Update: Regent Bishop won't seek re-election[1]

[2]

University of Colorado Regent Tilman "Tillie" Bishop, who has served on the board since 2007, says he will not seek a second term this year.

The Grand Junction Republican represents Colorado's 3rd Congressional District. A Colorado native, Bishop is a longtime educator and influential politician who served for nearly three decades as a state lawmaker. He told the Grand Junction Daily Sentinel this week that he will not run for re-election this November.

Bishop told CU Connections that his ongoing battle with cancer makes it difficult to travel across the state to attend board meetings. An interview with Bishop will appear in next week's issue, debuting on Thursday, Jan. 11.

Said CU President Bruce D. Benson, "Tillie Bishop has been an exemplary public servant for the people of Grand Junction and the citizens of Colorado for nearly four decades, and in his role as regent he has provided thoughtful, measured and experienced leadership for CU. We have been fortunate that he and his wife, Pat, have spent the past five-plus years serving our institution, and we look forward to his continued leadership over the coming year."

The 3rd Congressional District is Colorado's largest geographically, encompassing the western third of the state as well as the Pueblo area. Before Bishop indicated his plans, one candidate already had filed with the state to seek election to the seat: Jessica Garrow, a Carbondale Democrat.

CU medical school's Mini Med 2 debuts[3]

Mini Med School has taught more than 17,000 people the basics of science and medicine. Founded in 1989 by J. John Cohen, M.D., Ph.D., a University of Colorado School of Medicine professor of Immunology and Medicine, the Mini Med [4] concept has spread nationally and internationally.

Now there's a sequel.

Introducing "Mini Med School Part 2: The clinical years."

This pilot program will be offered on the Anschutz Medical Campus beginning Jan. 11, 2012. It will run Wednesdays, 7-8:30 pm, through February. Priority registration will be given to graduates of Mini Med School. There are plans to broadcast the sessions to satellite sites in the future.

Topics of Part 2 include: the doctor-patient relationship; heart disease and risk modification; childhood development; pneumonia and smoking; trauma and injury prevention; diabetes and obesity; and pregnancy, delivery and prenatal care.

Dennis Boyle, M.D., and Stephen Wolf, M.D., both on the medical school faculty, will lead this pilot program.

Registration is **free** but seats are limited so register now. More information and a registration form are available online [5].

Faculty partnering with federal agency for international study of water resources [6]

CU-Boulder graduate student Adina Racoviteanu collected snow and ice samples for isotopic analyses near the summit of Mt. Mera, Khumbu region, Nepal, as part of an INSTAAR research effort. Makalu, the fifth-highest mountain in the world at 27,825 feet, is visible in the far left background . Photo courtesy Mark Williams, University of Colorado

A University of Colorado Boulder team is partnering with the United States Agency for International Development to assess snow and glacier contributions to water resources originating in the high mountains of Asia that straddle 10 countries.

Richard Armstrong and Mark Williams, the two faculty members leading the four-year study, said the aim is to provide a comprehensive and systematic assessment of freshwater resources in the so-called “High Asia” region, which encompasses five mountain ranges and watersheds totaling roughly 1 million square miles. The area under study is roughly equal to one-third of the contiguous United States.

This assessment will be crucial in helping to forecast the future availability and vulnerability of water resources in the region, beginning with accurate assessments of the distinct, separate contributions to river discharge from melting glacier ice and seasonal snow. Such data ultimately will provide a better understanding of the timing and volume of runoff in the face of climate change, said the CU-Boulder researchers.

The High Asia mountains funnel water into such major river basins as the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Indus, Amu Darya and Syr Darya. The High Asian mountain ranges under study include the Himalaya, Karkoram, Hindu Kush, Pamir and Tien Shan. The mountain ranges straddle Bhutan, Nepal, China, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Through the partnership, scientists and students within the 10 countries will carry out collaborative research with CU-Boulder scientists. The project also will support satellite data processing by CU-Boulder staff and trainings for local institutions and observers within the study area to collect water and precipitation samples for the project.

While about one-third of the world’s population depends to some degree on fresh water within the High Asia hydrological system, not enough data exists on river and stream flows and the contribution of seasonal snow and glacier melt to paint an accurate picture of the water resources there, said Armstrong, a senior research scientist at CU-Boulder’s National Snow and Ice Data Center, or NSIDC.

The team requires an accurate quantitative portrait of each major river basin and sub-basin in High Asia. The Indus River, for example – which is fed by waterways from the Himalaya, Karakorum and Hindu Kush mountain ranges – comes together at the city of Besham, Pakistan, “where it immediately turns into the largest irrigation system in the world,” Williams said. “The sources of water in High Asia feeding the major foothill regions where most of the people live are really the crux of this study.”

