

[Five questions for Edie Zagona](#)^[1]

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As she grew up in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona, Edie Zagona learned how important water and nature's cycles were to the land and its people. The lesson never faded.

Although she majored in philosophy as an undergraduate – and especially loved the philosophy of science -- she was discouraged “by the improbability of finding lifelong gainful employment.” She already had taken a number of math and science classes, and when it was time to determine her next area of study, she realized her science background had taken her halfway to an engineering degree. It was then she knew she would pursue a career in water resources.

After studying civil engineering at the University of Arizona, she worked at the Bureau of Reclamation, where she helped design the Central Arizona Project, which now brings water from the Colorado River at Lake Havasu across the desert to Phoenix and Tucson. Later, with a master's from Colorado State University, she worked at Reclamation's Arizona Projects Office, coordinating the work of engineers with concerns of environmentalists and the public in the final design of a segment of canal that crosses the Sonoran Desert.

“I felt that my work there contributed to the final solution that preserves the fragile ecosystem as well as the visual beauty of the area. As that project came to a close, I felt the urge to continue my education,” she said.

She heard about a new research center at the University of Colorado Boulder led by Kenneth Strzepek. It focused on bringing system analysis and nascent decision support science to water management problems. She joined the Center for Advanced Decision Support for Water and Environmental Systems (CADSWES) and earned her doctorate. She remained at the center and is currently a research professor in the Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering Department, and since 2002, the center's director.

One of her favorite achievements is the success of RiverWare, a software for which she has led development, which models a variety of situations such as drought, floods – even climate change – to help managers and operators of river and reservoir systems determine current and future water use and storage strategies. RiverWare is now widely used by agencies and others throughout the U.S. and increasingly abroad. Another achievement: successful graduate students who “are stars in their performance and contributions to improving water management.”

Her passion for nature often carries her to the mountains for hikes, a connection she says she needs to thrive.

“I find that my most creative thoughts and problem-solving arise while walking,” she said.

Frequent visits to southern Arizona and the Sonoran Desert keep her connected to her roots. She plays tennis, is an avid reader of fiction and nonfiction, and loves to cook – her family has owned an Italian restaurant for more than 75 years.

“But with little time to cook, I have transferred the passion and techniques to my husband and daughter, both of whom can perform magic in the kitchen.”

1. Why did you create RiverWare and how has this software changed the process of water management?

RiverWare grew out of the need of water management agencies to have a river system simulation software that is easy to use, transparent with respect to behavior, and that can represent multi-objective operating policies in a way that everyone, including stakeholders, can understand. The design of RiverWare is a direct response to new challenges in water management over the past few decades, including environmental laws, climate change, power deregulation, intense stakeholder involvement and increasing demands in the face of decreasing availability of fresh water supplies.

We are fortunate to collaborate closely with visionary technical leaders in the three largest water management agencies in the U.S. – the Bureau of Reclamation, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. These forward-thinking water managers have worked with us for the past 20 years in defining the needs for tools that can result in improved management. The needs constantly evolve and we constantly enhance and extend

the tools.

Because of its flexible architecture, RiverWare can be used in many different ways depending on the purpose of the application. For example, it can produce an optimal reservoir and hydroplant operations schedule depending on water demands, environmental flow requirements and the value of hydropower produced. It can project operations over the next few weeks or months given current conditions, operating policies, weather predictions and snowpack measurements so that water consumers, recreationalists and power producers can prepare; this includes the need for communities to prepare for extreme events such large floods or severe droughts. RiverWare can model a combination of different future hydrologic scenarios, demand scenarios and policy alternatives, producing risk-based results to help planners and policy makers plan future development or evaluate proposed policies. It can model water ownership and allocate water based on water rights priorities; it is used by several agencies to record official water accounting. It is commonly used for water availability studies to understand the reliable water supply that can be expected, given hydrologic scenarios and reservoir sizes.

