Five questions for Michelle Carpenter[1]

[2]
Using experimental video and installation works,Michelle Carpenter[3] brings focus to difficult subject matter including women's issues such as domestic violence and body image, along with life-transforming events that have occurred in her life.

The assistant professor of digital design in the College of Arts and Media at the University of Colorado Denver also understands the importance of community engagement and giving back, and works with her students to develop communications tools for local nonprofits.

One of Carpenter's current projects – focusing on a life-transforming event – is the development of an experimental video piece that examines how human memory works. In 2000, her grandmother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The video explores the richness of memory, and the immediate, working and long-term processes of remembering. She plans to experiment with projecting video (text and image) onto mist or smoke to further suggest the transient nature of memory. Ironically, Michelle's grandmother had carefully documented her daily life in a diary almost as if she knew she would lose her memory. Those diaries will become a central element to the piece.

Carpenter came to Colorado in 1986 to visit friends in Boulder. She had planned to stay for two weeks then head to Los Angeles, but fell in love with the state and never looked back. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

"I have had amazing career opportunities and experiences and I couldn't be more impressed with my colleagues here at the University of Colorado Denver and their skills and exhibition and screening records," she said. "Colorado draws talent and keeps it because of the state's beauty, climate and people."

Her experimental pieces and documentaries have been screened at local, national and international film festivals and in art galleries. She hopes to one day receive an award from the Black Maria Film and Video Festival, a highly respected event that features cutting-edge independent and experimental video and film work. Another of her goals is to be granted funding from the Sundance Documentary Institute for a feature-length documentary that would be screened at the Sundance Film Festival.

Carpenter and her family enjoy Colorado's resources: rock climbing, biking and hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter. Both her sons downhill ski race for the Eldora Mountain Ski Club and in the spring and summer are consumed by Little League and tournament team baseball. The arts aren't neglected: Her children are learning to shoot and edit video.

— Cynthia Pasquale

1. At your website, you write, "In my artwork I have sought to relate the complexity of emotion. Utilizing personal narrative, irony and gathered experiences, my work discusses the manifestation of violence, social constraints and personal loss." How did you come to focus on these topics?

My creative research consists of two distinct styles of art making: traditional narrative video and experimental video documentary. The content of my experimental work is driven by and created in response to primary experiences in my life. I draw from personal experiences to develop documentaries, experimental single-channel videos or video installations that encourage discourse on difficult subject matters, including domestic violence, women's body issues, breast cancer and Alzheimer's. One of my video/installation pieces, "Rule of Thumb," was fueled by an experience with domestic violence in the mid-1980s. This piece asks the viewer to critically question manifestations of violence in relationships.

No matter how much feminist theory I read or how many times I deconstruct the myth of ideal beauty, I still have problems accepting and being happy with my body type. "Alterations" is an installation that addresses the surgical alteration of women's bodies and social concepts of beauty. This project is an environment that combines projected video, computer-generated images, sculptural forms such as mannequins and other objects. The video is a montage of

images including surgery footage with related audio. Each of the three mannequin forms are pierced with 5,000 steel pins and hundreds of red threaded needles, reflecting our painful cultural obsession with the ideal body.

2. You live in the Fourmile Canyon area, a place that recently was ravaged by fire. Will you use this experience for an upcoming video piece?

[4]
My family and I live in the historic mining town site of Sunshine located in the middle of the burn area. The losses our friends suffered are absolutely heartbreaking. Out of 71 homes in our neighborhood, 42 were lost to the fire, so as soon as we were finally allowed back home, I began documenting the devastation. Even while we were being evacuated, I began to gather stories from friends and neighbors. I listened to the fire/police scanner 24/7 because getting information about the fire was nearly impossible. We found out early during the evacuation that three of our neighbors refused to leave. These three men basically saved the old town site and one saved our house by putting out flying embers with a shovel and dirt. Another saved four dogs that had been left in Sunshine. There are so many heroic stories to share and I hope to have the documentary completed by spring 2011. Making art about my experience with the fire helps me process the loss and hopefully, in some small way, will do the same for others.

3. Your digital design students have designed materials for local groups and nonprofits. This is the second year your classes have done design work for groups. How did the program begin?

I worked in the nonprofit sector for 10 years, first at PBS and then at Free Speech TV. I know the importance of community engagement and how good it feels to give back to your community. As a designer artist, I have donated magazine layouts, websites, PSAs and fundraising videos to various nonprofits and schools because community service is an important part of my life.

When I began teaching at the University of Colorado Denver in 2000, I taught with a professor in English named Ellen Cushing. She had set up a class called "Multimedia in the Community" and it was a perfect match for my experience. I taught the class for six years. Students learned how to create narrative and documentary videos and for their final project in the class we would create a PSA for a local nonprofit. In 2007, when I became an assistant professor in digital design for the College of Arts and Media (CAM), I wanted to make the nonprofit component in learning larger to give the students a real client/designer experience and to deliver a larger body of artwork to the nonprofit. In this senior-level class, called Design Studio 3, students create a full design identity for a nonprofit, including a design brief, logotype, a website and a promotional video. It's promoting the adage, "Learning to be good (designers) while doing good."

(To see examples of the projects, visit The Sheridan Clinic http://www.sheridanhealthservices.com/[5] – click on the "Kids" page – and the High Plains Research Network http://www.hprn.net[6], on the "About" page.)
Carpenter's work part of Starz Film Fest
"Del:100" is a visually haunting documentary short that highlights the career of centenarian journalist Dolores Plested. Michelle Carpenter edited and co-produced the film with Craig Volk (director) and Stephanie Two Eagles. "Del:100" will be screened during the Starz Denver Film Festival, Nov. 3-14. The film will be shown with two other films, "Red Shirley" and "Les Complices" at 6:45 p.m. Nov. 7 and 9:15 p.m. Nov. 8.
Born in 1908, Plested witnessed and reported on many of the major events of the 20th century. Her life experiences included writing for The New York Times and The Ladies Home Journal in the 1940s, observing the Hindenburg dirigible before its tragic crash, and meeting many celebrities.
Later, she was a trailblazing female reporter in Colorado who covered Eisenhower, Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover when Ike had his summer White House in Denver. Del also covered Jackie Kennedy's Aspen holiday with John-John and Caroline. Her life is celebrated in her own words and accompanied by poetic cinematography and a jazz score.
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Eisenhower, Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover when Ike had his summer White House in Denver. Del also covered Jackie Kennedy's Aspen holiday with John-John and Caroline. Her life is celebrated in her own words and accompanied by poetic cinematography and a jazz score.

4. What would you consider one of your best achievements?

"Good Grief" offered seven nights of comedy and drama showcasing unique Colorado talent. This original television miniseries was shot entirely in the Tivoli on the Auraria campus during the summer of 2008. "Good Grief" was originally scripted by Craig Volk, a professional television writer and a CAM colleague as part of his episodic television writing class at UC Denver. I did the editing for the entire series. "Good Grief" ran on the Rocky Mountain PBS network in January 2009 and continues to air worldwide via RMPBS' website[8].

As editor, it was my job to establish the episode's overall visual form and to remain true to the creative vision of the director. Editors find and carve the best performances of the actors; they establish the intimate relationships we have with the screen characters and I love that role in the process. In addition to entertainment, "Good Grief" examines the complexities of our lives including family, war, racism, violence, economic hardship, higher education issues, medical ethics, social myth and personal loss. It was enormously rewarding.

5. Recently, an art piece in a Loveland gallery caused a bit of controversy for its depiction of Jesus in what appears to be a sex act. These types of incidents happen regularly. What are your thoughts about such artwork and an artist's freedom to create without censorship?

Freedom of speech/expression is a First Amendment right afforded to all of us through the U.S. Constitution, yet I know that as an artist and an educator, how artwork fits into this right can be challenging. It is important to look at the context, the audience and the purpose. Most museums consider their audience and community when they curate artwork and while I am not privy to the details of the case, I was saddened to hear that an artwork was destroyed and wish this complex issue could have been resolved in a more peaceful manner.

Want to suggest a faculty or staff member for Five Questions? Please e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[9]

Regent candidates: Here's why we want to serve[10]

Newsletter invited potential board members to address faculty, staff

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 on or before Oct. 20 appeared in last week's issue[11]; responses received since then appear below:
AT LARGE Jesse Wallace
Libertarian, Denver
Jesse WallaceLibertarian, Denver

I wish to volunteer as regent for the University of Colorado because I wish to give back to the school, which gave me so much. I see an opportunity to refine the budgets, and to remove barriers to entrance for students throughout the university system. I also believe through tightening budgets in the administrative area, and through the renegotiating of outside vendor contracts, we can free up room to get tuition rates lowered, and have a sustainable budget. I also would

like to fight for the campus on the state level to have more money dedicated to the university system from the existing budget.

I am of the opinion that there should be more input from the faculty and staff as well as students and parents and the residents of Colorado funding these campuses and less from the upper level administration/leadership.

I believe there are many opportunities available to make the University of Colorado more effective and more affordable without sacrificing the quality of the education delivered on the campus. Often we allow shell games to dictate policy, leaving those charged with the day-to-day responsibilities left fighting over scraps. I want to challenge these decisions rather than participating within the given system.
DISTRICT 1 Alex Maller
Republican, Denver
Alex MallerRepublican, Denver

To enhance CU's excellence in a forthcoming era of austerity, academic content, academic delivery and some current managerial concepts should be reformed.

As a retired professor of architecture and urban design, with a combined academic and consulting experience of over 30 years, I can bring to the board an additional in-depth understanding of issues affecting CU's development.

I am convinced that public higher education should be viewed as an economical enterprise, rather than an entitlement; a significant investment made by students and parents, to be rewarded by the graduates' improved standard of living. In recent years, "affordable" education has been grossly abused, creating an educational "bubble" with dire consequences on the students' finances and performance. To reform and adjust undergraduate programs for the 21st century, I will advocate rigorous, focused and effective academic delivery and efficient administration which reward entrepreneurship and innovation, not conformity and compliance.

To achieve these objectives, students should be encouraged to enroll in undergraduate studies only when fully aware of their academic aptitudes. Otherwise, candidates should be advised to find a job, volunteer, save money, mature and take time off until they can determine their individual orientations. Students who are more focused and motivated will achieve effective, exciting and rewarding results for both themselves and the faculty.

Graduate education, research and outreach are key to preserve CU's high standards of excellence and resourcefulness. I join all those who expect advanced performance to be rigorous, verifiable and unbiased by religious convictions or political trends.
DISTRICT 4

Sue Sharkey
Republican, Windsor
Sue SharkeyRepublican, Windsor

As a mother who has sent two children to CU, I understand Coloradoans' concerns about rising tuition and the health and welfare of students at CU.

Over the past year I have traveled the 18 counties of the 4th Congressional District listening to families' concerns about the rising cost of education at CU. I've experienced firsthand the financial burden this places on families.

I have been involved with and had a strong connection to CU since my husband was a graduate student there more than 25 years ago. I serve on the CU Parents Association Board and have attended the Board of Regents meetings; met with faculty and administrators; attended the student government meeting and toured the campuses since becoming a candidate a year ago. I have a passion to see CU succeed, the energy and time to commit myself and the preparation to begin making a difference on Day One.

I will promote a university budget that leverages the school's assets to control costs. As a business professional, I support taking greater advantage of CU's leadership role in research to gain additional grant funding and to develop more of its research findings into commercial products. I also support introducing targeted spending cuts that address inefficient programs and bureaucratic mandates that add no value to higher education.

As a CU regent I will be an advocate for Colorado students and families who, like mine, want to make sure they can balance educational goals and their checkbook.

Colorado Springs next stop on president's town hall tour[15]

CU President Bruce D. Benson continues a series of town hall meetings, which began last week in Boulder[16], with a Friday, Oct. 29, visit to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Benson and campus leaders are hosting the meetings to discuss critical issues facing the university. After a brief presentation on such topics as the state and university budgets, the 2011 legislative session and more, the president will answer questions from the audience.

Here's the schedule for the remaining town hall visits:
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

Leader of payroll application launch honored[17]

Lisa Affleck, director of payroll administration and the human resources management system with Payroll & Benefit Services, was honored Friday, Oct. 22, as the President's Employee of the Year for system administration.
Affleck received a plaque and $1,000 prize from President Bruce D. Benson at the ceremony and reception, which also recognized the other five nominees for the honor, and employees who reached five-year milestones for service to the university.

The Employee of the Year award is given in recognition and appreciation of exceptional job performance. In nomination material from leadership and colleagues, Affleck was praised as being "hard working, loyal, dedicated and a person of great integrity and high moral standards."

Affleck was described as a warm, cheerful "go-to" person whose project leadership was especially evident this past year with development and implementation of the new portal-based time and leave application, My.Leave.

"From her ability to provide timely and relevant input on an issue that helps to shortcut its resolution, to her ability to communicate complex issues on a level appropriate to the recipients' understanding, she has had an immeasurable positive impact to the University of Colorado," the nomination letter reads.

In another letter supporting Affleck for the award, it reads: "I have observed her analyze information and situations and take the time to really understand the needs of our campuses, which are quite diverse, since each campus has its own culture and unique organizational structure."

Affleck was chosen from a field of six nominees; the five runners-up also were: Leo Balaban, University Information Services (UIS), desktop support at 1800 Grant St.; Katie Goodwin, University Counsel; Lindsay (Polak) Lennox, Tech Transfer Office; Tyler May, UIS; and Denise Nakamichi, Office of the President, budget and finance.

[flagallery gid=9 name="Gallery"]

The ceremony at 1800 Grant St. in Denver also recognized the following employees who have reached landmark years of service to the university.

30 years:
Stuart Littlefield, Procurement Service Center (PSC) Mary Mirelez, Payroll and Benefit Services (PBS)
25 years:
Carolyn Darland, PBS Margaret Simms, Office of University Counsel
20 years:
Michael Esposito, University Information Systems (UIS) Edmund Lacobme, UIS Edward Schroeder, UIS Elvira Strehle-Henson, Office of University Counsel Melia Thomas, Office of Risk Management Daniel Wilkerson, Office of University Counsel
15 years:
Lori Dewender, UIS Arthur Figel, UIS Paul O'Brian, UIS Chrystal Pochay, UIS
10 years:
Debra Caamano, Tech Transfer Office (TTO) Sidney Eaton, UIS Mary Ellis, Office of University Controller Pamela Green, UIS Margaret Haith, UIS Erica Hunter, PBS Sylva Janicek, UIS Lisa Landis, Office of Human Resources Michelle Martinez, PBS Christian Scott, PSC Thomas Trager, Office of University Counsel Joe Vandel, UIS
Five years:
Leonid Balaban, UIS Jeri Barlock, Office of the Board of Regents Travis Chillemi, Office of University Controller Colette Cosby, PSC Megan Elphingstone, UIS Michael Erausquin, UIS Mark Gelband, PBS Joshua Grudle, PBS Terry Lee, Office of Risk Management Jeff Lehmann, PSC Michelle Malfatti, Office of Risk Management Melissa Martin, Office of University Counsel Deborah Mendez-Wilson, University Relations Sara Missel, Office of University Counsel Samuel Moreno, PBS David Pierce, Office of University Controller Traci Saige, UIS Julie Sharpe, UIS Tom Smerdon, TTO David Sprenger, State and Federal Relations Wiwiek Standard, Office of University Controller Diane Streuer, PBS Rick Todd, Office of the Treasurer Kimberly Wendelin, PBS Richard Wittekind, UIS

Summit on diversity to offer view beyond common definition[18]

The University of Colorado at Boulder's annual campus diversity summit, "Expanding Our Minds: Encompassing Diversity and Practicing Inclusion," will feature a variety of sessions for students, faculty, staff and community members Tuesday, Nov. 2, and Wednesday, Nov. 3.

All events are free and open to the public. Hosted by the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement and the chancellor's advisory committees, the sessions will offer a view of diversity beyond the most common definitions and will highlight the research, talents and insights of CU-Boulder faculty, students and staff members.

"The summit is organized around a combination of skill-building sessions for those who are advancing their abilities to practice inclusion and who need tools for accomplishing the work, and thought-provoking discussions on what we have yet to work on," said Alphonse Keasley, associate vice chancellor for campus climate and community engagement. "The program also includes inspirational presentations to bring the latest information to those who toil every day around diversity and inclusive excellence."

The keynote speaker, Luoluo Hong, is the vice chancellor for student affairs at the University of Hawaii and a nationally recognized expert on violence prevention. She will speak at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 2, in the University Memorial Center Glenn Miller Ballroom about gender and gender violence and its intersection with race, class and other social identities, and how to prevent gender violence on college campuses.

Also on Nov. 2, Philip Piket, professor emeritus of sociology, will present a plenary session, "Viewing Religion Using Sociological 'Lenses': Beyond Us vs. Them," from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the UMC center ballroom.

On Nov. 3, plenary sessions include "Privilege and Activism" by sociology Professor Joanne Belknap and "Conflict Transformation in the Inclusive Environment" by communication Professor Stan Deetz. Belknap will speak from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and Deetz from 1:30 to 3 p.m., both in the center ballroom.

A performance by the Interactive Theater Project, "Rise up!," from 12:20 to 1:20 p.m. Nov. 3 in the UMC center ballroom, will address how to respond to hate when it occurs in one's presence or nearby.

At "Expanding into the Multicultural Workplace," panelists from various workplace environments will share their organizations' need for employees who can evidence cultural competence or who can bring the skill set for participating in multicultural environments. This session will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Nov. 2 and 3 in the UMC east ballroom.

New for this year, the Diversity and Inclusion Summit has established a way for employee participation to be recorded in Peoplesoft. Before attending a session, participants may check in at the summit desk in the Glenn Miller Ballroom to have their attendance recorded. Each session is categorized as plenary, participatory, student sessions, inclusion building or skill-building/professional development. Many campus departments will accept diversity summit attendance as a diversity training requirement and participants who attend one event of each session type will receive a certificate of achievement.

A complete schedule of diversity summit events is available in the Events Calendar athttp://tinyurl.com/DiversitySummit2010[19].

Chancellor has eye on university's future[20]

Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak

With questions on topics ranging from sewer gases to next year's tuition rates, UCCS students recently met with Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak to find out more about the university's future.

Shockley-Zalabak provided the dozen students who met with her at the University Center an update on issues such as enrollment and how UCCS compares with other universities in areas such as overall funding and student graduation rates.

"One of the reasons I remain concerned," Shockley-Zalabak said after delivering an upbeat report on record fall enrollment, "is that among our 31 peer universities across the nation, there is a big gap in the amount of state support received. By every measure, we are receiving the least amount of money."

Maintaining high quality within severe financial constraints remains a concern and it's understandable for students to wonder if the quality of academic programs is declining. Shockley-Zalabak cited graduation rates, student success on professional exams and the percentage of UCCS students accepted for graduate study as indicators that the quality of a UCCS education remains high.

In response to questions about tuition, Shockley-Zalabak said she expects public universities and colleges in Colorado to increase tuition from 7 percent to 27 percent next year and that tuition increases at UCCS will be "as low as possible" and likely to increase in the 7 percent to 9 percent range.

Other questions addressed long-term plans for additional sports facilities on North Nevada, providing free university counseling services, additional study abroad opportunities and more parking spaces.

But it was a question about sewer gas at the Summit Village student housing complex that drew the most direct response.

"It's awful. I hate it. I'm with you," Shockley-Zalabak said. "The bottom line is that we messed up when we built housing. We've had at least 10 studies over the years that have concluded that we have what amounts to an inversion where winds off the bluffs push the sewer gases down. If anyone here is an engineering student and looking for a project, I've got one for you. If you can figure this out, you'll have a very appreciative university."

Shockley-Zalabak encouraged students to work with student government representatives to bring concerns to the administration, to participate in regular brown bag lunches conducted in student housing, to send e-mails or to ask questions of other UCCS administrators including Peg Bacon, provost, and Homer Wesley, vice chancellor of Student Success, both of whom attended the forum.

'Behind the Mask' fundraiser benefits Center on Domestic Violence[22]

[23]
A free multimedia event featuring dramatic and provocative stories of abuse and hope was presented at the Wells Fargo Theater in Denver on Oct. 20. The event was in honor of 10 years of work by the Center on Domestic Violence [24]affiliated with theUniversity of Colorado Denver's School of Public Affairs.[25]

Behind the Mask: Bringing Domestic Violence Center Stage[26] represented the victims of domestic violence living behind a mask who hide their abuse from friends and family out of shame and fear. The evening highlight was a theatrical performance demonstrating the emotional and physical turmoil of domestic violence and the role of the Center on Domestic Violence as a vehicle for change. A silent auction included a special selection of hand-painted masks (on display and available for purchase) created by survivors, advocates and allies of all ages.

The evening ushered in the center's second decade of programs, graduate achievements and community partnerships committed to ending violence against women. The event, taking place during Domestic Violence Awareness Month, drew nearly 400 community leaders, students, alumni, funders, policymakers and advocates from across the state and the nation. More than $50,000 was raised in conjunction with the event.

The Seedworks Fund, founded by Sue Hagedorn, associate professor emerita from the College of Nursing, generously matched $750,000. Hagedorn stated that applied research makes a difference at the center, and research combined with education and practice are the keys to changing lives in the community and the nation.

Bridget Orton, wife of Denver Broncos quarterback Kyle Orton, and Terrance Carroll, speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, co-chaired the event. Bridget Orton is a trained social worker and former court appointed special advocate (CASA). Carroll represented House District 7 in the Legislature and served as Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives from 2003 through this year. He is an ordained minister and currently an attorney with Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Carroll emceed the event.

Barbara Paradiso, director of the center and featured speaker, discussed the three critical areas of focus at the Center:

Leadership—The center's educational programs are designed to prepare transformative leaders for the domestic violence movement. The goal is to provide a growing pool of highly skilled individuals who can successfully promote change on behalf of domestic violence victims and their children in every community. Research into Action—The center is engaged in original research to test new strategies and identify solutions to ending domestic violence and building new alliances between the practice and research communities. Service—The center works in collaboration with local and national community groups to serve advocacy organizations as well as victims of domestic violence.
Established in 2000, the center's mission is to end domestic violence by fostering institutional and social change through leadership development, education, research and community collaboration.

Study: Estrogen replacement therapy speeds ovarian cancer growth[27]

Monique Spillman, M.D.

Estrogen therapy used by menopausal women causes a type of ovarian cancer to grow five times faster, according to a new study being published next month by researchers at the University of Colorado Cancer Center[29].

Menopausal estrogen replacement therapy (ERT) also significantly increases the likelihood of the cancer metastasizing to the lymph nodes, according to the study, which will be published in the Nov. 1 issue ofCancer Research[30]. Published by the American Association for Cancer Research, Cancer Research is the world's largest circulation medical journal devoted specifically to cancer research.

The effect of ERT was shown in mouse models of estrogen receptor positive (ER+) ovarian cancer, which accounts for about 60 percent of all human ovarian cancer cases. Ovarian cancer is one of the deadliest cancers affecting women. This year alone, nearly 22,000 women will be newly diagnosed with ovarian cancer and an estimated 13,850 women will die from the disease, according to the National Cancer Institute.

"We showed that estrogen replacement substantially increases proliferation and risk of distant lymph node metastasis in ER+ tumors," said Monique Spillman[31], M.D., Ph.D., the study's lead researcher, a gynecologic oncologist at University of Colorado Hospital and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

For the first time, Spillman and her team measured ovarian cancer growth in the abdomen of mice using novel techniques for visualizing the cancer. In mice with ER+ ovarian cancer cells, which were tagged with a firefly-like fluorescent protein that allowed them to be tracked, the introduction of estrogen therapy made the tumors grow five times faster than in mice that did not receive the ERT. The risk of the cancer moving to the lymph nodes increased to 26 percent in these mice compared with 6 percent in mice that did not receive ERT.

The team also found that the estrogen-regulated genes in ovarian cancer reacted differently than ER+ genes found in breast cancer, helping to explain why current anti-estrogen therapies used with breast cancer, such as Tamoxifen, are largely ineffective against ovarian cancer.

"Breast cancer and ovarian cancer are often linked when talking about hormone replacement therapy, but we found that only 10 percent of the ER+ genes overlapped," Spillman said. "We were able to identify estrogen-regulated genes specific to ER+ ovarian cancer that are not shared with ER+ breast cancers. We believe these genes can be specifically targeted with new anti-estrogen therapies that could more effectively treat ER+ ovarian cancers."

Spillman and her team now will begin to screen current anti-estrogen therapies against the newly identified ovarian cancer genes to identify the pathways and compounds that are more likely to effectively treat ER+ ovarian cancer.

This study looked at the effect of estrogen replacement therapy in mice that already possessed ER+ ovarian cancer cells. It did not test whether the estrogen replacement actually could cause the development of these cancer cells. The study also dealt only with estrogen replacement, which is linked to higher risks of ovarian cancer, not combined estrogen/progesterone therapy that is used with women who retain their uteruses.

This research is too early to draw implications for use of estrogen replacement therapy in women, Spillman cautioned.

"We cannot make clinical recommendations based on what is happening in mice," said Spillman, one of just eight gynecological oncologists in Colorado. "Every woman is different and needs to talk to her doctor about the decision to use hormone replacement therapy."

The study was funded by a Gynecologic Cancer Foundation Career Development Award and the Liz Tilberis Scholars Award from the Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation. This competitive award – a $450,000, three-year grant – is given to early career researchers who are developing techniques for early diagnosis and improved care for women with ovarian cancer.

Boulder firm signs research, licensing agreements with CU for heart study[32]

Boulder-based miRagen Therapeutics Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on improving patients' lives by developing innovative microRNA (miRNA)-based therapeutics for cardiovascular and muscle disease, and CU have entered into sponsored research and licensing agreements to collaborate on iRNA therapeutics discovery and development.

The sponsored research agreement will support the analysis of miRNA and gene expression changes from a study conducted at the University of Colorado Cardiovascular Institute at the CU School of Medicine, "Beta Blocker Effects on Remodeling and Gene Expression (BORG)," while the licensing agreement will enable the company to commercialize intellectual property associated with discoveries made during the research project. Further analysis of the completed study, funded by miRagen, will provide the company with data on miRNA changes in human heart failure patients followed over two years with associated disease outcomes. Financial details of the agreements were not disclosed.

