The 10 most-read CU Connections features of 2020[1]

Editor's note: Beginning in mid-March, the year 2020 took on a shape that none of us recognized. The pandemic's impact across CU was apparent in many ways, and CU Connections is one such example. For much of the year, news of how COVID-19 was affecting work life at CU was prevalent and prominent in our website posts and weekly emails. Our Spotlight section, usually home to the popular Five Questions interviews and other features, more frequently focused on the activity of leadership and shared governance groups. Many of these news stories were the most-read of the year on the CU Connections site. However, as we do each year with this retrospective, we've omitted the stories reporting then-recent developments in order to highlight the most popular feature stories with more lasting themes, including commentaries from faculty and staff and celebrations of achievements by CU community members.

1. Reflections on race and the times (June 4)
I joined CU about a month ago and at the time my family was still mourning the death of Breonna Taylor, a frontline, essential worker and first responder to the COVID-19 crisis. She was wrongfully murdered in her home.
READ FULL ARTICLE[2]

2. Distinguished Professors: Meet CU's 12 newly honored faculty members (Dec. 10)
The University of Colorado has added 12 new members to its roster of Distinguished Professors for 2020. The designation is the highest honor awarded to faculty across the CU system's four campuses.
READ FULL ARTICLE[3]

3. CU Faculty Voices: A reflection on ageism in the time of coronavirus (April 16)
We are practicing social distancing in a retirement community. The spread of COVID-19 highlighted the topic I have been mulling over for some time now: ageism, or the discrimination against people of older age.
READ FULL ARTICLE[4]

4. CU Faculty Voices: The time has come to stop supporting for-profit journals (March 19)
Let's not beat around the bush: The for-profit academic journal system is a flawed scam, and as a university, we need to stop treating it like the end all, be all of publishing, particularly for emerging and early career scholars.
READ FULL ARTICLE[5]

5. 2020 Class of Boettcher Investigators includes five University of Colorado researchers (May 28)
The Boettcher Foundation has announced its 2020 class of Boettcher Investigators, including five University of Colorado biomedical researchers.
READ FULL ARTICLE[6]

6. Five questions for President Mark Kennedy (Feb. 27)
Mark Kennedy became the 23rd president of the University of Colorado in July 2019. He came to CU after successful careers in business, government and higher education.

READ FULL ARTICLE[7]

7. CU community members honored for multi-faceted leadership (Sept. 24)
Three University of Colorado community members have been named recipients of the 2020 Thomas Jefferson Award, among the highest honors bestowed at the state's largest institution of higher education.
READ FULL ARTICLE[8]

8. Champions of diversity, equity and inclusion honored (Sept. 10)
The University of Colorado President's Diversity Award selection committee has announced its 2020 award and commendation recipients, who will be recognized in a virtual award reception at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15.
READ FULL ARTICLE[9]

9. University of Colorado Staff Council celebrates excellence across system (Oct. 1)
The University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) honored 10 exceptional employees across the system during a virtual

awards ceremony.
READ FULL ARTICLE[10]

10. Five questions for Daniel Jacobson (Nov. 12)
Daniel Jacobson began work as the first endowed director of the Bruce D. Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization in August 2020, following a national search.
READ FULL ARTICLE[11]

Tony Vu named University of Colorado treasurer[12]
[13]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has named Tony Vu the next treasurer of CU.

Vu succeeds Dan Wilson, who is retiring after more than five years at the post. The university's treasurer is responsible for managing the banking activity for the four campuses, $2 billion in university investments and $1.8 billion in bonded debt issued by the university.

"I'm thrilled and humbled to join an organization that is not only one of the top public research universities in the country, but one with a world-class team managing its finances," Vu said. "I look forward to bringing my skills and experience to bear to help CU emerge from the pandemic and thrive in the years ahead."

Vu also will serve as CU's chief investment officer and associate vice president for budget and finance. He begins his duties Jan. 19.

He comes to CU from Florida, where he is treasurer and assistant superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the fourth-largest school district in the country, with a $5 billion budget.

"Tony Vu brings a tremendous amount of public sector treasury knowledge to CU. He's a proven leader who will work well to serve the system, our campuses and Colorado," said Regent Jack Kroll, who co-chaired the search committee. "I know he will be a great partner to help drive cost savings for the campuses. He will also advance innovation in key treasury functions including cash management, debt issuance and investment oversight — all of which will make CU more efficient and add value for our constituents."

The treasurer position reports to the Board of Regents, with day-to-day management from the system CFO.

"Tony Vu's expertise and experience make him an excellent choice for the university's treasurer role," said Regent Sue Sharkey, who co-chaired the search committee. "We're delighted to have someone of his caliber leading this important part of our operation."

