Eid recognized by Navajo Nation Bar Association[1]

Eid

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

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

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

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

UBAB to stay course[3]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Working away from the office[7]

Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado

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

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

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

Five questions for Tania Schoennagel[11]

[12]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cannon receives national mentor award[16]

Cannon

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

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

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

UCCS providing shelter to those fighting Waldo Canyon blaze[18]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Last week, UCCS provided this update:
We will continue to support our students, faculty and staff, and our Colorado Springs home community, throughout the duration of this disaster.For information about the fire, please contact 719-955-0742Students who need assistance, or have questions, please contact 719-255-3582, 719-255-3608, or 719-255-3470This information and previous statements are available at www.uccs.edu/~waldocanyonfire[19]
As of early this week, Boulder’s Flagstaff Fire was 90 percent contained. Last week at CU-Boulder, students, faculty and staff received the following communication from Lacey Croco, director of the Emergency Management Division:
The University of Colorado Boulder is monitoring a developing wildfire burning to the southwest of the city. City and County authorities are updating information on the wildfire at http://boulderoem.com/emergency-status[20]The Boulder Emergency Operations Center has activated a call center for residents and others impacted by the fire to obtain information. The phone number is 303-413-7730. People seeking fire and evacuation information are encouraged to call this number.Faculty, staff and students living in the areas identified by the city are urged to pay attention to advisories concerning the changing conditions and possible evacuations and to follow instructions from city and law enforcement officials.CU officials are taking the situation seriously and monitoring it closely with city and county officials. However, the fire does not represent a threat to the campus and the campus is not in the area covered by the city's advisory.Classes and campus events are not canceled.Smoke from the fire is affecting many communities in our area and the Boulder County Public Health has issued a health advisory. You are urged to exercise appropriate caution to preserve your health as high levels of particulates in our air. Learn more at http://www.bouldercounty.org/env/air/pages/wildfire.aspxThe[21] university will update campus-specific information as needed on the CU-Boulder home page at http://www.colorado.edu[22]and the Emergency Information Line at 303-492-4636. CU faculty, staff and students should also monitor their campus e-mail and cell phones for possible emergency alerts, texts and updates.The city of Boulder is posting information at http://www.bouldercolorado.gov[23]If you have not done so already, sign up for the campus alert system at http://www.colorado.edu/alerts[24] and if you live off-campus in the city or county of Boulder you can sign up for alerts at http://www.boco911alert.com[25]
The state of Colorado’s Division of Emergency Management has established a website providing information on how to help communities most affected by the fires. The Help Colorado Now page, http://www.helpcoloradonow.org/[26], provides contact information for the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and other agencies distributing aid.

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

Two at diabetes center receive achievement awards[27]

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

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

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

Baker receives prestigious writing award[28]

Baker

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

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

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

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

For more information about LASP research on how CMEs affect Earth, please visit http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/science/space-physics/earths-magnetosphere/[30]

Todd Saliman takes reins as CU's chief financial officer[31]

[32]
As the chief budget officer for the state of Colorado under former Gov. Bill Ritter, Todd Saliman had to steer the budget for state government through some of the worst fiscal times in nearly a century. As the new vice president of budget and finance and chief financial officer for the CU system, which also has been buffeted by fiscal challenges, those skills and experience should come in handy.

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

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

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

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

CU-Boulder opens search for scholar in conservative thought, policy[33]

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We are looking for a person who has spent her or his career thinking and writing about conservative thought and

policy," she said. "We are looking for a scholar or practitioner, someone with a solid track record of thoughtful analysis in areas such as philosophy, political science, economics, foreign policy, the military, sociology and/or history."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

National fellowship for Espinoza[34]

Espinoza

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

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

'rights-generative' activity."

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

Carrigan new chair, Sharkey new vice chair of Board of Regents[36]

[37]
The Board of Regents has elected Michael Carrigan, D-Denver, chair of the board and Sue Sharkey, R-Windsor, vice chair.

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

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

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

Hines-Sloan shines with award at CU Denver[38]

Hines-Sloan

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

Hines-Sloan was nominated by co-worker Meredith Lopez, who described the award-winner as "always bright and cheerful" and someone who makes time to check in with everyone in the office and "really listens when colleagues want to share." Hines-Sloan co-chairs the department's diversity committee, "goes above and beyond the call of duty to listen to and assist" the graduate students she advises. She also advises new doctoral students. Outside the department, Hines-Sloan is an Auraria Campus Phoenix Center Volunteer, a founding Fayolo family representing The Boys School (a charter school within Denver Public Schools) and a volunteer at the 9Health Fair. She received a $100 gift card in recognition for her service.

