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University of Colorado

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A Message from the President

January 2018

Dear Alumni and Friends:

We hosted a ceremony late last semester that has come to be one of my favorite events at CU, next to commencements. At its November meeting, the Board of Regents bestowed the title Distinguished Professor on five faculty members from across the CU system.

The annual Distinguished Professor award is the highest faculty honor at CU. Since its inception in 1977, fewer than 100 faculty members have received the designation. Those who do demonstrate exemplary performance in research or creative work, a record of excellence in classroom teaching and supervision of individual learning, and outstanding service to the profession, the university and its affiliates. You can read more about the most recent Distinguished Professors below, or find a complete list of them [here](#).

The ceremony is great because not only do the professors get to share the moment with family and colleagues, but they provide the Board of Regents a brief overview of their work and their time at CU. It's obvious that they share a deep passion for teaching, research and service, as well as an abiding love of working with students. These are powerful common threads for these exemplary professionals.

While it's important for us to celebrate the best of CU faculty, I have also found that the traits that set the Distinguished Professors apart from others are by no means limited to a select group. I have more than 50 years' experience interacting with CU faculty, from my time as an undergraduate to my work chairing the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, from leading major fundraising drives for CU to my current job as president. I have continually been impressed by our faculty's expertise, dedication and overall excellence.

When people ask me the single most important factor in making a university great, there's no question about the answer: a great faculty. And we have one.

I experienced it firsthand as an undergraduate, when faculty such as Bruce Curtis, Doc Thompson and Don Eicher gave me the knowledge and tools that helped me to succeed in life. I have seen countless examples of it over the years in classrooms, research laboratories and communities. One of the best parts of my job is interacting with faculty and learning about what interests them, what they do in their jobs, and how they connect with students, communities and peers. My encounters with them are interesting and insightful.

In a large university such as ours with four campuses and some 7,500 faculty, there may be a few who don't strive to the highest ideals. But I have found the vast majority of our faculty are conscientious, experts in their fields, dedicated to student success and make a real difference in lives and communities.

I am frequently impressed and often amazed when I talk with our faculty. I learn new things, consider different perspectives and challenge my own thinking. And if that's not the definition of what makes a great faculty member, I don't know what is.

Our students, communities, state and nation are indeed fortunate to have such a high-caliber group. I've experienced their quality as a student, a volunteer, an engaged alumnus, a member of the community and as president. I'm proud of the women and

men who teach and conduct research at CU. They are the reason our university is one of the best in the world.

For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,



Bruce Benson
President



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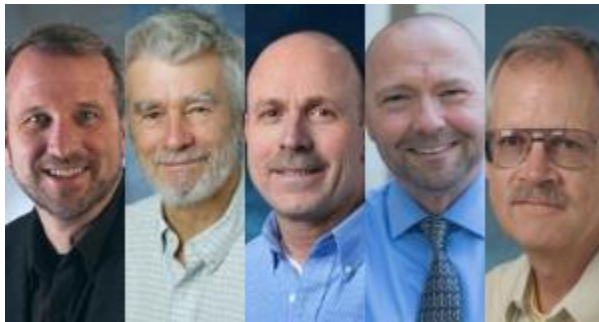


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IN THE NEWS



[Five faculty leaders earn CU's highest honor](#)

We recently introduced five newly designated Distinguished Professors, the highest honor awarded to faculty across the CU system's four campuses. The latest recipients are professors Paul Harvey, UCCS; Dan Theodorescu, CU Anschutz Medical Campus; and Peter Molnar, Douglas Seals and Thomas Veblen from CU Boulder.



[CU Denver celebrates its first named building](#)

Lola and Rob Salazar donated \$10 million to the CU Denver student wellness center, set to open in spring on the Auraria Campus. The Lola & Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center will be an 85,000-square-foot facility designed to promote multiple dimensions of student health and wellness.



[CU Boulder law professor Melissa Hart named to Colorado Supreme Court](#)

Congratulations to Colorado Law School professor Melissa Hart, whom Gov. John Hickenlooper named to the Colorado Supreme Court. Hart devotes her teaching and scholarship to employment discrimination, access to justice, and constitutional law. Hickenlooper said Hart is “without question a brilliant legal mind” and called her appointment “a great opportunity for Colorado.”



[CU Advocacy Day at the Capitol is coming up](#)

Join us for our annual CU Advocacy Day at the State Capitol, 3-5 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 30. This event provides an opportunity to hear from higher education leaders, elected officials and CU experts. The program will provide information to help you influence public opinion about CU and higher education with elected officials and others in your community. [Register here.](#)



[An exercise in nutrition for elite athletes to armchair quarterbacks](#)

From the Denver Broncos to the Cleveland Indians to college sports and Olympians, [Jackie Berning](#), professor and chair of Health Sciences at the [University of Colorado Colorado Springs](#), has provided nutrition education to top athletes.

[CU's laugh track: Examining the science of humor](#)

CU Boulder Leeds School of Business professor [Peter McGraw](#) studies what makes things funny, and how it can benefit marketing and management. McGraw talks with CU on the Air host [Ken McConnellogue](#) about the funny and not so funny aspects of humor.

ALL FOUR: COLORADO



[Students take lead of former Broncos star, volunteer to read to grade-schoolers](#)

Former Denver Broncos player David Bruton Jr. and fellow CU Denver students regularly visit Greenlee Elementary to spend an hour reading one-on-one with second-graders. The program, Power Lunch, pairs a volunteer reader with a single student for a full academic year.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



[UCCS alumnus overcomes difficult childhood, works hard and aims high to earn his MPA](#)

Levino Johnson graduated with Pi Alpha Alpha honors and recently moved to Aurora, where he now works as a program analyst for the Office of the Inspector General within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

BECOME A **CU ADVOCATE**

Colorado needs healthy research universities that produce a highly educated workforce, grow our economy, attract business and industry, and engage in research that generates jobs, creates companies and improves lives. With your help we can keep CU - and Colorado - strong.

CU ADVOCATES EVENTS

Jan. 17 - [CU Lunch and Learn | Afghanistan and Pakistan Insight with CU's Lucy Chester](#)

CU President's Office, 1800 Grant St. Denver, CO 80203 (11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Jan 30 - [CU Advocacy Day at the Capitol](#)

Colorado State Capitol Old Supreme Court Chambers (3-5 p.m.)

[Become an advocate for CU](#)

NEWS FROM OUR **CAMPUSES**

CU BOULDER

CU COLORADO SPRINGS

[How a student satellite solved a major space mystery:](#) 60-year-old question solved using data from a shoebox-size satellite built and operated by CU Boulder students.

[Olympic hopeful and winter graduate balances skating with UCCS studies:](#) Max Aaron is demonstrating the time management skills that led him to be the U.S. National Champion and a contender for the 2018 Olympic team.

CU DENVER

[Design effort brings students together to make difference:](#) Engineering students create projects that address real-world problems.

CU ANSCHUTZ

[Students explore 'bread and butter' of profession:](#) From Parkinson's brains to teenage obesity, event highlights scientific inquiry.



Make a difference. Support CU today!

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