Colorado company licenses CU test to assess chronic liver disease[1]

HepQuant-Dual

The University of Colorado and HepQuant LLC, a Colorado-based company, have completed a licensing agreement allowing HepQuant to further develop a CU diagnostic technology to assess chronic liver disease.

All major manifestations of chronic liver disease – including cirrhosis, ascites, fibrosis, varices and encephalopathy – are linked to an impairment of the liver's portal circulation. About 15 million to 30 million people in the United States, and at least 500 million worldwide, suffer from these diseases.

The first product to be developed based on the licensed technology, HepQuant-Dual, is a noninvasive, cost-effective test that measures the liver's portal circulation using natural compounds labeled with stable isotopes. The test enables a physician to detect liver disease, measure the severity of the disease and predict risk for future complications.

The test was invented by Gregory Everson, professor and director of hepatology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

"This is an exciting advance for monitoring patients and provides physicians with a new tool for evaluating liver disease," Everson said. The company anticipates that clinical trials will begin late this year, with commercial availability by 2013, subject to FDA approval.

HepQuant originally optioned the technology from CU in 2008, when it received a $100,000 seed investment from the University of Colorado Technology Transfer Office to support further commercial development.

"Technology Transfer's proof-of-concept investment program helped HepQuant leverage a grant from the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and augment Dr. Everson's clinical studies with market and regulatory planning, a critical step toward a sustainable new biomedical enterprise," said Tom Smerdon, director of licensing and new business development at the CU Technology Transfer Office.

Kaiser Permanente grant to stimulate jobs, education[3]

As Colorado faces historic unemployment rates, a new partnership between Kaiser Permanente and four state colleges and universities will bring hundreds of new health care jobs to southern Colorado.

The $1 million program supports careers in nursing and front-line health-care professions such as lab/radiology technicians and medical assistants.

Most of the funding — $750,000 — will provide more than 100 scholarships to students pursuing degrees in nursing or allied health professions at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak Community College, Colorado State University Pueblo and Pueblo Community College. The other $250,000 will be allocated to a loan repayment program for health-care professionals already employed by area safety net clinics, which provide free or low-cost care to underserved patients.

Southern Colorado unemployment ranks among the highest in the state, and the region also faces a shortage of health-care workers. In the nursing field alone, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than 1 million new and replacement nurses will be needed in the U.S. by 2016. Kaiser Permanente's grant award addresses both of these problems in southern Colorado by providing hundreds of new scholarships and repaying workers' loans.

The effort is believed to be the first in Colorado to tie loan repayment for allied health professionals to community safety net clinics. Often, these facilities struggle to recruit or retain health-care workers.

To qualify for these scholarships or loan repayments, individuals must commit to working two years in a designated safety net clinic.

"Our health care and educational sectors are caught in the perfect storm – demands are growing as budgets are tightening" said Donna Lynne, president of Kaiser Permanente Colorado. "Kaiser Permanente recognized this challenge as an opportunity to invest in an innovative workforce development program that supports our educational institutions and places nurses and other health-care professionals in the clinics that need them most."

Scholarships will be available to students pursuing degrees in nursing and allied health occupations for the fall 2010 semester at the four partner institutions. The amount of money and the number of scholarships to be awarded varies depending on the school. Students may contact each school's financial aid office for application deadlines and additional details.

The loan repayment program is anticipated to begin this fall, as soon as the participating safety net clinics are identified.

CU Women Succeeding Symposium sets record attendance[4]

The stark statistics and harrowing stories of women and girls incarcerated in U.S. prisons, and the sobering realities of higher education funding were among the keynote issues explored at this year's University of Colorado Women Succeeding Symposium.

The CU Faculty Council's Committee on Women[5]has sponsored the annual symposium for the past seven years as part of ongoing efforts to advance and support the success of women in academia. This year's event on Friday, Feb. 26, at the Anschutz Medical Campus drew a record 175 faculty and staff participants from all four CU campuses, organizers said.

Faculty and staff networked with colleagues and attended breakout sessions on topics as diverse as promoting women of color faculty, mentor-mentee relationships, creativity and leadership during uncertain times, and workplace bullying among women (see related story[6]). Before lunch, some participants relaxed at a yoga workshop.

Karen Jonscher, Ph.D., co-chair of the Faculty Council Women's Committee, said early response from participants has been positive.

"We are very excited about using this resource for continuing career development," said Jonscher, of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "In the future, we hope to continue to offer a diverse array of workshops to help with teaching issues, administrative issues, career development for tenure and non-tenure track faculty, work-life balance and more. We'd also like to develop a format where groups with common interests can develop action plans and can really start moving forward to deal with issues identified in these workshops."

Joanne Belknap, Ph.D., a CU-Boulder sociologist, is the winner of this year's Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award, which recognizes and honors an outstanding CU faculty member for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching. Established in 1992, the award honors the late Elizabeth Gee, the wife of former CU President Gordon Gee and a faculty member of the CU College of Nursing.

Belknap is the author of "The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime and Justice," and a CU-Boulder alumna who received her doctorate in criminal justice and criminology from Michigan State University. During her afternoon keynote address, she discussed her research into the lives of incarcerated women and girls, and touched on the contributing factors that lead women into prisons, including physical, sexual, emotional and psychological trauma and abuse.

"Women's and girls' victimization and offending is so invisible, and when it's not invisible, it's often so misrepresented and poorly understood," Belknap said.

Belknap also discussed the conviction of Molly Bowers, who is serving a 16-year prison sentence related to the 2006 death of her infant son, Jason. Belknap noted that Bowers' ex-husband, Alex Midyette, also received a 16-year prison sentence in the child neglect case, but under more lenient conditions, despite the allegation that he caused the injuries leading to his son's death. The professor introduced Bowers' parents, Jane and Dan Bowers, who were at the symposium to share their story with others.

