Colorful new signage raises university's profile[1]

[2]
Colorful new window signage with CU Denver logos, students' faces and provocative questions is featured on the Denver Campus.

The Think Tank advertising campaign continues its roll-out with signs replacing previous University of Colorado Denver signage at the street level of the Lawrence Street Center and the CU Denver Building.

"The locations were selected for their visibility to pedestrians at street level, allowing us to share messages about the university and reinforce its presence in downtown Denver," said Karen Klimczak, director of marketing.

The Think Tank campaign launched this year and is part of the university's undergraduate enrollment strategy. The campaign has been coordinated by CCT Advertising[3] in partnership with the university's Office of Marketing and Community Engagement[4].

"The signage will be up for the next year as the first phase of the undergraduate enrollment campaign runs through early June and then starts again in August/September for the fall recruitment cycle," Klimczak said.

The signage augments the multifaceted campaign, which includes an interactive website, CUDenverThinkTank.com[5]. Earlier this month, Think Tank videos, a compilation of more than 100 CU Denver students expressing their thoughts about the university and their aspirations, were shown to students in the North Classroom Atrium.

The campaign seeks to encourage metro-area high school students, community college transfers and military veterans to enroll at CU Denver.

Klimczak said undergraduate recruitment collateral materials also are being redesigned to adopt the Think Tank theme.

For more information go to CUDenverThinkTank.com[5].

Learn the keys to keeping that secret word secret[6]

Passwords have become a critical part of our daily lives. We use passwords to log on to a computer, read email, update finances, shop online and watch movies. It seems that taking almost any action on the Internet requires some type of password.

Your passwords represent the keys to your information kingdom. Cyber-criminals understand the importance of your passwords. If they can get your password, they can have access to your bank accounts, read your email, sell your information – even steal your identify. Password protection is more critical than ever.

To understand the eight steps to protecting your passwords, see the May 2012 Office of Information Security Cyber Security newsletter[7].

Shull to head UCCS Office of International Affairs[8]

Shull

Anthony Shull, director of the Office of Global Programs, College of Education at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, recently was named executive director of the Office of International Affairs, which will coordinate UCCS efforts to make the campus more international in its outlook as well as to recruit more international students and provide study abroad opportunities for students and faculty.

Shull will be charged with coordinating campus internationalization efforts.

“Furthering our global education efforts is a central part of our campus strategic plan for 2012-2020,” said Provost Peg Bacon. “I am very excited about the potential for our new Office of International Affairs under Anthony Shull’s leadership.”

The Office of International Affairs will bring together existing functions such as the Office of Study Abroad and Exchange, Office of International Student and Scholar Services, and the Center for English Language and American Culture Studies, as well as establish new functions such as the Office of Global Studies, Partnerships and Enterprise. By doing so, Shull believes UCCS can improve its recruitment and retention of international students, develop new partnerships and make a multicultural experience possible for UCCS students who find it difficult to leave campus.

Topping the list is helping students and faculty navigate a complex maze of regulations instituted by the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

“It can be daunting for an international student to enroll at U.S. universities,” Shull said. “Our goal at UCCS is to make the process efficient and friendly while offering a very high level of service to get them to come here and to keep them here. Upon completion of their experience here, we want them to be able to tell their friends back home what a great experience they had at UCCS and in the greater community.”

UCCS currently has about 110 international students enrolled. A new UCCS strategic plan calls for 750 international students enrolled by 2020. Shull believes that having additional students from India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Brazil, Nepal and other countries helps diversify the campus and helps move the campus forward in its goal of creating globally competent students and faculty.

Recruiting students to UCCS is an important goal. But Shull is quick to add that creating rigorous study abroad programs for UCCS students, research opportunities for faculty and students, and creating strategic partnerships with other institutions is equally important. This spring, students from a French university studied political science at UCCS and Shull hopes to complete agreements with a South Korean university that allow students to study one year in Korea and another at UCCS. Students from Brazil and Nepal will come to UCCS in the fall 2012 and spring 2013.

Shull came to UCCS in 2009 as the international coordinator for the College of Education. In that role, he worked with the Daegu English Village in Daegu, South Korea, to improve its partnership with UCCS. He built on previous experiences with a Mexican university and a U.S. company doing business in Mexico to create several international partnerships, run language programs and establish offices involving international initiatives.

