Five questions for James White[1]

James White hiking in the Alps.

Humans and ecosystems can adapt to a slowly changing climate, but what happens when these changes happen abruptly? “When it comes to climate change, speed kills,” says James White, a Fellow and Director of INSTAAR (Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research) and a professor of geological sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder.

White headed a panel of the National Research Council of the National Academies (NRC) that recently released a study warning of the impact of sudden variations in the climate, including rising sea levels, extinctions of land and sea animals, and the loss of valuable agricultural land.

“History is littered with examples of relatively sophisticated societies being caught short by sudden changes in precipitation or climate in other ways. Those civilizations had to move or they didn’t make it,” says White, who has spent the past 25 years at CU researching the effects of climate change. He has worked with scientists from around the globe, drilling ice core samples to find details of historic climate issues, and he also examines the Earth’s carbon cycle, determining what happens to the vast amounts of CO2 that get released into the atmosphere.

At INSTAAR, where he has been director for four years, scientists team to study environmental issues such as nitrogen cycling in the tropics, carbon uptake and release by oceans, and the impacts of estuaries and river ecosystems. White calls INSTAAR a “fun place,” where everyone “works across disciplinary lines easily” in a family-like atmosphere. The research institute, the university’s oldest, was founded in 1951, but its mission to communicate issues that affect the environment is never more urgent.

White wasn’t always interested in climate change; he originally wanted to be an oceanographer.

“I wanted to go to a college where I could study oceanography. That’s why I went to Florida State University. Turns out you couldn’t major in oceanography there. When I went to Columbia University, I was still interested and I could become an oceanographer. My adviser lined us all up in the hallway -- he had five students the year I came – alphabetically, I might point out. So White, the last one in line, got a project looking at stable isotopes and tree rings. The guy in front of me, Robbie Toggweiler, became a really excellent oceanographer, by the way.”

His thesis work centered on reconstructing past climates using the chemical composition of trees. From there, he decided to turn his focus to climate change.

“We knew climate change would be an important issue for the future, but at the time, nobody thought there would 400 parts per million CO2 in the atmosphere in 2013,” he says. “Everybody thought we would do something about it before it became a real problem.”

1. The “abrupt change” study was a warning about possible surprise climate changes. Why was this study done now?

The subject of abrupt climate change is relatively new. Some of the first papers on that subject only date back to the late 1980s. When I was a graduate student, the notion of climate change was one of gradually changing systems, responding to slowly changing things like changes in the Earth’s orbit. But we started to find in ocean sediment and ice core research that there have been some really huge changes happening in far less than a human lifetime, and even in less time than it takes to get through college. Imagine enrolling in a Montreal climate and by the time you graduate, it’s more like Miami. That’s the scale of change that has happened frequently in Earth history.

What it tells us is that many of the earth’s systems, including the climate system, are capable of crossing tipping points or thresholds, and then the system goes very rapidly to a new state. In 2002, the National Academy of Sciences commissioned the first report on the subject, and the organization thought it was time to take a look at the subject again. We expanded our concept in this report, understanding that even a slowly changing climate may push some part of our systems into abrupt change. For example, sea level has risen by about 1 foot in the New York area over the last

100 years. We've seen storms and surges, but in Superstorm Sandy, the surge was higher than the height of the entrance to the New York subway system. That has never happened, and that's a tangible example of threshold. Once this threshold is reached, then billions of dollars are at risk.

What's happening is that the climate is changing faster than the systems can be maintained. We are in the midst of one of the largest extinctions, primarily due to human competition with plants and animals around the planet, but it's made even worse by changes in the climate.

What we looked at in our report is where the new sensitive points are. For instance, in some places, the base of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet is thousands of feet below sea level. That's an inherently unstable ice sheet, so when the warming ocean eats away at the ice sheet, sea level could rise much faster than today. Currently, we're looking at 3 feet of sea level rise by the end of the century. Imagine if this was three times faster: 3 feet in 30 years. Then it would be a game-changer.

We're also concerned about ground water. We know from a pair of gravity-measuring satellites that in many parts of the U.S. and around the globe, ground water is being depleted. Ground water is how farmers ride out droughts. Now we recognize this is a sensitive point.

We've called for an early warning system to catalog what is at risk because ignorance is never really bliss. And the cost of such a system is not high relative to what is at stake. We have security systems that watch banks. We're willing to pay for the cost of the system because we know the value of what is in the bank is much higher in value than the security system. Arguably, the environment is the most precious thing we have: It provides us with food, clean water, minerals and energy – everything we need to have a modern society. Think about it: We don't monitor well our most valuable asset, and to compound the problem, we are largely ignorant of what is at risk through climate change.

2. Would it be more prudent to invest in attempting to slow down climate change rather than adjust to possible rapid change?

The reality is that we are changing things on the planet at a very rapid pace. Combine that with the fact that the climate system is capable of rapid changes itself and what you get is a shortened time between when we recognize we have a problem and the time it takes to do something about it.

