PERA rescue plan moves forward at Capitol[1]

Legislation intended to stabilize the Public Employee's Retirement Association pension fund passed the Senate Finance Committee by a 5-2 vote Tuesday night after more than five hours of testimony and debate.

Senate Bill 1 would increase contributions by employers and employees, place a cap on cost-of-living adjustments for retirees, modify benefit calculations and age eligibility for full retirement, and create new guidelines for working retirees. The bill next goes to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

"This is the single largest liability facing Colorado," said Josh Penry, bill co-sponsor and Senate minority leader. "We are fast approaching unfunded liability."

Projections show that on its current path, the state division of PERA could run out of money in as little as 16 years.

Senate President Brandon Shaffer, D-Longmont, and Penry, R-Grand Junction, have been brokering the deal for nearly six months. Negotiations on amendments to the initial bill continued through Monday evening.

Meredith Williams, PERA's executive director, said the negotiated fix preserves the plan while spreading the sacrifices among all of the retirement fund members.

As amended, SB1 calls for a gradual increase to employer contributions of 1.5 percent by 2017 and an increase in employee contributions of 2.5 percent by 2017.

Currently, the University of Colorado contributes 10.15 percent of its payroll to the fund and employees contribute 8 percent.

The bill also changes the age of retirement for full benefit eligibility. Currently, employees must have 30 years of service and reach age 50 or 55, depending on when the employee joined PERA, to receive full benefits. The age requirement changes to 58 for those employed by K-12 schools; for other PERA members, it would rise to age 60 beginning in 2017.

Colorado Education Association lobbyist Karen Wick said a higher retirement age would have negative consequences for school districts because salaries are back-loaded. Districts, she said, are continually replacing older, more costly teachers in order to stay within budget. Some districts currently are offering early retirements to avoid the cash crunch they face.

The most contentious portion of the bill concerns the annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for retirees. Currently, the plan pays a yearly increase of 3.5 percent to retired members. Under the legislation, COLAs would be capped at 2 percent unless PERA experiences a negative investment return. In that case, the retirement association would use an inflation calculation to determine any COLA increases. The bill also calls for a one-year COLA holiday in 2010 to help the fund recover.

About 40 people signed up to testify before the Senate panel. Proponents of the bill — and opponents — expressed reservations about the COLA cuts.

Many said the decrease would hurt lower-wage retirees, especially as costs for other necessities, including health care, rise sharply. Others, including a former assistant attorney general, said the 3.5 percent annual increase in benefits was a contractual right, and that changing it would be illegal.

"It is unconstitutional to cut COLA payments," said Gary Justus, a retired teacher. He and others cited an opinion by former Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar that said benefits could not be legally reduced for vested employees who had begun collecting retirement benefits.

Many witnesses asked the senators to seek legal counsel before final passage of the bill rather than face a court battle afterward.

Sen. Penry and Sen. Shaffer, the bill's sponsors, are requesting that some sections of the bill, including the COLA decrease, become effective immediately upon the governor's signature. Shaffer says the bill must be signed in late February in order to render void the COLA increase that would normally occur in March.

Without the specified decreases in COLA benefits, PERA officials said, the retirement plan could not remain solvent. The plan now is funded at about 70 percent, but PERA and the legislators want the plan to have a 100 percent funded rate.

The bill makes certain allowances if the plan's assets increase. For instance, if PERA is only 90 percent funded, contributions would rise, but if the plan becomes 103 percent funded, contributions would decrease.

PERA has said large payouts and stock market volatility have contributed to the fund's dire condition. The plan pays nearly $3 million each month to retirees, and the market crash in 2008 led to a nearly $30 billion decline in assets.

The retirement plan, a substitute for Social Security, covers about 450,000 employees in five divisions: Denver Public Schools (added this year), local government, judiciary, state (including CU and other higher-education institutions) and school.

According to the plan, solvency would be reached in 30 years. Previously, the association operated on a 60-year amortization plan. To reach that goal, return on investments would change to 8 percent from 8.5 percent.

Also included in the plan:
A provision that would change the way benefits are calculated using the highest average salary (HAS) model. The HAS would be measured over three years with an 8 percent cap on salary changes from year to year. Currently, that cap is at 15 percent. A five-year vesting period for eligibility to receive a 50 percent match upon refund of benefits. A change in working retiree contributions. Currently, retirees who return to work for a PERA employer without suspending retirement are not required to pay member contributions. SB1 specifies that a retiree contribution would be imposed, equal to a member contribution, but the money would not be deposited in the member's contribution account.
Sen. Keith King, R-Colorado Springs, said he was skeptical of the rescue plan. Initially, SB1 called for no COLA increase for two years. King questioned how a one-year timeout, worth about $50 million, still would allow the plan to reach amortization in the scheduled 30 years.