For more information about the Office of International Affairs, visit http://www.uccs.edu/international/[10]

Faculty Council honors colleagues, elects officers[11]

Dan Wilkerson receives his award from Faculty Council Chair Mark Malone. (Photo: Cathy Beuten/University of Colorado)

Karen Jonscher with Malone (Photo: Cathy Beuten/University of Colorado)

Melinda Piket-May with Malone (Photo: Cathy Beuten/University of Colorado)

Faculty Council recognized its annual award winners and elected new officers at the April 26 meeting at 1800 Grant St.

Dan Wilkerson, vice president, university counsel and secretary of the CU Board of Regents, was honored as Administrator of the Year.

“Shared governance is something that CU does well, and that’s largely due to your efforts,” Wilkerson told the council in accepting his award. “You represent the faculty so well.”

Wilkerson is retiring from the university at the end of the month.

The council also honored two of its members with Distinguished Service Awards, Karen Jonscher and Melinda Piket-May. Jonscher chairs the council’s Women’s Committee; Piket-May chaired the Women’s Committee’s annual symposium, CU Women Succeeding. Piket-May also chairs the council’s Communication Committee.

Piket-May is the council’s new chair, too, having been the sole nominee; she was elected by acclamation. She'll succeed Mark Malone.

“I’m really excited to be doing this,” she told the council. “I really believe in faculty governance, and I think there’s a lot of great things we can do.”

Katie Kaukinen, president of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Faculty Assembly, won election as vice chair of Faculty Council.

Joanne Addison, vice chair of the University of Colorado Denver Faculty Assembly, won election as secretary of Faculty Council.

In other business at last week’s meeting: Tom Riis, co-chair of the GLBTI committee, said the committee’s first systemwide symposium is tentatively planned for Oct. 19 on the CU Denver campus.

The council’s next meeting is a week from today: noon to 3 p.m. May 10 at 1800 Grant St.

Later start time aimed at reducing parking congestion[15]

In an effort to reduce late afternoon congestion and ease parking problems, evening classes at UCCS will start 15 minutes later this fall.

Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak recently implemented a concept developed by the Alternative Class Schedule Task Force to better utilize campus facilities and ease campus parking congestion. Among the ideas studied by the group was to begin evening classes 15 minutes later than the current schedule provides.

“The thought was that an extra few minutes between the end of day classes and the start of the night classes would benefit students,” said David Moon, senior associate vice chancellor, Office of Academic Affairs. Moon and a group of campus associate deans discussed and endorsed the proposal.

Traditionally, 4:20 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. is the busiest time on campus as students enrolled in daytime classes leave, students enrolled in night classes arrive, and many faculty and staff members also depart campus, said Jim Spice,

director, Department of Public Safety and task force member.

When combined with non-university rush hour traffic on Austin Bluffs, the resulting congestion left drivers competing for lanes on Austin Bluffs and campus parking spaces. By moving course start times to 4:45 p.m., Spice is hopeful that congestion, and competition, will be reduced.

Providing an improved student experience was the driving force behind recommending the later start time. By shifting times slightly, committee members said they believe students who combine work with school will not only find a parking place but have a chance to grab a snack before class or shorten requests to leave a traditional 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job early.

The fall semester will also bring another change to campus. More Friday courses will be offered, giving students more options, including the potential for a Friday class with enrollment in Weekend University. The move will better use university buildings which often are not at full capacity on Friday and better distribute parking space demand.

Members of the task force included: Spice, Debra Dew, associate professor, Department of English; Tracy Barber, associate director, Office of Admissions and Records; Susan Szpyrka, senior associate vice chancellor, Administration and Finance; Mary Snyder, dean, College of Education; Todd Casey, academic adviser, Student Success Center; Steve Ellis, special projects, Office of the Chancellor; Robyn Marschke, director, Office of Institutional Research; and DeShaun Bennett, administrative assistant, Office of Admissions and Records.

State funding woes unite higher education in discussion[16]

Kelly Fox, CU Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

State funding woes remained at the center of discussion among higher education constituents during the current session of the Colorado General Assembly -- and during a gathering of speakers and panelists last week steps away from the Capitol.

The Higher Education Association of the Rockies (HEAR) sponsored the Colorado Higher Education Legislative Update, an afternoon of discussion Friday at the First Baptist Church in Denver. The University of Colorado was officially represented by Kelly Fox, vice president for budget and finance and chief financial officer for the University of Colorado system, who took part in a panel discussion moderated by Todd Saliman, senior policy adviser for CU Government Relations. The panel also consisted of Ed Bowditch, representing Fort Lewis College; Jason Hopfer, Colorado Community College System; John Straayer, Colorado State University faculty; and Frank Watrous, Bell Policy Center.

