

[CU's Accountability Data Center provides figures, facts in one spot](#)[1]

[2]

The University of Colorado today launched its Accountability Data Center, a convenient, central access point for details on the institution's finances, academic practices, personnel and more. The website ([www.cu.edu/accountability](http://www.cu.edu/accountability))[2] assembles data that previously was distributed among several CU websites.

"Accountability and transparency are among the university's most important guiding principles as articulated by the Board of Regents, and the CU Accountability Data Center provides our constituents with one website where they can review budget, academic and general information about the operations of the entire CU system," said Kyle Hybl, chairman of the University of Colorado Board of Regents.

As a public university, CU has provided information on its operations since the university's inception in 1876. In June 2010, the Board of Regents unanimously approved the University of Colorado's Guiding Principles. The third of these, Regent Policy 1.B.3, states: "Consistent with the legal obligations and responsibilities of the University of Colorado community, the university will promote and uphold the principles of ethics, integrity, transparency and accountability."

The CU Accountability Data Center is organized into three information categories:

**Financial**, including details on CU's annual budget, tuition and fees, salaries and debt obligations. **Academic**, covering accreditation, tenure policy, teaching loads, academic rigor and more. **General**, with employment totals and annual performance metrics such as number of degrees awarded and amount of research funding received.

The collection of reports and documents was compiled by the University of Colorado for the CU Board of Regents, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Office of the State Auditor and the general public.

[CU law professor leading high school students on Washington, D.C., trip](#) [3]

Some 10 high school students from Denver, Thornton and Lyons are likely in for an experience of a lifetime when a University of Colorado Boulder law professor takes them to Washington, D.C., for a moot court competition today through Sunday.

While there, they also will meet with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor and tour the Supreme Court, meet with U.S. Rep. Diana DeGette of Colorado and tour the Capitol, in addition to visiting several national monuments and museums.

Associate Professor Melissa Hart, director of the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law at the CU Law School, will lead the students on the trip to participate in the National Marshall-Brennan Moot Court Competition. Some 18 of Hart's law students have worked with 250 students at seven high schools since last September as part of the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project.

The group going to Washington consists of three students from Lyons High School (Sean Flynn, Isabella Solman and Marcos Rodriguez); three from Bruce Randolph High School in Denver (Cierra Conner, Alfonso Espino and Rene Garcia); two from Mapleton Early College in Thornton (Loren Tenorio and Cipriano Marrujo); and two from York International in Thornton (Navil Perez and Viviana Andazola). They were selected after a regional competition at the CU Law School.

The literacy project, part of a national program, leads high school students through highlights of 39 of the most important Supreme Court cases affecting the rights and responsibilities of students. The second- and third-year law students also coached the students as they prepared for a moot court competition.

The moot court will consider the question of whether the sentence of life without the possibility of parole for juveniles

under the age of 18 who commit felony murder violates the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual punishment.

"It is a really interesting question, very similar to two cases the Supreme Court actually heard arguments on last week," Hart said.

Isabella Solman, a senior at Lyons High School, said she has met with CU law students every Friday since September as part of her Advanced Placement government class. "They went through the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and different court cases that apply to students, that apply to our lives," she said.

The moot court case involves a hypothetical situation in which a student brings a gun to school, where it accidentally goes off and kills another student.

"You have to be ready to argue either side," Solman said. "You get really into your side, so either one is interesting, after you study the facts enough."

Solmon said the competition has improved her public speaking and that she also has visited with law students on the CU-Boulder campus in order to practice. And while she has long been interested in going to graduate school, "I'd definitely consider going to law school now," she added.

Of the 10 students, six will compete in the national moot court competition and the other four are alternates. Funding for the trip came from private fundraising. Six CU law students also will be in Washington for the competition, some of whom paid their own way because they wanted to be there to support the students.

Next year's Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project and moot court program will expand into more high schools, Hart said.

