SkillPort[1]

SkillPort, the Web-based learning system offered to University of Colorado employees, has a wide variety of online resources on Microsoft Office 2007, for both beginners and experts. As a new user of Microsoft Office 2007, you can take an overview course called "New Features for End Users in Microsoft Office 2007." Learn about new features such as the ribbon, contextual tabs, the gallery, live preview and more. This 80-minute course will save you a lot of time and eliminate frustration in learning about this product.

Expert users of Microsoft Office 2007 can choose from a variety of courses on advanced topics and product customizations. And if you would rather read a book, visit Books24x7—also available on the SkillPort site—where you will find numerous titles on different topics.

For more information on Microsoft Office 2007 online resources or on SkillPort visit the Employee Learning and Development Resource page: https://www.cu.edu/eld[2]

Colorado Shakespeare Festival opens summer season[3]

Actors Stephen Weitz (left) and Gary Wright perform in the 2009 Colorado Shakespeare Festival's production of Hamlet.

The Colorado Shakespeare Festival, one of the nation's most well-respected theater events, has opened its 52nd summer season at the University of Colorado at Boulder's Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre.

This year's productions include "Hamlet," "Much Ado About Nothing," "The Two Gentlemen of Verona," "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged," and "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The festival is staging the plays at the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre and at the University Theatre Mainstage, an indoor venue on the CU-Boulder campus. For more information about performance times, locations and ticket prices, visit www.coloradoshakes.org[5].

Each year, the festival mounts Shakespearean and other classic theater productions, along with plays representing the work of playwrights and novelists from the United States and other parts of the globe. This year, the festival will stage "To Kill a Mockingbird," based on Harper Lee's 1960 modern American classic and Pulitzer Prize-winning novel.

The beloved Southern novel is set in the fictional town of Maycomb, Ala., during the Great Depression. Six-year-old Scout Finch narrates the story, describing a cast of characters that include her father, Atticus, an attorney who defends a black man accused of raping a white woman. The novel famously portrays the social mores and harsh color line that existed in the South at the time.

This year's theater season is shorter than previous years, and festival organizers hope to draw as many CU faculty members, staff, students and alumni to performances as possible. Anyone who has attended performances at Mary Rippon knows "what a lovely experience the festival is on summer eves," said CSF spokeswoman Mell McDonnell.

Since its 1958 inception, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival has staged "Hamlet" seven times, the last under the direction of James M. Symons in 2003. Festival organizers said legends about CSF productions of "Hamlet" abound. In 1988, actor Val Kilmer played the lead role in the stage production, and campus police reportedly had to be called when adoring teenage fans showed up before and after the play.

"Hamlet" tells the story of a prince who returns home from college to attend his father's funeral to find that his mother

has married his uncle. The play has produced some of the most memorable lines in theater history, including "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark," and culminates in what some consider one of the greatest duels in all of literature.

This year, actor Stephen Weitz will play the title role, and Artistic Director Philip Charles Sneed will direct the play. Wright Water Engineers Inc., a Colorado-based water resources consulting firm and longtime supporter of the festival, is sponsoring the production, McDonnell said.

CU-Boulder, NASA test new 'space Internet'[6]

CU-Boulder space payload operators Emily Pilinski, left, Andrew Jenkins, center, and Sebastian Kusminski receive data packets from the International Space Station as part of tests to extend Earth's Internet to outer space.

Space-faring explorers may be able to surf the Web while scouting the moon and Mars if a new technology aimed at extending the Internet across the solar system reaches its fullest potential.

The University of Colorado at Boulder is working with NASA to develop "disruption tolerant networking," or DTN, which will extend Earth's Internet into outer space and across the solar system, according to researchers.

Scientists are testing the new communications technology on the International Space Station, and DTN is expected to lead to a working "Interplanetary Internet," said Kevin Gifford, a senior research associate at CU-Boulder's BioServe Space Technologies and a faculty member in the aerospace engineering sciences department.

Gifford said traditional communication between spacecraft and ground stations has been over a single point-to-point link, much like a walkie-talkie.

"Highly automated future communications capabilities will be required for lunar habitation and surface exploration that include passing information between orbiting relay satellites, lunar and planetary habitats and astronauts on the surface," he said.

Researchers refer to DTN messages as "bundles." NASA began a communication operations test on June 15, sending bundles from the space station to its operations and control facility at Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., then on to a mission control center at CU-Boulder's BioServe.

