Next Race@CU discussion set for Feb. 11 at CU-Boulder[1]

The university community is invited to take part in a creative research presentation followed by facilitated small group conversations about racial and ethnic inclusion at CU-Boulder.

The event – Student Voices at CU: What Racial and Ethnic Inclusion Means for Our Campus – is set for 4-5:30 p.m. Feb. 11 in the Aspen Rooms of the University Memorial Center at CU-Boulder. Light snacks will be provided.

The event is aimed at bringing together different members of the campus to discuss the meaning of inclusion, as well as implications for policies and practices at CU. Student voices are critical to ensuring that campus efforts at inclusion achieve their goals.

This event follows on a report completed in 2015 by CU Engage students: Students of Color are Motivated Agents of Change: Why Aren't We Joining Your Programs? While centered on the experience of students of color, this interactive event is intended for all members of the campus community – students, staff, faculty and administrators of all backgrounds – to discuss policies and practices that support racial and ethnic inclusion at CU-Boulder.

The event, part of the Race @ CU series, is sponsored by the systemwide Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC) and has been planned by students, staff, and faculty in coordination with multiple campus entities, including: CU Engage; Center for Unity and Engagement; EMAC; the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Community Engagement; and the BOLD Center.

Study: Nutrition labels might mislead health-conscious consumers [2]

[3]
People who made New Year's resolutions to eat healthier or lose weight might also want to brush up on their math skills, according to Professor Donald Lichtenstein of the University of Colorado Boulder's Leeds School of Business.

In a study appearing in this month's edition of the Journal of Marketing, Lichtenstein and his colleagues found that nutrition labels on packaged food products in the United States can lead even the most health-conscious consumers astray, if they don't "do the math."

The study was co-authored by marketing instructor Gina Mohr of Colorado State University and marketing Professor Chris Janiszewski of the University of Florida.

While the "Nutrition Facts" printed on food labels are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, companies are given some freedom to present food packages as a single serving or as smaller serving sizes within a package, according to Lichtenstein, chair of the Leeds School marketing department. Through this practice, referred to in the study by Lichtenstein and his colleagues as "health framing," companies can present smaller serving sizes so that a food's negative nutrients -- calories and fat -- on a nutrition label show up as a lower number per serving.

"The take-away message is when you look at the calories per serving on a candy bar or a can of soup at the grocery store, be sure to look at the serving size too," Lichtenstein said. "Surprisingly what we found was those people who are health conscious and are concerned about nutrition fall prey to health framing effects more frequently.

"The problem comes when people do pay attention, but they only pay attention to the calorie information and not the serving size," Lichtenstein said. "And that's what we find in study after study. Those consumers who are more health conscious pay attention to the calorie information, but they don't take the extra step to look at the serving size. So they are duped, if you will, by a health framing effect."

This is where the math part comes in. For example, if a candy bar is 2 ounces and has 200 calories for a whole bar, it might be labeled as one serving or two servings. If the manufacturer decides to make the serving size of 1 ounce it cuts

the calories per serving in half.

“We found that many consumers only pay attention to the calorie information and don’t look to see exactly what the serving size is,” he said. “When you present a smaller serving size, it cuts down the calories per serving, which makes consumers feel less guilty about consuming the product, and that affects not only their purchase intentions, but actual choice.”

To ensure more informed consumer choices, Lichtenstein recommends reducing the latitude manufacturers have in setting serving sizes, requiring manufacturers to report nutrient information on a per unit weight basis -- calories per ounce -- and increasing consumer education about manufacturer use of health framing.

Without any changes to policy, Lichtenstein said, consumers need to put the onus on themselves when it comes to food labels.

“In the absence of any changes, public policy officials should encourage consumers to calculate negative nutrients for a reasonable serving size, so they know the health benefits and detriments of the foods they eat,” Lichtenstein said.

‘Power of Partnership’ ad campaign promotes connections to community[4]

[5]
The University of Colorado Denver is moving forward with phase two of an advertising campaign featuring university "partnerships."

It's called "The Power of Partnership[6]," and it highlights the unique, innovative and powerful partnerships that CU Denver nurtures with business, industry, education and government. After a successful launch last October, the ad campaign recently moved into its second phase. From now through the end of March, you'll see and hear about CU Denver's partnerships throughout the Mile High City.
Read in the Denver Business Journal about the new global and community energy solutions[7] emerging from the Business School[8], with critical input from leading energy organizations such as Encana, Xcel Energy and NREL. Spot an ad on the 16th Street MallRide for the College of Arts & Media[9] that shows students helping the Lakewood Police Department fight crime in the digital age[10]. Hear on Colorado Public Radio about the impact that urban teachers[11] from the School of Education and Human Development[12] have in Denver's most diverse schools. Find a page of ColoradoBIZ magazine devoted to the group of local leaders[13] making a positive difference in the community through the School of Public Affairs[14].
We encourage you to tell others about the campaign. Share a link on your Facebook page to the campaign webpage [6], spread the campaign message via e-mail or point out the billboards and bus ads to friends as you pass by.

