University Benefits Advisory Board discontinued[1]

The University Benefits Advisory Board (UBAB) was informed that it was being discontinued effective immediately at its Friday meeting.

The decision was made by President Bruce D. Benson at the recommendation of E. Jill Pollock, vice president of employee and information services, who presented the board with this letter[2] at the meeting. She also emailed the communication to Faculty Council on Friday.

“President Benson believes the voice of faculty and staff is heard through their Regent-designated governance groups,” Pollock wrote in the email. “For employee health plans, in particular, times have changed from 1999, when UBAB was established. Employees have a direct way to offer suggestions to improve our plans each year, and for other benefits, like the tuition plan, their governance groups actively have been involved in recommending updates on behalf of constituents.”

Direct feedback and suggestions from employees regarding health and benefits plans will continue to be solicited. The CU Health and Welfare Trust last month asked employees for suggestions for health plan improvements and received more than 160 suggestions from Trust plan participants.

Employees also may present suggestions for health and benefit plan improvements via the Faculty Council’s Personnel Committee[3] and Staff Council.[4]

Employees with questions or concerns about health plans may call a benefits counselor from Employee Services at 303-860-4200, option 3, or toll-free at 1-855-216-7740, option 3.

No health insurance? CU has you covered[5]

[6]

With the fast-approaching Affordable Care Act mandate that individuals purchase health care, the University of Colorado will allow employees who have waived university medical plans and do not have health insurance to enroll in university plans.

During Limited Enrollment, from 8 a.m. Monday to 5 p.m. Nov. 22, employees without insurance may enroll in CU medical plans. During next spring’s Open Enrollment, employees will be able to add dependents to their plans or add dental and vision plans. If employees waived CU Plans but have other health care coverage, no action is needed.

“CU felt it was important to give employees without insurance the opportunity to enroll in our plans, instead of using the exchanges, where they wouldn’t qualify to receive subsidies,” said Michelle Martinez, benefits administration director with Employee Services. “It was a way to show that CU cares about the health and wellness of its employees.”

Employees can choose from three plans:
CU Health Plan - Exclusive CU Health Plan - Kaiser CU Health Plan - High Deductible
Enrolling is simple: Visit the Employee Services website (www.cu.edu/es[7]) and click on the “CU Has You Covered” banner. From there, visitors will find all the necessary information to choose a medical plan, complete the Limited Enrollment Form[8] and submit it to Employee Services by 5 p.m. Nov. 22.

By Dec. 15, new enrollees will find their plan selection information in the employee portal under Payroll and Compensation - Benefits Summary. Medical coverage begins Jan. 1, 2014.

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[9].

Q&A: Hugo Rosen[10]

[11]

Hugo Rosen, M.D., FACP, is head of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He holds the Waterman Endowed Chair in Liver Research and is professor of medicine and immunology. A graduate of the University of Miami School of Medicine, he completed his internship and residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School in Boston.

He also completed a fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology at the University of California, Los Angeles and joined the University of Colorado in 2005.

How did you become interested in science and medicine?

The laboratory facet of my career was triggered by a yearning to understand why some patients with hepatitis C did well and yet others required liver transplantation and why in some of those latter patients, the transplanted livers were attacked again by the virus. So, my research has really been translational in nature, i.e., what's the clinical question of relevance and how can we best elucidate the mechanisms that account for different outcomes?

Why hepatology?

In my fourth year in medical school, I was signed up for an elective that turned out to be hepatology. It was the late 1980s; not many options existed for patients with liver disease other than steroids, which don't really help most conditions. Interferon for viral hepatitis had not yet been approved and liver transplantation was being performed in only a handful of programs. Yet, I fell in love with the area and feel fortunate to have chosen a sub-specialty that has evolved so rapidly in the past 25 years.

What interested in the career path you have chosen, academia?

It's nearly impossible to do translational research in any other setting than academic medicine. That statement might raise objection from those in other settings, but my point is that despite challenges in funding, academia is still the best place to take care of patients, design laboratory-based approaches to study their illnesses, and if all goes well, contribute to the larger scientific community and translate these insights into improved patient outcome.

Is there a teacher or mentor who helped shape your career?

I was fortunate at UCLA to have a number of excellent clinical mentors in liver disease, but I'd have to say Randy Wahl, Ph.D., a molecular biologist, had the greatest impact on my development as a scientist. Randy was a phenomenal scientist who had a strong understanding of clinical medicine and taught me many techniques, and more importantly, how to frame a research question. My scientific training wasn't conventional in that I didn't train in a liver lab or in a viral hepatitis lab; instead, I learned how to design and interpret experiments and then applied these tools to the clinical questions that impassioned me. I strongly encourage young people to train in laboratory environments different from their chosen paths in order to develop novel perspectives and paradigms.

How would you describe your professional interests?

