Five questions for Valerio Ferme[1]

Valerio Ferme in Perugia, Italy.

Growing up in Milan, Italy, Valerio Ferme was no stranger to great literature. Dante was required reading and his parents encouraged him to read and think about literature as a way to look at the world.

So although a young Ferme came to the United States with the idea of being a doctor, and earned undergraduate degrees in biology and religious studies from Brown University, his love of literature and reading won out.

“I realized that what I was doing all the time was reading,” he said. “I have always been an avid reader and I decided that might be something that I wanted to pursue more carefully.”

He returned to college to pursue degrees in comparative literature and Italian from Indiana University then went to the University of California, Berkley, for a Ph.D. in comparative literature.

He joined the University of Colorado Boulder in 1998 and currently is an associate professor of Italian and chair of the Department of Italian and French. With specialties in 19th- and 20th-century Italian literature, fascist aesthetics, modernism and the avant-garde, and cultural studies, his published works include a book that examines the influence of American cinema and literature on fascism, an introspective book of poetry, and various other publications that examine Italian culture.

Currently, he’s organizing the annual conference of the American Association of Italian Studies[3], set for March 2015 at CU-Boulder.

1. You have written about Italy and cinema and you teach several cinema courses. You’ve also written a book of poetry. Were these endeavors an extension of your interest in society and culture?

The first book I wrote, “Tradurre è tradire: La traduzione come sovversione culturale sotto il Fascismo,” focuses, among other things, on how cinema, especially American cinema, was very influential in Italy under fascism. The book title translates into “To translate is to betray” and the subtitle is “Translation as cultural subversion under Italian Fascism.” In the book I discuss how cinema was used to undermine some of the fascist regime’s dictates. For instance, some movies portrayed the out-of-luck guy who gets a group of people together and manages to make it against oppressive capitalist interests or authorities. People viewing the movie compared themselves to the situation. And since the talkies became common during the 1930s, language of cinema also played a role by going against the rules of fascism, often subverting some of the language that the regime advocated.

One of my mother’s cousins is a film producer in Italy, so cinema always was in the background of our family. Cinema is a great field for me because it combines a lot of my interests: the visual arts are a form of narrative, which for me, connects well with literature, and also tells a lot about culture and society. One of the courses I have developed is “Italian culture through cinema.” Because the new generations are so visual, it is an easy way to get students interested in a different culture. I have a very large collection – about 500 – DVDs of Italian films that I continue to build on in order to get new ideas for films to show my students.

I’ve always written poetry. “Diario Italo-Americano, 1989-1996” – as you can see from the title – is a diary about moving between countries. It is the essence of who I am. I grew up in Italy with people who used to say, “You’re an American” because my mother was American-Italian. When I moved to the United States, I was the Italian. The poetry is mostly about geography and how that geography spurs me to think about myself and my place in the world. While it was published in Italy, there is a section containing poems written in English, which for me highlights the split nature of my identity.

2. And your current book – is it also about Italian culture?

It has been a very busy time for me. I just finished a co-edited book on work and labor in Italian culture, and last year I

published a co-authored book on Italy and the Mediterranean in the post-Cold War era, in which we discussed how the past 30 years have seen a significant focus on the "Mediterranean" nature of certain fields of knowledge in Italy. Currently, I am revising a book that has already been accepted and will be published next year. The book focuses on a different area of my interests, which is Giovanni Boccaccio's "Decameron." Boccaccio is a medieval author who wrote the first novel-like book in the Italian Middle Ages. The book is a collection of short stories that provided materials, among others, for Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales." It is a very funny book and can be a little bit licentious. I was not a medievalist, but at CU, we did not have a medievalist in Italian so I started teaching the course "Boccaccio and the Age of Realism." I started teaching the class about 16 years ago and it became one of my staples and has been a very popular course. As I was teaching the course, more and more ideas came to me and I decided to write the book.

The book is titled "Boccaccio's Galeotto: Women and Honest Enjoyment in 'The Decameron.'" I was surprised how quickly I was able to complete this book. I began writing in July of 2013 and spent a semester sabbatical working on it.

3. As part of a CU outreach program, you present programs in several southern Colorado communities, including one on how Dante is still relevant today. What is it about Dante's writing that is still so pertinent?

I discussed Dante in Trinidad. Right now I'm teaching Dante's "Divine Comedy" to a class of over 60 students. I'm a big proponent of the humanities. I know there has been a call for people to do STEM fields, but the reality is, some of the things that humanists like Dante have to tell us are still very relevant today. He tells us how to be human and how to behave in a world that is sometimes very confusing. What I like about Dante that I stress to students and others who will listen to me, is that Dante is a fantastic creator of worlds. He is incredibly creative, a quality that comes from reading extensively and from being engaged in his world. But the real message from Dante that I like to talk about with students is his dedication to civic engagement. Throughout the "Divine Comedy," he talks about the importance of being engaged in one's world and in one's society and about being a good citizen. People can really learn from that, especially because there's been a movement somewhat toward more individualistic goals. Dante has a lot of issues: He's very arrogant and yet he's going through this humble trip through the afterlife to be saved. But he is constantly thinking about what is important for his city, his society and his country. That kind of message still is poignant. If we all could focus a little more on that, I think, maybe naively, that the world would be a better place.

Dante also is a master of language; he practically invents a new language and he does it with creativity and rigor. These are things I like to convey to students: Always be demanding of yourself and pursue your academic interests with rigor, creativity and a thirst for knowledge, in whatever field you are working.