Armstrong said there is a lot of misinformation in the public arena regarding glaciers, including reports that glaciers in the Himalaya are receding faster than anywhere else in the world and, if this rapid melting continues, rivers are on track to first flood and then dry up. “Those reports simply are not true,” Armstrong said.

USAID is an independent United States government agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States.

“USAID wants to know how the High Asia water resources affect local populations,” said Armstrong, also a fellow at the CU-headquartered Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences. “They are looking at this challenge from a sustainability perspective, including what is going to happen to rivers like the Indus and the Brahmaputra in the next 20 years.”

The researchers will use remote-sensing satellite data from NASA, the European Space Agency and the Japanese Space Agency to develop time-series maps of seasonal snowfall amounts and recent changes in glacier extent, said Williams, a fellow at CU-Boulder’s Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research and a CU-Boulder geography professor. They also will use local meteorological and river discharge data from throughout the High Asia study area.

“What’s really driving this study are questions about water security,” Williams said. “There is a lot of international interest in accurate water resource data from the High Asia region and what the water security consequences are, since water conflicts between countries can escalate rapidly. This study should provide answers as to what is real and what is false.”

“Once we have a picture of recent and current conditions, we can go forward and run computer ‘melt models’ based on the temperatures at various elevations, giving us trends in snowmelt and glacier melt by region and time,” Armstrong said. “That’s when we start to come up with water volumes for individual rivers and streams from both melting snow and ice.”

The modeling results will be verified using geochemical and water isotope “tracer” techniques developed at CU that allow researchers to follow water as it courses through mountain landscapes. Previous studies by Williams and his research group showed high mountain groundwater in Colorado dominated by snowmelt can be locked underground for decades before emerging into downstream waterways. “These isotopic and geochemical measurements provide unique fingerprints, allowing a CSI-like approach to tracing water sources,” Williams said.

Critical to the project is the university’s expertise in remote sensing research through NSIDC – including assessing changes in Earth’s snow and ice cover – and INSTAAR’s research on the physical, chemical and biological processes in “critical zones,” which are the areas between treetops and groundwater. INSTAAR administers both the Long-Term Ecological Research site at Niwot Ridge west of Boulder and the Critical Zone Observatory project in the Boulder Creek watershed for the National Science Foundation.

One of the biggest project challenges will be to obtain data from some of the most remote regions on Earth, Williams said. The water, rain and snow samples collected by collaborators within the study area will be sent back to CU-Boulder for analysis.

The research will bring together scientists and government officials in the countries of High Asia to coordinate and compare results on what part of river flows come from glaciers and seasonal snow. This sharing of information is important because the rivers of Asia can cross several country borders. USAID support will contribute to the research and coordination and CU-Boulder will make its archived and new data on snow and ice easily available to all the countries and their citizens.

The CU team will hire Asian project managers and collaborate with research scientists affiliated with various Asian institutes. “We already have some good scientific contacts in the region, people we know who are reliable and who can deliver,” Armstrong said.

A number of CU undergraduate and graduate students will be involved in the study and support will be available to Asian students by way of the funding provided to Asian project partners.

“One of the main project goals is to transfer scientific understanding to people in the region who can continue these measurements and analysis once the USAID project is finished,” Armstrong said. “The idea is to provide the local population with the information they need to make decisions that will increase sustainability as land use and climate change.”

Campus generosity brightens holidays for 26 families[8]

Holiday Service Project committee member Nancy Gadachy and friend. Photo by Ron Fitz

The UCCS community made a happy holiday possible for 26 families this year, providing gifts and food to celebrate the season.

Donations increased during the final week and the Kraemer Family Library's Food for Fines campaign helped make the 2011 Holiday Service Project successful.

UCCS, as a whole, is to be congratulated for coming through again with donations during lean economic times, said committee co-chairs Sheryl Botts, program assistant II in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and Sherry McDonnell, financial assistant in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. The co-chairs also praised the HSP committee members and other volunteers who put time and effort into collecting, shopping, wrapping, and sorting donation, along with seeing to other necessary details.

Committee members included Beverly Kiselich, program assistant I, Visual and Performing Arts; Carla Myers, assistant professor and access services librarian, Kraemer Family Library; Gudrun McCollum, library technician III, Kraemer Family Library; Heidi Schwab, general professional II, Financial Aid/Student Employment; Ian Smith, program assistant I, History, Philosophy and Humanities; Kerry Peterson, assistant professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Kristina Woods, program assistant I, Physics Department; Kurt Johnson, director, Center for Homeland Security; Mary Lile, accountant I, Resource Management Division; Mary McGill, program assistant I, departments of Political Science and Geography and Environmental Studies; Nancy Gadachy, program assistant II, Student Health Center; Rosemary Kelbel, program assistant I, Sociology Department; Tish Fleener, program assistant I, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department; and Valerie McClinton, academic adviser, Student Success Center.

