Pre-orientation program builds bridge to student success[1]
[2]

Understanding that happy students are successful students, a summer program for those who have been accepted into the School of Dental Medicine at CU Anschutz is working to increase the chances of both.

The three-week, boot camp-style project is titled the Summer PONTIC (Pre-Orientation Networking Teaching Immersion Curriculum) Program. This pre-matriculation program is aimed at increasing diversity and improving retention and was introduced in the summer of 2017.

The program recently received a CU system Diversity and Excellence Grant to repeat and enhance the program during this summer's session in July.
[3]

"I've graduated from several places and some of them were downright brutal – you just had to survive," said Peter Corridon, clinical instructor, Department of Craniofacial Biology, who directs the program. "We are trying to make it an environment where (students) are happy to be here and happy to learn."

Students accepted into the school come from various academic backgrounds – everything from fine arts to biology – and various social backgrounds. Corridon said the program helps everyone "start off on a more even keel."

The voluntary program focuses on optimizing study skills, team-building and exposure to clinical activities. It also pairs incoming students with those in upper classes who introduce them to the campus and the school.

As the school year progresses, the upper-level students will mentor and tutor the entering class. Such pairings also help the second- and third-year students hone their teaching skills.

"They also keep getting to see us, the professors. They've met me from the beginning, and that relationship keeps going," said Corridon, joking that "they always are with me, in the good times and in the bad times, even if they get tired of me."

During the program, students receive a review of basic sciences and an introduction to clinical sciences that will be integral to the first-year core curriculum. Topics include basics of genetics, immunology, microbiology, anatomy and physiology, tooth identification, and drilling and waxing techniques.

To help the incoming students adjust to their new educational environment, the program offers advice on study habits, for instance. Work sessions also introduce advanced training options, including oral and maxillofacial surgery and periodontics.

Program events include those that extend to the community where the students participate in volunteer activities. Last summer, the group of 22 students who joined the program spent two days working with Habitat for Humanity.

"This volunteer experience is focused on team building and enhancing/awakening our students' interest for service," Corridon said.

Along with facilitating student transition and matriculation, the program helps build an empathetic practitioner community that reflects the patient community.

The dental school, Corridon said, is committed to ensuring each class of about 80 entrants graduates on time. One long-term goal of the program is to support student retention and matriculation.

"The school gets massive credit for standing behind this program," Corridon said. "We want to be seen as a place that really cares for our students."

Biometric screenings coming to CU campuses[4]
[5]

Understanding your health can be a puzzle. Beginning Feb. 20, get the full picture with biometric screenings[6] held on each University of Colorado campus and the system administration office.

Primary CU Health Plan members and covered spouses who bring along their plan ID card receive the following tests with no out-of-pocket costs:
Full Lipid Panel Blood Glucose Body Composition Measurements
Need a few pieces to complete the picture? Additional tests[7] are available for purchase at the screening.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC),[8] “Chronic illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, stroke, and chronic lung disease account for 70 percent of deaths and 75 percent of health care costs.”

These types of diseases are often lifelong and come with serious complications that can potentially impact a person’s physical abilities, appearance, independence, mental health and ability to work. Luckily, if the signs of an oncoming chronic illness are caught before it arrives, a lifetime of poor health can be avoided – and that’s where biometric screenings[6] come in.

A screening can provide important information about your risk for chronic illnesses. Combined with quality health education, the screening experience can be a powerful tool to help you make positive lifestyle changes.

Looking for another reason to attend? All participants who attend their screening are entered into a raffle to win a free Ninja Chef High-Speed Blender[9].

Visit the Employee Services website[6] to register for a screening and get a full view for a better you.

Flash Forward events place your financial plan in focus[10]
[11]

Whether you’re 25 or 55, determining your financial priorities will benefit your entire future. Should you be saving more money or paying off debt? What about starting a college savings account or creating a plan for your estate with a will or trust?

If you’re ready to take a snapshot of where you’re at financially and develop your personalized financial strategy, sign up for Flash Forward: A CU Financial Event, held on each University of Colorado campus between Feb. 27 and March 8.

During the event, speakers from Employee Services, Wells Fargo, PERA, TIAA and CollegeInvest will cover topics relevant to your career and financial needs. Financial booths will also be available so you may ask experts questions, snap up informational material and play games that will give you a clearer picture of your financial future.

If you’re feeling up for a challenge, participate in the online Flash Forward Financial Challenge and enter for your chance to win one of three Apple Watches[12]. The challenge runs Feb. 16-March 16. Check off your first challenge just by attending a campus event.

Sessions offered

Ready to get started? See our lineup for early career[13] and mid-career[14] faculty and staff to decide which is right

for you and register.

