Harney takes helm of UCH[1]

Harney

John Harney officially assumed the presidency of University of Colorado Hospital on March 1, replacing Bruce Schroffel, now president and chairman of the board of the recently formed University of Colorado Health system.

“I’m a jack of all trades, an expert in none,” Harney freely admits. But more than 30 years spent in hospital administration and operations, including the past four as chief operating officer (COO) at UCH, has given him the broad perspective necessary to lead highly complex and diverse health care organizations.

“A health care team is not just physicians, nurses, physical therapists and other clinicians,” he says. “It’s also the business office and supplies. The components have to get connected. That’s my skill set: to communicate and prioritize.”

The native New Yorker earned an undergraduate degree in business but then went into social work, handling foster care cases on Long Island. While he found the work too emotionally draining, he knew he wanted a profession where he could make a positive contribution to society.

When a cousin’s husband, a physician, recommended hospital administration, Harney says he found a career fit.

Search for graduate dean begins[3]

Jenenne Nelson

A four-member search committee will review campus-only applications for the position of dean of the UCCS Graduate School, Peg Bacon, provost, recently announced.

Michael Larson, associate vice chancellor, Research and Innovation, will chair the search committee charged with finding a replacement for Jenenne Nelson, professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and current Graduate School dean. Earlier this academic year, Nelson announced her plan to retire from the dean’s position effective June 30.

“The Graduate School dean is a critical position as UCCS continues to strengthen its graduate programs and research,” Larson said.

Nelson was named dean in July 2008. She joined the Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences as an assistant professor in 1992, was promoted to associate professor in 1997 and professor in 2007. In 2004, she retired from her leadership position in the Wyoming National Guard.

The search committee hopes to begin reviewing applications by April 16 and to have finalists make presentations to the campus on May 4.

The search committee members are: Larson, chair; Rebecca Duray, professor, College of Business; Rita Hug, senior instructor, Kraemer Family Library; and Jeff Spicher, chair, graduate nursing programs, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Steph Romero, program assistant, Graduate School, will provide staff assistance to the committee.

CU researchers: Discovery of pine beetles breeding twice in a year helps explain increasing damage[5]

[6]

Long thought to produce only one generation of tree-killing offspring annually, some populations of mountain pine beetles now produce two generations per year, dramatically increasing the potential for the bugs to kill lodgepole and ponderosa pine trees, University of Colorado Boulder researchers have found.

Because of the extra annual generation of beetles, there could be up to 60 times as many beetles attacking trees in any given year, their study found. And in response to warmer temperatures at high elevations, pine beetles also are better able to survive and attack trees that haven't previously developed defenses.

[7]
These are among the key findings of Jeffry Mitton, a CU-Boulder professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and Scott Ferrenberg, a graduate student in that department. The study is being published this month in The American Naturalist.

This exponential increase in the beetle population might help to explain the scope of the current beetle epidemic, which is the largest in history and extends from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in New Mexico to the Yukon Territory near Alaska.

"This thing is immense," Mitton said. The duo's research, conducted in 2009 and 2010 at CU's Mountain Research Station, located about 25 miles west of Boulder, helps explain why.

"We followed them through the summer, and we saw something that had never been seen before," Mitton said. "Adults that were newly laid eggs two months before were going out and attacking trees" -- in the same year. Normally, mountain pine beetles spend a winter as larvae in trees before emerging as adults the following summer.

These effects may be particularly pronounced at higher elevations, where warmer temperatures have facilitated beetle attacks. In the last two decades at the Mountain Research Station, mean annual temperatures were 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than they were in the previous two decades.

Warmer temperatures gave the beetle larvae more spring days to grow to adulthood. The number of spring days above freezing temperatures increased by 15.1 in the last two decades, Mitton and Ferrenberg report. Also, the number of days that were warm enough for the beetles to grow increased by 44 percent since 1970.

The Mountain Research Station site is about 10,000 feet in elevation, 1,000 feet higher than the beetles have historically thrived. In their study, Mitton and Ferrenberg emphasize this anomaly.

"While our study is limited in area, it was completed in a site that was characterized as climatically unsuitable for (mountain pine beetle) development by the U.S. Forest Service only three decades ago," they write.

But in 25 years, the beetles have expanded their range 2,000 feet higher in elevation and 240 miles north in latitude in Canada, Mitton said.

Ferrenberg had the idea to monitor the beetles at higher elevations partly because trees at lower elevations have been attacked by beetles for centuries and have developed some defenses.

Lodgepole pines at higher elevations tended to have a lower density of resin ducts, which transport resin, the sole defense against beetles. The number of resin ducts in a tree can be a "marker" for whether a tree has a higher or lower resistance to a beetle attack, Ferrenberg said.

