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Five questions for Stephen Ludwig[1]

Ludwig in his commencement regalia as a member of the Board of Regents.

The upcoming COLTT (Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology) Conference promises dozens of presentations and workshops from professionals with credentials in academia and scientific applications. Someone participating in the intersection of those worlds at CU is Regent Stephen Ludwig, who will give the keynote at COLTT, set for Aug. 7 and 8 on the University of Colorado Boulder campus.

A Denver Democrat in an at-large seat, <u>Ludwig has served on the board since 2007</u>[3]. He led the effort for a new guaranteed admissions program across CU, and served as vice chair of the Board of Regents in 2010-11. He began serving his second six-year term in January after re-election last fall; that campaign took him to all 64 counties in the state over a 10-day span.

Ludwig is global marketing and communications manager at CH2M HILL, a Fortune 500 engineering and construction company headquartered in Englewood. "We have \$6.4 billion in annual revenue and about 28,000 people across the globe," he said. "I'm the global marketing and communications manager for a 6,000 person business unit with \$1 billion in revenue. I deal with people in Abu Dhabi, India, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Alaska, Canada, Russia."

A graduate of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, he also has worked as a journalist; now, as a regent, it's not uncommon for him to be on the other side of the microphone or notebook. "I have a great respect for journalists. While I might not always agree with their story angle, I understand that they're doing their job," Ludwig said. "I wish there were more journalists covering higher education because it's so important to the state."

When he's not busy with career or board responsibilities, Ludwig enjoys reading and road biking. He's also a big fan of "Doctor Who," the British sci-fi character surrounded by technology.
[4]

Register now for COLTT 2013

Registration is open for the 16th Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology (COLTT) Conference, Aug. 7 and 8 on the CU-Boulder campus. Web registration will be available until 11:59 p.m. Wednesday at https://cucs.colorado.edu/

<u>confreg/coltt-2013</u>[5]; on-site registration will be available at the conference.

COLTT 2013 offers an impressive array of engaging and innovative presentations on teaching and learning with technology. Topics include: "The Classroom Movie Mogul: Practical Uses of Camtasia Software," "Hybrid Courses: Google+ for Mobile, Socially Networked Learning Beyond the Classroom," "The Digital Dossier: Combining Effective Digital Pedagogy and Scholarship" and "Acrobat Hands-on: I Didn't Know Adobe Could That!" See the list of sessions and descriptions on the conference wiki[6].

Eligible participants may request registration fees to be covered by CU Boulder's Arts and Sciences Support of Education Through Technology (ASSETT) or the Graduate School; <u>click here for information[7]</u>. For others who are seeking financial support for registration, including the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), please send an email to <u>iill.lester@colorado.edu[8]</u>.

For more information regarding the conference, please review the COLTT 2013 website at: www.cu.edu/coltt[9] or contact Jill Lester, COLTT Conference Coordinator, at iill.lester@colorado.edu[8].

1. What are some of the challenges and benefits you experience from working with technology in your career and in your role as a regent?

The challenge for a guy like me – I'm 45, I'll be 46 in September – is my professional life started at that transition stage from right before technology became as prevalent as it is today. I still struggle with getting beyond basic functionality of highly sophisticated software. Or even Microsoft Outlook. I've been using it for 20 years and I'm still figuring out functionality on the thing.

As for benefits, the board started doing some video conferencing over iPads. It's highly efficient, a way to save money and we still get some of the interpersonal contact. There's a way we can use technology to help us save time and money, but not lose the human touch.

When I look at the university, there are pockets of excellence in how we are figuring out how to deliver online content successfully. That has a huge implication for the university, but also for the state and our students. UCCS recently started offering four degrees where you can take the first two years at a community college in southern Colorado and the last two years at UCCS via Cisco Telepresence[10]. If you've ever seen that technology, after awhile you forget you're not in the classroom with the professor and other students.

2. CU-Boulder will have its first MOOCs launching this fall. The board has actively been involved with the development of CU's systemwide relationship with Coursera. How do you see this technology evolving, and what might that mean for CU?

When Kathleen Bollard, our vice president for academic affairs and research, gave a presentation on MOOCs to the board, I felt like I owned a railroad and I just saw a jet airplane take off for the first time. If you look at the newspaper business, the book business, and other industries, they were certain they would never be disrupted, because they had a long and proud history. People who were comfortable got caught off guard by technology. It had really amazing consequences, good and bad.

In higher education, I would suggest that we don't know what impact MOOCs and other technological advances are going to have. But if we assume that we can continue to operate the way we've always operated because we're comfortable, then we will be in a world of hurt.

One of the things I'm concerned about, and I'll bring this up at COLTT, is that we confuse tradition with mission. Our mission is to be public educators, to generate and transmit knowledge in an effort to serve others. And we have to take advantage of every way that we can to do that effectively.

The skill set to get your Ph.D. is very specific. You have to be passionate about your subject, otherwise you would not survive graduate school. To become a tenured professor takes another skill set – tenacity, brilliance, a mastery of language that is highly specified and mastery of incredibly complex details – that we're very thankful for. Is it fair for me to assume that you're going to be able to take all that and translate it into something consumable online? Am I asking a race car driver to fly a jet airplane? So I wouldn't be surprised if someday in the near future we have assigned to professors, instead of a graduate assistant teacher, a graduate assistant content delivery expert.

3. How has your second term on the Board of Regents differed from your first?

[11]

There's a shorthand that I have available now after six and a half years, meaning I understand our processes far better, our budgeting process, the players, the missions, the unique roles of each campus. And so that helps get through things more quickly.

We have a few very, very large issues and a lot of small ones. I've learned to let the smaller ones go and try to focus on the really big issues. No. 1, of course, is funding. More specifically, funding and structure. This isn't limited to the University of Colorado. The costs of higher education are growing exponentially, so if we simply were to throw a little more money at it, I still don't think we'd be able to keep tuition affordable and meet public demand. How do we do what we do smarter without losing what's best about our enterprise, or higher education in general? It's a tricky balance and a hard conversation.

