Five questions for Aaron Hirsh[1]

[2]

The structure of some higher education institutions sometimes does not allow students to pursue dual passions. Such was the case with Aaron Hirsh, who loved biology and writing. Despite the "rules," he found a way to combine his interests of writing and contributing to the project of working toward a society with a more functional and sustainable relationship with the ecosystems that support it.

Hirsh is a research associate in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado Boulder.

As a youngster, he was a fan of Stephen Jay Gould, the evolutionary biologist and historian whose writings on science are some of the most influential and well-read. At Princeton University, Hirsh's imagination was captured by the possibility of applying mathematics to biological populations. But he also loved literature, especially writings about nature and science. He read Thoreau, Annie Dillard, Barry Lopez and Peter Matthiessen.

Unfortunately, Princeton didn't allow one major in two departments.

"For a while, I did so secretly, majoring in both EEB and Comparative Literature," he says. "Soon enough, I was found out, and had to pick one. Without regrets, I chose biology, but I have always felt like both disciplines are dear to me."

For about a decade, he and his wife, Veronica Volny, along with others, taught at a field school at the Sea of Cortez. The sessions and the sea – and the interwoven relationship between man and nature -- inspired him to write "Telling Our Way to the Sea: A Voyage of Discovery in the Sea of Cortez," which was released in August of 2013.

His writing also has appeared in literary journals, as well as The New York Times and The Best American Science Writing.

[3]

1. How did you come to be at CU?

In 2002, I accepted a position as an assistant professor in the department of ecology and evolutionary biology, but deferred beginning the job as I was still completing a postdoc at Stanford. At that time, I was already spending a lot of time writing literary essays and articles about ecology and evolution -- pieces intended for a broader, non-technical audience.

When it came time to start thinking seriously about putting together my lab, I realized that my true passion lies in using words to communicate the beauty, meanings and importance of science. I therefore declined the professorship in order to concentrate on writing. I was, however, very eager to maintain some affiliation with the department, which is full of people whose work I admire: I like going to seminars and hearing about what's happening in the field. I also wanted to be able to keep teaching the field course in the Sea of Cortez.

2. What did you find at the Sea of Cortez?

I've been going there since 1998, when my wife, Veronica, took me down there. What I have found is an ecosystem that is magnificently abundant and diverse. What I have understood, though, is that what we see now, as spectacular as it is, is but a shadow of what the place once was. That discovery got me thinking about how often we overlook the changes that came before our time, and therefore forget, generation by generation, how extraordinary and valuable ecosystems once were. Fisheries biologists call this the problem of the shifting baseline, but I think it applies very generally to our perception of nature.

3. Your book, "Telling Our Way to the Sea,"[4] **is about your time at the field station. What is the message of the book?**

The book discusses how life in the Sea of Cortez has been reshaped by complex human ideas and decisions—the laws and economics of fishing, property and water; the dreams of developers and the fantasies of tourists seeking the wild; even efforts to retrieve species from the brink of extinction—all of which have caused dramatic upheavals in the ecosystem. But it also examines the students and how they come to understand their places in the altered environment.

We need to find new ways to look at what we used to call wilderness. Ecosystems everywhere are deeply altered, and yet they are certainly not without grandeur, beauty and value. The challenge is to hold these two visions together: see the place for what it is--deeply changed by humans--and yet hold on to a sense of wonder.

4. You are chair of the Vermilion Sea Institute[5]. Did the institute come about because of your teaching?

Yes. VSI is now an organization through which a number of programs and universities offer courses in the Sea of Cortez. More recently, the organization has become involved in a variety of other efforts to work toward sustainable and enriching relationships between humanity and the ecosystems we depend on.

5. You mentioned that your wife introduced you to the Sea of Cortez. Is she also a biologist? What does the future hold for the field school?

Veronica knows the Sea of Cortez very well. In fact, around the Vermilion Sea Field Station, where we teach, the locals have a lot more respect for her than they do for me: She's the gringa who can fix an outboard and drive a panga; I'm the guy whose wife knows how to fix an outboard and drive a panga. Since we started teaching our field courses down there in 2000, she has played an absolutely vital role in teaching, guiding and keeping us out of danger. (She, too, has a Ph.D. in biology from Stanford; she did a postdoc on marine mammal population genetics.)

Sadly, we had to stop teaching our courses several years ago on account of a State Department advisory about travel in Baja California Norte, where our beloved Vermilion Sea Field Station is located. In about a week, I'm going to travel down to Cabo Pulmo, in Baja California Sur, where there's no State Department advisory, in order to check out possibilities for field courses down there.