For more information on the National Marshall-Brennan Moot Court Competition visit [http://www.wcl.american.edu/marshallbrennan/nat\\_competition.cfm](http://www.wcl.american.edu/marshallbrennan/nat_competition.cfm)[4]. For more information on the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law visit <http://www.colorado.edu/law/centers/byronwhite/marshall-brennan.htm>[5].

[Study: Changes in health insurance status linked to rise in ER use](#)[6]

[7]

Recent changes in an individual's health insurance status – whether they are newly insured or recently uninsured – are associated with greater use of hospital emergency departments, according to a study led by researchers at the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#)[8].

Health care reform in the United States will lead to an increase in newly insured adults and the study predicts an associated surge in visits to already crowded emergency departments (ED). Tough economic times have caused an increase in the number of people losing their benefits and that also means more people are turning to the ED for care.

"With most EDs already at or above capacity, additional volume will threaten patient safety, let alone the ability to respond to a pandemic or a natural disaster," said the study's lead author Adit Ginde, M.D., MPH, assistant professor of emergency medicine at CU School of Medicine.

Adults that had a recent change in insurance status, in both directions, had greater use of the ED: Newly insured adults had 32 percent higher ED use compared to continuously insured adults. Similarly, newly uninsured adults had 39 percent higher ED use compared to continuously uninsured adults.

The authors discuss several reasons for the increase in ED use including difficulties in accessing primary care

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providers. Because of the obstacles, adults with newly acquired insurance are visiting the ED more often and the study found Medicaid patients were the most vulnerable. If someone with insurance cannot be seen in the outpatient setting, they will often head to the ED instead. Those who experience an abrupt loss in insurance also turn to the ED for care, as they often have nowhere else to turn for their medical needs.

“Health care administrators and policymakers have to find ways to continue to meet the demand for care in hospital EDs and in the outpatient setting. New Medicaid patients have the hardest time finding available providers, and we found that this was associated with the highest need for ED services,” said Ginde.

Federal health care reform seeks to provide new insurance to some 32 million Americans, over half of which will be Medicaid. Instead of reducing demand on EDs. Ginde said reform will continue to trigger new surges in ED volume.

In an editorial published along with study findings, Mitchell H. Katz, M.D., of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, California, who was not involved with the study, concludes: “The ED should not be the default option because other places are not open or are open only to those with the right billfold. Before the insurance expansion occurs, we need to expand the capacity and capability of primary care, including extended hours and same-day appointments, so that EDs can do their job of triaging and caring for the acutely ill or injured.”

The study was published Online First by Archives of Internal Medicine, one of the JAMA/Archives journals. The article is part of the journal’s Health Care Reform series.

#### [Registration open for CU Online Spring Symposium](#)[9]

Does your online course have a beat? Can you dance to it?

“Tune up! Make your online teaching sing” is the theme of the 2012 CU Online Spring Symposium, which promises exciting presentations, fun giveaways and practical tools educators can use to make online courses sing.

The event runs 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Tivoli Student Union. All CU Denver faculty are invited to attend; non-CU Denver faculty are asked to pay a \$25 registration fee.?

To register, [click here](#)[10].

#### [PESA members hear message of everyday wellness](#)[11]

Recreation Center staff members prepare for a wellness presentation. From left, KB Lindsay, Dan Bowan and Matt Gaden.

Health and wellness as part of an everyday routine is achievable and can accommodate a UCCS work schedule, according to a group of speakers who addressed the March 13 PESA luncheon.

A tag-team of UCCS Recreation Center personnel consisting of Director Matt Gaden and managers KB Lindsey and Daniel Bowan presented “Health and Wellness in the Workplace.”

Wellness components include social, spiritual and mental health as well as physical. These aspects are quite interrelated, but need to be acknowledged individually in the pursuit of overall personal wellness.

With the help of their accompanying Powerpoint presentation, the trio devoted a good share of time to the topic of stress and its effect on mental health. With all of its negative aspects there is a positive side to stress. Stress will improve mental and physical performance, but only up to a point. Recognizing and managing stress is a frequent practice to maintain well-being.

