Regents delay decision on creation of athletics committee[1]

The CU Board of Regents voted 5-4 on Friday, Sept. 17, to table a move to create a committee that would address issues related to intercollegiate athletics – such as budget, student-athlete academic performance, construction, conference affiliation and donor support.

Regents Michael Carrigan, Tillie Bishop, Steve Bosley, Steve Ludwig and Kyle Hybl were in favor of having more discussion and bringing back the issue in November for further consideration.

Buffs' move to Pac-12 cleared for next year

Uncertainty over the timing of CU-Boulder's move into the Pac-10 conference was resolved Tuesday, Sept. 21, when the Board of Regents unanimously voted to withdraw from the Big 12 effective June 30, 2011.

As a penalty for exiting a year earlier than conference rules allow, the Big 12 will withhold from CU $6.86 million in future revenue. The Pac-10 – which next year will be renamed the Pac-12 once CU and the University of Utah join – is expected to generate additional revenue for CU; it will be used to make up for the penalty, which some had feared could have been as high as $20 million.

"The University of Colorado at Boulder was a founding member of the Big 12 and a proud participant in it for 15 years," said Chancellor Phil DiStefano. "Even as we leave for an exciting future in the Pac-10 Conference, we value the great friendships and memorable rivalries we have been a part of, and we appreciate the good faith Commissioner Dan Beebe has shown in working with us on our exit from the conference."

Before 2003, the board had a standing committee on intercollegiate athletics. Standing committees, which did not take votes, were incorporated into study sessions for the board in August 2003. In 2006, the study sessions became part of the board's two remaining committees, Academic Affairs and Budget. The board currently receives an annual report on intercollegiate athletics.

Board members stressed the proposal for a committee was not intended to "micromanage," nor was it in response to complaints about the performance of the football program. The idea was initially discussed at the board's retreat in July. The motion for a committee was brought forward by Regents Jim Geddes, Monisha Merchant and Joe Neguse.

Bishop said he was concerned about the perception that the board was "headhunting" coaches or administrators who were performing poorly, and suggested the board leave administration of specific programs to those charged with that responsibility. He also expressed concern that board members are pressed for time in meeting their current responsibilities, and do not need to add more to their plates.

But Carrigan said while he was initially opposed to the idea, he wanted to hear more discussion before making a decision. He later told The Denver Post that while intercollegiate athletics makes up a small portion of the university budget, it garners substantial public attention.

Regents exploring professional development for educators[2]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has asked President Bruce D. Benson to call for a study and recommendations on professional development for educators in the areas of teaching and learning.

The board unanimously approved the request Thursday, Sept. 16, during its meeting on the University of Colorado Denver campus.

"At a minimum," the request reads, "the provosts and associate vice president for academic affairs shall work with faculty council and faculty development directors to determine what teaching and learning professional development opportunities are currently available on each campus for new and experienced teachers, to identify current best practices and gaps, and finally, to offer recommendations for further strengthening the ways in which CU supports its teachers for the benefit of students and student learning."

The report and recommendations are to be complete by June 2011.

The effort was initiated by Chairman Kyle Hybl, R-Colorado Springs, and Vice Chairman Stephen Ludwig, D-Lone Tree, who met in August with a group that included faculty development directors Laura Border, Mary Ann Shea, Carole Capsalis, Kathryn Andrus and Ellen Stevens; associate vice chancellors for faculty affairs Laura Goodwin and Jeff Cox; UCCS Provost Peg Bacon; Past Faculty Council Chair John McDowell; and Associate Vice President Kathleen Bollard. They discussed faculty development resources and needs for teaching and student learning.

"We have to demand a commitment to excellence in teaching," Hybl said at last week's board meeting.

Also at last week's meeting:
The regents honored three faculty members of the University of Colorado Boulder as Distinguished Professors. See story here[3]. The regents recognized Eamon Aloyo, a doctoral candidate in the CU-Boulder political science department, as a winner of the Thomas Jefferson Award[4]. The award was announced in January, but Aloyo was unavailable to receive it at previous board meetings. The board's academic affairs committee discussed a proposal for a new doctorate of telecommunications degree program in the College of Engineering and Applied Science at CU-Boulder. The full board is expected to vote on the resolution at its November meeting. Regent Monisha Merchant, D-Lakewood, a director of a Broomfield communications company, said the new degree program "is really timely and important for us to have. ... We are at a point in the industry where we need younger blood. After being in the industry 10 years, I'm still one of the younger faces."

Three faculty members earn Distinguished Professor title[5]

From left: Zoya Popovic, Ph.D., Margaret Tolbert, Ph.D., and Lorrie A. Shepard, Ph.D.

The University of Colorado Board of Regents awarded three professors the university's highest faculty honor, designation as Distinguished Professor.

