Update: University of Colorado Hospital explores partnership with Poudre Valley[1]

University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) officials have signed a letter of intent to explore an affiliation with Poudre Valley Health System (PVHS).

At a Thursday, June 23, news conference, UCH President and CEO Bruce Schroffel said he is “excited about the possibility of a very different kind of health system for the region: the joining of two of the state’s most renowned health care organizations, both of which have won numerous national and international recognitions.”

PVHS, based in northern Colorado, is a regional medical hub that includes the Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Medical Center of the Rockies in Loveland and several area clinics. UCH is on CU’s Anschutz Medical Campus and has 10 clinics in the Denver area. It treats some 20,000 inpatients and 800,000 outpatients annually and is closely connected to the university’s mission in health care education.

“This is an opportunity to prepare for the changes we expect to see as a result of health insurance reforms,” said PVHS CEO Rulon Stacey. “While these changes are still largely undefined, the need to build strategic partnerships such as this one will only grow more pressing as time goes by.”

The letter of intent allows the organizations to negotiate over the coming months and may lead to a joint operating agreement that would detail how a new nonprofit health care system would operate. However, Schroffel and Stacey said each organization would retain control of operations at their respective facilities while a joint operating organization would be formed to oversee strategic direction and an overall budget for the unified system.

In a letter to Colorado lawmakers, Schroffel, Stacey and CU President Bruce Benson wrote that negotiations would “consider any statutory implications.” The Colorado Legislature passed Senate Bill 91-225 in 1991, which led to UCH becoming an authority, granting it autonomy from many of the state fiscal and operational requirements that govern higher education. UCH and CU entered into an affiliation agreement in March 1993 to forge an arrangement to “ensure the quality, integrity, safety and continuity of the university’s public education, research, patient care and public service programs.”

The CU Board of Regents was briefed on the letter of intent at its meetings this week in Colorado Springs. Board Chairman Kyle Hybl said the board supported exploring the possibilities of the affiliation.

Blood drive continues Thursday in Boulder[2]

A Bonfils blood drive sponsored by the Boulder Staff Council[3] continues for a second day, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 23.

The Bonfils bus will be parked on Euclid Avenue across from the University Memorial Center. Walk-ins are welcome, or make an appointment by calling 303-363-2300 or by visiting www.bonfils.org[4]. Use site code 0248.

Career Services seeking help for annual suit collection[5]

Each year, Career Services[6] at the University of Colorado Boulder partners with the Engineering BOLD Center (formerly the Multicultural Engineering Program) and the Multicultural Business Students Association (MBSA) to collect clean, gently worn business attire during the summer months. The clothing then is sold to students and alumni at low cost during the Suit Yourself sale in the fall, so that they can be affordable well-dressed for career fairs and job interviews. Full suits typically sell for $20.

Proceeds from the sale benefit the Engineering BOLD Center and the MBSA. The effort has raised more than $6,000 annually for the past seven years; the money helps student groups with scholarships and programming costs.

Clothing donations are being sought through Sept. 16. Men's and women's suits, jackets, pants, shirts, skirts, ties and handbags will be accepted at Career Services and all Art Cleaners stores in Boulder.

Questions, or inquiries from companies interested in supporting the program as a corporate sponsor, should be sent to Lisa Lovett, Lisa.Lovett@colorado.edu[7].

Shakespeare Fest returns for 54th season[8]

Tragic love, mistaken identities and hysterical farce fill the program at the 2011 Colorado Shakespeare Festival[9] (CSF) on the University of Colorado Boulder campus. The 54th season features Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Comedy of Errors," as well as "The Inspector General" and "The Little Prince."

Previews begin Thursday, June 23, with performances continuing through Aug. 14.
Tickets are sold online[10], by phone at 303-492-0554, or at the CSF box office in the University Theatre building on the CU-Boulder campus.

Braider to oversee journalism faculty[11]

Christopher Braider

University of Colorado Boulder Professor Christopher Braider has been named director of journalism and mass communication faculty.

The move, effective July 1, "marks the next key step in developing a more contemporary program in journalism and media studies," said CU-Boulder Provost Russell L. Moore.

Braider will oversee the daily administrative operations of the faculty, including the implementation of the new Journalism Plus program, which is housed temporarily in CU-Boulder's Graduate School. He will not be directly involved in curriculum design issues or teach in the department.

"The transition from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication to a new program requires a fair-minded leader who will not be influenced by past conflicts and issues in the school," Moore said. "Chris Braider has demonstrated in a number of positions at CU-Boulder that he can lead with fairness and objectivity while carrying out the many administrative tasks required to run a program."

Moore said he chose Braider, a professor of French and Italian, as director because of his long tenure on campus and his programmatic leadership experience. Braider has been on campus for 20 years after having served on the faculty at Harvard University. He has served as chair of French and Italian (1994-2001), acting director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts (2004-05) and chair of Comparative Literature and Humanities (1996-97). He also was the 2010 winner of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Service Award.

The CU Board of Regents voted April 14 to discontinue the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and to offer journalism education at CU-Boulder through a dual-major structure beginning in spring 2012. With time, the

Journalism Plus program could move into a larger interdisciplinary college or school that would incorporate disciplines such as computer science, media and advertising design, media studies and other related fields of study.

Anschutz Medical Campus has new director of administration[13]

Neil Krauss has been named director of administration for the Anschutz Medical Campus.