Vu previously served as treasurer at Florida International University. He earned a bachelor's degree and MBA, both in business administration, from the University of Florida.

"I look forward to working with Tony, who brings a wealth of experience to this critical role at CU," said CFO Todd Saliman. "He'll be a great addition to an already-strong team."

Transformation and Innovation Program: Strengthening CU technology collaboratively[14]
[15]

Stakeholders in CU's Transformation and Innovation Program (TIP), launched in 2019 as a key component of

President Mark Kennedy's strategic planning process[16], are continuing to advance the mission as a challenging 2020 comes to an end.

The program[17], a collaboration of the four campuses and system administration, aims to better position the CU system to efficiently, effectively deliver technology services to students, faculty, researchers and staff.

Throughout the year, TIP has focused on key areas where CU will leverage technology to become operationally stronger and more efficient in the delivery of our mission. The project teams have made measured progress over the past six months while remaining cognizant of the demands on our campuses during the pandemic.

The primary focus of the efforts underway has been to clarify the scope of each project, define logical workstreams to organize the work, identify tasks and activities that will need to be completed, and define working structures such as project steering committees.

"There has been significant progress in defining and planning of the TIP projects over the past semester, and I want to thank everyone who has provided guidance and direction," said Harper Johnson, associate vice president of Transformation and Innovation. "We could not have continued to move forward without new technology leadership at CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus jumping in quickly to provide clarity and direction. Their support along with the continued support from CU Boulder, UCCS, UIS and Advancement have been key."

Before the pandemic struck, higher education already was facing serious challenges such as lower enrollment, reduced state funding, concerns about tuition costs, and changing student expectations. The pandemic only magnified the need for change and a shift in mindset at CU. TIP will result in more efficient and innovative IT operations, thereby best positioning the institution for the future.

The program is home to eight active projects, which are centered on governance and strategic alignment for IT, financial considerations for IT such as funding and efficient procurement processes, and building on our technology capability. (See the full list of projects here[18].)

Here are highlights of recent accomplishments within some of those projects:

Enhance System IT Governance (Project 1.2)

The TIP Steering Committee has focused on developing the purpose statement for IT Governance, as well as identifying and agreeing to key governance committees that are needed to enhance our IT Governance model.

Key decisions have been made, including that the provosts will be added to the Executive IT Governance Board, and the IT Governance process will include subject-matter-focused committees for the following areas: Data Governance, Administrative Applications, Research IT and Services, Academic IT and Services, Enterprise Security and Compliance.

The committee approved the purpose statement: "CU IT Governance ensures IT supports the outcomes required by the University for the successful fulfillment of its mission. It ensures that appropriate decision-making activities are done in alignment with University strategic priorities and that we take advantage of the strengths of the four campuses and System Office in areas of shared benefit and shared risk. Toward this end, the scope of IT Governance includes: Facilitating alignment of System and Campus IT strategies, in concert with System and Campus strategic priorities Overseeing the portfolio of system-wide initiatives, including monitoring progress against business plans Identifying areas of shared benefit and risk Encouraging and facilitating knowledge and resource-sharing system-wide and between multiple campuses"

Establish Standards and Processes for IT Procurement (Project 2.2)

The 2.2 Steering Committee met Nov. 20 to review the scope and proposed activities of each workstream, gain an understanding of commitment to direction, and begin to discuss candidates for campus involvement. Committee members are in the process of providing feedback to the core project team.

The workstreams in this project are: IT Category Management, IT Master Service Agreements and Contracts, IT PCard Use, IT Spend Reporting. The activities and tasks for each workstream have been identified; the timeline is under discussion as campus input will be required. The pace of the project will be determined collaboratively.

Develop a CU-wide CRM Strategy and Support Student Success (Project 4.7_6.2)

The CU-wide constituent relationship management (CRM) project has partnered with Salesforce as our CRM platform. The future state technical strategy and architecture recommendation was completed with input from across CU in the form of three separate assessments to establish our current CRM maturity and technical capabilities. This recommendation includes information about the CRM governance model that will support our future state and phases to bridge from where we are today to where we need to be in the future. The recommendation is currently being socialized and discussed.

Meanwhile, work has kicked off with UCCS' recruiting and admissions (R&A) function with support from Attain, a Salesforce System Integrator (SI). As we hone in on requirements at UCCS, the project team looks forward to engaging with CU Boulder, CU Denver and CU Anschutz, and the Office of Online Education (ODE) in early 2021 in order to have the full picture of R&A.

A CRM Community website has been developed and will launch soon to foster communication and collaboration among those who leverage CRM tools currently, or simply want to know more about what our enterprise view of CRM can help to enable in the future.

More information about what's happening with the other projects in the TIP portfolio can be found on the TIP website here[17].