4. What are some of the ways you interact with CU faculty and staff members?

I'm always surprised at how little I hear from faculty and staff. They were almost silent during my re-election campaign. As regents, we hear from faculty, staff and student governance groups. Other than the professors I have relationships with, or have developed relationships with, I don't hear a word.

I have some assumptions about why that is. There are two roles for a regent: One, I'm on the board of directors for an institution; two, I'm an elected official. Is it appropriate for someone to contact a member of a board of directors for an organization directly? Maybe not. However, it's always appropriate for someone to contact an elected official. So there's that tension there.

I'm working with a group of faculty including folks from UCCS and CU Denver on a symposium for 100 faculty from public two-year and four-year schools all over Colorado. We're putting on a daylong event, probably in the spring of 2014. The first half of the day, we want to ask, what incentives or structures do you need to increase cooperation among the faculty across institutions? The second half of the day is, if you could create a higher education system from scratch to serve Colorado today, what characteristics would it have? Out of that discussion, the hope is that a working group will carry those ideas forward to university administrators, presidents, the Department of Higher Education and lawmakers.

Our partner is the Public Education Business Coalition, which is a nonprofit. It's not a CU event, so why is a CU regent doing it? Well, I'm a public servant. This is a conversation we need to have. If we engage faculty, we might come up with some really new, interesting ideas – things we haven't thought of. What would it take for a professor from UCCS to work with a professor from UNC? Or someone from Colorado Mountain College to work with someone from CU-Boulder? There are pockets of great examples, but not a lot of them.

5. What's your best memory of being a student at UCCS?

Stephen Ludwig delivers a commencement speech at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in May 1992, a year before his own graduation from the university. (Courtesy Stephen Ludwig)

Graduation day. I never thought I was going to graduate from college. I was almost 26; it took me nine years of life. On May 21, 1993, when they called my name, I had this huge adrenaline rush. It really was the happiest day of my life. It was such a powerful experience. That's one of the reasons why I'm on the board – I want other people to get what I have gotten.

And it's really a joy for me that my faculty thesis adviser and other professors of mine are still on faculty – Chancellor Shockley was a professor of mine. It's also an honor to be the first UCCS graduate to serve on the Board of Regents.

Benson: Cronin a 'dynamic leader' for CU fundraising operations[13]

Kelly Cronin (Photo courtesy Texas Tech University System)

Kelly Cronin's career in fundraising began by accident. While working as a schoolteacher, she answered an ad for a director of development position for a parochial school in El Paso, Texas, thinking the position was focused on child development.

When the hiring authority began asking her questions about fundraising, she replied, "One of us is in the wrong interview."

It turns out she was in the right place after all, and was hired for the fundraising job. It launched her into a career she

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came to excel at and love. The next chapter in her career will be at the University of Colorado. CU President Bruce Benson on Wednesday <u>named Cronin vice president for advancement.</u>[15] She will oversee CU's fundraising operations and help facilitate the ongoing transition of CU Foundation fundraisers and support staff to the university. She begins her duties Sept. 1.

"Kelly is a dynamic leader with great experience and an impressive track record of fundraising success," Benson said. "She is going to help our university build on our fundraising success and allow us to attract private support at a level comparable to the top public universities in the country."

Cronin has been vice chancellor of institutional advancement and chief executive officer of the Texas Tech Foundation Inc. since 2007. She has worked at the university in fundraising for the past decade. Under her leadership, contributions to the Texas Tech system doubled, from \$74 million in 2006 to more than \$150 million in 2011. She led Texas Tech's systemwide \$1 billion capital campaign, which concluded a year ahead of schedule. She was also responsible for solicitations that resulted in more than \$200 million in recorded gifts, including a cash gift of \$50 million from one donor.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to join the team at the University of Colorado. It's a great institution with world-class people and programs, and it is well-positioned to move to the next level in private support," Cronin said.

She met with several CU constituents in recent days and weeks, including members of the Board of Regents, leadership on the four campuses, faculty and staff leadership, fundraising staff and volunteer fundraising leadership, and the president's executive staff. Benson said he interviewed four finalists for the position, but Cronin emerged as the clear choice.

"She fully understands fundraising and that we have to raise the bar at CU," he said. "I have received unanimously strong support from all the CU groups she has met with, as well as strong endorsement from those she worked for and with at Texas Tech."

Fueled with CU science, MAVEN ready for cross-country trip[16]

MAVEN awaits its trip to Florida -- and later this year, Mars -- at Lockheed Martin in Jefferson County. (Photos: Jay Dedrick/University of Colorado)

Bruce Jakosky's eyes widened.

"It just gave me goosebumps to see it sitting here, ready to go to Mars," he said.

"It" is MAVEN, the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution MissioN, a spacecraft whose science is being driven by the University of Colorado Boulder, specifically its Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP[18]). About the size of a school bus, MAVEN sat behind glass in a large holding area at Jefferson County's Lockheed Martin Space Systems[19], where representatives from that company, CU and NASA[20] gathered last week to meet with media in anticipation of the craft's pending delivery to Florida.

Jakosky – a professor of geological sciences, LASP faculty research associate and director of the Center for Astrobiology – is MAVEN's principal investigator. And while he's aware the dollar figure attached to MAVEN brings it plenty of attention – the \$670 million total flowing to the mission's partners represents the single largest research contract in CU-Boulder history – he is quick to cite numbers that speak to the human connection at the university.

"We have four professors working on this. These are teaching faculty who will take this (experience) back into the

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classroom," Jakosky said. CU-Boulder also counts 15 Ph.D. scientists at LASP working on MAVEN with support from 120 students at LASP and 120 professional engineers and operations staff members.

"So CU has significant involvement in this mission," Jakosky said.

After the July 15 media event, MAVEN underwent a final review by industry experts to ensure the craft is ready for its journey to Cape Canaveral on Aug. 2. It will be trucked to Buckley Air Force Base then loaded onto a C-17 military transport aircraft, which will fly it to Florida.

An Atlas V rocket, built by Centennial's United Launch Alliance, will carry MAVEN into space sometime from mid-November to early December. The trip to Mars will take about 10 months.

