Leaders in health care, economics recognized as Distinguished Professors[1]

The University of Colorado has announced two new Distinguished Professors, the most prestigious honor given to faculty across the CU system.

The recognition goes annually to faculty members who demonstrate exemplary performance in research or creative work, a record of excellence in classroom teaching and supervision of individual learning, and outstanding service to the profession, the university and its affiliates.

CU President Bruce D. Benson reviewed nominations from CU's campuses; with the recommendation of a committee of Distinguished Professors[2], he forwarded the candidates' names to the Board of Regents, which will vote on the nominations at the board's Dec. 3-4 meeting.

The 2013 honorees are:

Paul A. Bunn Jr., M.D.

Paul A. Bunn Jr., M.D., professor, James Dudley Chair in Cancer Research, Division of Medical Oncology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Dr. Bunn led the creation of the first statewide consortium cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute. He began work on the effort shortly after arriving at CU in 1984 as head of the division of medical oncology. He became director of the new University of Colorado Cancer Center in 1986; by 2005, it was recognized by the National Cancer Institute as one of only 40 Comprehensive and three Comprehensive Consortium Cancer Centers in the country. His research, which focuses on novel therapies for lung cancer, has been continuously funded by the NCI since his arrival at CU; he has been principal investigator on NCI grants totaling over $100 million. Dr. Bunn has been president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and the Association of American Cancer Institutes. Recipient of the Joseph Addison Sewall Award from the CU School of Medicine, he is the author of 300 peer-reviewed articles and is known internationally as an exceptional lecturer. Dr. Bunn continues to teach medical students, interns and residents, oncology fellows, internal medicine and oncology faculty.

Steven Medema, Ph.D.

Steven Medema, Ph.D., professor of economics; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; University of Colorado Denver. Widely considered one of the best historians of economics in the world today, Professor Medema is author or editor of 16 books and numerous articles in scholarly journals. He spent a decade as editor of the Journal for the History of Economic Thought, transforming it from a struggling journal into one of the most prestigious in the field, and is a member of the editorial boards of several journals devoted to the history of economics. He is a past president of the History of Economics Society. A faculty member since 1989, he helped to establish CU Denver's University Honors and Leadership Program; he has served as the program's director since 2009. Professor Medema, who teaches microeconomics and the history of economic thought, received the university's highest teaching recognition in 2008 when named a CU President's Teaching Scholar; he also is a two-time winner of his college's Excellence in Teaching Award.

With these two new designees, the number of CU Distinguished Professors will be 73. The program was established in 1977.

Staff Council continues review of policy on hiring working retirees[5]

An administrative policy dealing with University of Colorado retirees who return to work at one of the four campuses continued to be a topic of debate by University of Colorado Staff Council at its Oct. 17 meeting on the Boulder campus.

Concerned that some of those retirees might be in jobs that could be filled by unemployed or underemployed workers, or those at the university who are interested in promotion, council members, during their May 23 meeting, said they would like to see a more definitive limit placed on the length of time a retiree can work for the university. Staff Council also recommended that departments use succession planning adequately in order to expedite promotions of current employees. Constituents also have reported that retirees are hired into positions without formal review procedures, effectively blocking current employees from applying for the job.

As part of a scheduled review process, Administrative Policy Statement No. 5054 -- "Hiring Working Retirees Into Staff Positions" -- was under review and set to take effect July 31. But because of concerns expressed by Staff Council and other governance groups, the policy's approval was delayed.

"We got an awful lot of feedback and out of concern that we vet (the policy) well, we held off" on instituting the policy, said Dan Montez, director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency. The policy is scheduled to go to chancellors for review on Nov. 27 and is scheduled for approval in December. If approved, it would become effective Jan. 1, 2014.

Lisa Landis, assistant vice president of employee services, said the policy originally was created to develop consistency and guidance for all the campuses. The current policy allows retirees to work for a 9-month, 12-month, or defined project period. About 350 retirees currently work at the university systemwide, with most of them employed by the Boulder campus.

She said that while the APS provides guidance, each campus makes its own decisions about procedures.

"How will individual campuses address the transfer of knowledge and advancement because that is a major concern," said John McKee, a council member from the Boulder campus. "In our surveys, that was one of the top issues: People don't see any type of transfer of knowledge or advancement situations and that plays into this."

