Publication note: No CU Connections on Dec. 22, Dec. 29[1]

CU Connections will not publish new issues on Dec. 22 and Dec. 29.

Connections returns after the winter break on Thursday, Jan. 5. Deadline for submissions is noon Wednesday, Dec. 28.

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

Leaders in science, medicine named Distinguished Professors[2]

Four men, each with decades of service to the University of Colorado, have been named Distinguished Professors, the highest honor awarded to faculty across the CU system's four campuses.

Bernard Amadei of CU Boulder, Zbigniew Celinski of UCCS, and John Hobbins and Ernest E. Moore, both of CU Anschutz, are the newest designees.

CU Distinguished Professors are faculty members who demonstrate exemplary performance in research or creative work, a record of excellence in classroom teaching and supervision of individual learning, and outstanding service to the profession, the university and its affiliates.

CU President Bruce D. Benson reviewed nominations from CU's campuses; with the recommendation of a committee of Distinguished Professors[3], he forwarded the candidates' names to the Board of Regents. At its Nov. 10 meeting at CU system administration offices in Denver, the board voted in favor of the nominees.

Amadei and Celinski received their honors in person at the meeting; Hobbins and Moore will be recognized at a board meeting next year.

Honorees for 2016 are:

Bernard Amadei, Ph.D., professor, Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering, College of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Colorado Boulder. His research and teaching in geological engineering and engineering for developing communities have served students, professionals and communities around the world. He holds the Mortenson Endowed Chair in Global Engineering and is faculty co-director of the Mortenson Center in Engineering for Developing Communities. The graduate program he helped develop provides multiple pathways for engineers to enter the field of development engineering. At CU since 1982, Amadei has received numerous awards and is a past science envoy to Pakistan and Nepal for the U.S. Department of State. He has authored over 90 journal publications and four books.

For more on Amadei, see CU Boulder Today[4].

Zbigniew Celinski, Ph.D., professor, Department of Department of Physics and Energy Science, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado Colorado Springs. He is an internationally recognized leader whose expertise and impact in multiple areas of magnetic materials research are significant. His research in magnetic systems has contributed to the ability to miniaturize many devices – including magnetic memories and microwave signal processing structures – and is revolutionizing their use in a wide range of applications. At UCCS since 1995, Celinski is ranked second in all-time research funding at the university. With a modest $13,000 in startup funding, he created the

top magnetization dynamics lab at a U.S. university. Honors include Researcher of the Year at UCCS and CU system Inventor of the Year.

A reception celebrating Celinski is scheduled for 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in University Center 303 at UCCS. To attend, register here.[5]

John Hobbins, M.D., professor, Chief of Obstetrics, Director of the Prenatal Diagnosis and Genetics Center, University of Colorado School of Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus. He is world-renowned and an award-winning pioneer in the development and use of obstetrical ultrasound as a diagnostic tool. Having practiced medicine for nearly four decades, and at CU since 1991, he is one of the world's leading Maternal-Fetal Medicine (MFM) specialists. With over 400 published journal articles, 13 books, 42 book chapters and nearly 200 abstracts, Hobbins has been a prolific contributor to the field. A dedicated teacher and mentor at CU and previously at Yale, he has trained 26 Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellows and over 300 residents in obstetrics and gynecology.

Ernest E. Moore, M.D., professor, Department of Surgery, CU School of Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus. The Vice Chair of Research for CU Anschutz is considered one of the top academic physicians in the nation, with 1,500 journal publications, more than 30 books written or co-edited, three U.S. patents and NIH funding secured for over 30 years. At CU and Denver Health for 40 years, Moore is an expert in trauma surgery. His work has advanced the boundaries of surgical science in many areas, including trauma-induced blood clotting, multiple organ failure, and resuscitation with hemoglobin solutions. Among his many honors is the lifetime achievement award from the Society of University Surgeons.

With these four new designees, CU has recognized 87 Distinguished Professors since the program's establishment in 1977.

Bruce and Marcy Benson honored for exceptional philanthropy[6]
[7]

Some of the University of Colorado's most committed leaders and supporters last week received distinguished honors from the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, which celebrated National Philanthropy Day[8] with an awards lunch in Denver.

