Bollard, Laird, Kelly-Bowry receive honors from Faculty Council[1]

Tanya Kelly-Bowry is joined by members of her family, the Government Relations team and CU President Bruce Benson for last week's award presentation. (Photo: Cathy Beuten)

Three special awards recognizing exemplary leadership and service were handed out by the University of Colorado's Faculty Council during its April 24 meeting at 1800 Grant St.

Kathleen Bollard, with her husband, David Click, is congratulated by President Benson. (Photo: Cathy Beuten)

Kathleen Bollard, vice president of academic affairs and professor of Spanish, received the Leadership in Public Higher Education Award, in part, for her work with stakeholders developing policies that benefit the state, the CU community and students.

Bollard has been a CU faculty member for 19 years. The Faculty Council award resolution stated that Bollard was recognized for the "quality and integrity of her commitment to faculty rights and responsibilities," and for using her knowledge of legislative and regulatory processes toward the betterment of all higher educators, the regents and campus administrators.

"It has been such an extraordinary privilege to work with the faculty," she said. "It's been the most fulfilling part of this job. I've met with people from all over the country from different systems and the model of shared governance we have here and the collaborative way that administration, faculty and staff all work together for the university and the best interest of students is really extraordinary. It's really unusual and something I think we should all treasure."

Melinda Piket-May, outgoing chair of Faculty Council, with President Benson. (Photo: Cathy Beuten)

Melinda Piket-May, chair of Faculty Council, said the leadership award only has been given out twice before – to former CU presidents Betsy Hoffman and Hank Brown. "It's a very special award and it means a lot to us to give out the award this year," she said.

Pam Laird, professor of history at CU Denver, was given the Distinguished Service Award for her commitment to faculty rights and responsibilities and for "acting as a significant force" in improving working conditions for lecturers and instructors. Laird has served as a faculty member for more than 25 years and has been a member of Faculty Council since 2002. She also has served on numerous committees both at CU Denver and systemwide.

"It's been a great honor to be at CU and I have to say that shared governance is what gives us a chance to make a difference," Laird said.

Pam Laird, professor of history at CU Denver, receiving the Distinguished Service Award from President Benson. (Photo: Cathy Beuten)

Tanya Kelly-Bowry, vice president of government relations, received the Administrator of the Year Award for serving with distinction to successfully lobby bills to assist the university campuses and their capital construction needs. The Faculty Council resolution honoring Kelly-Bowry, who has worked at the university for 16 years, pointed out that she has cultivated and built relationships with hundreds of legislators and policy leaders at both the state and federal level and has "gained the confidence and respect of the faculty while serving the best interests of faculty, staff and students."

Her family and government relations staff looked on as Kelly-Bowry, clearly touched by the honor, received the award.

"I've received a lot of awards, but this one is so meaningful because you are the ones who have kept us together

when state money has gone down and federal funds have dried up," she said. "This is one of the highest honors I have ever received, and I'm very grateful to the faculty for all of the incredible work you all do."

The council also recognized Piket-May, whose term as chair of the organization is ending. Borgelt said Piket-May has been appreciated during the past two years for the way she has strived to "do the right thing and respond in a way that captures all of the stakeholders" while advocating for faculty in a positive way.

In other business during the Faculty Council-Faculty Senate meeting:
Faculty Council elected officers for the coming term. Those who will serve in officer positions are: chair, Laura Borgelt; vice chair, Julaine Field; and secretary, Peggy Jobe. E. Jill Pollock, vice president for employee and information services, told faculty members that the university is reviewing current retirement plans offered by the university. Currently, there are three vendors for the university's 401A plan, which is funded by both participants and CU; a second, optional plan -- 403B – has eight vendors. The university is in the process of assessing the plans to determine whether fewer vendors would be more cost-efficient; plan participants will be asked for input as the process moves along.Any changes would have minimal effects on enrollees, Pollock said. If a certain plan is no longer available, participants will be notified and will have the choice of leaving their money with that plan, picking another plan, rolling the funds over, or placing the funds into an IRA. She said participants of the eliminated plan would no longer be able to contribute to that plan through a tax-deferred payroll deduction. Piket-May gave council members an update on the issue of presidential succession. She said some regents feel that the best way to handle succession is for the chair of the Board of Regents to appoint one of the university's vice presidents or chancellors to the role should the president be unable to fulfill his duties.Currently, the policy states that the vice president of academic affairs would become interim president until the board was able to appoint someone.Piket-May also informed faculty council that a faculty representative will be part of all vice presidential searches. A recently proposed change to university policy stipulated that Faculty Council would only have representation on a search committee for the vice president of academic affairs; however, that language now has been revised. President Bruce Benson gave a report on the state of the university. He said pending legislation, HB 14-1319, which ties some state funding to higher education institutions based on performance metrics, is of concern to the university and several other colleges. The legislation, proposed by House Speaker Mark Ferrandino, D-Denver, has been revised several times, and is likely to be revised further as it moves through the legislative process.Benson said the system has been making progress in several areas that were targeted for improvement. Once of those is a revamp of the CU Foundation and revising ways in which the university raises money. Benson said the university should be raising three times the amount of money it now receives from donors.He also said he believes in "discussion and debate" and wants to continue to attract conservative scholars to the university. He said that three more MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are on the launching pad; currently six courses are available and nearly 190,000 people have signed up for those courses.Because he believes state funding for higher education likely will run dry in less than a decade, Benson said the university is developing a marketing plan to better showcase university research and programs in order to increase revenue sources. He pointed to the recently announced Center for Personalized Medicine and Biomedical Informatics on the Anschutz Medical Campus as one area that places the university among the nation's elite institutions.Other positives, he said, include the revamped Boulder athletics department, the expansion of class offerings in south Denver in an 11,000-square-foot area at the Wildlife Experience, and continued construction and revitalization on all campuses.

