House Finance Committee approves PERA rescue plan[1]

Acknowledging that legal battles were certain, the House Finance Committee on Wednesday, Feb. 10, voted 8-3 for a bill that proponents say would rescue the foundering Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA).
"We've heard loud and clear that someone will take this to court," said Rep. Andy Kerr, D-Lakewood, after seven hours of testimony and debate. "Every law we make is subject to court challenge."

Kerr, who sponsored Senate Bill 10-001 in the House, said, "This is one of the most important pieces of legislation we'll look at this year." It now advances to the House Appropriations Committee.

Projections show that on its current path, the state division of PERA, which includes the University of Colorado, could run out of money in as little as 16 years. The retirement plan comprises five separately funded divisions: state, judicial, schools (excluding higher education institutions), local government and Denver Public Schools.

SB-1 would increase contributions by employers and employees, provide no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2010 and place a cap on future adjustments for retirees. It also would move the age of retirement eligibility to 60 from 55 for most members.

About 40 witnesses testified Wednesday before the House committee. Many had previously presented their arguments to the Senate Finance Committee.

Some voiced concerns that not enough study had been done before the bill was drafted and that the process was not as transparent as it could have been.

Rep. Cheri Gerou, R-Evergreen, who voted against the bill, agreed.

"I had a problem with the process and system we were going through from the beginning," she said. "I kept looking for the dialogue. ... But it was not achieved. ... I think we're doing everyone a disservice by rushing something through that we think will go to litigation."

The core issue is the change in annual benefits. Currently, retired members receive a 3.5 percent increase in benefits each year. Out of about 470,000 members of PERA, 90,000 are retirees. But SB-1 would allow no COLA increase in 2010, while a cap of 2 percent would be in place in future years. If the plan were not fully funded, the amount of the benefit would depend upon an inflation calculation.

Retirees and some experts say the change in benefits amounts to a breach of contract and will be challenged in the courts. Many also say retirees who live on less could be pushed into poverty, especially because of steeply rising costs, including health-care premiums.

Meredith Williams, PERA's executive director, said the board had looked at every possible option. "The pain is widespread. The bill has something for everyone to dislike."

A miserable investment year in 2008, accompanied by high payout rates and other fund policies, contributed to a loss of $30 billion in assets. Previously the plan was about 70 percent funded, but the downturn lowered the rate to about 50 percent.

SB-1 would restore the plan to 100 percent funded in 30 years. (The industry standard for similar plans is 80 percent funded.)

While PERA projects a rate of return on investments in 2009 of 15 percent, that money will not be enough to continue funding the nearly $300 million per month paid to retirees, officials said.

Colorado would become the first state in the nation to cut annual benefit increases for retirees if the bill passes. Other states have changed rates of investment, extended amortization plans or switched to defined contribution plans.

Other states, said Rep. Daniel Kagan, D-Denver, have taken the easy way out. He voted for the bill, calling it "an act of courage, foresight and wisdom. Future retirees will look back on 2010 and be glad of what occurred."

Rep. Brian DelGrosso, R-Loveland, who voted against the bill, said it puts a huge burden on school districts that already are losing funding and laying off teachers. He introduced an amendment that would allow suspension of certain contributions to the plan in lean years. That amendment and several others were defeated by the committee.

Co-sponsors of SB-1, Senate Minority Leader Josh Penry, R-Grand Junction, and Senate President Brandon Shaffer, D-Longmont, negotiated the bill for more than six months. Penry has said the PERA changes are essential because, "We are fast approaching unfunded liability."

The full Senate previously had passed the amended bill by a 25-10 vote Feb. 1.

SB-1 is being quickly pushed through the Legislature so that a COLA increase, scheduled for March, would be voided. Some sections of the bill, including new COLA stipulations, would become effective immediately upon the Governor's signature.

During earlier Senate debate, Sen. Keith King, R-Colorado Springs, said he was skeptical of the rescue plan, saying PERA would need another fix in five to 10 years. He offered several amendments to the bill that were ultimately defeated by the Senate Finance Committee.

Those amendments have now become House Bill 10-1207, which is co-sponsored by King.

As drafted, the bill would, among other things, require the state treasurer to report annually on the financial stability of the fund; define actuarial necessity, a legal term that is not defined by current statutes; eliminate the amortization equalization disbursement (AED) and supplemental amortization equalization disbursement (SAED) beginning in 2011; allow contribution rates to be set by general assembly, depending on plan funding percentage; prohibit purchases of service credits after Jan. 1, 2011; raise the retirement age to 65; cap the cost of living adjustment for all members to the lesser of 2 percent or inflation; and establish a new defined contribution plan as an option to new employees and current PERA members.

