has input into any policy revisions, especially as more employees move from classified to exempt status. Performance management policies should be outlined and specific, as well as enforceable, she said. Hickenlooper has suggested changes to current state hiring requirements, bumping rights and temporary employment.

College of Business, health care groups collaborate for training[19]

Impending changes in the health care system require that managers be prepared for creative leadership – and 12 Colorado Springs-area health care managers stand ready.

Collaboration between the UCCS College of Business and health care organizations serving Colorado Springs resulted in a non-degree certificate program specifically designed to train health care professionals new to supervision, management and leadership. Managers from Colorado Springs Health Partners, Centura Health, Memorial Health System and El Paso County Health participated in the program that addressed topics ranging from leadership, managing individuals, working in teams and changing and improving organizations.

Five workshops spread over two months focused on equipping students with the necessary skills to bring out the best in people, teams and organizations and to become future leaders in the health care industry. The program drew instructors from UCCS and the health care industry.

Creation of the program was the culmination of a discussion between UCCS and community health care organizations about providing resources through local expertise and keeping those professional development dollars here in the community, according to Venkat Reddy, dean of the College of Business. University expertise for high-quality learning merged with elimination of travel costs for the participants has proven a win-win combination.

The students graduate today after presenting their final projects to their instructors.

“They will be ready to tackle workplace challenges with fresh perspective and skills to lead their organizations,” said Debbie Chandler, executive vice president and CEO of Colorado Springs Health Partners. “This partnership with UCCS provides customized training to our employees and keeps those dollars in our local economy.”

Said Reddy, “This is exactly the sort of collaboration in which we are able to add value to local businesses. The model can be applied to other industries to help individuals and organizations be more successful. That’s good for our whole community.”

Dean: Time to rethink School of Medicine’s organization[20]

Krugman

The University of Colorado School of Medicine should launch a 12- to 18-month process to rethink how it is organized, Dean Richard Krugman, M.D., said recently in his 20th annual State of the School address.

These are tough times, the dean said, with federal and state support stalled – at best – and clinical competition intensifying. In response, he said, the medical school needs to ask whether it is structured so “we can be as great as we want to be.”

In remarks titled “A Crucial Decade,” Krugman posed this question:

“If we were starting over today, with 2,250 faculty and a billion dollars in revenue, how should we organize ourselves to have maximum success in each of our missions – research, clinical care, education and community service?

“And how do we do that by 2020?”

Krugman, the longest-serving medical school dean in the country, said that the medical school should:
“Blue sky” each mission area. Identify the one-time resources needed to move the school to that future without destroying “the very fabric that got us here.”
This effort should be broad-based, the dean said, and should be a magnet for philanthropy.

He said it should be linked to the revision of the Anschutz Medical Campus master plan begun under Lilly Marks, the executive vice chancellor of the campus and Vice President for Health Affairs.

The existing master plan was created in 1996-97 and did not contemplate Children’s Hospital Colorado or the Veteran’s Hospital joining the medical school in Aurora.

The dean reviewed some of the highlights and challenges of the past year, including efforts to make health care on the campus more efficient and effective.

He cited the initiative called ACT I (for Accountability, Clinical Transformation and Improvement) and the newly formed Clinical Leadership Council.

Krugman also noted that the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) revisited CU after an accreditation visit two years ago and found that the medical school had successfully addressed most of the issues raised in 2009. The next LCME survey won’t be until 2016-17.

One of those issues, Krugman noted, was diversity. More than 30 percent of the students in the Class of 2015 are from groups designated as underrepresented in medicine, and half meet a broader school definition of diversity that includes, among other factors, rural and socioeconomic background.

Krugman said that the medical school continues to look into creating branch campuses. In addition to ongoing talks about a campus in Colorado Springs, he said, he recently was part of a preliminary discussion about the possibility of a branch campus in Fort Collins.

The dean demonstrated the power of the medical school when it comes to research funding. Of the $419 million in grants and contracts that came to the University of Colorado Denver in FY 2011, he said, $397 million came to the Anschutz Medical Campus and of that the medical school accounted for more than $333 million.

Nominations sought for Chancellor’s Committee on Women annual awards[22]

Know someone at the University of Colorado who is an advocate for other women? Know a department that continually works to improve the climate for women at the university? Nominations of students, faculty, staff, departments or units are currently being accepted for the annual Chancellor’s Committee on Women (CCW) awards. Though presented by CU-Boulder, nominations are open to people and groups systemwide.

