Political polarization not as extreme as it may seem, research shows [1]

Many Americans overestimate the degree of polarization between Democrats and Republicans, and this misconception is associated with citizens' voting behavior and their involvement in political activities, according to new findings from the University of Colorado Boulder.

"It is clear that Americans see themselves as very sharply polarized," said professor Leaf Van Boven, who led the research efforts. "And that the extent of perceived polarization dramatically overstates the actual degree of polarization."

Van Boven of CU-Boulder's psychology and neuroscience department and professor John Chambers of the University of Florida presented findings of two studies on political polarization last month at the annual meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology in San Diego.

In one study, which included a nationally representative sample of 1,000 voting age respondents during the 2008 presidential campaign, Van Boven and his colleagues found that individuals with more extreme partisan attitudes perceived greater polarization than those with less extreme partisan attitudes. For example, in the 2008 presidential election, people who strongly supported either Obama or McCain perceived Americans as more divided than did those whose support of either candidate was more moderate.

In another study, which included an analysis using a subset of 26,000 respondents from three decades of surveys of Americans, the researchers determined that the average gap between Republicans and Democrats on five-point scales regarding different issues such as the death penalty and abortion was approximately three-quarters of a point. However, people believed there was a scale difference of two points or more between the two parties.

"The more strongly people feel about an issue, the more divided they see other Americans," Van Boven said.

The data also suggest that the people who perceive the most division among Americans are also the most likely to vote in elections.

"It seems that the people who see the most polarization are also more likely to engage in various kinds of political activities, including joining campaigns, persuading other people and contributing to PACs," Van Boven said. He expects that both major political parties may try to benefit from the perceived polarization of voters during the current presidential election year.

"If I were a strategist and I saw that maybe I could get a 5 percent increase in turnout on my side by increasing people's perceptions of polarization, I know exactly what I would do," he said. "I would push toward increased perceptions of polarization.

"There certainly is a sound scientific basis for the strategy of making the other side seem very strong, very extreme and very active," he said. "If I think the other side is really fired up and they are going to turn out the vote, that becomes a threat to me. So that might motivate me to vote."

CU-Boulder Professor Charles Judd of the psychology and neuroscience department and Professor David Sherman of the University of California, Santa Barbara, were co-authors with Van Boven on the paper titled "False polarization of the American electorate." Van Boven, CU-Boulder doctoral candidate Jacob Westfall and Professor John Chambers of the University of Florida co-authored the other paper titled "Political polarization projection."

Health careers in spotlight at student information fair[2]

[3]
Hanna Kozlowski and Freddi Gidan are both underclassmen at the University of Colorado Denver, but they're already

planning for what they need to do to get into medical school.

At Monday's Health Professions Information Fair they stopped at a table that offered information about master's and doctoral programs at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. About 450 students attended the fair, which is in its second year, in the Tivoli Turnhalle.

Both currently premed students, Kozlowski plans to become a gynecologist and Gidan hopes to become a pediatrician. "I'm a freshman, so I want to know what I need to do to kind of prepare myself for applying for medical school," Kozlowski said.

Gidan, a sophomore, said she is leaning toward applying to the CU School of Medicine[4].

"I've always been interested in helping little kids out because my family has gone through a lot of health issues," Gidan said. "I'm really close with my pediatric doctor, so that's pushed me into it also."

Denise Leberer, a health professions adviser at the university, said about 50 programs and schools had booths at this year's fair, including the American University of the Caribbean. Students from universities and high schools across the state got a chance at a "one spot" sampling of programs.

"We have different schools here - from pharmacy to nursing to medical, all the different professions - so students can talk to admissions representatives from the different programs to find out what they need to do to be a competitive applicant and what their prerequisites are," Leberer said.

Demand for health care professionals is on the rise and medical schools nationwide are increasing enrollments to keep up, she said. "There's going to be a shortage of physicians," Leberer said. "There was a shortage of nursing, big time, several years ago, but there's still that projection that they're going to be needed. ... When they talk about potential jobs, it's in health care."

With Bacon retiring, provost search to begin[5]

Peg Bacon

UCCS soon will launch a national search for a new provost, with the goal of hiring a permanent replacement for Margaret "Peg" Bacon by July 1, university officials announced Tuesday.

Bacon, a 34-year member of the UCCS faculty, announced her intent to retire effective July 1 during a meeting with deans of the six UCCS colleges and the Kraemer Family Library. She was named interim vice chancellor for academic affairs in 2006 and served in that capacity until 2008 when responsibility was added and the position changed to provost. She joined the UCCS faculty in 1978 as an assistant professor of education and later served as dean of the College of Education and chair of the Teaching, Special Education and Curriculum Department, now the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Prior to joining the UCCS faculty, she served as a middle and high school teacher and literacy researcher in Michigan and Massachusetts.

"Peg Bacon represents true commitment to this university and the faculty, staff and students who make it great," Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak said. "There are hundreds of faculty and thousands of students who have benefited from her wisdom, patience and intellect. She has earned the opportunity to move forward with her life, though her presence will be greatly missed in the daily operation of the university."

As provost, Bacon served as the university's chief academic officer with campus academic deans and the Division of

Student Success reporting to her. She used her longtime knowledge of the campus and its employees to chart new directions. She leads an update of plans under way to change the university's general education requirements and to deliver more weekend and online courses in an effort to better serve student needs. She actively participated in a new eight-year university strategic plan that will be presented to the CU Board of Regents in April.

"I have had a wonderful career at UCCS," Bacon said. "I feel as though I have blossomed as a professional along with our campus growth. This is an exciting time for UCCS, and while I would enjoy being part of it, I am looking forward to transitioning to the next phase of my life."

Shockley-Zalabak said she expects to name the members of the search committee by Feb. 15 and will charge the group to find a replacement. If a replacement is not in place by July 1, Shockley-Zalabak will appoint David Moon, senior associate vice chancellor, Academic Affairs, as interim provost.

Uncommon team helps new moms cope with mood disorders[7]

Cheryl Chessick, left, and Erica Schwartz chat with expectant mother Elizabeth McCune (not a PROMISE clinic patient) at the University of Colorado Hospital. The psychiatrist and midwife collaborate with physicians in monitoring pregnant women for signs of depression and other mood disorders. (Photo by Jackie Brinkman/University of Colorado)

The birth of a child is accompanied by a range of feelings, from joy to wonder and worry -- even fear. But often, women find that a baby brings something else: depression.

A few days or a few weeks of mood swings and irritability are natural during pregnancy and shortly after a baby's birth. As many as 15 percent of women, however, experience more severe symptoms that don't go away, including insomnia, loss of interest in life, withdrawal, or even thoughts of harming themselves or their newborn.

Midwife Erica Schwartz with an infant at University of Colorado Hospital. (Photo courtesy of Erica Schwartz)

"Being pregnant creates an environment where there's a lot of interpersonal change … and women don't have control of what's happening," said Cheryl Chessick, a perinatal psychiatrist who helped found PROMISE (Perinatal Resource Offering Mood Integration Services and Evaluation) and is a co-director of the program at the University of Colorado Hospital. Through PROMISE, care providers identify women who are suffering from symptoms of depression and then work to help them manage the issues.

"People want to have the nurturing instinct and society talks about it as the norm. When they don't necessarily feel that right away, women have self-deprecating thoughts: 'What's wrong with me?' 'What am I doing wrong?' It starts a cascade of worry and depression," said Erica Schwartz, director of Midwifery Services at CU Denver and co-director of PROMISE.

Chessick and Schwartz work with other university care providers to screen women for depression using a simple, two-question diagnostic tool at several points during their pregnancies. Women with a need are then directed to PROMISE for treatment. Oftentimes, an individualized set of mental and physical tools may help women manage the life changes that accompany pregnancy and birth. Some women, who have more severe symptoms or a genetic predisposition to depression, might need more proactive or longer treatment plans, or referrals to other mental health professionals.

PROMISE is one of only 10 clinics in the country that offers such integrated care. Now in its third year of operation, PROMISE has helped more than 400 clients, said Chessick, who also is director of Women's Studies and Treatment at the CU Denver Depression Center.

"There has been a lot of focus on perinatal mood disorders and there's clearly a need," Schwartz said. "It's well-

demonstrated that women with a history of mood disorders have a very high re-occurrence rate of about 65 percent when they get pregnant."

Historically, women were not screened until after a baby was born, and then the women were referred to outside professionals. The stigma associated with perinatal mood disorders or talking with unfamiliar providers often kept women from seeking treatment.

"Having this specialty practice within the safety and security of their obstetrics providers reduces a lot of that stigma," Schwartz said. "A lot of times women just want to will the diagnosis away. We try to explain that mood disorders are like having high blood pressure or diabetes. You can't make them go away, but there are definitely things you can do to alleviate the intensity. For diabetes, you can eat better; for mood disorders, you can add more structure and therapy."

One therapy used by the providers at PROMISE is "mindfulness," a technique that trains people in stressful situations to focus on one entity in the environment.

For instance, said Schwartz, a few weeks after giving birth, one patient found that she did not feel connected to or want to hold her newborn. "I had her use this technique. When she held the baby, she had to focus on that moment: how the baby felt, how the baby smelled, how the baby sounded."

Schwartz said the idea behind the technique is to stop women from fretting about other demands such as the children in the other room, what's for dinner, or financial concerns. "You intentionally bring your focus back to the moment so you don't spin off into everything else. You enjoy that moment and feel the benefits of that experience."

Other treatments include relaxation exercises, diaphragmatic breathing, and teaching ways to make the birth of a child a little less chaotic. "Women are feeling a lot of stress and aren't sleeping properly because they're ruminating, they're worrying. We'll teach them how to worry effectively by putting some structure into it" by writing down the issues, what can be done to solve them and where help can be found, said Chessick.

"We're trying to pay attention to what people know about mental health and their own mental health. Some know a lot, some know a little and a lot of people know nothing," Chessick said. The focused treatments target patients but also involve partners and family members. "Everyone gets the same tools. Spouses sometimes say, 'I don't know what to do.' But I'll give them something to do. People want active tools and a sounding board to be able to bounce off ideas" about what's happening in their lives.

Diversity and Excellence Grant recipients announced[10]

Some 10 projects across the University of Colorado system have been awarded Diversity and Excellence Grants for 2012.

The review committee for Diversity and Excellence Grants met in late 2011 and recommended funding for 10 of the 23 proposals submitted. Overall, a total of $26,800 was awarded.

Diversity and Excellence Grants are designed to provide assistance for projects initiated by staff and/or faculty who promote diversity, inclusion and excellence on the CU campuses. Multiple awards of up to $3,000 each are made annually; decisions finalized by a review committee representative of each of the system's four campuses. Funding is granted for a maximum of one year; however, projects demonstrating progress may be resubmitted for consideration for continued funding. Priority consideration is extended to submissions that promote and encourage cross-institutional collaboration; have a broad impact and leverage additional resources.

This year, proposals received from Anschutz Medical Campus, University of Colorado Denver and University of Colorado Colorado Springs were funded. For a listing of 2012 Diversity and Excellence Grant recipients and their

programs, please visit the CU system diversity web page[11].

New research confirms need for lung cancer testing[12]

Doebele

Different kinds of lung cancer behave in different ways, suggesting they are fundamentally different diseases. According to a University of Colorado Cancer Center study published in Cancer,[14] the official journal of the American Cancer Society, different subgroups of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) show distinct patterns of spread in the body.

The study looked at 209 patients diagnosed with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer separated into four different molecular subgroups using testing performed by the University of Colorado Molecular Correlates Laboratory (CMOCO): those with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations, v-Ki-ras2 Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog (KRAS) mutations, anaplastic lymphoma receptor tyrosine kinase (ALK) gene rearrangements or a group without any of these abnormalities.

ALK positive lung cancer was strongly associated with cancers that spread to the linings around the heart and lungs (pericardial and pleural disease). Patients with ALK positive NSCLC were also predisposed to develop liver metastases as were those with an EGFR mutation when the different subgroups were compared.

"In the last few years we have been able to separate lung cancer into different molecular subtypes to help improve outcomes from specific targeted therapies. This study really confirms that these molecular subtypes are manifesting as different diseases in patients," said Robert Doebele, MD, PhD, lead author of the study and CU Cancer Center investigator.

Another University of Colorado study published in the same edition of Cancer [15]drills down on how some of these different molecular subtypes of lung cancer are detected in the first place. Specifically, the study examined the companion diagnostic test for detecting the ALK positive lung cancer cases, called a fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) test. This test is used to select patients for treatment with crizotinib, an ALK inhibitor drug. Now University of Colorado researchers have solved an unanswered question as to why patients who respond to crizotinib only appear to have the ALK change in a fraction of the cells in their cancers.

By looking in detail at the genetic changes present in the cancer cells they came to two major conclusions. First- cell counts below 100 percent in ALK positive tumors reflect the fact the assay misses a proportion of cells and not that the cells are truly missing the ALK change.