The Internet Research Task Force developed the new DTN bundle protocol based on initial work started more than 10 years ago in a partnership between NASA and Vint Cerf, who holds the title of vice president and chief Internet evangelist of Google Inc. of Mountain View, Calif., and often is referred to as one of the "fathers" of the Internet.

Therese "Tess" Jones[8]

Therese "Tess" Jones

Therese "Tess" Jones has been named director of the Arts and Humanities in Health Care Program for the Center of

Bioethics and Humanities. She will also be an associate professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver.

Jones received her doctorate in English from CU-Boulder. She gained experience in developing curricula in the medical humanities while working at the former University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, and the University of Utah School of Medicine.

The Center for Bioethics and Humanities works to engage health professionals and the community in dialogue about the ethical issues enveloping contemporary health care. These issues include encouraging responsible development and use of emerging technologies, educating health care professionals about the balance among humanistic, scientific and technical dimensions of the field, and involving diverse and underrepresented voices in the community.

Two University of Colorado at Boulder School of Journalism and Mass Communication professors have been awarded the Frank Luther Mott Book Award by Kappa Tau Alpha, an honor society for journalism and mass communication.

UCCS professor on mission to design next-gen automobiles[10]

UCCS Professor Gregory Plett will work with faculty from the University of Michigan, engineers from General Motors and two UCCS graduate students to accelerate development of advanced battery technology for electric and hybrid vehicles.

A University of Colorado at Colorado Springs engineering professor is among a team of academic and car industry experts who will collaborate on the design of batteries and other components for the next generation of electric automobiles.

Gregory Plett, an associate electrical and computer engineering professor, will work with a team of University of Michigan faculty members and General Motors engineers to accelerate development of advanced battery technology for electric and hybrid vehicles.

Plett and two UCCS graduate students will work on creating controls to extend battery life cycles and provide data about their condition to drivers and vehicle computer systems.

The five-year project they are working on stems from a $5 million award to establish the University of Michigan's Advanced Battery Coalition for Drivetrains.

UCCS will receive $750,000 over five years, allowing Plett and his students to conduct computer simulations and travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to collaborate with other team members.

UC Denver Business School receives $1 million gift from EnCana[12]

UC Denver received $1million from EnCana Oil & Gas Inc. to begin renovations at the campus's Business School. [Photo by Ken Abbott

The University of Colorado Denver received a $1 million gift from EnCana Oil & Gas Inc. to begin renovations at the campus's Business School, located in downtown Denver.

University officials announced the award, facilitated by the University of Colorado Foundation, on Wednesday, June 24, during a Business School event attended by local business leaders and entrepreneurs.

Business School Dean Sueann Ambron said the gift would allow the school to establish a permanent home for its Global Energy Management, or GEM, degree program.

"We have the opportunity to bring all of the Business School's programs, students, faculty and staff under one roof," she said. "The location of the building will promote the school's position as a source of business talent, innovation and collaboration for businesses throughout the region, helping to grow local businesses and jobs."

EnCana, a Canadian corporation with U.S. headquarters in Denver, is the largest producer of natural gas in North America.

The company has supported the UC Denver Business School with the development of an energy accounting course in 2006, and the development and launch of the GEM program, which enrolled its first students in January 2009.

EnCana's gift to UC Denver will go toward initial renovations of the Business School Building located at 1475 Lawrence St. The school plans to honor the company by naming a suite after it.

Ardent Buff fan leaves $4.75 million to CU-Boulder athletic department[14]

Bennett Reed, a devoted Buff fan, donated $4.75 million to the CU-Boulder Athletic Department.

One of the Colorado Buffaloes' biggest fans has donated $4.5 million in gifts to fund student athletic scholarships in football and men's and women's basketball, according to the University of Colorado Foundation.

The gifts will go toward the Louise Bennett Reed Scholarship Fund, which will support as many as 10 full scholarships a year in perpetuity.

With the gifts, Reed, who passed away at the age of 103 last June, has become the largest individual donor to the CU-Boulder athletics department.

"We are honored and touched by the historic generosity of Louise Bennett Reed, whose lifetime dedication to mentoring young people will live on to benefit the core mission of scholarships for CU male and female student-athletes for generations to come," said CU-Boulder Director of Athletics Mike Bohn.

