Eid recognized by Navajo Nation Bar Association[1]

Eid

Troy A. Eid, an adjunct professor at both the University of Colorado School of Law and the University of Denver College of Law, recently received the 2012 Member of the Year Award from the Navajo Nation Bar Association (NNBA).

The NNBA represents judges and attorneys who practice law in the courts of the country's largest Native American nation. Eid is a litigation shareholder in Greenberg Traurig's Denver office and co-chairs the firm's national American Indian Law practice group.

"The Navajo Nation Bar Association is very honored and pleased to recognize Troy Eid as our 2012 Member of the Year," said Diandra Benally, president of the NNBA. "He is an outstanding naa'taanii, (leader) within our association, who has contributed immensely to improving the practice of law on the Navajo Nation."

Part of serving in NNBA is performing mandatory pro bono every year. Since 2009, Eid has chaired the NNBA Training Committee, which oversees the semi-annual review course for attorneys and tribal court advocates who wish to take the bar exam. He also is chairman of the National Indian Law and Order Commission. The nine-member volunteer commission advises President Obama and provides recommendations to the U.S. Congress on public safety and criminal justice issues affecting the Navajo Nation and 564 other federally recognized Native American tribes throughout the United States. Eid was appointed to the commission by U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and unanimously elected chairman by its members last year.

UBAB to stay course[3]

The University Benefits Advisory Board[4] (UBAB) will continue its role as an employee representative group and President Bruce D. Benson also has approved a recommendation that a staff employee and faculty member be appointed non-voting members of the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust[5] Committee.

The University of Colorado Staff Council learned of President Benson's decision during its June 28 meeting at 1800 Grant St. The council, along with other representative groups, had previously recommended that UBAB's role not be changed. The recommendation followed a lengthy debate over whether the Administrative Policy Statement (APS) that defined UBAB should be amended because concerns had been raised about the efficacy of the board.

In a letter dated June 25 to UBAB members and acting board chair Stuart Schneck, M.D., President Benson said the APS will remain unchanged and the stated role of UBAB will continue to be "to provide strategic advice to the president and administration on benefits policy issues by developing recommendations for benefits policy and reviewing the operational and financial status of benefits programs."

During the debate earlier this year, UBAB had defended its role as an essential group that speaks for employees and acts as a link to other university entities. In a memo to Benson, UBAB also requested that two if its members be appointed to the Trust to facilitate enhanced employee participation in the Trust's decision-making process. In the June 25 letter, Benson said he will appoint representatives in the 2013 fiscal year.

Also during Staff Council's last meeting before summer break, members heard updates on human resources issues and new officers.

Jeremy Hueth, managing associate council for the university, discussed Gov. John Hickenlooper's "Talent Agenda" and changes made to the State Personnel System through House Bill 12-1321[6] and House Concurrent Resolution 12-1001. While most of the bill's recommendations require a change to the state Constitution, and hence voter

approval, several do not. Changes that go into effect Sept. 1 include the elimination of “bumping rights” for employees separated from employment except for those who are within five years of retirement eligibility. He said the university has not determined how eligibility will be calculated. He also said another change to the system gives the university “more latitude in severance agreements” with those employees.

Another revision that goes into effect Sept. 1 is the implementation of a merit pay system that rewards employees based on performance and placement within a salary range. Also, the state’s current “competitive exam’’ system for hiring will be replaced by a “comparative analysis” that is more in line with the way the private sector reviews job candidates. Hueth said the university is considering how it will go about making those changes.

E. Jill Pollock, vice president of employee and information services, said health care coverage rates have increased year-over-year by 5.5 percent, one of the lowest rate increases in the state. The university also will be paying 100 percent of the employer cost of that increase. So in all but one category of health care, rates for employees will go down beginning July 1.

Pollock also said the university will be accepting recommendations from employees concerning changes to health plans and health programs later this year. For instance, the university is considering plan changes surrounding smoking cessation. In addition, the university is considering alternatives to Colorado Weigh and other obesity or weight-loss programs.

Staff Council Chair Carla Johnson said new officers for the council will be Stephanie Hanenberg, who becomes vice chair, and Tyson Randall, who will be treasurer. The position of secretary remains open.

Working away from the office[7]

Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado

Technology has become extremely powerful, allowing you to connect to the Internet and communicate anytime you want, anywhere you want. From tablets and smart phones to lightweight laptops, you can potentially work anywhere in the world. However, when working away from the office there are several risks to keep in mind.

To learn more about working securely and protecting university data when away from the office, please see the July 2012 Office of Information Security Cyber Security newsletter[9].

For more information about the responsibilities of users as it relates to using IT Resources and protecting data, see the IT Security Program APS[10].

Five questions for Tania Schoennagel[11]

[12]

After graduating from Dartmouth College, Tania Schoennagel lived in Fourmile Canyon near Boulder and awoke one night to the lights of a fire truck. The local volunteer fire department was fighting a blaze at her neighbor's house. She was transfixed by the fire and its threat to people as well as its important ecological role in Western forests. After briefly volunteering for the Fourmile Canyon Fire Department and working on a summer trail crew in the Scapegoat Wilderness in Montana (which had burned three years earlier), she pursued a master's degree in conservation biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

[13]
"I initiated an experimental field study looking at native plant responses to severe wildfire and post-fire seeding of non-native grasses, which are often aerially seeded for erosion control," she said. "Each day that summer, I scaled Icicle Ridge in Leavenworth, Wash., into the black burn and counted green native plants poking out from the black charred ground, and returned looking like a coal miner with a face and arms blackened by soot. I loved it!"

She returned to the University of Wisconsin to pursue a Ph.D. with Monica Turner, a pre-eminent landscape ecologist who studied ecological responses to the 1988 fires in Yellowstone National Park. "She helped me realize I could marry my interest in fire with an exciting career as a research scientist." Next, Schoennagel undertook post-doc work in the University of Colorado Boulder's geography department, then became a research scientist at the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR) and an adjunct assistant professor in geography.