The event also featured keynote presentations by Hereford Percy, chair of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, and Matt Gianneschi, deputy executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education.

Gianneschi outlined various factors that have affected state funding in recent years, including the growth in Medicaid enrollment. He said the revenue forecast that led to the elimination of a proposed cut to higher education financial aid earlier this year is a positive sign for higher education.

“It’s not that we’re healthy,” Gianneschi said, “but we’re starting to see signs of improvement.”

Fox said that reduced funding from the state has been followed by increased efficiency by CU and other universities and colleges.

“Every institution in this state is very lean and has been very lean for many years,” she said. She also identified a possible silver lining in the face of funding woes: “I do think institutions are feeling like they need to be very responsive

to students." Watrous called it "a new accountability" to students and families.

Unlike the past two legislative sessions, flexibility for higher education this year was not a deliberate goal of CU and other institutions, though panelists acknowledged that those past successes have enabled institutions to operate more efficiently. When Saliman asked panelists whether more flexibility bills might be pursued at the legislature in the future, Straayer said, "Some of these bills remind me of renaming the Titanic the Queen Mary."

"I understand the nature of the economy," Straayer said. "But we need to push back against the 'don't tax, don't spend' industry. We've got to start pushing back and pushing back hard."

Said Bowditch, "We don't need more flexibility – we need more money. If it means more regulation to get more money, we'd say 'yes.' If we were told by state lawmakers, 'Cap tuition increases at 4 percent and we'll give you $100 million,' I think all our institutions would say 'yes.'"

HEAR[18] is an independent coalition of professionals in higher education who promote professional development across the state.

Johnston elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences[19]

Johnston

Mark Johnston, professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and joins some of the world's most accomplished leaders from academia, business, public affairs, the humanities and the arts.

Johnston was elected in the section of cellular and developmental biology, microbiology and immunology. Nine others were elected in the same category among the 220 members in the Academy's Class of 2012, which includes Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, philanthropist Melinda Gates, movie star Clint Eastwood and musician Paul McCartney.

"I'm honored to be recognized," Johnston said. "The list of people in the Class of 2012, in my field and overall, is quite impressive. It means much to me that my colleagues thought enough of my contributions to nominate and elect me."

One of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies, the academy also is a leading center for independent policy research. Members contribute to academy publications and studies of science and technology policy, energy and global security, social policy and American institutions, the humanities and culture, and education.

The new class will be inducted at a ceremony on Oct. 6 at the academy's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass. Since its founding in 1780, the academy has elected leading "thinkers and doers" from each generation, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the 19th, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the 20th. The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners.

Five questions for Jose Mercado[21]

[22]
Jose Mercado was doing what he loved – acting – when a personal event changed the trajectory of his career. He left the spotlight of the L.A. stage and returned to Denver, where much of his work has been conducted behind the scenes. But he is no less visible or commanding. An assistant professor at the University of Colorado Denver's Department of Theatre, Film and Video Production, Mercado has directed numerous successful productions and has played a role in students' successful careers. He also is spearheading the Elitch Gardens Theatre Foundation's effort to renovate the theater at the original Elitch Gardens site.

Since becoming involved with the Elitch Theatre rehabilitation in 2010, Mercado has taken a hiatus from performing. The CU-Boulder graduate still does commercial and voice-over work in Denver, but the last play he acted in was 2009's Curious Theater production of "26 Miles," written by Quiara Hudes, winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

"I was thrilled she won. I'm picky about projects, but I would jump at the opportunity to work with her again," Mercado says. "Also, I've become good friends with Donald Zuckerman, who is the new film commissioner for the state. I'd love to get back into acting for a film that he's able to woo to production in Colorado."

Mercado teaches a course at Denver West High School through the CU Succeed program, where students receive college credit for classes and have the opportunity to learn more about CU Denver. During his first year at the university, one of his students booked a job on "General Hospital"; later, Mercado talked shop with Spike Lee as he chauffeured him to a lecture at the King Center.

One of his favorite achievements is the recent production of "Blood Wedding."

"The actors, the text and the movement all came together in a passionately poetic way," Mercado says. "It is my favorite artistic work thus far. And it sold out the last two performances! People doubted audiences would come to a bilingual production. We proved them wrong."

