Staff, faculty donate time, talent through Student Affairs Service Days[1]

Health and Wellness Center on track for late summer groundbreaking[2]

This artist's rendering shows what the Health and Wellness Center will look like once it opens in the spring of 2012 on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

To passersby, it will be another gleaming addition to the ever-growing cluster of buildings on the Anschutz Medical Campus. To the faculty, staff and students who populate the campus, it will be a convenient place to work off some stress and calories – then maybe replenish with light fare.

But to the man directing operations at the soon-to-be-built University of Colorado Medical School Health and Wellness center, there's much more at the heart of the project.

"It's a physical manifestation of the university's concern with the well-being of students, staff and faculty," said Jim Ellis, director of operations for the center. "This should help improve the overall health status of the campus. And by virtue of that, you'll see a decrease in things like direct health care costs and an increase in productivity."

The long-awaited center has been in development for two years and sat high on wish lists for years before that. Design work is nearing completion, and in late August or early September, groundbreaking at the corner of East Montview Boulevard and North Quentin Street will bring the center closer than ever before. Construction of the $26 million, 95,000-square-foot facility is expected to take 18 months, with opening scheduled for spring 2012. Funding comes from the Anschutz Foundation and CU.

Ellis said it's understandable that campus community members might be most interested in the center's state-of-the-art fitness center, which will account for about a third of the space and will boast high-end fitness equipment and machines, a track and aquatics facilities (though no lap pool). The center also brings a new dining option to campus thanks to a healthy bistro serving meals all day long.

But what really makes the center special, he said, is that it ties together research and clinical programming along with the exercise environment.

"(Users) are really going to be getting the best of all worlds in terms of facilities, programming and experts in the areas of health and wellness promotion," Ellis said. "We're hoping all the participants, whether from the community or students or staff and faculty, will be participating in research or clinical programs."

Clinical programs at the center will focus on current health-care issues driven by lifestyle, especially obesity. The facility will feature a comprehensive weight loss clinic offering services ranging from behavior changes to bariatric – or surgical – weight loss. Diabetes and cardiovascular health – key issues related to obesity – also will be targeted with prevention programs.

"The great thing about this facility is that it has the capacity to expand the scope of research programs based on the needs of the population as a whole," Ellis said. "Over the long haul, I think you'll see the expansion of research and clinical programs."

Facility usage fees have yet to be determined. Ellis said the center is committed to making sure the facility is accessible to all campus groups.

"The center is going to be very reasonably priced particularly for students, employees and faculty," he said. "The facility will need to be self-sustaining, but it's not like a commercial facility that needs a return on investment that goes into an investor's pocket. So even for the community, it's going to be affordable for them to access the center."

The look of the four-level structure will blend with established architecture on the Anschutz Medical Campus. Once visitors are able to step inside, though, Ellis said they'll be experiencing an environment unique on the campus.

"The goal is that everyone feels that they're entering a warm, welcoming environment with a lot of activity going on around them, whether it's our demonstration kitchen off the main lobby or views of activity overhead on the second-floor fitness component, or the two-story lobby space," he said. "It will have a major â€˜wow' factor.

"The idea is, just by being at the center, your stress levels will start to decrease before you even engage in any activities."

Ellis said that status updates on construction progress will be ongoing up to opening. In September, campus groups will have access to computer-generated animation that offers a fly-through tour of the future building's interior.
The center will open with a staff of about 100, Ellis said, with most coming from within CU. Eventually, the creation of new jobs is expected.

"With the anticipated growth of research, clinical programming and fitness and wellness activity, we expect staff growth of 25 percent to 30 percent or more ... over the course of the center's first three to five years," Ellis said.

All CU campuses suspend university-sponsored student travel to Mexico[4]

Citing personal safety risks to travelers, university leadership at each of the University of Colorado campuses has suspended university-sponsored student travel to Mexico until further notice.

University of Colorado at Boulder Interim Provost Russell Moore announced that all CU-Boulder study abroad programs in Mexico and one CU academic program for undergraduates have been temporarily suspended for summer and fall because of continuing safety concerns in the country. The suspension also applies to students at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, which partners with the Boulder campus in providing study abroad programs.

The University of Colorado Denver also announced the suspension of travel for all university-sponsored travel to Mexico for students on the UC Denver campus and Anschutz Medical Campus. The move was in response to a travel warning issued July 16 by the U.S. State Department[5] and follows the university policy regarding international travel by students.

