President at budget hearing: 'We're creating a culture of efficiency'[1]

While the University of Colorado and higher education across the state may see an increase in state support this coming year, CU will remain focused on finding operational efficiencies, President Bruce Benson told state lawmakers this week.

At his annual presentation Tuesday to the state's Joint Budget Committee (JBC), Benson said the university estimates it has saved about $35 million in recent years because of efficiency legislation. CU worked with lawmakers in recent sessions to achieve the changes.

"We're creating a culture of efficiency," Benson told the six-member committee, which heard presentations from state institutions of higher education throughout the day.

Still, Benson cautioned that diminished state funding has the potential to leave CU too lean for its own good. "I think we're getting close to that point," he said.

Improvements in state revenue led Gov. John Hickenlooper to propose a 5.8 percent increase in funding for state colleges next year, which would mean about $30 million. CU's allocation would mean a boost of about $9 million, based on the formula currently agreed upon by the state's higher education institutions. That budget will begin working its way through the Capitol once the 2013 legislative session begins next month.

Even if such an increase is approved, state funding for higher education will remain well below levels attained before severe funding cuts in recent years, even more so when inflation and enrollment growth are taken into account. (For details on the state funding trend and its effect on CU, see this graphic.)

While cost pressures have led to students and families needing to take on a greater share of college expenses, Benson said student loan indebtedness among CU graduates is below the national average.

Among CU's efficiencies attained in recent years are contributions by faculty, Benson said, noting that 25 percent to 30 percent of faculty are taking on heavier teaching loads than normally required, and many are taking on increased advising duties.

He also emphasized CU's contributions to the state, including economic development.

"We are great creators of jobs and we help drive this economy," he said.

CU's innovation can be better leveraged to benefit the university, too, he said: A study is under way to determine how to improve the monetizing of CU licensing and Technology Transfer ventures.

While the university garnered $815 million in researching funding last year – a modern record when recent years with federal stimulus funding are excluded – Benson cautioned that such funding is earmarked and therefore doesn't supplant much-needed state funding. The same is true of donor contributions to the university.

Student diversity, a frequent topic raised by lawmakers, also was addressed at the hearing. The president pointed to gains in diverse enrollment across all four campuses this past year.

Benson was joined at the hearing by Board of Regents Chair Michael Carrigan, Regent Steve Bosley and Todd Saliman, vice president of budget and finance and chief financial officer for the CU system. At the conclusion of the 40-minute presentation, Benson was praised by Rep. Cheri Gerou, R-Evergreen, who thanked him for his long-lasting involvement in the state's higher education.

"We earn more money than you do, but no one works harder than you do," she told him.

10-Year Trend in State Funding for CU
[2]

click for a larger view[2]

Redesigned system website to debut in new year[3]

A redesign of the University of Colorado system website – cu.edu[4] – will launch early in the new year, incorporating new technology and a philosophy that will serve all of its users, from faculty and staff to prospective students and parents, and alumni and donors.

Ken McConnellogue, vice president for communication, discussed the updates at the Dec. 13 University of Colorado Staff Council meeting, a week after he briefed Faculty Council on the project. He said the website will evolve for a variety of reasons, including technological advancement.

“We have extremely dated technology from the late 1990s,” he said. “That may as well be from the late 19th century, as fast as technology moves these days.”

The new system will enable content management by numerous units within system administration instead of streaming all needs through a single Web developer.

Another intent of the makeover project is to frame the focus of the site to better meet visitor needs.

“Everyone has put together a website with what they think is best and who they think their audiences are with no talk of a broad look at what cu.edu should accomplish,” McConnellogue said. The site’s goal is to provide accurate and timely information that is easily published, offers user-friendly navigation and reflects brand consistency.

The site will work on all browsers, including Internet Explorer, Firefox or Google Chrome, as well as others; it also will comply with federal accessibility guidelines.

McConnellogue’s project team studied responses from 260 online surveys and examined site analytics to determine who was viewing the site and for what reasons. With Boulder firm Archetype 5, which was chosen to design and build the site, the team then developed a framework for the site, which now is in the graphic design phase.

The website will be device-responsive, self-adjusting to fit any size viewing screen, including tablets. Images are resized, folded into drop-down menus or stacked as needed, depending on the size of the viewing window so that no content is lost, even on small iPhone screens, Arnold said.

Concurrently, changes are being made to the CU Portal so the sites look and operate in the same way. While cu.edu is a marketing site where information about the university may be found, it also serves as a conduit for faculty and staff to “do the business of the university and personal HR business.”

Other, convenient aspects of the site will include a systemwide search tool, and listings of events and university news.