Once MAVEN is orbiting the red planet, the mission's science activity will take place at LASP.

"Mars was once a very happening place," said John Grunsfeld, associate administrator with the NASA Science Mission Directorate. "One of those mysteries of the universe is how Mars lost its atmosphere."

As the first mission designed to understand the upper atmosphere of Mars, MAVEN will help work on that riddle. Scientists want to know what role the loss of atmospheric gas to space played in changing the planet's climate.

The craft carries a telecom unit and eight science payloads, most provided by the University of California at Berkeley Space Sciences Laboratory. Oversized holding areas at Lockheed Martin housed MAVEN while it was put through the rigors of simulated space travel. In one space, sound waves louder than a jet engine blasted the craft to replicate launch. A vibration table vigorously shook MAVEN in another room. In yet another area, compared to a giant thermos, liquid nitrogen was pumped in to create the cold conditions of space, followed by heat lamps simulating sunshine.

"This is what you dream about as a kid – exploring another planet," said Guy Beutelschies, MAVEN spacecraft program manager at Lockheed Martin and a CU alumnus.

The data that MAVEN aims to collect is a boon to science. Its high-profile mission also bodes well for future research at CU.

"The success of a project like this attracts more projects," Jakosky said.

Bruce Jakosky

MAVEN

[23]

Rep. Ed Perlmutter, center, listens while Lockheed Martin's Mike Mucilli, left, and Chet Graham discuss their work on MAVEN at the Jefferson County facility.

MAVEN

Consultant: Funding climate demands fresh look at academic priorities[26]

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Unprecedented challenges, most notably funding declines, facing higher education in Colorado and beyond make it necessary for institutions to set academic priorities and identify internal resources to meet them, the University of Colorado Board of Regents heard last week.

Robert Dickeson, president emeritus of the University of Northern Colorado and co-founder of the Lumina Foundation for Education, conducted a July 18 workshop on academic priority setting at the board's retreat at President Bruce Benson's ranch near Silverthorne. Dickeson is author of "Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services."

He walked the board through an extensive process for program prioritization, which includes administrative programs. It is based on the premise that there will not be new money, so reallocation of resources is necessary, though the process is complicated and requires buy-in throughout the organization. He said institutions he works with typically have significant budgetary or accreditation issues, which is not the case at CU.

"This is a great university and you have so many great things going on, but you want to get better," Dickeson said. "Reallocation is necessary – it's the most likely source of funds.

"You want to conduct a process that helps you achieve your strategic directions. That's going to take resources and you need to identify those resources."

The process differs from the current program review process in the criteria that is used and the potential for reallocation of resources. Programs also must be reviewed all at the same time rather than in staggered fashion, he said.

"We have to look at all programs simultaneously because we all feed at the budget trough simultaneously," Dickeson said.

After the presentation, the regents had an extensive discussion with the president and chancellors about next steps. The board asked university leadership to begin discussions on the campuses about how CU would go about a thorough review of academic programs to ensure resources are aligned with priorities and strategic directions. Leadership will discuss the issue on campuses and report back to the board in September.

Benson said it is critical that the process not be a top-down one.

"You've got to work it from the campuses working up, not from the board and administration down," he said.

CU Denver Chancellor Don Elliman said the exercise would also be an opportunity to take a broader look at issues affecting academics.

"If we're going to review all the programs, we should also review policies," Elliman said. "We need to ask academic leadership and faculty how to go about it all. There's a sense we're not as good at setting our academic priorities as we should be, so the question is, how do we go about it?"

CU Anschutz Medical Campus Executive Vice Chancellor Lilly Marks said the campus's unique mix of professional programs may not fit with a proscribed effort.

"Our priority is interprofessional education, not new programs," she said. "Our programs have a different delivery method."

Move. member makes difficult lifestyle changes, reaps rewards[27]

Tamara Crandall in March 2012, left, and December 2012, after making significant changes to diet and exercise.

Join

Be Colorado Move. today

Join hundreds of CU employees who are earning \$25 a month for meeting fitness requirements by signing up for Be Colorado Move. It's easy: Simply follow the <u>app download and registration instructions</u>[29], complete an <u>online health assessment</u>[30] and start moving to earn your rewards.

If you meet the fitness requirements, you'll receive your incentive in your paycheck quarterly.

Current Move. members: Look for the rewards you earned from April to June in your Aug. 31 paycheck. Learn more by visiting www.becolorado.org[31].

Since losing about a third of her body weight, Tamara Crandall has become somewhat of an authority on the best stairstepping spots in downtown Denver.

She can tell you, for instance, that you'll climb two flights of stairs after disembarking from a bus at Market Street Station. For Crandall's money, the best stairwells live inside the Wells Fargo Center, not far from CU system offices at 1800 Grant St., where she's a professional benefits counselor with Employee Services.

Getting to this point — climbing an average of 15 to 25 flights of stairs each day and controlling her diet — was arduous. Crandall's journey started almost two years ago, when she decided to take advantage of an October 2011 health assessment screening covered by Be Colorado, the wellness component of her health plan.

The results, though not shocking to Crandall, delivered a swift dose of reality.

"I weighed over 300 pounds, and I'm only 5'2"," Crandall says. "I had a (Body Mass Index) of over 50."

Other health risks followed: High blood pressure. Edema. Swelling of the feet. High risk of diabetes.

That last factor — the threat of a diabetes diagnosis — terrified Crandall. She scheduled doctor's appointments and, after months of medical consultations and presentations, made the life-changing decision to undergo bariatric surgery.

"I think it's a big misconception, truly, about bariatric surgery: 'This person's taking the easy way out.' It really wasn't the easy way out," she says. "(I) really messed with (my) anatomy."

Crandall says the surgery essentially condensed her once-accommodating stomach to a 1-ounce pouch. For a woman who had an unabashed love of eating, reducing food portions was extremely challenging.

"It's a head game," says Crandall, who was more enthusiastic about the fitness component of her new lifestyle than the dietary one. "At first, I was very unhappy, I have to say ... for the first month or so."