Program Prioritization findings presented to Board of Regents[6]

Leadership at two CU campuses presented findings from their Program Prioritization studies at Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Regents at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Regents last year requested the evaluations to be undertaken at all campuses; CU Denver l Anschutz Medical Campus continues work on its efforts.

Regent Kyle Hybl, who led the committee looking at the matter, thanked all faculty, staff and administration for their work on the reports, which generally listed academic and non-academic programs from highly effective or exemplary down to those less effective or needing further review.

The CU-Boulder report was presented by Chancellor Philip DiStefano; the UCCS report was presented by Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak.

“I don’t think it’s a process that is ever over,” Regent Glen Gallegos told the chancellors. “You’ve set up a process for continuous improvement, which I think is important.”

Some board members voiced concern about the information not going deep enough – to the point where specific courses could be identified as possible areas of curtailment.

Regent James Geddes said he’s worried that the information presented by the Boulder and Colorado Springs campuses doesn’t drill down to the curriculum level, where meaningful decisions could be made.

“One of the goals of all this is to see if we cannot streamline our services to our students and be more efficient with their dollars,” Geddes said. “This may have some benefit, but I’m concerned it’s a bit too big of a picture.”

Regent Steve Bosley asked whether the studies had yet determined areas for potential cost savings. Shockley-Zalabak and DiStefano said they and campus leadership are examining duplicated processes that could be averted to realize savings. DiStefano noted that the Office of Contracts and Grants decided to go paperless after the evaluation; he said outsourcing may be considered in other areas as a way of lowering costs, as well as making more efficient use of existing space on campus.

Still, Geddes said he hoped to see efforts made to reduce the number of core classes offered.

“I was hoping this would be one of our primary strategies to reduce the cost of higher education,” Geddes said. “Why should a student pay for some Mickey Mouse course that others are taking just to get out of a requirement?”

DiStefano said academic rigor is among the criteria considered when evaluating courses and is key to whether or not a course remains an offering. As for easing student costs, he said, “I believe our initiative to increase the graduation rate is going to help us save money for our students more than anything else.”

CU-Boulder has stated a goal of increasing its six-year graduation rate from 68 percent to 80 percent.

“That’s going to take better advising, looking at core curriculum, making sure students can take courses and get them when they need them," DiStefano said. "To me, that’s one of our primary goals, that we can get more students out of the university more quickly.”

Shockley-Zalabak said that courses with low enrollment numbers at UCCS already undergo review, and that consistently low enrollment results in discontinuation.

Regent Irene Griego said curriculum should be considered carefully in such evaluations. “We need to look at it from that broad perspective of what students need to do to be competitive in the world when they graduate,” she said.

Some findings from the CU-Boulder Program Prioritization:

Cited as “highly effective” academic programs were: Psychology, Integrative Physiology, Sociology, Education, Economics and Geography.

Named as “less than effective” academic programs were ATLAS (Alliance for Technology, Learning And Society) and Comparative Literature. DiStefano said he expects ATLAS to rebound soon after a period of instability and change in leadership, and that comparative literature could be best served as an offering of a different program, rather than as a free-standing one.

Among non-academic programs, the Candidates for Enrichment were: Office for Performance Improvement, Admissions, Veteran Services, Disability Services, Student Financial Aid Programs, Office of Research Integrity (ORI) and Office of the Registrar.

Those non-academic programs requiring further review were: Faculty and Staff Assistance Program (FSAP); Fee-Funded Programs; Planning, Budget and Analysis; and the Alumni Association.

DiStefano said programs needing significant attention will be evaluated further, with the aim of addressing what immediate action must be taken in order to improve performance.

A CU-Boulder Campus Town Hall meeting is set for 1 p.m. Friday, May 2, in Old Main Chapel; Provost Russ Moore and Senior Vice Chancellor Kelly Fox will lead the session. Click here[7] for more information.

From the UCCS findings:

Named as “exemplary” academic programs were: Health Care Sciences (BS), Psychology (BA), Geography & Environmental Studies (BA), Psychology (MA), Psychology (PHD), Mechanical Engineering (BS) and Physics (BS).

Listed as academic programs requiring further study were: Interdisciplinary Sciences (MSc), Political Science (BA), Communication (MA), Engineering (ME), Applied Math (MS), Economics (BA) and Distributed Studies (BA).

The “exemplary” non-academic programs: Chancellor's Office & Administration, VCAF Administration, Admissions & Records, Public Safety, Financial Aid, Facilities & Construction, Kraemer Family Library.

Non-academic programs requiring further study: Office of Harassment & Discrimination, Gerontology Center, Career Center, Heller Center, Food Services, Legal Counsel, Honors Program, Development, Homeland Security, EPIIC (El Pomar Institute for Innovation and Commercialization, formerly CITTI), NISSSC (National Institute of Science, Space and Security Centers) Space Studies Center, Small Business Development Center, Center for Government & Individual.

Shockley-Zalabak said the findings will influence development of the campus’s 2015-16 budget; among future action planned is for leadership to meet with all programs in the “Further Study” areas to determine action based on quality, leadership, structure, resources, enrollment (retention and degree conferral), productivity, services provided, criticality to mission, and potential.

CU Online Education Committee suggests coordinating course and support options[8]

By scaling existing infrastructure, the University of Colorado is poised to expand its high-quality online courses for current and future students. But there’s much to do in very little time.