Five questions for Tim Stoecklein[5]

Tim Stoecklein (Photo: Philip Denman)

Growing up on a family farm in western Kansas taught Tim Stoecklein many things, a couple of which would ultimately take him to where he is today.
[7]

[8]
Don't put your life in the hands of any one piece of equipment. Cell phones, personal locator beacons and GPS units are nothing more than tools ... don't use them as a crutch. Ask yourself, “Could I survive on my own if this piece of equipment is broken?” [8]
Know before you go: What type of terrain am I going to be on? What is the weather forecast? If that forecast is incorrect, do I have the resources to stay safe? How do I contact the local authorities if I need to? What other risks might I face during my trip? [8]
Are those joining me on the trip prepared; are they reliable? [8]
Know how to use your equipment before you need it! [8]
Always let someone you trust – preferably a few different people -- know the details of your trip: Departure/arrival times, intended route of travel, who is with you, a list of resources/equipment you are taking on the trip.
First, he realized that the only way to get off the tractor was to find a job. In high school and college, those jobs included sports officiation, lifeguarding and community recreation duties, which led him to work in campus recreation, including at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Stoecklein was hired as the associate director of the recreation center in 2007.

Second, living on the plains made him aware of the power of severe weather, but he’d never been exposed to the resulting devastation until a tornado struck Hoisington, Kan., in 2001. An outdoor education class he was teaching as part of his graduate work was diverted from a camping trip to help with cleanup.

“While helping residents salvage belongings from their destroyed homes, we heard amazing stories of survival, stories about how they did or did not receive warnings, how many were not prepared, and we witnessed first hand the impacts of the destruction on the small community,” he said.

Following the incident, he volunteered with a variety of emergency management and public safety groups, all the while taking advantage of training opportunities that came along. He parlayed these interests into both a job and an avocation.

“I've had the opportunity to work with some outstanding emergency managers, public safety folks and National Weather Service employees. Seeing their interests and the importance of their work in their communities has fueled my interests in public safety,” said Stoecklein, who became UCCS’s program director of emergency management in July, and, during free time, a tornado chaser.

1. How do you prepare for campus emergencies and do you plan for all scenarios, even “unthinkable” ones?

We are continuously analyzing the risks that face our campus and community, be it natural or man-made, and preparing plans for prevention, response, recovery and mitigation. We develop the campus emergency operations plans, exercise these plans several times per year, provide preparedness education to the university campus as a whole, and collaborate with various departments on campus in addition to other local agencies as part of the city of Colorado Springs and El Paso County.

We take an “all-hazards” approach to preparedness for the campus, and therefore our plans, focus and efforts are

constantly evolving. We have seen some high-profile incidents over the past 10 years that have shaped how we look at emergency management and preparedness in our country, communities and on our college campuses. We try our best to maintain a situational awareness about incidents and events that take place on other campuses across the country, not just those on our campus.

The media reported on the recent incident on the community college campus in Wyoming, but on that same day, there were also shooting incidents on or near Morgan State University in Baltimore and the Butler County Community College campus in Kansas. Also, in recent weeks we have seen bomb threats at campuses across the country, the impacts of severe weather involved with the hurricane and nor'easter near the East Coast, fires and hazardous materials incidents, all affecting college campuses as well. These are the types of incidents we are constantly looking at, and asking ourselves, "What would we do if this happened on our campus?"

We try to anticipate any risk – from the minor to the large-scale. Before the Waldo Canyon Fire, the university had participated in an "Up in Smoke" exercise the year before with the city. We're always aware of the wildfire danger, not only around the city, but also behind us, on the bluffs and with the open space and grasslands. One of our recent exercises with the administration was a scenario where a plane crashes into a campus building. We did it not just because of Air Force aircraft flying in the area, but also because we are so close to the Colorado Springs Airport. The response we practiced wasn't necessarily how to knock down a fire but how to continue with normal operations.

We plan for the worst and hope for the best. A hurricane is about the only thing we don't plan for.

2. How did you get into storm chasing and what would a day on the road be like?

After my experience with the Hoisington community after the tornado, I wanted to help those involved in protecting the communities through the warning processes. I became involved with our local county spotter group, whose members were deployed around the area to provide "ground truth," or eyes on the storms, as severe weather approached the area. I also read anything I could get my hands on to enhance my knowledge of how severe weather forms, the life cycle and evolution, the structure of storms and forecasting in general. Spotters are typically folks who stay in a designated area helping an agency such as the local emergency management, sheriff departments or the National Weather Service (NWS) directly. Chasing, on the other hand, is pursuing severe weather instead of waiting for it to come to you.

Some storm chasers simply want to witness the awesome displays of Mother Nature for their own enjoyment; others might capture images and video to share or sell to the media. Some chasers might be part of a scientific research program studying severe weather evolution, or they may simply be out there to enhance the warning network by sharing their observations with folks at the NWS offices.

Personally, my storm chasing pursuits take on many different interests. First, I want to help provide eyes on the ground in the near-storm environment to help the NWS and local media outlets provide warning to citizens who might be in the path of severe weather. Secondly, I'm out there to witness something that can be powerful, unpredictable, terrifying, serene and beautiful all at the same time. I like the challenge of developing my own forecasts, the strategies involved in being in the right place at the right time to witness it, actually being there to witness the successes and failures of my efforts and sharing my stories and images with family and friends -- or anyone else who can stand to listen to me babble about the weather.