1. How did you choose this career and was there an event or person who influenced you?

It would have to be my mother, a strong and beautiful woman who raised four children completely on her own. She was a fighter. She told me that while living in Cheyenne, Wyo., she remembered seeing a sign that read: "No dogs or Mexicans allowed." Any tenacity and fight I have comes from her.

I was performing in a play in Los Angeles with Megan Mullally from NBC's "Will & Grace" and Nick Offerman, who is on "Parks and Recreation" today. We didn't have understudies and on closing night, my mother's cancer took a drastic turn for the worse. I finished the play and I told her on the phone that I would see her first thing in the morning. As I was boarding the plane, I called my sister to discover my mother had just died. After the services, I returned to L.A. a different person. I was emotionally empty and lost the courage an actor needs to survive in the industry. I decided to take a year off to regroup and accepted a job as drama teacher at Denver North High School. I committed for a year. The first play I directed, "Zoot Suit," turned into a monster hit. John Hickenlooper was trying to get me to stay in Denver and he cleverly appointed me to the Commission on Cultural Affairs. That was nine years ago. It worked.

A career as an educator wasn't something I saw myself doing, which makes life in academia interesting for me and those I work with. Things happen for a reason and my mom's death made me dig deep and re-evaluate. I know my mother would be proud. She only had a sixth-grade education, but she stressed its importance growing up. It's been nine years since I lost her, but she influences me every single day.

2. How did you get involved with the restoration of Elitch Theatre and why do you believe saving the theater is important?

The Elitch Theatre was Denver's first cultural center, before the DCPA (Denver Center for the Performing Arts) and the downtown cultural district. My commitment to the restoration is a way to give back to a neighborhood that I care deeply about. The schools, the restaurants, the whole vibe is eclectic. I see the revival of Elitch Theatre as a return to the cultural heart for arts education. Denver Public Schools has an "All City Stadium" for athletic events. I envision the

Elitch as an “All City Theater.”

I was invited to help develop the theater’s arts education programming. When I learned about the theater’s robust list of alums, I was able to get Oscar-winning actress Cloris Leachman to host a fundraiser through my L.A. connections. She performed her one-person show at the Elitch Theatre years ago. Soon, my role developed into director. The theater has a remarkable history as the oldest summer stock theater in the nation and the first theater owned by a woman in the U.S. For years, I’ve tried to challenge the conventions of traditional theater by having students perform material of cultural relevance to them and the surrounding community. The Elitch Theatre will reflect the diversity of Denver’s urban population, including kids from every ethnic and socio-economic group.

3. In the past few years, many local, small theaters have closed. Some might argue that the arts in general are in decline. Do you believe this is true?

People think I’m crazy to take on this project in these economic times. They have a good point. But anything worth doing usually requires tenacity, passion and someone who’s a bit loco.

I think theaters are closing and the large institutions are struggling for two reasons. First, many theaters have failed to pay attention to changes in our communities and to diversify their programming, outdated models, and their trustee boards, for that matter. Theaters must be aggressive about meeting and adapting to the needs and appetites of audiences today. Second, theaters struggle to obtain audiences because of the lack of arts education for youth. The National Education Association and U.S. Census released dismal data recently: Minority youth are getting half the arts education today in comparison to when I was in high school 20 years ago. How do we expect them to be cultural consumers and purchase a ticket to the theater, symphony or opera down the road? We have to cultivate that audience and prepare them. That’s the mission of the Elitch Theatre, to cultivate our future cultural leaders and to provide an accessible bridge to not only local cultural institutions, but to higher education institutions like CU Denver. We stress that arts education equals academic success.

4. What would you consider your proudest moment or favorite achievement so far?

When I performed in the Pulitzer Prize-winning play “Wit,” my mother flew in to see it opening night. It was significant because the play deals with cancer and we thought my mother was in remission from her cancer at the time. During the opening night curtain call, I was thrilled to see her sitting next to Tom Hanks! I couldn’t wait to hear about their conversation, however, she didn’t recognize him because of the beard he was sporting for the film “Cast Away.” She couldn’t forgive herself for the lost opportunity to dote on him.

I’m certainly proud of the fact that my work brings communities together, whether at CU Denver, North or in the nonprofit sector. I’m most proud of the academic achievement of theater students at North, which had a graduation rate of 25 percent when I was there. Those who participated in my theater program graduated at a rate of 97 percent; 50 percent went on to college. That’s proof that the arts have a significant impact on the lives of urban youth.