CU President Bruce and Marcy Benson were named the joint winners of Outstanding Philanthropist for 2016, presented to an individual who has a record of exceptional personal generosity that demonstrates outstanding civic or charitable responsibility and whose leadership has encouraged others in philanthropic roles.

Sue Anschutz-Rodgers, a generous contributor to the CU School of Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus, received Lifetime Achievement honors. The Outstanding Foundation Award went to the **Anschutz Foundation**, which played a key role in the creation of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and supports many other nonprofits in Colorado.

The award for Outstanding Professional Grantmaker went to **John H. "Jack" Alexander Jr.** of the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. His advocacy was instrumental to the foundation board's decisions to put the family name on the CU Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Bruce and Marcy Benson are known for thinking big. Their many contributions to myriad organizations and causes reflect their passion for enriching quality of life in their community. The Bensons have contributed significant leadership gifts to The Denver Zoo, benefitting exhibits, educational programs and conservation efforts. They also support Denver Public Schools, Children's Hospital Colorado, the Boy Scouts of America, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science,

Berkshire School, Colorado Uplift and many other cultural and educational organizations and committees.

They have a particular passion for CU, where Bruce Benson has served as president since 2008. His and Marcy Benson's contributions to CU range from Alzheimer's disease research to endowed faculty positions, from athletics to buildings, including the Benson Earth Sciences Building at CU Boulder, honoring the program where Bruce earned his geology degree.

"We're honored to receive this award but also grateful to be recognized along with some of CU's most significant donors," Bruce Benson said.

The Bensons not only lead by example with their giving, but also lead efforts with their time and expertise. They co-chaired two $1 billion-plus fundraising campaigns for CU, including Creating Futures, which exceeded its $1.5 billion goal in 2013.

Whether the cause is education, health care, cultural institutions or youth development, the Bensons are front and center. They are partners who are direct, driven and collaborative, with an innate ability to bring the right people together and energize them, whatever the cause.

While they have received many accolades, Marcy and Bruce remain modest about their considerable impact. When asked recently how they would like to be remembered, Bruce Benson said, "That we care about people and our community."

The AFP Colorado Chapter began in the 1970s as the Colorado Association of Fund Raisers (CAFR). Now with 300 members, the chapter presents educational luncheons, informal Coffee Chats, the annual Rocky Mountain Philanthropy Institute (RMPI), and National Philanthropy Day.

"Philanthropy shows the love of humankind," said Cory Andersen, who chaired the Nov. 10 luncheon at the Denver Performing Arts Complex. "We are blessed to have so many people in Colorado that give their time, talent and treasure to make a difference and create impact in their communities."

Click here[9] for this year's full list of honorees.

Sauve named President's Employee of the Year[10]

[11]

Isabella Muturi Sauve, administrator for Faculty Council, on Wednesday received the President's Employee of the Year Award[12]. The recognition and appreciation of exceptional job performance comes with a $1,000 award.

Sauve received the award during a ceremony at 1800 Grant St.

Among the qualities mentioned in her multiple award nominations are:
"We need more people like Isabella who demonstrate a strong work ethic and consistently provide excellent support in her role at the system office." "Isabella is passionate about her job, she is approachable, and she respects colleagues. She juggles her numerous responsibilities extremely well. "She promotes group harmony and a common purpose for those among whom she works."
System Staff Council also recognized the other nominees for the President's Employee of the Year Award:
Leah Cheney, University Counsel – "Leah is competent, committed and authentic. She consistently embodies all of these qualities." **Stanley Duncan,** University Information Systems – "Ever since Stanley joined the UIS eRA team last year, we have benefited exponentially from his experience, customer service and initiative." **Erica Fukuhara,** Employee Services – "Erica's extremely thorough and upbeat communications are both helpful and reassuring." **Teresa Meier,** Employee Services – "Teresa is a person of tremendous integrity, and she has gained my deepest respect." **Adam Newby,** University Information Systems – "Adam effectively adapts to change, works well

under pressure while maintaining a positive attitude, and has an exceptional ability to provide detail."
Wednesday's reception also celebrated staff members who reached a years-of-service milestone during the 2015-16 fiscal year. They are:
35 yearsSandy Hicks30 yearsDeborah Ryan25 yearsBarb Duran?Linda Warren20 yearsAyna AsmareRobert LucasJennifer SilverthorneTony Tolin15 yearsPamela AndradeMatthew ArvesonPaula KirkmanDiane MainDebra RowleyAmberly Scheppach10 yearsShelley BrownCheryl EspinozaCharles GeanettaJohn HannaCary IhmeDebbie MartinKen McConnelloguePatrick O'RourkeWilliam SkarstadPamela SongChris StangeJill Taylor Five years **Cathleen AngellGinger BrooksLisa CarrGloria ChavezCarolyn DeTempleMichael EdwardsMatthew GloverSrikanth GurramJudith HarlanBrandy LombardiShelley MartinKarisa McCullochSondra PayneLaurie ReaganRana SilverKaye Stewart-HicksTricia StratingPolly WisniewskiMichael WolbromRobbie Wood**

Strategic vision on horizon for Board of Regents[13]

The CU Board of Regents is proceeding with the development of a strategic vision, a new statement and document that would articulate the collective goals and qualities of the University of Colorado and its campuses.

Regent Linda Shoemaker, part of the board's Strategic Planning Committee, presented an update[14] on the strategic vision process to fellow board members at the Nov. 10 meeting at 1800 Grant St.

The effort will include the development of a systemwide vision statement meant to define CU's future. A high-level document would further provide a statement of the university's commitments and value to the state, and identify the key initiatives that set CU apart from other institutions.

"I see it as a pretty exciting fundraising document, for one thing, to show what the entire system looks like and how we interact and collaborate together," Shoemaker said.

She emphasized that the vision is not a strategic plan, and it would not supplant strategic plans in place at the campuses.

"The most important thing about the strategic vision is, it needs to be agreed to by all of us – by all campuses, all of the Board of Regents and leadership," Shoemaker said. "I see it as a helpful team-building exercise for the Board of Regents. … I think this is going to be exciting for the campuses and the regents."

The committee will next develop a timeline for the vision process and suggested themes. Early next year, conversations will take place on the campuses. Shoemaker said chancellors will be asked to assemble groups of faculty, staff and students to engage in refining the vision themes.

After vision development in March, regents and stakeholders would provide review and final comment next spring and summer, with the board discussing and completing the vision at its July retreat.

In other business at the Nov. 10 meeting:
The board unanimously approved a resolution, introduced by Regent John Carson, stating that CU "endorses and affirms the principles of academic freedom," and that faculty only can meet their responsibilities "when they have confidence that their work will be judged on its merits alone, and not on extrinsic considerations such as political, social, or religious views, or views concerning departmental or university operation or administration." Highlights of CU's commitment to student financial aid were presented[15] by Todd Saliman, vice president and chief financial officer. He noted a low student default rate – 3.4 percent for CU students, which is 8 percent lower than the state and national averages – and a 10.9 percent increase in institutional financial aid in the current fiscal year, illustrating "incredible improvements we've made in institutional aid over the past decade." Saliman also detailed[16] Gov. John Hickenlooper's proposed state budget for 2017-18[17], which recommends a $20.5 million increase for higher education. An upcoming design and renovation of the Fifth Floor West in Building 500 at CU Anschutz received the board's approval. The space now occupied by the University of Colorado Hospital's Office of Information Technology

will house CU Innovations, University Counsel and the CU Denver l Anschutz Medical Campus Graduate School dean's office. The board approved a new master's degree in organizational leadership, a fully online professional degree at CU Boulder (read more in CU Boulder Today[18]). Regents also approved proposals from CU Denver to split the master's in applied mathematics into two degrees, and to split the bachelor's in education and human development into two degrees. A passing-of-the-gavel ceremony marked the end of Regent Kyle Hybl's two years as chair and the beginning of Regent Irene Griego's tenure in the role. The board also passed resolutions recognizing two board members concluding two six-year terms each: past chairs Steve Bosley and Michael Carrigan, who were named Regents Emeriti and Board Chairs Emeriti. The board's January retreat and Feb. 16-17 meeting at CU Boulder will be the first to include newly elected members Heidi Ganahl and Jack Kroll[19].

Board of Regents November meeting coverage[20]

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Read more[13]

Vice president for diversity role outlined
The CU Board of Regents at its Nov. 10 meeting reviewed a draft of the job description for the new system-level vice president for diversity, inclusion and retention, a position the board approved at its September meeting.
Read more[21]

Efficiencies created $32 million in savings for CU last year
The University of Colorado saved nearly $32 million in fiscal year 2015-16 through continued and expanded efficiencies across the campuses and system. Todd Saliman, vice president for budget and finance and chief financial officer, presented the numbers to the CU Board of Regents at its Nov. 10 meeting at 1800 Grant St.
Read more[22]

Vice president for diversity role outlined[21]

The CU Board of Regents at its Nov. 10 meeting reviewed a draft of the job description[23] for the new system-level vice president for diversity, inclusion and retention, a position the board approved at its September meeting[24].

The draft outlines the vice president's role to ensure that diversity, inclusion and retention are values embraced throughout the University of Colorado, and also be responsible for implementing and coordinating systemwide policies, programs and initiatives related to diversity and inclusion.

Michael Lightner, vice president for academic affairs, said the description had already gone through several iterations led by Kathy Nesbitt, vice president for employee and information services.

"The description really emphasizes the fact that it's important to advance the effort to recruit and retain faculty and staff and students," Lightner said.

Regent John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, stressed the need to clearly indicate the responsibilities will include fostering greater intellectual diversity across the university.

"This isn't just a racial issue or a sex issue, it's also about intellectual diversity as a priority of this board," Carson said. "I want to make sure the person we hire for this position is someone who realizes that's a big priority for this university, and how we're really going to get that discussion going about recruiting more diverse faculty."

Lightner noted that the vice president for diversity will be a system-level position, yet hiring of faculty and staff takes place at the campus level.

“The things that this individual would want to be able to do is add the option of identifying best practices in other settings and be able to support the campus hiring processes by letting them know best practices that they may not have looked at at this point,” he said.

The position was introduced by Regent Michael Carrigan, D-Denver, and he stressed all forms of diversity should be emphasized.

“I specifically included in the resolution that part of the task would include political and philosophical diversity,” Carrigan said. “So as the primary author, that is something I sincerely hope the position will encompass.”

The board asked that the description be further vetted through faculty, staff and student government groups and that a more thorough overview – including the cost and salary associated with the position – be presented at its next meeting.

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CU Boulder saw a savings of $7,057,795 through 50 new actions, including:
Increased employment of student workers, providing direct work experience and reducing annual labor costs by $316,800. Housing and Dining uses purchasing price programs and rebate programs to negotiate and reduce costs of supplies, resulting in annual cost savings of $736,600.
CU Colorado Springs enacted 38 new efficiencies for a savings of $879,457, including:
Creating a book rental system for students for a cost savings directly to students of $237,257. Using Digital Measures software for reporting faculty activities and Qualtrics software to administer online surveys is saving $80,000.
CU Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus reported 74 new efficiencies for savings of $6,907,522, including:
A $1.9 million savings through a consolidation of Health Science Library academic resource subscriptions across CU campuses, known as CLERT – Colorado Libraries Electronic Resources Team. Cost avoidances and savings of $571,575 through redistribution of duties to current full-time staff and faculty members. Colorado School of Public Health realized $315,000 in savings by restructuring and reorganizing administrative areas. School of Public Affairs saved $120,000 by eliminating two positions and redistributing their duties.
The report[25] was the second in the university’s efforts to annually track increased efficiencies to deliver a greater value to students, the university and the state. The first report, requested by the regents in 2015 as a baseline, highlighted $40 million in savings[26]. Saliman told the board after the initial report that some years would be more than the $40 million and some, such as this year, would be less.

Avoid the gift that keeps on giving: holiday weight gain[27]

CU’s Health Savings Account record keeper changing hands[28]

The University of Colorado’s Health Savings Account record keeper will change from Wells Fargo to Optum Bank on

Jan. 1, 2017.

As part of this transition, the university will change its HSA enrollment from a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to a calendar year (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31).

Employee Services also will hold a limited HSA enrollment from Nov. 28 to Dec. 9. During the enrollment period, current HSA enrollees can select how much money they would like to place into an HSA for 2017.

The 2017 HSA contribution limits are $3,400 for an individual and $6,750 for a family. Employees over age 55 may contribute an additional $1,000 per year.

“Moving to a calendar year enrollment will make managing an HSA easier for CU employees, primarily because this change makes annual contribution limits easier to calculate and monitor,” said Michelle Martinez, director of Benefits Administration with Employee Services.

Employees who do not enroll during this period may still enroll in a HSA in 2017, but might miss HSA deductions from their upcoming paychecks.

The transition was set in motion in May 2016 when Wells Fargo sold its HSA business to Optum, a part of United Health Group.

Employees with questions about the transition or who need assistance enrolling may call an Employee Services benefits professional at 303-860-4200, option 3, or email benefits@cu.edu[29].

For more information on the HSA enrollment period, visit this website[30].

Counting down to groundbreaking for new aerospace building[31]

Giving Tuesday campaign will raise money for Swasey scholarship, other campus needs[32]

Jake Jabs Business Plan Competition announces finalists[33]

Researchers to create Veterans' Action League[34]

Crow returns to CU Denver[35]

Koutsis, Lavens, McDuffie receive Employee of the Year Awards[36]

Shockley-Zalabak named Business Citizen of the Year[37]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/publication-note-no-cu-connections-dec-22-dec-29[2] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/leaders-science-medicine-named-distinguished-professors[3] http://www.cu.edu/content/distinguished-professors[4] http://www.colorado.edu/today/2016/11/10/engineers-without-borders-founder-named-cu-distinguished-professor[5] http://www.cvent.com/events/distinguished-professor-celinski-campus-celebration-reception/invitation-d69f7c8bbfee4e0ba1fc7ca4deb0f037.aspx[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bruce-and-marcy-benson-honored-exceptional-philanthropy[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/bensons_top.jpg[8] http://afpcolorado.afpnet.org/Content.cfm?ItemNumber=24028&navItemNumber=5496[9] http://afpcolorado.afpnet.org/files/AFP%20Chapters/CO1/2016%20Winners%20List.pdf[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/sauve-named-president-s-employee-year[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/peoty_top.jpg[12] http://www.cu.edu/ssc/presidents-employee-year-award[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/strategic-vision-horizon-board-regents[14] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AFKKPY523300/$file/10%20Strategic%20Vision%20PP%2016%2011%2008.pdf[15] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AFKSHB72BC79/$file/Financial%20Aid%20Presentation%20-%20Final.pdf[16] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AFKMW45BB3B5/$file/State%20Budget%20Snapshot%20-%20Nov%202016.pdf[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/governor-s-budget-proposal-has-good-news-cu-higher-education[18] http://www.colorado.edu/today/2016/11/10/board-regents-hears-budget-and-financial-aid-update-approves-new-masters-organizational[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/board-regents-welcome-ganahl-kroll-sharkey-re-elected[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/board-regents-november-meeting-coverage[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/vice-president-diversity-role-outlined[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/efficiencies-created-32-million-savings-cu-last-year[23] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AFGW3S838093/$file/11-4-16%20Draft%20VP%20Diversity%20Inclusion%20Retention.pdf[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-vote-create-diversity-vp[25] http://boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AFKNRJ6071E7/$file/2016%20Operating%20Efficiencies%20Presentation%20FINAL.pdf[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-efficiencies-saved-nearly-40-million-last-year[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/avoid-gift-keeps-giving-holiday-weight-gain[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-s-health-savings-account-record-keeper-changing-hands[29] mailto:benefits@cu.edu[30] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits/2016-hsa-enrollment-nov-28-dec-9[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/counting-down-groundbreaking-new-aerospace-building[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/giving-tuesday-campaign-will-raise-money-swasey-scholarship-other-campus-needs[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/jake-jabs-business-plan-competition-announces-finalists[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/researchers-create-veterans-action-league[35] https://connections.cu.edu/people/crow-returns-cu-denver[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/koutsis-lavens-mcduffie-receive-employee-year-awards[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/shockley-zalabak-named-business-citizen-year