Chemical warfare's history casts dark shadow today[1]

[2]

In early 1915, German and Allied troops were dug into trenches and neither side could move the other – a World War I waiting game. The German army decided to use poison gas to force troops to leave the trenches, making the men easier targets for attack with firearms and shells, says Joseph Gal, a professor of medicine and pathology at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. His specialties include historical aspects of science and medicine.

The April 22, 1915, deployment of 168 tons of chlorine gas "so horrified the world," said Gal, no one thought it would happen again. But despite attempts to prohibit the use of deadly agents that maim and kill, chemical warfare has continued, including recent documented examples during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and in Syria in 2013.

The use of chemical warfare is the topic of a one-day symposium organized by Gal for the upcoming American Chemical Society's (ACS) 249th National Meeting and Exposition, March 22-26 in Denver. The meeting typically draws 12,000 to 14,000 participants from around the world.

Gal has a Ph.D. in chemistry and has retained his interest in his original chemistry training.

"I became fascinated with the history of chemistry. As a kid, I loved history. I grew up in Europe and there's a lot of history there," he said. He married his love of chemistry and history several years ago and became involved in scholarly research on the topic. He also has developed lectures on the history of chemistry and its relationship to medicine and other fields that are geared to the more general public, and has given presentations through the Arts in Medicine Lecture Series at CU Anschutz.

One of Gal's early interests was the moral and ethical behavior of scientists, including the German scientist Fritz Haber.

"I became very interested in Haber, a great chemist and Nobel Laureate," Gal said. "He's called the father of chemical warfare because he basically got the German government to start using the poison gas we all know about."

Gal developed a lecture about Haber and the moral and ethical aspects of scientists for the Anschutz series, and that led to an interest in chemical warfare – and another public lecture, "Modern Chemical Warfare: History, Science, Medicine, Morality."

His research, and those lectures – and the fact that 2015 is the centenary of the first wide-scale chemical attack with poison gas — became the basis for the ACA symposium, which is titled, "Modern Chemical Warfare: History, Science, Toxicology and Morality." The March 24, all-day symposium features 11 speakers from around the globe and includes a film about Haber.

Gal will deliver the opening lecture, a historical overview of modern chemical warfare, beginning in World War I.

"By the end of World War I, scientists working for both sides had evaluated some 3,000 different chemicals for use as possible weapons; around 50 of these poisons were actually tried out on the battlefield," Gal said in an interview for a feature in the Chemical and Engineering News, a weekly news magazine of the American Chemical Society. (Visit http://cen.acs.org/magazine/93/09308.html[3] to read "When Chemicals Became Weapons of War."

Gal said scientists must decide on the responsibilities of participating in this type of research. Some scientists say the community should never get involved in developing chemical weapons, but others say the work could result in other, beneficial results. Gal said his view is that there is no justification for developing weapons of mass destruction.

"If we have a need for chemicals that are essential for human existence and human activities, then we should focus

our resources on that," he said. "If we can develop chemical weapons, we can develop the beneficial things as well."

While chemical weapons research during World War I later resulted in the development of some insecticides, the reverse also has occurred. In the 1930s, Gal said, chemists creating insecticides stumbled upon nerve gas.

Efforts have been made to stop the use of chemical weapons throughout the years, but most have failed. Finally in 1993, Gal said, the Chemical Weapons Convention was launched by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The United Nations-affiliated agency will have a representative at the symposium who will discuss the history of the negotiation and development of the treaty to ban weapons of mass destruction.

To date, 190 countries have signed the treaty, which is implemented by the OPCW. The organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts in 2013.

In another symposium session, David Gilmore, a clinical faculty member of the Division of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at CU Anschutz and member of the Emergency Department at Exempla St. Joseph Hospital, will describe the injuries caused by substances used in the manufacturing and use of weapons of mass destruction. Those injuries range from mild to life-threatening and can have immediate effects or can surface months or years in the future. These chemicals also can remain in the environment for lengthy periods and alter DNA.

For more information about the ACS meeting, visit http[4]://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/spring-2015.html[4]

CU looks to keep tuition increases low[5]

For the second consecutive year, proposed tuition increases for all University of Colorado campuses came in significantly below the 6 percent cap mandated by the state Legislature for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal years. The budget calls for between 3 percent and 3.7 percent in tuition increases and up to a 3 percent salary increase for university employees.