"'The 'Power of Partnership' campaign spotlights CU Denver's role as a key partner for business, industry, education and government, providing access to intellectual capital, research, innovative ideas and more," said Chancellor Jerry Wartgow[15]. "We're celebrating the work of all of our CU Denver schools and colleges while concentrating our message for maximum exposure."

For complete information about "The Power of Partnership," including images and messages from the campaign's first phase, visit ucdenver.edu/PartnerNow[6]**.**

CU-Boulder, MediciNova collaborate on brain injury therapy[16]

[17]
MediciNova Inc., a biopharmaceutical company publicly traded on the Nasdaq Global Market (Trading Symbol: MNOV)

and the Jasdaq Market of the Osaka Securities Exchange (Code Number: 4875), and the University of Colorado Boulder have disclosed a license agreement for the use of ibudilast (MN-166/AV411) for the treatment of post-traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Led by the research of Daniel Barth, Ph.D., professor of neuroscience and psychology at CU-Boulder, ibudilast demonstrated significant efficacy in a model of post-TBI anxiety, one of the most common disorders caused by TBI.

Barth and colleague Krista Rodgers discovered that a short course of systemic ibudilast administered over a month after concussion injury reversed post-TBI anxiety in rats for a three-month measurement period following treatment.

“While we had initially observed impressive reduction of anxiety behavior when ibudilast was administered just prior to head injury, we were, frankly, surprised that a few days of treatment so long after injury could provide notable efficacy for up to three months thereafter,” Barth said. “This finding suggests that post-traumatic anxiety in humans may have a strong physiological basis in neuro-inflammation and that the ongoing neuropathy may be treatable with drugs like ibudilast that attenuate and perhaps interrupt the brain’s inflammatory response.”

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a major public health concern, with approximately 1.7 million people in the United States alone sustaining a TBI each year. The long-term consequences of TBI include neuropsychiatric disorders, of which anxiety disorders are the most prevalent. Little is known about the neural mechanisms of post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD) including anxiety and effective pharmacotherapy options for individuals suffering such a disorder are limited. Barth and colleagues have hypothesized that unchecked activation of glial cells in the brain may contribute to some of the post-TBI disorders. Ibudilast is a selective inhibitor of macrophage-migration inhibitory factor (MIF) and certain phosphodiesterases with well-recognized activity as an attenuator of glial cell activation.

MediciNova is developing ibudilast (MN-166) for several neurological disorders. Recognizing both the unmet need and potential strategic fit with the University of Colorado, Yuichi Iwaki, M.D., Ph.D., president and CEO of MediciNova commented, “We are excited to participate in research aimed at better understanding the traumatic brain injury disease process and in further exploring the potential for MN-166 as a pharmacotherapy.”

Staff members get lesson in suicide prevention[18]

Paying attention and getting involved is basically what’s necessary to prevent someone from committing suicide.

Guy Bennett, trainer, Suicide Prevention Partnership, went into greater detail when he addressed the UCCS Staff Council/PESA luncheon meeting Jan. 11, but he emphasized that one person paying attention to warning signs and caring enough to get involved has the power to circumvent a tragedy.

“It never stops hurting,” Bennett said, revealing that his own son had committed suicide.

Suicide creates more than one victim, he said, and leaves significant, unique emotional scars on its survivors. He asked for a show of hands regarding who in the audience knew someone who had committed suicide, knew someone a suicide victim had left behind, or had been approached by someone contemplating suicide. A majority of people in the room raised their hands.

To make clear how close to home the issue strikes, Bennett offered statistics for El Paso County tabulated from 2000-2008. That period charted 842 suicides compared to 606 vehicular deaths and 223 homicides.

He said that in 2009, 172 people, ranging from 12 to 88 years of age, died by suicide in El Paso County. Suicide is the third leading cause of death for teens in the nation, but among Colorado teens it ranks second. Compared to other counties in Colorado, El Paso County continues to have one of the highest numbers of deaths by suicide per year.

Bennett conducted a demonstration in which Benek Altayli, director, University Counseling Center, carried a heavy

rock, with additional rocks added to her load. But while this exercise represented the awkward, increasing burden suicidal individuals carry inside themselves, Bennett took it a step further.

He asked audience members why they didn't offer to help carry the rocks. He asked Altayli why she did not ask for help. The responses ranged from the thought never occurred to not wanting to interrupt the exercise. He went on to share that some people do not ask for help because they are afraid of burdening others. Bennett spoke of how important it is for a person to recognize when he or she needs the help of others and to ask for it. It's also important to recognize when others are in need of help and offer it.