He offered amendments that would allow employees to opt into a defined contribution plan similar to one the state division has in place. He also called for an independent audit of the plan by the state treasurer. The committee defeated both amendments.

King and Sen. Mark Scheffel, R-Parker, voted against SB1. Those voting for the measure were Democrats Paula Sandoval, Michael Johnston and Pat Steadman, all of Denver, Evie Hudak of Westminster and Republican Greg Brophy of Wray.

Higher education flexibility bill launched, but changes likely[2]

The bill aimed at giving higher education institutions greater flexibility in several state-regulated areas has been introduced in the Colorado Senate, beginning a process that's likely to mean changes to the package before being voted on by lawmakers.

Supported by the University of Colorado and the state's other public colleges and universities, the bill is aimed at improving efficiency at institutions by loosening some state-mandated regulations. The flexibility legislation is sponsored by senate majority leader John Morse (D-Colorado Springs) and Rep. Mark Ferrandino (D-Denver); Morse

has invited university leaders to meet later this week to discuss work on the bill.

Among the bill's goals:
Allow higher education institutions to develop their own fiscal rules and policies, apart from some state regulations. Cutting down on bureaucracy would improve efficiency and effectiveness while maintaining the accountability overseen by governing boards and auditing processes. Remove current limits on the number of international students, who now count against non resident caps, who may enroll in colleges. The University of Colorado at Boulder has the smallest international student population of any institution in the American Association of Universities. Without denying spots to in-state students, a greater influx of students from around the world would grow enrollment, diversify the campus experience and boost tuition revenue. Allow universities to determine how they allocate student financial aid money, rather than have it driven by state formulas. Establish that higher education institutions autonomously set their own information technology practices. Establish new standards for transferring college credits from two-year schools to four-year schools, and between four-year schools. Higher education faculty and administrators from two- and four-year institutions have been collaborating to determine transfer requirements for five degree programs by next year, with agreements on more degrees to follow in the future. Give colleges the ability to proceed with cash-funded construction projects more efficiently.
Lawmakers now are in discussions about each aspect of the bill. The CU Faculty and Staff Newsletter will continue to follow its progress throughout the legislative session.

State Senate bill targets shortage of nursing teachers[3]

A bill that would make the existing CollegeInvest nurse teacher loan forgiveness program more attractive to more students has passed its first hurdle in the Colorado Senate. The Senate Education Committee unanimously approved the bill today; it moves on to the Senate Appropriations Committee at a date to be determined.

The University of Colorado is working with CollegeInvest, other higher education institutions, the governor's office and bill sponsors Rep. Sara Gagliardi (D-Arvada) and Sen. Abel Tapia (D-Pueblo) to extend eligibility requirements for the program. Nursing programs at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and the Anschutz Medical Campus could then promote the incentive as a recruiting tool when hiring new faculty.

In the fall of 2009, the state's Legislative Audit Committee determined the existing nurse loan forgiveness program had limited participation, which was blamed partly on overly restrictive eligibility requirements.

The new legislation would only require that a nursing faculty member be teaching half-time, rather than the old requirement of full-time, in order to take advantage of the loan forgiveness. To be eligible, a nursing teacher would need to begin the job within four years of completion of the advanced degree.

The program provides up to $20,000 in loan reimbursement for someone who teaches nursing in a higher-education institution for a minimum of five years. Because salaries for nurse faculty are lower than those offered in hospitals and medical offices, schools find it difficult to fill teaching positions. The lack of teachers exacerbates the nursing shortage.

State lawmakers to recognize CU cancer researchers, doctors[4]

State lawmakers on Friday, Jan. 29, will meet with a delegation of University of Colorado researchers, doctors and top leadership at the Legislature as part of an event focusing on cancer research, treatment, prevention and education at

the Anschutz Medical Campus.

CU President Bruce D. Benson, School of Medicine Dean Richard Krugman, M.D., and several other high-ranking university officials and medical doctors are expected to attend the event organized by Sen. Rollie Heath, D-Boulder.