The trees at higher elevations had not faced the same intensity of beetle attacks as those at lower elevations until temperatures warmed, and they have not faced pressures of natural selection exerted by attacking beetles. "The trees

in that area are somewhat naïve in their response," Ferrenberg said.

These data help explain why westbound motorists emerging from the Eisenhower Tunnel on I-70 can look up, from 11,000 feet in elevation, and see beetle-killed trees. "We think we see some of the reason for the fact that this epidemic is so widespread," Mitton said.

The research was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

More on this story will appear in the next edition of Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine at http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine/[8]

University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust launches RxConsult[9]

University of Colorado Health and Welfare plan members (currently UA Net, Lumenos, HMO Colorado, Medicare supplement and University Kaiser) are eligible for a new program, RxConsult.

Rx Consult enables you to meet for free with a clinical pharmacist on the Anschutz Medical, Boulder, Colorado Springs and downtown Denver campuses and at other sites convenient to you to review all of your medications and get answers to any of your medication-related questions. These clinical pharmacists also are faculty members at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

During your confidential medication consultation, you will gain a better understanding of how your medications work together, and how you can get optimal benefit from your prescribed therapies. The clinical pharmacist can work with you and your primary care provider to:
Ensure prescribed medications are effective and appropriately monitored Ensure that drug therapy is safe, does not cause unwanted side effects or drug interactions, particularly with other over-the-counter medications or supplements, and is well-tolerated Assist with lower-cost medication alternatives based on their formulary If needed, assist with adherence issues by helping identify and manage barriers to medication use

Who needs a medication consultation?

Medication consultations can be useful to anyone who takes medications currently or will be taking medications in the near future. However, a medication consultation is especially important for people who:
Take multiple medications Receive medication prescriptions from multiple health care providers Have multiple health conditions or complicated conditions Have difficulty affording or remembering to take their medications

How can I get more information and schedule an appointment?

For more information about the service and to schedule a consultation, click here[10].

Whom do I contact with questions about RxConsult?

For questions, you may e-mail RxConsult@ucdenver.edu[11] or leave a voice message at 303-724-6607.

Cutting-edge physics research licensed to Boulder corporation for commercialization[12]

[13]
ColdQuanta Inc. of Boulder and the University of Colorado have finalized an agreement allowing ColdQuanta to commercialize cutting-edge physics research developed by CU-Boulder and SRI International. The licensed technology centers on Bose-Einstein Condensate, or BEC, a new form of matter created just above absolute zero.

Ultracold matter such as BEC can be used to dramatically increase the performance of devices such as gyroscopes, accelerometers, gravimeters and magnetometers because of its strong interaction with gravity and magnetic fields as compared with laser-based devices. BEC also has potential applications in a wide range of research and commercial

settings, ranging from atomic clocks to improved navigation of submarines and spacecraft, and even quantum computing.

“We are delighted that this license agreement has been finalized,” said ColdQuanta CEO Rainer Kunz. “It’s a great example of the university’s strong support for commercializing BEC and cold atom technology born out of CU and SRI International, and will ultimately boost advances in the ultracold applications field.”

“Cold atom research has great potential for fields such as instrumentation and cryptography,” added Chris Lantman, senior director of business development at SRI International of Menlo Park, Calif. “We are pleased that ColdQuanta will commercialize this important technology and look forward to new applications of our physics R&D.”

Initially theorized by Satyendra Bose and Albert Einstein in the 1920s, BEC was achieved for the first time at JILA -- a joint institute of CU-Boulder and the National Institute of Standards and Technology -- by Eric Cornell and Carl Wieman, who received a Nobel Prize in 2001 for their work. ColdQuanta was founded in 2007 to commercialize work by CU-Boulder physics professor and JILA Fellow Dana Anderson to develop streamlined devices for BEC experiments.

“Startup companies like ColdQuanta play a pivotal part in the transition of an entirely new scientific domain into the realm of practical applications,” said Anderson. “By now we have come full circle, so that they contribute to our scientific progress here at CU as much as our academic research advances their R&D progress.”

“We’re glad to see this forward-looking technology achieve commercial penetration, in addition to the strong academic interest,” added Ted Weverka, a licensing manager at CU. “ColdQuanta is just the adventurous company to make this happen.”

After optioning the technology in 2007, ColdQuanta received a $100,000 Proof of Concept investment from the CU Technology Transfer Office to help bring it to market. Since then, the company has been awarded contracts from the Army, Navy, NASA and the National Science Foundation, which have helped expand its array of products and core competencies beyond ultra-high vacuum, or UHV, design and opto-mechanical and atom chip design, to include UHV processing, systems controls, and diverse glass and silicon bonding expertise. The company sells to research labs and industry nationally and overseas. The company also has partnered with CU-Boulder and SRI International to provide critical UHV components for a major quantum computing project led by the University of Wisconsin.

