

[Five questions for Nicholas Hamilton-Archer](#)^[1]

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Nicholas Hamilton-Archer's first trips to Denver were not the most auspicious events. But six months later, after becoming the executive director of [Executive Programs at the University of Colorado](#)^[3], he's ready to call Denver home.

Hamilton-Archer had crisscrossed the country and the globe, but had never visited Colorado. He flew to Denver for an interview with CU officials on the day a tornado touched down at Denver International Airport.

"We were in a holding pattern for what felt like hours, and I finally arrived at 2 in the morning. It was a harrowing introduction to the city. The next time I came to Denver, there was flash flooding across the Front Range. Somewhere in the back of mind, I wondered if this was going to be a good move."

After spending a much less eventful – at least weather-wise – six months in the city, Hamilton-Archer is enthusiastic about the state and the program he plans to rejuvenate. CU's Executive MBA program helps business owners move forward through classes taught by faculty from the Boulder, Denver and Colorado Springs campuses, international study experiences, and connections with area business people. His plans for the program include growing the number of students it serves and enriching the opportunities and access offered to students.

Previously, he worked at the University of Pittsburgh and George Mason University. He says similar programs along the East Coast are numerous and costly, averaging more than \$100,000. "To have a dynamic program like this, leveraging the full strength of CU's campuses is phenomenal," he says.

The program began its 32nd year in fall of 2013. Despite the longevity, EMBA programs must continue to innovate, Hamilton-Archer says. "We have to provide our students with real-time conversations and offer perspective and insight to sharpen their skills. It's more about building context around the challenges that they face on a daily basis. Our students solve complex problems each day, and our classroom provides a unique and collaborative environment where our faculty can share best practices and leading research.

"To take a program that has been in existence for so long and is on the cusp of moving to the next level is quite exciting. It's got a great foundation, great opportunities, and there's plenty of room for us to grow regionally and nationally."

1. What is your vision for the program and how will you reach your goals?

I'd like to see us serve a population of 150 to 200 students a year. We're also looking to expand beyond the Front Range.

We were very strategic this year and made some ad placements outside of the normal avenues. We went to DIA, for instance, and to Rocky Mountain PBS, to get a greater presence within the local market and to activate potential applications on the Western Slope. We're targeting cities that are within a two-and-a-half hour radius by plane, and we're looking at new programming to attract a greater national and potentially international audience.

We see ourselves as another dynamic attribute that can help to attract dynamic professionals and organizations to Colorado.

2. What do you consider the hallmark of the program?

The hallmark of the program is our international trip. Our trip is unique because it is a combination of discovering how general business is conducted within a given country and a chance to truly experience the culture and rhythm of a city. Our students form groups and research a question that is of interest to them, and this adds another layer, and context.

We spend 10 days in two countries. This year, in May, we'll go to Istanbul and Paris. We tend to visit a developed market as well as a developing market, so in 2015, we're considering Istanbul along with Moscow or Helsinki. We're

also interested in getting access to less traditional areas – India, Brazil, South Africa; we've even looked at Cuba. We're also considering a second trip for each cohort to allow our students the opportunity to truly expand their perspective.

3. Clearly, continuing education helps the executive students who take these courses. Are there other impacts?

We have a group of faculty members that tend to push people beyond the bottom-line conversation. It's always good to know the numbers and the levers of the organization, but we tend to have individuals who come through the program who also understand the human impact. What I've found quite fascinating about the alums I've talked with is that these are people who care. Our alums – 790 in the Front Range – are home-grown and they want to grow their community. Right now we're working on an impact survey so that we can more precisely get a sense of what our students do. We are interested in learning about their true impact to Colorado and the region.

The program has an opportunity to leverage the true strength of CU -- finding high-level conversations, experiences and opportunities for students. A dean might speak with them about the challenges of higher ed, or we can go to Colorado Springs and talk about ethics with U.S. Olympics officials. The program gives students access to the many conversations that take place across the university's campuses each day, and allows them to take what they learn in their own direction – to go back to work on Monday with a new perspective.

4. What activities do you enjoy, and, now that you're in Colorado, are there others you'd like to pursue?

I'm a huge basketball fan and the first thing we did when we got here was get ourselves tickets to the Nuggets. We're coming out of Pittsburgh where it's all football. The Penguins were in the conversation, but it is the heart of Steeler nation, so getting back to a place where there's professional basketball is exciting. I love to watch and I love to play. I'm also inspired by the energy here in Colorado: Everyone is fit and outdoorsy. It's a lot of pressure on us East Coast folks because our idea of exercise is more of a mental game than actual activity. I know how to ski, at least mechanically. I can go straight; turning is another conversation. But I'm going to figure that out between now and the end of this year. My wife and I are explorers at heart and we have a tendency to just hop in the car and find something new to see. We've traveled to a number of different places in the state, and it really feels like home.