4. What are some of your most memorable experiences or achievements since you've been at CU?

From the standpoint of my job, I would have to say receiving the Boulder Faculty Assembly Excellence in Teaching Award. To me, it was recognition of the work I put into teaching. From a personal standpoint, I would have to say adopting two older kids by myself. It was not easy to balance it all by myself. But when I talk about civic responsibility, this is what I mean. A lot was given to me by my parents in the way of opportunities, so this was something I thought I could do to give back. I adopted two boys, 10 and a half and 11 and a half. It was an important part of my life that I wanted to fulfill. They are now 22 and 19, and somewhat more manageable (laughs).

5. Do you have a favorite item that you keep in your office and what is the story behind it?

Right now my office is bare because I came back last year from a sabbatical, but what I have had on my wall is a plaque that recognizes me as a first-team, all-Ivy League in rowing my senior year at Brown. For me, the award symbolizes a driving concern of mine: When you are rowing in an eight-man boat, you all have to work together or you won't go very fast, so it is all about collaboration and trust. The plaque underscores that we were considered the best team in the Ivy League that year, but it was more about how these eight people and the coxswain came together to achieve a goal. That has always been a driving concern of mine: I love collaborative work, being able to work with other people to achieve a goal. That plaque reminds me that, while I work in my own research cocoon most days, it is only by cooperating and collaborating with others, including colleagues and students, that I, my department and my classes can attempt to achieve greater goals. To quote Aristotle, I am a believer that "the whole is better than the sum of its parts."

Global picture, personal stories in focus at GLBTI Symposium[4]

From left, Cammie Kennedy, Faculty Council GLBTI Committee member; committee co-chairs Lindsay O'Connell and Troyann Gentile; and Faculty Council Chair Laura Borgelt at Friday's GLBTI Faculty Council Symposium on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

The Faculty Council GLBTI (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues) Committee's third annual symposium brought together about 100 faculty, staff and students from across the system to the CU Anschutz Medical Campus for a half-day discussion focused on health equity at CU.

Speakers, panelists and participants last Friday shared stories both professional (research on health equity among GLBT populations) and personal (experiences of navigating health insurance usage as a member of the transgender community).

CU Regent Stephen Ludwig welcomed attendees with a laugh – "I love the fact that we're at a health symposium and have doughnuts" – and a reading of the Board of Regents' anti-discrimination policy, which was revised in 2013[6] to add protections for diverse expression of political philosophy, as well as gender identity and gender expression.

"Among the number of amazing things our university does, we need to hold up what the values of our community are – or should be," Ludwig said.

Other CU leaders who attended and/or spoke at the event included Board of Regents Vice Chair Irene Griego; E. Jill Pollock, vice president, Employee and Information Services; Kathleen Bollard, vice president for academic affairs; and Brenda J. Allen, associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion at CU Denver, who opened with a Martin Luther King Jr. quote: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane."

In her keynote address, Angela Sauaia, M.D., Ph.D., highlighted health inequities among the GLBT population, beginning with how laws treat the group differently, e.g. marriage and civil unions. Health challenges facing the population include chronic stress that sexual and gender minorities might experience because of stigmatization in society.

Sauaia is an associate professor of public health, medicine and surgery at CU Denver. She earned her medical degree from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and her doctorate in analytic health services from CU Denver. This year she published a book, "The Quest for Health Equity."

Sauaia said health care professionals have little or no training in specific GLBT health issues, and that a lack of research data puts the population at a greater disadvantage: The National Healthcare Disparities Report[7] didn't address health disparities in GLBT groups until 2011.

She urged researchers to work toward solving such inequities by collecting reliable, accurate data, producing rigorous scientific research and implementing evidence-based practices.

"I call on health equity agents to be ready, be strong, be martyrs," she said.

During a panel discussion on health care matters, Christine Gilroy, M.D., MSPH, FACP, of the CU School of Medicine and Colorado HealthOP[8], noted that some health insurance providers lag in acknowledging the necessity, for some, of gender-change surgery. Even the American Medical Association, she said, has determined that such operations are neither experimental nor cosmetic.

Another panel member, Morgan Seamont, assistant director of the GLBTQ Resource Center at CU-Boulder, said he was born female and transitioned while attending CU-Boulder as a graduate student. Though he became a staff

member in July and continues as a student, he said he chose to keep student insurance because it covers gender assignment surgeries, while employee insurance does not.

Gena Trujillo, assistant vice president for the CU Health Plan administration, said the university is working on providing transgender surgery as a coverage benefit, possibly as soon as next July. One challenge in working with health care providers, she said, is that none provide transgender surgeries within Colorado.

“I want to emphasize our desire to work toward a better way of providing health care for all communities, including GLBT,” Trujillo said.

The symposium benefited from overwhelming response to advance fundraising, said GLBTI Committee co-chairs Troyann Gentile and Lindsay O’Connell, with more than enough funding – $12,000 – collected. The overage was put toward grants awarded to two student groups – one at CU-Boulder, the other at CU Anschutz – to be used for raising awareness for GLBT communities on their campuses.

U.S. News & World Report ranks CU-Boulder second in world in geosciences[9]

The Benson Earth Sciences Building at CU-Boulder. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

The University of Colorado Boulder recently was ranked second in the world in geosciences by U.S. News & World Report.

CU-Boulder trailed only the California Institute of Technology. Rounding out the top five are the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, Harvard University and the University of Washington. U.S. News & World Report ranked the top 100 universities in geosciences in 2014 based primarily on their research and reputation.

Geosciences is considered the study of Earth, from its structure to the history of its formation. Studies in the field of geosciences include geology, geophysics, geochemistry, climatology, oceanography and petroleum geology.

“We are pleased to be recognized as global leaders in the field of geosciences,” said CU-Boulder Vice Chancellor for Research Stein Sture. “We have a very strong faculty that excels in research and teaching, and our departments, institutes and programs in the geosciences annually attract some of the best and brightest students from around the nation and world.”

Other institutions ranked in the top ten in geosciences by U.S. News & World Report last month include the University of California-Berkeley, Columbia University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford.