CAM live iron pour thrills crowd[14]

[15]
Embers flew. Molten iron flowed. The crowd oohed and aahed.

Sculpture students and faculty in the University of Colorado Denver's College of Arts and Media, joined by Matthew Toole, renowned visiting iron pour artist, put on a stellar show of cast-iron creativity outside the Arts Building Thursday evening. The iron pour event, which was equal parts performance and demonstration, was presented by CU Denver Live!

"Every ember -- you'll see it," said Joseph Short, a student in Associate Professor of Sculpture Rian Kerrane's iron casting class. "Hopefully, we'll get a rain of fire, so to speak."

Short's prediction came to be, as embers exploded from the top of one of the towers being cast, showering onlookers -- more than 100 circled the courtyard -- with sparks.

With 20 students and faculty, Toole worked against the backdrop of a setting sun and an electric guitarist playing heavy notes, befitting the industrial-meets-pagan atmosphere. At the center of the heavy metal production was a towering cupola containing iron heated to 2,700 degrees and tended by workers in heat-resistant gear (one worker's helmet

featured rams horns).

A pivoting lever carried the molten iron to the towers, each of which flamed and sparked as the iron was poured inside.

Several days of preparation began when Toole, visiting from the Savannah College of Art and Design, gave a special lecture and led the students in the construction of the pivot lever and towers. Also, CU Denver Live! offered free sand molds to CU Denver students, who carved designs into the molds and watched them turn into art during Thursday's iron pour.

"The sense of community is great," said Joann Brennan, associate dean of the College of Arts & Media. "The way students integrated into the process (of the live pour), the way campus students had an opportunity to create a work of art -- it's really spectacular."

Kerrane, who will lead a Maymester program to the Western Cast Iron Art Alliance conference in Hays, Kan., said the pivot lever made by the students will get named and become part of the CU Denver Sculpture Program. Her students work with bronze and aluminum, but iron is special because "they never work as hard as they do with iron. That's why they get this much satisfaction."

Satisfaction is what the audience got as well.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Joseph Khot, a freshman studying accounting.

Kerrane said she expects the iron pour, in its second year, to continue as an annual Iron Arts Festival on the Denver Campus.

UBAB, other ‘boiling issues’ inspire discussion among Staff Council members[16]

Service Excellence Awards, the University Benefits Advisory Board (UBAB) and a discussion of feedback about recent university actions and subsequent media reports topped the agenda at the regular monthly meeting March 15 of the University of Colorado Staff Council.

Council members reviewed nominations for the annual Service Excellence Awards, which recognize one employee from each campus and system administration for exemplary service to their home campus, the university and the community. Award-winners will be honored with a plaque and $1,000 during the All Staff Council Conference, April 13, at the Garden of the Gods Trading Post in Manitou Springs.

The annual conference also will feature Board of Regents Chair Kyle Hybl, who will present a university update to attendees.

UBAB continues to be a topic of discussion at meetings. Staff Council has been asked to provide input on whether the current administrative policy statement (APS) defining the role of UBAB as a representative group should be revised or whether the board should be disbanded.

Council members were unanimously in favor of “continuing UBAB’s role.” Council Chair Carla Johnson will develop a formal resolution, which will be reviewed by members before being voted on during the council’s May meeting in Boulder.

Previously, E. Jill Pollock, vice president of employee and information services, has said that the formation of the Health and Welfare Trust in 2010, and the transparency of its reports and financials, make the mission and goals of UBAB less clear.

UBAB members say the organization is necessary because the trust has no elected employee representation and

because employees participate in funding the trust, they should have a voice in determining funding activities. (See previous story[17].)

System Staff Council on Feb. 14 passed a resolution saying that while it supports the idea of staff and faculty involvement on the Health and Welfare Trust, it is not convinced that UBAB's "current structure and function is the most effective for staff and faculty representation."

The Boulder Campus Staff Council also passed a resolution March 14 urging President Bruce D. Benson "to review the APS for UBAB to include the provisions for membership to the Health Trust and Employee Group, and to continue to support the role of UBAB until an oversight committee can be established." (See resolution below.)

In other business, council members discussed what constituents have said to them about recent university issues, including proposed tuition increases, merit pay and administrative pay raises, retirees returning to work who earn a salary and also are paid retirement benefits, and the vagaries of tuition benefits.

Many constituents have asked why retirees are allowed to "double dip" when others in the labor pool could be promoted. "People have commented, 'We are higher education. Why are we not letting (retirees) train employees in a position to move up?'" said System Staff Council Co-Chair Debbie Martin.

Members also said constituents still ask them about pay disparities between classified employees, who are compensated under state rules, and exempt staff, and the ways in which recent merit pay/raises were distributed from the Regent-approved 3 percent salary pool.

