Two faculty members named CU Distinguished Professors[1]

The University of Colorado has announced two new Distinguished Professors, Jean S. Kutner and Karolin Luger, bringing the 2022 cohort total to nine.

CU Distinguished Professors are tenured faculty members who demonstrate exemplary performance in research or creative work; a record of excellence in promoting learning and student attainment of knowledge and skills; and outstanding service to the profession, the university and its affiliates. The title signifies the highest honor awarded to faculty across the CU system's four campuses.

The CU Board of Regents on Nov. 3 voted to approve seven faculty members[2], recommended by President Todd Saliman with the concurrence of the systemwide Committee of Distinguished Professors. The board is expected to approve the two newest Distinguished Professors on Feb. 9, with formal recognition of all nine taking place during a board meeting later this spring.

Including the latest honorees, 138 Distinguished Professors[3] have been named since inception of the title in 1977.

The newest Distinguished Professors are:

Jean S. Kutner, M.D., MSPH, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and Chief Medical Officer, University of Colorado Hospital

Kutner is a national leader in palliative care research and a distinguished contributor to the CU Anschutz academic medical center's full scope of work, specifically in the areas of research, clinical care, mentorship and administrative leadership.

Throughout her research into palliative care, Kutner has served as a national leader who has helped build the Population-Based Palliative Care Research Network and the Palliative Care Research Cooperative Group, both of which advance palliative care research and have established the University of Colorado as a leader in the field.

As Chief Medical Officer for University of Colorado Hospital, Kutner has been an exemplary administrative leader, strengthening the bond between the school and its primary teaching hospital. Before that role, she served as the Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine.

Kutner has served as a mentor to more than 50 researchers and care providers, enabling the development of more academic and medical professionals who have carried forward her commitment to excellence and professional conduct.

Karolin Luger, Ph.D., Jennie Smoly Caruthers Endowed Chair of Biochemistry, Department of Biochemistry, University of Colorado Boulder

Luger is an internationally recognized visionary researcher who has been with the CU community since 2015. She has received many prestigious honors in her field, including the 2005 appointment to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and her elections to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2017) and the National Academy of Sciences (2018).

With Tim Richmond, Luger in 1997 first reported the crystal structure of a canonical nucleosome, a structure that has become deeply integral to scholarship surrounding the fields of epigenetics and chromatin. Her work has provided insights into the impact of nucleosomes on gene transcription, DNA replication and repair, and other DNA-templated processes. Her work also has impacted research on the etiology of human diseases, for example revealing modes of HIV gene regulation.

In the classroom, Luger is a superb lecturer, influential mentor and generous collaborator. In addition to training

Learning Assistants to enhance their understanding of complex biochemistry subjects, she transformed the way metabolism is taught by implementing both active and peer learning approaches. She has supervised 21 Ph.D. candidates to dissertation and trained approximately 25 postdoctoral fellows.

Luger is one of the world's best-known structural biologists whose work is of the highest quality and retains international renown. Her work has helped keep CU Boulder on the map internationally as a leading research institution.

2023 Colorado Capital Conference seeks participants[4]

U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper – together with Colorado Mesa University, the University of Colorado and Colorado State University – invite state residents to apply to attend the Colorado Capital Conference, set for June 13-15, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

One hundred Coloradans from a diverse cross-section of the state will be selected through a highly competitive application process to participate in this bipartisan conference. During the event, participants will have opportunities to hear from and interact with the nation's leaders in an informal setting.

"The Colorado Capital Conference?exemplifies the best of American democracy," Bennet said. "It's a time for Coloradans to come together to?share?ideas, and out of that, form a stronger, more reflective Colorado. I'm?pleased to co-host this conference?in person once again?with Sen. Hickenlooper, CMU, CU and CSU."

Said Hickenlooper, "Our office represents Coloradans' seat at the table. It belongs to everyone in our state. Welcoming the Colorado Capital Conference is a great way to involve folks with the work we're doing."

Colorado Mesa University President John Marshall said CMU is honored to host the Colorado Capital Conference along with Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper, and partners at CU and CSU.

"It's never been more important for Coloradans of every stripe to learn more about our federal government and engage in conversation with one another," Marshall said. "The Colorado Capital Conference is unique, and our nation is begging for citizens to get engaged and find common ground. No matter your party affiliation or geography, we hope all Coloradans apply to join us in Washington, D.C., next summer."

CU President Todd Saliman said the conference provides numerous benefits to Colorado residents.

"The Capital Conference offers citizens an excellent overview of our legislative process and insight into the workings of our government," Saliman said. "This one-of-a-kind event fosters important conversations and the exchange of ideas spanning the political spectrum, while allowing us to celebrate our shared values as Coloradans and Americans. We are proud to partner with Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper, as well as Colorado Mesa University and Colorado State University, to make this opportunity available."

Colorado State University Chancellor Tony Frank agreed.

"CSU is proud to participate in the bipartisan Colorado Capital Conference and help bring together citizens of our state with lawmakers in the nation's capital," Frank said. "It is a unique public forum that gives voters of Colorado the opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns directly to lawmakers, and it gives lawmakers an opportunity to speak directly to citizens about the legislative process and how policy is – and sometimes isn't – enacted. It's a benefit for everyone involved, including CSU, and we're grateful to Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper for making it possible."