"Conducting fire ecology field studies virtually outside my office door was an unbelievable opportunity compared to my past experience, where my field sites in Yellowstone National Park were 1,300 miles from my office at the University of Wisconsin," she said. Her work has centered around the effects of past climate variability and future climate change on forests, regional climate triggers to bark beetle outbreaks in Colorado, and fire mitigation treatments across the United States.

For those interested in finding out more about wildfires and forests in the Rockies, read Schoennagel's paper titled "The Interaction of Fire, Fuels, and Climate Across Rocky Mountain Forests."[14] She also recommends reading "The Big Burn" by Timothy Eagan, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist who weaves together a historical account of the northern Rockies wildfire of 1910, nascent years of the U.S. Forest Service and development of initial fire management policy. "Wildfire and Americans" by Roger Kennedy, the former director of the National Park Service, addresses more contemporary wildfire issues.

1. The Hayman Fire began 10 years ago this month. Much of the burn area has not seen re-establishment of trees. Generally, how long does it take a forest to "regrow"?

Tree regrowth following the 138,000-acre Hayman fire was remarkably low primarily because the fire severely burned large areas, leaving very few unburned islands of green trees needed to seed the next forest. Because of the lack of seed establishment following the Hayman Fire, some people have speculated that it will take hundreds of years for the next forest to establish. Certainly not all areas that are forested today have always been so, and areas that are meadows today may have been forests in the past. Nonetheless, for a number of reasons, there was a desire to reforest the Hayman Fire area, and about 1 million trees across 17,000 acres were planted recently, so parts of the Hayman Fire area may become forest again within our lifetimes.

2. You've done research on beetle kill and wildfires. What has your research discovered and has beetle kill contributed to the numerous fires burning in Colorado?

[15]
We conducted a study that measured fuels in high-elevation Lodgepole pine forests on the west side of the Continental Divide that were in different stages since the mountain pine beetle (MPB) attack, then used this field data in computer models to predict how fire behavior might change over time because of beetle kill. Lodegpole pine forests tend to have trees growing more closely together and have a less varied mix of tree species, and on average, experience more severe/extreme fires than Ponderosa pine forests. Our findings generally indicate that in Lodgepole forests with 50 percent tree mortality because of beetle kill, which are in the "red stage" (where the red dead needles mostly remain on the dead trees) and the "grey stage" (where the grey trees are still standing a couple of years after the needles fall), fire may actively burn through the treetops under lower wind speeds than in green stands because red and grey

trees hold less moisture and therefore are more flammable. So the chance of active crown fire ignition and spread is expected to be greater in the red and grey stages, compared to green forests. Yet the models suggest that under extreme burning conditions (very dry, gusty winds) when fire is already traveling through the tree tops, differences in fire behavior between green forests and beetle-killed red and grey stages were less marked.

It's important to note that beetle kill did not cause the fires in Colorado. The severe drought conditions this summer along with hot, extremely dry, and gusty burning conditions are the very important primary causes, obviously along with ignition sources. The beetle kill has been present across the state for many years. It is only when the extreme burning conditions developed that we witnessed big, severe and numerous fires across the state. Within this context, the beetle kill may be making it worse, but we are also operating under some of the worst conditions possible right now. While it is terrible that so many fires are burning this year, once the smoke settles it will be valuable to conduct post-fire studies to examine how beetle kill (and previous fire mitigation treatments) may have affected the spread and severity of the fires, which will contribute to future forest management decisions.

3. Given those conditions, could any forest management policy be effective in reducing or limiting acres burned?

With warmer, drier conditions, we are going to see more forest mortality both due to wildfires and also insect outbreaks. Forest management efforts such as reducing the density of trees (thinning) and/or prescribed burning, which together are called fire mitigation treatments, can be effective in helping fire fighters control wildfire in some instances. However, a lot of variables affect the efficacy of such treatments, and by no means are they a silver bullet against wildfire. First, wildfire would have to actually encounter the treatment to reduce fire risk, which on average is a pretty low-probability event due to the limited size and occurrence of both treatments and fire across a given landscape. Second, an adequate degree of thinning needs to have occurred to reduce the chance of fire burning through the tree tops (called an active crown fire), which is hard to control. Lastly, how the fuels from thinning are subsequently managed has a big impact on potential fire behavior. Removal of the thinned fuels from the site is the most effective in reducing potential wildfire severity, but is very expensive and labor intensive.

In some cases, there are numerous piles of fuels across the landscape that could actually exacerbate wildfire behavior, which was observed in parts of the Fourmile Canyon Fire. Lastly, we have observed from the Hayman and the Fourmile Canyon fires that under extremely dry, gusty burning conditions, previous treatments are often much less effective in reducing severe wildfire behavior than under more moderate weather conditions.

While we shouldn't abandon fire mitigation efforts, to get the biggest bang for our treatment buck, I believe we need to concentrate the most effective kinds of treatments in and around communities in the wildland-urban interface. I think we need to also spend a lot more effort in directly protecting our values at risk by fireproofing homes rather than simply trying to fireproof the forests, which is a very indirect method of protecting homes from fire with a much lower probability of success.

I led a study that looked at where fire mitigation efforts under the National Fire Plan were being implemented across the western United States. We found that only a small percentage of the area treated was near communities in the wildland-urban interface. The discussions that ensued focused on the difficulty of public land management agencies charged with trying to reduce wildfire risk on public lands, when the primary values at risk are homes. So while wildland fire has emerged as a public land management debate, it in fact is essentially a private property protection issue, so in my mind we have a major mismatch between agency responsibility and land ownership.

