Professor, youth advocate earns kudos from state[1]

Elaina Verveer, a youth advocate and professor at both Naropa University and the University of Colorado-Boulder, was recognized May 15 for her years of work in the community when she was awarded the title of 2010 "Outstanding Civic Leader" by the Colorado Governor's Commission on Community Service.

Because of Verveer's work and passion, youth all over our county are creative positive change in the community. Elaina works with middle, high school and college students all over the county, inspiring all of them to make the community a stronger place. She teaches such classes as "The Art of Community Organizing," "Democracy, Education and Social Change," "Renewing Democracy in Communities and Schools," and "Teaching Social Justice," in which she supports college students as they create positive change in the area. Secondary school participants in her "Public Achievement" program have marched from Boulder to Lafayette on Cesar Chavez Day for immigration reform and produced public service announcements about local teen violence, changing school and local policy, and addressing various – inequities in the community.

Members of the Lafayette Youth Advisory board, a group of middle and high school students that work with the Lafayette City Council to address issues impacting local youth, with Verveer's help have successfully raised funds for a Layfayette skate park.

Lafayette Mayor Chris Cameron said, "You can bet that if young people are doing something good in Lafayette, Elaina has been involved somewhere along the line."

Governor makes flexibility official[2]

Photo/Leonid Balaban
CU President Bruce D. Benson, far left, looks on with university representatives and others as Gov. Bill Ritter signs the higher ed flexibility bill into law at the Capitol.
Photo/Leonid BalabanCU President Bruce D. Benson, far left, looks on with university representatives and others as Gov. Bill Ritter signs the higher ed flexibility bill into law at the Capitol.

Gov. Bill Ritter signed legislation June 9 giving public colleges and universities greater flexibility in setting tuition rates and in financial affairs.

The law – developed by lawmakers and the governor's Higher Education Strategic Plan Steering Committee, along with input from higher education representatives – provides short-term relief for the institutions at a time when state funding is decreasing.

The bill had been negotiated and revised since last summer, and was given final approval just days before this year's legislative session ended.

"We all have an appreciation for this challenge that we face in this state where higher ed funding is concerned," Gov. Ritter said before signing Senate Bill 3 into law. "It's been a challenge for us as a state for a very long time. Some of this has to do with how we restricted spending in the Constitution and really (didn't protect) higher ed funding at the same time. As a result of that, when we've gone into downturns particularly, higher ed funding has just been bruised in a really serious way."

SB 3 allows governing boards to determine annual tuition increases that do not exceed 9 percent. Institutions seeking increases greater than 9 percent must receive approval from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education for financial and accountability plans. The plans would include how the institutions would preserve access and affordability for low- and middle-income students.

"With higher education facing cuts next year, it was imperative that we take action to keep colleges and universities affordable and open for Coloradans of all income levels," said Sen. John Morse, D-Colorado Springs, one of the bill's sponsors. "Senate Bill 3 is about doing what is absolutely necessary to keep colleges and universities open and to keep Colorado's economy on track."

The governor, who is not running for re-election in November, said the bill was not a long-term solution to the problem. Colorado ranks near the bottom of all states when it comes to funding education.

"This is not a panacea ... but the right thing for institutions in the state," Ritter said.

The governor also signed House Bill 1428, which allocates $35 million in funds from CollegeInvest to benefit higher education.

"Too many of our students still cannot afford college. That's why I am so proud that in this budget climate, we were able to shore up millions of dollars for scholarships, need-based aid and job training programs," said Rep. Karen Middleton, D-Aurora, who sponsored the bill.

Regents rally 'round the Pac-10[4]

At a meeting that felt more like a pep rally than a forum of elected officials, the University of Colorado Board of Regents voted unanimously Friday, June 11, to accept an invitation for membership in the Pacific-10 Conference.
Meeting on the club level of Folsom Stadium, the regents convened shortly after the arrival of Larry Scott, commissioner of the Pac-10, who was met at Rocky Mountain Airport by a contingent that included Gov. Bill Ritter, former Buffs coaches Bill McCartney and Ceal Barry, and Alfred Williams, a past star for the Buffs and Denver Broncos.

Chair Steve Bosley said he and other regents had been contacted by many constituents and alumni in the days leading up to the announcement of CU's leaving the Big 12 to join the Pac-10, set to take effect in 2012.

"The people of Colorado ... were concerned that CU might be left in the lurch," Bosley said. Though some scenarios being speculated on by media and fans had CU being supplanted in an expanded Pac-10 by another school or schools, "we always had a quiet confidence we matched up with the Pac-10."

Regent Michael Carrigan said he's been part of many difficult votes, but that Friday's was not among them.
"I support joining the Pac-10 not because of what Missouri, Nebraska or Texas might do, but because it's the right decision for this university," said Carrigan, who later led regents and others in singing the CU fight song. "Let there be no confusion about who acted first."

Carrigan and Regent Jim Geddes acknowledged that traditions established with the Big 12 will be missed. But they and other university leaders spoke repeatedly of the "good fit" that CU-Boulder will have with the research-rich institutions of the Pac-10: Arizona, Arizona State, California, Oregon, Oregon State, Stanford, UCLA, USC, Washington and Washington State.