"Some people continue to be compensated when there are others in the same department who cannot be compensated (because they are classified staff). That causes a lot of conversation," said Debra Makray, who represents CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Others wondered if proposed tuition increases will be used to add value in the classroom by hiring more faculty.

"When you get students coming home, and they are juniors and seniors and they are talking about TAs in the classroom, or you're allowing faculty members to buy out of hours and bringing in an adjunct or TA to handle that class, as a parent it's hard to write that check," said Dennis Russell, a Boulder Campus Staff Council member.

Council members said tuition increases should also be used for campus support services. "Retention is a huge issue, but if you don't deal with support that students need outside of the classroom, you won't retain them and they won't be in the classroom," said Stephanie Hanenberg, representing Colorado Springs.

"These are issues that are boiling," Johnson said. "We in our roles have a responsibility to say, 'This is what's happening with people and staff on our campuses.'"

She will give a report to the Board of Regents in April concerning the "fallout" from recent university actions and news stories. The report will discuss:
Concerns surrounding rehiring retirees and ensuring that campuses are focusing on succession planning instead of recycling retirees, The ability to ensure that (the university) has appropriate staffing available to support students and maintain quality of the academic enterprise, The need for the administration to partner with governance groups to ensure there is transparency so members can answer questions coming from constituencies, and The importance of ensuring a proportionate increase in value for students from increased tuition. **Statement of Support Defining UBAB's roleWHEREAS,** the University has moved to a self-insurance model, consequently all University employees could benefit now more than ever from truly independent oversight over their healthcare program management. A balanced healthcare review board is therefore critical at this time.
WHEREAS, UBAB's role: "to represent the collective interests and needs of all University benefit participants while providing strategic advice to the President and University Administration on benefits-related issues" (Administrative Policy Statement #5025, Policy Title: Benefits Advisory Board to the President-2008) will always be needed.

WHEREAS, there is currently no faculty, staff or student group who can facilitate the role of communicating between

faculty and staff, PBS and the president;

WHEREAS, UBAB enlists the opinions of all four campuses and their various shared-governance groups;

WHEREAS, staff and faculty from the various campuses do not have a current voice in the Health Trust;

WHEREAS, UBAB would serve as a balanced advisory group to help guard against “a real or apparent conflict of interest”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Boulder Campus Staff Council urges President Benson to review the APS for UBAB to include the provisions for membership to the Health Trust and Employee Group, and to continue to support the role of UBAB until an oversight committee can be established.

Match Day inspires cheers, hugs[18]

[19]
With a baby on the way, married medical students Melanie Bui and Bebo Seward went into Friday’s Match Day feeling more than a little anxious.

Match Day is the annual event where fourth-year students in the University of Colorado School of Medicine open envelopes to see the medical school or hospital that has accepted them for further training as residents. Bui, a specialist in dermatology, and Seward, pathology, hoped to land in Michigan where Bui's family lives.

"I'm very excited," said Bui, who will be a resident at Wayne State University in Detroit. "It was my first choice, and my husband got his first choice at the University of Michigan, so we'll be together. It would have been rough to be apart for a year."

They joined 130 other fourth-year students in the festive affair in a ballroom at the downtown Hyatt Regency. After introductory words by School of Medicine Dean Richard Krugman, M.D., and Dean of Students Maureen Garrity, PhD, students opened letters from the National Resident Matching Program at precisely 10 a.m.

Moments afterward, the room erupted with cheers, high-fives and hugs as students celebrated with spouses, family members and friends. More than 95 percent of U.S. medical school seniors -- the highest rate in 30 years -- have matched to residency positions, according to the NRMP.

Jeff Krause learned he is matched to an anesthesiology program at the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City. "That was my favorite program, so yeah, I'm pretty happy about it."

Jeni Berngard burst into tears of joy and hugged her husband Clark when they simultaneously opened envelopes to learn she will be a resident at Saint Joseph Hospital in Denver (family medicine) and he will be at the University of Colorado Hospital (internal medicine) -- both their first choices for residencies.
"We're really excited," she said. Clark added, "It's a blessing to be able to stay here. The stars have aligned."

Lela Gonzales, specializing in internal medicine, celebrated with her parents, grandfather, sister and aunt that she will be a resident at her first choice, Providence St. Vincent Hospital in Portland, Ore. Her father, Joe Gonzales, said, "We're very proud. She's worked very hard to get here."

Gonzales, whose next stop is a trip to Australia, summed up the feelings of many of her classmates, saying, "It feels really good. I'm ready for a vacation."

For the first time, the School of Medicine's Communications Department live-streamed Match Day on the School of Medicine website. More than 400 people nationwide watched the webcast, according to Communications Director Dan

Meyers. The recorded video can be viewed here:
http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/education/commu...[20].