In the new role, Krauss will represent Executive Vice Chancellor Lilly Marks in a variety of matters, and oversee campus projects and initiatives, serving on committees and responding to internal and external concerns and constituents.

Krauss returns to the medical campus with a blend of professional skills that combine communication, management, analytical and financial expertise. Most recently he was director of project and space management, and the assistant vice chancellor for business and finance at the University of Denver, and served as a financial consultant for venture capitalists and private investors in the Denver area.

For more than 10 years, he was a recognized leader at DU who excelled in relationship building, facilitating problem solving, providing analytical support to senior-level staff and creating and implementing process structures to improve operational efficiencies.

Before working at DU, Krauss served as a planner at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center with the initial Institutional Planning team during the early stages of the creation of the Anschutz Medical Campus in 1999-2000. Previously, he worked for the CU President's Office as assistant to the vice president for business and finance, and served as a policy analyst for the Legislative Council at the Colorado Legislature, focusing on higher education and K-12 education policy.

Krauss has two master's degrees (finance and international studies) from DU and a bachelor's degree in journalism from Missouri. In a previous career, he was an award-winning reporter and daily newspaper editor.

Staff Council elects new officers[14]

The University of Colorado Staff Council has elected new officers for 2011-2012. Unanimously elected to the positions are:

Chair, **Carla Johnson,** School of Nursing, Anschutz Medical Campus; Vice Chair, **Teena Shepperson-Turner,** University Risk Management, system administration; secretary, **Dana Drummond,** Bursar's Office, University of Colorado Boulder; treasurer, **Tina Collins,** Office of the Dean of Students, University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Dropping names ... [15]

Adit Ginde, M.D., M.P.H., and assistant professor of emergency medicine and the University of Colorado School of Medicine, received a Paul B. Beeson Career Development Award from the National Institute on Aging, the pre-eminent junior faculty award in aging research. ... **Jill Davies,** M.D., associate professor OB/GYN at the School of Medicine, has been named a Public Health Hero by the Tri-County Health Department. The award is given to people, businesses or organizations that improve or promote public health in Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties. Davis was nominated for her work with the Colorado Circle of Protection program, which provides Tdap vaccines for protection

from pertussis. ... **John C. Miller,** professor emeritus at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs department of languages and cultures, will give three seminars in India this summer. He will lecture on multiple intelligences theory and teaching strategies for spoken English at Aligargh Muslim University and at the Ahmedabad Management Institute. During the past academic year, Miller was a full-time lecturer in English languages and literatures at Gaziantep University, Turkey, under a U.S. State Department English Language Fellowship. ... **Bruce Goldstein,** associate professor of planning and design at the University of Colorado Denver, was an invited speaker at the symposium "Resilience and Transformation: Megacities and the Coast" at King's College, London, in May. He presented a paper on the epistemological and methodological challenges to coastal urban resilience. The meeting was sponsored by the Land-Ocean Interactions in the Coastal Zone Initiative. ... **Kevin J. Krizek,** associate professor of planning and design at the University of Colorado Denver, and co-director of the Active Communities/Transportation (ACT) Research Group and director of the Ph.D. program in design and planning, was principal investigator for the Access to Destinations Project. The final part of the project and the Metro Accessibility Matrix, the outreach component, were released in early June. ... **Barbara Dray,** assistant professor at the University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development, has been appointed chair-designate of the American Education and Research Association's Communications and Outreach Committee for 2011-2012. Dray will serve as the chair of the committee for 2012-2014. Dray and colleague **Maria Ruiz-Primo,** associate professor, collaborated with **Patrick Lowenthal,** Academic Technology and Extended Learning, and colleagues **Melissa Miszkiewicz** and **Kelly Marczynski,** to develop an instrument to assess student readiness for online learning. ... **Dominic F. Martinez,** director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for the Anschutz Medical Campus, recently presented a paper on contemporary Native Hawaiian religious life at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association annual meeting in Sacramento, Calif. Martinez's paper considers intersections of Hawaiian and Mormon traditions, especially as expressed in renewed canoeing practices.

Record-setting 10 CU-Boulder students awarded Fulbright grants[16]

A record-setting 10 University of Colorado Boulder students have received Fulbright grants to pursue teaching, research and graduate studies abroad during the 2011-12 academic year.

CU-Boulder students have received 119 Fulbright grants since 1978, but never 10 in one year, according to the university's Office of International Education.

"Our 10 Fulbright recipients are carrying on the long and proud tradition of CU-Boulder students who have been driven by academic excellence, and by research that serves communities throughout the world," said CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano. "They bring honor to themselves, to CU-Boulder and the nation through their pursuit of the unparalleled Fulbright experience and their wonderful ambassadorial work."

The 2011 CU-Boulder student Fulbright recipients and their destination countries are: Llana Blum, Tajikistan; Lauren Collins, Macau; Catherine Compton, Germany; Ryan Drickey, Sweden; Rachel Fleming, India; Grant Garstka, Bulgaria; Guy Hepp, Mexico; Elaine Hild, Germany; Joseph Knelman, Norway; and Nicholas Williams, Indonesia.

They will study a vast array of subjects, from the work of composer Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel in Germany to the endangered Kula language in Indonesia, plant-soil-microbe interactions in subarctic crops in Norway, and ancient social interactions through archaeological excavations at the La Consentida site in Mexico.