5. What’s the toughest thing about being a director? Do you have a philosophy you employ?

I just taught a course on directing and I told students that you learn by “doing.” As a director, I don’t always know what I want. On the other hand, I always know what I don’t want. That can make it tough for designers in preproduction and actors when I’m blocking a show. Some directors have the entire show orchestrated and blocked before the first read-through of the script. I don’t work that way. I believe in approaching it in an organic way and letting the actor make choices. I help guide them to discover their character and maybe dig a little deeper when they think they’ve discovered moments of truth in the play. It’s the way I preferred working with directors when I was a young actor. It’s a process of give and take.

Dropping names …[23]

Strain

Langhorst

Lydick

Tucker

The Peeple Mourn

Smith

Bean

Williams

An autism study by researchers **Phil Strain** and **Ted Bovey** from the University of Colorado Denver School of Education and Human Development was selected by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Council as one of 20 studies in 2011 that represented significant progress in the field. The council is a congressionally created entity to advance autism research across federal agencies. … Some 124 employees of the University of Colorado Hospital were honored at the Milestones and Retiree Luncheon on April 20 at the Denver Renaissance Hotel in the Stapleton area. Three employees received recognition for 40 years spent with UCH. When **Neil Brown** (medical records specialist), **Joann Fritz** (NICU nurse) and **Connie Sullivan** (Birth Center nurse) joined the hospital, Richard Nixon was president and a situation comedy called, fittingly, “All in the Family” had just debuted. For a list of the honorees and photos, visit http://www3.uch.edu/uchinsider/milestones%202012.pdf[32] … **Joern Langhorst**, assistant professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Colorado Denver, presented a paper at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architects (CELA) conference. In “Valuing the In-Between: Recovering Post-Industrial and Post-Disaster Landscapes,” he compared and critiqued two of the most iconic design projects on post-industrial sites, Landschaftspark Duisburg-Nord in Germany and the High Line in New York, focusing on the value, instrumentality and aesthetics of urban nature in the discourses on social and environmental justice surrounding urban renewal. … Two Procurement Service Center staff members recently were honored by the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP) for their service and commitment to the purchasing profession. PSC Associate Director of Procurement **Charlene Lydick** won the 2011 NAEP Distinguished Service Award for original, strategic and innovative procurement-related solutions, mentoring new members of the profession, and providing extraordinary assistance to the association. Strategic Contract Manager **Duane Tucker** received NAEP’s first Volunteer of the Year Award for extraordinary service and commitment to the mission of NAEP and, in particular, for his efforts on behalf of the scholarship program. … CU Denver College of Architecture and Planning’s **Janis Nowlan**, assistant dean, and **T. John Hughes**, lecturer in architecture, along with former CAP employee **Linda Marie**, won second place in The Denver Post’s fifth annual Peeps diorama contest. The 147 entries in this year’s contest included scenes from movies, news, politics and Colorado itself. Their entry was “The Peeple Mourn Loss of Supreme Leader.” The winners were on display in The Denver Post lobby, but you can still view the enlarged diorama photo[33] and video with the winners. … **Judy Regensteiner,** professor of medicine-cardiology at the University of Colorado Denver, has been accepted into the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. ELAM offers training throughout the year through the Drexel University College of Medicine. … **Nancy Smith**, dean of Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, presented “A Transformational Partnership: University of Colorado Health System” April 18 at the CU Boulder Retired Faculty and Staff Association’s spring meeting. Smith highlighted the process that led to the University of Colorado Hospital’s selection to lease

Memorial Health System and the potential implications for health care in southern Colorado. … **Angie Romani**, chair of the College of Nursing (CON) Advisory Board at the University of Colorado Denver, has been appointed president of the Sheridan Health Services Board of Directors. Romani has been a devoted volunteer in support of the clinic's efforts since its inception. She and her husband, Tim Romani, have also underwritten the annual Art of Nursing fundraising event for the CON. Sheridan Health Services is a nonprofit, nurse-managed health care center that provides primary care to children and adults integrated with behavioral health, oral health, and perinatal care to the families of Sheridan and surrounding communities. … **Hamilton Bean**, assistant professor of communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver, and his co-author, **Edward Comor**, University of Western Ontario, collaborated for an article on how the Obama administration has embraced "engagement" as the dominant concept informing U.S. public diplomacy. Their article is in the April edition of the International Communication Gazette, and is titled "America's 'engagement' delusion: Critiquing a public diplomacy consensus." Despite its emphasis on facilitating dialogue with and among Muslims overseas, this article demonstrates that, in practice, engagement aims to leverage social media and related technologies to persuade skeptical audiences to empathize with American policies. .. **Rhonda Williams**, associate professor in the Counseling and Human Services Department of the College of Education at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, recently was named Counselor Educator of the Year by the American School Counselors Association. Williams, who is currently involved in research on adolescent girl issues and understanding the concept of girl bullying, will receive the award June 25 at the association's annual conference in Minneapolis.

