Regent candidates: Here's why we want to serve[1]

Editor's note: The Faculty and Staff Newsletter invited each of the candidates on the Nov. 2 ballot for Board of Regents to respond, in up to 250 words, to this request:

Please tell the faculty and staff of the University of Colorado system why you wish to serve on the Board of Regents.

Responses received this week appear below; responses received by next week will appear in the Oct. 27 issue:

AT LARGE Steve Bosley
Incumbent, R-Broomfield
Steve BosleyIncumbent, R-Broomfield

I am frequently asked why, with the financial crisis at CU, I would choose to serve another six years. My heartfelt response: People who truly care, who have the passion, commitment, background and proven experience to help are needed now to address CU's No. 1 priority, the most challenging budget crisis in our 134-year history.

My background and experience are not theoretical. They have stood the tests of real life. When added to my experience on the board, I have a unique perspective into these unprecedented economic issues facing CU. However, measures implemented to deal with the crisis must be evaluated in the context of upholding our moral commitment to provide affordable access to qualified Colorado students, and our pledge of a world-class education.

At the very core of our success of providing a world-class education is the quality of our outstanding faculty, on every one of our campuses. You are committed professional educators who truly care about educating Colorado's students and the discovery and exploration of new knowledge. I recognize and greatly appreciate the outstanding commitment the staff has made to do your part in addressing this challenge. I know every one of you is carrying a bigger load and you are doing more with less.

I am not a politician and have no intention of seeking other public office. I love my alma mater, care about our students and the future of higher education in Colorado. My interest is to help CU continue as a world-class public university.

Melissa Hart
Democrat, Denver
Melissa HartDemocrat, Denver

I hope to serve on the Board of Regents because I believe I can bring a perspective to the board that we need so that CU will remain a leader for higher education in the future. We need regents whose vision for CU respects the great work that is done by staff, faculty and students all over the university and recognizes the high quality of the faculty whose research helps to build the university's name. We need regents who are focused on keeping high-quality education affordable for Colorado students at a great research university that provides innovation and growth to our state. That is the kind of regent I will be – focused on education and CU's future, and not on the ideological agendas that have recently occupied the board's time.

For the past decade, I have been teaching at CU's School of Law. I have been actively involved in faculty governance, serving on committees at the school, on the Boulder campus and across the university. I know a lot about what works well at CU, and where we can be better. Most of all, though, I know the people working on the campuses are the people who will find the budget cuts, the program refinements and other sacrifices that will get us through these very tough financial times. What the regents must do is offer a vision for CU's future and for the future of higher education in Colorado. I am running because I offer that vision and that focus.

DISTRICT 1
Michael Carrigan
Incumbent, D-Denver
Michael CarriganIncumbent, D-Denver

For the last six years, I have been honored to represent the 1st Congressional District on the CU Board of Regents. During those six years, I have been a consistent advocate for shared governance and the interests of faculty and staff. If re-elected, I will continue this commitment for another term.

The University of Colorado is at an important crossroads. As the state continues to reduce its funding, the administration will be faced with many difficult options. I am committed to preserving CU's excellence and accessibility. Essential to those goals is that we respect and protect the needs and interests of our faculty and staff. In recent years, faculty and staff have been asked to make tremendous sacrifices by contributing more toward their retirement and health-care premiums, all while being asked to do more work for no more pay. The sad reality is that the need for such sacrifices may continue in the future. If I am re-elected, I will do everything I can to make sure faculty and staff (and students) have a voice in the tough budget decisions that lie ahead.

I have always been and will continue to be open and accessible. I invite any faculty or staff members with questions or concerns to contact me at carrigan@cu.edu[5] or the direct line at my office, 303-295-8314. Thanks to all our loyal faculty and staff for all they do to make our university great.

DISTRICT 4
Robert "BC" Bishop-Cotner
Democrat, Windsor
Robert "BC" Bishop-CotnerDemocrat, Windsor

I would like to be on the CU Board of Regents because I feel I can make a positive impact on Colorado's future in education. I have a passion for teaching, and as a current high school teacher, I see tomorrow's freshman everyday in my classroom. I see and hear their dreams for a higher education. My goal is to keep the opportunity for that education available to all Colorado students, and still maintain affordable tuition while balancing the costs of providing excellent programs. I believe that it is possible to strengthen the entire educational system, K through grad school, and I feel that the University of Colorado should be Colorado's premier, flagship University.

I bring with me the experience of being both a college student and a teacher. This will enhance the overall perspective of the board when making those tough decisions. I also bring the experience of management through crisis after serving on the Windsor Town Board through the 2008 tornado and the economic downturn. Through both, Windsor has not had any furlough days or layoff of employees. We have not had to cut services, and we have balanced the town budget while still adding new parks, police station and Interstate 25 interchange improvements. All things are possible – Never Settle!

Benson shares university's progress, challenges in town hall meeting[7]

University of Colorado faces substantial challenges, primarily related to funding, but is making progress on several fronts through a combination of offensive and defensive measures, CU President Bruce Benson told students, faculty and staff today at a town hall meeting on the Boulder campus.

Benson said he is proud of the way the university community has continued to provide a quality education despite funding declines that have stretched resources thin and left employees with less take-home pay.

Town hall meetings continue

The schedule for President Bruce D. Benson's upcoming town hall meetings:

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs
10-11:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 29, University Center Theater, Room 302

University of Colorado Denver
3:30- 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, Lawrence Street Center, 1380 Lawrence St., Second Floor Terrace Room

Anschutz Medical Campus
3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 3, Nighthorse Campbell Native Health Building, Shore Family Forum

"Our people are our greatest asset," he said. "I can't tell you how proud I am of the work you do."