CU-Boulder sponsors study abroad programs in Mexico in Guadalajara, Guanajuato, Oaxaca and Monterrey. Students and their families were notified earlier this month of the decision to suspend the study abroad programs, and students in CU's International and National Voluntary Service Training, or INVST, community studies program will not be traveling into the country for a scheduled field experience. The INVST program is a service-learning program at CU-Boulder, not a study abroad program.

Two students were planning to attend a study abroad program in Guadalajara, one for summer and one for fall, and two students were planning to study in Guanajuato for the fall semester, according to Mary Dando, CU-Boulder's director of Study Abroad Programs. No students were planning to study in Monterrey or Oaxaca for this summer or fall. The Office of International Education will work with students planning to go to Mexico this fall to find alternate locations for a study abroad experience.

"This is a very difficult decision that was not made lightly," Moore said. "After reviewing the U.S. Department of State Travel Warning for Mexico, the July 9 Overseas Security Advisory Council report on escalating violence in Mexico, the June 29 Warden Report for Guadalajara warning of the deteriorating security environment there, and news reports on rising drug cartel violence within Mexico, we concluded that it is currently not safe for our study abroad or INVST

students to remain in Mexico."

The Office of International Education will continue to monitor reports from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Overseas Advisory Council and the news media, and will continue to remain in close touch with its program partners in Mexico, Dando said.

The university will review the decision as reports change regarding the safety and security environment in Mexico, Moore said.

UC Denver students may appeal the suspension following guidelines provided by the Office of Global Education, 303-315-2230. For more regarding UC Denver-related travel to Mexico or any international location, please contact the Office of International Affairs at 303-315-2230.

Five Questions for Joe Morgan[6]

Joe Morgan wears the number 719 over his eye black as a joke during the 2005 National Championship, when Texas beat the University of Southern California. USC's Reggie Bush wore 619, San Diego's area code, to honor the city; 719 is Morgan's Colorado Springs area code.

Joe Morgan spent 30 years in the Army serving in ranks from private to colonel. His tours of duty included a 16-year stint in West Germany, time in Vietnam where he was an infantry team leader and conducted reconnaissance missions in an L19 Bird Dog, and during the first Gulf War, in Saudi Arabia. In 1997, when he retired, it took him only a few months to decide what to do next. He could have become a defense contractor, a position that would have paid an excellent salary, but he wanted to stay in Colorado in a job that was not work, but a mission – similar to the military – where he could help others be successful and where the reward would be something other than monetary.

In January 1998, the Colorado Department of Education offered the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs the opportunity to host the Troops to Teachers program[8]. Morgan was selected to lead the program, and as the program expanded several times over the years, he moved to the position of regional director of Mountain Pacific Troops to Teachers, which covers eight states. With 33 locations that support all 50 states, the national program counsels and provides financial aid to men and women who have served in the armed forces and want a second career as an educator.

Troops to Teachers began as a Department of Defense jobs program in 1994 to provide employment for veterans who were involuntarily released from service as the military downsized at the end of the Cold War. The program was so successful it was transferred to the Department of Education and became part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Prior to joining the program, Morgan earned a bachelor's degree in health physical education and recreation from the University of Tampa, along with a certification in teacher education. He earned his Master of Science degree in education administration from the University of Southern California, and he still bleeds a little cardinal and gold as he follows the institution's sports teams, especially football and baseball. He's "really happy" that the Colorado Buffaloes will soon compete against USC and other Pac-10 teams and thinks the change will benefit the conference both academically and athletically.

His heroes are John Wayne; his son Joel and daughter Audrey; Tommy Lasorda; and his high school baseball coach, Hank Gardey, a retired U.S. Marine Corps Major.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. How many would-be teachers has the program helped and could the program handle more?

The national Troops to Teacher program has placed more than 13,000 participants in classrooms since its inception. The state of Colorado program, hosted by UCCS, expanded to a consortium of states including Nebraska, New Mexico, Kansas, Utah and Nevada in 2000. The consortium of states became the Mountain West Troops to Teachers region. Recently, the program at UCCS expanded to include California and Hawaii and was renamed Mountain Pacific Troops to Teachers. The regional program has been extremely successful in producing quality teachers, a high percentage of whom are men and minorities. In addition, they have experienced beneficial and successful teaching in high-needs subjects such as mathematics, science and special education. They also are teaching in high demand schools in inner cities and outlying rural areas.