Dropping names … [40]

Two University of Colorado School of Medicine researchers have been awarded two of the three grants awarded in Colorado by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). Nationally, 50 grants are given out. **Daniel Matlock**, assistant professor of medicine-internal medicine and geriatrics, is the principal investigator on a $644,000

grant to study patient decision aids for people with implanted defibrillators. **Jack Westfall**, professor of family medicine and program director for Colorado AHEC, is the principal investigator for a $724,000 project, “Boot Camp Translation for Patient Centered Outcomes.” … **Wendy Madigosky**, associate professor of family medicine at the CU School of Medicine, has been accepted as a Macy Faculty Scholar. She was one of five selected from a national pool. The program is designed to develop a new generation of national leaders in medicine and nursing. Scholars must commit half their time to pursue education reform projects at their institution. Madigosky will be working on an interprofessional safety and health care improvement curriculum for the Anschutz Medical Campus with her mentor, Amy J. Barton, professor and associate dean, College of Nursing, Clinical and Community Affairs. … **Mary Klute**, of the Buechner Institute for Governance at the University of Colorado Denver, played a key role in producing the second and final report by the A+ Denver SchoolChoice Transparency Committee. The new DPS SchoolChoice process is the first unified enrollment process for a large urban school district that includes nearly all K-12 schools: innovation, performance, magnet and charter. Klute handled the data analysis and evaluation. The purpose of the report is to provide a full account of participation, family preferences, school matches and patterns related to a variety of factors from geography to student demographics. … **Taisto Mäkelä**, associate professor and chair of architecture, presented a paper at the European Architectural History Network (EAHN) annual meeting in Brussels, Belgium, last month. Mäkelä’s presentation, “Zeitgeist in the Service of Modern Architecture,” was part of the session “Neither ‘Modernism’ nor ‘Avant-Garde’: A Roundtable Discussion in Honor of the 90th birthday of Alan Colquhoun,” who was Taisto’s professor at Princeton University. … **Mark Golkowski**, assistant professor, electrical engineering and bioengineering at the University of Colorado Denver, is participating in research to evaluate a novel instrument that kills harmful bacteria without the use of liquid chemicals or high temperatures. The work is being done in collaboration with JILA, operated jointly by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the University of Colorado Boulder. JILA’s laser frequency comb measurements help explain, for the first time, how this sterilization technique inactivates bacteria, and thus will “help optimize solutions for the medical clinic where multi-drug-resistant bacteria are a growing problem.”

Protect yourself by protecting university data[41]

Information is a critical university asset – one that all faculty and staff take part in protecting. Data, including Personally Identifiable Information, is the primary target of cyber-criminals. The key to protecting yourself and the organization is to protect the confidential information we work with every day.

To learn more about protecting data, please read the June 2012 Office of Information Security Cyber Security newsletter[9].

You can find the University’s definitions for Private and Sensitive information here: http://www.cu.edu/policies/glossary.html[42]

The IT Security Program APS on the following link provides more information about the responsibilities of users as it relates to using IT Resources and protecting data: http://www.cu.edu/policies/aps/it/6005.html[43]

Ahmed receives Young Faculty Award[44]

Ahmed

Alaa Ahmed, assistant professor at the University of Colorado Boulder Department of Integrative Physiology, has received a Young Faculty Award from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

The objective of the program is to identify and engage rising research stars in junior faculty positions at U.S. academic

institutions and expose them to Defense Department needs and DARPA's program development process. The YFA program provides funding, mentoring and industry and Department of Defense (DoD) contacts to these faculty members early in their careers to develop their research ideas in the context of DoD needs. The long-term goal of YFA is to develop the next generation of academic scientists, engineers and mathematicians in key disciplines who will focus a significant portion of their career on DoD and National Security issues.

Ahmed's most recent study looked at how test subjects learned particular arm-reaching movements using a robotic arm. The results of the study found that even though subjects had learned a task, there was an advantage to continued practice. To read more, visit http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine/2012/02/after-perfection-practice-makes-efficient-study-finds/[46]

Ahmed will receive approximately $150,000 for the next two years.

Trio of CU biomed scientists named Boettcher Investigators[47]

Three University of Colorado researchers have been named to the 2012 class of Boettcher Investigators in the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program. This is the third year for the program, which supports early career scientists in their work toward making discoveries that improve human health.

This year's Boettcher Investigators, all from CU, are:
[48]
Harald Junge, Ph.D., assistant professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at theUniversity of Colorado Boulder, who researches retinal vascular development and disease [49]
Matthew Kennedy, Ph.D., assistant professor of Pharmacology,University of Colorado School of Medicine, who researches molecular mechanisms of Alzheimer's pathology [50]
Chad G. Pearson, Ph.D., assistant professor of Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, who researches organization of the microtubule cytoskeleton for cell division and signaling
"The Boettcher Foundation Board is very pleased to further the research of early career investigators," said Edward D. "Ted" White III, chairman of the Boettcher Foundation Board of Trustees, who made the announcement on Friday. "Our support enables these junior investigators to continue their valuable research and to compete in the future for major grants. It's hard to believe that we're already in the third year of this effective program."

The Webb-Waring Biomedical Research program fills an unmet need in the state by assisting early career investigators engaged in biomedical sciences to advance their research. The program also honors the tradition of Colorado's Webb and Waring families by investing in science that has the possibility of making significant contributions to human health.

"Through this program, the Boettcher Foundation has been able to bring resources to an area where funds are currently lacking and where federal and private research programs provide limited support," said Timothy W. Schultz, president and executive director of the Boettcher Foundation[51]. "Early career investigators quite frequently have a difficult time securing a first opportunity at an independent research effort that will move them out of the laboratory of their mentors and onto their own new and exciting areas of discovery."

Junge's lab studies retinal blood vessels using mice as model system. By focusing on understanding molecular processes that instruct the development and function of the retinal vasculature, Junge aims to further understand the role of these molecular processes in causing blinding diseases. For example, the neovascular form of age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic retinopathy (DR) are leading causes of blindness. Both diseases critically involve pathological changes in the retinal vasculature and highlight the need to understand the biology of this important structure.