‘Extreme Weight Loss’ stays active at Anschutz Health and Wellness Center[6]

On the most recent season of “Extreme Weight Loss,” Bob was among those who received coaching from Chris Powell. (Photo courtesy ABC)

“Extreme Weight Loss,”[8] the ABC series that chronicles health and lifestyle makeovers, is hosting an open casting call this weekend at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center[9] on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Open auditions are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, 12348 E. Montview Blvd., Aurora. Eyeworks USA’s nationwide tour of 13 cities across the country aims to recruit participants for Season 5 of the show.

Candidates also may submit a home audition video. Details about how to apply may be found on the official casting website, www.extremeweightlosscasting.com[10].

The center is where the upcoming Season 4[11] of the reality series was photographed; the season is scheduled to debut May 27.

Each season centers on participants who begin while obese and aim to safely lose half their body weight within a year. Trainer and transformation specialist Chris Powell guides the transformation process, assuring all have proper

nourishment and exercise movement. A noncompetitive show, “Extreme Weight Loss” chronicles each participant’s journey in a stand-alone, two-hour episode.

Soul food a tasty topic at Black History Month Celebration[12]

An attendee of the "Soul Food" presentation looks at Adrian Miller's book as part of the Black History Month Celebration on Feb. 7

The textures. The flavors. The history.

Adrian Miller sprinkled personal observations, research and humor into his "Surprising Story of Soul Food" on Friday. Soul food proved to be a tasty topic at the Black History Month Celebration: "A Healthy World of Living and Learning" at the Tivoli Student Union.

The event was presented by the University of Colorado Denver Black Staff and Faculty Affinity Group. About 25 students, many of them high school students visiting CU Denver from Aurora Central and Hinkley high schools, attended Miller's spicy tale of a uniquely American cuisine.

Other attendees enjoyed Black History Month breakout sessions on "Succeeding in Corporate America," "The Disparity of Obesity in the African American Population" and "Genealogy and Ethnicity" as well as trivia games and exhibits.

Miller is a graduate of Aurora's Smoky Hill High School who earned a law degree at Georgetown University and went on to work for President Clinton (One America initiative) and Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter (senior policy analyst). In 2011 he decided to write a book about soul food[14], the traditional food of African Americans. As part of his research, he ate at 150 soul food restaurants in 35 cities and 15 states.

"I'm not a chef. I'm just a curious guy who saw an opportunity and ended up writing a book," he said. "... Nobody had really done this kind of book."

He went back to the cuisine's roots in West Africa and discovered that soul food has an undeserved reputation as being unhealthy. "When you want to understand soul food's story, you really have to understand how people moved." Miller explained how enslaved Africans brought their food preferences to the United States, and later as free citizens migrating across the country to escape the South's unfair sharecropping system.

Miller said "soul food" -- "his looks are my soul's food" -- first appeared in English in Shakespeare's first play, "The Two Gentlemen of Verona." "This master of word play is playing the tangible off the intangible," he said. "That gets to the real root of soul food, because it's saying we as African Americans are the most soulful people because we have been oppressed but we've been able to endure and overcome despite that oppression."

Miller, a certified barbecue judge, shared photos and stories from his national soul food tour, including regional specialties such as hot sauces, "chicken and waffles" a "koolickles," which is a dill pickle soaked in red Kool-Aid. He asked the students about their favorite soul food dishes, eliciting discussions about chitlins, black-eyed peas and the best fried chicken joints in Denver.

He noted that the strongest current trends in soul food are vegan and upscale fare. During the years of slavery, African Americans ate mostly vegetables and seasonings rather than meat. "So as much as vegetarian and vegan is cast as a departure from soul food, it's really a homecoming."

He stressed that food lovers should take note when someone they love is making soul food. "Try to pick up what they

do, because a lot of times people are taking their recipes to their grave and we're losing that heritage," he said. "So please try to write down those recipes."

Student wins prestigious Gates scholarship for study at Cambridge University[15]

University of Colorado Boulder Applied Mathematics major Stephen Kissler has been awarded the very prestigious Gates Cambridge Scholarship. (Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

University of Colorado Boulder student Stephen Kissler has received the Gates Cambridge Scholarship for doctoral studies in the United Kingdom, funded by Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

Kissler, a Boettcher scholar completing concurrent B.S. and M.S. degrees in applied mathematics at CU-Boulder, will complete a Ph.D. in applied mathematics and theoretical physics at Cambridge University through the highly competitive award, which will provide three years of full funding.