See http://www.colorado.edu/diversity/ccw/awardspage.html[23] for details. Award recipients will be honored at the CU Women Succeeding Symposium, Feb. 23-24, 2012. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 15, 2012; please email

nominations to Jan.Owens@colorado.edu[24].

Elizabeth Gee Award nominations due Dec. 16[25]

Nominations for the annual Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award are due Dec. 16. The award goes to an outstanding faculty member of the University of Colorado for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching.

The Gee award is the only award in the CU system that specifically recognizes outstanding work on women's issues and efforts to advance women in the academy. It carries with it a $1,000 prize, and the recipient will present scholarly work at the CU Women Succeeding Annual Professional Development Symposium on February 24, 2012.[26] Click here[27] for the nomination form and more information.

Clinical assistant professor named president of national academy[28]

Pamela McClain, DDS, a clinical assistant professor at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry, was named the next president of the American Academy of Periodontology (AAP) Board of Trustees during AAP's annual meeting, Nov. 12-15, in Miami.

McClain maintains a full-time private periodontal practice in Aurora. She began her career as a dental hygienist, and continues to have a deep appreciation of the important role the hygienist plays in the management of periodontal disease and patient education. She has been an AAP member since 1985 and previously served on the Board of Trustees as vice president in 2010 and secretary/treasurer in 2009. McClain also has been active on many AAP committees. She has been a diplomate of the American Board of Periodontology since 1992.

Women's symposium free to CU community[29]

The CU Faculty Council Women's Committee plans two days of learning, networking and celebrating on the Boulder campus on Feb. 23-24, 2012, in the Glenn Miller Ballroom in the UMC.

This year's CU Women Succeeding, the 10th annual professional development symposium, is free for all members of the CU community. Faculty, staff and students will learn tips for success at CU through participating in a series of workshops addressing many aspects of academic life. Register now at https://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/index.html[26]. Proposal submissions for sessions are due Dec. 15.

CU-Boulder marks decade since Leeds endowment[30]

Michael Leeds, center, reacts with his wife, Andrea, right, while being escorted by Donna Sockell during a surprise

party celebrating 10 years since the donation and naming rights to the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder. (Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

A landmark $35 million endowment gift by the Leeds family to the University of Colorado Boulder in 2001 was celebrated at a surprise 10th anniversary dinner Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the Hotel Boulderado.

At the dinner — attended by CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano, Leeds School of Business Dean David Ikenberry and CU Foundation CEO Wayne Hutchens, among other CU leaders — past and present members of the school spoke about the substantial impacts of the endowment.

One such impact came in 2006, when the Center for Education and Social Responsibility was created to fulfill Michael Leeds' mission of emphasizing ethics and social responsibility at CU. In this program, Leeds teaches a class on business leadership. "That's unheard of for donors anywhere else," said 2009 graduate Ben Thacker. "He sets a great example."

CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano, left, visits with Michael Leeds during Tuesday's surprise party. (Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

A Boulder Daily Camera story[33] reported these and other details of the event. An in-depth interview with Michael Leeds and CESR director Donna Sockell can be viewed here[34].

2011 annual report available: The CU Foundation's Annual Report for the 2011 fiscal year is now available in print and online. Besides fulfilling the foundation's fiduciary responsibility, this edition highlights the public launch of the Creating Futures campaign. View an online version and download a PDF here: http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/2f5391ad[35]. For a print copy, contact Maxine Plum at maxine.plum@cufund.org [36].

Leeds presentation will explore state's 2012 economic outlook[37]

The University of Colorado Boulder Leeds School of Business will present its annual Colorado Business Economic Outlook Forum at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1750 Welton St., Denver.

The event is free and open to the public but reservations are required for those planning to attend. To make reservations visit http://www.leeds.colorado.edu/brd - cbeo[38].

After the forecast, John A. Hayes, president and CEO of Ball Corp., will deliver the keynote address on ways to ignite economic growth in Colorado. His address will be followed by three concurrent breakout sessions on real estate, international trade and small business.

The comprehensive state economic outlook for 2012, compiled by the Leeds School's Business Research Division, features forecasts and trends for 11 business sectors prepared by more than 80 key business, government and industry professionals.

Economic snapshots from specific counties and regions around the state, as well as updates on international trade, population, labor force, personal income growth and a general outlook on the national economy are included in the outlook. A question-and-answer session will follow the outlook presentation.

Holidays heat up with brass band [39]

The Artist Series at CU-Boulder presents “A New Orleans Christmas,” featuring the Hot 8 Brass Band, at 7:30 pm. Friday, Dec. 9, at Macky Auditorium Concert Hall.