The Office of the Vice President for Budget and Finance presented the proposed budget to the CU Board of Regents at its Feb. 20 meeting at CU-Boulder. The board will vote on the budget at its March 30 meeting at the system offices at 1800 Grant St., Denver.

"Our systemwide budget priorities are very similar this year to what they were last year, minimizing tuition increases, and clearly identifying changes in costs," said Todd Saliman, vice president and chief financial officer.

The increases are among the lowest at CU over the past decade; tuition climbed as much as 8.7 percent two years ago.

Proposed tuition increases for each campus:
CampusPercent increaseCost per 30 hoursDifference CU-Boulder 3 $9,320 $272 CU Colorado Springs 3.5 $7,980 $270 CU Denver lower division (freshmen, sophomores) 3.7 $9,090 $330 upper division 0 $9,420 $0
"If these are approved by the board, these would be very low tuition rate increases compared to what we've seen over the past decade," Saliman said. Across the state for FY 2014-15, only the Colorado School of Mines, at 2.7 percent, had a lower tuition increase than any CU campus.

The CU Anschutz Medical Campus' proposed tuition increases varied by school and programs. The School of Medicine asked for increases between 3 percent (medical or physical therapy doctorate, an additional $1,039 per credit hour) and 31.9 percent (anesthesiology, an additional $150-$240 per credit hour). The School of Dental Medicine seeks a 3.8 percent increase and the College of Nursing seeks between 3.5 percent and 4.8 percent in tuition increases.

The low tuition increases are in response to an anticipated 10 percent increase, or $107.1 million, in state funding

through Gov. John Hickenlooper's proposed FY 2015-16 budget. If passed, it would mean an additional $16.6 million for the university: $6.3 million for CU-Boulder, $2 million for CU Colorado Springs, $2.6 million for CU Denver and $5.7 million for the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

The Office of Budget and Finance also recommended salary merit increases of 3 percent for faculty and exempt staff in addition to a state-mandated 3 percent (1 percent COLA; 2 percent merit) for classified staff. If approved, the salary increases would total $26.8 million.

Saliman also presented a secondary scenario should the state approve only a 5 percent increase for higher education instead of the governor's proposed 10 percent increase that's being discussed by the Joint Budget Committee. In that case, mandatory cost increases to the budget for classified staff salary and benefits for all employees would be about $4.4 million, with no salary increases for faculty or exempt staff.

CU announces changes to modernize employee retirement plans[6]

TRANSITION WORKSHOP
Have questions about what changes to CU's retirement plans mean for you? Attend one of the Transition Workshops held on your campus running from March 6 to April 17.

These sessions will walk you through the changes, explain why they are happening, and specify the actions you'll need to take between now and the transition in mid-July.

Can't make one of these dates? A series of videos covering the information presented at each workshop will be posted on the transition website.

See the full schedule at: www.cu.edu/nestegg/workshops[7]

The University of Colorado on Tuesday announced it will modernize its retirement plan lineup, providing employees best-in-class investment options, lower fees, enhanced advising and streamlined investment choices. These changes will go into effect in July 2015.

The university, acting on recommendations from a committee consisting of faculty, staff and Denver-based investment consulting company, Innovest Portfolio Solutions, LLC[8], selected a lineup of best-in-class investment funds for its 401(a) Retirement Plan and its 403(b) Voluntary Retirement Plan, and it named TIAA-CREF as its sole service provider for those Plans.

The committee recommended plan improvements based on best practices and the latest research on effective retirement plans. Retirement plan offerings have changed significantly since CU's last major plan overhaul.

"The committee's work will result in an investment lineup that helps CU faculty and staff to more effectively meet their retirement goals," said Lisa Landis, associate vice president of Employee Services and chief human resources officer. "This change will mean lower participant fees, better choices and more support for CU's workforce."

TIAA-CREF will track investments, withdrawals, allocations and other administrative tasks, such as financial education and guidance for CU's employees. The single service provider model will give CU employees a comprehensive view of all of the assets in their retirement plans, which gives employees the ability to make better decisions regarding their investment mix, risk level and portfolio allocation.

Streamlining to a single service provider improves CU's negotiating and buying power as it selected its new investment options, resulting in significantly lower fees for employees.