The ranking categories included academic performance as rated by publications and citations, global and regional reputation, and international collaboration, according to the magazine.

Finlaw to lead CU Foundation[11]

[12]
Following a national search, the University of Colorado Foundation Board of Directors has appointed Jack Finlaw as president and chief executive officer of the Foundation, effective Nov. 17. Finlaw is a Denver attorney and community leader with wide-ranging experience in the corporate world, the nonprofit sector, and state and local government.

The CU Foundation is charged with managing and investing private support in partnership with the University of Colorado, including endowments of more than $1.1 billion and more than $150 million annually in donor contributions.

Finlaw comes to the Foundation from Gov. John Hickenlooper's office, where he has been chief legal counsel since 2011. Finlaw has been a part of Hickenlooper's leadership team since 2003, serving as director of Denver's Theatres and Arenas Division and as Hickenlooper's deputy chief of staff during his tenure as Denver mayor. Finlaw also was chief of staff to interim Denver Mayor Guillermo Vidal in 2011.

"This is an exciting opportunity for me to play a key role strengthening the University of Colorado, a flagship public university that contributes so much to Colorado citizens and communities," Finlaw said. "I hope to enhance collaborations between the CU Foundation and the university, and maximize donors' ability to pursue their passions at CU."

Said Hickenlooper, "Jack Finlaw has been an outstanding contributor to our leadership team, always providing unwavering counsel and guidance. We are so happy for Jack, and are thrilled he will now be devoting his talents and energies to advancing the mission of the University of Colorado, one of our state's most important public institutions."

Finlaw and his team will be tasked with optimizing the administration and investment of gifts and endowments benefiting the University of Colorado, at a time when donor support is more critical than ever to CU's $3.3 billion budget mix. Recognizing the need to increase CU private support to fill the growing gap in public funding of higher education in the state, the university recently revamped advancement operations to improve alignment between fundraising activities and strategic university priorities. Including funds given through both the CU Foundation and the university, CU received $298.1 million in private support from individuals, corporations and foundations last fiscal year.

"The CU Foundation is delighted to welcome Jack as our new chief executive," said James Linfield, chair of the CU Foundation Board of Directors. "Jack is a proven leader with a strong track record working effectively with multiple constituencies. His integrity and collaborative spirit will be great assets as we strengthen our service to the University of Colorado and honor the intentions of the 50,000 donors who give through the CU Foundation each year."

Said CU President Bruce D. Benson, "I have known Jack for some time and think highly of his skills and experience. I look forward to working with him to continue to enhance our university and opportunities for its students."

Before his public sector career, Finlaw worked as deputy general counsel for Comcast Corp. and as corporate and securities counsel for Jones Intercable Inc. Finlaw is a member of the board of the Colorado Symphony Association, Opera Colorado, and the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation. Finlaw earned a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and a juris doctorate from the University of Denver.

Faculty invited to apply for Boettcher Investigator status[13]

The University of Colorado and the Boettcher Foundation have announced the 2015 Boettcher Foundation Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program.

The program supports early career investigators whose research has a direct impact on human health. The grants are intended to fund translational research that advances a discovery closer to clinical applications and which will improve the understanding, treatment and prevention of human disease. Awardees will carry the prestigious title of Boettcher Investigator.

For purposes of this program, an eligible Early Career Investigator (ECI) is defined as:
An investigator who is within four years of appointment to his/her career-track academic position (i.e. whose career-track appointments began no earlier than Jan. 1, 2010). In general these are faculty appointments with significant expectations regarding research, and/or teaching, and/or clinical activities and may be tenure track or non-tenure track.
An investigator who has not previously received a major independent research award. A major independent research

award is determined to be a National Institutes of Health (NIH) RO1 or similar grant that provides independent research support of at least $125,000 (either single-year or multiple-year award), and which was awarded through a rigorous peer-review process conducted by a public or private institution. Multiple independent awards that are each less than $125,000, but that total more than $125,000, will not affect eligibility. The ECI will have received a terminal degree or completed his/her medical residency within the 10 years preceding the application (i.e. on or after Jan. 1, 2004). Five CU faculty researchers will receive $225,000 each for research conducted over a one- to three-year period. Eligible faculty researchers from all four CU campuses are encouraged to apply.

NEW MANDATORY PROCESS: To determine eligibility, interested applicants are required to submit their biosketch by Dec. 15 to webb-waring@cu.edu**[14] for review.**

The Boettcher Foundation has awarded CU's 17 current Boettcher Investigators[15] a total of $3.9 million through the 2010-14 programs.

Full details about the program, eligibility, CU's application construction and submission procedures, CU deadlines, the review process and criteria, the application components, and extensive instructions about how to apply all are available at www.cu.edu/boettcher[16]. Please do not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly.

Please note: The deadline for initial campus submissions for pre-award review is Feb. 6, 2015.

The Office of the President manages this competitive peer-reviewed program for CU grant applications. Please refer to the award program website for additional information at www.cu.edu/boettcher[16]. Inquires may be sent to webb-waring@cu.edu[14].

Facial structure predicts goals, fouls among World Cup soccer players[17]

World Cup soccer players with higher facial-width-to-height ratios are more likely to commit fouls, score goals and make assists, according to a study by a CU-Boulder researcher. (Photo courtesy of Keith Welker)

World Cup soccer players with higher facial-width-to-height ratios are more likely to commit fouls, score goals and make assists, according to a study by a CU-Boulder researcher. (Photo courtesy of Keith Welker)

The structure of a soccer player's face can predict his performance on the field — including his likelihood of scoring goals, making assists and committing fouls — according to a study led by a researcher at the University of Colorado Boulder.