5. Tell me about a favorite item that you own.

It is my passport. I absolutely love to travel. I remember telling my mom that I was going to travel the globe. I was paying my way through college, and the first opportunity I had to go overseas was my junior year. It has literally been a ride ever since, and I absolutely love being exposed to different cultures. I'm fortunate enough now to be able to pick up and go, and I never leave home without my passport.

[Faculty Council weighs in on vice presidential search process](#)^[4]

A proposed change to the Board of Regents' policy regarding searches for vice president positions is being reconsidered following objections from the Faculty Council Executive Committee.

The regents' Laws and Policies Committee has been revisiting Policy 3.E, specifically aspects related to the search processes for president, chancellors, and officers and exempt professionals – or vice president positions.

One of the proposed changes would have altered specifics about the search for vice presidents, stipulating that Faculty Council specifically would have representation on the search committee for vice president of academic affairs, but not necessarily be represented on search committees for other vice presidents.

But following objections by Faculty Council leadership, many of whom attended the March 3 Laws and Policies Committee meeting at 1800 Grant St., the committee is reconsidering the change and has asked Patrick O'Rourke,

secretary to the board, to redraft the language.

“The Laws and Policies committee has been extremely receptive to our input,” said Faculty Council Chair Melinda Piket-May, during the March 6 meeting of the Faculty Council.

She and other leaders from Faculty Council attended the committee meeting and also signed, with the Faculty Council Executive Committee, a letter to the regents’ committee articulating the objection to the proposed change.

The letter reads in part: “All Vice-Presidents are a vital part of the University of Colorado (CU) and as such they have a significant impact, direct or indirect, on the entire mission and vision of the university including education, research, service, and health care. Individuals supporting our mission should be a part of any hiring process for key individuals that will contribute to it. The purpose of shared governance is to give all interested stakeholders meaningful roles to contribute towards the success of our institution – success that includes both academic and administrative functions.

“We strongly feel that faculty, through shared governance, should have input into administrative hires.”

The changes were set in motion in order to articulate the need for greater flexibility and expedience administration felt was necessary during key searches.

Regarding that issue, the letter reads, “We understand the University would like to be more nimble in hiring vice-presidents. Faculty Council can work to respond in a timely manner so as not to uphold hiring processes. We strongly feel that Vice Presidents and other executive leaders serve a critical role towards the success of our core missions and therefore we should have a part in the process.”

Read the [full letter here](#)[5].

In other activity at the March 6 Faculty Council meeting:

The council viewed a presentation on the [recently redesigned cu.edu](#)[6], the systemwide website. Ken McConnellogue, vice president of communication, and Cathy Beuten, multimedia editor, detailed the improvements and walked the council through the [faculty-focused aspects](#)[7] of the site. During her regular report to the council, E. Jill Pollock, vice president, Employee and Information Services, said her office will soon begin a review of the universities optional retirement plan and 403B benefits, including whether available options are too many or too few. She said next year’s health plan rates are expected to be available later this month. This summer, she said, a new children’s wellness program will be offered to dependents of faculty and staff.

[Faculty Council requests input on revisions to bylaws](#)[8]

Faculty Council in recent months has been working to update its [bylaws](#)[9], and is inviting faculty across the CU system to review proposed changes and offer input.

At the council’s March 6 meeting at 1800 Grant St., Vice Chair Laura Borgelt updated council members on the process, and noted contributions to the revisions already have been made by several council committees.

Borgelt said it has been over a decade since the bylaws have been extensively reviewed. Faculty Council has made an initial effort to suggest minor revisions to provide more accurate, or updated, reflections of faculty governance processes, faculty communication and faculty council committees.

“We are now requesting input from the general faculty for any additional comments or suggestions in this revision process,” Borgelt said.

To access the bylaws with proposed changes indicated in red, [click here](#)[10]. A “clean” version (without redlining)

is [available here](#)[11].

Any feedback should be sent to Laura Borgelt (laura.borgelt@ucdenver.edu[12]), vice chair of Faculty Council, by Friday, April 11.

The council's bylaws are organized to correspond to Articles of the [University of Colorado Faculty Senate Constitution](#) [13](Constitution). Where there are bylaws for an article of the Constitution, their numbering corresponds to the similarly numbered article of the Constitution.

[CU boasts top-ranked graduate programs](#)[14]

Graduate programs across the University of Colorado system again are lauded for excellence in the latest annual rankings from U.S. News & World Report. Research and teaching contributions by the four campuses in health care, engineering, law, education and business hold numerous spots in the 2015 edition of [Best Graduate Schools](#)[15] (U.S. News Media Group).