President's Diversity Award recipients announced[34]

University of Colorado faculty and staff will be honored as recipients of the annual President's Diversity Award, which recognizes significant achievements of individuals and administrative units toward developing a more culturally diverse, competent and inclusive university community.

Awardees will be recognized at a reception, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in the first floor conference room at 1800 Grant St. All are invited to attend; please RSVP by Friday, May 4, to thomas.spahr@cu.edu[35].

The 2012 honorees are:

Cordova

Anthony Cordova, director of the Multicultural Office for Student Access, Inclusiveness, and Community (MOSAIC) and CU Opportunity Program at UCCS, has made a difference in student recruitment, retention, campus climate and community outreach through his leadership efforts. Cordova has worked with admissions to enroll students with high potential who didn't meet the admissions standards; he provides invaluable mentorship to each student to ensure their success at UCCS. He has played a pivotal role in the development of MOSAIC and the CU Opportunity Program, and has been deeply engaged with campus diversity issues through his involvement with the Faculty Minority Affairs Committee, the Diversity Alliance Staff Committee, the Diversity Strategic Planning organizing task force, the Inclusive Campus Action Team and the Diversity Foundations Committee. Beyond the university community, Cordova has forged lasting relationships with the Latino Youth Conference and the African-American Youth Conference. He has worked closely with the Pueblo Hispanic Education Fund, where a scholarship has been created in honor of his parents.

Vieyra

Sharon Vieyra, office manager at the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement (ODECE) at CU-Boulder, is described as being an agent of influence and impact within her department, providing more than 15 years of experience and knowledge in diversity work within the CU-Boulder and Boulder communities. Her thoughtfulness and attentiveness to community matters has helped ODECE become better engaged with the university community.

Outside of the university, Sharon has volunteered for the CU Hispanic Alumni Association for 15 years, raising funds for scholarships. She also has volunteered with the Boulder County Latina Women's League for seven years, mentoring young Latinas entering higher education.

Boromisza-Habashi

David Boromisza-Habashi, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Communication at CU-Boulder, taught a course in Buckingham Hall that included a section where his first-year students engaged in a dialogue with CU-Boulder's custodial staff, facilitated by Pilar Prostko, the Program Coordinator for the CU Dialogues Program[39]. This dialogue increased students' understanding of the perspective of custodial staff and resulted in the creation of a "community pledge" to post in the residence hall that would make residents more aware of how their actions affect the cleaning staff. Students posted the pledge throughout each wing of Buckingham Hall. Because of their efforts, students in Boromisza-Habashi's class were selected by the CU Dialogues Program staff for inclusion in a photographic exhibit produced by The Milestones Project[40] and sponsored by the Colorado Conflict Resolution Month[41]. The exhibit will be displayed at the state Capitol or Denver's Civic Center Park in October, followed by a tour of the state.

The Program for Writing and Rhetoric (PWR) at CU-Boulder is one of very few units that has a clear curricular mandate for diversity. It offers lower-division courses with diverse reading themes and upper-division topics encompassing a wide range of diversity topics: queer rhetorics, women writers, rhetoric of faith, spirituality, cross-cultural writing and film, feminism and motherhood, race, class, gender and more. The department implements diversity in course offerings as a matter of instructional value to encourage these topics as a natural way of thinking and behaving in the CU community. Besides diversity curriculum in courses, the PWR offers Service Learning courses that promote and provide service to organizations such as a homeless shelter, the Red Cross and other agencies. In March 2012, the department sponsored and organized the annual Undergraduate Diversity Conference, "Normalizing Inclusion." The conference promoted dialogue on diversity issues, enhanced openness and respect in the campus climate, and showcased PWR student writings on diversity-related topics.