Second, the ALK change happens early in the development of the cancer and is likely to be a fundamental driver of the cancer's growth. The study was conducted by D. Ross Camidge, MD, PhD, the director of the lung cancer clinical program at the CU Cancer Center [16]and University of Colorado Hospital [17]and Marileila Varella Garcia, PhD, professor of medicine, medical oncology and pathology at University of Colorado School of Medicine[4].

"Knowing that ALK changes are driving the cancer and that they are not actually missing from a significant proportion of the cancer reinforces our understanding of ALK positive lung cancer. It now makes sense why targeting these changes is going to affect a very large proportion of the tumor and explains the dramatic clinical responses seen with crizotinib. In order to treat any disease successfully, you have to know what you are really treating," said Camidge. "It is only by understanding lung cancer better that we can hope to improve outcomes in the long term."

Both studies were funded by the University of Colorado Lung Specialized Program of Research Excellence.

Luncheon to celebrate research, technology at CU-Boulder[18]

Entrepreneurship Under the Microscope, an annual celebration of CU-Boulder research and technology hosted by the Technology Transfer Office and the Leeds School of Business' Deming Center for Entrepreneurship[19], is set for March 14.

The luncheon celebrates innovation and commercialization on the Boulder campus and beyond. Meet and network with researchers, administration and business community members: Tables are hosted by leading CU researchers and industry representatives from biotech, software, cleantech and other key research fields.

Speakers:
Gregor P. Henze[20], professor of Architectural Engineering at CU-Boulder; co-founder of Clean Urban Energy[21], a CU licensee developing software for efficient energy management in large buildings Stein Sture, vice chancellor for research at CU-Boulder
The event also includes a poster session highlighting CU-Boulder technologies ready to take the next step toward commercialization, as well as opportunities for informal networking.

When:

Wednesday, March 14, 2012 **Where:**
Stadium Club at Folsom Field, Boulder **Registration:**
online[22]. (There is no cost for CU faculty, staff and grad students; CU attendees ONLY may register here[23].)

Obituary: Ronald Milton Bernier[24]

[25]
CU-Boulder art professor emeritus Ronald M. Bernier died Jan. 25, 2012, as a result of complications arising from multiple sclerosis. He leaves behind hundreds of former students who spent their CU education trying to get into any and all of Ron's art history classes.

He was born on June 19, 1943, in St. Paul, Minn., to Olivette and Milton Bernier. Ron held an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, obtained his master's from the University of Hawaii/East-West Center, and received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. His love of art was established at a young age. He told a Coloradan writer in 2005 that he remained grateful to his second-grade teacher who brought to class a brochure of the Maori people of New Zealand.

"I remember asking, 'Are there really people like that?' She said, 'Oh, yes, but very far away.' I have been looking for those faraway people all my life."

He went on to share his enthusiasm and passion with generations of students while touring the most remote regions of the world, including Nepal. He wrote the first book ever published on Nepalese temples. His love for places, people and their art was propelled by the fact that much of it was quickly disappearing amid modernization.

In the early '70s Ron was awarded the Teaching Recognition Award from CU-Boulder. After 35 years with CU, he was awarded the title of Exploratory Emeritus of Art History, a one-of-a-kind title for a unique and truly talented visionary. He leaves behind his friend and partner of 45 years, Dianne Bernier, as well as many friends in the Boulder area who will miss his wit and humor.

CoBank donates $2.5 million to commodities program at CU Denver[26]

A strong knowledge base and commodities workforce is key to our nation's future and to Colorado's economy. But no university has offered a comprehensive academic program incorporating industries as diverse as energy, agriculture and mining.

To fill this gap, the University of Colorado Denver Business School[27] will launch a Center for Commodities in Spring 2012 to educate commodities professionals and expand knowledge in this area of study. Greenwood Village-based CoBank[28] has stepped forward to give this new program a head start with a $2.5 million gift to the CU Denver Business School.

CoBank's gift will help the Center for Commodities become a hub of education, research and expertise in commodities, which in Colorado have seen 32 percent workforce growth within five years. The gift will support scholarships, a professorship, and space in the new CU Denver Business School that will house the center.

The first two floors of this six-story Business School building opened for classes last month, and will be completed in summer 2012. CoBank is the building's largest donor to date: the entry foyer and a ground-floor lecture hall will be named in recognition of CoBank.

"We are grateful for CoBank's gift to the Business School," said Sueann Ambron, CU Denver Business School dean. "The scholarships will have a major impact for students learning the complex relationships between finance, commodities and risk management. The professorship will deepen and enhance faculty expertise and experience in commodities and support curriculum development and research. Commodities is a critical area of education for our nation and the world. CoBank's gift helps us build an outstanding new Center for Commodities in a dynamic new building."