A sampling of CU's 2015 rankings:

University of Colorado Boulder

No. 1: CU-Boulder's atomic/molecular/optical physics program holds the top spot nationally. **Top 10:** Other CU-Boulder programs ranking in the top 10 are aerospace engineering (ninth) and environmental law (ninth). Many other CU-Boulder schools and programs hold places on the national rankings within their fields: education policy (13), chemical engineering (14), civil engineering (15), physics (18), clinical psychology (18), environmental engineering (21), earth sciences (23), chemistry (24), speech-language pathology (25), audiology (27), School of Education (29), psychology (30), biological sciences (30), College of Engineering and Applied Science (34), electrical engineering (34), mechanical engineering (34), Leeds School of Business (39 for part-time MBA schools), computer engineering (39), computer science (40), Law School (43), political science (45), sociology (46), mathematics (46), online graduate engineering program (49), English (50), history (50), economics (53) and fine arts (53) and the Leeds School of Business (80). Not all disciplines are ranked by the publication.

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

School of Medicine

The school ranks 13th nationally for primary care, with the specialties of family medicine (fifth), pediatrics (sixth) and rural medicine (ninth) also ranking high. The School of Medicine ranks 40th overall for research.

University of Colorado Denver

The School of Public Affairs, with programs at CU Denver and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, is listed at 29 nationally. The Department of Integrative Biology (Biological Sciences Ph.D. program) is 75. The School of Education and Human Development is ranked at 98. The online program is listed at 29. (The online nursing program is No. 10.) The Business School's part-time MBA program is ranked at 101.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

UCCS shares the School of Public Affairs (29) honor with CU Denver. Three online graduate degree programs also are ranked: engineering (40), nursing (52) and business (82).

The 2015 Best Graduate Schools includes essential, detailed statistical information on more than 1,250 programs nationwide, with rankings in five of the largest professional graduate school disciplines ([business](#)[16], [law](#)[17], [education](#)[18], [engineering](#)[19], and [medicine](#)[20]), as well as part-time MBA and part-time law school programs. The "Best Graduate Schools 2015" guidebook will be available at usnews.com/store in late March and on newsstands April 8, 2014.

Rankings are based on two types of data: expert opinions about program quality, and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research and students. These data come from surveys of more than 13,000 academics and professionals. The publication aims to provide a tool to students and parents who are comparing college programs at accredited public and private universities in the United States.

[Transforming Gender Symposium this weekend at CU-Boulder](#)[21]

[22]

CU-Boulder's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (GLBTQ) Resource Center is proud to announce the eighth annual TRANSforming Gender Symposium, Friday and Saturday at the CU-Boulder Center for Community.

The symposium is free and open to the public.

Organizers and co-sponsors are committed to addressing equality, support, visibility and scholarship for transgender, gender nonconforming, and intersex people.

This year keynote speakers include Dr. Kortney Ryan Ziegler, a filmmaker, scholar and educator about transgender people of color and transgender visibility in the media; Thea Hillman, award-winning poet and activist for the intersex community; and Esmé Rodriguez, an educator about genderqueer identities, as well as a performance artist.

"All the keynotes are powerful speakers for inclusion and representation," says Scarlet Bowen, Director of the GLBTQ Resource Center. "Ziegler, Hillman and Rodriguez will address such topics as breaking media barriers, exploring intersections of gender identity and racial and ethnic identity, and navigating gender and biological sex without the map we've been socialized to follow."

In addition to keynote speakers, session presenters will address topics such as transmisogyny and transfeminism, being an ally to transgender people, ways providers can be more trans- and intersex-inclusive, how to talk to youth about the gender binary, and spirituality and transgender identity.

Included will be a film track of documentaries and feature films, such as "The Aggressives," "Facing Mirrors" and "What's the T?", with special guest Cecilio Asuncion, director. There also will be a series of caucus opportunities for transgender, genderqueer, allies and partners of transgender people. The closing event at 8:30 p.m. Saturday will feature performances, spoken word, and music.

Legal protections for gender identity are rapidly increasing. Colorado included legal protections for gender identity and expression in 2007, and the University of Colorado includes gender identity and gender expression in its anti-discrimination policy. The symposium will help educate the university and surrounding community about the unique issues faced by transgender, genderqueer, and intersex people, and provide sessions that will address how to forge socially just and inclusive communities.

Co-sponsors of the eighth Annual Transforming Gender Symposium include The Open Door Fund, Out Boulder, First United Methodist Church, and the following departments at CU-Boulder: CU-Student Government, The Division of Student Affairs, the Residence Hall Association, Office of Victim Assistance, Anthropology, Sociology, Communication, Women and Gender Studies, and the LGBTQ Studies Certificate program.