The BORG study was led by Michael R. Bristow, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine and co-director of the Cardiovascular Institute at CU, and a co-founder of miRagen, and Brian Lowes, M.D., associate professor of medicine. CU investigators in laboratories led by David Port, Ph.D., and Carmen Sucharov, Ph.D., also will be contributing to the study.

"We are extremely pleased to work closely with Dr. Bristow and the University of Colorado and to gain access to these unique data in human patients with heart failure," said William S. Marshall, Ph.D., president and CEO of miRagen. "This provides us with the ability to analyze miRNA levels, as well as gene expression changes, in a given patient at specific points in time in their disease progression. We believe this will provide a very powerful tool in stratifying our miRNA targets and support our mission of developing groundbreaking miRNA-based therapeutics to treat patients with cardiovascular and muscle disease."

Said Bristow, "The BORG study performed at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center contains novel information on miRNAs and their relationships to myocardial remodeling and messenger RNA (mRNA) behavior, which will be very useful to miRagen in target selection for their therapeutic miRNA approaches. In drug development, animal models are of course very valuable, but for target validation as well as novel target discovery, human data are vitally important."

"The university is very pleased with closing this deal," said David Poticha of the CU Technology Transfer Office. "The

team that has been assembled by miRagen has a strong history of successfully developing Colorado-based biotechnology companies, and we firmly believe miRagen is the right and best partner to help commercialize the microRNA technologies developed by Drs. Port, Sucharov and Bristow."

Biologist accepts high honor at ceremony[33]

homas Blumenthal, professor and chairman of the department of molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder, signs his name into the registry of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences during a ceremony earlier this month in Cambridge, Mass. Blumenthal is part of the academy's 2010 Class of Fellows.

Thomas Blumenthal of the University of Colorado at Boulder's molecular, cellular and developmental biology department was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences during an Oct. 9 ceremony in Cambridge, Mass.

Blumenthal joins a host of researchers, scholars and artists who are members of the academy's 230th class of Fellows. He is the 21st faculty member to be elected a fellow of the academy while at CU. Three others, including Norman Pace, distinguished professor of MCDB, were elected prior to joining the CU faculty.

CU faculty members previously elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences include three of four of CU's Nobel laureates, three of four of CU's National Medal of Science winners and several of its Guggenheim and MacArthur fellows.

"The induction ceremony celebrates the academy's mission and the accomplishments of its newly elected members," said Leslie Berlowitz, academy president. "Through three centuries of service, the academy and its Fellows have been dedicated to intellectual leadership and constructive action in America and the world."

Since its founding by John Adams, James Bowdoin, John Hancock and other "scholar-patriots," the academy has elected leading "thinkers and doers" from each generation, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the 19th, and Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill in the 20th.

The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners. Acomplete list of new members[35] is available on the academy's website.

Boulder faculty members awarded National Science Foundation grants[36]

Halverson and Palmer

Two University of Colorado at Boulder faculty members have received prestigious National Science Foundation (NSF) Early Career Development (CAREER) awards.

Assistant Professor **Nils Halverson**, who holds faculty appointments in both the astrophysical and planetary sciences department and the physics department, was awarded $875,415 over five years from NSF to support detector development and data analysis for cosmic microwave background studies with the South Pole Telescope.

Cosmic microwave background is relic heat from the Big Bang that scientists can detect with microwave-wavelength telescopes. The light is slightly polarized, much in the way sunlight is polarized when it is reflected off the surface of a pond. The polarization signal is expected to contain tiny ripples from gravitational waves set in motion a small fraction of a second after the Big Bang, Halverson said. By measuring the signal, astrophysicists can begin to understand the physics of the universe during its birth.

As part of the NSF award, Halverson and astrophysical and planetary sciences instructor **Seth Horenstein** will provide a graduate class focused on observations, data analysis and statistics with conceptual assessment tools, peer-instruction exercises and course notes.

Assistant Professor **Amy Palmer** of the chemistry and biochemistry department received $831,720 from the NSF over five years to support her research to provide a powerful new approach to illuminate disease-causing bacteria like salmonella that invade host organisms and can produce harmful and sometimes lethal effects.

Many bacterial pathogens use a set of proteins called "effectors" to invade and infect host cells, cooperatively working to hijack cellular signaling and to reprogram the host cell to enable bacterial survival. Palmer and her team are developing a new method that will directly tag a broad spectrum of effector proteins with fluorescent molecules in order to visualize their movements during infection of a host cell.