The measure will be heard by the House State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee on Feb. 23.

Another measure, HB 10-1153, would change the makeup of the 15-member PERA board of trustees to create a majority of trustees who are non-PERA members with experience in certain fields. That bill is being debated Thursday, Feb. 11, by the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

Regents adopt guiding principles following robust debate about diversity[2]

University of Colorado regents on Thursday, Feb. 11, adopted an overarching mission statement and a set ofguiding principles[3] that define CU's identity as an institution of higher education.

The vote to adopt the 12 principles came a day after the board engaged in a robust discussion about the definition of "diversity" while trying to refine the principles' language during a meeting on the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs campus.

Among other ideals, the tenets spell out CU's commitment to "encourage and provide access to all qualified students within the financial capability and student capacity of the university." They also define CU as a public institution that

strives to be a conscientious steward of all resources; encourages and supports innovation and entrepreneurship; and strives to meet the state's health care, technology, work force training and civic literacy needs.

On Wednesday, the regents debated how to broaden the university's definition of "diversity" in the fifth guiding principle, which encourages a learning environment that reflects a broad range of geographic, cultural and philosophical differences.

Regent Jim Geddes, M.D., R-Centennial, sought to ensure that CU expanded its definition of diversity to include political differences, especially as they apply to faculty and party affiliation.

CU should strive to be a university "where there is a rich interchange of ideas," he told other board members, and where "our students will be the best educated in the country."

Regent Joe Neguse, D-Boulder, noted that ethnic and socioeconomic diversity is still an important goal given continued low enrollment for students of color and first-generation scholars on many college campuses. At CU-Boulder, for example, black students account for only 2 percent of total enrollment; Latinos only 6 percent, he noted.

In the end, the nine-member board approved a compromise principle, to "promote faculty, student and staff diversity to ensure the rich interchange of ideas in the pursuit of truth and learning, including diversity of political, geographic, cultural, intellectual and philosophical perspectives."

The regents also discussed their effort to refine the universityâ€™s presidential search process, and thanked student, staff and faculty leaders for ample input on the issue from governance groups. The board agreed to send the issue back to the regentsâ€™ laws and policies committee for further discussion, and expects to vote on a final option at a later date.

On Thursday, the board received a sobering budget update from Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Kelly Fox and campus chief financial officers. Fox told the regents that the state continues to reduce general fund support for higher education as it struggles to balance the state budget during the worst economic downturn in decades.

On Jan. 27, the governor announced an additional $5.5 million cuts to higher education, and CU's portion amounts to another $1.5 million in cuts, Fox said.

As with all previous cuts, CU is backfilling the state funding deficiency with federal stimulus money. Once that's gone, however, CU and other higher education institutions in Colorado face what amounts to a financial cliff. Higher education budget experts across the nation do not expect the outlook to rebound for several years. For now, the state is continuing to project that CU's budget for fiscal year 2011-12 will be $159 million, but if planned state funding does not materialize, the outlook could be far worse, Fox warned.

Fox presented the grim budget outlook for higher education even as she shared news of a national report that ranks the state of Colorado No. 1 in the nation — and CU No. 1 in the state — based on the number of degrees and certificates awarded as compared to state funding. The rankings were issued by the Delta Cost Project.

Also on Thursday, the regents approved the designation of UCCS Professor Donald Klingner, Ph.D., as a Distinguished Professor.

Klingner, an internationally recognized public administration expert and author, was visibly moved by introductions by Board of Regents Chair Steve Bosley and UCCS Chancellor Pamela Shockley-Zalabak that spurred a standing ovation by all attending the board meeting.

"All of this is simply overwhelming," Klingner said, before thanking all of people who supported his nomination. "Five years ago none of this was expected, and it just doesn't get any better."

In other business, regents also approved:
Revised campus strategic plans reflecting the realities of what is expected to be a protracted state and national

economic downturn Six new degree programs at CU-Boulder, UC Denver and UCCS The naming of the Gallogly Events Center at UCCS The establishment of two new system scholarship funds The adoption of nine Principles of Ethical Behavior A tenure appointment at UC Denver 17 sabbaticals at CU-Boulder, and another 12 at UCCS
By Deborah Méndez-Wilson

Five Questions for Nanna Meyer[4]

Nanna Meyer

With the Winter Games opening on Friday, Feb. 12, Olympic fever is about to overtake the nation. You can't help but fall in love with the athletes and their stories of success and heartbreak. But behind every great U.S. competitor are people who ensure the team members will be able to live up to their potential.

