Groundbreaking researchers, educators named Distinguished Professors[1]

The University of Colorado has introduced five newly designated Distinguished Professors, the highest honor awarded to faculty across the CU system's four campuses.

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[2], he forwarded the candidates' names to the CU Board of Regents. During its Nov. 16 meeting at the University of Colorado Boulder, the board voted in favor of the nominees.

Honorees for 2017 are:

Paul Harvey, Ph.D., professor and former chair, Department of History, University of Colorado Colorado Springs. A leading expert on U.S. religious history, his work has brought a new perspective to thinking about the interaction and interplay of religion and race in American history. Harvey has authored, co-authored and edited 11 books and over 47 articles and book chapters, while the Religion in American History blog he established connects a far-reaching network of scholars. An outstanding educator and mentor of students, his numerous honors include the CU Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, the UCCS Outstanding Teaching Award and the designation of Presidential Teaching Scholar, recognizing specially designated scholars-teachers throughout the CU system. Read more in Communique.[3]

Peter Molnar, Ph.D., Department of Geological Sciences and CIRES (Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences), University of Colorado Boulder. Curious about a variety of processes in the earth, he is known as an expert on how mountain ranges and high plateaus have formed and evolved. His current research addresses how both high terrain, like the Tibetan Plateau, and ocean islands affect climate on geologic timescales, including both the history of the Indian monsoon and the development of ice ages that resulted in some 50 successive ice caps that covered Canada. In 2014, he was awarded the Crafoord Prize in Geosciences, awarded every four years by the Royal Swedish Academy of Science. Other honors include CU Boulder's Distinguished Research Lectureship. Read more in CU Boulder Today.[4]

Douglas Seals, Ph.D., Department of Integrative Physiology, University of Colorado Boulder. An internationally renowned scientist, his research has provided significant insight into not only the basic mechanisms of biological aging, but also lifestyle and pharmacological interventions for preserving physiological function with age, including cardiovascular health. At CU Boulder, Seals established the General Clinical Research Center – since renamed the Clinical Translational Research Center – which remains the only National Institutes of Health-supported clinical research center not housed in a hospital or at a medical school. His many CU awards include Professor of Distinction in the College of Arts and Sciences, Boulder Faculty Assembly Research Award and CU Boulder's Distinguished Research Lectureship. Read more in CU Boulder Today.[4]

Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D., Departments of Surgery and Pharmacology, School of Medicine, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. The director of the University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center, Theodorescu is an internationally renowned leader in understanding bladder cancer. His work has led to the discovery of genes that regulate metastasis in bladder cancer, tools that determine effectiveness of drugs in patients and the discovery of new drugs for cancer. Under his leadership, the CU Cancer Center has grown as a statewide consortium of three universities and three hospital systems. While maintaining a clinical practice as a surgeon, he has written or co-authored more than 300 peer-reviewed research publications. Theodorescu has received many awards and serves on several society boards and federal government committees. He is the founding co-editor of Bladder Cancer, the first journal focused on the disease. Read more at the Colorado Cancer Center Blogs.[5]

Thomas Veblen, Ph.D., Department of Geography, University of Colorado Boulder. An internationally renowned scholar, his work has changed people's understanding of temperate forests and the spatial and temporal dynamics of temperate forest landscapes. Veblen's work is widely recognized to have shaped the viewpoint that "disturbances" – fire, insect outbreaks, wind storms and (in some landscapes) landslides, etc. – are inherent, essential components of forest ecosystem functioning, rather than abnormal events in the overall forest ecology. His research has led to groundbreaking insights on the role of climate change in bark beetle epidemics and forest responses to beetle kill and fire in the Rockies. CU awards include Professor of Distinction in the College of Arts and Sciences and CU Boulder's Distinguished Research Lectureship. Read more in CU Boulder Today.[4]

With these five new designees, CU has recognized 92 Distinguished Professors since the program's establishment in 1977.

Board of Regents November meeting roundup[6]
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Game-changing online education proposal approved by CU regents[8]
The University of Colorado Board of Regents has unanimously approved an ambitious $20 million proposal to implement university online education goals over the next four years. Introduced by Regent Stephen Ludwig, D-Denver, the plan...
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Read more[10]

Game-changing online education proposal approved by CU regents[8]
[11]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has unanimously approved an ambitious $20 million proposal to implement university online education goals over the next four years.

Introduced by Regent Stephen Ludwig, D-Denver, the plan had been vetted through the regents and faculty constituents before being brought to the board at its Nov. 16 meeting in Boulder.

"We're asking to invest $20 million over the next four years because that's a lot to get done in a short amount of time," Ludwig said.

The proposal was developed in the wake of disappointing results from efforts that began in summer 2014 to coordinate a unified online campus presence.

"The campuses' efforts with the cross-campus portal were not successful," Ludwig said, noting although there was growth in enrollment, it was purely organic. "We invested a lot of money in marketing and that didn't turn out like we'd

hoped."

An Academic Affairs Committee report showed that between fall 2016 and spring 2017, CU spent $500,000 on marketing plus staff time to develop the CU Connect portal, and while the site received healthy traffic, users did not proceed toward registration in significant numbers.

"Basically, our culture, rewards and structure are holding us back," Ludwig said. "We are behind our peers in the amount of degrees we offer."

A bright spot in the advancement of CU's online education presence is the success of a grant program approved by the regents in 2016 to implement a cross-campus, three-year, online only degree[12], which will launch in fall 2018.

Highlights of the new online initiative include:
Identifying a set of five key bachelor's degrees and five key master's degrees that serve the current and near-term employment needs in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain region by fall 2018. Degrees will be expanded to be available completely online, using techniques such as asynchronous delivery, multiple start-times per semester. By fall 2022, the university will develop and launch two online-only degrees with a total fixed cost to students of $15,000 (including books and fees), one for bachelor's level and one for master's level.
See the full presentation here.[13]

In October, Ludwig and Regent Jack Kroll, D-Denver, met with Michael Lightner, vice president for academic affairs, and determined to split the initial proposal into two sections: goals and funding, approved at the Nov. 16 meeting; and implementation, which will be outlined and voted on at the regents' Feb. 8-9 meeting at CU Denver.

Lightner said that because the goal and the money allotment were approved in the Nov. 16 vote, the rest of the initiative needs to be further fleshed out before the February meeting.

"We need to think of, 'What structure or strategy do we put in place to support the goals?'" These may or may not be the same steps as in the original resolution, he said, noting that the initial goals are a road map. "We need to determine, 'What are the appropriate mechanisms to achieve the goals the board has voted on?'"

Working closely with the board – primarily Regents Ludwig and Kroll – Academic Affairs will develop a minimal structure that allows for the regents to move forward, Lightner said.

Projected outcomes of the $20 million investment include:
$15,000 degrees that reflect CU's commitment and willingness to be a national leader in addressing the growing costs of higher education. Strengthening CU's commitment to helping working, rural and first-generation students attain their educational goals. Further demonstrating CU's commitment to helping Colorado meet its workforce needs.
The regents voiced enthusiasm and optimism at this initial step to fulfill the university's vision of accessible education through online learning and fully online degrees.

"It's got me more and more excited about the potential and the future of where we can go," said Regent Heidi Ganahl, R-Superior. "Something I'd like to see as part of this effort is obviously rural Colorado and our students there, and how important it is to pull them in to the University of Colorado."

She also stressed the importance of increased opportunities for adaptive learning, "It's not just online learning, it's a new way of teaching, a new age of learning."

Regent Irene Griego, D-Lakewood, appreciated the research and analysis of university peers across the country. "I think that redesigning and looking at what it would take and what we're doing – and what we need to be doing in terms of best practices – will take us where we need to be."

Added Regent John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, "This is a priority for the university. We realize there are going to be adjustments along the way. It's a significant moment when we say as a board, 'This is very important.' It puts us on the leading edge of something for our state and broader."

Kroll and Board Chair Sue Sharkey, R-Castle Rock, stressed the importance of online opportunities for military personnel and veterans to get a jump on their education.

“This is providing access to people within the state of Colorado and our rural community,” Sharkey said. “I serve in a district that is mostly rural, eastern Colorado, and one of our desires as regents is to provide access to as many people as possible and it certainly does that not only within Colorado but outside the state.”

Regent Kyle Hybl, R-Colorado Springs, approved of the plan, but expressed concern over funding for the $15,000 full degree. “I worry … that what we’re doing is incentivizing the university to subsidize that through other activities.”

Lightner and Ludwig said funding would be resolved in the second part of the proposal to be voted on in February.

Regent Glen Gallegos, R-Grand Junction, was optimistic, but guarded. “We thought we were on a pretty good track, and we find it’s not moving forward, so we’re going to invest $20 million. So I hope along the lines we’re going to address those issues.

“I think that this is hopeful, but I’ve been there before. I don’t want to get so excited and then four years down the line we don’t have the campus involvement that we’re hoping for.”

Low loan debt, high return on investment for CU students, grads[9]

Data on University of Colorado student loan debt and financial aid continues to indicate good news for students and graduates. Todd Saliman, vice president and chief financial officer, on Nov. 16 presented the Board of Regents an update on financial aid and student debt[14] that compared CU numbers with the state and nation, and showed a new video on CU financial aid[15].

Last year, CU students received more than $260 million in grants and scholarships. About two-thirds of that came from CU and CU donors, with the remainder coming from state and federal grants.

Saliman said CU’s financial aid investment in its students once again eclipsed that of that state’s investment in students in colleges across Colorado. Over the past 15 years, CU’s investments in grants and scholarships for students has nearly quadrupled, from about $50 million to $183.8 million.

Saliman reported that, nationwide, bachelor’s degree recipients earn $1.4 million more than high school graduates over the course of their careers.

And while the average undergraduate student loan debt is around $26,000 – or about $9,000 less than the average new car loan – the investment in a degree appreciates over 10 years, while the car depreciates 77 percent during that time.

Also, in a CU survey, students who graduated with a bachelor’s degree from CU reported annual earnings of 13 times more than their student loan payment.

The news is even better for CU students and graduates. The latest cohort default date report shows that default rates – nine or more months of late or no payments for the 2014 cohort – across the state (11.3 percent) were in line with national rates (11.5 percent), while default rates among CU students and graduates were much lower, at an average 3.7 percent:
CU Boulder: 3.1 percent CU Denver | Anschutz: 3.3 percent CU Colorado Springs: 5.5 percent
Saliman reported that although individuals nationally who do not earn their degree have a lower average loan balance than degree earners at $12,354, the delinquency rate – meaning late payments within 30 days up to nine months for

federal loans – averages 43.5 percent. Meanwhile, the average loan for students who earn a bachelor's degree is $24,133 with an 11.1 delinquency rate. Master's earners average $48,260 in loan debt, but their delinquency rate is only 6.8 percent.

From 2012 to 2016, Saliman said CU has attracted and retained more Pell-eligible students – an indicator of students with the most financial need – than other institutions in the state with an increase of 7.9 percent. For the same period, the Colorado State University system dropped 11.6 percent and Metropolitan State University Denver dropped 31.8 percent. The statistics were based on the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's need-based financial aid formula, which rewards retention and progress of Pell eligible students.

Saliman said that CU students are closing the cost gap by:
Appling for scholarships. Reducing time to earn their degree. Earning college credit in high school or competency testing. Living with family or with multiple roommates. Using alternative transportation. Cutting back on personal expenses. Remaining on parents' insurance plan.
Related: CU Boulder's commitment to lowering college costs, student debt showing in the numbers[16]

Regents notes: Student brain injury; new degrees[10]

Campus leaders say CU Boulder is committed to studying traumatic brain injury and preventing it among students – athletes and non-athletes alike.

At the request of the Board of Regents, CU Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano and Athletic Director Rick George reported on the topic[17] during the board's Nov. 16 meeting at CU Boulder. Concussions and CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy) have figured prominently in sports headlines nationally in recent months.

DiStefano and George pointed to NCAA reforms such as prohibiting two-a-day practices during football preseason camp as lowering the risk of injury for student athletes.

Some 10 faculty members at CU Boulder study traumatic brain- and head-related injuries. DiStefano said one of the faculty members also is working with students who are not athletes but who have sustained head injuries. The prevalence of skateboards, bicycles and headphone usage are contributing to an increase in such injuries among non-athletes.

George said the Pac-12 "is really taking the lead on this," pointing to the conference adopting practice protocols in 2014. The conference this month also announced that CU Boulder has been selected[18] to lead its Student-Athlete Health and Well-Being Concussion Coordinating Unit (PCCU).

Regent Irene Griego said the board is supportive of the campus's continuing research and any recommendations that emerge from the research.

In other business at the Nov. 16 Board of Regents meeting:
The board voted 7-0 (Regents Carson and Hybl absent) to approve the CU Denver 10-year Campus Facility Master Plan[19]. In a presentation to the regents[20], Chancellor Dorothy Horrell called it "an ambitious plan" that anticipates a student population growing from the current 15,000 to over 25,000 a decade from now. The board approved a new online degree[21] for the CU Boulder campus: the professional Master of Arts in Journalism Entrepreneurship in the College of Media, Communication and Information. Two new degrees[22] in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver and the Colorado School of Public Health at CU Anschutz were approved: a master's and a doctorate in Health Economics.

Tenure list: November 2017[23]

The CU Board of Regents on Nov. 16 approved[24] five appointments with tenure.

University of Colorado Boulder
Daniel Appelo, Applied Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences, effective Nov. 18. **David Crandall**, Computer Science, College of Engineering and Applied Science, effective Aug. 20, 2018. **Ellen Yi-Luen Do**, Computer Science, College of Engineering and Applied Science, effective Nov. 18.
University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus
Jonathan Samet, Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health, effective Nov. 17. **Michael Verneris**, Pediatrics, School of Medicine, effective Nov. 17.

Close of calendar year brings to-do list for employees[25]

The windup of 2017 is near, bringing with it key changes and deadlines for all University of Colorado employees. To ensure they receive important documents such as the W-2 error-free and on time, employees should complete these tasks in the employee portal[26]:
Validate and update addresses. Employees should have a mailing and home address on file. Important tax documents are sent to the mailing address listed in the portal. To prevent delay in receiving forms, it is vital to verify or correct your addresses in the employee portal by Jan. 5. **Verify Social Security number**. Confirm the Social Security number on file is correct. Incorrect numbers will affect W-2s, potentially causing issues with the IRS. **Check name.** If an employee legally changed their name this year, they should verify that the name on the digital pay stub matches the one on their Social Security card.
4. Set a reminder for these dates:
The IRS releases the 2018 version of the W-4 in **mid-December**. If an employee met the Social Security wage base in 2017, deductions will resume on **Jan. 1**. The deadline to update a mailing and home address in the employee portal [26] is **Jan. 5**. W-2 forms will be mailed by **Jan. 31** and posted in the portal shortly thereafter. If a person filed as tax exempt in 2017, they must submit the 2018 W-4 form or update their W-4 Tax information in the employee portal by **Feb. 6**.
Click here[27] to view full instructions on completing these steps.

To learn more about important dates and to review 2018 tax rates and contribution limits, visit the Employee Services website[27].

Campus Q&A: On teaching Shakespeare to youth[28]

Vice chancellor for administration and finance candidates announced[29]

An exercise in nutrition for elite athletes to armchair quarterbacks[30]

Loving Lynx Program helps students in need[31]

Ending abuse – one ‘flag’ at a time[32]

Bergen appointed to Poynter Institute Board of Trustees[33]

Rogers named Employee of the Quarter[34]

Verner joins University Communications and Media Relations[35]

Leinwand wins American Heart Association Distinguished Scientist Award [36]

Szpyrka, Fortune recognized as Women of Influence[37]

Dassanowsky appointed to Global Center of Advanced Studies[38]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/groundbreaking-researchers-educators-named-distinguished-professors[2] http://www.cu.edu/content/distinguished-professors[3] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=28657[4] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2017/11/16/cu-names-3-boulder-faculty-members-distinguished-professors[5] http://www.coloradocancerblogs.org/cu-cancer-center-director-dan-theodorescu-md-phd-named-distinguished-professor/[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/board-regents-november-meeting-roundup[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/bor_roundup.jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/game-changing-online-education-proposal-approved-cu-regents[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/low-loan-debt-high-return-investment-cu-students-grads[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-notes-student-brain-injury-new-degrees[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/bor_online_top.jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/interdisciplinary-studies-degree-making-progress[13] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AT6QRP646702/$file/02%20Online-four%20for%20colorado%20Nov%202017_Final.pdf[14] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/ASXT4L754C34/$file/Student%20Debt%20and%20Financial%20Aid%20Presentation%20%20-%20Final%2011-16-17.pdf[15] http://www.cu.edu/cu-student-financial-aid[16] https://www.colorado.ed

u/today/2017/11/21/cu-boulders-commitment-lowering-college-costs-student-debt-showing-numbers[17]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/regents-meeting_11-17_head-brain-injury-rpt.pdf[18]
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http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/InstitutionalPlanning/CampusPlanning/Pages/CU-Denver-Master-Plan-2017.aspx[20]

[21] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2017/11/16/board-regents-supports-online-education-proposal-approves-new-masters-degree-more[22] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/ASHQ7F67B949/$file/Executive%20Summary%20and%20Budget%20MS%20and%20PhD%20in%20Health%20Economics%20v2.pdf[23]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tenure-list-november-2017[24]
http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=ANWU4Z7A4F6A[25]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/close-calendar-year-brings-do-list-employees[26] https://my.cu.edu/[27]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/leinwand-wins-american-heart-association-distinguished-scientist-award[37]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/szpyrka-fortune-recognized-women-influence[38]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/dassanowsky-appointed-global-center-advanced-studies