Initial estimates show CU faculty and staff will save up to $3 million a year in fees for the CU 401(a) and up to $1.5

million a year for the CU 403(b). At the individual level, a CU 401(a) Plan participant with a $100,000 balance will pay $300 in fees with the new lineup, compared to $470 with the current one — a savings of 35 percent. A 403(b) Plan participant with a $100,000 balance will stand to save 40 percent in fees, with an average of $360 in the new lineup, compared to $600 with the current one.

Simpler choices equal higher participation

CU's current slate of retirement choices includes three vendors for the CU 401(a) Plan, offering more than 300 investment choices, and eight vendors for the CU 403(b) Plan, offering 552 different options. The 800-plus investment choices included many duplicate funds.
The committee found that while people liked the idea of more choices, in practice, too many choices overwhelmed people. It led to making no choices at all or choosing safe funds that wouldn't help people meet their retirement goals.

The new lineup contains 18 funds – a number based on industry best practices – selected for their track record of top performance, low fees and good management.

These funds are organized into a three-tier structure that encourages CU faculty and staff to make their selections based on their investment style. They may choose funds from one tier or a mix of them.
Tier 1 – Target date funds: These professionally managed mutual funds are designed for investors who want a simple yet diversified approach to investing. For example, a participant selects the fund that's closest to his or her expected retirement date and fund managers will adjust the investment mix from more aggressive to more conservative as his or her target retirement date approaches. **Tier 2 – Core Investment Menu:** For those comfortable with investing, this tier provides a tool for building and managing an investment mix. Participants may build a diversified portfolio by allocating contributions across 18 investment options. **Tier 3 – Self-Directed Brokerage Option:** This option allows experienced investors to take an active responsibility in selecting and managing their investments. Note that neither CU nor TIAA-CREF oversees or provides recommendations on these options.
As part of its role as service provider, TIAA-CREF will dedicate five financial educators to provide professional guidance to CU faculty and staff. Plus, employees will no longer receive sales and marketing materials for products or services not directly related to CU's retirement plans, just unbiased advice based on their situation, Landis said.

CU securing permission of states beyond Colorado to offer online education[9]

The University of Colorado must seek permission to provide online education in states other than Colorado or to enroll students in online programs in those states, the CU Board of Regents was told Friday, but that process shouldn't delay the fall launch of CU's systemwide online education initiative.

Deborah Keyek-Franssen, associate vice president for digital education and engagement, also said the university is required to work with licensure boards for professional programs such as nursing, psychology and education.

"What this means is we need to negotiate with each state separately on a campus-by-campus basis and often on a program-by-program basis. This makes it very complex," Keyek-Franssen said. However, she said states are bonding together and signing reciprocity agreements.

"Colorado is one of 19 states that has done so, so that means the number of states we need to negotiate with is decreasing," she said. "All of the campuses' applications have been accepted into the state authorization reciprocity agreement (SARA). We expect that 40 states will have joined by the end of the year."

Authorization work on behalf of campuses is being coordinated at the system level, Keyek-Franssen said, and will not affect launch of the initiative, to be known as University of Colorado On Demand.

The impetus behind state authorization is consumer protection, she said. “This all came about because states were concerned their students were being delivered shoddy goods by shady postsecondary operations,” Keyek-Franssen said.

Chancellors Philip DiStefano (CU-Boulder), Donald Elliman (CU Anschutz), Pam Shockley-Zalabak (UCCS) and Jerry Wartgow (CU Denver) updated the board on the overall progress of the online course and degree initiative. Across the CU system, campuses now offer 32 degree programs completely online, five undergraduate completion programs and 55 certificate programs. The chancellors said 25 new online degrees are planned.

“We are working on several different fronts simultaneously to create a better outcome,” Shockley-Zalabak said. “The chancellors are working together with the provosts so that we’re making sure the online programs have the ability to both come forward into the marketplace and have distinctiveness in the marketplace.”

The chancellors told the board they are confident that marketing and streamlining the concurrent enrollment policy will provide online students a great deal more access by fall. She said CU also will have courses available for all high school and home schooled students that can be used as AP courses. Initially, every online courses and degree program will belong to an individual campus; however, over time it is anticipated that campuses will collaborate on degree offerings, she said.

Importantly throughout, Elliman said, CU needs to build on its programs and get the word out.

“We need to broaden and deepen our offerings, we need to make access to those offerings faster and, last but not least, we need to market the hell out of it,” Elliman said.

CU Denver students make pitch for wellness center[10]

Hoping to build a $53.8 million health and wellness center[11] on the Auraria Campus, CU Denver student representatives on Friday asked the CU Board of Regents to support the pursuit of student fee increases – a financing proposal that drew mixed reaction from board members.

