

communiqué

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-COLORADO SPRINGS

Don't fool around with the flu

This fall, students, faculty and staff members can get flu and meningitis vaccines during a special outreach program at CU-Colorado Springs.

Meningitis is a serious and potentially lethal disease that affects the brain and spinal cord and can lead to permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss and brain damage. Meningococemia (a blood infection) can lead to kidney and heart failure, and can also result in severe disability and death.

As for the flu, many people at the university get this virus during the winter. People may also suffer complications from influenza, including bronchitis, pneumonia

and ear infections, sometimes even requiring hospitalization. Influenza usually hits Colorado in January or February, said Rick Meadows, director,



student health center at CU-Colorado Springs. "The likelihood (of getting the flu) is greatly increased when you're in crowded areas," Meadows said. The vaccine, which is about 80 percent effective in preventing influenza, usually starts working about two weeks after administered.

Vaccinations are available today from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Center, Room 116. The cost is \$75 for the meningococcal

vaccine and \$10 for the flu vaccine and can be billed to student accounts or to a major credit card. For more information, call Meadows at 262-4444 or VACCESSHealth, a company that specializes in direct access immunization programs at 1-877-482-2237.

CCHE to consider campus master plan

Commissioners for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education are scheduled to vote on the CU-Colorado Springs Master Plan at their regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 2.

Communique will be updated on Friday morning, Nov. 3, to reflect the CCHE's decision on the plan that outlines future construction on the campus.

Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Thursday, Nov. 23

Friday, Nov. 24

Monday, Nov. 27

Monday, Dec. 11 — Saturday, Dec. 16

Saturday, Dec. 16

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Monday, Dec. 25

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Monday, Jan. 1, 2001

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2001

Campus offices open. No classes.

Thanksgiving Day holiday. Campus offices closed. No classes.

Columbus Day observed. Campus offices closed. No classes.

Classes resume.

Final exams.

Semester ends.

Chancellor's holiday party, 3 p.m. in the Lodge.

Christmas holiday. Campus offices closed.

Governor's holiday. Campus offices closed.

New Year's Day holiday. Campus offices closed.

First day of classes for spring semester.

Overheard

"You've got to invest in the infrastructure here. You've got to invest in the University of Colorado. It has to happen."

Scott Oki, College of Business alumni and former Microsoft employee before a group of community leaders at an Economic Development Corporation/University Club luncheon at the Broadmoor Hotel.

Distance-learning program bridges paramedic gap on Western Slope

CRAIG, COLO. - "Would you like to see our service area?" student Kay Warner asked Scott Bourn. "Sure," said Bourn.

So Warner and Bourn, director of Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences' Emergency Health Services Program, climbed into the car and drove to Cedar Mountain, about seven miles north of Warner's home in Craig. Standing between the juniper and sage, Warner pointed in every direction. Baggs, Wyo., was 38 miles north. Steamboat Springs lay 42 miles east. Meeker, Colo., was 49 miles south.

"It is everywhere you can see," said Warner, indicating the estimated 44,000 square miles of land surrounding the mountain lookout. "It" is the rugged area Warner will help serve once she's a certified paramedic. That day can't come soon enough. Her hometown of Craig (pop. 9,500) boasts a 42-bed hospital, but, according to Warner, doesn't have any paramedics.

The view from Cedar Mountain had its desired affect on Bourn: so much land, so little in between. That's one reason why trained paramedics are desperately needed in places like Craig. Enter Kay Warner, one of fifteen students taking classes long-distance through CU-Colorado Springs's School of Nursing and Health Sciences. The students meet several times a week at various sites on the Western Slope to hear and participate in lectures through a

special video conferencing option. Bourn and others teach the lectures, which are transmitted via the Internet from the campus.

Craig isn't the only community on the Western Slope participating in the four-semester, 1,100-hour program. Students from Steamboat Springs, Telluride, Delta, Montrose, Grand Junction, and other places gather weekly in assigned cohorts to attend classes together and study. Some drive several hours over mountain passes to get their designated "classrooms" at small local hospitals.