One of them is Nanna Meyer, an assistant professor at Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Meyer has been the U.S. Speed Skating Team's sports dietitian since 1999. She understands nutrition and athletics, having retired from ski racing in 2000 after "too many broken bones and overuse troubles." Along with two graduate students, she'll oversee meals for skaters at "safe houses" — pressure-free refuges away from the Olympic Village — during the Vancouver games.

At the university, she passes on her extensive knowledge to her graduate students who are registered dietitians training to become master's level, board-certified sports dietitians. Her hope is that these young professionals will serve the public, first in internships in Colorado communities, and then as the nutrition professionals in exercise and sport who deal with lifestyle changes, community wellness, longevity and performance enhancement.

—Cynthia Pasquale

1. How did you become involved with the Olympic Games?

I have been working in sports nutrition with elite athletes since 1996 in Switzerland. During my doctoral work at the University of Utah, I returned home to Switzerland to work with the Swiss National Ski Team in the capacity of a coach and sports dietitian. This was an important transition for me because just about seven years prior to this, I was still ski racing for the Swiss but moved to the U.S. on an NCAA scholarship after a succession of injuries.

I became involved with the Olympics the first time during Nagano 1998 when I developed meal plans for several Japanese hotels that were hosting the Swiss athletes. When I returned to the States to finish my doctoral work in Salt Lake City, I was a research assistant at a sports medicine clinic that happened to work with National Governing Bodies such as U.S. Speed Skating. In 1999, I began my work as their team sports dietitian and ran the food operations for U.S. Speed Skating during the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. I also received funding through the International Olympic Committee to conduct research in nutrition and winter sport athletes prior to the Salt Lake Games.

2. What does being a sports dietitian for the speed skating team entail?

The work with any elite team is highly involved and organized. We begin with athlete screenings and assessments in the spring, work individually to get everyone up to speed on their training nutrition.

We also focus on dietary and sports supplements and educate them about the risk-to-benefit ratio when it comes to supplements. We make sure the athletes are not taking risky things that could lead to a positive doping test or impaired — rather than improved — performance. In contrast, we optimize fueling before, during and after training with low-risk, energy-containing sports supplements such as sport drinks, bars and gels, as well as vitamins and minerals if needed.

Most teams have some sort of food service support, so my work also entails setting up catering and making meal plans for kitchens and cafeterias.

When training becomes more intense, our focus shifts to promoting adequate recovery and maintaining health through immune support, mostly through good food.

3. What types of food will you serve the speed skating teams and why?

The menus vary depending on the time of the day and what follows the meal in terms of training, competition or rest. Pre-event meals have to be high in carbohydrates such as pasta or rice, breakfast cereals or oatmeal, in combination with some protein — chicken, turkey, fish, eggs or egg whites, low-fat dairy, some soy — and very little fat. Fiber and fat decrease gastric emptying and slow digestion, so pre-event meals should be low in raw vegetables or whole grain carbohydrates. This is the time for starchy veggies that are easy to digest, such as carrots or zucchini. We also serve hot pureed or minestrone-style soups that are broth based. We serve soups with extra bread and there is always some fruit, yogurts, and a few cookies around. One of the athletes' favorites is a lasagna made with ground turkey breast, grilled eggplant, zucchini and butternut squash with sage.

4. Has the thinking about certain sports science changed? Are there examples of a speed skater's diet that would benefit the average American?

In earlier days we thought that thirst was not a good indicator to drink because it would be too late to remedy the dehydration associated with thirst. This was also the time when recommendations for fluid intake were high and not specific to sport, gender, age or environment. We have come full circle. Today, we know that thirst is a good indicator that we need to drink, and recommendations for how much we should drink during exercise are all based on individual sweat rates. So, while drinking is very important to prevent dehydration, it is equally important to avoid overhydration and dilution of blood sodium levels called hyponatremia, and it appears that thirst does a great job in preventing both.

As for diet, the average American really should not eat at Olive Garden! Carbohydrates are needed for muscle in the form of glycogen during exercise, but the average American who is relatively sedentary should scale back on those starchy carbs. For the athlete, carbohydrates are the most important ingredient on the menu, especially when they are training hard. When athletes don't train much or are in their off-season, they have to learn how to eat lower calorically dense foods in order not to gain weight. So the plates of the athlete look similar to a recommended plate for the inactive average American: Half of it should come from seasonal vegetables and fruit, with a handful of whole grains in their least processed form, such as whole wheat pasta, lentils, beans or whole grain bread. It also should include a good serving of lean protein, either animal- or plant-based. Fats are there for flavors and should be used in moderation. The athlete, as well as the average American, needs plenty of water and really does not benefit from sports drinks, soda or corn-syrup sweetened juices.

