McIntoshes embrace African opportunities

“Teaching in Africa: New Vistas for Retired Faculty” will be the title of the luncheon talk by J. Richard McIntosh and Marjorie K. McIntosh during the annual Fall Meeting of the CU Retired Faculty Association.

The meeting will be held Wednesday, Oct. 15, in Room 235 of the University Memorial Center on the Boulder campus. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and will be followed by a mixer with punch at 11:30. The luncheon buffet will start at 12:15 p.m.

The McIntoshes are a CU-Boulder faculty couple who have developed a variety of personal and intellectual ties to sub-Saharan Africa. They first traveled to Africa in 2001, and then spent an academic year on leave there in 2002-2003, where they taught and did research at Makerere University in Uganda.

Subsequently they have returned several times, including spending two months at a Muslim university in East Africa earlier this year. “Our son Craig got interested in Africa as a teenager,” Dick McIntosh said. “He went to Kenya on an American Field Service exchange. Our interest has grown out of that and hosting a number of African exchange students.”

Anticipating retirement, they chose to explore opportunities in Uganda. “I have come to feel that one of the valuable things that can be done in Africa is to help with education,” Dick said.

“Science is really organized problem solving. It is a way to try to help people get going to develop the tools they need to solve their own problems, rather than to have foreigners come in and tell them what they need to do.”

Dick McIntosh is a distinguished professor of cell biology emeritus. His research has focused both on the cellular machinery that organizes and segregates...
The Perils of Pauline!
Automatic medication reimbursements

As you know, a change in university medical plans took place last summer (July 1). The change involved a switch from the old Great-West Life (supplemental) plan to Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield. With some exceptions, things have generally gone smoothly.

There was one glitch, however. In the new plan, medication reimbursement would no longer be automatic. Members were going to have to fill out forms each time they purchased a drug, something that would have meant no end of hassles for everybody.

Fortunately, in June a couple of RFA members spotted the upcoming difficulty.

Alarm bells went off, and officials at Personnel and Benefits, at Anthem/Blue Cross and at the University Benefits Committee worked vigorously to solve the problem. Many thanks, especially to Arnoldo Majerfeld, Lee Potts and Jim Wolf for setting the necessary wheels in motion.

Dave Elm, chief of the Wardenburg Apothecary, tells me that the reimbursement system is now working just fine and that the bottleneck has been cleared up; i.e.; you don’t have to fill out forms.

I believe this incident clearly demonstrates that the CURFA is quite a valuable resource for retired faculty.

Is it possible for us to make the Boulder campus a safer and more friendly place?

By Chuck Howe

A walk across the Boulder campus deserves hazardous duty pay! The exponential increase in the bike and skateboard populations, ridden by Lance Armstrong wannabees, makes every step a challenge. We used to have dismount zones that were, for some years, actually enforced. Must we wait for a serious injury to reactivate the dismount zone system?

The social environment on campus has long since lost any sense of community or sociability. Some of this has been unavoidable because of personal security concerns: almost no one looks at another person, eyes averted, looking down or to the side. With the more recent addiction to electronic gizmos, the scene becomes almost totally impersonal, practically mechanical. It is not a friendly environment.

We cannot return to the environment of a smaller university, to days when security was not much of an issue. We probably cannot overcome the addiction to electronic gizmos, tho’ their popularity may fade. We can, however, urge common courtesy and a concern for the safety of others on our campus population. Counseling and mentoring programs abound on campus. Could that not include guidelines towards courteous, responsible behavior on campus?

Good news from the U of Colorado Health Sciences Center

By Bill Marine and Bruce Paton

- In July the Colorado School of Public Health became a reality. The flagship campus is at Anschutz but the school includes both CSU in Fort Collins and UNC at Greeley. The third floor of Building 500 at Anschutz will be its Denver home.
- On Oct. 4, the School of Medicine celebrates its 125th anniversary with a Fantasy MD gala at the Colorado Convention Center with 80 scientific exhibits by the faculty
- The Sie Foundation has donated $22 million for a Down’s Syndrome Center, with funds divided between UCHSC, CU-Denver, and CU-Boulder.
- Breaking news: Dr. Stephen Davies of the Department of Neurosurgery has used stem cells to improve spinal cord damage: there is 40 percent improvement in eight days and full function in two weeks! This is being reported in MIT news, Discovery Magazine as well as peer-reviewed journals.
- The annual luncheon meeting will be Tuesday Nov. 18, with Chancellor Roy Wilson as speaker.
chromosomes in preparation for cell division and on the use of electron microscopy for the study of cell structure. His interest in Africa was greatly stimulated by his work in Uganda on a vaccine against African Trypanosomiasis (Sleeping Sickness).

