Five questions for Allan Wallis[1]

[2]

Allan Wallis is an associate professor of public policy at the University of Colorado Denver's School of Public Affairs. Previously he taught at CU-Boulder, where he directed the program in environmental design. He also has been a trainer in CU's Excellence in Leadership Program since its inception. Twice while at CU Denver, he received the Distinguished Service Award and has received numerous other honors as well. His list of publications, research grants and keynote speeches is lengthy. Currently, his research focuses on emerging forms of regional governance.

Away from work, one of his favorite escapes is to join colleagues for hut trips. The huts are generally accessible by skis or snowshoes in the winter and on foot during the summer months. His favorite destinations: Janet's Cabin above the Copper Mountain Ski Resort, the 10th Mountain Division Hut near Leadville, and Shrine Mountain Inn (a cluster of three cabins perfect for family outings) just a few miles off the Vail Pass rest area.

1. How did you move from an interest in environmental design to public administration?

I think that many of us are surprised by where our intellectual journey takes us. While studying architecture as an undergraduate at The Cooper Union, I became interested in factory-built housing. For decades, architects and engineers had imagined how housing could be mass produced, presumably resulting in better and less expensive dwellings. As obvious as its benefits seemed, this approach met strong resistance in the U.S. The one distinct area of success was the mobile home, which in the 1970s accounted for about a quarter of all new housing being produced annually, and provided most of the privately purchased new affordable housing.

I ended up exploring mobile homes for my Ph.D. dissertation in environmental psychology at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. That dissertation eventually became the book "Wheel Estate: The Rise and Decline of Mobile Homes." It also served as the basis for two TV documentaries. In doing the mobile home research, I found myself moving away from how individuals perceive their housing to how regulators perceive housing, particularly those drawing up zoning and building codes. That connection led me to public policy. I became increasingly interested in public administration, particularly in the area of planning and local government decision-making, and I went back to school to see if I could understand that better.

In 1990, after completing a degree in public administration at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, I took a joint position with the National Civic League (NCL) and CU Denver's School of Public Affairs. In the late-1920s, NCL became one of the first organizations in the United States to address the question of how to govern metropolitan regions. When I joined the organization as its director of research, regional governance was a natural topic for inquiry. At the time there was not much work being done on the topic, but it has since become a major subject area in political science, economics and geography. It's both exciting and gratifying to see how the field has developed.

2. Why is regionalism an important topic today?

Wallis in Peru.

It's important to realize that today more than 80 percent of Americans live in urban areas -- the majority of them in the suburbs. Although we are clearly an urban nation, we have yet to figure out how to govern our regions. The Denver region, for example, is composed of more than 500 units of local government. While most regions have highly fragmented governance structures, metro Denver is relatively unique in terms of the number of significant voluntary, collaborative efforts designed to help steer it; for example, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, the Stadium District, the Metro Mayors Caucus, and the Mile High Compact, to name a few.

The same challenge faces Europe, especially since formation of the European Union. Within the EU, national boundaries have become far less significant in regulating trade among member states. As a result, regions have become the real units of economic competition. But, again, how are these regions to be governed?

3. Some of your research on regionalism was done in south Florida. What did your work uncover?

In conducting my research on regionalism at NCL, I came into contact with the MacArthur Foundation, which had a large portfolio of real estate in South Florida. The foundation had an interest in developing research on regionalism and I became involved in that effort. That work lasted six years, resulting in four indicator studies designed to track different areas of regional performance.

In trying to understand regions and their governance, what I look at is what economists and social scientists call path dependence, or how past institutional arrangements affect how an area solves emerging problems. If a region has a strong centralized government, it is more likely to approach the challenges of regionalism with a governmental response. If it has a strong, active, and well-organized private or corporate sector, it is more likely to respond with strong involvement by those sectors. A strong and unifying church may be important to other regions. Past history significantly influences how current problems are viewed and how they are addressed.

4. Your current work focuses on regions in the Intermountain West. What do you hope to learn?

I'm currently on sabbatical looking at four regions of the Intermountain West: Denver, Salt Lake City, Calgary and Edmonton. Right now I'm focusing on the Denver/Calgary comparison and will be in Calgary throughout June doing interviews. A lot of what's going on in our region is occurring voluntarily; which is to say without a centralized authority developing a strategy. Something similar appears to be happening in Calgary.

Until 1995 there was provincially mandated regional planning designed to preserve the hegemonic control of Calgary over its region. That system was dissolved by Alberta Province, and all of the municipalities making up the region were free to compete with one another for growth. After 10 years, and under the initiative of the mayor of Calgary, a voluntary effort began, called the Calgary Regional Partnership (CRP). Today, Calgary is the only region in Canada that is developing a comprehensive regional plan on a voluntary basis through the CRP. This summer, the CPR hopes to have Alberta Province approve its plan.

I have a Fulbright scholarship to do research at the University of Albert next spring. I intend to use that time to expand my sample of regions to Edmonton and Salt Lake City. Edmonton is Alberta's second major city. It has chosen to develop a regional plan following a top-down process. I'm interested in why top-down makes sense for Edmonton but has been rejected by Calgary. In Salt Lake City, a form of voluntary regionalism is at play, coming out of an organization called Envision Utah, a public-private partnership that promotes quality growth with an emphasis on air quality, transportation options and open-space preservation, to name a few. Salt Lake City offers another example of voluntary regionalism, but one with connections to the Mormon Church.

Each of these four regions is distinct in how it is going about inventing an effective form of regional governance. All four are located in the Intermountain West, a setting which I believe influences their approach to governance. I hope that I can bring my work in these four regions together in a book, but I am hesitant to focus on the product until I understand the regions better.

5. You've done many program evaluation projects over the years but an interesting one was at a community center in Tanzania. How did that come about?

There's a certain amount of serendipity in the projects I've undertaken. For several years, I was involved with projects concerning the delivery of HIV services funded by the Ryan White Care Act. I facilitated development of the first and second HIV/AIDS comprehensive services plans for the metro Denver region. While involved with that work, I met Dr. Vic Dukay of the Lundy Foundation. Dukay was working on a project to build a community center that would provide a home for children in the Village of Idweli, Tanzania, who had lost their parents to AIDS. This was a demonstration project that might provide a model if it proved successful.

As that project was nearing completion, Dukay contacted the Rockefeller Foundation in Nairobi to see if it might help provide operating funds for the community center. The foundation said that it didn't make those kinds of grants, but that it was interested in an evaluation that could help develop instruments for measuring the psychological wellbeing of children orphaned by AIDS. With foundation funding we engaged in an 18-month project with co-investigators in Tanzania, using the community center in Idweli as our test site.

Through the instruments we developed, our project demonstrated that the community center was being effective in improving the well-being of its children. However, the center was subsequently closed by the district government for some rather bizarre political reasons. Ever the eternal optimist, Dukay decided to turn lemons into lemonade. He knew that PEPFAR — the U.S. aid program that channels billions of dollars in funds to Africa to help reduced the impact of HIV/AIDS – was under reauthorization. I worked with Dukay to help get provisions written into that reauthorization that require an impact evaluation of every PEPFAR grant made. We were successful in getting that evaluation requirement in place, which helped assuage our disappointment over seeing the community center close.

For career changers, CU-Boulder program offers potential path to School of Medicine[4]

Former football coach Joseph Walker is among the professionals changing careers and studying at CU-Boulder as pre-med students.

The University of Colorado Boulder's Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program[6] is finishing its third year with an expected 16 nontraditional students one step closer to applying for medical schools.

The Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Medical Program is designed for "career changers" who were academically successful as undergraduates — earning a minimum 3.3 GPA in a non-science field — but have not completed the core science prerequisites needed to apply to medical school. The program also provides students with personalized advising, tutoring and assistance in applying to medical schools through the Committee Letter Process.

Launched in 2011, the program provides an intimate, cohort-style academic experience for groups of 20 or fewer students. Together, the cohort takes courses and labs in biology, chemistry and physics over the course of one intensive year and three semesters: summer, fall and spring.

Joseph Walker, a former football coach, is part of the 2013-2014 cohort, which completed the program last week.

"I was a college football coach, so I've spent a lot of time around orthopedic doctors and surgeons," Walker said. "Their ability to bring health and healing to athletes intrigued me. I was inspired and decided to follow my love of helping others by becoming a doctor.

"The program is intense and rigorous, but I know it's preparing me for medical school."

Walker and his classmates will mark the conclusion of their program in a private gathering. Following completion of the program, most students prepare for the Medical College Admission Test and apply to programs the following year. Preliminary metrics show that students from the program gain acceptance into medical schools at positive and competitive rates.

Maya Appley completed the program in 2013 and served as a tutor for students in the 2013-2014 program. She has been accepted into multiple medical schools, but has narrowed her options to the University of Colorado School of Medicine and Tulane University in her home state.

Appley was a peace and conflict studies major as an undergraduate and was working as a clinical assistant for a midwife when she realized she wanted to pursue medicine.

"I loved the clinical work I was doing but realized that I wanted to be able to work with a wider variety of patients, and medicine seemed like a great fit for me," she said. "Something that appealed to me about the CU-Boulder program was that it is geared towards students with little to no science background, so as a cohort, we were more or less in the same boat. The faculty and program staff were very understanding and supportive of the challenges we faced as 'career changers.'"

The program is co-sponsored by the CU-Boulder College of Arts and Sciences and Division of Continuing Education. Applications for the 2015 cohort will begin fall 2014. For more information about the program or the application process, visit: http://conted.colorado.edu/postbac-premed/[6]

Faculty engagement with fundraising is key[7]

Kelly Cronin, Vice President of Advancement

Some members of the CU Faculty Council say the university's educators have historically been underutilized in the university's fundraising mission, and CU Vice President of Advancement Kelly Cronin says that will change.

Cronin, who joined CU last year[9] to lead the university's revamped fundraising efforts, spoke to the council at its May 8 meeting at 1800 Grant St.

"I started Sept. 1, and it has been a whirlwind – changing a culture that was pretty apathetic," Cronin said. "We're working really hard to change that."

During a question-and-answer session with Cronin at the meeting, CU Anschutz Medical Campus Faculty Assembly Chair David Port said one thing in need of change is an under-reliance on faculty when fundraising officers are engaged with donors.

"It comes up all the time at our campus, where there's a long history of foundation people not using the people inventing the technology to the best effect," Port said. "If you don't have the scientist or engineers or clinicians helping to sell the technology, you're missing out."

"You couldn't be more correct," Cronin replied. "We can talk about the science … but you're the experts."

Pam Laird of CU Denver echoed what Port said.

