Five questions for Steve Zweck-Bronner[1]

Steve Zweck-Bronner with his Excellence in Leadership Award at last month's ELP lunch and lecture. He was nominated by Lilly Marks, Don Elliman and Patrick O'Rourke. (Photo: David Sprouse/University of Colorado)
Steve Zweck-Bronner with his Excellence in Leadership Award at last month's ELP lunch and lecture. He was nominated by Lilly Marks, Don Elliman and Patrick O'Rourke. (Photo: David Sprouse/University of Colorado)

As Steve Zweck-Bronner tells it, he's simply part of a behind-the-scenes team of service-oriented lawyers.

"We're here to serve the mission of the university," he says "We're the people who should be making life easier for everyone."

That task, though, is rarely easy. In his role as Managing Senior Associate University Counsel at the University of Colorado Denver l Anschutz Medical Campus, he has helped lead the institution through such challenges as the sale of the former medical campus at Ninth Avenue and Colorado Boulevard and the tremors set off by the Aurora theater attack.

His negotiation of such challenges contributed to why Zweck-Bronner was nominated for this year's Excellence in Leadership Award by Don Elliman, CU Denver chancellor; Lilly Marks, vice president of Health Affairs, CU, and executive vice chancellor, Anschutz Medical Campus; and Patrick O'Rourke, vice president, University Counsel and secretary of the Board of Regents. Zweck-Bronner won the award and received it from his nominators at the Excellence in Leadership Program's annual award lunch and lecture Nov. 30 at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel.

His CU roots extend to CU-Boulder, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1984; he returned to Florida, where he grew up, to graduate cum laude from the University of Miami Law School. He worked as a litigator in Denver, focusing on medical malpractice and insurance defense, before joining University Counsel. In April, he'll mark 20 years as part of that team.

Away from work, his two kids keep him busy. And playing rugby "keeps me somewhat sane. Every now and then, you've got to hang around people that aren't like you to rebalance."

1. What are the biggest changes you've seen over your 20 years at CU, and how have they affected your work?

It doesn't seem like it's been that long. Working in the litigation office, I worked for all the campuses for six years. With the move to the Anschutz Medical Campus, I had the opportunity to help do that. That's a big one affecting me, the creation of the Anschutz Medical Campus and the establishment of two campuses. We took on all the legal affairs of both. As NIH (National Institutes of Health) funding went up and we saw an increase in our research budget, the campus grew exponentially, and we saw all the growing pains with that. Then with the consolidation five years ago, it's meant there's never been a dull moment.

2. Your nominees noted your guidance in response to the Aurora theater shootings, as well as shepherding ongoing work related to the former Health Sciences property at Ninth and Colorado. What are the keys to dealing with such varied challenges and their legal ramifications?

With Ninth and Colorado, you're dealing with a long-term transaction. We had our first buyer in June 2006, and we were in negotiations for a year and a half before that. The economic crisis that came after that was devastating. So this thing's creeping up on eight years. When you're dealing with a transaction that takes that many years, you get deal fatigue. Over that time, we've had four university presidents and five chancellors, along with several rotating regents. Getting all those people up to speed on the transaction creates an interesting dynamic. I still spend quite a bit of time every week on the deal.

With the (theater shooting), it's most difficult to struggle with a tragedy like that. Some people on the campus knew Holmes to some extent and some didn't know him at all. They're all struggling with how somebody could do something like that. It's been tough on everyone, especially the students. They've been barraged by the press and

law enforcement. Most of them just want to get back to work. Hopefully I've been able to encourage people, help them understand what's happening and get them through this time.

3. You completed the Excellence in Leadership Program in 2007. What's most memorable about that experience?

Meeting people from the other campuses. Having been in litigation, I was very aware of what happened on the other campuses – I knew enough people and what they all did on their campuses. But it's not until you sit down and work with those people that you get a full understanding of their roles and missions on the campus. You meet some great people. Learning how we all had the same goals but viewed them through different lenses was kind of neat.

4. What advice do you have for anyone looking to improve their own leadership potential?

I think you need to seek out the right people and try to learn from them and what they've done. We've got phenomenal leaders on this campus such as Don and Lilly, and I've learned from watching them navigate complicated relationships. You can take away the good and bad from difficult encounters. When you interact with and work with people you admire, you can take what you admire about them for your own tool chest and make yourself a better leader. I try to take a little bit from all of them.