At CU-Boulder, Kissler is working with Associate Professor Vanja Dukic on groundbreaking research to model the spread of meningitis in Nigeria. He also has worked with David Bortz, associate professor of mathematical biology, and has collaborated with a group at Johns Hopkins University.

At Cambridge, Kissler plans to study the spread of influenza. New research indicates that influenza spreads not quickly and sporadically, as previously believed, but in a slower, more unified manner. Kissler's research will consist of mathematically describing this surprising pattern to identify key factors in the spread of the infection. The outcome of his work could give cities more notice before flu outbreaks hit, and change vaccination and prevention strategies.

"I'm incredibly excited," Kissler said. "It's an amazing opportunity. It's going to give me a chance to interact with lots of really great scholars from tons of different fields in one of the most beautiful and demanding but also historically rich places in the world."

Kissler plays violin with the Boulder Symphony Orchestra. He's been an active mentor in many communities on campus including Special Undergraduate Enrichment Programs, the Boettcher Program and the Engineering Honors and Global Engineering programs.

He was a member of the Presidents Leadership Class and former chair of the Engineering Excellence Fund. Kissler was awarded the Provost's Achievement Award in 2011, and won the outstanding paper/MAA award at the COMAP Math Modeling Contest in 2012.

"Stephen is one of those rare students who quietly and without fanfare changes the landscape," said Deborah Viles, CU-Boulder's top scholarships director. "His research is likely to have a significant impact on the way we manage disease on an international scale. But he is also a humanitarian whose greatest strengths lie in his ability to connect on a human level. He's truly remarkable. He's a shining example of the exemplary education available to students at CU-Boulder."

Kissler was among 90 students interviewed for 40 U.S. Gates Cambridge Scholarships. His application was selected from a pool of more than a thousand and he was highly ranked by his chosen department at Cambridge before interviewing in Seattle.

Kissler is the second CU-Boulder student to win the Gates Cambridge Scholarship. In 2006, alumnus Alejandro Ramirez won the award to complete a one-year master's program in biological sciences.

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship was established in 2000 by a gift from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Cambridge. Gates Cambridge scholars are selected for their outstanding intellectual ability, their leadership potential and a strong commitment to improving the lives of others.

Kissler is originally from Castle Rock. He graduated from Douglas County High School and his family now lives in Pueblo.

For more information about the Gates Cambridge Scholarship visit http://www.gatescambridge.org[17]. For more details about top scholarships at CU-Boulder visit http://enrichment.colorado.edu/topscholarships/[18].

MAVEN continues to Mars[19]

[20]
The CU-Boulder-led mission to Mars, MAVEN, just hit its scheduled milestone and is continuing toward its target, the Red Planet. The spacecraft and all of its science instruments have completed their initial checkout, and all of them are working as expected. This means that MAVEN is on track to carry out its full science mission as originally planned.

As of Feb. 4, MAVEN will have traveled 136,949,317 miles (220,398,984 km). MAVEN will travel about 442 million miles (712 million km) on its path to Mars. MAVEN is currently traveling in its transfer orbit around the Sun at a speed of 69,480 mph or 31.06 km.

The Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN) mission is designed to explore Mars' upper atmosphere. It will determine the role that escape of gas from the atmosphere to space has played in changing the climate throughout the planet's history. MAVEN was launched on Nov. 18, 2013, and will go into orbit around Mars on the evening of Sept. 21, 2014 (8 p.m. MDT).

After a five-week commissioning phase in orbit, during which it will get into its science-mapping orbit, deploy its booms, and do a final checkout of the science instruments, it will carry out a one-Earth-year mission. It will observe the structure and composition of the upper atmosphere, determine the rate of escape of gas to space today and the processes controlling it, and make measurements that will allow it to determine the total amount of gas lost to space over time.

"Successful checkout of the spacecraft and instruments is a major milestone in carrying out our mission," said Dr. Bruce Jakosky, MAVEN principal investigator from the University of Colorado in Boulder. "While there are still a lot of things that have to happen properly before we get to Mars and can do the mission's science, we are exactly where we need to be today."

Upcoming events in the next month include additional instrument testing and spacecraft calibrations, first testing of the Electra communications package that will be used to relay data from the rovers currently on the surface of Mars, and the second planned Trajectory Correction Maneuver. This maneuver will adjust the spacecraft's path by a very small amount so that it will be positioned properly for the rocket-motor burn that will put it into orbit when it arrives at Mars.