"Most of the communities we're serving are frontiers," Bourn said.

The new, intensive long-distance program was started this fall after would-be paramedics approached Beth-El administrators and talked about the need for training in remote Western Slope communities. Unlike emergency medical technicians, who are limited in their assessment skills, paramedics are highly trained, can administer a variety of medications, and have advanced, life-saving skills.

Bourn, who recently spent three days visiting with the Western Slope students, said the distance-learning program still has a few technical bugs to work out. For instance, in some cases, students were able to see and hear Bourn's lectures but couldn't respond with questions of their own. When that



Scott Bourn

happened, they would call Bourn on his cell phone.

"Everywhere I went (while visiting the Western Slope), I asked students, 'How are you holding up?' " Bourn said. They seemed upbeat and determined to overcome any obstacles, although one student worried aloud that the technical glitches could mean the program's demise.

"Are you going to give us a refund and close the program down?" one student asked Bourn. "We're afraid you're going to leave."

He assured the student that CU-Colorado Springs was committed to the paramedic program. All the bugs should be out of the system by Christmas, he said.

"This is just problem solving," Bourn said confidently. "Week after week, it gets better."



A man of vision: New dean copes with Colorado's critical teacher shortage

Will the next generation of teachers please stand up?

Don't everybody raise your hands at once. According to the National Education Association, in the next decade some two million teachers will be needed to fill new teaching positions. Here's another statistic: approximately half of all current teachers are expected to retire by the year 2010. In Colorado, where the economy and population is booming, the teacher shortage isn't some hypothetical scenario in the distant future.

It's here and it's now.

"I had a meeting this morning where I was told 750 new teachers will be needed in El Paso County for the fall 2001 school year," David Nelson, the new dean of CU-Colorado Springs' School of Education, said recently.

"The El Paso school districts want us to recruit, prepare, and mentor new teachers in undergraduate and graduate programs. The school districts of this area are prepared to hire 250 program graduates in elementary, middle, secondary, and special education."

Nelson's well aware of the problem. He can rattle off figures about local teacher shortages the way some people talk about baseball stats. Statistic: More than 1,000 new teachers were required to fill vacancies in El Paso, Douglas and Teller counties in September 2000. Statistic: There are plans in the works to build at least 14 new schools in El Paso and surrounding counties in the next three years. In addition, state and area schools will also need educational leaders — principals, curriculum leaders, and other administrators — to guide the next generation of students and teachers. UCCS will respond to K-12

A man of vision: cont. on page 4

CU-Colorado Springs delivers free computers to students

Brooke Glommen, a sophomore nursing major from Colorado Springs, never thought she'd have a computer of her own.

But Glommen, a single mother and part-time employee in the Office of Student Financial Aid, now completes her assignments on a new Gateway computer bundled with the latest software. The change was possible because of a \$50,000 set aside from technology funds provided by the State Legislature.

"I'm using the computer to write papers, send e-mails and do research on the web," Glommen said. "And the CD Rom comes in handy when I'm trying to study for a human anatomy exam."

Using campus computer labs was difficult for Glommen because it meant finding a babysitter for her 15-month-old son, Shalimar. And the home budget was stretched too thin with diapers and baby food purchases to think about a computer purchase. Her situation was not unlike many of the other 30 students who received the free computers, according to Lee Ingalls



Noble, director, Office of Student Financial Aid.

"It was wonderful to see them come in and get their computer," Noble said. "Some of them wondered if there was a catch — it's not very often that someone wants to give you a new computer

and printer for free. It was fun to assure them that there was not. The computers are theirs."

The students were selected based on financial need as indicated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and their selection as a recipient of the Governor's Opportunity Scholarship. Noble identified the students and worked with Mike Belding, program analyst II, Department of Information Technology, to purchase systems that would both stretch the budget and serve student needs.

"I couldn't have done this without Mike's help," Noble said. "He was the one who figured out how we could get the most computer for our dollar and help the most people."

A man of vision: cont. from page 2

needs through traditional and alternative programs.

