Texas pharmaceutical company to develop CU diabetes management drug[1]

Xeris Pharmaceuticals, Inc.[2] of Austin, Texas, and the University of Colorado recently completed an exclusive license agreement for a jointly developed method of treating the low blood sugar that is a common side effect of the insulin therapy used to treat many types of diabetes.

Insulin therapy is used in the treatment of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes to lower blood glucose levels since diabetes sufferers do not produce enough of this hormone (or do not react to the insulin produced naturally in their bodies). Hypoglycemia (low blood glucose) is a dangerous complication of insulin therapy, and can cause vomiting, seizures or even death. Hypoglycemia can be treated by taking glucose orally, but when a hypoglycemic individual is confused or unconscious, oral glucose might not be an option. In these cases, glucagon (a hormone secreted by the pancreas, like insulin) may be given by injection to quickly raise blood glucose levels; however, glucagon is not stable when dissolved in water, so current injection methods require many extra steps for reconstitution with water before administration.

The patent-pending drug reformulation technique developed by CU and Xeris (by a team of researchers led by John Carpenter[3], a professor at the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and John Kinzell, CEO of Xeris) provides paste and suspension formulations of glucagon that are shelf-stable and do not require refrigeration, making them faster and more convenient to administer. Like other commercially-available glucagon products, these stabilized formulations can be given using a disposable injection kit that can be carried by diabetics in case of emergency. Additionally, since these formulations significantly reduce the injection volume as compared to conventional glucagon injections, they allow for simple and rapid administration.

“We were excited to team with John and his lab on advancing this novel formulation technology platform for delivery of biologics,” said Dr. Kinzell, Xeris’ CEO. “Dr. Carpenter’s program is a nationally-recognized academic center of excellence in this space and the primary reason we sought John out as technical partner for our first NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant. Besides providing small companies like Xeris with non-dilutive funding for early-stage drug development, it also provides early peer-reviewed validation of a technology. We were very pleased with the outcome of the project, as was NIH’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).”

“The University of Colorado is very pleased to continue its partnership with Xeris Pharmaceuticals,” added Paul Tabor of the CU Technology Transfer Office. “Our combined advances in formulation science have the potential to dramatically improve drug delivery, and we believe Xeris is ideally suited to advance the technology and provide much needed solutions for diabetics and other at-risk patients.”

Xeris is in the process of optimizing its glucagon formulation technology and will select the best candidate formulation in the second quarter of 2012 to move into the clinical phase of its program.

Friday is deadline for Gee nominees, Women’s Symposium workshop proposals[4]

Award nominations for the 2011 Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award are due this Friday, Dec. 16. The award, named for a faculty member in the Health Sciences Center School of Nursing and the late wife of former CU President Gordon Gee, recognizes and honors an outstanding faculty member of the University of Colorado for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching. It carries with it a $1,000 prize, and the recipient will be asked to present his or her scholarly work at the CU Women Succeeding Annual Professional Development Symposium on Feb. 24, 2012. Nomination information and past winners may be found online at:http://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/awards/elizabeth-gee.html[5]

Workshop proposals for the CU Women Succeeding 10th Annual Professional Development Symposium: “Building Community” are due this Friday, Dec. 16. This free event will take place Feb. 23-24, 2012, at the University of Colorado Boulder campus. For more information about submitting a proposal, please visit: http://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/workshops.html[6]

Award nominations of students, faculty, staff, departments or units are currently being accepted for the annual CU-Boulder Chancellor's Committee on Women award.

This award recognizes individuals or groups from any of the four campuses who advocate for women or continually work to improve the climate for women at CU. Nomination information and past winners may be found at: http://www.colorado.edu/diversity/ccw/awardspage.html[7]

To register for the Faculty Council Women's Symposium, visit the website at: http://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/index.html[8]

Questions: Melinda.Piket-May@colorado.edu[9]

Year's last staff meeting offers relaxation, socializing[10]

Nancy Gadachy, program assistant II, Student Health Center, enjoys a bingo game along wither her table mates Karen Brown, assistant dean, Finance and Administration, College of Education, and Vicki Schober, physician and medical director, Student Health Center. (Photo: Ron Fitz, University Advancement)

Other than a couple of announcements, the Dec. 7 Staff Council/PESA luncheon was just for fun. UCCS classified and professional exempt staff enjoyed conversation, laughter and lively bingo games followed by musical entertainment.

"Don't eat the bingo markers!" has become almost as familiar a seasonal expression as "Happy holidays!" for UCCS staff. Bingo at the year-end staff luncheon has become something of a tradition, with colorful M&M's candies for markers. Just in case someone in the group isn't aware of this, staff executives make it a point to declare the candy off-limits, at least until game play begins.

Mark Hoffman, associate director, Client Services, Financial Aid/Student Employment, enjoys participating as a member of the Velcro Barbershop Quartet. He brought his group to campus to entertain staff with a repertoire of holiday songs, traditional barbershop harmonies, and a 1960s a cappella rock 'n' roll.