Because job stress is more strongly associated with health and medical issues than financial or family issues, workplace management of stress is critical. Stress can result in pain, mood swings, loss of enthusiasm, and lead to more serious physical and mental problems. It can impact sensation, perception, learning ability and decision-making, so a strategy to deal with stress is helpful.

Being aware that stress is a workplace reality is the first step. Recognizing stressful situations with the resolve to deal with them in a positive manner comes next. Meditating, exercising or laughing can be stress-busting tools, but a regular routine that includes time with friends, recreation or just starting the day eating breakfast makes a person less susceptible to stress.

The team presented the multiple benefits of exercise. In addition to physical enhancement of strength, endurance and metabolism, exercise improves cognitive ability and capacity to learn, lifts depression and builds self-esteem. They outlined methods for planning, time management and utilizing campus resources to make regular exercise part of a routine.

They also offered tips for on-the-go nutrition, sharing ideas about how to eat and what to eat in a campus-specific context regarding meals and snacks. They recommended visiting [www.uccsdining.com](http://www.uccsdining.com)[13] for more information.

Gaden, Lindsey and Bowen closed their presentation with a challenge to staff to take personal responsibility for their own wellness. By making a committed, tangible plan and setting realistic goals, they said, a healthier lifestyle is attainable.

For information about fitness programs, nutrition and exercise tips, the campus walking chart that cites steps, distances and calories burned during walks across UCCS and other rec center accommodations, they suggested visiting <http://www.uccs.edu/campusrec/wellness.html>[14].

They also recommended the home page for the CU employee wellness program, [www.becolorado.org](http://www.becolorado.org)[15].

[Kempe recognized for children's immunization research](#)[16]

Kempe

**Allison Kempe**, M.D., MPH, professor at the School of Medicine and Colorado School of Public Health, will receive the Big Shot of the Year award from the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC). The honor will be presented at the nonprofit's annual SOUP! (Shots Offer Unrivaled Protection) on April 26.

"The CCIC Executive Committee chose to recognize Dr. Kempe for her exemplary leadership, advocacy and significant influence on childhood immunization research in Colorado," said Erin Suelmann-Noonan, executive director for CCIC.

Kempe has distinguished herself in pediatric healthcare research. Daughter of the late C. Henry Kempe, M.D., she has dedicated 20 years to health services research and program evaluation, focusing on improvements to immunization delivery within pediatric and family medicine practices as well as within schools and on collaborations between the

public health system and private practices to increase immunization rates. She also is the director of the Children's Outcomes Research Program at Children's Hospital Colorado and the director of the newly funded Center for Research in Implementation Science and Prevention (CRISP).

"Our successes in improving immunization delivery have been the result of collaborations with dedicated and altruistic partners including the many private practices that have worked with us on quality improvement projects, Children's Hospital Colorado, Denver Health, the Denver Public School System, and the Department of Public Health and the Environment," Kempe said.

The Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition (CCIC) is a statewide, independent 501(c)3 nonprofit. Its mission is to promote improved access, delivery and demand for children's vaccinations to keep Colorado healthy. CCIC does not accept funding from vaccine manufacturers or distributors. To learn more about CCIC, the awardees and SOUP! visit <http://www.childreimmunization.org>[18].

[Concrete program earns second consecutive national recognition](#)[19]

[20]

The University of Colorado Denver, through the [College of Engineering and Applied Science](#)[21], has been named an American Concrete Institute (ACI) Outstanding University for 2011. This is the second consecutive year that the university has received this honor.

The ACI Award for University Student Activities was initiated to recognize universities that have participated in ACI-related activities, which include student membership in the American Concrete Institute, participating on ACI committees and participating in local ACI chapter activities.

This award represents the amazing work that students and faculty are doing at the university. CU Denver was 1 of 15 universities to be recognized by ACI as an Outstanding University. More than 40 students from the CU Denver College of Engineering and Applied Science are members of the American Concrete Institute, and each semester students get certified by ACI to test concrete.