The next regents meeting is scheduled for June 24 and 25 in Boulder; expected to be included on the agenda are items reviewed and forwarded by the board's capital construction subcommittee, which met June 9 at 1800 Grant St.

One of the items is a revision to plans for an addition to the Lazzara Oral-Facial Health Building on the Anschutz Medical Campus. The original plan from three years ago called for 38 dental operatories; the new plan calls for 64, increasing the budget from $8.2 million to $12.4 million.

"There's plenty of demand from students," said UC Denver Provost Roderick Nairn. "We're the only dental school in the state, so most of these students stay in Colorado." Design of the expansion, which adds floors above the existing building, is slated to be complete in Febrary 2011, with construction finishing in April 2012 for May 2012 occupancy.

Nairn and Jeff Parker, interim vice chancellor of finance and administration at UC Denver, also presented an update on the Pharmaceutical Research Building, which is under construction on the AMC campus; first occupants are expected to move in next February.

Representatives of each campus also updated the committee on five-year capital construction plans. Regent Jim Geddes asked about plans for student housing on the Boulder campus; leadership reports that the number of student beds will increase from 6,000 to 7,000 in 2011.

Co-chairs to lead Staff Council in coming year[5]

The University of Colorado Staff Council will be directed by co-chairs for the upcoming year in an effort to ensure continuity of leadership and communication for numerous projects begun this year at the university.

Lori Krug, whose one-year term as council chair ended in May, accepted the position of co-chair following negotiations with Payroll & Benefit Services, where she is employed, and senior administrators.

"The reason for co-chairs is twofold: First, we had no one stepping forward to take the chair responsibility," Krug said. She agreed to remain in the position because senior officials worried momentum would be lost if someone unfamiliar with university issues stepped into the time-consuming role. Miranda Carbaugh from the University of Colorado Denver campus is the other co-chair. Both will serve one-year terms.

"This is an extraordinary circumstance, worked out in an incredible way," Krug said. "My team has been incredibly accommodating and I cannot thank them enough."

She said the co-chairs would split duties and encourage more involvement from other council representatives.

E. Jill Pollock, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, and Leonard Dinegar, vice president for administration and chief of staff for President Bruce D. Benson, worked out the compromise to allow Krug to remain on the council.

"There is great value in continuity of offices," Pollock said. "A number of the UCSC members were going off the council for various reasons, leaving no clear succession plan for a new chair. With the continuation of a number of Board of Regents-related and universitywide initiatives begun this year, including the definition of diversity at CU and two administrative policy statements with implementation in July 2010, a way to bridge to new leadership was to utilize a co-chair structure for the coming year.

"Lori Krug and her management graciously agreed to this approach, which may be needed only once, as the council continues to enhance its effectiveness in deliberating and communicating key issues that affect the university's staff employees."

The council represents staff members and acts as a liaison between university councils, President Benson and the Board of Regents.

Other officers elected during a June 3 video conference meeting were Brooke Parsons (Anschutz Medical Campus), vice chair; Tina Collins (University of Colorado at Colorado Springs), treasurer; and Dana Drummond (University of

Colorado at Boulder), secretary.

Also, the council's meeting schedule for 2010-11 was approved. The council generally meets from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first Thursday of each month. Meeting dates and campus locations are:
July - no meeting Aug. 5 - UCCS Sept. 2 - UCD/AMC October - planning retreat Nov. 4 - System Dec. 2 - video conference (if necessary) January 2011 - no meeting Feb. 3 - CU-Boulder March 3 - UCCS April - All Staff Council Conference May 5 - UCD/AMC June 2 - video conference (if necessary) July - no meeting

The Bard is back in town[6]

[7]
Romance, power and deceit intertwine as theColorado Shakespeare Festival[8] presents three Shakespeare and two other classic plays this summer 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.

The six-week summer season runs from July 1 through Aug. 8.

Shakespeare's "King Lear" begins the season with a preview July 1 and opening July 2 at the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre. Directed by Lynne Collins, "Lear" is one of the most powerful dramas in Western literature, examining family and politics. Beginning with a monarch's division of his kingdom among his three daughters, Shakespeare's tragedy examines the tempest in one man's mind as his family disintegrates, his country is ripped apart by petty ambitions and the universe seems to unravel around him. "Lear" explores the most basic questions of human existence: love and duty, power and loss, good and evil.

"The Fantasticks" opens July 3 (preview July 2) at the University Theatre. A memorable score enlivens the heart of this passionate musical that charmed off-Broadway for a record-breaking 42 years. A unique take on "boy meets the girl next door," the story tells of Luisa and Matt, entering the bloom of their youth, as the world stands open to them, inviting them to explore. Their parents, scheming to encourage their children's budding love by pretending to oppose it, build a wall between the teens, hiring the trickster El Gallo to thwart their romance. By moonlight, Matt and Luisa fall hard for each other. When finally the couple comes together in the light of day, they must decide between the comfort of illusion and the wisdom that only comes with experience. Can their romance survive the sunlight? Directed by Sands Hall, the play is written by Tom Jones with music by Harvey Schmidt.