"This trajectory from victimization to offending can happen to anyone, even someone raised by loving and wonderful parents," Belknap said. "I hope that my research, whether it is in publication or when I give presentations, is a way for voiceless women and girls to have a voice."

Earlier in the day, Kathleen Bollard, Ph.D., associate vice president and chief academic affairs officer, offered a sobering overview of higher education funding in Colorado and around the nation. In her morning keynote speech she also gave participants an update on proposed state higher education legislation, and explained the importance of the university's branding initiative as CU absorbs deep state funding cuts.

Bollard said the university's branding initiative, expected to make its debut later this month, would strengthen CU's role, mission and public message going forward. If a proposed initiative to create a dedicated funding source for higher education makes it onto the state ballot in the near future, CU might have to take its message directly to the people of Colorado.

"To solve our fiscal situation, we're probably going to have to go to the public," she said.

Currently, the state contributes only 3.3 percent of the university's total budget. The university is backfilling budget cuts with stimulus funding, but faces a fiscal cliff once those federal dollars disappear next year. CU leadership has said the university is facing its dire fiscal situation with a three-pronged approach that includes cutting administrative costs, seeking greater operating efficiencies and searching for new revenue sources.

As Colorado colleges and universities chart their futures amid the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, they are exploring innovative proposals, Bollard said. Among others, state lawmakers this year are reviewing proposed legislation that would give universities greater flexibility in setting tuition and administering financial aid, and would streamline the credit transfer process between community colleges and four-year institutions.

"It's pretty extraordinary in terms of roles, missions and branding. People are being pretty entrepreneurial," Bollard said. "But where does that leave us as the University of Colorado?"

Citing the words of Chief Financial Officer Kelly Fox, Bollard added, "When we come out at the other side of this, we may look different, we may be doing things differently, but we'll still be a great institution. We're pretty resilient."

[flagallery gid=14 name="Gallery"]

CU system notifies group of employees about W-2 irregularities[7]

A group of 335 current and former University of Colorado employees received letters last week notifying them that the university is investigating irregularities in the way some employee W-2 records were accessed through a Web-based portal.

The irregularities were detected through a myCU Portal application that enables employees to download electronic copies of their W-2s. Those affected include current and former employees on all four CU campuses, CU system security officials said.

Officials said a credit-monitoring service would be provided for one year at no cost to all employees affected by the situation. Anyone who received a letter is being advised to contact a CU Payroll & Benefit Services counselor atpayprod@cu.edu[8] to learn more about how to sign up for the service.

"The irregular activity is limited, but we decided to err on the side of caution in notifying employees," said Assistant Vice President William Walker IV, the university's chief information security officer. "We take our employees' privacy very seriously."

Walker said CU security officials are conducting an analysis of the W-2 data to determine if they were accessed for legitimate business purposes or for malicious reasons between Feb. 19, 2009, and Jan. 25, 2010.

Once the irregularities were discovered, university system data security officials immediately disabled the application and removed a potentially vulnerable access point before restoring service, he said.

Retirees file suit against newly signed PERA law[9]

A group of retirees has filed a lawsuit challenging the recently signed law that cuts Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) benefits.

The suit was filed Friday, Feb. 26, on behalf of nearly 100,000 PERA members who are eligible to retire or have retired since March 1, 1994.

The lawsuit[10], Gary R. Justus and Kathleen Hopkins vs. the State of Colorado, et al, says the PERA law, signed by Gov. Bill Ritter on Tuesday, Feb. 23, is unconstitutional because it impairs the retirees' contractual rights to receive pension benefits at the levels promised.

"Both the United States and Colorado constitutions bar reductions in pension benefits once the right to those pension vests. And that is exactly what the Legislature did here," said Stephen M. Pincus, one of the attorneys for the retirees.

The Legislature passed Senate Bill 10-001, which includes several changes proponents say are necessary to keep the plan from going broke, but the class-action lawsuit only deals with the annual benefit increase.

The new law eliminates the annual cost of living adjustment in 2010 and caps the amount paid in future years at 2 percent. Previously, those who retired received a 3.5 percent annual increase.

Justus, a retired Denver Public Schools (DPS) math teacher, said, "This lawsuit is about the state complying with its own constitution. The General Assembly is trying to correct its past mistakes on the backs of the retirees. We can't go back and restart our careers."

Justus worked for more than 29 years with DPS before retiring in 2003; Hopkins worked 15 years for the state of Colorado and retired in 2001.

By not paying out a benefits increase this year, the plan would realize a cash infusion and be on its way to becoming solvent, according to Meredith Williams, PERA's executive director.

PERA has said large payouts and stock market volatility have contributed to the fund's dire condition. The plan pays

nearly $3 million each month to retirees, and the market crash in 2008 led to a nearly $30 billion decline in assets.

The lawsuit was filed in District Court in Denver. Defendants are the state of Colorado, PERA, Ritter, PERA board Chairman Mark J. Anderson and PERA board Vice Chairwoman Sara J. Valt.

The retirees are being represented by Stember Feinstein Doyle & Payne, LLC, a Pittsburgh, Penn., firm that specializes in pension rights. The firm recently represented about 750,000 retirees from GM, Ford and Chrysler whose benefits were restructured.

Tuition flexibility plan might go to lawmakers this month[11]

A proposal allowing colleges and universities to set their own tuition could be in Gov. Bill Ritter's hands this week and to the Legislature by the end of March.

The governor said Thursday, Feb. 25, that "tuition flexibility is not tuition autonomy for institutions in the state," adding that any such plan to help fund higher education must include "assurances of access and affordability" for low- and middle-income families.

Ritter has previously opposed giving higher education institutions the power to determine tuition costs, but he said the current economic crisis has made him reconsider the idea. "Nobody anticipated the length or depth of the downturn," he said during a media briefing.