I do share my images, and even stream live video from the field, to one of our local media outlets, KRDO. While there is some entertainment value to a live stream, it also can be a very strong motivator for seeking shelter compared to a radar image filled with bright colors. That is primarily why I stream live video and share real-time imagery from the field, often via my Twitter account where it can be shared by the media, the NWS and even local emergency managers and citizens in the affected areas.

A typical chase day for me can start days before the actual chase. During severe weather season, I am constantly doing my own forecasting to determine if the chase day will be worth the travel and use of vacation time. After all, this is really a hobby and not part of my job. The morning of a chase day is spent narrowing my forecasted "chase target" to determining the area where I give myself the best odds of observing severe weather. I also outfit my vehicle with

equipment that can include cameras, a laptop, mobile data to access information and stream my video via the Internet, ham radio equipment and many other items I might need as the chase evolves. Once on the road to my chase target, I'm constantly monitoring conditions to narrow my focus until storms actually develop. Once they do (if they do) develop, it is really a matter of staying situationally aware of how the system is evolving, where the strongest storms are, where the best network of roads are and making sure I'm reporting any information that can be useful to the NWS office(s) and media outlets.

There are days where all the ingredients come together, the days where I get to see some great storm structure, enhance the warning processes with my reports, and it all happens over an open field or pasture where no damage occurs to life or property. If someone is only into chasing to see tornadoes, they are going to be disappointed an awful lot of the time because despite what some may think, they are a rare occurrence unless you are willing to travel thousands of miles in pursuit.

3. What's the most exciting/scary/memorable storm that you have chased?

It took place on April 22, 2010, in southern Colorado. I was able to see four tornadoes, two of which occurred simultaneously over an open field. I helped the NWS Pueblo office verify and issue warnings throughout the day and I successfully streamed video and performed several on-air interviews from the field for KRDO throughout the day. The link (below) shows the first tornadoes of that day. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf2Xv-UrA5E&feature=plcp[9]

4.You teach wilderness survival as part of a UCCS class. How did the class come about and how did you become interested in wilderness survival?

The Freshman Seminar class we taught this fall was titled “Survivor.” It focused on skills for surviving in the wilderness, in disasters and on campus as a student. We talked a lot about the mindset of folks who survive disasters, why they survived and what we can do to enhance our own likelihood of surviving an emergency, a disaster or getting lost in the wilderness. The students learned some very primitive skills such as making cordage out of yucca and/or plastic bags, how to identify varying food sources, how to create fire and different types of primitive shelters, a bit of navigation and several other skills. We also focused on the risks we face every day, and how personal preparedness factors in to building a more resilient community on campus and in other communities. The campus survial portion focused on academic resources to help them as they work through their college careers.

I am not sure I have a great interest in wilderness survival specifically, but rather the overall survival mindset that I believe focuses on preparedness and prevention. I believe everyone should be prepared to respond to the risks they are likely to face in their day-to-day lives. Maybe someone doesn't spend much time in the wilderness, but can they change the flat tire on their car? Are they trained to use the first aid kit they keep in their backpack? Do they know several different ways to get out of their apartment/classroom/office if there is a fire? How would they communicate with family and friends if their cell phone was unusable?

One of my students was driving on Interstate 25 and saw a car fly across the lanes and over a guard rail. He stopped to make sure the occupants were OK, and did all the things he learned in class. He said he didn’t know if he would have stopped or known what to do if he hadn’t taken the class.

I also am an adviser for the student-run First Aid Survival Techniques (F.A.S.T.) club, and an authorized provider/instructor for a few campus folks who need first aid and/or CPR certifications as part of their jobs. I'm still getting immersed in my current role with emergency management, but I'm always looking for other ways I can support the mission of UCCS.

5. What are a person's chances of survival if you don't have training as opposed to if you do?

I think the most important characteristic a survivor has is the proper mindset. The person needs to know they will survive. With this mindset, someone will aggressivly look for ways to apply experience, knowledge and skills to their current situation. That being said, I'm a strong supporter of being knowledgeable and trained before ever putting yourself in the situation where you might get in trouble. For example, if you don't have the knowledge, equipment and training to go backcountry skiing or snowboarding ... don’t go until you do.

How can parents help children after a national tragedy?[10]

Editor's note: The following piece was written by Jerrold F. Rosenbaum, M.D., chief of psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital and professor of psychiatry at Harvard University, a member of the National Network of Depression Centers. The article was endorsed as a consensus document by the network, and is being distributed to the CU community by the University of Colorado Depression Center, 303-724-3300, coloradodepressioncenter.org[11].

In the wake of Friday's shootings in Newtown, Conn., parents are struggling with the urgent issue of how to help their children and families. Many of the surviving children witnessed bloodshed at the site, and others around the nation may see images and videos of it on television. The key question is how to help young children in such a terrifying situation.

Children of all ages will ask the primary questions:
Am I safe? Are you, the people who take care of me, safe? How will these events affect my daily life?
It's important to provide answers to these questions, even if your children do not put them into words. You should expect to answer these questions several times over the next few weeks.