The Kennedy lab studies how connections between neurons in the brain known as synapses are changed through learning, a process known as synaptic plasticity. This fundamental process is required for normal cognition and goes awry in diseases and disorders including autism, addiction and Alzheimer's. Clarifying the mechanisms of plasticity will

be key to understanding how memory is ravaged by disease, and to begin developing effective therapies to prevent the cognitive decline associated with many neurological disorders. Most recently, the Kennedy lab is studying how one of the potent neurotoxic agents responsible for Alzheimer's triggers the loss of synapses and leads to neuronal cell death.

Pearson's lab studies how cellular polymers called microtubules are organized to divide cells, to support intercellular communication and to move mucus. Disruption of these important events contributes to cancer, developmental and neurological anomalies, and respiratory illness. Pearson's research is dedicated to understanding how genetic perturbations lead to these devastating illnesses.

With the addition of the 2012 Class, there are now 14 Boettcher Investigators conducting research at CU and three other Colorado institutions: Colorado State University, National Jewish Health and Colorado School of Mines.

Individual grant amounts for these research projects range from $200,000 to $300,000. The grant amounts vary based on funding allocated to each institution.

Early Career Investigators (ECIs) are faculty members who are four years or less from their first academic appointment at a research institution. The grants awarded by the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program support the work of promising ECIs in Colorado. Eligible investigators apply through a competitive process within their respective institutions.

Boettcher Foundation announced the creation of the program in 2008, as the result of an innovative agreement between the Boettcher Foundation, the Webb-Waring Foundation for Biomedical Research and the University of Colorado. Through the program, Boettcher Foundation now invests more than $1 million each year into efforts to increase Colorado's competitiveness in biomedical science.

"We've made every effort to ensure that the legacies of the Webb and Waring families live on in the discovery of new knowledge to improve human health and in the advancement of young scientists," Schultz said. "The Boettcher Foundation wanted the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program to invest where the impact would be the most substantial. To fund excellence in people, to partner with the state's research institutions and to further the Webb and Waring families' long tradition of commitment to science and human health."

Ohm to take advisory post at FTC[52]

Ohm

Paul Ohm, associate professor in the University of Colorado Law School, will serve in the Federal Trade Commission as a senior policy adviser for consumer protection and competition issues affecting the Internet and mobile markets.

Ohm will take a leave of absence to serve at the FTC and begin his new position Aug. 27 in the agency's Office of Policy Planning, which focuses on the development and implementation of long-range competition and consumer protection policy initiatives, and advises staff on cases raising new or complex policy and legal issues.

"Paul's keen insights on how the law applies to technology and privacy issues will be invaluable to the FTC's work in these areas," said FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz. "We have been fortunate in bringing in a series of top-notch experts to advise us on cutting-edge issues and enhance our in-house expertise. We look forward to having Paul on board."

Ohm specializes in information privacy, computer crime law, intellectual property and criminal procedure, with a particular focus on building new connections between law and computer science. Much of his work has examined how

evolving technology disrupts individual privacy. His 2010 article, “Broken Promises of Privacy: Responding to the Surprising Failure of Anonymization,” has sparked an international debate about the impact on privacy of significant recent advances in data analytics.

His appointment to the FTC will mark the second time Ohm will serve the government focusing on privacy. He previously worked on similar issues as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section.

Five questions for Rebecca Safran[54]

Rebecca Safran (Photo courtesy of Rebecca’s husband, Sam Flaxman, also an assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology)

As a child, Rebecca Safran wrote and created a magazine that she sold to neighbors. She assumed she would be a writer until she took a class in plant taxonomy during her undergraduate years at the University of Michigan. While on field trips she began to see the world around her in a different way, and she became passionate about biology.

“The deal was sealed after spending a summer at the University of Michigan’s Biological Station during my undergraduate education,” she said. “There I got to take classes from and interact with some of the brightest minds in biology. I was in awe!”

After earning a master’s degree in wildlife biology at Humboldt State University and her doctorate in ecology and evolutionary biology at Cornell University, she did postdoc work at Princeton University from 2005 to 2008. Then she joined the University of Colorado Boulder, where currently she is an assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.

“I love biology and I love history,” she said. “In many ways, evolutionary biology is focused on discovering and testing hypotheses about the history of life on our planet. For example, how and why things look the way they do and how and why there are species in one place, not another, and why some lineages end up splitting into many, many species while others go extinct. These questions and many others like it are endlessly fascinating to me.”

Her research on barn swallows includes examining phenotype (observable characteristics) and how these traits differ in sub-species. A particular interest is in the role of sexual selection, and past studies have looked at how features of morphology are related to physiology/genetics. One surprising finding is that by simply darkening a male’s appearance to match the darkest males in the population, researchers also altered the bird’s physiology: Males whose appearance is manipulated experience shifts in testosterone profiles. The research also helps illuminate why females choose males based on different traits.

1. You recently won a National Science Foundation Early Career Development, or CAREER, award to study genetic differences in barn swallow populations to gain a greater understanding of how new species are formed. Why did you choose to study barn swallows as opposed to another bird?