"People like stories – and historians are really good at telling stories," Laird said. "Nobody from fundraising ever asked us to tell a story. One of the things I appreciate with the transition in (advancement) is that we've had a whole lot more success in getting folks in the development office to listen to us."

Cronin said her office has begun the process of providing basic training to its development officers, and that it plans to provide training, from basic to advanced, for any interested faculty and staff.

Cronin told the council that all faculty members should be familiar with a development officer on their campus. "If you don't know your development officer, please let me know, because it would mean they're not getting out to meet with our academic partners." She invited faculty to call or email her with any questions.[10]

In other business at last week's Faculty Council meeting, the last of the academic year:
The council gave its approval to several proposed changes to Administrative Policy Statements pertaining exclusively or partly to faculty. The changes are slated to take effect July 1.[11] During his report to the council, Dan Montez, director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency, said the President's Task Force on Efficiency will be exploring the current administrative burden on faculty, which a recent survey indicated has grown worse over the past five years.

'Challenging session' at Capitol brings good outcomes for CU[12]

Last week brought the end of the 2014 state legislative session, a stretch that produced a long-awaited boost in state funding for CU and other higher education institutions, as well as a slate of CU-initiated bills that await the governor's signature.

Tanya Kelly-Bowry, vice president of government relations, and the state relations team of Kirsten Schuchman, Vice President for Budget and Finance and CFO Todd Saliman, Jerry Johnson, Heather Fields and Connie Johnson worked on many bills, relating to capital construction, facilities, tuition rates, marijuana and four-year degree programs at community colleges. The team tracked more than 100 bills, actively working on those and others of interest to CU stakeholders, including health care bills of interest to the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and University of Colorado Hospital.

"It was another challenging session," Kelly-Bowry said. "It was a steep agenda for CU and we're pleased with the results."

For details on key legislation Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 1319, click here.[13]

Details on other key legislation from the session, provided by Government Relations:

CU-Initiated Legislation:

SB 14-099 Provisional Physical Therapy License (May/Hodge)
Allows the physical therapy board to issue a provisional license to student applicants who have successfully completed a physical therapy program and met the educational requirements. It will allow our physical therapy students to practice under the supervision of a licensed physical therapist during the time period between graduation and taking the exam.
SB 14-211 Alzheimer's Disease Center (Hullinghorst & Waller/Balmer & Johnston)
In June, the CU Alzheimer's Disease Research and Clinical Center will submit an application seeking funding and designation as a national Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC.) The bill will dedicate $250,000 to the Center to demonstrate a state commitment to helping achieve the federal designation.
HB 14-1256 Higher Ed Employment Contracts for Librarians (Fischer/Kerr)
Under current law, each system of higher education and each of its' campuses may enter into an unlimited number of term employment contracts of up to 3 years for certain adjunct faculty. The bill allows an institution to also enter into these types of employment contracts with librarians.
HB 14-1391 Authority of Public Treasurer to Pay by Check (Becker & Priola/ Kerr & Hill)
This bill is a housekeeping measure to align statuary warrant language with modern banking practices. It will help ensure that the State and University have access to the highest levels of security. The State Treasury and University Treasury are soon entering into 5-year contract negotiation with the banks, and this language would align the language in the contracts with statute.
SJM 14-006 Congress Authorize Medical Marijuana Clinic Trials (Lambert/Joshi)
Along with CU University Counsel, we worked with Senator Lambert to draft this memorial to urge Congress to provide statutory relief to grant Colorado research institutions the authority to conduct controlled clinical and objective medical research trials regarding marijuana's medical efficacy. This authority would allow CU researchers to access tax revenues to conduct research without violating federal laws.

Major Legislation:

SB 14-011 Colorado Energy Research Authority (Heath/Hullinghorst)
The bill changes the name of the Colorado Renewable Research Authority to the Colorado Energy Research Authority (CERA). It also creates a new cash fund to support CERA, the continuously appropriated Energy Research Cash Fund and appropriates $1M per year for two years to the fund. The Governor is planning a bill signing at the CU-Boulder campus.
HB 14-1319 Outcomes-based Funding For Higher Education (Ferrandino/Lambert)
This bill creates a new mechanism for allocating state funds to institutions of higher education. Based on initial figures, some colleges and universities would benefit from such changes; others, including CU, would stand to lose funding. CU lobbied for several important changes to the bill and were mostly successful. Fortunately, the amendments we were able to secure ensure that some of our programs will be protected and put us in a better position to fairly negotiate over the summer.

Budget and Capital:

SB 14-001 College Affordability Act (Jahn/Garcia)
The bill appropriates $100 million General Fund to the Department of Higher Education. Of this amount, about $40M is for various financial aid programs and the remaining $60M is appropriated to institutions of higher education via the College Opportunity Fund and fee-for-service contracts with the schools.
HB 14-1336 Long Appropriations Bill (Duran/Steadman)
This bill sets the FY2014-15 General Fund Budget.
HB 14-1342 Transfers Of Money Related To Capital Construction (Duran/Steadman)
The bill makes three FY 2014-15 transfers to the Capital Construction Fund (CCF) from several sources. Most importantly for CU, we were able to amend it to make additional transfers to the CCF in the event that there is a FY 2013-14 General Fund surplus and that this surplus is sufficient to first pay certain other statutory transfers. If revenues prove sufficient in September, this additional transfer will fund the capital construction projects that were removed from the original CDC list including an additional $5M for the Auraria Library and the CU-Boulder Ketchum project.
HB 14-1387 Revision Of All Capital Related Statutes (Szabo/Schwartz)
This is the Capital Development Committee statute clean-up bill. We were able to get issues important to CU included in the bill. This includes modifying the existing thresholds governing notice and bonding requirements and the procurement of various services associated with construction projects and codifies existing practices with our plumbing and electric inspections on the CU-Boulder campus.
For more on all bills that CU tracked and worked on this year, go here: http://www.cu.edu/office-government-relations/state-relations/2014-state-legislation[14].