The Holiday Service Project for 2011 started the first week in October with an announcement from the co-chairs requesting volunteers, providing an overview of duties to be performed, and giving notice of the first HSP meeting Oct. 20. Later that week, Botts sent a request for nominations of families in need. By early November, families were selected and Botts announced that departments, clubs, other groups and individuals could adopt and provide gifts for a family. On Nov. 10 volunteers set up giving trees, cash contribution containers and Holidrop boxes across campus to receive donations until Dec. 7. On Dec. 8, volunteers and committee members brought all the food and gifts to University Center room 116. There, they divided the food and separated the gifts for each of the 26 families.

Botts said at first glance cash donations were down compared to last year's contributions, totaling almost $1,000. Some cash contributions came in on the final day, after the shopping and gift card buying were finished. Botts said those funds will be used for next year's holiday project.

Many of the tag ornaments from the giving trees were taken early in the campaign and the gifts to accompany them also arrived in the final week. Botts said most trees had almost all the tags taken and one tree was hardly touched. She said locations for the giving trees may be reconsidered by the holiday committee next year.

Each child in the adopted families also received books, Botts said. Barnes and Noble teams with the project each year to collect books for all the children involved. They collected five books per child this year to be given out with the gifts.

The project owes a great deal to the Kraemer Family Library's Food for Fines program and to Carla Myers, who introduced the concept. Allowing library patrons to pay off fines with items for the food drive benefitted everyone involved and was well received. Library donations totaled approximately 1,500 cans, jars and packaged items, and the program will likely be repeated next year.

On Dec.9, all throughout the day, someone from each adopted family came to UC 116 to claim their wrapped presents and gift baskets. Committee members took carts piled with the goods outside to load in the recipients' vehicles.

"UCCS always seems to make this work, sometimes at the last minute," McDonnell said, "but the campus always seems to come together to help out."

Math Clinic students compute solutions for real-world dilemmas[10]

Erin Reeves, a student in Math Clinic, explains an algorithmic equation that she and fellow students computed to solve problems posed by United Launch Alliance, a Centennial aerospace company.

Multicolored graphs, complicated equations and comparative data were explained as only math majors can – in precise detail – as Math Clinic students presented findings from a semester's worth of number crunching.

The class, taught by Associate Professor Stephen Billups, Ph.D., gave math students an opportunity to develop more efficient algorithms for use in the aerospace industry. United Launch Alliance[12], an aerospace company based in Centennial, sponsored the problems that Math Clinic students worked to solve this semester. The students delivered their findings in a Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences[13] classroom on Dec. 15.

Student Thad Smidt, who has worked as an information technology professional for 10 years, said Math Clinic is "almost exactly" like the real world.

"You encounter the same types of problems with technology, having to work with other people, obstacles and having to present a final product," Smidt said.

ULA provided the students with characteristics of a problem to be solved, and Billups worked with the students to develop potential algorithms.

"CU Denver operates its math clinic as a research team and focuses on solving real business problems," Billups said. "United Launch Alliance has given our students the opportunity to collaborate and understand how they can apply their skills in the workforce."

Zach Richards, ULA optimization engineer and university research manager, said he will take the students' work back to his firm, where their solutions will be tested. Richards studied math at CU Denver and was a Math Clinic student in spring 2006.

"Math Clinic is very beneficial to ULA because it allows us to think outside the box by reaching out to the university and having the students look at a problem with a fresh perspective," Richards said. "It allows them to bring forward unique ideas to a problem that is well-known and well-understood by our engineers."

Next semester Math Clinic students will work on problems sponsored by Noble Energy Inc.[14]

South Metro business leaders get up-close view of health, economic impacts[15]

Joey Failma, simulation director for the Center for Advancing Professional Excellence at the Anschutz Medical Campus, watches as members of the South Metro Chamber of Commerce listen through stethoscopes to the internal organs of a lifelike mannequin.

John Brackney, president and CEO of the South Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce[17], says it's hard to appreciate the magnitude of the Anschutz Medical Campus[18] until you step foot on the massive Aurora campus.

"On Highway 225 and Colfax, we pass this but we have no understanding," he says after taking a tour of the Center for Advancing Professional Excellence[19]. "Most business people don't understand how significant and how detailed, how extensive and how much money and how much space is here. It's just outstanding to see from the old Army hospital to the new training facilities, with all the high-tech stuff. It's just a really impressive campus. We are thrilled to see it here."

About 40 leaders of the South Metro Denver Chamber toured the Anschutz Medical Campus on Dec. 14. It was one of

a series of open houses the still-growing campus – when the nearby VA Hospital is complete in 2015 it will represent $3.8 billion in construction – that has taken place at the campus in recent months.

he impact of the campus – in clinical care, research, education, community service and, soon, wellness – can't be understated, says Lilly Marks, executive vice chancellor of the Anschutz Medical Campus and vice president for health affairs for the CU system, as she spoke to the group during lunch.

After she explained the campus's high rankings in research dollars and stellar rankings of various medical programs, Marks says, "This has become one of the meccas for health care in Colorado. We have two incredible hospitals on the site. ... We have some of the best clinical facilities in the country right now."

But the challenges for health care are many, including a predicted shortage of 90,000 physicians nationally by 2020.

"Within the constraints of capacity we have and within the financial constraints we have, we're doing everything we can on this campus to increase our through-put, or creation, of health care workers and health care professionals," she says.

Given that she was speaking to a group of business leaders, Marks geared many remarks to the campus's economic impact. She notes that 17,000 direct jobs have been created in the last decade, and several thousand more will be generated with the Children's Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado Hospital expansions and the nearby VA facility.

Marks told the group that the Anschutz Medical Campus has a direct economic impact of $2.4 billion. Adding an economic multiplier to that, the impact is well over $4.5 billion.

"This is an extraordinary economic engine for our state in addition to what we provide in terms of services and education," Marks says.

She notes that the "next frontier" includes the discoveries emerging from the campus's research labs. Anschutz Medical Campus is working to become a leader in translating research into new drugs, devices and businesses. Just last year, the campus filed 123 patents, resulting in three startup companies; the average is five to seven startups a year.

"There's a lot coming out of this campus and the research that's done here," Marks says. "We've just begun to recognize that potential."

The South Metro Chamber group broke into smaller groups and toured CAPE, a premier health simulation facility; took a virtual tour of the human body courtesy of CU researchers who have replicated slicing a body into 0.1 millimeter slices; and walked through the soon-to-open Anschutz Health and Wellness Center[20].

"We are just really pleased that we are here today," Brackney says. "We all have a role and we have a role to support CU, CU Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus in a big way."

Boulder philosophy program earns high ranking[21]

The philosophy program at the University of Colorado Boulder is ranked 24th among U.S. programs in the recently released Blackwell Philosophical Gourmet Report[22] for 2011-13.

Considered the most influential ranking of graduate programs in philosophy in the English-speaking world, the report also ranked the CU-Boulder program 11th among U.S. state universities and 29th worldwide.

Graeme Forbes, chair of the department[23], said the department climbed 12 spots from its 2004 ranking of 36.

The report also ranks programs in various specialties. The CU-Boulder program was placed in the top group for Applied Ethics (along with Duke, Georgetown, Harvard, Oxford, Princeton and Rutgers). It also was placed in the top group for Feminist Philosophy (with MIT, Sheffield and the

University of Washington). The Boulder program also was strongly ranked in a wide range of other specialties, including Metaphysics, Ethics and various areas in the history of philosophy.

Cybercriminals aim to hack your mind[24]

Cybercriminals have learned that the easiest way to take control of your computer or steal your passwords is to simply ask you for them.

Known as social engineering, this method does not rely on technology or exploit vulnerability in a program. Instead, it is a psychological attack to trick you into divulging information. Cybercriminals build trust with you, pretending to be a person or organization you know. They then exploit this trust to get what they want, such as access to your computer or your passwords.

For more information, including how to protect yourself from social engineering attacks, please read the December issue of the Office of Information Security's newsletter on Cyber Security[25].

Reddy among directors of new Colorado Springs economic group [26]

Venkat Reddy

Venkat Reddy, dean of the College of Business at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, recently was selected as one of 15 directors to form the new governing board of the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Colorado Springs Regional Economic Development Corporation.

The groups formally announced an agreement Dec. 15 to unify as one organization to be known as the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC, effective Feb. 1, 2012.

The respective boards submitted nominations and voted to appoint a slate of 15 directors. Reddy will join Chris Blees of Biggs Kofford, Frank Caris of dpiX, Debbie Chandler of Colorado Springs Health Partners, Toby Gannett of The Palisades at Broadmoor Park, Steve Helbing of Wells Fargo, Chris Jenkins of Nor'wood Development Group, Mike Jorgensen of Red Noland Cadillac Inc., Dan Malinaric of Atmel, Tom Neppl of Springs Fabrication Inc., Kevin O'Neil of The O'Neil Group, Sherri Newell of Colorado Springs Utilities, Dave Palenchar of El Pomar Foundation, Doug Quimby of La Plata Communities Inc., and Air Force Gen. (retired) "Gene" Renuart Jr.

The new board consists of five members from each of the Chamber and EDC boards and five at-large members. The chair of the new board will be appointed at its first official meeting after Feb. 1. The respective Chamber and EDC boards have directed the newly appointed board to serve prior to Feb. 1 as the transition team planning the merger and

bringing about its implementation.

A search committee has been established to conduct a national search for the new organization's CEO, expected to be in place within the next three to four months. The search committee is co-chaired by Chamber board Chair Bill Hodgkins and EDC board Chair Doug Quimby.

While economic development and job creation will be at the forefront of the new organization, it is anticipated that the membership programs and services of both organizations will remain the same with any modifications or changes done so in concert with the investors and members.

Wellness initiative could gain new participation incentives[28]

The University of Colorado's Health and Welfare Trust is exploring ways to enhance its wellness initiative and is examining other programs that similar entities offer to employees.

E. Jill Pollock, vice president of Employee and Information Services, told members of the University of Colorado Staff Council during its videoconference Dec. 15 that she, Lilly Marks, vice president for Health Affairs and executive vice chancellor Anschutz Medical Campus, and Jim Hill, executive director of the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center and director of the Center for Human Nutrition, recently met with a representative of the Cleveland Clinic to discuss initiatives that have worked for the clinic.

"The Cleveland Clinic has 40,000 employees and a more mature wellness initiative than we do," Pollock said. "They've had a wellness program for seven years so this is an opportunity to learn from what's been successful."

The clinic offers weight management, nutrition counseling and smoking cessation programs free to participating employees. It also offer deals for those who use the Cleveland Clinic's or partner exercise facilities. Since the plan has been instituted, Pollock said, the clinic has witnessed a dramatic increase in use of the program. One participation incentive is an insurance premium rate reduction.

While some in the industry believe people who pay for part of a wellness program are more likely to continue participation, Cleveland saw a spike in involvement when the program was offered at no cost to employees.

Last year the University of Colorado Hospital, which is a member of the Health Trust, offered incentive payments of $120 for those employees who participated in a heath assessment and biometric screening. The participation rate in the UCH wellness program increased to 53.2 percent from 18 percent, Pollock said.

Possible incentives the CU wellness program might include in the future: partnerships with exercise franchises such as 24 Hour Fitness, or discounted premiums for those people who can show they've visited a wellness facility a certain number of times per month.

This fall, the university initiated Be Colorado, a systemwide, comprehensive wellness program offered to participants of the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust. The first phase of the program offered free online health assessments to eligible individuals.

Council members said some employees still are concerned that wellness information obtained through the university program could be used to identify them. But Pollock adamantly disagreed, saying laws prohibit employers from viewing employee medical records or other medical information.

"We are using any participation data to grow a healthy program, so those fears should be put to rest," she said. "As an employer, I would never see anybody's name. The data we see are all numbers."

In addition, Pollock gave these updates:

Colorado Weigh, the weight-loss program that began on the Anschutz Medical Campus, will be rolled out on all CU campuses this spring. The role of the University Benefits Advisory Board (UBAB) will be clarified. Years ago, university health insurance was self-funded, but after a series of poor audits, that initiative was ended. In 2000, UBAB was formed to provide an opportunity for employee input as the university transitioned to third-party insurers. But with the return of self-funding and establishment of the Health and Wellness Trust and the transparency of its reports and financials, said Pollock, the mission and goals of UBAB are less clear. Pollock said that in the past three years, she has not received reports or recommendations from the board. Because the university policy that established the board is under review this year, she said, it is the perfect time to reassess the board and its mission. A revision of the tuition benefits policy will allow employees to transfer the nine-credit-hour annual benefit to dependents. A draft of the policy, which still is under review, is online at https://www.cu.edu/policies/aps-under-review.html[29], under Human Resources, “5024-Education Assistance Program.”
In other matters:

Carla Johnson, Staff Council chair, said she will research the number of hours other state entities and universities provide employees for volunteer service. The Boulder campus allows employees 16 hours of volunteer leave, but other campus policies are less definitive. Once the research is finished, staff council will draft a recommendation that would make volunteer hours consistent across all campuses.

Dan Montez, director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency, gave an update about the office’s efforts to review policies and eliminate or revise those that no longer are applicable as well as increase System Administration efficiency. The office’s website allows those interested to view policies under review and that those that have been rescinded or revised. It also lets employees make recommendations for efficiency as well as look at status reports on recommendations. Beginning this year, Montez said, units within System Administration will be evaluated to find ways to promote continuous improvement.

Five questions for Kenneth Morse[30]

Kenneth Morse with the overhauled turbine at CU-Boulder’s Power House.

Kenneth Morse

In the middle of the University of Colorado Boulder stands a compact building that houses turbines, generators, boilers and a host of other equipment used to provide power to the entire campus. The original Power House – built in 1909 to provide heat, electricity and hot water – used coal as its fuel, then later natural gas. In 1992, the plant was retrofitted to be a cogeneration facility, using one source of fuel to generate two types of power.

Kenneth Morse worked with the construction company that converted the plant. After he had installed and started up the new equipment, he was recruited to stay with the university and later became maintenance supervisor and operations manager for the Power House.