CU-Boulder's Office of International Education also has been selected by the Fulbright program to host a Gateway Orientation Aug. 1-5, providing acclimation activities for international Fulbright students before they head out to campuses throughout the United States. This will be the third year CU-Boulder has hosted the event, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

"As a Fulbright Gateway Orientation host, CU-Boulder has an important role as a first point of contact for 60 international students this year," Bell said. "It's gratifying to be a partner of the prestigious Fulbright program and its purpose – to increase mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and other countries – not only through the

students we send abroad, but also through the opportunity to welcome students here and set them up for success."

Fulbright students are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The program operates in more than 155 countries and has sent more than 300,000 students abroad in its 65-year history.

Students interested in applying for the Fulbright program should visit http://www.colorado.edu/OIE/admin/graduate.html [17]. The first application deadline for the 2012 academic year is Sept. 9, 2011.

For program highlights and a list of previous CU-Boulder Fulbright awardees visit http://www.colorado.edu/oie/admin/CUFulbrightHighlights.html[18].

NSF awards CU-Boulder $5.9 million grant for alpine eco research [19]

Former CU-Boulder postdoctoral researchers Amy Miller, center, and Katie Suding, right, are shown with another team member. They were conducting a study involving nitrogen deposition on the tundra of the Niwot Ridge Long-Term Ecological Research site west of Boulder. [Photo courtesy William Bowman, INSTAAR

The National Science Foundation has awarded the University of Colorado Boulder a six-year, $5.9 million grant to continue intensive studies of long-term ecological changes in Colorado's high mountains, both natural and human-caused, over decades and centuries.

Awarded to CU-Boulder's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, the renewal grant will enable faculty and students, including undergraduates, to continue key environmental studies at the Niwot Ridge Long-Term Ecological Research, or LTER, site west of Boulder. The study site, considered extremely sensitive to climate change, is adjacent to CU-Boulder's Mountain Research Station and encompasses several thousand acres of tundra, talus slopes, glacial lakes and wetlands stretching to the top of the Continental Divide.

The grant is the largest environmental sciences award in CU-Boulder history, said INSTAAR Fellow Mark Williams, principal investigator on the grant. In 2005, NSF awarded CU-Boulder a $4.9 million renewal grant for environmental studies at the Niwot Ridge site. As one of five initial LTER sites selected by NSF in 1980, Niwot Ridge is now one of 25 such sites in North America and the only one located in an alpine environment, Williams said.

"CU-Boulder has a worldwide reputation for monitoring global climate change from Greenland to Antarctica and its impacts on natural ecosystems and human populations," said Stein Sture, vice chancellor for research. "To direct such a key program in our own backyard for the National Science Foundation is crucial from an environmental science standpoint and unique in that it provides a spectacular training ground for our students to work side-by-side with some of the world's best climate change scientists."

Recent climate studies have predicted the mountainous areas of the American West will become both hotter and drier in the coming years, and long-term meteorological measurements on Niwot Ridge indicate the alpine climate there has warmed slightly in recent decades, said Williams, also a professor in the geography department. The temperatures are significant because even small changes in alpine ecosystems can cascade downward and have negative effects on other ecosystems, he said.

CU-Boulder researchers also have charted a doubling in atmospheric nitrogen deposition on Niwot Ridge in the past several decades – primarily from automobile, agriculture, ranching and industrial activity – that is now adversely

affecting some aquatic and terrestrial life on the ridge, Williams said.

In addition, researchers are keeping a close eye on existing populations of the American pika, a potato-sized animal related to rabbits and found in rocky talus slopes as high as 13,000 feet on Niwot Ridge. Of 25 populations of pikas in the Great Basin of Nevada documented between 1898 to 1990, nine had disappeared by 2008, apparently the result of warming temperatures. Pikas in Colorado require deep snowpack during winter that serves to insulate them from extremely cold air temperatures, Williams said.

"Many consider the American pika a 'sentinel species' in terms of measuring the effects of climate change," Williams said. "Niwot Ridge has a cold, short growing season, and the biological activity that occurs there is on the razor's edge of environmental tolerance."

Despite a long-term warming and drying trend in mountainous areas of the West, 2011 was a striking anomaly, Williams said.

"What we have seen around here is one of the largest and latest snowfall years on record in the high country and extreme dryness accompanied by an inordinate amount of winter wildfires around Boulder, which is only 15 miles as the crow flies from the Niwot Ridge study area," Williams said. "What has happened from Boulder west to the Continental Divide has been a total disconnect in terms of weather.

"The primary climate driver of the Niwot Ridge site is snow, and the mountains are our water towers. As the alpine climate changes, one of the biggest impacts on humans will be a change in water resources. Even if we end up with the same amount of precipitation, in the form of less snow and more rain, we are going to end up with less usable water for municipalities."

There already are some indications that the snowline in the Rocky Mountains is moving upward, which will affect the abundance and distribution of plants and animals and likely shorten the annual ski seasons at resorts throughout the West in the future, he said.

The Niwot Ridge site is a huge benefit to CU-Boulder students, Williams said.

"I have five undergraduates working in my chemistry lab this summer. Not only do they get paid, but they learn valuable research skills," he said. The LTER grant funds research for about 15 CU-Boulder graduate students and 25 to 30 undergraduates annually, and there are more than a dozen CU-Boulder faculty members who are co-investigators on the new Niwot Ridge LTER program grant.