"The performance of the spacecraft and instruments to date bears out all the hard work the team put into testing the system while it was on the ground," said David Mitchell, MAVEN project manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. "The way that the operations team has performed while flying the system has been nothing short of outstanding. We have big events ahead of us before we can claim success but I am very pleased with how things have gone thus far."

Weight loss leads to fertility hope[21]

[22]
Good advice, one-on-one guidance and personal motivation got 24-year-old Kristina Colson where she needed to be—25 pounds lighter and with reduced symptoms of her polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), a major cause of infertility in women.

Although the program hadn't officially launched when she learned that being overweight increases infertility, Colson could be counted as the first success of WIFI (Wellness Interdisciplinary Fertility Initiative), a weight loss and fertility co-management system between University of Colorado Advanced Reproductive Medicine and the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center.

She first went to see Alex Polotsky, M.D., at Advanced Reproductive Medicine in December 2012 to confirm her OB/GYN's diagnosis of PCOS and to see if she might need fertility treatment. Dr. Polotsky agreed with the PCOS diagnosis, but not with the steroid treatment that had been suggested for Colson that had her worried.

"Dr. Polotsky offered me a nutrition-based approach and a recommendation to lose weight. I liked the possibility of not having to take medications for PCOS that can affect me in adverse ways," Colson says. "And if I were to have a baby, I want to try to do it naturally and not take steroids and such medications. When Dr. Polotsky suggested the natural way rather than medications, I was all for it."

The next step was to lose her excess weight, much of which she had put on due to stress after she was diagnosed with PCOS. Polotsky referred her to the CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Center and Holly Wyatt, M.D.

"It went really well right from the start. Dr. Wyatt was very knowledgeable about PCOS and how weight can affect your hormones," Colson says. "Dr. Wyatt was one-on-one and that worked for me. I really needed that."

This personal approach to weight loss coupled with the special needs and considerations of infertility patients is the hallmark of the new WIFI program. Colson was something of a test case. And it worked.

She says Wyatt was right up front with motivational help, explaining the reasons for every step in the diet, exercise and mindfulness plan she had worked out for her. For example, it was difficult for Colson to accept that she should go to the gym every day. But Wyatt explained that it was necessary to keep up her metabolism in order to make the diet more effective and for it to have a long-term effect.

Colson learned that little things make a big difference. Wyatt told her to lay out her gym clothes the night before, a subtle suggestive action that Colson says worked to motivate her. "It reinforces the habit, even if you happened not to go that next day."

Motivation is key to follow through, and Colson says the program excelled in that regard. That outside motivation, added to her own drive to have a family in the future, helped Colson stay on track.

After initially losing water weight, Colson was having problems with the diet. "I called Dr. Wyatt on her cell phone and she adjusted the program's diet just for me. I also had a hard time doing the cardio workout she said I needed to do after I did my weightlifting. Dr. Wyatt suggested doing the cardio first thing, and that worked for me," Colson says.

By week nine of the 16-week program, Colson had hit her target weight, shedding 25 pounds. She kept it off throughout the rest of the program—and to this day five months later she's kept it off.

"I liked how Dr. Polotsky and Dr. Wyatt saw this as a lifelong solution, if I kept up my side of the bargain. Dr. Wyatt told me at the beginning that I would feel better. And I do," says Colson. "Now if I don't go to the gym, I feel yucky."

She continues to follow the doctors' advice. She's eating six times a day, getting her carbohydrates not from bread but from fruits and vegetables, which is a big difference from what she used to do. And she's watching her sugar intake.

"I'm not in the program now, I'm on my own. But I can call Dr. Wyatt whenever I need to," says Colson.

Her excess weight is off and her fertility prospects are up.

"My hope is that we might not need assisted reproductive technology to get pregnant. I'm not sure about that, but it seems more possible now," Colson says. "A lot of my symptoms from PCOS have improved since I lost the weight, and that's very encouraging."

Data-driven Program Prioritization process begins[23]

Kelli Klebe and Susan Szpyrka conduct a program evaluator training session on Feb. 5. (Photo: Philip Denman)

In 10 program evaluator training sessions last week, Kelli Klebe, dean, Graduate School, and Susan Szpyrka, vice chancellor, Administration and Finance, outlined an inclusive data-driven process to complete a CU Board of Regents-directed Program Prioritization process at UCCS.

