New student information system takes significant step[1]

Kari Branjord (Photo courtesy of Josef Weiss)

The MetamorphoSIS project reaches its latest milestone on Monday, when the new student information system begins accepting course and class information for fall 2010. The launch is small in technical terms but big in terms of user-friendliness.

"The exciting part here is that we're really reaching out to end users this time," said Kari Branjord, executive director of MetamorphoSIS[3]. The expansive, $50 million system is replacing the outdated student information system.

Between 150 and 200 end users of the new system are being trained to input course catalog information and the schedule of classes. Current and prospective students will use information from the system to register in April for fall 2010 classes.

"What's really going to be different is that this is a Web-based system instead of a mainframe, so there's a lot of new functionality that's going to help save a lot of manual entry," said LeeAnn Baronett, training and communications manager for MetamorphoSIS. With the new system, a drop-down list of selections is built in, so it's no longer necessary for users to look up codes on a cheat sheet. "It's not a big change in terms of process; it's just more user-friendly."

The course and class information entered into the system will feed into the course catalog used by prospective students. The same data also will be used by the registration system that students use each semester, and which also tracks faculty workload and classroom use.

"One of the important keys to the success of the project thus far is the high degree of collaboration among the stakeholders on each of the CU campuses and the project team to identify and implement best practices for the benefit of our students," said John Cooney, associate vice president for administration. "The commitment to collaboration is evident at every level of the university, from the student services offices all the way to the chancellors. It is an excellent example of how to leverage resources to serve the unique needs of each of the CU campuses with a shared service."

The university will continue to roll out the new system in stages through the end of next year. Later this month, admissions staff will begin processing transfer credit for new undergraduate students who start in fall 2010. Results of transfer credit evaluation will be delivered from the Degree Audit Reporting System (DARS) to the student information system.

The next project launch comes in November, with the addition of financial aid, scholarship and student financial data.

"The project is on schedule," Branjord said. "It's not without pressure, but the teams are rising to the occasion. We expect this latest go-live to run fairly smoothly."

Next year's rollouts will include financial aid processing in January; registration, financial aid award notices, process transfer credits for new students in degree audit, and transfer articulation system in February or March; student financials in July; financial aid disbursement in August; and transcripts and end-of-term processing between September and December.

News briefs[4]

President's Employee of the Year Award nominations due today

[5]
The deadline for the 2009-2010 President's Employee of the Year Award has been extended until 5 p.m. today (Oct. 7). The award will honor a system administration employee for exceptional job performance, and includes a presentation of $1,000 (subject to payroll taxes) during a recognition reception hosted by System Staff Council on Oct. 22 at 1800 Grant St.

All system administration classified and professional exempt staff may be nominated for the award. Criteria for the award and details on the nominating process are posted at the System Staff Council Web site[6].

Excellence in Leadership Award to debut

The Excellence in Leadership Program[7] (ELP) requests nominations for its first Excellence in Leadership Award, which honors a graduate of the program who shows exemplary leadership at the university.

Nominations should detail leadership in one or more of the following areas:
Organization, departments or teams Projects, programs or research Fiscal management or fundraising Student instruction
All ELP graduates working at the University of Colorado are eligible to be nominated; self nominations are not accepted. The nominator must be a CU employee who has worked directly with the nominee.

The award will be presented at a leadership lecture and lunch on Nov. 13. The nomination form is posted on the ELP Web site[7]. Nominations are due Oct. 20.

Boulder Public Library hosts free lecture series

CU at the Boulder Public Library offers a slate of three public lectures this fall, beginning Tuesday, Oct. 13, with an exploration of a Costa Rican volcano.

Anthropology Professor Payson Sheets will present "From the Garden of Eden to Armageddon and Back: Eruptions of Arenal Volcano in Ancient Costa Rica." Sheets researched the effects of eruptions on nearby people, their departure and return before the next eruption.

The program continues Nov. 10 with "Planetary Nebulae: Previewing the Fate of the Solar System," presented by Kevin France, research associate at the Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy. On Dec. 8, Sara Hellmuth, doctoral candidate in ecology and evolutionary biology, will present "Climate Change and Disease: A Case Study of Malformed Frogs."

The free, public lectures start at 7 p.m. in the library's Canyon Theater, 1000 Canyon Blvd., and are sponsored by the CU-Boulder Office for University Outreach, the Boulder Public Library and the Boulder Arts Commission. For more information, e-mail outreach@colorado.edu[8] or call 303-441-4113.

Speakers sought for leadership conference

[9]
In preparation for its annual student leadership conference, CU GOLD[10](Gaining Opportunities through Leadership Development) at the University of Colorado at Boulder is requesting presentation proposals from faculty, staff and students.

The theme of the event, set for Feb. 20, is "Leading in Tough Times: Adapt. Innovate. Inspire." Possible topics for the 50-minute sessions include, but are not limited to, managing stress and burnout as a student leader, conflict resolution, entrepreneurship, political leadership, multicultural leadership, and ethics. Previous presentation experience is not necessary.