CU-Boulder ecology and environmental biology department Professor William Bowman, director of CU-Boulder's Mountain Research Station for the past 20 years, said the Niwot Ridge site has been gaining momentum in stature from its beginnings by the consistent, high-quality research that has resulted in many publications in top-tier science journals.

More than half of the research on Niwot Ridge is by scientists and students from around the world who are not associated with the LTER program, said Bowman, also an INSTAAR fellow and who leads a team studying how air pollution, including nitrogen deposition, threatens biological and aquatic communities in U.S. national parks. There are 12 undergraduates conducting research at the Niwot Ridge site as part of the NSF's Research Experience for Undergraduates program, added Bowman, who also is mentoring a student researcher from Boulder's Fairview High School at Niwot Ridge.

Survey: Most students report positive campus experience[21]

In an extensive survey[22] of the University of Colorado Boulder's nearly 30,000 students, overwhelming majorities of respondents had an approving view of the campus' social climate – the extent to which CU-Boulder makes students

feel welcome, valued and supported. Around four in five respondents reported feeling intellectually stimulated often or very often. A similar proportion said they felt welcome and accepted, and nearly nine in 10 said they felt comfortable in their classes.

Taken in fall 2010, the survey was the latest edition of CU-Boulder's Social Climate Survey, conducted about every four years since 1994 by the university's Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis (PBA). The online survey was sent to 29,926 degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students, and completed by 7,777, or 26 percent.

The favorable view of CU-Boulder's social climate was generally shared by all subgroups studied: men and women, undergraduate and graduate students, students in all of the university's schools and colleges, politically liberal and conservative students, students in fraternities and sororities, students who are the first in their family to attend college, gay and straight students, students from all socioeconomic backgrounds, students of different races and ethnicities, students with physical or psychological disabilities, nontraditional-age students, students who entered as freshmen and transfers, international students, students affiliated with the military, and students with different religious affiliations, including Catholics, other Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and nonbelievers. Membership in these self-identified subgroups was determined using survey responses provided by the students.

Overall, students described the campus as friendly and welcoming, with 80 percent of undergraduate and graduate students reporting feeling welcome and accepted either often or very often. Some 88 percent said they feel comfortable in their classes, and 80 percent reported feeling intellectually stimulated. Large majorities described CU-Boulder as "accepting of diverse perspectives" in the classroom (81 percent) and outside the classroom (63 percent).

On a broad measure of feeling welcome and comfortable on campus and in the Boulder community, students who self-identified in diverse subgroups generally reported a positive experience – averaging about four on the five-point scale. Although the positive assessment of the campus' social climate was shared across all subgroups, two subgroups of at least 100 respondents did rate it slightly lower – around three and a half – African-American students and students who characterized themselves as having a psychological or psychiatric disability such as depression or post-traumatic stress disorder. Their ratings were, however, still above the scale midpoint of three. There also was a tendency for slightly less positive evaluations of the campus social climate by GLBT students, nontraditional-age students, students of lower socioeconomic status, very liberal students, very conservative students, students not affiliated with a fraternity or sorority, transfer students, and students affiliated with the Buddhist and Muslim faiths. Their ratings were, nevertheless, well above the neutral point on the scale.

Comprising 149 scaled questions, plus another six open-ended questions, the survey collected a massive amount of information – more than a million responses to the ratings, and nearly 23,000 written comments, amounting to half a million words. The thousands of student comments include praise for particular classes that addressed diversity issues, suggestions to increase enrollment of international students and to make tuition more affordable for low-income students, reports of uncomfortable situations involving derogatory comments about women or gays or people of color, descriptions of personal experiences with religious or political prejudice, and accounts of situations that led to better understanding between people of different backgrounds. One student wrote, "Thanks for continuing to educate people on these issues, I feel like a much bigger and better person since I came to CU."

Differences in survey results across 2001, 2006 and 2010 indicate an overall trend of small but consistent and wide-ranging improvements in the social climate on the CU-Boulder campus. For example, students' level of comfort taking part in campus social life was higher in 2010, as were the average levels of feeling welcome, accepted, supported and intellectually stimulated at CU-Boulder. In all three surveys, African-American undergraduate students perceived the climate at CU-Boulder somewhat less favorably than did undergraduates of other races/ethnicities. Compared with 2001 and 2006, however, African-American undergraduates in 2010 reported feeling more welcome on the Boulder campus and more comfortable participating in campus social life and life on the Hill. Other students also reported feeling more welcome and comfortable in 2010.

A campus advisory board representing a wide range of campus units helped guide the survey and data analysis, including the assistant vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement, the associate vice chancellor for undergraduate education, faculty and representatives from student government, Disability Services, the GLBT Resource Center, Religious Campus Organizations, Wardenburg Health Center, the Office of Orientation, the Center

for Multicultural Affairs and the Women's Resource Center.

The survey's findings are used primarily to evaluate, revise and develop programs and policies that promote student success by helping all students feel like valued members of the university community. PBA and members of the survey's advisory board have been working together to distribute the results and encourage their use throughout the university community.

"For several years, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement has worked with several campus community committees to assess and maintain the social climate for all students, especially as it impacts learning in and outside the classroom, as well as staff and faculty," said Alphonse Keasley, assistant vice chancellor for diversity and equity. "The results of the latest survey will be most instructive in the ways that various Chancellor Advisory Committees can continue to recommend diversity and inclusion needs to ODECE and senior level administrators that are central to the campus's mission and purpose."