“We’re not first out of the gate, not by a long shot,” Deborah Keyek-Franssen, associate vice president for digital education and engagement, told the CU Board of Regents on Tuesday during its meeting at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. “This endeavor, whatever it turns out to be, needs to be a top priority for the university if it is to succeed.”

CU’s Online Education Committee, selected by campus chancellors and provosts, crammed a year’s worth of traditional academic committee work into six weeks and three meetings, she said. The committee focused specifically on ways to serve students more effectively by increasing access to CU courses on any campus through concurrent enrollment, clarifying the applicability of transfer courses toward degrees, and providing increased online course and program offerings. What they came up with is an overview of steps CU needs to take to consolidate and expand its resources and to make it easier for students to use online courses toward their degrees.

“The group got together and said, ‘You know what? The time for incremental change is past, we need to be bold,’” Keyek-Franssen said. “If we don’t get out there with more online courses and programs, our students will go elsewhere.”

The committee recommended capitalizing on the expertise on the campuses to quickly increase the number of online programs available to current and future students. It also determined the most efficient – and time-saving – option is to base the infrastructure for all campuses at CU Online at CU Denver. The campuses would remain in control of their courses, she said.

Other steps included using targeted start-up and seed funding and determining success metrics.

“In the short term, we will work with CFOs to develop business and revenue models,” Keyek-Franssen said. “Peer institutions have operations that after two or three years are self-sufficient.” The committee’s safe projections were three to four years until self-sufficiency, she said. “We know that over time we will be able to sustain this.”

Committee suggestions also included:

- establishing an online education advisory board

- 10 working groups to simultaneously develop and advance the online infrastructure and its progress

- expanding the Office of Digital Education and Engagement’s role to include overseeing state authorization and marketing

- an expanded help desk through CU Online

“Our peer institutions spend a lot of money on marketing and we shouldn’t skimp on that,” Keyek-Franssen said.

Although the details have yet to be ironed out, measures suggested by the committee could lead to increased revenues, cost savings, and shared services for a systemwide learning management system, video and web conferencing tools, instructional design support, as well as faculty development.

The projected timeline for the transition is aggressive. Keyek-Franssen said she hopes to be able to work with CFOs to develop a business and revenue model and identify start-up funds within a couple of months, to begin scaling CU Online to launch a course and program search website in the fall, and to secure seed funding and have departments submit proposals for new program funding by late fall or early spring.

The committee was convened after the December board meeting in which regents heard a task force recommendation on new technologies from a report by Goldstein and Associates, and an alternative, more aggressive proposal by Regent Stephen Ludwig.

Ludwig said he was encouraged by the committee’s conclusions.

“I know we pushed really hard on this one but I’m excited about where you’re going. I don’t want to lose momentum,” said Ludwig, who told the board and President Bruce Benson that he was willing to go whatever distance to ensure the plan becomes a reality, including fundraising and lobbying to advance the CU Online infrastructure.

“I’m dead serious about it. . . . I’ll get on airplanes and go talk to foundations,” Ludwig said.

Regents roundup[9]

News and notes from the Tuesday and Wednesday meeting of the CU Board of Regents on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora:
The board on Wednesday discussed a proposed change to the process for appointing an interim university president in the event the current president is unable to perform the office’s duties. The current procedure calls for the vice president of academic affairs to be immediately named the interim president until the board can convene to choose an

interim president. Chair Michael Carrigan said the proposed change would require the board chair to choose a temporary president from among current vice presidents and chancellors, to be followed by the full board convening to choose an interim president. Regent Joe Neguse expressed reservations about such a change, which he said would unnecessarily add extra steps to the process and potentially lead to the person appointed temporary president feeling slighted should the board choose a different successor. The proposal will be voted on by the board at its June meeting. Steven Hayward, the first Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy at CU-Boulder, on Tuesday reported to the board on his one-year appointment, which concludes this semester. He called it “an overwhelmingly positive experience for me.” Despite being initially apprehensive about the role, he said he changed his mind over the course of the year. “I think there were some great advantages to showing up on campus as the ‘sandwich board’ conservative.” He also commended faculty for not overtly exerting political bias in their work. “My perception is that the overwhelming majority of faculty in the humanities and social sciences – while mostly or very liberal – conform to the highest models of teaching excellence and objectivity,” he told the board. If and when views are not represented, he said, it’s likely out of omission or unawareness, rather than because of bias. Most board members, representing both major parties, thanked Hayward for his work. “We need great debate and thoughtful people,” said Regent Stephen Ludwig. The board on Wednesday passed a change in language to passages pertaining to faculty evaluation. The revision, first proposed by Faculty Council, changes references from “faculty service” to “faculty leadership and service,” a reflection of the value of leadership work undertaken by faculty members that might have previously gone undervalued during evaluations. Following recommendations from its Laws and Policies Committee, the board on Wednesday passed a minor revision to Policy 3.G, regarding evaluation of non-presidential personnel with reporting roles to the Board of Regents, to reflect significant regent involvement in the process. The board also passed a travel policy, articulating approvals for regent travel that had been followed customarily. Phil Zeitler, M.D., Ph.D., was presented Tuesday with the Chase Faculty Community Service Award. He is professor of Pediatrics and Clinical Sciences; head, Section of Pediatric Endocrinology, CU Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus; and chair, Department of Endocrinology, Children's Hospital Colorado. Regent Vice Chair Sue Sharkey reported that 4,500 responses to the relaunched Social Climate Survey had been received as of Tuesday morning. The board on Tuesday approved two new degrees at CU Denver: master of arts in applied geography and geo-spatial science and master of science in taxation. The board also approved the merging of the existing immunology and microbiology departments in the School of Medicine; a program plan for the acquisition and renovation of 2860 Wilderness Place in Boulder; and a term contract for UCCS coach Jeff Culver. The host campus report was provided Tuesday by Huntington Potter, Ph.D., professor and director of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research and Clinical Center, Department of Neurology and Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome. He discussed efforts to have the center earn a designation as a federal Alzheimer’s research center, and answered questions about his work.