A pre-concert talk by Michael Dunn, associate professor of tuba and euphonium, will be at 3:15 p.m. in Macky Room 102.

Single tickets start at $12. Discounts are available for members of the CU-Boulder community, seniors, youth and groups. Call the CU Presents Box Office at 303-492-8008 or visit www.cupresents.org[40] for more information or to purchase tickets for this event.

Winning Be Colorado campus set for healthy celebration on Friday[41]

A celebration in recognition of all participants in the Be Colorado health assessment and health screenings is set for 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, at the CU Denver Terrace Room, 1380 Lawrence St., second floor.

CU Denver Chancellor Jerry Wartgow, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer E. Jill Pollock, and Be Colorado Honorary Chair Marcy Benson will be on hand to honor CU Denver for winning the campus participation competition. They’ll also help launch the next leg of the Be Colorado wellness journey, the Healthy Through the Holidays campaign. A representative from Anthem also will attend to pick winners in the drawings for a dozen iPads and 25 REI gift cards.

Be Colorado invites all faculty and staff to attend the celebration and participate in the Healthy Through the Holidays campaign, a six-week “holiday sampler” of wellness program offerings.

The holidays bring with them not-so-welcome gifts, including stress, weight gain, and financial burden — all factors that can negatively affect wellness.

The Healthy Through the Holidays campaign will highlight the five Be Colorado dimensions of wellness – Be Secure, Be Optimistic, Be Energized, Be Inquisitive and Be Connected – and introduce a specially designed America On the Move (AOM) website. A variety of fun activities will keep you engaged, including setting your New Year’s resolution early, doing “recipe rehab” on traditional holiday favorite recipes, and sharing tips on how you maintain your health and wellness during the holidays.

Throughout the six-week challenge, weekly winners will be recognized for their submitted recipes and tips. Participants also will receive daily trivia and tips, healthy holiday recipes and evidence-based information about how best to navigate the holiday sea of temptation.

Each week there will be a chance for all holiday challenge participants to win an iPod Shuffle and, at the end of the six-week challenge, each campus’ participants will be entered to win an iPod Nano. Sign up for the holiday challenge early for more chances to win.

To take part in the Healthy Through the Holidays challenge, register on the AOM website at

universityhealth.americaonthemove.org[42].

After the holiday campaign ends Jan. 13, only those University of Colorado, University of Colorado Hospital and University Physicians Inc. employees and retirees who are primary members of University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust plans (UA Net, UA Net Colorado Springs, HMO Colorado, Lumenos, Kaiser Permanente, and Medicare Primary) will be eligible to participate in the subsequent Be Colorado campaigns and challenges.

Collaborative success on display at Butcher Symposium[43]

Jane Butcher, center, explores some of CU's latest research results during the poster session at the recent 2011 Butcher Symposium. (Photo: Casey Cass/University of Colorado)

The recent Butcher Symposium brought together many of the University of Colorado's top researchers to share their current science and to build new scientific collaborations that span disciplines and campuses.

The Butcher Symposium began in 2002 as a grass-roots effort to bring together scientists from across the CU system to create collaborations and share data. Butcher Seed Grants were awarded in 2003, 2006, 2008 and 2010 to fund potentially transformative new scientific pilot projects that required researchers with different expertise to work together to address critical challenges in the biosciences.

From developing new methods to measure the risk of premature birth to discovering the role of genetics in the development of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, recipients of the 2010 Butcher Seed Grants presented the results of their Butcher-funded research at the Nov. 11 symposium. Presentations represented fields as diverse as mechanical engineering, biochemistry and computer science -- often in the same presentation -- and included collaborators from across CU-Boulder, CU Denver, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center and National Jewish Health.

Besides the 2010 Butcher Seed Grant recipient talks, over 80 scientific posters were presented by CU researchers on topics such as genetic screening, Down syndrome, needle-free vaccines, treatment of depression and ocular disease, and many other critical areas of bioscience.

"The interdisciplinary collaboration and research represented here today shows what we can achieve as a university," said CU-Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano in his welcoming remarks to symposium attendees. "We can thank Jane and Charlie Butcher for lighting the way."

The Butcher Symposium was founded through the generosity of longtime CU supporters Charlie and Jane Butcher, who saw the potential for "big picture" scientific thinking and creative cross-discipline research to transform lives.

As well as supporting the symposium and the seed grants, their support established the Charlie Butcher Award in Biotechnology to recognize scientists from around the world who are using interdisciplinary science to make a significant impact on human welfare and health.