To register for the Symposium and view the full schedule, please visit <http://www.colorado.edu/GLBTQRC/tgs.html>[22]

[Learn, play and win at Employee Services Expos](#) [23]

[24]

[24]

CU Anschutz Medical Campus

Monday, March 24

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Trivisible Room, Research 2

CU system

Tuesday, March 25

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Conference rooms 501-503

CU-Boulder

Wednesday, March 26

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

UMC, Glenn Miller Ballroom

UCCS

Thursday, March 27

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

University Center, Room 303

CU Denver

Wednesday, April 9

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

CU Building, Suite 150 Conference

Imagine a CU without an Employee Services department.

Your pay would go unprocessed and undeposited.

Say goodbye to free online books and courses that could have gone a long way toward helping you develop your career. No more access to professional financial guidance on your campus. And forget about setting up your benefits elections.

You'd lose access to the health benefits of the Move. program. If you wanted a monthly Weight Watchers membership, you'd pay at least double the current CU rate of \$17.17.

Now back to reality: Not only are these resources available to you, but ES will reward you for learning about them and many more at the [Employee Services Expos](#)[24], March 24-27 and April 9, on all CU campuses and the system administration building.

Play a game, win prizes and compete for an iPad: When you attend an ES Expo, you'll receive a ticket, which you can use to enter a drawing for an iPad (one grand prize per campus). For each expo booth that you visit, you can earn prizes— additional tickets for drawing entries—by participating in games that will teach you more about ES.

Learn as you play: [Register for an expo today](#)[24], and you'll have the chance to discover resources you may have never known existed, including:

free courses and training CU's popular tuition benefit how your pay is getting a little more eco-friendly the keys to deciding which insurance plans make the most financial sense to you and your family how opening a flexible spending account can lower your taxable income how many people are vying for the opportunity to work at the university

[University Counsel outlines requirements related to marijuana research](#)[25]

Among the side effects of recent changes to Colorado's marijuana laws: increasing interest in cannabis-related research.

Last week, the Colorado School of Public Health [sponsored a symposium](#)[26] on marijuana and public health, where experts from CU and beyond explored the medical and public policy implications of the state's new cannabis laws.

This week, the Office of University Counsel [issued a memorandum](#)[27] detailing the legal framework governing how marijuana-related research must be conducted under federal, state and University of Colorado requirements.

No CU faculty members have authority to perform research without complying with the requirements.

Colorado's General Assembly also is exploring its ability to fund marijuana-related research. CU's governmental relations professionals are working with lawmakers to define the legal framework by which this funding could be distributed, including engaging with federal agencies that have regulatory authority over marijuana-related research.

Colorado and Washington are the states that have passed laws decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana, and creating a regulatory system for production, processing and sale. Colorado previously was one of 20 states that passed laws allowing marijuana to be used for medical purposes.

[Click here](#)[27] to read the full memorandum sent to faculty.

Anyone with questions about the processes for conducting particular research is asked to contact University Counsel Patrick O'Rourke at Patrick.ourourke@cu.edu[28] or 303-860-5686.

[Advanced Conductor Technologies commercializing CU high-performance, superconducting cable](#)[29]

[30]

Advanced Conductor Technologies LLC and the University of Colorado have completed an exclusive license agreement that allows the company to continue its work developing high-temperature superconducting cables to provide flexible, high-current density power transmission.

High-temperature superconducting ([HTS](#)[31]) cables were initially developed for use in metropolitan electrical networks because of their efficiency and large transmission capacity. Danko van der Laan, a physicist with appointments at CU-Boulder and the National Institute of Standards and Technology ([NIST](#)[32]), has developed a technique to make thinner, more flexible HTS cables that can carry the same (or greater) current. These more-compact cables (conductor on round core, CORC) have immediate applications in electrical grids and scientific and medical equipment; they may also enable HTS power transmission for military applications and in data centers.

After optioning the technology from CU in 2012, the company received a Phase II Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant for \$1 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop its CORC cables for use in powerful magnets that can be used to generate nuclear fusion power. The company began work on this grant in April 2013. Earlier this year, the company also was awarded a Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the

U.S. Navy to develop its CORC cables for shipboard power transmission cables.

“We recently received our first commercial order for a high-current CORC magnet cable and are currently winding the cable needed to fill the order,” van der Laan said. “We’re optimistic that more orders will follow, enabling us to scale up our cabling facility.” The company has leased space in Boulder and has expanded its staff to three full-time employees.

“In collaboration with ACT, the university has filed for extensive international patent coverage of this valuable technology,” added Ted Weverka of the CU Technology Transfer Office. “We are proud to be working with ACT, and excited to see such an aggressive startup spin out of the university.”