It was interesting watching the different styles of different Health Sciences Center chancellors, including Dr. James Shore, Dr. Greg Stiegmann and Dr. Roy Wilson. Dr. Shore was a psychiatrist while both Dr. Stiegmann and Dr. Wilson were surgeons, and they each took an entirely different approach to decision making. The psychiatrist looked at things more globally and was considering three or four moves or issues down the path. The surgeons are hard-wired to get a definitive amount of information, make a quick decision and move on. Their medical training left them with different skill sets, which affected their decisions. Both approaches worked.

5. What do you enjoy most about your work?

It's a great job. As far as a lawyer job, there's no job more interesting. You've got a great variety of work and you're working with really bright people who are committed to a great purpose, which is education. I typically get involved when things go wrong at the university, and it's important to help people through difficult times so they can do their vital education and research.

I'm a behind-the-scenes guy. My job and the administration's job is to make the trains run on time so faculty can do what they're supposed to do. On the other hand, we back-of-house folks, we need to sometimes get away from our desks, step back and understand what a great institution this is. Go to graduation, see what it's like. It rejuvenates you every time. That's what keeps you going.

Impact of CCHE's master plan remains to be seen[3]

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education's (CCHE) adoption last week of a new statewide master plan boasts aspirational goals that could affect the University of Colorado and other institutions, but any impact isn't likely to be felt in the near future, university leaders say.

During the Dec. 6 meeting of the Faculty Council and Senate, Kathleen Bollard, vice president for academic affairs, said CU has had "a lot of input" on the metrics included in the plan. Named Colorado Competes, the plan was announced later that day by the CCHE.

"We hope that we can meet all of these (goals), although some are fairly aspirational," Bollard said.

Final performance contracts are expected to be completed at the end of the month.

One concern Bollard noted: increasing the number of undergraduate degrees awarded by 1 percent annually for five years. “We don’t want to affect the quality of the degrees we produce,” she said.

While speaking to the Faculty Senate later in the meeting, CU President Bruce Benson said he has reservations about the performance contracts, in part because the stipulations only will apply once state funding of higher education reaches $706 million, a level that hasn’t been touched in several years. If and when the budget trigger is reached, performance contracts then only would be tied to funding above $650 million.

According to the CCHE, the performance contracts will establish transparent benchmarks to gauge how Colorado public institutions of higher education are performing in meeting the needs of the state and will be the basis for future performance funding from the state. Statewide goals include:
Increase the attainment of high-quality postsecondary credentials by at least 1,000 new certificates and degrees each year with a target of reaching 66 percent postsecondary credential attainment for Colorado citizens age 25-34 by 2025.
Improve student success through better outcomes in basic skills education, enhanced student support services and reduced average time to credential for all students. Reduce attainment gaps among students from underserved communities to ensure that the system reflects the changing demographics of the state.
A copy of the master plan is available on the Department of Higher Education’s website[4].

In other business at last week’s Faculty Council and Senate meeting:
Tom Napierkowski, chair of the Privilege and Tenure Committee, reported that there are four active complaint/grievance cases across the system, two from Boulder and two from Denver. The committee also is continuing work on a policy for dealing with faculty in distress, determining appropriate intervention practices for faculty whose work might be affected by substance abuse or mental illness. **Laura Borgelt** reported that the Women’s Committee is encouraging more faculty to confirm attendance at the CU Women Succeeding symposium, set for February in Boulder. “So far, there is more staff participation than faculty participation,” she said. “This is really a faculty-driven symposium, so please invite colleagues in your departments or schools.” Faculty Council Chair Melinda Piket-May said Colorado Springs and Denver faculty especially are needed to register. Details are at this website[5].

Grassroots findings: State’s fiscal course unsustainable[6]

Chris Adams, executive director of Engaged Public, discusses the community engagement work in TBD Colorado during Friday’s Buechner Breakfast at CU Denver.

The words “fiscal cliff” weren't uttered, but the implication is not much different. Colorado is on an unsustainable fiscal course, a panel told an overflow audience in the University of Colorado Denver Terrace Room on Friday.