We need more proactive measures to help develop more fire-resilient human communities. The first line of defense would be curbing development in the forest. Five counties in Colorado are in the top 20 most-developed wildland-urban interfaces in the West. Wildfire risks and costs are directly correlated with the number of homes in the line of fire, so if we reduce the development in the forest, we reduce the wildfire risk. Another idea is to create incentives and restrictions that modify the home ignition zone, the house and its immediate surroundings through home insurance policies, building codes, etc. Last would be designing communities that are safer for fire fighters to defend and easier for home owners to evacuate.

4. What worries you most about the future of our forests? What do you find heartening?

The coming decades will be a period of rapid forest change with substantial tree mortality due to wildfire and insects. We are not used to such rapid change in our forest landscapes, which during our lifetimes have mostly exhibited gradual, slow changes. With recent and expected warming trends, I am concerned that what used to be anomalous fire years are becoming the new norm: 2002 was the driest summer on record in Colorado, which was the year of the Hayman Fire, which currently stands as the largest fire in Colorado. But now only 10 years later, 2012 is shaping up to be as dry, or drier, with multiple major wildfires burning across the state in June. Although it is still fairly early in what is becoming a longer fire season, 2012 may exceed the relatively briefly held record of 2002 as the worst fire year in Colorado. What I find heartening, however, is that while some forests seem extremely vulnerable to warming -- for example, Whitebark pine forests -- other forests such as Lodgepole pine appear to be fairly resilient to severe wildfires and insect outbreaks. I also think that human communities are very resilient and that we will be able to adapt as necessary to the inevitable wildfires.

5. What is a favorite possession you keep in your office and how did you acquire it?

A stack of fire-scarred wedges. These are the wood samples that we collect in the field from trees that were burned in the past to help us understand fire history of a forest. I love these scars because they remind me of being in the field, which involves lots of hard work hiking off trail to get to remote sites. I always feel part detective/part warrior out in the field, fanning out across the landscape chasing obscure kernels of information that help us tell a story about a forest that hopefully has broader meaning to other scientists, the public or policy makers.

I also just love uncovering the hidden secrets that tree rings hold. Using a bow saw, we saw vigorously, back-and-forth, back-and-forth, back-and-forth, with sweat pouring down our temples, until our saw cuts deep enough to capture the tip of the fire scar embedded within the tree. This holds the secret about past burns, growth patterns and hidden injuries. We stop sawing, breathing hard, and chisel out the 2-inch wedge we cut from the side of the tree, then expectantly, we pop it free, hold the hefty, fresh-scented piece of wood in our hands, and look. “Ah, it burned here, about 120 years ago, and again just before that.” “Wow, it really grew fast here. Look at that!” “I see bluestain fungus invaded the tree then, but it didn’t die.” We can read the tree’s history like a legend. It is fascinating and beautiful, and the stack of fire-scarred wedges in my office always takes me back to those sweaty moments of hard-won discovery.

Cannon receives national mentor award[16]

Cannon

Edward Cannon, assistant professor in the counseling program at CU Denver’s School of Education and Human Development, recently received the Mentor Award from the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC), a national professional organization.

In the nomination letter, a colleague wrote, “Dr. Cannon has been an excellent mentor to many students and he has also been a truly empowering colleague who allows others to succeed within the professional world. I owe a great portion of my knowledge to Dr. Cannon’s mentorship.”

Cannon also has been involved in advocacy work on behalf of ALGBTIC and the LGBT community by leading a national state branch committee to create state counseling chapters doing advocacy work on behalf of LGBT people. Cannon’s nominators characterized him as being thoughtful, modest, a great leader and an individual who teaches others to build bridges and create coalitions.

UIS service contact info changing for system administration[18]

The University Information Systems service desk phone number and email address for system administration employees will be changing on Monday, July 9.

New technical support contacts for Office of the President employees will be:
[19]
303-860-HELP (4357) help@cu.edu[20]
After Monday, the old phone number and email address will be de-activated. Employees will be redirected to the new points of contact.

For the past year, all Office of the President support calls and emails were routed to the CU-Boulder Help Desk. As part of a joint study with the campuses, UIS has decided to bring the Service Desk back to 1800 Grant St. to enhance customer service, increase efficiencies and more effectively manage requests. The Service Desk team has been partnering with campus liaisons from CU-Boulder, UCCS, CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus to complete the transition.

For more information, please contact the UIS Service Desk project manager, Sean Myers, Sean.Myers@cu.edu[21].

UCCS providing shelter to those fighting Waldo Canyon blaze[22]

[flagallery gid=2 name=Gallery]

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs is providing housing for up to 100 wildland firefighters working to contain the Waldo Canyon Fire.

Since Friday, June 29, UCCS has provided dormitory-style space for the firefighters in Summit Village.

“We are pleased to provide this space to the heroes of this community,” said Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak. “We recognize the sacrifice that many have made to help our community in its time of need. This is a way the university can say thank you.”

Many of the wildland firefighters are part of a multi-agency response to the Waldo Canyon Fire and are from communities outside of Colorado Springs. As a result, many cannot return to their homes and do not have places to stay locally.

UCCS is providing the firefighters with space in Summit Village complete with housekeeping services, refrigerators and access to Internet and television in common areas. Care and Share will provide them with donated toiletry articles, food and other services.

At the peak of the Waldo Canyon Fire evacuations, UCCS housed more than 350 evacuees, including 200 U.S. Air Force Academy cadets. UCCS provided Colorado Springs residents evacuated from their homes with three nights housing at no charge. Individuals in need of housing for more than three nights would pay reduced rates for up to a one-week additional stay.

As of early this week, neither the Waldo Canyon Fire in Colorado Springs nor the Flagstaff Fire in Boulder posed immediate threats to the campuses. But leaders at the university continue to monitor the fires.