Parents and caregivers should to try to address what the child is experiencing by asking, "What are your questions, concerns, and what are you worried about?" Kids have different fears. Many will worry about continued school shootings, and others will worry about such events spilling over to other areas, such as their homes, neighborhoods and playgrounds. For kids of all ages, it is really important to let them know that these kinds of events are incredibly rare. They should be told (over and over) that your school and schools nationwide are very safe places. Ask them to think of all the time have spent in school, the times their older siblings have spent in school and that things like this really do not happen much at all.

Simple reassurance in the immediate phase, however, may not be all that calming. Reassurance needs to be given repeatedly over the next number of weeks.

Also, while it may seem counterintuitive to think about taking care of yourself, many studies have shown that in the wake of natural and manmade disasters, the emotional stability and security of parents must come first. It is akin to what we always hear from airline attendants: "If the pressure drops, put the oxygen mask on yourself first, then help the child next to you." While children certainly react to what they have seen or heard, they also are looking carefully at how their parents are reacting.

What to look for in younger children? It is not uncommon for children (and adults) of all ages to experience features of acute or post-traumatic stress, even for those who witness the event remotely through media. The key features include: remembering, emotional numbing (for post-traumatic stress), and arousal. For remembering, many kids will have frightening flashbacks, or sometimes in younger children vague images of horror that they cannot describe. These images may interrupt sleep or intrude into the day. Some kids will react by regressed behavior such as clinging, and it is just fine to keep them close and allow this. After all, they need to feel attached! For other kids, they may shut down and avoid contact. While parents should not force physical contact, they should not leave them alone, but stay close, and try to engage them in playful and caring ways. Many children and adults will demonstrate signs of "arousal" such as rapid heartbeat, feelings of panic or "impending doom," rapid breathing, nausea, sweating. This is the "fight or flight" response well known in situations of extreme danger. It may, in fact, come on in response to thinking about such an event.

Some kids will not be able to sleep, and want to be with their parents. This is one situation when bringing them into the bedroom, either into bed, or setting up a cot is called for. For others, sleeping together in a common room may work. The important thing is to stay close.

In the next few days to weeks some younger children may “re-enact” the event through play. They may play out games of shootings, people getting hurt, dying or taken to the hospital. Such play in younger children is normal and should be allowed, though it is really hard for many adults to tolerate it! But the important point is that kids work out their emotional conflicts through playing. This is a healthy response and assists their coping.

For younger children, turn off the TV! Remember, they may think the images and videos that are going to be continually covered by the media may mean these things are happening over and over. It may also increase their emotional distress, just as it will certainly increase the reactions of adults.

How to help children of all ages through this: The reactions to kids need to be tailored to their developmental level. School-age kids and teenagers may also be worried about schools, though they too need to be reminded that school shootings are very rare indeed!

The conversation with teens may open new doors. For example, parents could ask if the teen has ever heard of a school shooting? Then the parents could engage in a discussion about whether it is more dangerous to go to school or drive with a friend who has had a few beers. This may help reinforce that schools are very safe, and while there have been some shootings in the past, such incidents are very rare indeed. Kids die all the time, however, from reckless driving, drugs and other risky behaviors.

The most important thing is to keep conversations about worries and concerns open. Television coverage of this tragedy may be viewed with older school-age kids and teens to allow for a conversation But even with these kids, it is best to watch the television together and talk about it and one’s reactions.

Concerned parents should contact their pediatrician or a child and adolescent psychiatrist for an evaluation.

Metro Crisis Services is a valuable resource in Colorado for people seeking help for themselves or a loved one. They offer mental health crisis and referral services 24/7 at no cost: 888-885-1222.

Be Colorado health screenings see healthy increase in participation[12]

E. Jill Pollock, vice president of Employee and Information Services and chair of the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust, with two of the electric-assisted bikes won by employees.

Be Colorado held 17 health screenings across the university in October and early November, with 1,844 participants, a 50 percent increase in participation over last year. The screenings provided participants important baseline biometric health information in a convenient and confidential way.

E. Jill Pollock, vice president of Employee and Information Services and chair of the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust (Trust), says she’s pleased to see the increase in participation, but would like to see even more employees taking advantage of the Be Colorado Wellness program.

“We have some really cool things to introduce as part of the Be Colorado wellness program this spring and into the future. In conjunction with our Health Risk Assessment and digital health coaching, we will be launching a personal mission discovery tool after the new year,” Pollock said. “This tool has been used very successfully at the Human Performance Management Institute to help people set and maintain long-term health and achievement goals.

“We have also been hard at work developing an incentivized movement plan that will reward participants for meeting monthly exercise goals. Participants can meet goals in ways that best match their personal exercise priorities – whether walking, playing tennis, trail running, bicycling or in a gym. We’ll be using great online tools to track participation, and we’re working on employee discount programs at many local gyms and campus recreation centers to make that pathway more affordable.”

In addition to these, the Be Colorado team is looking to launch Weight Watchers at Work this spring, and is developing for fiscal year 2014 a smoking cessation program. The University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust also is exploring ways to extend the Be Colorado wellness program to all employees and to all dependents of plan participants.