Faculty grievances remain at low level[21]

A Faculty Council committee report indicates a low number of faculty grievances this year, a rate that reflects effective processes on campuses – and possibly faculty insecurity.

Clayton Lewis, chair of the Privilege and Tenure Committee, presented (via phone) the report during the Faculty Council's March 15 meeting at 1800 Grant St. In the current academic year, three grievances have been filed – two at the University of Colorado Boulder, one at the University of Colorado Denver. Two inquiries – CU-Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus – took place but did not lead to grievances. No cases are currently active.

"The low rate reflects, in part, more effective grievance and settlement processes on the campuses," the report reads. "It may also reflect faculty insecurity."

Because of the current budget climate, Lewis said, "Maybe faculty don't feel this is the time to put their heads above the parapet, so to speak."

Still, Lewis said that the committee is effective and efficient in its mission, which is to provide faculty members a hearing for grievances involving perceived violations of rights or privileges – a due-process vehicle.

He also said issues are being dealt with early, so they don't have the chance to grow into grievances.

"On the Boulder campus, for instance, we know it's not that there aren't any problems, but more are being handled at a lower level – which is terrific," he said.

Room for improvement across the system remains, too, he said. The committee and University Counsel continue to review proposed changes to Board of Regents policy, including development of a fast-track process.

Attention may be needed for a new policy as well, Lewis said: how best to handle situations when a faculty member is grappling with mental health or substance abuse problems.

"Options for intervention are limited when faculty have mental health or substance abuse problems," the report states.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak brought the issue to the attention of the committee. CU Denver's Bill Cherowitzo is working with University Counsel on addressing the challenge.

In other action at the March 15 Faculty Council meeting:
CU President Bruce Benson spoke in his role as head of the Faculty Senate, talking about budget issues and taking questions from faculty. He complimented the Boulder Faculty Assembly[22] for leading an analysis of how raises were distributed[23] to faculty, staff and administration earlier in the year. "It shows there was no biases in the raises – that this was a fair deal," Benson said. Faculty Council Chair Mark Malone said he is asking chairs of the campus faculty assemblies for comments on Colorado House Bill 1252, which seeks more detailed information in the financial data reported by institutions of higher education. One aspect is a searchable database that would include faculty salaries, class loads and other information. Malone is gathering input to take to the next Board of Regents meeting in April.

Skiba, colleagues receive commendation for military support[24]

Skiba, center, with CON colleagues Nicole Jackson, left, coordinator, Health Care Informatics master's specialty

option, project coordinator, iLEAD Program; and Amy J. Barton, Ph.D., RN, FAAN, professor and associate dean for Clinical and Community Affairs, Daniel and Janet Mordecai Rural Health Nursing, Endowed Chair, project director, iLEAD.

Diane J. Skiba, a professor at the University of Colorado Denver's College of Nursing and the director of the Colorado HITEC Project, recently received a commendation and an American flag from the U.S. Army in recognition of Skiba's and other college faculty's dedication and support of nursing students who are serving in the military.

Supporting the recognition is Rosalie Sakata, a master's student in the Health Care Informatics specialty, who is now stationed with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan.

"We are honored to receive this commendation," Skiba said. "It is our privilege to support our military in their pursuit of advanced education. Rosalie is an inspiration to us and her fellow classmates."

The citation accompanying the flag reads, "On behalf of the U.S. Armed Forces serving our nation at Camp Bastion during Operation Enduring Freedom flag flown in honor of Diane Skiba, " -- signed by Richard Lindsay, LTC, U.S. Army.

Five questions for Rob Pyatt[26]

Rob Pyatt

Working on sustainability design projects on the Crow Indian Reservation in Montana and the Navajo Nation in Utah made an impression on University of Colorado instructor and research associate Rob Pyatt.

"You can't get an inside look at the housing conditions without having it affect you deeply," he says. "There's a tremendous housing shortage on many Native American reservations and a clear need for an effort to offer technical assistance and basically help build the capacity of the communities."

To help address the issues, Pyatt founded the Native American Housing Sustainable Initiative[28] (NASHI) in 2010. The organization, through a multi-educational and disciplinary effort, began work this year on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, home of the Oglala Sioux tribe, where the unemployment rate is more than 80 percent and per capita income is estimated at $4,000. The reservation often is described as the "poorest place in the United States," and many homes there lack basic water, heating, electrical and sewage systems.

Pyatt, in the College of Architecture and Planning on the Denver campus, teaches in the undergraduate environmental design program on the Boulder campus. "I'm primarily interested in teaching design build to architecture and design students and get out of traditional classroom environment into a community to work on projects," says Pyatt, who earned a bachelor's degree in environmental design at Boulder and a master's of architecture at CU Denver.