A day before, the Higher Education Strategic Planning Steering Committee agreed in principle to a plan allowing institutions to decide their own tuition rates. If Ritter agrees with the plan, he could send a recommendation to legislators before the end of March.

Any plan would not affect the 2011-2012 school year, but would be available for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond.

The governor acknowledged that not all state institutions would be helped by the plan, but said the proposal would be designed so research institutions such as the University of Colorado could take advantage of it.

For years, the Legislature has set caps on how much colleges and universities could increase tuition each year. A higher ed financial bill currently is on hold in the Legislature, waiting for the governor's input.

Faculty Council budget committee offers guide to approaching cuts[12]

The systemwide Faculty Council's budget committee has developed a set of written guidelines aimed at protecting what its members value most as campuses confront budget limitations for the coming fiscal year.

Committee Chair Mark Malone presented the list of six priorities during the council's Thursday, Feb. 25, meeting at 1800 Grant St., Denver.

"This is us saying, here's the outlook we're operating under. These are the things we're going to try to protect," Malone said after the meeting. "We're trying to protect the interests of the university."

The budget committee's priorities:
Focus on improving the academic and research mission of the university. Recognize unique campus circumstances and expertise by devolving budget-cut decisions down to the campus level. Recognize the importance of the campuses to their local communities and do not consider merging overlapping programs across campuses without careful evaluation of the local impact. Carefully consider the impact of proposed cuts on tuition revenue and student progress toward meeting graduation requirements. Strategically apply budget cuts to preserve and protect the contribution margins of campus units that already provide significant subsidies to other campus units. Establish a quasi-public model and identify savings by further disentangling the university from state purchasing, travel program, etc.
Malone emphasized to the council that the priorities list is merely a set of recommendations that leaders at each campus might want to consider.

"We don't want a systemwide budget committee saying, 'You have to make cuts this way,'" Malone said at the meeting.

In other business at Thursday's meeting, the council:
Heard a report from and asked questions of Steve Bosley, chair of the Board of Regents. Discussing the dire status of state funding to higher education, he acknowledged that "everything is on the table" in terms of potential cuts to the university budget. "Will there be some agony? Absolutely. But we're not going to become a fifth-rate institution," he said. "That's not on the drawing board." He said that the regents won't review recommended cuts at the campus level on a line-by-line basis. "That's not our job." Received an update on the university's consideration of switching to a self-funded health plan. E. Jill Pollock, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer for the university, said forums are planned for each campus to discuss the changes, which would begin with employee health premiums being held in a trust for use only by participating employees. She also said, "It's time for us to incorporate wellness and prevention into our program." (See related story here.)
The next Faculty Council meeting is set for March 18.

Wellness promotion part of planned improvements to health benefits[13]

In taking a new approach to health benefit planning, leaders at the University of Colorado are looking to establish a culture of wellness among employees.

In early 2009, a team of health-care experts from throughout the university system and its affiliates, University Physicians Inc. and the University of Colorado Hospital, came together to explore ways for improving the university's group benefits plans. The team included colleagues with leading-edge experience in health-care policy, medical and pharmacy management, wellness and fitness programs, health-plan design, human resources, management and finance.

"We have made an intentional, philosophical shift in how we want to approach health benefits for CU employees," said E. Jill Pollock, chief human resources officer, who is leading the project team. "Over the next few years, with input from employees of all three affiliated groups, we hope to create a comprehensive benefit program that promotes leading healthier lives and honors those already with great fitness. We are taking advantage of the many experts on our campuses and in our community, making the most of our world-class hospital, physicians, nursing professionals and health and wellness researchers."

The team acknowledges that mitigating rising costs, creating greater flexibility and control in plan design, building a robust wellness and prevention program, and meeting employees' expectations for choice, cost and provider access will not happen in a year or two. The steps will be incremental; it will take several years to fully build the new health benefit model. Small changes for the 2010-2011 plan year, however, will begin to move the university in the new direction.

Employees will have the opportunity to participate in a voluntary health risk assessment that will aid them in understanding their individual health and help the medical community to recommend better plan designs for succeeding years. Also new for the next plan year will be university-wide wellness initiatives accessed through employee benefit plans and a cost-effective prescription drug co-pay option for the UA Net exclusive plan.

James Hill, Ph.D., Anschutz Medical Campus professor of pediatrics and medicine and director of both the Center for Human Nutrition and Colorado Nutrition Obesity Research Center, has helped shape the wellness approach for the team. He said he is encouraged by the university's new direction.

"The university is taking the right approach toward building a culture of wellness," Hill said. "CU is looking to provide employees and their families with exciting opportunities to maintain optimum health and prevent chronic disease."

The university is finalizing plan designs and rates for the 2010-11 plan year. Payroll & Benefit Services and representatives from the health plan team this month will be conducting employee forums on each campus to discuss what's new, plans for prevention and wellness initiatives and to seek employee input for future plan features.

More information about 2010-11 benefits and open enrollment will appear in future issues of the Faculty and Staff Newsletter and at the open enrollment Web site, www.cu.edu/PBS/openenrollment[14].

CU still top contributor to statewide charity campaign[15]

Employees of the University of Colorado demonstrated their generosity in the most recent Colorado Combined Campaign (CCC), emerging as the single largest contributor to the statewide charitable donation drive.

Contributions from CU employees totaled $359,519 for the 2009 campaign, a 3 percent increase over the previous year. Money raised from the campaign goes to 700 charitable programs and services throughout the state.

"It says a lot about our colleagues at the university that, in this tough economy, CU employees contributed even more than they did the previous year," said CU President Bruce D. Benson. "The people of CU should be proud of our status as the biggest contributor to this very worthwhile statewide campaign."

