Benson, Faculty Council talk non-monetary compensation at meeting[1]

With pay raises not on the table for faculty, one result among many brought about by severely reduced state funding, are there other perks that could lessen the sting? University of Colorado President Bruce D. Benson looked to the Faculty Council for ideas.

"I'm aware of the fact that everyone is suffering because we're not doing raises and we're lacking resources," Benson told the Faculty Senate and Council during its systemwide meeting Thursday, April 29, at 1800 Grant St. "I really appreciate how everyone is handling this, because it's not fun. Non-monetary compensation is something we need to look at."

When Benson asked for suggestions, the discussion focused on a pilot program[2] at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, where faculty and staff members have been allowed to transfer unused tuition assistance (up to nine credits) to an immediate family member for undergraduate work. The program, which has proved popular with UCCS employees, is concluding its two-year test run.

Benson said he's eager to see results of the Colorado Springs study, expected to be available in August. A decision to extend the program's duration and to expand it to other campuses would have to be voted on by the Board of Regents.

While council members noted that such a benefit could prove to be a useful tool in retaining faculty members, Kathleen Bollard, associate vice president and chief academic affairs officer, said it also could be an effective recruitment tool.

E. Jill Pollock, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, told the council she's waiting on a report that examines how such a benefit is handled at peer university systems.

"It's easy to do a tuition waiver on a particular campus," she said. "The question is how do you manage that when you can move to other campuses? And what's a good cost model?"

She said she looks forward to sharing a "robust report" with the Faculty Council in the fall.

In other action, the Faculty Council:
Discussed concerns over the proposed proportion of faculty members who would be seated on future presidential search committees. The most recent list preferred by the Board of Regents indicated a committee of no more than 11 members, including four faculty members. Faculty Council had requested 50 percent plus one, or six members. Via phone, Regent Tom Lucero, R-Loveland, said such a proposal was a "nonstarter" for the board. Taking a suggestion from council member Bruce Neumann, Lucero said he would bring before the board a suggestion to reduce the number of community (non-CU) members of the search committee from four to two. Lucero also encouraged faculty members to attend the next regents meeting June 24 if they would like an opportunity to speak directly to the board. Heard from Pollock an update on this year's dependent eligibility verification. She said that with 89 percent of the process complete, the university has identified 5.6 percent of current dependents as ineligible for benefit coverage. If that number holds, it would mean an annual savings to the university of $1.9 million. Passed a resolution expressing appreciation to employees who have worked on implementing the new Integrated Student Information System (ISIS). Elected new officers to one-year terms, which begins July 1: Chair, Mark Malone, UCCS curriculum and instruction Vice chair, Skip Hamilton, CU-Boulder library Secretary, Bruce Neumann, UC Denver business
"I think the most important thing a Faculty Council chair can do at any time is to be a good listener," Malone said after the meeting. "With the tough economic challenges we now face, this is more important than ever. There will likely be some tough challenges. Everyone needs to know not just that they have a voice in the process, but that decisions reflect that others have heard that voice and considered it in the decision-making process."

Higher ed flexibility legislation moves forward[3]

Senate Bill 10-003, the legislation that would give higher education institutions greater freedom in determining tuition and financial affairs, passed a third reading in the Colorado Senate today, just a day after passing its second reading.

The bill, which has been reworked and revised numerous times, now goes to the House Education Committee for a hearing on Thursday, May 6.

The bill was introduced as a temporary fix to help alleviate the pain of funding cuts the state has made to colleges and universities. Legislators have said it is likely that state funding for the 2011-2012 fiscal year will be trimmed by 50 percent and wanted institutions to be prepared for the "funding cliff."

SB3 would:
Allow each institution to set tuition for resident and nonresident students with a cap of 9 percent each year unless there are significant decreases in state support. Require institutions to provide detailed funding reports and financial projections to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) and the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee beginning Nov. 10, 2010, and every future Nov. 10. The projections would include details of how the institution would respond to a variety of scenarios, including the 50 percent reduction in state funding. Require institutions to provide detailed plans on how governing boards would ensure accessibility and affordability for low- and middle-income students, how financial aid would be distributed and ways to improve student retention. Require institutions to provide the CCHE a five-year plan of performance goals that would include quality of instruction, operational efficiency, improved student success (including post-graduation employment) and improving state residents' access to and affordability to a quality education. A plan would be required each December. The CCHE would then establish benchmarks and review the progress of each institution. If an institution failed to meet one or more benchmarks by 5 percent or more, the institution would lose some of its tuition-setting freedom. Remove international students from the statutorily required limit on nonresident students enrolled in colleges. Without denying spots to in-state students, a greater influx of students from around the world would grow enrollment, diversify the campus experience and boost tuition revenue. Based on percentage of enrolled students from other countries, the University of Colorado at Boulder ranks near the bottom of institutions in the American Association of Universities. CU enrolls nearly 59,000 students on four campuses; 77 percent of those are in-state students. Allow institutions more flexibility to control financial dealings, including purchasing and awarding contracts, along with buying or selling real estate. In most cases, the institutions must seek state approval, which causes expensive delays, according to the colleges and universities.
The bill includes a five-year sunset amendment, proposed by Sen. Pat Steadman, D-Denver.

Gov. Bill Ritter put together a task force, the Higher Education Strategic Planning Steering Committee, to study higher education issues and develop a master plan for the state. That plan is expected to be completed by December.

Another amendment in SB3 would allow the governing boards of higher education institutions 14 days to comment on the master plan before it is approved. The CCHE also would use performance contracts to ensure the master plan is implemented.

During Senate testimony, Sen. Bob Bacon, D-Fort Collins, reminded lawmakers that the bill doesn't fix the fact that Colorado ranks at or near the bottom among states in several gauges of higher education funding.

"We're not funding it properly. Once you're at the bottom nationally, it's an embarrassment. It is with sadness that we have to vote for this bill because we aren't doing all we can," he said.
Other legislators echoed the sentiment.

"We have to say (the state) basically doesn't fund higher education," said Sen. Rollie Heath, D-Boulder. "This is not a fix to the situation. How we solve this problem is up to us. We need to deal with the long-term problem because education is the state's backbone."

CU President Bruce D. Benson has said allowing the institution more flexibility would "add an important arrow to our quiver." He said provisions of the bill would allow the university to operate more efficiently and effectively by reducing paperwork, getting rid of redundancies and delays. He also said it would allow campuses to increase diversity and add more revenue by enrolling more foreign students. The bill would cap the number of foreign students at 12 percent;

currently, foreign students make up 4 percent of the student population.

And, he promised, "We would not price education out of the market. I'm a businessman. I wouldn't do that."

Benefits rates, online open enrollment will be available Thursday[4]

Though Payroll & Benefit Services had expected to post final rates and launch the open enrollment web application today, both have been delayed one day.