Kelly-Bowry thanked CU President Bruce Benson and campus leadership for working closely with government relations and the budget office to successfully work CU's side of the legislation, and thanked lawmakers and the governor's office – as well as CU Advocates – for their work on behalf of the university.

As for next year, Kelly-Bowry said she expects marijuana tax revenue to prompt much discussion over how to divide up the money. After this fall's elections, a new slate of lawmakers will be in place for the next session, too. The Government Relations team plans outreach to current and potential future elected officials this summer.

CU-Boulder, Mesa County team up to make snow-depth data free to water managers, farmers, public[15]

2014 Water year (chart shows data up to 05/14/2014)

[17]
A University of Colorado Boulder professor who developed a clever method to measure snow depth using GPS signals is collaborating with Western Slope officials to make the data freely available to a variety of users on a daily basis.

CU-Boulder aerospace engineering sciences professor Kristine Larson and her colleagues discovered in 2009 that GPS signals that bounce off Earth's surface before hitting the receivers, once considered bothersome "noise," could be used to measure snow depth, soil moisture and even vegetation moisture. Larson also is a pioneer in the field of using GPS signals to chart minute plate tectonic and volcanic movements over time around the world.

In January, as part of a New Year's resolution, Larson contacted the Mesa County Surveyor's Office in Grand Junction, which has a sophisticated network of 23 stationary GPS reference stations, or receivers, both in and around Mesa County. The spider web-like network stretches from Aspen west to Moab, Utah, and from Durango north to Craig.

While the Mesa County GPS system is used for everything from capital improvements like road and bridge building to boundary line measurements and even some criminal cases -- including homicides -- the new snowpack information Larson has been teasing out of the data should be of interest to water resource managers, farmers, atmospheric

scientists and others, she believes.

“I knew that most surveyors use the exact same equipment I do, and I looked at this as a chance to help out water managers, farmers and others on the Western Slope interested in information like spring runoff and crop moisture,” she said. “I’m certainly not the only one measuring snow depth in Colorado, but now we have some free, extra data that can help experts not only assess potential flooding events but also anticipate possible water restrictions in years of low moisture.”

Originally developed in the 1970s for military use, GPS technology is in wide use today, telling drivers and hikers their exact position on the planet and providing directions to their destinations by gathering signals simultaneously from the 31 operating GPS satellites now orbiting Earth. The current GPS system in Mesa County is accurate to less than 1 centimeter -- about the width of a dime -- over several hundred miles.

Larson first spoke with Patrick Green in the Mesa County Surveyor’s Office, who put her in touch with Mesa County Public Works Department surveyor Frank Kochevar, the administrator for the county’s Real Time GPS Network that ranges over 28,000 square miles. Each Mesa County GPS reference station requires electrical power, high speed Internet and local support, Kochevar said.

“When Kristine contacted me to see if I would make our GPS data available to her, it was a no-brainer,” said Kochevar. “I’m always interested in new ways to use this technology.”

What Larson needed was signal strength data that had bounced off the snow before arriving at the GPS receivers at the various Mesa County-administered stations, so called “multipath” data normally tagged as “late” and generally ignored by GPS surveyors and engineers.

Kochevar said it took him just minutes to change the logging strategy of the Mesa County GPS system. He began making the new data available to Larson daily.

Kochevar has been traveling to other cities and counties in Colorado and Utah since the 1990s to give GPS demonstrations that show the benefits of having a full-time stationary reference network. He developed memorandums of understanding with administrators of various counties and cities, who realized that having a stationary GPS receiver of their own could markedly improve their engineering data.

“The people in Mesa County have been nothing but helpful to me,” said Larson. “And we both put our data out there for the public good, so people can better do their jobs.” Larson posts her snow depth data daily from roughly 10 Mesa County stations in Colorado.

Federal government groups using Larson’s public snow depth data include meteorologists and climate scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder and NASA.

“I admit I was a little surprised when I learned that Kristine and her colleagues had come up with a novel way to use these multipath GPS signals,” Kochevar said. “I don’t think there are too many people out there yet who understand the advantage they can gain from using the type of data she is generating.”

Kochevar said he believes the data would likely be valuable to local and state government agencies interested in water storage, especially in the Colorado and Gunnison River basins.

Larson also is working with data collected by UNAVCO, a National Science Foundation- and NASA-sponsored facility located in Boulder. UNAVCO operates the EarthScope Plate Boundary Observatory, or PBO, a network of roughly 1,100 GPS receivers in the western United States.

UNAVCO not only sets up GPS stations around the West, it also installs supporting equipment like seismometers and strain meters to monitor the constant movements of the colliding Pacific and North American tectonic plates. A number of UNAVCO instruments are in place along the San Andreas Fault in California. Others in Yellowstone National Park

straddling Wyoming and Montana are doing double duty of sorts. They are measuring both “ground inflation” caused by magma movements of the enormous but dormant Yellowstone volcanic system as well as charting daily snow depth and changes in the moisture of vegetation and soil.

