CU-Boulder physicist Steven Pollock named a 2013 U.S. Professor of the Year[1]

Professor Steven Pollock teaching a physics class at the University of Colorado Boulder. (Photo :Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

University of Colorado Boulder physics professor Steven Pollock has been named a 2013 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Pollock is the second CU-Boulder faculty member to win a national Professor of the Year award. Nobel laureate Carl Wieman, also a physics professor, was honored with the designation in 2004.

“We are delighted to again have one of our professors named U.S. Professor of the Year,” said CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano. “Steven Pollock’s work is a credit to him, our physics department and the dynamic teaching and research of our entire faculty.”

The U.S. Professor of the Year awards recognize the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country. Each year, a professor is chosen from four institutional categories.

Pollock, who is being honored in the category of doctoral and research universities, was chosen from a field of more than 350 distinguished nominees from across the country.

Pollock began teaching at CU-Boulder in 1993, when he took a job as an assistant professor in the field of theoretical nuclear physics. Over the last two decades, he has taught the full range of physics classes available to undergraduates, from introductory level courses, including the Physics of Sound and Music, to upper-division classes for physics majors, such as Principles of Electricity and Magnetism II, which he is instructing this semester.

“I care a lot about every student in my class, from introductory non-majors to advanced students,” Pollock said. “Some of them start out dreading physics, and it’s a real pleasure watching them turn on to the topic. It’s wonderful to help people see that physics is about their life, that physics is relevant to their future, that it’s interesting, a powerful way of examining the world around them, and that they can do it.”

Pollock says his teaching philosophy is rooted firmly in using strategies that have been proven to work. “Whenever possible, we should use evidence-based research to support whatever we do in class,” he said.

Pollock’s passion for teaching has overflowed into his research career—he now studies the effectiveness of different pedagogical techniques, especially in upper-division physics classes—and has earned him numerous teaching laurels.

Pollock received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in STEM Education, Innovation and Research in 2009; the CU President’s Teaching Scholar award in 2008; the Sigma Pi Sigma Favorite Physics Professor award multiple times; CU-Boulder’s Best Should Teach gold award in 2006; and the Boulder Faculty Assembly Teaching Excellence Award in 1998, among others. He became a Pew-Carnegie National Teaching Scholar in 2001.

Pollock’s teaching successes reflect on the larger culture of CU-Boulder’s Department of Physics, which values effective teaching.

“The people who created the culture that teaching is important were the legends in this department’s history, like Al Bartlett, George Gamow, Jack Kraushaar and John Taylor,” said Professor Paul Beale, chair of the physics department. “They conveyed to the young assistant professors that teaching is rewarding, valued and appreciated.”

CU-Boulder’s physics department has produced four University of Colorado President’s Teaching Scholars.

Pollock is being honored today at a luncheon at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

This year, a state Professor of the Year award also is being given in 36 states. CU-Boulder has been honored with three state winners in previous years: physics Professor John Taylor in 1989, chemical engineering Professor Klaus Timmerhaus in 1993 and anthropology Professor Dennis Van Gerven in 1998.

CASE and the Carnegie Foundation have been partners in offering the U.S. Professors of the Year awards program since 1981.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is an independent policy and research center that supports needed transformations in American education through tighter connections between teaching practice, evidence of student learning, the communication and use of this evidence, and structured opportunities to build knowledge.

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., with offices in London, Singapore and Mexico City, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education is a professional association serving educational institutions and the advancement professionals at all levels who work in alumni relations, communications, fundraising, marketing and other areas.

Bensimon: Change from within needed to better serve ethnic minorities[3]

[4]

Although student populations at higher education institutions may be diverse, equity does not always exist on campuses.

To rectify the situation, institutions must direct more of their focus toward accountability and organizational change, Estela Bensimon, Ed.D., co-director of the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California, told a group of about 100 CU faculty and staff members at a student retention symposium Friday at Norlin Library on the Boulder campus. The event was sponsored by the Faculty Council's Ethnic and Minority Affairs Committee (EMAC).

Bensimon said higher education institutions tend to focus on compensatory strategies and ask minority students to adapt to campuses. Instead, she said, the Center for Urban Education (CUE) is dedicated to the opposite -- helping campuses find ways to adapt to students.

Education administrators say "we are as diverse as the United Nations," Bensimon told the audience at the "Building Organizational Competence to Achieve Equity in Access, Retention, and Graduation" event. While diversity may exist, there is a disparity in who graduates, she said. "Equity is parity in education outcomes," including retention and persistence through critical academic milestones, transfers from two-year to four-year institutions, participation in honors or other competitive programs, and a degree.

CUE develops tools to help institutions work toward equity and enable students who might otherwise fall through the cracks to receive the support they need. One of the tools CUE has developed is a scorecard that uses a five-part process to help guide an examination of institutional protocols and the development of strategies and goals to address equity issues.

Bensimon said society tends to attribute equity problems to the students themselves, their culture or their parents. But the center focuses instead on changing the infrastructures of an institution. One simple example is to change the way syllabi are constructed, Bensimon said. Rather than enumerating the ways in which students might fail the class, a syllabus should focus on ways in which students can succeed. Professors, advisers and others should also take a more proactive approach to enabling students – especially those who might be shy or embarrassed to seek out help – to use available campus resources, such as free tutoring.

Another way to promote equity is to examine student data and determine patterns that may point out problems. At 13 institutions that CUE studied, admission rates were lower for Hispanics and African-Americans than for whites. Data showed that students met admission standards; the problem was incomplete applications, either because a transcript

wasn't provided or an application fee wasn't paid.

Bensimon said institutions must learn to reframe hunches about why non-minority students perform better than their counterparts. She said people might say, for example, that Latino students spend more hours working and that contributes to poor academic performance. Institutions should turn this idea around to benefit the student: Latinos may spend more time working; therefore tutoring and other university services should be available at hours that accommodate working students.

