Staff Council wants limits on retiree hiring[1]

Concerned that some retirees returning to work for the university might be in jobs that could be filled by unemployed or underemployed workers or those who might be promoted, the University of Colorado Staff Council asked administration officials to place a cap on the time a retiree can work for CU.

During their May 23 meeting at 1800 Grant St. in Denver, many council members said that while they understand the necessity to rehire retirees with specialized skills, they would like to see a more definitive limit placed on how long a retiree can work for the university. Some council members said they personally knew of retirees who continued to work for the university for as long as 10 years.

Administrative Policy Statement 5054, “Hiring Working Retirees into Staff Positions,” currently is under review and is scheduled to take effect July 31. The current policy draft states, “Retirees can be hired into staff (university staff or university classified staff) positions limited to a 12-month, a defined project period or to be reviewed at the end of each year.”

Council members also said departments should do a better job of training current employees so open positions can be filled by non-retirees.

Departments are not “giving staff an opportunity to move up in the system because they don’t have good succession planning,” said Deserae Frisk, chair of the University of Colorado Denver Staff Council. “Staff members aren’t given the skills to be competitive” in the hiring process.

“Jobs that go on for years might be getting in the way for hope for a career path, and that is a very real concern,” said E. Jill Pollock, vice president for employee and information services. “But some jobs require a high degree of specialization and will never be a full-time position. The campus consensus is that jobs that will never be full-time and are erratic” can be filled by a retiree.

Pollock said that one reason APS 5054 includes a “yearly review” is to ensure departments justify their reasons for hiring retirees. Pollock said the APS has received intense scrutiny. Originally, the policy only addressed PERA retirees, but it now includes Optional Retirement Plan (OPR) members.

To read the draft policy, visit https://www.cu.edu/policies/PUR/5054Draft.pdf[2].

Pollock also gave council members updates on Be Colorado Move and compensation system planning.

Be Colorado Move offers paid incentive to participants who exercise at least 30 minutes 12 times per month. Enrollees can earn $25 per month paid quarterly. At the end of April, the first month of the program, 1,201 employees – or about 7.8 percent of those who qualified – were enrolled. Pollock said the program’s goal was to register 6 percent to 10 percent. “Of those enrolled, 40 percent met their goal, which is a nice start,” Pollock said.

A number of devices and a downloaded app can be used to track and report exercise. For more information about the program, visit http://becolorado.org/programs/be-colorado-move/[3]

The total rewards project for officers and exempt personnel (now referred to as university staff) is a three-phase compensation structure that officials currently are preparing. Last year, Pollock said, a team was put together to examine titles and job families and to review salaries as they related to market pay in order to make the university competitive. The team found that many employees are paid under market rates.

Officials also are identifying other elements important to employees in order to keep the university competitive. Those elements are benefits, environment (the culture of the organization and physical work environment), the work/life balance, and development opportunities.

Pollock said a compensation program must be equitable and consistent, market competitive, transparent, and reward high performance. She said the university has a strong desire to pay for performance, not effort or longevity, and to

significantly differentiate rewards for high-level performers.

Among current university staff, Pollock said, almost 82 percent earn “exceed expectations” or “outstanding” on performance reviews. “There’s hardly any differentiation from top to bottom until you get to “below expectations,” she said. The university is rethinking its evaluation structure so high performers are rewarded appropriately. In addition, she said, supervisors must be trained to administer reviews in a way that differentiates employees, Pollock said.

Pollock said the first phase of the program is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2015.

The council also was presented with an update on the President’s Task Force on Efficiency (PTFE) by Leonard Dinegar, senior vice president and chief of staff, and Dan Montez, director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency.

When the task force was formed in 2008, there were 210 System Administration Policy Statements; those now have been pared to 85. In addition, the PTFE recently conducted an employee survey to assess its progress.

Montez said PTFE tried to identify a list of Top 10 issues important to employees and asked whether the issue had improved or gotten worse since 2009. Respondents said two areas had not improved: The administrative burden on campus (58.6 percent) and hiring processes, which were deemed too cumbersome (53.4). Results were nearly split on a third issue: Just over 48 percent said there is still a perception of mistrust of employees and a low tolerance for mistakes.

Respondents saw improvement in other issues, including reliance on paper and manual processes (80.2 percent), procurement and travel processes (63.9 percent), amount and delivery of training (64.7 percent), and the new financial reporting system (65.1 percent).

Montez said employees like the website and the president’s communique. He said the office will continue to improve communications efforts so that information reaches all levels of the university.

CU system joins with Coursera to explore MOOC-based learning, collaboration[4]

[5]
The University of Colorado system on Wednesday announced a new agreement with Coursera, a leading massive open online course (MOOC) platform, that will allow faculty members from all CU campuses the opportunity to explore use of the Coursera technology platform for delivering education.

The evolution of MOOCs enables universities to develop and deliver content with the potential to boost completion, quality and access to higher education for students in classrooms and across the globe.

The University of Colorado Boulder first entered a separate agreement with Coursera in February, with four open-access MOOCs set to serve as a pilot project this fall. With the new contract, faculty at all CU campuses – CU-Boulder, the University of Colorado Denver, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus – will have access to the Coursera platform, subject to each campus’s own policies and procedures.

“With this new agreement, CU is positioned at the leading edge of exploring how this quickly developing platform can help us deliver better education opportunities to more students,” said CU President Bruce D. Benson. “There’s a whole new scholarship growing around this movement, and we’re excited that CU faculty now will be able to help lead the way.”

The CU system is one of 10 U.S. state university systems and public university flagships announced Wednesday as working with Coursera to make available online their own faculty and course content, as well as collaborate on existing content in on-campus settings. The other institutions: State University of New York (SUNY), the Tennessee Board of

Regents and University of Tennessee Systems, University of Houston System, University of Kentucky, University of Nebraska, University of New Mexico, University System of Georgia, and West Virginia University.

Each system and university plans to utilize Coursera's platform and MOOC technology differently. Under both CU contracts, faculty members may develop and offer open access – or free – MOOCs via the Coursera platform. Also, faculty members may choose to incorporate material from other Coursera offerings in their courses, but all decisions related to curriculum and credit fall under the faculty's purview.