[Ethics of digital media to be examined at symposium this weekend](#)[33]

[34]

Students, scholars and media professionals will discuss media “in the fast-paced world of digital journalism” at a University of Colorado Boulder symposium Friday and Saturday.

CU-Boulder’s [Journalism and Mass Communication](#)[35] program will host the conference including two talks that are free and open to the public.

Jay Rosen will give one of the talks at 10 a.m. Friday at the Old Main Chapel. Rosen, who will discuss “The Ethics of Point-of-View Journalism,” is a journalism professor at New York University and a media critic. He is an adviser at First Look Media, a new venture featuring the work of Glenn Greenwald, who published the explosive national security documents leaked by former government contractor Edward Snowden. Rosen also writes the blog PressThink.

At 2 p.m. Friday at the Old Main Chapel, Steve Buttry will present “Upholding and Updating Journalism Values.” Buttry is the digital transformation editor for Digital First Media. The company operates about 800 multi-platform media products nationally, including several in Colorado. He is a prominent consultant in digital journalism and author of the blog The Buttry Diary.

During other portions of the symposium, participants will explore issues such as the loss of the “ethics support group” found in traditional newsrooms for today’s freelancers, developers and entrepreneurs; today’s ethics challenges in the journalism work environment; and what the latest research and journalistic practice says about norms and values in the digital age.

“Technology has enabled new forms of public communication that raise new kinds of ethical questions,” said Paul Voakes, CU-Boulder professor of journalism and mass communication. “For example: When corrections can be made seamlessly and instantly online, is first-time accuracy now overrated? What are the appropriate journalistic uses of drones? In a profession increasingly populated by developers, activists, entrepreneurs and volunteers, where does a code of ethics fit?”

Excluding the two public talks, symposium participants will work in groups to write brief papers about the issues discussed. The papers could lead to collaborative essays or research projects, according to symposium organizers.

The symposium is supported by the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, Colorado State University and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

For more information about CU-Boulder’s Journalism and Mass Communication program visit <http://journalism.colorado.edu>[36].

[Former College of Arts and Media student shares Oscar for 'Frozen'](#)[37]

Jeff Gipson

One year ago, Jeff Gipson watched the Academy Awards 2013 and thought to himself, "Wouldn't it be great to work on a film that actually won one of those awards?"

This month, Gipson is posing for photographs with the Oscar for Animated Feature Film won by Walt Disney Animation for "Frozen." It was the first film that Gipson, a former student in the [College of Arts & Media](#)[39] [3D Graphics and Digital Animation](#)[40] program, had worked on since he arrived at Disney 12 months ago. But even though success came quickly for him, the long and winding journey to his current position could make a good plot for—well, a Disney animated feature film.

From Trinidad to San Diego

The son of a gunsmith father and musician mother, Gipson started as an aspiring artist and avid bicycle motocross (BMX) freestyle rider in Trinidad, Colo. He picked up two associate degrees at Trinidad State Junior College—one in civil engineering technology and one in science. Then, he headed north to CU-Boulder, where he completed an undergraduate degree in architecture—the Bachelor of Environmental Design—in 2008.

Gipson's interest in architecture started in Trinidad, where, as a high school student, he combined his love of art with his interest in skateboarding and BMX to design and build a skateboard park. Now, with an architecture degree under his belt, he moved to San Diego for a three-year stint with a company that designed and built skateboard parks, including parks across the United States, the largest skate park in northern Europe (in Denmark) and the skate plaza in the reality show "Rob Dyrdek's Fantasy Factory."

From architecture to digital animation

[\[41\]](#)

By 2011, Gipson decided that he wanted to own his own company. He returned to CU Denver for Colorado's only [graduate architecture program](#)[42]. It wasn't long before he realized he had made a mistake.

"I liked creating pictures better than I liked designing," he said. "When I first saw a movie like 'Toy Story,' I thought, 'I want to do that.'"

Gipson credits two professors for helping him make a transition from studying architecture to digital animation. He first spoke with [Fred Andreas](#)[43], assistant professor in the [College of Architecture and Planning](#)[44]. "He told me, 'You have to trust your gut,'" Gipson said. "'You have to do what will make you happy.'"

Gipson then consulted with [Howard Cook](#)[45], MFA, director and assistant professor in the [Digital Animation Center](#)[46] in the College of Arts and Media. "Howard is awesome," Gipson said. "He reassured me that if I worked at it, I could be successful in animation. I wouldn't have switched if he had not been so supportive."

In digital animation, Gipson found his true love. "The labs and facilities at CU Denver are top notch," Gipson said. "The environment is supportive. You are constantly encouraged."