Rural microbes could boost city dwellers’ health, according to new paper involving CU-Boulder[10]

The greater prevalence of asthma, allergies and other chronic inflammatory disorders among people of lower socioeconomic status might be due in part to their reduced exposure to the microbes that thrive in rural environments, according to a new scientific paper co-authored by a University of Colorado Boulder researcher.

The article, published in the journal Clinical & Experimental Immunology, argues that people living in urban centers who have less access to green spaces may be more apt to have chronic inflammation, a condition caused by immune system dysfunction.

When our immune systems are working properly, they trigger inflammation to fight off dangerous infections, but the inflammation disappears when the infection is gone. However, a breakdown in immune system function can cause a low level of inflammation to persist indefinitely. Such chronic inflammation can cause a host of health disorders.

“Chronic inflammation can lead to all kinds of problems from irritable bowel syndrome to asthma to allergies and even depression,” said Christopher Lowry, an associate professor in CU-Boulder’s Department of Integrative Physiology and a co-author of the paper. “The rise of chronic inflammation and these associated disorders, especially among people living in the cities of developed countries, is troubling.”

The two other article co-authors are Graham Rook of UCL (University College London) and Charles Raison of the University of Arizona.

Some scientists have hypothesized that the increase of chronic inflammation in wealthier Western countries is connected to lifestyles that have essentially become too clean. The so-called “hygiene hypothesis” is based on the notion that some microbes and infections interact with the immune system to suppress inflammation and that eliminating exposure to those things could compromise your health.

But the idea that picking up more germs could boost our immune system function does not at first seem to hold up when applied to low-income urbanites, who suffer disproportionately from both infections caused by germs and disorders linked to chronic inflammation. The authors of the new paper say this apparent disconnect is due to a misunderstanding of the hygiene hypothesis.

The authors agree that microbes and some types of infections are important because they can keep the immune system from triggering inflammation when it’s not necessary, as happens with asthma attacks and allergic reactions.

But they say the infections that were historically important to immune system development have largely been eliminated in developed countries. The modern diseases we pick up from school, work and other crowded areas today do not actually lead to lower instances of inflammatory disorders.

“The idea that we’re too clean—that gives the wrong impression,” said Lowry. “You want people to wash their hands because hygiene is important to avoid infections that are harmful.”

During our evolutionary history, the human immune system was exposed to microbes and infections in three important ways: commensal microbes were passed to infants from their mothers and other family members; people came into contact with nonpathogenic microbes in the environment; and people lived with chronic infections, such as helminths, which are parasitic worms found in the gut and blood.

In order for those “old infections” to be tolerated in the body for long periods of time, they evolved a mechanism to keep the human immune system from triggering inflammation. Similarly, environmental bacteria, which were abundant and harmless, were tolerated by the immune system.

According to Rook, a professor at UCL, “Helminthic parasites need to be tolerated by the immune system because, although not always harmless, once they are established in the host efforts by the immune system to eliminate them are futile, and merely cause tissue damage.”

In contrast, relatively modern “crowd infections,” such as measles or chicken pox, cause an inflammatory response. The result is that either the sick person dies or the infection is wiped out by the inflammation and the person becomes immune from having the same infection again in the future.

Collectively, the authors refer to the microbes and old infections that had a beneficial impact on the function of our immune systems as “old friends.” Exposure to old friends plays an important role in guarding against inflammatory disorders, the authors said. Because the “old infections” are largely absent from the developed world, exposure to environmental microbes—such as those found in rural environments, like farms and green spaces—has likely become even more important.

The authors say this would explain why low-income urban residents—who cannot easily afford to leave the city for rural vacations—are more likely to suffer from inflammatory disorders. The problem is made worse because people who live in densely populated areas also are more likely to contract crowd infections, which cause more inflammation.

In other words, city dwellers of low socioeconomic status might benefit both from being “cleaner” and “dirtier,” depending on the context. Like all people, better hygiene—like washing their hands more frequently, for example—could help them avoid crowd infections while more opportunities to “play in the dirt,” like visiting green spaces, could allow their immune systems to come into contact with more beneficial microbes.

“You don’t want the crowd infections,” said Lowry. “But you do want to find ways to increase your exposure to ‘old friends.’ ”

Tenure list: April 2014[11]

At its meeting Wednesday at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, the Board of Regents approved tenure for three faculty members, effective Aug. 18, 2014.

University of Colorado Boulder, College of Arts and Sciences
Nichole Barger, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. **Celeste Montoya,** Women and Gender Studies. **Antje Richter,** Asian Languages and Civilizations.

Employee philanthropists thanked at luncheon[12]

From left, Matt Wasserman, vice chancellor for development at CU Denver; professor Sonja Foss; professor emeritus Peter Bryant; and Lori Goldstein, senior director of gift planning at CU Denver.

If you want to make your time at CU Denver even more rewarding than it already is, consider giving back in any manner you can.

That was the message delivered at the Office of Development's[14] CU Denver Faculty/Staff/Retiree luncheon on April 25. The annual event celebrates university employees who give back to the institution through estate gifts, donations, payroll deductions and other ways.