Crandall re-learned how to eat. The surgery limited her to eating about 1 ounce of food at a time. She started slowly, with protein shakes in the morning, small snacks throughout her day and light lunches and dinners.

Over time, her stomach has expanded to accommodate about 4 ounces to 6 ounces of food at each mealtime. She meets her nutritional needs within these limitations by eating multiple small portions throughout the day.

Lean meats, dairy, nuts and soy make up about 75 percent of her daily diet, while carbohydrates, vegetables and whole grains round out the rest. Because Crandall's body does not properly digest or sufficiently absorb such nutrients as B12 and calcium since the surgery, she takes supplements to ensure she's fulfilling her needs.

"I really eat many things I did in the past but in very limited portions, and I can have a higher quality meat like a filet, for example, because I am splitting it with my spouse and eating only about 3 to 4 ounces at a meal," Crandall says. "So to me, it is quality and less quantity for the rest of my life."

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While changing her diet, she also discovered how increased movement was making her feel better — physically and mentally. Just three months after her surgery, as a Mother's Day gift to herself, Crandall bought a Fitbit to measure her activity and promptly joined Be Colorado Move. She's been climbing stairs ever since.

More than a year later, she has walked more than 750 miles and climbed more than 4,000 flights of stairs — the equivalent of summiting Mount Everest.

In February, as Crandall went online to the Be Colorado forum to share news of her climbing goals, she attributed her motivation to the Fitbit, a tiny device that provides instant gratification, rewards and updates. She still believes in the power of the tracker, but with time, she's come to realize that she's ultimately responsible to herself.

"This is just a tool; it's up to me to move my body and eat right," she says. "I don't want to be where I was."

George, Papa named legal counsel[32]

George

Papa

Jennifer George and Julie Papa, lawyers with extensive legal experience in employment and finance, have been chosen to share duties as legal counsel for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Each fill 60 percent appointments as members of the CU legal team assigned to UCCS.

Their appointments were announced by Patrick O'Rourke, vice president, university counsel and secretary to the CU Board of Regents.

George and Papa began work for the university July 8.

"Jennifer George and Julie Papa bring extensive legal experience and strong community ties to UCCS," said Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. "I look forward to working closely with them."

George brings to UCCS a 20-year career as a lawyer, business owner and consultant. She practiced employment and labor law with the international law firm Littler Mendelson, regional law firm Sherman & Howard, operated a human resources consulting practice, and co-owned a company that investigated workplace misconduct, conducted employment practices training, developed corporate and personnel policies and manuals.

In 2012, she was a candidate for the Colorado House of Representatives. She is a member of the board of directors for Discover Goodwill of Southern and Western Colorado and previously held positions with the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Board of Trustees and the Junior League of Colorado Springs.

She earned a law degree with honors from the University of Texas, Austin, and a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University.

Papa brings more than a decade of legal experience advising companies and investors on corporate finance transactions and general business matters, including six years as an associate of the Cooley international law firm headquartered in Palo Alto, Calif. Before her work at Cooley, Papa was an associate at Andrews & Kurth where she represented issuers and investment banks in public and private offerings of debt and equity securities and represented

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commercial real estate clients in acquisition, disposition and leasing transactions. Throughout her legal career, she has counseled start-up companies. Previously, Papa served as an intelligence research specialist at the Central Intelligence Agency in McLean, Va.

In 2012, Papa managed George's campaign for the Colorado State House of Representatives. She also is a school volunteer and assists nonprofit organizations through the National Charity League's Colorado Springs Chapter.

She earned bachelor's and law degrees from Georgetown University.

Rick George named athletic director [35]
Rick George
(Courtesy photo, Texas Rangers)
Rick George(Courtesy photo, Texas Rangers)

Note: This first appeared July 17 as a breaking news item on CU Connections.

University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano today named Rick George as director of intercollegiate athletics at CU-Boulder, effective Aug. 12.

George currently serves as president of business operations for Major League Baseball's Texas Rangers and has spent more than three decades as a sports executive in the collegiate and professional ranks, including a stint as assistant athletic director for football operations for CU from 1987-91.

"I am delighted that Rick has accepted our offer to lead our athletic department," DiStefano said. "Rick's financial and management acumen, his networking and relationship development skills, and his enthusiasm, work ethic and principled leadership all make him the ideal leader for CU athletics at this important and challenging moment in our history."

George said he was delighted to be returning to the campus that played a key role in shaping his career.

"I am honored to be selected as director of intercollegiate athletics at CU-Boulder," George said. "CU is a special place for my family and me, and this is a marvelous opportunity at a great university in the best collegiate athletic conference in the country. I am looking forward to getting back to CU to begin working at this great institution."

George has served as COO of the Rangers since 2010 and recently as the president of business operations, and was a member of the front office staff for the team's first-ever American League championship that year and its second in 2011. Before that, he served as executive vice president and chief of operations for the PGA TOUR from June 2008 until joining the Rangers. While with the TOUR, he worked with the corporate marketing department in renewing sponsorships and creating new events. He also oversaw the Tournament Business Affairs division that worked with Tournaments to increase tournament revenue.

He also worked for the PGA TOUR as president of the Champions Tour from 2003-2008, where he increased revenues and sponsorships. From 1998-2003, George served as President and CEO of the Fore!Kids Foundation, a 501c3 organization that raised money for children's charities via golf-related events, where he led re-branding and organizational efforts that resulted in increases in charitable giving to the Foundation.

At the collegiate level, George has worked in three major conferences (Big Ten, Big Eight, Southeastern) in football operations, beginning with the University of Illinois (where he was a four-year starter in football and a 1982 graduate) as football recruiting coordinator (1983-87).

At CU (1987-91) he served as assistant athletic director for football operations and is credited with building the talent base that made the Buffaloes one of the most successful college programs in America throughout the 1990s. At Vanderbilt University (1991-98), he also served as associate athletic director for external operations.

CU Interim Athletic Director Ceal Barry, who chaired the athletic director search committee, said George's wide experience in managing finances, overseeing revenue growth and leading fundraising, capped off by his personal reputation and past record of success at CU-Boulder and at two other major universities, all combined to make him the clear frontrunner in the search.