CU Denver has come to the forefront of concrete materials education and research in the state of Colorado. This is a result of research in sustainable concrete materials, performance of concrete mixtures and pervious concrete, a program to certify students in concrete testing, as well as the many collaborations with industry partners throughout the state. Noteworthy events from 2011 include CU Denver being the first Colorado university to host an ACI Rocky Mountain Chapter meeting as well as four students receiving ACI scholarships (typically, only two scholarships are awarded by the Rocky Mountain region each year).

"It's great to see the university recognized at this level two years in a row," says Kevin Rens, chair of the [CU Denver Department of Civil Engineering](#)[22]. "Our concrete materials program continues to grow and generate awareness with industry throughout the state."

CU Denver was recognized at the ACI 2012 convention March 18 in Houston and will be mentioned in an upcoming issue of Concrete International.

[Two faculty members honored as President's Teaching Scholars](#)[23]

[24]

Two University of Colorado professors who have skillfully integrated teaching and research at a high level throughout their careers at CU-Boulder have been designated as 2012 [President's Teaching Scholars](#). [25]

The title of CU President's Teaching Scholar signifies the university system's highest recognition of excellence in and commitment to learning and teaching, as well as active, substantial contributions to scholarly work. Each year, CU President Bruce D. Benson solicits nominations of faculty for the designation, which is a lifetime appointment.

The newly named scholars are:

**Noah Finkelstein, Ph.D.**, associate professor, Department of Physics, University of Colorado Boulder **Harihar Rajaram, Ph.D.**, professor, Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, CU-Boulder  
Finkelstein has published more than 75 peer-reviewed articles since coming to CU in 2003. His previous accolades include the Outstanding Faculty Graduate Faculty Advising Award (2010), the Boulder Faculty Assembly Excellence in Teaching Award (2007), first place in the National Science Foundation (NSF)/Science Magazine's International Science and Engineering Visualization Challenge (2007), an NSF CAREER Award (2005), and a current NSF award to build a Center for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Learning at CU.

"Professor Finkelstein is an award-winning classroom teacher and graduate mentor, a transformative scholar in science teaching and learning, and a tireless campus and national servant promoting research-based best practices in STEM education," wrote Paul D. Beale, professor and chair of the physics department, in the nominating letter.

Finkelstein said he's honored to join the prestigious group of scholars.

"It speaks volumes that one of the highest level awards in the University of Colorado system focuses on education and scholarship in teaching," Finkelstein said. "It honors our roots, state charter, and commitment to serving the state and the nation through fundamental investment in education.

"I am deeply indebted to the wonderful community that is so committed to education – to my research group in physics education, to the physics department, and to the campus and university as a whole for being such a supportive and engaged culture. Particularly, I thank the many students who have enriched – and will continue to enrich – my life and all of our efforts at Colorado."

Finkelstein, a winner of CU's Diversity and Excellence Award, leads an annual delegation of students at the National Association of Black and Hispanic Physicists conference. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Yale University; his doctorate in applied physics from Princeton University.

Rajaram has published more than 50 peer-reviewed journal publications, and his research has been cited nearly 1,000 times, according to the Web of Science.

In a letter supporting Rajaram's nomination, Keith R. Molenaar, chair of the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, wrote: "He is simply our best teacher, and his model of excellence has inspired faculty throughout the department."

Rajaram's previous awards include the NSF CAREER award for integrating research and education in 1998 and the Charles Hutchinson Memorial College of Engineering Teaching Award from CU in 1999.

Rajaram said he's dedicating his newest honor to his mother, an elementary and middle school mathematics teacher, and his father, a chemistry professor; both retired in the early 1990s after 30-year teaching careers.

"I am deeply honored and humbled by this recognition of 18 years of effort toward improving the clarity and effectiveness of my teaching," Rajaram said. "I also am grateful for the feedback, appreciation and constructive criticism I have received from students and colleagues at CU over these years, which have helped me grow in many ways, both as a teacher and as a person.