We haven't responded to what we know is happening. The last time we had 400 parts per million CO_2 in the atmosphere was 3 million to 5 million years ago. It was a different planet then: Sea level was 20 meters higher and that means the state of Delaware doesn't exist anymore. While there's every reason to be smart about what we do to try to mitigate the problems and avoid them in the future, we also have to be smart about adapting and being resilient because that's part of our future as well. What the report calls for is intelligent adaptation and intelligent resilience.

3. What are some of the things you've uncovered in your ice core and carbon cycle research?

White and some of his colleagues celebrate hitting bedrock while drilling the NEEM ice core.

My lab has been affiliated with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) since I've been at CU (1989). Together, we have made some great scientific breakthroughs. One was recognizing and understanding that plants, even though we cut down forests with great gusto, still remove large amounts of CO_2 from the atmosphere. When we burn 4 gallons of gas, 2 gallons' worth of CO_2 stays in the atmosphere and a gallon's worth is taken each by the ocean and trees. That's pretty remarkable and we continue to watch that. But we are nervous about these two removal mechanisms. Plants can't continue this, particularly since we cut down forests. We're also nervous about the ocean. At some point, these mechanisms will decline if not fail. That will mean greenhouse gases will rise even faster than they are today. And we've already talked about how there is not a whole lot of time between when you see a problem and the time you have to react. To further compound the problem, there are large supplies of carbon frozen in the Arctic that will be released as the planet warms. The carbon locked in permafrost equals more than what is found in all coal, oil and gas put together. It's not likely to melt abruptly, but over time, a staggering amount of carbon dioxide will be released.

I've also been involved with a number of ice core studies in Greenland and Antarctica. One called the North Greenland Eemian Ice Drilling project, or NEEM, looks at the last interglacial period 130,000 years ago. It was as warm as it is today and is our most recent analog for where we are going in the future. We were surprised to find that there was quite a bit of ice in Greenland even though the sea level was considerably higher, by about 15 to 20 feet or so. That finding also focuses our attention on West Antarctica as a source of that sea level rise.

The ice sheets we study are 2 and 3 kilometers thick, and it typically takes us three summers to drill to the core. I measure the ratios of stable isotopes (oxygen, and hydrogen). Ice cores are an excellent way to gather information about the Earth's history because ice traps air. It's a great paleo-archive because there is information there that you can't get from other places, say lake or ocean sediments, for instance.

The coolest thing about study at NEEM is that 14 countries are involved. At dinnertime, you sit down with your co-workers and there are 12 different nationalities there. We're all trying to understand our collective future.

4. As a climate change scientist, do you ever feel frustrated by governments' and others' unwillingness to effect change? What can citizens do to help?

It's no secret that climate scientists are frustrated because we know how out-of-whack the climate system is given everything we have at stake. It's frustrating that we don't have leaders who recognize the scale and scope of the problem and the need to take action long before the crisis hits. You can't turn back the clock on sea level rise, for example. Once it gets going, it's like a big freight train. You can't put your foot on the brake and turn this lumbering thing around.

Scientists need to take the idea of interdisciplinarity very seriously, particularly in this area. We need folks who can study the physical workings of the environment and also communicate with social scientists who study how people respond to warnings. We need to put our whole weight and expertise behind this, which is something we didn't know 25 years ago, or if we did know it, we didn't do it very well. We have changed that. Our environment studies program is a model of interdisciplinary education. CU-Boulder is the top university in the world if you want to do environmental research.

As for citizens, I think it's important to recognize that individual actions add up. It may seem that you aren't doing enough by recycling, turning off the lights, buying LED lights, or upgrading to more fuel-efficient cars, but when you multiply that by hundreds of millions – if not billions – of people, then you know it makes a difference. The No. 1 thing to do is educate yourself so you know the problems and where the most effective solutions are. Then you employ those solutions whenever you can. It's also very important to take that concern into the voting booth. If sustainability, climate change, and resilience to climate change is important to you, then find out how candidates feel on the subject and vote based on this. It's important to have people ready to take action and who are willing to follow, but unless you have a leader who wants to lead, then there's no one to follow. That's the frustration we have today. There's no one out there saying, "We need to deal with this and deal with it now. I'm willing to put my political career on the line."

5. What are some activities you enjoy when you're not studying the climate?

I love to garden; there's something therapeutic about pulling weeds out of the ground. You can put little faces on them, and take out your aggressions in a positive way. I love being outdoors. I grew up in east Tennessee and spent lots of my youth hiking the Great Smokey Mountains. I'm a big fan of what nature is capable of and what it has accomplished. I've lived in New York City and in Paris and I'm very aware of what humans have accomplished, but I'm more impressed by what nature can do.

I love to hike, play golf (but not well) and I enjoy the opportunity to hang out with people. Over the last 10 years, I've been asked to speak in public about climate change and I'll go wherever I'm asked. I love to travel. For years my wife was convinced that airplanes didn't belong in the air, but now she flies, so we like to see the world and new and different things.