The program provides a $5,000 stipend to help defray education expenses necessary for licensing and/or a $10,000 bonus if an applicant chooses to teach in a low-income school for three years.

Currently, the U.S. Congress has designed legislative improvements to bring more separating military members into the program. These improvements include program eligibility for military members with four years of service – currently you need six years of service – and expanding the number of districts where applicants can teach throughout the United States. The U.S. House of Representatives has already passed this legislation and it is being taken up by the U.S. Senate this summer.

Part of what makes our local program so successful is our staff. Meghan Diderrich, the associate regional director, began working with us as a UCCS work study student some 10 years ago, and has earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UCCS and is currently enrolled in the education Ph.D. program. The Colorado state director is Robert Leonard, a retired Army master sergeant who earned his teacher education license from Colorado Christian University and is pursuing a credential at UCCS in special education. Illana Gordon, the director of administration for the region, recently earned her teacher certification credential at UCCS and is now pursuing her master's degree in education, also from UCCS.

2. What have participants said about the program? Can you tell me about some of the people who are in the program?

Participants have overwhelmingly been supportive and appreciative of the program. Across the nation as well as here in Colorado, Troops to Teachers applicants have become "Teacher of the Year" award winners and have been selected at a very high rate to advance as master teachers, administrators, principals and even superintendents. One of the biggest supporters of Troops to Teachers in this area is Robert Null, retired Air Force colonel, a former Troops to Teachers applicant and a District 11 school board member. (He's also the brother of Dr. James Null, former UCCS dean and now Distinguished Professor of political science at UCCS). Additionally, other graduates of UCCS that have gone from teacher to principal include Brett Smith (Colorado Springs) and Sherman Fuller (retired sergeant major, current vice principal in District 11).

3. Do you miss being a part of the armed forces? Why or why not?

I do not miss active service with the military. I feel the rewards of Troops to Teachers outweigh the importance of my accomplishments while I was an active member of the military. The challenges of coordinating and improving the regional Troops to Teachers operations are very close to the leadership and management requirements in the Army. The toughest thing about being in the armed forces is the awesome responsibility of leadership in combat operations. The best thing is the spirit and resilience of American soldiers.

4. Why is this program so important to you, personally, and what would you change about it if you could?

Today, only 1 percent of the nation serves in the military. In most communities across the nation, citizens have little idea of the wonderful characteristics and values that are forged by service to the country. Too often, news media and TV entertainment misrepresent the American military. Troops to Teachers provides classroom role models who demonstrate the leadership skills and can-do problem solving attitude learned by military service members.

If you think of the best teachers you've had in your life, they have the same characteristics that military leaders have. I have such an affinity for these young men and women who serve the country and now will serve again – that's our motto, "Proud to Serve Again." Military members are so wonderful, and to have these wonderful teachers in the classroom makes for wonderful citizens and successful people. It's not easy to be a teacher, and it's not easy to become a teacher, especially if you don't have a good road map.

The Troops to Teacher program should be expanded throughout the nation. I would like to see an opportunity for young people to join the military with the intentions and goal of becoming a public school teacher – "Join the Army, Become a Teacher." This would provide the education and practical experience necessary to construct teachers that represent values learned from serving the nation.

5. You coached the UCCS baseball team from 1997 to 1999, and are a huge sports fan. Why are sports, especially baseball, so important to you?

I played baseball from when I was a little kid and learned a lot about life from athletics. I think the people I really identified with most were baseball coaches like Dodger coaches Walter Alston and Tommy Lasorda. They were very positive people. And Rod Dedeaux, who was the baseball coach at USC and was named Coach of the Century. They have the same characteristics and qualities that most United States military, especially Army, service members have. They have a lot of discipline – used to overcome adversity, to not to let small things bother you, and to know that you can always succeed if you work as a team.

I love college athletics because of the ethical conduct and competitiveness and love of the game that you don't really have in the pros, and the loyalty the kids have to their teams.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[9]

Curtain comes down on Shakespeare Fest season in less than two weeks[10]
Photo by Casey A. Cass for CU Communications
John Hutton is Lear and Jamie Ann Romero is Cordelia in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival production of "King Lear."
Photo by Casey A. Cass for CU CommunicationsJohn Hutton is Lear and Jamie Ann Romero is Cordelia in the Colorado Shakespeare Festival production of "King Lear."