The scientists studied the facial-width-to-height ratio (FHWR) of about 1,000 players from 32 countries who competed in the 2010 World Cup. The results, published in the journal Adaptive Human Behavior and Physiology, showed that midfielders, who play both offense and defense, and forwards, who lead the offense, with higher FWHRs were more likely to commit fouls. Forwards with higher FWHRs also were more likely to score goals or make assists.

"Previous research into facial structure of athletes has been primarily in the United States and Canada," said Keith Welker, a postdoctoral researcher in CU-Boulder Department of Psychology and Neuroscience and the lead author of the paper. "No one had really looked at how facial-width-to-height ratio is associated with athletic performance by comparing people from across the world."

FWHR is the distance between the cheekbones divided by the distance between the mid-brow and the upper lip. Past studies have shown that a high FWHR is associated with more aggressive behavior, with both positive and negative results. For example, high FWHR correlates with greater antisocial and unethical behavior, but it also correlates with greater success among CEOs and achievement drive among U.S. presidents.

However, some previous research has failed to find a correlation between FWHR and aggressive behavior in certain populations. The new study adds weight to the argument that FWHR does correlate with aggression. Welker and his

colleagues chose to look at the 2010 World Cup because of the quality and quantity of the data available.

“There are a lot of athletic data out there,” Welker said. “We were exploring contexts to look at aggressive behavior and found that the World Cup, which quantifies goals, fouls and assists, provides a multinational way of addressing whether facial structure produces this aggressive behavior and performance.”

Scientists have several ideas about how FWHR might be associated with aggression. One possibility is that it’s related to testosterone exposure earlier in life. Testosterone during puberty can affect a variety of physical traits, including bone density, muscle growth and cranial shape, Welker said.

Co-authors of the study were Stefan Goetz, Shyneth Galicia and Jordan Liphardt of Wayne State University in Michigan and Justin Carré of Nipissing University in Ontario, Canada.

Veterans Day Ceremony recognizes service members for their duty, selfless service and integrity[19]

CU Denver Chancellor Jerry Wartgow thanks veterans for their integrity at the Veterans Day Ceremony Nov. 11 at Tivoli Turnhalle. (Photos: Chris Casey)

A Veteran's Day Ceremony on Tuesday in Tivoli Turnhalle paid homage to the duty, service and integrity of our military veterans, and particularly the many student veterans who enrich the university community each day with those characteristics.

The ceremony traditionally takes place outdoors on the Tivoli Commons but was moved indoors due to the frigid weather.

The well-attended tribute opened with a processional and color guard presented by the Metropolitan State University of Denver Army ROTC, the Scottish American Military Society and the Sister Nations Women Veterans Color Guard.

Speakers included CU Denver Chancellor Jerry Wartgow[21]; Christopher Budden, dean of the Center for Career and Technical Education, Community College of Denver; Vicki Golich, provost and vice president of Academic and Student Affairs, MSU Denver; Meaghan Buckley, president of the CU Denver Student Organization[22]; and students representing MSU Denver (Noel Olson and Tabitha Bennett) and CCD (Sarah Bonen).

After the playing of the national anthem by trumpeter Michael Hengst (MSU Denver) Buckley delivered opening remarks. Buckley, who at CU Denver leads the state’s largest veteran student organization, thanked all those from each university on the Auraria Campus who contributed to the ceremony. "Our campus community is incredibly lucky to have such an outstanding group of young professionals to honor our veterans today," Buckley said.

[23]
Bracketing the speakers was Bennett's recitation of the famous Howard Schnauber poem, "I am the Flag of the United States of America," and Olson's call for a moment of silence to honor all service members — returned, current and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Budden noted that Veterans Day originated as a way to honor service members who returned from World War I — "the war to end all wars." "In the nearly 100 years since that war ended, generation after generation of service members have taken the oath and performed their duty throughout the world."

Golich said veterans and service members embody the term "selfless service." The building blocks of that characteristic, she said, are the commitment of each team member to go a little farther, endure a little longer and look a little closer to see how he or she can add to the effort. "It is what we do that matters, and it is what we do when no one else is necessarily watching that counts," Golich said.

Wartgow spoke about integrity, noting that it is a critical characteristic of armed service members. "Veterans carry integrity with them when their tour of duty is finished," he said. "We are very fortunate on this campus and in our three institutions that our student veterans bring this value into higher education, where integrity also plays a major role."

Most importantly, Wartgow said, veterans know how to translate integrity into action. He said the core value "should be embraced by all of us in the educational enterprise," from students to professors, advisors to administrators.

He emphasized that today's veterans were not conscripted for service, but willingly volunteered to serve our country, knowing that they were putting themselves in harm's way. "That's integrity," Wartgow said. "For their honorable and self-sacrificing service to our country and, yes, for their integrity, we thank all of our veterans, especially our student veterans."

Top five reasons veterans love the CU Heroes Clinic[24]

Heidi Tyrrell, Tim Wienecke and Missy Garner at the Heroes Clinic.

No. 1 It's free

If something sounds too good to be true, it often isn't true, but the CU Heroes Clinic[26] at the CU School of Dental Medicine[27] on the Anschutz Medical Campus[28] is the exception.

Free dental care for veterans who are enrolled in a degree program at CU Denver[29] or CU Anschutz may sound like a deal you should doubt, but dozens of veterans have the smiles to prove it's the real deal.

"Dental care is one of the services the VA (Veterans Administration) absolutely doesn't cover," said Tim Wienecke, an Air Force veteran and graduate student in the School of Education & Human Development[30] (SEHD). "I was one of the first students to use the Heroes Clinic, and now I can refer other student veterans there."

The CU Heroes Clinic operates in collaboration with the CU Denver Office of Veteran Student Services[22] (OVSS). It was made possible by a $1 million gift from Delta Dental of Colorado.