5. What is one of your favorite Olympic experiences?

I think that my experience with a famous athlete was the best one so far. I prepared food for U.S. Speed Skating during the 2006 Olympics in Torino for about one month. This short-track athlete was under a lot of pressure during those games and in continuous battle with the Koreans. The final competition led to a gold medal for this young man. I felt that my job was done and did not expect any further interaction. But as soon as he knew he had won, he called and thanked me in the middle of media interviews and drug testing before being called to the podium. Sometimes I think these elite athletes are living in a bubble because they are so far from what real life is all about. However, this young man learned to not lose sight in the midst of winning gold. It was Apolo Anton Ohno. This is still my favorite story and he knows it.

[6]
EAT LIKE A CHAMPION

Nanna Meyer doesn't have a recipe for that popular lasagna of hers, but says that's because a recipe isn't necessary.

"You simply take one sheet of lasagna noodles — not broken, and the best in town are Papardelle's — and cook it to al

dente," she said. "As it's folded on the plate, you can layer it with items such as tomato sauce, spinach with garlic, mozzarella cheese, eggplant, zucchini and lots of basil."

Papardelle pasta is worth hunting for, she says. It's typically sold at farmers' markets around the state, as well as Bella Pasta[7] in Denver.

For a fall version, she suggests Papardelle's spinach lasagna with mashed butternut squash, sage leaves and roast turkey.

"Shaved parmesan tops the meal."

New grant program for early career biomedical researchers debuts at CU[8]

[9]
University of Colorado biomedical researchers just starting out in their careers now have a professional avenue that could speed their transition into independent research.

The Boettcher Foundation is sponsoring the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program, which is aimed at supporting early career biomedical researchers whose work has a direct impact on human health. Materials for grant applications, due March 15, are available atwww.cu.edu/boettcher[10].

The grant program at CU will provide a minimum of $200,000 and a maximum of $350,000 payable over up to three years to awardees, who will receive the title of Boettcher Investigator. Applicants may send inquiries to webb-waring@cu.edu[11], and should not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly.

Program Manager Enid Ablowitz said CU would receive $700,000 this year through the prestigious grant program, which will allow for two or three investigator awards. The president's office will manage the competitive peer review process for CU grant applications, and awards will be announced in June to support work beginning July 1.

Associate Vice President David Braddock, who is serving as the research officer, called the new program, "an exciting opportunity for early career biomedical researchers." He encouraged all qualified CU candidates to apply. Additional Boettcher investigators will be named at other Colorado research institutions.

"This new program targets a critical resource gap in Colorado's biomedical research enterprise and we expect to see not only exciting new discoveries that improve human health, but also the advancement of the careers of the best and brightest of promising scientists at our research institutions," said Tim Schultz, president and executive director of the Boettcher Foundation. "No other program in Colorado is focused on these critical needs and the foundation is proud to contribute to the future of the state in this new program."

Panel to discuss effects of federal stimulus spending in Colorado[12]

How is funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act affecting Colorado? That's the question to be taken on by panelists at a discussion Wednesday, Feb. 17, at the University of Colorado Denver.

The School of Public Affairs and the Franklin James Lecture Series will present the event in the Tivoli Turnhalle, Room 320, on the Auraria Campus. A 6:30 p.m. reception will precede the 7 p.m. panel.

Renny Fagan of the Colorado Nonprofit Association, Michelle Adams from the city and county of Denver and Mark Cavanaugh, formerly of the Governor's Economic Recovery Team and now of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, will speak on how the stimulus spending has made a difference at the nonprofit, state and local levels. They'll also discuss what impact the funding will have on Colorado in 2010.

To RSVP for the event, click here[13] to see the school's calendar.

Staff Council seeking Service Excellence Award nominations[14]

The University of Colorado Staff Council announces its annualService Excellence Award for classified staff and professional exempt employees of the university. The award, which includes $1,000 cash, is given by the council to a qualified person from each campus and one from system administration.

Awards will be presented at the All Staff Council Conference on April 16. Each recipient and her or his nominator, supervisor and one guest will be invited to attend the luncheon.

The award recognizes and rewards employees who have provided outstanding volunteer service to their campus, community/civic/professional activities and the university as a whole through involvement in staff issues, committee work, teamwork, professional development of peers and community relations.