The gift underscores the desire of CoBank—which provides vital financial services to farmers and farming cooperatives throughout rural America—to strengthen the commodities sector. "We're delighted to be part of this exciting, visionary program at CU," said Robert B. Engel, CoBank's president and chief executive officer. "As a provider of credit to agribusiness and energy cooperatives across the U.S., we have a strong interest in commodity markets and the impact they have on our customers and rural America. We commend CU Denver for its decision to launch this initiative, which we believe fills a pressing business and educational need in this country."

The vision for CU Denver Business School's Center for Commodities grew from discussions between Business School Dean Sueann Ambron and Cordillera Energy Partners Chief Executive Officer George Solich, who earned two CU degrees including an MBA from the CU Denver Business School in 1991. It was evident that while the financial focus of these industries tended to be in financial centers such as Chicago or New York, the rural West and Midwest were home to most of America's mineral and agricultural resources.

Colorado's economy is heavily driven by commodities enterprises. Twenty-seven percent of U.S. natural gas resources are located in the Rocky Mountain West. Colorado ranks among the top 10 states nationally in cleantech employment, solar generation capacity, and wind power capacity.

Ambron and Solich saw a chance for CU Denver to provide hands-on, best-in-class education in areas such as commodities supply and demand, forecasting, trading and risk management. They also saw potential collaborations with government and industry and within the Business School—which houses programs in Global Energy Management and in Risk Management and Insurance that benefit from industry enthusiasm. These possibilities led to Cordillera Energy Partners making a lead gift toward the formation of the Center; CQG also made an integral software gift to the Center.

When the Center for Commodities hires a director and begins academic programs later this year, it will occupy a prime location on the first floor of the new 120,000-square-foot Business School building, which will consolidate programming, faculty and resources into one central location at 15th and Lawrence.

Five questions for Mary Jane Rapport[29]

[30]
Since 2006, Mary Jane Rapport has served as assistant director of the Physical Therapy Program in CU's School of Medicine. Many of her duties relate to student services, including curriculum evolution, recruitment and developing new initiatives. As an early intervention physical therapist, she also helps children from birth to age 3. And she teaches in the PT program, where, she says, compassion is an important ingredient.

"We approach each of our patients as a person first, and only then do we identify what the diagnosis, illness or injury is that brought this patient into the health care system," she said. "In order to feel compassion for others, you need to recognize, refer and respond to them as a person first."

She's also the Anschutz Medical Campus coordinator of the President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative and the Physical Therapy Discipline Director for JFK Partners. Much of her research has focused on pediatric physical therapy or physical therapy education, or the law and policy related to individuals with disabilities.

Off-hours are spent with her family, sometimes skiing, traveling, exercising, cooking and eating. "I used to love backpacking, hiking and spending time outdoors in the mountains, but that has been difficult to pursue while my children were growing up and have had their own interests and activities. I hope to get back to more of that someday."

1. Your path to the University of Colorado and your current position has been circuitous. How did you finally end up at the School of Medicine?

A runner for 30 years, Mary Jane Rapport often takes part in sponsored races.

I first came to CU (Boulder) as an 18-year-old freshman thrilled to be out of Ohio and attending school in beautiful Boulder with mountains to ski so nearby. Back in those days, the path to become a physical therapist was through a bachelor's degree – the requirements have changed a lot since then! As fate would have it, when I was a freshman, CU changed the rules and only accepted state residents to the PT program. While that was a short-lived rule, it certainly affected me. But I had a plan ready: I would complete my sophomore year, take a year off to live in the mountains and ski and work and become a Colorado resident then apply to the PT Program. My parents told me if I wanted them to continue helping to pay for my education, I would first apply to a PT program in Ohio before pursuing this Colorado plan, which essentially delayed my education by at least a year. So in my sophomore year, I applied to Ohio State University and I got in!

After graduating with my bachelor of science in PT from Ohio State, I went to live and work as a PT in Albuquerque, N.M. About five years later, I moved back to Ohio to be closer to my "childhood" friend and future husband, and found a PT position in the public schools. This led me to connect with a funded master's degree program in early childhood education and special education at Kent State University. As I went through that degree program, my interest in education, and specifically law and policy related to education and individuals with disabilities, grew. I decided to pursue a Ph.D. with a dual degree in special education and education administration. After earning my Ph.D., I knew I had to move elsewhere to begin this new career path. I took a position at the University of Florida in the College of Education, Department of Special Education. I was funded by several grants and continued to develop my interdisciplinary focus in this setting. When the project funding was coming to an end, my husband and I decided to move to Denver, a place we had always wanted to live, and we made the move with two young children, a dog, and a house unsold in Florida, arriving in Denver after a long cross-country journey.