CU currently has no plans to offer MOOCs for credit. The agreements also are non-exclusive, leaving the university, its campuses and faculty free to enter into agreements with other companies offering platforms for MOOCs.

"Major state university systems represent an important opportunity to use MOOCs in blended course settings and to advance the scholarship of teaching and learning," said Michael Lightner, professor and chair of the Department of Electrical, Computer, and Energy Engineering at CU-Boulder. "This partnership of Coursera and major university systems is an important step in bringing MOOC courses into mainstream institutions, as well as expanding the community of excellent educators providing MOOC courses to the world."

Lightner is co-chair of the CU Task Force on New Technologies, a faculty group that last year began investigating opportunities presented by MOOCs and other emerging technologies. This fall, CU campuses will engage their faculties in discussions about the opportunities enabled by the agreement with Coursera.

CU leadership views the relationship as providing new opportunities to show the world the quality of the teaching and learning that take place across the CU system, and to conduct research that will improve the scholarship of teaching and learning, whether in a classroom or online.

Five questions for Timothy Orr[6]

[7]

[8]

In just over a week, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival (CSF) begins its 2013 season[9], the first under the leadership of Timothy Orr, interim producing artistic director. He started with the festival as a performer in 2009, joined the staff in 2011 and stepped into his latest role in February after the departure of Philip Sneed, now executive director at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Orr helped establish the festival's acclaimed Shakespeare in the Schools' anti-bullying program and launched the CSF School of Theatre, now in its second year. He has taught acting and voice at CU-Boulder, CSF's home, and his resume also includes performing, producing and teaching stints across California.

The start of rehearsals last week marked a significant milestone for him, but nothing will compare to the curtain going up next week at the Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre.

"Opening night of the whole festival is always the most exciting moment, no matter what the show is," Orr says. "There's nothing quite like it. There's so much energy, so much time and effort that you've put into it. It's such a big celebration. We're all there together. After opening night, people start to go home. But that night, everybody who worked on it, all the leadership, the dean, all of us who've worked all through the year – it's very emotional, very powerful. Like a rocket on liftoff."

After the season, Orr will likely trade the rocket for a mountain bike, his recreational vehicle of choice when he finds the

free time. He'll also enjoy a busman's holiday, catching up on other theater productions in Boulder and around the state.

1. Festival ticket sales are outpacing last year's by $65,000, including strong sales in the Denver area, and traffic on the CSF's newly redesigned website[10] is up. What made this happen?

I think that with marketing, production, development, even artistic direction, we're coordinating everything. We take a lot of meetings together and talk to each other a lot more. Getting information early, early, early is important. We've had content for all of our marketing materials six months earlier than we had in previous years. We put tickets on sale in November rather than in March.

We're just very much ahead of the game. And we've been getting a lot of attention. There's been a change in staff and leadership, and a realignment with the university, so we've been very fortunate.

There have been some really key players who have called me up and said we want to do more for you. Some of our corporate sponsors have been great about renewing and raising their levels of support. Elevations Credit Union is really committed – we've been partnering with them in some of our joint marketing efforts and sweepstakes.

We had the Spring Into Shakespeare[11] program this year. David Boonin, associate dean for arts and humanities, had this idea from Yale. Every week for this past semester, there was something Shakespeare-related going on. He asked all the departments to participate. Shirley Carnahan, an associate professor, put it all together.

It's just been a lot of small efforts, but it's all been really well coordinated.

2. These are challenging times financially for higher education institutions and the arts – especially live, local companies. Given that the festival is the latter linked to the former, what is required to survive and thrive in this day and age?

I think it requires being focused and having your priorities straight. We have to focus on the fundamentals of what we do. There were a lot of projects we had scheduled for this summer, and I backed us off on some of them so we could focus on filling the Rippon, which is our number one goal.

There was a potential for a co-production with a Shakespeare festival in Prague. I felt that would have drained a lot of our staff hours. So I decided early on to postpone that. We were going to send another co-production of "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)" to Lone Tree after it closed here; I also decided there wasn't going to be enough bang for the buck. Again, it would have been a big drain of staff hours.

We are still going to do a big co-production with Stapleton. But we have limited marketing dollars, limited production dollars, limited staff hours, and we need to spend them where they're going to do the most good.

3. In what ways does your experience as a stage performer affect your work as the producing artistic director?

[12]
I feel very comfortable in a lot of the decisions that I'm making to help protect the art – and in some of the decisions I've been making to economize, to streamline the art and how we're making it. I know exactly what these actors and directors have to go through to get so much work done in the three weeks of rehearsal we get for each production. We get the job done in three weeks, and that is tricky. You've got to be very well organized. There's not a whole lot of time to, quote unquote, find it in rehearsal.

We hired approximately 120 seasonal employees just for the summer, including actors, directors, designers, crew, technicians, carpenters, stitchers, people who make props, painters. The list goes on and on. So that's a lot of preparation. Mountains of information needs to go to all these people in advance of their first day of work so they can hit the ground running.

Hiring started last September and monthly production meetings have been going on since January. These people are all over the country -- FaceTime and Skype are the best things that ever happened to regional theater, I swear.

4. How does Shakespeare's work speak to today's audiences?

That's a good question for our audiences to answer. I'm always unsatisfied with the answer I give. The history plays had a specific relevance to his audience that we don't quickly relate to – they were about actual historical figures of the time. But the plays about love and loss and violence and revenge and power and ambition – all of these things must have the same timeless relevance for our audiences as they did for Shakespeare's.

Shakespeare was not an emotional genius. He didn't feel anything we don't feel, he's just a genius at expressing it. Whether it's falling in love the first time or losing a parent or having a child – all of these experiences that add up to life. He was a genius at expressing that, and I think that's true of any artist.

5. Comedy or tragedy?

Comedy for breakfast, tragedy for dinner.

Canvas-ing for a better online learning experience[13]

Devlin Daley, co-founder and chief technology officer of Instructure, delivers the keynote address at last week's CU Online spring symposium.