He’s no stranger to power plants: He previously installed equipment for a trash incinerator in Florida, geothermal plants in California and a compressed air energy storage plant in Alabama. He clearly loves machinery, and during his leisure time he builds and restores vehicles.

Perhaps the curiosity about how things works is genetic: Morse is the eighth-great grandson of Samuel F. B. Morse, the artist and inventor of the single-wire telegraph and the co-inventor of the Morse code.

1. How much power, and what kind, does the Power House produce now?

We use natural gas to make electricity by running gas turbines. The exhaust from the turbines – called waste gas – is

captured and used to heat water to produce steam. This method known as cogeneration is popular because it's more efficient and can be a more economical way of producing energy needed to power and heat the campus. The energy that normally would go out the stack and be wasted is instead used to produce another form of energy. The combined output of the plant produces enough electricity to power more than 30,000 homes.

The original plant was built in 1909, so within our walls we have an array of history and different equipment still running in the plant. Some major equipment was installed in the 1950s and some systems have been around longer than that. (We don't have records that go that far back.) The Power House can produce all of the electrical requirements for the campus and still export any excess to Xcel Energy. Because we're tied to the electrical grid we can also import everything we need. The campus peak load is 21-24 megs, but the plant is capable of producing 31 megs. We can become our own island of electricity if needed during bad snowstorms or windstorms that cause power outages.

We've just completed a 100,000-hour overhaul of a gas turbine and generator, which cost $4.5 million and took 1 1/2 years to plan, procure the parts, and more than three months to rebuild and inspect to make sure it works like new again. The university is also building a second plant that will share steam and chill water production to the campus, with the electricity still produced at the Power House. The Power House will get a new, larger steam turbine and new chillers, so we have some intensive modifications going on. This plant is very compact – it's kind of like working in a submarine – so the placement of the equipment will be critical.

2. What is the toughest process you've gone through at the Power House?

[33]
Taking over the maintenance contract for the turbine generator sets shortly after becoming maintenance supervisor. The maintenance was previously performed by the company that packaged the turbine generator sets and the turbine's manufacturer. These are the only two turbines like this in the United States, so that presented a unique challenge for me. The turbine was manufactured by Mitsubishi heavy industries in Japan; the generator was manufactured by Brush in the United Kingdom; and the gearbox was manufactured by Renk in Germany. So I had to work with different manufacturers from different countries to obtain the resources needed to maintain the equipment.

3. You patented a repair process you use at the Power House. What was the issue?

I did it because I'm not a fan of fixing things twice and can be a bit lazy having to do so at times. The problem, which has been documented since 1957, was with the de-aerator, which prevents corrosion in the pipes. It was built with different materials that were different thicknesses. When the thing heats up, the thin material grows at a faster rate and buckles and cracks the welds and thinner materials inside. Normally, you would have to cut open the vessel, make the repairs, put the vessel back together and recertify it. All of that would take a couple of weeks. But my colleague and I created a way to take multiple pieces in smaller sizes through a manway – an oval hole that's about 11 inches by 16 inches – and assemble them inside to make the repairs. It's like building a ship in a bottle. The repairs used to be a yearly problem, but since we created the fix, I haven't been inside there for five or six years. The process we invented was a lot cheaper and took less time – only a weekend.

4. Was there an event or person who influenced your passion for machinery?

My dad. As a kid I was always curious about how things worked so Dad would let me hang out with him and show me how things worked as he fixed things around the house and at work. I like building street rods and trucks. One of my favorites is my '67 Mustang that is more of a mod restoration using period-correct parts to make it look like it did back in the day, along with some modern technology. I'm also working on two other projects. One is with my son Josh, building up my dad's old '72 F-250 truck. It's looking to be a more impressive street truck than the version I built when I owned it. The second project I'm working on with my daughter Myka is a '70 Baja bug that's turning out to be a screamer in its own right. My everyday driver is a '03 F-250 Super Duty. The beast makes a ton of power. We all seem to like making things go fast.

5. What's the worst job you've ever had?

Working in a paper mill that was currently in operation but was doubling its capacity. We had to go in at night and add

the additional rollers between the mills' existing rollers. Everything was still hot, stinky and dirty. We had 12 hours to install the additional rollers and put the plant back in operation. During the day we also doubled the capacity of the mills' chemical-producing equipment used in the paper-making process. Both would make a great episode on "Dirty Jobs."

Director putting restaurant background to work at University of Colorado Hospital[34]

Victoria Franklin

Victoria Franklin, the director of Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) at the University of Colorado Hospital, is a native of New Orleans and a third-generation restaurateur. She comes to UCH from the University of Rochester (New York) Medical Center, where she served for three years as senior multiservices director. Despite her roots in a region of the country considered a mecca for serious restaurateurs, Franklin doesn't regret her decision to get out of the notoriously competitive and time-demanding job of pleasing retail customer palates. Instead, she's found satisfaction – and success – in the institutional food service world.