One of Shakespeare's earliest and more popular comedies, "The Taming of the Shrew" opens July 10 with a preview July 9 at the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre. A playfully provocative battle of the sexes pits the shrewish Kate against the fortune-seeking Petruchio. But just who is taming whom? Unlike other romantic comedies, the play does not stop with the wedding. Shakespeare considers the institution of marriage, the rifts between men and women, and the rough journey toward love in this play directed by Stephanie Shine.

"Measure for Measure," directed by Scott Williams, opens July 16 at the University Theatre with a preview planned for July 15. One of Shakespeare's most unpredictable and least classifiable dramas, it revolves around a ghastly choice. A young man whose fiancÃ©e is pregnant is sentenced to death, for sexual relations outside of marriage. His sister pleads for his life with the all-powerful regent who rules the city. The regent offers her a deal, on one condition: that she sacrifice her virginity to save her brother. Highlighting the abuse of power and exploring moral issues surrounding resistance to injustice, "Measure for Measure" is a complex and wickedly stimulating play.

The final offering of the season is Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" opening at the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre July 17, with a preview July 16. First produced in 1938, the Pulitzer Prize-winning play has become an American stage treasure. Wilder's best-known and most frequently performed work reveals the ordinary lives of the people in the small town of Grover's Corners, N.H. "Our Town" defies most conventional theatrical genres – it is neither a comedy nor a tragedy, neither a romance nor a farce. It is, rather, a contemplative work and richly timeless commentary on nothing

less than the tragicomedy of human existence. The play is directed by Victoria Erville.

For more information, including tickets and curtain times, visit www.coloradoshakes.org[8] or call 303-492-0554.

Five Questions for Brian Shimamoto[9]

[10]
Could you count on one hand the number of great bosses you've had? Would it take a calculator to record the not-so-great ones?

Brian Shimamoto believes leadership can be learned. In his job as the training and development specialist for Housing & Dining Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder, he works to ensure that employees become great bosses and colleagues by developing leadership skills and understanding diversity and equity issues.

Currently he's developing the HDS Leadership Institute, a three-year program that is mandatory for all HDS managers and supervisors (about 120 of them). The program may eventually become available as management training to all employees.

Shimamoto earned his master's degree from CU-Boulder in 1998 and worked for four years in Residence Life at CU. In 2001, he moved to Tucson where he was a diversity and social justice trainer at the University of Arizona. In 2007, he returned to CU and was the area coordinator for Residence Life before moving into his current position.

Since December 2008, he's also served as the chair of the HDS Social Justice Advisory Board.
His leadership sessions are not the kind where eye-rolling, seat-slumping and daydreaming are common. He tells humorous anecdotes (mostly poking fun at himself) and encourages self-assessment without negativity.

"I love it when a light bulb goes off in someone's head. When I am teaching or training and somehow I find the opportunity to say the right words so someone sees the situation in a slightly different way, it's the best feeling in the world."

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. Most people have worked for bosses who would not be considered "good leaders." Do businesses and institutions recognize the importance of strong leadership?

Both business and institutions of higher education recognize the importance of strong leadership. In fact, I believe that good leadership would be identified as vital to the success of any organization. One need only do a quick Internet search of "leadership in business" to receive over 85 million results in less than a second to see the relevance. The issue begins with defining "good leadership." Historically, leadership has been viewed as a set of traits that a person either has or doesn't have -- you're either born a natural leader or you're not a leader at all. The problem with this approach is that it assumes there are a finite number of good leaders out there and if you're not one of them, then you're out of luck. Others believe that leadership can be developed and is made up of a set of skills. The problem with this approach is that no one can come to a consensus as to what the list of skills contains. And even if you don't worry about a universal set of skills, but rather identify the skills your organization believes to be important, leadership is still viewed as being composed of "soft skills" (much in the same way that psychology may be viewed by some as a "soft" science as opposed to a "hard" science such as physics or chemistry). As a result, a strong accountant is often promoted to lead the accounting department. The problem with that scenario is that managing accounts is very different from managing accountants. To do this effectively, you need people skills as well as math skills.

[11]

2. Can leadership be learned? What are some of the characteristics of good leaders?

Yes, I believe leadership skills can be developed. In HDS we use John Adair's Action Centered Leadership model which emphasizes the importance of balancing three things: achieving the task, building and maintaining the team, and developing the individual. When an organization focuses solely on the task (the "bottom line"), the team and individuals suffer. Likewise, when a leader puts too much emphasis on the individual, the team and the task suffer. Finally, if the team always comes first (such as when every decision must be made by consensus), the task and individuals suffer. The trick is to balance all three and there are certain skills that one can use to achieve this.