Landis said it will be up to individual campuses to address these concerns. "Hopefully there's some justification (for hiring a retiree), a thought process that says, 'I need to hire this working retiree year over year and I'm making this decision because …' instead of (the decision) being determined by the status quo," she said. "We're saying in the policy that someone needs to review why retirees are being hired."

She said there is a need to have working retirees on campus because they have a huge amount of knowledge. But if the knowledge is not being transferred, then campus culture has to be addressed.

While acknowledging the need for retirees, Deserae Frisk, chair of the council, said the policy doesn't do enough to specify who makes sure the hiring procedure isn't being abused.

"There's no direction in the policy about who will be the overseer," Frisk said. "We'll see the same practices if we don't encourage some level of checks and balances. We want to express that we want a more centralized review rather than it staying at the department level."

In other business at the Oct. 17 meeting, William Kaempfer, associate vice chancellor for Budget and Planning and vice provost, gave a Boulder campus update. He said Boulder's budget is $1.29 billion, which has grown 35 percent since 2008. About $614 million of the total is in the general fund. He said about 80 percent comes from tuition: 30 percent comes from resident student tuition and 48 percent comes from nonresident tuition.

The budget also contains the auxiliary fund at $309 million, which goes to housing and dining services and athletic concerns, and the restricted fund, which is money that comes into the university designated for a specific purpose, including research and gift money. The restricted fund is about $22 million less than last year's total, but that decline is offset by a $22 million increase in tuition payments, he said.

Kaempfer said the university granted 6,411 bachelor's degrees last year, which is about 27 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded in the state. In addition, Boulder's six-year graduation rate is 68 percent; however, Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano has set a goal of 80 percent.

Council's next meeting will be Nov. 17 at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Graduate School grant will expand Ph.D. diversity[6]

[7]
The number of minority Ph.D. candidates in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the so called "STEM" disciplines) will expand thanks to a two-year grant of nearly $1 million dollars received by the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus Graduate School.

Candidates are being recruited now for the two-year Bridge to the Doctorate Program funded by the National Science Foundation under the auspices of the Colorado Alliance for Minority Participation.

The grant will provide a $30,000 yearly stipend and partial-tuition reimbursement to 12 students for two years each. Some of the funding – which totals $987,000 over 24 months – will go toward courses and workshops to help the students transition to their advanced-degree programs.

Programs span campuses

Recipients will matriculate into one of several STEM-related graduate programs at both CU's Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus. Programs of interest include Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Engineering and Applied Sciences, Computer Science and Information Systems, Bioengineering, Integrative and Systems Biology and Biomedical Sciences.

"This is a wonderful opportunity," said Barry Shur[8], Ph.D., dean, Graduate School. "It gives our two campuses the chance to diversify the group of students seeking these advanced degrees. That alone is important.

"But this grant also allows us to recruit across the country for excellent scholars and researchers who we believe will become leaders in their fields, serve as role models for the next generation of minority students interested in STEM careers and contribute to our society."

Supporting STEM disciplines

The Ph.D. candidates will be recruited from among the 35 national NSF-funded Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation[9], designed to increase the numbers and quality of minority students in the STEM disciplines.

The Colorado Alliance for Minority Participation (CO-AMP) is housed at Colorado State University and involves 11 state institutions, including CU's four campuses, the Colorado School of Mines, and six community and liberal arts colleges that primarily serve minority student populations.

The management team for the Bridge to the Doctorate Program consists of Shur; Brenda Allen[10], Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion; Dominic Martinez[11], senior director of the Office of Inclusion and Outreach; Gita Alaghband[12], Ph.D., chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering; James DeGregori[13], Ph.D., director of the Molecular Biology Program and a professor in the School of Medicine; and Stephanie Santorico [14], Ph.D., associate professor in Mathematical and Statistical Sciences.

The Management Team is supported by two additional faculty, Arthur Gutierrez-Hartmann[15], M.D., director of the M.D./Ph.D. Program and professor in the School of Medicine; and Inge Wefes, Ph.D., associate dean of the Graduate School.