And congratulations to university employees James Parmenter (UCCS), Dorothy Moon and Colin Spaulding (CU-Boulder), Paul MacLean and Brent Pedersen (Anschutz Medical Campus), Ernest Porps (CU Denver), the three UCH employees and one from UPI, each of whom won a new electric-assisted bike for simply participating in this fall's Be Colorado health screenings.

The Be Colorado team looks forward to even more participation in upcoming spring events, and we encourage you to explore our website, http://www.becolorado.org[14], to learn more about great wellness events across the university and to help us build a lively and active online wellness community.

CU Denver's Coussons-Read named UCCS provost[15]

[16]
Mary Coussons-Read, a professor and administrator with appointments at the University of Colorado Denver and the Colorado School of Public Health, on Tuesday was named UCCS provost.

Coussons-Read, 45, associate vice chancellor for research, professor of psychology and professor of community and behavioral health at CU Denver, was selected following a national search. She will begin her position at UCCS in early March. As provost, she will direct the academic and research mission of the university in addition to providing leadership for student affairs functions.

"I am pleased that Mary Coussons-Read will join UCCS in this important leadership role," said Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. "She brings extensive knowledge of CU campuses in Denver and Aurora, as well as a highly successful record as an administrator and scholar, to our campus and the greater Colorado Springs community."

Coussons-Read participated in extensive on-campus interviews Dec. 6-7 and was one of four candidates selected for interviews by a 16-member search committee chaired by Terry Schwartz, associate dean, School of Public Affairs, and Charles Sweet, executive director of strategic planning and initiatives, Office of the Chancellor.

"Many exciting things are happening at UCCS," Coussons-Read said. "I look forward to being part of the campus and helping achieve both near-term and long-term goals. As a member of the University of Colorado who has watched the success of UCCS, I look forward to continuing to connect the university's mission with southern Colorado."

Since 2011, Coussons-Read has served as associate vice chancellor for research and creative activities at CU Denver. She was responsible for encouraging growth of the university's research enterprise and supporting faculty grant-and fund-seeking for both CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Her previous positions at CU Denver include director, Master of Integrated Sciences Program, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, interim chair, Department of Psychology, acting chair of the Department of Physics ,chair of the Faculty Assembly, program coordinator for the Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and assistant and associate professor in the Department of Psychology.

Coussons-Read has published one book and more than 30 academic articles, book chapters and scholarly reviews in addition to numerous presentations. Much of her scholarly work involves the effects of stress on the immune system and the role of stress in pregnancy.

She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, in 1989 and Ph.D. in biological psychology from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in 1994. She completed postdoctoral training in developmental psychobiology in the departments of pediatrics and psychiatry at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, now known as the Anschutz Medical Campus, 1994-1996.

Coussons-Read will succeed David Moon, who was named interim provost in July 2012 following the retirement of Margaret "Peg" Bacon after 34 years of service to the university. Moon will return to his previous position as senior associate vice chancellor for academic affairs.

Researchers discover a chemical that fends off harm to organs[17]

Anesthesia is quite safe these days. But sometimes putting a patient under to fix one problem, such as heart damage, can harm a different organ, such as a kidney.

Now a group of researchers led by Holger Eltzschig[18], M.D., Ph.D., a professor of anesthesiology at the University Colorado School of Medicine, has found a group of molecules that fend off damage during anesthesia.

"This is a promising discovery," says Eltzschig, who practices at University of Colorado Hospital. "It suggests a new way to promote healing."

In an article published Dec. 12 in the New England Journal of Medicine[19], Eltzschig and colleagues at Harvard Medical School and Northeastern University report hopeful findings about a group of molecules called purines. Purines are basic molecular building blocks in the body – they help produce DNA and RNA and they assist with short-term storage of energy. One variety of purine is called adenosine.

The researchers determined that generating adenosine outside of cells can help protect organs from damage. And they saw that activating adenosine receptors on the lungs, the intestine, or the heart can help protect these organs.

Eltzschig and his fellow researchers looked at adenosine and related chemical processes in cancer, lung injury, bowel inflammation and platelet function, among others.

For patients who might face surgery with anesthesia, the findings are good news.

"Increasing developments in this arena will open up several new avenues for the treatment," the article says.

Library collaboration supports preserving state's cultural heritage collections[20]

[21]
The Center for Colorado & the West at the Auraria Library has been awarded $248,000 for Action! Colorado Connecting to Collections from the Institute of Library and Museum Services (ILMS).

The grant is a collaborative partnership between the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums, the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, the Colorado State Library, History Colorado and the Center for Colorado & the West.

The Center for Colorado & the West (CC&W) is co-directed by Mary Somerville, Ph.D., Auraria Library director, and Thomas J. Noel, Ph.D. ("Dr. Colorado"), professor of history and director of Public History, Preservation & Colorado Studies at CU Denver.

The center serves to advance understanding of Rocky Mountain history and to enrich educational experiences for students on the Auraria campus.

Dana EchoHawk, CC&W managing director, will coordinate the IMLS grant activities.