Proposed fee increases would start at $8 per credit hour and move to $16 per credit hour a year after implementation to build the dedicated facility next to the new Academic Building[12].

“In the past people would say that our nontraditional campus with our nontraditional students makes community difficult to build at the CU Denver campus,” said Scott Cao, student body president, one of seven students who appeared before the board. “But with the opening of our student commons building this year, we have seen an unprecedented increase in student community and school spirit.”

Cao said that in only four days, student government was able to tally 1,022 signatures in support of the center.

“Hundreds of students are asking for more from CU Denver. If we see such an increase in community life from just an academic building, what will we see from a wellness center?” Cao said. “In Texas we have a saying, that once you taste mama’s homemade pie, you’re gonna want some more.”

If the fee is approved by the Board of Regents at the March 30 board meeting, it will then be voted on by CU Denver students April 19, and then the Auraria Board of Directors. If approved by the students and Auraria board, a detailed presentation of the construction project will be provided to the regents’ capital subcommittee in May. The students’ timeline indicated a target opening date in spring 2018.

Although Cao and center supporters suggest that building community will foster retention, recruitment and graduation rates in a significant way, some regents were skeptical.

Regent Stephen Ludwig noted 35 percent of CU Denver students are Pell eligible and many students would have to take out additional student loans for roughly $2,000 in added fees, which would accrue interest and would in the long run cost students more than $1,000 in added interest alone.

“I don’t think it’s a fiscally responsible way to go about this,” he said. “I love the fact – and this is where it breaks my heart – I love the big idea you’ve come up with. I love that you’re here, I love all this great work and you’ve worked closely with the administration and I think you’ve put together a great plan. I just can’t support it. It’s too expensive.”

Regent Sue Sharkey agreed with the need and applauded the students for their passion, but also said the proposed fees were too high.

“I think it’s a beautiful facility, a beautiful idea. I would love to have that and I can see the value and the need for it,” she said. “(But) I would say no to that student fee. What I’d like to see is some effort being made toward reaching out to potential donors … to find other revenue sources other than putting that burden onto our students.”

Regents Irene Griego, vice chair, and Linda Shoemaker both praised the students and the wellness center proposal.

“The Denver campus really needs this,” Shoemaker said. “You don’t have a UMC (University Memorial Center at CU-Boulder) on your campus; you have Academic Building 1 and any of us who have been there have seen kids all over the stairwells just sitting around trying to talk to each other. This can be a great addition to your campus. It’s the only one of our campuses that does not have such a facility, and that’s not fair.”

Said Griego, “I think this issue is about equity. Our other campuses have had the opportunity to go to their students and see if they wanted to increase fees. I believe that the students and your campus deserve that opportunity, too.”

Regent Michael Carrigan asked for more information, saying he’s wary of placing the burden on the students. Regent Glen Gallegos said he’d like to see alternative proposals, saying CU Denver already is significantly more expensive than the other two institutions on the Auraria campus.

“I’d like to see it get done,” Gallegos said. “My concern is that we’re going to outprice ourselves in the market.”

The Office of the Vice President of Budget and Finance presented to the board a breakdown of how CU’s student fees [13] per year compared to those of other institutions across the state. Currently at $1,741, CU-Boulder’s fees were the highest of CU’s three nonmedical campuses but still lower than Adams State, Western State, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State (Fort Collins) and Colorado State Pueblo.

CU-Boulder’s proposed increases would be an additional $40 in FY 2015-16, or $1,781; UCCS fees are $1,433 and would increase by $15, or $1,448; CU Denver’s fees – including the wellness center – would increase $271, from $1,078 to $1,349.

Ludwig pressed campus leadership about fee accountability.

“My concern is that the money is not being used for what the original intent was,” he said. “What I don’t know is … is it really because that class costs an extra $15 to put on? Or is it because that department has something it wants to do and it’s the easiest way to get the money to get that done?”

Ludwig noted that CU Denver has an audit process that ensures fees are used only for what was approved and asked the other campuses for proof of accountability. CU-Boulder and UCCS campus leaders said audits had been done to ensure proper use of fees, but agreed to undertake additional reviews.

The regents will vote on the fee proposals for all campuses at the March 30 board meeting at 1800 Grant St.