One of the great benefits of being a scientist, particularly in areas where research is international, is that some of my

best friends are in Europe, New Zealand and Japan, and I can not only go to these wonderful places but also learn about new cultures while I hang out with friends.

Budget boost, capital construction priorities for CU at 2014 Legislature[4]

Colorado lawmakers convened at the Capitol Wednesday for the start of the 2014 legislative session, which is expected to lead to a welcome increase in funding for the University of Colorado and other higher education institutions across the state.

Gov. John Hickenlooper's requested $100 million increase for higher education would mean $60 million in operating funds and $40 million in financial aid. CU's share is expected to be $16.5 million.

The boost would return funding levels to a pre-recession baseline -- without accounting for inflation and enrollment increases in recent years. The governor's proposal[5] would tie the funding to a limit of 6 percent tuition increases in the next fiscal year for institutions.

"I'm encouraged by and appreciative of the governor's efforts to minimize a tuition increase," Board of Regents Chair Michael Carrigan told the Faculty Council in November[6]. "It's one side of the budget sheet. And it would be nice to take a year off from 5 percent to 9 percent tuition increases."

CU's Office of Government Relations[7], led by Vice President Tanya Kelly-Bowry, is at work supporting the governor's budget request while also pursuing funding for CU's top capital construction priorities. This year's agenda also will include bills as requested by the campuses; details will be forthcoming throughout the four-month session.

Carrigan said he also expects CU to monitor the continued effort by the state's community colleges to offer select four-year degrees, pursued for a time during last year's session. He said he believes CU and other four-year institutions should be able to reach a compromise with community colleges on the matter.

This year at the Capitol, Democrats will hold majorities in the Senate (18-17) and House (37-28).

Other issues expected to spur debate and action at the General Assembly include K-12 finance, flood recovery and a revisitation of gun laws passed last year.

Regents to consider CU vision, board self-assessment[8]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents[9] is set to address big-picture issues at its winter retreat beginning Friday, with the agenda including discussion of a strategic vision and goals for CU, as well as a board self-assessment.

The retreat at President Bruce Benson's Silverthorne ranch concludes Saturday.

Work on the strategic vision and goals will be facilitated by Ellen Chaffee, Ph.D.,[10] senior fellow at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges[11] (AGB). She is a past president of Valley City State University and Mayville State University, both part of the North Dakota University System. Chaffee has published five books and dozens of articles in refereed journals, and has served on and consulted with more than 50 governing boards and national organizations in higher education research, health care, allied health and foundations.

The weekend's agenda[12] also includes executive sessions.

The board's next regular meeting is set for Feb. 19-20 at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Five system policy changes take effect this month[13]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) has announced changes to five administrative policy statements (APS) from the areas of academic affairs, fiscal, information technology and human resources.

The changes – four policy revisions and one new policy – were approved by President Bruce Benson and took effect Jan. 1. Also, revisions to APS 1025 Uniform Grading Policy were conditionally approved, pending the outcome of expected campus approvals.

Revised – Effective Jan. 1
APS 1019[14] – Implementation of Regent Policy on Program Review APS 1026[15] – Roles and Responsibilities of Department Chairs APS 4018[16] – Alcoholic Beverages Purchased for University Events APS 6005[17] – IT Security Program
New – Effective Jan. 1
APS 5054[18] – Hiring Retirees to Work in Staff Positions
2 Policies Reviewed, Reformatted – But Not Revised

The following policies were reviewed and reformatted into the new policy template - but did not require any revisions: APS 1007[19]– Misconduct in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities APS 1012[20]– Sponsored Research Policies
Revised – Conditionally Approved – Effective Date To Be Determined
APS 1025[21] – Uniform Grading Policy
For more details on these changes, go to http://www.cu.edu/policies/aps-changes.html[22].

For more information on system policies, go to: http://www.cu.edu/policies[23].

To receive periodic policy updates from the Office of Policy and Efficiency, please email ope@cu.edu[24] and ask to be added to the OPE distribution list.

Successful Mini-STEM School returns[25]

[26]
The popular Mini-STEM School at the University of Colorado Denver returns this spring with the addition of free evening lectures in arts and architecture.

The innovative Mini STEM School[27] and the new Mini-School for Arts & Architecture[28] will be held on the Auraria Campus starting Jan. 28 and continuing through March 20. Both series are free, open to the public and include free parking. Participants are required to register in advance[27], and anyone who attends at least six of the eight lectures will earn a Certificate of Participation. The two-hour sessions begin at 7 p.m. and will include a question-and-answer session.

The CU Denver Graduate School[29] models the Mini-STEM -- courses in science, technology, engineering and

mathematics -- after the CU School of Medicine's highly successful CU Mini Med School[30].

While the topics can be technical, the lectures will be enjoyable and understandable to every interested layperson. Faculty members break away from conventional textbook knowledge and present their lectures in such a way as to spark interest in others.

