Dean to give view of CU Health horizons

The evolution of the University of Colorado’s health sciences program from a single campus to a network of professional care that could run the length of the Front Range will be the subject of a talk by Dean Nancy Smith of UCCS during the spring meeting of the CU Retired Faculty Association on Wednesday, April 18.

Her talk will follow the luncheon of CURFA’s annual Spring Meeting. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m., followed by a social with refreshments at 11:30 and the luncheon at 12:15, all in Room 235 of the University Memorial Center on the CU-Boulder campus. CURFA members may park in the underground parking structure next to the UMC. Members using the parking structure can request a parking coupon when they register. The registration table will be outside of Room 235.

Smith is dean and professor at the UCCS Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and her presentation will be titled “A Transformational Partnership: University of Colorado Health System.” It will provide insight into efforts to create an integrated system of health care, research, education and training that would include CU, University of Colorado Hospital, Poudre Valley Health Systems in Fort Collins, Children’s Hospital Colorado in Denver and Memorial Health System in Colorado Springs.

The implications for the southern Colorado region and UCCS are significant. Leveraging Memorial’s legacy, combining clinical power across multiple partners, expanded educational opportunities and support of the local communities all have potential economic drivers for the region. These partnerships would strengthen and grow the relationships among health care providers, business, and other community collaborations.

Smith, an advanced practice nurse, has nearly 40 years experience in nursing education, practice, administration and regulatory law. She has a passion for innovative educational models and is widely published in the nursing literature. An elected fellow in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and winner of the Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Educator Award from the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Smith has also received the Graduate

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-President's Corner-

CURFA activity is on the rise

My last column in this corner dealt with the many direct benefits that the Colorado University Retired Faculty Association provides for its members. This time I want to take a look at some of less obvious but important benefits that are arranged by CURFA for its members.

You are holding in your hand one of the benefits. The CURFA Newsletter connects you with some of your colleagues and gives you some knowledge of the many happenings or explorations that you might find interesting to know about or attend. The editor, Alan Kirkpatrick, does a masterful job of tuning out a first-rate newsletter.

No discussion of benefits would be complete without mention of the Retired Faculty Directory. Marc Swadener, Bill Jones and Jim Jankowski (and our exceptional administrator, Sue Middleton) turn out a document for which there is no substitute. This is the only place where you find a listing of almost all the retired faculty. When I want to look up one of my old friends it is the first place I look.

Marc Swadener serves another important function around this organization. He is our unofficial photographer. If you have attended a luncheon or Tea Time in the last few years, you stand a good chance of being memorialized in the CURFA records. All the pictures are on the Web page. In order to secure them they are password protected so before you go to the Web page get the password from our Webmaster Neil Ashby.

We have started a new activity in the last couple of years. The activity is providing tours for our members. As I hope you remember, Richard Blade tried to organize a tour to Colorado Springs to see the senior facilities. We were a lot more successful with this year’s tours to the CU Gardens organized by David Kassoy. In fact, so many people applied that David had to arrange a second tour.

Participation in commencement was a new theme during this year. We have been attempting to find a way for our membership to attend commencement on the various campuses. We have the commencement administrators from all three or four campuses trying to coordinate participation by retired faculty. You have probably received an email from the various administrators encouraging your participation. Uriel Nauenberg and David Kassoy are the contacts for Boulder campus.

One of the hot sellers of CURFA has been the Retirement Guide. It may contain some material you will find helpful even if you are far beyond retirement. It has been getting a little long of tooth so our Vice President Richard Blade with a bit of help has brought it up to date.

Mentioning Richard brings to mind another one of his projects. He and Sue have been engaged in digitizing the CURFA records so that you have a place to look if you want to know some of the history of CURFA.

One of the activities in which the administration of CURFA would like to see more members engaged is the President’s Outreach Program. The person to contact is Michele McKinney at michele.mckinney@cu.edu. We are sure that the president would welcome volunteers for this activity.

An asset in the midst of being developed is a listing, to the extent it can be done, of all deceased retired faculty. This effort is regarded as valuable by the University Administration. Richard Blade is developing this database, to be added to the CURFA website. The primary source of the information is currently obituaries from the Boulder Daily Camera. More details will be available in the fall newsletter.

CURFA has a program for first-year retirees. They receive a year’s free membership and as much advice as they want about making their retirement work. It is a sort of a mentorship program.

Finally, CURFA is prepared to take a strong position in favor of faculty participation in the benefits process, if this issue should ever come up.
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Nurse Educator Award from the graduate students at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. She has managed multiple federal grants as well as grants from private philanthropy. Smith has an active interest in health policy and most recently served on the Colorado Governor’s Nurse Work Force & Patient Safety Task Force and its Pilot Program Implementation Committee.

In January, the University of Colorado Hospital announced it had finalized a joint operating agreement with Poudre Valley Health Systems, which operates hospitals in Fort Collins and Loveland. The new system is called University of Colorado Health.

“We’re already negotiating with the Colorado Springs City Council to allow us to lease and operate Memorial Health System there,” University CEO Bruce Schroffel said at the time. “If we reach an agreement, we will have a system that stretches along the Front Range. Poudre Valley would be its northern hub, Memorial its southern hub, with the University of Colorado Hospital at its central geographic and academic core in the Denver metro area.”

Those negotiations are ongoing. According to a Jan. 7 news story in The Gazette in Colorado Springs: “University of Colorado Hospital’s bid to lease Memorial Health System was the unanimous choice of (a city) task force weighing proposals for the city-owned hospital system. University Hospital is offering the city an up-front $74 million lease payment, a $5.6 million annual payment for 30 years, a $1.12 billion capital commitment over the life of the lease, plus a commitment of $3 million a year toward establishing a branch campus of the University of Colorado School of Medicine at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Also, UCH is offering a profit-sharing plan in which the city would get a projected $2.5 million a year.”

As part of the proposed health system, Children’s Hospital would open up a pediatric specialty hospital within Memorial’s medical center. The Gazette news story stated that CU estimates the combined economic impact of the campus, research centers and the two hospitals to be about $4.6 billion.

“If you add Memorial, you have a health system that runs from Wyoming to New Mexico,” Smith said.

“That would be an amazing transformation not only for the campuses but for the regions they serve. We (CU) would go from a single hospital to a large system in an era of health care reform.” The proposal makes CU research and clinical education part of the foundation of the new health care system and expands its reach considerably.

For example, Smith said, nursing students in her Colorado Springs-based program would gain the opportunity to train at the University of Colorado Hospital, which has been named the top academic hospital in the United States by the University HealthSystem Consortium.

According to the University’s published proposal:

- “Four of the state’s best health care organizations propose to partner with – not acquire, but join – the clinicians and employees of a fifth great organization, Memorial Health System. Together, they bring the people of the Pikes Peak region expanded access to medical specialties, super-specialties and clinical trials that others don’t have and cannot offer.”
- “In addition, they bring a long-standing commitment to serving the un- and under-insured as well as special populations like the military.”
- “Memorial Health System becomes an independent 501(c)3 organization and the southern hub of a unique new, Colorado born and bred health care system. This system marries the very best in advanced academic medicine to the very best in community care.”
- “Its new partners are, literally, the top academic and community care hospitals not only in the state, but the nation.”
- “Memorial becomes the chassis that carries advanced clinical care to the surrounding region.”
- “It is a system in which the vast clinical, financial and community benefits created will stay here (in Colorado Springs), not be dispersed to stockholders in distant places.”
- “Memorial itself would be run by a new local governing board. The majority of directors would be residents of El Paso County. Memorial’s board, in turn, would report to and have a voice in the governing board of the new University of Colorado Health System.”

Meanwhile, the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora – formerly the site of the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center – continues to be a hotbed of development. The University of Colorado Hospital is currently constructing a 12-story, 714,000-square-foot tower adjacent to its five-year-old, 787,000-square-foot inpatient facility. Nearby, Children’s Hospital is building a 10-story, 350,000-square-foot addition of its own, and the Veterans Administration is preparing to construct an $800 million medical center.

Need a ride to join us?

If you have a problem with transportation to CURFA activities, please notify Richard Blade, 303-283-9670, or rich1600@gmail.com, if you want CURFA to try and make arrangements for you to be picked up by someone driving to the activities.

Nancy Smith at UCCS graduation ceremonies.
This past July, I was gratified to receive an invitation from the Fund for the Study of P. A. Stolypin’s Legacy in Moscow to give talks on Petr Arkad’evich Stolypin. Stolypin, Minister of Internal Affairs and Chair of the Council of Ministers from 1906 until his assassination in September 1911 in Kiev (while at the opera – ironically Glinka’s opera entitled in English, “A Life for the Tsar”), was the subject of my Ph.D. dissertation (1964, from Indiana University), and my first book (1976).

In the 1960s Soviet officials refused to let me use the archives when I arrived in the U.S.S.R. (on a Ford Foundation Fellowship) for a year’s sojourn; A. I. Avrekh, one of the leading Soviet historians, told me that there was little on Stolypin in the archives and I would be wasting my time to stay. (The Soviets hated Stolypin because Lenin stated that if his reform program took root the Bolsheviks would be unable to foment a revolution – but I always theorized Avrekh wanted to hoard the archival materials.)

So, after traveling around the Soviet Union, I left and went to Finland, where the Valtionarkisto in Helsinki made 28 reels of microfilm of their materials on Stolypin and Finland. Of course, I had done research in the archives at the Hoover Institute at Stanford and the Russian Library at Columbia University.

After the Soviet debacle I mined the diplomatic records in the Public Records Office in London. And I interviewed Prince Aleksei Obolenskii, who was then living in Stockholm and had served under Stolypin in the MVD; Stolypin’s daughter Maria von Bock, who lived in San Francisco; and Count (or Prince) Bobrinskii, whose uncle had served in the State Dumas and who then taught English lit at the University of Chicago.

However, I was so angry with the Soviets that I changed my research topic to medicine and then pharmacy and the pharmaceutical industry in imperial and Soviet Russia, which enabled me to publicize the serious shortages and defects in these sectors during Soviet times, a fact some of my American colleagues disputed (such as a gentleman at Rutgers who vilified me for criticizing Soviet medical care during an invited talk at the pharmacy school) but which was acknowledged by the post-Soviet Russian Minister of Health in 2010.

Now history has also vindicated me with regard to Stolypin. In September, my husband and I departed for Moscow and had a wonderful time. Stolypin has been rediscovered by Russian historians and officials. Since 1911 marked the 100th anniversary of his death and 2012 the 150th anniversary of his birth many commemorative events were being planned. And I was regarded as the oldest living biographer of Stolypin and one of the first Americans to write comprehensively about him and his reform policies. The Moscow Fund for the Study of Stolypin’s Legacy – founded by a very wealthy Russian, which has subsidized the publication of 10 or so excellent monographs, encyclopedias and analyses of archival materials dealing with Stolypin – was our host. We were treated royally in Moscow and by another tycoon in Saratov (who grew up on Stolypin’s estate which had been turned into a collective farm).

Moreover, this was an opportunity for me to meet many post-Soviet historians who are producing solid histories and also to see sites important in Stolypin’s life that were in formerly “closed” areas.

Prime Minister and president-elect Vladimir Putin has rallied around Stolypin. In Moscow there were major conferences attended by major politicians at which I spoke; smaller scholarly conferences where I delivered a paper along with other papers by first-rate historians (who had cited my early work); meetings with sculptors who are preparing the statue that will be erected on the Ring Road in Moscow (with Putin’s blessing); museum exhibits about Stolypin and so forth. In Vilnius there was a stimulating conference, at which I and other historians delivered papers, and a visit to Kolnoberzhe, Stolypin’s estate – now in ruins – where he served as marshal of nobility in the late nineteenth century. In Saratov, where Stolypin served as governor from 1903 to 1905, his portrait graced the stage at the main conference. Orthodox choirs and orchestras played and we laid flowers at Stolypin’s statue in the square. I delivered two lectures and was interviewed by the local media. And there were major social events. In Kiev, Arcady Stolypine, Petr Arkad’evich’s great grandson, flew in from Paris for the blessing of Stolypin’s grave by the Russian Orthodox Metropolitan; there was a dinner for 300 with the Russian ambassador at the InterContinental Hotel, exhibits, conferences and a tour of the Stolypin Center, an archive to Stolypin.

Although I was distressed to learn how much material about Stolypin was in the archives of formerly “closed” cities, I was heartened at the difference between the production of history in Russia in the 1960s and 1970s and the present. I was humbled as well as pleased, that my work, done so long ago and in such difficult circumstances, was respected and had contributed to the furtherance of Russian history.

I returned to Moscow in December for a conference and was invited to another one there (April 17) to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Stolypin’s birth. The conference will be held at RAGS – the Russian Academy of State Administration. Putin may attend, as he views Stolypin as a hero. A further interesting point is that commemorating Stolypin’s birth – in Dresden in 1862 – apparently is superseding the Soviet era period commemoration of Lenin’s birth, traditionally celebrated with fireworks.
Arthur Boardman (English, UCB) wrote, “I continue to write poems, play the recorder, play tennis and enjoy the desert.”

Donna Bogard (Music & Entertainment Studies, UCD) for her 80th birthday was treated by her husband, Chuck, to an Oceania cruise aboard the Nautica. “It was great fun and lots of water!” she wrote. “I have retired from UCD after 36 years. I enjoyed all of it. Stay as involved as I can.” She directed the CU Alumni Choir from 1987 and is taking a break from it this year. Her daughter Theresa was promoted to chair of the Department of Music at the University of Wyoming.

Jane Byers (Music, UCB) wrote, “I’m still teaching voice but took a three-week time off to have my right knee replaced. Big success. My son Jeff conducted his last performance with his Gospel choir in Switzerland. Got rave reviews.”

Mary Conroy (History, UCD) wrote: “This past July, I was gratified to receive an invitation from the Fund for the Study of P.A. Stolypin’s Legacy in Moscow to give talks on Petr Arcad’evich Stolypin.” Stolypin, minister of internal affairs and chair of the council of ministers from 1906 until his assassination in September 1911 in Kiev, was the subject of her Ph.D. dissertation, in 1964, and her first book, in 1976. For the rest of her story, see the previous page.

Scott Grabinger (Education, UCD) has finished his fourth guidebook on Central Tuscany, which is for travelers who are repeat visitors. “I spent a couple of months in the fall doing research for the fourth book and guiding tourists to my favorite spots,” he wrote. “Now that I am home I’m writing a collection of stories about my travels around Italy and consulting with people who want to visit Tuscany. In January I became a grandfather for the first time. Now all I have to do is save for my daughter’s wedding in the fall.”

Hank Hermes (Mathematics, UCB) and his wife, Carol, did the “American Birkebiner” Nordic ski race in Hayward, Wis., in February. It is a 54-kilometer (equal to 33.6 miles) race with “skate” and “classic” categories. There were 9,500 entrants and 5,373 finishers. “Hank placed 854 and Carol 852 out of the 1,635 classic finishers, both of us with a time of 4 hours, 52 minutes,” they wrote. “Only five men finishers were older than
Hank and three women finishers older than Carol, so we were pleased to have placed ahead of 781 younger classic racers who completed the ordeal!”

CHUCK HOWE (Economics, UCB) and his wife, JoAnne, joined Boulder’s Cuba Sister City group for a 10-day trip to Cuba in January. Boulder’s Sister City Program now has seven Sister Cities, including Baracoa on the eastern tip of the island. Baracoa is the island’s oldest European city, established in 1510. Presumably, Columbus visited the site earlier, planting a cross, the remains of which can be viewed in a local church. This visit was a person-to-person cultural exchange providing the opportunity to see life and understand more about life in contemporary Cuba. “Cuba does some things very well,” he wrote. “Their medical education and health care programs provide good clinics in every village, with higher care in hospitals in larger towns. Their medical schools train students from Cuba and other countries and loan several hundred doctors to countries in Central America and Africa. The schools in each town appear to be well organized and of high quality, although often not well equipped, given the lack of resources – partly due to the continuing U.S. embargo.”

JOYCE LEBRA (History, UCB) wrote that she is “getting with the 21st century.” She has two new novels that are scheduled to be out soon as e-books: “Cane Fires,” set in Hawaii, and “Bravest of the Rebels,” set in India. She took her nieces and nephews to a family reunion in St. John, Virgin Islands in February.

JOHN MOYER (Pediatrics, UCHSC) wrote: “We as physicians, actively in practice or retired, need to be empathic. This means listening, connecting, hearing what our patients think, value and feel. Our School of Medicine on the Anschutz Campus coaches student learners in their first and second phases of education to acquire a skill set called relational centered
communication. This has a fancy name called the Calgary Cambridge Guide. It takes a highly skilled and self-reflective coach for the curriculum to be effective and impactful. I do this coaching about 80-100 hours per academic year as a volunteer. I love this part of retirement!”

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JACK WEIHaupt (Geology, UCD) had a paper that he presented in Athens in 2008 published recently. The delay was due to Greece’s economic problems. The paper is “The Strange and Undocumented Discoveries of Antarctica and South America: Part 1, A Historic Enigma.” According to the abstract, “The discovery in 1984 of the Orontius Finaeus map of Antarctica dramatically changed the human historical record by revising the discovery date of that continent from the nineteenth century to the sixteenth century or earlier. Subsequent research has not only confirmed the authenticity of the Orontius Finaeus map, but appears to require, contrary to the traditional historic record, that visitations to the continent by unknown explorers occurred in the sixteenth century, or before.” The abstract also explains that the contemporary Ross Ice Shelf “is demonstrated to be absent on the Orontius Finaeus, and appears to be absent from other pre-nineteenth century maps. In addition, some world maps published after the Orontius Finaeus map, such as maps by cartographer Gerhard Mercator, are seen also to depict not only a southern continent, but as well the continent of South America. In some cases, such maps are found to be cartographically superior to maps published later by the same and other cartographers, suggesting that a more accurate source of cartographic information was available to some map makers prior to the Western European voyages of the Age of Discovery.”

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RITA WEISS (Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, UCB) and her husband, Larry, were at grandson Ben’s wedding last September in Malibu, Calif. “A most elegant affair attended by many celebrities including Andy Garcia and the Olsen twins,” she wrote. “We also were pleased with the arrival on Sept. 2 of a new great-grandson, Lukas Austin Floraday, born to granddaughter Bethany and husband, Andrew.”

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‘A most elegant affair attended by many celebrities including Andy Garcia and the Olsen twins.’
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:

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