Bennett asked his audience if they considered suicide a selfish act, and most agreed. One who acts without thinking how an action will affect others is usually considered selfish, he said. Yet he would use the term "self-focused" rather than "selfish," he said. "Selfish" implies some form of indifference, while the "self-focused" individual is actually more preoccupied than indifferent.

Warning signs common in most individuals considering suicide include depression, increased isolation, giving away prized belongings, and talk about dying. But children, teens and adults contemplating suicide will often have motivations that are age specific. Employment and finances are more apt to influence adults, growing responsibilities and social expectations may affect teens, and children can know what's undesirable in life but not know the finality of death.

Bennett recognized that university staff encounter teens and young adults in their day-to-day exchanges, and so emphasized watching for warning signs produced by stresses common to college life. These include major changes in academic performance or social activity, homesickness, and just being overwhelmed.

Bennett acknowledged that time constraints prevented him from presenting the full training session he usually offers, but said he hoped he increased the group's awareness of suicide and knowledge of risk factors and warning signs. He said he hoped he left them better equipped to help deal with possible suicidal situations.

He offered the word ACT as an acronym for: acknowledge that there are signs of a real and serious threat; care enough to let the person involved know you are there for him or her, concerned about his or her wellbeing, and desire to help; and tell a professional, a parent, a spouse or somebody with appropriate knowledge or experience about the situation.

To learn more about suicide prevention, visit http://pikespeaksuicideprevention.org/home.html[19].

New director of Chancellor's Leadership Class ready to listen, learn[20]

Kremers

Kristi Kremers says she's found a perfect combination as the new director of the UCCS Chancellor's Leadership Class.

"I don't know how to say this without using the word 'exciting,'" she said. "It sounds trite to say it's exciting to be here, but it really is. I'm in a new place where I can follow a number of my passions, and 'exciting' is the only way to describe it."

While hobbies like yoga, quilting, and writing poetry can be enjoyed just about anywhere, running is a pastime where

fresh air, open space, and gorgeous scenery multiply the pleasure. Kremers, originally from Kimball, Minn., said the thin air at Colorado's altitude creates a challenge, but she expects to acclimate and compete in marathons before too long.

Kremers replaces outgoing CLC director Amy Hill, and was recently appointed after a national search. Prerequisites for the directorship position include her University of Minnesota Ph.D. in organizational leadership and master's degree in counseling from Minnesota State University, as well as hands-on student leadership serving two terms as University of Minnesota student body president and representing some 23,000 graduate and professional students.

But she won't discount the value of what she learned about diversity and perspective from her undergraduate studies of aboriginal culture in Australia.

She has yet to create a vision for the future of the CLC, in part because she considers it to be a great program already, but also because her first task is to observe and listen, Kremers said. She hopes to make a great program even better with preliminary ideas of expanding and carrying leadership skills to the rest of the campus. And although the vision has yet to jell, her personal philosophy of taking risks to build a dream will no doubt influence the class's direction.

In the few days since arriving and getting to know the class, Kremers was impressed, she said, with the sense of community the scholars demonstrated. "They showed an ability to work together and they truly care about one another," she said.

Kremers remarked about a feeling of community and acceptance shared across the campus that made her feel at home at UCCS. She said the faculty and staff have a genuine concern for the students that shows.

Finding a job during a challenged economy was unprecedented good fortune, she said. Finding a position tailored to her abilities made it even better.

CU Advocates ready to 'get the word out'[22]

President Bruce Benson speaks to a packed room during the first CU Advocates reception on Jan. 19 on the CU-Boulder campus, where attendees stayed to watch the Buffs men's basketball game. (Photo: Cathy Beuten/University of Colorado)

More than 120 faculty, staff, alumni, friends and supporters of the University of Colorado attended last week's CU Advocates reception at CU-Boulder, the first event of its kind presented by the new advocacy group based in the Office of the President. Before watching the Buffs defeat Arizona State in men's basketball on Jan. 19, group members mingled and heard from CU President Bruce Benson, who stressed the need for supporters to tell CU's stories throughout the state and beyond.

Benson also discussed the state's fiscal reality, and how CU will continue to be optimistic, entrepreneurial and cautious about the future. He stressed that CU will remain as efficient as possible, continuing to seek strategic partnerships and look for cost savings and revenue enhancements.

"I think there's great opportunity for CU Advocates to get the word out about everything we do," said Andrea Masias, who earned her master's degree from CU Denver and has worked on the Anschutz Medical Campus for four and a half years. "We do so much. I don't even know what all we do – I just know what my little corner of the world does."