"I hope that as a President's Teaching Scholar, I will be in a position to give something back to CU in return for these wonderful years. I hope to help mentor younger faculty members in the early stages of their careers, to help them discover their teaching personas and develop effective and efficient approaches to preparing their courses and lectures."

Rajaram earned a bachelor's degree in technology from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras, India, and a master's degree in science, civil and environmental research from the University of Iowa. He completed his doctorate in civil engineering at MIT.

[Hoffenberg's research findings featured in journal](#)[26]

CU School of Medicine's **Ed Hoffenberg**, M.D., Pediatrics and Digestive Health Institute of Children's Hospital Colorado, has collaborated with a group of international investigators to identify a gene as the cause for congenital short bowel syndrome. The research [findings](#)[27] are in the March issue of the journal, *Gastroenterology*; 142: 453-462, 2012.

This rare disorder causes infants to be born with an extremely shortened small intestine, about a quarter of the normal length. This shortened intestine greatly limits their ability to absorb nutrients and water. These babies have life-threatening diarrhea and nutritional deficiencies.

Individuals may also develop acquired short bowel syndrome due to prematurity, infections, trauma or multiple surgeries in which large portions of the bowel are removed. These individuals have problems similar to those with congenital short bowel syndrome. A way to enhance the small bowel to recover by growing longer has long been an elusive goal in treating these patients.

In this study, five families with seven children, including one from Colorado, were studied. All were found to have alterations in a gene called CLMP. This gene is responsible for a protein that is widely expressed in many tissues during development and is important in cell-cell adhesion and possibly in cell proliferation. A zebrafish model, in which the zebrafish CLMP expression is altered, produced offspring with a shortened intestine confirming the likelihood that this gene causes congenital short bowel syndrome.

This finding provides a model to study intestinal growth. Importantly, it may provide a direction to develop new therapies to promote intestinal growth and lengthening, which have the potential to be helpful in treating infants with congenital short bowel syndrome and children or adults with acquired short bowel syndrome.

[Zhai, Andreas present project at national conference](#)[28]

Zhai

**John Zhai**, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering at CU-Boulder, and **Fred Andreas**, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, assistant professor adjunct of architecture at the University of Colorado Denver, were speakers who presented at the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation (EFRI) National Conference in Washington, D.C. Their talk concerned their NSF-funded project "Living Wall Materials and Systems for Automatic Building Thermo-Regulation."

With the goal of achieving net-zero-energy buildings in the U.S. by 2030, this project will develop intelligent and

integrated building envelope systems with smart materials and innovative structures upon a series of advanced and multi-disciplinary studies on Zero Net Energy Buildings (ZNEB), passive commercial building strategies, material science, structure engineering, heat transfer, fluid mechanics, system optimization, and architecture integration.

The five-year research grant funds integrated and interdisciplinary building systems research into a new generation of ZNEB buildings. The research team includes principal investigator Zhai with co-PI's Andreas, YiFu Ding, Kurt Maute and Jerry Qi Hang from the College of Applied Science and Engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder.

[Park at Harvard for independent study](#)[30]

Park

**Peter Park**, an associate professor adjunct of planning and design at the University of Colorado Denver, is spending the year at Harvard Graduate School of Design as a Loeb Fellow, having received one of 10 annual post-professional awards for independent study at Harvard University.

Park's speaking engagements in February were in Mumbai, India, at "Planning for Mumbai: The Development Plan Workshop 2 for Greater Mumbai 2014-2034," at a Cinarch special event at Saptaparni, Hyderabad, and the "Reimagining Urban Highways" conference in Philadelphia (watch the [video](#)[32]), and at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is Peter's lecture "Planning for the Post-Freeway American City."

Park's recent work contends that freeways in American cities have not delivered on promises made more than 50 years ago. Skillfully sold as instruments of freedom and prosperity, in reality, freeways have weakened cities and financially burdened the nation, he says. He argues that continuing to spend taxpayer dollars on maintaining ineffective freeways -- or worse, expanding them -- only saddles future generations with even greater challenges.