Because of last-minute successes achieved in the negotiation process with the state, final benefits rates that include the university contribution will be ready at 8 a.m. Thursday, May 6, when the web application also will go live. Look for the Enroll Online Now button at the upper right of all web pages at www.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment[5].

In light of recent federal health care reform legislation, dependents up to age 27 may be enrolled beginning in the 2010-11 plan year. PBS still is working on interpreting the regulations and how the legislation affects federal qualified or nonqualified tax status for these dependents. Under the regulations, employees and retirees enrolling a same gender domestic partner (SGDP) and the partner's children are generally considered nonfederal/nonqualified tax dependents, and are subject to additional taxes (imputed income). PBS will provide more information on the open enrollment website as soon as possible.

Remember, if you are adding new dependents for coverage effective July 1, you must verify their eligibility with PBS during the open enrollment period. Required documents must be submitted by 5 p.m. May 21. There is no guarantee of dependent coverage if required documents are not received by the due date.

To enroll, go to www.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment[5], where you'll also find more information about:
What's new Plan comparisons Enrolling dependents Defaults, should you take no action during open enrollment

Workshops explain shift in thinking about fundraising[6]

A new fundraising approach is taking root throughout the CU Foundation[7], and among campus and volunteer partners.

"The old model of fundraising is us simply pushing our ideas on donors," said Patrick Kramer, vice president of the CU Foundation. "Now we want to step back, listen to donors and see what they want to fund."

This donor-centric approach — part of an "Insight Into Philanthropy" training workshop also undertaken by Harvard and Stanford fundraisers — helps CU faculty and administrators raise money for their programs and initiatives.

More than 100 CU faculty and staff on all four campuses, as well as most foundation members, have taken the training. Participants have raved.

"The workshop was one of the best I've ever attended — I have a much better understanding of my role in the process of development and the importance of finding out each donor's story," said Julie Wong, CU-Boulder vice chancellor for student affairs, a fall 2009 attendee. "The process of tapping into people's stories and passions really works."

Another benefit of "Insight Into Philanthropy," conceived and presented by development consultants Advancement Resources, is that it heralds a consistent fundraising philosophy as private support becomes increasingly important. The approaches of foundation fundraisers and campus partners have not always been unified across all campuses.

And while campus leaders often play key roles in fundraising for specific programs or projects, they often lack background in, or orientation toward, fundraising.

The "Insight Into Philanthropy" program gives campus personnel specific strategies to help them connect with donors and engage their personal commitment. Asking donors which personal passions they want to fund with their donation is one way of doing this.

The program also bolsters the confidence of campus fundraisers, and assures them that fundraising is not about prying money from the reluctant.

"We don't try to convert the unwilling. If you are uncomfortable asking for money, you should not and will not be asked to ask for money," Kramer said. "But in fundraising discussions, we engage donors by talking about the things they care about most. When faculty members do what they do naturally — talk about their teaching and research programs — they open the door."

Michael Glode, professor of medical oncology at the Anschutz Medical Campus, said he found the workshop very helpful.

"By not being sensitive to patients' desire to help, we actually deny them the opportunity to do something very personally meaningful," he said. "I also liked the idea of getting back to donors more frequently on a personal level."

By inspiring the passions of donors rather than merely their loyalties, Kramer says, the potential for larger gifts enters the picture. This premise is based on three years of Advancement Resources research on why people give. (Indeed, they do: Nonprofits received $306 billion in donations in 2007, according to a report by the Giving Institute.) The approach attracted the CU Foundation to Advancement Resources; its numerous higher education clients include four other Big 12 universities.

CU Foundation trustee Linda Shoemaker said that when she recently was visited by a development officer who practiced the donor-centric approach, it immediately got her attention.

"I've been giving away money in this community for years, and no one has ever before asked me what I wanted," she said.

In the fall, the CU Foundation will offer the workshops to another 100 to 120 campus personnel. If interested in Advancement Resources training, contact your department leadership or CU Foundation development officer. More on the curriculum is at http://www.advancementresources.org/2009/InsightG.shtml[8].

Boulder campus gets Googled for mapping project[9]

Thousands of campus denizens wander the University of Colorado at Boulder by bike or on foot, but later this year, the entire world will get to take the tour — virtually.

Two of Google's professional "trikers" recently spent about two weeks photographing paths in the city of Boulder and the campus, said Elaine Filadelfo, a company spokeswoman. Those images will be available in the future in Google Maps.

Google has used Street View cars to gather images of neighborhoods, cities and other attractions for several years. But cars couldn't get everywhere, especially on college campuses and to historic landmarks.

So a three-wheeled bicycle was built with an attached camera to collect street-level images.

Trikers — the manpower behind the bicycle-based camera system — photographed the Boulder Creek Path, which recently won Google's Street View contest[10].

Last October, people were asked to suggest interesting and unique spots in the United States they wanted to see featured in Google Maps. Votes were cast in six categories: parks and trails, university campuses, pedestrian malls, theme parks and zoos, landmarks and sports venues.

After nominations were narrowed down, a winner from each category was selected.

The Boulder Creek Path received the most votes in the parks and trails category.

"When we knew we were going to come to town to photograph the winner, we also worked closely with the city government to get permission and suggestions to photograph many of the other scenic parks around the city," Filadelfo said.

Donna Maes on the Boulder Staff Council spearheaded the effort to get Google to document the CU-Boulder walking paths while the trikers were in town. Google has no plans at this time to photograph other campuses in the CU system.

Google trikers visited Italy and the United Kingdom in 2009.

Regents name recipients of honorary degrees for 2010[11]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has released its list of award recipients for 2010. They will receive their honors at commencement ceremonies beginning Friday, May 7, at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Honorary Degrees

John Archuleta is president of JVA Inc. and founding partner of the National Bank of the Rockies. A CU alumnus, he established a partnership between Mesa State College and the CU-Boulder College of Engineering and Applied Science to increase engineering opportunities for Western Slope students. He established the Salvador Archuleta Integrated Teaching and Learning Laboratory Fund and supported the Discovery Learning Center Building, the Ross B. Corotis Engineering Endowment and the Earn-Learn program in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. He'll be honored at the CU-Boulder commencement on Friday, May 7.

Robert Berliner is a pioneer in biotechnology patent law and founding member of the intellectual property firm of Robbins, Berliner and Carson L.L.P. After several decades of practice in all aspects of intellectual property, he formed Berliner and Associates, a full-service intellectual property firm specializing in patent, trademark and copyright prosecution, licensing and litigation, in the United States and worldwide. As a license negotiator, Berliner has close familiarity with the special needs of CU's patent portfolio, generously donating his time and expertise to assist in the formation and operations of early stage companies. He'll be honored at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs commencement on Dec. 17.