Five questions for Andrew Cowell[12]

Andrew Cowell discusses research with Arapaho elders in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Andrew Cowell jokes that he might be one of the only literature professors around who passed a course in quantum mechanics. As an undergrad at Harvard, he majored in astrophysics, but also took language and literature courses. At the end of his junior year, he switched his major to literature, because, he said, "It came naturally to me whereas astrophysics felt like it was a struggle."

He studied French – both the language and the literature – at the University of California at Berkley, earning his master's and doctorate, and was drawn to the Middle Ages, which still is an area of interest for him. Several years after coming to the University of Colorado in 1995, he also became interested in the Arapaho language, which, as with other Native American languages based on oral traditions, was on the cusp of being lost. In the past several years, the professor in the Department of French and Italian at CU-Boulder has worked to help revive the language through research and documentation, as well as offering support to the Arapaho people who are learning the language.

Cowell speaks seven languages: English, French, Hawaiian, Arapaho, Italian, Spanish and Catalan. He enjoys doing research that “feels like it benefits people outside of the campus and academia, and that has some lasting value.” His least favorite part of his job, he says, is having to continually seek funding to do the research. “It’s kind of pathetic how little money there is for language documentation and endangered language work,” he said.

1. How did your research/interests go from Medieval language and literature to Arapaho narratives?

I was very interested in the oral and performative side of medieval literature. (Most early epics were the product of an oral tradition, for example.) So I thought examining a living oral narrative tradition (as exists with Arapaho) would be a good way of getting a better understanding of how oral performance works. I had originally been learning Arapaho on the side, out of curiosity, because it was the native language of Boulder, so to speak. Then I got into the narratives and published an anthology and some articles on the stories, and one thing led to another. The Arapaho language was very under-researched overall (no grammar, no real dictionary, no substantive collections of texts, no descriptions of speech styles and interaction, etc.). I think if you’re oriented toward research, that’s the real key, whether it’s astrophysics or literature or languages. The exact time period or language you end up focusing on is often an accident, or at least an outcome of a long chain of unpredictable circumstances. I’m still equally involved in both medieval epic literature and Arapaho narratives.

2. Why is it important to save the Arapaho language? How has it affected Colorado and the West?

Lots of Native American languages are no longer spoken fluently, and many more will be joining that list over the next few decades, unfortunately, unless current trends change. There are lots of reasons to try to save the languages. The speakers and members of the various tribes almost always want to do this, so it’s very rewarding to help them. Languages are closely tied to identity, and language loss is closely tied to issues of both human rights and social, political and economic inequality. So if you’re interested in social justice and human rights, you should be interested in language loss. From an academic standpoint, we still know very little about most of the world’s languages, so losing them could have a major impact on linguistic theory and our understanding of language, culture and cognition. For a while the Chomsky perspective dominated: All languages are roughly the same, and the differences are very shallow. But more recently, there has been a shift in the field toward recognizing that differences in language and language-driven cognition are more profound than has been realized. And finally, I think Native American languages are a part of the U.S. heritage, not just for enrolled tribal members, but for all of us; losing them is losing a key part of our heritage.

I wouldn’t want to claim that Arapaho is more important than any other Native American language, but I do think it’s more meaningful for people in Colorado. A number of places in the state derive their name from Arapaho (Kawuneeche Valley in Rocky Mountain National Park, the Neota Wilderness Area, the Never Summer Mountains). Knowing the meaning for those and other Arapaho names for places, animals, plants, birds and so forth can provide a completely different perspective on the landscape and the natural world. Kawuneeche means “coyote river.” The word for a park, as in South Park or North Park, is ce’eiinox, meaning “game bag,” as in game you hunt. The area around Hayden Gorge in Rocky Mountain National Park was called woxse’eihtoo, meaning “Bear’s Paw,” which refers to a sacred motif of Arapaho painting and beadwork, which then refers back to the creation story and the transformative power of creation. Some of the stories I’ve documented are specifically about places in Colorado. Those stories are no longer known by any living Arapaho person, since the language and the stories told in it are being lost, so without the documentation work from several years ago, that part of Colorado’s heritage would be gone.

In the end, though, the language belongs to the Arapaho people, and they’re the ones who benefit from its continuity. For example, the language is automatically calibrated to maintain and reflect respect for relationships in the culture, which are a key part of social and ceremonial interaction. The English language simply doesn’t reflect those social gradations as a requirement of its grammar. As another example, there are special prefixes used on verbs to indicate whether a story is from the present time or mythic times.

3. In what ways have you helped save the language?

There had been some documentation of Arapaho before I started working, but not a lot. Most of what I’ve done is record oral speech, then transcribe it into written Arapaho and translate it into English. There are probably only 250 or fewer people who still speak the language, all over the age of 60. I learned it from those people, slowly learning words

and grammatical structures.

Really, only the Arapaho people themselves can “save” the language by deciding to learn it and speak it. I have mostly documented the language and that serves as a resource for those trying to continue using it or to relearn it, or as insurance or a back-up in case there are no more fluent speakers. I have also taught courses on language teaching methodology to the speakers to try to make them better teachers. And I have taught some courses on the grammar of the language to younger learners to try to give them head starts and shortcuts as they acquire it. I try to show up whenever I’m asked to assure school administrators that the language can be learned, and should be supported, or to help those in the tribe pushing the language to get support from others in the tribe. And I’ve created a lot of curriculum and resources for teachers, including online learning materials that have audio files included. Several of my students have also contributed research on educational issues and methodologies. There’s another professor from University of Montana, Stephen Greymorning, who has been even more involved in the educational areas, especially helping start immersion schools where Arapaho is the language of instruction. So it’s not just me, but it would be great if there was even more help.