About 150 people attended the Buechner Breakfast on TBD Colorado[8], making it the best-attended event in the two-year history of the Buechner Breakfast First Friday series.

TBD Colorado is a nonpartisan, public engagement effort launched by Gov. John Hickenlooper to gather residents’ thoughts on how government should prioritize and allocate funding in education, health care, transportation and other areas. In the past year, more than 1,200 Coloradans in 60 meetings around the state shared their values and ideas.

“It was an opportunity to go straight to the people and let policy makers understand where the priorities are,” said Kae Rader, executive director of TBD Colorado (TBD is short for “To Be Determined”).

Other panelists were Chris Adams, executive director of Engaged Public[9]; Jamie Van Leeuwen, the governor's deputy chief of staff; and Lisa Weil, policy director for Great Education Colorado[10]. The panel was moderated by

Diane Carman, director of communications, School of Public Affairs, and editor of Solutions, Buechner Institute for Governance.

The series, coordinated by the Buechner Institute for Governance[11], part of the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver, takes place on the first Friday of every month and focuses on policy matters and societal issues affecting Colorado and the nation.

Rader said TBD Colorado focused on five issues: education, health, transportation, state budget and state workforce. Coloradans' priorities include:
Supporting expanded access to kindergarten and preschool. Improving health care for those on Medicaid by making the program more flexible and effective. Building a better transportation system to support our lifestyle and to promote economic growth. Finding new ways to ensure that the state's budget is aligned with priorities and that there is adequate revenue to provide the services residents want. Recognizing the hard work of state employees and rewarding their performance.
The large-scale engagement effort cost $1.2 million and is funded privately by 40 contributors -- both corporations and foundations. The full TBD Colorado report will be released soon, Adams said. The TBD Board of Directors recommendations report[12] was released last month.

The board's core finding is that the state's financial path is unsustainable without major fiscal and constitutional reforms. Adams said that when Hickenlooper announced TBD Colorado, he emphasized that the effort is not geared toward raising taxes, but to gather priority views at the grassroots level. Adams said a question was phrased, "Do you think the solution to Colorado budget issues primarily lies in spending cuts, revenue increases or both?"

"Fifty-six percent said 'both,'" Adams said. "Thirty percent said 'new revenues' and almost 6 percent said 'through spending cuts alone.'"

Adams noted that Coloradans are concerned about K-12 funding, especially since the current ratios of funding -- two-thirds from the state and one-third local property taxes -- have flipped since 20 years ago. Likewise, he said the respondents generally have a "feeling of annoyance" about the way higher education's funding is the first to be cut whenever the state is faced with budget constraints.

"There was a strong value expressed for a public and accessible system of higher education in Colorado, but again (they're) not quite sure what the solution is," Adams said. "It might tie into some of these other funding issues."

Rader said the meeting participants got a chance to use Backseat Budgeter program[13] that allows you to plug in numbers in order to balance the state's budget. People quickly saw how a policy maker's job is "tougher than it looks because you have to live within certain parameters," she said.

"This was really a convergence, especially of those three amendments in the Constitution (Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, which restricts spending and taxes; Amendment 23, which calls for minimum funding for K-12 schools; and the Gallagher Amendment, which affects property taxes) that tie the hands of our policy makers to set the budget," Rader said.

She added, "We have to go to the people because it's the people's right to learn about this and to make a decision about how they want to move forward. If we're going to have a sustainable future in Colorado, it's got to be from the people."

That echoed a concern from some audience members who said it's great to gather residents' views, but the real issue is turning the work into tangible action.

Weil said Great Education Colorado, which represents educators throughout the state, is pushing for educational reform and that Colorado is generally viewed as a national leader in reform.

"I've never been more optimistic about the momentum that seems to be happening," she said. But she echoed sentiments that the TBD Colorado effort must result in action, rather than end up as another report sitting on a shelf

somewhere.

"It would be really tragic to lose that goodwill and commitment that we've created in all of these core communities," she said.

Friday's breakfast was sponsored by the Colorado Health Foundation[14].

Military families celebrate early Christmas with system staff[15]

[16]

Dozens of children and parents from Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora gathered Friday at University of Colorado system administration offices in Denver to celebrate the holidays. The party marked the culmination of a community outreach effort by the CU System Staff Council, which collected toys from staff members and hosted the event.