Heath will recognize Norio Fukami, M.D., the University of Colorado Hospital cancer doctor Heath credits with saving his life last year. Heath also hopes to draw the General Assembly's attention to the high quality of patient care at the hospital and cancer research in the School of Medicine. CU officials plan to meet separately with Heath, Senate President Brandon Shaffer, D-Boulder, and Senate Majority Leader John Morse, D-Colorado Springs, to emphasize the role AMC plays as an economic and tech transfer driver for Colorado — and funding challenges at the campus.

State lawmakers will hear an overview of cancer research and treatments taking place at CU, and will be told about innovative undergraduate programs: one program fast-tracks qualified students into the School of Medicine to respond to a shortage of general practitioners in rural Colorado; another could help boost the number of ethnic minority students going into medicine.

Heath underwent surgery last August to remove a small cancerous tumor from his esophagus. He will introduce Fukami, a University of Colorado Hospital cancer doctor and CU School of Medicine assistant professor of gastroenterology, to lawmakers during ceremonies on the Senate and House floors.

Fellow cancer survivors Rep. Dianne Primavera, D-Broomfield, and Rep. Michael Merrifield, D-Colorado Springs, also plan to recognize CU doctors who played crucial roles in their successful treatments: School of Medicine Professor Emeritus William Robinson, M.D., Professor of Medicine Madeline Kane, M.D., and Professor of Radiation Oncology David Raben, M.D.

Five Questions for Richard Wobbekind[5]

Richard Wobbekind

Thank a man and some gorillas in a cage for pushing Richard Wobbekind to study economics, but thank his parents and mentors for helping him become a voice that thousands of business people listen to every year.

As director of the Business Research Division in the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado at Boulder, Wobbekind and his staff, along with about 80 experts, assemble economic data into a yearly report, theColorado Business Economic Outlook[7]. The forecast for this year, in general, points to a slow recovery, but relatively high unemployment through the third quarter. The annual report was begun by William Baughn, then dean of the CU College of Business, some 45 years ago. Wobbekind has been preparing the report since 1988. So what does our economic future hold, and what about those gorillas?

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. The economic outlook report found that consumers have altered their consumption patterns. Businesses, too, have changed their thinking, asking workers to do more with less. How will this pattern affect the future?

The Great Depression had a profound impact on those who lived through it. It permanently impacted the way people thought. I think this downturn was severe enough that in the future, the financial system will curb the amount of lending it does. Households are getting the sense they have to take a little more control of spending. We went from a 0 percent savings rate (before the downturn) to 8 percent (during the deepest part of the recession). Now we're at 4.6 percent, and I think somewhere in the 3 percent to 4 percent range will be where we end up.

In this downturn, there have been tremendous productivity increases. Businesses want to produce similar outputs but with fewer people. But in certain industries, to continue to provide what is needed, they will have to hire more people. By next year, wage structures will begin to push upward as we see more of a labor force recovery.

2. How did you choose your career path?

I used to like to talk to people about their problems, and I was a leader of sorts in school, and thought if I was going to keep talking, I should become a psychologist. For my undergraduate degree, I entered a psych program. But the psych people were the weirdest people I have ever met in my life. This was back in the '70s. One of my faculty members was living in a cage with gorillas. He would show up to class without showering, so it was like being in the cage, too. I was pretty accepting, but that was a little too strange for me.

I took a "principles of econ" class, and thought it was good, but I didn't do very well. I thought I would try one more class. The faculty was excellent. They intrigued and coaxed me.

I've also had great mentors who helped show the way. I received my Ph.D. in economics from CU. I always try to appreciate mentors like Professor Reuben Zubrow and past Chancellor Russ Nelson. When the sun sets, the people who did the most were my parents, who placed an incredibly high value on education. They were immigrants with little money but did whatever they could do to make sure their children were educated.

3. You have many duties at the university, including teaching. Which do you enjoy most?

I teach in the MBA program and am the associate dean for MBA and enterprise programs in the Leeds School of Business. I enjoy teaching the most. I enjoy helping people understand something that they think is very complex. I enjoy that in public presentations, too, but when you work with a class over the long-term, you can watch the students' thought process evolve over time. They begin to process information in a more meaningful way, and that will help them all through their lives. That's harder to achieve in a short speech.

4. What's the hardest thing about living/working in Boulder? Do you have time for hobbies?

In terms of education, living in a place like this helps the university attract a high-quality student, but you have to keep them totally focused. They've come to a community that has a great work/life balance, but we'd like them to be more aggressive. Businesses expect them to be passionate and hard-working, but those qualities are sometimes hard to coax out of them in this environment.

