Cancer patients win big as governor signs patient access bills into law[1]

Cancer patients in Colorado scored a big win last week as Gov. Bill Ritter signed two bills into law that increase their access to anti-cancer therapies.

"Frequently we are prevented from using the best treatment or combination of treatments because we don't want the patient to be stuck with tens of thousands of dollars of medical costs due to lack of insurance coverage," said Wells Messersmith, M.D., co-leader of the University of Colorado Cancer Center's developmental therapeutics program. "Both of these bills are reasonable solutions to patient access to appropriate care."

House Bill 1202 requires insurance companies in Colorado to cover oral chemotherapy drugs for the same co-insurance or copay patients would pay for IV or injected drugs. House Bill 1355 requires insurance companies to cover the cost of anti-cancer drugs recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as effective against cancer regardless of the specific type of cancer the drug was initially approved to treat – so called "off label" use.

"Until these new laws go into effect, a patient's access to effective chemotherapy is often based on insurance coverage rather than what the doctor or even a clinical trial suggested would be the best treatment," said Messersmith, associate professor of medical oncology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "We could have two patients sitting next to each other in the infusion center getting different drugs for the same type of cancer based on insurance coverage. That isn't fair."

About half of all cancer drugs are used "off label" – the drug wasn't initially approved by FDA to treat a specific type of cancer that experts now agree it is effective against. Lists of acceptable drugs for specific cancers are maintained as "compendia." In that case, the drug is "compendia-listed" as effective against cancer types X, Y and Z, even if the drug manufacturer hasn't put the drug through the expensive process of changing the label via clinical trials and further FDA approval. HB 1355 requires insurance companies to cover drugs listed by HHS as effective and appropriate, rather than what's on the label.

HB 1202 solves another problem with access to care. Many anti-cancer treatments – and especially new targeted therapies – are developed as pills, rather than intravenous (IV)-delivered or injected drugs. Despite the fact that chemotherapy pills are as powerful as their infused or injected versions, let alone more convenient for patients to take, some insurance companies cover the drug only if it is given by IV.

Patients whose insurance companies don't cover oral chemotherapy "same as" face a trade-off: pay thousands of dollars for the pills, or have the insurance company pay for the IV version while they miss work and other activities for regular trips to an infusion center and risk losing quality of life because of an access port inserted beneath their skin.

Messersmith cites rectal patients as an example of people who will benefit from this new law.

"They have to come in for radiation therapy five days a week for five weeks, and they can either take their chemotherapy by swallowing a pill or by wearing an IV medicine pump during the workweek," he said. "Many patients who couldn't afford the pills because they weren't covered by their insurance company will now have much better quality of life when the pills are covered for the same cost to them as the infused drug. Moreover, when infusion costs and nursing care are factored into the equation for IV drugs, total treatment costs are often evened out between pills and IV drugs, but for patients the differences could be astronomical prior to this bill."

Messersmith said the new law will eliminate a two-tiered system where patients are penalized for taking oral chemotherapy.

"I view this as a big win for cancer patients in Colorado, and for their cancer doctors who have been stymied by a patient's lack of insurance coverage for the most effective, or most convenient, treatment," he said.

White House turns to CU for input on technology commercialization[2]

The university technology transfer community last month received a request for information[3]from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the National Economic Council, asking for input on how to support the commercialization of federally funded research and Proof of Concept Centers.

CU's Technology Transfer Office has submitted two white papers in response to this request: "University Technology Transfer Effectiveness" (PDF[4]) and "The University of Colorado Proof of Concept (POC) Program" (PDF[5]).

Among the statements in "University Technology Transfer Effectiveness": "A starting point is to vociferously acknowledge that today basically no federal resources are directed to universities for commercialization of university research."

Wartgow, Marks take on new leadership roles at UC Denver, Anschutz[6]

Jerry Wartgow

Jerry Wartgow today was named interim chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver by CU President Bruce D. Benson.

A veteran of education in Colorado and elsewhere, Wartgow has served as superintendent of Denver Public Schools (2001-05), president of the Colorado Community Colleges System (1986-98), deputy executive director and acting executive director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (1973-78). Most recently, he was Fulbright Senior Specialist to Hong Kong, advising senior administrators at eight public universities on transitioning the higher education system from a three-year British model to a four-year American model. His complete résumé can be found here[8].

"Jerry Wartgow has the experience, management skills and Colorado connections to help the University of Colorado Denver address the significant challenges facing the campus, and will also help us take advantage of opportunities to move UCD forward," Benson said.