CU-Boulder biology students ready to wow at world competition[16]

[17]

[18]
When this year's iGEM team at the University of Colorado Boulder began meeting early this year, they wanted to take what they knew about biology and use it to build something new. iGEM, or International Genetically Engineered Machine, is the top synthetic biology competition in the world; after a foundation-building first year, the CU-Boulder team wanted to make an impact in 2013.

Some 30 CU undergraduate and graduate students from a wide range of science and engineering departments worked together to design the project "DIY Synthetic Biology."[19] taking apart and reconstructing lab techniques and tools and improving them. Over the summer, six students completed the project. These students then boarded a plane to Montreal, Canada, with their faculty mentor, practiced their presentation until 2 a.m., and competed with 52 North American teams, earning an iGEM special award and their place in the upcoming iGEM World Competition in Boston in November.

"There probably aren't many people in North America who get pumped up about new methods of low-cost enzyme purification or hacking miniprep columns," says MCDB graduate student and iGEM team leader Joe Rokicki. "But the attendees at the regional competition were riveted. Now our next challenge is figuring how we are going to get to Boston."

The judges were so riveted that the team was awarded the "Best New BioBrick Part or Device, Engineered" for cloning and characterization of a protein tag that reversibly precipitates in the presence of calcium. The BioBrick award for a part or device is only given to one team at the North American regional competition.

"There were a lot of proposals in the competition, but CU delivered an actual product," says CU iGEM team mentor Robin Dowell, who is an assistant professor in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and a faculty member at the BioFrontiers Institute. "The team used a lot of ingenuity – slick lab techniques that make it cheaper and easier to conduct important research. They really gave the judges a lot to talk about."

iGEM, which began in 2003, provides each team with a kit of biological parts – like promoters or specific genes – from the Registry of Standard Biological Parts[20] at the beginning of each summer. Students then use these parts, or parts of their own design, in their projects. iGEM's regional competitions are held in North America, Latin America and Asia. The CU-Boulder team is one of 50 teams from around the world to qualify for the world competition Nov. 2-4.

"I couldn't be more proud of this team," says BioFrontiers Institute Director Tom Cech. "They earned their place in the world competition, but they also learned a lot of valuable lab and life experience. We will all be rooting for them in November."

NIH's $48.4 million will advance translational research[21]

[22]
Research has found that what is most important to an aging senior citizen is independence. A collaborative study through the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI) and the Center for African American Health is working with African American women to discuss the importance of walking. Yes, the simple act of walking allows seniors to keep their independence, keep their balance, keep them in their homes and keep them healthy.

This is one of many programs that the CCTSI is helping to fund. And that funding just got a big addition.

CCTSI has received a $48.4 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into improved patient care and public health. CU is just one of 15 institutions in the U.S. selected this month to receive an NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award, or CTSA.

“This award allows us to continue seamless and safe translation of biomedical research. The clinical discoveries that are made will help improve human health,” said Richard Traystman, Ph.D., vice chancellor of research.

“The CCTSI has made great strides and we fully support the work facilitated by both clinical and research scientists which ultimately impact the lives of our community,” said Richard D. Krugman, M.D., vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine.

The CCTSI is a collaborative enterprise between the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, CU Boulder, Colorado State University and six major hospitals -- University of Colorado Hospital, Children’s Hospital Colorado, Denver Health, National Jewish Health, Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente of Colorado. CCTSI also includes health care organizations and local communities, both rural and inner city.

“We appreciate the NIH’s continued support and commitment to our Institute. This award allows us to be a continuous voice in the broader discussion of improving health while reducing costs,” said Ronald J. Sokol, M.D., principal investigator and CCTSI director.

Some goals of the CCTSI are to:
Expand the statewide academic home for clinical and translational research. Implement new clinical research management strategies to improve quality, safety, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and innovative team science as well as introduce new software systems and workflows. Centralize the delivery of resources, services and technologies. Incorporate key concepts of community engagement into the full spectrum of translational research. Increase the translational research workforce capacity through a broad curriculum of education, training and career development opportunities.
A rigorous tracking, assessment and evaluation program with a formal quality and process improvement component will ensure the best use of resources while protecting the safety of research study participants. These programs are centralized at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

The NIH started the CTSA program in 2006 as a research vehicle in the health care reform movement to provide higher quality and more affordable health care. CU received its first round of CTSA funding in 2008.