Noah Finkelstein, associate professor of physics and director of Integrating STEM Education at CU-Boulder, said he considers it a responsibility to build and contribute to community.

“As a faculty member, I’m in a privileged position because I get to see what’s going on firsthand in our classrooms – what it is we do with and for our students,” Finkelstein said. “And I get to see how the research we do contributes to and transforms the state.

“I’m a big fan of networks, and CU Advocates is another community I get to participate in. At the initial reception, I made contacts with many like-minded individuals, people with common values. This gives me an avenue to contribute – to realize my charge as a faculty member and, frankly, as a citizen of Colorado. We need an engaged citizenry.”

In March, CU Advocates launches a series of education forums. First up is a presentation on the University of Denver study commissioned by the Colorado Legislature, “Financing Colorado’s Future: An Analysis of the Fiscal Sustainability of State Government,” set for 8 a.m. March 2 at 1800 Grant St., Denver. Details on registration will be available at the Advocates website[24] in February.

To see more photos from last week’s reception, visit the CU Advocates Facebook page[25].

Not all common sweeteners affect bodies the same, researchers find[26]

With growing concern that excessive levels of fructose may pose a great health risk – causing high blood pressure, kidney disease and diabetes – researchers at the University of Colorado School of Medicine[27], along with their colleagues at the University of Florida, set out to see if two common sweeteners in Western diets differ in their effects on the body in the first few hours after ingestion. The study, recently published in the journal Metabolism[28], took a closer look at high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) and table sugar (sucrose) and was led by Dr. MyPhuong Le (now a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado) and Dr. Julie Johnson, a professor of pharmacogenomics at the University of Florida.

Both HFCS and sucrose have historically been considered to have nearly identical effects on the body. But this study finds that indeed there is a difference between the two. They found that the makeup of the sugars resulted in differences in how much fructose was absorbed into the circulation, and which could have a potential impact on one’s health. Sucrose is 50 percent fructose and 50 percent glucose that is bonded together as a disaccharide (complex carbohydrate), while HFCS is a mixture of free fructose (55 percent) and free glucose (45 percent). It’s the difference in fructose amount that appears to create the ill health effects on the body.

Their study was conducted at the University of Florida, where they evaluated 40 men and women who were given 24 ounces of HFCS - or sugar-sweetened soft drinks. Careful measurements showed that the HFCS-sweetened soft drinks resulted in significantly higher fructose levels than the sugar-sweetened drinks. Fructose is also known to increase uric acid levels that have been implicated in blood pressure changes: the HFCS-sweetened drinks resulted in a higher uric acid level and a 3 mm Hg greater rise in systolic blood pressure.

Dr. Richard Johnson[29], a co-author in the study and chief of the Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension at the University of Colorado, commented, “Although both sweeteners are often considered the same in terms of their biological effects, this study demonstrates that there are subtle differences. Soft drinks containing HFCS result in slightly higher blood levels of fructose than sucrose-sweetened drinks."

He added, “The next step is for new studies to address whether the long-term effects of these two sweeteners are different.”

Colorado Weigh: Classes still available in Denver, Colorado Springs[30]

Be Colorado is bringing the very popular Colorado Weigh program to the Boulder, Colorado Springs and Denver campuses with a subsidized Phase 1 class starting in February. The Boulder class is now full, but space is available in the Denver and Colorado Springs classes.

The top five reasons for considering Colorado Weigh, if you need to lose weight:

5. It's convenient. The classes take place on campus and during lunchtime.

4. You will have a local support group to help keep you on track.

3. It's taught by registered dietitians with a wealth of knowledge.

2. You will learn the healthy way to lose weight and how to keep it off.

1. Losing excess weight can lower your risk for certain health conditions and give you more energy.

Here are the upcoming class details:

Campus
Week Day
Start Date
End Date *
Class Time
Building

CU-Boulder CLASS FULL **UCCS** Tuesday Feb. 14 May 8 11:30 - 12:15
University Center **CU Denver** Thursday Feb. 9 May 3 11:30 - 12:15
Lawrence Street Center,
1380 Lawrence Street
* - No class during Spring Break

Colorado Weigh is a unique 12-week weight loss and long-term maintenance program taught by registered dietitians. It puts into practice the world-renowned research done at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in the area of obesity treatment. The class is open to all University of Colorado faculty and staff.

The cost for the Phase 1 class is $240 for University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust plan participants and $295 for all others. This is a substantial discount from the regular price of $349. In addition, Trust plan participants can receive a $100 rebate for meeting attendance and logging goals. Trust plans include UANet, Lumenos, HMO Colorado, Medicare Primary and Kaiser (exempt employees only). The class will be paid through payroll deduction in the amount of $50 per month until the class is paid in full.