3. How has the definition of "good leadership" changed over the years?

That depends on how you measure "good leadership." For instance, if you are driven by the bottom line, then good leadership is probably measured by doing whatever it takes to get the job done — even if that means running over your people to do it. However, if you use Adair's model of task, team and individual, a "good leader" is probably measured by how well he or she meets the needs of all three. It also depends on if you view leadership as a process. If so, then you recognize the importance of followers in the equation. In my opinion, the Gallup Organization continues to conduct some of the most compelling research on Western leadership in recent history. Their book, "Strengths Based Leadership," suggests that followers need specific things from those that lead: hope, compassion, stability and trust. A "good leader" provides these as he or she guides the group toward their goal.

[12]

4. You once were part of Up With People. What was your role with the organization? What did you learn from your time with the group?

Would you believe I was a vocal instructor and a show manager? I taught the cast to sing the show and worked with the dance captains and band leader to decide who was performing each night.

That being said, I learned a lot traveling for five years. I learned that my way of doing something wasn't the only way to do it and rarely the best way. I learned to appreciate diplomacy and recognize the power of the words you use. (Try explaining to someone that they cannot perform a dance or sing a song, not because they don't know the steps or can't hit the notes, but because they don't fit in the costume). And when it was all over, I learned that the things that seemed so important yesterday - like an ill-fitting costume - mean very little today. (Would the show have been ruined if she had been able to sing that song in her home town?) Wisdom comes a little late unfortunately. But I guess that's what makes it wisdom. We need to make the mistakes and learn from them before we truly understand.

5. What hobbies or activities do you participate in outside of work? What’s your No. 1 guilty pleasure?

My work makes me think a lot: What does that mean? How do I explain that? What's the best activity to use to illustrate this concept? I like to go home and relax. Often this means watching TV or a movie or reading a book that has nothing to do with leadership or diversity. Or maybe spending some quality time with my partner or dogs. I force myself to exercise (not relaxing) by joining a running group and I’ve just completed the Bolder Boulder in my shortest time ever … s-l-o-w-l-y … but an improvement none the less. Next, I'm planning to beat my record by completing the Denver Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon in October.

And I like sleeping in.

Renowned geneticist heralds in new era for people with Down syndrome[13]

Edward R.B. McCabe, M.D., Ph.D.

A nationally renowned pediatrician and geneticist, Edward R.B. McCabe, M.D., Ph.D., has been tapped to become the first executive director of the Linda Crnic Institute for Down syndrome[15] at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

McCabe brings unparalleled experience and a lifelong commitment to pediatric genetic disorders to his new position headquartered on the Anschutz Medical Campus. He is leaving a distinguished position as physician-in-chief and executive endowed chair in pediatrics at the Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA.

The Linda Crnic Institute for Down syndrome has the single focus of eradicating the medical and cognitive ill effects associated with Down syndrome and is the first organization to comprehensively address basic research, clinical research and clinical care, all under one umbrella. The Institute is made possible by the generous support of founding donors Anna and John J. Sie, whose granddaughter Sophia was born seven years ago with Down syndrome. The Anna and John J. Sie Foundation[16]has committed $22 million dollars to establish the institute as the worldwide beacon for research and care.

"Down syndrome is the least funded genetic condition by our National Institutes of Health and there is no medical registry or biobank," said John J. Sie. "We are thrilled with Ed McCabe's appointment and we believe that he will herald in a new era for people with Down syndrome on many levels."

Said McCabe, "The goal of the Linda Crnic Institute is to improve the lives of individuals with Down syndrome through service, care, education and research. We have the technology today to make a huge difference both medically and cognitively and we hope that the institute will become a magnet for world-class clinicians and researchers who can bring new discoveries and care to people with Down syndrome and their families."

The Global Down Syndrome Foundation, established in 2009, is a public nonprofit that is dedicated to raising an additional $12 million over 10 years for the Institute. Last year, with the help of the institute's international spokesman, music icon Quincy Jones, the Global Down Syndrome Foundation raised critical awareness and money for the Institute.

The institute is a partnership between the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, the University of Colorado at Boulder and The Children's Hospital.Â Each organization has committed space, personnel and overhead to the institute. Specifically at CU-Boulder, the institute supports Down syndrome researchers and faculty including an endowed professorship.

"Families with a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome or who have children with Down syndrome will want to come here to the Linda Crnic Institute at the Anschutz Medical Campus," said M. Roy Wilson, chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver. "This new resource is where care and research are truly making a difference now and is where lives will be changed for the better in the future."

A pediatrician and geneticist, McCabe began his research career at age 15 in the Pediatric Research Laboratory at the University of Maryland, School of Medicine. He received his bachelor's degree from The Johns Hopkins University (1967), and his Ph.D. (1972) and M.D. (1974) from the University of Southern California. He completed his Pediatrics Residency at the University of Minnesota (1974-1976). At what was then the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, he was a pediatric metabolism fellow (1976-1978) and then assistant and associate professor of pediatrics, and biochemistry, biophysics and genetics.