More than 105 faculty and staff members will take part in evaluating 59 degree programs and 66 non-degree programs. The evaluators, many nominated by campus governance organizations, learned details of the task ahead of them during 90 minute sessions this week.

Evaluators were instructed to review data provided as well as responses to a qualitative surveys before assigning scores. Each evaluator will work independently, confidentially and objectively. Evaluator groups come together to share their scores before a final submission.

“This is a lengthy, important task,” Szpyrka said during the training session. “It’s important that you take the responsibility you are being given seriously and meet deadlines.”

Degree and non-degree program evaluators will use different data points.

Evaluators for degree programs will use information such as enrollment, scholarly activity, financial information and faculty merit as well as a qualitative survey to assess scores. Evaluators for non-degree programs will review human resource and financial data in addition to qualitative survey.

For degree programs, evaluations will be completed by three cross-campus teams and academic deans. Non-degree programs will be evaluated by three cross-campus teams and department executive directors.

The evaluators will work independently throughout February before meeting in teams in mid-March and completing scoring by March 24 in preparation for a campus presentation April 21 and an April 29 presentation to the CU Board of Regents.

Eventually, all degree and non-degree programs will be placed into one of five categories: exemplary, prominent, accomplished, strategic or needing further study.

Szpyrka and Klebe emphasized that the goal of the reviews was to look toward the future and are not intended to eliminate programs or positions.

Questions about the evaluations should be directed to Klebe, 255-3779, kklebe@uccs.edu[25] (degree), Szpyrka, 255-3210, sszpyrka@uccs.edu[26] (non-degree)

Related articles Program Prioritization, budget discussions dominate forum[27]Expanded budget reviews begin

program prioritization process[28]

Faculty honor peers for outstanding efforts[29]

It often is said that the highest praise comes from one's peers. That's exactly how the new CU Denver Faculty Recognition Awards are being determined.

Here are the honorees in the inaugural round of this program coordinated through the CU Denver Faculty Assembly: **Paul Musso** – College of Arts and Media, Music Department **Carol Dee** – Business School, Accounting Department **Troyann Gentile** – School of Education and Human Development, Counseling Program **Bryan Wee** – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Geography Department **Cathy Casper** – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, English Department **Rich Argys** – School of Education and Human Development, Literacy, Language and Culturally Responsive Teaching Program **Nicole Plasecki** – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, English Department **Dorothy Garrison Wade** – School of Education and Human Development, Administrative Leadership & Policy Studies Program & Doctoral Program **Michael Berry** – College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Political Science Dept. **L. Ann Martin** – Business School, Accounting Department **Carrie Makarewicz** – College of Architecture and Planning, Master of Urban Regional Planning Program
Seeing a need, starting a tradition

"Various schools and colleges offer a major award at the end of each year recognizing faculty for long-term service that exceeds expectations," acknowledged CU Denver Faculty Assembly Chair Joanne Addison.

"But we know many faculty engage in short-term service that exceeds expectations on a regular basis. I initiated the Faculty Assembly Recognition Program to highlight the importance of these short-term service commitments and to recognize faculty throughout the year."

Each awardee receives a CU Denver leather folio, a letter of recognition from Provost Rod Nairn and Addison. Notice of the award also is sent to the dean and department heads or chair-- depending on each program organization.

All faculty (tenure, non-tenure, clinical track, lecturers, instructors) are eligible to be nominated and recognized – but can only receive one award per academic year. Recipients are selected by the CU Denver Faculty Assembly Executive Committee.

The Faculty Recognition Program is ongoing and nominations are accepted anytime. More information is online[30].

Word is getting out about this awards program. "Nominations continue to be submitted for activities as varied as organizing a major symposium, outreach to K-12 schools, and campus-based committee work significantly above and beyond usual expectations," Addison said. "We welcome nominations for a wide-range of service-related activities."

Bailey to lead Southern Colorado Economic Forum[31]

[32]
Tatiana Bailey, a leading expert on health economics, policy and urban economic development, is the new director of the Southern Colorado Economic Forum at the College of Business at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Tom Zwirlein, professor at the College of Business, who has been with the forum since its 1997 inception and who was appointed director in 2002, is retiring from the forum. **Fred Crowley,** who is a senior instructor at the College of Business and who served as associate director, also will be leaving the forum.