Last week, UCCS provided this update:
We will continue to support our students, faculty and staff, and our Colorado Springs home community, throughout the duration of this disaster.For information about the fire, please contact 719-955-0742Students who need assistance, or have questions, please contact 719-255-3582, 719-255-3608, or 719-255-3470This information and previous statements are available at www.uccs.edu/~waldocanyonfire[23]

As of early this week, Boulder's Flagstaff Fire was 90 percent contained. Last week at CU-Boulder, students, faculty and staff received the following communication from Lacey Croco, director of the Emergency Management Division: The University of Colorado Boulder is monitoring a developing wildfire burning to the southwest of the city. City and County authorities are updating information on the wildfire at http://boulderoem.com/emergency-status[24]The Boulder Emergency Operations Center has activated a call center for residents and others impacted by the fire to obtain information. The phone number is 303-413-7730. People seeking fire and evacuation information are encouraged to call this number.Faculty, staff and students living in the areas identified by the city are urged to pay attention to advisories concerning the changing conditions and possible evacuations and to follow instructions from city and law enforcement officials.CU officials are taking the situation seriously and monitoring it closely with city and county officials. However, the fire does not represent a threat to the campus and the campus is not in the area covered by the city's advisory.Classes and campus events are not canceled.Smoke from the fire is affecting many communities in our area and the Boulder County Public Health has issued a health advisory. You are urged to exercise appropriate caution to preserve your health as high levels of particulates in our air. Learn more at http://www.bouldercounty.org/env/air/pages/wildfire.aspxThe[25] university will update campus-specific information as needed on the CU-Boulder home page at http://www.colorado.edu[26]and the Emergency Information Line at 303-492-4636. CU faculty, staff and students should also monitor their campus e-mail and cell phones for possible emergency alerts, texts and updates.The city of Boulder is posting information at http://www.bouldercolorado.gov[27]If you have not done so already, sign up for the campus alert system at http://www.colorado.edu/alerts[28] and if you live off-campus in the city or county of Boulder you can sign up for alerts at http://www.boco911alert.com[29]
The state of Colorado's Division of Emergency Management has established a website providing information on how to help communities most affected by the fires. The Help Colorado Now page, http://www.helpcoloradonow.org/[30], provides contact information for the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other agencies distributing aid.

Photos: Firefighters from NPS Engine 51 by Philip Denman/University of Colorado. Photos of Air Force Academy cadets by Jeff Foster/University of Colorado.

Two at diabetes center receive achievement awards[31]

Two University of Colorado School of Medicine faculty members recently received National Scientific and Health Care Achievement Awards from the American Diabetes Association during the association's recent 72nd Scientific Sessions in Philadelphia.

George S. Eisenbarth, director of Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes and professor of pediatrics, medicine and immunology, received the Albert Renold Award. **Georgeanna J. Klingensmith**, professor of pediatrics at the School of Medicine, Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, was honored with the Outstanding Physician Clinician in Diabetes Award.

The American Diabetes Association is leading the fight to stop diabetes and its deadly consequences and fighting for those affected by diabetes. The association funds research to prevent, cure and manage diabetes; delivers services to hundreds of communities; provides objective and credible information; and gives voice to those denied their rights because of diabetes.

Baker receives prestigious writing award[32]

Baker

Daniel Baker, director of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP), recently was honored with the 2012 Popular Writing Award from the American Astronomical Society (AAS). Baker shares the honor with James Green, director of the NASA Solar System Exploration Division.

To encourage solar research education, the AAS Solar Physics Division offers its annual monetary award to authors of two popular Sun-related articles. Baker and Green received the honor in the scientist category for their article "The Perfect Solar Superstorm," published in the February 2011 issue of Sky & Telescope magazine. The article outlines the potential hazards of large-scale solar storms to modern technology.

While past solar outbursts, or coronal mass ejections (CMEs), have created the dazzling light displays known as auroras, they also have caused unpredictable and damaging geomagnetic storms on Earth. In their article, Baker and Green describe how the U.S. electric power grid is increasingly vulnerable to widespread blackouts and permanent equipment damage in the face of a future solar storm.

"Understanding our Sun, being aware of the threats posed by solar activity, and communicating to the general public about the fascinating star near which we live is one of the great joys of space science," Baker said.

For more information about LASP research on how CMEs affect Earth, please visit http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/science/space-physics/earths-magnetosphere/[34]

Todd Saliman takes reins as CU's chief financial officer[35]

[36]
As the chief budget officer for the state of Colorado under former Gov. Bill Ritter, Todd Saliman had to steer the budget for state government through some of the worst fiscal times in nearly a century. As the new vice president of budget and finance and chief financial officer for the CU system, which also has been buffeted by fiscal challenges, those skills and experience should come in handy.

Saliman, a CU-Boulder alumnus, was appointed to the position, effective July 9, by CU President Bruce Benson. He replaces Kelly Fox, who will become the senior vice chancellor for budget and finance and chief financial officer for CU-Boulder. Saliman most recently had worked with CU's Office of Government Relations.

"I'm excited by the opportunity to take the next steps in my long association with CU and to help the university continue to serve our students and our state," Saliman said. "CU is a significant resource for Colorado and the nation that improves lives, addresses critical societal issues and is a key economic driver. I'm happy to be part of one of the top university systems in the nation."

Saliman has extensive experience in state government and with CU. After serving in the Ritter administration, he was a member of Gov. John Hickenlooper's cabinet, providing guidance on budget, legislative and policy matters. He served in the Colorado Legislature from 1995-2002; four of those years were spent on the Joint Budget Committee. He also served on the Appropriation, Finance and Local Government committees. Additionally, he has owned a private government affairs company, which had CU as a client.

"Todd brings a tremendous amount of experience and expertise to his position, and he will be a valuable part of my leadership team," Benson said. "We expect continued challenges with our budget, and Todd will help us make the most of the challenges we face."