Since 2008, the CCTSI has
Established new infrastructure and improved resources and services for investigators Tripled the number of training and education programs supporting the lifespan of an investigational career; Administratively centralized and expanded the breadth of clinical research capacity and expertise; Established system-wide informatics capabilities Promoted team science and encouraged interdisciplinary research through pilot grant programs and technology cores; Established an extensive community engagement program, from small towns to the inner city, from professors to farmers. Streamlined processes and reduced the regulatory burden for investigators Created an academic home for clinical and translational scientists and trainees.
Eventually, though innovative research and dissemination, CCTSI should help improve the health care of all of Colorado's more than 4 million residents and the 1,300 physician practices and 300 hospitals that serve them.

New CU Denver academic building rises on Auraria Campus[23]

[24]

Driving along Speer Boulevard or the Auraria Parkway near downtown, it's hard to miss the new building rising on the Auraria Campus. Structural elements of CU Denver's new academic building have continued to appear since the January 2013 groundbreaking[25].

At a cost of $65.8 million, the 153,000 gross square-foot building will include three primary program components: large instructional lecture halls, academic department office space and student services/student affairs functions.

The final structural beam soon will be placed atop the building, but before it is hoisted up, all students, faculty and staff are invited to sign the beam. To accommodate everyone, **the beam will be at ground level in front of North Classroom 8-9:30 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 31.**[26]

A first for CU Denver

This building will be the first owned, occupied and operated by CU Denver on the Auraria Campus.

Six academic departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) will move in: Communication, Political Science, History, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences,
Interdisciplinary Programs and Master of Humanities/Master of Social Sciences. Co-location of these groups is designed to enhance productivity, innovation and community engagement. All of these office moves will create opportunities for other academic colleges in vacated space.

New lecture halls (accommodating between 150 and 277 seats) will alleviate the current shortage of such spaces and, by providing dedicated large format classrooms for CU Denver programs, allow for future growth in enrollment.

This facility also will consolidate many Student Services and Student Affairs functions currently in various locations on campus, including North Classroom, Tivoli and from across Speer Boulevard in the CU Denver (Dravo) Building. Co-locating groups will create efficiencies in staff operations between the various departments while offering students streamlined transactional and educational support services.

There will be a large café space on the ground level just off the northwest main entrance facing Speer and Larimer. State-of-the-art technology also will be installed throughout.

Building a neighborhood

This building is designed to play a pivotal role in the evolution of the CU Denver neighborhood on the Auraria Campus. With its prominent position along Speer Boulevard at Larimer Street, the building serves as the gateway to the CU Denver neighborhood with Larimer Street as the primary circulation spine helping to reinforce the connection between the campus and Downtown Denver.

Going for GOLD

The project is expected to achieve the U.S. Green Building Council's Gold designation through the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program. This is a third-party verification of green buildings. a tool that addresses the entire building lifecycle recognizing best-in-class building strategies.

The CU Denver project is on track to satisfy the program prerequisites in the following areas:
minimizing the impact on ecosystems and water resources. water efficiency inside and out energy performance through innovative strategies. use of sustainable building materials and reducing waste indoor air quality and access to daylight and views.
New life for vacated spaces

The overall project also includes the renovation of space that will be vacated by programs relocating to the new building. This "backfill" work will occur in multiple campus buildings – North Classroom Building, King Center, Plaza Building, CU Denver/Dravo Building and Lawrence Street Center. Completion of the renovation work is scheduled for August 2015.

CU Building Project Manager Sharon Anthony is guiding the work along with Facilities Department colleague Todd Akey. “To oversee such an exciting new building is a pleasure,” Anthony said. “Collectively working with Anderson Mason Dale Architects on design efforts has helped to understand the true meaning of community connectivity. Between Saunders Construction, AHEC and our neighbors Metro State, it will be a proud moment when the new academic building doors open for business in August of 2014.”

Excellence in Leadership Program participants visit campus[27]

UCCS hosted participants of the 2013-14 CU system Excellence in Leadership Program Oct. 11.

More than 30 UCCS and representatives from CU Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus and CU-Boulder attended a daylong workshop that included a presentation by Corinne Harmon, assistant professor, College of Education, about ethical leadership. Harmon chairs the Leadership, Research and Foundation Department in the College of Education and is a former school superintendent. Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak led an afternoon session, “Developing Trust and Organizational Effectiveness.”

The group also heard from other UCCS administrative leaders and toured the campus.

“Most of the participants from the other campuses had never been to UCCS before,” said Andrea Cordova, professional assistant, Office of the Chancellor and campus liaison to the ELP program. “I think many were surprised by the breadth and beauty of the campus.”

The yearlong Excellence in Leadership Program provides opportunities for selected faculty and staff to become more effective leaders. Throughout the program, participants gain knowledge and skills. The program includes participation from all campuses and the Office of the President. For more information about the program, visit https://www.cu.edu/eld/leadership/elp[28].

Those participating in this year’s program from UCCS are:
Chris Beiswanger, director, Office of Student Recruitment and Admissions Counseling Wendi Clouse, senior research analyst, Office of Institutional Research Andrew Ketsdever, professor, College of Engineering and Applied Science Glen Whitehead, assistant professor, Department of Visual and Performing Arts Sabrina Wienholtz, assistant director, Office of Student Life and Leadership Sandy Wurtele, professor, Department of Psychology

Poorly camouflaged insects can kick off a cascade of ecological impacts, new study finds[29]

A walking stick insect camouflages with a chamise shrub in southern California. The ability of the the insect, Timema cristinae, to be well camouflaged affects other insects living on the same plant. Photo courtesy of Tim Farkas.

A California walking stick insect that has evolved to produce individuals with two distinct appearances—an all-green form that camouflages well with broader leaves and a form with a white stripe running down its back that blends better with needle-like leaves—can markedly affect its broader ecological community when the appearance of the bug is mismatched with the plant it’s living on.

The new findings, based on research carried out at the University of Colorado Boulder, illustrate the ability of rapid

evolution to cause a cascade of ecological impacts.

The scientists found that a walking stick insect that is not well camouflaged is more likely to be eaten by birds, and in turn, those birds are then also more likely to feast on the spiders, caterpillars, plant hoppers, ants and other arthropods living on the same plant. The resulting overall reduction in bugs living on the plant also means that the plant itself was less likely to be attacked by sap-feeding insects.

“Our study shows that the evolution of poor camouflage in one species can affect all the other species living there and affect the plant as well,” said Tim Farkas, lead author of the study published in the journal Current Biology. “It’s intuitive, but also really surprising.”

Farkas led the study as an ecology and evolutionary biology doctoral student in Assistant Professor Patrik Nosil’s lab at CU-Boulder. Nosil and CU-Boulder doctoral student Aaron Comeault are also study co-authors. All three have since moved to the University of Sheffield in England.

Evolution is often thought of as a process that unfolds slowly over centuries if not millennia, as individuals with genetic advantages have a greater chance of surviving to pass down their genes to the next generation.

But scientists are increasingly identifying instances when evolution works on a much shorter time scale. An oft-cited example of rapid evolution is the peppered moth. The light-colored moths were historically able to camouflage themselves against lichen-covered tree bark in England. A darker variant of the moth existed but was more rare, since birds were able to easily spot the dark moth against the light trees. But during the industrial revolution, when soot blackened the trees, natural selection favored a darker variation of the moth, which began to flourish while the light-colored variant became less common.

Evolution on such a rapid scale opens up the possibility that the process could have ecological effects in the short term, impacting population sizes or changing the community makeup, for example.

Researchers have begun to compile examples of these “eco-evolutionary dynamics.” The new study offers some of the most comprehensive evidence yet that evolution can drive ecological change.

“We have combined both experimental and observational data with mathematical modeling to show that evolution causes ecological effects and that it does so under natural conditions,” Farkas said. “We also focused simultaneously on multiple evolutionary processes—including natural selection and gene flow—rather than just one, which affords us some unique insights.”

Farkas and his colleagues—including Ilkka Hanski and Tommi Mononen, both of the University of Helsinki in Finland—focused their attention on the walking stick Timema cristinae, which lives in Southern California. The flightless insect lives primarily on two shrubs: chamise, which has narrow, needle-like leaves; and greenbark ceanothus, which has broad, oval-shaped leaves. The variant of the walking sticks that have a white stripe down their backs are better camouflaged on the chamise, while the solid-green walking sticks are better camouflaged on the greenbark ceanothus.

The research team began by cataloguing the walking sticks living on the two types of shrubs in 186 research patches, and determined that the striped walking sticks were indeed more common on chamise and vice versa.

In a second experiment, the researchers artificially stocked the needle-like chamise with the different variants of walking sticks. A month later, they sampled the shrubs and found that more striped walking sticks survived than un-striped walking sticks. They also found that chamise stocked with striped walking sticks were home to a greater number of arthropods as well as a greater variety of arthropods than shrubs stocked with un-striped walking sticks. Finally, there were more leaves damaged by hungry insects on chamise stocked with striped walking sticks.

The scientists surmised that the differences were caused by scrub jays and other birds that feed on walking sticks. A group of easy-to-spot walking sticks could attract birds, which might then feed on other arthropods as well. To test their idea, the researchers repeated the experiment, but in this case, they caged some of the shrubs to keep the birds from feeding. As they expected, the caged chamise stocked with un-striped walking sticks did not have the same drop in

numbers as they did when the bushes were not caged.

“Studies of how rapid evolution can affect the ecology of populations, communities and ecosystems are difficult to accomplish and therefore rare,” Farkas said. “We’re hoping our research helps biologists to appreciate the extent of dynamic interplay between ecology and evolution, and that it can be used by applied scientists to combat emerging threats to biodiversity, ecosystem services, and food security.”

Funding for the study was provided by CU-Boulder, the European Research Council and the Academy of Finland.

Cover image: A walking stick insect camouflages with a greenback ceanothus bush in southern California. The ability of the the insect, Timema cristinae, to be well camouflaged affects other insects living on the same plant. Photo courtesy of Tim Farkas.

Dilwood, Employee of Quarter, known for caring approach, involvement[31]

[32]
Ida Dilwood should wear the title Mrs. UCCS, but since that designation doesn’t exist, she has been honored with the fourth quarter 2013 UCCS Employee of the Quarter award.

Dilwood earned two degrees from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, began her career at the university, met her husband at UCCS and had her wedding reception in the Lodge. All of that, and she still gets chills at every commencement.

“Commencement is the reason I stay,” Dilwood said. “When I see the students in their caps and gowns, I always think ‘Wow, I may have made a small difference in someone’s life.’ That keeps me going.”

Dilwood began working for the Student Disability Services offices as a student worker. She held that position for five years and was an interim director before her 2007 selection as one of the youngest office directors in UCCS history.

Her office served more than 400 students with disabilities and proctored more than 4,500 exams last year. But Dilwood is quick to point out that the term disability means much more than someone who might use a wheelchair or has trouble seeing or hearing.

“You don’t see a traumatic brain injury,” Dilwood said recently. “I think that’s why commencement excites me so much. Sometimes, I see people and know how hard this journey was for them. I know the story that no one else sees.”

Hidden disability or obvious, Dilwood wants to help. A machine in the lobby of her office converts basic graphs into a tactile image with raised lines and she is well versed in tools such as Dragon Speak, a program that converts text to audio. She takes a similar approach to testing services, another function of the office. Students can be proctored for a missed exam through the department or take a battery of standardized tests ranging from the ACT to the GRE.

That same helping attitude led to her service on various committees at UCCS including serving as past president of the Professional Exempt Staff Association and as a member of the parking committee, the food service committee and the University of Colorado Staff Council.

“Ida is a prime example of someone who is willing to dedicate herself 100 percent to her role as the director of disability services and testing yet still finds time to be involved in a plethora of other committees on campus,” Stephanie Hanenberg, director, Student Health Center, said in her nomination letter.

As Employee of the Quarter, Dilwood is happy to park in a reserved space for the next three months. She also received a day of administrative leave, a gift card to Hacienda Colorado and a recognition plaque.

Headle engages students in service learning[33]
Video of 72hnwwYbbnQ

Barbara Headle, senior instructor in the Department of History at UCCS, likes cemeteries. The memory-laden parcels that many avoid also provide information that can make history relevant to students.

“Cemeteries are mirrors of our community,” Headle said recently.

For the second year, as part of a service learning component for Headle’s course “Cemeteries, Legacies and American History,” UCCS students led events at the Fountain Fairview Cemetery culminating with an Oct. 12 cemetery crawl. The events raised almost $1,400 to help repair damage caused by vandals.