Also receiving commendations for 2012:

The Alumni Association Affinity Group Program at CU-Boulder supports the educational success of under-represented minorities through its seven affinity groups: Black Alumni CU-Boulder Alumni Chapter, GLBTA CU-Boulder Alumni Chapter, CU-Boulder Latino Alumni Association, Native American Indian Alumni Association, CU-Boulder Jewish Alumni Association, Air Force ROTC, and CU Military Veterans Alumni Society.

The Chemistry Department at CU-Boulder is commended for implementing strong teaching practices that follow the principles of universal design for learning, making their courses accessible for everyone.

Learn more about Open Enrollment[42]

[43]

Payroll & Benefit Services (PBS) encourages you to carefully review your benefits options each year during open enrollment (OE) and to be actively engaged in making the best decisions for yourself and your eligible dependents. Beginning Monday, May 7, PBS will be conducting OE sessions, and representatives from the university's and state's group insurance plans will be hosting Carrier Fairs on each campus to help in your decision making.

At OE sessions, PBS benefits professionals will detail plan changes, what's new for the plan year and how to enroll. They also will answer your questions. At the Carrier Fairs, you have the opportunity to meet with plan representatives

to learn more about their plans and services.

This year, a new service is being offered in conjunction with Carrier Fairs. Pharmacists from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences will be on hand as part of the new CU Health Plan medication therapy management program, Rx Consult.

Rx Consult enables you to meet with a clinical pharmacist in a confidential setting to review without charge all of your medications and get answers to any of your medication-related questions.

The clinical pharmacist can work with you and your primary care provider to:
Ensure prescribed medications are effective and appropriately monitored Ensure that drug therapy is safe, does not cause unwanted side effects or drug interactions, particularly with other over-the-counter medications or supplements, and is well-tolerated Assist with lower-cost medication alternatives based on their formulary If needed, assist with adherence issues by helping identify and manage barriers to medication use

PBS also will be conducting Spanish and Laotian OE Sessions on the Boulder Campus on May 15 and 17. To learn more about dates, times and locations go to www.cu.edu/openenrollment[44] and click on OE Sessions and Carrier Fairs under Important Topics on the right hand side of the page. To learn more about Rx Consult or schedule an appointment, go to
http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/pharmacy/Resources/RxConsult/Pages/RxConsult.aspx[45].

Important OE Reminders
Positive Enrollment – This year's OE is a positive enrollment, meaning you must take action. Final rates and plan descriptions are available. Dependent Eligibility Verification – If you are adding new dependents for coverage effective July 1, 2012, you must verify their eligibility with PBS during the open enrollment period and have required documents submitted by 5 p.m. May 25. There is no guarantee of dependent coverage if required documents are not received by the due date. Cafeteria Plans – You must re-enroll and actively elect your annual contributions for Health Care and Dependent Care flexible spending accounts each year at open enrollment. University Optional Term Life Insurance – If you and/or your spouse, common law spouse or SGDP are non-tobacco users, meaning that you have not used tobacco products within the past 12 months, you are eligible for a discounted rate in the Optional Term Life/AD&D Insurance Plan. Complete the appropriate section on the Benefits Enrollment/Change Form or online web application to receive the discounted rate. Enrollment in the discounted rate is allowed only during the OE period. Due to pre-scheduled, enterprise-wide system maintenance, the OE web application WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE from 6 p.m. Saturday, May 5, until 6 a.m. Sunday, May 6. OE ends at 5 p.m. May 25.
Tweeting OE

A live Twitter feed can be found on the OE website. Follow us @CUOE to get the latest information about OE and to ask questions.

Steven Leigh named dean of College of Arts and Sciences [46]

Leigh

University of Colorado Boulder Provost Russell L. Moore on Tuesday named Steven Leigh as dean of CU-Boulder's College of Arts and Sciences. Leigh currently serves as an associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The appointment is effective July 1.

"In Steven Leigh's years at the University of Illinois, he has gained national recognition for contributing in the areas of interdisciplinary research, teaching and public service," Moore said. "He has an impressive combination of scholarly achievement and administrative experience and I believe he is the right person to lead the college through upcoming

opportunities and challenges."

A biological anthropologist, Leigh's research focuses on both human and primate evolution and integrates many different kinds of data across the discipline of anthropology, including information from genetics, anatomy, archaeology, and socio-cultural anthropology. His research has substantially altered the view of the evolution of human growth and development.

Prior to being the associate dean, Leigh was the head of the department of anthropology from 2006 to 2010. He is a full professor in biological anthropology and holds faculty appointments in the College of Medicine and the Institute for Genomic Biology.