2. The software uses “1,200 years of paleo hydrology as the basis for planning studies.” First, how was 1,200 years of data collected? Second, how have you incorporated potential future issues such as climate change or other unexpected events into the software?

Water management policies are predicated on an understanding of hydrologic variability – the policies must address how to manage the water for all the various needs in wet, dry and average conditions, and sometimes in extended drought periods or extreme flood events. How do hydrologists know the nature of future hydrologic variability? The past record of stream flows is used to understand the statistical characteristics of the variability; the longer the historic record, the better the understanding of what the future may bring. Tree ring science has produced “reconstructed” hydrology for many years before stream gaging began. In the Colorado River Basin, this “paleo” record goes back about 1,200 years. Scientists, including our collaborators at CU and Reclamation, have developed statistical techniques for using the paleo record to generate possible future hydrologic scenarios that can be used in developing and evaluating proposed management policies. We have designed RiverWare to easily model these possible future scenarios. Likewise, climate change scenarios that are developed using global climate models can be incorporated into RiverWare to project future conditions that assume the future will be different from the past.

3. Have you done other research focused on hydrology?

We have recently been engaged in research projects aimed at understanding the role and limitations of using hydropower as a balancing reserve for integrating wind energy into the power grid. Wind's variability and uncertainty pose a challenge for power system managers who must constantly match power supply exactly with power demand, which also is variable. Hydropower is an ideal power source to balance wind because it can be quickly switched online and off or ramped up and down. Past studies to estimate the ultimate potential penetration level of wind energy in the power mix have not considered the other often complex objectives and constraints of the water such as supply, environmental flows, flood control, navigation, recreation, etc.

We collaborate with other researchers, most often with Professor Balaji Rajagopalan, a colleague in civil engineering, on graduate student research that improves techniques for forecasting stream flow and demonstrates their uses in decision-making via RiverWare applications of specific river basins.

4. You spent some time in Africa as a water resources adviser. How did that come about and what are some of your favorite memories from your work there?

I was invited to be a technical adviser to the Nile Basin Initiative in developing a decision support system for use by the 10 Nile Basin countries for collaborative decision-making about future development of the water resources in the basin. I shared my knowledge and experience gained at CADSWES with the excellent team of African experts who managed the project. The four-year project has just been completed. The system will be deployed in the coming months with a support team to ensure that the countries will use it to evaluate proposed development strategies, identify win-win plans, analyze tradeoffs and plan for climate change.

My favorite aspect of this work was interacting with the experts from the countries, especially as they described the

water resources issues in their respective parts of the basin with detailed understanding of the hydrologic processes as well as the social and environmental concerns. This was an opportunity for me to see a different set of decision support needs. I took away at least as much as I contributed to this interesting project. I feel a deep connection to Africa now that I did not have before and hope to be involved in future work there.

5. What concerns and heartens you about our own water-use policies?

My greatest concerns are the continuing degradation of riparian ecosystems here and around the world, and the uncertainty about future conditions brought about by climate change. The management of water resources for a sustainable future is a monumental challenge for the human race. I am most heartened to see the dedication of people at many levels to improved and sustainable water management. The growing cooperation and collaboration among public agencies, stakeholders, NGOs, scientists and policymakers that was not seen a few decades ago is a hopeful sign that we can develop creative technical solutions and have the will to make difficult decisions.

[Philanthropy at Work: Dawn Gregg](#)^[3]

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Professor Dawn Gregg is passionate about higher education. She has been teaching students and fostering entrepreneurs at the University of Colorado Denver Business School since 2001. It was both her dedication to education and her desire to honor a friend and business associate that drove her to make a donation to CU Denver.

"I think it's important for people to give back to things that impact their lives and have the ability to change the lives of others," Gregg said.

Gregg made a gift to the Dave O'Brien Incubation Office in the new CU Denver Business School building. Her donation, in combination with gifts from colleagues throughout the Business School, is supporting an office for students and young entrepreneurs who need a place to meet clients, receive mentoring and be advised on how to get their businesses off the ground.