In his lecture he explores America's historic freeway campaign, damage caused by freeways in cities, and today's opportunity to counter this failed 20th century experiment. He includes proven alternatives to costly and outdated freeway designs and a case for a freeway removal campaign aimed at strengthening cities, regions and the nation.

[Heikkila, Weible awarded grant for research](#)[33]

Heikkila

**Tanya Heikkila** and **Chris Weible**, associate professors in the University of Colorado Denver's School of Public Affairs (SPA), were awarded an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant for more than \$325,000 for research titled, "Analyzing the Political Coalitions of Shale Gas Development in the U.S."

Through the grant, Heikkila and Weible will:

Identify the actors involved in the politics of gas shale development, their interests, concerns, beliefs, and values regarding gas shale development, and how they are organized within political coalitions across different scales (e.g. local, shale formation, state, watershed, and national). Examine the types of actions and strategies that coalitions use to translate their interests into political outcomes, including issue framing in the media. Determine to what extent



coalition actors have learned (e.g., change beliefs, concerns, and/or strategies) through their political involvement in the gas shale debate and what fostered this learning. Explore how the characteristics of coalitions and their interactions (e.g. beliefs, resources, learning) have influenced changes in shale policy or regulations and what actions might lead to policy change in the future across different venues and scales.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is a philanthropic, nonprofit grantmaking institution based in New York City. Established in 1934 by Alfred Pritchard Sloan Jr., then-president and chief executive officer of the General Motors Corporation, the Foundation makes grants in support of original research and education in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and economic performance.

[Dropping names ...](#)[35]

Tyler

Garcea

Simon

Greenwood

Cardiology Professor **Larry Hergott**, M.D., has two writing awards named for him. The Larry Hergott Heart of Medicine Award will be part of CU's Medical School curriculum that emphasizes narrative writing as a way of coping with stress and clarifying values. Cash awards will be given to the winner and quarterfinalists. The award is supported by the Division of Cardiology, the Center for Bioethics and Humanities, the Arts and Humanities in Health Care Program, and by individual donations. Farther afield, a conference regarding literature in medicine, held annually in Dallas, sponsored by Texas Presbyterian Hospital and the English Department at Southern Methodist University, has created an annual writing award named for him. ... Professor **Ken Tyler**, M.D., the Department of Neurology chair in the School of Medicine, and **Robert L. Garcea**, M.D., a professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado Boulder, have been elected to Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology. Fellows are elected annually through a selective, peer-review process, based on their records of scientific achievement and original contributions that have advanced microbiology. In 2012, 80 fellows were elected to the academy; there are more than 2,000 Fellows representing all subspecialties of microbiology, including basic and applied research, teaching, public health, industry, and government service. ... **Gregory Simon**, assistant professor of geography and environmental sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver, was selected to serve as core adviser to the United Nations Foundation Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. Simon recently presented on his work at a special United Nations Session in New York during the Association of American Geographers meeting. His recently published paper in the journal *Global Environmental Change*, which examines challenges and opportunities for distributing efficient and low-smoke cookstoves in developing nations using carbon finance, is available online. **Edgar Cota-Torres**, assistant professor in the Department of Languages and Cultures at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, presented a critical examination of "Enrique's Journey" by Sonia Nazario at the Les recits de la marinalite in Amerique Conference at the University of the Antilles and Guiana on Feb. 29. ... **Bryan Shao-Chang Wee**, assistant professor of geography and environmental sciences at the University of Colorado Denver, and his team of researchers presented findings at the Green Schools National Network conference in Denver last month. Their work shows a positive correlation between Green Print core practices at higher levels and student achievement in science. ... "Local Economic Development in the 21st Century: Quality of Life and Sustainability," a book written by **Daphne Greenwood**, a professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and Richard P.F. Holt, professor, Department of Economics, Southern Oregon University, recently was nominated for a Best Book Award from the Public

and Nonprofit Division of the Academy of Management. In 2011, the book received a Choice Award as one of the top 25 undergraduate economics books.

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## Links

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