Nominated by an academic committee of their peers, the recipients are Zoya Popovic, Ph.D., Lorrie A. Shepard, Ph.D., and Margaret Tolbert, Ph.D. All teach at the University of Colorado Boulder.

President seeks nominations for next year's Distinguished Professors

President Bruce D. Benson is soliciting nominations for selection of the 2011 Distinguished Professors. This title is awarded to recognize the outstanding contributions of CU faculty members to their academic disciplines.

Nominations should be made through the department chair, and must be approved by the dean and provost.

For a description of the nomination process, please see the Administrative Policy Statement -Procedures for Implementing Regent Actions on Distinguished Professorships[7]

Distinguished Professors are faculty members who are leaders in their fields and are recognized for their outstanding contributions in teaching, research and distinguished scholarship or creative work. To date, 56 professors across the CU system hold the title.

President Bruce D. Benson reviewed recommendations from colleagues and deans and then recommended all three for the award to the CU Board of Regents during its Sept. 16 meeting on the Denver campus.

"These professors exemplify the best of what CU faculty can be," Benson said. "They are active scholars, engaged teachers and exceptional researchers. Our students are the beneficiaries of the professional excellence they demonstrate every day."

Popovic is a member of the department of electrical, computer and energy engineering and is considered an expert in microwave antennas and circuits. Her research in electromagnetics has received both national and international accolades and she is considered the world's leading researcher in microwave technology.

A native of Belgrade, Serbia, she has received many awards for teaching and research, including the National Science Foundation Presidential Faculty Fellow Award, the American Society for Engineering Education Frederick E. Terman Gold Medal and the Eta Kappa Nu Professor of the Year award.

She received her Dipl. Ing. Degree from the University of Belgrade in 1985 and master's and doctoral degrees from Caltech in Pasadena, Calif., in 1986 and 1990. She joined the Boulder faculty in August 1990; in 2006, she became the Hudson Moore Jr. Chaired Professor in the department.

In a letter supporting Popovic's nomination, Robert H. Davis, dean and Tisone Chair of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, called Popovic a "most valuable jewel" and cited her exceptional teaching and mentoring of students since she came to Boulder.

Popovic also is active in curriculum development and her undergraduate electromagnetics textbook is widely used throughout the world. She has mentored numerous Ph.D. students and she voluntarily set up a department-wide mentoring program for junior faculty. She worked with female faculty discussing the challenges of being a successful mother and researcher.

Shepard has been the dean of the School of Education since 2001 and is a professor of statistics, research methods, and testing and assessment policy at the graduate level. She is chair of the research and evaluation methodology program.

She is considered one of the world's leading experts in educational measurement and her research focuses on psychometrics and the use and misuse of tests in educational settings. One letter of support said Shepard is "beyond a doubt one of the most influential figures in the field of educational measurement today."

During her career at CU-Boulder, Shepard has taught teacher education candidates, master's and doctoral students.

Shepard has previously served as president of the National Academy of Education, the American Educational Research Association and the National Council on Measurement in Education. She is the only person to have served as president of all three associations.

She received her bachelor's degree from Pomona College in 1968, followed by master's and doctoral degrees from the CU-Boulder in 1970 and 1972.

Recommended by Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Stein Sture, Shepard was lauded for her exceptional 36-year career along with the 3,000 citations of her scholarly work by other researchers and her service commitment to the Boulder campus through a variety of committees.

Tolbert, a Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) Fellow, is a professor in the department of chemistry and biochemistry (analytical, environmental and atmospheric chemistry division).

An internationally acclaimed scientist, Tolbert has made significant contributions to understanding the chemistry and climate of planetary atmospheres, including contemporary and early Earth. Her research analyzes atmospheric

chemistry, planetary atmospheres, and chemistry related to polar and global ozone depletion.

One supporter said, "Knowing Maggie is to know a true sparkplug with boundless energy and enthusiasm for her teaching and research, and unshakable devotion and loyalty to her students and postdocs."

Since 1992, she has taught undergraduate courses in environmental chemistry for nonmajors. Her evaluations from students were the highest for any faculty member ever teaching the course.

She earned several awards in recent years, including the Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology from the American Chemical Society, the Hazel Barnes Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship and two NASA Group Achievement Awards.

She joined the University of Colorado in 1991. Her undergraduate degree is from Grinnell College, while she earned her master's in chemistry from the University of California in 1985 and her doctorate in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology in 1986.

Todd Gleeson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, endorsed Tolbert, citing her outstanding record as a chemist, her plethora of national honors, and testaments from her students and peers describing contributions to her field. "I'm not sure what more we would reasonably expect to see in a nominee's record as an educator," Gleeson said. "Her record is outstanding."

New cohort of teaching researchers begins year's mission[8]

This year's President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative (PTLC) officially launched this week with 14 faculty researchers who are new to the cohort.

The collaborative is sponsored by the President's Teaching Scholars Program (PTSP).

