



CU Parent

Parents
Supporting
Students

Newsletter for CU-Boulder Parents

Volume 10, Number 1 🌱 Spring 2004

From the Board of Directors

DEAR CU PARENTS,

You have no doubt heard various media reports of recent allegations and controversies surrounding the CU football program. Also, you have received Chancellor Richard L. Byyny's letter to all parents concerning those matters. This letter is written to you by the CU Parents Association Board of Directors to provide a parent perspective to these recent events.

We fully support the CU Board of Regents' appointment of the independent commission, referenced in Chancellor Byyny's letter, to determine the breadth and depth of the football program problem and recommend any appropriate corrective action. We will await their conclusions and recommendations. We are also pleased to see the immediate action Chancellor Byyny and President Elizabeth Hoffman

have taken to change the practices and policies of the football program's recruiting activities. We strongly support their goal to do whatever is required to make CU's football program a model for colleges and universities across the country.

In addition to the independent investigative committee, the university has contracted Dr. John DiBiaggio, former president of three outstanding universities and a nationally respected leader in athletics reform, to critically and impartially evaluate the policies, practices, and activities of the CU athletics program. He will determine to what extent the athletics program must change to most effectively contribute to the university's mission of being a world-class learning community. We support this initiative and anxiously await Dr. DiBiaggio's recommendations.

Although we are pleased to see the action-oriented approach CU's leadership is taking toward addressing these serious issues, we have a concern. CU is being bombarded by adverse publicity as the result of allegations about the football program, which represents less than 1 percent of the total student population. We encourage parents not to lose sight of CU's many wonderful attributes and contributions. Here are just a few examples that make us continue to believe that our children are getting an outstanding education at one of the greatest universities in the world:

University Recognition

- A new survey published in the January 24 issue of *The Economist* in London ranked the University of Colorado at

Letter, continued on page 3

Puksta Scholar's student dialogue group brings together Muslim and Jewish students

LAST SPRING SENIOR POLITICAL science major Mahdi Abosedra co-founded the student group "NO-PORK" as a project for the Puksta Scholars Program. The program provides opportunities for students to be involved in civic engagement.

Abosedra's project evolved as a response to controversy surrounding the creation of the Coalition for Justice in Palestine student organization, which in turn sparked protests from Hillel, a Jewish student group. He and others in the Muslim Student Association felt the tension was not representative of the majority of students on campus.

"We didn't like the projected image of Muslims versus Jews, so we wanted to create a group that was the complete opposite," said Abosedra.

"People get confused—they ask, 'is that

a vegetarian group?'" he joked about the name, NOPORK. "But it shows the connection between Muslim and Jewish students. Muslims don't eat pork because of their doctrine and neither do Jewish people, so it's a perfect connection point. We look for those things, especially spiritual connections—that's what the group is about."

NOPORK meets biweekly to build community and a foundation of respect between Muslim and Jewish students through reciprocal religious education.

In addition to being an interfaith dialogue group, NOPORK has taken steps to sponsor large-scale events that support peace efforts. In January 2004 they hosted "Healing Israel/Palestine," a talk at which Heather Quinn, national organizer of Tikkun Campus Network, a division of the spiritual and political Jewish magazine *Tikkun*, spoke about what the Geneva



Mahdi Abosedra

Accord could do to secure peace in the Middle East.

Abosedra hopes to see NOPORK continue after his graduation in May and ultimately become a nationwide organization with help from the group's leaders.

The Puksta Scholars Program is supported in part by the CU Parent Fund.

by Vanessa Lozano, Internal Communications student assistant

PARENT PERSPECTIVE

The credit card deluge

We hope this column will support the ongoing education of you, the parents of CU students. We are continually learning through our son's CU experiences and our membership in the CU Parent Association (CUPA) Board of Directors.

If you remember our last column in the winter 2003 issue of *CU Parent* (www.colorado.edu/parentrelations), we highlighted commonly-seen financial problems faced by CU students and their parents. We intentionally omitted one of the most severe problems, the temptation of and ease of access to credit cards. That issue serves as this column's sole focus.

An example from the CU Bursar's Office files: Student A charged her card to the max and eventually had to get a job and drop out of college to pay off the card. Life happened, and she was never able to finish college.