CU-Boulder opens search for scholar in conservative thought, policy[37]

The University of Colorado Boulder announced Tuesday the start of a national search for the inaugural Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy.

An advisory committee of five faculty members and five community members is soliciting letters of interest and curriculum vitae for the position, which will be housed in CU-Boulder's College of Arts and Sciences. The committee seeks a "highly visible" scholar who is "deeply engaged in either the analytical scholarship or practice of conservative thinking and policymaking, or both."

Applicants could come from academic, military, media or policy communities, said CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano, who added that he is supportive of the position and intrigued by its possibilities.

"I am excited that we are piloting a Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy," DiStefano said. "The position will add a fresh dimension to CU-Boulder's long tradition of debate and discussion, and encourages our students to engage in critical thinking and civic discourse."

Hank Brown – former CU President, U.S. senator and committee member – said the visiting scholar would add "breadth to the education that students get at the university."

Search committee member Susan K. Kent, CU professor and chair of history, concurred.

"We are looking for a person who has spent her or his career thinking and writing about conservative thought and policy," she said. "We are looking for a scholar or practitioner, someone with a solid track record of thoughtful analysis in areas such as philosophy, political science, economics, foreign policy, the military, sociology and/or history."

The visiting scholar is expected to teach at least one course per semester and offer public lectures, public seminars and/or informal discussions with students and the public, Kent noted.

"The visiting scholar will do what we expect our regular faculty to do: present issues and problems in all their complexity and allow students to use their critical-thinking skills to arrive at their own judgments," she added.

Kent said a candidate need not necessarily have a Ph.D., but is expected to have a publication record equivalent to that of a tenured CU professor, or, in the case of a practitioner, a body of knowledge and experience that positions that person as an expert.

Optimally, the visiting scholar would provide a view that spans diverse academic disciplines, said Earl Wright, CEO of AMG National Trust Bank and a non-faculty committee member.

Wright described the visiting scholar as an "entrepreneurial" initiative, and he described CU-Boulder as an unusually entrepreneurial institution. "If there's an institution that can make this work, it's CU-Boulder."

Non-university committee members include: David Pyle, founder and CEO of American Career College; Mike Rosen, political commentator on 850 KOA and in The Denver Post; Bob Greenlee, former Boulder City Council member and mayor, and president of Centennial Investment and Management Company Inc.; Brown; and Wright.

CU faculty members on the committee include: Vanessa Baird, associate professor of political science; David S. Brown, professor and chair of political science; Bradley Monton, associate professor of philosophy; Murat Iyigun, professor of economics; and Kent.

The Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy is a three-year pilot program supported by private funds. More than 20 donors have raised $1 million to support the program.

The concept was originally discussed in 2007 as an endowed chair requiring up to $9 million in donations. The economic recession that began in 2008 prompted the university to scale back the plan.

The committee will recommend a sole nominee by a majority vote. Keith Maskus, associate dean of social sciences and professor of economics, will chair the committee but will not vote.

The committee's recommendation will need the approval of the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Boulder campus chancellor and the CU Board of Regents.

The committee hopes to have the first scholar on campus by 2013.

National fellowship for Espinoza[38]

Espinoza

Manuel Luis Espinoza, an assistant professor at the School of Education and Human Development at CU Denver, has been named a 2012 National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellow.

The focus of Espinoza's work is "rooted in a trio of approaches to education – social interactional studies of classrooms, philosophical investigations into the value of learning, and legal examinations of landmark educational case. The project seeks to establish an empirical approach to the study of learning in school settings as potentially 'rights-generative' activity."

The prestigious award, worth $55,000, will support his research "to analyze the rich audio-video and writing archives of a summer educational apprenticeship for migrant students." His interest in the subject continues work he did as a doctoral student at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

Leeds index: Optimism among state business leaders drops[40]

Colorado business leaders are less optimistic going into the third quarter than last quarter, according to the most recent quarterly Leeds Business Confidence Index, or LBCI, released Monday by the University of Colorado Boulder's Leeds School of Business.

The LBCI's reading slid from 62.2 in the second quarter to 53.6 in the third, but remained higher than the 10-year average for the index and above the critical neutral mark of 50. A reading greater than 50 indicates positive expectations, while one lower than 50 indicates negative expectations.

"While third quarter data show some waning optimism, the outlook still remains positive," said economist Richard Wobbekind, executive director of the Leeds School's Business Research Division, who conducts the quarterly survey. "Going forward, the European debt crisis, the rate of employment growth and subpar construction activity are still areas of concern for the economy as a whole."

Most of the business leaders who responded to the quarterly survey (66 percent) indicated that their organization's recovery is stronger today than a year ago. However, panelists identified politics as the most worrisome factor and one that could disrupt their organization's recovery. They also noted that higher interest rates could affect their organization.

Hiring expectations decreased from 59.6 in the second quarter to 53.7 in the third, while capital investment expectations measured 52.6, down from 58.9 last quarter.

Statewide, the strongest growth sectors year-over-year in May were in the professional and business services sector,

which added 8,900 jobs. Education and health services added 7,800 jobs and the construction industry added 7,000. On the downside, the information sector lost 3,000 jobs and the government sector dropped by 400.

The outlook for both the state and national economies took a step back going into the third quarter, and for the 29th consecutive quarter optimism for the local economy outstripped that for the national economy.

The index measuring prospects for the state economy dropped from 67.1 to 56.6 in the third quarter, while the national index dropped from 62.2 to 46.0 – the only component to fall below 50.

Business leaders' sales expectations for the third quarter fell from 64.6 to 58.1, while profit expectations decreased from 60.8 to 54.9.

To access the complete report visit http://leeds.colorado.edu/brd[41] and click on the Leeds Business Confidence Index link located on the left side of the page.