Looking forward to 2021, TIP leadership knows that the work ahead will be hard and challenge CU to stretch and define new ways to leverage technology in our operations. The program team sees this an opportunity that we need to embrace for the greater good of fulfilling CU's long-term mission. As each project has progressed through various stages of planning during the past six months, it's been exciting and rewarding to see collaboration and learning occur in the cross-CU communities that are forming.

Regents name Hueth to interim leadership post[19]

The CU Board of Regents on Wednesday named Jeremy Hueth the interim vice president, University Counsel and secretary of the Board of Regents.

Hueth steps in for José Padilla, who is leaving CU to become president[20] of Valparaiso University in Indiana. Padilla was named to his CU position in May after a national search.

Previously managing associate counsel, Hueth has been with CU for 17 years.

"I want to thank Jeremy for his willingness to step in at this time," said Regent Sue Sharkey, speaking during the board's regular meeting, held remotely and livestreamed. A video recording of the meeting will be posted here[21].

"Jeremy will be exceptional," Padilla said. "He's all in for the University of Colorado system."

Padilla was thanked for his time at the university, which came amid the pandemic. The board passed a resolution of appreciation[22] and invited him to return for a visit once protocols allow.

Board members on Wednesday also voted to name Tony Vu CU's new treasurer. See story here[12].

Regents also voted to revoke an honorary degree presented in 1986 to C.B. Woodrich, better known as Father Woody, who recently was implicated with other Catholic clergy members in Colorado as having sexually abused minors decades ago. Woodrich died in 1991.

Earlier this month, the Board of Regents announced committee assignments taking effect in January:

Governance Committee
Chair: Lesley Smith Vice Chair: Heidi Ganahl Members: Glen Gallegos, Ilana Spiegel
Finance Committee
Chair: Jack Kroll Vice Chair: Heidi Ganahl Members: Chance Hill, Nolbert Chavez
University Affairs Committee
Chair: Sue Sharkey Vice Chair: Jack Kroll Members: Chance Hill, Callie Rennison
Audit Committee
Chair: Heidi Ganahl Vice Chair: Ilana Spiegel (replaces Lesley Smith) Members: Sue Sharkey, Callie Rennison
COMMUNITY AND LIAISON ACTIVITIES

University of Colorado Investment Advisory Committee – one regent
Member: Jack Kroll
University of Colorado Foundation Board - one regent
Member: Sue Sharkey
Auraria Board – one regent
Member: Nolbert Chavez

CU Boulder establishes new office for COVID-19 operations, response, planning[23]

More than 1,100 to earn degrees during virtual ceremony Dec. 18 [24]

Alum and Justice Carlos Samour Jr. encourages grads to dream big at Fall 2020 Virtual Commencement[25]

‘Miracle’ therapies open door to new life for young woman with cystic fibrosis [26]

Davis named next College of Music dean at CU Boulder [27]

Greene named director of new Center for Health Artificial Intelligence [28]

In memoriam: Regent Emeritus Jack Anderson[29]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/10-most-read-cu-connections-features-2020[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/reflections-race-and-times[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/distinguished-professors-meet-cu-s-12-newly-honored-faculty-members[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-reflection-ageism-time-coronavirus[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-time-has-come-stop-supporting-profit-journals[6] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/2020-class-boettcher-investigators-includes-five-university-colorado-researchers[7] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-president-mark-kennedy[8] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-community-members-honored-multi-faceted-leadership[9] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/champions-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-honored[10] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/university-colorado-staff-council-celebrates-excellence-across-system[11] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-daniel-jacobson[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tony-vu-named-university-colorado-treasurer[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/vu_tony.jpg[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/transformation-and-innovation-program-strengthening-cu-technology-collaboratively[15] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/2020_12-17_tip_web-thumb.jpg[16] https://www.cu.edu/strategic-planning[17] https://www.cu.edu/tip[18] https://www.cu.edu/tip/program-description-scope[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-name-hueth-interim-leadership-post[20] https://www.valpo.edu/news/?type=post&site=239&id=12122[21] https://cu.new.swagit.com/views/92/[22] https://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/BWCM6M59BC01/$file/Resolution%20of%20appreciation%20for%20Jose%20Padilla.pdf[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-establishes-new-office-covid-19-operations-response-planning[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/more-1100-earn-degrees-during-virtual-ceremony-dec-18[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/alum-and-justice-carlos-samour-jr-encourages-grads-dream-big-fall-2020-virtual-commencement[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/miracle-therapies-open-door-new-life-young-woman-cystic-fibrosis[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/davis-named-next-college-music-dean-cu-boulder[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/greene-named-director-new-center-health-artificial-intelligence[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-regent-emeritus-jack-anderson