Perhaps most importantly, the office will have a plaque that commemorates Dave O'Brien and his many contributions to CU Denver. O'Brien, who died in 2011, was on the advisory council of the entrepreneurship program, was an entrepreneur-in-residence and served as interim director for the Bard Center for Entrepreneurship. He supported students, alumni and faculty in many meaningful ways. Gregg says he had a lasting impact on every person who passed through his door.

When talking about philanthropy, Gregg speaks to the personal nature of it. She says that everybody should give back in their own way but how they choose to give back will depend on their personal interests and passions.

"I had a great deal of respect for Dave," Gregg said. "And I thought this would be the best way to create a lasting memorial for him."

[Staff member brainstorms recognized with cash prizes](#)^[6]

Employee creativity and innovation were recognized and rewarded at the second annual CU Shared Practices (CUSP) Awards Presentation, held Nov. 1 at 1800 Grant St., Denver.

Contenders, many working in teams, represented all University of Colorado campuses. They submitted ideas for innovative work processes through CUSP, the university's best practices initiative. After an idea is successfully reviewed and vetted, it is published on the shared practices website. All submissions are then judged by the campus controllers, who currently form the voting body for the awards.

With six very worthy submissions in 2012, the votes were very close, but in the end, the submissions were ranked as follows:

Taking first place, and splitting a \$2,000 cash prize, were Bryn Quintana of CU Denver and Melissa Wait of CU-Boulder, who worked together to create a secure electronic system for storing receipts and conducting monthly expense reconciliations. The system not only cut paper and printing costs for their department, but also significantly reduced the amount of time needed to complete expense reconciliations and file/locate the associated records.

A team of four from the Procurement Service Center (Charlene Lydick, Michael Fox, Will James and Duane Tucker) were awarded second place, splitting a cash prize of \$1,500, for their responsiveness and initiative in putting together a task force to consolidate campus purchases of "green" cleaning and paper supplies. Upon learning that facilities management from the various campuses were looking for guidance in purchasing these products, the PSC team identified the stakeholders and brought them all together in a unique way to review RFPs, test the products and work together to choose a single supplier, thereby saving the university an estimated \$400,000 over the first 15 months of implementation.

A customer service training presentation created by Susan Szpyrka, Tamara Moore and Gary Reynolds from UCCS garnered third place honors, and a cash prize of \$1,000, as well as some very favorable attention from other departments, who have asked the team to present the training to org units on the Boulder and Denver campuses, and various system administration offices.

CPE for CPAs (Continuing Professional Education for Certified Public Accountants) brought fourth place honors (and a \$500 award) to Lisa Vallad, Travis Chillemi and Normandy Roden from the Office of University Controller. Inspired by the vision of a university officer, this team developed a roster of courses, accredited by the National Association for the State Boards of Accountancy, which allow participating university employees with CPA licenses to obtain the professional development credits needed to maintain their licenses. These courses, many of which are specifically tailored to the university's business and finance processes, are available at no cost to all CU employees.

Also receiving recognition for their submissions were Jill Rogers from the School of Pharmacy on the Anschutz Medical Campus, who submitted a sponsored project checklist, and a team consisting of Treasurer's office employees (Joe Tinucci and Alexis Kelly), along with UIS (Sean Myers) and information security (Chirag Joshi) professionals whose combined efforts led to the development of a Web-based security assessment process required for all university departments working with credit card merchants.

For more information on CU Shared Practices, including changes to the 2013 CUSP program that kicks off Jan. 1, go to: <http://www.cu.edu/controller/initiatives/cusp/>[7] and submit your ideas.

[Fountain outreach efforts net money for restoration, lasting contacts](#)[8]

UCCS students who participated in a "cemetery crawl" pose with their instructor, Barbara Headle, for a group picture.

A first-ever Fountain Fairview Cemetery crawl organized by UCCS faculty and students generated more than \$4,000 and built ties between the city of Fountain and UCCS that will provide benefits for years to come.