We all know people who can't restrain the financial temptation of the moment. Maybe we ARE those people. So doesn't it make sense that the independent, but not yet financially savvy, 18-year-olds that we send off to Boulder may yield to the same temptations? Before they are settled into their dorm rooms, the credit card deluge begins.

And there are enticements: no fees, introductory 0 percent APR (typically lasting about six months), and cash-back or point-accumulation plans. But the most seductive lure is the minimum payment. If your student were to accept the 2.5 percent minimum payment, it would take 153 months and over \$1,115 in interest to pay off a \$1,000 bill at 18 percent interest.

The key is education. A couple of pointers: go for the lowest rate. Stick with one card with a low limit, say \$1,000. And keep the balances down. But the best advice is to pay on time, all the time. One late payment and the rate, whether during an intro period or not, can be bumped to 20 percent or more, and a hefty late fee added to boot.

Much of the material for this article was gleaned from the web site www.bankrate.com. For starters, go to their credit card home page at www.bankrate.com/brm/rate/cc_home.asp. Then check their survey of rates or try some of their credit card calculators.

This Newsletter's Tip: We never told you that this column would benefit only your students, did we? 🐼

by Lowell and Margie Lewis, Parents Association board members

Parent Fund raises \$420,000

Due to the tremendous support we received from parents during our Fall Campaign, the CU-Parent Fund has raised close to \$420,000 since the fiscal year began on July 1. We wish to express our thanks to you, parents, for your support and invaluable investment in the university. Over 3,200 of you generously gave by phone and mail to ensure the quality and effectiveness of university programming. Your support has made it possible to directly enhance campus programs and increase the level of service for all students.

This year, the Parent Fund's goal is to raise an impressive \$600,000 in unrestricted gifts. This funding will continue to provide the necessary and critical support for programs like Career Services, the Honor Code, Counseling Services, and leadership and ethical development. In order to help the Parent Fund move toward its goal, regional challenges have been established by CU parents on the East Coast, the West Coast, and in Texas. These families will match dollar-for-dollar all new

and increased gifts from their respective region up to \$50,000. Parents living in these areas are encouraged to join together and inspire other CU families across the nation to show their support.

The Parent Program would also like to remind you of parent events held around the country throughout the year. These receptions allow parents to connect directly with university administration and other CU families, and provide a forum to voice any concerns and questions. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend these gatherings, which are held primarily in the fall.

Because CU receives less than 10 percent funding from the state, private gifts are critical for our students to continue receiving the high quality of education and programming for which this university is recognized. For more information on the CU Parent Fund or ways parents can get involved, please contact Parent Fund Coordinator Susan Wesley at 303-735-5019 or Susan.Wesley@CUFund.colorado.edu.

Financial aid checklist

Apply now for next year: Some aid is offered on a first-come-first-served basis, so if your student hasn't already done so, it's time to apply for financial aid for the coming academic year. The application is two-pronged: submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the FAFSA processor, and submit a signed copy of the first two pages of your (the parent's) 2003 federal tax return to the CU-Boulder Office of Financial Aid. Generally, we will NOT need a copy of your student's tax return. You are encouraged to submit the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Apply now for summer 2004: The application for summer aid is quick and easy. It's available from our office and at www.colorado.edu/finaid/summer.html. Note that if your student is enrolled this spring, pre-registers for the fall term, and has had work-study aid this academic year, they may be eligible for work-study aid during the summer even if they don't enroll for the summer term.

Check your application status and aid online: Have your student go to plus.colorado.edu and select "financial aid" to confirm that the documents you submitted have been received. Students can also check the status of their financial aid award.

For more information about the above or any financial aid questions you may have, please contact the Office of Financial Aid at 303-492-5091, finaid@colorado.edu, or visit our home page at www.colorado.edu/finaid.

CU Parents Association names 2004 grant winners

The CU Parents Association recently named 22 recipients of more than \$42,000 in grant money, made possible through gifts to the Parent Fund and other fundraising efforts.

The winning projects meet the association's goals of enriching student life, building community, promoting diversity, improving student safety, enhancing career counseling, and supporting civic engagement, leadership development, and ethical behavior.