For more information about CUE, visit http://cue.usc.edu/[5]

Five questions for Rick Stevens[6]

Rick Stevens, a single parent, says much of his personal life is consumed with small person culture, including regular trips to the Boulder Public Library and frequent visits to playgrounds and parks such as Boulder's Scott Carpenter Park.

Writing was never a chore for Rick Stevens. He wrote creatively. He journaled. It was fun. In high school in Texas, an English teacher encouraged him to hone his abilities by working for the school newspaper.

"The following year, I took a journalism class. That formally introduced me to the style of journalism, a style in which I immediately fell in love."

He wrote humor pieces and editorials; he wrote about school politics, major events, and sports. One night, while on the sidelines at his high school's football game, a local journalist mentioned that several area papers needed help covering sports, especially the expansive and much-followed football scene.

Every Friday night, he would drive to a small town or city to cover a football game, get the stats, stay for a few interviews and then write up a story for the Corsicana Daily Sun. "I rarely went to the same place twice. There were quite a few humorous events during the early days of those assignments," says Stevens, now an assistant professor of journalism and mass communication at the University of Colorado Boulder. For instance, he didn't realize six-man football existed until he found himself covering a game. "My indoctrination occurred when I saw the players lining up for the kickoff. So I rapidly started quizzing the scoreboard operator about the rules, and managed to pull together a decent story. But there was a lot of baptism by fire back then."

In college, he continued writing for newspapers. After earning his doctorate in journalism at the University of Texas at Austin in 2004, he became a faculty member at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He studied new media and popular culture and helped revamp the Division of Journalism's curriculum. He joined CU in 2008.

Stevens' work is broadly tied to how communication media represent values, individuals, institutions and controversies to the public.

1. What was your pathway from writing for newspaper to becoming a university scholar?

By the time I went to college, I was sure journalism was the career for which I was best suited, and I spent my college years pursuing my coursework while working in campus media, as well as continuing to work for area newspapers.

After college, I decided I wasn't quite finished with learning, and earned a master's degree in digital media in the late 1990s. That was when Americans were becoming aware of the importance of online media, so I began to consult with corporations and media companies to help them get content online.

My interests led me further into new media and communication theory, and so I entered the Ph.D. program at Texas in 1999 to continue expanding upon my understanding of digital technologies and how they were changing our culture. By then, the pursuit of knowledge had become its own goal, and while I continued to consult with businesses and media companies, I knew my intellectual interests were better served in the academic setting.

My dissertation examined the emergence of privacy legislation in American history, correlating those occurrences closely to the introduction of various communication technologies, finding patterns that indicated the moral panics over privacy almost always followed the popularizing of a new technological capability. In other words, our concerns of privacy as a culture largely appear to stem from a discomfort we have with the expansion of our technological abilities, not necessarily a predetermined conception of private space or autonomy.

2. This month marks the 50th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. The incident was a turning point in media coverage. What changed in 1963 and why?

John F. Kennedy's whole presidency revolved around the emergence of television as a medium. Though other figures before him had used broadcast media in their campaigns or to promote their programs, Kennedy was the first to understand and use the medium effectively to present controlled images to the public. Visually, Kennedy was able to use television to project an appearance of vigor and energy, and used this to overcome some of the shortcomings of his relative lack of experience. He was the first presidential candidate to demonstrate the effectiveness of communicating in sound bites, and his attention to the presentation of his talking points is largely what has changed politics (for better or worse) ever since.

It's tragically fitting that the nation's first television president was mourned on television, the medium that had helped propel him into the White House in the first place. The coverage of the processional and funeral represented the first time in history Americans reacted to the same visual event on such a large scale.

In the days following the assassination, the three television networks decided to forego planned programming and provide continuous commercial-free coverage of the mourning process at an estimated loss in advertising revenue of $32 million in 1963 dollars. According to the figures published in Broadcasting magazine, 96 percent of American television sets were tuned to that coverage for an average of 32 hours over the four-day period of the funeral and mourning.

That event was the beginning of a drastic change in the way Americans perceived public life. Soon thereafter, seeing the events of the civil rights conflict turned public support to favor the movement; seeing the effects of the Vietnam War several years later turned the public against that war. The coverage of the Kennedy assassination and its aftermath represented a key shift from radio to television as the dominant news medium of the day, and signaled the birth of a different kind of relationship between the American public and their public officials.

3. Evolving technology, money, and content choice continues to change the way the public gets its news as well as the type of news it receives. What do you consider the "good," "bad," and "ugly" of this changing landscape?

There is a lot to dislike about our contemporary media system. I think many people dislike the growing partisanship that they see on a daily basis throughout the system, but what worries many scholars like me the most is the corporate consolidation and hypercommercialism behind some of those trends.

Increasingly, the profit motive of the concentration of corporations that own the vast majority of media appears to be pushing traditional concerns of social responsibility and investigative reporting to the back burner. There are many journalists doing fantastic work in our system, but the increasingly profit-driven corporate system often seems to drown out some of the better work with increased space for product promotion, attention-getting novelty stories, and superficial coverage of complex issues stemming from declining expenditures for the editorial mission of too many journalism outlets. And the rise of punditry as a popular form of journalistic discourse (which is both cheap to produce and tends to draw more attention than factual reportage) in the late 1990s appears to have wreaked considerable havoc on the ability of our society to consider complicated problems and challenges and even to simply agree on the

facts of the events occurring before us.

However, having said that, our culture is also in the midst of a profound technological shift, one that affects countless aspects of our lives. Even as one considers the good and bad in our 20th century media system, we're beginning to see the emergence of a host of new platforms, tools and even media outlets that look promising for the future of journalism. It's hard to see how enterprise reporting like the work published by Propublica, for example, could have grown up in the form that it has in the previous analog environment.

Even as we see the struggle of large metropolitan newspapers (which I think it's fair to say are still the heart of journalistic reportage in our media system), we're seeing an increase in quality journalism and innovation across the old and new elements of our media system that I think indicates a bright future for journalism in our culture. It normally takes a human generation for a new technology platform to diffuse through society, and if one considers the popularization of the Internet really occurred around 1994, we're only halfway to two-thirds of the way through that adoption process. There is much we still don't understand about how people interact with the Internet, much less how digital technology is changing the way our culture works.