Barn swallows are one of the most widespread species of vertebrates worldwide. During the breeding season, their distribution encompasses most of the Northern Hemisphere. Barn swallows are composed of at least six sub-species – populations that have been indicated as different from one another in several ways. In evolutionary timescales, this is a very young collection of sub-species, meaning that they have evolved from one another very rapidly and are still doing so today. Despite this, populations of barn swallows look and behave quite differently from one another: Some migrate during the winter, others do not, and males also possess different traits used to attract females.

Our previous experimental work indicates that feather color and the length of outer tail feathers – which differ in males depending on where you study them – are related to mate-selection decisions made by females in these populations.

So, for many reasons, the barn swallow study system represents an exciting opportunity to study evolution in action. In particular, in this new grant we are using the tools of genomics to discover how different features among these closely related populations are related to signatures of population divergence in the genome. Within the five-year period of this grant we will certainly be able to amass an enormous database to tell us a great deal about population genomic divergence among 55 different sampling locations – spread throughout the entire breeding range of our study system – and how it is being influenced by climate variation, migratory behavior, morphological variation and many other features.

2. The study includes other collaborators in 35 countries. How will the study be conducted?

Each summer, a number of countries and locations will be visited. I have established collaborations at each of these sites, which alone took nearly two years of persistent emailing! I wanted to be sure that the coverage of sampling was adequate to capture variation among and within different sub-species – across different continents and within them – across different latitudes. Every summer for the next five years will be composed of a lot of international travel to capture and collect samples from barn swallows from around the world, from Egypt to Kazahkstan, throughout Russia and China, and most of North America. We will be bringing back samples to my lab in Boulder to conduct all sorts of molecular analyses, including those related to genomic divergence, but also to assess migratory behavior through the use of stable isotope analyses and many other assay that will tell us something about individuals in each population. Ultimately we aim to learn a lot about how these factors – including climate variability -- influence the process of speciation.

3. Part of the award includes a "Citizen Science" program. What does that entail?

Our work on barn swallows takes place on mostly private property, and we do very much rely on these property owners to provide us with access to their barns (and thus, swallows!). It is a special landowner that really allows us to do our work well – which often means checking nests a few times per week, and arriving to set up nests to catch birds before dawn. Most of these people are very interested in our work and it's wonderful to think of ways to formally involve them in some aspects of it. For this grant, we are hoping to set up a website where landowners can track simple metrics that collectively can tell us a lot about seasonal and timing changes in barn swallows: first date of arrival in spring, date of departure in late summer and fall. These observations are simple enough to keep track of but are quite important for looking at larger scale patterns of the timing of the breeding season and how it is changing from year to year. The data will help us determine when our field studies begin and end each year but more importantly will provide the start of a hopefully longer-term project on breeding schedules and climate change.

4. What would you consider your proudest achievements?

Getting the CAREER award was a biggie. It's very competitive and I was lucky to win the award on my first try. It is truly an honor and one that I will take full advantage of. That aside, I am extremely proud of my graduate students. I had no idea how to mentor them when I first started my position and my first two Ph.D. students have been through several trials and errors of different mentoring styles. They have been very patient! It has been so exciting to see them work toward and achieve their goals!

5. What do you enjoy most about teaching and what do you want your students to take from the classroom?

As a research mentor, my number one goal is to inspire students to be curious and to ask good questions. This can only be accomplished by having a deep knowledge of what has been done, so I encourage them to understand the backgrounds of their various fields of interest inside and out. My teaching is quite variable from term to term. In the fall, I teach a 20-student class on climate change and film where the students are asked to digest facts and views about climate change and to make two independent short films based on their assessment of the situation. These films are shared within and outside of CU and they have to tell a story that is heartfelt. My spring class is for 700 students of General Biology. Here, I don't get the pleasure of knowing each student very well, but the challenge is instead to try to engage them to relate the material at hand in some way, shape or form. In this setting, a primary wish of mine is to have my students think for themselves (what do they understand, what is not clear and why) so that true, deep learning can really happen.

Home page photo by Kevin Stearns

Change in email procedure takes effect July 1[56]

A long-planned change in email communication throughout the University of Colorado will take effect July 1, when the university's new electronic communications (eComm)[57] program becomes the delivery method for messages to external (alumni, donors, parents and friends of CU) lists of 100 or more recipients.

CU has been in the process of implementing eComm to enable units, colleges, schools and departments to engage in mass email communications and marketing, electronic event management and hosting of online communities for alumni and friends. The project is a partnership among the Office of the President, the four campuses and the CU Foundation.

The eComm[58] program uses an integrated suite of electronic tools on a single, shared platform delivered by industry leader Harris Connect[59]. It works in conjunction with Advance, CU's master database of alumni, donors and friends. The tool was selected during a systemwide process that involved the campuses, system and CU Foundation.

Among the benefits of eComm:
Ensuring the accuracy and currency of data on constituents; Allowing for coordinated messaging and calendaring; Addressing data security imperatives; Meeting the legal requirements of CAN-SPAM legislation[60]; Reducing "email fatigue" of constituents; Enabling users to control their preferences on how they would like CU to communicate with them; Providing detailed analytics of mass emails and events; Save money
The continuing implementation of the program will take its next steps on July 1, when emails to lists of more than 100 records will be delivered exclusively through the eComm program. Users may register and be trained on the program by clicking here[61] to request access.

Support staff[62] from the campuses, system and CU Foundation are available to help with the transition. Units that maintain lists separate from the Advance database may download them to Advance through a simple process at the eComm site[63].