When CU Online issued a request for proposal to upgrade its learning management system (LMS), what they were hoping for was a better deal from their current vendors: eCollege[15], which facilitates online courses; and BlackBoard [16], which uses technology to connect people. After all, they'd been clients for about 18 years. To their surprise, they found one platform that stood out above the others.

On May 23, a record 180 faculty and staff took part in the 12th annual CU Online Spring Symposium, held at the new Spring Hill Suites Marriott on the Auraria Campus, to learn about the university's new LMS, Canvas[17].

"We decided to consolidate to one, simpler experience for students and faculty," said Crystal Gasell, from CU Online academic technology. "We will be reinvesting the money we saved into new technologies."

The past year, CU Online conducted a 40-course pilot with faculty and students. "The faculty said, 'Absolutely, move forward with Canvas. We don't want to go back,'" Gasell said. "The students were indifferent, like, 'Eh, whatever, just give me my login materials.'"

The login, said Michael Edwards, CU Online, already is substantially easier. "One problem with the other LMSs is the login was completely different," he said, explaining that separate usernames and passwords were required for each account. "With Canvas, it's the same as your (CU) username and the password is synched to change."

Faculty will be given the option to opt-in to Canvas this summer; by fall almost all courses will be taught on Canvas and the old LMSs will be retired next spring. CU Online will migrate the content for faculty, and all eCollege and Blackboard courses will be accessible in an archive.

Canvas offers the same options as the previous vendors, including discussions, quizzes, announcements, gradebook and file sharing. New features include:
text editor easy links easy photo additions and sizing options to link and add video universal updates -- such as

updating a faculty profile once for all courses document upload preferences several chat and discussion choices the ability to view the course the way it is presented to the student
Boot camps will be offered -- with hot meals -- to help faculty and staff learn the new system, Edwards said.

Devlin Daley, co-founder and chief technology officer of Instructure, the creator of Canvas, was symposium keynote. Devlin said he and co-founder Brian Whitmer based the company on sound advice from a college professor who told them that when it comes to technology, don't go after the money, rather find a need; find a way to change the world. They didn't have to look far. Even as they searched for new ideas, they were hindered because their college's LMS was "the worst."

"At first we thought our school had made a very bad choice," he said. "When we found out it was a very large corporation, very successful, we couldn't believe it."

Canvas doesn't try to be slick, Daley said. It is meant to be highly functional and user-friendly, both for students and faculty. Canvas is an open-source platform, meaning the code is accessible to users at no cost. Higher education institutions are able to modify the code themselves or work with Instructure to create applications specific to their needs. Because it lives in the Cloud, Canvas can be upgraded seamlessly by Instructure without any disruption or need for updates by the users.

David Thomas, CU Online's director of academic technology, said Canvas was an obvious choice.

"They're leading because they really have a vision of where this stuff should go," he said. "I think it really matches up with the values and ideas that we have."

Check out the symposium videos>>[18]

CU-Boulder's Barry named interim director of intercollegiate athletics[19]

Ceal Barry

University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano on Tuesday named Adele Cecilia "Ceal" Barry interim director of intercollegiate athletics for the university, effective Monday, June 3.

Barry currently serves as associate athletic director for student services and senior woman administrator (an NCAA designation) in the department. She replaces CU-Boulder Athletic Director Mike Bohn, who submitted his resignation earlier in the day.

Hired as the women's head basketball coach in 1983 by then-athletic director Eddie Crowder, she has a 30-year history of involvement in CU athletics. She retired from coaching in 2005 as CU's winningest coach ever in all sports (427 victories), leading her teams to 12 NCAA tournament appearances, including six Sweet 16 and three Elite Eight appearances. Over 95 percent of her student-athletes graduated and 85 of her players earned Academic All-Conference honors.

"Ceal's experience, leadership and credibility with our athletic staff and stakeholders make her an ideal person to assume this important role as we search for new leadership," DiStefano said.

Mike Bohn

Earlier Tuesday, DiStefano announced he had accepted the resignation of Bohn, effective June 3.

“Mike Bohn led CU-Boulder athletics in a time of great transition and change,” DiStefano said. “We are grateful to him for his vision, passion and commitment, and for his key role in revitalizing men’s and women’s basketball, helping us to join the Pac-12 Conference, and in taking important steps to upgrade athletic facilities at CU-Boulder. We wish him well.”

DiStefano said he will in the coming days appoint a search committee to conduct a national search for Bohn’s successor.

DiStefano said the university will be seeking “a dynamic leader” as athletic director – someone who, he said, “can focus on our key goals of fundraising, building a dynamic organization, and creating long-term sustainability in the athletics mission.”

The university in February announced a $50 million facilities fundraising campaign as the anchor of a $170 million multiphase, multiyear upgrade of CU athletics facilities at Folsom Field and the Dal Ward Center, and the development of an indoor practice facility.

“We are seeking a talented leader who can build on Mike’s vision and make it a reality,” DiStefano said.

Bohn was named the university’s sixth athletic director on April 13, 2005, five months after CU Athletic Director Dick Tharp stepped down.

Supreme Court rules against Lobato case[22]

[23]
The Colorado Supreme Court on Tuesday announced its decision to overturn a district court decision in the Lobato v. State lawsuit, ruling 4-2 that the state’s school finance system does not violate the constitution.

The University of Colorado Board of Regents last year voted in favor of supporting the state[24] in the case. Lobato v. Colorado, initiated eight years ago by a group of parents and school districts, claimed that funding of K-12 schools is so low that it violates the Colorado Constitution. Had the lawsuit succeeded, it likely posed a serious threat to already limited and dwindling state funding for higher education.

The court’s decision[25] notes that current levels of funding for K-12 schools might be problematic.

In the recently concluded legislative session, Colorado lawmakers passed Senate Bill 213[26], a call for a reinvention of the state’s school financing formula, which would be tied to a ballot initiative that could go to voters this fall.