My first position in Denver continued to be in education, where I was working in special education. Within the first year in Denver, I connected with JFK Partners, the University Center on Excellence and Education in Developmental Disabilities. I took on a post-doc position and then was hired as the Interdisciplinary Training Director with half of my time contracted to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in the Healthcare Program for Children with Special Needs (HCP). Eventually, my connections to the PT Program grew through Dr. Carolyn Heriza, then the

director of the program. I began to teach for the PT Program and upon Carolyn's retirement, Dr. Margaret Schenkman became the director and I assumed the role of assistant director.

And I finally did earn a PT degree from the University of Colorado when I graduated with a DPT in May 2009.

2. How did you choose this career path?

I was very interested in young children and wanted to better understand how children learn. I also wanted to better understand children with disabilities and what services (both educationally and medically) could assist them to become as independent and functional in their daily lives as possible. Third, I wanted to teach as a way to impact the lives of more people with disabilities in a positive way. As a PT providing direct intervention, I could only work with a finite number of children. But as a teacher of future PTs and other health care providers and educators, I could assist all those people grow their own knowledge and skills and then go on to work with many more children than I could ever touch. I had always thought about going on for another degree after my bachelor of science, but I knew that the foundational sciences in PT were not my passion. Education turned out to be an interesting and provocative path for me.

3. What would you consider your favorite part of your job and why?

I enjoy the opportunity to interact with students and faculty on a regular basis. I really feel best when I know that I am helping others to grow personally and professionally in a way that allows them to see their own potential at new level. It's really fun to watch students grow over the three years of the program and work alongside faculty who are committed and want to reach their own excellence. I find the environment of an academic institution, and especially an academic medical and health sciences center, to be particularly exhilarating. There is something new to learn every single day!

4. In what ways has physical therapy changed in the past 15 or 20 years?

Physical therapy has changed extensively in the past 20 years. At each change of degree required to enter the profession (bachelor's to master's to DPT), we have seen change. But by far, the DPT has been the most significant. The clinical doctoral degree expects that all physical therapists will be able to use advanced knowledge and skill to approach each patient using evidence-based clinical reasoning to make sound decisions that can be discussed with other members of the health care team. Physical therapists no longer need a prescription and have the ability to see patients through direct access.

5. Tell me about a favorite memory from your career.

There are many. Many years ago I was a PT working in an elementary school. One of my patients was a girl who had cerebral palsy and a significant visual impairment. I was working with her to help her walk better – more upright with a smoother, more efficient gait pattern. She really didn't seem to enjoy our sessions and complained a lot. Several years later she wrote me a letter thanking me for helping her walk straighter and look better; I still have it hanging on my wall.

The second has been watching the professional development of a former post-graduate student who went on to open her own pediatric physical therapy practice and who continues to reach out to me for mentoring and collegial discussion on a regular basis.

And third is a patient I have been working with more recently. The family does not speak English and there is an interpreter at each visit. He told me that the family calls me "grandmother." Even though I hope I don't really look that old, that means a lot to me.

There are so many other memories that I could talk about related to specific publications, an award from the APTA, or traveling to teach in Nicaragua. I just hope that my work will make a difference in people's lives – patients, students, faculty and anyone else I have the opportunity to collaborate with during my professional career.

Corboy honored for neurology work[32]

Corboy

John R. Corboy, M.D., a professor of neurology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, has been honored with the President's Award of the American Academy of Neurology (AAN).

Corboy specialized in Multiple Sclerosis and neurovirology at the University of Minnesota Medical Center before moving to Colorado in 1994. In 1997, he founded the University of Colorado Multiple Sclerosis Center and built it into a multidisciplinary group offering state-of-the-art care and research to patients with MS and related disorders. With a new collaboration in 2008, he is now co-director of the Rocky Mountain MS Center (RMMSC) at the Anschutz Medical Campus of the University of Colorado, and director of the RMMSC Tissue Bank, a leading source of human MS and control tissue for research in MS.

Corboy is the first editor of the new AAN journal, “Neurology: Clinical Practice.” He also has a longstanding interest in graduate medical education and was a long-time member and former chair of the Graduate Education Subcommittee of the AAN.