4. Some of your research interests include ethical models for new media publications. Why is the research important? What are some of your other interests?

I am interested in how technology is changing the normative practice of journalism. The journalist of today has a level or access and computing power at his or her disposal previously unknown in human history. The ability to find documents, to locate sources, to dig into the dark corners of our institutions ... all of these capabilities are superior to what journalists of the past had at their disposal. But with those abilities come a growing number of concerns about how these abilities should be used.

The emergence of new platforms, such as social media or blogging, have challenged how ethical considerations work. Briefly, it's important to note that codes of ethics are always created in a particular context in reaction to particular presumptions about the relationships of media organizations to their audience. In today's new media environment, we're seeing a radical renegotiation of many of these relationships. For example, when a small number of media outlets are charged with communicating to large majorities of the citizenry (such as when we had three broadcast networks reaching 90 percent of American households), the call for attempted objectivity in coverage is essential to social responsibility. In a system with thousands of media outlets communicating the increasingly narrower niche audience targets, the need for objectivity lessens dramatically. So as we move from an era of mass communication to networked communication, it's important to consider how the changing constraints and nature of our media system, and even of various media outlets, change the priorities involved in socially responsible reporting.

Another large area of concern is representation. When media outlets were concentrated, the constraints of time and space created the increased exclusion of minority voices from our media sphere. But as the number of media outlets and communication technologies has grown, the excuses previously used to exclude so many important voices from our public conversations are evaporating. Minority and alternative voices are much more accessible, and the constraints of journalism narratives (namely, time and space) are increasingly less of a problem in the digital world.

Copyright and privacy norms are two areas I've spent some time considering. Digital expressions of information vary widely from their analog predecessors, and so how we have historically dealt with concerns like appropriately handling private data and how we secure the rights of authorship will continue to evolve as our technology platforms evolve.

I've published work on how Facebook presented privacy choices to its users, and how that presentation often misleads about the consequences of their choices. I've published an article about how users interact with popular e-reader devices, and how that interface holds interesting implications for the future location of the book in American culture. I've published a piece on how journalists and scholars differ on the concerns of preserving digital content, and what problems that difference poses for the public's understanding of digital content.

5. Do you have a favorite item or artifact on your desk, and if so, what is it and what is the story behind it?

There are many odd objects on my desk and around my office. Because I study the representation of journalists in

popular culture, one of the shelves near my desk has an assorted collection of journalism action figures, from a news correspondent Kermit the Frog, to Lois Lane, to Simpsons characters. How we present journalists in popular culture reveals much about how Americans view the role of journalists in our culture, and so I keep reminders nearby.

A shelf in my office holds a small museum of communication devices, including various cell phones, communication technologies, and even some of my earliest computers. As part of my research into how technology affects our culture, I think it's important to be reminded of how much technology has changed in such a short period of time.

CU's Nobel Laureates: 'Our pride and joy'[8]

[9]

Only 846 individuals have been honored with the Nobel Prize in its 112-year history, and the University of Colorado is proud to claim five of them.

About 40 members of the CU Advocates program learned more about those prized faculty from Stein Sture, CU-Boulder's vice chancellor of research, during a lunch presentation last week at 1800 Grant St., Denver.

"They're our pride and joy, good heavens," Sture told the audience. "Our first Nobel Laureate (Thomas Cech) came to us in 1989 and we were pleasantly astounded – pleasantly shocked."

Nobel Prizes are awarded annually to people – individuals, teams or organizations – whose work is deemed to have "conferred the greatest benefit to mankind." Four of CU's Nobel Laureates earned their prizes for work in physics: David J. Wineland, 2012; John Hall, 2005; and Eric Cornell and Carl Wieman, 2001.

"Once you have (a Nobel Prize), your university ranking takes a jump up," Sture said. He referred to the current Leiden Ranking that places CU-Boulder at No. 14 among 500 major universities worldwide, based on scientific performance. "That's pretty darn good."

Cech won in 1989 for his work in chemistry, specifically the discovery of catalytic properties of RNA.

"He was home-grown," Sture said of the Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and director of the CU BioFrontiers Institute. "He taught freshman classes. He had been a National Academy of Sciences member, but … being a Nobel Laureate is something extraordinary."

Cech came to CU as a "trailing spouse," joining his wife, Carol, on the faculty. "Then all of a sudden he floated up," Sture said. "I recall we were all astounded (by the Nobel). When the news came, we were overjoyed."

At the time, Sture said, the feeling was that CU was lucky to have a single Nobel Laureate. Yet Cornell and Wieman earned their own Nobel Prizes just 12 years later.

Sture noted that all five of CU's Nobel Laureates arrived at the university early in their careers, and all took part in both research and teaching.

"They're all very different personalities," he said. "They're also their own advocates: They help all of us promote the university."

CU's tally of five could have been greater, Sture said. In the '80s, three faculty members who left CU went on to win Nobel Prizes at their next universities, all within a couple of years after departing.

The free Nov. 7 event was the latest Lunch and Learn event presented by the CU Advocates program, based in the

Office of the President. Volunteer members of the CU Advocates – including faculty, staff, students and alumni – gather knowledge at events like this in order to be better advocates for the university. To sign up for CU Advocates click here [10].

Retirement savings require diversity[11]
[12]
[13]
Join CU retirement-plan sponsors for “Preparing to Retire” seminars, sessions and fairs with the tools you need to plan for your retirement. Drop in on any or all of our events without registering:
Monday, Nov. 18: UCCS Tuesday, Nov. 19: CU Anschutz Medical Campus Thursday, Nov. 21: CU Denver Friday, Nov. 22: CU-Boulder
It doesn’t matter in what phase of financial planning you fall; you can access tips and information on everything from the multi-generational value of Social Security[14] to how and why oil production overseas impacts your investments[15].