I think "patient-centered" and "translational" would be the terms I would use. I'm not going to chase a specific pathway in mice that doesn't relate to human disease, although I can see the value. I am interested in filling the gaps in our information: Why do people with the same liver diagnosis develop different outcomes? It's also interesting to try

to expand my knowledge from viral hepatitis to other common problems, including alcoholic liver disease and fatty liver disease. We are now collaborating with metabolic experts who haven't yet focused on the liver in order to understand the genetic and innate immune mechanisms that mediate phenotypes of disease. Having trained at UCLA, I have the benefit of a strong background in transplantation medicine; one of the most gratifying outcomes is managing a patient with chronic liver disease who progresses despite our best efforts but then gets a new lease on life with a transplant. It's great to be a part of such an outstanding transplant program here in Colorado.

Why did you choose the University of Colorado?

The University of Colorado had an established liver group established by Dr. Everson and Kam, so to have a chance to join this group clinically, as well as to be part a rich immunology program was the appeal.

What kinds of professional opportunities or advantages does being a faculty member at an academic medical center provide?

Tertiary academic centers provide us with the opportunity to manage patients who are really ill, many having failed standard treatments. As such, these cases offer challenges and opportunities for further knowledge through collaboration with like-minded physicians and scientists.

If you could change one thing about the world of medicine, what would it be?

That's too tough a question to respond to briefly, but I believe we are experiencing an incredible evolution in our understanding of the molecular mechanisms that underpin diseases. At the same time, many patients don't derive benefit from these advances for a number of reasons, again, too complex to expound upon. What I'd like to see is that these advances would be readily available, even outside of the major academic centers, so that we could better understand that each disease is in actuality a heterogeneous group of diseases with different genetic and pathophysiologic signatures that require tailor-made approaches. We've already seen how compelling and powerful these approaches can be in viral hepatitis, inflammatory bowel disease, and oncology, but that's just the tip of the iceberg.

U.S. policy should encourage highly skilled, foreign Ph.D. students to stay, CU-led study finds[12]

Encouraging more talented foreign students to study at U.S. universities and encouraging them to launch entrepreneurial ventures here could help "revitalize innovation and economic growth" in this country, a trio of economists led by University of Colorado Boulder professor Keith Maskus concludes.

Maskus and co-authors Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak, associate professor at the Yale School of Management, and Eric T. Stuen, assistant professor at the University of Idaho College of Business and Economics, make this case in the Policy Forum of the Nov. 1 edition of the journal Science.

The economists' perspective draws on their study of 100 research-intensive U.S. universities in 23 science and engineering fields, which found that both U.S. and foreign students are "essential causal inputs into scientific discovery." The trio has also found evidence that increased student diversity boosts innovative research.

Maskus and his collaborators have found that high-performing foreign-born Ph.D. students improve the "creation of knowledge" in U.S. universities. When knowledge is created, it tends to drive entrepreneurial investment and economic growth.

In fact, the researchers found, "The productivity of the average American university science and engineering laboratory in generating publications is a bit higher if it has students from 10 different countries than if it has 10 students from one country."

That might not seem intuitive, Maskus acknowledged. “What it comes down to is that people trained in different traditions tend to have different specialties in terms of how they come to a teamwork environment. And teamwork is more productive, more efficient if you have people with divergent ideas, so they can play off of each other.”

Such diversity of intellect, capacities and specializations makes a measurable difference, Maskus added. “It doesn’t matter so much on a factory line, but it matters a lot in an intellectual sense when you’re trying to be innovative and creative.”

The publication comes as Congress weighs whether and how to change the U.S. immigration system. A bipartisan bill that cleared the U.S. Senate in June but has stalled in the House includes provisions that partly mirror those recommended by Maskus and his team.

Based on data showing that highly skilled Ph.D.s in science and engineering tend to generate new jobs where they work, the bill would pave the way for Ph.D.s in science and engineering who are from foreign countries to gain permanent U.S. residency after graduation.

U.S. law requires foreign students to leave the country after earning their Ph.D.s unless they find employers willing to sponsor their visas, which, Maskus and his colleagues note, might not lead to permanent U.S. residency. In recent years, the percentage of foreign Ph.D.s remaining in the United States after graduation has declined.

The Senate bill would grant a green card, or permanent residence, to foreign students who get a Ph.D. in science or engineering at American universities. The bill would also facilitate green-card status to those who have recently earned doctoral degrees in science and engineering at recognized scientific institutions worldwide.

Maskus and his colleagues also recommend an entrepreneurship visa. Such a visa could be granted to those who have secured a patent and met certain milestones for getting that idea commercialized. The idea is similar to an investment visa—granted based on immigrants’ investment in the U.S. economy.

This year, Canada implemented an entrepreneurship visa that includes inventive foreign Ph.D.s. The program aims to attract science and engineering graduates from U.S. universities.

“Ultimately we think this is an important way of reinvigorating economic growth and technological change in the U.S.,” Maskus said.