"Steven Leigh was the consensus first choice of the search committee, which consisted of faculty from across the many disciplines represented in the college," said John Stevenson, dean of the Graduate School and chair of the search committee. "I think he will be an outstanding leader for the college, someone who can build on its current achievements and help it reach new levels of excellence."

Leigh has been on the faculty at the University of Illinois since 1994 and previously held teaching and research appointments at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, and at Northwestern University.

He received his bachelor's degree in anthropology from Northwestern University in 1980, his master's in anthropology from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in 1985 and his doctorate from Northwestern University in 1992.

"I'm honored to be chosen to lead the College of Arts and Sciences and further the research, educational and service missions of CU-Boulder," Leigh said. "Particularly compelling to me as a scientist trained in a field that embraces approaches from the humanities as well as biological, social and behavioral sciences is the opportunity to be involved with interdisciplinary advances at a major research university."

The College of Arts and Sciences is CU-Boulder's largest academic unit, with 19,295 undergraduate and graduate students, 1,982 faculty and staff and a general fund budget of $133.5 million.

Leigh will succeed Todd Gleeson, who will return to the faculty in the Department of Integrative Physiology after 10 years in the post.

"I want to thank Todd Gleeson for being an effective leader during the last 10 years while the college was going through significant growth and challenges," Moore said. "He has been a stalwart fundraiser through innovations such as the upcoming Buffalo Bicycle Classic, which has raised over $1.4 million for scholarships in Arts and Sciences since its founding in 2003."

Symposium celebrates students' creativity, research[48]

Dayton Goodell explains his research project at the Research and Creative Activities Symposium at Anschutz Medical Campus

Lydia Hooper describes her rainforest biodiversity research project to a fellow student at RaCAS.

From projects that peer into the brain and the heavens to machines that race on the desert floor and transform recyclables into products, student research took center stage Friday at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The 15th Annual Research and Creative Activities Symposium[51] (RaCAS) featured 110 student research projects across disciplines at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus. Undergraduate and graduate students presented projects that, in many cases, took at least two years to complete.

Mary Coussons-Read, associate vice chancellor for research and member of the symposium planning committee, said the event celebrates the learning and research of the university's students.

"It gives students the opportunity to talk about their work," she said. "We want them to develop a community with other students."

The symposium included a keynote address by Adam Lerner, director and chief animator of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, an awards ceremony and -- new this year -- a panel discussion on "Innovation and Creativity."

Four projects were selected Outstanding Research and Creative Activity Award Winners, giving the students the chance to present their research to the entire symposium. The winners and their disciplines were:
Lydia Hooper, environmental media, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences[52] Dayton Goodell, psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Jennifer Chipman, civil engineering, College of Engineering & Applied Science[53] Rebecca Green, reproductive sciences, School of Dental Medicine[54]
Hooper's project, "Life at La Suerte: Visualizing Human Relationship with Rainforest Biodiversity," involved creating an educational website, www.skawak.org[55], about rainforest biodiversity.

"I don't want it to all be gloom and doom," said Hooper, who studied rainforests in Costa Rica. "I have a lot of stuff on there about what we can do to help (rainforests) as well."

Goodell's project is titled "Effects of Adolescent Social Deprivation on Social Reward: Ethanol Preference and Social Abuse Escape Behavior." His project examined drugs of abuse and social reward and the interaction between the two.

"We know that in human early life adversity results in psychological disorders later in life," said Goodell, who used rats in his study. "...We wanted to know what's going on in the brains during these behaviors."

Chipman traveled to New Zealand to complete her project, "The Value of International Collaborations in Understanding How Climate Change Affects Water Supplies from Snow Dominated Catchments."

Conducting research in Colorado and New Zealand, her project studied climatological patterns -- such as snowfall and water levels -- and infrastructure designs -- such as pipelines and water treatment plants -- and the relationships between the two.

"I'm interested in how we harness that water supply ... and then how will climate change effect the design of all that infrastructure," Chipman said.

Green's award-winning project is titled "Development of the Cleft Lip/Palate -- Establishing a Role for Shape."

Other sets of awards -- the Chancellor's Awards, Outstanding Student Mentor and the UROP Awards -- were presented later in the day.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorful-new-signage-raises-university%E2%80%99s-profile[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/ucd-logos.png[3] http://www.cctadvertising.com/[4] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/ExecutiveTeam/MarketingCo

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