AAN President Bruce Sigsbee, M.D., said, “Dr. Corboy has distinguished himself in neurovirology and MS. It is his leadership of the team that launched the new Neurology: Clinical Practice journal, and the personal commitment and expertise that he brings to that launch, that is recognized by the President's Award."

Along with his membership in the AAN, Corboy is an elected member of the American Neurological Association and AOA, the medical school honor society. He is author or co-author of 68 peer-reviewed research publications, book chapters, and invited articles. He serves on the Colorado-Wyoming Board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), and formerly was on the national Professional Education Committee also at NMSS. His main areas of interest are diagnostic issues and clinical therapeutics in MS.

Corby will receive his award at the academy’s annual meeting in New Orleans in April.

Gutierrez a leader in literacy[34]

Gutierrez

Kris Gutierrez, a professor of literacy and learning sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder, has been named to a research panel formed by the International Reading Association to provide leadership regarding literacy issues.

The Literacy Research Panel, which is chaired by literacy researcher and author P. David Pearson of the University of California at Berkeley, will respond to critical literacy issues facing policymakers, school administrators, teacher educators, classroom teachers, parents and the general public.

The 16-member panel has identified four critical issues in literacy that will serve as its opening focus: the achievement gap, motivation and engagement, standards and assessments, and teacher education. The panel intends to engage with policy circles at the national and state level. However, the panel aims to do more than affect policy change; it aims to enhance effective literacy instruction across the country by introducing constructive initiatives to change policy and practices where it matters — in districts and schools.

"Each year, students struggle to excel because they lack the necessary literacy skills," said International Reading

Association President and ex officio Literacy Research Panel Member Victoria Risko. "In the United States, an estimated 32 million adults are unable to read, and about 40 percent of high school graduates lack the literacy skills sought by employers. We're proud to call attention to this issue and work with teachers to improve the quality of literacy instruction across the globe."

The panel's specific action steps in addressing its four priorities will be determined in the coming months. The Panel will participate in several activities at the International Reading Association's 2012 Convention in Chicago from April 29 to May 2.

Federal budget expert slated for Conference on World Affairs[36]

Rivlin

The 64th Annual Conference on World Affairs (CWA) is set for April 9-13 on the University of Colorado Boulder campus.

Last year's CWA attendance was 90,200 at 200 sessions over five days. This year, the theme "Everything Conceivable" has been adopted as a permanent tagline in homage to veteran participant Roger Ebert. A regular attendee over four decades, Ebert frequently refers to the CWA as "the Conference on Everything Conceivable."

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Alice Rivlin, a senior fellow of economic studies at the Brookings Institution and co-chair of the Debt Reduction Task Force at the Bipartisan Policy Center. Rivlin was appointed to the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform by President Barack Obama in 2010. She has had a long and distinguished career in monetary policy, having served as vice chairman of the Federal Reserve and director of the White House Office of Management and Budget. She was the first director of the Congressional Budget Office.

Rivlin's keynote, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. April 9 in Macky Auditorium, will be preceded by the Annual CWA opening keynote march. At 11:10 a.m., Rivlin will lead the procession of university administrators, CWA participants, students and volunteers along a walkway lined by a brilliant display of international flags through Norlin Quad and into Macky.

The keynote procession and address is a time-honored tradition in Boulder. Past keynote speakers include Eleanor Roosevelt, Henry Kissinger, Arthur Miller, Charles Krauthammer and Richard Rodriguez.

All Conference on World Affairs sessions are free and open to the public, making the CWA the largest, most accessible event of its kind in the country.

A biographical listing of participants confirmed to date is now online at www.colorado.edu/cwa[38]. The full CWA schedule will be posted to the site in late March.

Elliman named interim chancellor of CU Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus[39]

Elliman

Editor's note: This story first appeared as an update to CU Connections on Feb. 2.

University of Colorado President Bruce Benson today (Feb. 2) named Don Elliman [41]interim chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus.

“Don Elliman is an accomplished and energetic leader whose skills and experience are a perfect match for the challenges facing the Denver and Anschutz Medical campuses,” Benson said. “He has a national and international reputation, and his considerable experience in business, government and education will allow us to build on the accomplishments of Jerry Wartgow and the university community.”

Benson did not put a timetable on a search for a permanent chancellor. Elliman replaces Jerry Wartgow, who is retiring in March. Benson lauded Wartgow’s accomplishments as chancellor.

