Wesson: Murder plot has CURFA twist

A voice from the audience asked, “Why don’t you just dig up the body?”

The question was posed at the CU Retired Faculty Association’s 2004 Spring Meeting, after CU law professor and author Mimi Wesson had presented the luncheon program “State of Mind: The Hillmon Case” (thehillmoncase.com/).

Now, five and one-half years later, Wesson returns to the CURFA to screen “Hillmon’s Bones,” a 56-minute movie made by CU film studies professor Ernesto R. Acevedo-Munoz. The Fall Meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, in Room 235 of the University Memorial Center on the CU-Boulder campus. A social with punch will be served in the lobby at 11:30, and a buffet follows at 12:15 p.m. The movie and remarks by Wesson, who is writing a book on the case, will be presented at the end of the luncheon.

The Hillmon case focused on the demise of John Hillmon, whose corpse was found at a campground at Medicine Lodge, Kan., in 1879. Three insurance companies refused to pay up on the policies, worth $750,000 today, spawning a quarter-century of trials and a precedent-setting decision in the U.S. Supreme Court on its second go-round there.

When Hillmon’s young widow sued, the companies said that the body was actually that of another man, Frederick Walters. Sallie Hillmon eventually prevailed, but the identity of the person resting in the cemetery plot assigned to John Hillmon remained far from certain.

At the 2004 CURFA meeting, Wesson related how documentary evidence and photographs of Hillmon and Walters had failed to produce a definitive identification. That prompted the simple question from the back of the room.

“I thought to myself, ‘Well, duh, why don’t you do that?’ ” Wesson said.

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www.colorado.edu/RetiredFaculty
Sports events to Smart Lunch: Broadening CURFA horizons

Dear Colleagues,

Oct. 2 the CURFA Executive Board held a special brainstorming session to explore ways to serve the retiree community more effectively and to determine new activities and volunteer opportunities for the future.

Prior to the meeting I met with Kathleen Bollard, academic affairs officer in President Benson’s office; with Ron Stump, interim executive director of the Boulder campus Alumni Association, and with Mike Bohn, athletic director, to see if CURFA might cooperate with their programs. Ideas that arose from these discussions plus other suggestions for a more active CURFA coming from the special session will be part of our agenda in this academic year.

Kathleen Bollard and I discussed the possibility of funding one or two awards for post-retirement creative work and/or extraordinary service. A subcommittee of the Executive Board has been charged with looking into existing programs at other institutions of higher education and making recommendations as to the feasibility of such awards at CU and suggestions on a nomination process. It is a work in progress.

Ron Stump described a program of the Alumni Association called “Smart Lunch” in which current faculty members meet with visiting alumni and make a short presentation on their current scholarly activities. It might be possible for some nationally recognized retirees to be asked to participate in the future. We also discussed various ways that retirees and alumni might interact in a more informal way. Again, a work in progress.

Mike Bohn expressed enthusiasm in building a closer relationship between the spectator athletic events and CURFA. He suggested that if we arranged for a date to go as a group to football or men’s or women’s basketball games we would see that we would get discounted tickets, the size of the discount dependent on the size of our group. In the Executive Board meeting other suggestions were made, and, if they can be worked out, we will let you know. Once again, a work in progress.

The Executive Board spent a considerable amount of time discussing two related items: 1) what activities we can offer CURFA members, and 2) what ways might retirees volunteer in some academic roles, committee assignments and possible tutoring and mentoring capacities. In regards to “1” we are looking for people who might be interested in leading activities such as book groups focusing on some specific field, i.e. science, the arts, literature, a play-reading group, a bridge or cribbage group, a biking group, a photography group, etc., etc. Our vice-president, Nort Steuben, has led the way by volunteering to coordinate such activities; he can be contacted at Nort.Steuben@Colorado.Edu. If you want to volunteer or participate, of if you have another idea, please, let Nort know.

These are some of the ways for CURFA to expand its profile at the University and in our various communities. I am optimistic we will be able to do so.

With warm regards,
Jim Wolf

CURFA staff changing of the guard

Katherine Harris, our part-time staff member decided, that having worked with retired faculty for many years, it was time for her to retire as well. With all the work she has done for us (she has been the organization of our organization) she has earned her retirement. The present Executive Board, your elected officers, and those who have preceded us over the last decade are grateful for Katherine’s diligent, careful and uncomplaining work for us and offer her our heartfelt thanks.

We also are thankful that a longtime Boulder staff member, Sue Middleton, has stepped forward as Katherine’s replacement.
Over the years Sue has held responsible staff positions as office manager at EPO Biology and assistant to the dean of the School of Education among other campus jobs, and at WICHE and private business in the community. We consider ourselves very lucky in finding such a qualified replacement for Katherine.

**Proposed change in the bylaws**

A continuing issue over who is qualified to join CURFA has been resolved by Richard Blade, Colorado Springs representative on the Board. His motion, passed at the last regular meeting of the Executive Board and to be presented at the Business Meeting on Oct. 28, is “faculty retirees from other institutions may apply for associate membership to the president rather than to the ‘officers’ as the bylaws now read and other retirees who believe that their membership in CURFA would be mutually beneficial to themselves and to the organization may submit a letter to the president.”

**Update on the naming of the herbarium**

Patrick Kociolek, director of the CU Museum of Natural History, writes me that his strategic planning for the museum is complete and that the herbarium building is in need of serious work. He likes the idea of naming it for Bill Weber but hasn’t figured out how that can happen.

**Denver campus report**

The University of Colorado Downtown Campus has created its own retired faculty group. With CLAS dean Dan Howard’s support a steering committee with Linda Dixon as chair has been formed, and the first activity took place on Sept. 25 at the Tivoli Center on the Auraria campus. After a reception hosted by the dean, Rex Burns – emeritus professor of English and well-published novelist of detective stories – spoke on the faults of the publishing industry and the prospects for that industry in the future. The next event is planned for this month and will feature Suzanne Helburn, emeritus professor of economics, discussing the causes of the current economic recession and the way out.

**Health Sciences campus report**

Bill Marine reports: “In the last few months we have revised our bylaws, and now our official name is: University of Colorado Denver Health Sciences Retired Faculty Association. We continue to meet four times a year with speakers at each meeting. Dr. Fritz Karrer, a plastic surgeon on our faculty who served in Iraq, reported on his experiences there at our September meeting. Chancellor Roy Wilson is scheduled to be our speaker at our annual luncheon meeting on Nov. 17.”

**New Personnel Committee member**

CURFA Treasurer Gloria Main has volunteered to replace Franz Roehmann as our representative to this University-wide committee. Thanks to Franz for his past work and to Gloria for her willingness to serve.

**Communicating with the CURFA**

There are several ways to keep up to date with CURFA activities besides this newsletter, edited by Alan Kirkpatrick. There is our Web site at www.colorado.edu/retiredfaculty/ where Neil Ashby is the Webmaster, and Secretary Bill Briggs has now put all members of CURFA on a listserv. If you have a problem relating to the University and any of its campuses, Lee Potts at Potsl@ionsky.com is our ombudsperson, and anything communicated to her is in strict confidence. Lastly, feel free to contact CURFA President Jim Wolf by email at jimolf2860@comcast.net or by phone at 303-443-7958.
ALBERT A. BARTLETT
(Physics, UCB) observed the 40th anniversary of the first delivery of his talk, now known as “Arithmetic, Population and Energy: Sustainability 101.” During this 40 years he has given the evolving talk 1,675 times, which is an average of once every 8.7 days. It’s been given in 49 states (he missed New Hampshire, Canada, Mexico and about a dozen times overseas. The deliveries stopped in late 2008 while he was in chemotherapy, but he has resumed the task of trying to educate Americans about the arithmetic and problems of growth, especially in terms of populations and in terms of the Earth’s finite resources. Most recently he gave the talk in September at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine. Albert.Bartlett@Colorado.EDU www.albartlett.org

JOHN BOWERS*
(Communications, UCB) book “Rhetoric of Agitation and Control,” now with four authors, was printed for the third time earlier this year. It has been in print almost continuously since 1971. johnwaitebowers@gmail.com

JANE BYERS, wife of the late Associate Dean Charles A. “Chuck” Byers, flew to Germany in July to hear daughter Mardi Byers sing the soprano leads in “Die Tote Stadt” (“The Dead City”) in Nurnberg and, the next evening, “Aida” in Bremen where the stage was floating on water. Son Jeff Byers flew in from Zurich to join them after his Swiss Gospel Choir sang a concert.

JOANNE G. CONGDON (Nursing, UCHSC), since retirement one year ago, has spent a great deal of time traveling to Duluth, Minn., where she and her husband, John, have a second home and he manages several small iron ore companies. “I’m also trying to find more time with the grandchildren and old friends,” she wrote. She has enrolled in her second bridge class and is traveling to Eastern Europe in late October. Professionally, she continues to be active in the Gerontological Society of America as an emeritus member. Joann.Congdon@Colorado.edu

RUDOLPH J. DICHTL (CIRES, Boulder) visited his younger son, John, in Indianapolis. “My granddaughter, age 3, Annika, just received a baby brother, Karst,” he wrote. He also visited his brother in Madisonville, Tenn. dichtlr@comcast.net

ARTHUR BOARDMAN (English, UCCS) writes poems, plays tennis and makes mattes and frames for his wife, who paints watercolors. JQCSBRD@zianet.com

JOHN R. FORWARD (Psychology, UCB) is a retired professor.
emiritus. He lived for a year in Nashville and now has moved back to Boulder.

**SPENSE HAVLICK**
(Environmental Design, UCB) just returned from biking around Lake Champlain in Vermont, Quebec and upper New York state. His next trips include Antarctica and Cuba. He is currently getting material for teaching his Spring 2010 CU class.

**ALLEN HERMANN** (Physics, UCB) is now a professor of music adjunct.
*Allen.Hermann@Colorado.edu*

**CHUCK HOWE** (Economics, UCB) and his wife, JoAnne, have visited Peru for a second time, seeing Cuzco, the Sacred Valley, Pisac and Machu Picchu.
*Charles.Howe@Colorado.edu*

**FRANK S.T. HSIAO** (Economics, UCB) completed a three-year term as a member of the Fulbright National Student Screening Committee and received the Certificate of Appreciation for his service from the Institute of International Education and the United States Department of State in the spring. He continues to serve as an associate editor of the *Journal of Asian Economics*, an Elsevier ScienceDirect publication. He just completed writing his 650-page book “Economic and Business Analysis – Quantitative Methods using Spreadsheets,” which will be published early next year.
*Frank.Hsiao@Colorado.edu*

**WILLIAM B. JONES**
(Mathematics, UCB) had his book “Continued Fractions: Analytic Theory and Applications,” which was written with the late Professor Emeritus W.J. Thron, reprinted by Cambridge University Press in 2008. He also published the 2008 Mathematics Department newsletter, Prime Bits, which was distributed to 2,700 mathematics alums and to faculty and students on the Boulder campus.
*mabijones@q.com*
*William.Jones@Colorado.edu*

**JOY KING** (Classics, UCB) and **ED KING** (Chemistry & Biochemistry, UCB) still spend summers at their cabin in Allenspark. This fall Paul, their son, came from Massachusetts to give them a weeklong drive through Colorado to see the fall colors and take the Cumbres-Toltec train ride. “SR17 (Antonito-Chama, N.M.) and the Unaweep-Tabeguache scenic road were especially beautiful this year,” they wrote.

He just completed writing his 650-page book “Economic and Business Analysis – Quantitative Methods using Spreadsheets,” which will be published early next year.

**MARTIN KOYLE** (Surgery / Urology, UCHSC) is currently the Michael Mitchell Endowed Chair in Pediatric Urology at Seattle Children’s Hospital and the University of Washington. “Wish I could say that I am truly retired, but alas, . . .,” he wrote. “Living a unique life on a floating home a la Tom Hanks in ‘Sleepless in Seattle,’ although less glamorous. Love the combination of green, mountains and water. Still love coming back to Colorado and our other home at Columbine Lake.”
*martitch@yahoo.com*

**JOYCE LEBRA** (History, UCB) just returned from Barcelona, where she was invited for the launch of the Spanish translation of her book “The Scent of Sake.” “It was a fabulous experience in this gorgeous city, additionally wonderful because I was there . . .”
for the festival of Barcelona’s patron saint, Santa Ulalia. Really unforgettable!” she wrote. “I admired the Gaudi buildings and the architectural wonders of the city and also spent three days in Lisbon enjoying fácio and the decorated tiles everywhere.”

joebra@hotmail.com
www.joycechapmanlebra.com

JOHN C. MILLER (Language/Cultures, UCCS) in September spent two weeks in Columbia revisiting sites where he had taught under Fulbright grants, meeting with students and colleagues. From January to June this year, he taught American literature and English speaking at Selcuk University in Konya, Turkey, under a U.S. State Department English Language Fellowship.

Millerjc000@msn.com

MASATAKA MIZUSHIMA (Physics, UCB) had his paper “Earth: 15 Million Years Ago” published at arxiv.org/abs/0810.2271 in October 2008.

Mizushima@Colorado.edu

HANS E. NEVILLE (Neurology, UCHSC) wrote that his interests are fishing, travel, grandchildren, health-care reform and beetle-kill issues.

Hans.Neville@UCDenver.edu

MAX S. PETERS (Chemical Engineering, UCB) wrote, “As I approach 90, I have finally given up skiing, but I do miss it. We enjoy our retirement at Frasier Meadows Retirement Community.”

PETER ROBINSON (Museum, UCB) spends a lot of time as an environmental monitor on construction sites and has obtained some research materials for the University of Colorado Museum.

Robinsp222@msn.com

JAMES ROSE (Education, UCB), professor emeritus, was presented the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award by Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Ore. Rose graduated from EOU in 1953 and was a classroom teacher, school principal and assistant superintendent of schools in Lake Oswego, Ore. The award was given in recognition of Rose’s achievements in teaching and public school administration in Oregon and in higher education at the universities of Kansas and Colorado, his research awards in the field of education finance and his extensive international consulting in the middle and far east on Asian Development Bank and World Bank projects. Rose retired CU in 1986. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Portland.

mr8283@aol.com

NORTON L. STEUBEN (Law, UCB) during 2009 was vice president of the CU Retired Faculty Association and kept his legal skills honed by volunteering at Boulder County Legal Services twice a week. “I fed my cultural appetite by being director and counsel of the Boulder Chorale,” he wrote. “I met my citizen participation requirement by being a member of the Community Advisory Panel to Roche Colorado.”

Norton.Steuben@Colorado.edu

RUTH REBEKKA STRUIK (Mathematics, UCB) since April has been living in the Frasier Meadows Retirement Community.
AMY L. VANDERSALL (Art/Art History, UCB) in November 2008 sailed through the Panama Canal. “The day the ‘mules’ (small locomotives named for their predecessors) pulled our giant ship through the locks from the Pacific to the Atlantic I enjoyed the slow pace and the time to examine the workings of the ingenious locks,” she wrote. “As our ship (small by cruise standards) squeaked through the locks with only inches to spare, we saw bulldozers and pile drivers at work building a wider parallel canal. On board, I read James Michener’s tome on the canal and swam, as best I could, in their tiny salt-water pool.” She stayed in New Haven, Conn., for two months and nearly got “musical indigestion” from the almost daily free concerts, recitals and symphonies at Yale University. A large wedding she attended in Doylestown, Pa., turned into an ad hoc family reunion. Her gardening produces beans, beets, squash and large heirloom tomatoes. “Since January, I have been battling squamous cell skin cancer on my legs. That keeps me from my favorite exercise, swimming,” she wrote. “My cat, Wendy, died in June. I miss her company but not the responsibility.”

Amy.Vandersall@Colorado.edu

JULES J. WANDERER (Sociology, UCB) has just had a piece accepted by the journal *Empirical Studies of the Arts*. It examines the links between ratings agreements and disagreements among 45 film critics and film genres.

Wanderer@Colorado.edu

RITA S. WEISS (Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences, UCB) and her husband, Larry, were featured in the July issue of the *Flatirons Terrace Times*, the monthly publication of the senior living facility they moved to in March 2008. Their great-granddaughter, Katherine Jane Weiss, visited in September. “She is, of course, a beauty and utterly charming at age 5-plus months,” she wrote.

RSWeiss@spot.colorado.edu

MICHAEL WERTHEIMER (Psychology, UCB) was notified that the Society for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, a division of the American Psychological Association, has bestowed on him its Award for Distinguished Theoretical and Philosophical Contributions to Psychology for 2009. It is the society’s highest award, recognizing one of its members each year for lifetime scholarly achievement. He was invited to present an address in connection with the honor at the annual APA convention in Toronto last August. The spring and summer plans of he and his wife, Marilyn, included a cruise through the Panama Canal and several weeks on Monhegan Island, Maine.

Michael.Wertheimer@Colorado.edu

CLYDE ZAIDINS (Physics, UCD) has moved to Ocean Park, Wash. “We live in the surfside area of the skinny Long Beach Peninsula with a view of the Pacific Ocean from our house,” he wrote. “The nearest ‘big’ town is Astoria, Ore., about an hour away across the Columbia River. We do miss our great 1892 Victorian in Denver and the city, but we are adjusting to life in a remote area.”

Clyde@JustAskClyde.com

“The day the ‘mules’ (small locomotives named for their predecessors) pulled our giant ship through the locks from the Pacific to the Atlantic I enjoyed the slow pace and the time to examine the workings of the ingenious locks.”
2009 social slate full
By Nort Steuben, VP and social chair

The social year 2009 began on March 18 with a Tea Time performance by The Chincott Wind Quintet, comprised of CU graduate music students.

The April 29 Spring meeting featured Tim Bour of the Boulder Innovation Center telling us how an idea formulated at CU becomes a living, breathing business.

CURFA member Tom Duncan presented “Advertisements that Made Us Laugh, Cry, and Buy” at the Sept. 23 Tea Time Talk.

The social year 2009 concludes at the Fall 2009 meeting Oct. 29 with a screening of “Hillmon’s Bones” (see Page 1).

Faculty Council continues support of Silver & Gold
By Oliver B. Ellisworth, Faculty Council representative

At the May meeting, the issue of the Silver & Gold was pursued further. I read a letter from Jim Wolf in support of Silver & Gold and added that retired faculty do not all have the online access needed to read the new faculty newsletter. Separate motions from the Faculty Council Budget and EPSU Committees in support of the Silver & Gold both passed unanimously. I reported on our April membership meeting and also expressed our gratitude for the support that CURFA has received from departing Vice President Michael Poliakoff. At the September meeting, a new Regents’ policy on presidential search committees was distributed for Faculty Council input. I noted that the composition of the proposed committee structure did not include a representative from the retired faculty and I requested that this be added.

CURFA financial report shows surplus of $1,579
By Gloria Main, CURFA treasurer

For the 2008-2009 fiscal year, expenses totaled $8,727 and income totaled $10,306. Income from dues was $5,306, and $5,000 came from the CU President’s Office.

Kisslinger awards fund rides economic roller coaster
By Sandra Moriarty, Carl Kisslinger Graduate Student Awards chair

The market goes up; the market goes down—and so does the Carl Kisslinger Graduate Student Awards fund that CURFA maintains through the CU Foundation. The high point was noted at the end of the 2007-2008 fiscal year in June 2008, when the fund reached $46,017. Even at that point, however, the fund had been hit with a $2,368 loss in the market during the previous two months. The primary reason the fund had continued to grow was because of contributions by CURFA members, which totaled $5,737 during that fiscal year.

Then the economy collapsed in a big way during 2008, and by the end of the 2008-2009 fiscal year in June the fund had endured a market adjustment (loss) of $10,553. During this difficult period, the fund at one point dropped to $38,000. Gifts were still strong, however, with $9,150 recorded. The Endowment now sits at $47,066, which means it has surpassed its previous high point. Carl's goal was to reach $50,000 in the Endowment, so it is with some relief that we can see that goal on the horizon—assuming there are no more downturns. But, of course, we still rely on contributions to even out the market adjustments, as well as grow the fund, which gives us the opportunity to offer more awards more often.

So please continue to think of the Kisslinger Graduate Student Award program when you write checks to your favorite charities.

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Carl Kisslinger Graduate Student Awards Fund

CURFA has established an endowment through the CU Foundation that provides research awards for outstanding graduate students at all CU campuses. The awards are announced in the spring for the following academic year. Award winners are also invited to attend the general meeting and report on their research.

We continue to need contributions to meet our goal of $50,000 in the CURFA fund. Please help support this effort by making a contribution using this form.

You might also consider mentioning the CURFA Graduate Student Award Fund in your will and asking family and friends to make contributions to the fund in your memory.

Name: ____________________________
Campus: _______ Boulder _______ HSC _______ Denver _______ UCCS _______
Mailing Address: ____________________________

Contribution: $25 _______ $50 _______ $100 _______ $500 _______ $1,000 _______ OTHER ______
Mail your check and this form to the Carl Kisslinger Graduate Student 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 and its Carl Kisslinger Graduate Student Awards Program.