From trainee to teacher

While studying digital animation, Gipson snared several highly competitive internships at both Pixar Animation Studios, creator of blockbusters such as "Toy Story," "Finding Nemo" and "Monsters, Inc.," and Laika Entertainment, in Portland. In fall 2012, he headed to The Ohio State University to teach digital animation, but his true ambition was to make films. "I decided to float my resume, just for the heck of it," he said.

Gipson still remembers opening the email from Disney telling him he had been accepted into their trainee program. "I thought, 'Oh, my gosh, am I reading this right? Is this happening?'"

Today, Gipson is no longer a trainee. In fact, he is supervising and mentoring new trainees at the studio. His job on "Frozen" involved lighting. "We move and place lights in a 3-D scene," he said. "We focus your eye, highlight the animation and make the final image. And we do it with computers."

Students in the CU Denver digital animation program sometimes send him their demo reels. “I give them feedback,” Gipson said, “because so many people helped me by giving me feedback along the way.”

[Chancellor to lead St. Patrick’s Day celebration](#)[47]

Pam Shockley-Zalabak

UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak will soon join the ranks of mayors, city council members, lieutenant governors and football coaches by serving as grand marshal of the 2014 Colorado Springs St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

The parade is scheduled for noon March 15 in downtown Colorado Springs. The parade route begins at Tejon and St. Vrain streets and will continue south on Tejon Street to Vermijo. A “5K on St. Patrick’s Day” race is planned for 10 a.m. at Acacia Park followed by a “wee leprechaun” fun run at 11 a.m. For more information, visit <http://csstpats.com/participate.html>[48]

“This is an honor for the campus,” Shockley-Zalabak said. “I’m looking forward to being part of the festivities.”

Shockley-Zalabak joins a long line of Colorado Springs leaders selected by the Colorado Springs Society of the Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick. Recent grand marshals included the last graduating class from Wasson High School (2013), U.S. Air Force Academy Football Coach Troy Calhoun (2012), Colorado Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia (2011), Community Leader and former City Council Member Mary Ellen McNally (2010) and former Colorado Springs Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace (2003) as well as local business leaders.

The grand marshal is a largely ceremonial position, however Shockley-Zalabak was guest of honor at a March 7 dinner of the Friendly Sons and Daughters of St. Patrick. She will lead the parade in a 1975 Pontiac convertible as the first in the procession of horses, fire trucks, marching bands and revelers that is expected to draw 30,000 people to downtown.

[Marijuana symposium features university health and public policy experts](#)[49]

Experts from the vast spectrum of marijuana research gathered Friday to discuss the medical and public policy implications of Colorado’s new cannabis laws, focusing strongly on the drug’s impact on children.

“We are here to examine the evidence,” said moderator Tim Byers, M.D., associate dean of the [Colorado School of Public Health](#)[50], which sponsored the Marijuana and Public Health Symposium held at Mile High Station near the CU Denver campus.

Nearly 350 people attended.

The researchers quickly dismissed notions that marijuana was harmless, presenting studies showing links to cancer, lung disease, lower IQs and potential impacts on fetal health. At the same time, they pointed out the shortcomings of current research and the need for more robust studies in the future.

“There is this assumption that since marijuana is legal, everyone knows what it is,” said Amanda Reiman, Ph.D., California Policy Manager for the Drug Policy Alliance. “But what is this plant? Where does it come from? The truth is, cannabis is as old as time. The therapeutic use goes back to 2800 B.C. Its history as a recreational drug is short compared to its use as a therapeutic agent.”

Known simply as cannabis for years, Mexican immigrants to the U.S. dubbed it “marijuana” in the 1930s and the name stuck, Reiman said. “What we have today is a whole load of marijuana hybrids, hundreds of strains that are a mix of ancient varieties of cannabis,” she said. “Each plant has over 600 chemicals and 70 cannabinoids.”

She noted that while cannabis “cannot be fatal” it’s not without risk.

Some of those risks were illuminated by Daniel Bowles, M.D., a medical oncologist at the University of Colorado Hospital and the Denver VA Medical Center.

Bowles said marijuana smoke can induce precancerous changes in the respiratory mucosa of rats. He also cited a study of Swedish military conscripts, showing that those who smoked the highest quantities of marijuana had a 2.1 percent increase in lung cancer. Another study linked marijuana smoke to oropharyngeal cancers. There were also associations with certain kinds of testicular cancers.

“There is no research on edible or topical marijuana at this point for cancer,” he said.

The evidence linking marijuana use to heart and lung disease was less compelling.

“There is some evidence associating marijuana use with heart attack and stroke but it’s very limited,” said David Goff, M.D., dean of the Colorado School of Public Health. “Chronic use has been associated with bronchitis but not emphysema.”