"Rick is the complete package," Barry said. "He brings the kind of broad-based experience in athletics financial and operational management that CU needs at present, but also the vision we need to attract new donors, fans and partners. I'm looking forward to working with him again, and I am as excited as I've been in a long time about the future of intercollegiate athletics at CU-Boulder."

George and the chancellor agreed to a five-year contract, pending approval of the Board of Regents, which is expected to convene on the matter early next month. George will report to DiStefano through the offices of Senior Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer Kelly Fox. As athletic director, he will also serve on the Chancellor's Executive Committee, the consulting body that advises the chancellor and his administration on key internal and external matters, and that reviews and provides input on CU-Boulder's programs, procedures and plans.

Guatemala is 'alternative' destination for students' service project[37]

[38]

QUETZALTENANGO, Guatemala – Shortly after the spring semester ended, a group of 15 CU Denver undergraduate students and four staff members headed to Guatemala for the first international Alternative Break.

"The goal of our <u>Alternative Breaks</u>[39] is to get students out of their comfort zones and work with issues concerning social justice and cultural immersion," said Susanne Lederer, Office of Student Life. "Previous alternative breaks at U.S. locations have focused on issues such as homelessness, education, public health, poverty, rebuilding and sustainability."

The latest group spent most its time in Quetzaltenango – Guatemala's second-largest city, located at 7,600 feet about three hours from the capitol city. Students participated in three service projects coordinated from there and the language school -- about an eight-minute walk from the hostel where they were staying.

The projects that students worked on included: teaching English at a school in Zunil; reforestation in <u>Paxtuca with ProJuve</u>[40], where 1,000 trees were planted in two days; and building stoves with <u>Asociacion de Mujeres del Altiplano (AMA)</u>[41], for which students were split into groups of three to build six stoves in two days.

As their time there neared an end, the group headed to Antigua. "We stopped in Santa Lucia, where we were invited by two Mayan elders to attend a Mayan Fire Ceremony," Lederer said. "This was a very special invitation and we felt very honored to attend this event; Don Federico and Faviana travel to educate people on Mayan issues and traditions and to show that Mayans still exist."

Reflecting on the trip, one student wrote, "This trip was truly humbling and an experience that I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

Lederer noted that CU Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus already had some established ties in Guatemala. There is a study abroad trip as well as students from the medical campus going to take medical Spanish lessons.

Lederer also credits the overall success of the trip to staff from different campus departments coming together. "The

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Alternative Break trip was facilitated with help from John Sunnygard (Global Education) and Joe Halter (Studentlife), who originally started working on this together with Nelson Rodriguez (who really shaped this trip by communicating extensively with our liaison in Quetzaltenango). Also, Kyle Danforth from academic advising and Meghan from the Office of Global Education were such valuable staff members as they were able to share resources with the students and educate them on existing programs that would add to their learning experience at CU Denver.

"Hopefully we can continue this program and increase our work with the communities in Guatemala who have been so generous and welcoming," Lederer added. "We highly encourage any student to participate in our Alternative Break program."

CU raises \$258.8 million in 2012-13, a record for private support[42]

A University of Colorado Eye Center preparing to double its patient capacity at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. An unprecedented endowment for a jazz studies program on the Boulder campus. A research and clinical hub for veterans coping with trauma-induced mental health issues on the Colorado Springs campus. An endowed lecture series at the Denver campus that will narrow the gap between high-tech advances and the public's understanding of them.

These are among the roughly 2,500 programs that nearly 50,000 individuals, foundations and corporations supported this past year at the University of Colorado — which benefited from more than a quarter billion dollars in private support in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. That \$258.8 million total exceeds the previous record, set in 2012, by 13 percent.

"Our continued success in fundraising is testament to the value our donors see in our university and its people," said CU President Bruce Benson. "Their ongoing commitment will be critical as we continue our work to move CU fundraising to the next level."

About half these funds, or \$128.8 million, were donated through the University of Colorado Foundation. Of that \$128.8 million, \$54 million was donated to the Anschutz Medical Campus, \$49.8 million to the Boulder campus, \$15.5 million to the Denver campus (CU Denver's best fundraising year ever, for the second consecutive year), \$7.7 million to the Colorado Springs campus and \$1.8 million to the CU system.

About \$130 million in private support was given directly to the university and the CU Real Estate Foundation.

Also, \$31.8 million in future estate commitments were recorded by the CU Foundation this year, and the total pipeline of intended bequests to CU surpassed \$200 million for the first time ever. Though not counted in the fundraising totals above, these commitments indicate a strong likely future flow of gifts that will benefit CU for generations to come.

"The strong recent support we've seen from donors reflects the outstanding education, research, outreach and health care throughout CU," CU Foundation President and CEO Richard W. Lawrence said. "Private support will be increasingly important to CU, and we are grateful for the investments of our donors."

Donors are creating futures at CU by supporting:

Learning and Teaching at UCCS, where an anonymous donor made a \$1.5 million estate commitment to endow a chair in East Asian history, enabling the campus to recruit its first full-time professor in this area **Discovery and Innovation** at CU Denver, where Jake Jabs made a \$10 million gift toward entrepreneurship education—the largest gift in CU Denver history **Community and Culture** at CU-Boulder, where \$880,000 in donor gifts over 18 months toward CU Teach—which mobilizes high-tech talent toward K-12 teaching careers—triggered an equal matching grant from the National Math and Science Initiative **Health and Wellness** at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, where families of two CU heart transplant recipients made major estate gifts to honor the outstanding medical care received by CU physicians

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As of June 30, CU had raised more than 90 percent of its \$1.5 billion goal for the comprehensive Creating Futures campaign, which began in 2006 and was announced publicly in 2011. Since Creating Futures began, endowments managed by the CU Foundation have increased 49 percent, from \$590.3 million to \$879.5 million.

As the significance of philanthropy and other private support to the University of Colorado continues to grow, the university has determined that development and related support operations should be formally integrated into the university structure rather than being managed through a separate nonprofit, the CU Foundation. CU's development and related supporting operations are transferring to the university this summer.