The two-year project will create a network of trained preservation assessors; foster the development of emergency plans and a multiyear training program; encourage individual institutions' responsibility for collections care; increase awareness of collections needs among state and local government officials and the public; and build a sustainable, collaborative Colorado Collection Care initiative among the state's archives, libraries, museums, professional organizations, and government emergency management offices.

Action! Colorado Connecting to Collections will increase the number of trained professionals who can assess institutional preservation needs, increase institutional capacity collections preservation, and strengthen relationships with emergency managers and first responders.

Some 34 percent of all Colorado institutions have experienced a disaster and yet 44.8 percent do not have a current written disaster plan. The Action! Colorado Connecting to Collections initiative will provide training for development of preservation policy planning, Somerville said.

"The statewide educational opportunities delivered by CC&W in the next two years will increase the capacity of organizations and individuals to preserve the collections under their care," Somerville said. "In addition, stronger relationships with local emergency management 'first responders' and coordinated advocacy at all levels of government will increase awareness of collections' care issues and build a sustainable culture of preservation among Colorado's heritage organizations throughout the state."

Physics magazine: CU involved in two of year's top 10 breakthroughs[22]

[23]
University of Colorado Boulder faculty and students are part of international science teams that made two of the top 10 breakthroughs in physics in 2012 as judged by Physics World magazine.

A team involving CU-Boulder was cited for making the first direct observations of a phenomenon known as "time reversal violation" by measuring the rate atomic particles known as B mesons changed quantum states. The measurements essentially confirm that elementary reactions do not run the same forwards as backwards, at least for B mesons. The CU-Boulder team members included physics department faculty members William Ford, Uriel Nauenberg, Jim Smith and Steve Wagner, as well as postdoctoral researcher Alessandro Gaz.

The team analyzed data from the particle physics experiment known as BaBar housed at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory in Menlo Park, Calif. The CU physicists performed the analysis for about 25 of the roughly 500 scientific publications generated by research at the facility. Although the facility was shut down in 2008, there were as many as 500 researchers involved during its peak of operation and scientists are still combing through the data generated during the life of the project, said Ford.

In addition, CU-Boulder researchers were involved in detecting the first direct evidence for a new particle that likely is the long sought-after Higgs boson -- believed to endow the universe with mass -- another top 2012 breakthrough selected by Physics World. Comprised of thousands of scientists, students and support staff working at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, the team has been conducting experiments at a facility known as the Large Hadron Collider, or LHC, a 17-mile underground loop below the Swiss-French border in Geneva that is the world's most powerful atom smasher.

The CU-Boulder high-energy physics team, which includes 15 faculty and students, is involved with the Compact Muon Solenoid, or CMS, one of two massive particle detectors in the LHC and which weighs more than 12,500 tons. The CU

team helped design and build the CMS forward pixel detectors -- the “eyes” of the device -- that help researchers measure the direction and momentum of subatomic particles following collisions, providing clues to their origin and structure.

In addition to Ford, Nauenberg, Smith, Wagner and Gaz, the team included faculty members John Cumulat and Kevin Stenson; postdoctoral researchers Eduardo Luiggi, Keith Ulmer and Shilei Zang; graduate students Brian Drell, Bernadette Heyburn and Andrew Johnson; and technical staff members Eric Erdos and Douglas Johnson.

In the most recent issue of U.S. News & World Report’s America’s Best Graduate Schools, CU-Boulder is tied for first in the nation for its atomic, molecular and optical physics program with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In addition, CU-Boulder’s graduate program in quantum physics was ranked fifth in the nation by the magazine.

Physics World is a publication of the Institute of Physics, a worldwide scientific society with a membership of 45,000 and founded to work together to advance physics, education, research and application.

Obituary: Charles Roitz[24]

Charles Roitz circa 1981. (Photo: Bill Jay)

Charles Joseph Roitz, a former faculty member of the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Colorado Boulder, died Dec. 5, 2012, of complications from liver cancer. He was 77.

He was born Feb. 3, 1935, in Trinidad, Colo., to Adele Picco Roitz and John Stanislaus Roitz. After attending Holy Trinity Catholic School, he enlisted in the Navy, where he served as a photographer, taking aerial pictures of Hawaii and Alaska. After his discharge from the Navy, he attended Regis University on the GI Bill. After graduating from Regis, he began his lifelong love of travel with the first of many trips to Europe with his mentor Father Robert Boyle S.J. He moved to the Bay Area in 1966 to attend San Francisco State University, where he received a master’s degree. There he married Sue Robinson and had two children, Amy (Amelia) and Carla.

The family moved to Boulder in 1970 where he founded the photography department at the University of Colorado; he was a member of the department until 1991. After his retirement, he continued to travel, create images, study sacred geometry and work with the new medium of digital photography. Internationally, he participated in more than 300 group exhibitions and was honored with more than 36 one-person shows. His work has been collected by numerous museums including the Museum of Modern Art, the George Eastman House and the Denver Art Museum. His work has appeared in national and international magazines such as Art In America and in books such as Marks In Place and Innovative Printmaking. He has been honored with three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. To the end, he loved his grandchildren, art, poetry, travel, family and good food.