Since then he has joined colleagues from the American Society for Cell Biology to get a Carnegie Foundation grant for teaching short courses in cell biology in East and West Africa. The first of these was offered in Tanzania this past summer; the next one is planned for Ghana in the summer of 2009.

Marjorie is a distinguished professor of history emerita. Her work deals with two rather different areas: the social history of England in the late medieval and early modern periods, and the history of African women in the 19th and 20th centuries.

While at Makerere she did research with Grace Bantebya Kyomuhendo, the anthropologist who chaired her department; together they wrote “Women, Work and Domestic Virtue in Uganda, 1900-2003.” More recently Marjorie has done research in Nigeria and written “Yoruba Women, Work and Social Change,” currently in press.

Dick McIntosh said that during their luncheon talk, he and his wife will talk about the several ways in which they have interacted with Africans.

“Volunteering in Africa is not for everybody,” he said. “But it’s something that has been very interesting and meaningful for us. We’ve learned a great deal from our visits, and it’s really been a delight to work with the Africans whom we’ve met.”

There are a lot of Americans who retire with a tremendous amount of energy and knowledge to share with developing populations, he said.

“There’s not much money available for it, but many places in sub-Saharan Africa are very inexpensive places to live.”
RICHARD F. BAKEMEIER  
(Medicine, UCHSC) is professor emeritus of medicine. He was associate dean for continuing medical education until his retirement in October 2007.

ARTHUR BOARDMAN  
(English, UCB) writes poems, which can be read at www.zianet.com/boardmanpoems. He frames the paintings of his wife, Pat, and also reads, walks, plays tennis and takes occasional trips to art museums.

“...we are serial movers: Boulder to Pinewood Springs to Niwot and finally(?) to Longmont. We are both volunteer naturalists for the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department, and our interest in birds and other fauna has taken us to such exotic places as Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil and Nebraska. I’ve been meeting regularly with a group of mostly retired philosophers for several years. Many of these colleagues are now deceased – Davey Hawkins, Bill Sacksteder, Gary Stahl. But the hardier men still get together – Forrest Williams, Jim Frank, Len Boonin and others.”

REX BURNS (English, UCD) has been researching and relaxing in Australia’s Kimberly outback, and peeling and freezing peaches from a backyard bumper crop. He has also given talks at the Loveland Library Writers Series and for Denver’s One Book program.

MARY SCHAEFFER CONROY  
(History, UCD) has had two books published: “The Soviet Pharmaceutical Business During the First Two Decades, 1917-1937” in 2006 and “Medicines for the Soviet Masses During World War II” this year. The first received positive reviews in The American Historical Review, The Russian Review and Slavic Review. Both books include newly available Russian archival information, but the latter also has interviews with former Soviet citizens in Belarus, Russia and Colorado who were teenagers or young adults during the war. In October she and her husband, Tom, traveled with friends to a Catholic-Jewish Conference in Sicily and Rome. She is on the board of the Arapahoe Republican Women’s Association.

IDA FASEL (English, UCD), since retiring, has returned to the
CU campus in Denver to conduct graduate seminars in Milton and has read papers on Milton at conferences in the United States, Canada and England. Her poetry has been published widely, receiving good reviews. Four of her full collections were finalists in the Colorado Book Awards, and her chapbooks have won prizes and publication awards. She has been honored by her alma mater, Boston University, and by other organizations. She has been included in Marquis Who’s Who in America, Who’s Who in American Education, Who’s Who of American Women and Who’s Who in the World.

DENNIS C. JACKSON (Music, UCB) is working with the Pikes Peak Opera League in fundraising. This month, he is leading a group of 26 people to Vienna for opera and concerts. 

JOYCE LEBRA (History, UCB) is working on a Hawaiian novel, “Cane Fires.” She is going to Singapore this month where President S.R. Nathan will launch two of her books, “The Indian National Army and Japan” and “Women Against the Raj; The Rani of Jhansi Regiment.”

EDGAR L. MAKOWSKI (Obstetrics & Gynecology, UCHSC) has been appointed director of education for Perinatal Resources Inc., an organization that offers postgraduate education to more than 500 obstetricians and gynecologists each year.

JOHN C. MILLER (Languages/Cultures, UCCS) will return to India to teach applied linguistics at Aligarh Muslim University under a six-week Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant. He just returned from teaching in India, and vacationing in Egypt and Jordan.

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MASATAKA MIZUSHIMA (Physics, UCB) had “Creation of Spiral Galaxies” published early this year in Google (arxiv.org/abs/0801.4809).