More than 80 people attended the Terrace Room lunch that honored faculty, staff and retirees for giving not only of their professional energy, but their financial resources, to the institution. Two faculty who have contributed generously—professor emeritus Peter Bryant, Ph.D., and professor Sonja Foss, Ph.D. — explained why philanthropy matters and encouraged the university community to give back.

Chancellor Don Elliman[15] welcomed the gathering and thanked everyone for their support of CU Denver. "We're here to celebrate how some people have gone to extraordinary lengths to give back not only of their time, but of their treasure, and for that we are obviously very grateful," he said.

Matt Wasserman[14], vice chancellor for development at CU Denver, said CU Denver has seen "incredible growth over the last five years" in philanthropy, which has translated into more scholarships and programs for students. "In this day and age of declining state funding, philanthropy can really move the needle and bring great things to CU Denver," he said.

Two faculty members who've consistently worked to improve the lives of students, through both their teaching and philanthropy, are Bryant and Foss.

Bryant, who started teaching in the CU Denver Business School[16] in 1981, said that "building a new and greater institution is complicated, but history proves it's possible." He read passages from the book, "When MIT was Boston Tech," to illustrate his point.

Bryant, who is now retired but works part time in the Ombuds Office[17], acknowledged that he has sometimes struggled to embrace change. "Changes like more and younger undergraduates, campus consolidations and rearrangements, new funding sources," he said. "These changes are hard, but they're good."

He said it's usually more fun to be a part of the change—for him it was being part of the team that launched the University Honors and Leadership Program[18]—than to sit back and watch it happen. "There must be 100 initiatives going on like that around here," Bryant said. "Which one might you get enthusiastic about? Think about it. Think about your resources, time, passion, money, expertise. And find a way to give some of them back to CU Denver on a continuing basis."

Foss, a professor in the Department of Communications[19], College of Liberal Arts and Sciences[20], used an analogy to describe CU Denver as being a "pirate ship" as opposed to having the heft of the flagship. "We are nimble and we can do things with our resources that are innovative," she said. She has set up a bequest in the Department of Communications[21] to fund graduate student travel and research.

Philanthropy is about leaving a lasting impression on the lives of CU Denver students as well as improving the overall institution, Foss noted. "All of us benefit from the booty that we share with all of the hands on this pirate ship of ours," she said. "It helps all of our departments and the university as a whole be a place where we want to be."

Lori Goldstein, senior director of gift planning at CU Denver, said the university has about 40 recorded estate gifts, also known as legacy gifts, that will ultimately benefit CU Denver. "That's the tip of the iceberg, because by far the majority of people who leave a legacy gift don't tell us about it," she said. "Of this select group of people who have confirmed their legacy gifts, almost half are present or past staff and faculty. ... Even if you are not, or are not yet, one of the employees who give personally, it's likely that you work with or know or have known some of the people who do."

Wasserman emphasized that "every gift has an impact—no matter how large or small." The Office of Development is happy to help employees learn of opportunities for giving to CU Denver[22].

Groundbreaking marks beginning of expanded student housing[23]

[24]

University of Colorado Colorado Springs leaders, construction contractors and representatives of the CU Board of Regents broke ground late Friday morning on a $74.5 million 515-bed expansion of UCCS student housing.

The first phase of Village at Alpine Valley is scheduled to open in August 2015 and will include space for 292 students, a new dining hall and additional academic programming areas. A second phase, scheduled to open in August 2016, will include space for 223 more students to live. When completed, UCCS will have space for 1,640 students to live on campus.

A 2012 UCCS Strategic Plan identified need to construct more on-campus student housing to accommodate future enrollment growth at UCCS.

About 100 people attended the ceremony.

Click here[25] for photos and video at Communique[26].

LITeS program trains innovative leaders[27]

Malik Y. Kahook

Innovation was the theme for the 2014 cohort of the Leadership for Innovative Team Science[29] (LITeS) program. Participants shared their collaborative projects and were recognized for their achievements on April 18.

Designed to hone leadership skills, the LITeS program is offered annually by the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute[30] (CCTSI) to selected senior and emerging leaders for clinical and translational research at the University of Colorado. The yearlong program requires participants to take part in a quarterly series of two-day workshops, as well as individualized coaching and feedback sessions.

This year's LITeS cohort was composed of 28 participants representing the five professional schools based at CU Anschutz.

"Our days on the Anschutz Medical Campus are very busy, and we all tend to spend most of our time with the same people within our departments," said Malik Y. Kahook[31], M.D., professor in the School of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology. "LITeS was an opportunity for me to spend time with colleagues from other departments.

"The program is well organized and provides insight into various leadership styles and communication techniques. The lessons I learned would benefit all faculty on the campus, and I feel fortunate that I was given the chance to complete the LITeS program."

Exploring innovation

The participants were divided into teams of seven and given one question to explore on the topic of 'innovation and how that innovation can be implemented in the context of the university.' The four questions posed to the 2014 cohort were:
How might the roles, responsibilities, and rewards of faculty be innovatively conceptualized and managed in consideration of today's social and institutional obligations and constraints? How important is prioritization of programs and services in the context of the university's mission and impact; can prioritization be accomplished more innovatively than in the past? How might our institutions' responses to health care reform be shaped by innovation in our approaches to patient care and community wellness? How could an innovative and nimble entrepreneurial orientation be built into our academic, clinical and research efforts?
Treasure trove of talent

Judith Albino[32], Ph.D., LITes director and associate dean for planning and development with the Colorado School of Public Health, praised the "treasure trove" of talent and told the audience that the only assignment she set for each team was to produce something meaningful in response to their question. Albino praised the cohort for the "thoughtful and provocative way in which they addressed the questions."