The 2010 season of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival[12]wraps up its fourth week today, with less than two weeks to go before concluding Aug. 8.

The slate of shows offers three Shakespeare works – "King Lear," "The Taming of the Shrew" and "Measure for Measure" – and two other classic plays, "Our Town" and "The Fantasticks." Performances are under the stars at the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre and indoors at the University Theatre on the campus of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

For more information, including tickets and curtain times, visit www.coloradoshakes.org[12] or call 303-492-0554.

Higher ed institutions want consistency in green rankings[13]

The University of Colorado at Boulder has joined about two dozen other institutions of higher education in an open letter to publishers of campus sustainability rankings in an effort to seek guidelines for consistent, comparable and commensurate metrics to size up green colleges and universities.

The move comes in response to the growing popularity of sustainability report cards found in collegiate guides published by Peterson's, Kaplan, The Princeton Review and other organizations.

Besides CU-Boulder, signatories to the letter include Columbia University, Emory University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University and Stanford.

"Sustainability rankings have prompted a productive dialogue between schools across the country, serving as a learning tool for administrators and students," said Frank Bruno, vice chancellor for administration. "We want to expand on the informational benefit of these rankings by ensuring institutions have an even playing field to work with and thus can set and reach their goals as efficiently as possible.

"In turn, the data collected will be more accurate and understandable, not only to us but to prospective students and other members of our campus communities."

In the past year, CU-Boulder was named the top green school in the nation by Sierra magazine and among the top 15 green schools by the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

CU-Boulder, alongside many other institutions, actively gauges its progress on sustainability strategies using the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System, or STARS, which was developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. Data from the self-reporting system will be released by CU-Boulder later this year.

"STARS embodies all the credible principles and practices necessary for an informed and legitimate evaluation of campus sustainability," said CU Environmental Center Director Dave Newport. "We look forward to working closely with any organizations that integrate the STARS principles into their rankings evaluation."

For more information on the STARS system, visit http://stars.aashe.org/[14].

Science Building's new name has stately ring: Centennial Hall[15]

Photo by Tom Hutton

A dedication ceremony for the reopening of the renovated Science Building at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and its renaming as Centennial Hall is scheduled for 9 a.m. Aug. 19. Speakers, guests and tours will highlight the festivity, which celebrates the conclusion of the $17.1 million project.

Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak will welcome CU President Bruce D. Benson and Colorado State Treasurer Cary Kennedy as special guests in honor of the occasion. Members of the CU Board of Regents also will be on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The CU Board of Regents approved the name change at its June meeting. With the Science and Engineering Building less than a year old, UCCS administrators decided the name similarity with a reopened Science Building was too

confusing. They recommended Centennial Hall as a Colorado-themed name that wouldn't necessarily be missed if a permanent name honoring a family or individual were adopted in the future.

Gary Reynolds, executive director of Facilities Services, remarked earlier this summer that the building was being literally transformed.

"From the new welcoming entrances and landscape, to the interior hallways, to modern teaching and research labs, to the completely renovated auditorium, past visitors to the building will not recognize it come this fall," he said.

The new Centennial Hall features two smart classrooms – electronically enhanced lecture halls that provide students immediate access to computer, multimedia and network technology. There are 10 teaching labs with audio and visual capabilities that enable faculty to teach and conduct lab experiments without changing rooms, and 14 research labs.

The number of work stations in the labs varies, Reynolds said. For example, the Introduction to Chemistry lab has stations for 24 students, while the two Organic Chemistry labs have 10 fume hoods in each to accommodate 20 students. All labs are designed specifically for the three disciplines permanently housed in the building: chemistry/biochemistry, anthropology and geography.

The new auditorium features 290 new, leatherette seats with maple wood accents, in what Reynolds described as a "crown jewel" of a theater. New acoustic treatment of the interior, high-definition video with surround sound and a small amount of theatrical lighting will enhance lectures, academic presentations and many other functions. A new podium, curtains and screen also are among the improvements.