SANDRA MORIARTY (Journalism & Mass Communication, UCB) had the eighth edition of her book: “Advertising: Principles & Practice” come out last spring. She is the chair of the Outreach Committee for Flatirons Habitat for Humanity. She also volunteers with Animal Rescue of New Orleans and with the Crow Canyon Archaeological
Center in Cortez.
Sandra.Moriarty@colorado.edu

JOHN P. MOYER (Pediatrics, UCHSC) continues to volunteer in Foundations of Doctoring at the School of Medicine. Other volunteer work includes: state parks (Golden Gate Canyon), Plains Conservation Center and mentoring at-risk inner city youth.
John.Moyer@ucdenver.edu

JUTTA G. SCHMIDT (History / German, UCB) volunteers at KGNU-FM 98.5. Her commentary (“Global View”) airs the first Monday of every month.

NANCY SPANIER (Theater & Dance, UCB) is living in southwestern France where she teaches workshops in creativity, expression, dance and theater. She is also creating new theater and dance works.

NORTON L. STEUBEN (Law, UCB) continues with his position as a volunteer housing counselor. Last spring, he wrote: “It does not appear that the foreclosures have slowed down. Still seeing a number of people who have subprime mortgages in default or foreclosure.”
JudynNort@aol.com

BILL WEBER (Museum, UCB) is not really retired – he still works five and a half days in his office at the CU Museum. In April, he wrote: “I happen to be a few months short of 90 now, and believe I am the oldest active professor on campus and the one with the longest tenure ever, beginning in 1946 and now going on 63 years.”
Bill.Weber@colorado.edu

ELINOR MILLER GREENBERG (Preventative Medicine and Biometrics, UCHSC) designs and administers innovative higher education programs for adults and has written, coauthored or edited nine books and numerous articles. Her latest book, written with career nurse practitioner Fay Wadsworth Whitney, is “A Time of Our Own: In Celebration of Women over Sixty” by Fulcrum Publishing. A promotional event in September at the Tattered Cover Book Store was well attended. According to a Fulcrum press release, “Never before have people lived so long with such an abundance of resources at their disposal. (The authors) explore and celebrate the lives of contemporary women who are defining and reinventing the third and final chapter of their lives. This book speaks to a generation of women who were the pacesetters in creating new ways to balance family, work and community activities as they encounter another era in their lives. It is also an essential guide for the baby boomers now turning 60.” Subjects include the concept of the third third of life; new roles responsibilities and relationships after 60, including the roles of religion and spirituality; money matters; health issues; losses, regrets and gains at this stage of life; work and volunteerism; and the future.
Ellie.Greenberg@ucdenver.com
A modest proposal ...

Making a case for a place of our own

By Joel Salzberg

Five years ago when I served on the Advisory Board of the RFA, I proposed that we explore the possibility of obtaining a space on campus for a reading room, or common room, that would allow retired faculty members to drop in for coffee or conversation with other faculty members so as not to be entirely out of touch from one business meeting, luncheon, or “tea-time” talk to the next.

Thanks to Johann Stoyva, the RFA book groups that are now functioning have helped to facilitate more frequent social encounters. However, the opportunity for retired faculty to meet more casually on campus, at a site more or less exclusive to their use, does not now exist.

Retired faculty at the University of Minnesota, for example, have somehow managed to acquire the benevolent support of their administration and have for many years been allotted a place to call their own.

At the time that I made this proposal there seemed to be a great deal of pessimism among the members of the Advisory Board to the effect that the administration would not look favorably on it because of the chronic scarcity of space that has continually plagued the Boulder campus.

To my knowledge no attempt was ever made to approach the administration on this matter, and the proposal was quietly shelved, no doubt for better days.

If and when these days will come, I do not know, but for those of you who are interested in once again exploring the possibility of a retired faculty facility for brief social encounters, please write your letters or make your telephone calls ...

Pena, Suarez, Yang receive RFA grants

The CU Retired Faculty Association has awarded three grants to graduate students at the two Denver campuses for the 2008-2009 academic year.

The downtown Denver campus award of $500 goes to College of Business Ph.D. candidate Yanjuan Yang to support a research project into the ability of noise models to stimulate deception in student financial applications. Yang was nominated by Dean Cliff Young, and his adviser is Professor Michael Mannino.