In 1986, he moved to Baylor College of Medicine as associate professor then professor, and director of the Robert J. Kleberg Jr. Clinical Center in the Institute for Molecular Genetics. He established the Baylor Mental Retardation Research Center, the Baylor Molecular Genetics Diagnostic Laboratory Postdoctoral Training Program and the Baylor Child Health Research Center. Currently, he is professor in the departments of pediatrics and human genetics at UCLA

and the Mattel endowed executive chair of the department of pediatrics, David Geffen School of Medicine, and physician-in-chief of the Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA. He is professor of bioengineering, Henry Samueli School of Engineering, UCLA and member, California Nanosystems Institute.

School of Medicine Dean Richard Krugman, M.D., welcomed his distinguished colleague to the Anschutz Medical Campus saying, "Ed McCabe will be a wonderful leader for the Linda Crnic Institute. He is an accomplished academician in pediatrics and has the administrative skills to lead this very important multidisciplinary, multicampus effort to ameliorate the adverse effects of Down syndrome." McCabe begins at the Institute on Aug. 1.

The move to the institute is a return to the University of Colorado School of Medicine for McCabe. It also is a return to Castle Rock and a chance to be closer to his and wife Linda's ranch. The McCabes own the Doublestrand Ranch, where they raise and breed quality paint horses. They also teach an introduction to genetics curriculum to middle and high school students in Castle Rock.

Study finds ocean may have covered one-third of Mars[17]

A vast ocean likely covered one-third of the surface of Mars some 3.5 billion years ago, according to a new study conducted by University of Colorado at Boulder scientists.

The CU-Boulder study is the first to combine the analysis of water-related features including scores of delta deposits and thousands of river valleys to test for the occurrence of an ocean sustained by a global hydrosphere on early Mars. While the notion of a large, ancient ocean on Mars has been repeatedly proposed and challenged over the past two decades, the new study provides further support for the idea of a sustained sea on the Red Planet during the Noachian era more than 3 billion years ago, said CU-Boulder researcher Gaetano Di Achille, lead author on the study.

A paper on the subject authored by Di Achille and CU-Boulder Assistant Professor Brian Hynek of the geological sciences department appears in the June 13 issue of Nature Geoscience. Both Di Achille and Hynek are affiliated with CU-Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.

More than half of the 52 river delta deposits identified by the CU researchers in the new study - each fed by numerous river valleys - likely marked the boundaries of the proposed ocean, since all were at about the same elevation. Twenty-nine of the 52 deltas were connected either to the ancient Mars ocean or to the groundwater table of the ocean and to several large, adjacent lakes, Di Achille said.

The study is the first to integrate multiple data sets of deltas, valley networks and topography from a cadre of NASA and European Space Agency orbiting missions of Mars dating back to 2001, said Hynek. The study implies that ancient Mars probably had an Earth-like global hydrological cycle, including precipitation, runoff, cloud formation, and ice and groundwater accumulation, Hynek said.

Di Achille and Hynek used a geographic information system, or GIS, to map the Martian terrain and conclude the ocean likely would have covered about 36 percent of the planet and contained about 30 million cubic miles, or 124 million cubic kilometers, of water. The amount of water in the ancient ocean would have formed the equivalent of a 1,800-foot, or 550-meter-deep layer of water spread out over the entire planet.

The volume of the ancient Mars ocean would have been about 10 times less than the current volume of Earth's oceans, Hynek said. Mars is slightly more than half the size of Earth.

The average elevation of the deltas on the edges of the proposed ocean was remarkably consistent around the whole planet, said Di Achille. In addition, the large, ancient lakes upslope from the ancient Mars ocean likely formed inside impact craters and would have been filled by the transport of groundwater between the lakes and the ancient sea,

according to the researchers.

A second study headed by Hynek and involving CU-Boulder researcher Michael Beach of LASP and CU-Boulder doctoral student Monica Hoke being published in the Journal of Geophysical Research-Planets - which is a publication of the American Geophysical Union - detected roughly 40,000 river valleys on Mars. That is about four times the number of river valleys that have previously been identified by scientists, said Hynek.

The river valleys were the source of the sediment that was carried downstream and dumped into the deltas adjacent to the proposed ocean, said Hynek. "The abundance of these river valleys required a significant amount of precipitation. This effectively puts a nail in the coffin regarding the presence of past rainfall on Mars." Hynek said an ocean was likely required for the sustained precipitation.

"Collectively, these results support the existing theories regarding the extent and formation time of an ancient ocean on Mars and imply the surface conditions during the time probably allowed the occurrence of a global and active hydrosphere integrating valley networks, deltas and a vast ocean as major components of an Earth-like hydrologic cycle," Di Achille and Hynek wrote in Nature Geoscience.

"One of the main questions we would like to answer is where all of the water on Mars went," said Di Achille. He said future Mars missions - including NASA's $485 million Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution mission, or MAVEN, which is being led by CU-Boulder and is scheduled to launch in 2013 - should help to answer such questions and provide new insights into the history of Martian water.

The river deltas on Mars are of high interest to planetary scientists because deltas on Earth rapidly bury organic carbon and other biomarkers of life and are a prime target for future exploration. Most astrobiologists believe any present indications of life on Mars will be discovered in the form of subterranean microorganisms.