"Ours is the one of the first universities in the nation to create a clinic specifically for student veterans," said Denise Kassebaum[31], DDS, MS, dean of the CU School of Dental Medicine. "It would not be possible without the incredible generosity of Delta Dental of Colorado."

In the first nine weeks after it opened on Aug. 25, the Heroes Clinic provided 76 student veterans with personalized care, from cleanings to crowns, from periodontal to preventive sealants, from X-rays to bleach trays.

"These student veterans have given so much to our country that they truly are heroes who are deserving of a Heroes Clinic established specifically for them," said Kate Paul, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Colorado. "We are honored to work with CU Denver | Anschutz to provide this much-needed service."

No. 2 Even the dentists are veterans

[32]
Student veterans at the Heroes Clinic are cared for by fourth-year dental students who are supervised by experienced faculty members, including Associate Professor Douglas Wilson, DMD, MS.

"We had one patient who had dark black stains around her front teeth, and she thought the stains were affecting her job prospects during interviews," Wilson said. "We took care of the stains and she was thrilled."

Wilson is also a veteran who served as both a general dentist and the dental inspector general for the U.S. Air Force. When he retired after 30 years of service, he thought he would never again experience the camaraderie he felt talking with other military people. But when the chance to supervise student dentists in the Heroes Clinic came along, he jumped at the opportunity.

“I spent more than half my life working in the military, so I have a bond with these students,” Wilson said. “I can speak their language.”

No. 3 Heidi Tyrrell really likes vets

The CU Heroes Clinic may be free, but Heidi Tyrrell, RDH, BA, likes to point out that “freedom isn’t free.”

Tyrrell is the manager of clinical instruction for the clinic. The daughter of a Korean War veteran, she is an unabashed supporter of vets. “When I see a vet, wherever or whenever, I thank them,” she said. “I shake their hand, I buy them coffee. It doesn’t matter what your political views are, you should honor veterans.”

For Tyrrell, running the CU Heroes Clinic is a dream job because it combines all her passions—dental medicine, academia and veterans. The fourth-year dental students who are providing the care are only six months away from graduating, so Tyrrell has set up the clinic like a standard dentist’s office. Because the students are experienced, they can move through cases more quickly than first-year students.

Tyrrell points out that the veterans are also helping the students, by offering a large variety of clinical cases to help students understand what their practice will look like when they graduate.

“The cases that students get in dental school are often very complicated,” Tyrrell said. “But many of the vets just need routine care. There’s something gratifying about taking care of a straightforward case. The population of veterans is more like a real-life dental office setting and that’s good experience for our students.”

All Tyrrell asks in return for the free services provided by the CU Heroes Clinic is a smile on the face of veterans walking out the door. “When I can say, ‘The bad news is you need fillings, but the good news is that it’s free,’ that makes my heart feel good,” Tyrrell said. “It’s an amazing thing to offer to people who have sacrificed for our country.”

No. 4 You will meet fellow veterans

Tim Wienecke spent five years in the U.S. Air Force doing search-and-rescue intelligence work in Colorado and overseas. When he left the Air Force, he returned to Denver to enroll in what he calls “the best counseling program in the state” at SEHD. He is already putting his career aspirations into action working at the OVSS, helping veterans transition from military to civilian life. “It’s a hard adjustment,” he said. “It certainly was one of the harder points of my life.”

Since he finds it easier to counsel people to take steps he has already tried himself, he was one of the early clients at the Heroes Clinic. It had been three years since he had his teeth cleaned, so he described himself as “well past due.”

“It was a fantastic experience,” he said. “It takes a little longer because it’s a student and the professor is observing, but the students are friendly and the faculty is great.”

Missy Garner also made a pilgrimage to the Heroes Clinic during its early months. Seven years in the U.S. Navy took her to far-reaching parts of the world, including Korea, Japan, Guam and Portugal. By the time she enrolled in the CU Denver Business School[33], she was delighted that she could visit a dentist without pulling out her checkbook. One cleaning later, Garner is also a cheerleader for the Heroes Clinic.

“Not only is the clinic a credit to the university, but it is also a standard for other universities to live up to,” Garner said. “It will definitely help bring more veterans here.”

No. 5 Did we mention, it's free?

Garner confesses that she didn't quite believe that the Heroes Clinic would be free. She anticipated getting one visit with no cost, but imagined that the student dentists would make multiple (and expensive) recommendations for future care that would come out of her pocket.

"People are wary of things that are free," she said. "But now I'm spreading the word."

Tyrrell is familiar with the doubters. In the early days of the clinic, when she would visit the OVSS and hand out cards advertising Hero Clinic services, she couldn't figure out why more students weren't biting.

"I wondered, 'Why aren't you jumping on this?'" she said. "Then I figured out that the students thought it was free to get in the door, but the costs would follow."

But with the Delta Dental gift targeted to cover veterans' restorative care and additional funds from the School of Dental Medicine covering preventive and diagnostic care, veterans pay nothing at the Heroes Clinic. And that's almost too good to be true.

Media, faculty join forces to discuss ethics[34]

The daily ethical challenges faced by managers of traditional and social media outlets will be the subject of a Nov. 17 summit at UCCS.

Lauren Brengarth, assistant professor, Department of Communication, will lead a summit to bring academic experts and working journalists together to share the challenges faced in newsrooms across America. Brengarth is a Daniels Fund Ethics fellow and the event is sponsored by the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative in the College of Business.

"Anyone who attends this event will be challenged," Brengarth said. "Ultimately, media management affects everybody. The ethical decisions that media make – or choose not to make — affect the content we consume and the way we form opinions about the world around us. We're going to hear some interesting stories to expand our learning experience."

