Four CU faculty join ranks of President's Teaching Scholars

University of Colorado President Todd Saliman on Monday welcomed the four newest members of the President’s Teaching Scholars Program (PTSP), which recognizes CU faculty who skillfully integrate teaching and research at an exceptional level.

The title of President’s Teaching Scholar recognizes excellence in and commitment to learning and teaching, as well as active, substantial contributions to scholarly work. President Saliman solicits annual nominations of faculty across the four campuses for the designation, which is a lifetime appointment.

The 2022 President’s Teaching Scholar designees are:

Maria Elena Buszek, Ph.D., associate professor, College of Arts and Media, University of Colorado Denver

Cerian Gibbes, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Anna Kosloski, Ph.D., associate professor, School of Public Affairs, University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Heather Lewandowski, Ph.D., professor, Physics, University of Colorado Boulder

“President’s Teaching Scholars inspire our students and enrich CU with their remarkable contributions,” Saliman said. “Each 2022 designee represents the excellence and dedication this program exemplifies. It was an honor to welcome these exceptional individuals today and thank them for their outstanding service.”

Raphael Sassower, chair of the program’s council and a philosophy professor at UCCS, introduced the new members to President Saliman at a Monday morning reception at 1800 Grant St.

“The President’s Teaching Scholars Program, having spent over a year to reconfigure its missions as a self-governing faculty community of scholars who love to teach, welcomes four new members from three of the four CU campuses,” Sassower said. “I look forward to expanding our outreach programming beyond the four campuses, serving the interests and academic aspirations of the residents of Colorado wherever they are.”

Members join an active society of scholars and teachers who collaborate with and learn from faculty colleagues and faculty peers in departments, schools and colleges across the four campuses.

“With each new member, our program highlights the unique contributions faculty continue to make to both scholarship and teaching, committing to maintain a healthy balance between them,” said Sassower, who was named a President’s Teaching Scholar in 2014.

Maria Elena Buszek is a scholar, critic, curator and associate professor of art history at CU Denver, where she teaches courses on modern and contemporary visual culture in the College of Arts and Media. Her recent publications include the books “Pin-Up Grrrls: Feminism, Sexuality, Popular Culture” and “Extra/ordinary: Craft and contemporary art”; contributions to the anthologies “Punkademics: The Basement Show in the Ivory Tower” and “Design History Beyond the Canon”; catalog essays for numerous international exhibitions; and articles and criticism in such journals as Art in America, Art Journal, Flash Art and TDR: The Journal of Performance Studies. With Hilary Robinson, she edited the anthology of new writing “A Companion to Feminist Art” (2021). She also has been a regular contributor to the popular feminist magazine BUST since 1999. Her current book project, “Art of Noise,” explores the ties between contemporary feminist art and popular music.

Cerian Gibbes is an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at UCCS. Her research focuses on the social and ecological impacts of environmental change, with a particular interest in studying spaces where agriculture and conservation coexist. Her work is primarily situated in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa. She is a two-time Fulbright Fellowship recipient (2014 and 2020). Gibbes teaches Environmental Remote Sensing, Statistical Analysis in Geography, Urban Sustainability, and Geography of Africa. She also has co-taught travel courses to Uganda, Rwanda and Guatemala. In her teaching, she seeks to draw from the experience that individuals bring to the class to create an inclusive environment in which curiosity is rewarded, and experimentation regardless of failure or success is valued.

Anna Kosloski is an associate professor in the School of Public Affairs at UCCS, where she directs the Bachelor of
Criminal Justice program. She has taught a range of graduate and undergraduate courses covering the foundations of the criminal justice system, criminal justice policy, crime theory and a variety of topics on violence and victimization. Kosloski also has co-facilitated study abroad courses and is a co-creator of the criminal justice learning community. She has been a mentor for students interested in research. She previously served as the director of the Undergraduate Research Academy (URA), shepherded graduate student theses and capstone projects, collaborated with students on grant-funded research projects, and co-authored scholarly works with students. Her research focuses on the intersections of race, class, gender and crime. She has recently published in Women & Criminal Justice, Child Abuse & Neglect, and the Journal of Criminal Justice.

**Heather Lewandowski** earned her bachelor’s in physics from Michigan Tech in 1997 and her Ph.D. in physics from the University of Colorado in 2002. She was then an NRC Postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Boulder. She is currently a professor and associate chair of physics at CU Boulder and a fellow of JILA. She leads two research programs, one in experimental molecular physics, and the other in physics education research. Her molecular physics research efforts focus on studying interactions and reactions of cold, chemically important molecules and ions. Her physics education research program studies ways to increase students’ proficiency in scientific practices such as using models and quantitative reasoning in experimental physics.

Fallen Pedestrians: Issue 7, 2022
Published on CU Connections (https://connections.cu.edu)

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Faculty Council Committee Corner: Budget and Finance

Editor’s note: This is part of an ongoing CU Connections series in which the Faculty Council highlights each of its committees and their efforts. See past installments here.

The Faculty Council Budget and Finance Committee (FCBFC) updated its charge and committee name in May 2021. The three major areas of the charge include: 1) advise Faculty Council on matters of budget, accounting and finance; and 2) consult with representatives of the CU System Administration on matters of budget, accounting and finance; and 3) serve as a liaison between the CU system administration and the campus budget committees (see the full charge here). On urgent or short-notice matters, system administration will consult with the chair and/or executive committee of the FCBFC on behalf of the committee.