CU Buffs mascot Chip gave high-fives and hugs, while Santa took time out of his peak season to hear wishes and hand out candy canes. The toy drive especially benefited children whose parents are deployed away from home this holiday season.

For a photo gallery from the event, click here[16].

Holiday schedule for Connections[17]

Next week's issue of CU Connections (Dec. 20) is the last before the holiday break. Deadline for submissions is noon Friday.

New issues will not be published on Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, though the website will be updated with news should events warrant.

Deadline for submissions to the Jan. 10 issue is noon Friday, Jan. 4.

Record attendance year marked by Galleries of Contemporary Art[18]

Eric Teillinghast's 04 556 "Rain Machine" drew more than 4,000 visitors to GOCA 1420.

Attendance at UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art (GOCA) events in the 2011-2012 season exceeded 9,000 visitors and contributed an estimated $540,000 to the local economy, according to GOCA managers and local arts experts.

Daisy McConnell, director, Galleries of Contemporary Art, said attendance records were broken this year as gallery locations on campus and downtown brought exhibits to campus and also participated in various community-sponsored events.

For 30 years, the Galleries of Contemporary Art has operated from its campus location in Centennial Hall. Three years ago, GOCA began programming space in the Plaza of the Rockies Building, 121 S. Tejon, donated by the Nor'wood Development Group. The two locations are known as GOCA 1420 and GOCA 121 respectively.

"The downtown space is really coming into its own," McConnell said recently. "We estimate 60 percent of our total attendance was at GOCA 121. It's visible, accessible and is providing us a different cross-section of the community."

McConnell explained that GOCA 121 provides an opportunity for the university to interact with downtown visitors who stop in while on their way to restaurants, special events or while conducting business. GOCA 1420 remains a destination venue for those interested in a specific exhibit or faculty, staff or students who are already on campus.

In the past year, GOCA was part of community events such as the Cool Science Festival, the Whatif? Festival, and First Friday Art Walks in addition to providing its own original programming. The decision to be part of community-driven events helped generate more visits and broaden the audience base. Cool Science events on campus brought 587 children and families to GOCA 1420 while the Whatif? Festival downtown brought 750 to GOCA 121. Local funders have taken note as well. Grants for 2012-2013 season sponsorship from both the Bee Vradenburg Foundation and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, each for $3,000, demonstrate the community's support for GOCA.

Visitors to GOCA 1420 enjoy an exhibit of former UCCS professor Louis Cicotello's work.

Original programs were also successful. A summer GOCA 121 exhibit, "Bright Young Things," drew more than 2,100 visitors and the current GOCA 1420 exhibit, Eric Tillinghast's "Rain Machine," drew more than 4,000 visitors in the past three months. A related program, "H20: Water, Culture and Politics," brought several campus academic disciplines together and attracted more than 300 students. GOCA's Art & Wine events continue to sell out.

"Collaboration and strategic partnerships are keys to our current — and future — success," McConnell said.

Christina McGrath, director, Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, estimates GOCA contributes $540,000 annually in economic benefit to Colorado Springs. She further estimated the gallery contributes $22,000 in local taxes and $26,000 in state taxes.

"We had a great year," McConnell said. "I am deeply appreciative of the partnerships that were created on campus and in our community that led to this success. But I know we can do more in 2013."

Public sector careers, advising are focus of national conference[21]

School of Public Affairs Dean Paul Teske addresses the NASPAA Career Professionals Conference Dec. 6 in the Terrace Room. Seated at right in the photo is Heather Wright of George Mason University in Virginia.

A diverse group of career services professionals from about 40 graduate schools in public affairs, policy and administration convened last week at the University of Colorado Denver for a two-day conference.

The School of Public Affairs hosted the 2012 Career Professionals Conference of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration[23].

The annual conference has typically been held on the East Coast, said Brendan Hardy, director of student recruitment

and career services for the School of Public Affairs, but this year the NASPAA chose to come west. This year's gathering has a couple purposes, said Hardy, who chaired the conference's planning committee as part of the host team.

"One is to introduce Denver as far as job opportunities, career opportunities related to the public sector," Hardy said. "The other point is to bring together counselors from the different schools to share resources and skills to bring the field of advising forward."