In the new Mini-School for Arts & Architecture, the diverse lecture topics[31] range from "The Beauty of Silence" and "The Sound of Music" to "The Magic of Architecture" and "Advancing Community Identity Through Historic Preservation."

In the Mini-STEM School, lecture topics cover[32] everything from "Not in Our Genes -- A Different Kind of Inheritance" and "Bioinformatics -- Crunching Numbers to Understand Life" to "The Role of Smart Materials for Biomedical Applications" and "Mining the Mesmerizing Miraculous Mysteries of Mathematics ... for Art!"

Medicaid beneficiaries use emergency services due to lack of alternatives[33]

A study from the University of Colorado School of Medicine shows patients with Medicaid insurance seeking care in an emergency department may be driven by lack of alternatives instead of the severity of their illness. The study[34] is published in the Journal of General Internal Medicine (JGIM).

Researchers, led by Roberta Capp, MD[35], used the 2011 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) to study 4,606 patients and their reasons for seeking emergency care. Researchers classified the patient's reasons into two categories - those who used the emergency department because they felt they needed to get immediate medical care and those who used the emergency department because they had trouble accessing care elsewhere.

They found:
Relative to those with private insurance, adults with Medicaid and Medicare were similarly likely to seek emergency care due to an acuity issue. Adults with Medicaid and those with Medicaid and Medicare (i.e., dual eligible) were more likely than those with private insurance to seek emergency care because of access issues. Reasons for seeking care in an emergency department by health insurance type may be driven more by lack of access to alternate care, rather than by differences in patient-perceived acuity for patients covered by Medicaid insurance.
The study suggests policy makers should focus on increasing timely access to primary care, especially for Medicaid beneficiaries. Improved care coordination between patients and emergency providers is also necessary to reduce emergency department utilization. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, millions of new patients will be enrolled in Medicaid and added to an already overburdened primary care system.

"There is a misconception that patients with Medicaid insurance are more likely to use emergency rooms for a non-urgent issue when compared with those who have private insurance," said Capp. "Medicine is complex and patients, no matter what insurance they have, are not always able to determine what is urgent or not urgent."

Capp goes on to say Medicaid beneficiaries often mention the inability to get a hold of their primary care providers, get a return phone call or a same day appointment when needed.

CU-Boulder flying antibiotic experiment, education project on ants to space station[36]

[37]

Orbital Sciences Corp.'s commercial Cygnus spacecraft, carrying two University of Colorado Boulder payloads to the International Space Station, is set to be launched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia.

The two CU-Boulder payloads -- a biomedical antibiotic experiment and an educational K-12 experiment involving ant behavior in microgravity – were first scheduled to be launched aboard Orbital Sciences Corp.'s Antares rocket earlier this week; the mission was delayed twice, and tentatively rescheduled for this afternoon. Both experiments were designed by BioServe Space Technologies, a NASA-funded center in CU-Boulder's aerospace engineering sciences department.

The CU-Boulder biomedical experiment was designed to test the effectiveness of antibiotics in space. Past experiments by CU-Boulder and other institutions have shown bacterial susceptibility to antibiotics is significantly reduced during spaceflight, although the reason is not yet known, said CU-Boulder associate professor David Klaus, principal investigator on the project.

Klaus said the investigation will examine changes in the gene expression of the bacteria E. coli during exposure to different concentrations of antibiotics while in the microgravity environment of space. The hope is to locate particular genes that are key to resisting antibiotics, which could lead to improved testing on Earth as well as new drug targets or new approaches to understanding antibiotic resistance in certain diseases or infections, Klaus said.

"Previous studies carried out in microgravity have shown that bacteria are able to grow in what normally would be an inhibitory concentration of the antibiotic," Klaus said. "This investigation is aimed at characterizing the genetic basis for this response in the weightless environment of space with the intent of applying any insight gained toward combating the increasing emergence of drug-resistant pathogens here on Earth."

Co-investigators on the project include BioServe Director Louis Stodieck, a research professor in aerospace engineering, and Shawn Levy, a researcher at the HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology in Huntsville, Ala. The research effort also involves CU-Boulder doctoral candidate Luis Zea.

Bacterial resistance to antibiotics kills 100,000 Americans every year and represents a roughly $20 billion expense to the U.S. government in excess health care costs, Klaus said. The experiments will be undertaken using spaceflight test tubes contained in the Commercial Generic Bioprocessing Apparatus, or CGBA, an automated, suitcase-sized incubator, all designed and built by BioServe.

The second experiment launching to ISS is known as Ants in Space, which examines foraging patterns based on the density of the common Pavement Ant, said BioServe Business Development Manager and Education Program Director Stefanie Countryman. "Past experiments by Professor Deborah Gordon, principal investigator on this project, have shown that some ant species have the ability to search areas collectively without individual communication. When ant densities are high, each ant thoroughly searches one small area in a circular, "random" walk, she said. When ant densities are low, each ant searches by walking in a relatively straight line, allowing it to cover more ground.