The PTLC is a comprehensive program that guides faculty in publishing research on teaching and learning. Faculty researchers work on educational research in collaboration with a coach and a mentor – often faculty from different campuses. Participants also meet as a group with all other researchers, coaches, and mentors six to eight times. At the end of their year with the PTLC, faculty researchers must share their findings through a peer-reviewed journal publication or conference presentation.

Goals of the collaborative include fostering inquiry and leadership for the improvement of student learning, developing and synthesizing knowledge about learning and teaching, and promoting institutional change in support of the scholarship of teaching and learning.

"Someone might ask, 'Why do faculty members want to do this work on top of everything else they need to do?' " said Mary Ann Shea, director of the PTSP. "The answer is, 'I want to become the teacher I want to be.'"

Last year's cohort of 16 is joined in this year's program by 14 new members:

Penina Axelrad, CU-Boulder; Radu Cascaval, UCCS; Douglas Duncan, CU-Boulder; Julaine Field, UCCS; Andy Fine, AMC; Kari Franson, AMC; Robert Gist, UCCS; Alison Hicks, CU-Boulder; Diane Martichuski, CU-Boulder; Kathleen McCartney, AMC; Lupita Montoya, CU-Boulder; Stacy Saturay, CU-Boulder; Mandi Sinclair, UCCS; and RL Widmann, CU-Boulder.

During and after their involvement with the PTLC, researchers also discuss their educational research with members of their department and colleagues at other institutions. Faculty researchers make presentations to members of their

departments to inform them of the educational research they have undertaken because of the support of the PTLC. Some also give presentations to their colleges or other university institutions. Most faculty researchers are engaging in educational research for the first time, though all have engaged in research within their discipline.

Student enrollment strong on all CU campuses[9]

Three University of Colorado campuses posted record enrollment for the second consecutive year, according to preliminary numbers released last week.

Campuses in Colorado Springs, Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora set records for total students. Enrollment at the Boulder campus held steady, dropping 1 percent.

Following are preliminary enrollment figures. Final figures are due to the state in November:
University of Colorado Boulder: 29,952 students (down 1 percent from last year) University of Colorado Colorado Springs: 8,893 students (up 5.1 percent) University of Colorado Denver: 14,641 students (up 4 percent) University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus: 3,331 students (up 5 percent)

CU-Boulder reaccredited for another decade[10]

The University of Colorado Boulder has been awarded continuing accreditation without stipulation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

NCA accreditation is a process that universities undergo every 10 years to ensure specified standards are met and to demonstrate to the public and key constituents – namely students and faculty – the quality of the infrastructure that supports academic programs, research and other activities. CU-Boulder has been accredited by the NCA since 1913 and was officially notified of continuing accreditation status Aug. 18.

"With its ambitious plans, its effective leaders and its productive faculty and staff, the university is poised to become an even greater asset for the state of Colorado and the nation," the site team stated in the report.

This year's accreditation was without stipulation or follow-up and is the result of more than two years of preparatory work by the university. The NCA's site team visited the CU-Boulder campus Feb. 22-24 to meet with key campus constituents and review programs and facilities. The visit followed the submission of extensive written and supportive materials by the university to the NCA at various points over 18 months.

"We are extremely gratified by the award of accreditation without stipulation," said CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano. "It is a testimony to the hard work and ingenuity of our faculty and staff, the overall strength of our academic programs, and the strong vision put forth in our Flagship 2030 Strategic Plan."

The Flagship 2030 Strategic Plan is the university's blueprint for success in the new millennium. It was cited by the site team as a key asset and leverage point for the state of Colorado in the team's report:

"There are many good examples of how CU-Boulder is responding to a future shaped by multiple societal and economic trends. Among them are the following: multiyear residential academic experiences; experiential learning opportunities; collaboration with other regional universities, businesses, government and federal laboratories to establish educational research opportunities; and expansion of student and faculty exchanges around the world."

The overall result of the accreditation efforts, DiStefano said, is that students, parents, taxpayers and CU stakeholders "can have confidence in the resources that CU is applying to teaching, research and service, as well as in our methods, which we are continuing to sharpen to serve new generations of students."

In the report the site team noted, "The reputation of CU-Boulder may be better appreciated outside the state of Colorado than in the state itself. Those with a stake in the future of the state should be encouraged to embrace the university as a significant asset and invest in it."

The site team's report, the notice of accreditation and all materials prepared by CU-Boulder for the review are available for public review at http://www.colorado.edu/accreditation[11].

CU community encouraged to 'Live Free' during sobriety challenge[12]

The University of Colorado Boulder student-run Oasis group and Counseling and Psychological Services will present the second annual Live Free Weekend: 96-Hour Sobriety Challenge from Thursday, Sept. 23, through Monday, Sept. 27.