Grant recipients include: Night Ride / Night Walk, The Wardenburg Health Center, Off-Campus Student Services, Persian Student Organization, Business Career Center, CU Dialogue Network, Family Housing, Family Housing's Children's Center, NOPORK Interfaith Dialogue Group, International Festival, Career Services, Holocaust Awareness Week, Hmong Student Association, Presidents Leadership Class, Chancellor's Leadership Residential Academic Program, and Cultural Unity Center,

"The Parents Association is very pleased to provide annual grants to a variety of excellent programs that will positively impact many CU students," said Peter Simons, director of the Office of Parent Relations.

Survey finds CU students among healthiest in nation

RESULTS ARE IN FROM A STUDENT SURVEY conducted last spring by the Wardenburg Health Center, utilizing the National College Health Assessment tool. The online questionnaire asked students about their general health, substance use, nutrition, and exercise, among other topics, and compared their answers with college students from across the country. The survey was sent to 1,800 undergraduate students and 40 percent responded.

Overall, CU-Boulder students are among the healthiest in the nation. Almost 75 percent maintain a healthy weight, more than half report engaging in vigorous exercise each week, and almost 60 percent eat one or two fruits and vegetables each day. Now that should make mom proud!

Students reported allergy problems as their top general health concern, followed by back pain, sinus infection, and depression. The primary conditions that impacted their academic experiences were cold/flu/sore throat, sleep difficulties, concern for a troubled friend or family member, and other relationship difficulties. Students also reported they usually get their health information from parents before going to other sources.

The survey also asked questions about social norms and substance use—the perceived standards of acceptable attitudes and behaviors prevalent among members of a community. CU-Boulder students reported that their alcohol, cigarette, and marijuana consumption was much less than they perceived the consumption levels of others, a perception similar to student responses at other universities. However, CU-Boulder students reported a higher percentage of consequences from drinking, such as being physically injured, doing something they later regretted, or forgetting where they were or what they had done.

Ranked among the top public academic university in the world and the 31st best academic university globally in 2003.

- 2 undergraduate specialty programs were ranked in the top 15 nationally of universities offering doctoral programs in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2004 America's Best Colleges issue. The specialty programs were aerospace engineering (13th) and business entrepreneurship (14th).
- 2 undergraduate academic programs were ranked in the top 25 of public universities offering doctoral programs in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2004 America's Best Colleges issue. The academic programs were engineering (17th) and business (25th).

Faculty Recognition

- 3 faculty have received Nobel Prizes.
- 7 faculty have received MacArthur Fellowships, known as the “genius grant.”
- 9 faculty have received prestigious Packard Fellowships. The unrestricted grants, worth \$625,000 each in 2003, go to young faculty who are among “the most promising science and engineering researchers at universities in the United States.”
- 2 faculty have won the National Science Foundation Director's Award for

Distinguished Teaching Scholars.

- 44 CU-Boulder faculty have been named Fulbright Scholars since 1990–91, including 3 for 2003–04.
- CU-Boulder led the nation with 4 recipients of the 2001 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, which is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers early in their careers.

Alumni Recognition

- 17 CU-Boulder alumni have become astronauts.

If at any time you have any questions concerning the issues you see in the media, or if you desire more information, please feel free to contact Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Ronald Stump (Stump@colorado.edu), Chancellor Byyny (Richard.Byyny@colorado.edu), or President Hoffman (Elizabeth.Hoffman@cusys.edu).

Sincerely,
RALPH BRAINARD
President, CU Parents Association
Board of Directors

THE NUMBERS: Faculty counts at CU!

Full-time faculty	1, 176
Men	801
Women	375
Faculty with doctorate degrees	1, 003
Fall 2003 student-to-faculty ratio	17.1 to 1
Tenured and tenured track faculty	1, 034
Percentage of full-time faculty teaching undergraduate courses	90%
Nobel Laureates (chemistry and physics)	3
Recipients of MacArthur Fellowship, the “Genius Grant”	7
Fulbright Scholars in 2003–04	3

CU summer program teaches business skills to nonbusiness majors

As a sociology student I knew little about the business world until last summer when I was fortunate to take part in CU's Business Intensive Certificate Program (CUBIC). In a three-week period, with other nonbusiness majors, I was given the skills to understand the fundamentals of business. Professors from CU's Leeds School of Business facilitated the program. All of the CUBIC sessions were highly interactive and enjoyable. Within the first week I gained life-changing insight into micro-economics, accounting, and money management. I also learned to plan for my financial future with IRAs and investments. The process, procedure, and correct etiquette for interviews were also covered. At the end of the three-week period we were asked to design a new business and present our business plans to our respective classes. This final presentation forces each student to take the information they have learned and apply it to a real-life setting.