Two awards of $500 have also been given by CURFA to graduate students at the Anschutz Medical campus. Graduate Dean John Freed identified outstanding graduate students Pedro Pena, a Ph.D. candidate in pharmacology, and Andrea Suarez, a Ph.D. candidate in molecular biology. Pena’s research deals with the molecular mechanisms of tumor suppression. His adviser is Professor Tatiana Kutaladze. Suarez is a Ph.D. candidate working in the Van Dyke Molecular Biology lab. Her research deals with specific types of cell types and herpes virus infections. Her adviser is Professor Linda van Dyk.

The CU Retired Faculty award program for graduate students is funded through an endowment at the CU Foundation established from members’ donations. The program supports graduate student research at all campuses in the CU system on a rotating schedule. This 2008-2009 academic year features research at the two Denver campuses. In 2009-2010 the awards will be given to graduate student researchers on the Boulder and Colorado Springs campuses. The students are selected in the spring for the following academic year and the announcement of the award is made at the association’s annual Fall Meeting, which will be Wednesday, Oct. 15, 10 a.m. in Room 235, University Memorial Center.

Chance of a lifetime – become a museum docent!

Make a difference!

Become a museum docent (tour guide). Use your enthusiasm and knowledge to enliven and engage students and families who visit the CU Museum. Join our new docent training program and explore the wonders of the museum. Faculty, staff and museum objects will be your guides on this exciting journey.

Two classes are available: Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:30 and Thursday mornings from 9 to 11:30. Choose the one that is right for your schedule. Classes for docents are free.

Visit the museum Web site for a description, class schedule and a volunteer application (cumuseum.colorado.edu) or call: (303) 492-1666.
CURFA Scholarship Committee focus: awards, fundraising

Each spring, the CURFA awards grants to graduate students at two of the four CU campuses (for the purpose of the awards, we continue to treat the Health Sciences Center and the downtown Denver campus as separate). Awards totaling $1,500 are alternated between the campuses each year: $1,000 to HSC or the Boulder campus, and $500 to the Denver or Colorado Springs campus. The minimum amount for an endowed fund through the CU Foundation is $25,000, a goal that CURFA reached in late 2005. However, to fully support the annual grants from the interest alone, the association needs an endowment of $50,000. The CURFA Scholarship Committee is considering a number of fundraising options to continue the momentum toward this total agreed to by the membership when the campaign was authorized.

If you are interested in supporting this effort, please use the form below to make your contribution. If you are interested in joining the Scholarship Committee, please contact the chair at Sandra.Moriarty@Colorado.edu.

CURFA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________________
Mailing Address: ________________________________________________________________________________________
Contribution:   $50 ___     $100 ___     $500 ___     $1,000___        OTHER $___________
Mail your check and this form to the CURFA Awards program at the CU Foundation, 4740 Walnut, Boulder, CO 80301. Or charge a contribution to:
VISA ___      MASTERCARD ___      AMEX ___      Discover ___
Card Number: __________________________________________________________   Exp. Date: _____________________
Cardholder Signature: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your support of the CURFA award program and our wonderful CU graduate students!

Weber gives Tea Time Talk

William A. (Bill) Weber, professor and curator emeritus of the CU Museum, discussed the importance of mentors for young children at the Sept. 17 Tea Time Talk held at The Academy in Boulder. At age 90, Weber is the oldest active faculty member with the longest tenure at the University of Colorado. A botanist for over 75 years, he is a specialist in floristics and taxonomy of vascular plants, lichens and bryophytes.

French immersion program for people 55 and older at the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Located in Trois-Rivières, an old-fashioned city (between Montreal and Québec City), this international French school (a non-profit organization, and part of the Trois-Rivières University) offers French immersion programs for Anglophone elders wishing to improve their knowledge of French and as well to learn about Québec society (www.uqtr.ca/efi). The programs last two or three weeks and include French classes in the morning in one of the university pavilions. Afternoons are reserved for conversations, workshops and immersion activities in the surrounding community such as: guided visits to the historical site Les Forges du Saint-Maurice, the first industrial community in Canada, and the Sanctuaire Notre-Dame-du Cap, the largest sanctuary of the Virgin Mary in North America. On the program are day trips to Montreal, the metropolis with European charm, as well as excursions to Québec City, the birthplace of French civilization, which this year is celebrating its 400th anniversary.

The French immersion programs are offered in partnership with the Elderhostel non-profit organization. Every year, 150 senior students come mainly from the United States and the English-speaking parts of Canada.

Participants are lodged in the university dorms (or at the hotel depending on the program) and can discover and appreciate the typical Francophone university setting in the heart of Trois-Rivières, a city with the historical appeal conferred by its more than 350 years of existence.

Contact: Josée Ruelland, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, josee.ruelland@uqtr.ca (819) 376-5011 poste 5214, (819) 376-5166 fax.

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