Any active, certified, classified staff or professional exempt employee of the university, excluding current Staff Council members, is eligible. Nominations will be accepted from any staff, faculty, student or administrator within the university. Nominators must work with their nominee for a complete nomination packet.

Nominations will be judged on the candidate's service...
To their home campus, including but not limited to membership and leadership within standing and ad-hoc committees, staff governance organizations, and by the importance of the activity and its benefit to the campus community (50 percent) To community/civic and professional organizations (30 percent) To the university, including but not limited to membership and leadership within standing and ad-hoc committees, staff governance organizations, local and statewide organizations, and by the importance of the activity and its benefit to the university community (20 percent) Service does not include activities that are part of an employee's job description or activities that are directly related to the employee's current job duties.

Nominations must be received by March 2 and must include:
A completed nomination form**[15]** describing the nominee's service to the three areas listed above A paragraph describing the nominee's current job responsibilities A letter from the nominator and an additional letter of support from a staff member, faculty member or administrator, based on the award criteria
Nomination materials, not to exceed 10 pages, will be reviewed by the Staff Council and recipients will be chosen based on the above criteria. Accuracy of the nominee's qualifications will be verified by the council.

Send nomination packets to your campus representative:
Boulder, Gregg Lundgren, 303-735-0472, Greggory.Lundgren@colorado.edu[16] Colorado Springs, Jane Muller, 719-255-4553, jmuller@uccs.edu[17] Denver, Miranda Carbaugh,
303-315-2771, miranda.carabaugh@ucdenver.edu[18] System Administration, Lori Krug,
303-735-5737, lori.krug@cu.edu[19]

University ranks second nationally for Peace Corps volunteers[20]

Each morning, University of Colorado at Boulder alumna Julie Fast wakes to the footsteps of "campesinos" hiking past her front door in Peru on their way to farm fields.

Fast is one of 2,252 CU-Boulder alumni who have served in the Peace Corps since its inception nearly 50 years ago. With 95 alumni currently serving as Peace Corps volunteers in 2010, CU-Boulder again holds the No. 2 ranking for most members in the nation for large schools.

"The Peace Corps is just one way in which CU students are able to get out there and participate in service learning," said Evan Taylor, director of the CU-Boulder Peace Corps recruiting office.

The University of Washington holds the top rank for large schools, with 101 graduates serving as Peace Corps volunteers. Also placing in the top five were the University of California, Berkeley, with 89 members; Michigan State University, 86; and the University of Florida, 79.

CU-Boulder has a long history of graduating service-oriented students. In 2008, it was one of only three colleges and universities in the United States to receive a Presidential Award for General Community Service. And each year, more than 13,000 CU-Boulder students participate in some form of community service, according to Peter Simons, director of CU-Boulder's Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement.

"Graduating civic-minded students is part of our mission at CU-Boulder and is a key component to our work at the Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement," Simons said. "We are very pleased to retain our position as the No. 2 Peace Corps university in the country."

The Peace Corps ranks its top volunteer-producing schools annually according to the size of the student body. Large schools have more than 15,000 undergraduates, medium-sized schools have between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates and small schools have fewer than 5,000 undergraduates. George Washington University ranked first among medium-sized schools with 53 graduates currently serving and St. Olaf College ranked highest among small schools with 26 graduates serving.

"CU helped prepare me for the Peace Corps by not only having the available resources to encourage my application, such as a campus recruiting office and vast alumni network, but also by providing a university environment conducive to volunteerism and sustainability," said Fast, who graduated from CU-Boulder in May 2008 with a bachelor's degree in integrative physiology. She has been serving in Peru since October 2008.

When asked what it is about CU that attracts service-oriented students, Kevin Wheeler, a CU-Boulder and Peace Corps alumnus, said a number of factors contribute.

"CU does a good job of fostering an environment of service," he said. "We have a lot of student organizations that try to tap into cultures around the world and it seems like many of the people who come here already have strong idealistic purposes. There's definitely something about CU that I think motivates people to serve outside of the borders of our country."

Wheeler graduated from CU-Boulder in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and completed his master's degree in the same field in 2000. He served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic from 2002 to 2004.

"For nearly 50 years, enthusiastic college alumni have contributed to the success of Peace Corps programs and our mission to promote world peace and friendship in host communities around the world," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. "Peace Corps service is a life-changing leadership opportunity and a great career foundation in almost every field."

To read first-person accounts from CU-Boulder alumni and current Peace Corps volunteers Kristin Mayer, serving in South Africa, and Fast, serving in Peru, visithttp://www.colorado.edu/news/reports/peacecorps2010/[21]. To watch a video on CU-Boulder's connection to the Peace Corps visit http://www.colorado.edu/news[22].

For more information about the Peace Corps, call the campus recruiting office at 303-492-8454 or visit http://www.colorado.edu/iece/peacecorps/index.html[23].

Political, business leaders highlight Black History Month event[24]

Carroll

The speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives will be the keynote speaker for a Black History Month celebration Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Terrance D. Carroll, D-Denver, the first African-American speaker of the house, will offer comments beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the UCCS Upper Lodge. His speech will support the 2010 Black History theme, "The History of Black Economic Empowerment," and also will be part of a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Urban League. The event will be in conjunction with a meeting of the Colorado Springs Black Chamber of Commerce.

"We are honored to host Speaker Carroll as well as members of the African-American business community," said La Vonne Neal, dean of the College of Education. "A panel discussion with some of the most prominent members of the business community will add depth and feel to the national Black History Month theme of economic empowerment."

Carroll, 40, has served in the Colorado General Assembly since 2003, was selected as assistant majority leader during the 2008 session, and speaker in 2009. He has written legislation on criminal justice and legal policy and is an advocate for social justice and education reform.

He is a lawyer with the firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, Denver, and an ordained minister. Urban Spectrum Magazine recognized him as an "African-American Who Makes a Difference" and the Rocky Mountain News cited him as an "up and coming African-American leader."

He is a graduate of Moorehouse College, Atlanta; the Iliff School of Theology, Denver; and the University of Denver College of Law. He also completed a summer leadership institute at Harvard University Divinity School's Center for the Study of Values in Public Life and John F. Kennedy School of Government.

A panel discussion also is planned, featuring local businesswoman Queen Brown and Sam Hunter, a World War II veteran, Tuskegee airman and a founder of the Colorado Springs Urban League. Kee Warner, associate vice chancellor for diversity, Academic Affairs, will moderate.

The free event is open to the public, although space is limited. For more information on attending, contact Carla Rupprecht, crupprec@uccs.edu[26] or 719-255-4134.

Media forensics center launches with new master's program[27]

[28]
The official launch of the National Center for Media Forensics was in and of itself something to celebrate, but with the announcement of the master's program, a great day got even better.

"We're opening a new master's program in media forensics — which is audio and video forensics — next fall," announced Jeff Smith, interim director of the center. "It is the only master's level program in audio and video forensics in the country."

Smith joined more than 40 students and forensic sciences enthusiasts at the National Center for Media Forensics Open House on Jan. 29. The festivities included video conferencing with forensics experts across the globe and a tour of the center's new state-of-the-art location at 1800 Grant St.

The program concentrates on the analysis of audio and video that is in question as criminal evidence. Students graduating from the program will find careers in research education, research for corporate development, law enforcement and private investigation.

The center features:
Classroom with 20 work stations Labs for analysis and software applications Offices and work space with plenty of room for the cohort of 15 master's students next fall
The open house also honored Professor Richard Sanders, who died earlier this year. His wife Ann and daughter were in attendance. Sanders, a world-renowned forensic expert, received a $709,700 federal grant to establish the center, which draws students from mathematics, physics, engineering, music, computer science and biometrics. The center will work with the FBI, Secret Service, Drug Enforcement Agency and Department of Defense.

School of Dental Medicine gives kids a smile[29]

Photo by Glenn J. Asakawa

It was a day of big smiles for more than 125 young dental patients who gathered Friday, Feb. 5, at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine [31]for free dental care. Some 30 dentists and dental hygienists, from the school and from private practice, donated their time and expertise as part of the 2010 Give Kids a Smile event.

"I can't begin to find words to thank your organization, the wonderful staff that treated him today and any others involved with this program," said Michelle Conder, mother of one of the patients. "Today was not just about my son getting some beyond horrible dental issues taken care of, it was about giving my son confidence, self-esteem, a smile, a new outlook on life and a brighter future. You've changed his life with your mission and generosity and I wanted to make sure you knew this."

Give Kids a Smile Day was started eight years ago by the American Dental Association. Taking place in every state, it is the nation's largest proactive approach to help children from low-income families with their dental needs, and to draw attention to the problem that many families face when trying to access basic dental care.

Boulder associate vice chancellor's project recognized[32]

Michael Grant, associate vice chancellor for undergraduate studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has been selected as one of four winners of the American Council on Education (ACE) award to recognize innovative use of technology to promote an internationalism program. The award focuses on the use of technology to help with interaction between U.S. and international students. Grant presented his project last week at the 2010

Internationalization Collaborative annual meeting in Arlington, Va. He will be honored at the ACE annual meeting March 6 in Phoenix.

Assistant professor awarded grant for lung cancer study[33]

Malkoski

Stephen Malkoski, assistant professor of pathology at the University of Colorado Denver and a lung cancer researcher in the Lung/Head and Neck Cancer program, was awarded a two-year, $100,000 Young Investigator Grant from the National Lung Cancer Partnership. Watch a brief interview with Malkoski[35] on the University of Colorado Cancer Center's new YouTube channel.

Psychology professor honored with lifetime achievement award[36]

Pyszczynski

Tom Pyszczynski, distinguished professor of psychology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, will receive a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Self and Identity. The award is presented to a researcher who has made a sustained contribution to the understanding of self and identity throughout his or her academic career.

'40 Under 40' taps CU-Boulder Career Services director[38]

Severy

Lisa Severy, director of Career Services[40] at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has been chosen as one of Boulder County Business Report's inaugural "40 Under 40"[41] honorees. Aside from qualifying ages, winners were chosen based on their contributions to their establishment, significant community involvement in the Boulder Valley and potential leadership. Honorees including Severy will be honored at a networking event on Tuesday, Feb. 16, at the Boulder Theater and also will be featured in the publication's Feb. 19 edition.

Architecture professor featured in book[42]

Phil Gallegos, associate professor of architecture at the University of Colorado Denver, wrote a chapter, "Early Mentor," in the book "Moving Beyond Borders: Julian Samora and the Establishment of Latino Studies," edited by Alberto López Pulido, Barbara Driscoll de Alvarado and Carmen Samora (University of Illinois Press). Moving Beyond Borders examines the life and accomplishments of Julian Samora, the first Mexican-American sociologist in the United States and the founding father of the discipline of Latino studies.

Architecture professor featured in book[43]

Rudi Hartmann, senior instructor at the University of Colorado Denver, is a connoisseur of heritage tourism. His book "Southeast Colorado Heritage Tourism Report" shows heritage tourism as an expanding market with great potential in Colorado. Heritage tourism is a growing division of the industry as historic places capture the attention of more tourists. The book contains a study revealing the importance of heritage tourism in relation to Colorado's economy and shares some of the state's most popular heritage tourism sites. For more information on the book, click here[44].

Author explores heritage of southeast Colorado[45]

Hartmann

Rudi Hartmann, senior instructor at the University of Colorado Denver, is a connoisseur of heritage tourism. His book "Southeast Colorado Heritage Tourism Report" shows heritage tourism as an expanding market with great potential in Colorado. Heritage tourism is a growing division of the industry as historic places capture the attention of more tourists. The book contains a study revealing the importance of heritage tourism in relation to Colorado's economy and shares some of the state's most popular heritage tourism sites. For more information on the book, click here[44].

Diversity and Excellence grant winners named[47]

Diversity and Excellence grant winners named
This year's CU's Diversity and Excellence grants, designed to help faculty and/or staff projects that promote diversity and inclusion, have been announced. Awards of up to $3,000 are made for one calendar year, but may be funded one additional year.

The awardees and their projects are:

University of Colorado at Boulder
Victoria Hand, **Craig Schneider**, **Karen Germann** and **Collinus Newsome Hutt**, School of Education: "Recruiting students from diverse backgrounds into secondary mathematics and science teaching." The school will host a statewide conference that will bring first-generation high school juniors from urban school districts that excel in mathematics and science to learn about CU-Teach and CU-Boulder.
Anthea Johnson, ATLAS Institute: "Digital CUrrents summer camp." The Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society Institute will develop and implement a new session of the camp to engage ethnic minority students in the use of current information and communication technology.

Susan Moore and Any Thrasher, speech, language and hearing sciences, and **Richelle Munkhoff**, department of English: "Learning from one another: Personal stories to create a forum for meaningful conversations about diversity and inclusion." Stories will be collected, published and disseminated to promote diversity and inclusion. **University of Colorado at Colorado Springs**
Traci Freeman, writing center and department of English: "Working with multilingual writers across the curriculum." A series of workshops will prepare faculty and writing consultants at UCCS to support multilingual writers across the curriculum.

Anthony Cordova, Multicultural Office for Student Access, Inclusiveness and Community, **Barbara Gaddis**, First Year Experience and Student Retention, and **Brad Bayer** and **Sabrina Weinholtz**, Student Life and Development: "HELP! Helping Ensure Latina/o Persistence through peer mentoring." The goal is to engage Latino/a freshmen and transfer students in the campus community to improve retention rates and academic success.

Janet Sauer and **Christi Kasa-Hendrickson**, special education: "Diverse families as faculty." This project will fund the recruitment of multicultural and ethnic minority families from the community that have a child with a disability to become involved in the teacher preparation program at UCCS.

Corinne Harmon, College of Education: "Inclusivity via digital storytelling." This project provides underrepresented LGBTQI students an opportunity to create their own digital stories through a workshop setting. **University of Colorado Denver**
Kim Pierpoint and **Evelin Gomez**, School of Medicine — Kempe Center: "Promoting awareness of child abuse and neglect from our community youth through artistic expression." The project will culminate in a live theater production followed by a panel discussion.

Margarita Bianco and **Barbara Dray**, School of Education and Human Development, and **Danny Martinez**, CU Succeed Programs: "Opening pathways to teaching: A collaborative pipeline project for diverse future teachers." The project will respond to a state and local need to increase the number of diverse teachers in Colorado and to address the urgent need to increase the diversity within the student population in the School of Education.

Brenda Allen, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and **Abby Ferber**, Matrix Center for the Advancement of Social Equity and Inclusion (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs): "Knapsack Institute Scholarships for faculty at UCD." This project will provide scholarships for five faculty members at the University of Colorado Denver to attend the institute where attendees receive and share ideas and strategies related to pedagogical approaches to teaching diversity

Mary Sommerville, Auraria Library: "Displaced Aurarians: A community archive, theater and recruitment project." This project honors former residents of the Auraria neighborhood who were evicted and relocated in the 1970s to permit construction of the Auraria Higher Education Center.

2009 W-2 forms[48]

W-2 forms for the 2009 tax year have been mailed to all employees.

Employees should allow sufficient time for delivery. If you have not received your W-2, you may use the online self-service feature to reprint it.

For the Denver and Colorado Springs campuses, use the My.CU campus portal, select the My.Pay tab and scroll down to the Online W2 section to view and print your W-2.

For the Boulder campus, use CU Connect and select MyCU Links, W2 Statement.

Starting Monday, Feb. 15, Payroll and Benefit Services (PBS) will begin reissuing W-2s for employees on request. To order a reissued W-2, complete and submit a W-2/1042-S Reissue Request form to PBS.

International employees note: 1042-S forms were mailed Friday, Feb. 5.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/house-finance-committee-approves-pera-rescue-plan[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-adopt-guiding-principles-following-robust-debate-about-diversity[3] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/02-10/regents-principles.html[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-nanna-meyer[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/nanna-meyer-large.jpeg-1.jpg[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Nanna_Meyer_Olympic_food_02-10-2010.JPG-2.jpg[7] http://www.bellapastaco.com/[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-grant-program-early-career-biomedical-researchers-debuts-cu[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/boettcher.jpg[10] https://www.cu.edu/boettcher[11] mailto:webb-waring@cu.edu[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/panel-discuss-effects-federal-stimulus-spending-colorado[13] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SPA/About/Pages/ViewOurSpecialEvents.aspx[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-seeking-service-excellence-award-nominations[15] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/02-10/ucsc_ServiceExcellenceNomination.doc[16] mailto:Greggory.Lundgren@colorado.edu[17] mailto:jmuller@uccs.edu[18] mailto:miranda.carabaugh@ucdenver.edu[19] mailto:lori.krug@cu.edu[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-ranks-second-nationally-peace-corps-volunteers[21] http://www.colorado.edu/news/reports/peacecorps2010/[22] http://www.colorado.edu/news[23] http://www.colorado.edu/iece/peacecorps/index.html[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/political-business-leaders-highlight-black-history-month-event[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/uccs_carroll.jpg[26] mailto:crupprec@uccs.edu[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/media-forensics-center-launches-new-masters-program[28] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/ucd_masters-media-forensics.jpg[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/school-dental-medicine-gives-kids-smile[30] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/DentalMed_Front.png[31] http://www.uchsc.edu/sod/[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/boulder-associate-vice-chancellors-project-recognized[33] https://connections.cu.edu/people/assistant-professor-awarded-grant-lung-cancer-study[34] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/Steve_Malkoski_head_shot-33.jpg[35] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9wjuRCftns[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/psychology-professor-honored-lifetime-achievement-award[37] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/pyszczynski-1.jpg[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/40-under-40-taps-cu-boulder-career-services-director[39] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/people_Lisa-Severy.jpg[40] http://conted.colorado.edu/student-resources/career-services/[41] http://www.bcbr.com/article.asp?id=103798[42] https://connections.cu.edu/people/architecture-professor-featured-book-0[43]

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