Join on a campus near you:
CU Boulder, Tuesday, Feb. 27 **CU Colorado Springs,** Thursday, March 1 **CU Anschutz,** Tuesday, March 6 **CU System,** Wednesday, March 7 **CU Denver,** Thursday, March 8
Visit our website to sign up and view the full schedule[15]. Register today and feel free bring along your spouse or a coworker.

CU at the Winter Olympics [16]

Faculty Council Committee Corner: Ethnic and Minority Affairs[17]

Editor's note: This is part of an ongoing CU Connections series in which the Faculty Council[18] highlights each of its committees and their efforts. See past installments here.[19]

As a committee of the Faculty Council, the Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee, or EMAC, addresses concerns of ethnic minority faculty, staff and students across all four campuses. The charge of EMAC is especially relevant today given the uncertainty of the current political and societal environment.

The committee includes representation from the four CU campuses and the committee charge considers issues such as:
assessing the cultural climate of the university as it pertains to opportunities for ethnic minority faculty for academic advancement, productivity and appropriate compensation; making recommendations for creating an academic environment that fosters the academic success of both ethnic minority faculty and ethnic minority students; working to assure fairness in the recruitment and retention of ethnic minority faculty and students; developing support networks and recommending policy to address the needs of ethnic minority faculty and students.
In recent years, the committee has participated in education, outreach and dialogue on CU campuses through an event series – Race@CU – and two Joint Symposia held in collaboration with the Faculty Council LGBTQ+ committee. The Joint Symposia themes were Intersections (2016) and Advocacy (2017), and had more 300 registrants from across the CU system.

EMAC has produced a white paper advocating for faculty diversity activities to be collected through the annual review process and included in merit calculations. The white paper was passed by Faculty Council and sent forward to senior administration for review and action in 2015.

Read the 2015 EMAC white paper here (pdf).**[20]**

Two members of the EMAC committee, Naomi Nishi and Tina Moser, currently are serving on the Faculty Council Task Force for Inclusive Excellence in order to provide the ethnic minority voice and perspective in the proposal of action items in two critical areas: faculty diversity (recruitment, retention and equity) and classroom environment (inclusive environment, culturally responsive teaching and learning).

In the coming year, the committee will continue to focus on making recommendations that follow the white paper and advocate for gathering additional information about campus climate for the racial and ethnic minority members of our campus communities.

We invite comments – which may be posted below – regarding what issues, if any, concern you most for the well-being of racial minority, staff and students on our campuses? Questions may be directed to chair Tina Moser (tina.moser@cu.edu[21]) and vice chair Lindsay Roberts (lindsay.m.roberts@colorado.edu[22]).

The 2017-2018 EMAC Committee Members are:

Tina Moser, Chair	CU Anschutz, Health Sciences Library
Lindsay Roberts, Vice Chair	CU Boulder, University Libraries
Debbie Carter, Secretary	CU Anschutz, Medicine
Damian Doyle	CU Boulder, Writing & Rhetoric
Cerian Gibbes	UCCS, Geography and Environmental Studies
Dena Samuels	UCCS, Women's and Ethnic Studies
Kathy Prue-Owens*	UCCS, Nursing
Lei "Frank" Zhang	UCCS, Sociology
Bryan Wee	CU Denver, Geography and Environmental Studies
Manuel Espinoza	CU Denver, Education and Human Development
Ronald Ramirez	CU Denver, Business
Darren Chavez*	CU System, Academic Affairs Liaison
Naomi Nishi	CU Denver, Student Representative
Roberto Montoya	CU Denver, Student Representative

*non-voting

If you are interested in learning more about EMAC or joining the work toward equity for ethnic minority faculty, please contact a committee member.

Common to speak at CU Boulder on Feb. 20[23]

CU Art Museum hosts two new exhibitions[24]
[25]

The CU Art Museum[26] at CU Boulder recently opened two new exhibitions.

"Draw Me In: The Art of Drawing at the CU Art Museum"[27] is on display through March 24; "Millie Chen: Four Recollections"[28] continues through July 21. Both exhibitions have strong drawing components, and students chose the works they were most attracted to.

"Draw Me In" is a result of a practicum course taught by Hope Saska this semester with graduate students in the Museum Studies field program. She worked with students on creating a conceptual framework for their exhibition. The work dates from the 1200s to present.

"It's really thinking about observation and looking at technique, style, penwork and pencil work," said Sandra Q. Firmin, CU Art Museum director. "(Students) selected the artwork from the collection and they researched and wrote about them. In the end, they installed the exhibition."
[29]

Chen, an art professor at the University of Buffalo New York, was an artist-in-residence at CU Boulder last fall. She created new work with faculty members and students; three of her four pieces in her exhibition are recent projects that she completed in the last two years. Her fourth series was created just for the museum.