For the first time, the University of Colorado Denver went green with its participation, opting not to distribute printed catalogs and instead used an online pledge tool. The number of contributors dropped slightly, but the dollar total increased (see figures below).

Established in 1988, the CCC is the primary charitable solicitation program for CU and state government. Donations to the workplace campaign are voluntary, confidential and tax-deductible. Statewide, 5,870 workers contributed $1,546,626 to the 2009 campaign, down from 7,175 contributors and $1,748,989 given in 2008.

The breakdown of CU's contributions by campus:
UCCS:
2008: $25,945
2009: $27,376 UC Denver:
2008: $146,618
2009: $160,864 System administration:
2008: $26,175
2009: $41,137 CU-Boulder:
2008: $151,729
2009: $130,142

Five Questions for Steven Medema[16]

Medema

Since 1989, Steven Medema has been a member of the University of Colorado faculty, researching and teaching economics — from the history of economic thought to policy analysis and law, to public economics. He has authored several books and numerous scholarly articles, and serves as the director of the UC Denver University Honors and Leadership program. In 2008, he became a President's Teaching Scholar, the university's highest teaching recognition and a lifetime appointment.

Engaging students in the classroom is so important to him that a few years ago, he dismantled a successful introductory economics course and rebuilt it from scratch. It was different from anything he had read about or seen before, but the results proved worthy, he says, particularly when measured by the students' performance in applying economic analysis.

Whether sampling 2,000-plus years of economic ideas or applying economic analysis to areas as diverse as politics, religion, family life and economics itself, he wants students in his 17-week classes to have a worthwhile experience.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. In your most recent book, "The Hesitant Hand: Taming Self-Interest in the History of Economic Ideas," you discuss the free market and self-interested behavior. Both recently have received a bad rap in this economic downturn. Do you advocate rules and regulations?
Actually, I take no position on whether self-interested behavior is good or bad — simply that it is a fact of life, one recognized by commentators on economic matters from Plato to the present. And, on the whole, markets have proved to be excellent vehicles for channeling self-interest in socially useful directions.

Given this, I have no sympathy for those who have called for rethinking the market system. The market worked just as it should have over the past few years. The incentives were there for certain types of behavior, and people acted accordingly. Needless to say, the problem is that the incentive structure was not as it should be in a few areas.

My view of the appropriate regulatory structure is that people should generally be allowed to do their own thing unless their actions impose significant costs on others. It's a position that you find in John Stuart Mill, and it is eminently sensible. Getting to particulars, we need to pull back from some of the deregulation of the financial markets that we've seen over the last 20 years — which, by the way, was a bipartisan effort. For me, it ultimately comes down to an analysis of the benefits and costs of specific regulatory measures.Of course, these are not easy questions, since benefits and costs are many and difficult to measure, and we all weight them differently.

2. You specialize in the history of economic thought. Can you give me an example of the best thinking in history as well as the most ridiculous idea?
[18]
The best thinking, I believe, is found in Adam Smith's "The Wealth of Nations." It is an amazingly powerful and insightful book, and one massively misunderstood by those on the left and on the right. Smith had an amazing grasp of the mechanics of the market system and its possibilities, as well as of the potential problems associated with state action. But he also had no patience for businessmen, accusing them repeatedly of doing whatever they could to exploit the consumer. A clear-headed reading of Smith reveals that he was at once a big fan of the market system and at the same time recognized that a wide range of legal controls are necessary to make the market system work well.

The most ridiculous idea is much more difficult, since I tend to teach the history of economic thought with a view that there are no ridiculous ideas — that when we consider the context in which the ideas were developed, there tends to be

a sensibility about them, even if they seem cockeyed from the perspective of the present. But I guess that I'll come back to Adam Smith on this one — not to his own work, but to interpretations of it. The idea that Adam Smith was a laissez-faire economist has to stand as one of the most ridiculous ideas going.

3. Several years ago, business ethics — both in the workplace and in college classes — was trendy (at least from a media perspective), but some might argue the attempt has failed to produce desired results. What's your reaction?
I'm not convinced that the college classroom is the place to learn how to behave ethically, and I've never been confident that taking business ethics classes turns those who would otherwise behave unethically into ethical human beings. For me, this is something that goes much deeper, and to issues of character formation that have their genesis long before one arrives at the university.

4. Your Web site contains links to sporting gear companies such as Spyder. Any particular reason why you chose that company? You also mention organ donation several times. Can you tell me why you support the cause?
That's rather dated material, as I have not updated my Web site in a couple of years! But it is all skiing and ski racing related. I did a lot of ski racing when I was younger and am still out on the hill regularly, occasionally running gates. I've been wearing Spyder gear since I was a teenager, and I think it's exceptional stuff.

About eight years ago, my uncle was diagnosed with a serious liver disease. By the fall of 2003, it was clear that he had less than a year to live unless he received a liver transplant, and the nature of his condition was such that he was unlikely to rise to a high enough place on the national list to get a liver from someone who had just passed away. I decided that I should investigate whether I was a compatible living donor, and it turns out that I was indeed compatible. And so, on March 9, 2004, we did the transplant surgery. It was a very rough ordeal for me (many complications following the surgery), but my uncle made an astounding recovery and is doing very well today. I would do the donation again in a heartbeat, even given the many complications I had, but it would be nice if enough people donated their organs upon death so that we did not have to rely on living donors.

5. Do you think an economics class or classes should be required for graduation?
I am of two minds on this. My libertarian streak says "no," but my interest in having an informed citizenry says "yes." But I think I'll go with my libertarian streak on this one. I don't see courses in economics as any more (or less!) intrinsically important than courses in philosophy, history, foreign language and the like, so I am loath to say that everyone should have to take an economics course when you can't specify a university core so large that it includes a course from virtually every discipline. I will say, though, that a nodding acquaintance with basic economics is an essential component of being an educated person, but so too is such an acquaintance with literature, history, etc.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[19]

Conference on World Affairs returns for 62nd run[20]

Movie critic Roger Ebert calls it "the Conference on Everything Conceivable." The New York Times describes it as "a weeklong extravaganza of discussion and debate." The Conference on World Affairs returns to the University of Colorado at Boulder campus April 5-9 for its 62nd annual edition.