The results will also be used by academic affairs. "The Office of Undergraduate Education will be using specific results of this campus climate survey to fine-tune or modify specific programs which have a significant focus on improving the welcoming climate we want for our students," said Michael Grant, associate vice chancellor for undergraduate education. "For example, our McNeil, Daniels, Ethnic Living and Learning and Academic Excellence programs, among others, all work with students who may find understanding and fitting into a research university environment a particular challenge for it is often a really new and different cultural environment. This is also the case for many international students."

Denver high school students gain glimpse of college experience[23]

By Tom Hutton

CU President Bruce Benson poses for photos with high school students taking part in the Marquez Scholars Summer Institute at UCCS.

Some 20 students from 18 Denver public high schools participated in the Marquez Scholars Summer Institute at UCCS from May 31 through June 11.

The institute included a three-credit college class on social change, visits with local leaders and an outdoor leadership course at the Nature Place near Florissant. The students also had the opportunity to meet Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak, CU President Bruce Benson and Gov. John Hickenlooper at a June 7 bill signing ceremony conducted on campus.

"The Marquez Scholars program allows students to experience first-hand what it is like to go away to college and to engage in college-level work," said Kee Warner, associate vice chancellor for diversity, Academic Affairs.

This is the second year for the Marquez Scholars program, organized by Warner and supported by Denver Public Schools and the Timothy and Bernadette Marquez Foundation in Denver.

To see more photos, go to: http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=4016[25]

Faculty members engaged in science collaboration with Aurora Public Schools[26]

By Julia Cummings

Robert “Bud” Talbot, left, and Randy Tagg, right, work with a student at the new Innovation Hyperlab.

Robert "Bud" Talbot of the School of Education and Human Development, Randy Tagg of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Ron Rorrer of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, all faculty members at the University of Colorado Denver, are engaged in an electrifying collaboration with Aurora Public Schools (APS).

The new Innovation Hyperlab at APS' Vista PEAK Campus is a place where robotic horses dance, radio waves peak and plunge, motors are fine-tuned, sensors sound, magnets collide, fluids boil and freeze, biological experiments come alive and global energy is analyzed. Students are busy cooperatively learning in small groups, connecting their classroom lessons to real problems, acquiring advanced skills needed in the work force and making unique innovations for the 21st century.

The goals of the new lab are:
Improve middle and high school students' desire and ability to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and the health sciences by introducing cutting-edge physics and engineering research projects Study the learning outcomes of students and teachers Engage local businesses to inspire students to work on problems important to the region's economy.
"It's all about real-world preparation," Tagg said. "When we challenge students with authentic problems and provide professional-grade tools to solve them, these students will surprise us with creative solutions."

Colorado School of Public Health honors Poudre Valley Health System[28]

The Colorado School of Public Health named the Poudre Valley Health System's (PVHS) Coalition for Activity and Nutrition to Defeat Obesity[29] (CanDo) the recipient of the 2011 Excellence in Public Health Practice by an Organization award.

"PVHS has worked with the Colorado School of Public Health in a number of capacities," said award nominator Janna West Kowalski, staff at the school's Center for Public Health Practice. "Their programs range from individual education to community policy work addressing important issues such as obesity prevention, through CanDo."

The annual award is given to a public or private organization that significantly promotes and supports the efforts of the Colorado School of Public Health[30] in meeting its mission, goals and objectives. Support may come through activities that promote public health or by supporting graduate student education through practicum learning opportunities.

CanDo was selected to receive the 2011 award due to its involvement in training master's of public health (MPH) students and for leading Northern Colorado communities in the reduction and prevention of obesity.

"The vision of CanDo is for Fort Collins and Loveland to become model 21st century healthy communities," said co-nominator Kendra Bigsby, MPH program coordinator at Colorado State University. "The program is a collaborative, grassroots, community task force that brings together public health professionals, community members, service providers to low-income populations, the local university and School of Public Health students."

CanDo is one of nine 2011 award recipients. Additional award recipients include Robert Wolfson, Ph.D., the 2011 Excellence in Clinical/Affiliated Faculty Teaching; Kari Phillipps, M.Ed., the 2011 Outstanding Contribution by a Staff Member; Lorin Scott-Okerblom, Liliana Tenney and Andrew Glendenning, the 2011 Outstanding Contributions by a Student; Lorann Stallones, Ph.D., the 2011 Excellence in Faculty Research; Tasha Fingerlin, Ph.D., the 2011 Excellence in Faculty Mentoring; and Lisa Miller, M.D., M.S.P.H., the 2011 Excellence in Public Health Practice by an Individual.

Award recipients are nominated by Colorado School of Public Health faculty, staff and students, and final selections

are made by a school-wide committee. Awards are presented during the annual school convocation at the end of May. The 2011 Excellence in Public Health Practice by an Organization award was accepted on behalf of CanDo by the program's obesity prevention specialist Jessica Hinterberg and program assistant Aubrey Hoover.

Five questions for Catalin Grigoras[31]

Catalin Grigoras

As a college student in Bucharest, Catalin Grigoras was fascinated by digital signals and what he could do with them. People around him said he was wasting his time, but he persevered. Now his work with evidence authentication is used around the world to help solve criminal cases. After earning a master's degree in electric engineering and a Ph.D. in digital signal processing from Politehnica University of Bucharest, he worked as a forensic expert with the Romanian Intelligence Service and the Ministry of Justice in Romania. In September 2010, he became director of the National Center for Media Forensics at the University of Colorado Denver.