Significant student increases in districts such as Falcon, Woodland Park, Academy, Fountain-Fort Carson, and others, as well as retirements, have compounded the demand for teachers. But where will the new teachers come from? Raising up a new generation of teachers isn't like turning out hamburgers at a fast-food restaurant, no matter how hungry or demanding the customers may be.

But the School of Education is serious about trying to meet the demand. Nelson has launched a series of ambitious initiatives aimed at recruiting, identifying, and promoting the next crop of educational leaders. One plan is already in progress: undergraduate teacher education with an emphasis on core course requirements, an emphasis on liberal arts, field-based experiences in professional development schools, and high-quality professional programs in elementary,

secondary, and special education. In addition to their studies, students will spend a lot of time in the classroom under supervision of experienced, master teachers.

As for the School of Education's two-year-old graduate program, prospective teachers will now have the opportunity to spend a year in the classroom — all the while gaining experience and earning a teaching salary.

Such programs are often known as master of arts in teaching programs for post-baccalaureate students.

"This way students don't have to lose a year of income," Nelson said.

Another initiative is aimed at combating the growing shortage of qualified educational leaders. They, like many veteran teachers in their 40s and 50s, are thinking about retiring in a few years.

"They're going to retire and we're not preparing anything close to the number of principals to take their place," said Nelson, who came to CU-Colorado Springs from the Feinstein School of Education and

Human Development at Rhode Island College in Providence, R.I.

Nelson and other educational experts in the area have devised a 15-month program in which school districts identify the teachers within their ranks who have potential leadership. In the past, those who wanted to become

school principals were self-selected. Now, school administrators can handpick potential leaders, and give them training and support them with a wide array of professional development programs. CU-Colorado Springs' role would be providing on-site administrative training and preparation.

Teaching is a profession that requires a commitment to children and youth, subject area knowledge, and service to the community. Although undervalued in financial remuneration, the personal and professional rewards are personally rewarding and professionally appreciated, Nelson said.

"Raising up a new generation of teachers isn't like turning out hamburgers at a fast-food restaurant. . ."
—David Nelson, Dean, School of Education

Down to the wire

As the votes are tallied on election night, students, faculty and staff can gather in University Center to witness history in the making. Campus Election Watch will be held from Tuesday, Nov. 7 from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. in University Center's Upper Level Glass Atrium Area. Free food and drinks will be served as the first election results of the millennium are posted on the university's big screen TVs. Campus Election Watch is sponsored by All Staff Council, Campus Activities Board, the Chancellor's Office, Faculty Assembly, Student Government and PESA – the Professional Exempt Staff Association.



El Pomar trustees to visit campus

El Pomar Foundation Trustees and their guests will tour El Pomar Center on campus Nov. 16 and officially dedicate the campus' newest building.

A small group will tour the building at 10 a.m. and will be briefed about the status of the project by Chancellor Linda Bunnell Shade, Tom Ostenberg, director, Construction and Facilities Management, and Leslie Manning, dean, Kraemer Family Library.

El Pomar Foundation donated \$5 million to the \$28 million project to build El Pomar Center and remodel the Kramer Family Library. El Pomar Center is nearly

complete though some details, such as Westminster Chimes carillon, equipment for a digital television studio and a glass tower cap, will be installed in coming months. Renovation of the Kraemer Family Library space is expected to continue until late spring.

A public dedication of the entire complex — El Pomar and the renovated library space — is scheduled for April, according to Kathy Griffith, director of special events.

University and community members will be invited to see the completed project at that time.



Time has come

Workers maneuver the face of El Pomar Center, 10-foot-tall clocks, into place last week. Electricians continue to work to make the clocks, and carillon, operational.



Goblins on patrol: Bags in hand, Adam Robinson, 5, Marisa Petersen, 6, and Dahnya Trainer, 5, from the Family Development Center, trick-or-treat at Cragmor Hall.

Coming next issue

- An initiative to improve campus life takes shape
- Campus administrative organization panel issues draft report

November 2, 2000 Volume 5, No. 14

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