"In this turbulent economy, scholarships are a key universitywide priority, and planned gifts such as bequests are ever important funding sources for CU programs," Bohn said.

Bennett Reed

Foundation officials said Reed's generosity is all the more remarkable because she did not develop an interest in CU-Boulder athletics until her retirement. Reed took summer classes on the campus in 1929, but earned a bachelor's and master's degree elsewhere. In the early 1970s, she made up for lost time, volunteering as an academic adviser and career counselor for Buffs football players, and showing her support at football and basketball games.

Born in a mining camp outside Redstone, Colo., in 1905, Reed had a successful teaching career, most significantly at California State University, Long Beach, where she counseled students and taught commercial science and business courses.

A passion for skiing inspired her to teach for a period in Telluride-where she was paid in gold nuggets. She coached women's high school basketball in Erie in the 1930s, leading her team to the state championships. The CU-Boulder athletics department was the sole beneficiary of Reed's estate. She had no surviving immediate family members.

Denver District Court judge rules against Churchill[17]

A Denver judge has ruled that former University of Colorado at Boulder ethnic studies Professor Ward Churchill should not return to the classroom or receive back pay.

The decision came despite the fact that Churchill won a lawsuit in April when a jury agreed with the former CU-Boulder professor's position that his free-speech rights had been violated when the Board of Regents dismissed him in 2007. In issuing its decision to dismiss Churchill, the board cited academic misconduct that emerged during a university investigation.

Denver District Court Judge Larry Naves issued his legal opinion on Tuesday, and Churchill is expected to appeal the decision. In his ruling, Naves denied Churchill's motion for employment reinstatement as a tenured professor, and concluded that back pay "is not an appropriate remedy in this case," according to the 42-page ruling.

"We believe the judge appropriately applied the rule of law to recognize the Board of Regents' role as a quasi-judicial body," CU President Bruce D. Benson said in a statement issued to the press. "This ruling recognizes that the regents have to make important and often difficult decisions, and the threat of litigation should not be used to influence those decisions."

CU Board of Regents Chair Steve Bosley said Naves' ruling "affirms that in dismissing Professor Churchill, the Board of Regents did the right thing, in the right way for the right reasons."

University Counsel attorney Pat O'Rourke, who argued the case before Naves, said the judge agreed with the university's position that the Board of Regents acts as a quasi-judicial body charged with setting university laws and policies as provided under the Colorado Constitution.

Naves cited Article 5.C.1 of regent law in his opinion: "Among the constitutional powers vested in the Board of Regents is the power 'to enact laws for the government of the university.'"

The article also states that, "A faculty member may be dismissed when, in the judgment of the Board of Regents and subject to the Board of Regents' constitutional and statutory authority, the good of the university requires such action."

The Board of Regents fired Churchill in 2007 after an investigation led by other faculty members concluded that the former professor had plagiarized and falsified academic work over several years. Churchill's lawsuit alleged he had been fired for an essay he wrote following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

Following a four-week trial this spring, a Denver District Court jury returned an April 2 verdict in Churchill's favor, but only awarded him $1 in restitution. Soon after the decision, Churchill filed a motion for reinstatement to his tenured faculty position. At a July 1 hearing, Churchill's attorney, David Lane, argued that reinstatement was the appropriate remedy in light of the jury verdict.

CU argued that the nominal sum the jury awarded reflected that Churchill had damaged his own reputation, and that reinstating him would continue to damage the university's academic reputation and cause disruption on campus, O'Rourke said.

Resources for the Churchill Case:
Judge Naves' Ruling[18]Timeline and History[19]

Janice Peck and Jan Whitt[20]

Janice Peck and her dog Ellie

Associate Professor **Janice Peck** won third place for her book The Age of Oprah: Cultural Icon for the Neoliberal Era. In the book, Peck examines Winfrey's media enterprises as part of contemporary U.S. culture and politics. Peck formerly worked as a journalist, editor and writer for newspapers, magazines and radio stations.

Jan Whitt, also an associate journalism professor, was a finalist for the award for her piece Women in American Journalism: A New History. The book explores the lives of women who played a significant role in journalism history, but whose efforts were overlooked. Whitt teaches courses in literary journalism, women's issues, literature, media history, and writing and popular culture.