Roitz generously donated two works by noted California artist and former CU-Boulder faculty member Roland Reiss to the CU Art Museum's permanent collection in 1991, including the shaped resin and fiberglass painting included in the current CU Art Museum painting exhibition, “Luminosity, Liminality, and the Everyday: Selections from the CU Art Museum's Painting Collection.”

He is survived by two daughters, Amelia Stone and Carla Roitz; grandchildren Olivia Stone, Diego Stone and Elsa Chadwick; brother Stan Roitz and sister Emily Cimino. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister Roseann Eastburn. His funeral was Saturday at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Denver.

Obituary: Jake Adam York[26]

Jake Adam York

By Brian Barker and Nicky Beer

Jake Adam York — poet, professor, editor, critic and associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Colorado Denver — died Dec. 16, 2012. While the exact cause is unknown, it's likely that he suffered a stroke or aneurysm. He was 40.

He held graduate degrees from Cornell University (MA, MFA, and Ph.D.) and a bachelor's degree from Auburn University. After arriving at CU Denver in 2000, he founded the university's creative writing program, as well as the university's national literary journal Copper Nickel. He expressed the generosity of his spirit in many ways, including the great joy and pride he took in his work as a literary editor. He regarded the cultivation, publication and celebration of the work of writers he admired to be a profound responsibility, and many times remarked how much this work defined him as a person. He passed this sense of dedication to the written word along to countless students over the years. Such students could always be found in his office, receiving encouragement, advice, gentle teasing and innumerable reading recommendations from his encyclopedic memory. Once, when a student asked him for the definition of poetry, he responded with one word: "Yes." It is that spirit of affirmation that encapsulates who York was as a teacher and a writer.

York also was a deeply conscientious citizen of the university. He worked tirelessly on committees at the departmental, college and university level, and served as a valuable mentor to numerous junior faculty. He brought a galvanizing energy to the Department of English, and viewed its commitment to language and literature as a serious ethical obligation to the university community and the world at large.

He was the author of three books of poetry — "Murder Ballads" (2005), "A Murmuration of Starlings" (2008) and "Persons Unknown" (2010) — and a book of criticism, "The Architecture of Address" (2005). His poems appeared in some of the nation's most prestigious literary journals, including The Southern Review, The Kenyon Review, Pleiades, New England Review and Blackbird. His poetry engaged in an ongoing and ambitious project of elegizing the martyrs of the Civil Rights movement. In doing so, his work became a vanguard for 21st century poets interested in combining research and creativity, in balancing documentation and the imagination. He accepted the burden of history in his work and wrote with unflinching passion, courage and moral complexity about life in the South. He was widely regarded as one of the best poets of his generation.

His list of honors and accolades is long. He was the recipient of the 2009 Colorado Book Award and the Third Coast poetry prize. He was Poet in Residence at the University of Mississippi in 2009, served as the Thomas Visiting Professor in Creative Writing at Kenyon College in 2011, and was chosen by the Mellon Foundation to participate in the James Weldon Johnson Institute for Advanced Study at Emory University during the 2011-2012 academic year. Most recently, in November, he was awarded a prestigious fellowship from National Endowment of the Arts.

He was an aficionado of barbecue and bourbon, as well as jazz, typography, game shows and the history of the book. In the popular Mixed Taste lecture series at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, he spoke on such diverse topics as the sonnet, the sazerac and the birth of the cocktail, Leadbelly, Walt Whitman, and Cajun food. He always wore his erudition lightly and with a smile; he was the best representation of a modern intellectual, embracing knowledge as a means of connection with his fellow human beings.

York is mourned by his wife, parents, brother, extended family, colleagues, friends, fellow writers, and students. May his spirit live on in their hearts and in the body of his words.

The English Department in the CU Denver College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will host a memorial from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 30 at St. Cajetan's on campus. All who knew Jake are invited to attend.

Endowed dean's chair named for Krugman[28]

Richard D. Krugman, dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, was honored with the creation of an endowed dean's chair that will carry his name.

E. Chester Ridgway, senior associate dean for academic affairs, and Lilly Marks, vice president for health affairs at the University of Colorado and executive vice chancellor of the Anschutz Medical Campus, made the announcement Dec. 12 during the dean's 2012 State of the School of Medicine address.

Financial support for the Krugman chair has come from the clinical chairs, University of Colorado Health, Children's Hospital Colorado and University Physicians Inc.

Krugman is the country's longest-serving active medical school dean. Krugman became dean of the CU School of Medicine in 1992 after serving as acting dean for 20 months.

Krugman also is the first vice chancellor for health affairs for the University of Colorado, supporting the deans of the schools of Dental Medicine, Pharmacy and Public Health, the College of Nursing and the Graduate School for the health sciences. He oversees all clinical programs of the university at its five affiliated hospitals; the Center on Aging, the Center of Bioethics and Humanities, the Colorado Area Health Education (AHEC) system and Risk Management also report to him.