4. What research projects are you currently working on?

I just finished videotaping several dozen hours of conversation. My students and I are looking at interaction styles, including things like gesture and eye contact. Many people don’t realize the differences between languages are often as much in interaction styles as in the grammar and vocabulary. We’re discovering whole new realms of the language from the videotapes, like collaborative narratives, teasing and joking with each other, and the fact that some of the gestures don’t just complement the spoken word, but actually indicate things that the speech itself doesn’t specify. I’m also working on topics in medieval culture, plus directing work at CU in endangered Meso-American languages, and working on the Gros Ventre language in Montana.

The work with the conversation is rewarding because it captures the way people actually speak and interact on an everyday basis. Narratives are very important, but we spend 98 percent of our time just talking back and forth, not telling hourlong formal narratives. Unfortunately there’s very little documentation of actual, live conversation and interaction for Native American languages, so this is kind of a first, not just for Arapaho, but almost all Native American languages. It also shows young learners how the older fluent speakers use the language – all the conversations have transcriptions and translations, which are time-aligned to the video. I’m also working on a collection of short, informal, modern narratives about reservation days, as opposed to the “old-time” myths and legends. This is another way of looking at the here and now of everyday life.

5. Outside of work, what activities do you enjoy?

I do a lot of hiking and exploration of the natural world (which has led to research on ethnobotany and ethnozoology, it turns out), plus camping, skiing and snowshoeing. I know all the plants, birds, animals and so forth, and I enjoy being able to apply my knowledge of Arapaho – knowing the name for what I see in Arapaho, and knowing how the plants are used in traditional medicines, the stories about the plants and animals. So everything is kind of integrated. My wife is Hawaiian and we speak the language at home along with English, so we do a lot of Hawaiian-related things with the local Hawaiian community, such as dancing, singing, playing ukulele, and eating Hawaiian food when we can get it. I’m also a big football fan.

I’m also active in my church. If you spend lots of time with indigenous cultures – whether Arapaho or Hawaiian – you almost inevitably confront the spiritual component of language, culture and identity, and that’s something many indigenous people feel is missing from “mainstream” American culture – “reverence,” “respect,” “humility.” There are lots of words one could use. To work for a long time with smaller, endangered indigenous cultures, you need to stay humble and critical of yourself. I’m sure different people have different approaches to doing that, but I feel like staying grounded in my own traditions in this regard is part of doing a lot of the work that I do.

Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building strikes LEED Gold[14]

Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building

The Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building[16] on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus has been awarded the LEED[17] Gold rating, the first campus building to achieve this high mark in green building.

The building received 43 points, which is four points over the LEED Gold rating. The building project managers were Kathryn McNally and Doug Derber.

“It’s very exciting news,” said Mike Barden, LEED AP, and director of Facilities Projects in Facilities Management.

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, the nationally accepted benchmarks for the design, construction and operation of high-performance green buildings.

“Congratulations to all,” said Lilly Marks, executive vice chancellor for the Anschutz Medical Campus. “As a side note, while not directly on the campus, the new UPI (University Physicians Inc.) building received a LEED Gold rating last year shortly after it opened. Together, these buildings set a wonderful new standard for construction on our campus.”

Coffin named sole finalist for vice chancellor for student affairs post at CU-Boulder[18]

Deb Coffin (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

Deborah J. “Deb” Coffin has been named the sole finalist for the University of Colorado Boulder’s vice chancellor for student affairs as decided by a search committee. CU- Boulder Provost Russell L. Moore made the announcement last week; Coffin has served in the post in an interim capacity since July 2011.

“The search committee has forwarded Deb’s name to me as sole finalist,” Moore said. “I want to congratulate the committee on its good work. Deb is an outstanding colleague, a highly qualified and talented administrator, and a person who brings student, campus and community stakeholders together in everything she does.”

Coffin met Monday, Dec. 12, with campus constituent groups in a series of five sessions to outline her vision for the post and to answer questions. The provost will be soliciting feedback from the groups on her candidacy.

The 10-member internal search committee was chaired by Anne Heinz, associate vice chancellor for summer session, outreach and engagement and dean of continuing education. The committee represented constituencies that included Parent Relations, Housing and Dining Services, Intercollegiate Athletics, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement, University of Colorado Student Government and the Office of Student Affairs.

“The committee was unanimous in its selection of Deb Coffin as a finalist,” Heinz said. “Her performance in previous key CU posts – including as interim vice chancellor for student affairs – has created a record of high achievement and success that has transformed our Student Affairs division. The committee believes it is vital to continue this important work under her vision and leadership.”

Prior to her service as interim vice chancellor for student affairs, Coffin served as associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students from 2008-11, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs and executive director of Housing and Dining Services from 2006-08 and executive director of Housing and Dining Services from 2001-2006.