The center offers the only master's level program in audio and video forensics in the country. Grigoras, his colleagues and students at the center use scientific methods to analyze audio and video evidence that comes into question during criminal trials. For instance, law enforcement agencies might want to determine whether a video or sound recording has been altered or edited in any way, or if a voice or face on a recording is authentic.

Grigoras was chairman of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes – Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis Working Group from 2007-2009. He is a member of the Audio Engineering Society Subcommittee on Forensic Audio and the International Association of Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics. He has published numerous forensic audio/video articles and is a co-author of Best Practice Guidelines for ENF Analysis in Forensic Authentication of Digital Evidence.

Early on, "I did what I did because I didn't know it was impossible," Grigoras said. "Now the international recognition and validation of my work" is an honor.

Even away from work, Grigoras' inquisitive nature never wanes. He loves to travel, read, take photographs and discover new places. And he collects coins. "I like to study them. It's fascinating to see how much history can be embedded in one coin."

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. How did you choose this career?
I can say that the career chose me. It began as a game where I was trying to filter out different noises and measure with high accuracy a variety of signals. I was a student spending time in the lab and discovering the magic world of digital signals. Then it became like a hobby, where I was finding different phenomena and simultaneously learning more about forensic media science. People around me were asking me to stop wasting my time, but I continued to work, trying to push the scientific limits, knowing what I could do.

2. What are the functions of the National Center for Media Forensics and what are its goals?
The center offers a master's of science in recording arts with an emphasis in media forensics (MSRA-MF) degree program, and workshops for forensic experts from all over the world. We also do scientific research with our students, and prepare them for research, teaching or forensic practice in the investigative application of scientific methods aiding the criminal and civil justice systems.

The course topics that I cover with my colleague Jeff Smith are best practices in forensic media and litigation, forensic audio enhancement, forensic audio authentication, speaker recognition, forensic image enhancement, forensic image authentication and facial comparisons. We also teach MATLAB (a technical computing language) and provide our

students with the know-how to develop forensic tools that currently are not available on the market. The most important scientific projects we are working on are the Electric Network Frequency (ENF) method for forensic authentication of digital audio/video recordings, and the digital image authentication procedure, where we plan to develop and propose a complex forensic methodology.

ENF represents a complex phenomenon that leaves nonrepetitive and nonpredictable traces on digital audio/video recordings. It's like a unique time fingerprint that remains in different digital evidence, allowing the forensic expert to verify or identify with high accuracy the date and time a recording was made, detect traces of manipulation or copy, and even to geolocate, in some cases, the place the recording was made. We can also call it forensic media archeology since the forensic expert is able to act like an archeologist who finds and dates artifacts.

3. How often do you collaborate with law-enforcement agencies and what kind of work do you do for them?
As forensic experts, we have to keep the confidentiality of our cases and clients. But generally, the scientific collaboration involves exchange of experience, implementation of new methods, development of best practice guidelines or standard operating procedures, and offering forensic expertise.

I've been asked to help with different cases, in different countries, involving complex digital media analysis, such as authentication and enhancement, speaker recognition and facial comparisons. I work with my colleague Jeff Smith and most of the cases we usually enter concern corruption or other criminal offenses.

4. What are some of the biggest advances that have been made in media forensics in the past decade or so?
The biggest developments have come about because of digital technology. Analog equipment and recordings are obsolete now, and everything around us is digital. Forensic media followed the evolution of modern society. We benefit from higher quality and longer recordings, can now build and search huge databases, and use automatic systems to process and analyze evidence. The digital revolution also raises new challenges for the forensic expert since most of the methods and theories developed for classic criminalistics are now obsolete.

5. One of your areas of research is forensic speaker recognition. How is it used, and what are your other personal areas of interest?
It's hard to separate the NCMF's and my personal projects because most of them coexist. Right now we are working to improve the ENF methodology, and to build and to propose high-resolution databases for forensic media labs. We also have a very challenging project under way that concerns image authentication. In the meantime, I'm also working on the Forensic Image Analysis System, in order to add and optimize new functions for digital image authentication. The system already is installed on the NCMF computers, and our students have been taught to use it and have experience in digital image authentication.

Automatic speaker recognition is a major domain of forensic audio and is the result of the past 20 to 30 years of digital evolution. By building voice sample databases, extracting voice models from evidence recordings and applying statistics, it is possible to automatically recognize speakers in a very short amount of time, which can be crucial in the fight against organized crime or terrorism.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[33]

Regents OK student plan for CU-Boulder recreation center[34]

Frank Bruno, vice chancellor for administration at CU-Boulder, left, and Bruce Deakyne, student chair of the recreation center board, speak to the CU Board of Regents at today's meeting. [Photo: Cathy Beuten/University of Colorado

The CU Board of Regents today voted to approve the $63.5 million package of improvements to the University of Colorado Boulder recreation center, which students overwhelmingly requested earlier this year.

Steep fees for the center expansion and renovation – which will be about $96 per student per semester this coming school year, and $206 per semester in 2014-15 – had caused concern about the project among board members.

Bruce Deakyne, student chair of the recreation center board, spoke and answered questions about the plan, stressing the high voter turnout and wide margin of victory that students achieved, and said the center serves a vital community-building role on the campus.

Regent Monisha Merchant, D-Lakewood, said she appreciated that the project "is 100 percent student-focused."

