Educators explore unconventional ways of boosting learning, teaching[1]

[flagallery gid=12 name="Gallery"]

Can a professor boost classroom connections and foster better learning and teaching by getting students to loosen up with some improv theater exercises? Will matching wits at a computer-based re-creation of the game show "Jeopardy!" lead to stronger test scores? Which is better for an educator looking to engage students: new-fangled Twitter or old-fashioned telephone?

About 114 faculty members from all University of Colorado campuses gathered to ask and answer such questions during the annual President's Teaching Scholars Program[2] (PTSP) conference. The daylong lineup of presentations and panel discussions took place Friday, March 4, at the Anschutz Medical Campus, focusing on the theme of "Critical, Creative, Interactive Learning."

Instructor Jim Walker from CU-Boulder's program for writing and rhetoric looked to add "playful" to the title, demonstrating how improv skills can enhance teaching and learning.

"We're just going to get up and play. It's the notion of tapping into what we have always had – we're born knowing how to play, but it gets repressed as we grow up," he told participants, whose laughter throughout the session was contagious. In small groups, participants were asked to introduce themselves, but not just with a spoken name – each had to incorporate a body move or gesture as a personal signature. Then others had to remember and repeat the name – and the move.

"It's about building energy in the classroom," Walker said. Other exercises emphasized trust-building and solving problems as a team.

A team from the Anschutz Medical Campus demonstrated its version of "Jeopardy!," a PowerPoint Presentation file that helps an instructor review material while assessing what students have learned and receiving instant feedback. The audience used classroom clickers or their own smartphones to respond with answers to questions; for the purposes of the demonstration, the lead query was decidedly irreverent: "What is Charlie Sheen doing at this exact moment?"

The stand-ins for Alex Trebek: Matthew Taylor, associate professor of adult clinical genetics, and Joshua Odom from undergraduate medical education, who showed how the program can be customized for different classroom applications.

Social media came into focus as a classroom tool throughout the conference. During his plenary address, Don Cooper, associate professor at the Institute for Behavioral Genetics at CU-Boulder, showed how Facebook can be used to complement and facilitate interaction among students. In another session, Joanna Dunlap, associate professor of education and human development, and Patrick Lowenthal from academic technology/extended learning, both from CU Denver, discussed social presence theory, and which strategies are most effective at connecting educators and students for maximum learning potential. They shared results from a study that indicated students found more value in a once-a-semester, five-minute phone call with the instructor than ongoing use of Twitter.

The event opened with comments from CU President Bruce D. Benson and a welcome from Mary Ann Shea, director of the PTSP, a presidential initiative that endorses excellence in teaching by honoring faculty throughout the university who excel in teaching, scholarship and research. At the conclusion of the day's sessions, Shea proclaimed the conference the best in the series' three years.

Staff Council has eyes on PERA legislation[3]

Concerns over Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) legislation dominated discussion at the University of Colorado Staff Council's March 3 meeting at the Colorado Springs campus.

Members said rumors and confusion abound, especially when it comes to the proposed continuance of the 2.5 percent shift in contribution rates. This year, employees who are members of PERA are paying their required contributions into the retirement fund as well as 2.5 percent of the university's contribution.

The move was made to stem some of the state's budget deficit. A bill – SB11-076 – will extend that shift for one year, once again in an attempt to reduce state costs. The bill was passed by the Colorado Senate and has moved to the House. The House Finance Committee is scheduled to take up the matter Thursday, March 10.

If it becomes legislation, SB11-076[4] will reduce higher education's contribution rate to 7.65 percent from 10.15 percent for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the same amount paid in 2010-2011.

The Boulder Staff Council has drafted a resolution expressing its opposition to the recommended extension of the 2.5 percent contribution shift. Other council members said they will consult with their campuses to discuss either joining Boulder's resolution or drafting their own.

A second PERA bill pending in the Colorado Legislature would change the membership of the board, increasing the number of members appointed by the governor and decreasing the number of association members.

Currently, the board consists of three members appointed by the governor, 11 elected by the association, and the state treasurer. HB11-1248[5] would change the mix to six governor-appointed members, seven association members and the treasurer. Board members oversee fund investments.

The House Finance Committee passed the measure 7-6 on March 2 after several members voiced concerns about the bill. While some legislators contend taxpayers should have a larger say in PERA matters, others worry additional governor appointees could create a more politicized board.

That bill now moves to the House floor.