To sign up, go to http://www.becolorado.org/[31]. Classes are capped at 25 participants and they are filling quickly, so sign up today.

For more details on the Colorado Weigh program, go to http://www.coloradoweigh.com/[32]. Email questions to risa.heywood@cu.edu[33].

CU-Boulder repeats as Peace Corps champion[34]

[35]
For the second straight year, the University of Colorado Boulder is ranked No. 1 in the nation for graduates serving as Peace Corps volunteers with 112 undergraduate alumni currently serving around the world, the Peace Corps announced today.

CU-Boulder also is ranked the No. 5 all-time school for volunteers with 2,317 alumni who have served in the Peace Corps since it was established in 1961.

CU Denver, meanwhile, made its debut in the Peace Corps' Top 20 graduate schools nationally, landing at No. 18.

"For the second year in a row, CU-Boulder has produced more Peace Corps volunteers than any other university in the nation," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams. "CU fosters civic engagement and participation, and students graduate from CU with the language and cross-cultural skills necessary to make them successful during their 27 months of Peace Corps service."

The University of Washington ranked No. 2 for large schools this year with 110 undergraduate alumni serving. Also in the Top 5, in descending order, were the University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Florida and the University of Michigan.

"Our No. 1 Peace Corps ranking for volunteer service is tangible evidence of something we have always known: Our students and graduates are service-oriented and down-to-earth, working tirelessly to benefit communities around the globe," said Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano. "It emphasizes how CU-Boulder's civically engaged students go on to become service-oriented citizens at home and abroad."

The Peace Corps ranks its top volunteer-producing schools annually according to the size of the student body. Large schools have more than 15,000 undergraduates, medium-sized schools have between 5,000 and 15,000 undergraduates, and small schools have fewer than 5,000 undergraduates.

The George Washington University ranked first among medium-sized schools with 78 undergraduate alumni currently serving and the University of Mary Washington ranked highest among small schools with 29 undergraduate alumni serving. The University of Florida ranked as the top producing school for graduate school alumni volunteers with 30.

Each year since 2004, CU-Boulder has ranked in the top three schools in the nation for Peace Corps volunteers -- three times as the No. 2 school and four times at No. 3.

"We have a track record of attracting adventurous students who also have a hunger to serve, particularly in underdeveloped nations," said Peter Simons, director of CU-Boulder's Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement.

In 2010, CU-Boulder became part of the Peace Corps Master's International program, which allows volunteers to combine Peace Corps service with a master's degree program and receive credit for their Peace Corps service abroad.

From CU Denver, there currently are 11 graduate students serving overseas with Peace Corps, up from the nine volunteers who were serving last year.

"Over the past few years we've seen a steady increase across the state from people showing more interest in Peace Corps service," said Mike McKay, Southwest regional manager for Peace Corps. "This year, several Colorado colleges and universities ranked among the top schools. CU Denver's rank is significant because there were over 500 graduate schools rated in this category."

Peace Corps' nine regional recruiting offices across the United States work to recruit and provide information and guidance to prospective Peace Corps volunteers. The Southwest Regional Recruiting Office serves Colorado and nine other states. Applicants are encouraged to plan ahead and apply for Peace Corps service one year in advance of their target departure date. Locate your local regional recruiting office by visiting the Peace Corps website here[36].

You can view the entire top 25 rankings for each school size category, as well as all-time and graduate school rankings here[37].

For more information about the Peace Corps at CU-Boulder, call the campus recruiting office at 303-492-8454 or visit http://www.colorado.edu/iece/peacecorps/[38].

Boulder professor Jaggar named Gee award winner[39]

Jaggar

Alison Jaggar, a Professor of Distinction in philosophy and women and gender studies at the University of Colorado Boulder, is the winner of the 2012 Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award[41]. The award honors an outstanding faculty member for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching.

She will receive the award at CU Women Succeeding: The 10th Annual Professional Development Symposium[42], set for Feb. 23-24 at CU-Boulder. The award, instituted in 1992, comes with a $1,000 honorarium. During the Feb. 24 symposium luncheon, Jaggar will present her scholarly work in an address titled, “The Feminization of Global Poverty: How Can Philosophy Help?” Registration for the symposium already has reached capacity.

Jaggar is a pioneer in introducing feminist concerns into philosophy and in establishing the discipline of women’s (now gender) studies. As a member of the American Philosophical Association, she has taken a leadership role in working to improve the status of women. At CU, she has supported junior women faculty and mentored many women graduate students who are now established in tenured or tenure-track positions. Jaggar is the author of many books and articles, and her recent work introduces gender as a category of analysis into the philosophical debate on global justice.