"I knew I didn't want to do restaurants," she said. "Restaurant life is hard. I wanted something that would allow me to serve people and use my clinical knowledge as well as my retail/restaurant and know-how – and something that also did not normally require getting home at 2 a.m."

Franklin says she's ready for new challenges at UCH.

"I made the decision because (UCH is) a hospital connected to a university," Franklin said. "And because of its growing reputation in the area." Having kids and grandkids up the road in Fort Collins didn't hurt, she admits, but the opportunities for success at a "renowned institution" drove the final decision.

Franklin says UCH's inpatient room service – food temperature, timeliness of meal delivery, meal quality and so on – has room for improvement. "Ours is not functioning at the level that it should," Franklin said. "And room service is what drives patient satisfaction."

An important key to improving patient satisfaction, she believes, is increasing employees' engagement with their workplace and their managers. That's another area she says she'll stress heavily.

"During the past three to six months, the FNS team has done an incredible job working on cleanliness and organizational opportunities with our staff, as well as making some major improvements in food quality," she said. "We're not good yet at recognition and rewards. When employees do good stuff, we need to let them know they've done a great job. That will enhance their ability to do their job better."

Also on Franklin's lengthy to-do list is continuing to upgrade the hospital's retail cafeterias. The effort already is well under way with the addition of healthier food choices and a greater variety of menu items. She also wants to cementing FNS's relationship with the hospital's inpatient nurses, with whom the department works closely. She plans meetings with each nurse manager starting in January.

Reaching out is nothing new for a woman who has worked in communities stretching from the adobe houses of Los Cruces to the Ute Reservation near Cortez to the feedlots and rodeos of Greeley to Denver's northern suburbs.

UCH proposal unanimous choice of Memorial Task Force[36]

The University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) is leading a partnership group that was unanimously selected for consideration to operate Colorado Springs' Memorial Hospital, which is now run by the city.

The Memorial System Task Force, after considering bids from five health systems, forwarded the UCH bid to the Colorado Springs City Council on Monday as the consensus choice. The council will formally receive the recommendation on Jan. 9, considering it before determining next steps.

The proposal to lease and operate Memorial was made by UCH and northern Colorado's Poudre Valley Health System, which are nearing the formation of a new hospital system. They were joined by Children's Hospital Colorado, which would operate a specialty "hospital within a hospital" at Memorial, and the University of Colorado. The proposal also would fund a branch of the University of Colorado School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

"Our whole team is honored to continue the conversation with Colorado Springs regarding Memorial's bright future as part of our University of Colorado Health System," said Bruce Schroffel, president and CEO of University of Colorado Hospital. "We look forward to the opportunity to expand our long-standing relationship with the Pikes Peak region through support for Memorial's already excellent medical staff, expanded educational opportunities and greater economic development."

The city council will consider the task force's recommendation in the coming weeks. During the vetting process, task force members singled out the UCH Colorado-based nonprofit system for the mission and values it shares with Memorial. Task force members also said they were impressed by the quality of care and educational excellence represented in the partnership, as well as by the branch medical campus that the partnership would establish.

"UCCS has always stood for expanding educational opportunity in our community and the entire Pikes Peak region," said UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. "This partnership will allow us to help create the next generation of doctors right here in Colorado Springs. Additionally, it will enhance our already strong nursing programs and might ultimately lead to a fully realized health care campus."

Besides the financial terms of the package, the UCH proposal also anticipates the new system would bring the region economic development benefit valued at $1.3 billion to $1.5 billion annually.

"I believe the University of Colorado has a proven track record that will make these projected economic benefits a reality," said Kyle Hybl, chairman of the University of Colorado Board of Regents. "These aren't just numbers. We've already created a winning economic model on the Anschutz Medical Campus."

Task force members focused attention on care for members of the military and their families, the alignment of mission and values among the partners in the new University of Colorado Health System and ensuring charity care.

"One of the cornerstones of our proposal is a clear and unequivocal commitment to care for our military service members and their families through TriCare," said Lilly Marks, chair of the University of Colorado Hospital Board of Directors and executive vice chancellor of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. "As the second-largest TriCare provider in the state, we know the economics and we fully understand the commitment we're making. Our commitment to providing charity care to our communities is also unwavering."

Compassion in crisis led to honor for nurse[37]

Erin Dillard

University of Colorado Hospital Surgical Intensive Care Unit nurse **Erin Dillard** earlier this year fought long and hard to care for a very ill, pregnant 32-year-old patient. For her efforts, Dillard, an RN, received the third-quarter 2011 DAISY

Award for Exceptional Nurses during a ceremony earlier this month.