Bailey is currently an instructor at the University of Michigan and Walsh College where she teaches courses in health economics, health policy and finance, and micro/macroeconomics. She is also a private consultant in the health care field where she focuses on evaluation and cost effectiveness analyses, and in the economic development field where she focuses on enhancing inner city employment opportunities.

Previously, Bailey as a business administrator for the University of Michigan Health System, wrote grants and was the principal investigator for numerous health-related interventions focusing upon worksite wellness and improving access in low-income communities. She worked on programs related to improving work readiness and work opportunities for at-risk populations in large, urban centers.

Currently, Bailey does presentations to audiences about the general framework of the U.S. health care system and details of the Affordable Care Act. She is also the principal investigator for a comprehensive study on the cost implications of Medicaid expansion in Michigan. She is the lead evaluator for a $100 million, philanthropic initiative aimed at improving economic development in Detroit primarily through entrepreneurial training and support. She is also researching the long-term financial and social implications of Detroit's bankruptcy.

"I'm delighted that such an experienced, talented professional will be joining our team," said Venkat Reddy, dean, College of Business. "Dr. Bailey's expertise in urban economic development, as well as the critical area of health care administration and policy will provide important leadership for our business community.

"I also want to personally express my appreciation to Tom Zwirlein and Fred Crowley who have shown such great leadership with the forum. Southern Colorado and our local business community have truly benefitted from the expertise and dedication of these two leaders and professionals. The forum has never been stronger."

The Southern Colorado Economic Forum is a university- and community-supported research effort of the UCCS College of Business. It is the premier resource for local economic information and brings together experts from the public, private, and academic sectors to report annually on the southern Colorado economy.

McGaugh film explores Judicial Center art[33]

Law and art may not seem like the most natural of pairings, but a new film allows viewers to peer into the creative process that produced stunning adornments for the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center.

Jessica McGaugh, an instructor of film and television programming in the College of Arts and Media at CU Denver, spent about 18 months training her camera on the artists selected to create public installations for the new Colorado Judicial Center at 2 W. 14th Ave., Denver. The program, "Imagining the Law," aired Sunday on Rocky Mountain PBS.

"One of the things about public art is the artist really designs the art around the features of the building," McGaugh said.

She has developed a niche of filming artists who craft pieces for public spaces. McGaugh turned her lens on Donald Lipski, the artist who created the piece "Psyche" on the Auraria Campus as well as an installation for the Sacramento Airport.

Her latest documentary follows the work of nine artists, five of them local, who melded their imaginations with the spaces in the Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center, which takes up a block just southeast of Civic Center Park.

"You'll see the painting, the welding, just everything that went into putting the art all together," McGaugh said. "I

followed them through the fabrication of the piece and the install at the Judicial Center building."

Anne Shutan crafted wood pieces in the center's library -- wooden waterfalls on back wall panels, "Peaceful Resolution," and the doors, "Justice Doors." Throughout her methodical creation of the pieces in her Boulder studio, Shutan thought about her late father, who was a lawyer.

"The artists were all inspired by that theme for sure," McGaugh said. "Justice, law, human rights, the environment -- they all came into play for inspiration."

The pieces include Madeline Wiener's marble sculpture of human figures -- a pair of Justices talking to children -- on the outdoor steps of the Judicial Center, and a chandelier that spirals down a four-story staircase. On the latter installation, artist Thomas Sayre included a mosaic of the state of Colorado at the bottom of the staircase.

The other artists featured are Gary Alsum, Amy Baur, Ken Bernstein, David Griggs, Walter Riesen and Wowhaus. The documentary was sponsored by Colorado Creative Industries, a division of the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade. McGaugh is hopeful the film will be picked up by other PBS stations around the nation.

She collaborated with film partner Roma Sur on a documentary a couple years ago, "The Golden Hour," about the problem of road accident fatalities in India. "The Golden Hour" won a best documentary award at the Indian Film Festival of Houston and has upcoming screenings at the Mumbai International Film Festival and the Golden Door Festival of Jersey City.

McGaugh is also working on a character-study film that examines what it's like to be a CAM student as well as a creative person in Colorado. The project, which explores the connection between CU Denver arts students and the vibrant culture on their doorstep -- including the Denver Performing Arts Center, local arts museums and the music scene -- will air on Rocky Mountain PBS next fall.

Yang invited to plan for Annual Meeting of the New Champions[34]

[35]
CU Denver Business School finance professor **Jian Yang** is one of 11 experts who has been invited to the brainstorming meeting to prepare for the 2014 World Economic Forum summer Davos meeting -- or the Annual Meeting of the New Champions.