He initially studied fine art at Otis College of Art and Design in California. Toward the end of his time at Otis, he took an environmental design class.

"I considered myself a creative person and loved fine arts. I had never experienced architecture and didn't realize it was more suited to the things I enjoyed most."

At the same time, he thought back to experiences he had in high school where he participated in workshops run by two Cal Poly professors, who were proponents of natural building and sustainability design. He decided to pursue

architecture.

1. Why did you think it was important to found the Native American Sustainable Housing Initiative?

[29]
It was striking how similar the conditions were and how similar the problems were on the reservations. It is clear that it is an issue of poverty and that we should try to do more. I didn't start out with a plan; I just knew that was the area I wanted to focus my efforts on. We decided to create a design build studio with a tribal community as our partner, and we looked at different communities in a certain radius of Boulder that had a certain need. Pine Ridge was at the top of the list. We met with the faculty at the tribal college, the Oglala Lakota College (OLC). It was a key goal to have them act as our ambassador to the community. Our efforts are a consortium with OLC and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

Oftentimes, when we teach traditional architecture studios, we have a topic, say affordable housing. This takes it further, bringing a cultural and landscape component to it. We partnered with ethnic studies to include sociology and cultural studies in this studio and created a service-learning program we could teach in our environmental design program.

2. What will you being doing on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation over the next few years through NASHI?

Doreen Martinez, Department of Ethnic Studies, discusses cultural issues and Indigenous perspectives relating to the design methodology, participatory process and project design at CU-Boulder.

We're designing a series of four demonstration houses this semester with students from the OLC. The first two will be built over the summer. Four different materials and methods of construction will be used: straw bale, structural insulated panels, compressed earth blocks, and optimized wood frame, which is the more conventional method. These were identified by the tribe as the systems they were interested in so we'll be collecting costs and analysis about the life cycle of the materials and energy costs. Business students at OLC will calculate the costs; our engineering students will install data loggers on energy performance and indoor air quality; and pre-engineering students at the school of mines will test some of the materials and do some sampling.

The idea is that these homes will be a research study, a case study that will be used to help form decisions. The buildings will be used as faculty housing on campus and to give tours to the community. Since they are zero-net energy, the houses will be used as an educational tool. We'll also create a best-practices manual on specifications for each of the different systems. The second phase of the project will be to build homes within the community.

3. What do you hope your students will learn from your efforts?

Students are designing four prototypes using different materials and construction methods.

Each project is different. Real projects are chaotic and unpredictable, sometimes messy. So it's a great experience for students to have that real-world perspective. We have design, site and scheduling constraints; there are issues with weather, accessibility and logistics. You can't predict any of it. There's a community that develops on these projects. If done right, it's a rich environment for mediating differences and being truly collaborative, which is wrought with compromise. You develop a communal sense of accomplishment instead of an individual sense of accomplishment, which is completely the opposite of how we've traditionally taught architecture in the studio environment. There, it is a total vacuum where it's an individual experience: You're judged on your expression of creativity. But in the real world, it has less to do with the individual architect and more to do with community. Those are humbling lessons to learn. In tribal communities, it's even more challenging because they definitely have a different way of seeing the world. I learned more working on tribal projects than I teach anyone there.

Family and community come first, always. The Lakota people have a spiritual connection to the landscape that is sometimes hard to grasp, but it really is the basis of the whole concept of sustainability.

4. As your career evolved, did any of your ideas or beliefs about architecture or design change?

They definitely have changed. I believe architecture is a social art, and a political act, in a sense. I didn't realize that in beginning. Maybe we get caught up in formal expression of a design as opposed to what it could do or as a catalyst for change. But I'm definitely more focused on the social aspects of architecture and the idea of community design. People are really important, so I've focused on housing and shelter.

Architecture should be of its place, so trying to understand the specifics of landscape and a culture as the starting point for beginning a project is critically important.

5. What are some of you favorite projects?

Casa Sanitas[32] in Boulder, which should be completed in another two months, is the first insulated, rammed-earth house in Colorado and my residence. I use it like a laboratory, so the research I do typically is implemented there. It has a frost-protected shallow foundation that I designed for the Crow prototype. It's a zero-net energy house, one level with 1,800 square feet, three bedrooms and two baths. It produces more energy than it uses; it's geothermal and passive solar and uses natural materials. I'm very proud of my work.

I love the idea that the geothermal heating and cooling system is coupled with the foundation system and that partners with the mass of the rammed-earth wall to create a very integrated structure and system. I also love the connectivity to the outside. The courtyard allows us to interface with all types of Colorado weather. There's an opportunity for shade in the back courtyard so you can follow or run away from the sun as needed, depending on the season. We've got such great weather here that you want to spend as much time outside as possible, but the sun is so strong. You'd like to be outside, but you need the shade.