A Boulder tradition since 1948, conference audiences have doubled in size over the past decade. Last year, a combined audience of 92,000 students, faculty, local, national and international visitors attended 200 panels, plenaries and performances at the five-day gathering.

This year's conference theme, "Free Thinking," affirms the organization's core value, said Jim Palmer, conference director.

"Free Thinking is meant to describe both the conference's cost-free attendance and our unrestricted, free-ranging topics and ideas," he said. "We are committed to keeping the conference free in both senses."

The Conference on World Affairs was founded in 1948, originally as a forum on international affairs, gaining fame early on with notable participants such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Arthur Miller and Henry Kissinger. The event now encompasses music, literature, the environment, science, journalism, visual arts, diplomacy, technology, spirituality, film, politics, business, medicine, human rights and more.

Participants in recent years include Vice President Joe Biden, Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer and economist Paul Krugman. TV commentator Rachel Maddow describes the conference as "the antidote to the airless, etherized, surreality of what 'conferences' have become. Arrive cynical and above-it-all — leave with new, real friends and a smarter, humbler, more human take on your work and the world you're changing."

A biographical listing of all Conference on World Affairs participants is online atwww.colorado.edu/cwa[21]. A complete schedule of events will be posted by the third week of March.

One of the most popular events is the annual jazz concert, set for 8 p.m. April 6 at Macky Auditorium. As with all conference sessions, the concert is free and open to the public; beginning this year, though, seating will no longer be general admission. Advance online ticketing for assigned seats will be available with a service charge of $1. Instructions for online ticketing will be announced soon via the CWA Fans e-list. To become a member and receive notice of jazz concert tickets and other conference events, go to the conference Web site[22] and click on the "Sign Up Now!" button.

Donations to the Conference on World Affairs may be made online at KeepCWAfree.com[23]

INVST marks 20th year with gala, workshops[24]
Photo courtesy of INVST
Former INVST students working with a nonprofit organization in the Sangre de Cristo mountains.
Photo courtesy of INVSTFormer INVST students working with a nonprofit organization in the Sangre de Cristo mountains.

A fundraising gala will celebrate the 20th anniversary of INVST, a program that helps educate and inspire young people to choose service careers focusing on humanity and the environment.

The March 13 gala at the Hotel Boulderado in downtown Boulder will feature dining and dancing, along with keynote speaker Hunter Lovins[26], the co-author of "Natural Capitalism." Lovins has helped scores of industries and governments go green and was named Time Magazine's Hero of the Planet in 2000.

Seating is limited for the 6:30 p.m. to midnight event, which costs $100 per person. Guests must RSVP by Friday, March 5, by calling 303-492-7719 or by visitingwww.colorado.edu/communitystudies/gala[27].

That same afternoon, Skill-Share Workshops will allow alumni and community partners to teach one another about the expertise areas they have developed in their careers or fields. Nine different workshops will be offered from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Koelbel Business Building, Room 100, on the University of Colorado at Boulder campus. The free event includes lunch.

Several founders of INVST (International and National Voluntary Service Training) founders will conduct workshops: Gaia Mika, former CU psychologist and instructor, will be offering a workshop on eco-psychology. Â Jim Scarrit, retired

professor and former INVST director, will present on how faculty can integrate students who come from various levels of experience in leadership, social justice and political inequality issues in the same classroom conversations. Jim Downton, retired professor, will present a workshop on creativity. Scott Myers-Lipton, who earned his Ph.D. at CU-Boulder and helped create INVST, will discuss his work involving students at San Jose State University in grassroots organizing and advocacy for people who are poor.
Friday, March 12 events[26] include a community service project and reunions, while the Sunday, March 14, plans include a group hike and vision meeting.

School of Public Affairs to provide law enforcement education[28]

Colorado peace officers will be able to build on supervisor training courses through the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, according to an agreement signed this week between the university and representatives of Colorado police and sheriff's associations.

Last week, Pam Shockley-Zalabak, UCCS chancellor; Don Christensen, executive director of the County Sheriffs of Colorado; and Karen Renshaw, executive director of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police; signed an agreement that will enable UCCS to offer undergraduate and graduate credit for peace officers who take the supervisory institute program and enroll in an additional academic component.

Terry Schwartz, associate dean of the School of Public Affairs, and Jim Spice, chief of police, Public Safety, attended the formal signing event and helped in the development of the agreement.

The academic course will focus on supervisor education, a key element in the promotion of officers into higher level positions within an agency and for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement. Colorado peace officers will have the opportunity to take the course for academic credit through the School of Public Affairs.

During fiscal year 2011, at least one course will be offered on campus with officers having the opportunity to stay in university housing. The School of Public Affairs follow-up course will be online beginning in August.

"The benefit of these courses to individuals who wish to advance their careers is clear," Shockley-Zalabak said. "Supervisory training is an important part of their development and success in the workplace as they learn to motivate others to do what can best be described as a very difficult job. But today, I would argue that all of us – those within law enforcement and those outside of the profession – benefit. As citizens, we benefit from professionally trained peace officers who understand psychology, sociology, human relations, physiology and communication in addition to the law."

Peace officers who opt for college credit will complete extra requirements developed by the School of Public Affairs. More course content will be developed by criminal justice faculty within the School of Public Affairs.

Spice said the partnership will benefit departments and individual officers seeking to earn college degrees.