The new structure is expected to better align university and fundraising personnel and priorities, President Benson said, as CU pursues higher fundraising goals for FY 2014 and priority initiatives that include: a major Athletics capital initiative at CU-Boulder, a scholarships campaign at CU Denver, the CU Cancer Center at the Anschutz Medical Campus, and a North Nevada Avenue expansion at UCCS.

CU doctors seek cure for Zimbabwe's ailing health care training[43]

[44]

Over the course of several days, cardiology trainees from Zimbabwe observed as a University of Colorado Hospital patient with a heart condition was saved by a small pump routinely used in the United States — an Impella — implanted in his aorta.

"Back home, he would have died," says Tsungai Chipamaunga, one of the physicians from Zimbabwe who are part of a broad collaboration with the University of Colorado's Anschutz Medical Campus and Denver Campus to improve Zimbabwe's medical education and care. "What is considered basic here is not available back home. Here, people don't have to die."

That's just one glimpse into the partnership developing between the University of Zimbabwe — in a country whose health care system has been devastated over the past decade — and CU, which is trying to help fix the damage.

The doctors from Zimbabwe were the second cardiology group to visit University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) and Denver Health Medical Center as part of this project. Meanwhile, faculty members from the CU School of Medicine have been heading to Zimbabwe's capital city, Harare, to review teaching methods and curriculum at the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences, the country's only medical school. CU physicians also are assessing medical training in the countryside and pondering whether to start an exchange program in internal medicine.

"I did interviews with doctors and students," says Steven Johnson, M.D., a CU professor and AIDS expert at UCH, who recently traveled to Zimbabwe to explore ways to improve training in rural hospitals. "They were very positive about working to make things better."

CU, a natural partner

Doctors, including Tom Campbell, a CU professor specializing in infectious diseases, have been working on AIDS prevention and treatment in Zimbabwe for years. So when the National Institutes of Health (NIH) launched a broad initiative to address AIDS in Africa, medical leaders in Zimbabwe naturally turned to Campbell and others at CU for support and collaboration.

"It was an extension of what I had been doing," says Campbell, who practices at UCH. "But also it was a great opportunity for us to enter a partnership that opens up research possibilities and gives us a chance to make an impact and to learn."

CU is providing principal investigators for two grants the NIH awarded to the University of Zimbabwe in 2010. The grants are designed to improve medical education and research, generally, and in cardiology, specifically.

The broader grant is called <u>NECTAR</u>[45]— Novel Education Clinical Trainees and Researchers. Stanford University is a partner in that grant. The other is called <u>CHRIS</u>[46] for Cerebrovascular, Heart failure, Rheumatic heart disease Interventions program. (The University of Zimbabwe received a <u>third grant</u>[47], under which several other universities will work to improve mental health education in Zimbabwe.)

Difficult years for Zimbabwe

The first decade of the new millennium was tough for many African countries. Despite Zimbabwe's high literacy rate, political and economic turmoil hit hard. The country's medical school felt the pain. Some two-thirds of the medical school faculty left. Enrollment dropped. Doctors who trained in Zimbabwe departed for other countries, as did wealthier patients.

By 2004, the number of physicians per thousand was estimated to be one-sixteenth what it was in the U.S. Today, the average life expectancy in Zimbabwe is estimated at about 53 years, 209th in the world.

The NECTAR approach, Campbell says, involves basics, such as improving internet access, revving up the medical library, tuning up the faculty's teaching skills and connecting the medical students with research.

Suzanne Brandenburg, M.D., a UCH physician and professor in the CU medical school's Department of Medicine, has been to Zimbabwe five times as part of this program. Her role? Primarily, to teach the current and future teachers — the faculty and the residents who, it's hoped, will join the faculty when they finish training.

Often, while in Zimbabwe, she's in a classroom or at a meeting at the local Holiday Inn talking about fundamentals — curriculum, medical ethics, professionalism, stress management, end-of-life issues and student feedback.

"Some of the topics might seem basic," says Brandenburg, director of the residency program for the Department of Medicine, "but those are skills and content that we teach here, too."

"It's hard to go on the wards and see people dying of things they would never die of here," she says, unintentionally echoing Chipamaunga's observation. But she sees hope in the improving medical education system there.

"They are super smart and talented," Brandenburg says of her African colleagues. "They really believe in what they are doing."

What they are doing is challenging.

Documenting progress

[48]

"They are trying to rebuild," says cardiologist Ed Havranek, M.D., the principal investigator for CHRIS and a CU professor of medicine who practices at Denver Health. "We see it as a place with tremendous strength."

Progress at the University of Zimbabwe College of Health Sciences already has been documented by the Evaluation Center of CU's School of Education and Human Development, which is tracking the work:

Enrollment is up 19 percent for undergraduates and 38 percent for graduate programs since 2010 when the partnership began. The number of medical school faculty has increased 53 percent. More undergraduate students say they plan to remain in the country.

On the other hand, the evaluation center found that most students are not satisfied with the education technology.

There's more effort to come. In spring 2013, Johnson, one of the CU AIDS experts, made his first foray to rural parts of Zimbabwe, where medical students must train, to get that part of the grant into gear. Working and living conditions are "meager," he says. Doctors in the field want more faculty development programs and fewer students per teacher. Telecommunications is and likely will remain a barrier.

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Ryan Webb, M.D., a third-year resident in internal medicine and chief medical resident at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, recently returned from three weeks at the medical school in Harare to explore an exchange program with internal medicine residents there.

Webb says the learning experience went both ways. "I did not want to swoop in and be the American who dictates how things go. I did a lot of listening."

Webb learned how doctors and students there, lacking the advanced medical equipment common in the U.S, were extraordinarily skilled at physical exams.

And what do the Zimbabweans make of these Coloradans?

"It is a bit unexpected," says Elise Gambahaya, another of the visiting cardiologists. "You do sort of wonder why and how somebody who is so far removed wants to be part of something."

"Maybe," her colleague Chipamaunga adds, "there are people driven to be part of something bigger than themselves."