All applications must be received no later than March 21, 2023. Conference participants will be announced by April 14, 2023. Participants are responsible for their own accommodations (at a group rate) and airfare. The $500 registration fee covers most meals and conference materials. Guests are welcome to participate in evening events for a prepaid

fee of $200.

For more information about the conference or to apply, visit www.coloradomesa.edu/capital-conference[5] or call 970-270-5594.

$5 million gift creates first named deanship at CU Boulder [6]

Faculty endeavors play important role in outreach, engagement[7]

Faculty Council last week heard updates on outreach and engagement efforts underway at the CU system level, including an initiative that would spotlight the work of faculty.

Danielle Radovich Piper, senior vice president for external relations and strategy, and Tony Salazar, vice president for outreach and engagement, were guests of the governance group during its Jan. 26 meeting, held via Zoom. The leaders are helping to carry out a priority of the Board of Regents and President Todd Saliman[8] to connect with the state by strengthening CU's community ties, as well as advocating for the university among key constituents.

"One of the things that is really important to President Saliman is showcasing the excellence that is all of you, the faculty, and … really getting out there and showcasing that work across the state," said Radovich Piper, who started in her new role in early January[9].

Saliman, Salazar and Michael Lightner, vice president for academic affairs, have discussed the potential establishment of a President's Speakers Bureau, which would engage faculty in community outreach across Colorado.

Salazar noted that faculty members and deans already have taken part in outreach trips led by President Saliman and the Board of Regents[10] in recent years. Trips are tentatively planned for later this year to the central eastern plains, Pueblo and southeast Colorado, and the mountain communities, as well as visits along the Front Range.

"We would like to do more of that and highlight our campuses – not system administration – as well as the programs and work that you're doing and your expertise," Salazar told the council. "People are hungry for that across the state. They would love to hear from you all and your colleagues about the great things you're doing."

Salazar said the program aims to grow in the coming months, with plans for hiring staff based in the Pueblo and Grand Junction areas, which would supplement community outreach work that he and colleague Christina Beck will continue to lead in the Denver area.

Another key way in which CU will be sharing its story throughout the state is via a new marketing campaign, Radovich Piper said. A vendor will soon be chosen to help lead a collaborative, multipronged campaign expected to include digital, print and TV messaging.

"It's incumbent on us to tell our story, while meeting people where they are," Radovich Piper said. "Because not only are (faculty) doing all the things that invest in our future, but students are doing phenomenal things, staff is doing phenomenal things. Faculty, you are the backbone of all of this."

Also at last week's Faculty Council meeting:
Annie Baccary, associate vice president and advancement administration officer, provided an overview of CU Advancement[11], including figures from the 2022 fiscal year. The university received $377.2 million in philanthropic gifts from 44,489 benefactors. "Faculty are the inspiration," Baccary said. "The work you're doing is what inspires

donors to give, so thank you. We can't ask for gifts unless we have something to connect it to, and your work is critical there. You're what brings the 'wow' factor to the donors." Faculty Council Chair Cindy O'Bryant announced the rescheduling of two upcoming meetings: The March council meeting was moved to March 16, to avoid conflicts with spring break, and the Faculty Senate meeting was moved to April 20, to avoid a conflict with a Board of Regents meeting.

Limelight breaking ground on new hotel in Boulder [12]

Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative announces Southern Colorado Ethical Leadership Award [13]

Grand Challenges Round Two Symposium showcases interdisciplinary research, offers forum for feedback [14]

COVID-19 pandemic highlighted significant rates of anxiety and depression among adolescents [15]

Jennifer Richer takes helm as new Graduate School dean [16]

Molly Bloom, author of 'Molly's Game,' to speak at CU Feb. 27 [17]

In memoriam: Stephen Berman [18]

Innovative nursing program to build 4 Corners workforce[19]

CU Boulder students share their experiences as first generation students through storytelling[20]

Colorado rural residents facing hurdles to health care get assistance from a program[21]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/two-faculty-members-named-cu-distinguished-professors[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/seven-faculty-members-join-ranks-cu-distinguished-professors[3] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/list-distinguished-professors[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/2023-colorado-capital-conference-seeks-participants[5] http://www.coloradomesa.edu/capital-conference[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/5-million-gift-creates-first-named-deanship-cu-boulder[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-endeavors-play-important-role-outreach-engagement[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/president-saliman-augments-system-administration-leadership-team[9] https://www.cu.edu/news/cu-names-radovich-piper-senior-vice-president-external-relations-and-strategy[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-engaged-outreach-efforts[11] https://giving.cu.edu/[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/limelight-breaking-ground-new-hotel-boulder[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/daniels-fund-ethics-initiative-announces-southern-colorado-ethical-leadership-award[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/grand-challenges-round-two-symposium-showcases-interdisciplinary-research-offers-forum[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/covid-19-pandemic-highlighted-significant-rates-anxiety-and-depression-among-adolescents[16] https://connections.cu.edu/people/jennifer-richer-takes-helm-new-graduate-school-dean[17] https://connections.cu.edu/people/molly-bloom-author-molly-s-game-speak-cu-feb-27[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-stephen-berman[19] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/innovative-nursing-program-build-4-corners-workforce[20] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-boulder-students-share-their-experiences-first-generation-students-through-storytelling[21] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/colorado-rural-residents-facing-hurdles-health-care-get-assistance-program