Zuhair Fayez helped create a new idea for architecture in developing countries to fuse local cultural and architectural traditions with modern ideas of space and construction. He helped in the creation of the first colleges for women in Saudi Arabia. After graduating from the University of Colorado Denver's College of Architecture and Planning, Fayez returned to his homeland to found and nurture what is now Saudi Arabia's largest architecture and engineering firm and arguably the largest firm of its kind in the Middle East. He'll be honored at the CU-Boulder commencement on Friday, May 7.

Michael S. Francis, Ph.D., is a scientist, engineer and entrepreneur. He is known as one of the nation's foremost experts in aerospace science. After receiving his Ph.D. from CU, he rose to leadership positions at Lockheed Martin and continues to serve as a program developer and adviser in the areas of autonomy and unmanned systems at United Technology Corp. Francis is a founding member of the CU-Boulder department of aerospace engineering science's external advisory board. He has guided its strategic planning to poise the department as a national leader in the development of unmanned aircraft systems. He'll be honored at the CU-Boulder commencement on Friday, May 7.

David Lacey, M.D., is senior vice president and head of research for Amgen, the Fortune 500 biotechnology company. In working for Amgen, Lacey has made significant contributions to the biotechnology field and the patients it serves with the discovery of new medicines for treatment of chemotherapy side effects and osteoporosis. He was published before he completed his M.D., teaching and lecturing before completing his postdoctoral training and is among the inventors of six patents. As a result of witnessing many hurdles his son with cerebral palsy has faced, Lacey established a fund for undergraduate students with disabilities to lessen the financial challenges they face while furthering their education at UC Denver. He'll be honored at the UC Denver commencement on Dec. 18.

Greg Mortenson developed and implemented a successful model to build schools in rugged areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan. His efforts during the past 16 years have resulted in the building of 131 permanent schools. Thousands of children — two-thirds of them girls — are now able to go to school. Mortenson is the primary author of several best-sellers, including "Three Cups of Tea." His insight on how to bridge the divide between Western and Islamic cultures is required reading for high-ranking military leaders. He'll be honored at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs commencement on May 21.

Distinguished Service Award

Evan Makovsky is a leader in helping change the landscape of downtown Denver. He has been in the real estate business since 1969 and was a major player in the massive downtown Denver facelift. He played a key role in the Skyline Urban Renewal Project and helped the small businesses that had to be relocated by pointing their owners to various programs the city and state had put into place. Makovsky is involved in various charitable activities and is an active member on the University of Colorado Denver Business School's campaign steering committee. He'll be honored at the UC Denver commencement on May 15.

University Medal

Lindsey Phelps, a recent nursing graduate, initiated "bystander CPR" to Leonard Dinegar, CU's senior vice president for administration, in an emergency situation. Though it was not the usual type of nursing situation she was educated to manage, her nursing background and leadership abilities gave her the knowledge and skills to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a person in crisis and to continue CPR until the paramedics arrived. The CPR she administered was effective, and a sign of an exemplary clinician. She'll be honored at the Anschutz Medical Campus commencement on May 28.

Two honorees of the regents last year will be receiving their awards at commencements this month:
Josette Sheeran is a journalist and executive director of the United Nations World Food Program. A CU- Boulder alumna, she is a former undersecretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs. Previously, she worked as a journalist and managing editor at The Washington Times in Washington, D.C. She'll receive an honorary degree at the CU-Boulder commencement on Friday, May 7.
Janet Mordecai is a registered nurse and nursing education philanthropist who established a Rural Health Nursing Endowed Chair at UC Denver. She also established the Mordecai Palliative Care Research Funding at the CU School of Medicine. She'll receive the University Medal at the Anschutz Medical Campus commencement on May 28.

Five Questions for Steve Lekson[12]

[13]
Steve Lekson has stirred up a lot of dust in his time. He's spent years researching prominent archaeological sites, including Chaco Canyon in New Mexico, Yellow Jacket at Mesa Verde in Colorado, and Casas Grandes, known as Paquimé, in Mexico.

But he also likes to shake up conventional wisdom. For instance, he contends the peoples of Chaco, known for using celestial objects to align settlements, used similar orientations to migrate and settle in other areas both north and south along the 108th meridian. (See his book "The Chaco Meridian: Centers of Political Power in the Ancient Southwest," AltaMira Press, 1999).

Such thinking has earned him praise and raised some eyebrows. Some have called him one of the greatest minds of this generation; others have called him just plain wrong. He takes it all in stride with good humor. In the opening of "Chaco," he writes, "This book is not for the faint of heart, or for neophytes. If you are a practicing Southwestern archaeologist with hypertension problems, stop. Read something safe."

His research focuses on the politics, human geography and the architecture of peoples who inhabited Colorado and the Southwest so long ago. He came to the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1997 to head the museum and field studies graduate program. Fieldwork and the laboratory analyses of artifacts and samples are passions, but he also enjoys working with the CU Museum of Natural History, where he is curator of anthropology. While he oversees and uses the museum's anthropology collection in his research and teaching, he also has been bringing the museum into compliance with federal law regarding some artifacts. The law requires institutions that receive federal funding to return cultural items — such as sacred objects and human remains — to their respective Native American peoples.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. What are you currently researching?

My field research currently includes three sites: Pinnacle Ruin in central New Mexico, Chimney Rock in southwestern Colorado and the Black Mountain site in southern New Mexico. Each of these sites is key to a particular question in Southwestern archaeology.

Pinnacle Ruin appears to represent a village of migrants from Mesa Verde and thus tells us about the "abandonment" of the Four Corners in the 13th century. Chimney Rock is a spectacular site, an outlier of the great 12th-century center at Chaco Canyon. Black Mountain appears as the largest village between the 11th-century Mimbres collapse and the 13th-century rise of Casas Grandes; it may represent the historical transition between those two famous societies.

The research has been undertaken by CU graduate and undergraduate students. In all three projects, we are collaborating with other institutions: universities, nonprofits, local CRM (cultural resource management) firms, etc.

Pinnacle Ruin and Chimney Rock have been my favorite projects so far. Both are important for archaeological issues, and both were spectacular sites in amazing settings, with productive collaborations.

(For more information on Lekson's research, listen to a recent lecture[14] he gave at the University of New Mexico.)

2. You were president and CEO of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, which allows the public to join archaeological digs in southwestern Colorado. How important do you think it is to allow the public to be able to participate in such endeavors?

It's critical to communicate archaeology's science and stories to larger audiences, and it's largely acknowledged by my field that archaeology does not do a great job of doing that. Crow Canyon is one approach: letting a limited number of interested laypeople participate alongside professional archaeologists. Other media reach larger audiences: for me, most recently, books. And I get dragged into quite a few videos, too.