Check out the “Preparing to Retire” calendar[16] to find presentation topics, times and locations.Check out the “Preparing to Retire” calendar to find presentation topics, times and locations.

A good rule of thumb for your retirement savings: Your investments should be as diverse as each person in your life.

Love them or hate them, you need the risk takers (stocks) just as much as the stable devotees of the status quo (guaranteed assets). That’s because diversity helps you find balance. It keeps things interesting.

Better yet, it creates a safety net. So when the Dow Jones—along with any stocks you have—drops, you’ll be glad you placed some of your money in those seemingly boring but secure guaranteed assets, says Paul Soroka, Director of TIAA-CREF’s Field Consulting Group.

This news isn’t new, but it’s certainly an important tenet for all investors to remember, Soroka says. He’ll be discussing the value of everything from asset classes to pensions in his “Preparing to Retire” session, “Retirement Income Options.” He hopes this will be a refreshing look at just how broad your retirement plan options are.

“We’ll look at the different options and flexibility they have to create an income stream in retirement, because, after all, they’re going to have to replace their salary,” Soroka says. “And, of course, everyone’s situation is very personal and specific.”

For that reason, TIAA-CREF and other CU retirement-plan sponsors at the event will be on hand to answer questions and, if necessary, refer people to financial consultants. That way, everyone—from the risk averse to the risk tolerant—will find an investment option that meshes with their personality.

The “personalities” of asset classes

1. Equities or stocks
investments in companies highest rate of return over time highest risk
2. Fixed income, or bonds
interest-bearing investments tend to be less risky than stocks tend to have less return over time affected by interest rates (When interest goes up, bonds go down, and vice versa.)
3. Money market, or cash

very low risk provides people with a lot of flexibility
4. Guaranteed
guarantees you your investment and a rate of return low-risk investment provides security and stability
5. Real estate
moderate-risk asset class not correlated with the stock or bond market

Colorado Diet Program offers support to slim down[17]

[18]
After a year of effort and hard work, Karen Jackson had lost 47 pounds. Then her weight loss efforts stalled. So when she saw the recent offer to participate in the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center's **Colorado Diet** pilot program, she applied and was selected.

"I was in a state of shock because I didn't think I would get picked because I had already lost the majority of my weight. I was jumping for joy," said Jackson, a program assistant in Printing Services.

This program applies the principles and practices from a recently published book, "STATE of SLIM[19]" by James O. Hill, PhD, and Holly R. Wyatt, MD.

The 16-week program already is working for Jackson. In the past six weeks, she has lost more than 13 pounds.

How the Colorado Diet works

In three phases, the Colorado Diet focuses on how to reignite, rebuild and reinforce the body's fat-burning engines to develop a Mile-High Metabolism – one that's keenly responsive to shifts in activity and diet. The Colorado Diet is not just about losing weight, but changing the body to stay in a 'state of slim' for good.

Through an offer of assistance to faculty, staff and students on the Anschutz Medical Campus, a special group of participants was selected by the Center learn to work toward a "State of Slim."

What we eat, when we eat and why we eat often are defined by our family and friends. For Jackson, a mother of two adult daughters and grandmother to four, "a life-long cycle of eating fried fatty foods has haunted my family, friends and community for generations," Jackson said. "I had a lower self-esteem and was a little shameful because I was so disappointed in myself for letting my weight get out of control. I wasn't as active as I wanted to be because the energy wasn't there."

So the chance to participate in the Colorado Dietprogram was very appealing to Jackson who said, "I want to be that example of what exercising and eating healthy looks like."

Tools for long-term success

An important aspect of the program for Jackson is "Gaining the tools and knowledge on how important it is to eat smarter and exercise. Having a different mindset and focus on the positive makes a huge difference. Eating smarter and exercising is a lifestyle change and I have to get involved with people who love to be active."

"Not getting it right," is Jackson's greatest fear. "I switched gears from counting calories to having the right amount of proteins, carbohydrates and fats. That is one of my challenges but I'm getting there. There always are going to be obstacles but you can't let them stop you, you don't give up, you find a way to climb over, go through or work around them. Staying focused and positive is the key."

Jackson is confident the Colorado Diet is an achievable way to lose weight and keep it off forever. "You not only learn

to eat leaner but learn how to fix your metabolism in the process. Something I didn't have a clue about. Be committed to changing your lifestyle," Jackson advised.

She also recommended individuals 'like' State of Slim on Facebook[20]. "You can get good tips, ask questions and you'll get great advice back," she said.

For more information on the **Colorado Diet** or other weight loss programs and services, visit http://www.anschutzwellness.com/wellness-services/weight-management[21] or call 303-724-9030.

Galleries of Contemporary Arts chosen to participate in Indy Give! campaign[22]

Galleries of Contemporary Arts chosen to participate in Indy Give! campaign

The UCCS Galleries of Contemporary Art received a nod of approval from the Colorado Springs community by being selected to participate in the 5th Annual Indy Give! campaign.

GOCA is one of seven community arts organizations to be selected by steering committee of local experts.

"It is an honor to be chosen," Daisy McConnell, director, Galleries of Contemporary Art, said. "Selection signals strong community engagement and impact and recognition that GOCA is making a difference in the community as well as on campus."

Powered by the Colorado Springs Independent and the Pikes Peak Community Foundation, the Give! Campaign is designed to "kick open the door to philanthropy in the Pikes Peak Region." Selection criteria include solid financials, ethical practices and credible impact. The selection committee looks for nonprofits that operate exclusively in the Pikes Peak Region, that fill unmet needs in innovative ways, and that "might not ever cross your radar otherwise."

The Indy Give! campaign accepts donations as low as $10 and all donations go directly to the nonprofits with no processing or administrative fees. Additionally, the campaign provides recipients with training in areas such as social media, marketing, technology, data management and governance, according to Jessie Pocock, development director, GOCA.