"On Earth, deltas and lakes are excellent collectors and preservers of signs of past life," said Di Achille. "If life ever arose on Mars, deltas may be the key to unlocking Mars' biological past."

Hynek said long-lived oceans may have provided an environment for microbial life to take hold on Mars.

The study was funded by NASA's Mars Data Analysis Program.

New pedestrian walkway nears completion[18]

Photo by Tom Hutton

A paved walkway stretching from Main to Columbine halls is nearly complete and should be open to pedestrians by mid-July.

"We're piecing it together one section at a time," said Carolyn Fox, architect, Facilities Services. "We're trying to minimize inconvenience to the campus community."

Previous phases included Columbine Hall to the plaza near El Pomar Center and from University Center to the Gallogly Events Center. The section in front of Dwire Hall was the last to be completed. The concrete features a unique pattern that is both decorative and functional.

Contractors poured the last section of eight-inch-thick concrete June 7. The concrete will cure for 30 days before the walkway is closed so sealer can be applied. By mid-July, the curing and sealing process should be complete and the

walkway open.

Though designed as a walkway that Fox calls a pedestrian spine, the 17,400 square feet of concrete used in the project will support emergency vehicles including 80,000 pound fire trucks. To keep unauthorized vehicles off the walkway, collapsible metal posts called bollards are planned.

Plans also call for decorative banners to be installed later this summer that would highlight university accomplishments, build pride, and add color to the campus.

Maymester a call to action for students studying in Guatemala[20]

Lani Barry laughs with Veronica

Maymester at the University of Colorado Denver offered students a full academic experience in a condensed timeframe – only three weeks. But the six students who registered for the Communications Department course: "Nobel Cause: Peace and Justice in Guatemala[22]" experienced lessons that go well beyond text books, lectures and papers.

A week and a half after the group – led by faculty member E.J. Yoder – arrived in Central America, a volcano erupted in the area. Not to be outdone, Hurricane Agatha also paid a visit. Students stayed on task and worked the initial 10 days, as planned, with Nobel Prize laureate Rigoberta The Nobel Committee, awarding the prize in 1992, noted: "[23]Rigoberta Menchú[24] grew up in poverty, in a family which has undergone the most brutal suppression and persecution. In her social and political work, she has always borne in mind that the long-term objective of the struggle is peace." The focus of the course was linked to the Rocky Mountain PeaceJam that will be in Denver in July[25], where Menchú is scheduled to speak.

The road to San Lucas Toliman

The students' work included assisting with translating web documents from Spanish to English as well as managing other online data needs. "This work allowed our students to see all the ways Menchú pursues peace, community organizing and humanitarian activities," Yoder explained.

Tum[23] and her foundation in Guatemala City.

But in the initial aftermath of both the hurricane and volcanic eruption, it quickly became apparent that the lessons Menchú offers by example prompted these UC Denver students to mobilize to the front lines. So they traveled to the hard-hit community of San Lucas Toliman. "We ended up 'switching gears,'" says Yoder. "When the Education Center opened itself up to provide humanitarian aid to 18 families who lost their homes to mudslides, we headed out to pitch in." There they helped families whose homes were destroyed by working with children ages 2 to 12 to provide some basic needs, such as clean water. "The natural disasters created an opportunity to help, and that's a part of learning," says Yoder.

Brandy Reida hands out pencils to the children.

Now back at home, the work continues for these students. They'll be working together to finalize their project by preparing a proposal on ways the Education Center can develop additional education and humanitarian efforts. By

seeing an area already "living on the edge" and then hit by natural disasters, "they began to see how important self sufficiency and community support are in the peace process," Yoder explains. "To assist a community in going beyond basic survival, they began seeing all of those connections."

Yoder believes this experience can help the students become global citizens who are more aware. "And while I always know our students will grow," she adds, "I hope they'll feel deep personal growth."

UCH receives prestigious nursing designation[28]

The University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) is among the first hospitals in the United States to receive national accreditation of its post-baccalaureate nurse residency program. The program facilitates graduate nurses to develop advanced clinical judgment, and safe, quality care through this one-year residency program.

UCH and the University of Kansas Hospital are the first programs to receive accreditation. The standards were approved in 2008 by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

"This is another example of the excellence of the nursing staff at UCH. Our nurses continue to set the standards for nursing that others follow," said Bruce Schroffel, president and CEO of University of Colorado Hospital. "This program takes our nurses to a higher level of skill and knowledge."

The UCH post-baccalaureate nurse residency program was established to improve patient care by providing support and additional training to new baccalaureate nursing graduates. In addition to developing clinical skills, nurses in the UCH residency program also gain enhanced knowledge about patient safety, leadership, communication and evidence-based practice. The program includes 12 to 24 weeks of mentored clinical work on a hospital unit.

The journey to the CCNE accreditation began in 1998 when Colleen Goode was the chief nursing officer at UCH. "The program is extremely valuable," said Goode. "Nurses need residency experience just as physicians, pharmacists and others do, and nursing schools can't teach all there is to know about critical care, technology, advances in medications and regulatory requirements."