Connections begins summer publication schedule[27]

[28]
Even if you’ll be away from your campus for any of this summer, you can stay up to date on happenings across the University of Colorado system by connecting with CU Connections.

The Connections summer schedule begins today, as we shift to biweekly publication. No new issues are scheduled to appear on the following dates (subject to change):
June 6 June 20 July 4 July 18 Aug. 1
Weekly publication will resume with the Aug. 8 issue.

Throughout the season, the site will be updated with news should events warrant.

If you're sending postcards from your vacation, be sure to keep us in the loop, too. We always welcome Letters to the Editor on topics of interest to current and retired CU faculty and staff. Please send submissions to newsletter@cu.edu [29]. And if you have a news item or story suggestion you'd like to pass along, please send it to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[30].

Deadline for submissions is noon Friday prior to the Thursday publication.

CU-Boulder organizing effort to establish unmanned aircraft test site in Colorado[31]

From left to right, aerospace engineering sciences Associate Professor Eric Frew and doctoral students Neeti Wagle, Holly Borowski and Jack Elston work with small unmanned aircraft. (Photo Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado)

A state application organized by the University of Colorado Boulder has been submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration for the development of one of six unmanned aircraft systems test sites slated to be established across the United States.

Submitted this month, the seventh and final volume of the Colorado application is one of 50 proposals from 37 states for designated Unmanned Aircraft Systems, or UAS, test sites. UAS come in various sizes ranging from hobby airplanes to aircraft with wingspans as wide as commercial jets. While they can be used for tasks ranging from forest fire support and search and rescue missions to oil and gas exploration and military operations, a growing number of science efforts are being undertaken using UAS, said CU-Boulder aerospace engineering sciences Associate Professor Eric Frew.

CU-Boulder has one of the most comprehensive UAS science programs in the nation, said Frew, who directs CU's Research and Engineering Center for Unmanned Vehicles, or RECUV. CU-Boulder's UAS projects have included monitoring seal populations in the Arctic and charting sea ice changes near Greenland to intercepting storm cells associated with tornadoes in Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska and measuring gaping holes in Antarctic sea ice known as polynyas associated with offshore winds.

"We may have more experience flying science missions around the world with UAS than any other research group in the world," Frew said. The final six site selections by the FAA are expected in December, he said.
Video of ibLtyMSo2cU

The Colorado proposal to the FAA was made by roughly 100 team members representing 10 regional economic development agencies, seven universities, five industry associations, two state agencies and dozens of private companies, said aerospace engineering sciences Professor Brian Argrow. In addition to Colorado's robust aerospace industry -- first in the nation for private aerospace employment concentration, employing nearly 25,000 workers -- the state hosts three aerospace-related Air Force bases engaged in aeronautics, aviation and space research.

One advantage for the Colorado coalition seeking one of the six FAA test sites is the diversity of geography in the state, ranging from the Great Plains to large, extremely high mountainous areas, which would facilitate testing and deployment of UAS, Argrow said. Another advantage is the quality of CU-Boulder's graduate level aerospace engineering sciences program, ranked second in the nation by the National Research Council, an arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

Argrow said there is a lot of public misinformation floating around about the uses of unmanned aircraft, spurred in part

by the use of so-called military “drones” in places like Afghanistan and Pakistan. “Our UAS are specifically used for science and engineering activities,” he said. “We are not flying these aircraft to peek in windows. Our interests lie in tackling some of the biggest science issues today, which include better understanding severe weather and climate change, often in remote places where it is impossible or cost prohibitive to gather data using other methods.”

In 2009 and again in 2010, researchers from CU-Boulder participated in a multi-agency university project known as VORTEX2, which had a goal of learning more about the origins, structure and evolution of tornadoes to improve both the time and accuracy of tornado forecasting. In the spring of 2010 a CU tornado-chasing team using a small UAS from the RECUV center intercepted “supercell” thunderstorms, some that produced tornadoes, in eastern Colorado and western Nebraska, Argrow said.

Argrow said the CU team worked closely with the FAA to secure particular blocks of airspace measuring roughly 400 square miles known as a “box” in Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas for use in flying the UAS into severe thunderstorms. While the FAA was initially very conservative in allotting CU both airspace and airtime, the CU faculty and student storm chasers eventually gained access to 59 boxes in the three states and were required to give the FAA just two hours of notice prior to each flight.

Frew and Argrow said developing instruments and unmanned aircraft requires multidisciplinary approaches -- combining aspects of both aerospace and computer science, for example -- which has led to a new model of education in CU-Boulder’s engineering college. While it used to be standard to have a single faculty adviser for multiple students, the breadth of information required for designing, developing and flying UAS with sophisticated sensors now may include multiple faculty advisers from different departments for a single student.

CU-Boulder Research Professor James Maslanik of aerospace engineering has been involved in a number of UAS science projects in Earth’s cold regions. In addition to participating in unmanned science flights in Antarctica, Greenland and Svalbard -- Norway’s Arctic archipelago -- assessing changes in sea ice, Maslanik is the principal investigator on a $3 million, NASA-funded study known as the Marginal Ice Zone Observations and Processes EXperiment, or MIZOPEX, that is measuring sea-ice declines north of Alaska.

“We are looking for the physical drivers that explain why the Arctic sea ice isn’t recovering in the Beaufort Sea and the adjacent Canada Basin,” Maslanik said. “The ice has been melting out relatively early and forming late, leaving much bigger expanses of open water. We have several different classes of UAS we will be using, and we are exploring what kinds of science we can do with each.”

In an effort to learn more about ocean surface and subsurface conditions in remote areas like the Beaufort Sea, CU-Boulder aerospace engineering faculty members Scott Palo and Dale Lawrence and a team of graduate students are developing expendable UAS that can fly to specific destinations and be put to work as floating buoys to gather data. Sporting strings of instruments dangling in the water, the modified “dropsondes” can provide valuable information on ocean temperatures and chemistry that may hold some answers about changes and trends in sea ice concentrations as the climate warms.

“We have developed a center here with world-class expertise,” Frew said of RECUV. “Our students are being trained to design, build and fly a variety of sophisticated UAS, which will make them a valuable commodity in the workforce in the coming years.”