During her symposium lecture, she will discuss ways in which existing poverty measures likely obscure the full extent of gendered poverty. She will also talk about her work as the central investigator in “Fempov,” a multidisciplinary and international research project whose aim is to produce a new poverty standard or metric capable of revealing the gendered dimensions of global poverty.

The award is named for Elizabeth Gee, a faculty member in the Health Sciences Center School of Nursing and the late wife of former CU President Gordon Gee. It is the only award in the CU system that specifically recognizes outstanding work on women’s issues and efforts to advance women in the academy. It is conferred yearly by the CU Faculty Council’s Women’s Committee[43].

Boulder Staff Council hosting blood drives[44]

Boulder Staff Council is hosting blood drives over the next two weeks:

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 30-31, University Memorial Center (UMC), Rooms 382-386

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 8-9, UMC Rooms 382-386

To schedule an appointment to donate, go to www.bonfils.org[45] and use site code 0248 for donation location, or call Bonfils Appointment Center, 303-363-2300.

The need for blood is constant. Bonfils Blood Center needs thousands of blood donors each week to meet Colorado’s needs and to be prepared for unexpected events. All blood types are needed and new blood donors are invited to join the Bonfils family.

For general information about blood donor eligibility, visit http://www.bonfils.org/donate_blood/eligibility/[46]. For questions, call Bonfils' Donor Relations
department at 303-363-2202 or 800-365-0006, option 1.

Did you know there is another way you can save lives? Each year thousands of people are diagnosed with diseases like leukemia and lymphoma for which a stem cell or marrow transplant could be the only cure. About 70 percent of these people are unable to find a donor match within their family and must search for an unrelated donor on the Be the Match registry. Join the registry through Bonfils' Colorado Marrow Donor Program. It's easy and saves lives.

Visit http://www.bonfils.org/about_donating/colorado_marrow_donor_program/[47], or call 800-619-1099 or 303-363-2345.

Seeking website design nominations[48]

The Universal Design and Accessibility Committee (UDAC) at CU-Boulder is seeking nominations for best website design among the University of Colorado campuses. The criteria are usability, universal design and accessibility, along with other features such as adherence to web standards.

UDAC is a subcommittee of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Program Access and seeks to educate the CU-Boulder campus on the benefits of universal design – design accessible to all people without the need for adaptation or specialization – in the area of electronic communications and information technology. The committee promotes the development and maintenance of academic and administrative systems that are effective, usable and accessible to all users. UDAC also informs and advises the administration when existing systems or planned systems do not meet standards and/or laws for usability and accessibility.

If you would like to nominate a website or Web page for the competition, either your own or another CU site, please use the form[49] to submit the nomination by Friday, Feb. 17. Winners and prizes will be announced at the end of March.

For more information, visit http://www.colorado.edu/ODECE/UDAC/webcomp2012.html[49], or contact Howard Kramer at hkramer@colorado.edu[50] or 303-492-8672.

State files appeal in Lobato education funding case[51]

Colorado Attorney General John Suthers this week appealed a Denver district judge's recent decision against the state in Lobato v. Colorado, which claims underfunding of K-12 schools violates the Colorado Constitution.

The case began in 2005 when a group of San Luis Valley residents and others sued the state, claiming that, by underfunding schools, the state was ignoring the constitutional promise of "thorough, uniform" education for all students.

Gov. John Hickenlooper and the State Board of Education favored an appeal of the December decision. While detailing the history of the Lobato case[52] for the CU Board of Regents earlier this month, Suthers said that if the decision were upheld, state funding for higher education would be devastated. He also said the case could be under review for months or years before coming to a conclusion.

Click here[53] to read the state's appeal, which was filed Monday.

Online workshop: Serving Deaf Patrons in the Library[54]

Make your library a welcoming place for deaf people. In an upcoming workshop hosted by the Auraria Library, participants will gain an understanding of deaf culture, learn several useful library-related signs, and be ready to work confidently with interpreters for programs. Links to video demonstrations and handouts for library-related signs will be made accessible to participants to encourage practice and implementation after the workshop.
What: Two-part workshop, online in the Auraria Library **When:** 10-11:30 a.m. Feb. 22 and Feb. 29 (Sessions start promptly at 10 a.m.; room will be open at 9:45 a.m.) **Where:** Auraria Library, ELC-B **Instructor:** Kathy MacMillan
Topics covered: An overview of the different ways deaf people communicate Understanding and meeting your library's legal obligation to serve the deaf Strategies for communicating with a deaf or hard-of-hearing person in the library Tips for finding, hiring, and working with interpreters
In preparation for the event, there are several recommended reading materials. Please RSVP to judith.valdez@ucdenver.edu[55] to receive confirmation and readings by email prior to the event.

Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or questions and to RSVP, please contact Judith Valdez at **judith.valdez@ucdenver.edu**[55] or 303-556-4999.