"I'm driven by social issues and not so much by material or technical processes, but more by social concerns," Chen said. When working on a new project, Chen will often ask herself questions: "What is my stake in this?" "Who am I to

represent this issue?”

“It’s a vital question to ask oneself always when you’re making creative work,” Chen said.

Dilkush Khan is a student at CU Denver.

Spring enrollment sets new record[30]

CU Denver-led startup wins NFL contest for helmet safety [31]

Event highlights international and online education efforts [32]

Podcast: Unearthing the effects of climate change on human health[33]

Regent Kyle and Sally Hybl honored by governor’s proclamation[34]
[35]

Regent Kyle Hybl and his wife, Sally, last week were honored with Sally and Kyle Hybl Day in Colorado as proclaimed by Gov. John Hickenlooper.

The Hybls, distinguished civic and philanthropic leaders in Colorado Springs, were recognized Saturday at the new Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS.

The proclamation noted their significant role in making the center a reality by raising more than $10 million in private donations and successfully completing a $1.5 million campaign to name the center’s main stage theater in honor of Chancellor Emerita Pam Shockley-Zalabak.

Sally Hybl also was recognized as a tireless fundraiser for the arts. She is a Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation Trustee, member of the Board of Directors for the Opera Theatre of the Rockies and president of the Cheyenne Mountain School District 12 Foundation.

Regent Hybl, whose final term will end in January 2019, was recognized for serving CU with distinction, having been elected board chair for four terms and working diligently on program prioritization and efficiencies across the CU system. He recently was appointed to the National Cybersecurity Center Board of Directors and serves as chair of the Cyber Institute Board of Advisors.

Segal, Qualls update mental health text [36]

Henthorn named a Black Cube Artist Fellow[37]
[38]

Jaimie Henthorn, Academic Affairs program manager for digital education and engagement and COLTT conference director, has been named a 2018 fellow of Black Cube, a Denver contemporary art museum.

According to an announcement by Black Cube, “Henthorn uses site-specific performance to disrupt the understanding and experience of architecture. Henthorn has gained permission to create works at iconic sites such as the Bauhaus and the Salk Institute; by doing so her works often reveal under-represented truths of these historic structures. Through choreographed performances that relate to architectural space, Henthorn endeavors to shift perceptions of iconic spaces to foster a more dynamic relationship to all built environments.”

To learn more about Henthorn, visit https://www.jaimiehenthorn.com/[39]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/pre-orientation-program-builds-bridge-student-success[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/dental-med_pre-orientation_top.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/dental-med_pre-orientation_corridon.jpg[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/biometric-screenings-coming-cu-campuses[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/biometric_feat.jpg[6] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/biometrics-screenings[7] https://www.becolorado.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Lab-Work-Form-Be-Colorado_2018_revised-002.pdf[8] https://blogs.cdc.gov/pcd/2012/10/19/the-institute-of-medicine%E2%80%99s-new-report-on-living-well-with-chronic-illness/[9] https://www.staples.com/ninjareg-professional-blender-with-single-serve-blending-cups/product_57512[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/flash-forward-events-place-your-financial-plan-focus[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/flash_feat.jpg[12] https://www.apple.com/watch/[13] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/flash-forward-retirement-event/early-career[14] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/flash-forward-retirement-event/mid-late-career[15] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/flash-forward-retirement-event[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-winter-olympics[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-ethnic-and-minority-affairs[18] https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council[19] https://connections.cu.edu/tag/faculty-council-committee-corner[20] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/fc_emac_diversity-activities.pdf[21] mailto:tina.moser@cu.edu[22] mailto:lindsay.m.roberts@colorado.edu[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/common-speak-cu-boulder-feb-20[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-art-museum-hosts-two-new-exhibitions[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/ucb_art-exhibit_drawme.jpg[26] https://www.colorado.edu/cuartmuseum/[27] https://www.colorado.edu/cuartmuseum/exhibitions/draw-me-art-drawing-cu-art-museum[28] https://www.colorado.edu/cuartmuseum/exhibitions/millie-chen-four-recollections[29] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/ucb_art-exhibit_chen.jpg[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/spring-enrollment-sets-new-record[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-led-startup-wins-nfl-contest-helmet-safety[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/event-highlights-international-and-online-education-efforts[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/podcast-unearthing-effects-climate-change-human-health[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/regent-kyle-and-sally-hybl-honored-governor-s-proclamation[35] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/p_hybls01.jpg[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/segal-qualls-update-mental-health-text[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/henthorn-named-black-cube-artist-fellow[38] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/p_henthorn_top.jpg[39] https://www.jaimiehenthorn.com/