The event challenges the CU-Boulder community – students, faculty and staff – to 96 hours of abstinence from alcohol and recreational drugs. Activities are provided throughout the weekend to demonstrate how substance-abuse-free lifestyles can be fun, engaging and rewarding.

"Live Free Weekend is an opportunity for students and others to defy alcohol and drug use as a method of blowing off steam," said Corey Wiggins, health and safety director of CU Student Government. "It has been really exciting to see students challenge each other and come together as a community to prove that college students are about more than beer pong."

Among the many event offerings: Attendees at the "Clear Heart, Clear Mind" gathering, hosted by the Center for Multicultural Affairs and CU Student Government, will learn about the various philanthropic and community service groups on campus, offering opportunities to get involved. The event will be from noon to 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, in the fifth-floor lounge of the University Memorial Center. Free frozen yogurt will be served.

Also on Friday, Sept. 24, a kickball match with freshman athletes will take place at Folsom Field from 4 to 5:30 p.m. There will be free pizza and soda along with Buffs tickets and gear giveaways. Kickball participants should wear athletic shoes.

On Saturday, Sept. 25, volunteers are invited to participate in building 400 feet of multiuse trail at the Betasso Preserve west of Boulder. Hand tools will be used to construct a 3-foot-wide path. Transportation and food will be provided. Registration is required and details can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/vrc/GIVEADAY.htm[13].

"Live Free Weekend is about opportunity," said Matthew Tomatz, substance abuse program coordinator at CU-Boulder Counseling and Psychological Services. "It's a chance for us to come together in new ways, to explore and gain an understanding about our use of alcohol and drugs, exert choice and gather at events intended to support well-being and community."

Live Free Weekend is sponsored by CU-Boulder Housing and Dining Services, the CU Recreation Center, the Volunteer Resource Center, the Residence Hall Association, the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, the Panhellenic Association, the Center for Multicultural Affairs, the CU Student Government and the Student Involvement, Activities and Leadership Office.

Individuals and groups are encouraged to take the 96-hour sobriety challenge; to sign the pledge and to see a complete list of events, go to http://www.colorado.edu/livefreeweekend/[14]. For a year-round calendar of alcohol-free events at CU-Boulder, visit http://www.colorado.edu/alcohol/[15].

Five questions for Sean Colgan[16]

[17]
Inflammatory bowel disease, or IBD, affects about 1.5 million Americans and is on the rise, especially in young children and adolescents. Other autoimmune diseases – asthma and diabetes, for instance – also are increasing in the Western world and scientists believe that an environmental trigger likely contributes to the prevalence of the disease.

One theory (The Hygiene Hypothesis) suggests that our super-clean environment doesn't allow our bodies to be exposed to the variety of bacteria that they once were, so exposure to new or different forms of microbes results in overstimulation of the immune system and attacks on the body's own cells, or autoimmunity. Genetics also play a role.

Whatever the complex reasons, Sean Colgan, Ph.D., and his team at the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Mucosal Inflammation Program hope to make new discoveries to help patients who live with these often debilitating and chronic diseases. The program focuses on the mucosa – the moist tissue that lines some organs, including the nose, mouth, lungs and digestive tract – and what happens when it becomes inflamed.

The advantage of working in autoimmune disease research – and IBD in particular, which is the umbrella for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis – is that there are still many unknowns, Colgan says. "These patients will be chronically managed for most of their lives, so it becomes a challenge to identify chronic management tools and take our discoveries from bench to bedside."

1. How did the program begin and what does it hope to achieve?

I came to the University of Colorado from Harvard Medical School in 2006 to initiate a research program that was focused on the basic aspects of mucosal inflammation. By any stretch of the imagination, it's been a wonderfully successful program. We have five labs from four departments that are complementary and work in close collaboration.

Part of the advantage of the program is that each of us is working on different mucosal surfaces. The labs study the esophagus, the lung, IBD and transplant immunology. We learn from each other the common pathways, the unique qualities of each surface, and we use those similarities and differences to discover new targets and define new diagnostic markers that we hope will one day improve the treatment of patients with these diseases.

The team from Sean Colgan's laboratory at the Mucosal Inflammation Program: from left, front: Carol Ross and Karen Jonscher; middle, Chris MacManus, Brittelle Bowers, Aga Kendrick, Simon Keely, Louise Glover and Alan Baird; back, Doug Kominsky, Colgan and Mark Gerich.

2. What is your most exciting research to date?

The most exciting aspect of our work is defining what metabolic changes occur in inflamed tissue. We approach this by profiling the metabolites of inflamed lesions and tracking back to understanding which proteins are responsible for the changes in these metabolites. We can take advantage of these changes in metabolism to actually initiate healing in the tissue. Current efforts are to define pathways that normally lead us to heal, essentially using nature's way of healing to develop new drug targets.