One of the most powerful presentations was made by Paula Riggs, M.D., director of the division of substance abuse at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

“We know that early substance abuse can lead to mental health issues later. We know that cannabis is really neurotoxic to childhood brain development,” she said. “Heavy use can lead to a reduction in six to eight IQ points. It is also connected to persistent deficits in reading, learning, abstract reasoning and is associated with early onset depression, especially in boys, by age 10.”

Riggs said one in 11 adults who try marijuana will become dependent, while one in six adolescents will do the same.

“It matters what kids are involved with during adolescence since their brains are under construction in a big way,” she said.

Protecting children was a major theme of the symposium. Public health officials talked about meeting high school students convinced marijuana was harmless or made them drive better.

Laura Borgelt, associate professor at the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, said marijuana passes easily from the placenta to the fetus where it is stored in fat cells.

It also moves from the mother to the baby through breast milk.

“THC (the active ingredient in marijuana) is excreted in human milk in moderate amounts,” she said.

Borgelt said pregnant women who use marijuana need to be educated about the potential risks to the development of their fetus. Other experts say if women are using cannabis they shouldn’t breastfeed.

“Babies are full of fat so they are essentially storage chambers for marijuana,” Borgelt said.

George Sam Wang, M.D., an emergency room physician at Children’s Hospital Colorado, has done studies showing a steep increase in children being treated in emergency rooms after eating marijuana-laced brownies, cookies and other edibles since medical marijuana was legalized in 2009.

Children show up suffering from extreme drowsiness, lethargy and respiratory problems. One boy recently had to be intubated after he stopped breathing.

“Edible products pose a unique issue for unintentional pediatric exposures,” Wang told the audience. “The answer is child-resistant packaging. Right now the best thing is proper storage. Keep it out of reach and out of sight.”

Aside from the medical issues, there are myriad public policy and safety questions surrounding marijuana.

Law enforcement is still struggling to come up with an accurate way to measure “drugged driving.”

“Unlike alcohol, there is no clean relationship between THC levels in the blood and physiological effects,” said Ashley Brooks-Russell, Ph.D., MPH, assistant professor at the Colorado School of Public Health. “Some still believe the myth that people drive better when they are high. There is no evidence or any biological possibility that this is true.”

Larry Wolk, M.D., chief medical officer and executive director of the Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment, said new marijuana laws are creating a host of challenges.

Waste disposal is an issue, quality control questions surround the pot being sold, monitoring the plants is a challenge and then there is the health threat posed by synthetic marijuana.

“This is an issue that touches and will continue to touch on so many aspects of public health,” Wolk said. “My title is chief medical officer but sometimes I think I’m really chief marijuana officer.”

[Penuel named a 2014 AERA Fellow](#)^[51]

^[52]

William R. Penuel, a professor of educational psychology and learning sciences at the University of Colorado Boulder, has been named a 2014 Fellow of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). Penuel and 21 other scholars were selected based on their notable and sustained research achievements.

The Fellows were nominated by their peers, selected by the AERA Fellows Committee, and approved by the AERA Council, the association’s elected governing body. They will be inducted April 4 during the AERA 2014 annual meeting in Philadelphia.

Penuel’s research interests include curriculum development and theory, early childhood education, STEM education, assessment, after-school programs, and leadership.

“We are pleased to honor these individuals for their significant contributions to education research and to the advancement of the field,” said AERA Executive Director Felice J. Levine. “AERA Fellows exemplify the best of research in terms of accomplishment, quality, mentoring, and the highest professional standards. We welcome the class of 2014 to these ranks.”

[American Educational Research Association](#) ^[53] is the largest national professional organization devoted to the scientific study of education. Founded in 1916, AERA advances knowledge about education, encourages scholarly inquiry related to education, and promotes the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.

[Personnel changes announced at Kraemer Family Library](#)^[54]

Teri Switzer, dean, Kraemer Family Library at UCCS, announced six recent changes in job titles and responsibilities for

library faculty members and two new library employees.

The changes are: **Christina Martinez**, associate dean; **Rhonda Glazier**, faculty director of collections management; **Mary Beth Chambers**, faculty director of cataloging and metadata services; **Suzanne Byerley**, faculty director of instructional services; **Carla Myers**, faculty director of access services and scholarly communications; and **Tabetha Farney**, faculty director of Web services and emerging technologies.

The library also recently welcomed two new faculty or staff members: **Stephanie Viola**, assistant professor and electronic resources and serials librarian, and **Jon Hall**, circulation services professional.

[Dropping names ...](#)[55]

Switzer

Teri Switzer, dean, Kraemer Family Library at UCCS, served on the 2014 H.W. Wilson Library Staff Development jury of the American Library Association. The jury recently selected the Martin County (Fla.) Library System to receive a grant to improve library customer service. The grant will be awarded at the American Library Association Annual Conference scheduled for June in Las Vegas. ...