Wartgow officially starts Aug. 3. He replaces Dr. M. Roy Wilson, who will take on new duties for CU, working more directly with national organizations in support of higher education.

Benson said no decisions about a search for a permanent chancellor would be made until after the campus completes the national reaccreditation process, which begins late this fall and proceeds into 2011.

"I'm excited to work with the entire University of Colorado Denver community to ensure we build on our significant strengths and address our challenges," Wartgow said. "We also need to continue to meet the needs of the metro area, the state and our partners in education."

Lilly Marks

Benson also appointed Lilly Marks, senior associate dean for finance and administration of the University of Colorado School of Medicine and executive director of University Physicians Inc., as vice president for health affairs and executive vice chancellor at the university's Anschutz Medical Campus. She will oversee its academic, clinical and

research operations and focus on key strategic issues such as transportation, relationships with affiliate hospitals and development on and around the campus.

"Lilly Marks has had a longstanding passion for advancing the academic mission of our health programs," Benson said. "Her skills and experience will help us deal with critical issues such as funding and the continued growth and development of our Anschutz Medical Campus."

Marks will begin her new duties June 30. In her current position, she manages an annual budget of more than $1 billion at CU's School of Medicine and also is executive director of University Physicians Inc., which is a national model for academic practice plans. A CU alumna, she has worked at the university since 1976. Her complete résumé is here[10].

"These are extremely challenging times for academic medical centers nationally as they are buffeted by declining state support, constrained research funding, and major changes resulting from health care reform," Marks said. "I look forward to using my skills and three decades of experience at CU to help create and sustain the physical, academic and financial environment that will allow the Anschutz Medical Campus to play a leadership role in Colorado and the nation in advancing science, improving care, and training the health professionals of tomorrow."

In a letter to the university community, Benson wrote, "Let me be clear that we remain committed to a consolidated university. In many ways, the endeavor is a model for the shared services approach we are instituting across the CU system and with our higher education colleagues around the state.

"At the same time, both UCD and AMC face significant challenges brought about by unprecedented reductions in state funding. Those challenges are sufficiently distinct that they require distinct leadership. The model we will employ is similar to that at other institutions nationwide, while also allowing us to address issues unique to the Anschutz Medical Campus."

Vice Chancellor McKee leaving CU-Boulder[11]

Sallye McKee, vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement at the University of Colorado at Boulder, will resign from her position effective June 30, the university announced today.

In the coming days, CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano will appoint an interim successor to McKee, who cited personal and family reasons for leaving the university.

"I want to thank Dr. McKee for her service to CU-Boulder," DiStefano said. "As CU's first vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement, she has strengthened the university's ties to diverse communities in Denver and throughout Colorado, and positioned us to make more progress on diversity issues involving students, faculty and staff."

McKee joined CU-Boulder in August 2007, after having served as associate to the president for institutional diversity at Metropolitan State College of Denver. She was appointed vice chancellor following a national search.

"It has been an honor to serve the University of Colorado at Boulder," McKee said. "I believe we have been successful in expanding the focus of our diversity efforts externally, and internally we have organized to meet 21st century diversity challenges under the Flagship 2030 Strategic Plan. I believe the campus is well-positioned for new diversity leadership and has taken important steps toward becoming a more diverse and welcoming community."

The vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement oversees CU-Boulder's total diversity efforts, including recruitment and retention of students and faculty, campus climate issues and developing best practices to promote diversity within the academic, professional and social environment of the university.

Slate of regent candidates coming into focus[12]

With the two major political parties just having wrapped up their Colorado assemblies last weekend, the field of candidates for three seats on the University of Colorado Board of Regents is coming into focus.

Three six-year terms – those of Steve Bosley, Michael Carrigan and Tom Lucero – will end in January.

Running for re-election to the at-large seat, Bosley, R-Broomfield, faced no challengers from within his party. At the Democratic assembly, Denver's Melissa Hart was the top vote-getter, winning over Boulder's Howard Wachtel, who has run for regent three times over the past decade.

Libertarian Jesse Wallace also has filed with the state as a candidate in the at-large race.

CU-Boulder alum Bosley, elected in 2004 and current chair of the board, served as president and CEO of the Bank of Boulder from 1974 to 1998, and established the Bolder Boulder road race in 1979. His campaign website is linked here [13].