It's about partnering design with your understanding of a specific landscape or climate. That's what I enjoy most about his project on that lot where we've lived for 12 years. I feel that we really understand that particular lot. Conceptually I understood that you could design a small home that seemed much larger. By opening up spaces to the outside, you can double your living space at any time and not need a gigantic house. That worked really well and surprises folks.

I loved designing the Crow Sustainable Housing Prototype, a passive solar home built with compressed earth blocks. (See story[33].) I have a lot of respect for the Mortensen Center in Engineering for Developing Communities and it was an honor to be part of that team. I also love the Windcatcher House[34] that I worked on with Rick Sommerfeld (associate chair and senior instructor at the College of Architecture and Planning) and DesignBuildBLUFF in Bluff, Utah. The rammed-earth project already has won a number of awards.

Whenever I see our students doing great work in the community, I feel very proud to be a part of it. The most satisfaction I get is to lead students into a community project and watch them flourish. It's incredibly rewarding to help facilitate those experiences for our students.

Ascher elected to book society[35]

Ascher

James P. Ascher of the Boulder Libraries was elected a member of the Grolier Club, the largest and oldest society in the United States for bibliographically oriented enthusiasts.
Nominations are based on a candidate's personal and/or professional commitment to books, as demonstrated through outstanding activity as a collector, antiquarian book dealer, rare book librarian, or some other bookish pursuit.

As rare books librarian at the University Libraries, Ascher managed the donation of more than 1,700 items from the late

Calvin Otto and led the editing of the catalog. He also teaches courses on book history and workshops for faculty members in English literature, art history, journalism, and other departments.

He founded ScriptaLab, an initiative of the University Libraries that aims to weave together the scholarly threads that address text and media as a cultural artifact and as a means of communication and to explore the relationship between print and digital formats with fresh approaches to book history and comparative media. Since its inception in 2009, ScriptaLab has sponsored more than nine events that situated the historical book within contemporary media issues, available on YouTube and at http://www.scriptalab.org/[37].

Greenblatt receives career achievement award[38]

Ellen Greenblatt, scholarly communications librarian at the University of Colorado Denver Auraria Library, recently received the 2012 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) Career Achievement Award. The award honors significant long-standing contributions to women's studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career.

A plaque will be presented to Greenblatt on June 28 at the WGSS program during the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim.

"Ellen Greenblatt has continuously made significant contributions in Women and Gender Studies librarianship," said award Chair Jane Nichols of Oregon State University. "Through her service and scholarship, she has been at the forefront of LGBTIQ librarianship. She expanded the profession's understanding of problematic language used to describe the LGBTIQ community and co-revised a bilingual thesaurus to establish appropriate terminology for access. Her many publications are excellent resources for librarians and archivists who wish to develop services for the LGBTIQ community. Greenblatt's colleagues and nominees are inspired by her leadership and achievements."

Greenblatt's long-time women's studies involvement is demonstrated by a variety of projects, including serving as one of the first co-chairs of the former ALA SRRT Gay & Lesbian Task Force, as well as her service as the first editor of WSS Links Lesbian Sites. In addition to her book, "Gay and Lesbian Library Service" (1990 with Cal Gough), she has published numerous articles and most recently edited "Serving LGBTIQ Library and Archives Users" (2011).

Hundreds advocate for CU at Capitol[39]

Sen. Brandon Shaffer, president of the Colorado Senate, gets help leading the Pledge of Allegiance at CU Advocacy Day. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

CU-Boulder mascot Chip, regents Neguse and Carrigan, UCCS mascot Clyde. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

CU President Bruce Benson, State Senator Rollie Heath, CU-Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia speaks at CU Advocacy Day. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

Sen. Rollie Heath from the 18th District (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

More than 200 attendees filled the Capitol hallways with enthusiasm and campus colors at today's CU Advocacy Day, an annual event that brings friends and members of the CU community together with state leadership under the gold dome.

University leadership from throughout the system was represented, along with faculty, staff, alumni, donors, CU Advocates and students, including the University of Colorado Denver's 9th Street Singers, who provided a vocal soundtrack to the government engagement.

Colorado leadership at the event, presented by the Office of Government Relations and the CU Advocates, included Lt. Gov. Joe Garcia, who acknowledged University of Colorado Colorado Springs Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak as one of his mentors. In a brief speech, he stressed the need for state investment in all the state's higher education institutions, including CU.

"CU is our flagship and we're very proud of it and its multiple campuses," Garcia said to an audience gathered in the Old Supreme Court Chambers.

He acknowledged the challenging financial climate and related diminishment of state funding for CU and other institutions – at a time when student needs are increasing.

"We have students who need more financial and academic assistance, and yet higher education is getting less funding," he said. "We know that state investment in higher education is a public good. So keep fighting for higher education and keep fighting for CU."