Submissions are due by 5 p.m. Oct. 16. For more information and a submission form, go to CU GOLD's Leadership Conference site[11].

Career Fair's rebound a good economic sign[12]

[13]
Even in uncertain economic times, the University of Colorado remains an in-demand destination for job recruiters, based on employers that made Tuesday's Fall Career and Internship Fair a sellout.

The University of Colorado at Boulder's Career Services office[14] reported the return to past levels of demand, which dropped off for January's Spring Career and Internship Fair, which had some empty vendor booths. This time, the office began a waiting list of organizations wanting to recruit CU students and alumni.

"The job market has been challenging for students and alumni all over the country," said Lisa Severy, director of Career Services. "We're pleased that the reputation of CU's academic programs and the success of our previous graduates has kept CU at the top of the list for 'must schools' from which to recruit. We saw a lull last spring, but it looks like our employer development efforts have worked and we're back up to previous levels of demand."

About 150 employers participated Tuesday at the Coors Event Center, providing information on internships and full-time employment for current students and alumni in the arts and sciences, business and engineering fields.

CU endowment manager named 'Rising Star'[15]

Sevian

Caleb Sevian, a University of Colorado Foundation endowment portfolio manager, was named a Rising Star of Foundations and Endowments by the Euromoney Institutional Investor online network, which publishes trade magazines and newsletters aimed at money managers.

Sevian was honored for spearheading several initiatives to safeguard the University of Colorado Endowment from market turmoil, such as improving data tracking and bolstering the risk-management system. Partly because of Sevian's work, the CU Endowment outperformed market and targeted asset-allocation benchmarks this past fiscal year, declining just 17.7 percent while many major universities, including Harvard and Yale, saw 25 to 30 percent declines.

"The things I do for my work really matter to helping kids get scholarships," said Sevian, a CU alum. "As someone who had to work their way through school, I have a special place in my heart for that."

After joining the CU Foundation in May 2008, Sevian left the staff in July 2009 to become a principal at asset management firm Perella Weinberg Partners, where he continues to manage the CU Foundation's investment portfolio under the leadership of Chris Bittman.

"Caleb has a deep intellectual curiosity, a rigorous analytical process and a significant commitment to the foundation and endowment world," Bittman said. "I expect he will continue to make headlines for his investment performance."

Sevian is one of just 15 money managers chosen from more than 100 nominees for the honor. Another manager named a Rising Star is Kent Muckel, who also worked on the CU portfolio at the CU Foundation during the 2008-09 fiscal year, the period recognized by the award. He is now chief investment officer at Baylor University.

[With grant, thyroid cancer research gets fresh start][17]

Schweppe

Haugen

Thyroid cancer researchers at the University of Colorado Cancer Center have received a $900,000, two-year Challenge Grant from the National Institutes of Health to solve the widespread problem of contaminated thyroid cancer cell lines — live, growing cells used for research in labs around the world.

Bryan Haugen, M.D., head of the Division of Endocrinology and professor of medicine and pathology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, is the grant's principal investigator. He and Rebecca Schweppe, Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine at the school, published a paper that described the problem. The grant will fund the creation of new validated thyroid cancer cell lines and the validation of existing cell lines.

The National Institutes of Health received approximately 21,000 Challenge Grant applications and will fund less than 3 percent of them with American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act stimulus money. ARRA Challenge Grants were developed to expedite the transfer of innovative, high-impact science from the laboratory to the clinic.

With the grant, Haugen and Schweppe will collaborate with two thyroid cancer researchers from Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York: Jim Fagin, M.D., and Jeff Knauf, PhD.

"We'll be using parallel techniques to make the new cell lines, putting some cells from human tumors into mouse models to grow, and others into Petri dishes," Haugen said. "Some people have shown that the cells grown right from the beginning in animals look closer to the original tumor than those grown on plastic."

The researchers will do extensive analysis of the current and newly grown cell lines in order to develop a "thyroid cancer signature."

The new cell lines will be stored in a central repository to end issues of contamination caused by individual labs sharing cell lines with other researchers.

[Professor earns $400,000 junior faculty grant][20]

Zhou

Xiaobo (Joe) Zhou, an associate professor in the College of Engineering and Applied Science's department of computer science at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, recently was awarded a five-year, $400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's Early CAREER Development Program.

The award, NSF's most prestigious grant for junior faculty, recognizes early success. It will help support his research project "Building Resilient Internet Services With Learning and Control."

"I am extremely pleased Professor Zhou received this award, the first of its kind for our campus," said Ramaswami "Dan" Dandapani, dean of the college. "This award elevates both UCCS and our college within research communities."

Zhou's work takes aim at improving the quality of the Internet, and widening accessibility to it. Zhou, along with students from the computer science and inaugural doctoral inter-disciplinary security degree program, will conduct research in the new Science and Engineering labs.

Currently the director of the Distributed and Internet Systems Lab, Zhou also is director and co-founder of the Engineering (with a focus in security program) doctoral degree. He earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in computer science from Nanjing University. Zhou joined UCCS in 2003 and received early tenure this year.