GOCA will host several events to help promote participation in the campaign. At 4:30 pm Nov. 19, there will yoga in the campus GOCA gallery with UCCS alumna Sarah Martin. A Free First Friday! concert and art event is planned for 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Dec. 6. at the downtown gallery, 121 S. Tejon.

To support the UCCS galleries, visit http://indygive.com/goca[24]. Donations more than $25 are eligible for incentives from local merchants.

GOCA is a regional hub of contemporary art, culture, and conversation. By featuring world-class artists, hosting artist and expert talks, and offering meaningful events, GOCA engages UCCS students, faculty, staff and Pikes Peak Region community members in contemporary culture and life.

Panel examines lessons learned in November election[25]

Three things are clear in the wake of last week's election: Tax increases for education remain unpopular. Sin taxes are palatable. Recall efforts are gun barrel hot, and will remain so for the foreseeable future.

Those conclusions came out of the School of Public Affairs'[26] seventh annual post-election event, "Recall: Colorado's New Power Tool," Nov. 6 at Cafe Rendezvous in History Colorado. The panel, moderated by SPA Dean Paul Teske, featured Patty Calhoun, editor of Denver Westword; Curtis Hubbard, a partner at OnSight Public Affairs; and Eric Sondermann, a political consultant and CEO at PR firm SE2.

A modest crowd, perhaps reflecting the public's hangover toward politics, attended the event.

And that cynicism is where the panelists started. They agreed that the recent federal government shutdown and the troubled Obamacare rollout both adversely affected the results for Amendment 66, the major statewide question on the ballot. The measure, which proposed a $950 million tax increase and a restructuring of the K-12 school finance system, failed by a wide margin -- 66 percent to 34 percent.

"It was too complicated for Coloradans right now. And with the Obamacare debacle I think people are upset with government," Calhoun said. "It was just too much for them right now."

Hubbard, who was communications director for the Amendment 66 campaign, said misinformation spread by opponents hurt the measure, but conceded that, ultimately, "the $950 million figure was too big for Coloradans."

Sondermann said the margin of its loss was even worse than the 36 percent who voted for Proposition 103, a proposed sales tax increase for education, two years ago. He noted that Proposition 103 "had no funding behind it whatsoever," compared to about $10 million spent to promote Amendment 66.

"The coalition that came together behind this -- combining the reform community with the establishment community -- I don't know how that holds together anymore," Sondermann said. "I don't see anybody's appetite for it -- starting with the governor, the Legislature, Democratic Party, anyone -- who wants to go through this for a third time anytime in the next several years. I don't see a morning after debate."

Calhoun and Hubbard, however, argued that another effort will be mounted. "The architects will try to come up with something a lot simpler," Calhoun said. Hubbard added, "I think one of the things that just about everyone agrees upon in Colorado is that we need to invest more in education."

There's a simple explanation for the easy passage of taxes for marijuana -- Proposition AA (statewide) and Question 2A (Denver). "Sin taxes work," Sondermann said. Hubbard remarked that only a "pittance" of money generated by pot taxes will go toward capital construction for schools. "It won't do anything to address the billion dollars that Colorado underfunds its K-12 education system."

Meanwhile, the recall efforts that saw Senate President John Morse and Sen. Angela Giron ousted from southern Colorado offices in September -- both due to anger about their votes on gun-control measures -- will become more common, panelists said. A group is currently circulating a petition to recall another Democratic senator, Sen. Evie Hudak of Westminster, which, if successful, will give Republicans the majority in the Senate.

Teske asked the panelists if recall petitions will be the "new normal?"

"We're going to be endlessly seeing these, and I think we'll see Democrats starting it too," Calhoun said. "It's a pretty easy template. We've seen how easy it was in Pueblo."

"I think it's going to be more standard operating procedure," Sondermann agreed. "It just speaks to me of the really poisonous political culture that we have both in the state and in the country. There's no goodwill on either side."

CU receives Colorado BioScience Association Founders Award[27]

Tech Transfer’s Kate Tallman, center, and Rick Silva receive the Colorado BioScience Association Founders Award

from April Giles, the association's president and CEO.

The Colorado BioScience Association (CBSA) recently honored the University of Colorado for its role in helping to launch the association 10 years ago, and for developing initiatives that support the state's biotech system.

Kate Tallman and Rick Silva of CU's Technology Transfer Office received the award last week at the Marriott City Center in Denver.

Said April Giles, CBSA President and CEO, "The Colorado BioScience Association would not be here today without the strong foundation that was put in place 10 years ago, and tonight we're celebrating that groundwork while we highlight the achievements being accomplished now, which will help propel the industry and our association forward over the next 10 years."

As initial founders of CBSA, Colorado State University, Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority (FRA) and CU were recognized for understanding the value of a statewide organization providing networks, educational resources and advocacy to advance the growth of the bioscience cluster in Colorado. Their investment in the association since 2003 provided the ability for CBSA to get off the ground and grow to a mature organization recognized as one of the top five nationally.

CBSA thanked CSU, FRA and CU for their vision 10 years ago, not only for the foundation of CBSA but also for creating initiatives that have fostered the development of commercial technologies in Colorado.

Using morphine after abdominal surgery may prolong pain, researchers find[29]

Using morphine to fight the pain associated with abdominal surgery may paradoxically prolong a patient's suffering, doubling or even tripling the amount of time it takes to recover from the surgical pain, according to researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder.

The research team from CU-Boulder's Department of Psychology and Neuroscience—led by Peter Grace, a postdoctoral research fellow, together with Erika Galer, a professional research assistant—was able to identify the mechanism that caused the prolonged pain. The scientists found that both the morphine and the surgery itself excited glial cells in the nervous system, causing them to send out additional pain signals to the surrounding nerves.

The research findings, which involved a study using rats, are being presented today at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in San Diego.

"After abdominal surgery—even without using any drugs to treat the pain—the glial cells would be activated and they would contribute to the postoperative pain," Grace said. "What we're saying is, if you give them morphine, we also know that contributes to the pain. If you're putting both of those on top of each other, you're going to have a prolonged period of pain."