Personally, I am a product of Chief Niwot's curse. (Legend says that in 1858, a band of Southern Arapahos encountered a party of gold seekers near Boulder and told them to leave. The chief, Niwot, supposedly said: "People seeing the beauty of this valley will want to stay, and their staying will be the undoing of the beauty.") I refuse to leave, and I'm very happy that we stayed. And my children all are very happy that they were raised here. But I'm certain my career would have been better had I left.

My relaxation is working in my yard. I have some organic vegetable gardens and ponds, and my son says, "Your golf is your yard." I enjoy going out for a nice meal and a glass of good red wine.

5. What would you consider the best investment to make in this economy?

Education is the best investment. I strongly believe that you need to be well-educated and adaptable. The country is starting to become bimodal, stratifying society in terms of education and that translates to income. We have a competitive, knowledge-based economy and that isn't good with an undereducated workforce.

Howard Dean, Karl Rove to debate issues[8]

Howard Dean, former Democratic National Committee chairman, and Karl Rove, former senior adviser and deputy chief of staff to former President George W. Bush, will debate current events at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 15, at the University of Colorado at Boulder's Macky Auditorium.

Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. for the event, which will be moderated by CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano. CU-Boulder's student-run Distinguished Speakers Board is sponsoring the event.

Rove and Dean will debate topics including health care and education reform. Questions addressed to both speakers during the debate will be randomly selected from e-mail suggestions sent to the Distinguished Speakers Board at cudsb@colorado.edu[9].

"As a student group funded through the University of Colorado Student Union, we specifically chose Howard Dean and Karl Rove to address timely issues important to CU students such as health care and education reform," said Juliet Kroll, chair of the Distinguished Speakers Board. "This is our first event with two speakers, and we are excited to provide insight from both sides of the political spectrum to encourage discussion and debate, which is central to a university environment."

Ticket information is available at http://castle.colorado.edu/dsb[10]. If the event sells out, a live, free broadcast will be shown in the UMC's Glenn Miller Ballroom. Tickets for the broadcast also will be required and will be available the night of the event at Macky Auditorium or in front of the Glenn Miller Ballroom.

"Our goal is to bring in speakers who will intellectually stimulate the university community and inspire students outside of the classroom," said Taylor Coughlin, secretary of the Distinguished Speakers Board. "Karl Rove and Howard Dean will offer unique perspectives, and we hope the student body and community will be able to absorb a better understanding of each political figure. We hope that guests will walk away from this lively debate with a broader perspective and a newfound appreciation of a different perspective."

Dean served as governor of Vermont from 1991 to 2003 and was chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2005 to 2009. While chairman he created and employed the 50-state strategy with the goal of making Democrats competitive in usually conservative states. A physician with a medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dean also made an unsuccessful run for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination.

A longtime Republican political strategist, Rove is often credited with helping in the successful presidential campaigns of 2004 and 2008. He also is credited with helping guide Bush to a win in the 1994 Texas gubernatorial election. Since leaving the White House in 2007, Rove has worked as a commentator and contributor for several media outlets, including Fox News and the Wall Street Journal. His book "Courage and Consequence" is scheduled for publication in March.

For more information, contact the Distinguished Speakers Board at 303-735-6653 or visithttp://castle.colorado.edu/dsb[10].

State Attorney General to teach criminal justice course[11]

Attorney General John Suthers is teaching a joint undergraduate and graduate course in criminal justice at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs this semester. Suthers is the first person to hold the position of scholar in residence for the UCCS School of Public Affairs.

"I am very pleased that our students will have this exceptional opportunity to learn from an instructor with such depth of experience," Terry Schwartz, associate dean, School of Public Affairs, said. "Attorney General John Suthers' classroom will offer scholarly rigor informed by a wealth of real-world practical understanding."

Suthers will be the primary instructor for a criminal justice class, "Pleas, Trials and Sentences."

The Attorney General's Office has primary authority for the enforcement of consumer protection and antitrust laws, prosecution of criminal appeals and some complex crimes. The office also presents cases to the Statewide Grand Jury, maintains the state's program for training and certifying Colorado peace officers, and defends cases involving Colorado's natural resource, interstate water compacts and environmental matters.

Gov. Bill Owens appointed Suthers as the state's attorney general in 2005; he was elected to a four-year term in November 2006. Suthers previously served as the presidentially appointed U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado and executive director of the Colorado Department of Corrections. He began his legal career as deputy and chief district attorney in Colorado Springs and later headed the Economic Crime Division before being elected to two terms as district attorney for the Fourth Judicial District.