Hart, a law professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder, in 2008 co-chaired the successful statewide campaign against Amendment 46, a ballot initiative opponents said would have undone equal opportunity programs at the state's public higher education institutions. Her site is linked here[14].

In the 4th District, incumbent Lucero, R-Loveland, can't seek re-election because of term limits. At the Republican assembly, Sue Sharkey of Windsor won against Kelly Barlean of Sterling. Robert Bishop-Cotner of Windsor was the sole Democrat seeking a ballot spot at his party's assembly.

Sharkey is the mother of three adult children, one of whom graduated from CU-Boulder; another now attends there. She has served as president of Larimer County Republican Women and was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2004. Her husband, David, is president-elect of the CU Parents Association. Her site islinked here[15].

Bishop-Cotner announced his candidacy just three days before the May 21 Democratic assembly. A social studies teacher at Brighton High School, he serves on the Windsor Town Board. Before becoming an educator, he served 11 years in the U.S. Army. His site is linked here[16].

Running for re-election in the 1st District, Carrigan, D-Denver, faced no opposition at the party assembly, and thus far has no other challengers. Thursday, May 27, is the last day for candidates to file major or minor party candidate petitions for the Aug. 10 primary election.

Denver lawyer Carrigan graduated from the University of Colorado Law School; he was elected to the Board of Regents in 2004. The Boulder native and his wife are lifetime members of the CU Alumni Association. His site islinked here[17].

Staff Council gathering opinions before next regents meeting[18]

In advance of next month's Board of Regents meeting, the University of Colorado Staff Council has launched an online survey to gather opinions from staff members across all campuses and system administration.

The survey, posted at http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YKBHNYT[19], addresses three topics scheduled for discussion at the board's June 24 meeting:
Proposed changes to the university's Guiding Principles, most notably a recent draft that emphasizes political, intellectual and philosophical diversity among faculty. Revision of the presidential search process, which includes a proposal for how many members from each of several constituencies would be given spots on the search committee. An addition to Regent Law Article 10 (anti-discrimination) that would specify gender identity and gender expression as protected characteristics.
Surveys must be completed by 8 a.m. Tuesday, June 1 (the day after Memorial Day).

Questions: Lori Krug, Staff Council chair, lori.krug@cusys.edu[20] or 303-735-5737.

Fowlkes named executive director of Alumni Association[21]

Photo courtesy Temple University
Deborah W. Fowlkes
Photo courtesy Temple UniversityDeborah W. Fowlkes

The University of Colorado at Boulder has announced that Deborah W. Fowlkes (pronounced "folks") has been named executive director of the University of Colorado Alumni Association. Fowlkes, who will assume the post July 26, currently serves as assistant vice president for alumni relations and executive director of the Temple University Alumni Association in Philadelphia.

"We are delighted to welcome Deborah Fowlkes to CU-Boulder," said Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Julie Wong, to whom Fowlkes will report. "We are excited to have a leader of her breadth of experience with two great institutions – and strong ties to CU-Boulder – ready to take our dynamic alumni association to the next level of success."

Fowlkes, who grew up in Boulder, is a graduate of Boulder High School and the daughter of retired CU math professor Irving Weiss. Since July 2005, she has served in the top alumni relations position at Temple University, where she is responsible for universitywide alumni relations and heads outreach efforts to the school's 265,000 alumni.

Prior to her position at Temple University, Fowlkes worked for almost two decades at Duke University, where she served as director of alumni education and travel (1999-2005), director of alumni continuing education (1991-99), assistant director for alumni admissions (1989-91) and first reader in the admissions office (1986-90).

She holds a bachelor's degree in comparative literature and French literature and a master's degree in liberal studies from Duke.

"This is the opportunity of a lifetime," Fowlkes said. "I grew up on CU-Boulder's lively and stimulating campus, so I look forward to working with our alumni and the CU-Boulder administration to ensure that same vibrancy continues to define the CU alumni experience at every level."

The executive director of the CU-Boulder Alumni Association is responsible for building and maintaining a leading alumni association, expanding CU-Boulder's relationship with its 240,000 alumni and 30,000 students through the "Forever Buffs" initiative, serving as publisher of the Coloradan alumni magazine, and supporting an alumni communications and engagement strategy as part of CU-Boulder's Flagship 2030 Strategic Plan.

The post is currently held on an interim basis by Ron Stump, who formerly served as CU-Boulder's vice chancellor for student affairs, and who has overseen the organizational transition of the Alumni Association from the independent CU Foundation to the university administration over the past two years.