Students make case for fossil fuel divestment to Board of Regents[14]

A student movement aimed at persuading the University of Colorado to end its investment in the fossil fuel industry stirred discussion at last week's meeting of the Board of Regents, which took no action on the matter.

Following student appearances during the public comment portion of regents meetings over the past several months, some members of the board earlier in February met informally with student leaders to discuss the issue. The board invited them to speak at last week's public meeting, which also gave university leaders an opportunity to address the matter.

With about 80 students in orange T-shirts – the color signifies the global effort Fossil Free[15]– lining the walls of the meeting room at the University Memorial Center at CU-Boulder, one student leader from each of the four campuses outlined their objectives in a presentation[16].

The group wants CU to cease investment in fossil fuel companies and, within five years, divest from funds that include such companies.

Don Eldhart, CU treasurer, Chief Investment Officer and associate vice president for budget and finance, presented background[17] on CU's investments, and noted that elimination of such funds from the university's portfolio would leave only 10 percent to 15 percent of the current fund mix.

"We have a very diversified portfolio with 10 managers … that have produced, I would say, pretty excellent returns over the last 15 years," Eldhart said. Investment return is one of the three obligations that must be met, he said, along with investment safety and liquidity.

He noted that funds screened for exclusion of the energy sector are an emerging product, but that they are newer, smaller and carry higher fees. Should those screened funds perform well in the future, though, they'd be considered for investment by the university.

Pat O'Rourke, vice president, University Counsel and secretary of the Board of Regents, reviewed regent policies and state laws that govern university investments. He stressed that the state forbids its public entities from direct ownership of oil and gas companies.

The students who spoke expressed a desire for CU to pursue support of environmentally sustainable energy.

"Imagine with me a brighter future," said Katie Raitz of CU-Boulder. "We as Fossil Free CU and the CU Board of Regents have the power to shape that world. … You all have the power to make that history." Earlier in the meeting, during public comment, Boulder student Anna Vallad spoke in opposition of divestment, saying the move would ultimately reduce access to education.

Board members praised the students for their engagement, but many noted the challenge posed by the complexity of the issue.

"Should (CU) align our investments with our values? My answer is yes," said Regent Linda Shoemaker, D-Boulder. "President Bruce Benson proudly points out that CU-Boulder is one of the greenest campuses in the country."

Still, she acknowledged, that when she and her husband debated the topic with regard to their foundation, they ultimately chose to maintain at least some fossil fuel investments.

"Change does not come quickly, and it comes through lots of conversations," said Regent Michael Carrigan, D-Denver. "I want to continue to have those conversations. … You've certainly piqued my interest."

Chair Kyle Hybl, R-Colorado Springs, said the board would take no action at the meeting, despite the students' calls to

do so.

“Today is part of the fact-finding efforts the board is going to,” he said. “We’re going to continue looking at this.”
In other business at last week’s board meeting at CU-Boulder:
The board voted 9-0 to approve a new master of the environment degree at CU-Boulder. Regent John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, said that because the degree is a professional master’s degree – one responding to industry and marketplace demand – his earlier reservations about the new program were assuaged. Still, he said he plans to “track the intellectual diversity side of it” as well as monitor whether it becomes a financially self-sufficient program.
Chancellors of the four University of Colorado campuses have identified the metrics they plan to rely on for strategic planning across the system, with plans to present the data to the Board of Regents in July. The chancellors briefed the regents during their Friday meeting at CU-Boulder, following up on direction from the board during its January retreat. While the specific metrics vary from campus to campus, they include goals for non-tuition revenue, graduation rates, research funding and community partnerships, fundraising, and recruitment and retention of diverse students, faculty and staff. The board welcomed two of the university’s newest Distinguished Professors: Kurt G. Beam, Ph.D., professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, School of Medicine, CU Anschutz eMedical Campus; and Leslie Leinwand, Ph.D., professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, chief scientific officer for BioFrontiers Institute, CU-Boulder. This was their first opportunity to be honored in person by the board since the regents named them and four others Distinguished Professors last November[18].

Tenure list: February 2015[19]

At its meeting Feb. 20 at the University of Colorado Boulder, the CU Board of Regents approved one appointment with tenure:

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Carlos Catalano, School of Pharmacy, effective Feb. 20.

CU Book Store named Collegiate Retailer of the Year[20]

Photography exhibit on loan from Denver Art Museum coming to Fulginiti Pavilion[21]
[22]

The Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus[23] in March will be home to a collection of photographs from internationally recognized artist Andrea Modica in connection with Denver’s Month of Photography.