RECUV, which draws faculty and students from across the College of Engineering and Applied Science, is a university, government and industry partnership dedicated to the development and application of unmanned vehicle systems. The center research encompasses scientific experiments, commercial applications, mitigation of natural and man-made disasters, security and national defense.

Second recent seven-figure gift to CU Eye Center endows chair for ophthalmology professor[33]

Malik Y. Kahook, M.D.

In recognition of their long-standing relationship with the Department of Ophthalmology[35] at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, Craig Slater and his wife, Colleen, have donated $1.5 million that establishes the Slater Family Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology.

This new $2 million endowment (established with the Slater gift and other commitments, and which will support a senior-faculty position) represents the second gift of $1.5 million or greater toward ophthalmology at CU within the last three months. These gifts come as the affiliated CU Eye Center prepares to break ground in June on a larger home at the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute at University of Colorado Hospital.

The holder of the Slater Family Endowed Chair in Ophthalmology will be Professor of Ophthalmology Malik Y. Kahook, MD[36], who is director of clinical and translational research and chief of the glaucoma service at the CU Eye Center. An endowed chair gift provides a reliable and perpetual stream of support for the chairholder. It is also a public indicator of a program's prestige and helps universities recruit and retain top talent.

Dr. Kahook's research focuses on multiple unmet needs within the ophthalmology field, including novel glaucoma therapies, advanced cataract surgery devices and implants, drug delivery targeting macular degeneration, and advanced imaging techniques.

"The generous gift from the Slater family is a formative event in our efforts to innovate both in clinical care and scientific discovery within the department of ophthalmology," Dr. Kahook said. "I look forward to the hard work we have ahead of us and to developing new treatments for blinding diseases."

A 1979 undergraduate alumnus of the University of Colorado Boulder and 1996 graduate alumnus of the University of Colorado Denver Business School, donor Craig Slater has served in multiple leadership roles over more than 25 years with the Anschutz Corporation. He now serves as chairman of Anschutz Investment Company.

The Slater family is making this gift because of their long-standing relationship with the Department of Ophthalmology and their belief that future therapies and cures for blinding diseases can be achieved by Dr. Kahook and his colleagues.

The CU Eye Center at the Anschutz Medical Campus—the only academic eye center within a 500-mile radius—has set an ambitious goal of establishing new, interconnected research programs in six high-priority areas and doubling its annual patient capacity from 75,000 to 150,000. The latter would be enabled in part by an anticipated tripling of space at its home at the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute building in University of Colorado Hospital.

This "Bringing Sight to Life" CU initiative will depend heavily on private support, and the program hopes that the Slater family's gift will generate attention and momentum for this fundraising effort, and for the caliber of eye care and research at CU. With more than 50 faculty members in the Department of Ophthalmology, CU's program is growing rapidly to rival the size of the largest departments in the country. CU was the first U.S. academic center to commercially use femtosecond laser cataract surgery, and the first to discover use of silicone oil to mitigate radiation damage to the eye, among other pioneering achievements.

In March, Sue Anschutz-Rodgers donated $2 million[37] that established an endowed chair in retinal diseases, now held by Naresh Mandava, MD, chair of the Department of Ophthalmology at the CU School of Medicine.

These gifts are among more than 300,000 gifts made during Creating Futures, a $1.5 billion fundraising campaign to enhance University of Colorado education, research, outreach, and health programs benefiting citizens throughout and beyond Colorado. Visit cufund.org[38] for more information.

Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, Healthy Dining and restaurants partnering for healthier options[39]

From left, top row: Shana Patterson, RD, Healthy Dining Colorado; Tessa Stamper, RD, Noodles and Company; Maren Stewart, JD, APR, LiveWell Colorado. Bottom Row: Khanh Nguyen, Colorado Health Foundation; James O. Hill, Ph.D., Anschutz Health and Wellness Center; Kevin Caulfield, Red Robin International; Anita Jones Mueller, MPH, Healthy Dining; Pete Meersman, Colorado Restaurant Association; Ellen Robinson, Gov. John Hickenlooper's office

The University of Colorado's Anschutz Health and Wellness Center[41] (AHWC) is teaming up withHealthy Dining[42] to help Coloradans make healthier choices when they eat in restaurants.

The new program is called Healthy Dining in Colorado. More than 40 restaurant companies with 300 locations are already participating in Colorado. Restaurants will offer a selection of dietitian verified menu items for kids and adults emphasizing lean protein, vegetables, fruits, whole grains and unsaturated fats.

"Families are so busy. We recognize that they will eat out because it can be faster and more convenient. In fact, families eat an average of five restaurant meals per week," says James O. Hill, Ph.D., executive director of AHWC. "The partnership with Healthy Dining provides healthy, good tasting restaurant options so families don't sacrifice nutrition for convenience."

Families can find restaurants, from fast food to upscale dining, by entering a ZIP code in the online search tool featured on HealthyDiningFinder.com[43] or by downloading the free iPhone app, YumPower. [44]

"HealthyDiningFinder.com makes it easy to dine out as a part of a healthy lifestyle," says Anita Jones Mueller, president of Healthy Dining. "It's exciting to see so many restaurants offer nutritious choices. As more restaurants offer Healthy Dining choices there is a positive public health impact- one family at a time."

Hill agrees: "Two out three adults and one out of three children in this country are considered overweight or obese and we need to reverse this trend. We can do this by helping people make small, sustainable healthier choices. With this partnership, we want to provide families with better meal choices – ones that are both healthier and good tasting."

Healthy Dining in Colorado is the first statewide initiative of its kind and will serve as a model for other states to implement. There are 60,000 restaurant locations participating across the country.

"We are thrilled to launch this new program in Colorado building on Healthy Dining's nationwide success," Jones Mueller says. "We are hopeful our collaboration with AHWC, LiveWell Colorado and Colorado Health Foundation will help Colorado maintain its standing as one of the healthiest states in the nation."