Audience members were advised by Albino to listen closely to each presentation as they were "unlikely to find again, in one room, so much talent and so many brilliant minds who are uniquely prepared to address a simple question that is critically important to each and every one of us—how do we make a great academic enterprise even better than it is today?"

After each of the four teams presented their findings, participants received a certificate from Albino, Ronald J. Sokol [33], M.D., director and principal investigator of CCTSI, and Marc Moss, M.D., CCTSI's education, training and career development director.

Along with Kahook, the LITeS participants in 2014 were: Kristin Bruk Artinger, Ingrid Binswanger, Warren Capell, Clifton Carey, Nichole Carlson, Ethan Carter, Doug Coatsworth, Frank deGruy, Gerald D. Dodd, Tasha E. Fingerlin, Kari Franson, Jacob E. (Jed) Friedman, David Goff, Michael Graner, Jason Haukoos, Nancy Krebs, Jerrod Milton, Peter Mourani, Kathryn Partin, Huntington Potter, Angie Ribera, Paul Rozance, Carol Runyan, Sarah Thompson,

Rachael Van Pelt, Marsha Wheeler and Cara Wilson.

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs Roderick Nairn, Ph.D., and Chancellor Don Elliman attended the April 18 program.

CCTSI is seeking nominations for the 2014-2015 group as well as ideas for the LITeS team projects. Nominations should be sent to Emily Warren[34], MA. Self-nominations are welcome and nominations received by June 1, 2014, will be prioritized.

Lisa Feldman selected as CU annual giving chief[35]

[36]
Following a national search, the University of Colorado has named Lisa Feldman as assistant vice president of annual giving for the Office of Advancement, a role she begins today.

Feldman brings a strong track record and more than 20 years of broad-based development experience to the position. Most recently, Feldman served as executive director for the UCLA Fund at the University of California, Los Angeles, overseeing a team of 30 to raise more than $18 million annually from 32,000 donors.

Feldman also has served as a regional director of major and principal gifts for the Alzheimer's Association and director of annual giving programs at Loyola Marymount University.

"I am very pleased and excited to be joining the University of Colorado," Feldman said. "It is an outstanding university, and this is an exciting moment in the evolution of its fundraising operations. As a product of the public university system, I am honored to serve CU, which represents tremendous diversity and opportunity for our future leaders. I appreciate the trust and confidence placed in me, and I will work hard to earn the faith of our donors and university partners."

At CU, Feldman will be charged with enhancing the university's centralized annual giving program in a way that serves the cultures and demographics of each campus, while realizing the economies of scale and consistency of a centrally managed operation.

"It is a great pleasure to welcome Lisa to the CU Advancement team," said Kelly Cronin, vice president of the Office of Advancement. "Her extensive leadership and annual giving experience will help us build partnerships and maximize support for the outstanding people, places, and programs throughout CU."

Feldman graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1985 with a B.S. in political science. Although new to the state, she; her husband, Shimon; and their three grown children are looking forward to their new lives in Colorado.

Leinwand elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences[37]

[38]
Leslie Leinwand, chief scientific officer for CU-Boulder's BioFrontiers Institute and a professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, has been selected as a member of the 2014 class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which honors the leading "thinkers and doers" from each generation, including scientists, scholars, writers and artists.

Leinwand is an expert in cardiovascular disease.

“Her election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an outstanding recognition of Leslie’s scientific contributions to understanding the biology of the heart,” said BioFrontiers Institute Director Tom Cech, who also is a distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry. “Leslie has made a career of fearlessly and creatively approaching challenges, like heart disease, by searching for answers beyond her field and beyond what we think could be possible.”

Leinwand’s research opens the door to the possibility of personalized treatment for heart disease. She has shown that the mechanisms of heart disease differ between males and females and that the genetic risk of the disease is impacted by both gender and diet. Leinwand’s lab also has studied the blood of Burmese pythons, which has the unusual property of greatly increasing the size of the snake’s internal organs, including the heart, after a large meal, a feature that could also have implications for combating human heart disease. Her research has shown that this enlargement shares features with the response of the human heart to chronic exercise.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences was founded in 1780, and members have included George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Webster, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill.

Janssen, Adoretti newly named to roles[39]

The UCCS College of Business recently selected a new director of graduate programs and promoted a staff member to the position of assistant dean.

Janssen

Jenni Janssen, previously executive and external education coordinator for the Southern Illinois University College of Business, is the new director of graduate programs. She previously was SIU’s MBA marketing director, assistant director of the SIU Center for Innovation and a small business specialist at SIU’s Small Business Development Center. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees from SIU as well as a master’s in international business from the Grenoble (France) School of Management.

In her position, Janssen will manage campus and online graduate programs. She replaces Karen Sangermano, director of Online MBA. Sangermano will retire this summer after 16 years of service.

Adoretti

Windy Adoretti, previously director of the campus MBA program, was promoted to assistant dean of the College of Business. Adoretti joined UCCS in 2008. She earned an MBA from UCCS and a bachelor’s degree in economics from Colorado College.

Lore to receive two prestigious awards[42]

[43]
Peggy Lore, assistant vice chancellor of student success at CU Denver, recently was named one of the 2014 Asian American Heroes of Colorado. The award recognizes Asian Americans in Colorado who make a difference in the state’s communities and beyond. An awards event is scheduled for May 24; Lore and fellow awardees will be featured in the May issue of Asian Avenue magazine.