In 2012 Larson and CU-Boulder Assistant Professor Eric Small of the geological sciences department received $500,000 in research award money from both NASA and NSF to use data from about 400 PBO GPS receivers to measure snowpack, soil moisture and vegetation. Larson also is gathering GPS data from the Minnesota Department of Transportation using the PBO system, monitoring melting snow and heavy rains that can make the region prone to severe flooding in the spring.

Last year, Larson even developed a method to assess the density of volcanic plumes using GPS, a valuable data set for airline companies and the military whose aircraft safety potentially could be compromised by such particle-filled plumes.

Larson said she plans to continue working with the Mesa County Public Works Department because it is a win-win situation. Kochevar said Mesa County is pleased with the collaboration, and says its growing GPS network that is now providing a new kind of data at no cost to Coloradans may help mitigate natural resource challenges.

“This is my baby,” Kochevar said. “I live for this network.”

Best NEW festival for 2014: CU Denver’s Global Glow[18]
[19]
The coolest new addition to Colorado’s summer festival season takes place June 6-8 in Evergreen as the NeXt Music Festival presents its inaugural weekend event series, Global Glow. Global Glow Events and exhibits will take place in two venues, the Evergreen Center for the Arts, 32003B Ellingwood Trail; and the Wood Cellar Bar & Grill, 1552 Bergen Parkway. The event features an integrated series of performances, exhibits and screenings, as well as a free music workshop for teens and a variety of community jam sessions.
Sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver, Global Glow provides a thoughtful experience through cutting-edge musicians and artists. CU Denver faculty and students at the College of Arts and Media are personally involved in the production, organization and performance aspects of the event.

More than just another music festival, Global Glow will explore jazz, classical, folk and electronic music, as well as art and film to focus on the relationships between our changing environment and people around the world. By participating in the festival, CU Denver students have a real-life opportunity to be part of the creative process and to bring an amazing event with top talent to the community.

“By participating in all levels of the event, CU Denver faculty and students are demonstrating our commitment to relevant expression and thoughtful conversation about current events through the arts,” said Gregory Walker, CU Denver professor and Global Glow artistic Director.

Exhibits feature original drawings reflecting on ecology, history and memory; a large painting/installation that uses the famous Mexican luchadores as a metaphor; digital prints evoking current debates about the environment and needed social change; and a mixed media installation that makes lyrical connections to nature, human presence and loss.

Visual artists participating in Global Glow include CU Denver faculty members Melissa Furness, Quintin Gonzalez, Rian Kerrane and Michelle Carpenter, as well as artist Lanny Devuono. Musical performances feature Peter Stoltzman, Todd Reid, Evan Shelton and Walker, all faculty at CU Denver; and Heather Styka[20] singer-songwriter extraordinaire from Maine.

For more information, see the Global Glow schedule below:

Friday, June 6

6 p.m. - opening artist's reception 7:30 p.m. – Peter Stoltzman, a nationally renowned jazz pianist and Heather Styka will perform a benefit concert with all proceeds going to the Humanitarian International Services[21] for its work with global disaster response.

Saturday, June 7

7:30 p.m. - A showcase performance featuring "Above the Ashes,"[22] Michelle Carpenter's award-winning documentary about the 2012 Rocky Mountain fires; electronic percussionist Todd Reid, and members of the Evergreen Chorale. FREE lunchtime preview performances will be offered at Evergreen's Wood Cellar Bar & Grill from noon to 12:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Sunday, June 8

Noon to 12:30 p.m. - a FREE audience-participatory jam session at Evergreen's Wood Cellar Bar & Grill. 7:30 pm – Global Glow inaugural weekend finale: performances by polystylistic cello virtuoso Evan Shelton, members of the Evergreen Chamber Orchestra, artistic director Gregory T.S. Walker's Electric Vivaldi Guitar Concerto from Centaur Records' new Global Solstice[23]

A FREE composition and improvisation minicamp for teens takes place Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 3 p.m. to 5 p. m. at the Evergreen Center for the Arts. Click here[24] for registration materials.

Daily admission:

Adult general admission: $15 Senior Citizen (60+): $12 Student: $7

For more information, call the Evergreen Center for the Arts: 303-674-0056

CU researcher helps Type 1 diabetics sleep better[25]

[26]

New research could soon make it easier for people with type 1 diabetes to get a safe night's sleep. Very low blood-sugar levels can cause seizures or even, in rare cases, death. People with type 1 diabetes often sense warning signs of low blood sugar when they are awake, but not during sleep, explaining why 75 percent of diabetic seizures occur at night.

In a large trial conducted in patients' homes in the U.S. and Canada, scientists demonstrated that they could predict and prevent dangerously low overnight blood sugars in adolescents and adults with type 1 diabetes. The new study, which was published online May 7 in Diabetes Care, by David Maahs, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and his colleagues, coupled a glucose sensor worn under the skin to an insulin pump that was connected wirelessly to a computer at the bedside. The computer ran an algorithm that calculated when a low blood-sugar level might occur and then temporarily suspended insulin delivery until the sugar level was trending upward. This occurred without waking the patient. The shutoffs reduced the cumulative time patients spent with low blood sugars during sleep by 81 percent, with only a minimal increase in nighttime glucose levels.

"Development of these types of systems will help patients and parents have a better night's sleep, knowing the risk of severe hypoglycemia at night is much lower," said Maahs.