A lifetime Colorado resident, Suthers earned his law degree from the University of Colorado in 1977.Â He is the author of five books including 2008's "No Higher Calling, No Greater Responsibility: A Prosecutor Makes His Case."

"It is my honor to serve as the first scholar in residence for the UCCS School of Public Affairs," Suthers said. "I look forward to providing students with my perspective as a prosecutor and public servant and engaging in vigorous discussions about many of the issues facing Colorado today."

Haiti earthquake echoes at UC Denver[12]

Eight students and a faculty member from the University of Colorado Denver left Haiti only hours before the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that shook the island nation.

Blair Gifford, Ph.D. — associate professor of international health management at the UC Denver Business School and Colorado School of Public Health as well as the founder and associate director of the Center for Global Health — was with eight of his students studying health systems development and management in Haiti from Jan. 2 through Jan. 12. The eight students who accompanied Gifford on the two-week graduate MBA course to Haiti are working toward MBA degrees in health administration at UC Denver's Business School. Many are interested in health management careers in the developing world.

Gifford, one of 10 New Century Fulbright Scholars for the 2009-10 academic year, has been to Haiti numerous other times the past year—and has spent approximately four of the last 10 months on Haitian soil. His primary work emphasizes capacity development of the Haitian health system.

One of his projects entails helping to revive operations at Hospital Ste. Croix, a large referral hospital about 5 miles from the epicenter of the earthquake. It is the largest hospital in the area. Gifford learned the hospital had collapsed, and contact with the people he works with there has been unsuccessful since the quake.

Gifford says he and the students are very fortunate to be back home. But, he adds, "I'm afraid that many of the people that I work with in Haiti may not have survived. Haiti is totally ill-prepared for this as the poorest country in the Western hemisphere."

People in Haiti were facing enormous health challenges even before the Jan. 12 earthquake. Inadequate nutrition and poor sanitation contributed to illness, malnutrition and skin diseases. Among adults, HIV/AIDS continues to be a critical

health issue and malaria is a chronic problem in outlying areas. Also, the health system in the area of the earthquake has been ravaged. There are few health professionals available to help and there are no tertiary care hospitals.

"I've been to third-world countries and have seen poverty before, but the experience we had in Haiti was overpowering," said Adam Brown, MBA Health Administration student at UC Denver's Business School. "The needs are so vast, I was amazed how some could even survive; basic services were intermittent at best while we were there — prior to the earthquake — and we saw 20 to 30 people living in single-room homes stacked one on top of another."

Following news of the earthquake, the UC Denver Office of International Affairs made almost immediate contact with Gifford and learned that he and the students had safely landed in Florida. (Their flight had left Haiti just hours prior to the quake.)

Researchers receive grant to study impact of law on public health practice[13]

As Colorado's public health professionals address the health needs of the state, improving the time it takes to translate research into practice improves the access of vital services to Colorado communities. A new grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is helping a team of researchers do just that. The public health researchers connected with the Colorado School of Public Health is one of 15 groups in the U.S. to receive a $150,000 RWJF Public Health Law Research grant to analyze the impact and use of law in regional and multi-county approaches to local public health service delivery.

RWJF awarded the grant to the Colorado Public Health Practice-Based Research Network, a partnership among Colorado School of Public Health researchers at the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center, the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials, the Public Health Alliance of Colorado and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

This highly competitive grant is the first research project of the network since its funding began in 2009. The research, which will occur over the next 18 months, will examine regional approaches to providing services among county-based public health agencies in an effort to understand the barriers and driving forces of the development and maintenance of these models. Timing of the grant is significant as the public health agencies begin implementation of the Colorado Public Health Act of 2008, and as counties seek to streamline and cooperate to provide services during difficult economic times.

"You shorten the time it takes to translate research into services provided when you ask and research pertinent questions that the community needs answered," said co-principal investigator Julie Marshall, Ph.D., professor of epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health. Marshall and co-principal investigator Lee Thielen, executive director of the alliance and the association, will lead the research team.

Regional approaches to public health service delivery exist in Colorado (such as one county providing Women, Infants and Children health and nutrition programs or environmental services in a nearby county), but there has been no inventory of these arrangements and no examination of the components of the models, their legal structures and the successes and challenges encountered by various approaches. As more public health agencies explore the potential benefits and consequences of regional approaches, a formal examination of existing models will help inform public health professionals, community partners, and local and state decision makers.