“During her tenure at CU Denver, Peggy has been an advocate for student success. In her various roles: Asian American Student Services director, director of New Student Orientation, director of the Academic Success & Advising Center and the Learning Resources Center, and currently as AVC of Student Success, Peggy’s dedication to and passion for serving our underrepresented students is unwavering,” said Khushnur Z. Dadabhoy, Ph.D., dean of Students and assistant vice chancellor University Life.

As the daughter of a Chinese immigrant, and first-generation to attend college, Lore relates to and understands the challenges that students experience. She is often called upon to be a keynote speaker at campus and community events to share her expertise on how students can maximize their time. For the Asian American community, she is an advocate in raising awareness on the challenges of the model minority stereotypes, the history of Asian Americans in the United States, and rich heterogeneity of the Asian American population and culture.

Colleagues at the university and across the greater community hold Lore in high regard for her knowledge and cultural expertise on the issues including student success, student retention and graduation. She also serves on executive boards related to education, human rights, and Asian American issues such as the Asian Education Advisory Council for Denver Public Schools and the Mayor’s Commission on Asian Pacific Americans.

Lore also was honored recently with the 2014 University of Colorado President’s Diversity Award in the staff category. This recognition reflects significant achievements by faculty, staff, students, and academic or administrative units in developing a culturally diverse, compassionate university community reflective of inclusive excellence.

Dawes leading new exercise program for UCCS police[44]

[45]

Police officers face particular challenges when taking care of themselves.

Shift work, irregular hours, poor eating habits and a propensity to pick high-intensity exercise programs top the list, according to **Jeremy Simenson**, police officer in UCCS’s Department of Public Safety.

“Many law enforcement officers are adrenaline junkies,” Simenson said recently. “This causes them to choose extreme training programs for which many lack the requisite movement skill or strength to complete these programs safely.”

But thanks to a cooperative arrangement with a Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences faculty member, UCCS police officers are getting more fit using an exercise program custom-designed to meet their needs.

Jay Dawes, assistant professor, worked with the department to create short, intense workouts. The routines can be done at any time of day and take into account the burden of specialized gear and equipment worn by officers. Special attention also is given to the explosive nature of many essential job tasks required to perform their jobs. Many times officers must go from sedentary activities such as sitting in a patrol car, to a situation where a pursuit and restraint of a person may be necessary.

“Normally, police officers carry about 25 additional pounds of equipment in duty gear,” Simenson said. “For specialty officers, that number can be 40 to 80 pounds.”

Dawes devoted part of his academic career to researching law enforcement needs and developing fitness programs designed for them. He previously worked with the Corpus Christi, Texas, Police Department, and is currently assisting in the development of several health, fitness and performance training initiatives with the Colorado State Patrol.

“I have really enjoyed working with this population,” Dawes said. “Many of the physical demands required for them to

be successful are similar to athletes, however in many cases the cost of success is much higher, potentially life or death. These men and women often sacrifice their own personal safety and well-being to protect the public and it has been an honor and privilege to help them be more occupationally fit for duty."

Several at School of Medicine honored[46]

Several faculty members of the School of Medicine recently received awards.

Michael Kappy, professor of pediatrics, recently received the 2014 James E. Strain Award, which is bestowed annually to a Children's Hospital Colorado practitioner who exemplifies the ideals of the American Academy of Pediatrics and its advocacy for child health.

The Century Award, which recognizes a medical staff member who is five or fewer years out of training, was given to **Joe Grubenhoff**, assistant professor of pediatrics.

The Excellence in Quality and Patient Safety Award was given to the **maternal fetal care team**.

The Outstanding Service Award was shared by three physicians: **Greg Allen**, associate professor of otolaryngology and pediatrics at the Anschutz Medical Campus; **Rona Norelius**, assistant professor of surgery, who is based at Memorial in Colorado Springs; and **Bob King**, the community-based medical staff member.

Dropping names ...[47]

Charlene Lydick, director of procurement operations for system administration's Procurement Service Center, recently was elected to serve on the board of the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP). The three-year term begins in May. NAEP is dedicated to the advancement of excellence in the purchasing profession servicing higher education and associated communities. Lydick will represent NAEP District VI – western United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, and western Canadian provinces. … **Daisy McConnell**, director of the Galleries of Contemporary Art at UCCS, received the Bee Vradenburg Foundation's Bee an Arts Champion award during the organization's recent 35th annual Arts, Business, Education Luncheon. McConnell was cited for her expansion of the GOCA to two locations (Centennial Hall and 121 S. Tejon St.) and double-digit increases in attendance. … **Rafael Piestun**, an assistant professor in the department of electrical, computer and energy engineering (ECEE) and part of the core faculty in the department of physics at CU-Boulder, and his collaborators have been awarded a patent for an optical-digital technique used to improve range estimation, super-resolution microscopy and 3-D imaging. Along with related intellectual property, this patent is being commercialized by Double Helix LLC, a Boulder-based CU startup company. The company is currently selling a 3-D super-resolution microscopy product based on this technology, and continues to develop the technology for microscopy and advanced industry market applications. The CU Technology Transfer Office began prosecuting this patent portfolio on behalf of the university in December 2008. Other inventors on this patent are Sri Rama Prasanna Pavani, a former ECEE researcher, and a group of researchers from Stanford University.

Videos, sessions and more help CU employees navigate Open Enrollment[48]

[49]

CU's 2014-15 Open Enrollment is underway, and Employee Services is giving you some tools to help you select your benefits plans for the coming plan year.