Regents Joe Neguse, D-Boulder, and Stephen Ludwig, D-Lone Tree, expressed reservations about the plan to include an outdoor pool and possibly hot tubs, given that such a facility's use would be limited during the academic year.

Deakyne said that an outdoor pool and deck area ranked third in importance among focus groups, who put only a weight and cardio area and parking ahead of it.

Regent Tilman "Tillie" Bishop, R-Grand Junction, said he commended the students, staff and Vice Chancellor for Administration Frank Bruno for their work on advancing the project, and said that the pool area is understandably part of what students voted to support.

"It reminds me of the same things the senior citizens did in Fruita, Colo., when they had to put together a package designed to get the most support they could get," he said. "Yeah, it's going to be expensive, but I don't know what we do today that doesn't have an expense."

Regent Sue Sharkey, R-Windsor, said she also had concerns about the cost, but that the existing building is inadequate. She asked whether revenue might be generated at an outdoor pool with summer swim camps; Bruno said that was likely.

In other action at the two-day meeting, which concluded today, at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs:

The board voted to add a new regent policy requiring that campuses provide twice-yearly reports to the board on student disciplinary suspensions and expulsions. The proposed change was introduced by Regent James Geddes, R-Sedalia, as chair of the laws and policies committee.

"This has been a group effort to construct this language," said Geddes, who thanked regents Michael Carrigan, D-Denver; and Steve Bosley, R-Broomfield; as well as Professor R L Widmann and Intercampus Student Forum Chair Jack Kroll.

When the matter was discussed at the Laws and Policies Committee meeting in April, Kroll had objected to the idea of the board reviewing suspensions and expulsions, saying that current reviews by administration, faculty, staff and fellow students should be sufficient.

But at Tuesday's meeting, Kroll said he had spoken with disciplinary officers at CU Denver and they said they would prefer to be able to present such reports to the regents, so he withdrew his objection.

A proposal for a new doctoral degree in engineering and applied science at CU Denver was defeated in a 4-4 vote. Regents Geddes, Merchant, Neguse and Sharkey voted against it; Ludwig did not attend on Tuesday and did not vote. Neguse said he had concerns about potential cost of the new program, and cited the economy as a reason for not adding new degree programs.

The board discussed differentiated workloads for faculty, having asked for reports from the campuses. Provosts indicated that faculty generally follow the 40/40/20 breakdown of teaching, research and service, but that the current economic climate often is leading schools to add to the teaching load.

The board issued resolutions of appreciation to Kroll and Staff Council Co-Chairs Miranda Carbaugh and Lori Krug, whose terms are ending.

Regent Kyle Hybl, R-Colorado Springs, was re-elected as chairman for the coming year; Carrigan was elected vice chairman. The board thanked Ludwig for his past year of service as vice chairman.

Programs critical in reaching, retaining diverse students[36]

Gains are being made in attracting and retaining diverse students, explained Vicki Leal, University of Colorado director of diversity and P-20 initiatives, but there's still much more to be done. Leal and campus diversity officers provided the 2010-2011 diversity report to the Board of Regents during its meeting Tuesday, June 21, at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Diverse students, Leal said, include low-income, minority, first-generation, disabled, non-traditional and others, such as GLBTQ students.

Backed by student testimonials, campus diversity officers reported university programs such as CU's Pre-Collegiate Development Program have been successful in supporting non-traditional and under-represented students who might not have otherwise considered higher education.

UCCS graduate Jesse Perez, who received his bachelor's degree in communication, geography and environmental sciences, came from a small community in New Mexico where higher education wasn't often discussed. He stressed that the Pre-Collegiate Development Program and The Partnership in Innovative Preparation for Educators and Students (PIPES) programs were paramount to his success.

"I was on this destructive path and these programs are telling me I have something to go on. I'm like, 'Really, me?' They offered me support, the opportunity to take college courses in high school, they offered scholarships at high-school age," Perez told the board. "Along with my strong family support, these programs kept me going; they lit a fire under me all the way to get to higher education and beyond."

Graduate Maria Mendez, who received her chemical engineering degree at CU-Boulder, was born in a small village outside Guadalajara, Mexico, and grew up in Longmont. Mendez, the youngest of four children, explained that her parents had only received an elementary school education.

"I was disadvantaged in very many ways but I never let my background be a disadvantage. I was always proud of where I came from," she said. "I was very blessed to have teachers who had confidence in me and a counselor who approached me about the pre-collegiate programs at the University of Colorado."

The programs enabled her to meet others with similar backgrounds. After being recruited by both the Colorado School of Mines and Cornell, among others, Mendez decided to attend CU.

"The programs not only motivated me to attend CU but gave me the confidence for success," she said. "Being familiar with CU through the program, I wanted to be a CU Buff."

Among the campus gains included in the diversity report:

At CU-Boulder, minority enrollment in 2010-11 was at an all-time high for both undergraduate and graduate students, and a 7-percent increase over the 2009-10 enrollment for undergraduate and graduate students. Retention rates for full-time, first-time minority freshmen students are almost equal to that of white, non-Hispanic students, at 84 percent versus 85 percent, respectively.

UCCS reported a 5.9 percent undergraduate enrollment growth the past year, which includes increases in the number of African American students (+18.7 percent), Latino students (+19.3 percent), Native American students (+77.4 percent) and Asian American students (+11.7 percent). Overall, the number of minority undergraduate students at

UCCS has gone up by 19.6 percent, now comprising 22 percent of all undergraduates and 28 percent of new Colorado resident freshmen. The proportion of minority assistant professors at UCCS has increased from 13 percent to 22 percent in the past year.