"As the chief of a small department that is similar to many across the state, I understand the difficulty of properly training staff as responsibilities grow and budgets dwindle," he said. "This command college will be a huge asset for departments throughout Colorado, including our own."

Spice credited Susan Szpyrka, associate vice chancellor of administration and finance, for her help in developing the proposal as well as Brian McPike, police sergeant with the department of public safety, and Skip Arms, a Colorado Springs Police Department commander and UCCS graduate.

Pyramid Plus center will promote social emotional development in kids[29]

Research has found that up to 40 percent of young children exhibit serious behavioral challenges that can result in a tremendous risk of school failure early on, followed by adult lives characterized by violence, abuse, loneliness and anxiety. Studies also indicate that less than 50 percent of preschoolers with disabilities are enrolled in typical early childhood settings.

Pyramid Plus: The Colorado Center for Social Emotional Competence and Inclusion has been created to address these issues in Colorado. The center is newly funded and is housed and operating out of the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver.

The program's project coordinator said there is increasing evidence that shows young children who exhibit challenging behavior are more likely to experience peer rejection and negative family and teacher interactions.

"Say you have a student who is mature enough to sit, listen, follow directions and be respectful while there may be another student who can't sit still — the child is throwing things, interrupting the teacher and disrupting the learning environment of the entire classroom," said Abby English, Pyramid Plus project coordinator at UC Denver. "Clearly, the more emotionally and socially developed a child is, the better they are equipped to learn."

The goal of Pyramid Plus is to increase the use of evidence-based, social emotional and inclusive practices in early care and educational settings, including family home care.

Pyramid Plus will build the statewide competence of personnel through a network of certified trainers and program coaches. These leaders then may broaden the reach of the approach by visiting early care and educational settings throughout Colorado where they can train and coach employees who teach children. All certification candidates are required to commit to extensive training that, when completed, will make them highly qualified in the approaches as well as making the program they are working for more effective with families and children.

"Growing a network of certified trainers and coaches is like building roads from a central hub or city," said Barbara Smith, director of the Pyramid Plus program and research professor at UC Denver's School of Education and Human Development. "First you might have 20 roads, which then grows to 40, then 80, and keeps getting bigger and reaches more parts of the state. It's the same concept for certified trainers and coaches. Our goal is to have certified trainers and coaches available to every early care and education program throughout Colorado."

The vision for Pyramid Plus is to build the capability of early care and education professionals statewide to use these evidence-based approaches, thereby improving children's social emotional competence and opportunities for inclusion.

This vision involves statewide cooperation in promoting the model. Besides partners and funders such as the Colorado Department of Human Services' Division of Child Care, Division of Behavioral Health and the Division for Developmental Disabilities/Early Intervention, Pyramid Plus also has a team of other state agencies and programs supporting its work.

For more information about the Pyramid Plus program, or to sign up for the Pyramid Plus e-mail newsletter, please visit www.pyramidplus.org[30].

University of Colorado Hospital internal medicine, specialty clinic relocating[31]

The University of Colorado Hospital Internal Medicine & Specialty Care Practice in Cherry Creek will move to a new location in the Lowry neighborhood Monday, March 8.

As part of hospital efforts to update and upgrade facilities, the new location was built with the patient in mind. From the entryway and lobby to the front desk and examination rooms, careful consideration was given to the comfort and privacy of patients. The new facility also will accommodate more doctors and staff.

"University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) is always looking for ways to serve our patients more efficiently," said Bruce Schroffel, president and CEO. "When the Internal Medicine & Specialty Care Practice moves from Garfield Street to Lowry, our patients should expect to see improved access to care and minimal waiting times."

UCH also is adding several specialty services for patients who need to see certain types of physicians. University of Colorado Hospital Internal Medicine & Specialty Care at Lowry will become a multi-specialty care center with the addition of cardiology; ear, nose and throat; obstetrics/gynecology; hand surgery; and podiatry.

"The addition of specialists will offer opportunities for collaboration in our patient's care, as well as a chance to develop academic ties that could foster future research directions," said Wagner Schorr-Ratzlaff, medical director of the expanded practice.

The new facility also will have a large retail pharmacy for patient convenience; it also will serve the community at large.

The practice's new address is 8111 E. Lowry Boulevard, Suite 120, Denver 80230.

Biotech Building receives boost from $1 million gift[32]

Jane Butcher

Jane Butcher (B.A., International Affairs '66), who with late husband Charlie Butcher has played a key role in supporting the University of Colorado at Boulder's rapidly expanding biotechnology research efforts, has pledged $1 million toward the new Jennie Smoly Caruthers Biotechnology Building being built on the university's east campus.

Her gift will honor Charlie, a successful businessman with a zest for science, social responsibility, innovation and collaboration who passed away in 2004. His links to CU-Boulder-affiliated scientific startups spanned 30-plus years, and he played lead roles as a funder and adviser to firms such as Clonetics and NeXagen. With his wife, he founded the university's biennial forum the Butcher Symposia of Genomics and Biotechnology.

This gift commitment is the latest in nearly $4 million in total gifts the Butchers have made on behalf of CU-Boulder biotechnology.

"I would love this to become an internationally recognized center for biotech. I think you have the perfect ingredients," Jane Butcher said. "Charlie was a big thinker, and he thought CU was the place this should all happen."

Larry Gold

In collaboration with Jane's gift, industry pioneer Larry Gold – a biology professor at CU-Boulder since 1970 and current CEO of biotech firm SomaLogic – is directing a previously undesignated gift toward the Biotechnology Building in honor of Charlie Butcher. In recognition of these gifts, the building's auditorium and adjacent foyer will be named in honor of Jane and Charlie Butcher.

Gold met the Butchers in the early 1970s and became a lifelong friend of the couple. Gold remembers Charlie Butcher's flirtation with pursuing a doctorate in biology; though he did not enroll formally in a degree program, his passion led to volunteer work in the 1970s in the labs of Gold and David Hirsh, where their work led to pioneering discoveries.