“Jerry has done an exceptional job leading the institution, and it is a better place because of his efforts,” Benson said. “He has moved the university forward by implementing successful initiatives, establishing valuable partnerships, improving the infrastructure and raising our profile.”

Elliman, 67, currently serves as executive director of the Charles C. Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Before coming to CU, former Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter appointed him as the state’s chief operating officer. Before that, he was director of the state of Colorado’s Office of Economic Development.

“I am tremendously excited about the opportunity to work with the students, faculty and staff of the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus, as well as our colleagues on all of CU’s campuses,” Elliman said. “I have enormous respect for the missions of both the Denver and the Anschutz Medical campuses, and I look forward to working to enhance the collective value of both to the citizens of Colorado and beyond.”

Elliman has extensive experience in business, government and education. He had a 30-year career with Time Inc., in which he served as publisher of People magazine and later president of Sports Illustrated. He also was president of Time’s consolidated advertising sales group, which had 900 employees and more than $2 billion in annual revenue. After moving to Colorado in 1997, Elliman in 2000 became CEO of Ascent Communications, owners of the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche and Pepsi Center. He continued in that role through two sales of the company, which is now owned by Kroenke Sports. He retired from that position in 2004.

Elliman has served as chair of the board of directors of Children’s Hospital Colorado and chair of its foundation board. He also was one of the chairs of the successful fundraising drive to relocate Children’s to the Anschutz Medical Campus. Additionally, he serves on the boards of the Gates Family Foundation, the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority and the Colorado Economic Development Commission.

In the education realm, Ritter appointed him to the Colorado State University Board of Governors in 2010. He also serves on the governing board of Middlebury College in Vermont, his alma mater.

Noble to direct military office[42]

Noble

Longtime University of Colorado Colorado Springs staff member **Lee Ingalls Noble** will serve as interim director of the Office of Veteran and Military Student Affairs.

Noble will replace Dana Rocha while a regional search is conducted for a permanent director, according to Homer Wesley, vice chancellor, Student Success and Enrollment Management. Rocha left UCCS in December for a position outside of the university.

“I am pleased that Lee, once again, has offered to help run this important student services function,” Wesley said. “Her experience in financial aid will serve our students well in navigating the details of military and veteran student benefits.”

Noble served for 31 years in the Office of Financial Aid before her 2009 retirement. She returned in 2011 to serve as interim director of the Office of Financial Aid.

Dropping names ...[44]

Wurtele

Barton

Armstrong

Lockley

Sandy Wurtele, a professor in the Department of Psychology, recently was appointed as a child protection consultant by the vicar general for the Catholic Church Diocese of Wilmington, Del. In this position, she will evaluate and make public recommendations regarding diocese policies regarding the protection of children and youth from sexual exploitation. Wurtele is considered an expert in the prevention of child abuse. She recently published her third book for parents titled “Safe Connections: A Parent’s Guide to Protecting Young Teens from Sexual Exploitation,” published by Parenting Press, Seattle. … **Anne Smatla** has been named managing director for the 2012 Denver Silent Film Festival (DSFF) scheduled for Sept. 21-23 and presented by the College of Arts and Media. Smatla will work on the day-to-day operations of the festival, including management of marketing efforts and coordinating event logistics. She is a CAM alumna and 2000 graduate of the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design. She also earned a certificate in 2008 in film preservation from the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation at George Eastman House. … The second edition of “Fundamentals of Health Care Improvement: A Guide to Improving Your Patients' Care” has been published by a group of authors including University of Colorado Denver’s College of Nursing’s (CON**) Amy Barton**, associate professor and associate dean, Clinical Affairs. CON colleague **Gail Armstrong**, assistant professor, also authored a chapter. The revised edition, co-published by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) and Joint Commission Resources, is an essential guide for everyone who has made a personal commitment to improving care. The book also is an invaluable resource for the tens of thousands engaged with the IHI Open School for Health Professions. … **Martin Lockley**, professor of geology at the University of Colorado Denver, co-authored a paper with Reiji Kukihara that will appear in the February issue of “Cretaceous Research, Dinosaur Freeway Found in Colorado,” that discusses the “Dinosaur Freeway” that ran from Northeast Colorado to east central New Mexico 98 million years ago.

Tom Hutton contributed to this story.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/political-polarization-not-extreme-it-may-seem-research-shows[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/health-careers-spotlight-student-information-fair[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/ucd-health-careers.png[4]

http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/Pages/somWelcome.aspx[5]
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