Carrigan new chair, Sharkey new vice chair of Board of Regents[42]

[43]
The Board of Regents has elected Michael Carrigan, D-Denver, chair of the board and Sue Sharkey, R-Windsor, vice chair.

Carrigan, who is in his second term representing the 1st Congressional District, was elected chair on a 5-3 vote at the board's June meeting at UCCS. There was one abstention. The chair and vice chair serve one-year terms.

"It's a tremendous honor for me to be voted chair by my colleagues," said Carrigan, who succeeds Kyle Hybl, R-Colorado Springs. "I look forward to working with the board, President Benson and the entire university community to build on the progress we have made in recent years. CU is a great university and while we face some significant challenges, we also have substantial opportunities to enhance the wonderful work that happens across the CU system."

Carrigan is an alumnus of the CU School of Law and is a partner at Holland & Hart LLP, Denver's largest law firm. He is the second member of his family to serve on the board: His father, Jim Carrigan, was a regent from 1975-77. His term was cut short when he was appointed as a Colorado Supreme Court judge.

Hines-Sloan shines with award at CU Denver[44]

Hines-Sloan

Marlinda Hines-Sloan, academic adviser at the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver, is the "Let Your Light Shine" Exempt Professional Assembly Employee of the Month for June 2012.

Hines-Sloan was nominated by co-worker Meredith Lopez, who described the award-winner as "always bright and cheerful" and someone who makes time to check in with everyone in the office and "really listens when colleagues want to share." Hines-Sloan co-chairs the department's diversity committee, "goes above and beyond the call of duty to listen to and assist" the graduate students she advises. She also advises new doctoral students. Outside the department, Hines-Sloan is an Auraria Campus Phoenix Center Volunteer, a founding Fayolo family representing The

Boys School (a charter school within Denver Public Schools) and a volunteer at the 9Health Fair. She received a $100 gift card in recognition for her service.

CU Foundation names new UCCS development leader[46]

Megan Fisher

The University of Colorado Foundation has named Megan Fisher to be assistant vice president for development, effective July 1. Fisher will lead UCCS development activities and manage the foundation's local staff.

Fisher has served the University of Colorado Foundation as a development officer since 2006, in which time she has been a key contributor to UCCS's five best fundraising years to date, with fundraising responsibilities for the College of Business, the Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and the School of Public Affairs.

"Megan Fisher has been a fundamental part of our team throughout the Creating Futures campaign, and we're excited to have her leading the development team at UCCS," said Rick Lawrence, president and chief executive officer for the CU Foundation. "Her strong relationships throughout the university and broader community will be invaluable to our continued success."

Before her UCCS tenure, Fisher worked for the Pikes Peak United Way/Center for Nonprofit Excellence as a program manager for the Colorado AmeriCorps Promise Fellows program. She earned a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University and a master's in business administration from UCCS, where she received the Outstanding MBA Student in Services Management award.

"I am thrilled to be able to step into this leadership role," Fisher said. "As an MBA alumna of UCCS and a strong advocate for donor-centered philanthropy, I look forward to my continued service to this campus, our community and our most generous donors."

School of Education and Human Development to be home of STEM network[48]

[49]
Science classrooms across Colorado will soon awaken with opportunities to engage students and teachers like never before. Education networks from across the country , along with Battelle, kicked off STEMx at the U.S. News STEM Solutions Summit in Dallas. STEMx spotlights 13 state initiatives. The University of Colorado Denver's School of Education and Human Development[50] will be home to Colorado's initiative, the Colorado Experiential STEM Learning Network.[51]

Led by CU Denver's Brad McLain[52] and Mike Marlow, PhD[53], the Colorado Experiential STEM Learning Network aims to collaborate with schools, businesses, policy makers and government labs to create extraordinary STEM experiences for students and teachers. Innovative STEM programs are taking place in classrooms throughout the state but are isolated. The network's goal is to bring STEM innovators and educational researchers together to improve science literacy and promote excitement about science.

"Ask any scientist and they can tell you the moment or event or experience that changed their trajectory, that got them so excited that it changed their life and led them to practice science," said McLain. "With experiential science learning, schools become more effective and learning becomes more valuable."

The network is designed to be action-based and to directly benefit Colorado students and teachers in the classroom, whether it's schools reaching out to businesses for hands-on activities or community involvement in student projects and initiatives. CU Denver's role is to facilitate collaboration between cutting-edge STEM educators in the state, serve as a communication hub, and to conduct and promote research about the programs that make the most impact. Network organizers believe this type of research is critical for success.

"Our research shows that when individuals connect with science through meaningful personal experiences, such as what experiential methods provide, it can impact one's sense of self and help to build positive science identities," McLain said.

Library celebrates naming of Bartecchi Special Collections Reading Area[54]

Carl Bartecchi, left, looks on as people flip through one of his books at the recent naming celebration of the Carl and Kay Bartecchi Special Collections Reading Area.

Carl Bartecchi, M.D., MACP, is a physician who readily admits he has an affliction. "I have become a bibliomaniac," he said with a wide smile.

Bartecchi talked about his love of books, especially tomes on the history of medicine, at the naming celebration of the Carl and Kay Bartecchi Special Collections Reading Area of the Health Sciences Library[56]. About 25 people attended the June 22 reception in the third-floor reading room at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Bartecchi's love of medical history books started when he was a medical student who served an internal medicine rotation at Pennsylvania Hospital[57], the nation's oldest hospital. At the hospital's library, "I'd pull these old books off the shelves. I saw things I wouldn't have believed ... Malaria in the Midwest. I thought, 'Jeez, this is interesting stuff.'"

His passion for collecting continued when he started his internal medicine practice in Pueblo in 1970. In downtown Pueblo or at regional and national conferences he would browse old bookstores and antique shops, buying old books and historic medical instruments.

His bibliomania eventually reached a point where his wife, Kay, stepped in. Having become a distinguished clinical professor of medicine in the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Bartecchi said he realized that the Health Sciences Library "would be an ideal place (for my collections) because other people could enjoy them as well," he said. "Also, it was a beautiful library and a wonderful place ... My wife was very happy to leave them here."

Bartecchi's books have been integrated into the Waring History of Medicine and Health Sciences Collection[58] on the library's third floor.

Speakers at the event included Jerry Perry, Health Sciences Library director; Regina Kilkenny, associate vice chancellor for academic resources and services; and Provost Roderick Nairn.

Perry noted that the library has been "blessed by the support of Carl Bartecchi for many years," including the recent donation of newer books – many reflecting his passion for flight surgery – as well as photographs from his travels to South America and Southeast Asia that grace the library's walls.

Particularly with the medical artifacts, which are housed in a cabinet in the reading room, "he has been really helpful for the outreach we do. We bring middle and high school students in quite a bit," Perry said. The Bartecchi collection "substantially enhances the collection, our resources and ability to serve."

Kilkenny said many of Bartecchi's contributions are behind the scenes, but they've "done much to make it a richer learning environment ... It means the world to us and we're most appreciative."

Nairn also thanked the Bartecchis for their generosity. "It means an awful lot to the students, it means a lot to faculty and I think a lot of people are going to see the things you've provided," he said. "The rare books collection is just tremendous. I enjoyed looking at the artifacts. I can just imagine the school kids who come through here looking at those. They're probably going to do what I did and wonder what some of them are."

Carl Bartecchi also leads service missions to Vietnam where he is involved in supporting and providing hospital facilities and medical education. He is co-author of "Living Healthier and Longer: What Works, What Doesn't" and "A Doctor's Vietnam Journal," both of which are in the library's collection.

"We thank you for your service to the School of Medicine and the university as well and all the things you do for folks around the world," Nairn said. "You're a great example for us, and people are going to benefit from that."

Renowned scientist Blumenthal to lead Linda Crnic Institute[59]

Tom Blumenthal

Nationally renowned molecular biologist Tom Blumenthal, Ph.D, has been named the new executive director of the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome[61], headquartered at the University of Colorado School of Medicine on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Blumenthal, who is leaving his post as chairman of the Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (MCDB) Department at the University of Colorado Boulder, brings an impressive track record of academic management and basic science experience to his new role.

"Morally, I believe we are obligated to help people through scientific study," Blumenthal said. "Scientifically, I am intrigued with the Crnic Institute's mission to eradicate the medical and cognitive ill effects associated with Down syndrome. Given current technological advances, I believe we have a fighting chance at delivering. My first focus will be to dramatically increase the amount of research the Crnic Institute is engaged in and to initiate a competitive Grand Challenges grant program within the University of Colorado system."

Blumenthal is no stranger to the Crnic Institute's mission. From its inception he has served on the Crnic Institute's Scientific Advisory Board; he has belonged to the Board of Directors for the past year.

"We are excited about the leadership, scientific knowledge, professionalism and passion Dr. Blumenthal brings to the Crnic Institute," said John J. Sie, co-trustee of the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation and founding donor of the Crnic Institute. "With Tom at the helm, we are confident our $22 million donation will create unprecedented excellent quality medical care but also important basic research benefiting people with Down syndrome."

Michelle Sie Whitten – executive director of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation, which provides fundraising, education, awareness and government advocacy for the Crnic Institute – agrees.

"Dr. Blumenthal has already started major research initiatives that we can galvanize our community around, fundraise for and educate societ about," she said. "We couldn't be more excited."

Lilly Marks – a Crnic Institute Board of Directors member, vice president for health affairs at the University of Colorado

and executive vice chancellor of the Anschutz Medical Campus – welcomes her distinguished colleague.

“Tom’s deep network of scientific colleagues on both campuses puts him in a unique position to galvanize research benefiting people with Down syndrome,” she said. “He has the scientific leadership that is important for a multidisciplinary, multicampus effort to ameliorate the adverse effects of Down syndrome.”

Blumenthal served as two-term chair for the MCDB Department at CU-Boulder. Before that, he was chair of biochemistry and molecular genetics at the CU Health Sciences Center for eight years. He also spent many years as chair of biological sciences at Indiana University, Bloomington.

Blumenthal earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Antioch College in 1966. He was a National Science Foundation fellow during his graduate work at Johns Hopkins University, from which he received his Ph.D. in genetics in 1970. He was awarded the Helen Hay Whitney Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, which he completed at Harvard University’s Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in 1973.

Blumenthal is the author of more than 100 scholarly articles and one book, and currently sits on the editorial boards of the journals RNA, Molecular and Cellular Biology, Transcription and Worm, in addition to the online book Wormbook [62].

He has served on the boards of directors of the American Medical and Graduate Departments of Biochemistry, the American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, the RNA Society and the Scientific Advisory Board of Wormbase, the C. elegans database. He also served as a member of the University of California Science and Technology Committee and the Scientific Advisory Boards of the Biological Science Divisions of the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. He was elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2010.

Blumenthal’s research in the area of gene expression concentrates on mechanisms of pre-mRNA processing in C. elegans and how that relates to organization of genes on chromosomes. Blumenthal’s work with the C. elegans model system even has possibly significant implications for understanding Down syndrome, despite its seemingly distinct focus.

“We do not currently understand how an extra copy of chromosome 21 results in all the many effects seen in people with Down syndrome, but dramatic changes in gene expression may be the most likely explanation,” Blumenthal said. He is excited to have the opportunity to facilitate putting together research teams to test ideas like this, both to understand the causes of, and the benefit to those who have, Down syndrome.