Orientation videos: Receive virtual training on your benefits with colorful, animated guidance by checking out CU's Open Enrollment video guides[50]. There are three videos—one for faculty, officers and university staff[51]; one classified staff working 50 percent time or greater[52]; and one for classified staff working less than 50 percent time [53].

Open Enrollment sessions and carrier fairs: If you're looking for answers to your questions from the experts, come meet them at your campus's Open Enrollment Session and Carrier Fair[54]. The CU Employee Services benefits team will give you details about your medical, dental, vision, life insurance, disability insurance and cafeteria plans. Then, you can follow up with the plan carriers themselves—including representatives from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, Delta Dental, ASI and Standard Insurance Company.

OE website: This is your OE information clearinghouse. Use the OE website[55] to:
Read about and compare plans, and plan rates. See the calendar of Open Enrollment sessions and carrier fairs, and get directions to each. Find instructions on how to choose and enroll in benefits plans through the CU employee portal. Catch up on plan changes and news—including stories about new flexible spending cards, changes for classified staff working less than 50 percent time and what happens if you fail to waive or enroll by the May 16 deadline.
Benefits professionals: Employee Services' benefits team is here to answer your Open Enrollment questions. Connect with a benefits professional at 303-860-4200, option 3, or send an email to benefits@cu.edu[56].

COLTT registration now open[57]

Believe it or not, summer is just around the corner, and so is COLTT.

Registration for the 2014 edition of the ever-popular Colorado Learning and Teaching With Technology (COLTT) Conference is now open. The event runs Aug. 6-7 on the CU-Boulder campus in the Wolf Law Building.

To register or to request a funded registration, sign up now at: https://cucs.colorado.edu/confreg/coltt-2014[58]. Individual institutions such as ASSETT and CCCS will send out coupon codes to their affiliates. For more information about funded registrations, please check with your department or contact the COLTT Conference Coordinator. You may contact CU Conference Services with registration questions at 303-492-5151.

Questions about COLTT 2014 may be directed to Jill Lester, Conference Coordinator, jill.lester@cu.edu[59], or to Deborah Keyek-Franssen, Conference Director, deblkf@cu.edu[60].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bollard-laird-kelly-bowry-receive-honors-faculty-council[2] https://connections.cu.edu/news/bollard-laird-kelly-bowry-receive-honors-from-faculty-council/fac-council-awards_top[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/fac-council-awards_bollard.png[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/fac-council-awards_picket-may.png[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/fac-council-awards_laird.png[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/program-prioritization-findings-presented-board-regents[7] http://www.colorado.edu/news/features/provost-and-svc-update-academic-and-administrative-prioritization#sthash.VrkE4IeH.dpuf[8]

https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-online-education-committee-suggests-coordinating-course-and-support-options[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-roundup-0[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/rural-microbes-could-boost-city-dwellers%E2%80%99-health-according-new-paper-involving-cu-boulder[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tenure-list-april-2014[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/employee-philanthropists-thanked-luncheon[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ucd_empl-philanthropists.png[14] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/ViceChancellors/Development/Pages/default.aspx[15] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/TheChancellor/Pages/default.aspx[16] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/business/Pages/business-school.aspx[17] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/OmbudsOffice/Pages/OmbudsOffice.aspx[18] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/honors/UHL/Pages/default.aspx[19] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Departments/communication/Pages/Communication.aspx[20] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Pages/CLAS.aspx[21] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/Philanthropy-at-Work-Sonja-Foss-gift.aspx[22]

[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/groundbreaking-marks-beginning-expanded-student-housing[24] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsgroundbreakingpng[25] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=14935[26] http://communique.uccs.edu/[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/lites-program-trains-innovative-leaders[28] https://connections.cu.edu/file/anschutzkahookpng[29] http://cctsi.ucdenver.edu/training-and-education/Pages/LITeS.aspx[30] http://cctsi.ucdenver.edu/Pages/index.aspx[31] http://www.cudoctors.com/find-a-doctor/?keywords=kahook[32] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/PublicHealth/departments/CommunityBehavioralHealth/About/Faculty/Pages/AlbinoJ.aspx[33] ht tp://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/departments/pediatrics/people/bios/Pages/sokolbio.aspx[34] mailto:emily.warren@ucdenver.edu[35] https://connections.cu.edu/people/lisa-feldman-selected-cu-annual-giving-chief[36] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pfeldmanpng[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/leinwand-elected-american-academy-arts-and-sciences[38] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pleinwandpng-0[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/janssen-adoretti-newly-named-roles[40] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/p_janssen.png[41] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/p_adoretti.png[42] https://connections.cu.edu/people/lore-receive-two-prestigious-awards[43] https://connections.cu.edu/file/plorepng[44] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dawes-leading-new-exercise-program-uccs-police[45] https://connections.cu.edu/file/p-dawespng[46] https://connections.cu.edu/people/several-school-medicine-honored[47] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-89[48] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/videos-sessions-and-more-help-cu-employees-navigate-open-enrollment[49] https://connections.cu.edu/news/cu-health-plan-rates-increase-modestly-for-2014-15-fiscal-year/oe1415[50] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/openenrollment[51] https://vimeo.com/93109602[52] https://vimeo.com/93111042[53] https://vimeo.com/93111782[54] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment-calendar[55] http://www.cu.edu/oe[56] mailto:benefits@cu.edu[57] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/coltt-registration-now-open-0[58] https://cucs.colorado.edu/confreg/coltt-2014[59] mailto:jill.lester@cu.edu[60] mailto:deblkf@cu.edu