At the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical campus, the proportion of undergraduate students of color has increased each year since 2005, with a high of 30.9 percent achieved in 2010. Numbers of first-generation students attending the University of Colorado Denver have steadily increased since 2003, culminating in a current enrollment of 3,484 during fall 2010. Graduate students of color have consistently represented 12 percent to 13 percent of graduate enrollments for the past decade. In addition, during 2005-2009, the percent of health professional students of color at the Anschutz Medical Campus remained steady at about 21 percent, with an increase to 23.5 percent in 2010.

Regent Joseph Neguse acknowledged the gains, but stressed there is still much to be done.

"I went to the CU-Boulder commencement," he told Robert Boswell, interim vice chancellor for diversity at the CU-Boulder Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement. "You have there 4,966 non-minority students graduating and 62 African Americans graduating. I think we need to be doing better."

Boswell agreed. "We need to find a way to convince more diverse students to come to Boulder. One of the things we need to do is reach out into the community where there are more African American students."

Leal reported that in Colorado, when compared to their proportion in the overall population, black, American Indian and Hispanic students still lag behind white, non-Hispanic students in completion of bachelor's degrees, although modest gains were made for all but Hispanic/Latinos in the previous decade.

"There is a chronic achievement gap between Latinos, not in our state alone," she said. For the first time in the history of the census, the Hispanic population outnumbers African Americans in most metropolitan areas. The overall Hispanic population increased 42 percent the past decade to 50.5 million, or one in six Americans.

Regents approve $2.82 billion budget[37]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents voted to approve a $2.82 billion operating budget for the CU system's 2011-12 fiscal year, a 1.7 percent increase over the previous year. The vote at today's meeting in Colorado Springs was unanimous.

The budget includes a 3 percent conditional salary pool for faculty and exempt staff, and reflects tuition increases approved by the regents earlier this year.

For resident undergraduates, the cost of attendance will increase by 5.8 percent at CU-Boulder; 5.3 percent at UCCS; and 5.5 percent at CU Denver.

Institutional financial aid will increase $9.7 million to $120.2 million, an increase of $82.2 million since fiscal year 2002.

Instructional and academic support expenditures will increase $20.9 million, while state support – including the College Opportunity Fund stipend, fee for service, tobacco and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act stimulus funding – will decrease $47.9 million.

Kelly Fox, vice president and chief financial officer, said total enrollment throughout the system is projected to be 48,451, representing an increase of 0.7 percent.

With the most recent economic forecast for the state indicating stabilization and a slow recovery, Fox told the regents that state spending for higher education will remain vulnerable in the coming year.

During discussion before the vote, Regent James Geddes, R-Sedalia, asked the board to consider the long-term impact of continued tuition increases, especially on the ability of middle-class students and families to afford a college education. Regents indicated they plan to discuss the matter during their retreat next month.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/update-university-colorado-hospital-explores-partnership-poudre-valley[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/blood-drive-continues-thursday-boulder[3] http://www.colorado.edu/StaffCouncil/[4] http://www.bonfils.org/[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/career-services-seeking-help-annual-suit-collection[6] http://careerservices.colorado.edu/public/[7] mailto:Lisa.Lovett@colorado.edu[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/shakespeare-fest-returns-54th-season[9] http://www.coloradoshakes.org/[10] http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=tvt54ebab&et=1105617339574&s=18713&e=001EYpqqKGVuq3JPTijzIvyYjNlrmuYoZbKmgHcAjbxjP8wRC-ExRyj3HnYV41mIWH_Kr6aFPx_4H7EOzXn0CvQgZ2BSMAWlWjKnmgT5PqSevUK6zisd6Yh-A==[11] https://connections.cu.edu/people/braider-oversee-journalism-faculty[12] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplebraiderjpg[13] https://connections.cu.edu/people/anschutz-medical-campus-has-new-director-administration[14] https://connections.cu.edu/people/staff-council-elects-new-officers[15] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-46[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/record-setting-10-cu-boulder-students-awarded-fulbright-grants[17] http://www.colorado.edu/OIE/admin/graduate.html[18] http://www.colorado.edu/oie/admin/CUFulbrightHighlights.html[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/nsf-awards-cu-boulder-59-million-grant-alpine-eco-research[20] https://connections.cu.edu/news/nsf-awards-cu-boulder-5-9-million-grant-for-alpine-eco-research/alpine-res[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/survey-most-students-report-positive-campus-experience[22] http://www.colorado.edu/pba/surveys/climate/10/[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/denver-high-school-students-gain-glimpse-college-experience[24] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsbdbjpg[25] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=4016[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-members-engaged-science-collaboration-aurora-public-schools[27] https://connections.cu.edu/across-cu/faculty-members-engaged-in-science-collaboration-with-aurora-public-schools/ucd_sci-collaboration[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-school-public-health-honors-poudre-valley-health-system[29] http://www.candoonline.org/[30] http://ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/Pages/welcome.aspx[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-catalin-grigoras[32] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-page-grigorasjpg[33] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-ok-student-plan-cu-boulder-recreation-center[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/reg-roundupjpg[36] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/programs-critical-reaching-retaining-diverse-students[37] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-approve-282-billion-budget