CU President Bruce Benson and Board of Regents Chair Kyle Hybl introduced attending dignitaries Marcy Benson, who chairs the Creating Futures campaign with her husband, Bruce; CU Regents Michael Carrigan and Joe Neguse; CU Denver's Jerry Wartgow (outgoing chancellor) and Don Elliman (incoming chancellor); University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano; Lilly Marks, vice president for health affairs, CU Anschutz Medical Campus; UCCS' Shockley-Zalabak; and Henri Jupille, who represented the CU student body. Attendees visited the galleries of the House and Senate Chambers to hear a joint resolution honoring CU; it was sponsored by Sen. Rollie Heath and Rep. Mark Waller. They and several other lawmakers took part in the morning breakfast, hearing CU stories from many in attendance.

Even CU mascots Chip (CU-Boulder) and Clyde (UCCS) managed to join in the mingling.

The morning event concluded with presentations offering multiple perspectives on the budget challenges facing CU.

"I never come down here (to the Capitol) to whine and cry about money," President Benson said earlier in the day. "We have to be entrepreneurial."

Kelly Fox, vice president for budget and finance, noted how the university has shown such entrepreneurial spirit, achieving $12 million to $13 million in efficiency savings in business processes. She also pointed out that, when adjusted for inflation, the current level of state support for the university is at its lowest level in history.

Fox was followed by Henry Sobanet, director of the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budget, who couldn't offer a sneak preview of Monday's expected revenue forecast ("I haven't told the governor yet"), but did stress his ties as a CU alumnus and the need for members of the CU community to be engaged with CU and to continue sharing the university's story.

"What really needs to be stressed is the university's connection to economic development and employment in the community," Sobanet said. He said that the recently launched TBD Colorado[45] effort will include town meetings where residents can speak out in favor of support for higher education.

Finally, Frank Waterous, senior policy analyst from the Bell Policy Center (and another CU-Boulder alumnus), offered

detailed data indicating Colorado's markedly low support of higher education (lowest in the country on spending per four-year research institution student). He also encouraged attendees to be vocal advocates of CU and higher education.

"It's important to let your friends and family know how higher education is not only a public treasure, but a public necessity," he said.

Shannon Fender, a CU Denver senior in political science and member of CU Advocates, seemed ready to do just such outreach.

"It's important for students to make people aware of how much CU means to the state, the country and the world," she said after the event. "We need to make our voices heard. We want to make big changes for higher education, but we need the support of legislators. It was important to be here at CU Advocacy Day right before budget setting."

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/people/harney-takes-helm-uch[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/p-harney.png[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/search-graduate-dean-begins[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/c-uccs-nelson.png[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-researchers-discovery-pine-beetles-breeding-twice-year-helps-explain-increasing-damage[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/c-ucb-pinebeetle1.png[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/c-ucb-pinebeetle2.png[8] http://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine/[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-colorado-health-and-welfare-trust-launches-rxconsult[10] http://www.becolorado.org/[11] mailto:RxConsult@ucdenver.edu[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cutting-edge-physics-research-licensed-boulder-corporation-commercialization[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/c-tt-anderson.png[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cam-live-iron-pour-thrills-crowd[15] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/c-ucd-iron.png[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/ubab-other-%E2%80%98boiling-issues%E2%80%99-inspire-discussion-among-staff-council-members[17] https://connections.cu.edu/../news/role-of-ubab-under-review[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/match-day-inspires-cheers-hugs[19] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/c-anschutz-matchday.png[20] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/education/community/matchday2012/Pages/matchday2012.aspx[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-grievances-remain-low-level[22] http://www.colorado.edu/BFA/[23] http://www.colorado.edu/BFA/BPpart2RaiseDistribution030112Corrected.pdf[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/skiba-colleagues-receive-commendation-military-support[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/p-skiba.png[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-rob-pyatt[27] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/5q-pyatt1.png[28] http://nashidesignbuild.org/[29] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/5q-pyatt2.png[30] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/5q-pyatt4.png[31] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/5q-pyatt5.png[32] http://www.pyattstudio.com/#/1225[33] https://connections.cu.edu/../news/five-questions-for-tom-bowen[34] http://inhabitat.com/off-grid-rammed-earth-house-on-navajo-nation-catches-the-wind/dbb-windcatcher-house-7/[35] https://connections.cu.edu/people/ascher-elected-book-society[36] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/p-ascher.png[37] http://www.scriptalab.org/[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/greenblatt-receives-career-achievement-award[39] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/hundreds-advocate-cu-capitol[40] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/cuadv_top.png[41] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/cuadv1.png[42] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/cuadv2.png[43] https://connections.cu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/cuadv32.png[44]

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