'Fever molecule' research leads to prize[22]

Dinarello

The University of Colorado Denver's Charles Dinarello, professor of medicine in the medical school's division of infectious diseases, will receive the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize for his research on the "fever molecule."

Dinarello's decades of research led to the development of treatment for patients affected by the molecule, which causes fever without infection, as well as other types of inflammation. Dinarello will accept the $140,000 prize in Frankfurt, Germany, in March.

It's the latest award for Dinarello, who this year also won the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences Crafoord Prize, presented by the King of Sweden, and the Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research. He has donated his prize money to the Interleukin Foundation, which provides funding to biomedical researchers.

New chair coming to School of Public Health[24]

Adgate

John Adgate, Ph.D., will chair the department of environment and occupational health at the Colorado School of Public Health.

Adgate formerly worked at the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health as an associate professor. His focus on epidemiology studies includes documenting the effects of air pollutants, pesticides, metals and allergens on people. Upon his arrival in January, Adgate will work to recruit faculty and help the program grow.

Award for Excellence in Global Health awarded to UC Denver professor, mentors[26]

Simoes

Eric Simoes, M.D., professor of pediatric infectious disease at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, won a 2009 Award for Excellence in Global Health.

The honor comes from the Colorado School of Public Health's Center for Global Health and Physician Assistants for Global Health. It recognizes local leaders in the global health arena who have made exemplary contributions to improving the health of populations over time.

Simoes' work focuses on children's health, particularly on reducing childhood deaths from pneumonia and acute lower respiratory infections.

Also honored at the Oct. 1 kickoff of the second annual Global Health Symposium were Gretchen Berggren, M.D., and Warren Berggren, M.D. The awards recognized their work serving large populations in developing nations such as the Congo, Haiti and Ethiopia.

The Berggrens have been associates of the Center for Global Health for years, working on projects and serving as mentors to students in the global health track. Gretchen Berggren is obtaining a faculty appointment in the School of Public Health at UC Denver.

CU Foundation names new development director[28]

Julie Karbula has joined the University of Colorado Foundation as senior director of development for the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society (ATLAS) on the Boulder campus.

The former director of annual giving at Colorado State University has nearly two decades of experience in fundraising for higher education.

Karbula earned a master's degree in telecommunications from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She also worked as a reporter and editor for Sentinel Newspapers in Colorado and on Wall Street as a systems officer at J.P. Morgan & Co.

Taking advantage of SkillSoft courses[29]

my.cu.edu

When exploring myCU Portal (https://my.cu.edu[31]), have you noticed courses listed under "Your Training Summary" that are not CU custom courses? That's because completed SkillSoft courses such as Getting Started With Word 2007

are recorded in the human resources management system (HRMS).

This way, you can track any elective courses you've taken, just as you can track your log of required CU custom courses. Any SkillSoft-specific course you have completed with a score of 70 percent or higher will be indicated with an "x" at the beginning of the course number.

Taking advantage of SkillSoft courses is a great way to increase knowledge of important job skills — for free. Find SkillSoft content by using the "Search for" feature on SkillPort. Tip: Searching for broad topics is more effective than searching for specific words or titles.

Did You Know... offers tips and information from CU's Employee Learning and Development office and others. To submit an item, e-mail Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[32]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-student-information-system-takes-significant-step[2] https://connections.cu.edu/file/isisbranjordjpg[3] https://metamorphosis.cu.edu/default.aspx[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/news-briefs-5[5] https://connections.cu.edu/news/news-briefs-7/news_award[6] https://www.cu.edu/ssc/employeeoftheyear.html[7] https://www.cu.edu/content/leadershipprograms[8] mailto:outreach@colorado.edu[9] https://connections.cu.edu/news/news-briefs-7/news_cugold[10] http://umc.colorado.edu/quicklinks/gold.html[11] http://umc.colorado.edu/quicklinks/LeadershipConference.html[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/career-fairs-rebound-good-economic-sign[13] https://connections.cu.edu/file/campus-ucbjpg[14] http://careerservices.colorado.edu/public/[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-endowment-manager-named-rising-star[16] https://connections.cu.edu/file/caleb-sevian2jpg[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/grant-thyroid-cancer-research-gets-fresh-start[18] https://connections.cu.edu/file/schweppe-120x150jpg[19] https://connections.cu.edu/file/campus-amchaugen-schweppejpg[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/professor-earns-400000-junior-faculty-grant[21] https://connections.cu.edu/file/xiabo-zhoujpg[22] https://connections.cu.edu/people/fever-molecule-research-leads-prize[23] https://connections.cu.edu/file/charlesdinarello1jpg[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/new-chair-coming-school-public-health[25] https://connections.cu.edu/file/adgatejohncsphjpg[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/award-excellence-global-health-awarded-uc-denver-professor-mentors[27] https://connections.cu.edu/file/simoesbiojpg[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-foundation-names-new-development-director[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/taking-advantage-skillsoft-courses[30] https://connections.cu.edu/did-you-know/did-you-know/dyk-7[31] https://my.cu.edu/[32] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu