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University of Colorado

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A Message from the President

February 2018

Dear eComm:



While our university has many things in common with the top institutions in the country, there are also things that set CU apart. Headlining that list is the venerable [Conference on World Affairs](#) (CWA) at CU Boulder, which film critic and frequent participant Roger Ebert once called “one of the most remarkable events in America.” It [celebrates its 70th anniversary](#) with this year’s conference, April 9-13.

I invite you to join us for the event. Biographies of the 110 invited speakers will be available on the CWA website, with the 2018 schedule of more than 200 sessions to be posted in March.

The conference was the brainchild of highly regarded CU sociology professor Howard Higman, who set out to put on a one-time conference to address topics related to the nascent United Nations. But it was such a success that it returned and became a long-running, unique showcase for thought, culture, technology and contemporary issues. It's not a conference in the traditional sense, but more of a festival of ideas. Over the years it has featured luminaries such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Joe Biden, Henry Kissinger, Ted Turner, Arthur Miller, Molly Ivins, Steve Wozniak and a host of others.

In 2016, before his keynote address, I asked Apple co-founder Wozniak why he attended. He said he liked the diversity of ideas there and hearing people who think outside the box, which he certainly does.

One of the hallmarks of the conference is spirited discussion and debate not only on the issues of the day, but also on the human experience in all its complexity. The CWA imposes no topical boundaries. The approach complements who we are as a university – a place where ideas rise or fall in the crucible of civilized discourse and informed argument. John Griffin, a political science professor who became CWA director after longtime director Jim Palmer's retirement, is intentionally building on the conference's reputation as a platform for robust discussion.

It's critical that we foster conversations that engage people across the intellectual spectrum. The conference program committee is actively seeking those diverse voices, which make for a much more interesting and engaging event. We welcome your ideas for speakers and/or topics, which you can share [here](#).

Griffin is also working to expand the role of students in the conference and considering how it can enhance the student experience and prepare tomorrow's leaders. The CWA

is contributing to a broader campuswide effort to challenge students to engage. The conference is a great way to connect things students are learning in classrooms with events and issues beyond the borders of campus.

Having students interact with conference participants also inspires and motivates them. Many of the speakers are national or world leaders in their fields, and they often have the dream jobs our students aspire to.

Likewise, the conference is great for our alumni, as well as the families of our students. It's a source of pride that our university has hosted such a unique and high-profile event for 70 years, but it's also a great reason for alumni to return to campus and connect with their alma mater, and for the parents and grandparents of our students to visit Boulder in springtime. For who can't attend, many CWA events will be live streamed this year and archived on the CWA website.

One of the great things about the conference is that it remains open to the public free of charge. The CWA is an efficient use of resources since speakers do not earn speaking fees and are not reimbursed travel expenses. It also connects the community with our campus – many speakers are hosted by local families. Still, putting on such a wide-ranging event is a considerable expense, and while the university supports more than half the CWA's budget annually, we also welcome your contributions. You can help to support CWA's 70th year [here](#).

As the Conference on World Affairs celebrates a milestone anniversary this year, I'm optimistic it will remain as vibrant as ever, thrive in the future and become even more relevant for students and the community. It has been a wonderful forum for big ideas, creative expression, informed debate and engagement. The CWA is one of those things that sets CU apart.

For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,



Bruce Benson
President



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IN THE NEWS



[Summit of leaders – and a call to action – at CU Advocacy Day](#)

Tuesday's CU Advocacy Day at the Capitol brought together leaders from across the university and Colorado state government, as well as dozens of members of the CU Advocates group – who were asked to take part in some timely lobbying.



[CU at the Winter Olympics: Keep an eye out for students, alumni](#)

The PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games begin Feb. 9 and the University of Colorado will once again be represented through its CU student athletes and alumni. Five CU Boulder affiliates and one UCCS student will be competing at the games.



[The Ent Center for the Arts opens](#)

More than 200 faculty and staff celebrated the opening of the [Ent Center for the Arts](#) during a Jan. 17 open house. A public grand opening gala will be Feb. 3. The center is a new 92,000-square-foot performing and visual arts complex on the University of Colorado Colorado Springs campus.



[Unearthing the effects of climate change on human health](#)

Dr. [Jay Lemery](#) is a pioneer in the convergence of climate change and global human health at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. He is the co-author of [Enviromedics: The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health](#), which enlightens readers about one of the greatest challenges of our time: How is climate change affecting our lives?

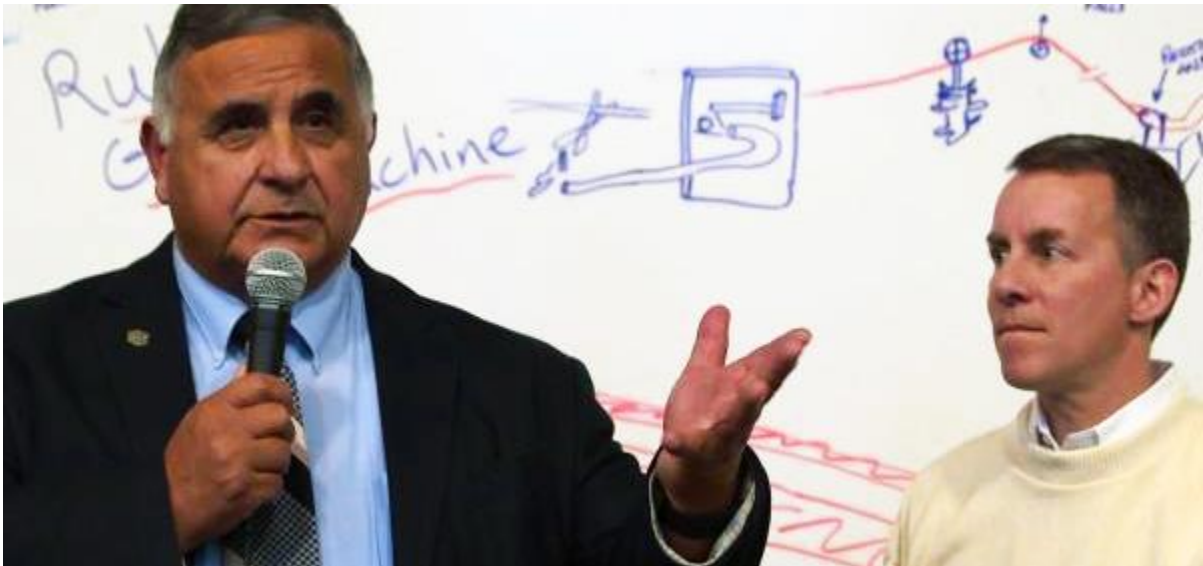
SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



[A houseful of Tepleys](#)

In August, Bill Tepley's (Pharm '87) younger daughter, Grace Tepley (IntlAf '18), moved into the turreted Queen Anne-style home on The Hill, just off Broadway — extending the family streak to four successive generations of Tepleys in residence while attending CU Boulder.

ALL FOUR: **COLORADO**



[CU Boulder engineering offerings expand on the Western Slope](#)

CU Boulder and Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction announced the addition of an Electrical and Computer Engineering program to their expanding partnership. Starting next fall, students will be able to work toward degrees in the new program in addition to the two existing options, mechanical and civil engineering.

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.

[Become an advocate for CU](#)

NEWS FROM OUR **CAMPUSES**

CU BOULDER

[GOLD space weather instrument launches:](#)

GOLD will investigate the intermingling of space and Earth's uppermost atmosphere — and is the first NASA science mission to fly an instrument as a commercially hosted payload.

CU DENVER

[Mechanical engineering students start specialization by building lightsabers:](#)

In fall 2017, the mechanical engineering course got a *Star Wars*-themed upgrade, which will teach students to integrate multiple skills as they build their own lightsabers.

CU COLORADO SPRINGS

[‘Orange is the New Black’ star and immigration activist to speak at UCCS:](#)

Diane Guerrero will speak at 7 p.m. April 11 at the Shockley-Zalabak Theatre in the Ent Center for the Arts.

CU ANSCHUTZ

[Method to assess early intervention programs is flawed:](#)

Researchers urge better evaluation of early intervention programs serving infants and toddlers with developmental problems.



Make a difference. Support CU today!

GIVE TO CU

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