But this was no zombie, Halloween-style scare-the-daylights out of you fundraiser. Instead, Headle’s students combined multiple skills and used the cemetery as both a backdrop and a primary information source. A dowsing event in September and an Oct. 7 Murder and Mayhem event featuring a coroner’s inquest preceded the afternoon crawl where students braved dropping temperatures and noisy I-25 traffic to complete a class assignment.

“This was no term paper,” Headle said. “They lived history.”

Using a theme of Fountain’s earliest settlers, students researched lives using a variety of sources ranging from cemetery and other public records to accounts found at the Fountain Public Library, the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum and the Fountain Historical Society. From there, the students created a historically accurate character, completed a costume, and re-enacted that character for more than six hours.

“The student becomes the person who is buried and tells the story of his or her life,” Headle said.

The characters ranged from a town marshal killed in the line of duty, to a prospector from Rhode Island who moved West in a quest for gold and became a successful rancher. The lives of women were told as well, including Maria Hurtado, one of two sisters kidnapped by the notorious Felipe Espinosa in the 1860s. She was later released and lived to be 96.

For the Murder and Mayhem event, recent alumna Mary Trotter played the role of Anna Pettingill whose suspicious death prompted a graveside coroner’s inquest.

“Back then, the jury – which included the husband’s mistress and some of his best friends – ruled her death a suicide,” Headle said. “When we re-enacted the case, the jury of visitors held up their hands and said it was a murder.”

Headle said her students took the assignments seriously, creating authentic costumes and patiently repeating their stories for those who toured the cemetery after paying an admission fee. The monies will be used to restore headstones damaged by vandals in the summer of 2012. A security camera also is on the cemetery’s wish list.

“They all earned A’s for the assignment,” Headle said. “They were all outstanding.”

Former students no longer seeking grades returned to help with the project. Headle heaped praise on them and on Ian Smith, program assistant, Department of History. Smith assisted in the story of the murdered town marshal, playing the

part of past Fountain Mayor William Riddoch.

“Kim Sweetwood (a UCCS undergraduate and now chair of the Friends of Fountain Fairview Cemetery), was keeper of all my mental notes and head of the ‘don’t panic anyone’ committee,” Headle said. “Without her help in all of this, I would probably be a resident of Fairview myself.”

Dropping names ...[34]

Lauren Brengarth

Michael Orlando, lecturer in the Global Energy Management (GEM) program at the CU Denver Business School, will teach “The Fundamentals of Global Energy Business,” a free, open access energy business course through Coursera beginning Nov. 4. The course will provide students with an introduction to the business of primary energy production. It will examine the nature of demand and supply in global energy markets and business considerations for participants in those markets. … **Lauren Brengarth**, assistant professor in the UCCS Department of Communication, and **Stephannie Finley**, executive director of university advocacy and partnerships, University Advancement, will present at an Oct. 31 Public Relations Society of America annual professional development workshop at the El Paso County Citizen’s Service Center. Brengarth will present “Studying Strategic Communication: Drastic Changes Through the Decade.” Finley will be part of a panel discussion, “City for Champions: Building Support for the Regional Tourism Act of Colorado.”

Obituary: Jon Winterton[36]

Jon Winterton with former Dean Dan Howard at his retirement celebration in 2011.

Jon Winterton, Ph.D., retired Emeritus Associate Professor in the CU Denver College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Communications and then in Sociology, died earlier this month. He was 72.

Winterton was with CU from 1969-2010. At Winterton’s retirement, colleague Danny Martinez said of him, “In 1990, Jon, in keeping with his strong sense of social responsibility and egalitarian philosophy of education, conceived of a highly innovative approach to motivating non-college-bound, underrepresented high school students to go on to college. He was convinced that the best way to motivate these students was to give them an early exposure to college by having them take courses in the safe and supportive environment of their own high school. Jon came to me for assistance in developing the administrative infrastructure for what became known as the CU Succeed Program. It was entirely because of Jon that 17 of the 19 students in the (first) class went on to college within a year after graduating from high school.”

Services were held Oct. 13. Read more about him here.[38]

CU Health Plan members eligible for free checkup, flu shot[39]

[40]
Health screening results will be mailed to your home two to four weeks after your appointment Walk-ins are accepted from 7 a.m.-11 a.m.; just make sure you bring your health insurance card with you You are automatically entered to win one of 50 free Fitbits. The drawing will take place in December.
Need a little coaxing to get yourself to your free health checkup this fall?