Barbara Headle, senior instructor, Department of History, and Mike Larkin, instructor, Geography and Environmental Studies, led a summer class and used the Fountain Fairview Cemetery as a lesson in primary sources. When the

cemetery was later vandalized, Headle, Larkin and students got involved in fundraising efforts by leading tours of the cemetery and selling some of their pre-vandalism photographs.

"They knocked it out of the park," Headle said of her students who conducted research, wrote, and memorized scripts about historic figures buried at Fairview and then presented them to visitors.

For four hours on Nov. 3, 125 people paid \$10 each to hear the student's presentations and tour the cemetery. Those funds, as well as additional money raised from a silent auction of student photos, raised almost \$2,000 for help in restoring the damage caused by vandals and improving cemetery security. Later, two Fountain-based groups presented checks to the city of Fountain for the cemetery and complimented the UCCS efforts. The tally jumped to \$4,653.98.

"We benefitted as a faculty, the students benefitted and the community benefitted," Headle said. "Our students raised \$4,653 by asking what they could do to help and then doing it."

While it would be easy to rest on the laurels of the effort, Headle is moving forward. The summer class "Cemeteries, Legacies, and American History" offered as a test will be repeated this fall with Headle hoping for as many as 30 students enrolled. Another cemetery crawl will be part of the curriculum and both history and geography students are being involved by the city of Fountain in finding a location for a new cemetery for use when Fairview reaches capacity.

They're also making connections that Headle hopes will lead to interest in careers. A city official in charge of planning was an undergraduate geography major and has expressed interest in having UCCS students as interns.

"It's hard to believe that one of my goofy classes led to all of this," Headle said.

She was joined by Larkin who called the first crawl, and the second, scheduled for Oct. 12, 2013, as "great examples of service and experiential learning."

To see an earlier Communique story about Headle's and Larkin's efforts, visit <http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=8644>[10]

[Students create new maps with 'universal design' to expand access](#)[11]

Jarad Christianson, a senior in environmental design, near the bronze buffalo statue outside Folsom Field. He included the landmark in some of the 74 campus routes he helped create for CU-Boulder's new way-finding maps. The project using universal design was part of Christianson's coursework. (Photo by Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado Boulder)

In a new set of way-finding maps, planters at the University of Colorado Boulder are more than decorative containers. The concrete vessels serve as directional prompts for people to navigate central campus.

The bronze buffalo statue near Folsom Field is another cue used in the online maps, as well as references like "exhaust fan at 10 o'clock" to guide those who use their sense of sound to move about.

Developed in part by Jarad Christianson, a senior in environmental design, the maps are "universally designed" and provide step-by-step routes in text and audio formats based on beginning and end points set by the user. Universal design is the design of spaces and tools such as the Internet to be used by people with all types of cognitive and physical abilities.

"We need to include all types of abilities across the board because everybody should have a fair shot at experiencing what's on campus," said Christianson, who navigated campus on crutches a couple of years ago while recovering from an injury.

The way-finding maps include directions for newcomers and visitors, cane travelers and guide dog users, and people with wheels such as wheelchairs, strollers and rolling luggage.

Christianson's part in creating the maps included scouting campus and creating 74 routes between classroom buildings and other locations. The project, led by CU-Boulder's Disability Services, was part of a research assistantship in environmental design for Christianson. Students in a technical writing class, as well as a student advisory committee, map testers and staff from several administrative offices also were involved.

Christianson, who says he'd like to go into architectural practice after graduation, says the project has changed his perspective.

"Being involved in viewing the built world and the natural environment from different perspectives has been really valuable in the way I think about design -- visually, acoustically and with regard to textures," he said.

Over the next two years, more projects like Christianson's will be integrated into various CU-Boulder academic fields and coursework. Robert Boswell, vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement and a professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, is leading an interdisciplinary team that recently received a \$40,000, two-year grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for universal design curriculum integration.