Stephany Rose Spaulding's new book, "Abolishing White Masculinity From Mark Twain to Hiphop: Crises in Whiteness," was published this month. The book examines white American male literature for its social commentary on the construction of whiteness in the United States. Spaulding is an assistant professor in the Department of Women's and Ethnic Studies at UCCS.

[Gift cards, gadgets among prizes for health assessment participants](#)[57]

Be Colorado's SUCCEED Health Assessment (HA) is a free, confidential online questionnaire that allows CU Health Plan participants to view a snapshot of their overall health and wellness.

New prizes every week: Be Colorado is giving away exciting prizes each week during the HA event. CU Health Plan participants can win their favorite music devices and tablets, Fitbits and a variety of gift cards. Every Monday during the six-week campaign, a new set of prizes for that week will be announced. Plan participants can increase their odds of winning simply by [liking Be Colorado on Facebook](#)[58] for a second entry into the weekly drawings. Participants must complete the HA for both raffle entries to be considered; 10 winners will be drawn each week.

Take the HA and join Move. to earn \$25 a month: The HA is an annual requirement of the Move. program. CU Health Plan members who have not participated so far in 2014, **must retake the HA to continue to be eligible for the Move. incentive.** Those who have already completed the HA in 2014 will automatically be entered into the prize drawing.

Through Be Colorado Move., CU Health Plan participants are rewarded for regular movement. An incentive payment of \$25 a month is offered when Plan members engage in a minimum of 30 minutes of activity a day, 12 days a month.

Click [here](#)[59] to learn more about this program and read the full list of FAQs.

[Faculty, staff invited to discuss 'Mindfulness in Higher Education'](#)[60]

Mindfulness has the potential to prepare students and ourselves for the increasingly complex, interconnected global, social, and environmental challenges of the 21st century. Research and our own personal experience suggest that contemplative education can significantly contribute to our students' personal growth and lead to greater creativity, enlarging the field of possibility in our world. Educational strategies using contemplative practices tend to increase self-awareness and interpersonal skills, and promote an institutional culture of cooperation and collaboration leading to greater productivity and satisfaction within the institution as a whole.

"Mindfulness in Higher Education: A Rocky Mountain Regional Dialogue" is set for April 19 at CU-Boulder. The goal of the one-day workshop is to provide an opportunity for those in higher education to meet and explore common interests in this arena, and to promote community and collaboration in the Rocky Mountain Region. The day is structured as an extended, facilitated dialogue among all attendees. Through personal interaction and group process, participants will share ideas and experiences and explore possibilities.

The event begins with a meet-and-greet at 9:30 a.m., followed by the workshop from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Room 235 of the University Memorial Center. Faculty, staff and administrators in higher education are invited to attend. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Admission is free; pre-registration is required and closes on April 14. Space is limited to 60 participants. To register and for more information go to www.RockyMountainMindfulness.org[61]

[Open house offers 'Stress Reduction on the Way to Baby'](#)[62]

University of Colorado Advanced Reproductive Medicine is hosting an event, "Stress Reduction on the Way to Baby," open to all from 6 to 8 tonight at the Stapleton office, 3055 Roslyn St., Room 230, Denver.

At this open house event, psychologists will offer coping techniques, supportive suggestions and proven strategies to navigate the stress associated with the fertility journey. Participants will meet our fertility physicians, learn about the practice, and hear about the latest advances in fertility care. Snacks and beverages provided.

Please RSVP to UCDenverFertility@gmail.com[63].

For more information, go to <https://arm.coloradowomenshealth.com/events/stress-reduction-way-to-baby/>[64]

Links

[1] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-nicholas-hamilton-archer>[2] <https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q->

[archerpng\[3\]](#) <http://www.colorado.edu/emba/>[4] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-weighs-vice-presidential-search-process>[5] [http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/9GUUFY6A04E1/\\$file/Letter%20from%20Faculty%20Council%20Chair%20Piket-May%20-%20VP%20Search.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/9GUUFY6A04E1/$file/Letter%20from%20Faculty%20Council%20Chair%20Piket-May%20-%20VP%20Search.pdf)[6] <https://connections.cu.edu/news/new-cu-edu-more-responsive-to-users-and-devices>[7] <https://www.cu.edu/faculty-and-staff>[8] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-requests-input-revisions-bylaws>[9] <https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council/laws>[10] <https://www.cu.edu/sites/default/files/pages/738-bylaws-faculty-senate-university-colorado/docs/bylaws-faculty-senate-university-colorado-red-line-draft-changes-03-06-14-links-edited.pdf>[11] 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