The Science Learning Center, one of the Project EXCEL learning facilities, is upgraded and 75 percent larger. The center features a reception desk, offices and meeting space in addition to a larger main room and adjoining 32-station computer room. Jerry Phillips, director, said students made about 44,000 visits to the center during the academic year and the larger, more inviting, space will serve them much better.

While the exterior walls look much the same as they have for 30 years, the interior boasts state-of-the-art facilities. Reynolds called the combination of smart classroom technology in teaching and lab space unique. The improved facilities rival those of the newest campus buildings in terms of technology, efficiency and ecological design, Reynolds said, and the campus is targeting LEED certification of the building at the gold level. He said the modified exterior entrances and new landscaping will enhance Centennial Hall's appearance.

"In the backyard we are building a mini-amphitheater that will hold a little over 30 people with a Xeriscape demonstration garden next to it," Reynolds said.

The Science Building was built in 1980 to serve a population of about 5,000 students. In summer 2005, unfinished ground floor storage space was renovated to create four large classrooms. In late August 2006, UCCS administrators presented a program plan for renovations that began June 1, 2009, and are now complete. Besides removing walls and reconfiguring space, the project included installing new network, heating, cooling, electrical and plumbing systems.

University administrators and planners coordinated renovations to the Science Building with other campus construction, as the student population increased and budgets decreased. Centennial Hall is the latest addition to projects that university administrators deemed necessary for UCCS to properly serve Colorado as a regional residential campus. The project joins the Dwire Hall renovation and construction of the UCCS Recreation Center, the Science and Engineering Building, and the Gallogly Event Center as a means to serve a growing student population and meet the campus mission.

In the face of uncertain economic conditions and limited funding, the state of Colorado funded the project through certificates of participation with the debt service covered by federal mineral lease grant funds that are returned to the state. The funds were obtained by the state treasurer for the renovation of the Science Building under legislative authority, Reynolds said.

Many of the faculty and staff for the departments now housed in Centennial Hall are in their new offices. The moves

should be complete before the start of fall semester.

Rubrics communicate keys to success between educators, students[17]

Kenny Wolf, director of assessment at the University of Colorado Denver

As with most areas of academia, to do your best you need to know what the best looks like.

"The more clear the learning target, the easier it is to hit," said Kenny Wolf, director of assessment at the University of Colorado Denver. Rubrics are used for precisely that. Assessment rubrics are a scoring guide for a product or a performance. These rubrics, given to students prior to their performance, provide standards and deadlines so they know exactly what they need to have in order to succeed.

"Assessment rubrics were an important behind-the-scenes feature of the Olympics this winter," Wolf said. "The way a figure skating routine or a snowboarding aerial is scored is based on rubrics, or detailed scoring guides, that have been given to the judges, coaches and athletes in advance. There is an extreme significance to the fact that not only do the judges know how to score the performance, but that the coaches and the athletes know what is expected from them in advance."

Besides creating a more accessible learning target, assessment rubrics help students who are unfamiliar with an academic culture, such as first-generation college students or students from unconventional backgrounds. Wolf was himself a first-generation college student and was faced with confusion and uncertainty when he was told to do a research paper in his first year of college.

"I wasn't exactly sure what was expected," he said. "An assessment rubric describing key features of the expected performance would have gone a long way in helping me."

For more information about creating an assessment rubric, check out this article by Wolf and Ellen Stevens[19], director of the Center for Faculty Development. See the videos here.[20]

University of Colorado Hospital ranks high on U.S. News lists[21]

University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) has been ranked in four specialties in the upcoming edition of U.S. News & World Report's 2010-11 Best Hospitals. UCH, the leading academic medical center in the Rocky Mountain region, is the only hospital in the state – and among only a handful of hospitals in the nation – to rank in multiple specialties.

"This recognition by U.S. News is another in a long list of recent accolades and milestones UCH has achieved. It's a testament to our focus on patient care and superior outcomes," said University of Colorado Hospital President and CEO Bruce Schroffel. "UCH has become a destination for people who seek excellence in their health care. We've been able to take our patients to new heights in world-class clinical care, research and education in partnership with the physicians at the School of Medicine."

UCH ranked in pulmonology (8), kidney disorders (15), rheumatology (19) and cancer (44). This is the 16th year the hospital has appeared in the U.S. News & World Report Best Hospital rankings.