Other team members include Meredith Banasiak, senior instructor of environmental design; Howard Kramer, lecturer on universal design for digital media; Matthew Jelacic, assistant professor of architecture; Clayton Lewis, professor of computer science; Michael Lightner, chair and professor of electrical, computer and energy engineering; and Melinda Piket-May, associate professor of electrical, computer and energy engineering.

"This grant supports our commitment to enhance universal design across a variety of disciplines," Banasiak said. "The enhancements can be made at many levels fostering inclusion as an aspect of multiculturalism and diversity on campus."

Not only will strengthening universal design make the CU-Boulder campus more inclusive, it will impact communities and help graduates in their careers, according to the grant recipients.

"As part of the campus's Flagship 2030 initiatives, our students and faculty are engaging more in the communities around them," Jelacic said. "As we branch out from the university, going into public schools and working with senior citizens and other populations, having universal design knowledge will help our students be more effective as they go out and find jobs."

To access the maps visit <http://www.colorado.edu/campuswayfinding>[13]. For more information about CU-Boulder's program in environmental design visit <http://academicaffairs.colorado.edu/envd/>[14]. For more information on CU-Boulder Disability Services visit <http://disabilityservices.colorado.edu/>[15].

[Center for NeuroScience has music on the brain at series launch](#)[16]

Professor Hector Rasgado-Flores talks about music and the mind during the Center for NeuroScience Brain Series program.

The mysteries of the interplay between music and the brain were explored recently in an entertaining program at the new Fulginiti Pavilion for Bioethics and Humanities on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The Nov. 14 multimedia program was the first in a new series on the brain presented by the newly established [Center for NeuroScience](#)[18]. Featured speaker and performer was Professor Hector Rasgado-Flores, of the Chicago Medical School, who discussed "Brain, Music and Sense" in a packed auditorium.

Rasgado-Flores, an accomplished musician and scientific researcher, combined analysis of music and its relation to human history, physiology and mood with performances on a piano in the center of the auditorium.

"The single most important purpose of the brain is to make understandable sense of ourselves and our universe," Rasgado-Flores said.

He showed how the brain, when exposed to different sounds from two speakers, puts the sounds together to hear them in a coherent way. "Your brain wants things to be simple because that's what makes sense -- it's nice," Rasgado-Flores said.

He also explained how music is the most powerful mood modifier known to man. He pointed out that Confucius said that music provides a moral force that's able to generate goodwill and harmony between families and communities. And famed musician George Frideric Handel said music is not a function of entertainment but of making better citizens.

The program included a talk by Dan Tollin, Ph.D., associate professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, and a performance by Mellow Media, the Anschutz Medical Campus orchestra. Introducing the program were Diego Restrepo, Ph.D., professor of cell and developmental biology and director of the Center for NeuroScience; Richard Johnston, M.D., associate dean for research development, School of Medicine; and John Sladek, Ph.D., professor, Neurology Department.

Sladek told the audience that more programs about interesting aspects of the brain will be presented in the future. He asked the audience to write him or Restrepo with any suggested program topics.

"We want this to be an interactive community forum where we partner with you and where these wonderful experts on campus in all of our departments -- which have these 170-plus neuroscientists -- can offer you ideas," Sladek said.

Johnston said the Center for NeuroScience represents the combination of the science of neuroscience with clinical applications. "You have the coming together of two very, very strong groups to address very, very serious problems."

Tollin gave a presentation of "Can You Hear Me Now? I Can't Remember." He discussed how the brain processes sound and talked about the growing problems of hearing loss and increasing rates of dementia and Alzheimer's disease in the United States.

"One of the goals of the NeuroScience Center is to bring together very disparate researchers that have been traditionally separated, both ideologically and by bricks and mortar, under one roof to think about how we can solve human health problems, particularly neurological problems," Tollin said.