Jan Whitt

Named in honor of Pulitzer Prize winner Frank Luther Mott, the annual award honors research-based books about journalism or mass communication.

Regents to discuss roles, responsibilities at annual retreat[23]

University of Colorado Board of Regents

The University of Colorado Board of Regents will work to articulate the roles and responsibilities of the board and the administration at its retreat next week, and focus on the internal and external pressures that affect strategic planning for the university.The board[25] will meet for its annual retreat July 15-17 at President Bruce D. Benson's home in Silverthorne, Colo.

"With all the challenges the university faces, it's important that we have a clear understanding of where we need to focus our energies, and who will be responsible for what," said Board of Regents Chairman Steve Bosley (R-Longmont). "This is a good opportunity for us to get together with the president outside our regular meeting format to have a meaningful discussion about how we move CU forward."

The context of the retreat will be the major influences on CU from outside the university, including economic, political, social, legal, regulatory and public expectations. It will also focus on influences from the university's internal culture.

Retired University Counsel Charles Sweet and Nina Polok will facilitate the retreat. Polok holds a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, an MBA in information systems, and a doctorate in strategy, organization and management

with an emphasis in organizational change and development. She is a visiting associate professor in the UCCS College of Business, and is a program executive for the campus's bachelor of innovation program.

Retreat discussions will examine the role and responsibilities of the board as a body and as individuals. It will also detail the board's expectations of the president and vice versa. The board will also discuss guiding principles of good governance.

The board is also scheduled to have sessions on branding, strategic planning, the president's priorities, and discuss budget constraints and their impact on planning.

Victor Gurarie[26]

Victor Gurarie

Victor Gurarie, an associate professor of physics at the University of Colorado at Boulder, was awarded the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award.

The award honors scientists and scholars for outstanding research and in recognition of lifetime achievement in research. The research must also influence other fields of study. Awardees are invited to conduct research projects in cooperation with a specialist colleague at a research institution in Germany.

Nominated by German scientist Alexander Altlandof the Universität Köln, Gurarie studies emergent phenomena in condensed matter physics, a field that investigates physical properties of matter such as solids and liquids.

Office of Policy and Efficiency announces July 1 policy changes[28]

Director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency Dan Montez. [Photo by Ashley Mohr

The Office of Policy and Efficiency recently announced changes to 33 administrative policy statements, or APSs, effective July 1, 2009. The changes will affect academic, administrative, fiscal, and human resources policies.

Respective policy owners developed the changes as part of the university's ongoing efficiency efforts. Various stakeholder groups reviewed the changes before university executives discussed them and approved them on June 12. President Bruce D. Benson has signed them and made them official.

In summary, the university has eliminated 19 policies, revised 12, and has added two new policies required by recent changes in state law. For a complete list and for more details, including why the changes were made, visit the OPE Web site[30].

OPE Director Dan Montez said the university eliminated policies because they were obsolete, duplicative, were already covered by regent laws or polices, or were streamlined and combined into other related APSs.Â Several eliminations were based on recommendations made by the President's Task Force on Efficiency in March.

The university revised 12 policies to comply with changing state and federal laws; to align them more closely with current practices and standards; to remove archaic language or references to old policies; or to streamline and simplify

them.

Questions and feedback on any of these APS actions can be directed to the Office of Policy and Efficiency at 303-860-5711 or ope@cu.edu[31] or via the policy Web site.

Paul Daugherty, Nabil Echchaib,Stewart Hoover, Marguerite "Meg" Mortiz, and Brett Robbs[32]

Paul Daugherty Nabil Echchaibi Stewart Hoover Marguerite "Meg" Mortiz Brett Robbs

The University of Colorado at Boulder School of Journalism and Mass Communication awarded $60,000 in research grants to three faculty teams for future projects.

The school awarded the largest grants to professors **Paul Daugherty**, **Nabil Echchaibi**, **Stewart Hoover**, **Marguerite "Meg" Mortiz** and **Brett Robbs**. The group received $29,000 to produce a pioneering documentary film called Muslims in the Mountain West, which will detail the lives of Muslims as they settle in the plains and mountain regions of the United States. Graduate student Suzanne Popovich will also work on the project.
Additionally, professors **Janice Peck** and **Liz Skewes** received $19,000 for their project comparing the quality of journalism provided by newspapers, blogs and Internet aggregators. Professors **Rick Stevens** and **Tom Yulsman** received $12,000 for their climate change Web site, which aims to be the first comprehensive, interactive and scientifically sound site of its kind.