This is only for electronic communications with external audiences such as alumni, donors, parents and friends of CU.

Karunanithi earns CAREER award from NSF[64]

Karunanithi

Arun Karunanithi, assistant professor of civil engineering at the University of Colorado Denver, has received a $400,000 CAREER award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to pursue research and educational activities in the area of green engineering and sustainability with a focus on ionic liquids.

His project aims to develop computational models that will help design novel ionic liquid structures with unique functional properties for important applications such as CO2 capture and sequestration, energy storage and chemical separations.

Progress made through this work has the potential to accelerate discovery of newer environmentally benign ionic liquid classes that can lead to breakthroughs in several green technology applications.

Zader a New Faculty Fellow at Rutgers[66]

In 2012, the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) will award more than $15 million to more than 320 scholars worldwide working in the humanities and related social sciences. The ACLS New Faculty Fellows program allows recent doctorates in the humanities to take up two-year positions at universities and colleges across the United States where their particular research and teaching expertise augment departmental offerings. This program addresses the dire situation of newly minted Ph.D.s in the humanities and related social sciences who are now confronting an increasingly “jobless market.”

The 2012 fellows and grantees include: **Katie E. Oliviero**, New Faculty Fellow (Ph.D., women's studies, University of California, Los Angeles), appointed in women and gender studies at University of Colorado Boulder; **M. Erin J. Shay**, assistant professor, linguistics (ACLS Fellowship Program), morphology and Syntax of Pévé; and **Amy Zader**, New Faculty Fellow (Ph.D., geography, University of Colorado Boulder), appointed in geography at Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

The ACLS Fellowships support individual scholars working in the humanities and related social sciences. They include the ACLS/SSRC/NEH International and Area Studies Fellowships and the ACLS/New York Public Library Fellowships. The ultimate goal of each project is a major piece of scholarly work by the applicant.

Denver Staff Council recognizes colleagues[67]

Among the 2011 Employees of the Month were, from left, Sara Honda, Linda Theus-Lee, Newman Forrester and Joseph Kimitch.

About 200 University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus employees who have reached milestone years of service recently were recognized during an annual luncheon ceremony. Two employees – **Diane Lenfest,** College of Nursing, and **Betty Phelps,** Office of Student Affairs – each were recognized for 35 years of service.

"You've dedicated a major portion of your lives to serving this university," Kevin Jacobs, assistant vice chancellor for human resources, told the honorees. "Because of you, the university is able to advance its mission to be a diverse, teaching and learning community that creates, discovers and applies knowledge to improve the health and well-being of Colorado and the world."

The 2011 Staff Council Employees of the Month also were recognized. They include **David Tilton** (March), **Linda Theus-Lee** (April), **Jesse Walklett** (May), **Ruby Nugent** (June), **Joseph Kimitch** (July), **Newman Forrester** (August), **Sara Honda** (November) and **Lindsay Austin** (December).

Lenfest, one of two employees recognized for a remarkable 35 years of service, said she started at University Hospital on Ninth Avenue and two weeks later moved to the Department of Biophysics and Genetics in the School of Medicine, also on the old Ninth Avenue campus.

"There are many people with whom I've had the pleasure to work over the many years, at Ninth Avenue and now at Anschutz," Lenfest said. "These are people who work hard, but also like to laugh -- they know who they are!"

Following is a link to the complete honoree list:
http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Documents/PDF/ServiceAnniversaries2012.pdf[69]

Pre-collegiate program in spotlight at Advocates forum[70]

The University of Colorado's Pre-Collegiate Program, the most successful college prep program in the state for high school students, is the focus of an educational forum for CU Advocates. Registration remains open[71] for the free event, which is set for 7:30 a.m. Friday at St. Cajetan's Center at CU Denver on the Auraria Campus.

Registration and continental breakfast runs from 7:30 to 8 a.m., followed by the one-hour program. Attendees will hear from the campuses' pre-collegiate directors of the program, in which 97 percent of participants go on to post-secondary education.

Among the guests at the forum, presented by the CU Advocates program and the Office of the President, will be state Sen. Pat Steadman and pre-collegiate students and their parents.

Questions: Michele McKinney, 303-860-5622, michele.mckinney@cu.edu[72].

Celebration of ideas draws 750 Colorado students[73]

Kelly Brough, CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce and CU Denver alumna, talks about Denver 2.0 as Jeremy Duhon, TEDxMileHigh Youth Event emcee, listens.

Mandy Wong, a senior studying philosophy at the University of Colorado Denver, is fascinated by innovators, especially young ones.

So it only took a CU Denver email inviting her to TEDxMileHigh[75] Youth Event, a celebration of innovation and risk takers, to prompt her to attend the June 1 event. About 750 students, mostly from high schools and middle schools across Colorado, attended the Youth Event at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in downtown Denver.

Scenes from TEDxMileHigh Youth Event:

Wong came across TED talks a couple years ago in one of her classes. TED is a national gathering on Technology, Entertainment and Design that features pre-eminent leaders, performers and researchers in a multiple-day exchange of forward-thinking ideas.

"I got really excited because the TED talks just breathe innovation and different ideas," Wong said. "I had just watched them online. I had always wanted to go to an event, so I think it's really awesome that they're having a youth version that's free to students."