"He did the work of someone who would have gotten a Ph.D. – he just loved learning," Gold said. "He was one of the world's great listeners. He had no need to remind you of the things he had done – but he did a lot of things."

Jane and Charlie Butcher have for years also been core supporters of the Conference on World Affairs[22], the annual CU-Boulder forum taking place in April.

The first phase of the 257,000-square-foot Jennie Smoly Caruthers Building is slated for completion in late 2011, and will house the university's Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology[35] (CIMB), the department of chemical and biological engineering and the biochemistry division of the department of chemistry and biochemistry. The building has been instrumental in helping CIMB recruit a "dream team" of scientists and engineers led by CU-Boulder Distinguished Professor Thomas Cech, a 1989 Nobel laureate in chemistry and former president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI); and chief scientific officer and CU-Boulder Professor Leslie Leinwand, a biotech pioneer.

With this gift, more than $30 million in private support has been raised for the building, including a lead naming gift from CU-Boulder distinguished professor Marvin Caruthers. The balance of the funding for Phase I, budgeted at $146 million, is expected from additional private funding, as well as grants and sponsored research support.

Aquatic geologist to discuss latest book at free event[36]

Halverson

Anders Halverson — a University of Colorado at Boulder research associate with the Center of the American West, award-winning journalist and aquatic ecologist — will discuss his new book, "An Entirely Synthetic Fish: How Rainbow Trout Beguiled America and Overran the World."[38] at a free, public event Thursday, March 4.

The book follows the discovery and propagation of the most commonly stocked and controversial freshwater fish in the United States, the rainbow trout. The event will be at 7 p.m. in Eaton Humanities room 150 on the Boulder campus.

Professor elected to National Academy of Engineering[39]

Daniel Baker, aprofessor of astrophysical and planetary sciences and director of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP[40]) at the University of Colorado at Boulder, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering for his leadership in studies, measurements and predictive tools for the Earth's radiation environment and its impact on U.S. security. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Baker is one of 68 members and nine foreign associates to be elected this year.

Leader in international education honored for work[41]

Laura Welch was honored for her work and dedication as the chair of the International Scholar Advising Network for the Knowledge Community for International Student and Scholar Services (KCISSS).

Welch, director of international student and scholarship services, has been a dedicated member of the national KCISSS team and contributes regularly to help the team achieve its goals and priorities.

"She represents the University of Colorado Denver very well and is recognized as an emerging leader in the field of international education," said Sandy Soohoo-Refaei, chair of KCISSS.

At the recent Washington Leadership Meeting, where more than 150 NAFSA leaders gathered, the KCISSS team voted to have Welch continue her current role for one more year.

Nurse's photo makes cover of national journal[42]

A photo submitted by **Rachel Romero**, a nurse in the University of Colorado Hospital's Post-Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), appears on the cover of the February issue of the Journal of PeriAnesthesia Nurses, a peer-reviewed, research-focused publication for nurses and other providers working in the perioperative setting. Romero entered the photo as part of a yearly contest sponsored by the publication.

"I decided to send a photo that represents the kind of work perianestheÂsia nurses do best," Romero said. She shared the $200 prize with the colÂleagues who joined her in the picture, she said, "because they helped in making the photo look authentic. I didn't expect to win, but I knew I sent a great picture."

Romero said she's been taking photos in the preÂoperative and PACU settings for the past five years. "The photos are one of the best ways to store memories and to keep the legacy of nursing pracÂtice alive," she said.

Dropping names ...[43]

Minette Church, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, recently was selected as the Cotsen Fellow in Archaeology at the School of Advance Research, Santa Fe, N.M. Church will spend two months in Santa Fe this summer. ...**Marguerite Cantu**, senior instructor of communication at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, recently was awarded a scholarship from the Council on International Educational Exchange and was accepted into the International Faculty Development Seminar. In June, she will travel to Tibet and China. ... **Donna Langston,** professor and chair of the department of ethnic studies at the University of Colorado Denver, is the 2010 recipient of the UC Denver Rosa Parks Faculty Diversity Award. The luncheon honoring Langston will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, March 12, at St. Cajetan's. ...**Stephen John Hartnett,** professor and chair of the department of communication at the University of Colorado Denver, delivered the annual Emil C. Weis Lecture at Southeastern Missouri State University. Titled "Sweet Freedom's Song: Musical Democracy and the Politics of

Dissent," the lecture incorporated materials from "Sweet Freedom's Song: 'My Country 'Tis of Thee' & Democracy in America," a book Hartnett co-authored with the late Robert James Branham.

Books24x7 via SkillPort[44]

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Leukemia Lymphoma Society honors professor[47]

The stark statistics and harrowing stories of women and girls incarcerated in U.S. prisons, and the sobering realities of higher education funding were among the keynote issues explored at this year's University of Colorado Women Succeeding Symposium.

The CU Faculty Council's Committee on Women[5]has sponsored the annual symposium for the past seven years as part of ongoing efforts to advance and support the success of women in academia. This year's event on Friday, Feb. 26, at the Anschutz Medical Campus drew a record 175 faculty and staff participants from all four CU campuses, organizers said.

Faculty and staff networked with colleagues and attended breakout sessions on topics as diverse as promoting women of color faculty, mentor-mentee relationships, creativity and leadership during uncertain times, and workplace bullying among women (see related story[6]). Before lunch, some participants relaxed at a yoga workshop.

Karen Jonscher, Ph.D., co-chair of the Faculty Council Women's Committee, said early response from participants has been positive.