The meeting is a summer session, continuing work from the 2014 World Economic Forum winter Davos meeting, which was held Jan. 22-25, 2014, and will be in Tianji City, China in September.

The meetings are being convened to discuss innovations in science, technology, society and business. Last month's session featured esteemed speakers, including Microsoft founder William (Bill) Gates, journalist and commentator Arianna Huffington, U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, and Philip J. Jennings, General Secretary, UNI Global Union.

Moore receives distinguished investigator award[36]

[37]
E.E. (Gene) Moore, professor and vice chairman for research in the Department of Surgery, School of Medicine, has received the 2014 American College of Critical Care Medicine (ACCM) Distinguished Investigator Award. This is the ACCM's highest recognition for scientific contributions.

ACCM members who receive the award are invited and reimbursed to attend the Critical Care Congress, which explores breakthroughs in research highlighting the most recent innovations in critical care. Moore attended the 2014 Critical Care Congress in San Francisco on Jan. 11.

A recent convocation speech by Moore titled, “What would Osler say,” focused on physicians’ responsibilities for controlling health care expenditures.

Dropping names ...[38]

Soocher

Stan Soocher, associate professor of Music and Entertainment Industry Studies at CU Denver, presented the "Annual Entertainment Law in Review" to the Nashville Bar Association in December. This was his 20th consecutive year doing so. His 2013 speech covered recent court rulings on, among other things, band partnership disputes, rights of publicity, content in video games, artist/record label contract disputes and how digital download royalties are calculated. Also in Nashville in December, for the 17th consecutive year, Soocher presented "Copyright Year in Review" to the Copyright Society of the South. … Eleven faculty or staff members joined UCCS in January. They are: **James Van Scotter**, instructor, College of Business; **Roberta Mancuso**, research associate, Psychology Department; **Tamarinde Doane**, scholarship counselor, Department of Financial Aid and Student Employment; **Andrea Smith**, admissions counselor, Student Recruitment; **Paul Deniston**, director of retail services, University Center; **Rick Landis**, structural trades, Facilities Services; **Peter Hannon**, custodian, Facilities Services; **Timothy Fal**, research associate, Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology; **Kurt Liljekvist**, police officer, Police Department; **Brittney Scholnick**, art registrar, College of Letters, Arts and Science; and **Victoria Novoselski**, sign language interpreter, Office of Disability Services.

In memoriam[40]

Names of current and former University of Colorado faculty and staff who have died in recent weeks. List compiled by Employee Services.

CU-Boulder
David Crumpacker, 84, faculty retiree. Jan. 16, 2014. **A. David Hill,** 80, faculty retiree, Jan. 19, 2014.

Staff Council seeks nominations for Service Excellence Awards[41]

University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) is seeking nominations for the annual Service Excellence Award, an honor that recognizes one staff member from each campus and from system administration who have provided outstanding and sustained volunteer service to their campus, community/civic/professional organizations, and the university as a whole through active involvement in staff events, community engagement opportunities, committee work, social advocacy projects, and diversity initiatives.

The 2014 awards, which include a $1,000 cash prize, will be presented during the All Staff Council Conference on April 18 at CU-Boulder.

Any active, certified, classified staff or university staff (previously called officer/exempt professional) employee of the university, excluding the current members of UCSC, is eligible to receive this award. Nominees must have a record of continuing volunteer service and will be judged on 1) Service to home campus, 2) Service to community, civic and professional organizations, and 3) Service to the university as a whole.

Nomination deadline is Feb. 28.

For more information on the award and the nomination process, please visit www.cu.edu/ucsc/ucsc-service-excellence-award[42]

Galloping COLTT offers training in digital publishing, video[43]

[44]
COLTT (Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology) Conference presents two of its Galloping COLTT events this month, with Adobe training on the CU-Boulder and CU Denver campuses.
CU-Boulder—Feb. 26
Location:
Norlin Library E113

Schedule:
9:00-11:30 Intermediate – Advanced Photoshop Techniques 1:00-3:30 Adobe InDesign & Digital Publishing
For more information and to register, please go to: www.cu.edu/coltt/galloping.html[45]

Seating for all workshops is limited. Please sign up online prior to the workshop date or contact us for more details.
CU Denver—Feb. 27
Location:
1380 Lawrence St. 3rd Floor, CLC

Schedule:
9:00-11:30 Adobe Acrobat XI – Digital Forms and Interactive Documents 1:00-3:30 Video Editing Basics
For more information and to register, please go to: www.cu.edu/coltt/galloping.html[45]

Seating for all workshops is limited. Please sign up online prior to the workshop date or contact us for more details.