The University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus was the presenting sponsor of the two-day TEDxMileHigh conference and the exclusive sponsor of the kick-off Youth Event.

Wong perused the many booths in the TEDxMileHigh Exhibits Lounge before settling into the auditorium to listen to a dozen presenters speak on the conference's theme of "Risk & Reward." Two of the speakers had university ties. Kelly Brough, president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, is a CU Denver alumna who spoke about the collaborative visioning process for the city of Denver, called Denver 2.0. And Jennifer Chipman, a water resource engineering student in the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences[76], spoke about her graduate research topic, "The Value of International Collaboration in Understanding How Climate Change Affects Water Supplies from Snow Dominated Catchments[77]."

This was a second installment of our TED involvement this year. In April, the Anschutz Medical Campus was one of 100 sites around the country that presented simulcast screenings of the TEDMED 2012 conference in Washington, D.C.

The June 1-2 event in Denver allowed local residents to get an up-close view of the innovators, especially in the exhibitors' hall. Exhibitors with university ties included Tyler Huggins, Ph.D. candidate, with his microbial fuel cells; Vickie Berkley, assistant director for civic engagement, Colorado Center for Community Development[78], with a presentation about the Learning Landscapes[79] program in the College of Architecture and Planning[80]; and Stephen Katsaros, CEO of Nokero International, a company that offers solar technology solutions to poor, off-the-grid communities worldwide. Katsaros was a student in the CU Denver Business School[81]'s Bard Center of Entrepreneurship[82] from 1998-99.

Work by all of the innovators is reflective of why the university connected with TEDxMileHigh.

"This event showcases a core value at the university which is innovation," said Chancellor Don Elliman. "Without the risk takers we have among our faculty and researchers, we would not see the breakthrough medical treatments, new technologies and community and academic programs that are helping so many throughout our community, the nation and world."

In announcing the university sponsorship to the crowd, the Youth Event moderator conveyed Elliman's comments to the student attendees: "The future depends on you asking questions, challenging the status quo and pushing boundaries that lead to improvements and breakthroughs."

Ott examines ESPN coverage[83]

Ott

Brian L. Ott, associate professor and associate chair of communication at the University of Colorado Denver, published an analysis of ESPN’s coverage of the Penn State sex abuse scandal during the first week following the release of the November 2011 Grand Jury presentment—which indicted former Penn State college football defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky on 40 counts of criminal sexual abuse.

Unnecessary roughness: ESPN’s construction of hypermasculine citizenship in the Penn State sex abuse scandal[85]was published in Cultural Studies**.** Understanding ESPN’s coverage, particularly its framing of this story, reveals how the news media shape public attitudes and opinions, pressure public officials, and model agentive citizenship in response to public traumas.

Specifically, the essay argues that ESPN's visual-narrative framing of the scandal perpetuates a hypermasculine (and heteronormative) fantasy of violent vigilante justice that reduces political agency to personal and private acts.

Students, faculty to help NASA develop space garden [86]

CU-Boulder aerospace engineering sciences graduate student Christine Fanchiang is part of the team working to sustain food growth in space. (Photo: Patrick Campbell/University of Colorado)

University of Colorado Boulder students and faculty have been selected to develop a remotely operable, robotic garden to support future astronauts in deep space.

The project is one of five university proposals selected to participate in the 2013 Exploration Habitat (X-Hab) Academic Innovation Challenge led by NASA and the National Space Grant Foundation.

The yearlong project will be funded by a grant of about $40,000. Its ultimate goal is to support long-duration human space exploration, such as a mission to Mars, according to Christine Fanchiang, a graduate student in aerospace engineering sciences who is one of three core students managing early project development.

The project will be led by CU-Boulder professor Joe Tanner, a former astronaut now teaching in the aerospace engineering sciences department, Nikolaus Correll, a computer science professor who previously spent two years working on robotic gardening systems at MIT, and Dave Klaus, an aerospace engineering professor with expertise in space habitat design and space life sciences.

Adriane Elliott of Colorado State University‘s department of soil and crop sciences also will collaborate on the project.

Students from two graduate-level aerospace engineering courses at CU-Boulder will focus on the project next year in order to deliver an operating system to NASA in the summer of 2013.

The completed project will be a bioregenerative food system that will grow, harvest and compost a variety of plants. Bioregenerative systems support life by simultaneously revitalizing the atmosphere, purifying water and producing food for consumption.

The team already has a prototype growing environment for autonomous plant production that is based on work done in CU-Boulder’s computer science department over the last two years.

The system will be further developed to perform four major tasks: seeding, monitoring of plant growth, harvesting, and processing of crop residue to recycle nutrients back into the system.

A strategy for implementing the automation to achieve time savings for the astronauts while maintaining some of the beneficial psychological aspects of gardening also will need to be developed, Fanchiang said.

“Psychology is a major driver of how well people can survive in isolated, confined environments,” she said. “Picking the tasks to automate and determining if there is a way to mix automation with some manual tasks, like picking the fruit, are part of the project.”

Fanchiang is excited about the multidisciplinary nature of the gardening project, and of the bioastronautics field in general. “It’s fun because you get to see something outside of your own expertise,” she said.

In addition to advancing the goal of sustaining a mission to Mars, Fanchiang noted that the food production project also could be useful for people in everyday life.