3. How did you end up at the University of Colorado?

My love for research started as an undergraduate at Colorado State University. My original goal was to go to vet school. I started working in a research lab in the summertime at CSU and I fell in love with the lab environment. So I decided instead of going to vet school, I would pursue a Ph.D. at CSU.

I took that training to Boston where I was a post-doctoral fellow for four years at Harvard Medical School. After four years, I was fortunate to be offered a faculty position there. I stayed on faculty for another 12 years in Boston. This opportunity arose here, with the building of the new Anschutz Medical Campus. It was an opportunity for me to come back home where I grew up (in Fort Morgan), and was something I just could not pass up.

In my opinion, this is the most unique medical campus in the U.S. right now. It provides unique opportunities and if we continue to invest in the university and in the campus here, undoubtedly we will see many dreams come to fruition. I believe that in the next 10 years, this will be the place to be in this country.

4. What's a day in the life of Sean Colgan like?

My days are quite variable. I teach every day to graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty in the lab. A normal day would consist of data analysis and designing of experiments, reviewing grants, writing manuscripts, serving on graduate committees and grant review boards.

Our other major effort is training medical fellows in the art of research. Many of them come to the lab with limited research experience, so often they require specialized attention.

I do minimal amounts of benchwork, and certainly not as much as I would like to. I miss it on a daily basis. I'm still in the lab every day and know what everyone in the lab is doing; it's just that I'm not the one pushing the pipette. But I'd like to be.

The most enjoyable aspect is watching the young scientists develop, watching their careers blossom as they go from young graduates or from post-docs to investigators with their own research programs. Another very enjoyable aspect of the job is that I get to travel and see the world, meet lots of interesting people, and see other cultures while serving on review boards or attending scientific meetings or collaborating with other researchers.

5. What does a day away from the lab consist of?

I enjoy being a good father and husband. I have two teenage boys, so it's sports and outdoor activities with them that consume much of my leisure time. We also do a lot of gardening at home where we have an acreage. My parents were farmers and taught me the tools of the trade. We have a whole menagerie of animals at the house, from dogs to birds to fish to every animal imaginable. My oldest boy has taken to raising peacocks, so by nature, I raise peacocks.

Dedication of complex, opening of museum highlight Arts and Culture Week[19]

The University of Colorado Boulder is highlighting the breadth of artistic and cultural resources on campus through a variety of free and low-cost events through Saturday, Sept. 25, for Arts and Culture Week.

One of this year's highlights is the public dedication of CU-Boulder's new Visual Arts Complex, including the grand opening of the new CU Art Museum, on Friday, Sept. 24. From noon to 6:30 p.m., the event will feature the opening of inaugural exhibitions in the new gallery space.

"This is a major cultural addition to support the educational mission of our campus," said Lisa Tamiris Becker, director of the CU Art Museum. The day's events will include the openings of the "archiTECHtonica" and "Peter Wegner: Wall-

to-Wall-to-Wall" gallery exhibits; a performance of "Dwelling," an immersive, site-specific performance work at noon; and a public dedication ceremony at 4:30 p.m. on the plaza in front of the Visual Arts Complex.

Exhibits across campus are taking place all this week. A closing reception for the "Ground Game" exhibit in the UMC Art Gallery will be at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23.

Music performances, film screenings, lectures and spoken-word events also are slated for the next few days. For a complete list of events hosted during the week, visithttp://inthemix.colorado.edu[20].

Arts and Culture Week is presented through the cooperation of the Arts and Culture Roundtable of CU-Boulder, in recognition of the student fee funding support that is vital for cultural institutions on the Boulder campus.

CU-Boulder hosts thousands of lectures, exhibits, performances and sporting events each year. For a full listing of campus events visit http://www.colorado.edu/events[21].

Concrete sign to be a solid reminder of campus territory[22]
Photos by Jeff Foster
New UCCS sign on the corner of Austin Bluffs & Nevada during construction.
Photos by Jeff FosterNew UCCS sign on the corner of Austin Bluffs & Nevada during construction.

Soon, there will be no mistaking when visitors enter UCCS territory.

A 54-foot-wide, 13-foot tall, poured-concrete sign is being constructed at the corner of Austin Bluffs Parkway and North Nevada Avenue to clearly mark the western edge of the campus. The new sign is modeled after existing entrance signs to the university, but enlarged to meet the scale demanded by the corner.

"This sign will be similar in appearance to what is at Stanton and Meadow," said Brian Burnett, vice chancellor of administration and finance. "We needed a sign that shows the university's property and where it begins in the city."

The sign is made from conventional materials but with an unconventional twist. About 25 percent of the materials and skilled labor needed to create it were donated by community organizations, Phipps Construction, C and C Sand Co., and various tradesmen who work for Phipps.

"Without the donated materials, construction management services and labor, this wouldn't have happened," Burnett said. "We are deeply appreciative of so many people seeing the importance of this project and being willing to contribute to it."