Chreist named CU-Boulder assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations[49]

[50]

Ryan Chreist has been named assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations at the University of Colorado Boulder. Chreist, who most recently served as the director of recruitment, operations and system integration for the CU-Boulder Office of Admissions, starts this week.

"Ryan's background in admissions has given him a truly global understanding of CU-Boulder's appeal to students, parents and alumni," said CU Vice Chancellor for Strategic Relations Frances Draper. "His skills in relationship management, as well as his talent for public outreach and engagement, will make him a great ambassador for the university and to our alums. We are excited to have him lead the Alumni Association."

The assistant vice chancellor for alumni relations serves as executive director of the CU-Boulder alumni association and is charged with managing the campus's relationship with its more than 300,000 alumni through the Forever Buffs initiative, helping to build their affinity and engagement with the university from their undergraduate years forward, and finding ways to harness their pride and loyalty to create advocacy and involvement. The post oversees an alumni staff of 25 and leads all alumni operations, communications and events planning.

In his most recent post in the Office of Admissions, Chreist oversaw staffs responsible for the recruitment of prospective students in the United States and internationally, the implementation and integration of IT systems used in admissions and for the processing of all undergraduate and graduate applications. He worked for the CU system from 2007 to 2010 as a member of the Student Information System implementation team and led the design team responsible for the new admission application and recruitment portal.

From 1997 to 2008, Chreist held positions within the Office of Admissions ranging from admissions counselor to associate director of admissions. In addition to managing a large recruitment territory and serving as a member of the campus Enrollment Management team, he coordinated the National Alumni Admissions Assistance Program (NAAAP), which established alumni as university partners in recruiting prospective students, and organized National Council recruitment events with the CU-Boulder Alumni Association, CU-Boulder Parent's Association and the CU Foundation.

"It is an honor to continue to serve the University of Colorado Boulder and the hundreds of thousands of people who have come through its doors," Chreist said. "I look forward to continuing to engage our alumni locally and in the far reaches of the world to help them stay connected to their CU-Boulder experience."

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Chreist was a 2012 recipient of the Alumni Association's Robert L. Stearns Award, which recognizes members of the faculty and staff for extraordinary achievement in one or several of the following areas: teaching, service to the university, work with students, research or off-campus service. He has served as a volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician with the Louisville Fire Protection District since 2002.

He holds a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from CU-Boulder and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Colorado Denver.

Chreist succeeds Deborah Fowlkes, who held the post from 2010 to 2013 and who left the university in March.

Yi awarded \$720,000 research grant[51]

Dr. Rui Yi's lab staff at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Rui Yi, an assistant professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado Boulder and a University of Colorado Cancer Center investigator, has been awarded a four-year, \$720,000 Research Scholar Grant from the American Cancer Society (ACS).

His project – investigating cellular context-specific function of microRNAs in the skin -- will examine how microRNA functions differently in various stem cell compartments of the skin and identify the important targets of this microRNA during normal development. He also will look at the role of microRNA during the initiation of skin cancer so he can identify tumor-specific targets and possibly provide molecular basis for developing skin cancer treatments.

"Because microRNAs regulate many biological processes, one of our challenges is how to study single microRNA's so we can understand the way they function," Yi said.

Jerome Lee, a postdoctoral researcher in Yi's lab, also was awarded a three-year, \$150,000 ACS Postdoctoral Fellowship. Lee's project, "Elucidating microRNA-dependent and independent function of Xpo5 in skin cancer," will focus on Xpo5, an important RNA-binding protein, and how it functions in both normal skin development and skin cancer. The project will be co-advised by Yi and Xiao-Jing Wang, director of the head, neck and skin cancer research program at CU Cancer Center.

The ACS Research Scholar Grants are awarded to independent, self-directed researchers within six years of their first academic appointment. Postdoctoral Fellowships are awarded to beginning investigators just starting their independent careers in cancer research.

Johnson recognized for ecology work[53]

Pieter Johnson, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at CU-Boulder – along with a co-researcher – has won an award recognizing outstanding contributions to ecology, and he has been named an Early Career Fellow by the Ecological Society of America.

During the Ecological Society of America's 98th Annual Meeting next month in Minneapolis, Johnson and co-winner Jason Hoverman will accept the George Mercer Award, which recognizes an outstanding and recently published

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ecological research paper by a young scientist.

Johnson and Hoverman, who is with Purdue University, are cited for using a novel approach in their 2012 Proceedings of the National Academy paper, "Parasite diversity and coinfection determine pathogen infection success and host fitness."

Increases in the diversity of parasites that attack amphibians cause a decrease in the infection success rate of virulent parasites, including one that causes malformed limbs and premature death, Johnson and Hoverman found.

Commenting on that study, Johnson said scientists are concerned about how changes in biodiversity affect the risk of infectious diseases in humans and wildlife. Charting the relationships between parasites and amphibians is important, since few studies have examined the influence of parasite diversity on disease, and the fact that amphibians are declining faster than any group of animals on the planet because of human activities such as habitat loss, pollution and emerging diseases, Johnson said.

In the study, the team sampled 134 California ponds for the parasites, known as trematodes, comparing their abundance and distribution with the health of more than 2,000 Pacific chorus frogs.

The CU-Boulder team combined the field studies with extensive lab experiments that charted the health of the frogs in the presence of different combinations of the six most common amphibian parasites, including the Ribeiroia group whose larvae burrow into tadpole limb regions and form cysts that disrupt normal frog and toad leg development, causing extra or missing limbs.

The study showed that when the chorus frogs were exposed to all six trematode types simultaneously, the infection success rate was 42 percent lower than for frogs exposed to only a single species of parasite.

While the six parasites used in the study are responsible for about 95 percent of trematode infections in the wild, most of the world's parasites cause limited damage to host individuals, said Johnson. In the PNAS study, only two parasites, Ribeiroia and a parasite group called Echinostoma — which can trigger amphibian mortality — were known to be particularly dangerous to their host species.

The primary study results support the idea that higher biodiversity can help protect against certain diseases, but few previous studies had considered the diversity of the parasites themselves.