People with type 1 diabetes who use insulin pumps usually receive a low dose of insulin throughout the night; it is delivered by the pump through a small catheter inserted under the skin. In the past, researchers have tried other approaches to prevent low blood sugar during sleep, such as having glucose sensors trigger an alarm for a low blood-sugar level. This has only been partly successful because patients sleep through about 70 percent of the alarms. Since a person with diabetes would shut off their insulin pump if they had a low blood glucose, the next approach was to use the sensors' glucose values to suspend insulin delivery when low blood glucose was detected.

The new study involved 45 people, ages 15-45, with type 1 diabetes. Each person participated for about 42 nights, for a total of 1,912 nights. The patients slept in their own homes. Their insulin pumps were wirelessly connected to a laptop computer near their beds. Each night, the algorithm on the computer was randomly assigned to be active or inactive and participants did not know whether the algorithm was active before they went to sleep. On treatment nights, the computer algorithm predicted whether blood sugar would fall below 80 mg/dl in the next 30 minutes, a threshold

slightly above the 60 mg/dl level at which complications of low blood sugar set in. If the computer predicted lows, the subject's insulin pump was shut off until the subject's blood sugar was increasing.

In addition to the 81 percent reduction in time spent with low blood sugar, there were several other indicators that the treatment was useful. The insulin pumps were shut off at least once during 76 percent of the treatment nights, and the time spent in episodes of low blood sugar that lasted two hours or more was reduced by 74 percent.

In the morning, median blood glucose was slightly higher after treatment nights, but still within a safe range. The blood-glucose sensors recorded similar percentages of nights with high blood-glucose values in both treatment and control conditions. Subjects checked their urine and blood each morning for ketones, an indicator of whether their sugar levels had become too high during the night. Ketone levels were similar after control and treatment nights. These results indicated that the insulin pump shutoffs were not putting subjects at risk from high blood sugars.

The research team is now expanding their investigations to a larger age group, including children ages 3-15. Many parents whose children have diabetes are getting up during the night to check their children's blood-sugar levels and this type of system is going to make it much easier for them to feel comfortable about letting their child with diabetes sleep through the night with fewer overnight sugar tests. Parents will be able to get a better night's sleep, too.

Maahs is the study's lead author. Others participating were study lead, Bruce Buckingham, M.D., professor of pediatric endocrinology at Stanford; and senior author Roy Beck, M.D., Ph.D., executive director of the Jaeb Center for Health Research Inc. in Tampa, Fla.

The work was supported by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (grant R01DK085591) and grants from Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the foundation's Canadian Clinical Trial Network.

UCCS leaders share good budget news[27]

Pam Shockley-Zalabak

Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak and Brian Burnett, senior executive vice chancellor, Administration and Finance, shared what both called the "best UCCS budget news in a decade" at a May 7 all-campus forum.

Before a crowd of 80 faculty and staff members, Burnett highlighted actions by the Colorado General Assembly and effects of increased enrollment tuition revenues. He connected the actions to salary increases, new positions, new buildings, employer-paid benefits and increased operating budgets.

While Burnett shared details, Shockley-Zalabak pointed out that the $20 million in state funds UCCS anticipates receiving in FY 2015 is $4 million less than the campus received in 2001. In the past 14 years, UCCS added about 5,000 more students and expanded the campus to accommodate them.

"We are stable," Shockley-Zalabak said. "Exciting things are happening. But the funding model is changing. We cannot depend on increased state funding."

Brian Burnett

Burnett explained the effect of Senate Bill 1, which increased state funding as well as CU Board of Regent actions to approve Colorado resident tuition increases ranging from 3.2 to 3.5 percent, a slight increase in student fees, as well as planned 5 percent growth in campus enrollment.

That forward momentum will be visible in many ways including
A 3 percent merit salary increase pool for faculty and exempt staff. A 3.5 percent salary increase pool for classified staff members. Increased employer contributions for benefits such as health, dental and life insurance that will keep employee out-of-pocket expenses level. Funding increases for student hourly, operating, travel and capital improvement budgets as well as increased student financial aid.
Next year, UCCS will increase spending on student financial aid by 9 percent in an effort to continue to recruit and retain low- and moderate-income students. Since 2003, campus financial aid allocations have more than tripled.

The relative fiscal health of the university will also allow specific increases in key areas of the university including:
10 new tenure-track faculty positions in addition to filling positions vacated through retirement or resignation.
Investments in the chancellor's office ($75,000), University Advancement ($370,000), Information Technology ($200,000), Administration and Finance ($726,000) and Student Success ($642,000).
Planning and design of a $56 million Visual and Performing Arts Center on North Nevada Avenue will continue next year, thanks to a $13.3 million allocation from the Colorado General Assembly. Construction will begin in 2015 and be completed in early 2018.

Other construction updates were:
Academic Office Building. Move-in is expected in July. Parking Garage/Recreation Field. Completion is expected in August. Recreation Center expansion and student health and wellness addition. Groundbreaking is expected in September and an opening is planned sometime in fall 2015. Village at Alpine Valley housing expansion. Construction is underway with phase 1 with space for 292 more students to live on campus opening in fall 2015.

DiStefano honored for 40 years of service to CU-Boulder[30]

[31]

Staff who have given decades of service to the University of Colorado Boulder were honored May 6 at the 38th Annual Years of Service banquet, and the event provided the perfect opportunity for a surprise celebration of Chancellor **Philip DiStefano's** 40 years on the Boulder campus.