Also at the Staff Council meeting, members discussed potential pay decreases, which were discussed by the Board of Regents during a special meeting in October. Regent Jim Geddes, R-Sedalia, at the time suggested board consideration of an across-the-board pay reduction for employees. There has been no follow-up discussion of the recommendation. Council co-chair Lori Krug is working with Kelly Fox, vice president and chief financial officer, to develop a realistic view of university employee pay rates. Krug hopes to present the information to the Board of Regents during its April meeting.

The council also selected recipients of the annual Service Excellence Awards. The winners will be honored during this year's Staff Conference on April 15 in Denver. Honorees, judged on service to campus and the community, will receive $1,000 prizes and plaques.

Teach your children well: Crosby, Nash to address CWA[6]

[7]
David Crosby and Graham Nash are scheduled to deliver the closing plenary address, titled "Life Matters," at this year's Conference on World Affairs (CWA).

Their appearance is set for 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 8, in the University of Colorado Boulder's Macky Auditorium. Bret

Saunders of KBCO-FM will introduce the duo.

This event, along with all of several hundred sessions at the 63rd annual CWA, is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Crosby and Nash have been performing and recording together for more than 40 years, most often as part of the iconic folk/rock supergroups CSN and CSNY, which also feature Stephen Stills and Neil Young.

"Our students are thrilled about Crosby and Nash speaking at the Conference on World Affairs," said Bryan New, CWA media liaison. "Boulder is identified with social awareness and activism, and these two have inspired so many in that realm, alongside their enduring influence on music and culture."

The CWA was originally founded in 1948 as a forum on international affairs but rapidly expanded to become, as veteran participant Roger Ebert has dubbed it, "the conference on everything conceivable." Conference sessions encompass everything from music and literature to the environment and science, journalism, visual arts, diplomacy, technology, film, politics, business, medicine, human rights and more.

The conference hosts 100 speakers and performers representing a wide range of backgrounds and interests from all over the country and globe for five days of what The New York Times calls "a weeklong extravaganza of discussion and debate" on approximately 200 nonacademic, cross-disciplinary panels, plenary sessions and performances.

A list of participants confirmed to date is available at www.colorado.edu/cwa[8]; a full schedule of events will be posted by the third week of March.

Five questions for Thomas Riis[9]

Thomas Riis

Thomas Riis' passion for history and music is apparent, especially when he's talking about his research specialties: American music and African American music.

The Joseph Negler Professor of Musicology was hired in 1992 to teach at the University of Colorado Boulder and also was named director of the relatively new American Music Research Center at the College of Music.

The center is fundamentally an archive – a collection of recorded and paper materials – that also serves the public through events and outreach. Along with sharing resources with staff, faculty, scholars and the public, the center conducts events and programs concerning the collections – everything from lecture series to publications to concerts to symposiums attended by national and international scholars.

When he's not singing, playing or conducting with small musical groups, Riis enjoys hiking and traveling to "exotic and faraway places. I'm a big reader of histories and murder mysteries and a fan of old, silent films. I'm also an enthusiastic 19-year volunteer with the Boulder County AIDS Project."

His favorite accomplishments include "having thrown several fabulous surprise parties for important people in my life around the world and having visited every state capital in the United States, except Juneau, Alaska."

Recently, the American Music Research Center made news for its acquisition of the Ed Burke Collection, which includes about 1,400 reel-to-reel tapes containing hundreds of hours of performances by major musicians of the big-band era. The collection, spanning the 1930s through 1960, also is replete with photos and other memorabilia from

such music legends as Glenn Miller, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and Tommy Dorsey.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. How does the university go about choosing what goes into the archives? What kind of things does the archive find valuable?

The center is co-owned, if you will, by the College of Music and CU Libraries. Our local librarians have trained me never to say "yes" until I talk to them. It has to be collaborative. I'm a trained historian and my colleagues in the libraries handle collections directly and field questions about accessibility and preservation.

This is constantly a process of education for me and would-be donors. If someone brings to me an old set of player piano rolls, I have to ask, "What's on the rolls?" and "Do we have a way to play them?" What's the point of having a collection if there is no way to make them audible?

It's like Christmas every day for me. I come in and there's a new question or new collection being offered to us. I kind of feel like the Car Guys. People come in and say, "Uncle Bob just died and he left me a box of material and it looks like this and I think it sounds like this. What is it and what can I do with it? Can I make money from it or how do I get rid of it because it's taking up space?" In some cases, a spouse or someone close to a person had a special interest and that person wants to honor that interest, to keep the materials together.