The Ecological Society of America said this of the work: "Their study demonstrates how an ecological approach can contribute deeper understanding of biomedical questions." The Mercer Award is given for an outstanding ecological research paper published by a younger researcher (the lead author must be 40 years of age or younger at the time of publication).

Early Career Fellows are typically within eight years of receiving their Ph.D. and have begun making and show promise of continuing to make outstanding contributions to a wide range of fields served by ESA. They are elected for five years.

"I am both flattered and honored to receive these distinctions," Johnson said. "In the case of the Mercer Award, it is particularly rewarding and more than a bit daunting to be recognized alongside the ranks of previous recipients, who are some of the most accomplished ecologists in the U.S. I am fortunate to have such a dedicated lab, generous colleagues and a supportive university, without which this would not have been possible."

Schmidt named a Damon Runyon Fellow[54]

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Jens C. Schmidt, a postdoctoral scientist conducting cancer research in the lab of **Thomas R. Cech** at CU-Boulder, recently was named a Damon Runyon Fellow by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation, a nonprofit organization focused on supporting innovative early career researchers.

The Fellowship encourages the nation's most promising young scientists to pursue careers in cancer research by providing them with independent funding (\$156,000 each for basic scientists, \$186,000 for physician-scientists) to work on innovative projects.

Schmidt's research focuses on understanding how the enzyme telomerase maintains the length of the ends of human chromosomes. This process is crucial to prevent chromosome fusion events, a strong driving force of cancer. In addition, 90 percent of all cancers require telomerase activity for survival, making it a potential target for cancer therapy. He will use a combination of biophysical, biochemical and cell biological approaches to determine how telomerase is recruited to chromosome ends and to identify potential inhibitors of this process.

James O. Hill, executive director for the Colorado Center for Health and Wellness at the University of Colorado, professor of pediatrics and medicine at the School of Medicine, and director of the Center for Human Nutrition and the Colorado Nutrition Obesity Research Center (NORC), has been named to the Science Advisory Board of Curves International Inc., the largest weight loss and fitness club chain in the world for women. The Science Advisory Board will work to educate consumers about the growing body of emerging research highlighting the health benefits associated with the principles behind the Curves fitness and nutrition program. The board also will also oversee science research on women's fitness and nutrition that is being conducted by Texas A&M exercise physiologists. ... Nikki McCaslin, an Auraria Librarian and senior instructor, offers a personal perspective through her writing in the

recent book "Adoption and Mothering." An adoptee herself and the mother of three adopted children, McCaslin coauthored a chapter, "Law and Language: Adversarial Culture in Adoption and Mothering," with Richard Uhrlaub. The book was edited by Dr. Francis Latchford, York University. ... Michael Brohman, an instructor at the CU Denver College of Arts and Media, has won the first place award at the Arts on the Streets event in Colorado Springs now on display in downtown Colorado Springs. Brohman's bronze "Places" was described by juror, Blake Milteer: "This is American classicism. Brohman places the American Western icons of cattle and windmill atop columns, which are standards of Greco-Roman classicism. The tops of the capitals on these columns echo the flatness of the plains, while the space around them draws our attention to the expanse of the Western American landscape in which we live." The award comes with a \$15,000 cash prize. ... Stuart Linas and Wells Messersmith, faculty at the CU School of Medicine, have been named to the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). Linas, the Rocky Mountain Endowed Chair for Renal Research and professor of medicine, is treasurer of the group. Messersmith, an associate professor and deputy head of the Division of Medical Oncology, was named to the ABIM's subspecialty board and a test committee member in oncology. ... Bernard Amadei, the Mortenson Chair in Global Engineering at CU-Boulder, has been elected to the National Academy of Construction. The academy is an independent organization made up of industry leaders whose present or past professional career over a period of years demonstrates outstanding contributions to the effectiveness of the engineering and construction industry. Amadei joins a group of 25 new members elected in 2013. ... Mary Coussons-Read, provost and professor in the Department of Psychology at UCCS, recently was elected to the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, the honorary senior scientist society for those whose research interfaces with behavior and medicine. Election to the society is reserved for those with nationally and internationally recognized behavioral medicine research. Coussons-Read's election took place at the ABMR annual meeting June 26-29 in Monterey, Calif. ... Work by Melissa Furness, an assistant professor of art, painting and drawing at CU Denver's College of Arts, was highlighted, among work by other artists in July's edition of 5280 magazine. The article noted pieces on display at Denver's Plus Gallery, 2501 Larimer. A solo show of new work by Furness is scheduled for Plus Gallery in January. ... George F. Kacenga, director of International Enrollment Management at the University of Colorado Denver and Genny M. Parker, senior coordinator International Recruitment and Admissions, both from the Office of International Affairs (OIA) at the University of Colorado Denver, participated in the Fourth annual EducationUSA Forum in Washington, D.C., on June 26-28. "The U.S. is the premiere study destination for international students," Kacenga said. "There is a growing interest in the degree programs offered by CU Denver, as well as in the curriculum offered by the university's ESL (English as a Second Language) Academy."

In memoriam[64]

Names of current and former University of Colorado faculty and staff who have died in recent weeks. List compiled by Employee Services.

CU Anschutz Medical Campus

Mark Robert Paulin, 54, mental health clinician, School of Medicine. July 13, 2013.

Next My New Weigh class starts in August[65]

Losing weight is tough to do in today's environment. If you are ready to try something different and exciting, then discover My New Weigh, available at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. The program is specifically designed for those who need to lose at least 30 pounds or those who have health issues related to their weight. This effective program:

is medically supervised includes weekly lifestyle modification classes uses a science-based, structured and nutritionally balanced meal plan

My New Weighprovides you with the tools needed for long-term success. <u>Click here[66]</u> to learn more about the program and about the upcoming free information sessions at the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center: Noon Wednesday, July 30 5 p.m. Thursday, July 31

The next class starts in August. For other information session times, please email <u>Eliazabeth.Kealey@ucdenver.edu</u> [67].

Links

[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-stephen-ludwig[2] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-ludwig3png[3] https://www.cu.edu/regents/current/ludwig.html[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-

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