The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Foundation, based in Glen Ellen, Calif., established the award in 2000 to recognize extraordinary care extended by a provider to a patient or family. Dillard delivered several days of care to the patient, who was five weeks pregnant. Because of a pre-existing condition, the patient developed blood clots, then went into cardiac arrest. Efforts to save her ultimately failed. Her husband, stationed overseas for military service at the time, took an emergency flight home to see his wife before she died.

“Erin was so attentive and compassionate not only to the patient but to the husband who got off an emergency flight to see his critically ill wife,” wrote SICU Nurse Manager Martha Paulsen, RN, who nominated Dillard for the award. “He was in shock, and Erin was so calm and understanding I could see that he was able to start to accept the situation.”

Paulsen also noted Dillard’s attention to both the clinical care of the patient and the emotional stress of her family.

“Oftentimes, the family is the patient as well,” she wrote, “and Erin did a beautiful job attending to their needs as well as her very sick patient.”

Publication note[39]

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

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.

Nurses honored for mentoring[40]

The University of Colorado Hospital’s Professional Resources Department has named its top nurse preceptors for the fourth quarter of 2011. Preceptors are experienced nurses who guide nurses new to the profession or to UCH through a 12-week program. The goal: improve the newcomers’ clinical skills and serve as mentors.

Fourth quarter honorees are:
[41]
Kelly McIntosh, Cardiovascular IMCU, who is described as “dedicated to the success of each new graduate or hire” by nominator Amanda Nenaberm, RN, PCCN, nurse educator with the Cardiovascular Intermediate Care Unit. Nenaberm praised McIntosh’s “positive attitude and supportive presence,” adding she is “a huge advocate for her orientee(s) and ensures that each and every day [is] a successful, rewarding, and positive learning experience.” [42]
Sara Headrick, Transplant, “is a preceptor worth cloning,” said nominator Heidi Monroe, RN CNS CCTN, clinical nurse specialist and educator with the Organ Transplant Unit. Headrick is a natural teacher, Monroe added, who gives graduate nurses the confidence and skills to succeed. “When I ask new hires what they love about Sara, (they say) it is her passion for her patients, her passion for teaching, the way she guides their decision-making by asking what they are thinking first and helping them find the right path by explaining why, and the fact that she always teaches,” Monroe wrote. “Younger generations of nurses on our unit are better nurses because Sara precepted many of them.” [43]
Erin Dillard, Surgical ICU, a preceptor since September of 2006, is “an exceptional preceptor (who is) extremely thorough, performs with detailed instructions for those she precepts and passes on high performance nursing standards in practice,” wrote her nominator, SICU Nurse Educator Shannon Johnson Bortolotto. “New staff look to Erin to show them proper practice standards as well as they desire to gain her praise when practice goals are met.”

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/update-regent-bishop-won%E2%80%99t-seek-re-election[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/bishop-mug.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-medical-school%E2%80%99s-mini-med-2-debuts[4] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/community/MiniMed/Pages/default.aspx[5] http://medschool.ucdenver.edu/minimed[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-partnering-federal-agency-international-study-water-resources[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/ucb-glacier-research.jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campus-generosity-brightens-holidays-26-families[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/uccs_gifts1.jpg[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/math-clinic-students-compute-solutions-real-world-dilemmas[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/ucd_mathclinic.jpg[12] http://www.ulalaunch.com/site/default.shtml[13] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Departments/math/Pages/MathStats.aspx[14] http://investors.nobleenergyinc.com/[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/south-metro-business-leaders-get-close-view-health-economic-impacts[16] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/amc_so-metro-business.jpg[17] http://www.bestchamber.com/[18] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/denver/Pages/AnschutzMedicalCampus.aspx[19] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/education/cape/Pages/default.aspx[20] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/centers/HumanNutrition/AHWC/Pages/Wellness.aspx[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boulder-philosophy-program-earns-high-ranking[22] http://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/[23] http://www.colorado.edu/philosophy/[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cybercriminals-aim-hack-your-mind[25] https://www.cu.edu/content/oismonthlycybersecuritynewsletter[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/reddy-among-directors-new-colorado-springs-economic-group[27] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/people_reddy.jpg[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/wellness-initiative-could-gain-new-participation-incentives[29] https://www.cu.edu/policies/aps-under-review.html[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-kenneth-morse[31] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/5q-kmorse-top.jpg[32] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/5q-kmorse3.jpg[33] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/5q-kmorse11.jpg[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/director-putting-restaurant-background-work-university-colorado-hospital[35] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/people_franklin.jpg[36] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uch-proposal-unanimous-choice-memorial-task-force[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/compassion-crisis-led-honor-nurse[38] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/people_dillard.jpg[39] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/publication-note-0[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/nurses-honored-mentoring-0[41] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/people_mcintosh.jpg[42] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/people_headrick.jpg[43] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/people_dillard-sm.jpg