Healthy Dining in Colorado features restaurants committed to offering a selection of healthful choices such as Bistro Elaia at AHWC, the Summit Restaurant at the Broadmoor Hotel, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Mad Greens, Sweet Tomatoes, Red Robin, Noodles & Company, Boston Market and others.

"Boston Market provides a variety of delicious meals guests can customize and feel good about eating and serving," says George Michel, Boston Market's CEO. "It's important for us to work with partners like Healthy Dining to assure our guests that they can enjoy nutritious meals without sacrificing taste. With more than 100 meal combinations containing 550 calories or less and a program in place to reduce sodium across our menu by 15 percent to 20 percent, we offer our guests a wide variety of proteins and sides that deliver on both taste and nutrition."

Cragmor improvements include UCCS parking discussion[45]

[46]
The Cragmor neighborhood south of Austin Bluffs Parkway is scheduled for millions of dollars in improvements beginning this summer, residents learned during a Tuesday night meeting at Berger Hall.

A crowd of about 150 including faculty and staff members who live in the area attended a neighborhood meeting where city engineering representatives detailed where new sidewalks, curbs, gutters, intersection improvements and asphalt street overlays are planned. And while there may be temporary inconvenience, none of the improvements will cost homeowners. Local and federal grants will be used to pay for the improvements.

But that good news was soon tempered by what really frustrates many Cragmor neighbors who attended the meeting – speeding, illegal parking and litter blamed on UCCS students.

“We have a new form of government and a new council,” said Tim Roberts, a senior transportation planner for the city of Colorado Springs. “They have recognized the problem. Our goal is to get students out of the neighborhood.”

During the next several weeks, city officials will meet with Cragmor neighbors in an attempt to reach consensus about how to reduce illegal parking and driving behaviors. Options include permit-only parking, time managed parking, and increased law enforcement. The area will be broken into four subgroups so that solutions that fit specific areas can be developed. Roberts hopes to have consensus on plans by the end of July with implementation by early September.

Roberts, Jim Spice, executive director, Parking and Transportation Services, and Kathleen Krager, a transportation manager for the city of Colorado Springs, answered resident questions including charges that UCCS does not provide adequate parking for students, faculty and staff.

Spice explained that hundreds of parking spaces are available at Four Diamonds and that those spots – as well as a free bus ride – are available. He also shared plans for a new, 1,200 space parking garage that is under construction. The issue, Spice said, is one of choice. Students chose to park in Cragmor rather than ride a shuttle bus. And, as long as they park legally, city streets belong to the public at large, not the person whose home is adjacent to the street.

An idea that generated discussion was permit-only parking. Permits would only be issued to residents. All other cars parked in the area would be ticketed.

Permit-only parking isn’t new. Krager cited 27 such areas in Denver alone. Such programs are often expensive to implement and would require a change in city ordinance, but she assured neighbors they won’t have to foot the bill for those neighborhood improvements, either. Revenue to run a permit parking program could come from tickets issued to offenders.

“He’s providing the carrot,” Krager explained in reference to Spice’s free parking and free shuttle rides. “I’ll provide the stick.”

School of Public Affairs co-hosts national public-private partnership workshop[47]

Phil Washington, RTD general manager, delivers the keynote address at the Implementing PPPs for Colorado workshop on May 22.

Already a leader in public-private partnerships on transit projects, Colorado must keep that innovation moving forward because public resources for services and infrastructure continue to shrink.

That was a key message delivered at a workshop "Implementing PPPs for Colorado" at Embassy Suites Denver on

May 22. The conference, which drew about 175 people, was organized by the Buechner Institute for Governance[49] in CU Denver's School of Public Affairs and the National Council for Public-Private Partnerships.

John Buechner, former CU president and CU Denver chancellor, delivered introductory remarks along with current University of Colorado Denver Chancellor Don Elliman. Buechner said public-private partnerships are essential. "We need to improve them and leverage relationships. We need to discard unnecessary processes and procedures," he said.

Elliman said PPPs are the way forward in a state that has shown little appetite for raising the tax burden to fund services. For example, he said, multimodal transit will be essential to serve the rapidly growing Anschutz Medical Campus[50] in the decades to come. The university was pleased when Kiewit Infrastructure Group and RTD suggested a PPP to drive a transit spur to the campus. "I can't tell you how much I appreciate the subject of this conference," Elliman said. "We're delighted to be a part of it. We hope, frankly, that you can move this ball forward because the state needs it."

Other workshop speakers included Steve Hogan, mayor of Aurora; Tim Harris, Colorado Department of Transportation, Gary Drews, Colorado Health Foundation; and Peter Binney, Merrick and Company.

Keynote speaker RTD General Manager Phil Washington said Colorado has the opportunity to be the "PPP capital in the country." The Eagle P3[51], which is building out 36 miles of Denver-area commuter rail with private-sector financial assistance and long-term operations, is unique in the nation.

Taking action is key to moving these infrastructure projects forward, Washington said. "We have to have intestinal fortitude and we have to keep doing it -- not keep talking about it," he said. "We have to execute innovation."

Randy Harrison, a senior fellow in the Buechner Institute for Governance, said government struggles to meet the state's infrastructure and service needs in health, education, transportation and other areas. "We're looking for new ways to work with the private sector in order to leverage resources and bring more resources to the table," he said.

Workshops such as this provide an opportunity for leaders to learn how others are making partnerships work. "They take a variety of forms, but it's the local governmental system that really is the foundation and gives us a wider range of choices and strategies to be more efficient and responsive," Harrison said. "This is a how-to. This is how you do it."

Smalyukh receives Early Career Award from DOE[52]

University of Colorado Physics professor Ivan Smalyukh, right, works with graduate student Angel Martinez in his laboratory where he uses lasers to trap and manipulate liquid crystals. (Photo by Glenn J. Asakawa/University of Colorado)

Ivan Smalyukh, an assistant professor of physics at the University of Colorado Boulder and a founding fellow of the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute (RASEI), has been awarded a 2013 Early Career Award from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The award is $750,000 over five years and Smalyukh will use the funding to study the self-assembly of nano-sized particles into colloidal composites, work that may enable cheaper and more efficient renewable energy technologies as well as more energy-efficient displays on consumer devices such as laptops and smart phones.