Temporary name sought for Science Building[23]

[24]
The soon-to-reopen Science Building at UCCS needs a new name, and campus leaders are hoping it will be temporary.

Brian Burnett, vice chancellor, Administration and Finance, explained why in his report to Faculty Assembly at its May 14 meeting.

"A new name needs to be recommended to the Board of Regents so they can approve it at their June meeting. That way we can have the signage in place for the building re-dedication," he said.

Renovations are nearly complete, he announced, with the opening of the building and re-dedication ceremony scheduled for 9 a.m. Aug. 19.

Burnett described the name change committee's efforts and the leadership team's choices of Centennial Hall, Cimarron Hall and Pikes Peak Hall as names for the final list.

Burnett explained that having a Science Building and a Science and Engineering Building causes confusion. Throughout the 2009-10 academic year, during renovation work, four Science Building classrooms and the auditorium remained in use. Some students mistakenly thought their classes were in Science and Engineering. The inconvenience to students is one issue, he said, but emergency first responders could lose time if they don't know the difference between the buildings.

A new, less confusing name is necessary, but campus leaders also hope for a naming gift to provide some funding as well as clarity, he said.

But until that possible naming gift comes about, he said, the building needs a name with some character and heritage reflecting Colorado, similar to Columbine Hall named after the state flower.

Members of the campus community were asked which of the three names they prefer in an online survey that concluded Tuesday, May 25.

"We hope we can replace the temporary name as soon as possible," Burnett said.

Along with the three finalist names, suggestions included Ponderosa Hall, Colorado Hall, Granite Hall, Spruce Hall, El Paso Hall, Lupine Hall and Alchemy Hall.

The renovated building will house chemistry, anthropology, geography and environmental studies departments as well as classrooms, the Science Learning Center and the Gallery of Contemporary Art. Burnett said plans already are under way for a timely and efficient move-in before the semester begins.

Graduates with ethnic studies minor honored[25]

Donna Langston honors an ethnic studies
minor graduate.
Donna Langston honors an ethnic studiesminor graduate.

The ethnic studies minor is the third largest in terms of minors on the UC Denver campus.

Now, for the first time, a spring graduation ceremony honored ethnic studies minor graduates and educational opportunity programs graduates.

The May 14 event at the Multicultural Lounge in the Tivoli honored 20 graduates who completed majors from every college on campus, including a large group of premedical students.

"The ethnic studies graduation was held to honor our students and their families," said Donna Langston, professor and chair of the department of ethnic studies. "Education is a path of many journeys; it was a blessing to be a part of the journey that these students completed with their families by their sides. In honoring these students, we honor their families."

The event was attended by a group of approximately 100 students and family members. Ethnic studies founder Cecil Glenn was in attendance. Sgt. Steve Eslary and his family also attended; they recently endowed a scholarship for ethnic studies students.

Sponsors who made the celebration possible included: UPS, 303 S. Broadway, Suite 200; Wells Fargo; Dill Dill Carr Stonbraker, Hutchings, PC; and ANP-CM Photo Elite Ltd.
Courses are varied in the ethnic studies minor and include ethnicity, health and social justice, Chicano/Latino history, history of American Indian and social history of Asian Americans.

"Our ethnic studies students gain cultural competency skills that give them an edge in very competitive job markets," Langston said. "The majority of our graduates will seek employment opportunities in fields that serve very diverse communities."

Some of the individual students included:
Atnafu Atnafu, whose family is from Ethiopia. He worked with a group of students in Langston's introduction to ethnic studies course to compose a film clip on the visual and verbal reactions interracial couples experienced on the 16th Street Mall. Atnafu served as an officer in the Ethnic Studies Student Organization. One of the events they organized several years ago was a Michael Jackson theme dance. Greg Holder (Lakota) attended with his mother; wife, Leslie; and two children. Holder will start graduate school this fall at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay, which is close to the Oneida nation where his wife is enrolled. He attended the event on his 36th birthday. Holly Amaro was a top GPA student and attends ethnic studies events with her mother and grandmother. Multiple generations are an important part of ethnic studies. Students in Langston's introduction to ethnic studies class are assigned family history papers. Sandra Zamora took Langston's introduction to ethnic studies class her first semester and founded a Latina sorority on campus. "I noticed her the first day of class, because she looked so much like my daughter," Langston says. Huy Phan has two job offers but is leaning toward working with a group of elders, because he is a people person. He sometimes drives his grandmother to Vietnamese Catholic services in Denver. Julian Long worked with a group of students in the American Indian history class to produce a video on the Indian mascot issue in Colorado. He is a College of Arts and Media graduate who will return to New York to live near his mother. He has a 3-year-old daughter. Kristen Burback attended the graduation with her father. She is starting graduate school at the University of Missouri in social work, and feels that multicultural skills are critical in this field.
The ethnic studies minor has been available at UC Denver the past 20 years. A proposal for an ethnic studies major is currently at the university community level.