The research also will examine Colorado's Public Health Act of 2008 and laws in other states for the impact on regional approaches to public health services. The result will be enhanced knowledge of the statute's impact on delivering public health services at the county level. The basis of this type of practice-based research is to involve those who will use the findings of research in the research process itself.

[Boulder professors recognized with prestigious award][14]

Professors **Margaret Murnane** and **Henry Kapteyn** have won the 2010 Arthur L. Schawlow Prize in Laser Science from the American Physical Society.

The award recognizes Murnane and Kapteyn for "pioneering work in the area of ultrafast laser science, including development of ultrafast optical and coherent soft X-ray sources." Murnane and Kapteyn lead an interdisciplinary research group at CU's Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics, where they develop lasers and X-ray sources for experiments in physics, chemistry, materials science and engineering.

Murnane

Kapteyn

[UCCS alum donates $1 million to name new event center][17]

A new, 1,250-seat event center at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs will bear the name of a family of eight UCCS alums.

James L. "Jim" Gallogly, a 1974 graduate, and his wife, Janet, on behalf of the Gallogly family, have pledged to donate $1 million to the CU Foundation. The donation will be used to help fund the $9 million campus event center that opened this month and for other campus needs. It is the first full UCCS building named in honor of a campus alum.

The Gallogly connection to UCCS began with Jim's father, Tom Gallogly, a nontraditional student who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from UCCS in 1970 and 1973. He died in 2000. Seven children of Tom and Margery Gallogly earned degrees from UCCS.

"I am deeply honored by the commitment of the Gallogly family to this campus and to the UCCS heritage of this dynamic group of people," Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak said. "The event center will stand as a cornerstone of the future growth of UCCS."

"We are pleased to name the new event center in honor of our father, Tom Gallogly, one of the early graduates of UCCS," said Jim Gallogly. "He would be extremely proud of how his alma mater has grown and prospered through the years."

Jim Gallogly is chief executive officer of Houston's LyondellBasell, one of the world's largest polymers, petrochemicals and refining companies. He previously held executive positions with ConocoPhillips, ChevronPhillips and Phillips Petroleum dating to 1980. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from UCCS in 1974 and a law degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1977. He and Janet Gallogly have three daughters, Kelly, Kasey, and Kimberly Gallogly, and maintain a Colorado Springs residence.

A graduate of Wasson High School in Colorado Springs, Jim Gallogly followed in his father's footsteps to UCCS along with six of his siblings: Mary Gallogly DeSantis, 1977; Tony Gallogly, 1983; Nicholas Gallogly, 1985; Andrew Gallogly, 1987; Paul H. Gallogly, 1988; and Thomas Gallogly, 1990. A ceremony unveiling the official name of the event center will occur at a later date.

Located in the heart of campus, the event center is home to the UCCS Mountain Lion athletic teams and serves as a hub for community events and conferences. The center creates space for a growing athletics program and student body at one of the fastest growing universities in the state. It also cements the university's commitment to the broader community with space that will be available for concerts, lectures, meetings and other community needs.

Sweet to guide new initiatives at UCCS[18]

Sweet

Charles "Charlie" Sweet will begin work as the executive director of strategic planning and initiatives. Previously, Sweet served CU for almost 20 years, including 13 years as vice president and university counsel, before retiring in 2007.

In his role, Sweet will be responsible for helping guide new initiatives at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, including developing partnerships and coordinating the efforts of the Southern Colorado Higher Education Consortium, a group of two- and four-year colleges in the region. He also will be responsible for the implementation of a campus-wide compliance program, and will work in the community with Operation 6035, Colorado Springs' economic development initiative.

The 75 percent appointment is an extension of work Sweet conducted for UCCS for the past several months with the law firm of Holme Roberts and Owen. Funding for his previous and future work will come from a private organization donation to the university.

Dropping names ...[20]

Soocher

Walkosz

Barbara Walkosz, a professor of communication at the University of Colorado Denver, and her colleagues have received a Citation Award from the Society of Behavioral Medicine for their research on "Effective Strategies for Disseminating a Workplace Sun Safety Program." The research will be highlighted at the society's annual conference in April in Seattle. ... **Stan Soocher**, associate professor of music and entertainment industry studies at the University of Colorado Denver's College of Arts and Media, spoke in December to the Nashville Bar Association and Copyright Society of the South on entertainment and copyright law in review.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/pera-rescue-plan-moves-forward-capitol[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/higher-education-flexibility-bill-launched-changes-likely[3]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/state-senate-bill-targets-shortage-nursing-teachers[4]
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