Dropping names … [63]

Two University of Colorado School of Medicine researchers have been awarded two of the three grants awarded in Colorado by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Nationally, 50 grants are given out. **Daniel Matlock**, assistant professor of medicine-internal medicine and geriatrics, is the principal investigator on a $644,000 grant to study patient decision aids for people with implanted defibrillators. **Jack Westfall**, professor of family medicine and program director for Colorado AHEC, is the principal investigator for a $724,000 project, “Boot Camp Translation for Patient Centered Outcomes.” … **Wendy Madigosky**, associate professor of family medicine at the CU School of Medicine, has been accepted as a Macy Faculty Scholar. She was one of five selected from a national pool. The program is designed to develop a new generation of national leaders in medicine and nursing. Scholars must commit half their time to pursue education reform projects at their institution. Madigosky will be working on an interprofessional safety and health care improvement curriculum for the Anschutz Medical Campus with her mentor, Amy J. Barton, professor and associate dean, College of Nursing, Clinical and Community Affairs. … **Mary Klute**, of the Buechner Institute for Governance at the University of Colorado Denver, played a key role in producing the second and final

report by the A+ Denver SchoolChoice Transparency Committee. The new DPS SchoolChoice process is the first unified enrollment process for a large urban school district that includes nearly all K-12 schools: innovation, performance, magnet and charter. Klute handled the data analysis and evaluation. The purpose of the report is to provide a full account of participation, family preferences, school matches and patterns related to a variety of factors from geography to student demographics. … **Taisto Mäkelä**, associate professor and chair of architecture, presented a paper at the European Architectural History Network (EAHN) annual meeting in Brussels, Belgium, last month. Mäkelä's presentation, "Zeitgeist in the Service of Modern Architecture," was part of the session "Neither 'Modernism' nor 'Avant-Garde': A Roundtable Discussion in Honor of the 90th birthday of Alan Colquhoun," who was Taisto's professor at Princeton University. … **Mark Golkowski**, assistant professor, electrical engineering and bioengineering at the University of Colorado Denver, is participating in research to evaluate a novel instrument that kills harmful bacteria without the use of liquid chemicals or high temperatures. The work is being done in collaboration with JILA, operated jointly by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the University of Colorado Boulder. JILA's laser frequency comb measurements help explain, for the first time, how this sterilization technique inactivates bacteria, and thus will "help optimize solutions for the medical clinic where multi-drug-resistant bacteria are a growing problem."

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/people/eid-recognized-navajo-nation-bar-association[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/p_eid.png[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/ubab-stay-course[4] https://www.cu.edu/pbs/ubab.html[5] https://www.cusys.edu/trust/index.html[6] http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2012A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/0EB0DDD87604DD3D872579810082A610?Open&file=1321_enr.pdf[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/working-away-office[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/dyk_workingaway1.png[9] https://www.cu.edu/content/oismonthlycybersecuritynewsletter[10] https://www.cu.edu/policies/aps/it/6005.pdf[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-tania-schoennagel[12] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/5q-ts-top.png[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/5q-ts2.png[14] http://www.colorado.edu/geography/biogeography/publications/Schoennagel_et_al_2004.pdf[15] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/5q-ts1.png[16] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cannon-receives-national-mentor-award[17] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/p_cannon.png[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uis-service-contact-info-changing-system-administration[19] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Contacts-icon.png[20] mailto:help@cu.edu[21] mailto:Sean.Myers@cu.edu[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-providing-shelter-those-fighting-waldo-canyon-blaze[23] http://www.uccs.edu/%7Ewaldocanyonfire[24] http://boulderoem.com/emergency-status[25] http://www.bouldercounty.org/env/air/pages/wildfire.aspxThe[26] http://www.colorado.edu[27] http://www.bouldercolorado.gov[28] http://www.colorado.edu/alerts[29] http://www.boco911alert.com[30] http://www.helpcoloradonow.org/[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/two-diabetes-center-receive-achievement-awards[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/baker-receives-prestigious-writing-award[33] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/p_baker.png[34] http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/science/space-physics/earths-magnetosphere/[35] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/todd-saliman-takes-reins-cu%E2%80%99s-chief-financial-officer-0[36] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ts.png[37] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-opens-search-scholar-conservative-thought-policy[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/national-fellowship-espinoza[39] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/p_espinoza.png[40] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/leeds-index-optimism-among-state-business-leaders-drops[41] http://leeds.colorado.edu/brd[42] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/carrigan-new-chair-sharkey-new-vice-chair-board-regents-0[43] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/regent.png[44] https://connections.cu.edu/people/hines-sloan-shines-award-cu-denver[45] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/p_hines-sloan.png[46] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-foundation-names-new-uccs-development-leader[47]

https://connections.cu.edu/across-cu/cu-foundation-names-new-uccs-development-leader/megan-fisher[48] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/school-education-and-human-development-be-home-stem-network[49] https://connections.cu.edu/across-cu/school-of-education-and-human-development-to-be-home-of-stem-network/school-of-education[50] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/Pages/home.aspx[51] http://www.cesln.org/[52] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/FacultyandResearch/Pages/Brad-McClain.aspx[53] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/FacultyandResearch/Pages/MichaelPMarlow.aspx[54] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/library-celebrates-naming-bartecchi-special-collections-reading-area[55] https://connections.cu.edu/across-cu/library-celebrates-naming-of-bartecchi-special-collections-reading-area/cs_library-celebrates-bartecchi-2[56] http://hslibrary.ucdenver.edu/[57] http://www.uphs.upenn.edu/paharc/[58] http://hslibrary.ucdenver.edu/waring-collection[59] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/renowned-scientist-blumenthal-lead-linda-crnic-institute[60] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/blumenthal.png[61] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/institutes/lindacrnic/Pages/lindacrnic.aspx[62] http://www.wormbook.org/[63] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-140