In March, UCH received its third designation from the American Nurses Credential Center's (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program®. The four-year designation recognizes continuing excellence in nursing and overall patient care at UCH.

"Education, training and support are crucial to develop the skills critical to patient safety and quality of care we expect at UCH," said Carolyn Sanders, chief nursing officer and vice president of patient services. "To receive this accreditation right after our third Magnet designation confirms what we have believed for quite some time. We have the best nurses in Colorado and the country."

Jo Ann DelMonte, residency coordinator for the past eight years, said the accreditation advances professional nursing practice, representing a strong partnership between UCH and the University of Colorado College of Nursing, through the University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN) National Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency Programs, which is the sponsor of the national nurse residency program.

Book honors local writer and alum[29]

[30]
A new book published by the university, "Gifts from the Heart - Stories, Memories, and Chronicles of Lucille Gonzales Oller," provides a peek into the history of Colorado Springs and challenges faced by women and minorities.

Alex Blackburn, professor emeritus, English, in cooperation with the CU Foundation and theColorado Springs Gazette, produced the book, drawing from unpublished Gonzales Oller works as well as more than 700 columns she wrote for The Gazette between 1995 and 2002.

The book is available at the UCCS Bookstore and The Gazette offices, 30 S. Prospect, for $20. Proceeds will benefit the Lou Gonzales Scholarship that is awarded to women more than 25 years old who plan to pursue degrees in journalism-related fields, according to Jaime McMullen-Garcia, associate director of development, CU Foundation. McMullen-Garcia served as the book's project manager.

"This is an amazing book," McMullen-Garcia said. "My mom and I have both read it and found it fascinating. It provides insight into a remarkable woman and the struggles for equality faced by many in our community."

Gonzales Oller grew up in Colorado Springs and attended Helen Hunt Elementary and Palmer High School. In her columns, she wrote about personal experiences when the city was "about six square miles" that included roasting chiles and choosing her favorite Mousekeeter's name for her confirmation name in the Catholic Church. Her columns were personal, insightful and introspective and often advocated for neighborhoods and for causes such as the restoration of Lowell School south of downtown.

At age 40, Gonzales Oller began her college career at UCCS with great trepidation. By that time, she had experienced life from a variety of perspectives including military spouse, civil service employee and parent. Those experiences, with the help of a mentor like Alex Blackburn, soon came to life in her writing.

"She showed up in my creative writing class in 1989," recalled Blackburn. "She was incredibly gifted. The very first story she submitted, I suggested she send it to the Colorado Springs Gazette for a story competition. Not surprisingly, she won it."

Moving from UCCS to The Gazette, first as a newsroom clerk and later in the coveted position of columnist, Gonzales Oller became one of the city's best-read and most-loved voices as she wrote about the city's neighborhoods, its under-reported issues, and its underdogs.

"In the local scene, she became the conscience to a whole city," Blackburn said.

In 2003, at age 56, her life was ended by amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often called Lou Gehrig's disease. In her honor, family members and friends established the scholarship that bears her name to provide opportunity for other women to pursue passions for writing and journalism.

CU pain research gets royal nod from Spain[31]

Watkins

Linda R. Watkins, distinguished professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has won Spain's Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research.

The award, announced this month, recognizes Watkins' groundbreaking work in understanding the mechanisms and

potential control of pain. She shares the 2010 award with two other leading pain researchers, University of California physiologist David Julius and University of Jerusalem biochemist and geneticist Baruch Minke.

Working independently, the trio has "discovered, from complementary approaches, the causes and mechanisms via which pain is produced and perceived, as well as other sensations such as cold, heat and taste," the Prince of Asturias Foundation stated.

"I am deeply honored to be selected for this prize, with my co-recipients Dr. Julius and Dr. Minke," Watkins stated. "There are numerous people who have importantly contributed to the understanding and recognition of glia as powerful modulators of pain and opioid actions, both within my laboratory and beyond."

Watkins and her colleagues are striving to develop new drugs that enhance the ability of opioid drugs to treat pain, while decreasing negative side effects such as tolerance, dependence and addiction.

The Asturias prizes, which will be formally awarded in the autumn, include a stipend of 50,000 Euros and a sculpture by artist Joan Miro. The Prince of Asturius Foundation bestows eight awards annually to encourage and promote "the scientific, cultural and humanistic values that form part of mankind's universal heritage."

Watkins, who has been at CU since 1988, is a CU President's Teaching Scholar and directs the Interdepartmental Neuroscience Ph.D. program. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute for Mental Health, the National Institute for Neurological Diseases and Stroke, the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research, and the National Institute for Drug Abuse. She has written or co-written more than 250 book chapters, review articles and journal articles.

Professor of medicine earns 'Colorado Nobel'[33]

Dinarello

Charles Dinarello, a professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the University of Colorado Denver, recently was awarded the Bonfils-Staton Award, also known as the Colorado Nobel Prize.

Dinarello is considered one of the founding fathers of cytokines, which are signalers secreted by certain immune system cells and play a role in inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis.