The daylong event begins with an 8 a.m. roundtable discussion with UCCS faculty in Dwire Hall 204. All UCCS faculty are invited. Prior registration is required. Please respond to here [35] or contact Elisabeth Moore, emoore@uccs.edu [36]. A student workshop is scheduled for 10:50 a.m. in Osborne Center A327.

Panelists include:

Lee Wilkins, professor, Department of Communication, Wayne State University, and co-author of "Media Ethics: Issues and Cases." She is also the co-editor of the "Handbook of Mass Media Ethics." Wilkins is professor emerita from the University of Missouri School of Journalism where she served on the faculty from 1990 to 2013. She is a former newspaper reporter and editor and also served as a panelist on a weekly radio show.

Joanna Bean, editor, Colorado Springs Gazette. Bean was named editor in September. Previously, she was managing editor and is a 25-year employee of the Gazette. She was a key coordinator and motivation behind the Gazette's 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning project "Other Than Honorable."

Andrea Chalfin, news director, KRCC. Chalfin came to KRCC in 2008 and previously worked at a Missouri radio station. As news director, she is responsible for KRCC's overall news presence, and oversees a cadre of freelancers and students. In 2014, Chalfin earned a regional Edward R. Murrow Award for excellence in journalism for her

coverage of the summer flooding in Manitou Springs.

U.S. Air Force Brig. General (retired) Les Kodlick. Kodlick previously was director of public affairs for the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. In that role, he was responsible for developing and executing global communication processes for the Air Force. He provided guidance for 5,500 active duty, Guard and Reserve Airmen and civilians in their mission to broadcast internal Air Force information, conduct community and media relations, manage integrated marketing, and execute security review programs.

Misty Montanto, digital content manager, 9News Denver. Montanto is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who supports and teaches others to use and develop social media communities. Since 2009, she has successfully integrated journalism with social media. She works to create social TV where TV, digital and social media all work together to engage the 9NEWS journalists with the audience. She won a regional Emmy in 2013 for her work producing Social TV which brought community members, experts and parents together for a live #SafeKids chat that was integrated into a live newscast.

In memoriam: Charles A. Barth[37]

[38]
Professor Charles A. Barth passed away at his home in Boulder on Oct. 14, 2014. He was 84.

He was director of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado Boulder from 1965 to 1992 and professor until 2002 in CU-Boulder's Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences. He remained involved in research activities through 2013.

Barth earned his undergraduate degree at Lehigh University in 1951. He received his Ph.D. degree under Joseph Kaplan at UCLA in 1958.

Barth was a pioneer in developing space-borne ultraviolet spectrometers, small spacecraft platforms, and planetary exploration systems. Under his guidance, science instruments were sent to every planet in the solar system. He was involved in many NASA missions, including 59 sounding rocket flights; Mariners 5, 6, 7, and 9; OGO 2, 4, 5, and 6; AE C and D; Apollo 17; Pioneer Venus; Galileo; and Cassini. As Principal Investigator, Barth led the Solar Mesospheric Explorer (SME) and Student Nitric Oxide Explorer (SNOE) missions that were operated from LASP.

Since the late 1950s, Barth studied planetary atmospheres, including Earth's upper and middle atmosphere. He was among the first to recognize the importance of nitric oxide in Earth's upper atmosphere, and its significance to ozone and water vapor. Of 140 published papers, 25 percent addressed nitric oxide, including his last published paper in 2010.

He was primary adviser for 22 Ph.D. students at CU-Boulder and inspired countless undergraduates in science and engineering with his commitment to hands-on education and training. Well-recognized for his research and teaching, his awards include the AGU Nicolet Lecture (1999), NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal (1983), University of Colorado Robert L. Stearns Award (1979), and NASA Exceptional Scientific Achievement (1972).

Barth is survived by his wife, Louise; four children, and nine grandchildren. The Charles A. Barth Scholarship in Space Research at CU-Boulder[39] continues Barth's long-standing tradition in inspiring space science students.

Skop looks to bring faculty together at new research center[40]

[41]
Emily Skop, associate professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at UCCS, is looking for faculty members whose vision does not stop at the campus, state or national border. Skop, the newly appointed director of the Global Intercultural Research Center, wants to bring together faculty interested in bringing global perspectives to UCCS and working in a cross-disciplinary way to seek funding for research that rethinks human interaction across time and space.

“Whether it is infectious disease, climate change, or capital flows, we live in an interconnected world,” Skop said. “By building a community of scholars, I believe we can have a working group that exchanges ideas and works collaboratively to seek external support.”

Skop and Provost Mary Coussons-Read will introduce the concept this week. As an example of what she hopes the new center can accomplish, Skop cited the study of human migration, a subject that might be of interest to faculty in many academic disciplines. By creating an environment where faculty from varied fields can come together, she believes stronger sponsored research proposals are possible and that new ideas can find their way into classrooms.

A recent faculty survey indicated that more than 190 UCCS faculty members have global interests, Skop said. She hopes to bring those faculty members together, and potentially add to the group, with goals of increased sponsored research and giving students an improved global perspective.

“We can no longer separate ‘over there’ and ‘back then’ from what’s going on here and now,” Skop said.

While ideas are still being formulated about how to achieve those goals, Skop believes the effort will start with activities such as brown bag lunches, a working paper series, and seed grants to encourage UCCS faculty to try something new.

UCCS Academic Affairs reorganizes for future[42]

Coussons-Read

Shockley-Zalabak

Mary Coussons-Read, UCCS provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs, and **Pam Shockley-Zalabak**, chancellor, announced changes in the division designed to increase its short- and long-term efficiency and effectiveness. The changes follow conversations with faculty and other stakeholders.

Program changes are:

David Moon will be the senior associate vice chancellor for undergraduate education and academic planning. Moon will focus on coordination and evolution of undergraduate education including supporting general education, developing new undergraduate programs, oversight of the honors program, academic portions of enrollment management, and coordinating academic program review and accreditation.