Smalyukh is one 61 scientists to receive awards. This year’s winners were selected from a pool of about 770 applicants. The DOE’s Early Career Research Program is in its fourth year.

“The Early Career Research Program reflects the administration's strong commitment to creating jobs and new

industries through scientific innovation," said Acting Secretary of Energy Daniel Poneman. "Strong support of scientists early in their careers is crucial to sustaining America's scientific workforce and assuring U.S. leadership in discovery and innovation for many years to come."

Smalyukh has been honored with two other early career awards. In 2009, Smalyukh also was chosen for the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development, or CAREER, award, the agency's most prestigious award to junior faculty members. And in 2010, Smalyukh was awarded the coveted Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, or PECASE.

Pyszczynski's research proposal funded[54]

[55]
A research proposal by **Tom Pyszczynski**, a Distinguished Professor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and Jeff Greenberg at the University of Arizona has received funding by the Immortality Project at the University of California, Riverside.

"Religious and Scientific Paths to Immortality: A Clash of Cultures?" will examine why some people embrace pursuing indefinite lifespan expansion while other people reject it, and how the prospect of being able to live indefinitely changes people's investments in aspects of their religious and secular beliefs.

Grants totaling $2.3 million will be awarded to 10 research teams from the United States and Europe in the scientific component of The Immortality Project, said John Martin Fischer, distinguished professor of philosophy at UC Riverside. The recipients were selected from among 75 proposals, which were reviewed by a panel of seven judges drawn from the disciplines of neuroscience, biological science, philosophy and psychology.

The Immortality Project was established at UC Riverside in 2012 with a $5 million, three-year grant from the John Templeton Foundation to undertake a rigorous examination of a wide range of issues related to immortality. Fischer is the project's principal investigator.

"The research should push forward the frontiers of knowledge about death and immortality in various ways," Fischer said. "Hamlet famously said about death, 'No one comes back from that country.' But one of the projects hopes that we can gain some insights about death and the afterlife from immersion in a virtual reality that depicts a kind of survival after death. The projects thus explore a fascinating and wide range of issues through, broadly speaking, empirical research into the great questions about death and immortality."

Historians recognize Komara for book on Skyline Park[56]

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Ann Komara, associate professor and chair of landscape architecture at the University of Colorado Denver, will receive a Leadership in History Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) for her book "Lawrence Halprin's Skyline Park" (Princeton Architectural Press, 2012). AASLH bestows the awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans.

By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serve as an inspiration to others in the field. The Award of Merit recognizes excellence for projects (including civic engagement, exhibits, multimedia, preservation projects, publications, public programming, and special projects), individual achievement, and general organizational excellence.

Eight UCH nurses honored[59]

Sanders read the nomination for SICU Nurse Manager Martha Paulson.

Eight nurses representing a broad cross-section of the University of Colorado Hospital recently were named “Magnet Nurses of the Year” for their hard work and commitment to their profession, patients and families and the organization. The Magnet Advisory Council evaluated the candidates.

Honorees are:

Clinical Practice:
Transformational Leadership: **Martha Paulson**, RN, Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU); **Samantha Weimer**, RN, Burn/Trauma ICU Structural Empowerment: **Nicole Huntley**, RN, SICU Exemplary Professional Practice: **Melanie Bornemann-Shepherd**, RN, Resource and Staffing New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements: **Kerri Jeppson**, RN, CCRN, Neuro ICU
Non-traditional Practice:
Transformational Leadership: **April Koehler**, RN, Emergency Department New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements: **Kathy Kesner**, RN, CNS, Ambulatory Services; **Catherine Reeves**, RN, Facilities Expansion

Garrity named associate dean for student life at School of Medicine[61]

Maureen Garrity will become the associate dean for student life and head the newly created Office of Student Life at the School of Medicine effective June 1.

The new office is a combination of the old Office of Student Affairs and the Office of Admissions. Garrity previously served as associate dean of admissions and is currently associate dean of student affairs. For the first year, **Ozzie Grenardo** will report to her as Interim Assistant Dean for Admissions and **Terri Blevins** will report to her as Interim Assistant Dean for Student Affairs.

A director of the Office of Student Life will be recruited. A search committee for the position has been formed, chaired by **Dominic Martinez** from the Anschutz Medical Campus Office of Inclusion and Outreach.

Dropping names ...[62]

Moore

Several Ph.D. candidates from the University of Colorado Boulder recently were honored by the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology. **Ifeyinwa Okoye** was one of 30 Google Anita Borg Memorial scholars and received $10,000. The scholars, who attend universities in the United States and Canada, will join the annual Google Scholars’ Retreat this summer in New York City, where they will have the opportunity to attend tech talks on Google products, network with other scholars and Googlers, participate in developmental activities and sessions, and attend social activities. **Allison Brown** and **Neeti Wagle** were named finalists and received $1,000 each. Borg worked to dismantle the barriers that keep women and minorities from entering the computing and technology fields. The memorial scholarships were established in 2004. … **Lorna Moore**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, recently received the Grover Prize

from the American Thoracic Society. The award recognizes “outstanding contributions to the study of the effect of hypoxia and high altitude on the pulmonary circulation” and is named after Robert F. Grover, M.D., PhD, a member of the School of Medicine faculty from 1957 until 1984. … **Bryan Haugen** and **Marvin Schwarz**, professors of medicine, are among the 64 physicians elected this year to the Association of American Physicians, which has about 1,300 active members and 600 emeritus and honorary members. … **Ross Camidge**, director of the thoracic oncology clinical program and associate director for clinical research at the CU Cancer Center, has received the Hank Baskett Sr. Spirit Award. The award was created to raise funds and awareness for those affected by lung cancer.

First Friday exhibitions to feature photography, food, music[64]

“Boys in a Pickup” by Robert Adams.

Free food, art, music and poetry will be highlighted during a First Friday exhibit scheduled for 5:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 7 at UCCS GOCA 121 and IDEA at Colorado College.