This year, Dinarello also was awarded the 2010 Ehrlich Prize, one of the most prestigious international prizes awarded in recognition of achievements in immunology, cancer research, microbiology and chemotherapy. Dinarello received the honor for his contributions in the field of cytokines.

In 2009, Dinarello was jointly awarded the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research for his work in cytokine research. The $500,000 Albany Prize is the United States' largest prize in medicine. Dinarello also was jointly awarded the $500,000 Craford Prize in Polyarthritis by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, presented to him by the King of Sweden. Dinarello donated the prize money to the Interleukin Foundation, which he founded to help fund biomedical research.

Dinarello received his medical degree from Yale and was a professor of medicine at Tufts University. He has been elected to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

UCH nurse named practitioner of the year[35]

Anderson

Tracey Anderson, MSN, CNRN, FNP-BC, was named Nurse Practitioner of the Year for 2010 at the recent National Conference of Nurse Practitioners (NCNP) in Chicago. Anderson is a critical care nurse practitioner and director of neurocritical care program development at University of Colorado Hospital.

The award "honors excellence in clinical expertise, leadership, community service, and education."

In nominating Anderson for the award, Mary Tierney, RN, MSN, ANP-BC, FNP-BC, nurse practitioner in neurovascular interventional radiology, wrote, "(Anderson) has a true gift for caring and exemplifies all the attributes that this award represents.... She is respected by patients, families, physicians, staff, students and peers and is known as the 'go to person' when clinical advice or direction is needed."

Effort to improve efficiency nets half-million dollars in savings[37]

Andrea Buchmeier, director of clinical research in the Clinical Investigations Core at the University of Colorado Hospital, helped lead an effort to reduce inefficiencies in billing trial sponsors and insurance companies that has reduced the number of disputed claims by 40 percent and saved the hospital more than $500,000.

Clinical trials patients account for about 20,000 research-related encounters each year. About 5 percent of the hospital's total charges are billed to trial sponsors.

Last spring, Buchmeier and Mary Schumer, the hospital's regulator and financial affairs administrator, approached hospital leaders for help with a system that caused bills to "age" past 90 days, many uncollectible.

Dropping names ...[38]

Stephan Durham, College of Engineering at the University of Colorado Denver, recently was selected by a Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) research study panel for a CDOT-funded 18-month research grant for his proposal entitled "Developing Criteria for Performance-Based Concrete Specifications." The goal of this study is to establish criteria for performance-based concrete specifications for Colorado.

Hayes

... Deputy Chief **Doug Hayes**of the University Police at the University of Colorado Denver recently completed testing to become a Certified Protection Professional (CPP). This certification is administered by the American Society for Industrial Security[40] (ASIS); there are only 10,000 people worldwide who have achieved this certification. Hayes was tested regarding security vulnerabilities, policies, planning, training, budgeting, response coordination, and

preparedness evaluation.

Ramaswami

... **Anu Ramaswami** of the University of Colorado's College of Engineering delivered the key note speech at the recent Colorado School of Mines 2010 Forum on Philosophy, Engineering and Technology. Her speech was titled "Challenges in Sustainability Engineering Design for Whom, How and Why?" An abstract of her presentation can be found at http://philengtech.org/[42].

Colorado Alumni Career Fair [43]

The University of Colorado at Boulder is co-sponsoring the first "All Colorado Alumni Career Fair" from 1 to 6 p.m. Thursday, June 17, at the Ramada Plaza Denver North in Northglenn.

The career fair is open only to alumni from 12 Colorado colleges and universities who have at least three years of experience in their chosen fields. For a complete list of participating colleges and universities as well as a list of employers who are attending, visit http://careerservices.colorado.edu/alumni/cfAlumni.aspx[44].

"Career fairs in general tend to focus on students," said Lea Alvarado, the alumni career counselor in CU-Boulder's Career Services office. "We wanted to put something together that targets the needs of alumni, especially given the current economy. This has been a collaborative effort between CU-Boulder and the University of Denver, although all 12 colleges have been involved in the planning. We are all very excited about this event and if all goes well, this will be the first of many career fairs we will do for alumni."

Alvarado was hired in August of last year and holds the first alumni-specific position in Career Services. She is responsible for helping CU alumni with their job searches and networking, as well as developing programs to assist job-seeking alumni at all levels of experience. The new position was established through a partnership with the CU Alumni Association and CU Career Services.

The Ramada Plaza Denver North is at 10 E. 120th Ave. To register for the job fair, CU alumni should visithttp://careerservices.colorado.edu/alumni/cfAlumni.aspx[44] or for questions call 303-492-4100.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/people/professor-youth-advocate-earns-kudos-state[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/governor-makes-flexibility-official[3] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/flex-bill-sign.jpg[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-rally-round-pac-10[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/co-chairs-lead-staff-council-coming-year[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bard-back-town[7] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/shakespeare.jpg[8] http://www.coloradoshakes.org/[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-brian-shimamoto[10] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Shimamoto-mug-06-16-2010.jpg[11]

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https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/foundation.jpg[31]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/professor-medicine-earns-colorado-nobel[34]
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http://philengtech.org/[43] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-alumni-career-fair[44]
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