Members of the Dean's Advisory Council evaluated the submitted proposals.

Photos from School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Nabil Echchaibi.

President's Task Force on Efficiency issues update[34]

ExecStaff-Dinegar.jpg

The President's Task Force on Efficiency met on June 24 for the first time since releasing its report in March. The working group received a status report on the implementation of its 36 recommendations, all approved by President Benson earlier this year.

At the TFE Web site[36], CU employees can obtain information about the status report and other information, and provide comments and feedback about how the university can be more efficient and effective in its operations.

The task force will meet again in September. CU Vice President for Administration and Chief of Staff Leonard Dinegar, who chaired the task force, expects to update the Board of Regents on the status of the recommendations in the fall.

"We will be monitoring progress, continuing our outreach efforts, looking at new ideas and areas of focus for the upcoming year, and hope the university community will continue to engage with this effort," Dinegar said.

Feedback can be submitted at the task force Web site[36] or via e-mail at ope@cu.edu[31].

Stimulus funding update[37]

Summary of research grant applications by campus
CU-Boulder has applied for more than 194 grants totaling $130 million. The campus has received 22 awards for a total of $10.4 million. UCCS has applied for 12 grants totaling $6.7 million. The campus has an additional 18 grant proposals underway. UC Denver has applied for 544 grants totaling $236 million. The campus has received 19 awards from the National Institute of Health totaling approximately $8.6 million. The total number of CU research grant applications is approximately 750 totaling $373 million. CU has received 41 awards as of July 7, 2009, totaling approximately $14 million.

CU System ARRA Research Grant Awards

Awarding Agency	**CU-Boulder**		**UC Denver**		**CU System**	
	Amount	Number of Awards	Amount	Number of Awards	Amount	Number of Awards
NIH	$ 1,824,484	6	$ 8,564,094	19	$ 10,388,578	25
NSF	$ 8,612,041	16	$ 8,612,041	16		
Grand Total	$10, 436,525	22	$ 8,564,094	19	$ 19,000,619	41

List of federal agencies where we are seeking money Almost 93 percent of the current research grant requests are with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) 25 awards received have been from the NIH for approximately $10.3 million 16 awards have been received from the National Science Foundation for approximately $8.6 million

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/skillport[2] https://www.cu.edu/eld/[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-

shakespeare-festival-opens-summer-season[4] https://connections.cu.edu/news/colorado-shakespeare-festival-opens-summer-season/csf[5] http://www.coloradoshakes.org/[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-nasa-test-new-space-internet[7] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucb-nasajpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/people/therese-tess-jones[9] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplejonesjpg[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-professor-mission-design-next-gen-automobiles[11] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsplettjpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uc-denver-business-school-receives-1-million-gift-encana[13] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdjpg[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/ardent-buff-fan-leaves-475-million-cu-boulder-athletic-department[15] https://connections.cu.edu/across-cu/ardent-buff-fan-leaves-4-75-million-to-cu-boulder-athletic-department/cu-fdnt-03[16] https://connections.cu.edu/across-cu/ardent-buff-fan-leaves-4-75-million-to-cu-boulder-athletic-department/cu-fdnt-04[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/denver-district-court-judge-rules-against-churchill[18] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2009/07-08/churchill-ruling.pdf[19] https://www.cu.edu/content/communiqu%C3%A9schurchillcase0[20] https://connections.cu.edu/people/janice-peck-and-jan-whitt[21] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplepeckjpg[22] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplewhittjpg[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-discuss-roles-responsibilities-annual-retreat[24] https://connections.cu.edu/file/bor1jpg[25] https://www.cu.edu/regents/[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/victor-gurarie[27] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplegurariejpg[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/office-policy-and-efficiency-announces-july-1-policy-changes[29] https://connections.cu.edu/file/policymontezjpg[30] https://www.cu.edu/policies[31] mailto:ope@cu.edu[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/paul-daugherty-nabil-echchaibstewart-hoover-marguerite-meg-mortiz-and-brett-robbs[33] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peopledeansadvcncl-daugherty2jpg[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/presidents-task-force-efficiency-issues-update[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/execstaff-dinegarjpg1png[36] https://www.cu.edu/efficiency[37] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/stimulus-funding-update