While the sign will have a similar look to other UCCS entrance signs, its location demanded several changes. Because there were no nearby power lines, the sign will be lighted at night using energy collected by solar panels during the day. Also, C and C Sand reduced its cost for landscaping as part of its contribution. The area will have a rustic Colorado feel accented by boulders and relocated pine trees.

The project is scheduled to be completed in mid- to late-October with plans for a celebration thanking the donors to be announced at a later date.

"This is truly an example of lots of people with similar goals coming together to make something big happen," Burnett said.

STEMapalooza to stimulate young minds[24]

[25]
Connecting leaders of today and tomorrow in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education and business, the University of Colorado Denver STEMapalooza[26] opens its doors to the public Oct. 8 and 9 at the Colorado Convention Center.

In its third year, the free event celebrates STEM learning and teaching, facilitates networking opportunities with business leaders and policy-makers, fosters educational partnerships and enlivens the minds of students of all ages.

Colorado expects to see a 20 percent growth rate in STEM occupations through 2015, according to the Colorado Workforce Development Council. UC Denver recognizes that a powerful way to develop the state's workforce is to start early – by engaging the imaginations of students in math, the sciences, and in future careers in STEM fields.

The event provides an opportunity for students, parents and teachers to dive into hands-on, "minds-on" activities including robotics, gaming, rocketry, staging and film production. For businesses and organizations, STEMapalooza also provides an ideal setting for industry leaders to network, engage policy-makers in discussion, and learn more about the latest STEM initiatives throughout Colorado.

A lunch at 11:30 a.m., Oct. 8, will host a panel of experts in STEM business, health care, education and municipal development. CU Regent Monisha Merchant will serve as facilitator/moderator for the panel, which includes Allegra Millelo, M.D., M.S. (family medicine) and director of the Aurora Lights program at the Anschutz Medical Campus; Richard Duke, a founder and former CEO of GlobeImmune; and other notables.

STEMapalooza sponsors include Wavelinks arts group and contributing sponsors/exhibitors such as Lockheed Martin and United Launch Alliance.

"There are many Colorado companies and organizations that are involved in STEM initiatives, but there is a need to connect the dots of these multiple activities," said Gary Barbosa, director of human resources at Lockheed Martin. "Especially during the current economy, it is vital to consolidate efforts, align our priorities and to be able to deliver more for less."

Colorado School of Public Health wins $3.2 million grant[27]

As health care and disease prevention play an increasingly prominent role on the national stage, the Colorado School of Public Health recently won a major federal grant to establish its own comprehensive center to train public health workers.

The grant of nearly $650,000 a year for five years – a total of about $3.2 million – will fund the new Colorado Public Health Training Center, which will be part of the school's Center for Public Health Practice, directed by Tim Byers, M.D.

"Colorado is poised to make a quantum leap forward in public health excellence," Byers said. "As we enact the statewide Public Health Improvement Plan across Colorado, these new federal resources will better enable the Colorado School of Public Health to provide needed training of that workforce."

The money is part of $16.8 million distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for 27 Public

Health Training Centers at institutions nationwide.

"(These) awards represent a dramatic increase in support for Public Health Training Centers," said Health and Human Services Director Kathleen Sebelius. "Investing in prevention and public health is the foundation for improving the health and well-being of all Americans."

Workers from Colorado's 59 local health departments will be trained to address a wide array of issues, from the prevention of heart disease and cancer to environmental health improvement. They also will learn how to manage a staff in a changing health care environment, how to analyze data about infectious diseases, how to improve food safety, and how to better enhance health in diverse communities across the state.

Aside from local public health professionals, the new center will work with the university's Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health to train tribal partners.

"These new federal resources will allow the School of Public Health to develop training tailored to current needs and opportunities to make the already excellent public health workforce in Colorado become even better at promoting health and preventing disease," Byers said.

Aurora company licenses CU technology for brain disease treatment[28]

The University of Colorado and Aurora-based ICVrx recently completed a license agreement allowing the company to commercialize CU technology for improved treatment of epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

Many of the most effective oral medicines for neurological diseases are toxic to the body; although these medicines are nontoxic to the brain, getting the drug into the central nervous system without causing dangerous side effects in the body is a challenge. What's more, many patients with neurological disorders do not adhere to the prescribed dosing regimen; this is especially relevant in patients with mental illnesses like schizophrenia.

The licensed technology is a drug reformulation technique that allows these drugs to be administered directly into the fluid around the brain via an implantable pump. This technique enables significantly lower dosages (reducing side effects and toxicity) and also can help overcome patient compliance problems.

The technology was developed by Daniel J. Abrams and Karen Stevens, both of the CU School of Medicine department of psychiatry, and Thomas Anchordoquy of the department of pharmaceutical sciences.