Honda named staff employee of the month at CU Denver[56]

[57]
Sara Honda's positive attitude and willingness to help others has been recognized by her colleagues in the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), and she has been honored as January's Staff Council Employee of the Month at CU Denver. Honda helps manage payroll and human resources matters within SEHD.

Staff Council Chair **Deborah Makray** presented Honda with a plaque and gift certificate (see photo, Makray left, Honda right). The honor is based on several nominations from Honda's colleagues. SEHD Project Coordinator **Jennifer Feehan's** nomination of Honda noted, "Sara makes an extra effort to find the answer to employees' questions even when she is not required to know the answer. Sara listens to the concerns of employees and makes an effort to provide solutions or ask for assistance."

Her positive and cheerful attitude also was described by Assistant Dean Christine Feagins: "She (Honda) has made the School of Education and Human Development a better and happier place to work – always assisting with the staff and school events."

Staff Council accepts nominations for Employee of the Month throughout the year. The nomination criteria and form[58] is available online. Honda's name soon will be added to the Staff Council Employee of the Month roster of honorees.

Five questions for Carmen Stavrositu[59]

Stavrositu attended the International Communication Association (ICA) convention in Dresden, Germany, a few years ago.

Whether you spend hours updating your status and writing on others' walls or roll your eyes at the thought of Facebook, there's no arguing that the social medium has made a cultural impact. But can it also be a learning tool?

Carmen Stavrositu, an assistant professor of communication at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, has the same question. As a member of the President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative[61], her research on emerging technologies includes trying to determine whether social media such as Facebook, Twitter and blogging can be used to create learning communities that resemble traditional classrooms.

Stavrositu joined the UCCS Communication Department in 2007. She earned a bachelor's degree in foreign languages and literatures from the University of Bucharest, Romania, then came to the United States and attended graduate school at Penn State, where she received a master's in media studies and a doctorate in mass communication.

Along with her current research, she has collaborated with colleagues Jugal Kalita and Lisa Hines for a project titled "Acquiring Infrastructure for Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing and Information Retrieval," which resulted in a National Science Foundation grant that helped establish an undergraduate research lab. This year, she became research chair for the Communication Technology division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Stavrositu at Zapata Falls in Great Sand Dunes National Park last fall.

When she's not "office-bound" by work, Stavrositu spends time outdoors. She's an avid runner and hiker, and a "novice, but adventurous" skier. And she has become a passionate gardener. "I had my first community gardening experience at Penn State seven years ago," she says. "Even before I moved to Colorado, I started doing Internet research about the community gardens available in the area, and joined one of them soon after my arrival here. While I have been a fairly 'orthodox' gardener for most of this time, I have some big plans to experiment with heirloom varieties of my favorite vegetables this summer."

1. How did you choose a career path? Did a person or event play a role in your choice?

Growing up in Romania, I was faced with making a career choice in the late 1990s when the country was undergoing profound economic and political transformations. I was particularly struck by the impact of these changes on the country's media: their ownership structures and how these changes were affecting Romanian culture more broadly. I decided to pursue graduate work in communication, which wasn't offered in Romania at the time. At Penn State, I was fortunate to work closely with some brilliant and inspiring mentors, and it was only while I was there that I considered for the first time becoming a college professor.

2. Some of your research focuses on whether social media can be an effective learning tool. What intrigued you about this topic and how might this work?

Carmen Stavrositu at Olympic National Park in Washington.

A major focus of my research centers on the uses and effects of social and participatory media, and their potential for user empowerment. For example, in some of this research, I examined blogging and its potential for psychologically empowering members of marginalized groups. My results showed that the act of blogging does tend to be an empowering experience for such individuals, specifically by enhancing a sense of agency and community. Blogs, of course, are an outlet for self-expression and for connecting with similar others at the same time, and my research has found that the technological affordances that make these two outcomes possible lead to profound psychological benefits for users.

In building on these findings, I became interested in examining whether social and participatory media (like Facebook and Twitter) could have similar benefits for students. In particular, I was interested in how these media could be leveraged to enhance student engagement in online courses in particular. It is well-known in the literature that student engagement hinges largely on two main factors: students' perceived sense of autonomy and their feeling of membership in learning communities. Given that my previous research already has suggested that an increased sense of agency and sense of community are two important benefits of new media use, a logical next step is to pursue how these benefits might also enhance students' sense of autonomy and sense of membership in a learning community.

In particular, I focus on the potential for Facebook or other social media tools like blogs to facilitate class discussions. My hope is that because this medium is already such a big part of students' everyday lives and conversations that it will help them create a safe and open environment for course-related discussions.

3. You also focus on the processes of establishing the credibility of online information. How reliable is what we find on the Web?