[Students design, present plans for affordable housing](#)[19]

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Students in the interdisciplinary Urban Housing course taught this semester by College of Architecture and Planning Instructor Jennifer Steffel Johnson took on a task to research, facilitate and design three affordable housing charrette projects.

The results were presented at the Housing Colorado Now! Conference in Vail in October.

Charrette is defined as the intense final effort made by architectural students to complete their solutions to a given

architectural problem in an allotted time or the period in which such an effort is made.

To realize the assignment, three student teams, in the [Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program](#) [21](MURP), worked with an actual housing authority client. On each team were planning, architecture and landscape architecture students led by a pair of professional architects. The goal was to develop innovative affordable housing on three very different sites in Colorado: a 9-acre suburban site in Fort Collins, a 5.5-acre rural site in Estes Park, and an urban site in Denver.

Each site had its own assets and challenges. The students spent weeks leading up to the presentation by conducting extensive research and participating in community engagement meetings. Their groundwork set the stage for the three-day charrettes, which brought together design, finance, construction and development professionals, as well as staff of the respective housing authority clients.

Architect Tim Van Meter, team leader for the Denver-site project, noted, "The charrette was a success thanks to the student involvement. The common elements of the outstanding students on our team were: initiative, leadership, and willingness to engage maybe outside their comfort zone. I liked the diversity of the student team. Each professional element brought something to the team to advance the project."

Said Rita Kurelja, representing one of the clients, "On behalf of myself and the entire Estes Park Housing Authority, I thank you all for your time, dedication and amazing vision while working on our project. It was truly inspiring to see all that could be accomplished when such great minds and talents came together for a common cause."

The charrette boards produced by the student teams will be on display in the Dean's Suite, CU Denver Building, 1250 14th St., through Friday.

[Tuition benefit forms being accepted for spring](#)[22]

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Tuition benefit forms are now being accepted for the spring 2013 term.

All eligible employees may use up to nine credits per academic year (fall through summer) on a space-available basis at any CU campus. If the employee chooses not to use the credits personally, the employee may transfer the credits to an eligible dependent (spouse, same gender domestic partner, or child) to be used on a space-available basis at the campus of employment.

For all the details on utilizing this benefit, please visit www.cu.edu/pbs/tuition-benefit[24].

[Obituary: George Eisenbarth](#)[25]

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George Eisenbarth, a pioneer in diabetes research and director of the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, died Nov. 13 after battling pancreatic cancer. He was 65.

"George will be missed by all of us," said Steve Daniels, chair of the Department of Pediatrics. "He has provided steady leadership of the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes for many years, but more than that, George has been an inspiration for numerous investigators, clinicians, and other health care providers. He was dedicated to finding a cure for Type 1 diabetes mellitus and for improving the life of those with diabetes. George was awarded the Banting Medal,

which is the highest honor bestowed by the American Diabetes Association for a lifetime of achievement in research. He was truly a giant in this important field.”

Eisenbarth led research that first defined Type 1, or juvenile, diabetes as an immune-system disorder. His work focused on the genetic causes of the disease and ways of stopping diabetes before it gained a foothold in children.

Eisenbarth is survived by his wife, Frieda, and son Stephan, both of Denver, and daughter Stephanie, of New Haven, Conn. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be given to “The Regents of the University of Colorado” for the creation of a “Barbara Davis Center Playroom.” Donations for the playroom may be sent to Tai-Ping Hartwell, Mail stop A140, Barbara Davis Center, 1775 Aurora Court, Aurora, CO 80045. Please add “Barbara Davis Center Playroom” to the memo section of the check.

[Cucchiara named to student activities post](#)[27]

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Stephen Cucchiara is the new assistant director of student activities in the Department of Student Life and Leadership at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Previously, Cucchiara served as coordinator for student activities and organizations at Western Oregon University, where he collaborated with key departments to produce special events such as homecoming, summer concerts and family weekends in addition to advising campus fraternities and sororities and working with student clubs. At UCCS, he will work closely with various student organizations to produce campus-based student activities.