This year, the Charlie Butcher Award was presented to Roger Tsien of the University of California, San Diego. The Nobel Laureate and professor of pharmacology, chemistry and biochemistry is an early pioneer in developing "imaging" molecules that have opened up the cellular world to direct viewing and analysis. He described his current work in building molecules that can attach to diseased tissues and atherosclerotic plaques, allowing their precise locations in the body to be identified and tracked. He also described how these new molecular tags can be used to light up peripheral nerves and tumors with different colors, giving surgeons visual assistance to avoid inadvertently cutting healthy nerves during tumor removal.

Thanks to continued support from the Butcher family, CU-Boulder and Anschutz Medical Campus leaders, and the CU Office of the President, a new round of Butcher Seed Grants will be awarded in early 2012. Successful proposals will be funded based on their facilitation of new collaborative interactions across disciplines and campuses, and their potential benefit to the scientific community, and to human welfare and health.

For more information on the Butcher Program and on Charlie and Jane Butcher, please visit http://biofrontiers.colorado.edu/butcher[45]

Faculty invited to apply for Boettcher Investigator status[46]

The University of Colorado and the Boettcher Foundation have announced the 2012 Boettcher Foundation Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program, supporting early career investigators whose research directly affects human health.

The grants are intended to fund translational research that advances a discovery closer to clinical applications and that will improve the understanding, treatment and prevention of human disease. Awardees will carry the prestigious title of Boettcher Investigator.

The 2012 awardees will be early career investigators who are within four years of appointment in a career-track academic position and who have not previously received a major independent award. Three CU faculty researchers will receive a minimum of $200,000 and a maximum of $250,000 for research conducted over a one- to three-year period. Eligible faculty from all four CU campuses are encouraged to apply.

The Boettcher Foundation has awarded CU's six current Boettcher Investigators a total of $1.4 million through the 2010 and 2011 programs. They are: Zhe Chen, Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder; Robert C. Doebele, M.D., Ph.D., University of Colorado School of Medicine; Robin Dowell, D.Sc., CU-Boulder; Gidon Felsen, PhD., CU School of Medicine; Paul Jedlicka, M.D., Ph.D., CU School of Medicine; and Jing H. Wang, M.D., Ph.D., CU School of Medicine.

Full details about the program, eligibility, CU's application construction and submission procedures, CU deadlines, the review process and criteria, application components and extensive instructions about how to apply are available at www.cu.edu/boettcher[47]. Please do not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly.

Please note: There are substantial changes from the 2011 program, including an online application process (the INFO-ED portal) and final submission through campus grants administration officers. Applications must be submitted to campus pre-award officers no later than 5 p.m. Feb. 1, 2012, for CU-Boulder and UCCS, and by 4 p.m. Jan. 31, 2012, for CU Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus. Final, completed applications must be submitted by campus grant officers on behalf of applicants by 5 p.m. Feb. 15, 2012.

The Office of the President manages this competitive peer-reviewed program for CU grant applications. All inquiries should be addressed to the applicant's campus pre-award grants officer.

Two CU-Boulder professors named Fulbright Scholars[48]

Two University of Colorado Boulder professors are conducting research in Finland and the United Kingdom as

Fulbright Scholars for the 2011-12 academic year.

Lindquist

Farago

Professor Claire Farago of CU-Boulder's art and art history department is doing work on Leonardo da Vinci's "Treatise on Paintings" at the University of York in the U.K. and Associate Professor Thea Lindquist of University Libraries is working on improving searches of digital collections at Aalto University in Helsinki as part of the Fulbright Scholar Program.

This summer, 10 CU-Boulder students received 2011-12 Fulbright awards to pursue graduate studies, research and teaching projects abroad. The number of student awardees was a record for CU-Boulder, which was recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education last month as being among the nation's top-producing research institutions of Fulbright students.

CU-Boulder's 2010-11 Fulbright scholars included mathematics Professor Keith Kearnes, who collaborated with researchers in Hungary on applications of algebra and theoretical computer science; Kim Kreutzer, associate director of CU-Boulder's Office of International Education, who participated in an international education administrator's program in Japan; and music Associate Professor Brenda Romero, whose Fulbright research in Columbia focused on the music of Matachines -- traditional Hispanic dance-dramas -- and patterns of cultural adaptation.

"Selection as a Fulbright student or scholar is a highly coveted honor," said Larry Bell, director of CU-Boulder's Office of International Education. "I think I can speak for the campus community in expressing great pride in the efforts of our growing number of Fulbright awardees, whose reach spans the globe with research, teaching and community service that positively impacts many countries and cultures including our own."

Farago's research at the University of York involves Leonardo da Vinci's influential "Treatise on Painting" and why it was abridged. It was widely circulated beginning in the 1580s even before it was published in 1651, said Farago.

Farago will present her work to other scholars in a research seminar on Dec. 12 at London's National Gallery, in conjunction with a recently opened Leonardo da Vinci exhibition. She also has given talks at the University of York and the University of East Anglia.

Farago, who teaches courses on Renaissance art history, early modern gender studies, art theory and contemporary critical theory at CU-Boulder, also is working on curriculum development for CU-Boulder's introductory course on World Art as part of her Fulbright project.

"Reviewing our curriculum has generated interest at York University and the University of East Anglia," said Farago. "I hope it will lead to an ongoing international exchange that continues after my grant period."

Lindquist is working with the Semantic Computing Research Group at Aalto University in Helsinki to explore how "linked data" can enhance discovery in digital collections of primary sources.

In computing, "linked data" refers to a method of structuring Web content that allows computers to automatically read and connect information from different sources, vastly improving search functionality. She is using CU's recently launched World War I Collection Online, at http://libcudl.colorado.edu/wwi/index.asp[51], as a test bed for her project.

"My Fulbright work represents the opportunity to immerse myself in a different society and culture while engaging in collaborative work on shared academic interests," said Lindquist. "The people I have met and worked with in Finland are what have really added richness to the experience of being here, both on a personal and professional level."

Fulbright Scholar recipients are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have

demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields. The program sends approximately 800 U.S. faculty to 155 countries each year to lecture, research and participate in seminars. Additionally, about 800 foreign faculty members come to the U.S. each year through the program.

For more information on the Fulbright Scholar Program visit http://www.cies.org/us_scholars/[52]. For more information on international programs at CU-Boulder visit http://www.colorado.edu/OIE/[53].

Assistant professor asks, 'Who speaks for the climate?'[54]

Boykoff

Maxwell Boykoff, an assistant professor at the Center for Science and Technology Policy Research and in the environmental studies program at the University of Colorado Boulder, recently published "Who Speaks for the Climate?: Making Sense of Media Reporting on Climate Change," a book that investigates how the media covers the science of climate change.

Boykoff found that many journalists' attempts to be objective and balanced actually had the opposite effect on their reporting. He said allowing climate change skeptics an equal say in stories gives weight to their ideas, even though the consensus among scientists is that climate change is real and humans are a contributing factor.

President's town halls: Let's go to the replay[56]

President Bruce D. Benson's fall series of town hall meetings concluded Wednesday morning at CU-Boulder. The visits began in September at UCCS and included talks followed by Q&A at all four campuses and system administration.

While the schedule has wrapped up, video of some of the appearances, including UCCS and the Anschutz Medical Campus, is available by clicking here[57].

Have a question that wasn't part of the discussion? Email OfficeofthePresident@cu.edu[58].

Dropping names ...[59]

Meyer

Weber

A National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Fellowship grant for $1.2 million has been awarded to University of Colorado Denver Associate Professor **Doris Kimbrough** (chemistry), Associate Professor **Leo Bruederle** (integrative biology), Assistant Professor **Laurel Hartley** (integrative biology), Assistant Professor **Bryan Wee** (environmental science), and Assistant Professor **Robert Talbot** (School of Education and Human Development). The grant provides support for talented science majors who commit to becoming K-12 science teachers in high needs school districts in and around Denver. … **Nanna Meyer**, assistant professor in the Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, recently co-authored “Can alternating lower body negative and positive pressure during exercise alter regional body fat distribution or skin appearance?,” published in the European Journal of Applied Physiology. The study sought to determine whether physical activity, with and without lower body pressure, leads to increased regional fat loss in the lower extremities of overweight women. … **Elaine Cheesman**, assistant professor in the College of Education at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, recently co-authored “Teachers’ knowledge base for implementing response-to-intervention models in reading,” published in Reading and Writing. The study examined the knowledge base of 142 elementary-level educators for implementing response to intervention models in reading. An abstract is available at http://www.springerlink.com/content/t055466612p25383/[62] … **Richard Weber**, M.D., and professor of medicine in the Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, has been named President Elect of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He practices at National Jewish.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-irene-griego[2] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/5q-griego1.jpg[3] https://www.cu.edu/regents/[4]
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https://connections.cu.edu/../news/merchant-resigns-from-board-of-regents-2[6]
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https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/p_clauset.jpg[8]
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