Of course, people think anything they own or their parents or grandparents owned has inherent value. That's not really true. It might be true for you personally, but to the great world out there, it's subjective. So we have a slightly different set of criteria.

Basically, an archive is a collection of rare or unique materials. These are generally not lent out as we would do at a library. Their purpose is to remain in the collection in the best possible condition for the longest time so the largest number of people can benefit from them.

One sought-after feature is materials that are obviously the working materials of a great artist, things like sketches or manuscripts. These could be musical sketches, or in the case of a writer, the first draft of famous novel or poem.

We want things that are rare or unique, not items that have necessarily been published, and certainly not items that have been published in great quantity. This can be counterintuitive. Say you're the granddaughter of a famous composer and you have all the awards your grandfather received and all the exquisite first-edition copies of the publications. But these were probably produced in great number, manufactured in the thousands, even millions. That's not what an archivist necessarily wants. But if you have dusty, dirty, scribbled-on sketches – something a guy on the street wouldn't want in his house – then the archivist would say you have something exciting.

2. What are some of the interesting pieces you have at the center?

We have collections of old music that were played live to accompany silent films. We have a collection of African American women composers, from the early- to mid-20th Century that's fairly rare.

We have lots and lots of what is called Tin Pan Alley music. The name was coined by a journalist who was observing the weird sounds he was hearing from buildings on a street in New York where a lot of music publishers lived in the 1890s to 1930s.

The publishing houses all had a big cheese who hired piano players to arrange tunes. People would come in and say, "I have a melody I think your company should publish." If the big cheese thought it was a little thin, he might hand it to his pianist – called a plugger – and have him add some chords here and there.

If he thought it was a good song, the publisher might pay $50 to the guy who brought it in. And if it turned out to be a

successful song, the company would make hundreds, even thousands of dollars. Music then sold for 15 cents a sheet. George Gershwin and Richard Rodgers were just some who served their time as pluggers.

Irving Berlin, the greatest of all American Tin Pan Alley songwriters, realized that if he were the songwriter and publisher, he would get all the money. After his first couple of hits, he went into business himself; hence he became a famous songwriter and wealthy man.

We have something in the area of 100,000 individual printed song sheets from this period.

We also have some wonderful materials from the 17th Century. We have about 500 Colonial-period oblong hymnals. When I started teaching 30 years ago, you could pick them up for $5 or $10; now they are worth easily in the several hundred dollars. These are published tunes, one per page, but if I were to find a manuscript book, it could be worth as much as $2,000 or $3,000.

3. How did you become interested in music and teaching?

I started playing the cello at 10. I always thought it was a plot by mother and my third-grade teacher and my music teacher to keep me busy. It got me out of the classroom a few hours a week. I played the cello, even though it was bigger than me, because it was the only instrument left.

Once you start, you naturally continue for a while. I enjoyed music. Then I got to be in larger and larger groups – ensembles and orchestras. You reach a point where you say, "I guess I could do other things, but I hate to give it up." That's generally when real dedication kicks in. I went to college, knowing I wanted to be a music major, but not quite knowing that I would end up on the academic side of it. I made that decision as an undergrad. Then I went to grad school, and at that point the career path becomes very clear. The only places hiring Ph.D.s are universities.

4. You are a specialist in musical theater and 19th and 20th century music. Why these areas?

History always has been fascinating to me. Why I specifically concentrated on American music and African American music was a bit of an accident.

I was reading about a very unusual composer named Will Marion Cook who was a second-generation African American college student. That was unusual; he also attended the same college I had gone to, Oberlin College in Ohio. He studied composition with a famous European composer, Antonin Dvorak, and he had given advice to a young protégé, Duke Ellington. Cook had also taken his band to Paris in 1919 and 1920 and some of the most distinguished critics gave the band rave reviews. I knew these other famous names but I had never heard of Will Marion Cook. As a graduate student, I was thinking about a dissertation and every instinct in my body was saying this was a huge uncovered topic.

That lit a fire under me. Cook, who passed away in the 1940s, had a son, Mercer Cook. He had been a professor at Howard University. On a whim, I looked him up in a telephone book, then sent him a card, asking to talk to him about his father. I got a lovely response from him, saying that anytime I was in Washington that he would love to talk with me about his father. That put me on Cloud 9. I scraped enough money together to drive to Washington, D.C. He was a very distinguished man, a professor emeritus in French, and a diplomat, and he wanted to know more about his father, whom he did not grow up with. That's all it took. My first book is actually based on Cook, in the context of African American musical theater before anyone ever knew there was such a thing.

5. Are you working on any current projects?

I'm very interested in the music and career of Paul Robeson. But I'm in the very preliminary stages of exploration so can't really provide details. Robeson was one of the most phenomenally accomplished figures in American history. He was a multiple-lettered, All-American athlete, a major stage and film actor, and he recorded hundreds of pieces. He was as famous as Barack Obama is now or as Muhammad Ali was at the time of his greatest fame.

Fourmile Canyon fire to be remembered with spoken-word event[11]

The University of Colorado Boulder's Center of the American West will host "Words to Stir the Soul and Reckon With Reality: The Six-Month Anniversary of the Fourmile Canyon Fire" on Monday, March 14.

Readers will include residents of the burn area, firefighters and local government officials representing a multitude of perspectives on the wildfire that burned 169 homes last September. Each participant will select and read from works of literature that capture some dimension of their experience.

The program will be at 7 p.m. in the Wolf Law Building's Wittemyer Courtroom on the CU-Boulder campus. The event is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a reception.

Readers will include Will Toor, Boulder County commissioner; Joe Pelle, Boulder County sheriff; Doug Looney, former Sports Illustrated writer and Fourmile resident; Marisha Evans, Boulder High School student and Fourmile resident; Don Whittemore, Rocky Mountain Fire assistant chief; and Rodrigo Moraga, firefighter, co-founder of Anchor Point Fire Management Consultants and Fourmile resident.

The Sept. 6-16, 2010 fire was a devastating event for the Boulder community. It burned more than 6,100 square acres in the mountains west of the city and became the most expensive wildfire in Colorado's history.

"In my 27 years of living in Boulder, few events have been of greater consequence, or more troubling, than the Fourmile Canyon fire," said history Professor Patty Limerick, faculty chair of the center. "The intensity of the loss to individuals and families requires a constant reckoning from all of us, and we are all obligated to put our souls, minds and hearts to work on reflecting on this event, and its lessons for the future. The center is honored by the kindness and openness of the participants who are making it possible for us to hold this event."

Over the past 15 years, the Center of the American West's Words to Stir the Soul series has approached topics of current concern through the literature associated with the selected theme.

CU-Boulder's Center of the American West works on a variety of regional issues, including water management, relationships between federal agencies and communities and economies, land planning, Native American identity, recent art and literature, and the balance of power between tradition and innovation in Western life.

For more information, visit the Center of the American West's website athttp://www.centerwest.org[12] or call 303-492-4879.

Iraqi student to speak on Kurdistan culture, history[13]

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs' first Iraqi graduate will present a seminar highlighting Kurdistan at 2 p.m. Friday, March 11 in the University Center Theater.

Zamawang (Zama) Faisel Almemar will present "Kurdistan: The Other Iraq" to highlight the history, demographics, language, tradition, leaders and politics of her culture. Almemar fled Kurdistan in northern Iraq with her younger brother and parents in 1997. Since arriving in Colorado Springs she became a U.S. citizen, graduated from Palmer High School, and earned two bachelor's degrees and a master's degree from UCCS. Almemar now is attending UCCS in pursuit of a Ph.D. in mechanical and aerospace engineering.

"I feel obligated to present this seminar to educate both the students and the faculty on our campus, as well as the people in our community, about a Muslim country inside of Iraq," Almemar said. "I am hoping that through my lecture I can educate people enough about Kurdistan for them to be able to locate us on a world map and to distinguish Radical Islamists from the average Muslim."

Kurdistan is a geo-cultural region that includes northern Iraq, parts of eastern Turkey, northern Syria, and northwestern Iran. Kurds constitute about 17 percent of Iraq's population. Under Saddam Hussein, Iraqi Kurds faced prosecution and chemical weapons in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The Kurdish population welcomed coalition forces in 2003. The Iraqi Kurdistan Governorate Council elections in 2005 coincided with Iraqi legislative elections.

College of Arts and Media helps audience meet Twain[14]

Hugh Bingham plays Mark Twain

In his signature white suit to match the wild, white tuft of hair, Mark Twain (aka Hugh Bingham) started off the panel discussion gruffly, decrying the Colorado state ordinance prohibiting him from smoking his cigar.

"I cannot speak without cigar in hand," he said brusquely. "I shall work to get the ordinance removed." A standing-room-only crowd at the Denver Press Club cheered, whether in agreement, for the impersonator or both.

As club staff scrambled to set up more chairs for the larger-than-expected turnout on March 3, Stan Soocher, associate professor in the department of music and entertainment industry studies, moderated a panel composed of Bingham; Denver Post columnist William Porter; Bob Baron, owner of Fulcrum Publishing in Golden; and Philip Joseph, associate professor of English. The event was sponsored by the Denver Press Club and CU Denver's College of Arts and Media.

Soocher first read a letter sent to Twain by the Denver Press Club asking the author for a signed photo so patrons could look upon his cheerful face. Twain's handwritten response was, "Write on it: Mark Twain, Dean of the planet's journalism: joined the guild in 1849, aged 14, and has not broken the connection in 58 years."

Panelists outlined Twainâ€˜s life, from working in a print shop, to being river boat pilot to working in the mines.

"I was not a very good miner," Twain (Bingham) chimed into the conversation. "I did not like to work that hard."

"Twain was arguably the most influential storyteller in America," Joseph told the crowd. "His understanding of words as communication; his understanding of writing as a trade; his relationship to words as motivation ... he put pieces of himself in his world of letters."

One of Twain's main motivations, however, was money.

"If Mark Twain were Carmelo Anthony, he would have signed the contract," Joseph said.

Panelists spoke fondly of Samuel Clemens as he transitioned into Mark Twain and transformed American literature.

"Twain parlayed his natural observation and keen wit into his writing," said Baron, noting Twain was the first to compose works in the American vernacular.

A humorist, perfectionist and sensationalist who made up and printed stories as if truth (vaguely correcting them days

later with a simple "I take it back"), Twain embodied the spirit of the country and – as was witnessed by the turnout at the press club – is arguably the most beloved American author of all time.

"He taught us who we were as a people and where we came from," Porter said.

Scientist finds super-survivor population for established lung cancer treatment[16]

[17]
A discovery at the University of Colorado Cancer Center shows testing lung cancer on a molecular level can produce new insights into this deadly disease.

CU Cancer Center member D. Ross Camidge, M.D., Ph.D., director of the thoracic oncology clinical program at University of Colorado Hospital (UCH), turned a chance clinical observation into a new field of discovery in lung cancer.

In October 2010, Camidge and colleagues published a study in the New England Journal of Medicine showing more than half of patients with a specific kind of lung cancer respond positively to a treatment that targets the gene that drives their cancer. Some 57 percent of patients with anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) positive advanced non-small cell lung cancer responded to a tablet called crizotinib, an investigational ALK inhibitor.

Camidge's latest study, published in theJournal of Thoracic Oncology, shows people with ALK-positive lung cancer also have much better outcomes with an established chemotherapy drug called pemetrexed (trade name: alimta).

"We had been running a home-grown clinical trial with pemetrexed in lung cancer when I noticed that some patients were doing astonishingly well on this chemotherapy," said Camidge, associate professor of medical oncology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "Pemetrexed is not like most other chemotherapies. It can be given for long periods of time, often with little in the way of side-effects. However, when someone is given pemetrexed, on average it only takes three to four months before their cancer starts to grow again. But certain people in this trial were responding to the treatment for a year or more. When we started to test their cancers at the molecular level, almost all of those "super-survivors" turned out to be ALK-positive. As ALK-positive lung cancer is only present in about one in 20 people, this was clearly not a coincidence."

Finding that ALK positive patients can be super sensitive to pemetrexed may have multiple implications for the 20,000 patients who are thought to develop this subtype of lung cancer every year in the United States.

"To get a new drug, like crizotinib, approved, it is usually compared to some standard chemotherapy. These new results highlight the importance of choosing that comparator carefully, so a beneficial effect is not missed just because the standard treatment does far better in a specific subgroup than it does in an average population," Camidge said. "This information could prevent the current crizotinib development plans from tripping over an unsuspected hurdle and helping to ensure that good new drugs get licensed when they should."

Knowing there is an established drug that could produce results comparable to the latest targeted therapies such as crizotinib may also help ALK-positive patients around the world. "These results suggest that if you are ALK positive and you don't have access to the experimental drug crizotinib then think about trying pemetrexed instead. It will also be very interesting to see if pemetrexed works as well in ALK positive patients after the crizotinib stops working," he said.

The discovery may even help to identify these rare ALK positive patients in the first place.

"Although good responses can occur in other subtypes of lung cancer, if you or someone you know is having a gang-buster response to pemetrexed and they haven't already been tested for ALK – getting tested is probably the next thing to do," Camidge said.

The CU Cancer Center is an international leader in the molecular testing of lung tumors. In early 2008, the center started testing everyone with lung cancer for genetic mutations. Initially they only tested for two mutations, but now they test for 10 different molecular subtypes of lung cancer, including ALK.

"We test all our lung cancer patients at the Cancer Center," Camidge said. "We decided early on that it was better to be a leader than a follower in this regard. It's really pleasing to see how some of the breakthroughs we have been involved with are influencing the field. Genetic testing is now slowly becoming more common, both in the community and at other major centers. We hope our results offer physicians another incentive to order the testing for their patients. At the end of the day, the most important thing is to get the right medication into the right patient at the right time."

Camidge said while this novel discovery identifies pemetrexed as a one of the therapies of choice for this new subtype of lung cancer, it is just the beginning.

"When you break one disease into multiple different diseases at the molecular level, the possibilities are endless. The excitement we are starting to feel at the Cancer Center is comparable to what the original physician-scientists must have felt a hundred years ago when brand new diseases were being described for the very first time."

Colorado cancer researchers awarded funding[18]

The University of Colorado Cancer Center recently awarded $480,000 in pilot and seed grant funding to Colorado cancer researchers. The funding comes from four programs: the center's National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant, its American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grant, private donations and its Breast Cancer Specialized Program of Research Excellence developing program, funded with donations from Safeway Foundation.

Each project was selected following a competitive review by a committee of peer researchers. These grants will help kick-start new research projects. Often pilot- and seed grant-funded projects go on to receive large federal and private grants based on data collected during the pilot-funded research.

The recipients are:

ACS Institutional Research Grants
Jingshi Shen, Ph.D., assistant professor, molecular, cellular and developmental biology, University of Colorado Boulder: $30,000 for "Cytotoxic T lymphocyte Exocytosis in Cancer Immunotherapy" **Chad G. Peterson**, Ph.D., assistant professor, cell and developmental biology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus: $30,000 for "The Role of Hepatocellular Carcinoma Unregulated Protein ADR16 in Centriole Assembly and Ciliogenesis" **Isabel Rubio Schlaepfer**, Ph.D., instructor/fellow, endocrinology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $30,000 for "Metabolic Therapies for Breast and Prostate Cancer" **Monique A. Spillman**, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, OB/GYN, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $30,000 for "Targeting Ovarian Cancer Biomarkers as Small Animal PET-CT and MRI Imaging Agents" **Gerrit J. Bouman**, Ph.D., assistant professor, biomedical sciences, Colorado State University: 30,000 for "Exosomal MicroRNAs in Ovarian Cancer Stem Cells" **Laurie Carr**, M.D., assistant professor, oncology, National Jewish Health: $30,000 for "Clinical Characterization and Molecular Analysis of Diffuse Idiopathic euroendocrine Cell Hyperplasia"
Cancer Center Support Grant Funding
Shi-Long Lu, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, otolaryngology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $20,000 for "Characterization of Disseminated Tumor Cells in Head and Neck Cancer" **Rebecca Schweppe**, Ph.D., assistant professor, endocrinology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $20,000 for "Focal Adhesion Kinase as a Therapeutic Target in Thyroid Cancer"
CU Cancer Center Gift Fund Grants
Kimberly R. Jordan, Ph.D., fellow, surgery, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $10,000 for "The Immunosuppressive

Effects of Human Melanoma-Induced Myeloid-Derived Suppressor Cells" (Martin McCarter, M.D., sponsor) **Ndiya Ogba**, Ph.D., fellow, endocrinology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $10,000 for "An Estrogen Receptor (ER)-Negative Cell Subpopulation of Luminal Breast Cancer Pioneers Metastasis" (Kathryn Horwitz, Ph.D., sponsor) **Joshua Klopper**, M.D., assistant professor, endocrinology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $20,000 for "Combination VDR Activation and MAPK Inhibition in Thyroid Cancer" **Caroline A. Kulesza**, Ph.D., assistant professor, microbiology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $20,000 for "Analysis of Polycomb Complex Function in Cytomegalovirus Infections"

Breast SPORE Pilot Awards

Thomas Anchordoquy, Ph.D., associate professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy, Anschutz: $50,000 for "Targeting Her-2 Overexpressing Tumor Cells Using Immunoliposomes and a Tw0-Component Strategy" **Xuedong Liu**, Ph.D., associate professor, chemistry, CU-Boulder, and S. Gail Eckhardt, M.D., professor and head, medical oncology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz:Â $50,000 for "Identification of Predictive Markers and Genomic Classifiers for Largazole and Paragazole in Breast Cancer" **Steven Anderson**, professor and vice chair of research, pathology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $50,000 for "Synthetic lethal screen for targets that synthesize with metformin" **Jennifer Richer**, Ph.D., assistant professor, pathology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $25,000 for "A new anti-androgen: potential therapeutic utility in breast cancer" **Bolin Liu**, M.D., M.S., assistant professor, pathology, CU School of Medicine, Anschutz: $25,000 for "ErbB3 augmentation of erbB2-mediated paclitaxel resistance in breast cancer"

UCCS sports information director recognized[19]

Doug Fitzgerald, sports information director for athletics, recently received seven awards in the 2009-10 Fred S. Stabley Writing Contest sponsored by the College Sports Information Directors of America.

Fitzgerald earned second- and third-place national honors and five district awards.

"I had just figured out how to arrange the stuff on my wall," said Fitzgerald, who switched office spaces in late January. "Maybe I'll just put them in a binder."

The second-place national award was in the event coverage category for a Jan. 30, 2010, story headlined "UCCS grabs first-ever win at Kearney." His third-place national award was in the general feature category for a story about the new Gallogly Events Center that appeared in this past year's basketball game programs.

Both of those stories also took first place in District 7. Also taking first in the district but falling short of a national award was a story in the athlete profile category titled "Where in the World is Scott Sublousky?"

Taking second place in the district in the general feature category was another Fitzgerald entry called "Endangered Species" that outlined the difficulties faced by teams in the lone wolf role under the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference's former scheduling format. He duplicated the 1-2 finish in the event coverage category with "Feilmeier's 3-pointers Reward record Crowd as UCCS Beats Regis in Overtime."

CoSIDA District 7 is composed of all colleges and universities in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Alberta and Saskatchewan that have intercollegiate athletics.

Fitzgerald has earned more than 30 writing awards since being named the sports information director at UCCS in October 2000.

Unlike other contests and competitions in the world of collegiate sports, the Stabley writing contest is not broken down into divisions based on size or funding. Sports information directors and their assistants from NCAA Divisions I, II and II as well as those from NAIA schools and junior colleges compete together.

The annual CoSIDA Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Contest recognizes members of CoSIDA for excellence in feature writing, historical features, administrator/coach profiles and event coverage writing. Entries are judged on overall writing style, correct use of English, inventiveness, written presentation and the ease with which the reader acquires the information.

CU-Boulder professors edit new history of the state[20]

[21]
Traditional accounts of Colorado's history often reflect an Anglocentric perspective that begins with the 1859 Pikes Peak gold rush and Colorado's establishment as a state in 1876. But a new book, edited by several University of Colorado Boulder professors, expands the study of Colorado's past and present by adopting a borderlands perspective that emphasizes the multiplicity of peoples who have inhabited this region.

The book was edited by **Arturo Aldama,** associate chair and associate professor of ethnic studies and **Elisa Facio, Daryl Maeda** and**Reiland Rabaka**, also associate professors of ethnic studies.

"Enduring Legacies, Ethnic Histories and Cultures of Colorado" addresses the dearth of scholarship on the varied communities within the state, a zone in which collisions structured by forces of race, nation, class, gender, and sexuality inevitably lead to the transformation of cultures and the emergence of new identities.

This volume is the first to bring together comparative scholarship on historical and contemporary issues that span groups from Chicanas and Chicanos to African Americans to Asian Americans.

Boulder dining services director profiled[22]

Beckstrom

Amy Beckstrom, director of dining services at the University of Colorado Boulder, recently was profiled[24] in the Foodservice Director Magazine.

The article highlighted her career at CU, which began in 2007; the successful launch of the Center for Community building's culinary and educational opportunities; her efforts at promoting sustainability; and her emphasis on leadership and teamwork.

Procurement Month means open houses[25]

For the third straight year, the Procurement Service Center (PSC) will celebrate Procurement Month by holding open houses on each CU campus.

The CU Denver open house is set for 1-4 p.m. Thursday, March 10, at the PSC offices on the fifth floor of 1800 Grant.

The popular event allows you to meet staff from the PSC and discuss your department-specific procurement needs.

Attendees report that this interaction is helpful in making their work – and their departments' work – easier.