Throughout the 2012-13 academic year, the Colorado team will need to meet a series of milestones to design, manufacture, assemble and test their systems and concepts in cooperation with the NASA Advanced Exploration Systems (AES) Program's Habitation Systems Project team.

“The X-Hab Academic Innovation Challenge is an exciting opportunity to engage university teams in the design process for NASA’s next-generation space systems,” said Jason Crusan, NASA’s AES Program manager at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. “The agency benefits from the fresh and innovative perspective of these university teams, and they learn about deep space human exploration and the systems engineering approach from an experienced NASA team.”

For more information about the X-Hab Academic Innovation Challenge visit http://www.spacegrant.org/xhab[88].

Staff support, bookstore issues highlight Faculty Assembly meeting[89]

The May 11 meeting of UCCS Faculty Assembly was the last meeting for the 2011-12 term, effectively wrapping up business and putting governance on hiatus for the summer.

Ironically the meeting started with a farewell. Peg Bacon, provost, was first to address the group with her academic affairs report, acknowledging it was her last time to do so before she retires. Brian Burnett, vice chancellor, Administration and Finance, then reported decisions made by the CU Board of Regents regarding student tuition and salary pool approval for faculty and professional exempt staff. David Moon, senior associate vice chancellor, Academic Affairs, then gave a brief progress report on the general education revision initiative.

Jason Votruba, manager, UCCS Bookstore, appeared as a guest speaker, describing the improved services and facilities of the renovated bookstore in University Center and making an appeal to faculty for greater cooperation in ordering textbooks.

He told the group that only a small percentage of faculty are meeting set deadlines to order texts, creating difficulty for the bookstore to operate efficiently. He described current market conditions affecting availability and cost for books, including competition, shipping logistics and other factors. He said the bookstore will need major help from faculty to remain profitable and effectively serve the campus. For the most part, he said, this means faculty members must decide which texts are needed as early as possible and put orders in for books in a more timely fashion. Votruba said he was looking for opportunities to reach more faculty and to better serve the campus.

This past April the regents approved a 2 percent salary pool increase that would provide raises to some faculty and professional exempt staff members. Because the Colorado General Assembly controls classified staff pay and benefits, the regent order does not affect classified staff. Recognizing the value of classified staff, UCCS administrators would prefer more equitable treatment for all campus employees. According to Robert Durham, professor, Psychology, faculty would prefer equitable treatment across the board as well.

Under new business, Durham made the motion proposing a resolution reflecting faculty support for classified staff. He explained his belief, shared by other faculty members, that classified staff are being shortchanged regarding salaries this year. The purpose of the motion, he said, is to go on record with the faculty’s position. The motion reads as follows:

“Resolved: The members of the Representative Faculty Assembly believe that, since classified staff, who are not allowed to receive any raises or bonuses this year by order of the state system, deserve the complete support and appreciation from all faculty for their continuing outstanding contributions to this campus.”

The motion passed unanimously.

Philanthropic organization visits campus, learns about CU biomedicine advances[90]

From left, panelists Robin Shandas, Ph.D., Andrew Thorburn, Ph.D., and Rick Duke, Ph.D., speak to ARCS Foundation members on June 1 at the Anschutz Medical Campus

The scientific discoveries and clinical applications occurring at the Anschutz Medical Campus are pushing the nation's frontiers in biomedicine and patient care.

That was the message members of the ARCS Foundation -- Achievement Rewards for College Scientists -- heard during a campus visit June 1 as part of the group's national meeting in Denver.

About 70 ARCS members attended the morning program "New Frontiers in Biomedicine" in the Trivisible Room in Research 2. The program included an introduction by Lilly Marks, vice president for health affairs and executive vice chancellor of the Anschutz Medical Campus, and a panel discussion featuring Richard Duke, PhD, associate professor, division of Medical Oncology[92], School of Medicine[93]; Robin Shandas, PhD, professor and chair of the Bioengineering Department[94], College of Engineering and Applied Science[76]; and Andrew Thorburn, PhD, professor and chair of the Pharmacology Department[95], School of Medicine. Also featured was keynote speaker Charles Dinarello, MD, professor, School of Medicine, with an introduction by Richard Krugman, MD, dean of the School of Medicine.

ARCS has 17 chapters across the country. The organization, made up of women philanthropists, offers scholarships to students pursuing graduate degrees in math, science and engineering.

Marks gave ARCS members an overview of the Anschutz Medical Campus and thanked them for their scholarship support nationally and to the students at CU Anschutz.

"Our ability to combine basic research discovery with clinical problems is what gives the work relevance, and the creation of new drugs, devices and therapies is what gives this work true impact," Marks said. "... ARCS plays an important role in building the pipeline for talented new scientists in medicine and the broad array of scientific fields."

Shandas explained that the Bioengineering Department has about 60 graduate students who benefit from direct access to physicians. Some students have launched companies because of their ability to talk to physicians and create devices that help them, Shandas said.

"The reason we're on this campus and the reason we can be innovative is because we have these strong interactions and communications with the people who are actually treating patients and doing basic science," Shandas said.

Thorburn, who is deputy director of the CU Cancer Center[96], said cancer research is at the forefront of the movement toward personalized therapies. Because success rates in drug treatments are low, "you've got to understand the biology that you're targeting before you made your drug, so that when you make your drug you can select the right group of people and the right subgroups of patients for all of your studies," he said. "Personalized medicine only works if you have personalized drug discovery, personalized drug development and personalization the whole way through the spectrum."