Coffin also served in various housing leadership capacities at the University of Northern Colorado (1982-95; 1998-2001) and the University of Wyoming (1995-98).

She earned a bachelor's degree in community health education (1977), a bachelor's in biology education (1985) and a master's in human communication theory from the University of Northern Colorado.

She also served a mission in the United States Peace Corps (1977-78) in the Philippines.

Power of art on display in ArtsBridge collaboration[20]

Standing at the entrance to the theater at Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy in Denver are, from left, Martin Palmer, College of Arts & Media Dean David Dynak and Daniel Fuller. Palmer and Fuller, graduate students in CAM Recording Arts, assisted eighth- and ninth-grade classes at Kunsmiller produce a soundscape production of "Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator" as part of their ArtsBridge Scholarship Project.

The whisk of an interplanetary elevator. The strange babblings of alien creatures. The Cronkite-like baritone of a news anchor.

Middle school students at Kunsmiller Creative Arts Academy[22] in Denver melded these sounds -- and many others -- into a 20-minute soundscape piece that employed state-of-the art equipment and, especially, enthusiastic mentoring from students at the University of Colorado Denver.

At the helm of the semester-long creative process were Martin Palmer and Daniel Fuller, two Recording Arts graduate students in the College of Arts and Media (CAM). The students, with oversight from CAM Recording Arts[23] faculty member Sam McGuire, earned ArtsBridge[24] scholarships to spend 40 hours working with the middle schoolers on a collaborative arts project.

Working with the students in teacher Sylvia May's eighth- and ninth-grade technical theater classes, Palmer and Fuller and the 20 students decided to use the Roald Dahl book "Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator" as inspiration for their radio theater piece.

CAM Dean David Dynak attended a performance of the "Glass Elevator" at Kunsmiller on Dec. 9. There are 31 universities in the country and Northern Ireland that are ArtsBridge institutions, augmenting arts curriculum at K-12 schools. CAM raises money to support the arts collaboration program, which costs about $25,000 annually, Dynak says. Other CAM student-led ArtsBridge projects at Kunsmiller this year -- the partnership is in its second year -- include dance, theater and digital animation.

"The ArtsBridge program allows our students to become teaching artists. So when they go into schools they aren't going so much as educators, but they're going in as artist with a product in mind and that has come from conversations with the classroom teacher," Dynak says. "For our students, when they relate to ninth-graders, eighth-graders, fourth-graders, second-graders, they really get an amazing sense of how arts communicate."

Fuller says he enjoyed the process of collaborating with the students to generate a script that's replete with ad-libbed, humorous lines. "It was primarily them doing the writing," he says. "We chose the story but we let them kind of run the story wherever they wanted."

The CAM students allowed the students to use a CAM-purchased portable surround-sound system that gave the effect of various sounds filling the theater space. The system will be used in CAM classrooms after the ArtsBridge project.

Palmer was pleased to see the students gain confidence with technology they'd never seen before. "It's really neat to see these students, as young as they are, have so much confidence in a particular craft," he says. "A lot of people grow up thinking you'll never make money in the arts, but here they're learning the practical technical skills that do translate to a steady career."

May said the ArtsBridge projects link the young students to the outside world.

“Having people come from college and letting my students see they can be mature, have fun and get a higher education, I think, is really important,” she says. “They've had a lot of fun with this project.”

Kunsmiller Principal Pete Castillo wants the arts collaboration with CU Denver to expand to where it reaches every grade level at the magnet school. “We want to make ArtsBridge a built-in component for our core curriculum,” he says.

That would be fine with Antonia Huynh, an eighth-grader who played the news anchor in the “Glass Elevator” production.

“I learned some new vocabulary words,” she says. “I learned mainly about the soundscape program and how creative and how much fun it is.”

Boswell named sole internal finalist for CU-Boulder vice chancellor for diversity post[25]

Boswell

Robert “Bob” Boswell has been named the sole internal finalist for the post of vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement for the University of Colorado Boulder.

“I want to thank the committee and its chair, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Patricia Rankin, for its hard work and its selection of Bob Boswell as our sole finalist,” said Provost Russell L. Moore. “Bob’s long ties to CU-Boulder faculty and staff, his historical commitment to serving under-represented students, and his willingness to work with all campus constituents make him a strong choice for vice chancellor.”

Boswell will meet with campus constituent groups Dec. 14 to outline his vision for the position, and Moore will solicit feedback from the groups on Boswell’s candidacy following the meetings.

Boswell has occupied the post since July 2010 in an interim capacity. He is a professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology with a long and distinguished career at CU-Boulder. He became an assistant professor in MCDB in 1986 and a professor in 1991. He also was a teaching and graduate research assistant while completing his doctorate at CU-Boulder from 1975 to 1981.

He was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator from 1994 to 1999 while retaining his CU-Boulder faculty appointment. Before returning to Boulder after graduate school, Boswell was a staff fellow with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences at the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina from 1982 to 1986 and a Damon Runyon-Walter Winchell Postdoctoral Fellow at Indiana University in Bloomington from 1981 to 1982.