"We're pleased that our excellence in adult cancer care is being recognized," said Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D., a

bladder cancer surgeon, researcher and the new director of the University of Colorado Cancer Center. "UCH is the only nationally recognized adult cancer hospital in the Rocky Mountain region that partners with nearly all the cancer research scientists in Colorado to make basic discoveries relevant to patient care and to bring leading edge treatments to cancer patients. Every day, we are building on these collaborations in exciting ways and translating them into better treatments for patients at UCH."

Best Hospitals 2010-11 includes rankings of 152 medical centers nationwide in 16 specialties: cancer; diabetes and endocrinology; ear, nose and throat; gastroenterology; geriatrics; gynecology; heart and heart surgery; kidney disorders; neurology and neurosurgery; ophthalmology; orthopedics; psychiatry; pulmonology; rehabilitation; rheumatology; and urology.

Full data is available online for another 1,740 hospitals that qualified for ranking but did not score high enough to be ranked. There are about 6,000 hospitals in the United States.

The rankings in 12 of the 16 specialties were driven by hard data such as death rates, procedure volume, and balance of nurses and patients. In the four remaining specialties – ophthalmology, psychiatry, rehabilitation and rheumatology – hospitals were ranked on reputation alone.

The Best Hospitals rankings and methodology are posted at www.usnews.com/besthospitals[22]and will be featured in the August print issue of U.S.News, on newsstands this week.

Achievements in geographic info honored at international conference[23]

Jennings

Theobald

The Colorado Geographic Alliance based at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs received a special achievement in geographic information system award July 14 at the 30th Annual Esri International User Conference.

Esri, a software manufacturer, selected the Colorado Geographic Alliance from more than 300,000 organizations worldwide for its innovative use of technology to improve geography education. Funded by a grant from the National Geographic Education Foundation, the alliance brings together educators from colleges and elementary and secondary schools to develop geography instruction and demonstrate the importance of geography education.

The Colorado Geographic Alliance is coordinated by **Steve Jennings,** associate professor, and **Rebecca Theobald**, assistant adjoint professor, department of geography and environmental studies. Jennings and Theobald have been coordinators of the Colorado Geographic Alliance since fall 2008 and are passionate about empowering teachers with state-of-the-art pedagogical tools for the instruction of geography.

GIS combines computer hardware, software, data and people to collect, manage and analyze geographic information. Virtually any information can be linked to a geographic location, helping people see that information as part of a complete picture. With GIS, users can view relationships, processes, patterns and trends in the form of maps, globes, reports and charts.

College's outreach to China generates grants[26]

Several College of Architecture and Planning faculty have been awarded grants by the Institute for International Business and the Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER) at the University of Colorado Denver, to support the development of CAP's activities in China:
Ann Komara, associate professor and chair of landscape architecture, for the East-West Interchange: Lectures and Publications on Landscape Architecture in China and the United States. **Yuk Lee,** professor of planning and associate dean of academic affairs, for an internship and academic partnership between UC Denver, Tongji University in Shanghai, China, and Gensler. **Brian Muller,** associate professor of planning, for the Yunnan Program in Geo-Planning and Design. **Jeremy Németh,** assistant professor of planning and design and director of the master of urban design program, and **Jason Rebillot,** senior instructor of architecture, to support the development of a long- term, sustainable, joint urban design studio with Tongji University in Shanghai, China. Although the international studio is already a required course in the Master of Urban Design (MUD) program, the grant will help the studio become a formalized joint offering, taught by instructors from both UC Denver and Tongji. **Chris Nims,** director of internships and mentorships and associate professor of architecture, for an internship and academic partnership between UC Denver, Tongji University in Shanghai, China, and Gensler.

Innovative arthritis research earns professor a $400,000 grant[27]

Norris

Jill Norris, Ph.D., M.P.H., and professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and the Colorado School of Public Health has been awarded a $400,000 grant to study auto-antibodies, inflammation and cardiovascular disease in preclinical rheumatoid arthritis.

Norris was named the recipient of an investigator-initiated grant from the American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation's Within Our Reach: Finding a Cure for Rheumatoid Arthritis campaign, which funds innovative rheumatoid arthritis research.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic disease that causes pain, stiffness, swelling and limitation in the motion and function of multiple joints. Though joints are the principal body parts affected, inflammation can develop in other organs as well. An estimated 1.3 million Americans have the disease, which typically affects women twice as often as men.