Past research at CU-Boulder and elsewhere has shown that, while morphine is an effective painkiller, it can also work against itself. Morphine binds to a receptor on neurons to dull the pain, but scientists now know that morphine also binds to a receptor on glial cells in the brain called TLR4, causing them to become excited and intensify the pain.

In the new study, the researchers found that rats that were given morphine for two weeks prior to surgery to treat pre-existing pain—but that were not given morphine after the procedure—took six weeks to fully recover from postoperative pain compared with two weeks among rats that were not given the painkiller.

In a second experiment, rats that were treated with morphine for a week after the surgery took four weeks to recover from the postoperative pain compared with two weeks among the control group of rats.

“We’re seeing the pain prolong for weeks after the discontinuation of morphine,” Grace said.

The research team also tested the effects of the drug (+)-naloxone, which inhibits morphine from binding to the glial cells and exciting them. They found that the use of (+)-naloxone along with the morphine eliminated the extended postoperative pain effect.

The researchers are now studying in more detail how morphine excites glial cells and how (+)-naloxone works to block that process. A better understanding of that pathway in the brain may help researchers find a wider variety of drugs that could be administered along with morphine in the future to limit postoperative pain.

Other CU-Boulder members of the research team are professional research assistants Keith Strand, Debra Berkelhammer and Bryce Skarda; undergraduate researcher Kaci Corrigan; and distinguished professors Steven Maier and Linda Watkins.

Bonn joins chancellor’s office[30]

[31]
Brenda Bonn, who previously owned a small executive administrative assistant company, became executive assistant to UCCS Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak effective Nov. 1.

Since May 2013 and from 2008 to 2011, Bonn owned and operated Your Executive Assistant Inc., which provided virtual administrative assistance to executives. Previously, she worked as a special assistant to the city of Colorado Springs Office of the Mayor, and held positions with CSK Auto, Phoenix, and the National Homeland Defense Foundation, Colorado Springs.

Bonn will be responsible for maintaining Chancellor Shockley-Zalabak’s calendar and other administrative duties. Bonn replaces Kelly Mattingly, who accepted an administrative support position for the Office of Harassment and Discrimination.

Otañez presents in Africa; colleagues share his work in Brazil[32]

[33]
Marty Otañez, associate professor in anthropology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver, recently was an invited instructor at the two-week global tobacco control course at the School of Health Systems and Public Health, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

While there he gave many lectures and presentations, including “A Human Rights Based Approach to Tobacco Control with special attention to Alternative Livelihoods for Tobacco Farmers and Farm Workers,” and “Carving Tobacco Out of Trade Agreements: The Future of Tobacco Control Practices and Industry Regulatory Challenges.”

Otañez’s work also was presented by colleagues twice in September in Brazil. One briefing was on “The Role of Tobacco Farmers and Farm Workers in Supporting Global Tobacco Control: Perspectives from Tobacco Fields,” a policy paper for the 4th Meeting of the Working Group on Articles 17 &18 of the Framework Convention of the World Health Organization on Tobacco Control. The second was “Addressing Child Labor and Farmer Livelihoods in the Tobacco Industry,” a policy briefing paper for the Third Global Conference on Child Labor.

Saunkeah takes on executive chef role[34]

[35]
Russ Saunkeah, currently the general manager of campus food services for Sodexo Inc., will become executive chef and associate director of culinary services for UCCS. Saunkeah's appointment became effective Nov. 1.

Saunkeah was named catering director at UCCS in 2001 and general manager in 2006. Previously, he served as executive chef for the Briarhurst Manor and in chef positions for resorts in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the Broadmoor Hotel. He attended the University of Oklahoma and completed courses with Sodexo and the University of Virgin Islands.

UCCS is currently advertising for a director of food services who will lead the university's efforts to a self-operated food service. The change to self-operated services is set for May 2014.

Byers honored for mentorship[36]

[37]
Tim Byers, associate dean for public health practice at the Colorado School of Public Health, recently was awarded the first Latino Research and Policy Center (LRPC) Outstanding Mentorship Award, which will become the Tim Byers Mentorship Award. Faculty and staff at the LRPC thanked him for more than a decade of exemplary leadership, dedication, and mentorship.

Evelinn Borrayo, professor in the Department of Psychology and executive director of the LRPC, called Byers "inspirational in every sense of the word."

Another colleague, Paula Espinoza, assistant professor of ethnic studies, said, "Tim is passionate about public health and committed to making a difference for all communities. He is refreshing in his frankness and an engaging teacher. He challenges and motivates me to set the bar higher than I might have done on my own."

Byers was honored at an Oct. 18 conference that focused on Latino health disparities and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Featured presentations included the most recent statistics on Latino health disparities in Colorado.

Scott promoted to senior executive director[38]

[39]
Gayanne Scott, executive director of the Division of Resource Management at UCCS, will become senior executive director of human and financial resources in the Division of Resource Management.

Scott will supervise Jeanne Durr, executive director, Office of Human Resources, Suzanne Scott, budget director, Julie Brewster, controller, and Steve Medlin, director, Office of Student Financial Services.

Gayanne Scott joined UCCS in 1989 as an accountant and held several accounting and budget analyst positions before being named budget director in 2003, resource management director in 2005 and executive director in 2008. In that role, she provided oversight of the UCCS budget and modeling for accurate revenue and expenditure estimates and worked closely with university leadership, the University Budget Advisory Committee and the CU system.

She previously earned Employee of the Month honors and the UCCS Outstanding Service Award. She earned a bachelor's degree in business from UCCS in 1987.