The NASPAA has more than 280 member schools in the United States and overseas. The School of Public Affairs' MPA program is the only NASPAA-accredited master's program in Colorado, and one of only 172 nationally.

Paul Teske, Ph.D., dean of the School of Public Affairs welcomed the group Dec. 6. He said that CU Denver has almost 400 MPA students, most of whom are working on their Masters of Public Administration degree while working either full or part time. He noted that CU Denver's fully online MPA program recently was ranked 15th most affordable in the country by AffordableColleges.com, adding, "Like a lot of you, we're offering the MPA degree in lots of different ways to try to be appealing and attractive to students."

The work of counselors is growing in complexity, Teske noted, as current students are expected to have at least seven different jobs, and even multiple careers, in their lifetimes. "I think it's really interesting to try to think about how those career paths are going to change," he said.

The conference includes multiple presentations and panels. Tom Clark, CEO of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corp. and executive vice president of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, gave an overview of Colorado's economic landscape. Other presentations included an Environmental & Energy Panel (featuring CU Denver School of Public Affairs alumnus Mike King, director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources); Federal Hiring Strategies & Advice; Federal Executive Board presentation; and Local Government Careers.

Teske told the group that because the career paths available to SPA graduates are multifaceted and cover the spectrum of public and private fields, "That's something that makes your jobs and our jobs at the School of Public Affairs exciting and important. We all know that the quality of public service is critical to how our government functions and, certainly in the last few years, whether it's the fiscal cliff or the election or all the other issues that are out there, our graduates in our schools play a critical role."

School of Dental Medicine receives innovation award[24]

[25]
The University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine (SODM) has received the Outstanding Innovation Award by an Academic Dental Institution as a part of the 2013 William J. Gies Awards for Vision, Innovation, and Achievement.

Only one dental school is selected annually for this honor. The CU School of Dental Medicine was recognized for the development of an innovative interprofessional (IPE) curriculum that prepares graduates for future team-based practice, and provides a model for other dental institutions embracing IPE.

“The William J. Gies Awards are truly a high honor in the field of dental education,” said Richard W. Valachovic, DMD, MPH, president of the ADEAGies Foundation and executive director of ADEA. “By shining a light on the extraordinary work of dental educators, academic institutions, and our partners -- the best and the brightest in academic dentistry -- the ADEAGies Foundation recognizes those who blaze a path for a new generation of leaders in dental education.”

Said Dean Denise Kassebaum, DDS, MS, “I have been privileged to witness the ‘creation, evolution and application of contemporary ideas' about interprofessional education develop into a comprehensive interprofessional education program designed to prepare our students to practice collaboratively and improve patient safety and health outcomes. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of Dr. Mark Earnest and his IPE leadership team, along with the IPE Faculty Advisory

Committee's efforts to create unique IPE experiences for dental students to participate with the other campus schools."

The SODM partners with the CU Schools of Medicine (Medicine, Physical Therapy, and Physician Assistant programs), Pharmacy and Nursing that supports the IPE curriculum. The CU program is unique because it is the first interprofessional team training program of this type that has been designed to incorporate dental students and dental faculty into all aspects of the program. For the IPE students, their first case is a dental case.

"The CU Anschutz Medical Campus was intentionally designed to foster interprofessional collaboration, but it has been the efforts of dedicated faculty champions and students who have been willing to put in the effort to develop the unique programs that we have today," said Richard Krugman, vice chancellor for Health Affairs and School of Medicine dean. "This award identifies the CU School of Dental Medicine as a model for dental schools and other health professional schools throughout the country."

The two distinct IPE program elements for dental students are participation in REACH (Realizing Educational Advancement for Collaborative Health) and the Frontier Center Project that focuses on collaborative education and practice around oral health and preventive practices in primary care. The REACH program's curricular threads focus on team dynamics and communication in both preclinical training and clinical practice are shared across all health schools beginning the first day that all students come to campus and then continue until graduation. REACH has been mandatory for all incoming health professions students since Fall 2011.

The Gies Awards, named for dental education pioneer William J. Gies, Ph.D., honor individuals and organizations exemplifying dedication to the highest standards of vision, innovation, and achievement in dental education, research, and leadership.