"Ants assess their own density at the rate at which they meet," said Countryman, adding that the eight individual ant habitats on ISS will be loaded with roughly 100 ants each. "The experiment examines whether in microgravity ants will use the rate at which they meet to assess density, and so use straighter paths in the larger habitat areas. The results will be compared to ground controls, which in this case will include ant habitats in hundreds of K-12 classrooms around the world."

Countryman has previously directed BioServe K-12 education experiments involving the behavior of butterflies, ladybugs and spiders in space, reaching hundreds of thousands of students around the world in the past two decades. For the ant experiments, BioServe is partnering with the Baylor College of Medicine's Center for Education Outreach, a longstanding BioServe partner that has developed the education curriculum guide for the experiment.

BioServe research partners on the ant project include Gordon of Stanford University and Associate Professor Michael Greene of the University of Colorado Denver. The experiment is sponsored by NASA's National Lab Education Office as well as the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, a nonprofit group headquartered in Cape Canaveral,

Fla.

Teachers interested in participating in the ant experiments may contact Countryman at countrym@colorado.edu[38]. More information on the project for teachers and students will be online beginning in mid-January at http://www.bioedonline.org[39].

The flight was the first Cygnus resupply cargo mission launched to ISS by Orbital Sciences Corp. and follows the earlier, successful launch of a Cygnus demo flight to ISS that arrived at the orbiting station Oct. 22.

In the past 25 years, BioServe has designed, built and flown microgravity life science research experiments on more than 40 space missions. BioServe has a full suite of space flight hardware, both on ISS and on the ground, which supports its own research as well as research conducted by its customers and partners. Past BioServe partners include large and small pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies, universities and NASA-funded researchers.

For more information on BioServe visit http://www.colorado.edu/engineering/BioServe/index.html[40].

UCCS, community leaders celebrate City for Champions victory[41]

Shockley-Zalabak

Now the work begins.

UCCS and Colorado Springs community leaders paused briefly last month to celebrate a successful vote by the Colorado Economic Development Commission for the City for Champions project. The celebration quickly turned to building additional support to make the ambitious four-project community revitalization effort a reality.

In a media briefing at the Upper Lodge, UCCS, CU and community leaders cheered the commission's decision to allocate $120.5 million while charting the future for the City for Champions project. City for Champions is an ambitious effort to build a downtown stadium, Olympic museum, a sports and wellness center at UCCS and a visitor's center at the Air Force Academy. The commission's unanimous vote signaled the region's recovery from fires, flooding and recession.

"Today is transformational for the community and the community's university," said Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. "We have shown our determination to recover from some really tough times. We are a city that doesn't quit and is moving forward."

Hybl

CU Regent Kyle Hybl, representing El Pomar Foundation as its chief operating officer, praised the commission's decision and connected the legacy of Spencer Penrose to the commission's vote.

"Today is an exceptional day," Hybl said. "We are taking the strengths the city already has and leveraging them into more, not unlike Spencer Penrose did when he built the Broadmoor Hotel or a road up Pikes Peak. He knew the value of the tourist to our community."

Shockley-Zalabak and Hybl were among the community leaders called to celebrate the unanimous vote. Others included Colorado Springs Mayor Steve Bach, El Paso County Board of Commissioners Chair Dennis Hisey, former Colorado College president Richard Celeste, Doug Price of the Convention and Visitors Bureau, and business leaders Chuck Murphy and Chris Jenkins.

Bach and Hisey emphasized the need to begin mending fences with those who disagreed with the proposal, including the Colorado Springs City Council. The charismatic Murphy simply called the day a “win, win, win” and concluded, “God knows we deserve this.”

For UCCS, approval of the funding means a $13 million jumpstart on plans to build a second building on North Nevada Avenue devoted to sports and wellness medicine. The UCCS Sports Medicine and Performance Center will be adjacent to the new Lane Center for Academic Health Sciences. There, UCCS faculty strengths in research and training, existing faculty ties to USOC and collaboration with the CU School of Medicine will bring new medical expertise and patients to Colorado Springs.

The Sports and Medicine Center would work with Olympic athletes, wounded service members, professional athletes and many others in a clinic-style arrangement.

Next steps

The City for Champions proposal asked the State of Colorado to share 13 percent of the increased sales tax revenue the four projects are expected to generate over 30 years, $120.5 million. But the projects are expected to cost in excess of $250 million.

Now that state incentives are approved, the next step would be for the Colorado Springs City Council and the El Paso County Board of Commissioners to approve financing for the balance of the project. At UCCS, an additional $17 million is needed to construct the UCCS Sports Medicine and Performance Center. Determining the sources of the additional funds will be the subject of considerable discussions and work over the next several months, according to Brian Burnett, senior executive vice chancellor, Administration and Finance.

[44]

Related stories

UCCS, CU leaders make push for City for Champions[45]

CU regents pass resolution supporting Colorado Springs RTA application[46]

Aagaard receives Gee Award; registration open for symposium[47]

[48]
Eva Aagaard, M.D., FACP, has been announced as this year’s recipient of the Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award.