Terry Schwartz, interim dean, School of Public Affairs, will become associate vice chancellor for academic and faculty affairs. She will focus on campus-wide academic and faculty processes, policies, and strategic planning, shared governance, outcomes assessment, and academic unit and program succession planning and serves on behalf of the executive vice chancellor for academic affairs when needed. This year, the position was established as a temporary, half-time appointment. Schwartz will continue part-time until June 30. A search for the position, and the position of the dean of the School of Public Affairs, is planned.

Kee Warner will become associate vice chancellor for inclusion and academic engagement. His duties will include globalization, international affairs, development of pipeline programs aimed at diversifying campus and academic offerings, and community outreach and academic engagement. Warner will work with other campus entities to identify and develop funding opportunities to support for underrepresented, first-generation, and underprepared students to succeed, including creating and executing global and international experiences.

Kelli Klebe will remain associate vice chancellor for research and faculty development in addition to her role as dean of the graduate school. She will provide oversight for the Office of Sponsored Programs, research development efforts, internal grant competitions, research and research compliance training, and faculty development. Klebe will work with a new Undergraduate Research Steering Committee to provide recommendations about how to elevate, fund, and sustain undergraduate research as a campus area of distinction.

Venkat Reddy will serve as associate vice chancellor for online education and initiatives, a 20 percent appointment. Reddy will focus on supporting the development of online courses and both online and hybrid for-credit programs including online general education. Reddy continues to serve as the dean of the College of Business.

Schoennagel studies wildfire response[45]

Research Scientist **Tania Schoennagel** of CU-Boulder's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research is co-author of a study that indicates the current response to wildfires around the world—aggressively fighting them—is not making society less vulnerable to such events.

The study, led by Max Moritz of the University of California Berkeley's College of Natural Resources, suggests the key is to treat fires like other natural hazards—including earthquakes, severe storms and flooding—by learning to coexist, adapt and identify vulnerabilities. The new study indicates government-sponsored firefighting and land management policies may actually encourage development on inherently hazardous landscapes, leading to an amplification of human losses to wildfire.

"We don't try to 'fight' earthquakes—we anticipate them in the way we plan communities, build buildings and prepare for emergencies. We don't think that way about fire, but our review indicates that we should," said Moritz. "Human losses will only be mitigated when land-use planning takes fire hazards into account in the same manner as other natural hazards, like floods, hurricanes and earthquakes."

A paper on the subject appears in the Nov. 6 issue of Nature.

"We are in dire need of a more sustainable coexistence with wildfire," Schoennagel said. "Unless we plan for fire as an inevitable and natural process, it will continue to have serious social and ecological consequences."

The study looked at research findings from three continents: North America, Australia and Europe. The scientists studied different kinds of natural fires, what drives them in various ecosystems, differing public responses and the critical wildland-urban interface. Additionally, the scientists analyzed fire data from the western U.S., the Mediterranean Basin and all of Australia.

The 2010 Fourmile Canyon Fire in Boulder County, for example, which burned 167 homes over 6,181 acres, topped the 2002 Hayman Fire—the largest Colorado wildfire on record at the time—which burned 133 homes over 138,144 acres in four counties. The 2012 High Park Fire in Larimer County then topped the Fourmile Canyon Fire by burning 259 homes over 87,284 acres. Keeping with the trend, the 2012 Waldo Canyon Fire in El Paso County burned 346 homes over 18,297 acres. It was followed by the 2013 Black Forest Fire near Colorado Springs, which burned 486 homes over 14,280 acres, and holds "the record for now," Schoennagel said.

"We have learned that forest thinning is rarely effective under extreme burning conditions, and the severity of fire in adjacent forests has little to do with whether a home burns," said Schoennagel, who also is affiliated with CU-

Boulder's geography department. "Solely relying on public forest management to prevent homes burning by wildfire is simply barking up the wrong tree. We need more integrated solutions that cross the public-private land boundary to help us coexist with inevitable wildfire."

In addition to updated land-use and zoning regulations, the researchers recommend updating building codes, implementing vegetation management strategies and evaluating evacuation and warning systems. The team also recommends developing household and community plans for surviving "stay-and-defend" fire situations and developing better maps of fire hazards, ecosystems and climate change effects.

According to the authors, climate change will inevitably complicate management strategies. In Colorado, for example, where temperatures have climbed 2 degrees Fahrenheit since 1977, a substantial increase in Front Range wildfire activity is expected, Schoennagel said.

Brennan to exhibit photos at Smithsonian[46]

[47]

The works of **Joann Brennan** – a photographic artist, professor and associate dean in the College of Arts and Media at CU Denver – hang in many museums and galleries. The latest exhibition to include her images runs through Feb. 22, 2015, at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C.

"The Singing and the Silence: Birds in Contemporary Art" is a showcase of a dozen contemporary artists including Brennan. Five of Brennan's photos were selected for the new Smithsonian exhibit, but these images are not what one might expect. They are bird specimens that she photographed at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

While honing her skill with the camera, Brennan was drawn to nature and landscapes. Some of her inspirations for studying human interactions with wildness and zoological specimens evolved from reading Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" on the environmental impact of pesticides. The book helped to spark the environmental movement in the 1960s.

"Remember, it was a museum collection of raptor egg specimens that solved questions about the chemical DDT as the cause of declining raptor populations in the United States," Brennan said. "That's the value of maintaining zoological specimens. They could be the missing link to solving critical environmental and human issues that might occur in the future."

Brennan has been asked if her work is more documentary than art. "It is both," she said. "My photographs are a bridge, a vehicle to create and share stories that expose nuances and the paradox of our complex relationship to wildness and the natural world." She knew early in her career that commercial photography was not her calling. Storytelling through the descriptive and interpretive lens of photography was her passion.