The First Friday adventure begins with a 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. reception “A Place Apart: Colorado and the American West, Photographs by Robert Adams” at Colorado College’s IDEA space in the Edith Kinney Gaylord Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Avenue.

At 5:30 p.m., Curator Jessica Hunter-Larsen will give a brief introduction to the exhibition followed by a poetry reading by Jane Hilberry, a Colorado College English professor. A performance in the gallery by musicians featured in the Colorado College Summer Music Festival will conclude the program.

For more than 40 years, Robert Adams’ photographs have celebrated the beauty of the American West. He often focuses his attention on overlooked subjects and vistas such as the quiet streets of small towns, the wide-open prairies of the plains, or the junctures of wilderness and urban development. Inherent in his images is the recognition of the relentless absorption and transformation of nature by human development. The exhibition will run through June 15.

“Haunted Windchimes at the HiDive (Halloween)” by Bill Starr.

At 7 p.m., UCCS GOCA 121 will host photographer Bill Starr for an artist talk followed by a free concert by Colorado Springs-based musician Alex Koshak. Koshak will perform as part of GOCA and COPPeR’s joint “Free First Fridays” concert series with his newest project Charioteer from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Refreshments will be donated by Brewers Republic, Bristol Brewing, and Nosh Restaurant. GOCA121 is located at 121 S. Tejon Street (Plaza of the Rockies), Suite 100.

DOCUMENTATION features the work of three Colorado-based photographers, Matt Chmielarczyk, Bill Starr and Andrea Wallace, and their compelling personal narratives. For more than 22 years, Starr’s photography has for captured movement in dance, theater, performance art and Colorado’s indie/electronic/folk music scene. Starr’s physical and social challenges from living with acute rheumatoid arthritis inform how he observes and translates movement. Starr’s home has served as a hub and informal artist residence for dancers, musicians, and artists of all backgrounds, giving him the opportunity to document many “moments of intensity” through his camera lens. The exhibit is on display through June 29.

GOCA is a contemporary arts organization with two galleries. A campus gallery opened in 1982 and is located in Centennial Hall. GOCA 121 opened in 2010 in the Plaza of the Rockies building at 121 S. Tejon in downtown Colorado Springs.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-wants-limits-retiree-hiring[2] https://www.cu.edu/policies/PUR/5054Draft.pdf[3] http://becolorado.org/programs/be-colorado-move/[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-system-joins-coursera-explore-mooc-based-learning-collaboration[5] https://connections.cu.edu/file/coursera-ppng[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-timothy-orr[7] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-orrtoppng[8] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-orrmugpng[9] https://connections.cu.edu/news/shakespeare-fest-offers-tradition-twists[10] http://www.coloradoshakes.org/[11] http://www.colorado.edu/cwc/shakes.html[12] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-orrstagepng[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/canvas-ing-better-online-learning-experience[14] https://connections.cu.edu/news/canvas-ing-for-a-better-online-learning-experience/cuonline-f[15] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/CUOnline/eCollege/Pages/eCollegeLogin.aspx[16] http://blackboard.cuonline.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp[17] http://www.instructure.com/[18] http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL73oFZbnYuiziYP4oRh0Bt0bpanOFkgWW&feature=mh_lolz[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder%E2%80%99s-barry-named-interim-director-intercollegiate-athletics[20] https://connections.cu.edu/news/cu-boulders-barry-named-interim-director-of-intercollegiate-athletics/c-berry[21] https://connections.cu.edu/news/cu-boulders-barry-named-interim-director-of-intercollegiate-athletics/m-bohn[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/supreme-court-rules-against-lobato-case[23] https://connections.cu.edu/news/colorado-supreme-court-hears-cu-appeal-in-concealed-carry-case/cosc-2[24] https://connections.cu.edu/news/regents-ok-amicus-brief-in-lobato-case[25] http://www.courts.state.co.us/userfiles/file/Court_Probation/Supreme_Court/Opinions/2012/12SA25.pdf[26] http://www.leg.state.co.us/clics/clics2013a/csl.nsf/fsbillcont/27A661F189ABDCF787257AEE00571A66?Open&file=213_01.pdf[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/connections-begins-summer-publication-schedule[28] https://connections.cu.edu/file/summer-skedpng[29] mailto:newsletter@cu.edu[30] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-organizing-effort-establish-unmanned-aircraft-test-site-colorado[32] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucb01png[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/second-recent-seven-figure-gift-cu-eye-center-endows-chair-ophthalmology-professor[34] https://connections.cu.edu/file/cufkahookpng[35] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/departments/Ophthalmology/Pages/Welcome.aspx[36] ht
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[45] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cragmor-improvements-include-uccs-parking-discussion[46] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccs-parkingpng[47] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/school-public-affairs-co-hosts-national-public-private-partnership-workshop[48] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdwashingtonpng[49] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SPA/BuechnerInstitute/Pages/BuechnerHome.aspx[50] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/Anschutz-Medical-Campus-work-session-draws-opinions-on-parking-open-space-and-signage.aspx?source=today[51] http://www.rtd-fastracks.com/ep3_2[52] https://connections.cu.edu/people/smalyukh-receives-early-career-award-doe[53] https://connections.cu.edu/file/p-smalyukhpng[54] https://connections.cu.edu/people/pyszczynski%E2%80%99s-research-proposal-funded[55] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ppyszczynskipng[56] https://connections.cu.edu/people/historians-recognize-komara-book-skyline-park[57] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pkamarapng[58] http://www.amazon.com/Lawrence-Halprins-Skyline-Modern-Landscapes/dp/1616890916/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1369857954&sr=8-1-fkmr0&keywords=Lawrence+Halprin%27s+Skyline+Park%2C+Ann+Kamara[59] https://connections.cu.edu/people/eight-uch-nurses-honored[60] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ppaulsonpng[61] https://connections.cu.edu/people/garrity-named-associate-dean-student-life-school-medicine[62] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-72[63] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pmoorepng[64] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/first-friday-exhibitions-feature-photography-food-music[65] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dyk02png[66] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dyk01png