TRiO director first to receive new UC Denver award[27]

Teresa De Herrera, director of the TRiO Student Support Services program at the university (second from right, top row), Umberto Guerrero (top right) and other students from the TRiO program at UC Denver. De Herrera is the first recipient of the UC Denver Global Ambassador Award from the Office of International Affairs.

Teresa De Herrera was honored recently with the first University of Colorado Denver Global Ambassador Award.

De Herrera, director of the TRiO Student Support Services program at the university, encourages students to look beyond assumptions and geographic boundaries in creating their ideal educational path.

The TRiO program helps first-generation, low-income students and those with disabilities to achieve academic success. De Herrera provides practical support that allows students from diverse backgrounds to successfully study abroad.

"I've seen such growth in the students who study abroad, not only academically but also in their level of maturity," De Herrera said. She added that the program offers truly experiential learning and functions as an excellent retention tool: Students return to the states with a powerful degree of motivation.

De Herrera and her staff actively identify candidates for international education, then tutor and advise the students and guide them to scholarship opportunities. Using storytelling and role models, De Herrera encourages students of multiethnic backgrounds to "see themselves" as part of the greater international community.

"These first-generation college students are important to the future leadership of America. They are part of the strength of our emergent university and the emergent population of the U.S.," said Carolyn North, assistant vice chancellor for international affairs in the Office of International Education.

Shakespeare Fest's Devin honored with lifetime award[29]

Richard "Dick" Devin, Colorado Shakespeare Festival's producing artistic director from 1990 through 2007, has received the Honorary Lifetime Member Award from the U.S. Institute for Theatre Technology Inc.

Joel E. Rubin, past president and founding member, presented the award to Devin on March 28.
Devin was honored for a lifetime of service and leadership dedicated to the institute.

While working as the producing artistic director and resident lighting designer for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival and for theaters throughout the United States and off-Broadway, as well as in Hong Kong, Tokyo and Cairo, Devin has served the institute as president, fellow of the institute and vice president of commissions. He continues on the endowment management committee, awards committee and as an associate editor for the professional journal, TD&T.

School of Medicine's Thor in leadership roles for three prominent groups[30]

Thor

Ann Thor, who focuses on hormone-related malignancies as the chair of the department of pathology at the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver, has been elected chair of the American Association for Cancer Research's (AACR) Women in Cancer Research council. Thor has served on the committee for two years.

The council is a program for the more than 12,000 female AACR members; it offers at least three annual symposia, educational events and nominations of women for science awards. It also offers mentoring programs for junior and senior scientists.

"About half of the post-docs in cancer research are women, but between the ages of 30 and 40 almost half of them leave the field," Thor said. "We try to encourage them that you can have families and do science, and there are lots of different career paths."

During her one-year term, Thor wants to reach beyond women to work with AACR's council on minorities.

"I'd like us to partner in joint educational programs, to facilitate the careers and science of both women and minorities. They face different, and perhaps more difficult challenges," Thor said.

Thor also was recently asked to chair the University of California San Francisco's Breast SPORE Advisory Board, and is president-elect of the International Society of Breast Pathology, which enhances the education of breast pathologists worldwide.

UC Denver Chancellor Wilson changing jobs[32]

M. Roy Wilson

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus, is leaving his current post to take on a new leadership role representing the university system, effective July 1.

In a statement, Wilson and CU President Bruce Benson said the new arrangement enables Wilson "to spend considerably more time on national issues and policies that impact higher education and academic health centers."

An announcement regarding leadership at UC Denver is expected Thursday, May 27, after Benson meets with campus governance groups. He met Tuesday, May 25, in executive session with the Board of Regents.

Wilson, a board member of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) and the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC), will adopt an expanded role at both organizations, where he will deal with such pressing national issues as:
increasing funding for higher education; increasing the nation's health care workforce; facilitating initiatives to increase collaborations with international universities and academic health centers; and leading efforts for increased funding for urban medical centers to address health disparities in urban populations.
The regents are expected to vote on naming Wilson chancellor emeritus at the board's June meeting.

"I believe we have made great strides in recent years, and I am proud of the work and accomplishments of each member of our university community in education, research and clinical care," Wilson wrote in a letter to the UC Denver community Friday, May 21. He has served as chancellor since 2006.

Five Questions for Fred Coolidge[34]

UCCS' Fred Coolidge, right, professor of psychology, with Tom Wynn, professor of anthropology, and friends

If you could only use one word to describe Fred Coolidge, it would be enthusiastic. If you were allowed a second, it might be fascinating. A third? Storyteller. Perhaps that is why the professor of psychology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs has been honored with numerous teaching and research awards, including being named a President's Teaching Scholar and being given three Fulbright Fellowships.

Even seemingly complicated (and terrifying) subjects become eminently understandable – and fun – under the tutelage of professor Coolidge. Teaching statistics is one of his favorite classes, but sometimes students need a bit of coaxing. He says everyone gets excited about abnormal psychology, but statistics?

"You'd think you were killing someone," he says, remembering one young woman found holding her head in her hands, crying, at the prospect of having to take the class. "I found I loved changing their attitude."

Statistics, says Coolidge, who has been at the university 30 years, provides us with either the means or the principled arguments for making decisions. It's about converting the world into numbers and making decisions based on the data. "I'm turning these people into more critical thinkers."

He compiled his handouts from the statistics class and sent the package off as a book prospectus. It became "Statistics: A Gentle Introduction," for which he has just signed a contract for a third edition.

Coolidge has authored several other books and research papers on a variety of psychological topics. For the past 10 years, he has collaborated with professor Tom Wynn to study Neanderthals and why these smart human predecessors became extinct while modern man flourished. Coolidge and Wynn theorize that a rewiring of the brain thousands of years ago gave Homo sapiens the ability to plan and strategize, which allowed them to deal effectively with their harsh environs. Neanderthals weren't so lucky.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. You've teamed up with Tom Wynn, a professor of archaeology at UCCS, to research cognitive archaeology and possible reasons for the extinction of Neanderthals. How did the collaboration come about?

I was reading an article that said Neanderthals didn't have language, and I said, that is just wrong.

I do twin studies concerning executive decision-making – planning, organizing and strategy. If a person has frontal lobe damage (where the executive functions are), they become unspontaneous. They don't have memory problems, they just become very slug-like, very unspontaneous. The executive decision-making traits are highly heritable, even more heritable than intelligence.

Neaderthals had larger brains than modern humans, so why didn't they survive? So I began to think that maybe we out-thought them. Maybe the genes for decision-making came online (and that's why we outlived them).

So I went to his office and said, "I think Neanderthals had language – maybe not all the accoutrements of modern language, but language." Wynn said that was consistent with archaeological literature. He said he could provide the evidence if I'd write it up.

When I was 5, my parents said I couldn't become an archaeologist because there were no jobs. They were a product of the Depression. But I wrote it up and it became "Executive functions of the frontal lobes and the evolutionary ascendancy of Homo sapiens[36]" and appeared in the Cambridge Archaeological Journal in 2001. Finally I was an archaeologist of sorts and that led to this collaboration.

2. Another area of your research is behavioral genetics. What is some of the work you've done in that arena?

I'm interested in the biology, the functions, of homosexuality. Is it a choice or a biological predilection?

We have a guy here in Colorado Springs, James Dobson (who until last year was the evangelical leader of Focus on the Family) who says there's no evidence homosexuality is biological. Not a shred. And he has a Ph.D. in psychology. Then, during an interview, a bigger lie came. He said his beliefs had nothing to do with his religious opinions.

So I became curious. I looked at my twin samples and gender identity disorder (children who are discontent with their sex and more connected with the opposite sex). Less than 3 percent of children have gender identity disorder (GID) and it occurs more in girls. But of those children, 75 percent have adult homosexual orientations.

I looked at 200 twin pairs and found GID was a high heritable trait. There's your shred of biological evidence.

I also studied nightmares, which is another highly heritable trait. Of course, daytime anxieties can create extreme nightmares, but it also ties back to evolution.

I looked at the most common dreams of college students – falling and being chased. These dreams may be evolutionary adaptive. When you dream of falling, you're dreaming an old dream. Lucy, our closest ancestor, slept in trees, lived in trees, played there and suckled her young there. Falling would be a natural fear. If you had that dream, even if you didn't have language, you could do something about it. You might become better at making your nest in the tree and then be more likely to adapt and survive.

3. What are you currently researching?

I started thinking there might be a feral basis, an ancient basis, a cognitive basis for abstracting. It's a pretty sophisticated ability and could reside in language. It's found in numbers and it's called numerosity (the ability to approximate numbers). Nine-month-old babies can do it and so can monkeys. Infants can subitize, in other words, they have a sudden awareness of things fewer than four. They know the difference between one, two, three and four. This could have been useful in an evolutionary way. It would be important to know the difference between three predators and one predator. The decisions made upon seeing one or four predators would be different. It's a pretty incredible trait.

There's a feral, cognitive basis for abstraction and that abstraction is the basis for symbolism. When you show this to adults, even monkeys, a certain part of the brain – the intraparietal sulcus lobe, which plays a role in number processing – lights up. When you compare our brains with a Neanderthal's, it would mean we have the higher ability, which could also have led to our survival.

I'm also writing a book – "How to Think Like a Neanderthal" – for the masses. It's for people like my brother who didn't go to college but is very intellectual. He's a carpenter and can build a spiral staircase. The book, literally, is about how Neanderthals thought.

[37]
4. You are a collector and are also very musical. What else do you do in your down time?

My wife said, "Look, he's got a package from eBay." And then she opened it up and it was a skull. She said that was the last time she'd ever open one of my packages. I collect replicas of skulls for teaching purposes. I have nine different ones reflecting our history. For my birthday, my brother asked me what I wanted, and I told him an ape skull. And he got me one. The replicas aren't cheap, but I save up.

I also love mammoths, which were suddenly extinct 10,000 years ago. I have all these old mammoth teeth and bones, a rib, tusk hair ... I'm almost ready to clone them. Wouldn't that be cool, having a baby mammoth running around your backyard?

Two years ago, when I turned 60, I decided I needed to do something manly. My wife said I should do some gardening. But three friends and I met in Little Rock, Ark., and bicycled 70 miles a day to Gainesville, Fla., where several of us earned our Ph.Ds years ago.

I've played in several bands. For 10 years, I was in a band called Pink Freud. Then there was the Cellar Dwellers, which was rock. I jam with a couple of people doing original songs. And now we're playing Irish drinking songs.

5. What would you like students to take away from your class?

It sounds trite, but I want them to know how to think critically, how to see through the baloney and be a more educated consumer and have some immunity against the scams.

My statistics class isn't just about numbers and graphs and charts, it's about life. Statistics has three roles: curious detective, honest attorney and storyteller. The class investigates life, often by looking at the truth behind an advertisement. This semester, the class took a critical look at a claim that a laser light could grow hair.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[38]

Former President Brown among Boulder alums receiving honors[39]

Former University of Colorado President **Hank Brown** was among the 21 outstanding university community members honored May 5 by the University of Colorado at Boulder Alumni Association.

Recipients of the 2010 George Norlin Award, which honors outstanding alumni for their careers and service to society, are: Brown ('61, '69), **Julianne Mattingly Steinhauer** ('60), **Richard Knowlton** ('54), and Laurence Boxer ('61).

Three professors and one top administrator received the Robert L. Stearns Award in recognition of extraordinary contributions to the university: **John Cumalat,** physics; **Richard Noble,** chemical and biological engineering; Senior Vice Chancellor and CFO **Ric Porreca** ('83); and **Robert Schulzinger,** history.

Four alumni received the Alumni Recognition Award: **Joanne Easley Arnold** ('52,'65, '71), **Woody Eaton** ('62) and **Leslie Bernstein Eaton** ('63) and **Clancy Herbst Jr.** ('50, '95).

Mary Allen Judd ('80) received the Leanne Skupa-Lee Award as a faithful National Alumni Admissions Assistance Program volunteer for more than 20 years.

The Kalpana Chawla Outstanding Recent Graduate Award went to **Nick Sowden** ('07).

Eight students were recognized as recipients of the Public Interest Internship Experience awards: **Wynne Adams**(junior environmental studies and art double major), **Mindy Bridges** (junior anthropology major), **Denise Justice** (senior international affairs major), **Melissa Khat** (senior international affairs major), **Bryant Mason**(junior economics and environmental studies double major), **Heidi Meyer** (sophomore education and English double major), **Austin Rempel** (senior ecology and economics double major), and **Mercedes Ruiz** (senior Spanish major).

The CU-Boulder Alumni Association[40] administers scholarships, awards, online networking opportunities, alumni clubs and a museum, and publishes the monthly electronic newsletter Buffalum Notes and the quarterly alumni magazine, The Coloradan.

Dropping names ...[41]

Debbie Kornblith with former colleague Michael Hambidge, M.D., professor emeritus, pediatrics/section of nutrition.

The latest Employee of the Month honor bestowed by University of Colorado Denver Staff Council came right in time, just as the recipient was wrapping up her work at the Anschutz Medical Campus. **Debbie Kornblith,**pharmacology, was recognized for her many years of service by Staff Council during a reception April 30.

...**Rachael Thompson,** administrative assistant in the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado Denver, gave up some of her hair for a good cause. Her trimmed-off locks are helping soak up the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. The ecological public charity Matter of Trust[43] is collaborating with thousands of hair salons to donate hair clippings to stuff into tubes (booms) made from recycled nylons, tied together to surround and contain a spill. The mission of Matter of Trust is to link ideas, spark action and materialize sustainable systems. Salons, groomers and individuals can sign up to donate hair and fur clippings and nylons for the Oil Spill Booms.

Yi

Knight

... **Hubert Yin** and **Rob Knight** of chemistryand biochemistry at the University of Colorado at Boulder have received highly coveted National Academies Keck Futures grants, awarded to support interdisciplinary research. The 13 projects chosen represent a wide range of approaches to research in synthetic biology. The grants enable researchers to recruit students and postdoctoral fellows, buy equipment and acquire preliminary data, all of which can position the researchers to compete for larger awards from other public and private sources.

... The 2010 Chancellor's Employee of the Year awardees from the University of Colorado at Boulder are **Megan Bell,** director of student activities at the University Memorial Center; **Jeanne Meyer-Brown** of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication; **Genevieve Borst** of the Graduate School;**Linda Finfrock** of art and art history; and **Jonathan Roberts** of psychology and neuroscience. Each received an award of $1,500 and a commemorative slate plaque during a private reception.

... This year's University of Colorado School of Medicine winners of the Excellence in Education Awards from the Academy of Medical Educators are **Carlton Barnett,** M.D.; **Eugene Chu,** M.D.; **Jeffrey Druck,** M.D.; **Robert Feinstein,** M.D.;**Jeanette Guerrasio,** M.D.; **Carol Hodgson,** Ph.D.; **Stuart Lind,** M.D., and **Steven Morgan,** M.D.

Want to suggest a colleague — or yourself — for People? Please e-mail information to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[38]

Rebalancing investments can turn losers into winners, professor says[46]

When it comes to investing money in the stock market, actively rebalancing your portfolio is so critical that it can help turn individual investment losers into winners, according to University of Colorado at Boulder professor Michael Stutzer.

In a recent paper, he showed that using a rebalancing investment strategy could resolve a "Parrondo Paradox," a phenomenon in game theory in which "given two games, each with a higher probability of losing than winning, it is possible to construct a winning strategy by playing the games alternately."

In the paper titled "The Paradox of Diversification," Stutzer demonstrated a scenario in which two investments were each more likely to lose real income than to earn it. However, creating an equally weighted portfolio of the two,

maintained by rebalancing, was surprisingly more likely to earn real income than to lose it.

"Most people think diversification pays because it just lowers the volatility of your portfolio," said Stutzer, a professor of finance and director of the Richard M. Burridge Center for Securities Analysis and Valuation at the Leeds School of Business. "What this shows is that diversification is such a powerful force that you can take investments that on average would lose money on their own and by diversifying them you have a better chance of making money than losing it."

Many investors initially create balanced portfolios but then fail to reallocate their funds to keep them balanced. In a buy and hold strategy, an investor may originally have a diversified portfolio, Stutzer said, but then fail to redistribute over time as the values increase and decrease. A rebalanced investment strategy requires repeated action by the investor or the investor's portfolio manager.

For example, suppose an investor puts 60 percent of his or her money in a diversified stock fund and 40 percent in a bond fund. If the stock market goes up by 20 percent next year, but bonds stay even, the investor's portfolio is no longer balanced, Stutzer said. To rebalance the portfolio, the investor would have to sell some of the stock fund, moving that money over into the bond fund to achieve the initial 60-40 mix.

"The part that many investors find hard to follow is reallocating their money," Stutzer said. "It's tough because it means withdrawing money from funds that have soared last year, and adding money to funds that declined last year.

"I think the real take-home message here is just how important it is to keep your investments diversified. Rebalancing them can be more helpful than you realized."

Links
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