You're not alone.

Hundreds of people just like you — some your own co-workers — needed that extra push to make it out to our 2012 health screenings. Some are busy moms who barely have time to get to the doctor when they're sick. Others were just plain scared of the prick of a needle. So what motivated them?

Group interest, says Susan Mahoney, who was one of many University of Colorado Colorado Springs to show up for the health screenings.

The price tag—free tests and other discounted ones—was too good to pass up, according to CU Denver's Jeffrey Schildgen.

The chance to catch a small problem before it became a big one won over Nancy Portner, a CU-Boulder employee.

Allow us to give you more incentives to attend our 2013 screenings[41]: They're free, private, available at convenient locations and open to you and your CU Health Plan-covered spouses and partners. Free flu shots are offered. Oh—and by participating, you'll be entered to win one of 50 Fitbit activity trackers.

Don't wait – register for a health screening today[42]!

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/leaders-health-care-economics-recognized-distinguished-professors[2] https://www.cu.edu/content/distinguished-professors[3] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dpbunnpng[4] https://connections.cu.edu/file/dpmedemapng[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-continues-review-policy-hiring-working-retirees[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/graduate-school-grant-will-expand-phd-diversity[7] https://connections.cu.edu/file/grad-phd01png[8] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/Graduate-School/deans-office/Pages/message-from-dean.aspx[9] http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2003/nsf03520/nsf03520.htm[10] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/spotlight/faculty/Pages/Associate-Vice-Chancellor-for-Diversity-and-Inclusion%20Brenda%20Allen.aspx[11] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/DiversityAndInclusion/aboutUs/Pages/thestaff.aspx[12] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/Engineering/Programs/Computer-Science-and-Engineering/faculty/Pages/GitaAlaghband.aspx[13] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/programs/molbio/faculty/degregorij/Pages/DeGregoriJ.aspx[14] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/CLAS/Departments/math/contact/DepartmentDirectory/Pages/StephanieASantorico.aspx[15] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/college
s/medicalschool/departments/Pathology/academicprograms/cancerbiology/Pages/gutierrez-hartman_canbio.aspx[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-biology-students-ready-wow-world-competition[17] https://connections.cu.edu/file/igem-diytoppng[18] https://connections.cu.edu/file/igem-diylogopng[19] http://2013.igem.org/Team:CU-Boulder[20] http://parts.igem.org/Main_Page[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/nih%E2%80%99s-484-million-will-advance-translational-research[22] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/campus_amc.jpg[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-cu-denver-academic-building-rises-auraria-campus[24] https://connections.cu.edu/across-cu/new-cu-denver-academic-building-rises-on-auraria-campus/ucd_bldg_top[25] http

://www.ucdenver.edu/about/newsroom/newsreleases/Pages/University-and-city-leaders-break-ground-on-Academic-Building-1.aspx[26] http://www.ucdenver.edu/Calendar/Lists/Events/DispFormLite.aspx?List=5e2bbce6-1abe-477b-9f55-ba2eb0ed38ac&ID=2521&Source=http%3a//www.ucdenver.edu/Calendar/Pages/CalendarView.aspx&Web=8402c06c-578c-47bf-b35c-46b18363df38[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/excellence-leadership-program-participants-visit-campus[28] https://www.cu.edu/eld/leadership/elp[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/poorly-camouflaged-insects-can-kick-cascade-ecological-impacts-new-study-finds[30] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucbcamo-bugs01png[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dilwood-employee-quarter-known-caring-approach-involvement[32] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/people_dilwood.jpg[33] https://connections.cu.edu/people/headle-engages-students-service-learning[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-162[35] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/people_brengarth.jpg[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/obituary-jon-winterton[37] https://connections.cu.edu/file/obitwintertonpng[38] http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/denverpost/obituary.aspx?n=jon-winterton&pid=167489214[39] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-health-plan-members-eligible-free-checkup-flu-shot[40] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/beco_sidebar.png[41] http://becolorado.org/images/uploads/resources/healthscreeningCalendar.pdf[42] http://becolorado.org/programs/biometric-screenings/