The award recognizes and honors an outstanding University of Colorado faculty member for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching.

Aagaard is assistant dean for Lifelong Learning, director of the Academy of Medical Educators and director of Faculty Development in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Her areas of interest include direct teaching, faculty development, curriculum development and medical education scholarship. She has developed and runs faculty development programs in education within the department, the School of Medicine, the Society of General Internal Medicine and the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences.

She will receive the award and present her scholarly work at next month's CU Women Succeeding, an annual professional development symposium. Registration for the Feb. 28 event[49] on the Anschutz Medical Campus remains open, though space is limited.

Instituted in 1992, 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. The Gee award 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 carries with it a $1,000 prize.

Wallace to lead School of Medicine branch in Colorado Springs[50]

[51]
Erik Wallace, an associate professor of internal medicine at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Tulsa School of Community Medicine, will join the University of Colorado School of Medicine on Jan. 21, 2014, as the associate dean for the new branch in Colorado Springs.

The University of Colorado School of Medicine is establishing a branch in Colorado Springs to train more physicians in Colorado and to provide exceptional patient care throughout the state.

Beginning August 2014, the School of Medicine will increase the number of students enrolled in its M.D. program to 184 from the current 160. When third- and fourth-year clinical training begins, 24 students from each class will conduct their training through the Colorado Springs branch.

"Through collaboration with key stakeholders in Colorado Springs and surrounding communities, the Colorado Springs branch will provide a unique and outstanding experience for education and training of our medical students to become 21st century physician leaders who are committed to serving their communities," said Wallace. "I am honored and thrilled to help lead the development and implementation of the Colorado Springs branch."

In his role as associate dean, Wallace will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate and ongoing support and resources are available to provide medical education programs. He will collaborate with Colorado Springs hospitals, physicians and School of Medicine faculty to recruit physician preceptors in Colorado Springs.

Abdel-Maksoud named director of Global Public Health MPH concentrations[52]

[53]
The Colorado School of Public Health has appointed **Madiha Abdel-Maksoud** director of the Global Public Health Masters of Public Health (MPH) concentrations at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Earlier this fall the school announced the MPH program expansion.. The new global public health MPH allows students to develop an understanding of the global context of various public health concentrations offered on the Anschutz Medical Campus: applied biostatistics; community and behavioral health; environmental and occupational health; epidemiology; health systems, management and policy; and maternal and child health. The new global public health concentrations complement the school's existing and successful MPH in global health and health disparities offered at Colorado State University.

As director of the Global Public Health concentrations, Abdel-Maksoud will collaborate with departmental representatives, oversee curriculum and learning competencies for the global concentrations, interact with prospective students and the public, chair an interdepartmental committee that oversees the multiple global health concentrations,

develop practice based learning opportunities, including practicum and capstone projects, and develop scholarship opportunities in global public health.

Abdel-Maksoud received her M.D. and M.S.P.H. degrees at Tanta University School of Medicine in Egypt, and completed her Ph.D. in Epidemiology at the University of Colorado Denver. She has strong expertise in the field of global public health.

She has participated in two World Health Organization (WHO) programs in Egypt to control diarrhea and dehydration, and to manage acute respiratory infections among children. Abdel-Maksoud taught several graduate and undergraduate global health courses both within and outside CU, and she is a senior investigator at the CSPH Center for Global Health. University of Denver Joseph Korbel School of International Studies.

Darnall receives UCCS Medal of Honor[54]

[55]
Officer **Larry Darnall** recently received the UCCS Medal of Honor for his actions during the Black Forest Fire. The award is given to police officers who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary heroism beyond normal demands, and in such a way that they were fully aware of the imminent threat to their safety.

He was presented the medal at a Dec. 11 Department of Public Safety awards luncheon.

According to Brian McPike, interim chief of police, Darnall was one of seven UCCS police officers to volunteer in assisting local first responders with emergency evacuations, traffic control and security.

While working with El Paso County Sheriff's Office and the Colorado Springs Police Department, the fire breached containment lines, cutting off Darnall and a number of CSPD officers. Darnall was able to evacuate the CSPD officers in his cruiser after the flames consumed the CSPD vehicles.

"He rescued so many people that they had to ride out on the hood of his car," McPike said. "Officer Darnall's actions that day no doubt had a direct impact on many people's lives and property."

McPike said he received multiple calls from individuals thanking him for UCCS PD's participation, including from Pete Carey, police chief, Colorado Springs Police Department, and El Paso County Sheriff Terry Maketa. Darnall was also recognized on television when Colorado Army National Guard Lt. Col. Mitch Utterback thanked him for escorting him through the fire zone.

"I've never been in a situation like that as a cop," McPike said. "If asked, hopefully I'd have the courage to do that. But I can tell you that Larry did it, and we're here to honor those selfless acts in a highly dangerous and volatile situation."

Darnall is the first UCCS police officer to be awarded the Medal of Honor, the department's second highest award.