Modica’s “Human Being” is the result of an unusual discovery in 1993 of 100 skeletons buried a century ago on the grounds of the Colorado Mental Health Institute in Pueblo. “Human Being” is on loan from the Denver Art Museum from March 5 to May 23.

“Photographs for this exhibit were generously loaned by the Denver Art Museum to the Center for Bioethics and Humanities,” said Simon Zalkind, Curator for the Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion at CU Anschutz. “We hope that this exhibit will encourage a conversation about historical and aesthetic dimensions of the photograph as evidence and elegy, within the context of Modica’s ‘Human Being’ – a tragic story of the forgotten lives and the deaths of people who lived in Colorado over a century ago.”

After reading a headline “Hundreds of Skeletons Found at State Hospital” in the local newspaper, Modica was granted permission to photograph them. With help from Colorado College professor and anthropologist Michael Hoffman who

provided both historical and descriptive context for the photographs, Modica published a book in under the same title, resulting in this exhibit.

“The ‘Human Being’ exhibit reinforces the mission of the Art Gallery – to bring the work of major artists to the community in order to explore the essential questions about the human experience, who we are and how we care for one another,” states Therese Jones, Director of the Arts and Humanities in Healthcare Program at the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at CU Anschutz.[24] “Our hope is that it will engage health professionals and the greater community in a dialogue about the ethical issues in contemporary health care, and piece together the story of what happened in our own history – right here in Colorado.”

The reasons for a secret burial in a mass grave remain a mystery. The individuals buried at the facility were those whose bodies had gone unclaimed and their burials unrecorded. However, the study of the skeletons reveals that most of them were men and there are traces of illnesses and damage which help reconstruct a form of personal history.

The opening on March 5 will include a reception from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. featuring a conversation titled “Unearthed: The Photograph as Evidence and Elegy,” at 6 p.m. with Eric Paddock, curator of photography at the Denver Art Museum, and Simon Zalkind, curator of exhibitions at the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities at the University of Colorado Anschutz.

“Human Being” is the 11th exhibit to open in the Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion.

For more information on the exhibit or the Art Gallery at the Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities, please call Ryann Nickerson at 720-726-0378.

Search begins for Kraemer Family Library dean[25]

Pre-health students enjoy immersive, real-world learning opportunities[26]

Sweet returns to UCCS as vice chancellor for strategic initiatives[27]

Charles Sweet, currently vice chancellor and managing senior associate university counsel at CU-Boulder, will return to UCCS and the Office of University Counsel after serving the Boulder campus since August.

Sweet, who retained a 30 percent appointment at UCCS while in Boulder, will be vice chancellor for strategic initiatives effective March 15. While Sweet will be based at UCCS, he may also be called upon to act in a senior university counsel role for CU.

Sweet has long ties to the University of Colorado system, having served as vice president and university counsel for the CU System from 1994 to 2007. From 1988 to 1994, he served as associate university counsel and the designated counsel for the CU-Boulder campus. He served as executive director of strategic planning and initiatives at UCCS from 2010 to 2014. He was named vice chancellor and managing senior associate university counsel at CU-Boulder in August 2014.

As vice chancellor for strategic initiatives, Sweet will report to Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak and will lead local, state, national and international strategic innovation and initiatives and supervise the development and implementation

of a campus-wide compliance program. He will have supervisory responsibilities for the executive director of the Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences and a soon-to-be-hired director of institutional compliance.

Sweet earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University and a law degree from the University of Virginia. He is a member of the bar in Colorado and Virginia.

Mealer named new COMIRB director[28]

Meredith Mealer, assistant professor, School of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary Sciences & Critical Care Medicine, has been named the director of the Colorado Multiple Institution Review Board (COMIRB).

Mealer has served COMIRB since 2007 and is currently assistant director, Panel B Chair and an Expedited/Exempt Chair. Her School of Medicine appointment will transfer to the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation beginning in March.

Mealer takes over the job following Warren "Cappy" Capell, assistant professor, School of Medicine, who is stepping down after four years. Capell will continue to be involved in the regulatory aspects of research at the institution, and predominantly will work with the Colorado Prevention Center (CPC Clinical Research) as a clinical investigator.

The focus of Capell's new responsibilities will be managing event adjudication committees and providing other support for several large, international clinical trials run by CPC Clinical Research. He also will continue to work in research administration at CU Anschutz through the Clinical Research Support Center.