[15]

3. Most sites are researched, then reburied. What are your feelings about this method?

Almost all sites are backfilled. That is, after limited excavations are completed, the earth removed is put back into the excavations to preserve the rest of the site. Leaving an excavated ruin open requires a commitment and budget for long-term care and repair. The National Park Service has the ability to do this, but CU does not.

4. How do science, previous research and new ideas play into your final research report?

All of archaeology, beyond the measurement of a room or photograph of a feature, requires interpretations based on various kinds of information. I'd say most of my research is interpretation based on the archaeological facts and a wide range of outside context for those facts. Archaeology is empirically based and acts in many ways like science, but it's also history and proceeds in many ways like the humanities.

What I seem to be able to do is see connections, relationships and implications among my and others' interpretations that others might miss. Much of my recent work has been based on other archaeologists' research, re-combining old data and projects in novel ways — for example, "The Chaco Meridian."

5. Your new book, "A History of the Ancient Southwest," has received excellent reviews. In the introduction, you say the book and your views might annoy some archaeologists and Indians. Have you indeed annoyed some folks?

So far the reaction has been positive, but of course you hear the nice stuff first. "History of the Ancient Southwest" has, so far, gotten good reviews and some very nice personal messages: Timothy Pauketat, a leading Midwestern archaeologist, described it as "one of the most provocative and forward-looking books in archaeology today." And Phillip Tulwaletstiwa, a respected Hopi Pueblo Indian, wrote: "A significant work of creative genius ... This is THE BOOK by which to measure archaeological progress for years to come."

However, I'm pretty sure that several of my interpretations are not going to go down well, because I relate historical events and trends across research domains that conventionally are seldom compared or understood as part of a larger question. Archaeologists are often fairly territorial, so I imagine that not everyone will welcome my conclusions.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[16]

Symposium to examine personalized medicine, biotech advances[17]

[18]
Words such as invention, technology, diagnostics and wellness were rarely mentioned during recent health care reform deliberations, but a health care revolution is under way. Physicians can peer into the body, blood or DNA of a patient and "see" a disease — or the risk for disease — early enough for crucial intervention.

Such personalized medicine and biotechnological advances are the topic of the Gold Lab Inaugural Symposium, May 14-15 at Muenzinger Auditorium at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Medical and scientific leaders will debate a variety of topics during the free symposium, titled "Time: The Crucial Fourth Dimension of Personalized Medicine." The symposium, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. both Â days, is designed to benefit both experts and lay people.

Discussion topics include the evolution toward consumer-driven medicine, the delivery of valid information and blood tests to determine many diseases.

For a complete list of presenters and topics, view the flyer here[19].

Seats are limited. For reservations, please e-mail goldlabsymposium@colorado.edu[20].

Muller-Sievers named director of Center for Humanities and the Arts[21]

Helmut Muller-Sievers, professor in the department of Germanic and Slavic languages and literatures at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has been named the new director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts.

During his term as director, he also will hold the Eaton Professorship, an endowed faculty position in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"I'm honored and delighted," Muller-Sievers said. "When I decided to come to CU-Boulder last year, the strength and promise of its humanities faculty and the culture of interdisciplinary collaboration were among the main attractions. I hope faculty and students will bring their best ideas to the center, and continue to avail themselves of the many opportunities we offer."

Muller-Sievers joined the Boulder faculty in the fall of 2009, after a distinguished two-decade career at Northwestern University. There, he was a professor of German literature and classics and also served at different times as director of the program in comparative literary studies and director of the Alice Kaplan Center for the Humanities. His Ph.D., in German, is from Stanford University; he also earned a master's degree from Freie Universitat Berlin. He completed his undergraduate work at the Universitat Dusseldorf in German and Latin literature and philosophy.

He is the author of 30 articles and four books, including the recently completed "The Cylinder: Kinematics of the 19th Century." His scholarly interests include science, technology and literature in the 18th and 19th centuries; philosophy and literature; philology and hermeneutics; and classical cultures.

Muller-Sievers has spoken on a wide variety of topics around the world and has won grants and fellowships from, among others, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Getty Research Institute, the Mellon Foundation and the Max-Planck-Institut fur Wissenschaftsgeschichte in Berlin.

He was selected director of the center after an internal search conducted by a faculty committee chaired by Thomas Zeiler, professor of history. He will assume the directorship on July 1, succeeding Michael Zimmerman, professor of philosophy, who served from 2006-2010.

GUEST COLUMN: Understanding political, philosophical and intellectual diversity[22]

Jim Geddes, M.D.

Our greatest responsibility as a university is to provide our students a rich, ethical and diverse educational environment that promotes critical thinking and protects the free exchange of ideas.

In this light, the Board of Regents has drafted a mission statement and attendant "Guiding Principles" of the University of Colorado.

Among the latter is the following draft principle, now being considered by the components of our shared governance, including our faculty:

"Promote faculty, student and staff diversity to ensure the rich interchange of ideas in the pursuit of truth and learning, specifically including faculty diversity of political, intellectual and philosophical perspectives."

This guidance is meant for all members of our complex university family, but places with our esteemed faculty the prime responsibility of fostering political, philosophical and intellectual diversity.

Although few academics argue against such a concept, some have expressed specific concerns, which I seek to address below:
Concern: "Our faculty promote intellectual and philosophical diversity, but political diversity is an inappropriate goal. Are we going to ask potential faculty candidates whether they are Democrat or Republican?"
Response: No, we are not proposing that political party affiliation ever become a litmus test for hiring at CU.Â Rather, where important to the educational milieu of a given academic discipline, the university should specifically recruit a professor who will meet the intellectual diversity needs of the university in addition to recruiting a candidate who is highly qualified for the position. For example, when the School of Law has a position available, it might choose to search specifically for a scholar who has demonstrated interest and expertise in U.S. constitutional law, who is a proponent of the classical interpretation of that document and who is also a recognized proponent of Jeffersonian principles.

Unquestionably there should be full intellectual, philosophical and political diversity of the humanities if we are to create fertile, keen and frequent debate and exchange of thoughts and ideologies. Such activity will surely benefit our students. After all, our mission is not to indoctrinate our young people, but to provide them the finest possible educational foundation and broad exposure to all reasonable views.Â Such an education will best allow our students to determine their own viewpoint. **Concern**: "There are a number of guidelines in place that discourage inappropriate discussion of an ideological or political nature in the classroom." (Professors must not depart from the subject matter of the course to inject their own political or ideological agenda.) "I pride myself, as do my colleagues, in concentrating on the subject matter of the course and I make every effort to present information objectively without undue bias. I also attempt to lay out all sides of significant issues."