Brennan's professional ties to the Smithsonian began in 2010 when she was selected for a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship. It's a competitive award given to accomplished national and international artists. She is also a Guggenheim Fellow, having received a Guggenheim award for her photographic work in 2003.

Brennan has agreed to serve as CU South Denver's associate vice chancellor for academic affairs, reporting to the provost. She will provide oversight and leadership for the academic programming at CU South Denver and ensure delivery of high-quality academic programs there. Her immediate focus will be encouraging program development for Spring 2015 from all four CU campuses.

Jankowski, Dwyer, Risendal publish on effects of exercise for cancer patients[48]

A new article on maintaining the positive effects of exercise for cancer survivors has been co-authored by a group including CU colleagues **CatherineJankowski**, associate professor, College of Nursing; CU Cancer Center Integration Manager and Project Director **Andrea Dwyer;** and **Betsy Risendal**, assistant research professor, Colorado School of Public Health.

“Searching for Maintenance in Exercise Interventions for Cancer Survivors” recently was published in the Journal of Cancer Survivorship: Research and Practice.

The authors surveyed published studies of adult cancer survivors to learn more about the maintenance of changes in health outcomes after the completion of exercise programs and how to maintain effective training. This approach was used to address a broader dissemination and implementation question, “What is known about the maintenance of exercise interventions for cancer survivors that would inform translation from research to practice and community settings?”

Their conclusion was two-fold. For cancer survivors, the beneficial effects of exercise training are maintained for a few months after the end of a structured exercise program. However, little is known about how to sustain exercise programs for cancer survivors outside of the research setting.

This latest work is an extension of Jankowski’s continuing research on encouraging and maintaining physical activity during aging, cancer survivorship and chronic disease.

Flu shots still available to CU Health Plan participants[49]

[50]
Flu season has begun, and while the event period for workplace flu shot clinics provided by Be Colorado has ended, CU Health Plan participants still have many options.

The primary member and their enrolled spouse and/or dependents still have opportunities to receive flu shots through their medical health plan benefit.

Learn more now[51] to determine specific flu shot benefits and best options for method of service.

Publication note: No Connections on Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s[52]

CU Connections will not publish new issues on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 27), Christmas Day and New Year’s Day.

Next week’s issue, Nov. 20, is the last to appear before the Thanksgiving break; deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Nov. 14. Deadline submission for the Thursday, Dec. 4, issue is noon Wednesday, Nov. 26.

The final new issue before the winter holiday break will appear Thursday, Dec. 18; deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Dec. 12.

Connections returns after the winter break on Thursday, Jan. 8. Deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Jan. 2.

During the holiday breaks, the website will be updated with news should events warrant.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-valerio-ferme[2] https://connections.cu.edu/file/5q-fermetoppng[3] http://www.colorado.edu/aais/[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/global-picture-personal-stories-focus-glbti-symposium[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/glbti.png[6] https://connections.cu.edu/news/regents-vote-to-expand-anti-discrimination-policy[7] http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrdr/index.html[8] http://www.cohealthop.org/index[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/us-news-world-report-ranks-cu-boulder-second-world-geosciences[10] https://connections.cu.edu/file/geosciencesfpng[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/finlaw-lead-cu-foundation[12] https://connections.cu.edu/file/cuffinlawpng[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-invited-apply-boettcher-investigator-status-1[14] mailto:webb-waring@cu.edu[15] http://www.cu.edu/bfww/cu-investigators[16] http://www.cu.edu/boettcher[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/facial-structure-predicts-goals-fouls-among-world-cup-soccer-players[18] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucbfacial-structurepng[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/veterans-day-ceremony-recognizes-service-members-their-duty-selfless-service-and-integrity[20] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdveterans-day-ceremony01png[21] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/CUDenver/Pages/default.aspx[22] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/Veteran/Pages/default.aspx[23] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdveterans-day-ceremony02png[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/top-five-reasons-veterans-love-cu-heroes-clinic[25] https://connections.cu.edu/file/anschutzcu-heros-clinictoppng[26] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/dentalmedicine/PatientCare/heroesclinic/Pages/default.aspx[27] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/dentalmedicine/Pages/DentalMedicine.aspx[28] http://www.ucdenver.edu/anschutz/Pages/landing.aspx[29] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/denver/Pages/DenverCampus.aspx[30] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/Pages/home.aspx[31] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/dentalmedicine/FacultyResources/FacultyDirectory/Pages/KassebaumDenise.aspx[32] https://connections.cu.edu/file/anschutzcu-heros-clinic02png[33] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/business/Pages/business-school.aspx[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/media-faculty-join-forces-discuss-ethics[35] https://businessuccs.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9RlmAdt6EWVDkVf[36] mailto:emoore@uccs.edu[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-charles-barth[38] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pbarthpng[39] http://lasp.colorado.edu/home/about/givingtolasp/scholarships-and-fellowships/[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/skop-looks-bring-faculty-together-new-research-center[41] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pskoppng[42] https://connections.cu.edu/people/uccs-academic-affairs-reorganizes-future[43] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pcoussons-readpng[44] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pshockley-zalabakpng[45] https://connections.cu.edu/people/schoennagel-studies-wildfire-response[46] https://connections.cu.edu/people/brennan-exhibit-photos-smithsonian[47] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pbrennanpng[48] https://connections.cu.edu/people/jankowski-dwyer-risendal-publish-effects-exercise-cancer-patients[49] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/flu-shots-still-available-cu-health-plan-participants[50] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dykflushotpng[51] http://becolorado.org/images/uploads/resources/FluShotClinic-Benefit.pdf[52] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/publication-note-no-connections-thanksgiving-christmas-new-year%E2%80%99s