CU-Boulder to offer new interdisciplinary construction management track[26]

Wearing hard hats, CU-Boulder graduate students work with assistant professor Amy Javernick-Will. (Photo: Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado Boulder)

A new partnership between the University of Colorado Boulder's Leeds School of Business and the College of Engineering and Applied Science, spurred by a gift, will have positive implications for the construction and real estate industries.

The gift of $285,000 – from alumnus Dan Ivanoff and his wife, Laurie – supports the creation of a construction management track within the MBA program in the Leeds School, as well as opens the door for graduate construction engineering and management students to take associated business classes. The new program is slated to begin in the fall of 2013.

"The Ivanoff gift creates a powerful collaboration and cross-campus partnership between Leeds and CU's College of Engineering and Applied Science, providing MBA students a great way to specialize and engineering students a means for developing business know-how," said Dean David L. Ikenberry of the Leeds School. "Bringing students together across disciplines creates a richer learning environment while meeting market demands."

The gift provides support to the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering and to the CU Real Estate Center to help bring the programs together.

"MBA students with a fundamental understanding of construction and design will be very attractive for businesses that concentrate on ground-up development," said Dan Ivanoff. "Real estate investment firms that hire a Leeds MBA with a

concentration in real estate and construction management will get an individual with very specific capabilities and a specialization that is directly related to its business activities."

Ivanoff leads a large real estate investment, development and management company based in Seattle with properties throughout the western United States.

"Dan Ivanoff was educated in both business and engineering at CU-Boulder and now he has given back so that future generations of students have the opportunity to receive an interdisciplinary education from two of the best programs in the nation," said Dean Robert Davis of CU's College of Engineering and Applied Science. "We are very grateful for the gift from Dan and Laurie and we look forward to additional joint opportunities between business and engineering."

Part of the funding to engineering includes a faculty fellowship that was awarded to assistant professor Amy Javernick-Will. Her career path has included both education and industry experience in civil engineering and real estate development.

For more information about the new construction management track visit http://realestate.colorado.edu/constructionmanagement[28].

My New Weigh plans information sessions for January[29]

Losing weight is tough to do in today's environment. If you are ready to try something different and exciting, then discover My New Weigh, available at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. It is specifically designed for those who need to lose at least 30 pounds or those who have health issues related to weight.

This effective program:
is medically supervised includes weekly lifestyle modification classes uses a science-based, nutritionally balanced meal plan.
My New Weigh provides you with the tools needed for long-term success.

To learn more, please contact Elizabeth Kealey, Elizabeth.Kealey@ucdenver.edu[30] or 303-724-9088, after Dec. 26 to reserve a spot at an upcoming free information session:
5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 9 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 10

MacIntyre takes helm of Buffs football[31]

[32]

Mike MacIntyre, who led San Jose State to its first 10-win season in 25 years, has been named the 25th head football coach at the University of Colorado, athletic director Mike Bohn announced Monday.

MacIntyre agreed to a five-year deal with a salary of $2 million annually; as with all hires of this nature, the contract was subject to the final approval of CU's Board of Regents, which voted Wednesday to authorize it.

He replaces Jon Embree, who was dismissed as Colorado head coach on Nov. 25; Embree was 4-21 in two seasons

at the reins of the program.

MacIntyre, 47, led San Jose State to a 10-2 record this fall, with a final regular season ranking of No. 24 in the Associated Press and USA Today/ESPN Coaches polls as well as in the final BCS Standings. The Spartans earned a berth in the Military Bowl opposite Bowling Green on Dec. 27.

MacIntyre earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Georgia Tech and his master's in education with an emphasis on sports management from Georgia in 1991. He and his wife, Trisha, have three children, Jennifer, Jay Michael and Jonston.

Read more from B.G. Brooks here.[33]

Public Safety honors staff members[34]

[35]

The Department of Public Safety at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs honored several employees during a Dec. 5 lunch attended by department staff, UCCS administrators and special guest Pete Carey, chief, Colorado Springs Police Department. Those receiving awards were:

Russ Wilcox, Employee of the Year Award -- Wilcox, transportation manager, Department of Public Safety, was recognized for consistently exceeding expectations in the areas of customer service, quality of work, teamwork and positive attitude.