Some 220 people attended the forum at Old Main. It is the first of four; one will be held on each campus. (UCCS – Oct. 29; UCD – Nov. 2; AMC – Nov. 3)

Benson said the university could face more budget cuts from the state, with CU's share of state funding potentially plummeting to $80 million from its current $158 million base ($209 million, when including stimulus funds, which dry up this year). The university will have a better idea of its state funding next month, when the governor submits a draft of the 2011-12 budget.

Responding to a question about whether CU would consider alternative forms of compensation such as dependent tuition for employees, Benson said the university needs to find ways to retain people during times of financial stress, when raises are not an option.

"I don't want to start losing our quality faculty because we can't reward them, and we're already seeing it happen," Benson said.

He pointed to a pilot employee dependent tuition program on the Colorado Springs campus as one way the university can compensate employees outside of salary. The pilot is being assessed and results will be available soon, he said.

Benson said offensive measures the university has taken include passing Senate Bill 3 in the last legislative session, which gives higher education more flexibility in recruiting international students, making real estate transactions, state fiscal rules, procurement and tuition setting. He also pointed to administrative efficiencies such as reducing the number of university policies from more than 200 to fewer than 100. He highlighted one particular change that emerged from the Task Force on Efficiency, a system-wide effort whose recommendations included raising the threshold required for Official Function Forms from $100 to $500, which saves processing of 8,000 forms annually.

Benson said the university is in the quiet phase of a comprehensive fundraising campaign, which will be launched publicly next year. The university is also establishing an advocacy program to engage external audiences in legislative, fundraising and educational initiatives.

The university will also examine its program offerings and teaching loads, he said. When asked faculty's role in the effort, he said "There will be serious faculty involvement on every campus."

Some of the defensive measures the university is involved with include close involvement with the state's Higher Education Strategic Plan, being led by a panel appointed by Gov. Bill Ritter. Benson pointed out one of "hundreds" of recommendations in the plan which would have harmed CU, raising the university's index score for incoming freshman. He said the proposal, which was rescinded, would have cost CU some $16 million annually.

He also said the administration and campuses continue to work with the Board of Regents to provide context around budget discussions. Last week, a board resolution to cap tuition increases was defeated 5-4. It is incumbent upon the administration to give the board good information about the intertwined pieces of CU's budget, he said.

"We have a lot of education to do," Benson said.

Faculty Senate's fall meeting set for Oct. 28[8]

Any and all interested faculty members are invited to attend the University of Colorado Faculty Senate's fall meeting, which is set for noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28, in the First Floor Conference Room at 1800 Grant St., Denver.

CU President Bruce D. Benson will address the Faculty Senate at 12:30 p.m. The group also will hear reports from Clayton Lewis, Privilege and Tenure Committee chair, and Mark Malone, Faculty Council chair.

The Faculty Senate, which consists of all members of the general faculty of CU, meets once per semester.

To RSVP for the meeting, please e-mail Thomas.Spahr@cu.edu[9].

Churchill appeal heard in court[10]

The Colorado Court of Appeals today heard oral arguments in former University of Colorado professor Ward Churchill's lawsuit against CU. Opening briefs in Churchill's appeal were filed in February.

The appeal began after a District Court judge denied Churchill's request to be reinstated at the university.

At question in the appeal is whether the university was within its rights when it investigated his scholarship, if the Board of Regents has quasi-judicial immunity from such a lawsuit, and whether Churchill should be reinstated.

CU attorney Patrick O'Rourke represented the university at the hearing in Denver. A decision in the case could come in a few days or several months.

Five questions for Janice Torkildsen[11]

Janice Torkildsen at the atrium in the new Center for Community, which she helped develop

"Lucky" is a word Janice Torkildsen uses often to describe herself when it comes to life and love: Lucky because she has worked with administrators who encouraged her talents and creativity, and lucky because she's married to the man of her dreams.

Destiny might have intervened, but more likely it's Torkildsen's passion and caring attitude that have helped shape her life and career.

She's the marketing and customer experience manager for Dining Services at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She came to CU in 1986, working at Sewall Hall as an assistant manager, taking care of staff, ordering food and overseeing the daily operations of the dining center. Since then she's performed numerous jobs including serving on the committee of Global Jam, an event that has celebrated different cultures for the past 20 years. The annual picnic for new students attracts as many as 8,000 for a sampling of a variety of ethnic foods.

In the early '90s, she developed a student care-package service called Home Comforts, in which parents would send students gifts for birthdays or stress relief. Sometimes, parents sent a grocery list and Torkildsen would do the shopping and make a delivery to grateful students. Though successful, the program was cut from the budget, but Torkildsen hopes to reincarnate it in the near future.

She also was instrumental in the opening of convenience stores (C-stores) on campus, followed by Piazanos, a grab-n-go that serves natural and organic items and is a student favorite. It's an endeavor she calls one of the highlights of her career.

Most recently, she played varied roles in the opening of the Center for Community building. "I have a creative edge and luckily I have been fortunate enough to have folks in upper administration recognize that and give me the opportunity to create. I have always been a bit of a free spirit."

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. What was your role in the new Center for Community (C4C) building?

My role varied day to day, from co-chairing a few design committees to selecting art to creating marketing pieces and all the signage you see in C4C. I created logos and branding and designed articles for publications. I also worked closely with the management team to name the food venues, select uniforms, and work wherever I was needed to get the building open.

I established relations with other campus departments because I didn't want to just buy a piece of art, I wanted to put up art that staff or students or alumni created. I wanted to make this a real community center. I worked with plant sciences to get plants for the space, the art department and the alumni association. Many of our alumni who go abroad will be sending me some of their photos to be used in the space. I am also trying to create a venue where faculty, students and staff from the music school can perform.