Boswell became the principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health Initiative for Maximizing Student Development, or IMSD, in 2003. The IMSD program encourages educational institutions with fully developed research programs to initiate or expand innovative programs to improve the academic and research capabilities of underrepresented minority students.

Boswell earned a bachelor’s degree in biopsychology from Marietta College in Ohio before earning his doctorate in molecular, cellular and developmental biology from CU-Boulder in 1981.

The vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement oversees CU-Boulder’s total diversity efforts, including recruitment and retention of students and faculty, campus climate issues and developing best practices to promote diversity within the academic, professional and social environment of the university.

March of the soldier toys[27]

[28]
About 30 youngsters and parents with ties to Aurora's Buckley Air Force Base took part in a celebration of the season hosted by CU System Staff Council[29] (SSC) at 1800 Grant St. on Friday, Dec. 9. System volunteers served cookies and drinks and handed out candy canes while the kids watched a holiday movie and colored pictures.

Although the day was orchestrated by SSC, system volunteers weren't the only ones to chip in. CU-Boulder mascot Chip the Buffalo was a big hit, playing Santa, posing for photos and helping to hand out gifts. CU President Bruce Benson greeted the military families and chatted with prospective students (circa 2017-30 or so).

"We value the contribution our servicemen and women are providing and wanted to give back, even in a small way, to some of the families where a spouse is absent this Christmas or where Christmas may be sparse," said Judy Anderson, organizer and University Counsel special assistant. The Buckley Spouses Group at Buckley Air Force provided SSC with names of children.

SSC received 77 gifts for children ages 3 months to 13 years and several gift cards for the families at Buckley, all donated by system employees at 1800 Grant St.

David Pierce, organizer and accounting specialist in the Office of University Controller, said SSC started its outreach projects in 2008 with an adopt-a-platoon for troops in Iraq.

"We sent 26 packages with various needed items as well as some fun items and CU logo items," he said. In 2009, SSC created an official committee focused on outreach and has sponsored a group for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure the past three years. They group also has hosted a "clean out your closet campaign" for the homeless.

"A lot of people view the holiday season as a good time to give and this was a great way to do it," Pierce said. "Personally, this was the best event that SSC has hosted because we had an opportunity to see these little people's faces light up and we did that by giving back to people that have given a lot to our country."

[cincopa AMPAxwKnM60-]

View all photos from event[30]

Photos: Tricia Strating/University of Colorado

Neguse among alumni honorees named by Law School[31]

Neguse

University of Colorado Regent **Joseph Neguse**, as well as other distinguished alums from the University of Colorado Law School, will be honored at the school's annual Law Alumni Awards Banquet on March 14, 2012, at the Hyatt Colorado Convention Center Hotel in Denver.

Neguse, a 2009 Law School graduate, will receive the Distinguished Recent Alumni Award. Neguse, who graduated from CU with a bachelor's in economics and political science, is a civic leader who has spent years advocating for public higher education. He was elected to the Board of Regents in 2008 while still a student at Colorado Law. He is one of the youngest public officials in the state and was presented the "Rising Star Award" by the Colorado Democratic Party in 2010. His six-year term ends in January 2015.

Other honorees are Jane Korn, who was named the first female dean of the Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Wash., in July; Joe Blake, outgoing Colorado State University system chancellor who also led the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce for 10 years; and William Johnson, a partner of Rothgerber Johnson & Lyons LLP who pioneered the "one bank holding company" concept and was the founding director of First Bank, who will receive the annual William Lee Knous Award.

Tickets to the University of Colorado Law Alumni Board Banquet are $150 or $100 (for those in the public sector). Proceeds from this year's banquet will benefit the David H. Getches scholarship fund. Getches, who was dean of Colorado Law until June 30, 2011, established the scholarship just prior to his untimely death July 5, 2011.

Colorado Law also is launching its first Law Firm Challenge beginning Jan. 1, 2012, to raise additional funds for the Getches scholarship. A fun and competitive program, the challenge is designed to increase overall alumni giving, participation, strengthen the alumni network, and create stronger alliances with law firms in the local area. To find out more or learn about the Law Firm Challenge, contact Cheryl Franchi, Events Manager, at 303-492-8048 or Cheryl.Franchi@colorado.edu[33].

Quick Links page compiles most requested resources[34]

With today's issue, CU Connections introduces a new page of Quick Links – easy access to many of the most requested Web-based tools and information sources.

The page, which can be found by clicking here[35], will be available each week by clicking on the Resources tab near the top of the Connections home page, then clicking through to Quick Links.

Our listing provides links to many resources that readers have requested, including the searchable jobs database, event and academic calendars for each of the campuses, links to material provided by faculty and staff governance groups across the system and much more. This index was compiled with input from the Faculty Council Communications Committee.

We believe this will be a popular and useful tool for Connections readers, and welcome your feedback. While we can't include every possible website link on this particular page, please email the editor[36] to suggest any additions you feel would make this even more vital.

Thanks for reading.

Jay Dedrick

Publication note[37]

CU Connections will not publish new issues on Dec. 29 and Jan. 5.

The last new issue before the break will appear Thursday, Dec. 22; deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Dec. 16.

During the holiday break, the site will be updated with news should events warrant.

The first new issue after the break will appear on Jan. 12. Deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Jan. 6.

Forrester is employee of the month at Anschutz Medical Campus[38]

Forrester

Colleagues and supervisors describe **Newman Forrester** as “willing and helpful.” Those positive comments garnered him recognition by Staff Council in November as an Employee of the Month. Forrester is a member of the Facilities Management team based on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Facilities Management Director Mike Boroviak described Forrester as an employee who “has always gone the extra mile and consistently works to the benefit of the university and the customers. Newman serves as the Building 500 and the new Pharmacy Building Supervisor and new projects representative. He has notable customer service and technical skills with consistent compliments from his peers and management.”

In nominating Forrester, Facilities Manager Vimol Mitchell wrote, “He has a great attitude toward his work and can motivate his team in completing their assigned tasks in a timely manner. Newman is a highly motivated and natural leader, with a positive can-do attitude. A superb multi-tasker, he is often assigned multiple time-critical assignments, completing each task in a timely manner. Newman Forrester is the embodiment of what a PMT should be.”

Susan Saunders in the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences recommended Forrester for the award based on his performance in support of the construction of the Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Building.

“I have observed his dedication to the role of liaison between Facilities Operations, the School of Pharmacy and the contractor. He brings requests from Facilities Operations to the table with careful consideration of the factors of safety, energy conservation, ease of maintenance, etc., while keeping in mind the budget and schedule of the project. As the primary person to differentiate between warranty items and regular service calls, he has handled our occupation of the new space well, avoiding delays in resolution of problems.”

Fingerlin a program director at Colorado School of Public Health[40]

Fingerlin

Tasha Fingerlin, associate professor of epidemiology, will be the master’s and Ph.D. epidemiology program director for the Colorado School of Public Health beginning Jan. 1.

As director, Fingerlin will oversee a program that currently enrolls five master of science and 15 doctoral students. Fingerlin replaces outgoing director, professor and Assistant Dean Dana Dabelea. Dabelea served as program director for several years, directing the program during the opening of the school and the addition of the master’s degree in 2010. Fingerlin teaches courses in statistical genetics, applied statistics, genetic epidemiology and grant writing.

Her research interests include genetic epidemiology, Type I and II diabetes, chronic beryllium disease, schizophrenia, and statistical methods.

Coordinator talks community development[42]

Cleaves

Rachel Cleaves, community development coordinator in the Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD), presented at the Environmental Protection Agency CARE Conference in Denver in November. Her talk was about LiveWell Westwood's approach to community-based initiatives to increase access to healthy eating and active living through resident trainings in Zumba and gardening. Cleaves also is involved with the partnership between the College of Architecture and Planning and the School of Medicine.

Cleaves and **Mori Krantz** are co-investigators on a recently awarded $30,000 grant to fund a one-year research study entitled "Factors Influencing Participation and Cardiovascular Outcomes In a Community-Based Zumba Exercise Program." The study will focus on health and social outcomes in Latina women from the Westwood neighborhood as a result of participation in Zumba. The award was granted on behalf of the pilot grant program, Improving Translational Research Through Community Academic Partnerships, at Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI), Anschutz Medical Campus.

Dropping names ...[44]

Nelson-Marten

Krizek

Patricia Moritz, Amy Barton, Ph.D., and Vicki Erickson, Ph.D., joined External Relations Director Terry Biddinger

Ellsworth

University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus Police Department

Paula Nelson-Marten, Ph.D., associate professor at the College of Nursing, recently was awarded the Veritas Award by the Center for Bioethics & Humanities. She is the first nurse to receive the award as "an expression of gratitude for her sustained commitment to the educational mission of the humanities in health care at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus," reads the citation. … **Kevin J. Krizek**, professor of planning and design at the University of Colorado Denver, co-director of the Active Communities/Transportation (ACT) Research Group, and director of the Ph.D. program in design and planning, attended an invitation-only Keck Futures conference on Ecosystem Services California, sponsored by the National Academies and the Institute of Medicine. … **Jeremy Németh**, assistant professor of planning and design and director of the master of urban design program at the University of Colorado Denver, presented a paper "The Cannabis Conundrum: Land Use Policy for Medical Marijuana" at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) conference in October. The paper, co-written with current MURP students Eric Ross and

Wheeler Weber, shows how unprepared cities are in dealing with statewide medical marijuana legalization. … College of Nursing Dean **Patricia Moritz**, **Amy Barton**, Ph.D., and **Vicki Erickson**, Ph.D., joined External Relations Director **Terry Biddinger** to give a presentation about nurses, nursing, and the CU College of Nursing to the Denver group, Eclectics, on Nov. 4. Biddinger, a member of Eclectics, invited her colleagues to make the presentation to a standing-room-only turnout of 275. … Assistant Professor **Danielle Varda**, School of Public Affairs, has been awarded a subcontract through the RAND Corp. to use her PARTNER computer tool to develop and validate measures to assess relationships among members of health care coalitions participating in the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP). … **Jackie Sivahop,** MS PA-C, assistant professor in Pediatrics at the Anschutz Medical Campus, recently was featured on the Aurora News Weekly[50] regarding Shaken Baby Syndrome. … **Michelle Ellsworth,** an assistant professor and co-director of the University of Colorado Boulder's theater and dance program, recently was awarded one of the country's most prestigious awards, the United States Artists (USA) Fellowship. Each year, 50 USA Fellowship grants of $50,000 each are awarded to outstanding performing, visual, media, and literary artists. … University of Colorado School of Medicine faculty **Vincent A. DiMaria**, M.D., (clinical professor, pediatrics), **David W. Kaplan**, M.D., MPH, (professor, pediatrics), **Sharon Langendoerfer**, M.D, (associate professor, pediatrics), and **Jody L. Mathie**, M.D., (associate clinical professor, pediatrics) recently were honored at the 2011 Career Teaching Scholars Awards Grand Rounds. The peer awards are given to faculty and clinical faculty for outstanding teaching over the course of their career. The honors were announced during a luncheon organized by the School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics and Children's Hospital Colorado…. Four members of the University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus Police Department served as the official honor guard prior to the Colorado Avalanche-Edmonton Oilers game Nov. 26 at the Pepsi Center. Those serving were **Sgt. Deana LoSasso**, Officers **Kirk Martin**, **Greg Barthlome** and **Corey Childers.** This team also is available on request to perform similar duties for university events. … **Scott Reed**, assistant professor of chemistry at the University of Colorado Denver, and **Min Wang**, postdoctoral research associate, received an excellence award at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Conference in Portland for the paper "Electrophoretic Mobility of Lipoprotein Nanoparticle Mimics." … **Diane Dansereau**, associate professor of modern languages at the University of Colorado Denver, traveled to Haiti to conduct teaching workshops in French pronunciation for 10 days in early November. She accompanied three members of the Colorado Haiti Project (CHP), a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to extend aid to inhabitants of a rural area called Petit Trou de Nippes, about 80 miles west of Port-au-Prince. CHP provides educational and vocational training, health care, and help with nutrition and clean water.

As Voyager 1 nears edge of solar system, CU scientists look back [51]

[52]

In 1977, Jimmy Carter was sworn in as president, Elvis died, Virginia park ranger Roy Sullivan was hit by lightning a record seventh time and two NASA space probes destined to turn planetary science on its head launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Identical spacecraft, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2, were launched in the summer and programmed to pass Jupiter and Saturn on different paths. Voyager 2 went on to visit Uranus and Neptune, completing the "Grand Tour of the Solar System," perhaps the most exciting interplanetary mission ever flown. University of Colorado Boulder scientists, who designed and built identical instruments for Voyager 1 and Voyager 2, were as stunned as anyone by the data the spacecraft sent back to Earth.

The discoveries by Voyager piled up: 23 new planetary moons at Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune; active volcanoes on Jupiter's moon, Io; Jupiter's ring system; organic smog shrouding Saturn's moon, Titan; the braided, intertwined structure of Saturn's rings; the solar system's fastest winds (on Neptune, about 1,200 miles per hour); and nitrogen geysers spewing from Neptune's moon, Triton.

Amazingly, both spacecraft have kept on chugging (if one can call 35,000 miles per hour chugging). NASA announced last week that Voyager 1 – about 11 billion miles from Earth – has now sailed to the edge of the solar system and is expected to punch its way into interstellar space in a time span ranging from a few months to a few years. Voyager 2 is not far behind, but on a different trajectory.

Charlie Hord, a former planetary scientist at CU-Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, remembers the salad days of the Voyager program, which was managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. Hord, the principal investigator for a time on the LASP instrument known as a photopolarimeter built for Voyager, still shakes his head in wonder as he recalls some of the discoveries.

"All of the scientists were dazzled by the pictures of the moons of Jupiter and Saturn coming back," recalled Hord, 74, who still lives in Boulder. "To finally look at them up close was the most remarkable thing I've ever seen in my life." Since the early Voyager days were pre-Internet, "We used to send people over to the JPL newsroom to steal press kits so we could look at the pictures taken by the imaging team," he laughs.

The LASP photopolarimeter, a small telescope that measured the intensity and polarization of light at different wavelengths, was used for a variety of observations during the mission. The instrument helped scientists distinguish between rock, dust, frost, ice and meteor material. And it helped scientists determine the structure of Jupiter's Great Red Spot, which Hord called "a giant hurricane that has blown for 200 years," as well as the properties of the clouds and atmospheres of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, and Saturn's largest moon, Titan.

The CU-Boulder instrument also was used to learn more about the makeup of the Io torus, a doughnut-shaped ring around Jupiter formed by volcanic eruptions from its moon, Io, as well as determining the distribution of ring material orbiting Saturn, Uranus and Neptune and the surface compositions of the outer planet moons.

One of the finest mission moments for Hord was analyzing the data returned from the photopolarimeter when it was locked on the star Delta Scorpii as it emerged from behind Saturn and passed behind the elegant rings in a "stellar occultation" when the light from a star is blocked by an intervening object. The processed photopolarimeter data showed each ring was made up of numerous smaller ringlets. "They were beautiful – they looked just like the grooves on a phonograph record," he said.

On the off chance either spacecraft is encountered by an alien civilization, each are carrying what are known as "Golden Records" – gold-plated copper, audiovisual phonograph records with greetings in 54 languages, photos of people and places on Earth, the sounds of surf, wind, thunder, birds and whales, diagrams of DNA and snippets of music ranging from Bach and Beethoven to guitarist Chuck Berry's classic rock 'n' roll song "Johnny B. Goode." The spacecraft even carries a stylus set up in the correct position so that aliens could immediately play the record, named "Murmurs From Earth," by Carl Sagan, who conceived the Golden Record effort.

"I thought adding the Golden Record to the mission was a neat thing to do," said Hord, a guitar player who performs jazz and big-band music with a trio that visits Boulder retirement homes. He recalled that JPL threw the Voyager team a party to celebrate the end of Voyager 2's Grand Tour as it passed by Neptune in 1989 (Pluto was in a distant part of its orbit at the time). "We even had Chuck Berry playing his guitar on the steps of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. It was really something."

In 1990, Voyager 1 turned around one last time and took a portrait of the solar system – a sequence of photos that revealed six of the nine planets in an orbital dance. From nearly 4 billion miles away, Earth took up only a single pixel.

"To me, Voyager was the most fun and interesting planetary mission ever," said Hord, who enlisted the help of then-graduate students Carol Stoker (now a NASA planetary scientist) and Wayne Pryor (now a professor at Central Arizona University) to analyze data from the mission. Over its lifetime, the CU-Boulder photopolarimeter science team also included LASP Professor Larry Esposito, Senior Research Associate Ian Stewart, retired faculty members Karen Simmons, Charles Barth and Robert West, as well many undergraduate and graduate students.

Esposito, who is still at LASP and is the principal investigator on a $12 million CU-Boulder instrument package aboard NASA's Cassini Mission to Saturn, said his biggest thrill of the Voyager mission was the Neptune fly-by in 1989 when the gas giant "went from being a small blurry dot to a planet with bright clouds and numerous moons and rings. Triton erupted before our eyes, and Neptune's partial rings were punctuated and variable like a type of sausage that the French make."

Then-CU President Gordon Gee was so impressed with the blue image the LASP team made of Neptune's ring system that he used it on his Christmas cards, said Esposito, a professor in the astrophysical and planetary sciences department.

Esposito believes the biggest discovery by CU-Boulder's Voyager photopolarimeter team was the intricate structure of Saturn's F ring – a ring he discovered in 1979 using data from NASA's Pioneer 11 mission. The CU-Boulder team determined the faint F ring was made up of three separate ringlets that appeared to be braided together, and that the inner and outer limits of the ring were controlled by two small "shepherd satellites."

In addition, Esposito said that density waves – ripple-like features in the rings caused by the influence of Saturn's moons – allowed the team to estimate the weight and age of Saturn's rings.

As for Hord, the Casper, Wyo., native went on to be the principal investigator for two spectrometers designed for NASA's Galileo Mission to Jupiter that launched in 1989 to tour the Jovian system, including its bizarre moons. Hord officially retired in 1997, but returns to campus for occasional visits with his colleagues.

In 40,000 years, Voyager 1 will float within 9.3 trillion miles of the star AC+793888 in the constellation Camelopardalis. In 296,000 years, Voyager 2 will pass within 25 trillion miles of Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Perhaps on the way, the spacecraft will encounter some musically inclined aliens up for a little Bach, Beethoven or Berry.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/texas-pharmaceutical-company-develop-cu-diabetes-management-drug[2] http://xerispharma.com/[3] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/pharmacy/Departments/PharmaceuticalSciences/DOPSFaculty/Pages/CarpenterJohnPhD.aspx[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/friday-deadline-gee-nominees-women%E2%80%99s-symposium-workshop-proposals[5] http://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/awards/elizabeth-gee.html[6] http://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/workshops.html[7] http://www.colorado.edu/diversity/ccw/awardspage.html[8] https://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/women/symposium/index.html[9] mailto:Melinda.Piket-May@colorado.edu[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/year%E2%80%99s-last-staff-meeting-offers-relaxation-socializing[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/uccs_staff-mtg.jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-andrew-cowell[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/5q-cowell.jpg[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/pharmacy-and-pharmaceutical-sciences-building-strikes-leed-gold[15] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/amc_pharmacy.jpg[16] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/FacilitiesManagement/FacilitiesProjects/CompletedProjects/Pages/PharmacyPharmaceuticalSciencesBuilding.aspx[17] http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CategoryID=19[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/coffin-named-sole-finalist-vice-chancellor-student-affairs-post-cu-boulder[19] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/p-coffin.jpg[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/power-art-display-artsbridge-collaboration[21] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/ucd_artsbridge.jpg[22] http://kunsmiller.dpsk12.org/[23] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CAM/programs/meis/Pages/index.aspx[24] http://www.artsbridgeamerica.com/home.php[25] https://connections.cu.edu/people/boswell-named-sole-internal-finalist-cu-boulder-vice-chancellor-diversity-post[26] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/p-boswell.jpg[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/march-soldier-toys[28] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/toydrive.jpg[29] https://www.cu.edu/staff/ssc[30] http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.199313673488842.50832.113980768688800&type=1[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/neguse-among-alumni-honorees-named-law-school[32]

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