Jeremy Simenson, Craig Highline Award -- Simenson, police officer, Department of Public Safety, was recognized for outstanding achievement in the areas of impaired driving enforcement and education. The award honors former UCCS Police Officer Craig Highline, who was killed by a drunk driver in October 2008.

Ron Honn, program manager, Environmental Health and Safety, Department of Public Safety, and **Clay Garner**, police lieutenant, Department of Public Safety, Merit Awards -- Honn and Garner were recognized for their contributions in the area of community service and demonstrated use of problem solving skills.

David Voth, assistant transportation manager, Department of Public Safety, and **Aaron Greene**, security guard, Department of Public Safety, Excellence Awards -- Voth and Greene were recognized for their personal initiative that led to an increase in department morale or efficiency.

Also honored were these time-of-service award winners:

10 Years -- **William Whitfield**, parking manager, Department of Public Safety; **Christine Burrows**, administrative assistant, Department of Public Safety

Five Years -- **Timothy Hightower**, bus driver; **Joseph Callaway**, bus driver; **Paul Church**, bus driver; **John Artuso**, bus driver; **James Wilder**, dispatcher

Rheumatology team tops at Knowledge Bowl[36]

[37]
A team from the Division of Rheumatology in the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, recently won first place

in the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Knowledge Bowl.

The competition was part of the ACR Annual Scientific Meeting. The bowl, open to any program in the world, pitted six teams of two fellows and an attending against each other in a “Jeopardy!”-like test of knowledge, including questions about clinical rheumatology.

The CU team, Know Bones About It, was **Jason Kolfenbach**, **Christina Bright**, and **Kristen Demoruelle.** The team worked with **Sterling G. West**, director of the Rheumatology Fellowship Program and author of the book “Rheumatology Secrets.”

Knight publishes research and presents on secretory proteins[38]

[39]
Jefferson Knight, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Colorado Denver, recently published a research paper in the American Chemical Society journal Biochemistry, “Hydrophobic contributions to the membrane docking of synaptotagmin 7 C2A domain: Mechanistic contrast between isoforms 1 and 7.”

Knight also presented the paper at the October 2012 Rocky Mountain Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Westminster.

The study identifies key differences between the biophysical actions of two secretory proteins that are otherwise very similar, and contribute to differences between the secretion of insulin in the pancreas and the secretion of neurotransmitter in the brain. The study was co-authored with CU Denver postbaccalaureate **Matthew Coffman**, research technician **Devin Brandt**, and CU-Boulder professor **Joe Falke**.

Dropping names...[40]

Martinez

Otañez

Three new staff members joined the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in November. They are: **Stephen Cucchiara**, assistant director of student activities, Department of Student Life and Leadership; **Bradley Johnson**, design and construction project manager, Facilities Services; and **Brynne Thompson**, administrative assistant, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. … **Donna Martinez**, professor and director of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado Denver College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was the keynote speaker at The Denver Indian Family Resource Center, Colorado Department of Human Services, and Colorado Commission on Indian Affairs workshop on the Indian Child Welfare Act at the Denver Indian Center. The talk was titled, “Historical Trauma and the Legacy of Relocation.” … **Marty Otañez**, assistant professor in anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, at CU Denver, attended the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) meeting in Seoul, South Korea, this month. Representatives from 176 countries met to discuss the world’s first public health treaty designed to reduce death and disease from tobacco.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-steve-zweck-bronner[2] http://connections.cu.edu/news/five-questions-for-steve-zweck-bronner/5q-zweck-bronner/[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/impact-cches-master-plan-remains-be-seen[4]
http://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/General/StrategicPlanning/MasterPlan2012/Master_Plan_Final.pdf[5]
https://www.cu.edu/FacultyCouncil/womens-symposium/index.html[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/grassroots-findings-state%E2%80%99s-fiscal-course-unsustainable[7] http://connections.cu.edu/news/grassroots-findings-states-fiscal-course-unsustainable/tbd-co/[8] http://tbdcolorado.org/[9] http://www.engagedpublic.com/[10]
http://www.greateducation.org/[11]
http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SPA/BuechnerInstitute/Pages/BuechnerHome.aspx[12]
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