ICVrx was founded in 2009 to commercialize this technology; the company is currently focusing on treatment of "refractory epilepsy" – epilepsy that has proven difficult or impossible to control using standard drug treatments. For this group of patients (600,000 in the U.S.), driving and other essential daily activities might be impossible due to uncontrolled or poorly controlled seizures.

"Although these patients may appear to their neighbors to be normal, they have a very poor quality of life and high need," said Abrams, who also is ICVrx's CEO. "Currently there are only two treatment options – brain surgery to remove part of the brain, or an implanted device called a Vagus Nerve Stimulator, which has risks, is irreversible and has limited effectiveness. Only 10 percent of patients pursue either."

The company has completed preclinical work on three potential drug therapies in preparation for clinical trials, which it hopes to begin in 2011.

"The ICVrx technology would address an important and unmet therapeutic need for the target patient populations, and we wish the company every success in bringing this to market," said Tom Smerdon, director of licensing and new

business development at the CU Technology Transfer Office.

Leary to support students in new dean's role[29]

Leary

Whiting Dimock Leary[31] is the new senior assistant dean of students at the University of Colorado Law School.

"We are delighted that Whiting has decided to return to Colorado Law and will be joining our leadership team," said Dean David Getches[32]. "She will be an exceptionally qualified asset to our students and our entire community."

Leary recently served as a career manager at Nixon Peabody and as a senior career adviser at Shannon and Manch, advising lawyers and law students on career transitions and career management skills, and participating in firm management.

A 1996 graduate of the CU Law School and a 1992 graduate of Williams College, she has done graduate work in counseling at Johns Hopkins. Leary began her legal practice as a transactional lawyer at Sutherland Asbill and Brennan and then at Dow Lohnes in Washington, D.C. Her work experience also includes the role of vice president of Trammell Crow Co., a real estate brokerage and development firm.

The redesigned dean of students position is responsible for supporting the school's 550 students, including student counseling, student organization assistance, academic support, student fee allocation, and oversight of the Loan Repayment Assistance Program. The position also will oversee the assistant deans for admissions and financial aid and career development.

"The dean of students exists to support Colorado Law students and maximize their experience ... to advocate for students, provide access to academic support, assist with personal matters, develop enrichment programs and support and coordinate activities," Leary said. "Colorado Law is an amazing and supportive community. I look forward to working with the students and helping them cultivate and foster a positive community."

Office of Academic Affairs soliciting proposals for President's Fund for the Humanities grants[33]

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 now 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[34]. To view previous awards, click here[35].

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[36]

For more information, contact Linda Starkey, assistant to the associate vice president for academic affairs, 303-860-5623 or Linda.Starkey@cu.edu[37].

Gruber brings criminal law expertise to CU Law School[38]

Gruber

Aya Gruber[40] will teach criminal law, criminal procedure and international criminal law at the CU Law School.

She was a professor at the University of Iowa College of Law and an associate professor and founding faculty member at Florida International University College of Law, South Florida's first public law school.

Gruber's research interests are substantive criminal law; critical race and feminism; and foreign relations and comparative law. Her articles have been published in prominent law reviews and she has presented scholarship at many academic conferences and colloquia. A frequent public speaker on criminal justice, Gruber has appeared on Fox News International, ABC and PBS, and is quoted in various news outlets, including Wired Magazine, the Miami Herald and the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel.

After law school, Gruber clerked on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida and then served as a felony trial attorney with the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C., securing a nearly 80 percent acquittal rate, and Federal Public Defender in Miami.

Gruber earned her undergraduate degree in philosophy at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating summa cum laude, with departmental honors, and Phi Beta Kappa. She then attended Harvard Law School, from which she graduated magna cum laude, and served as an editor on the Women's Law Journal and International Law Journal.

Dropping names ...[41]

Hildebrand

David Hildebrand, associate professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado Denver, has accepted an invitation to be a visiting Fellow at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies in Finland for the month of September during his sabbatical leave this semester. The Collegium's purpose is to enhance scholarly excellence within humanities and social sciences and provide an innovative environment for concentrated study. Hildebrand will present his recent research in talks and seminars to other Fellows, local scholars and advanced students; he also will collaborate with other researchers working in philosophical pragmatism. The trip is partially supported by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dissemination Grant.

Laroche

... **Rebecca Laroche,** associate professor of English at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, is author of the recently published "Authority and Englishwomen's Herbal Texts, 1550-1650" (Ashgate Publishing, Surrey, England).

Friday is deadline for nomination of President's Employee of the Year[44]

ystem Staff Council is soliciting nominations for the fourth annual President's Employee of the Year Award.

The 2010-2011 award will be presented to a system administration employee in recognition and appreciation of exceptional job performance. An award of $1,000 (subject to payroll taxes) will be presented to the winner at a recognition reception hosted by System Staff Council on Oct. 22.