Duke, who is a biotechnology executive, inventor and entrepreneur, spoke about the economic challenges of funding drug development in the intermediate phase between discovery and clinical application, what is referred to as the "Valley of Death."

He said drug development is very expensive and risky. In that vein, he founded the Colorado Institute for Drug, Device and Diagnostic Development[97]. "The goal is to try to do that early stage thing -- look at private-public partnerships to

move things quicker into the clinic and create companies," Duke said.

The panelists emphasized that although the challenges and costs in advancing medicine and care are many, this is a time of great opportunity in the biosciences.

"We want the cleverest people to be doing this sort of work, and we have to remember that we are poised to do very, very exciting things," Thorburn said.

Grade-schoolers hear from Tagg's Dr. Chaos[98]

Tagg

Randall Tagg, associate professor of physics at the University of Colorado Denver,worked with the Aurora School District's Jennifer Nassar to present "From Wow to Know How," a series of science and engineering demonstrations for third- and fourth-grader students participating in the "Engineering is Elementary" program, developed at Boston's Museum of Science. A link showing Tagg's appearance as "Dr. Chaos" can be seen here[100].

In April, Tagg worked with Alejandra Morales in Aurora's VistaPEAK school to run a five-day session for 20 sixth-graders to do special science investigations developing methods for monitoring volcanic activity at Yellowstone. He followed this up with a visit to Georgia Tech to discuss connections between turbulence research and epilepsy and to give a talk about student research in nonlinear dynamics. He then gave the talk, "Dynamics by the Dozen," as the final colloquium for the spring semester at CU Boulder's Applied Math Department.

In March, Tagg co-organized and ran a session at the National Science Teachers Association national meeting in Indianapolis titled, "Year to Year: Building a Continuous Collective of Student Research with Mobile Devices/Online Resources."

Dropping names ...[101]

Fischer

Stacy Fischer, M.D., an assistant professor of medicine at the School of Medicine, has been awarded one of 12 national research grants totaling $8.5 million by the American Cancer Society to support research and better achieve health equity. Fischer will test using patient navigators to deliver culturally tailored intervention to improve palliative care for Latinos with advanced cancer in urban and rural communities. … **William Arend**, M.D., professor of medicine-rheumatology at the School of Medicine, received the Gold Medal for Medical Research from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Alumni Association. The award honors Arend's career achievements. Learn more about him in an article[103] in the spring 2010 issue of CU Medicine Today. ... Cancer Center Director **Dan Theodorescu** has been appointed to a four-year term to the inaugural National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Working Group of the National Cancer Institute. This body will be responsible for assessing the balance, coherence and appropriateness of the NCTN clinical trials portfolio; assessing the scientific effectiveness of the NCI's Scientific Steering Committees; providing strategic advice to enhance other aspects of clinical trials operations affecting the NCTN program including collaboration and timeliness; and recommending strategic priorities and directions for the NCTN program. … Anesthesiology Professor **Glenn Gravlee**, M.D., has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists. The award goes to "an individual who has made signal

contributions to the specialty of cardiovascular anesthesiology through research, education, service, or some combination of these activities." … **Robert Metcalf**, associate professor and chair of philosophy at the University of Colorado Denver, was named co-director of the Ancient Philosophy Society in April at the group's annual meeting in San Francisco. During the meeting he presented a lecture, "On Character and Time-of-Life: Aristotle's Rhetoric II.12-14." This summer, Metcalf will serve as a faculty member at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Citta di Castello, Italy, leading a week-long seminar on Plato's Statesman with graduate students and other faculty members. ... **Robert Metcalf**, associate professor and chair of philosophy at the University of Colorado Denver, was named co-director of the Ancient Philosophy Society in April at the group's annual meeting in San Francisco. During the meeting he presented a lecture, "On Character and Time-of-Life: Aristotle's Rhetoric II.12-14." This summer, Metcalf will serve as a faculty member at the Collegium Phaenomenologicum in Citta di Castello, Italy, leading a week-long seminar on Plato's Statesman with graduate students and other faculty members. ... **Kathie Novak**, former mayor of Northglenn and a staff member at the Buechner Institute for Governance in the School of Public Affairs, has been named the 38th recipient of the John V. Christensen Award by the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG). The award is named for an Arapahoe County Commissioner who was a founding member of DRCOG. In announcing the award, DRCOG said, "As an elected official, Kathie also focused on the region's quality of life as an eight-year member of the DRCOG board. She was a highly regarded voice at the DRCOG table because of her understanding of the challenges the region faces and her dedication to addressing those challenges. ... DRCOG thanks Kathie for her long record of public service devoted to the betterment of her community, region, state and nation."

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/people/eid-recognized-navajo-nation-bar-association[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/p_eid.png[3]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/ubab-stay-course[4] https://www.cu.edu/pbs/ubab.html[5]
https://www.cusys.edu/trust/index.html[6] http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2012A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/0EB0DDD87604DD3D872579810082A610?Open&file=1321_enr.pdf[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/working-away-office[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/dyk_workingaway1.png[9]
https://www.cu.edu/content/oismonthlycybersecuritynewsletter[10] https://www.cu.edu/policies/aps/it/6005.pdf[11]
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https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/5q-ts1.png[16]
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