Joining the PSC at the open houses will be staff from the Office of University Controller-Finance and Procurement Business Services, the FinPro Help Desk, and representatives from the university's strategic suppliers: Christopherson Business Travel, Colorado Correctional Industries (CCi), Dell, Fisher Scientific, Konica Minolta, Staples and Xerox.

To register, go to www.cu.edu/psc[26] Questions: Charlene Lydick, 303-764-3450.

Boulder Staff Council sets spring luncheon[27]

[28]
Boulder Staff Council's 2011 spring luncheon, featuring a Western barbecue theme, is open to all CU-Boulder classified/professional exempt staff. The lunch is set for 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. March 31 in the UMC Glenn Miller Ballroom. Deadline for RSVP, which is required, is Wednesday, March 16. To view a poster for the event, click here.

Cost is $5 per person. Donations of personal care items for Emergency Family Assistance appreciated. This is a green-friendly event. Bring Buff One card. Contact Staff Council at 303-492-5473 or Scouncil@colorado.edu[29].

The spring lunch is just one effort of the Boulder Campus Staff Council. It also promotes the local Employee Discount Benefits pages and **new** state employee discounts atColorado.PerkSpot.com[30]; the fall staff breakfast; summer ice cream social/employee fair; several Bonfils blood drives annually; winter warmth drive; and years of service awards, certificates and ceremony and more.

Membership on the council is not required to take part in committee work; committees include awards, blood drive, communications, elections, health and wellness, outreach events and others.

Boulder campus nominations for staff council are being taken at www.colorado.edu/staffcouncil[31]. You may nominate yourself or anyone else in the classified/professional exempt employee class. Nominees must have approval support from their supervisor.

Colloquium to examine high school girls' connection to STEM education[32]

Distinguished Professor Margaret Eisenhart invites university personnel to attend the CU-Boulder School of Education Spring Colloquium, "We Can't Get There From Here': The Meaning and Context of High School Girls' Engagement With STEM."

The event is set for noon-1p.m. March 18 in room 220 of the Education building.

Eisenhart notes that calls for the U.S. to address the lack of diversity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are ubiquitous. Join in as Eisenhart reports results of a four-year research project, Female Recruits Explore Engineering (FREE), designed to interest high school girls of color in engineering.

From 2006-2009, she and her team worked with high-achieving girls of color in Colorado, Iowa and Ohio; all the girls were strong students in math and science, but only 18 percent were considering engineering in college. In FREE, they were encouraged, their interest rose, and many developed emergent identities as possible engineers, but most did not

pursue engineering. What happened?

Eisenhart argues that the meaning and context of minority girls' attempts to engage with engineering constitute a new landscape of inequality. When one of the girls told her, "We can't get there from here," she was right.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/educators-explore-unconventional-ways-boosting-learning-teaching[2] http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-has-eyes-pera-legislation[4] http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2011a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont/12EFFCC387624EE187257816005ECC55?Open&file=076_ren.pdf[5] http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2011a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont/D20B4CFD4627B5EF8725782C00792077?Open&file=1248_01.pdf[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/teach-your-children-well-crosby-nash-address-cwa[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/cwa-cn.jpg[8] http://www.colorado.edu/cwa[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-thomas-riis[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q-page-riis1.jpg[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/fourmile-canyon-fire-be-remembered-spoken-word-event[12] http://www.centerwest.org/[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/iraqi-student-speak-kurdistan-culture-history[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/college-arts-and-media-helps-audience-meet-twain[15] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ucd_twain.jpg[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/scientist-finds-super-survivor-population-established-lung-cancer-treatment[17] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/amc_camidge.jpg[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/colorado-cancer-researchers-awarded-funding[19] https://connections.cu.edu/people/uccs-sports-information-director-recognized[20] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-boulder-professors-edit-new-history-state[21] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_enduringlegacy.jpg[22] https://connections.cu.edu/people/boulder-dining-services-director-profiled[23] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_Beckstrom.jpg[24] http://www.foodservicedirector.com/fsd-of-the-month/amy-beckstrom-creating-community.html[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/procurement-month-means-open-houses[26] https://www.cu.edu/psc/[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boulder-staff-council-sets-spring-luncheon[28] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/dyk_poster.jpg[29] mailto:Scouncil@colorado.edu[30] https://colorado.perkspot.com/[31] http://www.colorado.edu/staffcouncil[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colloquium-examine-high-school-girls-connection-stem-education