Call for Proposals COLTT 2014: The conference also is about to open the call for proposals for COLTT 2014 using a new open source submission process called CMT, Microsoft's Academic Conference Management Service. Here is the link: https://cmt2.research.microsoft.com/COLTT2014/[46].

Program for Writing and Rhetoric's Fifth Annual Undergraduate Diversity Conference is Wednesday[47]

[48]
What does it mean to talk about "diversity" in a city like Boulder? What kinds of alliances promote equity and inclusion for all members of the community?

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, at CU-Boulder, the Diversity and Student Services Committee of the Program for Writing and Rhetoric (PWR) will hold the Fifth Annual Undergraduate Diversity Conference on the theme "Alliance."

The conference has become a signature CU event to promote dialogue on diversity issues, to enhance openness and respect on campus, and to showcase PWR student writings on diversity-related topics. Between 150-200 attendees – including immigrant workers, students, faculty, staff and members of the community are expected to take part in the event in room 235 of the University Memorial Center (UMC).

The conference begins at 8:30 a.m. with a special welcome and warm-up activity led by award-winning CU Theater and Dance Instructor Nii Armah Sowah, director of 1,000 Voices Project. Food, dialogues and events continue until 2 p.m.

Besides round-table dialogues with simultaneous translation, keynote speaker Tony Garcia will speak on his 28 years of experience with Su Teatro, Colorado's largest and oldest Chicano theater troupe. In response to the conference theme, Alliance, the specially selected student presentations cover diversity issues ranging from the local to the international.

For more info: http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/diversityconference.html[48]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-aaron-hirsh[2] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5qhirshpng[3] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5qhirsh600png[4] http://www.tellingourwaytothesea.com/[5] http://www.vermilionseainstitute.org/[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/%E2%80%98extreme-weight-loss%E2%80%99-stays-active-anschutz-health-and-wellness-center[7] https://connections.cu.edu/file/extreme-weight-losstoppng[8] http://abc.go.com/shows/extreme-weight-loss[9] http://www.anschutzwellness.com/[10] http://www.extremeweightlosscasting.com/[11] https://connections.cu.edu/news/extreme-weight-loss-at-anschutz-in-the-works-now-and-a-secret[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/soul-food-tasty-topic-black-history-month-celebration [13] https://connections.cu.edu/file/bhmpng[14] http://adrianemiller.com/[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/student-wins-prestigious-gates-scholarship-study-cambridge-university[16] https://connections.cu.edu/file/kisslerpng[17] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e295%3f%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9075&Action=Follow+Link[18] http://ucolorado.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d%3e295%3f%26JDG%3c95%3a473%3b%26SDG%3c90%3
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amp;RE=MC&RI=4100720&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=9074&Action=Follow+Link[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/maven-continues-mars[20] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucbmavenpng[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/weight-loss-leads-fertility-hope[22] https://connections.cu.edu/file/anschutzbeforeandafterpng[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/data-driven-program-prioritization-process-begins[24] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsprog-prioritizationpng[25] mailto:kklebe@uccs.edu[26] mailto:sszpyrka@uccs.edu[27] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=13247[28] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=12837[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-honor-peers-outstanding-efforts [30] http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/faculty/assembly/downtown/Pages/Faculty-Recognition-Program.aspx[31]

https://connections.cu.edu/people/bailey-lead-southern-colorado-economic-forum[32] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pbaileypng[33] https://connections.cu.edu/people/mcgaugh-film-explores-judicial-center-art[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/yang-invited-plan-annual-meeting-new-champions[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pyangpng-0[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/moore-receives-distinguished-investigator-award[37] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pmoorepng-0[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-82[39] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnsoocherpng[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-14[41] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-seeks-nominations-service-excellence-awards[42] https://www.cu.edu/ucsc/ucsc-service-excellence-award[43] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/galloping-coltt-offers-training-digital-publishing-video-0[44] https://connections.cu.edu/file/colttpng[45] https://www.cu.edu/coltt/galloping.html[46] https://cmt2.research.microsoft.com/COLTT2014/[47] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/program-writing-and-rhetoric%E2%80%99s-fifth-annual-undergraduate-diversity-conference-wednesday[48] http://www.colorado.edu/pwr/diversityconference.html