We want this to be educational, too. At each of the food venues, you'll find flat-screen TVs. At the Italian venue, for instance, you won't find the menu on the TV, but the culture of Italy, the food of Italy, the music of Italy.

We have a Black Coat station, where celebrity chefs will cook. Coach Hawk (Dan Hawkins) was the first to appear, cooking mussels. And we're gearing up to bring in more local celebrities.

It goes back to the community idea. Athletes eat here. Faculty and staff eat with us. Before, if there was a faculty or staff person in the dining center, it was kind of like, "Who is that old person?" Now we have faculty and staff bringing in families. In fact, I just ordered high chairs. It's a really, really fun thing to see.

2. C4C has been open only a short time, but have there been any surprises?

Surprisingly, the Persian Station has turned out to be one of the most popular. I don't think many of our students have been exposed to Persian food and it gives us great pleasure to go beyond the ordinary and what's expected and help our students develop a taste for foods of different cultures. We brought in a chef from a local Persian restaurant as a consultant and we serve a special Persian tea brewed in a Samovar.

The Smoke and Grill is a place that students really like with comfort food like mac and cheese, burgers and brats, and the salad bar area, which is 60 feet long, always is packed.

The number of guests has far exceeded our expectations. We serve upwards of 5,800 customers a day at C4C. We're a meal plan facility, that's the bulk of our business, but we just happened to create a place where everyone wants to eat. The number of people who pay for meals, rather than those on a meal plan, has increased greatly.

There's always something open until 8 p.m. One venue, a retail operation called the Weather Tech Cafe, is open until 2 a.m. We had a lot of input from students asking to have something open later. It's quite busy in there.

We also have an A9-free area where we serve food that does not contain the nine allergens, such as tree nuts, berries, milk, fish, gluten. It's pretty groundbreaking as far as universities go.

We had a group of students actually find our office (which is a bit out of the way) to say, "Thank you for opening this great place for us." That's a first and it certainly made my day!

3. Part of your job is "customer experience." It seems the idea of "customer as key" faded a bit but is now returning. Is this true?

I don't think customer services faded, I just think that we drifted away from the personalization of things and now we have done a complete 180-degree turn. One of the most exciting things about my current position is that I get to chat with our students on a daily basis, hold focus groups, and really get to know them. If I see a student sitting alone at a table I just sit myself down, introduce myself and let that student know that we really do care about each and every one of them. Customer Care, as I like to call it, is creating memories that last a lifetime. A lot of my favorite personal memories have been centered on a family meal or a special occasion or celebration that has involved a great meal. Our dining centers are our students' kitchens and living rooms. I can honestly say that our customer service is great and everyone that works in dining services goes out of his or her way to make sure our students have the best experience when they dine with us.

4. Tell me a little about you personally. Any hobbies or interests outside of work?

My greatest joy outside of work is my 33-year marriage. I was lucky to marry the man of my dreams. I know it sounds a bit sappy, but I count my blessings every day. We met when we were 18. We both were working at a little job; I was the sales girl and he was the stock boy.

I like to travel, read, garden and paint, and we have a 1962 Airstream trailer that we are restoring. Last year we went to Italy; that was lovely. We're kind of groupies for George Strait, a country musician we first saw in 1978. Now we travel all over the country to see him. We were just in Seattle for a concert and next we go to Minnesota. We also have a son who lives in L.A., so we like to hop on a plane for long weekends.

When my husband told me he was getting a motorcycle, I said it was a midlife crisis thing. Then he took me up to the mountains and now I want to go every weekend. It's amazing, the smells and the senses you have. The funniest thing about it is that I actually fall asleep when I'm on the back. It's so relaxing to me to be on those beautiful mountain roads.

5. What is a goal or dream you hope to achieve either professionally or personally?

One of my professional goals is to assist as many students as I can in getting prepared for life after college. I have supervised hundreds of students, jobwise. At this point in my career, I've become a mother figure. I bring them to my home for dinners where we have a tradition. Their moms send their favorite recipes and I buy all the ingredients – they are college students on a budget – and they come to my house and cook. I keep in touch with many of the students who have worked with me and have been told by them that I have made a difference in their lives. Talk about a dream come true! To know you are respected, loved and appreciated. It can't get better than that.

Personally, when I retire I would love to travel the back roads of our country in our Airstream, enjoy my family and have good health.

Colorado Bioneers returns for eighth year[13]

The eighth Annual Colorado Bioneers is set for Friday, Nov. 5, through Sunday, Nov. 7, on the University of Colorado at Boulder campus.

The Colorado Bioneers is a companion to the national Bioneers event[14], part of a national movement to inspire connections between environment, health, social justice and spirit, and to shift how people regard the Earth, one another and future generations. Each year, it creates community opportunities for discourse and action, and brings together the region's progressive ideas, people and organizations.

The event features a broadcast of the national event's plenary presentations, which are augmented locally by music and arts, networking, children's eco-activities, field trips, sessions, workshops and keynotes addressing topics of regional importance and community solutions.

Local featured presentations include Stuart Lord of Naropa University, Ann Cooper of Boulder Valley School District, Louise Bennally from Big Mountain Dineh Nation, Ietef Vita of the GrowHaus and Going Green Living Bling, and the Rev. Peter Sawtell with Eco-Justice Ministries.

Local keynote speaker Jonathan Waterman will present the Save the Colorado Campaign and speak about his book, "Running Dry: A Journey From Source to Sea Down the Colorado River," at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, in Humanities B150. Waterman's presentation is free and open to the public.

Some 30 sessions and workshops will cover a wide range of topics and issues, including food and farming, renewable energy, indigenous wisdom, biomimicry, climate, sustainable economics, green building, youth, worms, and eco-equity.

The Colorado Bioneers event is produced by the CU Environmental Center[15] in collaboration with Transition Colorado, Blue and Yellow Logic, Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Naropa University, Center for Resource Conservation and Woodbine Ecology Center.

For more information or to register, visit http://ecenter.colorado.edu/bioneers[16].

CU Children's Center earns national accreditation[17]

The University of Colorado Children's Center, part of the department of housing and dining services at CU-Boulder, has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children[18] (NAEYC), the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals.

"We're proud to have earned the mark of quality from NAEYC, and to be recognized for our commitment to reaching the highest professional standards," said Anita Head, director of the center. "NAEYC Accreditation lets families in our community know that children in our program are getting the best care and early learning experiences possible."

To earn NAEYC Accreditation, the CU Children's Center went through an extensive self-study process, measuring the program and its services against the 10 NAEYC early childhood program standards and more than 400 related accreditation criteria. The program received NAEYC accreditation after an on-site visit by NAEYC assessors to ensure that the program meets each of the program standards. NAEYC-accredited programs also are subject to unannounced visits during their accreditation, which lasts for five years.

In the 25 years since NAEYC accreditation was established, it has become a widely recognized sign of high-quality early childhood education. More than 7,000 programs are currently accredited by NAEYC – about 8 percent of all preschools and other early childhood programs.

"The NAEYC accreditation system raises the bar for child-care centers and other early childhood programs," said Jerlean E. Daniel, Ph.D., the association's executive director. "Having earned NAEYC accreditation is a sign that the CU Children's Center is a leader in a national effort to invest in high-quality early childhood education."

The NAEYC Accreditation system has set voluntary professional standards for programs for young children since 1985. In September 2006, the association revised program standards and criteria to introduce a new level of quality, accountability and service for parents and children in child-care programs. The current standards reflect the latest research and best practices in early childhood education and development.

For more information about NAEYC accreditation, visit www.naeyc.org/academy[19].

'Nutraceutical' research asks, could cardiovascular health fit in a pill?[20]
Photo by Noah Larsen
Workers in CU-Boulder Professor Douglas Seals' Integrative Physiology of Aging Laboratory monitor a subject being tested for arterial elasticity. Clockwise from left: doctoral student Ashley Walker, postdoctoral fellow Brad Fleenor, research assistant Molly Russell and test subject Kevin Strickfaden.
Photo by Noah LarsenWorkers in CU-Boulder Professor Douglas Seals' Integrative Physiology of Aging Laboratory monitor a subject being tested for arterial elasticity. Clockwise from left: doctoral student Ashley Walker, postdoctoral fellow Brad Fleenor, research assistant Molly Russell and test subject Kevin Strickfaden.

University of Colorado at Boulder Professor Douglas R. Seals has amassed scientific evidence indicating that exercise, weight loss, good nutrition and salt restriction can cut your chances of getting cardiovascular disease, the United States' No. 1 killer.

But Seals knows that exhorting people to exercise and lose weight, no matter how well the case is buttressed with data, will only go so far. So Seals' laboratory has begun researching "nutraceuticals," food extracts or vitamin supplements that could mimic the effects of a healthful lifestyle.

"Let's face it. Despite our best efforts, some people are not going to exercise or improve their diet," he said, "but they might take a pill."

Seals is an integrative physiologist and a professor of distinction in the College of Arts and Sciences. Much of his research has helped scientists and physicians understand why cardiovascular diseases are worse among sedentary, overweight and older adults.

Seals emphasizes that his laboratory continues to study exercise and other behavioral changes.

As people age, their large arteries tend to become less elastic and this stiffening increases their risk of developing hypertension, stroke and heart disease. Smaller arteries also exhibit progressively less ability to dilate. Older adults tend to have about half of the dilation capacity of young adults and this, too, is associated with higher rates of cardiovascular disease.

Seals and others have identified four paths to better arterial aging: exercise, weight loss, lower salt intake and lower levels of LDL or "bad" cholesterol.

Seals' lab has researched lifestyle interventions – including better diet, more exercise and weight control – that may break the link between the dysfunction of arteries and the development of cardiovascular disease.

Seals is careful to note the importance of further study, and better understanding, of lifestyle changes to improve cardiovascular health. "No one disputes that it's important work ... when you can get people to adhere to it," he said. "But if you can't, it doesn't matter that you've shown that arterial function improves with exercise."

That's why Seals' lab is expanding its focus to include nontraditional pharmacological strategies. These strategies, called nutraceuticals, are diet-based pharmaceuticals.

Of hundreds of potential compounds the Seals lab could study, it has chosen to focus on a few of the most promising substances. In recent years, several studies have found evidence that vitamin D may slow the aging process. Scientists in Britain found that adults with the lowest levels of vitamin D showed higher rates of biological aging. Another study, also from Europe, found evidence that higher levels of vitamin D were associated with better brain function.

Seals is beginning similar studies on the effect of vitamin D on cardiovascular health in middle-aged and older adults.

Another nutraceutical receiving a lot of attention is resveratrol, a compound found in the skin of red grapes and other plants. The compound is found in red wine, though in low doses it is generally not thought to be therapeutic. Seals' laboratory is testing a new experimental agent that represents a more concentrated form of resveratrol.

Typically, Seals notes, nutraceuticals can reduce inflammation or oxidative stress. "If we can prove that one or more of these compounds is effective, then the question is, 'What is their mechanism of action?'"

Curcumin, the active ingredient in the curry spice turmeric, is a third nutraceutical the Seals lab is studying. Recent investigations on curcumin have shown powerful anti-inflammatory effects in other tissues, and Seals is expecting to find similar benefits for reversing arterial aging.

One aim of these experiments is to see if nutraceuticals can "mimic" the positive effects of exercise, calorie restriction/weight loss and a healthful diet. There are many more potential anti-aging compounds than the lab could ever hope to study, Seals said.

"It becomes a process of not just trying to identify promising agents, but trying to figure out which of a large number of intriguing candidates to assess."

For more on this story see Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine athttp://artsandsciences.colorado.edu/magazine[22].

Faculty Assembly: Changing class schedule not likely[23]

UCCS students may just have to try harder to get to classes on time.

Faculty Assembly members at the Oct. 8 meeting concluded that timeliness is a student responsibility after discussion of extending the passing time between classes. The group addressed a proposal by David Moon, senior associate vice chancellor of academic affairs, to lengthen the period between classes in response to concerns from students, professors and instructors.

Discussion in departments and with students will continue, but early reports indicate that more problems would be created by lengthening the 10-minute break between classes to 15 minutes.

Several faculty brought up the challenges faced by working students and those with families who must juggle schedules to accommodate jobs, classes and family responsibilities. They noted that hours for child-care services at the Family Development Center would need to be extended and that Austin Bluffs Parkway traffic is an issue for students who need to drop off children, get across the parkway and park their vehicles before class.

Others noted that student nurses others often work a night shift immediately before attending an 8 a.m. class. Beginning classes earlier is not an option.

Robert Durham of the psychology department said that evening classes work reasonably well as is. Extending time between classes would push the 4:30 p.m. start time for evening classes to 5 p.m., creating more issues for the night students.

"The situation is certainly problematic," Durham said later in a telephone interview.

"Perhaps we need to look at rescheduling the campus shuttles," he added, noting the distance between University Hall and the Science and Engineering Building. He said that many factors deserve careful study before making changes that could have a more negative impact.

Durham also noted that all campus governance groups and administration must communicate fully and share their findings before the campus makes any final decisions.

The assembly finished the discussion with the conclusion that students and faculty need to communicate. For example, faculty need to be aware that some students must leave at the scheduled end of the session. Students should let faculty know if their next class is across campus and they must leave promptly. If students will be frequently late because of class scheduling, they owe the professor an explanation. Conversely, faculty should not penalize students for tardiness.

Recalling the meeting, Durham said, "I don't remember anyone overtly making the statement, but the members certainly implied that communication, respect and understanding between student and professor is key."

If the instructor cannot remain after class for questions, students should make appointments. If a student is going to miss the first few minutes of a lecture, the student is responsible for getting the missed information. In some cases, the group concluded, it is simply a matter of a student recognizing the travel challenge, walking faster and avoiding distractions. In others, the student and professor each must recognize and respect the other's position and work toward a mutual solution.

The university established class schedules and time between classes before the campus grew to its present size and increased its student population. Faculty at the meeting agreed growth will continue to present challenges and that alternatives need to be considered and discussed.

Light shines into renovated, updated CU Building[24]

[25]
A refined wood-and-glass entryway facing Lawrence Street invites visitors inside a door that didn't exist before. The brightly lighted lobby greets faculty, staff and students, offering seats on a varnished bench running from one entry to the next. Track lighting adds an extra spark, just in case there's a little bit of homework or notes you need to review while waiting. This is not your parents' CU Building.

Those who haven't visited the CU Building on the corner of Lawrence and 14th streets downtown lately will be

pleasantly surprised. Gone are the dark hallways, cement walk areas, heavy metal storage areas and old tiles.

"The building was designed as an office environment in the 1980s," explained the renovation's architect, Joe Poli of Humphries/Poli Architects. "It did not always translate well when serving the needs of the students and faculty of the school."

The building's facelift includes:
First Floor: Four new, large classrooms that seat from 24 to 65 UC Denver students; ADA bathrooms; upgraded standard bathrooms; expanded lobby; new entry to Lawrence Street via a new vestibule; upgraded interior of elevators; increased square footage of the Fire Command Center; upgrades to telephone rooms; upgrade to the security desk and new connecting hallway to the MBA Suite. **Seventh Floor:** Teaching studios crafted specifically for the architecture program were created featuring flexible teaching environments for 10 studios, in addition to critique and lecture spaces. New spaces also include restrooms, technology and service spaces.
"The primary driver was to create desperately needed classroom space for all students and to improve the studio environment for students of the College of Architecture and Planning," explained Cary Weatherford, senior institutional planner. "One of the ancillary goals was to change the way that the building relates to Lawrence Street, most specifically by adding a new entrance to the building on the Lawrence Street side." Previously visitors entered the building on that side through the loading dock.

[26]
"The design sought to open up the first floor of the building to improve the visitor experience and to accommodate the large number of students who will be using the new classrooms," Weatherford said.

The seventh floor remodel obviously benefits the College of Architecture and Planning, which is gaining more student studio space from the project. However, all UC Denver schools and colleges will benefit from the first floor remodel either directly or indirectly by being able to schedule courses in the new classrooms or have more scheduling time available in existing classrooms.

Renovation goals went beyond comfort, glam and additional classroom space. Building lighting, mechanical and electrical service as well as security, technology, fire protection and elevator service all were improved.

Initial construction of the "Million Dollar Beauty," as Sharon Anthony, university senior project manager, likes to call it, began in April of this year and will be completed in November. But it won't stop there.

Facilities Management hopes there are more renovations will follow, including five more classrooms on the first floor and greater building accessibility, by creating a path from the 14th Street (front) entrance straight through the building and out to the Cherry Creek side.

"The design is a blueprint for a successful higher education learning environment in the Central Business District, an exciting place for learning and an attractive recruiting tool," Poli said.

Hospital ranked among top 10 academic medical centers in U.S.[27]

The University of Colorado Hospital (UCH) has been cited as one of the top 10 academic medical centers in the country based on quality, patient safety and patient satisfaction.

The top 10 showing comes after several years of deliberate focus on clinical improvements with the goal of being one of the top 10 academic medical centers in the country by 2020. UCH, the 28th best-performing academic hospital in 2009, improved to the eighth-highest-scoring hospital in the 2010 Quality and Accountability Performance Scorecard, released by the University HealthSystem Consortium[28] (UHC).

Academic hospitals, which are part of larger university research and health sciences schools, tend to be the first in their home areas to bring tested new treatments to the bedside, typically have the broadest array of specialists and sub-specialists, and specialize in complex care not always available at community hospitals.

Being ranked so high among such elite company "means a great deal to us," said Bruce Schroffel, president and CEO of University of Colorado Hospital. "It means we are doing a better job for our patients and their safety is our highest priority."

"Life is a process, not a destination," added Steven Ringel, M.D., UCH's vice president of clinical excellence and patient safety. "Being top 10 is not just a destination. It is an indication of what we're capable of."

Ringel, Sue West, RN, director of clinical excellence and patient safety, and their team have led UCH's clinical improvement efforts since 2007. West was quick to credit the entire hospital for the success.

"Our staff has put blood, sweat and tears into our efforts to improve," she said. "The team did a great job of identifying what needed to be done and the various departments did a great job implementing the improvements."

The consortium, which bases its rankings on raw clinical and operational performance data, also recognized UCH as a "rising star" among hospitals for overall score improvement. The score is a composite of performance in patient safety, timeliness, effectiveness, efficiency, equity and patient centeredness.

UHC rankings differ from other, more highly recognizable attempts to identify "best" or "top" hospitals. Where rankings like US News & World Report and Healthgrades focus exclusively on Medicare patients and include subjective estimates of a specialty's "reputation," the consortium looks at statistical outcomes for all patient populations and does not use subjective opinions.

US News, however, also ranked four University of Colorado Hospital specialties – cancer, pulmonology, kidney diseases and rehabilitation – as among the best in the nation in its latest rankings, released in July.

The consortium cited University of Colorado Hospital at its 10th annual Quality and Safety Fall Forum meeting in San Diego, where more than 800 attendees from academic medical centers across the country gathered last month

Parker chosen vice chancellor for administration and finance[29]

Parker

University of Colorado Denver leadership announced that **Jeff Parker** has officially accepted the job as vice chancellor for administration and finance at the University of Colorado Denver[31]. The Board of Regents appointed Parker as interim vice chancellor last November.

In his post, Parker serves as the university's chief financial officer. The office oversees university functions including budget and finance, facilities management, information technology, human resources and campus police.

Parker began his career with CU in 1999 as controller for the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. In 2002, he was promoted to assistant vice chancellor for finance and controller. In 2005, after the consolidation of the Health Sciences Center with the University of Colorado Denver campus, he was promoted to associate vice chancellor of finance and administration. Parker is a Certified Public Accountant, and received his master's degree in finance from UC Denver in May 2010.

[Sture named Distinguished Member of national society][32]

Sture

Stein Sture, vice chancellor for research and dean of the graduate school at the University of Colorado at Boulder, recently was named a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the group's highest accolade.

Distinguished membership recognizes eminence in a branch of engineering and is currently composed of only 192 of the Society's 144,000 members worldwide. Sture will be formally inducted, in honor of his contributions to geo-technical engineering, this week at the Celebration of Leaders luncheon during ASCE's 140th Annual Civil Engineering Conference in Las Vegas.

ASCE is recognizing Sture for his eminence in the fields of fracture mechanics, constitutive modeling of cementitious composites and geo-mechanics, and nonlinear analysis and computational techniques related to granular materials and soil-structure interaction, as well as for his exemplary career as an educator.

His academic career spans nearly 35 years, beginning at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. In 1980, Sture joined the faculty at CU-Boulder. During his 30 years at the university, Sture also has been a visiting professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and at the University of Oxford in England, where he was a Jenkin Fellow in Engineering Sciences. Sture holds the Huber and Helen Croft Endowed Professorship in the department of civil, environmental and architectural engineering in the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

Sture is an active member of the civil engineering community. He has served ASCE in numerous capacities, including as president of the Colorado section, director of District 16 and chair of the ASCE Region 7 Formation Team. He is currently a governor of the Engineering Mechanics Institute and a member of the ASCE Technical Region Board of Governors.

A prolific writer, Sture has authored or co-authored more than 400 papers and research reports. He also has served as a consultant for nearly 30 public and private organizations including Lockheed Martin, NASA, Shell, the Federal Aviation Administration and the United Nations Development Program.

Sture has bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in civil engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He also has a degree in engineering mechanics from the Schous Institute of Technology in Oslo.

[National Center for Media Forensics has new director][34]

Grigoras

Catalin Grigoras, Ph.D., recently was hired as director of the National Center for Media Forensics (NCMF) at the College of Arts and Media at the University of Colorado Denver. Grigoras' duties include coordinating the center's education and scientific projects.

Grigoras' research encompasses digital signal processing in forensic multimedia, including digital recording authentication, audio/image analysis, enhancement, and speaker recognition. His research into digital signal processing has resulted in advanced methods to authenticate digital audio/video recordings and semiautomatic systems for forensic speaker recognition.

"This position allows me to continue my research and teaching activities, and it is also a new challenge for me," said Grigoras. "I recognize that I'm lucky to be on the same team with my new colleagues, and I'm positive that together with them and our students we can continue the work of the former director, Richard Sanders, and push the limits of scientific knowledge as far as it is possible."

Prior to UC Denver, Grigoras taught forensics as assistant professor with the National Institute of Magistracy in Romania. Grigoras was chairman of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes – Forensic Speech and Audio Analysis Working Group between 2007 and 2009. He is a member of the Audio Engineering Society Subcommittee on Forensic Audio and the International Association of Forensic Phonetics and Acoustics. He has published numerous forensic audio/video articles and is a co-author of "Best Practice Guidelines for ENF Analysis in Forensic Authentication of Digital Evidence" (2009).

In addition to providing a master's of science emphasis in media forensics, the National Center for Media Forensics [36]provides much-needed training opportunities for law enforcement through innovative credit-bearing workshops dealing with forensic media analysis. Through this activity, the NCMF and UC Denver cultivate strong, mutually beneficial partnerships that engage local, federal and global law enforcement communities.

Boulder professor's writing examines 'weatherquakes'[37]

Math may not be the first thing that comes to mind when considering the environment, but it plays an important role. It was a mathematician, Joseph Fourier (1768-1830), who coined the term "greenhouse effect."

Three articles – including one by University of Colorado at Boulder professor Martin E. Walter – in the November issue of the Notices of the American Mathematical Society examine ways in which mathematics can contribute to understanding environmental and ecological issues.

In the article, "Earthquakes and Weatherquakes: Mathematics and Climate Change,"[38] Walter uses math to show that global warming could lead to more "intense" weather events.

Earthquake data shows that over time, the sum of the "intensity" of all earthquakes of a given Richter scale magnitude is the same for any point on the scale.

For example the total intensity of the 100,000 magnitude-3 quakes that occur over the course of a year is the same as the intensity of a single magnitude-8 trembler. Walter uses the example of earthquakes to formulate a hypothesis about "weatherquakes" – extreme weather events such as hurricanes and tornadoes. As in the case of earthquakes, he suggests, there is no preferred size or scale for the intensity of weatherquakes. That is, weatherquake phenomena also follow a power law.

Taking the mathematics a few steps further, Walter examines what would happen to the distribution of extreme weather events if the global climate heated up. The finding is worrisome: As temperatures rise, the most intense weatherquakes would increase in number.

Three Boulder scientists honored for research[39]

From left: Satyen Deb, Dane Gillaspie, John Hall

Several scientists, including three connected with the University of Colorado at Boulder, have won the 2010 Governor's Award for High-Impact Research.

The researchers and their labs will be recognized at a reception and dinner on Monday, Oct. 25, at UCAR Center Green campus in Boulder.

Satyen Deb, Ph.D., and **Dane Gillaspie,**Ph.D., of the National Renewable Energy Lab Electricity and Building Systems Unit will receive the Energy Efficiency award for the discovery and development of Electrochromatic tintable [41] windows to reduce energy consumption in buildings.

John Hall, Ph.D., a Nobel Prize laureate and member of JILA (Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics), will receive the Foundational Technology award for exploration of the nature of the laser light, leading to the development of the laser as a tool for ultra-precise measurements, guiding its commercialization and nurturing of the phototonics industry.

Colorado Springs celebrates research[42]

Six University of Colorado at Colorado Springs faculty members were recognized Oct. 14 for their sponsored research productivity during a Celebration of Research program sponsored by the Office of Sponsored Research.

Chancellor **Pam Shockley-Zalabak** and Provost **Peg Bacon** joined with **Michael Larson,** associate vice chancellor for research and innovation and El Pomar Endowed Chair of Innovation and Engineering, to compliment all faculty members involved in research and to specifically highlight the work of six individuals.

Recognized for generating $1 million in sponsored research funding in their careers were:
Gregory Plett, associate professor, engineering **Sarah Qualls,** Kraemer Family Professor of Aging, psychology, and director of the Gerontology Center **Charles "Chip" Benight,** professor, psychology, and director of the Trauma, Health and Hazards Center
Also recognized were three faculty members whose sponsored research efforts have generated more than $5 million in funding in their careers. They were:
Robert Camley, professor, physics **Zbigniew Celinski,** professor, physics **Terrance Boult,** El Pomar Chair of Innovation and Security, engineering

Dropping names ...[43]

Kumpe

David A. Kumpe, M.D., and professor of radiology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, has been honored

internationally for his contributions to interventional radiology. He was awarded the International Cooperation Award by the Chinese Society of Interventional Radiology for his efforts to train physicians there.

... **Edie Greene,** professor of psychology at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, recently was appointed a visiting scholar at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. Currently on sabbatical from UCCS, she will collaborate with CUNY faculty on research in psychology and law and will participate in a Cornell University Law School conference on numerical judgments in the law.

Krebs

...**Nancy F. Krebs,** M.D., MS, FAAP has been chosen to receive the American Academy of Pediatrics' 2010 Samuel J. Fomon Nutrition Award. The award, which will be presented Nov. 13, recognizes outstanding achievement in research relating to nutrition of infants and children that has been completed and published. Krebs, a professor of pediatrics and medical director of Clinical Nutrition Services at The Children's Hospital, uses evidence-based approaches to solving pediatric nutritional problems, domestically and internationally, particularly in developing counties.

Rehmar

... Staff gathered on the sixth floor of the Leprino Building at the University of Colorado Hospital last month to bid goodbye to **Diann Eason,** the hospital's longtime manager of employee health and wellness. Eason, a nurse with a special interest in occupational health, began at the hospital in June 2001. Among other accomplishments, she started the Critical Incident Stress Debriefing team, a group of hospital staff available to help colleagues deal with difficult emotional issues related to health care. ... University of Colorado Hospital's Human Resources Director **Ellen Rehmar** is a recipient of the 2010 Outstanding Chapter Office Award from the American Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration (ASHHRA). The award was presented at ASHHRA's 46th annual Conference and Exposition in Tampa, Fla., on Sept. 26. Rehmar and other award recipients also will be recognized in ASHHRA's quarterly magazine HR Pulse.

Diann Eason (center) with husband Harold (right) and HR Vice President Darryl Varnado.

Nominations requested for Elizabeth D. Gee award[48]

The Faculty Council Women's Committee is requesting nominations for the 2011 Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award.

This award 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.

Established 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. It is the only award in the CU system that specifically recognizes outstanding work on women's issues and efforts to advance women in the academic community. The winner receives a $1,000 prize and will have an opportunity to present his or her scholarly work at a research symposium and award ceremony.

Any full-time faculty member from any CU campus may be nominated. Previous nominees are encouraged to re-apply. Preference will be given to nominees who have been with CU at least five years.

The criteria for selecting recipients of the award:
Record of advancing women in the academic community (please note that nominee should show evidence of advancing women beyond his or 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 makes connection 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) letters of support from the university community and the extended academic community (one letter from a student or advisee is optional)
The nomination deadline is Nov. 29. Nomination packets should not exceed 20 pages. Only complete nomination packets sent in by the due date will be reviewed. Please electronically submit the nominating packet as a single PDF file to Rae Ann Armijo at RaeAnn.Armijo@cu.edu[49].

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact Melinda Piket-May at Melinda.Piket-May@colorado.edu[50].

At-large regent candidates take debate to Denver campus[51]

At-large regent candidates take debate to Denver campus[52]
Photo: Diane Carman
Regent Steve Bosley and CU-Boulder law professor Melissa Hart, both running for the at-large seat on the Board of Regents, articulate their differences at Friday's debate sponsored by the School of Public Affairs at UC Denver.
Photo: Diane CarmanRegent Steve Bosley and CU-Boulder law professor Melissa Hart, both running for the at-large seat on the Board of Regents, articulate their differences at Friday's debate sponsored by the School of Public Affairs at UC Denver.

The two candidates for the at-large seat on the University of Colorado Board of Regents met in a debate Friday, Oct. 15, with one touting the value of business experience during challenging economic times; the other, the importance of having an educator on the nine-member board.

Steve Bosley, a Broomfield Republican who is running for a second six-year term on the Nov. 2 ballot, and challenger Melissa Hart, a Denver Democrat, took turns responding to questions during a one-hour event sponsored by the School of Public Affairs at the University of Colorado Denver. About 45 spectators attended the event at the Lawrence Street Center, which was moderated by the school's Maureen Ediger, a former regent.

Hart, a Harvard-educated lawyer who grew up in Denver, has taught law at the University of Colorado School of Law on the Boulder campus for 10 years. She said she understands well how important a resource the university is to the state.

"I am deeply committed to education. There are no educators on the board right now," she said, adding that the board spends too much time with political concerns. "I want to move away from politics and toward education."

Bosley, a banking and finance professional who retired as president and CEO of The Bank of Boulder after 24 years, said his background is well-suited for serving on the board during "the worst budget crisis in our 134-year history." He also emphasized the university's importance to the state.

"You can't be a healthy, viable state if you don't have a healthy, viable education system," he said. "We need to have an educated populous."

The budget crisis and state funding were themes of many questions, including one from an audience member who asked for guesses as to what would happen if funding from the state went away entirely.

Hart said she could imagine that happening if Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101 are passed on Nov. 2. (The board passed a resolution[54] denouncing the three ballot measures in July.)

"The devastation would be enormous," she said. "If they pass, tuition would have to go up more than it would if they don't pass. ... We're going to have to talk within the system about closing campuses, closing programs."

Bosley said the complete loss of state funding would require "drastic measures."

"The first thing is survival and keeping your doors open," he said.

In answering a separate question about how the university can thrive and survive during a budget crisis, Bosley said that even when the state is cutting funding, it still can help the university with efficiency: He pointed to Senate Bill 3 as an example of university leadership working with state lawmakers to give universities more flexibility in how they do business.

"We're not going to get more money from the state, but we're not going to balance the budget on the backs of students, either," Bosley said. "We have to look at the expense side and achieve more raw efficiencies."

He said there are hundreds if not thousands of gains in efficiency to be made in a process begun two years ago at CU. "If you study any major corporation over the last 20 years, it's a four- to seven-year process to restructure something that big. We're two years into it." He cited the ongoing review of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at CU-Boulder as a "great example" of how the university can approach streamlining.

Hart said that she and her colleagues have quickly had to learn more about seeking out grant money on their own, and that the trend must continue.

"We know (the budget crisis) is going to be longer and more serious than we hoped it might be," she said. "What do we do? We need to keep doing what we've been doing and keep looking for savings."

When an audience member asked about the board's close vote in June[55] (5-4) authorizing the university to appeal a court decision allowing concealed weapons on college campuses, Hart criticized Bosley for his no vote.

"I think the decision not to protect regent authority, when the Colorado Court of Appeals broke with precedent, was a terrible mistake," she said. "I'm glad five regents voted to appeal. I think this was an example of a political decision."

Bosley said Hart wasn't privy to attorney-client discussions during executive session, when he said he concluded that losing a potential legal battle would have more negative ramifications than any benefit from winning it. Hart responded by saying that the five regents who voted to pursue the appeal were part of those same discussions.

"That's why we have nine (regents) and not one," Bosley said.

Bosley closed by saying he feels Hart's legal expertise is less vital to challenges facing the regents than his business and finance experience, and that "this is not the time for on-the-job training." Hart responded: "My specialty is education."

The Nov. 2 election also will decide regent seats in the first and fourth districts; in the former, incumbent Michael Carrigan, D-Denver, is being challenged by Alex Maller, a Denver Republican; in the latter, Sue Sharkey, a Windsor Republican, and Robert "BC" Bishop-Cotner, a Windsor Democrat, are vying for the seat being vacated by Tom Lucero, R-Loveland, who is term-limited. For more on this year's candidates, see related story here[56].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regent-candidates-heres-why-we-want-serve[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/r_bosley.jpg[3]
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