Cardiovascular disease is a major cause of mortality in patients with rheumatoid arthritis and often these patients suffer from earlier and more severe cardiovascular events than individuals without the disease. Norris will use her grant to identify systemic markers of inflammation, biomarkers of cardiovascular risk and vascular abnormalities in the period prior to arthritis development in patients. She will utilize a cohort of healthy first-degree relatives of patients that she has been following prospectively for the development of rheumatoid arthritis-related autoimmunity.

Norris is one of nine rheumatoid arthritis researchers from leading institutions who will receive a total of $6 million from the foundation. This is the foundation's fourth round of grants funded by the Within Our Reach campaign, a $30 million national, multiyear fundraising effort.

The Colorado School of Public Health is a collaboration of the University of Colorado Denver, Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado.

Cancer Center has new associate director for administration and finance[29]

Kochevar

Mark Kochevar began his role as as the University of Colorado Cancer Center's associate director for administration and finance on July 19. He takes over for **Michaela Montour,**who had served as interim associate director and now returns to her role as UCCC's research administrator.

Kochevar previously led the administrative development and management of the Medical College of Georgia Cancer Center. He began his career at the National Cancer Institute, where he spent 17 years as an administrator for cancer treatment and causation programs. Kochevar then was the administrative director of the University of Maryland Marlene and Stewart Greenebaum Cancer Center, where he led the administrative process for the center's NCI P20 Center Planning Grant application, awarded in 1999, and its P30 Cancer Center Support Grant application. Notably, Kochevar led a successful development of a Cancer Research Grant application under the state of Maryland's cigarette restitution funds program.

He received his executive MBA in health care management from Loyola College.

Cancer Center has new associate director for administration and finance[31]

Doebele

Robert Doebele, M.D., Ph.D., in the lung/head and neck cancer program at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and University of Colorado Hospital, is the 2010 Paul Calabresi Clinical Oncology Research Scholar. He will receive a five-year, $525,000 training grant to provide him with mentored support leading to his becoming an independent translational cancer researcher. His clinical and lab work both focus on lung cancer.

"This grant allows me to hit the ground and start running on two projects I'm interested in while still having one day a week to care for my patients," he said. "The grant support allows me to create new jobs in my lab and to buy necessary equipment for my work."

Doebele will focus on determining how lung cancer cells are getting around a new drug targeted at the ALK gene rearrangement, which affects about 5 percent of patients. The second project aims to identify potential biomarkers for the anti-angiogenesis drug bevacizumab (Avastin). Angiogenesis is a validated target in lung cancer, but no predictive biomarkers exist for the drug.

Dropping names ...[33]

Jedlicka

Liban

The University of Colorado at Denver's **Peter Park,** associate professor of planning and manager of the Community Planning and Development Department for the City and County of Denver, worked many years on a new zoning code for Denver that has finally been adopted. The Denver City Council recently approved an overhaul of the city's zoning laws, making the first comprehensive change to the city's land-use rules since 1956. The new rules would steer growth and density to areas near transit corridors and support existing development patterns in long-established neighborhoods.

... **Paul Jedlicka,** M.D., Ph.D., in the molecular oncology program at the School of Medicine/The Children's Hospital, received a two-year, $80,000 Young Investigator Award from the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer to continue work on microRNAs identified by his laboratory that may suppress Ewing's sarcoma tumors.

... **David Liban,** assistant professor of theater, film and video production at theUniversity of Colorado Denver College of Arts and Media[36], won a Heartland Emmy Award on July 18. The Heartland Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences awarded Liban the honor in the documentary-cultural category for his original documentary on death and dying,Mortal Lessons[37]. Liban produced, directed and edited the documentary.

Scholarships available for technology conference[38]

Limited registration space is left for this year's Colorado Learning and Teaching with Technology (COLTT) conference [39]. The event promises an exceptional professional development opportunity for people in education and related fields who are interested in the latest innovations, current research, the opportunity for hands-on workshops and sessions that explore learning, teaching and technology.

Registration deadline is Monday, Aug. 2, for the conference, which runs Aug. 11-12 on the University of Colorado at Boulder campus.

Conference scholarships are offered through several schools, including law, business, journalism, music, architecture and graduate. E-mail coltt@cu.edu[40] to learn more.

Links
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