Dropping names ...[40]

Wyatt

Yoder

Erbert

Fields

Holly Wyatt, associate professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Diabetes at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, is one of 10 chosen and distinguished women speakers at TEDxMileHigh, set for Saturday at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts on the University of Denver campus. She will be presenting on "State of Slim," the weight-loss book she co-authored with James Hill. Click here[45] for details and tickets. … **E.J. Yoder**, senior instructor, and **Larry Erbert**, associate professor at CU Denver's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Communication Department, recently presented at the third annual International Food Studies conference. The workshop addressed "Emerging conflicts in the new food revolution: What can collaborative conflict management models teach us about food sustainability." Yoder and Erbert decided to collaborate on the workshop as they teach complimentary courses in Food as Communication and Environmental Communication. In addition, Yoder presented a workshop "Where¹s the truck?: Local, healthy, equitable food distribution challenges," with colleague Elsa Jacobson, regional director of the Chicago Green Festival. … UCCS welcomed 10 people in October: **Anna Warrick**, assistant instructor, College of Business; **Sireesha Muppala**, research associate, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; **Qian Wang**, professional research assistant, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; **Daniel Lee Smith**, shuttle bus driver, Department of Parking and Transportation Services; **Christin M. Deville**, Blackboard administrator, Computing Services; **Moselle Lee Bernal**, academic services professional, Matrix Center; **Corinne Marie Como**, audience services manager, Department of Visual and Performing Arts; **Benjamin Carl Peterson**, information technology professional, Computing Services; **Holly Ellen Kaspar**, director of auxiliary services marketing, Administration and Finance; and **Samantha Ellen Carty**, scholarship counselor, Office of Student Financial Aid and Employment. … **Sarah K. Fields**, associate professor of communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver, recently spoke via video link on the topic of "Title IX and U.S. Women's Sport History" to students in the FIFA International Master in Management, Law and Humanities of Sport Program. Students in the award-winning program study at universities in England, Italy and Switzerland, but are currently studying at De Montford University in Leicester. … **David Havlick**, associate professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at UCCS, was co-organizer of a symposium on restoring post-industrial and post-military landscapes at the Society for Ecological Restoration World Conference, Oct. 6-11 in Madison, Wisc. The American Society of Landscape Architects wrote about the symposium. See the photos and article at http://dirt.asla.org/2013/10/28/restoration-another-layer-of-history/[46].

Free pizza at ATLAS open house[47]

[48]

The ATLAS Master's Program at CU-Boulder is hosting an open house for faculty, staff, students and anyone interested in opportunities in international development and helping people in the world's underdeveloped regions.

The event runs 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday in the second floor lounge of the ATLAS Institute. The ATLAS MS-ICTD Program (Master of Science in Information and Communication Technology for Development) is hosting a short information session.
Enjoy free pizza and soft drinks. Meet program director-founder Revi Sterling. Learn about the program's mission, course structure, practicum field experience and job possibilities. Talk to current ATLAS master's students. Get your questions answered. Discuss the current work, projects, travels and practicums of ATLAS graduate students.
Learn more, http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/newatlas/masters/[48]

Is this program for your students? How can it give students the tools needed to work in international development for non-profits, NGOs and international government agencies? How is the program flexible enough to enhance and incorporate the skills, experience and background students already have?

Questions? Contact Ruscha Cohen, ATLAS program adviser, ruscha.cohen@colorado.edu[49] or 303-492-5081.

The MS-ICTD degree prepares students for careers in the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to advance people and communities in developing nations and underserved or impoverished regions. Students are trained to address issues of access, social equity, sustainability, appropriate design and distribution.

The two-year program includes three semesters in residence and a one-semester practicum, that is, an internship or service project with a company engaged in ICTD efforts. Organizations participating in the practicum may be public or private sector, international development agencies, foundations and/or non-governmental organizations.

Learn more, http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/newatlas/masters/[48]

One week left to enroll in CU Health Plans [50]

There's one week left for University of Colorado employees who waived university medical plans and do not have health insurance to enroll in university plans.

Employees without medical insurance can enroll in CU medical plans during Limited Enrollment until 5 p.m. Nov. 22. Those who waived CU Health Plans, but have health care coverage, do not need to take action.

Enrolling is simple
Visit the Employee Services' benefits area at http://www.cusys.edu/benefits[51] Review the Frequently Asked Questions[52] section to see if you qualify. Choose from one of three medical plans:
CU Health Plan – Exclusive CU Health Plan – Kaiser CU Health Plan - High Deductible Use the Plan Comparison Tool [53] to determine the best plan for you. Download and complete the Limited Enrollment Form[54]. Submit the Limited Enrollment Form to Employee Services[55] by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22.
Important dates
Nov. 22: Turn in Limited Enrollment Forms by 5 p.m. **Dec. 15**: Plan selection information will display in the employee portal under Payroll and Compensation - Benefits Summary. **Jan. 1, 2014**: Medical coverage begins.
Questions?

Benefit professionals are available to help employees via phone, 303-860-4200, option 3, toll-free at 855-216-7740, option 3, or by email at benefits@cu.edu[56].

Weight Watchers at work launches Friday[57]

Starting Friday, Be Colorado and Weight Watchers are teaming up to help CU Health Plan participants achieve their weight-loss goals and improve their overall health. Be Colorado will offer two options for customized weight-loss plans:

Weight Watchers meetings with Monthly Pass
Guidance from an experienced Leader who has lost weight with Weight Watchers Access to At Work meetings and unlimited local community meetings
At Work Meetings: With At Work meetings, participants have the option to attend meetings right at their workplace, creating a supportive environment to help them achieve their weight-loss goals. Minimum enrollment and participation is required to start an At Work meeting. A group must have 15 Monthly Pass members to start and must maintain an average of 12 or more members for meetings to remain ongoing. Individuals who are interested in starting an At Work meeting can contact an At Work meeting manager at 1-800-8-AT-WORK.

Weight Watchers Online Subscription
An online, science-based plan with content customized to individual needs Tailored sites that serve the unique needs of men and women Restaurant and Nutrition Guides, Customized Meal Plans and Daily Tips and Food Ideas Over 160,000 food options and 3,800 recipes to help take the guesswork out of food choices
Click here[58] for information on pricing, FAQs and more.