Additionally, the trio contends that decisions to grant student visas to prospective graduate students from foreign countries should be granted on more factors than just their ability to pay. Historically, the ability-to-pay requirement has been used by immigration officials as an indicator that foreign students will return to their countries of origin.

In the case of foreign Ph.D.s in science and engineering, such a requirement “is short-sighted,” Maskus said. “The country should welcome people who can contribute in developing innovation and new technology and permit them to stay.”

“You have to have access to the best innovative inputs and resources in the world,” Maskus said. “The Europeans recognize that, the Australians, the Canadians.”

Addressing a commonly expressed fear, Maskus and his collaborators do not find evidence that granting green cards to high-performing foreign Ph.D.s would displace American Ph.D.s.

The research of Maskus, Mobarak and Stuen reinforces recommendations of groups ranging from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to the National Academy of Sciences.

Campus 5K and roll call to honor Veterans Day[13]

[14]
The Office of Veteran and Military Student Affairs will commemorate Veteran's Day with a 5K run through campus and by participating in the National Roll Call project.

The Veterans Day 5K Run and 3K Walk will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Forster House before looping around campus.

"We wanted a fun and athletic event to really raise awareness for this year's Veterans Day," said Phillip Morris, director, Office of Military and Student Affairs.

Registration for the race costs $25, with proceeds donated to The Home Front Cares, a local nonprofit that provides financial assistance, goods and services to families of active duty, activated reserves and National Guard troops based in Colorado serving in harm's way and the UCCS Student Veterans' Organization.

After the race, prizes will be awarded in a number of categories, including overall place, age group and best team effort.

To register for the Veterans Day 5K Run and 3K Walk, visit: http://www.uccs.edu/military/upcoming-events/svo-runwalk-fundraiser.html[15].

On Monday, the Office of Military and Student Affairs will observe Veterans Day by participating in the National Roll Call project, which recognizes members of the U.S. armed services killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Beginning at 7 a.m. in Berger Hall, the names of about 5,000 service members who died as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom since will be read aloud.

Volunteers are sought to read the names as part of the ceremonies. To participate, call 719-255-3253, or visit www.tinyurl.com/rollcall13[16].

At noon, all participating campuses will observe a simultaneous nationwide minute of silence.

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs will also host an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday in Berger Hall to share the services offered to active duty military members, veterans and families.

Other events to honor Veterans Day include:

The Invisible War[17]
Today | 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. | University Center room 302

The Office of Veteran and Military Affairs and Women's and Ethnic Studies will present a screening of the documentary "The Invisible War," which investigates rape within the U.S. military."We know that not all trauma is caused on the battle field, and want to be there to support all our veteran and military students and their needs," Morris said. A panel discussion will follow the movie. The panel will include individuals from the UCCS Counseling Center, Women's and Ethnic Studies and a Military Sexual Trauma Counselor.

Military Creative Expressions Art Exhibit Reception
Tuesday l 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. | Kraemer Family Library Apse

An art exhibit featuring the work of UCCS and Colorado Springs veteran and military students will be on display in the Kramer Family Library Apse Oct. 30 – Nov. 30. A reception is scheduled for 5 p.m. Tuesday and will include a meet and greet with the artists, as well as a discussion on the process of artistic healing for military veterans.

Elliman puts innovation and service at forefront[18]

[19]
The University of Colorado Denver needs to be adaptive, responsive and relentlessly innovative in the fast-changing environment of higher education, Chancellor Don Elliman said in his State of the Campus address.

Elliman spoke to a standing-room-only crowd in the Terrace Room as he highlighted CU Denver's many achievements of the past year and addressed the challenges on the horizon. The large audience on Oct. 30 included Steve Bosley, a member of the University of Colorado Board of Regents[20].

Elliman said CU Denver, celebrating its 40th anniversary[21], welcomes its largest and most diverse freshman class at a time when students' needs are far different from decades ago. More than ever, the university must offer services based on students' needs first.

"I realize that considering student needs is already well in our culture, but the bar has been raised and continues to go upward," Elliman said. "We need to respond. If we don't, our students will seek -- and they will find -- alternatives."

The chancellor outlined progress CU Denver has made on the five campus-wide priority areas identified in last year's State of the Campus[22] address:
Harnessing technology to our best advantage (progress of the Technology Review Committee[23] and consolidation of disparate units that work on information technology into one organization, the Office of Information Technology[24], as well as offering more online options). Developing new programs (new programs in all schools and colleges to better serve students as well as serve workforce needs in the community). Increasing awareness of CU Denver (the "Learn with Purpose"[25] advertising campaign and progress on defining and marketing the CU Denver brand). Growing our enrollment and addressing other aspects of our financial situation (a freshman class that's up 16 percent from last year and more diverse than ever; the biggest-ever fundraising year[26] with $18 million in philanthropy, and focused efforts to increase the types and amounts of research grants to CU Denver). Fostering student success.
Elliman said a quote by Adlai Stevenson, former governor of Illinois and presidential candidate, sums up the core of CU Denver's mission: "We do not follow in America the jungle doctrine of the survival of the so-called fittest. We follow, rather, the doctrine of fitting as many as possible for survival."

The chancellor said student success is "arguably one of the single biggest challenges we face" and that "significant progress" is being made.

The university is putting more resources into analytics related to the entire life cycle of a CU Denver student, from recruitment and enrollment to graduation and afterward. This includes a "service blueprinting process" to look at student services from a student's point of view and examine "pain points" that needlessly complicate the student experience.

Ensuring student success

Elliman highlighted many ways CU Denver is helping students persist to obtain a degree. They include:
Mandatory summer orientation for all new freshmen. Starting next fall, when the new academic building[27] opens on time and on budget, we will have a "one-stop shopping" space for student services. A restructured Student Affairs[28] division that works with students from recruitment through graduation and beyond. Improving the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS), and updating the course catalog to ensure that degree requirement information is current and easy to find. Improving and streamlining our academic advising[29]. Engaging students through more events and fostering a sense of campus community through more extra-curricular clubs and the Club Sports[30] program.
Elliman said everyone at CU Denver is to be commended for their dedication to helping our students persist and graudate. But still, he said, universities have had a tendency to focus inwardly. "Our job has been to teach, and it has been up to the student to learn. That formula will not compete in today's world," he said. "We have to figure out how to be more connected to student learning -- including making the process easier to access, more flexible and beyond that, more supportive."

Soliciting ideas

He asked the faculty, staff and students for their ideas on ways we can further innovate to meet the ever-changing challenges in higher education. He asked that **ideas be sent to** CUDenver-ideas@ucdenver.edu[31]. "Push us, but please, push us constructively ... Help us think of solutions. I promise we will listen."

Elliman concluded that while change is difficult, to not change would be fatal. "We are an urban research university -- a very good one," he said. "Let's work together to be even better."

The chancellor's comments hit home for students in the audience.

"His speech was insightful, and it gave me, as a student, hope for the future," said Lubna Mazin, student body vice president.

William Card, a music major, said, "As a freshman, it was comforting to see what the university does to meet the needs of a changing student body."

For the complete 2013 State of the Campus address, click here[32].

Alyssa Kriese contributed to this story

Marks reviews Anschutz campus responses to array of challenges[33]

Lilly Marks delivering the State of the Campus address at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Oct. 30, 2013

As the environment for academic health centers changes dramatically, the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is adapting right along with it, Lilly Marks, vice president for health affairs at the University of Colorado and vice chancellor of the Anschutz campus, said Oct. 30.

This flux in funding, research and delivery, she said in her State of the Campus address[35], is the “new normal.”

Speaking to a crowd of about 150 at the Hensel-Phelps Auditorium on the Anschutz campus, Marks said CU is responding to challenges by improving and innovating in its key missions of research, education, clinical care and community outreach.

“Many of these projects,” she said, “will stretch us and challenge us as we adapt to new initiatives and new partnerships, building new strengths while maintaining our traditional expertise.”

She was joined for the 90-minute event by Chancellor Don Elliman, who outlined efforts to develop an advertising and marketing campaign that will allow CU Anschutz and the campus hospitals it partners with to speak with one voice about the value of the health care city that has arisen in Aurora.

“We have a great story to tell,” he said.

Elliman also discussed efforts to increase private philanthropic funding, such as the reorganization of the CU development office.

Staying in top tier of research

Marks said the new normal requires shifts in “structure and strategy across all mission areas," starting with research.

“I believe that one of our imperatives and collective goals must be to ensure that we do not fall out of the top tier of research institutions,” Marks said.

The Anschutz campus pulls in some $400 million in research annually, two-third of that from federal sources. But research funding has tightened over time. More immediately, researchers have had to cope with federal sequestration, which Marks said would cost the campus about $20 million, and the partial government shutdown that only foreshadows more political battles to come.

The Anschutz campus handles some 6,000 grants and contracts a year. Marks said faculty and staff had made clear that the system for processing those was “overwhelmed” and “fragmented.”

Beyond some recent personnel changes, she said, the entire university is assessing, through a consultant, ways to improve how it handles grants and contracts. Other initiatives to keep research humming include:
Finding ways to accelerate the transfer of discovery from bench to bedside to marketplace. Partnering with industry to conduct clinical research more effectively, efficiently and successfully. Creating the Center for Biomedical Informatics and Personalized Medicine containing a Clinical and Research Enterprise Data Warehouse.
Marks noted that CU plans to move 20 or so staff for human resources and budget and finance from Denver offices to the Anschutz campus to better meet faculty and staff needs.

Innovations by Anschutz campus programs

Marks also outlined educational innovations on campus. These include an Adolescent Dental Clinic; expansion of medical school enrollment and creation of the school’s Colorado Springs branch; and a new Leadership in Public Health master’s program.

Also, pharmacy students are helping the underserved through a Salud Family Health Centers program; nursing and public health students will have new choices of a DNP/Public Health Nursing specialty and a DNP/MPH dual degree; and the Graduate School will use a federal grant to recruit 12 highly qualified minority PhD students in the STEM disciplines.

Interprofessional education is revamping its curriculum, Marks added, and MOOCs—massive open online courses—are popping up on the Anschutz and Denver campuses.

Responses to clinical care turbulence

Marks then turned to clinical care, calling it “perhaps the most turbulent mission area in our institution.”

Some of the bumps come from the Affordable Care Act, she said, but many are caused by market dynamics and economics.

The response? All those construction cranes on the Anschutz skyline for a few years provide part of the answer. University of Colorado Hospital and Children’s Hospital Colorado built new towers and expanded services.

Another form of growth is the leap UCH has taken from stand-alone hospital to part of the University of Colorado Health system, spanning much of the Front Range with five hospitals and two affiliated hospitals, 15,000 employees, dozens of clinics, imaging facilities and urgent care.

The goal, Marks said: “A system that will provide the right care, at the right time, in the right location, at the right cost.”

Community connections in the works

Finally, Marks turned to community connections. The $4 billion Anschutz campus, on a former Army facility in Aurora, sits in one of the most economically challenged neighborhoods in the state.

“We are doing a lot” for that community, Marks said. “We have to do more.”

Marks announced that CU will support a new program designed to link campus and community. The goal is to create academic and workforce connections and launch other initiatives to serve community needs.

And efforts won’t stop there. While there have been individual initiatives, she said, “we have not provided a lot of leadership in efforts to improve the health status of our citizens around Colorado.”

So, Anschutz is exploring ideas—and grant funding—to improve health statewide, using as a model two statewide programs developed by the University of New Mexico for its state.

More fun, more shade

The campus itself is also changing.

“We pretty much value-engineered every amenity out of this campus” when it was being created, Marks said. “We need to have a campus that is fun, more friendly.”

She cited steps such as bringing food trucks to campus on Wednesdays and holding a first-ever block party attended by an estimated 2,000 people.

The new master plan for the campus also is designed to foster collaboration with what Marks called “collision spaces” where people with different interests can interact. One example: Redoing the area of prairie grass adjacent to Research 1 South to make it a gathering place. And, she said, “more shade.”

Several audience members asked Marks about how to increase revenue from new sources. Marks said that beyond reorganizing CU’s fundraising operation, she anticipated political strategies to generate dollars for the campus.

Another questioner pressed Marks for detail on how CU might make what she called the “pretty hard decisions” on what areas to focus on and fund in the “new normal.”

Marks said those choices should not be made from on high but should be “a decision of the academy.”

She asked faculty and staff on campus to continue to constructively push for change and to suggest innovations. Send ideas to CUAnschutz-ideas@ucdenver.edu[36].

In her remarks about the campus last year[37], Marks detailed the complexity and depth of the problems. This year, she said, the Anschutz focus is on action.

“We all need to adopt new skill sets and new mind sets,” Marks summed up. “We can be open to change or be victims of change.”

Hynes named fellow of American Chemical Society[38]

[39]
James Hynes, a CU-Boulder distinguished professor in the chemistry and biochemistry department, has been named a fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS). He is one of 96 scientists ACS honored in 2013 for their outstanding contributions in scientific research, education and public service.

Hynes is well-known in his field for contributions to the theory of chemical reaction rates and mechanisms of vibrational dynamics in solution. He also is known for his research on the heterogeneous chemical reactions important in

stratospheric ozone depletion.

Hynes has won numerous awards for his research, including the Hirschfelder Prize in Theoretical Chemistry in 2004, the largest award in the field and which carried a stipend of $10,000. He also won the ACS Hildebrand Award in Theory and Experiment of Liquids in 2005. Hynes was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences in 2011 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2008.

Hynes also was a J.S. Guggenheim Fellow in 1979 and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow from 1975 to 1977. He has been at CU-Boulder since 1971 and he has made hundreds of appearances as an invited lecturer around the globe. He also is affiliated with the Department of Chemistry at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris.

Since the program began in 2009, two other CU-Boulder faculty members have been named ACS Fellows: Professor Josef Michl and Professor Adjoint David Nesbitt, both of the chemistry and biochemistry department. Nesbitt also is a fellow at JILA, a collaborative institute of CU-Boulder and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

CU-Boulder faculty, staff receive Fulbright awards[40]

Kevin Krizek, professor of environmental design

Seven University of Colorado Boulder faculty and staff have received Fulbright grants to pursue research, teaching and training abroad during the 2013-14 academic year.

Those who have accepted Fulbright grants and their destination countries are: **Clarence “Skip” Ellis**, professor emeritus of computer science, Ghana; **Paul Erhard**, professor of double bass, India; **Nan Goodman**, professor of English, Turkey; **Kevin Krizek**, professor of environmental design, Italy; **Jodi Schneiderman**, program manager for international employment, Germany; **Elisabeth Sheffield**, associate professor of English, United Kingdom; and **Mark Williams**, professor of geography and fellow of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, Nepal. An eighth faculty member, **Jeffrey DeShell**, professor of English and creative writing, was offered a grant to teach in Norway but was unable to accept the award.

Ellis will head to Ashesi University in Accra, Ghana, in January 2014 to teach for the semester. His course -- World Simulation: Culture, Technology and Ethics -- will examine how various governments around the world work, teasing out ethical, economic, social and political factors. Goodman will teach the upcoming spring semester at Bo?aziçi University in Istanbul. She will teach courses on the American novel and the law, as well as women’s fiction. She’ll also be doing research on the connections between the New England Puritans and their Ottoman counterparts.

Krizek, who also is outreach and education coordinator and transportation fellow at the CU Environmental Center, currently is in Bologna, Italy. He is researching the role of community design and bicycling in promoting sustainable cities in Italy and beyond for an upcoming book and his website, http://www.vehicleforasmallplanet.com[42]. Schneiderman, who also is a career counselor at CU-Boulder’s Career Services, returned last week from two weeks in Fulbright’s International Education Administrators Program in Berlin. She also visited Strasbourg, France, and learned about both countries’ higher education systems in order to better serve international students on the CU-Boulder campus and to encourage study abroad.

Erhard’s project involves research in India on the use of the tanbura -- a long-necked stringed instrument -- as an aid for developing musical perception and intonation. Sheffield will research and lecture in the United Kingdom on the representation of violence in contemporary Irish and American fiction.

The Fulbright program, which is sponsored by the U.S. State Department and chooses participants based on academic merit and leadership potential, operates in more than 155 countries. Roughly 800 U.S. scholars and 800 international visiting scholars receive awards each year.

Latest Carpenter documentary to air on public TV[43]

Betsy Huelskamp is among the motorcycle enthusiasts featured in Michelle Bauer Carpenter's 'Driven to Ride.' (Photo courtesy Allen Dewey)

Michelle Bauer Carpenter, an assistant professor of digital design in the College of Arts and Media at CU Denver, has created a documentary that celebrates the spirit and diversity of women motorcycle riders.

“Driven to Ride” will be screened at the East Lansing Film Festival – Lake Michigan Film Competition on Sunday. The documentary also will be broadcast on Colorado Public Television 12 at 9:30 p.m. Nov. 24.

One of the riders featured in “Driven to Ride” spent more than four years in 50 countries on six continents, riding 101,322 miles. Another grew up driving tractors and snowmobiles, and on her 10th birthday, she received a 50CC dirt bike.

Carpenter has produced, directed and edited several award-winning experimental and documentary videos that have been screened in international and national film festivals and art galleries. Her most recent film, “Above the Ashes,” told the story of five men who tried to save homes from the destructive Fourmile Fire. The film won two Heartland Chapter Emmy Awards for “Best Topical Documentary” and “Best Program Editing.”

Dropping names ...[45]

Beall

Divittorio

Brink

Keränen

Jeffery Beall of the Auraria Library recently was awarded the Julie J. Boucher Award for Intellectual Freedom at the 13th Annual Colorado Association of Libraries Conference. The award associated with these lectures commends Beall for criticizing "predatory practices" in publishing, despite being faced with a billion-dollar lawsuit. The Julie J. Boucher Lecture Series on Intellectual Freedom honors Julie J. Boucher, an advocate of expression and an opponent of censorship. Boucher (1963–1996) served as associate director of the Library Research Service (LRS) at the State Library, Colorado Department of Education from 1991-1996. She died in a mountain-climbing accident with her husband, Clive F. Baillie, assistant professor, College of Engineering, University of Colorado. … **Katy DiVittorio** of the Auraria Library has been accepted into the American Library Association (ALA) Emerging Leaders Program. The program promotes librarian leadership and problem-solving. No more than 50 applicants are selected annually. The EL program begins with a daylong session during the ALA Midwinter Meeting and continues with an online learning and networking environment for six months. The program culminates with a poster session presentation to display the results of the project planning work of each group at the ALA Annual Conference. … **Lois Brink**, a faculty member at CU Denver’s College of Architecture and Planning in the Department of Landscape Architecture and a longtime

advocate of innovative playground environments for children, was a panelist for the keynote session, “The Economic Value of Play,” featured in September at Playful City USA: Leaders’ Summit. Brink has been known for directing the program, Learning Landscapes, which designs and constructs playful environments conducive to reconnecting communities to their public schools, as well as encouraging “participatory learning.” … **Lisa Keränen**, associate professor of communication, director of graduate studies in communication at CU Denver, gave an invited keynote address at the inaugural Discourses of Medicine and Society Symposium at the University of Cincinnati, Sept. 4-5. Her talk was titled, "Health Security in an Age of Catastrophic Risk.” The symposium brought together leading medical rhetoric scholars from North American to set an agenda for future medical rhetoric/health communication research. Keränen also was one of three invited representatives of the National Communication Association (NCA) at the 2013 Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC) conference in Albuquerque, N.M., Oct. 19-22. Keränen spoke about “The New Social Contract: Moving Science Communication from Deficit to Engagement” as part of an NCA session on “Citizen Engagement on Science and Policy." … **Betcy Jose**, assistant professor of political science, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver, last month published “Civilians vs. Chemicals: Protecting the Right Norm in Syria” on the Foreign Affairs site of the Council on Foreign Relations, which asserts that the U.S.-Russian negotiation cannot minimize the destruction created by war. The article has since been discussed in the some of the most read blogs for politics and political science.

Be Colorado offers employees a healthier lifestyle with Weight Watchers[50]

[51]

Be Colorado has joined forces with Weight Watchers to bring CU Health Plan participants special savings on valuable and convenient weight-loss solutions.

Employees may choose from meetings at work, in their local community or Weight Watchers online. Together, Be Colorado and Weight Watchers will provide ongoing support, motivation and customized solutions to help employees reach their weight-loss goals.

The Be Colorado Weight Watchers benefit provides members with access to special corporate pricing and a 50 percent taxable subsidy of purchase price. Employees may choose one of these flexible offerings that best suits their lifestyle and preference:
Weight Watchers meetings with Monthly Pass – Employee Monthly Cost: $17.17
Monthly Pass offers the convenience of Weight Watchers meetings in the workplace and unlimited meetings locally, along with free eTools, an Internet weight-loss companion that helps individuals stay on track between meetings.
Weight Watchers Online Subscription – Employee Monthly Cost: $7.57
Weight Watchers Online Subscription provides a step-by-step online experience with interactive tools and resources like a weight tracker, progress charts, restaurant guides and much more.
Each of these programs offers support, convenience and a scientifically proven approach to weight-loss. Employees may begin signing up Nov. 15.

Visit becolorado.org[52] to learn more about this special offer.

Call for nominations: Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award[53]

Nominations are requested for the Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award, which recognizes and honors an outstanding faculty member of the University of Colorado for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching.

Instituted in 1992, the award is named for Elizabeth Gee, a faculty member in the Health Sciences Center School of Nursing and the late wife of former CU President Gordon Gee.

The Gee Award is the only award in the CU system that specifically recognizes outstanding work on women's issues and efforts to advance women in the academy. It carries with it a $1,000 prize, and the recipient will present his/her scholarly work at the CU Women Succeeding Annual Professional Development Symposium on Feb. 28, 2014.

Eligibility

Any full-time faculty member from any CU campus may be nominated. See below for more details on the nomination process. Previous nominees are encouraged to re-apply. Preference will be given to nominees who have been with the University of Colorado at least five years.

Criteria
Record of advancing women in the academic community (please note that nominee should show evidence of advancing women beyond his/her own department); Significant and original scholarship and/or creative work; Record of research, teaching, and/or service that pushes the boundaries of disciplinary knowledge and make connections between disciplines; Distinguished record in teaching excellence.
To nominate a candidate, please submit the following:
a nomination statement in letter form (please individually address each of the four criteria listed above in the letter), a two to three page abbreviated current curriculum vitae of the nominee a one to two page personal statement from the nominee (please individually address each of the four criteria listed above in the statement, and a minimum of three letters of support from the University community and one letter from the extended academic community.
One letter from a student or advisee is optional. More letters are allowed as long as the 20-page overall limit is not exceeded.

Nomination packets should not exceed 20 pages.

Nominations will only be accepted when all materials are submitted. Deadline for submission is Nov. 11. Please electronically submit the nomination packet as a single PDF file to facultycouncil@cu.edu[54]. If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Melinda Piket-May at melinda.piket-may@cu.edu[55].

Social Security among topics at Preparing to Retire seminars[56]

[57]
Ask Erik Jensen about the future of Social Security, and he'll refer you to a powerful group of people, 75 million strong, who are ensuring the program's viability.

The baby boomer generation — born 1946 -1964 — is increasingly moving toward retirement. Its members have the backing of AARP, one of the country's largest lobbying groups. And they're relying on Social Security to see them through their golden years.

"I think this is a piece of everyone's future," says Jensen, district manager of Colorado and Wyoming for VALIC Financial Advisors Inc. "There are some folks at CU that might not have Social Security, but their spouse might. Or (they have Social Security from working) years of summer jobs."

When Jensen gives his presentation, "Social Security and Your Retirement," as part of the university's "Preparing to Retire" seminars, he hopes to see several Gen Xers, Yers and Millennials among the crowd. Even if the program does someday fade into oblivion, Jensen says it's crucial for even today's youngest workers to think about how Social Security might play into their financial portfolios.

"Social Security and Your Retirement" is steeped in the notion that you must understand your finances today to decide

where you want them to be tomorrow. Jensen's talk also uncovers several Social Security strategies, potential setbacks and interesting facts.

Some examples:

Strategy
Want to take full advantage of your Social Security benefit upon retirement? Wait to begin withdrawing funds; each year after your full retirement age (FRA) that you abstain from claiming Social Security up to age 70, you'll receive an 8 percent increase in benefits. You don't have to be retired to claim benefits.
Potential setback
If you retire and have a pension fund that did not withhold Social Security taxes, such as the Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA), and receive Social Security, you may receive a reduced Social Security benefit. Learn more[58].
Interesting fact
If you were married for 10 years or more to someone with a Social Security benefit, and the marriage ended, you may be able to claim half of your ex's benefit without his/her knowledge.
Learn about Social Security and much more at "Preparing to Retire,"seminars, sessions and fairs organized by Employee Services and set for Nov. 18, 19, 21 and 22 on each CU campus.

See the event calendar[59] to find Jensen's seminar and more.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-benefits-advisory-board-discontinued[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/2013_10-31_UBAB-Continuance-Memorandum.pdf[3] https://www.cu.edu/facultycouncil/committees/sc_personnel.html[4] https://www.cu.edu/content/ucscroster201314[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/no-health-insurance-cu-has-you-covered[6] https://connections.cu.edu/file/limited-enrollpng[7] http://www.cu.edu/es[8] https://www.cusys.edu/benefits/documents/2013-14%20Limited%20EnrollChange%20Form%20Condensed.pdf[9] mailto:benefits@cu.edu[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/qa-hugo-rosen[11] https://connections.cu.edu/file/hugopng[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/us-policy-should-encourage-highly-skilled-foreign-phd-students-stay-cu-led-study-finds[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campus-5k-and-roll-call-honor-veterans-day[14] https://connections.cu.edu/file/uccs-vet-wkpng[15] http://www.uccs.edu/military/upcoming-events/svo-runwalk-fundraiser.html[16] http://www.tinyurl.com/rollcall13[17] http://events.uccs.edu/event/documentary_screening_discussion_the_invisible_war[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/elliman-puts-innovation-and-service-forefront[19] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdellimanpng[20] https://www.cusys.edu/regents/[21] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/denver/Pages/40th-Anniversary.aspx[22] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/Chancellor-Elliman-emphasizes-student-success-in-State-of-University.aspx[23] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/ITS/TRC/Pages/default.aspx[24] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/whoweare/chancellor/vicechancellors/adminfinance/executiveteam/informationtechnologyservice/Pages/default.aspx[25] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/spotlight/Departments/Pages/Learn-with-Purpose.aspx[26] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/Fundraising-hits-high-mark-on-campuses.aspx[27] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/denver/Pages/Academic-Building-1.aspx[28] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/whoweare/chancellor/vicechancellors/provost/executiveteam/studentaffairs/Pages/default.aspx[29] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/asac/Pages/default.aspx[30] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/clubsports/Pages/Join-A-Team.aspx[31] mailto:CUDenver-ideas@ucdenver.edu[32] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/TheChancellor/ChancellorsCommunications/Pages/2013-State-of-the-Denver-Campus-Address.aspx[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/marks-reviews-anschutz-campus-responses-array-challenges[34] https://connections.cu.edu/file/amarkspng[35] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/Chancellor/VP-HealthAffairs_EVC-

AMC/Executive%20Vice%20Chancellors%20Communications/Documents/sotc2013_CUAnschutz.pdf[36] mailto:CUAnschutz-ideas@ucdenver.edu[37] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/Marks-says-Anschutz-Medical-Campus-must-be-architect-of-change.aspx[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/hynes-named-fellow-american-chemical-society[39] https://connections.cu.edu/file/phynespng[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-boulder-faculty-staff-receive-fulbright-awards[41] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pfulbrightkrizekpng[42] http://www.vehicleforasmallplanet.com/[43] https://connections.cu.edu/people/latest-carpenter-documentary-air-public-tv[44] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pcarpenterpng[45] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-76[46] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnbeallpng[47] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdndivittoriopng[48] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnbrinkpng[49] https://connections.cu.edu/file/pdnkeranenpng[50] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/be-colorado-offers-employees-healthier-lifestyle-weight-watchers[51] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dykwwpng[52] http://becolorado.org/[53] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-nominations-elizabeth-d-gee-memorial-lectureship-award[54] mailto:facultycouncil@cu.edu[55] mailto:melinda.piket-may@cu.edu[56] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/social-security-among-topics-preparing-retire-seminars[57] https://connections.cu.edu/news/investment-insight-offered-at-retirement-prep-seminars/ret-planning[58] https://www.copera.org/pera/retiree/socialsecurity.htm[59] https://www.cu.edu/pbs/benefits/ptr/index.html