Others receiving awards were:

Ron Honn, environmental health and safety manager: Employee of the Year, awarded for consistently exceeding expectations in the areas of customer service, quality of work, teamwork and positive attitude.

Grant Lockwood, police sergeant: Craig Highline Award, given to officers for outstanding achievement in the areas of impaired driving enforcement and education. The award honors former UCCS Police Officer Craig Highline who was killed by a drunk driver in October 2008.

Joe Dilwood, police officer, and dispatchers **Larry Gonzalez** and **Phil Brotherton**: Award of Excellence, given for an

individual act of excellence that has been the result of personal initiative and has led to an increase in department morale or efficiency.

Time of service award winners: **Claudia Ryan**, 15 years; **Brian McPike**, interim chief of police, and **GrantLockwood**, police sergeant, Department of Public Safety, 5 years.

Battle honored as a 2013 First Responder[56]

[57]
Cindee Battle, the Emergency Communications and Records Division manager for the Anschutz Medical Campus, was recently honored by the Rotary Club of Aurora for her service as a first responder.

Battle joined a team of five campus police technicians (dispatchers) in 1989 at the then Health Sciences Center on 9th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. Dispatch was located in a multipurpose room with one computer, one radio, one telephone and a camera system that recorded on VCR tapes.

When the campus move to Aurora began, the Police Department had to maintain two dispatch centers -- one for each campus. Battle was promoted to Dispatch Center manager to oversee merging the two dispatch centers until the closure of the Ninth Avenue campus.

In her current role, Battle has developed a Records Section and implemented purging standards that never existed. She became a member of the Colorado Certified Records Network (CCRN) and is active in the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO).

Today, the CU Denver Emergency Communication Center has grown to include six radios including Aurora and Denver Police, Aurora Fire, University of Colorado Hospital security, Children's Hospital Colorado security and the department channels including a campus 911 phone system with ten incoming lines. The dispatch teams also monitor more than 200 cameras and a security system with more than 1,000 alarm points to protect facilities as well as the biological, chemical, and radiological research areas on campus.

"Cindee has been 'the one' who has made all of this happen, ensuring the CU Denver Police Department Emergency Communication Center personnel are trained and prepared to respond to the needs of the 23,000 faculty, staff, students and visitors that are at the campus every week day," said Police Chief Doug Abraham. "This was no small task and the growth continues today. Cindee has been the key to the success of this transition."

"I was humbled to be in a group of so many true heroes," said Battle. "I share my award with those past and present who have made it all possible for me and my division to grow and be successful at what we do."

Business faculty earn research paper award[58]

Czaplewski

Ferguson

Milliman

Andrew Czaplewski, **Jeff Ferguson** and **John Milliman**, professors in the College of Business at CU Denver, recently were notified that they had received the Impact of Research Award in the Literati Network Awards for Excellence from Emerald Publishing.

The professors wrote “Workplace spirituality and employee work attitudes: an exploratory empirical assessment,” which appeared in the Journal of Organizational Management in 2003. Emerald selected eligible papers published at least 5 years prior to judging. The winning article must be considered seminal in the community.

Emerald is a global publisher linking research and practice to the benefit of society. The company manages a portfolio of more than 290 journals and over 2,000 books and book series volumes, as well as providing an extensive range of online products and additional customer resources and services.

Dropping names ...[62]

Dassanowsky

Mäkelä

Tyler

Piatkowski

Marshall

Robert Dassanowsky, professor in the departments of Visual and Performing and Languages and Cultures at CU Denver, was elected to voting membership in the European Film Academy in recognition of significant central European cinema scholarship and film work. The transnational organization presented the European “Academy Awards” Dec. 7 in Berlin. … **Taisto Mäkelä**, associate professor of Architecture and director of Finnish Initiatives at CU Denver, traveled to Piran, Slovenia, to speak at the 31st Piran Days of Architecture Conference, where he also served on the Prianesi Prize Jury that presents the distinguished international Piranesi Award for recent works from Central European architects. Mäkelä also gave a lecture, Architecture and Cultural Identity in Finland, at the University of Ljubljana. … Several CU School of Medicine faculty members attended last month's American Neurological Association (ANA) 138th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La. CU participants **Kenneth Tyler**, **Amy Brooks-Kayal** and **Steven Ringel** also serve as ANA Board members. As part of the conference, Tyler had the opportunity to meet President Bill Clinton (see photo) who delivered the keynote address regarding health care policy. Clinton spoke about the need for Americans to recognize and adopt better systems, particularly when it comes to the administrative costs of health care. He suggested working through the kinks in the Affordable Care Act, reducing health-care overhead, and using some of the money saved to fund critical research. … **Dan Piatkowski,** a Ph.D. candidate in Design and Planning at CU Denver and NSF IGERT Fellow, and **Wesley Marshall**, assistant professor of Civil Engineering, have co-authored the article, "'New' versus 'Old' Urbanism: A comparative analysis of travel behavior in large-scale New Urbanist communities and older, more established neighborhoods in Denver, Colorado." The article was published in” Urban Design International.” … A book launch for “Peace From Within: Community-Based Peace Building in Africa” will be Feb. 25 at Boulder Bookstore. Contributors from CU Boulder are: **Laura DeLuca**, anthropology lecturer and director of

the Global Seminar Tanzania and Global Inquiry Uganda; **Mara Goldman**, assistant professor of geography and faculty research associate with the Environment and Society Program, Institute of Behavioral Science; **Alphonse Keasley**, assistant vice chancellor Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Engagement, faculty in the President's Leadership class, and director of the Global Seminar South Africa; and **Ajume Wingo**, associate professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Values.