Call for proposals: 2014-15 President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative[59]

Faculty from all disciplines are invited to become investigators in the President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative (PTLC), CU's Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Program, which is beginning its ninth year and establishing its 2014-15 cohort of Faculty Researchers.

Faculty Researchers design, carry out, and publish research on a particular aspect of learning in a specific course. Each investigator is supported by a coach and short seminars in how to do education research. Faculty researchers will receive funding totaling $1,550 for their research that may include a student research assistant and travel to present one's research.

Central to the work of the collaborative is creating and publishing scholarship in teaching and learning that contributes both to theory and effective teaching practice in and across disciplines. To this end, each Faculty Researcher designs and undertakes an investigation aimed at deepening understanding of disciplinary pedagogy and related to an important issue in learning.

All application materials must be submitted electronically to elizabeth.lawrence@colorado.edu[60] between Dec. 9, 2013, and May 16, 2014.

Complete details are posted at: **http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/ptlc/PTLC_Call.html**[61]

CU Foundation converting to new accounting system[62]

The CU Foundation will be converting to a new accounting system (Blackbaud's Financial Edge "FE") with a planned

go-live date of Monday, Nov. 18. This may result in a few days of “down time” around that date. Reporting from IFAS (the old system) will be available for a few weeks but will not be updated with new data after Nov. 15.

What will change?
The web link to access reports and login information The look of parameters when running a report Some cosmetics on the reports How to export reports to Excel or Adobe How to print reports Reporting by Fund Manager or UserID (to be replaced by self selected “preferred” groups of funds)
What will not change?
The coding of fund numbers and object codes Policies related to endowments and current funds Endowment investment or distribution procedures Most other codes related to schools, departments, division, purpose, etc.
Note: Initial access to reporting will be limited to Advancement staff plus university employees who have actually logged in to IFAS since June 30, 2012. Others needing access will need to contact the CU Foundation.

Stayed tuned for more information on reporting access and training. If you have questions, contact Scott Dunn at scott.dunn@cufund.org[63] or Accounting@cufund.org[64].

CU Connections holiday publication schedule: No new issues Nov. 28, Dec. 26, Jan. 2[65]

CU Connections will not publish new issues on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 28), Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

Next week’s issue is the last one before the Thanksgiving break; deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Nov. 15.

Deadline for submissions to the Dec. 5 issue is noon Wednesday, Nov. 27.

The final new issue before the winter holiday break will appear Thursday, Dec. 19; deadline for submissions is noon Friday, Dec. 13.

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

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-physicist-steven-pollock-named-2013-us-professor-year[2] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pollockpng[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bensimon-change-within-needed-better-serve-ethnic-minorities[4] https://connections.cu.edu/file/bensimonpng[5] http://cue.usc.edu/[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-rick-stevens[7] https://connections.cu.edu/news/five-questions-for-rick-stevens/5q-stevens[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu%E2%80%99s-nobel-laureates-%E2%80%98our-pride-and-joy%E2%80%99[9] http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=7ccCIIBSyu4[10] https://www.cusys.edu/cuadvocates/[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/retirement-savings-require-diversity[12] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/prep-ret_top.png[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/prep-ret_infobox.png[14] https://connections.cu.edu/did-you-know/social-security-among-topics-at-preparing-to-retire-seminars[15] https://connections.cu.edu/news/investment-insight-offered-at-retirement-prep-seminars[16]

https://www.cusys.edu/pbs/benefits/ptr/index.html[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-diet-program-offers-support-slim-down[18] https://connections.cu.edu/file/anschutzco-dietppng[19] http://www.stateofslim.com/[20] https://www.facebook.com/StateOfSlim[21] http://www.anschutzwellness.com/wellness-services/weight-management[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/galleries-contemporary-arts-chosen-participate-indy-give-campaign[23] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccsgocapng[24] http://indygive.com/goca[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/panel-examines-lessons-learned-november-election[26] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SPA/Pages/index.aspx[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-receives-colorado-bioscience-association-founders-award[28] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ttoawardpng[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/using-morphine-after-abdominal-surgery-may-prolong-pain-researchers-find[30] https://connections.cu.edu/people/bonn-joins-chancellor%E2%80%99s-office[31] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/people_bonn2.jpg[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/ota%C3%B1ez-presents-africa-colleagues-share-his-work-brazil[33] https://connections.cu.edu/people/otanez-presents-in-africa-colleagues-share-his-work-in-brazil/p_otanez[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/saunkeah-takes-executive-chef-role[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/psaunkeahpng[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/byers-honored-mentorship[37] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pbyerspng[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/scott-promoted-senior-executive-director[39] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pscottpng[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-77[41] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnwyattpng[42] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnyoderpng[43] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnerbertpng[44] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnfieldspng[45] http://www.tedxmilehigh.com/[46] http://dirt.asla.org/2013/10/28/restoration-another-layer-of-history/[47] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/free-pizza-atlas-open-house[48] http://www.colorado.edu/atlas/newatlas/masters/[49] mailto:ruscha.cohen@colorado.edu[50] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/one-week-left-enroll-cu-health-plans[51] https://www.cusys.edu/benefits/index.html[52] https://www.cusys.edu/benefits/faqs.html[53] https://www.cusys.edu/benefits/univ-compare.html[54] https://www.cusys.edu/benefits/documents/2013-14%20Limited%20Enrollment%20Form.pdf[55] http://%28https/www.cusys.edu/benefits/how-to-enroll-limited%20enrollment.html[56] mailto:benefits@cu.edu[57] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/weight-watchers-work-launches-friday[58] http://becolorado.org/programs/weight-watchers/[59] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-proposals-2014-15-presidents-teaching-and-learning-collaborative[60] mailto:elizabeth.lawrence@colorado.edu[61] http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/ptlc/PTLC_Call.html[62] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-foundation-converting-new-accounting-system[63] mailto:scott.dunn@cufund.org[64] mailto:Accounting@cufund.org[65] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-connections-holiday-publication-schedule-no-new-issues-nov-28-dec-26-jan-2