The chancellor began his career in the School of Education in 1974, becoming a full professor and then dean. He was named provost in 2001, and after two periods as interim chancellor, stepped into full-time service in the role in 2009.

Each year, Chancellor DiStefano speaks at the banquet, and his remarks this year reflected on his history on the campus, and the integral role that staff play in making the campus a success. Reflecting back to the historic flooding in September he said, "I've often said that staff is the backbone of the university. That showed in very dramatic fashion with last fall's floods." He continued, "One of the Flagship 2030 initiatives is supporting the mission and you are all champions at that -- supporting education, research, creative work, service and operations."

Boulder Campus Staff Council - along with campus leadership and the Office of the President - took advantage of Chancellor DiStefano's presence at the banquet to put together the surprise tribute.

University of Colorado **President Bruce Benson**, along with his wife **Marcy Benson**, took to the podium to thank the chancellor for his service. In his remarks, President Benson said, "Phil DiStefano has positioned CU-Boulder as a leader in STEM education. His vision and leadership are part of why our academic reputation is so strong."

Marcy Benson then read a tribute from the Colorado Legislature, sponsored by state Rep. Dickie Lee Hullinghorst and state Sen. Rollie Heath. The resolution reads in part, "Philip P. DiStefano has distinguished himself, the state of Colorado and the institution of higher education by serving the University of Colorado Boulder for 40 years as professor, dean, provost and chancellor. He has championed student success, overseen research revenues that have grown to $352 million annually and led a world-class campus with five Nobel laureates and eight MacArthur Fellows."

The Bensons also honored **Yvonne DiStefano** for her 40 years serving the campus alongside the chancellor. The DiStefanos' twin daughters presented each with a pin celebrating their contributions, and the Bensons presented the chancellor with a framed copy of the Colorado Legislature's tribute.

The Years of Service banquet is an annual tribute to recently retired and long-serving members of the Boulder campus staff, and provided an excellent venue to celebrate one of the campus's most tireless champions.

Greenwood presents at global governance conference[32]

[33]
Daphne Greenwood, professor in the Department of Economics at UCCS, presented "Fiscal Sustainability Indicators: From the Traditional to the Useful" on April 10 in Florence, Italy, as part of a Global Governance Programme workshop at the European University Institute's Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies.

Other speakers included economists from the United Nations, European Union Commission, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, South Africa's International Trade Administration Commission and universities in France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Wurtele serves on abuse-prevention task force[34]

[35]
Sandy Wurtele, professor in the Department of Psychology at UCCS, and associate dean, College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, recently completed service as a member of the nine-person Safe Sport Program Review Task Force for USA Swimming.

The task force responded to an independent assessment of USA Swimming's Safe Sport program, which is intended to prevent the sexual and emotional abuse of athletes. On May 3, the USA Swimming Board of Directors approved a series of task-force recommendations, including improved training, transparency in the reporting and investigation of incidents, and counseling and emotional support services for victims.

Wurtele, an expert on child sexual abuse prevention, continues to serve on USA Swimming's standing committee, Safe Sport. That committee is designed to develop policies, procedures, and training aimed at keeping swimmers safe from abuse.

UCCS welcomes six new faculty, staff in April[36]

Six faculty or staff members joined UCCS in April. They are:

Sarah Aguilera, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences student success coordinator – Lamar; **Dalin Gilland-Green**, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences student success coordinator –Pueblo; **Erin Fowler**, clinical therapist, Trauma, Health and Hazards Center; **Patricia Hunter**, nurse practitioner, Student Health Center; **Amy Keala**, program manager, Development Office; and **John Fort**, mechanical trades, Physical Plant.

Dropping names ...[37]

Ann Komara, associate professor and Chair of Landscape Architecture at the College of Architecture and Planning (CAP) at CU Denver, presented a paper at the 67th Annual Conference of the Society of Architectural Historians in Austin, Texas on April 11. Her presentation was “Wilderness Playground: Image and Reception, Rocky Mountain National Park.” … CAP colleague **Amir H. Ameri**, associate professor of architecture, presented his paper “A Path to Elsewhere: The Transcenium Experience” at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) 102nd Annual Meeting on April 10 in Miami Beach, Fla. … **Taisto Mäkelä**, associate professor of architecture and director of Finnish Initiatives, was invited this spring to lecture at two universities in Spain. Mäkelä delivered “The Cultural Continuum of Wood Architecture in Finland,” on April 1 at the Alfonso X el Sabio University in Madrid. Then on April 3, he presented “4 Art Museums: Ponti, Libeskind, Adjaye, Cloepfil,” at the University of Zaragoza. … Outstanding faculty and staff at the UCCS were recognized at the 2014 Campus Awards Ceremony on May 7. Award winners are: Campus Sustainability Award: **Nanna Meyer**, associate professor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences; Chancellor’s Award: **Daniel Segal**, professor and faculty supervisor, Psychology Department; Outstanding Staff Award: **Ida Bauer**, director, Family Development Center; Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity & Inclusiveness: **Jeff Scholes**, director, Center for Religious Diversity, and instructor, Philosophy Department; Faculty Award for Excellence in Research: **GregoryPlett**, professor, College of Engineering and Applied Science, and director, GATE Center of Excellence in Innovative Drivetrains in Electric Automotive Technology Education; Outstanding Instructor Award: **Kyle Webb**, instructor, College of Engineering and Applied Science; Ron Wisner Human Spirit and Leadership Award: **Jason Adams**, senior, biology; Thomas F. McLaughlin Award: **Luke Dakin**, graduate student, business; Outstanding Teacher Award: **Rebecca Webb**, assistant professor, College of Engineering and Applied Science; SGA Student’s Choice for Educator of the Year: **Jennifer Clarke**, senior instructor, Psychology Department; and Faculty Assembly Award: **Donald Morley**, professor, Communication Department. For photos from the event, see Communique[38].