RTD to host Northwest Area Mobility Study public meetings[68]

[69]
The Regional Transportation District (RTD) is holding three public meetings to seek input and provide an update on the progress of the Northwest Area Mobility Study.

The study, conducted by a consultant team led by HNTB, began in spring 2013 with the goal of helping RTD and stakeholders in the northwest area agree on a specific set of transit alternatives to bring commuter rail and/or other transit improvements to northwest communities sooner than current projections for when RTD can complete the Northwest Rail Line to Longmont.

Representatives from RTD and local governments will be available for comment. Each meeting will cover the same information.

WESTMINSTER
Wednesday, Jan. 15
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Westminster City Park Rec Center, 10455 Sheridan Blvd.

BOULDER
Thursday, Jan. 16
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Rembrandt Yard, 1301 Spruce St.

LONGMONT
Monday, Jan. 27
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Longmont Civic Center, 350 Kimbark St.

Click here[70] for more information.

My New Weigh offers free info sessions[71]

[72]
Have you tried everything to lose weight, only to regain? Are you ready for a new way?

Discover My New Weigh, medically supervised weight management, available at the CU Denver Anschutz Health and Wellness Center. Specifically designed for those needing to lose at least 30 pounds or those with health issues related to their weight, this effective program is:

medically supervised, includes weekly, small group, lifestyle modification classes and uses a science based, nutritionally balanced meal plan focus is on long-term behavior change
My New Weigh provides you with the tools needed for long term success. Currently classes are held on the Anschutz Medical Campus in the evening and lunch hour. To learn more, please register for a free Information Session at: http://www.anschutzwellness.com/wellness-services/weight-management/my-new-weigh[73]
Noon Tuesday, Jan. 28 5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29
For more information, email wellnessclinic@anschutzwellness.com[74] or call 303-724-9088.

State of Slim Campus Challenge begins this month[75]

Join your colleagues for the State of Slim Challenge and have an opportunity to win at least $2,500.

The Campus Challenge features the Colorado Diet, an effective and proven way to reignite, rebuild and reinforce your body's fat-burning engines so you develop a mile-high metabolism.

The challenge is only available to all Anschutz Medical Campus entities and all CU employees/students, and runs Jan. 27-May 18.

How the 16-week State of Slim Challenge works:
If you are an Anschutz Medical Campus or CU employee, simply register by calling 303-724-9030 or 303-724-9355 (WELL), or in person at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center (AHWC) or designated weigh-in locations and times which can be found at: www.anschutzwellness.com/challenge[76]. You will be eligible to win a minimum of $2,500, maximum of $5,000 per person. Criteria to win includes: percentage of body weight loss, an "after" photo and a submitted essay on your transformation. Restrictions apply; there will be one male and one female winner announced after the completion of the program. Prize money is taxable.
Program includes:
A "State of Slim" book by James O. Hill, Ph.D., and Holly R. Wyatt, M.D., to guide you through the 16-week Colorado Diet program. Weigh-ins and "before" photos will be taken Jan. 10-24 at AHWC, and on designated days (dates and times available at www.anschutzwellness.com/challenge[76]) at CU, Children's Hospital Colorado and University of Colorado Hospital. Five group educational lectures by Hill, Wyatt and other experts from AHWC (5:30 p.m – 6:30pm at Hensel Phelps). See schedule at www.anschutzwellness.com/challenge[76]. Three Q&A sessions with Wyatt and Hill, where optional weigh-ins will take place at Hensel Phelps. Two State of Slim Phase I and II cooking demonstrations, 5:30 p.m. Feb. 4 and March 11. Ask the State of Slim specialists from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Wednesdays in January at Anschutz Health and Wellness Center "After" photos and final weigh-ins in May Webpage for tips, suggestions and support networking
Entry fee is $99; fitness membership available as an add-on: Join for $20.14 and pay no dues until February.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-james-white[2] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-whitetoppng[3] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-whitecelebrationpng[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/budget-boost-capital-construction-priorities-cu-2014-legislature[5] http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/GovHickenlooper/CBON/1251647631595[6] https://connections.cu.edu/news/carrigan-regents-want-improved-lines-of-communication[7] http://www.cu.edu/governmentrelations[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-consider-cu-vision-board-self-assessment[9] https://www.cu.edu/regents/[10] http://agb.org/bios/ellen-chaffee[11] http://agb.org/[12]

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