The 10 most-read CU Connections features of 2018[1]

1. Seven exceptional faculty members are CU's newest Distinguished Professors[2]
The University of Colorado on Friday introduced seven newly designated Distinguished Professors, the highest honor awarded to faculty across the CU system's four campuses.

2. President's Diversity Award recipients honored for contributions to inclusive excellence[3]
The CU President's Diversity Award committee has announced three awards for 2018. The President's Diversity Award recognizes significant achievements of faculty, staff, students and academic or administrative units in developing a culturally and intellectually diverse university community reflective of inclusive excellence.

3. Three CU faculty named President's Teaching Scholars[4]
Three faculty members at the University of Colorado have joined the roster of President's Teaching Scholars, those CU educators who skillfully integrate teaching and research at an exceptional level.

4. Positive forces at CU and beyond: Four honored with Service Excellence Awards[5]
Four University of Colorado staff members were honored on Friday for their contributions to the university and their communities during a luncheon ceremony, hosted by the University of Colorado Staff Council, which sponsors and selects the winners of the Service Excellence Awards.

5. Michael Mozer studies how people learn – and how to make them better at it[6]
Developing ways to optimize the power of learning, both for man and machine, has been a focus of Michael Mozer's research for many years. Mozer, a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Institute of Cognitive Science (ICS) at CU Boulder, is studying the most effective ways of teaching so that humans can better consume and retain information.

6. Six CU researchers named Boettcher Investigators[7]
Six University of Colorado researchers at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and CU Boulder have been named Boettcher Investigators in the Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program for 2018.

7. Classical vocalist Erin Hackel connects with students who sing a different tune[8]
Erin Hackel's talent and love of vocal music landed her on stages singing opera and musical theater. She puts that experience to work as an associate professor at CU Denver's College of Arts and Media, in the Music and Entertainment Industry Studies Department, which she joined in 2003.

8. Thomas Jefferson Award honorees exemplify CU's best in service, leadership[9]
Representing the faculty, staff and student populations, three University of Colorado community members have been named recipients of the 2018 Thomas Jefferson Award. It is among the highest honors given at CU, the state's largest institution of higher education.

9. Physician burnout a creeping epidemic in health care[10]
More than half of United States physicians experience substantial symptoms of burnout, with consequences that extend to family, patients and the entire health care system.

10. In business and education, entrepreneurship expert Erick Mueller takes the road that's more fun[11]
Movement is key to the mission of Erick Mueller. Travel – be it for teaching, for business, or leisure and discovery – figures prominently in conversation about his life. In teaching at CU Boulder's Leeds School of Business, he shows how to take an idea and advance it into fruition.

Staff Council hears update on presidential search[12]

The staff representative who sits on the University of Colorado presidential search committee talked with University of

Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) members during a Dec. 13 video conference, updating members about the search and listening to concerns.

Council members had invited Corey Edwards to their meeting to find out about his experiences in his representative position, but also to express the issues important to staff that could be affected by the university's president.

Edwards, who currently serves as CU Denver's online student success manager, also has relationships with the other campuses in his online education and professional development roles.

Earlier this month, Edwards said, the search committee held its first official meeting as a group and discussed responsibilities and confidentiality requirements. He reminded council that the committee's role is not to select a new president for the university but to instead recommend five candidates for the position to the Board of Regents, which will make a final decision.

He told council members he is committed to listening to staff concerns and understanding the characteristics they seek in a president.

"I read every single email and am looking for themes that can be elevated to the committee," he said.

Council members then discussed with Edwards some of the pressing work issues that university staff have communicated to them, including:
Salary equity. Disparities exist not only between campuses, but also on the same campus between schools and divisions and within departments. In addition, staff pay is often lower than what is found in similar positions in the private sector. Promotional tracks. Council members noted that President Bruce D. Benson was an advocate of "promoting within," but said the university loses professionals because these workers cannot advance their careers.
Additional duties. As campuses continue to grow, staff have reported that they are given additional duties but have not been given additional time to complete those duties or commensurate pay.
In other business, the council:
Discussed plans to update the organization's bylaws at its next meeting in January. Heard updates concerning plans for an upcoming development day; and Heard reports from campus and system. The CU Boulder and CU Denver l Anschutz councils will be conducting surveys to learn more about work-life issues that affect staff, including affordable housing, child care, elder care, and flexible work schedules.

CU Anschutz to partner with Allen Institute for Immunology [13]

Virtual human — a living cadaver — pushes boundaries of anatomical science [14]

Chancellor advocates for CU Boulder's historic buildings before state's Capital Development Committee[15]

The flip side of happiness[16]

‘You look at our world and believe it can and should do better’ [17]

Education school prepares future counselors to address diverse clients [18]

The monetization of motivation[19]

Publication note: No CU Connections on Thanksgiving, Dec. 27, Jan. 3[20]

CU Connections will not publish new issues on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 22), Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

Deadline for submissions for the Thursday, Nov. 29, issue is noon Wednesday, Nov. 21.

The final new issue before the winter holiday break will appear Thursday, Dec. 20; deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Dec. 14.

Connections returns after the winter break on Thursday, Jan. 10. Deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Jan. 4.

During the holiday breaks, the website will be updated with news should events warrant.

Weimer, Hall named National Academy of Inventors Fellows[21]

Berg named chair of Department of Immunology and Microbiology[22]

Welshon named interim dean of College of Letters, Arts and Sciences[23]

In memoriam: James Avery[24]
[25]

James Paul Avery, professor emeritus and former associate dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science at CU Boulder, died Dec. 1, 2018, after a year and a half battle with a rare form of blood cancer. He was 68.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Jan. 4, 2019, at St. John’s Episcopal Church, 1419 Pine St., Boulder.

He was born July 23, 1950, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Clarence George Avery and Rachel Leah Kasson Avery. He graduated from DeKalb High School in DeKalb, Illinois, in 1968.

He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in computer science from Michigan State University in 1972 and a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 1978.

He married Susan Kathryn Rykala on Aug. 12, 1972, in Southfield, Michigan.

Avery had a distinguished academic career, serving as a faculty member in analytical chemistry at the University of Illinois before joining the faculty in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder in 1982.

At CU Boulder, he served as associate department chair of electrical and computer engineering, technical director of the Integrated Teaching and Learning Laboratory (ITLL) and associate dean of the College of Engineering. He also provided technical and consulting support for the Scientific Shipboard Services Group at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Avery was a pioneer in the integration of microcomputers into scientific instrumentation, and over a career of decades, developed computer interfaces for blood chemistry and analysis instruments. At Illinois, he was co-inventor of an instrumental concept that has had continuing, broad influence on the design of chemical instrumentation. At Colorado, he developed interfaces for atmospheric radar systems, traveling to such far-flung locales as Australia, Saipan, Greenland, Christmas Island and the South Pole to conduct field work. Nationally known as an innovator in engineering education, he was instrumental to the development of the ITLL – an innovative facility that is dedicated to hands-on engineering and project-based learning.

He received the Antarctica Service Medal through the National Science Foundation. He was a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and a member and served on the Board of the Falmouth Historical Society.

Avery was soft-spoken, kind and gentle. Ever inquisitive, the prospect of new discoveries always sparked his enthusiasm and imagination. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes and went out of his way to help people without ever asking for recognition.

He loved all kinds of music, especially classical and jazz, four-wheel-drive adventures and exploring old mines and railroads in the Colorado mountains. Trains, large and small, fascinated him. He was famous for his wit and humor, especially as revealed in his famous annual Christmas letters, better known as The Boulder Blarion and Woods Hole Hollerer. He also enjoyed working with the Boulder Amateur Radio Club Juniors.

He is survived by his wife, Susan Avery, of Boulder; a son, Christopher Scott Avery of Walnut Creek, California; a brother, Robert Scott Avery of Atlanta; and two sisters, Patricia Ann Avery of Hastings, Nebraska, and Mary Virginia Avery of Orlando, Florida.

Memorial contributions may be made to the James Avery Memorial Scholarship Fund at CU Boulder at https://giving.cu.edu/fund/james-avery-memorial-scholarship-fund[26] or CU Advancement, CU Foundation, 1800 Grant St., Denver, 80203.

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