Three things to know before Open Enrollment closes Friday[39]

[40]
Procrastinators take note: Your window to enroll in benefits for the 2014-15 plan year will slam shut at 5 p.m. Friday.

Whether you’re happy with your current plans and don’t plan to take action or are still making final decisions, here are three things you should know before Open Enrollment closes.

1. The last day of OE is traditionally its busiest.

Benefits professionals’ phones have been ringing almost nonstop this week; on Friday, the benefits team expects to be flooded with questions. Educate yourself about your benefits plans by visiting the Open Enrollment website[41]. And just to be safe, log in to the employee portal at my.cu.edu[42] today to ensure you can access the “Benefits Enrollment” tool — which you’ll use to enroll — without issue.

2. Confirm your benefits enrollment through the portal, not via email.

Once you’ve submitted your final enrollment selections, you’ll find your confirmation statement within the “Benefits Summary” section of the portal. While you won’t receive an email confirming your selections, you can find a more detailed confirmation of your benefits -- including the names of your dependents and beneficiaries — in the Benefits Summary section within 24 hours of your submitting your enrollment choices. To view this, enter the effective date

(7-1-2014) and press “Go.”

3. Review the OE Auto-Enrollment table, even if you’re not participating in OE.

The Auto-Enrollment table [43]tells you into which plans you’ll be automatically enrolled if you don’t take any action this OE. CU uses the selections you made during last year’s event to determine what coverage you’ll be provided.

Pollock to speak at advocacy event[44]

[45]

CU-Boulder physics professor Steven Pollock, named a 2013 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, is the featured speaker at a CU Advocates program next month.

The free event, sponsored by the CU Advocates program in the Office of the President, is set for June 17 at the CU system offices at 1800 Grant St., Denver. Pollock will speak during an educational program from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Registration is required to attend; click here.[46]

The U.S. Professor of the Year awards recognize the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country. Each year, a professor is chosen from four institutional categories. Pollock is the second CU-Boulder faculty member to win a national Professor of the Year award. Nobel laureate Carl Wieman, also a physics professor, was honored with the designation in 2004.

Pollock, who is being honored in the category of doctoral and research universities, was chosen from a field of more than 350 distinguished nominees from across the country.

“I care a lot about every student in my class, from introductory non-majors to advanced students,” Pollock has said. “Some of them start out dreading physics, and it’s a real pleasure watching them turn on to the topic. It’s wonderful to help people see that physics is about their life, that physics is relevant to their future, that it’s interesting, a powerful way of examining the world around them, and that they can do it.”

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-allan-wallis[2] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-wallis01png[3] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-wallis02png[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/career-changers-cu-boulder-program-offers-potential-path-school-medicine[5] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucb-pre-medpng[6] http://conted.colorado.edu/postbac-premed/[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-engagement-fundraising-key[8] https://connections.cu.edu/file/fac-cnclcroninpng[9] https://connections.cu.edu/news/benson-cronin-a-dynamic-leader-for-cu-fundraising-operations[10] http://www.cu.edu/advancement/reach-key-staff[11] https://www.cu.edu/ope/policy/aps-under-review[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/%E2%80%98challenging-session%E2%80%99-capitol-brings-good-outcomes-cu[13] https://connections.cu.edu/news/funding-boost-for-universities-colleges-made-official[14] http://www.cu.edu/office-government-relations/state-relations/2014-state-

legislation[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-mesa-county-team-make-snow-depth-data-free-water-managers-farmers-public[16] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucbsnow-depthtop-copypng[17] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucbsnow-depth01-copypng[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/best-new-festival-2014-cu-denver%E2%80%99s-global-glow[19] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/ucd_global-glow_f.png[20] http://www.heatherstyka.com/[21] http://hisg.org/[22] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84DlOmRFG6Y[23] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=699SARMy9cE[24] http://carbon.ucdenver.edu/~gwalker/NeXtMiniCamp.htm[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-researcher-helps-type-1-diabetics-sleep-better[26] https://connections.cu.edu/file/anschutzdiabeticsfpng[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-leaders-share-good-budget-news[28] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/uccs_shockley.png[29] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/uccs_burnett.png[30] https://connections.cu.edu/people/distefano-honored-40-years-service-cu-boulder[31] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pphil-awardtoppng[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/greenwood-presents-global-governance-conference[33] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pgreenwoodpng-1[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/wurtele-serves-abuse-prevention-task-force[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pwurtelepng[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/uccs-welcomes-six-new-faculty-staff-april[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-91[38] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=15087[39] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/three-things-know-open-enrollment-closes-friday[40] https://my.cu.edu/index.html[41] http://www.cu.edu/oe[42] https://my.cu.edu/[43] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/auto-enrollment[44] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/pollock-speak-advocacy-event[45] https://connections.cu.edu/did-you-know/reception-set-for-u-s-professor-of-the-year/dyk_uspothy[46] https://secure.www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/UCO/event/showEventForm.jsp?form_id=174665