Response: Yes, we do have a number of Regent Laws and Policies in place. However, to create the optimal educational environment, we must advance beyond mere prevention of bias in the classroom, and encourage a faculty with differing viewpoints, values, philosophies and ideologies who may express those beliefs in appropriate settings (i.e. department or campus debates, opinion pieces, etc.) **Concern**: "There are many academic activities for which intellectual, political and philosophical diversity are irrelevant â€“ such as the teaching of the basic sciences and the professional school curricula on the Anschutz Medical Campus."

Response: True, it is not relevant to encourage political diversity for many of our academic disciplines. However, most every subject will present major and commonly accepted competing philosophies or theories which should be explored, regardless of the professor's personal perspectives. However, we should strive to include proponents of the various (reasonable and commonly accepted) divergences when important controversy occurs. Such diverse representation would stimulate abounding debate and interchange. It would also serve to restrain any individual engaged in intellectually irresponsible behavior, such as dishonest or unethical violations of the scientific method by distortion of observation or data gathering, or misrepresentation of conclusions. **Concern**: "Any such guidance given by the Board of Regents is an infringement upon the academic freedom and the authority of the faculty."

Response: The regents have a constitutional obligation to the people of Colorado to set the general framework inside which the university operates. The responsible, ethical and appropriate conduct of the university, and the delivery of high quality services to our students are included within the responsibilities of your elected Board of Regents. Further, why would any faculty member have concern about promoting diversity of political, intellectual, and philosophical perspectives? Isn't that what we stand for?

The concerns above have been expressed to me and some of my colleagues on the Board of Regents. There may be

other concerns. We welcome discussion on the issue, particularly perspective from the faculty. We have had some exchange already, but would encourage more as the board prepares to take up this issue once again at our June meeting.

We have the opportunity to be the first large public university to openly champion the principles of political, intellectual and philosophical diversity!

Dr. Jim Geddes of Sedalia is a practicing surgeon who represents Colorado's Sixth Congressional District on the CU Board of Regents. While the views above are shared by a number of the members of the board, they do not wholly represent the views of the entire board.

Faculty, students to chase tornadoes again this spring[24]

University of Colorado at Boulder faculty and students will join a storm-chasing science team for the second year in a row across the nation's infamous "Tornado Alley" this spring in an effort to understand how and why tornadoes form and evolve in order to improve warning forecasts of the violent events.

The second Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment, or VORTEX2, began May 1 and will continue through June 15. Now in its second and final season, VORTEX2 is the largest tornado field project in history and will involve more than 100 scientists and 40 support vehicles. The plan is to surround severe storms — including tornadoes — with the latest technology to learn more about their birth, duration and wind speeds and to assess death, injury and damage potential.

One of the CU-Boulder VORTEX2 projects involves placing laser instruments known as disdrometers in the paths of severe "supercell" storms capable of producing damaging winds, large hail and tornadoes in order to measure the size, velocity and reflectivity of individual precipitation particles. A second CU effort involves flying an unmanned aerial vehicle along the fringes of such storms to measure air pressure, temperature, humidity and wind velocities.

Led by CU-Boulder Assistant Professor Katja Friedrich of the atmospheric and oceanic sciences department, the disdrometer team will use three vehicles to travel from state to state in pursuit of severe storms. Based on weather forecasts, research vehicles will be dispatched every day to areas of forming severe storms in Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Oklahoma, the Texas Panhandle and western Iowa, Friedrich said.

Disdrometers, which are essentially high-tech rain gauges, consist of two mailbox-sized parts — a transmitter and a receiver — that are mounted about a foot apart and connected by a beam of laser light. Precipitation droplets that pass through the beam are measured and classified by size and velocity, Friedrich said. CU-Boulder disdrometers have been used in many experiments, including the 2009 VORTEX2 campaign and in an experiment measuring Hurricane Ike that made landfall in Galveston, Texas, in September 2008.

"The idea is to space these instruments in a line along the ground in the paths of oncoming storms," Friedrich said. "Our hope is to use the data to help better predict the duration, size, location and severity of storms, including tornadoes. Ultimately we would like to use data from VORTEX2 to improve tornado forecasting, reduce false warnings and decrease fatalities and property damage from severe weather events."

Friedrich and her team, which drove roughly 12,000 miles during the five-week 2009 VORTEX2 season, said the effort provides students with valuable, real-world experience. "This project gives them a chance to see how large science campaigns like these are planned and organized, including deploying and maintaining instruments," she said. "They see how challenging it can be to keep the instruments running in adverse conditions in order to make accurate and meaningful measurements."

While last year's CU-Boulder team had only two disdrometers, Friedrich's group will have eight this year, thanks to a $500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. The NSF and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are spearheading the VORTEX2 campaign.

The eight students on Friedrich's team include CU-Boulder doctoral students Stephanie Higgins, Danielle Nuding, Evan Kalina and James Rudolph. Others include University of Florida doctoral student Carlos Lopez and undergraduate George Fernandez, National Center for Atmospheric Research scientist Scott Landolt, who will enter CU's atmospheric and oceanic sciences department as a doctoral student in the fall, and Metropolitan State University undergraduate Cameron Redwine.

CU-Boulder's Research and Engineering Center for Unmanned Vehicles also will participate in VORTEX2, flying an Unmanned Aircraft System, or UAS, during the campaign. According to team leader and aerospace engineering sciences Professor Brian Argrow. The propeller-driven aircraft — which weighs 12 pounds and has a 10-foot wingspan — has received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to be deployed onto the edges of severe, supercell storms during the 2010 VORTEX2 season.

The UAS has FAA clearance to altitudes up to 1,000 feet and are projected for launch in eastern Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. "The objective of the team is to develop and demonstrate an inexpensive, small UAS that combines meteorological radar data with the UAS command, communications and tracking data to safely navigate the unmanned aircraft below the clouds of developing supercell storms to collect meteorological data," Argrow said.

"While the engineering systems development is the primary focus of the current program, a secondary objective is to collect useful meteorological data that might address scientific questions and aid in the development of a more capable UAS," he said.

Argrow's team also includes CU-Boulder assistant professor Eric Frew, research assistant Thomas Aune and doctoral students Jack Elston, Maciej Stachura, Jason Roadman, Jason Durrie and Tony Carfang. The effort also includes collaborators from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, the University of Oklahoma and Rasmussen Systems of Grand Junction.

Both CU-Boulder efforts are funded by NSF's Atmospheric Sciences Division. VORTEX2 is a $12 million program funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NSF and a number of universities and nonprofit organizations.

CU-Boulder students participating in the disdrometer experiment will be posting daily blogs on the research effort at http://clouds.colorado.edu/Vortex2-2010[25]. To learn more about CU-Boulder's UAS project, including a map of the operations area, visithttp://tornadochaser.colorado.edu/[26].