Cucchiara was selected following a national search and joined UCCS on Nov. 1. Prior to joining Western Oregon, Cucchiara was a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Affairs at the New York University College of Dentistry and a facilitator in the Center for Student Achievement at CUNY. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, N.J., and a master’s degree from New York University.

Cucchiara replaces Mitch Karstens, who accepted a position as the director of student life at Colorado Mesa University, Grand Junction.

[Bowser presented with Rising Star Award](#)[29]

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Jonathan Bowser, interim director of the Physician Assistant Program and an assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, was presented with the Rising Star Award from the Physician Assistant Education Association.

The award is given to program faculty or staff with three to seven years of service for demonstrated contributions or accomplishments in teaching, research or other scholarly activities, administration, and professional service.

The nomination letter described Bowser as “a thoughtful and insightful human being” who “brings these qualities as well as patience, humor and persistence to everything he does.”

[Gutiérrez named to national board](#)[31]

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Kris D. Gutiérrez, a professor of literacy and learning sciences and the Inaugural Provost's Chair at the University of Colorado Boulder, is an appointee for Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences. President Barack Obama recently announced his intent to appoint Gutierrez, as well as several others, to key administration posts.

Gutiérrez currently serves as a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences, a position she has held since 2011. She has been Associate Faculty of the Laboratory of Comparative Human Cognition at the University of California at San Diego since 2002 and Professor Emerita of Social Research Methodology at the Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences at the University of California at Los Angeles, where she taught from 1989 to 2009.

Gutiérrez is a Member of the National Academy of Education and Past President of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and the National Conference on Research on Language and Literacy. She served as a Member of the United States Department of Education's Reading First Advisory Committee and President Obama's Education Policy Transition Team. She is a recipient of numerous awards, including the AERA Scholars of Color Distinguished Scholar Award, the AERA Division C Sylvia Scribner Award, a Bernard Osher Fellowship with the Exploratorium Museum of Science, and a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences.

She earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Arizona State University and a doctorate in English and Education at CU Boulder.

[Chin at helm of new journal](#)[\[33\]](#)

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Anne Chin, a professor in geography and environmental science at the University of Colorado Denver, has been tapped as the inaugural editor-in-chief of the journal *Anthropocene*.

The new journal recently was launched at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America (GSA) in Charlotte, N.C. The journal will focus on human interactions with Earth systems and will publish peer-reviewed works addressing the scale and extent of the influence that people have on Earth, including the effects of human activities on landscapes, oceans, the atmosphere, cryosphere and ecosystems over a range of time and space scales.

"Anthropocene responds to increasing scientific recognition that humans have become the dominant agent of change at Earth's surface," Chin says. The journal launch occurred in conjunction with the Technical Session "Geomorphology of the Anthropocene," co-organized by Chin.

[Hartnett publishes capital punishment work](#)[\[35\]](#)

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Stephen John Hartnett, a professor and chair of communication at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver, has published "Executing Democracy, Volume 2: Capital Punishment & the Making of America, 1835–1843," available from Michigan State University Press.

This is a companion to the "Executing Democracy, Vol.1: Capital Punishment & the Making of America, 1683-1807" (Rhetoric & Public Affairs). The second volume enters the death-penalty discussion during the debates of 1835 and

1843, when pro-death penalty Calvinist minister George Barrell Cheever faced off against abolitionist magazine editor John O'Sullivan.

[Ren receives 2012 Excellence in Review Award](#)[37]

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Jason Ren, an assistant professor of civil engineering at the University of Colorado Denver, has received a 2012 Excellence in Review Award from the Journal of Environmental Science & Technology (ES&T), the top journal in environmental science.

Ren was selected as an awardee because of the "significant contribution that reviewers provide to the scientific community and the publication of scholarly research." His group has published three articles in ES&T since last year, and Ren has reviewed more than 100 manuscripts for 28 journals during the past four years.

Links

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