All system administration classified and professional exempt staff may be nominated for the award; however, temporary employees, student workers, university officers, the HR director and recognition committee are ineligible.

Nominations are accepted from fellow staff, faculty or students who have first-hand knowledge of the nominee's performance. The nominee's supervisor must provide written approval of the nomination.

A letter of nomination and two or three additional letters supporting the nomination should be sent electronically to Lisa Landis, HR director, at lisa.landis@cu.edu[45] (confirmation of receipt will follow). Each total submission should not exceed six pages. Nomination letters must describe why the person deserves to receive the award.

Nominations will be accepted through **5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24.**

A successful nomination letter should include the following information:
Performance: Describe the traits that make the nominee personally and professionally successful. How does his/her performance serve as an example to others? How does s/he show accountability and pride in job duties/processes? What does s/he contribute to the daily operation of the unit? **Customer service:** How is the nominee responsive to and supportive of customers and colleagues? In what way does the nominee show respect for colleagues and customers, including those with different opinions, skills, and objectives? **Teamwork:** In what way has the nominee acted to bring others together into a cohesive unit, or demonstrated a willingness to take action within a team framework? How is his/her willingness to share time, energy and knowledge for the benefit of the unit or customer demonstrated?
Leadership: How has the nominee demonstrated leadership? **Excellence:** How is the nominee's willingness to go the extra mile demonstrated? How does s/he contribute to the greater CU community?
The HR Director and the recognition committee will consider all nominations and make a determination based upon the criteria listed above.

Excellence in Leadership Award nomination deadline approaching

The Office of Employee Learning and Development requests nominations for the second annual Excellence in Leadership Award, which will be presented at the Excellence in Leadership Program (ELP) lecture and luncheon Nov. 5.

The award recognizes a graduate of the ELP who has shown exemplary leadership at the University of Colorado. Nominations should demonstrate 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 who currently work at CU are eligible to be nominated for the award. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

For a list of all program graduates and details about the award, go tohttps://www.cu.edu/content/leadershipprograms[46]. A nominator must be a CU employee who has worked with the nominee. The selection committee consists of representatives from each campus and system administration.

Nominations must include a completed nomination form (posted at the website); the form and any supporting material must be sent to the Employee Learning and Development office by e-mail to Erin.Russell@cu.edu[47].

Nominations are due Friday, Oct. 1.

To read about last year's winner of the award, Barbara A. Gaddis, Ph.D., click here[48].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-delay-decision-creation-athletics-committee[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-exploring-professional-development-educators[3] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/09-22/dp.html[4] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2010/01-20/tj.html[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/three-faculty-members-earn-distinguished-professor-title[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/dist-prof.jpg[7] https://www.cu.edu/policies/policies/A_Distinguished-Professors.html[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-cohort-teaching-researchers-begins-years-mission[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/student-enrollment-strong-all-cu-campuses[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-reaccredited-another-decade[11] http://www.colorado.edu/accreditation[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-community-encouraged-live-free-during-sobriety-challenge[13] http://www.colorado.edu/vrc/GIVEADAY.htm[14] http://www.colorado.edu/livefreeweekend/[15] http://www.colorado.edu/alcohol/[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-questions-sean-colgan[17] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q-page1.jpg[18] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/5q2.jpg[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/dedication-complex-opening-museum-highlight-arts-and-culture-week[20] http://inthemix.colorado.edu/[21] http://www.colorado.edu/events[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/concrete-sign-be-solid-reminder-campus-territory[23] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/uccs-bldg.jpg[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/stemapalooza-stimulate-young-minds[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/ucd-stem.jpg[26] http://www.stemapalooza.org/[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-school-public-health-wins-32-million-grant[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/aurora-company-licenses-cu-technology-brain-disease-treatment[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/leary-support-students-new-deans-role[30] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_leary.jpg[31] http://lawweb.colorado.edu/profiles/profile.jsp?id=414[32] http://lawweb.colorado.edu/profiles/faculty.jsp?id=23[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/office-academic-affairs-soliciting-proposals-presidents-fund-humanities-grants[34] https://www.cu.edu/content/president039s-fund-humanities-application-guidelines[35] https://www.cu.edu/content/president039s-fund-humanities-previous-awards[36] https://www.cu.edu/pfh[37] mailto:Linda.Starkey@cu.edu[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/gruber-brings-criminal-law-expertise-cu-law-school[39] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_gruber.jpg[40] http://lawweb.colorado.edu/profiles/profile.jsp?id=325[41] https://connections.cu.edu/people/dropping-names-21[42] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_hildebrand.jpg[43] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/people_laroche.jpg[44] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/friday-deadline-nomination-presidents-employee-year[45] mailto:lisa.landis@cu.edu[46] https://www.cu.edu/content/leadershipprograms[47] mailto:Erin.Russell@cu.edu[48] https://www.cusys.edu/newsletter/2009/11-18/5q.html