To learn more about the experiment visit the VORTEX2 site athttp://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/vortex2/[27] and the official project website athttp://www.vortex2.org/[28].

Educator to speak on U.S. security at National Press Club[29]

Kurt Johnson

Kurt Johnson, an educator at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs whose background includes providing legal counsel to senior military authorities, will address the National Press Club on legal issues affecting U.S. national security.

Johnson, currently interim director of the Center for Homeland Security at UCCS, is one of nine nationally recognized legal experts selected to introduce the new manuscript, "Legal Issues in the Struggle Against Terror," edited by University of Virginia School of Law professors John Norton Moore and Robert F. Turner.

He will speak at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on May 6.

Published by Carolina Academic Press, the book is designed to provide legal scholars, policymakers and the general public with a serious look at critical legal issues in this unusual armed conflict. The manuscript contains 19 chapters that address various aspects of the ongoing struggle against terror including threats of nuclear and biological terrorism, cyber terrorism, protecting privacy while sharing information with allies and within the U.S. government, and the use of the state secrets privilege to terminate litigation.

Johnson's chapter, "The Relations Between Military and Civilian Authorities Within the United States," provides insights on the challenges the U.S. military faces with the homeland defense mission. Johnson co-authored the chapter with Kevin Cieply, associate professor, John Marshall Law School, Atlanta, and Lt. Col. Jeanne Meyer, U.S. Air Force, legal adviser to U.S. forces in Iraq.

"I'm humbled to be a fellow author with some of the most respected national security legal experts in the United States," Johnson said.

"I often heard the phrase 'everything has changed' after the 9/11 attacks," Johnson said. "Yet our Constitution, and most domestic and international law concerning the conduct of war, remain intact and unchanged. This book tackles how to meet our new and unconventional enemies within the bounds of that conventional law."

This volume is recommended for classroom use and for general reading by anyone interested in understanding the most important legal controversies in the struggle against terror. "In a sense, this work represents the culmination of a lifetime of striving to protect both our national security and the priceless individual liberties we enjoy," Johnson said.

Before joining the UCCS staff, Johnson served as senior legal adviser for North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command. He is a retired U.S. Navy captain.

The Center for Homeland Security is one of four centers within the National Institute of Science, Space and Security Centers at UCCS.

Program transforms schoolyards into farm land serving school, community[31]

[32]
A year of project planning and preparation came to reality last week as McGlone Elementary held a special kind of groundbreaking ceremony. Not only is a Denver Public Schools (DPS) elementary school receiving a renovated schoolyard called a learning landscape, but through a partnership with local nonprofit farmers and the University of Colorado Denver, McGlone will be breaking ground and building an urban farm.

Over the past 10 months, Denver Public Schools, UCD, COPA (the voice of organic agriculture in Colorado) and Sprout City Farms have been working together to launch a pilot urban agriculture program at McGlone and Bradley elementary schools. This program will develop a unique small-scale farm that transforms excess DPS land into production urban farms that:
Reduce water use and DPS maintenance Provide locally grown organic foods through community-based distribution methods Provide a venue for urban farming education to DPS students Promote sustainable practices
McGlone and Bradley are the first two DPS schools that will be participating in this pilot program.

"The Urban Farm program is a perfect concept to support the district's sustainability goals. The program provides a fun way to educate our children, reduce water usage through a viable alternative to sod and facilitates less maintenance expense — all of which lowers operating cost," said Trena A. Deane, DPS executive director of facility management. "This program will also create a one-of-a kind effort in Denver and perhaps the nation."

COPA developed a selection process for the DPS farmers and will mentor them through their first couple of years of farming. This mentorship will help local farmers with all aspects of production agriculture, including growing, business aspects, marketing, and certification.

"Connecting farmers to each other and to the community in which they grow makes this program a natural fit and partnership to support the DPS community and the mission of COPA," said Troy Garner, DPS customer relations and special programs manager.

Sprout City Farms, an urban agriculture nonprofit based in Denver, has been recommended by COPA to partner in the Urban Farm Program. The produce grown at the school farms will be sold to school cafeterias (thereby providing fresh, low-cost, organic produce) and at local farmers' markets. The nonprofit plans to collaborate with groups such as Slow Food Denver and Denver Urban Gardens on educational programming to be carried out at McGlone and Bradley; it also aims to build the infrastructure for these sites over the course of 2010 in preparation for the 2010 growing season.

As part of the Learning Landscape to be built at McGlone and Bradley, the schools also will have a school vegetable garden that will be part of the school and community gardening partnership. The natural fit between Learning Landscapes, the school gardens and the urban farms provides natural habitat areas that rejuvenate entire school campuses, having a dramatic effect on children and community behavioral patterns.

Added Professor Lois Brink of UCD, "These types of environments have been shown to provide positive effects on a child's attitude toward fresh fruits and vegetables."

As additional support to the urban agriculture movement, DPS has been awarded a Kellogg grant that will provide necessary funding to build outdoor learning labs and greenhouses at McGlone and Bradley. The greenhouses will extend the growing season for children who will be able to sell their produce to the cafeterias as part of the school lunch and a new DPS "Garden to Cafeteria" incentive.

"Gardens and greenhouses provide a unique opportunity for our students to learn about many aspects of agriculture and the importance of producing locally grown produce. Students will be learning from experienced garden and farming leaders," said DPS Chief Operating Officer David Suppes.

Breakthrough treatment extends lives of prostate cancer patients[33]

The Food and Drug Administration has approved an immune therapy against prostate cancer, a major breakthrough that will extend the lives of many advanced-stage prostate cancer patients.

Dendreon, the company that manufactures the activated immune therapy called Provenge, says only a few patients will be able to get the treatment in the next 12 months while manufacturing gets up to full speed. The treatment will be available at the University of Colorado Hospital.

"Years of research have provided evidence that the immune system fights cancer, but this is the first time an immune-therapy approach has received FDA approval with a large-scale clinical trial," said L. Michael Glodé, Robert Rifkin chair of prostate cancer research at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and associate director of the outreach program at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. "Unfortunately, the availability of the therapy will be limited at first while the company opens new manufacturing facilities. Initially, we expect to treat one to three patients a month.

The issues with the manufacturer should be resolved in about a year."

Provenge trains the body's immune system to attack cancer cells. The therapy involves removing white blood cells from the patient through a process called apheresis and then mixing the cells with a drug designed to stimulate the emergence of target specific cancer cells. The treated blood is then infused back into the patient. A large number of patients involved in the research that lead to the approval of this immune therapy have been treated at University of Colorado Hospital.

"This vaccine could form the basis for optimism that we can finally develop better immunologic treatments for common cancers, including prostate cancer," said Thomas Flaig, M.D., assistant professor in medical oncology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and member of the therapeutic development program at the University of Colorado Cancer Center. During clinical trials, the therapy extended the lives of advanced stage prostate cancer patients who have progressed despite hormone therapy by a median of four months. Three-year survival rates are also better in those who received Provenge in the clinical trial compared with those receiving the placebo.

More than 192,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer each year; 27,000 of them die. Prostate cancer is the third most common cause of death from cancer in men of all ages and is the most common cause of death from cancer in men over age 75. It is rarely found in men younger than 40.

Provenge will be available at University of Colorado Hospital. For more information about the innovative immune therapy, call 720-848-4500 or go to www.uch.edu/proveng[34]

CU-Boulder freshman campaigns for scholarship in memory of friends[35]

Larkin Poynton

Soon after the tragic 2008 automobile death of Longmont High School senior Kyle Metcalf and University of Colorado Denver freshman Caitlin Epple, much of the Longmont community was in shock—including Larkin Poynton, a close friend of both.

"After a while, me and a lot of the community took it as something bitter, but also sweet," Poynton said. "The school united around them. Instead of saying, 'What are we going to do now?,' we decided, 'Let's have fun and live how they would have.'"

Poynton channeled his energy into philanthropy. He helped organize a local "Ride Yo Trike" event, collecting 75 donated tricycles for a holiday-giving program. In recognition of such spirit, the CU-Boulder-bound Poynton was awarded the Asa Iokepa De Neeve scholarship in 2009 — in honor of a Longmont High student who died in 1999.

Once at CU-Boulder, after a fall 2009 meeting with his scholarship donor (who works at the Leeds School of Business), Poynton took his desire to honor his late friends a step further.

Poynton set up a meeting early this year with CU Foundation development officer TJ Rapoport, who told him what he would need to do to establish a scholarship. Then he started doing it. Quickly.

"Literally, from the moment he left my office after the first visit, it was me trying to keep up with Larkin," Rapoport said.

Within a month, he had raised $5,000. A donor from California then matched that total, increasing the pool to $10,000. A Facebook page[37] he set up for the scholarship grew to 1,258 members, and the list of donors on his scholarship blog[38] grew to more than 90.

As of this month, the scholarship effort has raised $15,000 — enabling the first scholarship, in the amount of $500, to be awarded this fall to a Longmont High student entering CU-Boulder in fall 2010 who participates in art and music, volunteers in the community and demonstrates a personal graciousness.

"As a foundation whose purpose is to raise money to support CU, it's inspiring to work with students like Larkin," Rapoport said.

Many of these gifts have come in small increments from people whose desire to help surpasses their means.

"It's great when people give you $5 — when they sacrifice their burrito for the week, or their Pepsi for the week," Poynton said. "A family in Longmont, whom my dad has known forever and is not wealthy by any standard, sent me a check for $25. Those are the ones that mean so much to me."

Poynton's goal is to reach the $25,000 minimum to endow the scholarship — enabling a $1,000 annual scholarship to be awarded in perpetuity. It's an impressive effort for an undeclared freshman who juggles fundraising with work teaching choreography at a dance studio, duties as president of Libby Hall, and hobbies such as drums. And, of course, his classes. But Poynton says he was just following his gut.

"There's a piece of me that felt, 'Larkin, you feel strongly about something. Do something about it,'" Poynton said. "My advice to someone who wants to start a scholarship effort like this: Reach out to everyone you can. Don't give up. Persist. Persist. Persist."

Dance professor honored with diversity awards[39]

Ozuzu

Onye Ozuzu, University of Colorado at Boulder professor of theater and dance, received the CACMA[41] Diversity Service Award during the recent Excellence and Equity Lunch.

The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Minority Affairs honors those who help create a diverse and supportive learning, working and living environment, and who are committed to promoting an understanding of multicultural issues. Ozuzu's Innovative Seed Grant Program application, "African Dance in America: The Archival Project," was reviewed and has been recommended for funding.

Ozuzu also is a faculty recipient of the 2009-2010 President's Diversity Award[42]. She will join CU President Bruce D. Benson as he recognizes her and the other award recipients at a reception at the president's office on Thursday, May 6.

Larry Bell and **Kim Kreutzer** of the Office of International Education[43] represent the academic/administrative unit recipient of the 2009-2010 President's Diversity Award. They are being honored in part for an initiative to bring students and faculty together. They also will be recognized on Thursday. Each Diversity Award recipient will also receive an award of $1,000.

Biotech company expands Alzheimer's disease partnership with CU[44]

The University of Colorado and AmideBio, LLC[45] have completed an agreement creating a research collaboration with a CU-Boulder lab, and giving AmideBio an option to newly discovered drug candidates for Alzheimer's disease.

Research under the new sponsored agreement with the lab of Michael Stowell, Ph.D.[46], an associate professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, will use a novel screening process to find compounds that affect the interaction between two proteins believed to be involved in Alzheimer's disease. The agreement gives AmideBio an option to new compounds that are discovered using this screen, which Stowell believes will be useful in treating the disease.

"AmideBio's commitment to our research will help to accelerate the discovery of potential therapeutics for Alzheimer's by providing both financial support and the large quantities of amyloid peptides needed for screening," Stowell said.

Earlier in 2010, AmideBio licensed a CU technology[47] (also from the Stowell lab) for manufacturing recombinant proteins and peptides (molecules which are similar to proteins but smaller). These types of molecules are often key for treating diseases that cannot be addressed using conventional chemical therapeutics, but the field has historically been limited by challenges such as economical manufacturing and delivery. CU's technology circumvents these problems, particularly those associated with longer and more complex peptides, by leveraging a proprietary recombinant strategy that is economically viable and environmentally sustainable.

Financial manager named UCCS Employee of the Quarter[48]

Elyse Dunckley, right, receives her award from Shannon Cable, general professional in the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment and co-president of the Employee of the Quarter committee.

Elyse Dunckley, financial manager for the National Institute of Science, Space and Security Centers (NISSSC) at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, was named Employee of the Quarter.

Confidently managing all the paperwork for multimillion-dollar grants and making it look easy are among the skills Dunckley demonstrates daily. Sharing her expertise and ideas with others makes her invaluable, according to Jenenne Nelson, dean of the Graduate School and professor at Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Dunckley coordinates expenditures and budgets of the various centers under NISSSC to ensure compliance with funding requirements, along with processing expenditures and human resources paperwork. These duties are the mainstay of the financial support she provides to the NISSSC Air Force Office of Scientific Research grant.

On top of the responsibilities specific to her position, Dunckley serves as a resource to other sponsored program administrators on campus. She shares the processes she put in place to enhance tracking, ensure financial compliance and to document expenditures.

"Elyse goes 'above and beyond' on a daily basis," said Nelson, who nominated Dunckley with high praise. "She continues to challenge herself to grow professionally, using daily challenges as an opportunity to learn a new aspect of sponsored programs or university administration."

Dropping names ...[50]

Johnson

Thomas E. Johnson, professor of molecular behavioral genetics at the Institute for Behavioral Genetics[52] at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has received the Denham Harman Research Award for the Lifetime Achievement in Research from the American Aging Association (AGE). The award will be presented at the 39th Annual AGE meeting in Portland on June 7. Established in 1978, the award is named in honor of Dr. Denham Harman, co-founder of AGE, and honors a scholar who has made significant contributions to biomedical aging research. ... **Marco Tizzano**, postdoctoral fellow at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, received a Polak Young Investigator Award at the annual meeting of the Association for Chemoreception Sciences. The annual awards recognize innovative research by young investigators. ... **Bruce Goldstein**, associate professor of planning and design, College of Architecture and Planning and the University of Colorado Denver, is the lead author of "Expanding the Scope and Impact of Collaborative Planning: Combining Multi-stakeholder Collaboration and Communities of Practice in a Learning Network" in the Journal of the American Planning Association. This work and related publications were supported by $266,000 in awards from the USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station and the Nature Conservancy. ... **Matt Jelacic**, assistant professor of architecture and adjunct professor in the Mortenson Center in Engineering for Developing Communities at the University of Colorado at Boulder, is part of a CU team on the project "Haiti: From Crisis to Development" under the aegis of the Mortenson Center. Earlier this month, he co-hosted a conference, "Lives in Limbo: Re-Imagining Structures and Standards in Refugee Camps," at the Rockefeller Foundation headquarters in New York. Jelacic also has received a $30,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to host a conference on earthen construction at the College of Engineering at CU-Boulder in the fall. ... Among the honorees from the University of Colorado School of Medicine at the Chancellor's Diversity Recognition and award luncheon this month were: **Fayette Augillard,** Public Health program coordinator, for outstanding staff; and **Angela Sauaia,**M.D., Ph.D., who works on several community diversity and health care disparity initiatives, for outstanding faculty.

SkillSoft offers improved navigation[53]

A new version of the SkillSoft Course Player released late last month makes navigation easier for users taking SkillSoft courses.

The SkillSoft Course Player is the technology that launches SkillSoft courses within SkillPort.

New features include:
Streamlined table of contents page Duration information for topic transition pages Accessibility (508) Updates: users may now configure accessibility options from within the player
For more, go to this quick start guide[54].

SkillSoft, which offers free online courses on thousands of topics and curricula for CU employees, is accessed on the SkillPort learning management system. Subjects include business, administrative, communication and IT skills. SkillSoft courseware may be played from any compatible computer, any time of day. Courses successfully completed in SkillSoft will be recorded on your myCU Training Summary.

Questions? E-mail Employee Learning and Development at system.training@cu.edu[55].

Did You Know... offers tips and information from CU's Employee Learning and Development office and others. To submit an item, e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[16]

School of Medicine faculty members awarded grants[56]

Numerous University of Colorado Denver's School of Medicine faculty members have been awarded innovation grants as principal investigators:
Stephanie Chu, department of family medicine, "Knowledge and Clinical Assessment Tools for Musculoskeletal Medicine Education in Family Medicine Residents" **Kristina Tocce**, senior instructor, department of obstetrics and gynecology, "Design and Implementation of Simulated Vaginal Delivery in the Third-Year Medical Student Women's Care Block" **Rachel Swigris**, assistant professor, department of medicine, "A Mindfulness Curriculum to Promote Wellness and Reduce Burnout in Internal Medicine Interns" **Rebecca Maldonado**, assistant professor, physician assistant program, "Validating the Use of Multimedia Clinical Case Simulation Software on Teaching and Assessing Clinical Reasoning in Physician Assistant Students" **Chad Stickrath** and **Melver Anderson**, department of medicine, "Characteristics of Attending Rounds in Internal Medicine, A Multisite Study"

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/benson-faculty-council-talk-non-monetary-compensation-meeting[2] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2009/12-09/tuition.html[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/higher-ed-flexibility-legislation-moves-forward[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/benefits-rates-online-open-enrollment-will-be-available-thursday[5] https://www.cu.edu/pbs/openenrollment[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/workshops-explain-shift-thinking-about-fundraising[7] http://www.cufund.org/[8] http://www.advancementresources.org/2009/InsightG.shtml[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boulder-campus-gets-googled-mapping-project[10] http://google-latlong.blogspot.com/2010/03/announcing-winners-of-street-view-trike.html[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-name-recipients-honorary-degrees-2010[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-steve-lekson[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/thumbnail_SteveLekson.jpg[14] http://unmlive.unm.edu/?p=1192[15] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/lekson.png[16] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/symposium-examine-personalized-medicine-biotech-advances[18] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/goldlab.jpg[19] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/05-05/goldlab-symposium.pdf[20] mailto:goldlabsymposium@colorado.edu[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/muller-sievers-named-director-center-humanities-and-arts[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/guest-column-understanding-political-philosophical-and-intellectual-diversity[23] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/geddes.jpg[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-students-chase-tornadoes-again-spring[25] http://clouds.colorado.edu/Vortex2-2010[26] http://tornadochaser.colorado.edu/[27] http://www.nssl.noaa.gov/projects/vortex2/[28] http://www.vortex2.org/[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/educator-speak-us-security-national-press-club[30] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/uccs_johnson.jpg[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/program-transforms-schoolyards-farm-land-serving-school-community[32] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ucd_farm.jpg[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/breakthrough-treatment-extends-lives-prostate-cancer-patients[34] http://www.uch.edu/provenge[35] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-freshman-campaigns-scholarship-memory-friends[36] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/foundation_poynton.jpg[37] http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=282392016154&ref=ts&v=info[38] http://caitlinandkyle.wordpress.com/[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dance-professor-honored-diversity-awards[40] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_ozuzu.jpg[41]

http://www.colorado.edu/odece/committees/cacma.html[42]
https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/04-21/diversity.html[43] http://www.colorado.edu/oie/[44]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/biotech-company-expands-alzheimers-disease-partnership-cu[45]
http://www.amidebio.com/[46] http://dosequis.colorado.edu/[47] http://cutechtransfer.blogspot.com/2010/01/amidebio-licenses-peptide-manufacturing.html[48] https://connections.cu.edu/people/financial-manager-named-uccs-employee-quarter[49] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_dunckley.jpg[50]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-7[51] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_johnson.jpg[52] http://ibgwww.colorado.edu/[53]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/skillsoft-offers-improved-navigation[54]
https://www.cu.edu/articles/upload/SkillSoftCoursePlayerGuide.pdf[55] mailto:system.training@cu.edu[56]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/school-medicine-faculty-members-awarded-grants