Taylor is UCCS Employee of the Quarter[29]

Nancy Taylor does not enjoy being at the center of attention. In fact, she thinks that is why she's able to do her job supporting the UCCS Aging Center.

But after recently being named Employee of the Quarter, Taylor, office manager and assistant to the director, UCCS Aging Center, may have to deal with a little extra attention.

The six-year UCCS veteran was surprised when she was notified of the award and the accompanying day of administrative leave, $100 stipend, certificate of recognition and three months of free and reserved campus parking.

"I had no idea I'd even been nominated," Taylor said. "I'm just amazed that everyone would take the time to do that for me."

While Taylor may be surprised, the staff she works with was not.

"She's awesome, really the go-to person in the office," Michael Bigelow, senior executive of clinical activities, UCCS Health Circle, said.

It is this attitude that allows Taylor to support the UCCS Aging Center staff, students and clients.

"Nancy is the rare employee who, like the Energizer bunny, just keeps on giving," Michael Kenny, director, UCCS Aging Center, said. "New students rely heavily on [her] during their orientation, and her smooth handling of budgetary and operational details leaves our staff free to focus on clinical matters."

But according to Taylor, it's her fellow staff members, the student therapists, and her student employees that enable her to succeed.

"Their support makes me look good and makes it easy for me to keep a smile on my face," Taylor said. "We could go through this entire office and give the same award to all of them. They've all earned it in my eyes."

That has been especially true since the UCCS Aging Center moved into the Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences. While the move and integration has been positive for staff, students, and clients, there are many challenges to being the first to occupy a new building.

Outside of work, Taylor enjoys spending time with her family and her two rescue dogs. When the weather cooperates, Taylor enjoys joining her husband on his motorcycle and touring the area.

Butnor takes new role focusing on undergraduate experiences[30]

Ashby Butnor has just joined Office of Undergraduate Experiences (OUE) as the new director of First-Year Experiences at CU Denver. She previously was with Auraria Campus partner Metropolitan State University of Denver where she was a senior lecturer of philosophy and faculty coordinator for the Learning Communities and First-Year Success programs.

The new position at CU Denver will focus on undergraduate experiences. The role has grown from one course initiated in 1990 by John Lanning. The current first-year seminar model launched in Fall 2006 with eight sections. When Lanning retired last year, the OUE effort continued under the guidance of Jeff Franklin, assistant vice chancellor for undergraduate experiences.

An important part of the OUE goal is enhancing student learning by providing access to high-quality and innovative programs and supporting the implementation of high-impact practices across campus. During orientation, which all first-year students are required to attend, academic advisors work with them to ensure they sign up for the classes they'll need for their major and for general education. The advisors also recommend that students enroll in a first-year seminar.

Butnor already is working to expand offerings so that by Fall 2015, 24 first-year seminars will be available. New offerings may include courses in neuroscience, working-class politics in Colorado, immigration, American humor, and representations of the body in popular culture. These courses are designed to fulfill core course requirements in various knowledge areas, such as arts and humanities, behavioral and social sciences, biological and physical sciences and math.

"First-year seminars are appealing for both faculty and students," Butnor said. "Faculty can develop classes on topics they are passionate about but that may not fit neatly into a department's course offerings. And students have the opportunity to build a safe community while learning the ropes of college life."

At Metropolitan State University, Butnor helped to lead a large first-year learning community program, in addition to teaching first-year students. Her areas of focus are learning community models, faculty outreach and development, faculty-staff collaboration, service learning and common reading programs.

With a background in philosophy, religion, Asian studies, ethics, women's and gender studies and political theory, Butnor's academic training is interdisciplinary. She co-edited the recently published "Asian and Feminist Philosophies in Dialogue: Liberating Traditions" through Columbia University Press.

CU Denver instructors honored for landscape architecture[31]

Three CU Denver instructors have been recognized by the American Society of Landscape Architects Colorado with awards for its 2014 competition.

Landscape Architecture Senior Instructor **Tony Mazzeo**, principal and founder of PLOT Project LLC, won the President's Award of Excellence for General Design Under $500K for his project "Drive 1 Plaza and PLD," at TAXI @ RiNo Arts District in Denver. "The Plaza is planted to mimic a Colorado prairie and serves to define seating and circulation for a communal area, coffee shop, and building entrance," according to project description. "Linear rows of local concrete bin blocks, sheathed in yellow translucent fiberglass lids, act as seating and visually point toward the original radio tower of the neighboring TAXI 1 building. The PLD captures, filters, and treats all of the site's storm-water runoff, as a canopy of cottonwoods and a carpet matrix of native grasses and shrubs offer a bit of ornamental nature in this post-industrial landscape."

Instructor **Emmanuel Didier**, owner and principal of Didier Design Studio LLC, won a Merit Award for General Design Under $500K for "Childhood's Gate at The Arboretum at Penn State." Senior Instructor and Associate Chair **Lori Catalano**, design affiliate and consultant, was on the team for Three Sixty Design's two awards, an Honor Award for Residential Design Over $100K for "The Art of Fluid Living" and a Merit Award for Residential Design Under $100K for "Curb Appeal."

The awards were independently judged by a jury from the ASLA Arizona Chapter.

Dropping names ...[32]

Robert McLeod, associate professor of electrical, computer and energy engineering (ECEE), has been awarded a patent for a technique to create lenses with customized optical and/or mechanical properties. This technique could be used, for example, to create contact lenses or glasses customized to a patient's unique vision deficits, providing better vision than created by standardized lens. Alternatively, customized implantable lenses could be created to correct vision or even improve it beyond typical 20/20 vision. These custom lenses could also be used in telescopes, microscopes and other imaging modalities. U.S. patent 8,944,594 ("Systems and methods for creating aberration-corrected gradient index lenses") was issued Feb. 3, 2015, after being prosecuted by the CU Technology Transfer Office on behalf of the university since 2012. This is the sixth U.S. patent awarded to McLeod and the first to ECEE research associate Michael Cole, also an inventor on this patent.

Jacqueline Berning, professor and chair of the Department of Health Sciences, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at UCCS, presented "Food as Fuel: Eating for Optimal Performance on the Field at North Park University, Chicago. While there, she spoke with exercise science classes, food service personnel and athletic coaches and trainers.

Alexander Blackburn, professor emeritus, Department of English, recently published "The Voice of the Children in the Apple Tree," a story of love that blossoms in the dawn of the atomic age.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/chemical-warfare-s-history-casts-dark-shadow-today[2]

https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chem-warfare_top.jpg[3] http://cen.acs.org/magazine/93/09308.html[4] http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/meetings/spring-2015.html[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-looks-keep-tuition-increases-low[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-announces-changes-modernize-employee-retirement-plans[7] https://connections.cu.edu/www.cu.edu/nestegg/workshops[8] https://connections.cu.edu/news/cu-to-review-retirement-plans[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-securing-permission-states-beyond-colorado-offer-online-education[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-students-make-pitch-wellness-center[11] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/9TWS7970DAF8/$file/FY%202015-16%20Fee%20Proposal%20Final%20Wellness%20Only%20Feb%20BOR.pdf[12] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/clubsports/Pages/Wellness-Center.aspx[13] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/9TWS7470D939/$file/FY%202015-16%20Fee%20Proposal%20Feb%20BOR%20Final.pdf[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/students-make-case-fossil-fuel-divestment-board-regents[15] http://gofossilfree.org/[16] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/9TWK4W501B2E/$file/11.1%20FossilFreeCU%20-%20BOR%20Meeting%2002-20.pdf[17] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/9TWTLB777B7A/$file/Investment%20presentation%20February-final.pdf[18] https://connections.cu.edu/news/cu-honors-six-faculty-as-distinguished-professors[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tenure-list-february-2015[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-book-store-named-collegiate-retailer-year[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/photography-exhibit-loan-denver-art-museum-coming-fulginiti-pavilion[22] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/anshcutz_fulginiti-skull.jpg[23] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/FacilitiesManagement/FacilitiesProjects/CompletedProjects/Pages/FulginitiPavilionEthicsHumanities.aspx[24] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/centers/BioethicsHumanities/Pages/news.aspx[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/search-begins-kraemer-family-library-dean[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/pre-health-students-enjoy-immersive-real-world-learning-opportunities[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/sweet-returns-uccs-vice-chancellor-strategic-initiatives[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/mealer-named-new-comirb-director[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/taylor-uccs-employee-quarter[30] https://connections.cu.edu/people/butnor-takes-new-role-focusing-undergraduate-experiences[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-denver-instructors-honored-landscape-architecture[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-107