Related story
UCCS professor presents revealing workshop on workplace bullying among women[6]

"We are very excited about using this resource for continuing career development," said Jonscher, of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "In the future, we hope to continue to offer a diverse array of workshops to help with teaching issues, administrative issues, career development for tenure and non-tenure track faculty, work-life balance and more. We'd also like to develop a format where groups with common interests can develop action plans and can really start moving forward to deal with issues identified in these workshops."

Joanne Belknap, Ph.D., a CU-Boulder sociologist, is the winner of this year's Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award, which recognizes and honors an outstanding CU faculty member for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching. Established in 1992, the award honors the late Elizabeth Gee, the wife of former CU President Gordon Gee and a faculty member of the CU College of Nursing.

Belknap is the author of "The Invisible Woman: Gender, Crime and Justice," and a CU-Boulder alumna who received her doctorate in criminal justice and criminology from Michigan State University. During her afternoon keynote address, she discussed her research into the lives of incarcerated women and girls, and touched on the contributing factors that lead women into prisons, including physical, sexual, emotional and psychological trauma and abuse.

"Women's and girls' victimization and offending is so invisible, and when it's not invisible, it's often so misrepresented and poorly understood," Belknap said.

Belknap also discussed the conviction of Molly Bowers, who is serving a 16-year prison sentence related to the 2006 death of her infant son, Jason. Belknap noted that Bowers' ex-husband, Alex Midyette, also received a 16-year prison sentence in the child neglect case, but under more lenient conditions, despite the allegation that he caused the injuries leading to his son's death. The professor introduced Bowers' parents, Jane and Dan Bowers, who were at the symposium to share their story with others.

"This trajectory from victimization to offending can happen to anyone, even someone raised by loving and wonderful parents," Belknap said. "I hope that my research, whether it is in publication or when I give presentations, is a way for voiceless women and girls to have a voice."

Earlier in the day, Kathleen Bollard, Ph.D., associate vice president and chief academic affairs officer, offered a sobering overview of higher education funding in Colorado and around the nation. In her morning keynote speech she also gave participants an update on proposed state higher education legislation, and explained the importance of the university's branding initiative as CU absorbs deep state funding cuts.

Bollard said the university's branding initiative, expected to make its debut later this month, would strengthen CU's role, mission and public message going forward. If a proposed initiative to create a dedicated funding source for higher education makes it onto the state ballot in the near future, CU might have to take its message directly to the people of Colorado.

"To solve our fiscal situation, we're probably going to have to go to the public," she said.

Currently, the state contributes only 3.3 percent of the university's total budget. The university is backfilling budget cuts with stimulus funding, but faces a fiscal cliff once those federal dollars disappear next year. CU leadership has said the university is facing its dire fiscal situation with a three-pronged approach that includes cutting administrative costs, seeking greater operating efficiencies and searching for new revenue sources.

As Colorado colleges and universities chart their futures amid the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, they are exploring innovative proposals, Bollard said. Among others, state lawmakers this year are reviewing proposed legislation that would give universities greater flexibility in setting tuition and administering financial

aid, and would streamline the credit transfer process between community colleges and four-year institutions.

"It's pretty extraordinary in terms of roles, missions and branding. People are being pretty entrepreneurial," Bollard said. "But where does that leave us as the University of Colorado?"

Citing the words of Chief Financial Officer Kelly Fox, Bollard added, "When we come out at the other side of this, we may look different, we may be doing things differently, but we'll still be a great institution. We're pretty resilient."

By Deborah Méndez-Wilson

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-company-licenses-cu-test-assess-chronic-liver-disease[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/techtrans-hepquant-dual.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/kaiser-permanente-grant-stimulate-jobs-education[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-women-succeeding-symposium-sets-record-attendance[5] https://www.cu.edu/FacultyCouncil/Women/index.html[6] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/03-03/uccs-bullying-women.html[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-system-notifies-group-employees-about-w-2-irregularities[8] mailto:payprod@cu.edu[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/retirees-file-suit-against-newly-signed-pera-law[10] http://www.stemberfeinstein.com/Files/Admin/Colorado%20Complaint%20022610%20FINAL.pdf[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tuition-flexibility-plan-might-go-lawmakers-month[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-budget-committee-offers-guide-approaching-cuts[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/wellness-promotion-part-planned-improvements-health-benefits[14] https://www.cu.edu/PBS/openenrollment[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-still-top-contributor-statewide-charity-campaign[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-steven-medema[17] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Medema_headshot_1_2.jpg[18] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Steve-Hemingway-Sun-Valley-Feb-2010.jpg[19] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/conference-world-affairs-returns-62nd-run[21] http://www.colorado.edu/cwa[22] http://www.colorado.edu/cwa/[23] http://www.cufund.org/giving-opportunities/fund-description/?id=3589[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/invst-marks-20th-year-gala-workshops[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/invst.jpg[26] http://colorado.edu/communitystudies/gala/[27] http://www.colorado.edu/communitystudies/gala[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/school-public-affairs-provide-law-enforcement-education[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/pyramid-plus-center-will-promote-social-emotional-development-kids[30] http://www.pyramidplus.org/[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-colorado-hospital-internal-medicine-specialty-clinic-relocating[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/biotech-building-receives-boost-1-million-gift[33] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/foundation_butcher.jpg[34] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/foundation_gold-1.jpg[35] http://cimb.colorado.edu/[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/aquatic-geologist-discuss-latest-book-free-event[37] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/people_halverson.jpg[38] http://andershalverson.com/home[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/professor-elected-national-academy-engineering[40] http://lasp.colorado.edu/[41] https://connections.cu.edu/people/leader-international-education-honored-work[42] https://connections.cu.edu/people/nurses-photo-makes-cover-national-journal[43] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-0[44] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/books24x7-skillport[45] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/dyk-skillsoft-1.jpg[46] mailto:system.training@cu.edu[47] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/leukemia-lymphoma-society-honors-professor