As reflected in the updated charge, FCBFC members have been exploring ways to be more actively engaged in the systemwide budgeting processes, to build rapport with system administration, and to identify ways that the committee can be more actively involved in budget-related decisions.

During 2021-2022 the committee has identified accounting and budgeting topics to explore with system administration, allowing committee members to be better informed about the processes and procedures that guide the budgeting decisions at the system level. The committee is also striving to find ways to be a more effective advocate for Faculty Council and faculty at all campuses.

Early last fall, FCBFC identified issues and areas that the committee would like to learn about and shared this list with system administration. We are involved in the processes of working through these areas of interest, while receiving regular updates from system administration on the yearly budgeting processes.

We are also continuing to build on the work done last year in order to instill in our discussions guiding principles on diversity, equity and inclusion, articulated by Brenda J. Allen, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Communications at CU Denver, and former Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at CU Denver | Anschutz: “Along these lines, we affirm that a budget is a moral document — that is, a moral statement of priorities that reflects the values both of the authors of that budget and of the organization that implements budgetary policies and procedures.”

The FCBFC welcomes input and questions from faculty. If you have questions about the system budget processes, please reach out to an FCBFC member, and we will be happy to find answers for you.
CU’s system offices this week regained a level of vitality and energy not experienced in nearly two years with the full reopening of 1800 Grant St. in Denver.

Familiar faces began returning Monday, with many employees gathering to pick up complimentary coffee and snacks early Tuesday and Wednesday. CU President Todd Saliman greeted system staff members at Tuesday’s event, where attendees also received welcome-back gifts.

The week’s slate of gatherings, co-hosted by System Staff Council, concludes today with coffee and rolls being served 7:30-10 a.m. in the Bruce and Marcy Benson Conference Room. CU-branded swag also will be on sale for $1 each, cash only.

Offices at 1800 Grant St. closed in mid-March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with employees moving to fully remote work. In the nearly two years since, the CU System Administration office has undertaken logistical and structural changes to facilitate hybrid work schedules. Changes include reservable hoteling workstations, hybrid meeting technology and more.

For anyone visiting 1800 Grant St. in Denver, there are a few key requirements to bear in mind.

First, check with your point of contact to make sure they — or their department — will be working on-site the day you plan to visit. Anyone who is not vaccinated for COVID-19 will not be working on site.

Second, anyone entering the building must submit a health attestation the day of their visit.

Masks will not be required, but a supply of KN95 masks will be available at the front desk for those who wish to use them. Visitors are asked to show courtesy by carrying a mask and being willing to wear it if asked.
CU moves to liquidate its investment in Russian companies

The University of Colorado is taking steps to exit from its investments in Russian companies, sending a message that it stands in solidarity with the people of Ukraine.

“Like so many others, we have watched in horror as this invasion has brought senseless violence and aggression to the region,” said CU President Todd Saliman. “We are looking for ways to show our support for the people of Ukraine and believe that cutting our investments is the right thing to do.”

The University of Colorado’s investments in publicly traded Russian companies, both through its Foundation and the university’s treasury pool, are negligible overall.

The CU Foundation holds less than 0.1% of its $2.6 billion Long-Term Investment Pool in those companies. Fund managers for the Foundation are in the process of selling these securities.

The university is also invested in mutual funds that have equity holdings in Russia. The total invested is less than 0.25% of assets under management, or about $3.5 million at their last valuation. The university has requested that the mutual funds exit these holdings as early as allowable.

“These are small but important steps we can take as a university to stand with the people of Ukraine at this hour,” said Regent Jack Kroll, chairman of CU’s Board of Regents.

Additionally, faculty across CU’s four campuses currently are not conducting research funded by Russian entities and are not sending funds to Russian entities as part of any research project.

“Our hope is that together with other universities and entities across the world, we can raise our voices and help end this conflict,” said Regent Sue Sharkey, vice chair of the board.

Processing the events from overseas can be overwhelming, and the university is aware that students, faculty and staff – particularly those from the region – may be experiencing a range of emotions at this time. Our campuses are providing resources to those who are having a difficult time with this event or need support.

Summit shines light on climate change as human rights crisis

UCCS researcher develops novel research framework to understand motor vehicle theft — and other crimes

School of Public Affairs establishes new Center for Policy and Democracy

A new smartphone app could increase vaccination of pediatric transplant patients
Maloy to deliver Distinguished Research Lecture on March 8

Argrow inducted into National Academy of Engineering

U.S. Department of State selects Kupferman for accessible education project in Kazakhstan

What does it take to persuade someone to get a COVID vaccine? Patience, understanding and a lot of love.

A growing number of Colorado children have lost a caregiver due to COVID

Colorado once a coastal environment, mapping from CU Boulder shows

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/four-cu-faculty-join-ranks-president-s-teaching-scholars
[3] https://www.cu.edu/pts
[5] https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council
[6] https://connections.cu.edu/tag/faculty-council-committee-corner
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[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/us-department-state-selects-kupferman-accessible-education-project-kazakhstan