Palmer's project also will contribute to a campuswide effort to reform undergraduate science education by developing and validating interdisciplinary, hands-on tutorials that will promote student engagement and transform student learning. She has worked with the Science Education Initiative on campus, which is part of the university's STEM efforts, to integrate learning assistants into upper division physical chemistry classes, develop pre/post concept tests to measure learning gains and to promote active engagement in the classroom. Palmer also is a faculty member in CU's Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology (CIMB).

Dropping names ...[38]

[39]
Lynne Fox, education librarian at the Anschutz Medical Campus Health Sciences Library, received the Bernice M. Hetzner Award for Excellence in Academic Health Sciences Librarianship at the recent annual meeting of the MidContinental Chapter of the Medical Library Association. The honor recognizes an exceptional career of accomplishment and service. Fox teaches classes in informatics and evidence-based practice. An accomplished librarian, author, editor and instructor, Fox also currently is a member of Thornton's City Council. ...

Barden

Facilities Management at the University of Colorado Denver has promoted **Mike Barden** to director of facilities projects. Barden had been the manager of major projects and assistant director of facilities projects for nearly every new building or major renovation on both campuses, and also had been the university's state buildings delegate, requiring him to be actively involved in contracts, amendments, change order, change order proposals and pay applications for major capital projects. ... **John (Jack) M. Westfall**, M.D., MPH, is the co-director of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute and Director of the Community Translation – Community Engagement and Research Program. Westfall is an associate professor of family medicine and Associate Dean for Rural Health at the University of Colorado School of Medicine who has been involved in the CCTSI since it was created in 2008. He will

direct the Community Translational Research pillar program of the CCTSI, overseeing the community engagement key functions and organizing the innovative Partnership of Academicians and Communities for Translation (PACT) and ensuring community engagement and public trust in our research and training endeavors. ... **Michael Tavel**, AIA, senior instructor of architecture studies at the University of Colorado Denver, has developed and is teaching an after-school program for elementary age children called "The Green Neighborhood Class." The emphasis is environmental literacy learned through field trips and hands-on experiences. Tavel is volunteering his time at his children's elementary school, Academia Marie Sandoval, a dual language, Montessori Denver Public School in the Highland Neighborhood. ...

Ramaswami

Anu Ramaswami, professor of environmental and sustainability engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Colorado Denver and director of the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems, recently presented on "Innovations in Greenhouse Gas Inventory Methods at the City-Scale" at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 19th International Emission Inventory Conference[42] in San Antonio, Texas. ...**Frederick J. Suchy**, M.D., will join the faculty of the department of pediatrics, section of pediatric gastroenterology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and become the chief research officer of The Children's Hospital on Dec. 1. He also will serve as associate dean for child health research. Suchy currently is chair of the department of pediatrics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and the Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital, where he has worked for 13 years. ... **John C. Miller**, professor emeritus, languages and cultures at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, recently returned to Gaziantep University, Turkey, under a U.S. State Department English Language Fellow grant. He will teach American literature and culture in addition to providing English training for regional teacher groups in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Education.

Friday is deadline for proposals for President's Fund for the Humanities grants[43]

The President's Fund for the Humanities was established to preserve a balance in the university's programs of education and research by giving special attention to the humanities. The system Office of Academic Affairs is accepting proposals for grants for fall 2010; **deadline is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29.**

Proposals might include: seminars in humanistic studies, public programs in the humanities, innovative teaching in the humanities, or requests for lectures or exhibits by visiting scholars. The fund might also support projects that involve interdisciplinary teaching, increase the visibility of the humanities, emphasize humanistic values, or address special social problems in a humanistic context.

For application guidelines, click here[44]. To view previous awards, click here[45].

An advisory board of faculty representatives from each campus will consider proposals and make recommendations to President Bruce D. Benson for funding. Proposal requirements, guidelines and more information may be found on the president's website, https://www.cu.edu/pfh[46]

For more information, contact Linda Starkey, assistant to the associate vice president for academic affairs, 303-860-5623 or Linda.Starkey@cu.edu[47].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-michelle-carpenter[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q-page5.jpg[3]
http://www.michellecarpenter.net/[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q-page31.jpg[5] http://www.sheridanhealthservices.com/[6] http://www.hprn.net/[7]
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https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regent-candidates-heres-why-we-want-serve-0[11]
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https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boulder-firm-signs-research-licensing-agreements-cu-heart-study[33]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/boulder-faculty-members-awarded-national-science-foundation-grants[37]
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mailto:Linda.Starkey@cu.edu