This is another area of interest in my research and it pertains to users' skills and ability to discern credible from noncredible online information, given the Internet's notorious absence of information quality oversight. As has been widely discussed, this marks a major change from traditional sources of information such as The New York Times or CNN, which, despite their imperfections, do nevertheless have professional gatekeepers working hard to ensure reliability. Another challenge of Internet-based media is that it allows for relative anonymity, which can be a double-edged sword: While it allows users to express themselves more freely, online content is also littered with unreliable information.

In addressing these kinds of concerns, what we have found is that as people use the Internet more, the more credible they tend to perceive it to be, which is perhaps rather intuitive given that the more familiar you are with the norms and general workings of a medium, the better you get at filtering out or avoiding irrelevant or unreliable information. Most interestingly, perhaps, we also found evidence of a kind of crossover effect, whereby the level of traditional newspaper use also predicted Internet credibility, suggesting perhaps that the Internet functions as a kind of supplement to traditional media rather than merely a substitute.

4. In what ways have you seen communication significantly change for the better and worse in the past 15 years or so?

The most significant change, in my opinion, pertains to the shifting role of media audiences. In fact, we don't even speak of "media audiences" anymore, but of "media users." This semantic shift mirrors very well the larger shifts in communication of the past 15 years or so, where we see users increasingly in the driver's seat when it comes to their media use, no longer merely passive recipients. If with traditional media we were mostly limited to being receivers of information, we now have technological affordances in place that allow us to become senders and producers of information. Everyone is now able to self-publish, as they say, although the quality of information, of course, is not always assured.

5. Time magazine gave its 2011 "Person of the Year" award to the protester. If you could give a 2011 "Communication of the Year" award, to whom or to what would it go?

I would also have to say the protester. From the Arab Spring to the Occupy Movement protests, what we have seen are regular people leveraging the power of participatory media in novel and creative ways to engage in activism, to organize, and – in some cases, like in Egypt and Tunisia – bringing about real, tangible political change. Using the media in this way, of course, simply would not have been possible 15 years ago. But people are now able to have a voice of their own, and at the same time, enter into extended conversations through their social networks with others who share the same concerns.

Carpenter documentary nominated for sound award[64]

Carpenter

"Above the Ashes," a documentary film directed, produced and edited by **Michelle Bauer Carpenter,** an assistant professor in digital design at the University of Colorado Denver College of Arts and Media, has been nominated for a prestigious Golden Reel Award in the category of "Best Sound Editing: Short Form Documentary."

The half-hour film highlights the acts of courage of "ordinary" people who defied evacuation orders and did what they could to save homes using shovels, sand and pots of water during the Fourmile Canyon Fire in 2010. The most costly fire in Colorado history destroyed 168 homes, many of them in the community of Sunshine, which is the setting of the film. "It's about normal people doing extraordinary things and doing what you can do to help out your community," said Carpenter in an earlier interview.

Carpenter said she is "thrilled" by the nomination and credits her crew, especially David Bondelevitch, the supervising sound editor, for the honor. Bondelevitch is an assistant professor in the music and entertainment industry studies recording arts program in the College of Arts and Media. He also works as a freelance music and dialogue editor and re-recording mixer in Los Angeles and has credits on more than 150 films and television shows. Also named in the nomination are music editors Brandon Vaccaro and Carpenter, and Alex Layne, sound effects editor.

The Motion Picture Sound Editors announced the nominees Jan. 20. Winners, acknowledged for the year's best work in areas of sound editing, will be announced Feb. 19 at the 59th annual Golden Reel Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.

Dropping names …[66]

Dunn

Josh Dunn, associate professor in the Department of Political Science at UCCS, recently was named by Education Week to a list of top scholars who contribute to public debates about education. Dunn was ranked 114 nationally. Rick Hess, a writer for Education Week, uses books and articles published and the degree that they are cited to rank scholars by their "footprint" on public discourse about public education. To see Dunn's latest commentary on public education, visit http://mediawatch.uccs.edu/?p=6827[68] … **Jill Litt**, assistant professor of environmental and occupational health at the University of Colorado Denver, joined Deborah Fryer of Lila Films and the American Public Health Association to produce "American Public Health Association: Environmental Health You." The film presents a historical overview of public and environmental health in the United States during the past century. It's a complex story of the interconnections between air, water, soil, food production and distribution, chemicals, population, climate change, national, state and local policy, and communities taking their health into their own hands. Learn about the success and challenges, regulations and radical changes this country has seen in the past century.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/next-racecu-discussion-set-feb-11-cu-boulder[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/study-nutrition-labels-might-mislead-health-conscious-consumers[3]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/ucb_labels-f.png[4] https://connections.cu.ed

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