A board-certified pediatrician, he earned his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine and completed his internship and residency in pediatrics at the CU School of Medicine. He joined the faculty in 1973.

Christiansen receives research grant[29]

Cory Christiansen

Cory L. Christiansen, an assistant professor in the physical therapy program at the University of Colorado Denver, has received the Mid-career Investigator Research Grant from the Foundation for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation to study typical functional outcomes, and expected early improvements, of current rehabilitation interventions for those who have undergone a dysvascular transtibial amputation.

The Foundation for PM&R gives more than $120,000 annually in seed money for pilot projects to help researchers secure funding for research that has a global impact on individuals with disability. More than 90 percent of support for the foundation comes from private individual donations.

Nine out of 10 Americans will suffer functional disability due to illness or injury at some point in their lives. The foundation strives to enhance health and function for individuals with disability through research and education.

Buszek discusses 'craft' at Smithsonian symposium[31]

Maria Elena Buszek

Maria Elena Buszek, an associate professor of art history at the College of Arts and Media at the University of Colorado Denver, was an invited speaker last month at a symposium at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C.

The event focus was the future of craft in the United States, organized by the Renwick Gallery. Last year, Duke University Press published Buszek's book on the subject, "Extra/Ordinary: Craft and Contemporary Art."

For the symposium, Buszek invited the artists Sonya Clark, Elaine Reichek and Michael Strand to participate in a discussion of their very unusual craft practices, "which as the title of the session suggests, moves craft 'beyond crafting.'" Buszek's session and others were recorded and archived by the Smithsonian, and are available to see[33].

Community honors Whitten for service among first responders[34]

Left to right: Rotary Club President Ev Sequeira, Commander Steve Smidt and Officer Lynn Whitten

Officer **Lynn Whitten**, a member of the CU Denver l Anschutz Medical Campus Police Department, was honored by the Aurora Rotary Club at the annual First Responders Recognition Luncheon on Dec. 5.

As part of her duties, Whitten has provided 15 training sessions on active shooting incidents, a presentation on My Force personal-security services to the Student Senate, 39 new employee orientations, and 52 weekly press releases to the Aurora Sentinel newspaper, and has participated in six panel discussions on safety awareness with the College of Nursing.

"Officer Whitten is the face of the University of Colorado Denver Police Department," said CU Police Commander Steve Schmit.

Whitten also manages, coordinates, and is the lead instructor for the Rape Awareness Defense training program sessions for women offered at the university. So far this year, she has trained 100 women in personal self-defense. Whitten also is a certified instructor for domestic violence awareness/prevention instructor and work place safety/violence prevention.

She represents the Police Department on the University's Behavioral Threat Assessment Team and is the department's victim advocate representative. In that role over the past year, she has assisted 15-20 victims of workplace violence, domestic violence and assaults. Officer Whitten also represents the police department at university-sponsored annual safety fairs, Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) drug take back events and new student welcome events throughout the year.

Holiday schedule for Connections[36]

Today's issue of CU Connections is the last before the holiday break.

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.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/president-budget-hearing-%E2%80%98we%E2%80%99re-creating-culture-efficiency%E2%80%99[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/funding02.png[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/redesigned-system-website-debut-new-year[4] https://www.cu.edu/[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-tim-stoecklein[6] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-stoecklein-toppng [7] https://connections.cu.edu/file/survival-tips-top1png[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/survival-tips-check.png[9] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xf2Xv-UrA5E&feature=plcp[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/how-can-parents-help-children-after-national-tragedy[11] http://coloradodepressioncenter.org[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/be-colorado-health-screenings-see-healthy-increase-participation[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/be-co-bikes.png[14] http://www.becolorado.org/[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver%E2%80%99s-coussons-read-named-uccs-provost[16] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccs-provotspng[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/researchers-discover-chemical-fends-harm-organs[18] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/departments/Anesthesiology/clinicalcare/faculty/Pages/eltzschigh.aspx[19] http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMra1205750[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/library-collaboration-supports-preserving-state%E2%80%99s-cultural-heritage-collections[21] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucd-libpng[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/physics-magazine-cu-involved-two-year%E2%80%99s-top-10-breakthroughs[23] http://physicsworld.com/cws/article/news/2012/dec/14/physics-world-reveals-its-top-10-breakthroughs-for-2012[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/obituary-charles-roitz[25] https://connections.cu.edu/file/charles-roitzjpg[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/obituary-jake-adam-york[27] https://connections.cu.edu/file/jake-adam-york1jpg[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/endowed-dean%E2%80%99s-chair-named-krugman[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/christiansen-receives-research-grant[30] https://connections.cu.edu/file/cory-christiansenjpg[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/buszek-discusses-%E2%80%98craft%E2%80%99-smithsonian-symposium[32] https://connections.cu.edu/file/maria-elena-buszekjpg[33] http://americanart.si.edu/multimedia/webcasts/archive/2012/nationbuilding/frontiers/[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/community-honors-whitten-service-among-first-responders[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/lynn-whittenjpg[36] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/holiday-schedule-connections-0