If your student is a non-business major and has earned 60+ credits or will graduate in May 2004, consider CUBIC as an option to build upon and round out their educational experience at CU-Boulder. This is a once-in-a-lifetime endeavor that will impact the way your student looks at the business world and how they plan for their financial future.

Information or an application for CUBIC can be found at leeds.colorado.edu/cubic.

by Heidi Whitley, sociology major

CUBIC runs during Maymester term, May 10–27. The last day to register is April 16.

Parents Association

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Boulder, CO 80309-0120

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www.colorado.edu/parentrelations

Changing your address

To update your address, e-mail Judy Myers in the Office of the Registrar at: judy.myers@colorado.edu or call her at 303-492-5821 (e-mail is preferred). Be prepared to provide the following:

- Your name, and, if applicable, your spouse's name
- Your student's name
- The last four digits of your student's ID number
- Your old address
- Your new address

To add a parent or additional address, your student must e-mail Myers with the last four digits of their ID number and the name and address of the parent they wish to add.

Stay current online

Recent issues of *CU Parent* are available on our web site at www.colorado.edu/parentrelations (note the new web address). Due to increased printing and mailing costs, every other issue of *CU Parent* is found only online.

Colorado
University of Colorado at Boulder

The University of Colorado at Boulder is an equal opportunity/nondiscrimination institution.



Important dates for 2004

Spring Semester

Last day of classes	April 30
Final exams	May 1-6
Commencement	May 7

Maymester

First day of classes	May 10
Memorial Day	May 31
Last day of classes	May 27
Final exams	May 27

Summer Session

First day of classes, Terms A, C, D	June 1
Last day of classes, Term A	July 2
Final exams, Term A	July 2
Independence Day	July 5
First day of classes, Term B	July 6
Last day of classes, Term C	July 23
Final exams, Term C	July 23
Last day of classes, Terms B, D	Aug. 6
Final exams, Terms B, D	Aug. 6
Commencement	No summer ceremony.
Official summer graduation date is Aug. 7.	

Fall Semester

Residence halls open (10:00 a.m.)	Aug. 19
Classes begin (8:00 a.m.)	Aug. 23
Labor Day	Sept. 6
Fall Break	Sept. 30-Oct. 1
Family Weekend	Oct. 15-16
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 25-26
Last day of classes	Dec. 9
Final exams	Dec. 10-16
Commencement	Dec. 17

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A brick . . . a gift that will always be remembered!

Honor your graduating student, alumni, teachers, loved ones, and friends of the university with a custom engraved brick on the CU-Boulder campus.

Your brick will be a lasting, visible tribute and commemorate your contribution to the University of Colorado Parents Association Scholarship program.

Each brick will be installed in the walkway of the Norlin Quadrangle, an historic area adjacent to the original campus buildings. The brick pathway will grow for generations and recognize those who have contributed to quality and excellence at the University of Colorado.

Take a moment to make a permanent tribute

PLEASE PRINT

Today's date

Your last name

Your first name

MI

Phone

Street address

City

State

ZIP

Make your \$125 check payable to the CU Foundation or charge:

VISA MasterCard American Express check

Credit card #

Exp. date

Print name as it appears on card

Signature

You will receive a certificate acknowledging your contribution. If this is a gift, please write the name of each person to be acknowledged, including yourself.

Please write your message as you would like it to appear on the brick. Limit 20 characters per line, including spaces.

Line 1

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Line 2

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Line 3

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CU Parents Association reserves the right to edit all requests. Mail this form to:

CU Foundation
P.O. Box 17126
Denver, CO 80217-9155

Questions? Telephone the Office of Parent Relations at 303-492-1380 or e-mail parents@colorado.edu.

Contributions benefit the CU Parents Association scholarship program. You will receive a certificate for the person being honored. If you would like the names of the gift givers, including yourself, to appear on the certificate, please list below:

