Governor questions ability to pay for buildings

Master plan wins approval

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education approved the CU-Colorado Springs Campus Facilities Master Plan Nov. 2 at its meeting in Littleton.

The CCHE’s unanimous approval of the plan was welcome news to campus administrators in attendance.

“This is wonderful news for our campus and indicative of the high-quality work by Tom Ostenberg and Jonathan Bregman over the last two years,” Chancellor Linda Bunnell Shade said. “Tom and Jonathan are largely responsible for the kudos that were given to the campus today.”

Commissioners lauded the campus master plan, calling it thoughtful, well organized and an effective tool for planning the campus’ future. In addition to a presentation by Bunnell Shade, the commissioners heard from Eagle Rock neighborhood association president Carolyn Hime and received letters of support for the master plan from officials at Pikes Peak Community College and Colorado Springs Mayor Mary Lou Makepeace.

CCHE Chair Ralph Nagel encouraged the campus to consider additional parking, including tiered or structured parking.

In a published article in the Colorado Springs Gazette, Colorado Governor Bill Owens last week was quoted as questioning the state’s ability to fund additional construction on the CU-Colorado Springs campus given the many needs of the state and voter approval of an amendment that will provide more funds for K-12 education.

“There are many pressing needs for Colorado but I believe the Legislature will do an excellent job of weighing the merits of each of them and that they will see that an investment in the people of Southern Colorado will have many dividends.” Bunnell Shade said.

The largest crowd ever enjoys festivities at the

International Thanksgiving Festival today.

Overheard...

“We shape our buildings. Thereafter, they shape us.”

— Winston Churchill
Doers profile

Employee of the Month

Maybe it’s because she worked for the Colorado Department of Corrections for 12 years, but Shari Patterson seems unflappable.

Nothing fazes her. A program assistant for the Sociology Department, the Women’s Studies Department, and the Center for Community Development and Design, Patterson gives new meaning to the phrase multi-tasking. She’s designed web pages, written newsletters, dealt with finances and logistics, and is often the first person graduate students meet.

Her office — with its plants, muted lamplight and large picture of a mountain stream running through a forest — is a soothing hideaway tucked away on the fourth floor of Columbine Hall. But appearances can be deceiving. Although her office exudes a mellow vibe, this grandmother of four is a human dynamo.

Name: Shari Patterson
Place of Birth: Duncan, Okla.
Job: Program assistant, Sociology Department, Women’s Studies, and the Center for Community Development and Design

Q: What’s the difference between working for the Department of Corrections and CU-Colorado Springs?
A: First off, there aren’t any bars on the windows.

Q: How did your skills with corrections translate to your current job at CU-Colorado Springs?
A: In jobs, people skills, organizational skills, decision-making and flexibility are helpful. Whether people are locked up or free, they are still people, and your work ethic goes with you wherever you go.

Q: Why did you switch from one career to another?
A: I wanted to be closer to my family. Both of my daughters and my mother were living in the Springs when I moved down here.

Q: Has working with a bunch of sociologists rubbed off on you? Do you think you’ve become a student of human behavior?
A: I believe I was a student of human behavior before I ever worked with sociologists. What is amazing to me is how similar my views are to theirs in many areas and how different the working environment would be if they weren’t.

Q: What’s the best thing about your job?
A: I enjoy the students and the faculty. I like being able to help people reach their goals. I also enjoy the challenge of learning new things.

Q: What’s the hardest thing about your job?
A: Some of the changes that are brought on by the system. In the past year or so we have been introduced to CPP (Colorado Peak Performance), and ASP (Administrative Streamlining Project). CPP affects the way classified staff are evaluated and also how they are paid. ASP has totally changed the way accounting is done and also how we handle human resource tasks.

Q: As a program assistant working for different people and different departments, you’ve got to know how to be discreet and keep secrets, right?
A: It’s a good idea. On the day I was given my Employee of the Month award, Professor Jay Coakley said, “This is probably the only thing about the department Shari didn’t know.”
Donation to benefit future nurses

A Western Slope veterinarian whose sister attended Beth-El School of Nursing in the early 1940s recently started a memorial scholarship fund for needy nursing students.

With a donation of $75,000, the late Dr. William J. Long of Grand Junction started the Hazel R. Long Preston Scholarship Fund in his sister’s name. The fund is for students enrolled in the undergraduate school of Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences who are in financial need, have at least a 3.0 grade point average, and taking at least 12 credit hours per semester. When Dr. Long’s estate is settled, it is expected that between $500,000 to $700,000 will be added to the scholarship fund. The fund is fully endowed, meaning only the interest will be used for scholarships, not the principal. Over time the fund is expected to grow and could help many students.

The scholarship fund aims to provide $5,000 scholarships to students, to help defray the cost of books, tuition, and other fees.

Shortly before his death in September, Long spoke by phone to Carole Schoffstall, dean, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, about his sister, Hazel. Her conceptual ideas about nursing were in keeping with Beth-El’s holistic philosophy.

After her discussion with Long, Schoffstall wrote him, saying: “As I shared with you on the phone, I was amazed to see the drawing she did of a conceptual framework for nursing in 1941. The way in which she drew the illustration of the soul, mind and body was so close to how we conceptualize the mind/body/spirit in a holistic spirit today. Thank you for letting us share in the love you have for our sister in a very special way. You can be sure that the Hazel R. Long Preston Memorial Scholarship Fund will keep alive in the hearts of students at Beth-El forever.”

In 1941, Hazel Long graduated cum laude from Beth-El College of Nursing in Colorado Springs. Like many people who wanted to help others, Hazel Long’s vocation as a nurse took her far from home. After the United States entered World War II, Hazel joined the Army Corps of Nursing, and afterwards, continued her nursing career at Ent Air Force Base and Peterson Field here in Colorado. She settled in Colorado Springs, married Colin Preston, retired from nursing in 1980 and died four years later.

But thanks to her brother, the story doesn’t end there, as Schoffstall pointed out to William Long shortly before his death.

“Generations of students to come will be able to provide care for the ill because of your kindness in her memory.”
At precisely 7:07 p.m. on a frigid, dark Monday night, as students walked across campus to class, they heard a surprising melody emanating from El Pomar Center’s spanking new clock tower.

It was Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “Hello Young Lovers,” from the 50s Broadway musical, “The King and I.” What next? “Edelweiss?” “Send in the Clowns?” “Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head?”

Precisely. Think of it as CU-Colorado Springs’ Greatest Hits.

Fortunately, there’s something for everybody, said Leslie Manning, dean, Kraemer Family Library.

“I think all of these are nice songs,” said Manning. Expect to hear patriotic anthems, classical music, contemporary hymns, Broadway show tunes, and nostalgic tearjerkers by Simon and Garfunkel in the coming months. The carillon will feature an eclectic mix, from “Morning is Broken,” a Gaelic song popularized by 1960s folk singer Cat Stevens, to “He’s got the Whole World in His Hands.”

For those who keep expecting to see a hooded Quasimodo-like figure pulling on the bells in the clock tower, forget it. The sounds emanating from the tower — musical and melodic though they are — are on a CD and programmed to play at specific times via computer.

The bells are a very expensive option,” Manning said. “It’s an electronic recording.”

Lest some younger listeners think it’s the goodtime geezer hour every time they hear “Climb Every Mountain,” Manning gives her assurances that other, more contemporary songs are on their way.

For “younger geezers,” there is “Here Comes the Sun” by The Beatles, and Stevie Wonder’s “You are the Sunshine of My Life,” she said.

For those who haven’t heard the carillon yet, the bells play the Big Ben theme every hour and half hour Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. On Sundays, they play from noon to 9 p.m.

Community and campus-wide response to the carillon has been overwhelmingly positive, Manning said. She gets half a dozen comments a day from people telling her how much they enjoy the music, she said.

Hats off to Graeme Badger, who was recently named Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Women’s Cross-Country Coach of the Year. Badger was nominated by other coaches in the conference.

Congratulations are also due to Jerry Flack, professor, School of Education, who was recently awarded the National Association for Gifted Children’s (NAGC) highest award: the Distinguished Service Award. Flack received the award for his many years of service to the organization and the nation’s three million gifted and talented children and their families.
Merging the best of the old with the latest additions to campus is no easy task. Just ask landscape architect Spencer Nickel who faced that challenge when designing landscape for the area surrounding El Pomar Center.

Nickel, of Bailey, Colo.-based 5Design Inc., used native sandstone to face concrete retaining walls, greatly improving their appearance and connecting the newly poured concrete to materials that have existed on the campus property for millions of years.

But Nickel wasn’t finished. The walls needed a final touch, a touch that has drawn many questions as onlookers view relief depictions of "Rhus trilobata" (translation: three-leaf sumac) and "Quercus gambelli," (translation: scrub oak) the woody shrubs that dot the campus.

"The environmental context of the campus is one of its strongest identifying character elements," Nickel said. "The hillside campus, with its stone outcroppings and scrub oak habitat, make it unique within the CU system."

Nickel chose to honor the native plant material by first gathering plants from behind the Engineering and Applied Science building and immediately sketching them. Finally, in his spare time, Nickel used a sandblaster and a series of masks to recreate his sketches directly into the native stone. The resulting four-by-three foot stone carvings, which took more than two weeks each to complete, were donated to the campus.

"These were important plants to the indigenous peoples and to the wildlife of this foothills/plains interface," Nickel said. "For example, gamble oak acorns were used as a food source in a variety of ways and the leaves of three-leaf sumac were used in the healing of wounds. We found that these three plants had, by far, the greatest visual, historic and environmental presence on the undisturbed native portions of the Cragmor parcel."

Three plants?

Close examination of the wall behind El Pomar reveals only two carved stones with space left for another.

So, what will go in the blank place?

After an earlier version broke, Nickel is recreating his botanical drawing of Cercocarpus montanus (translation: mountain mahogany) for installation soon after the beginning of the new year.

"I am sincerely honored that these stones are being enjoyed," Nickel said. "Sometimes, donated art is a tricky issue as one is never sure if the work would have been otherwise wanted. The level of interest expressed from the campus helps ease my fears."
The mission of the CU-Colorado Springs campus should be expanded to include Southern Colorado, a consultant hired by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education recently recommended.

Officials from the Olympia, Wash.-based Northwest Research Education Center, NORED, revealed their recommendations at a Nov. 1 CCHE meeting at Arapahoe Community College, Littleton.

The recommendations, and their impact on CU-Colorado Springs, will be discussed at a University Forum scheduled for 10 a.m. Nov. 17 in Columbine Hall 317. Cleve McDaniel, vice chancellor for administration and finance, Chancellor Linda Bunnell Shade, John Pierce, vice chancellor for academic affairs, and Pam Shockley, Vice Chancellor for Student Success will lead the discussion. Leonard Dinegar, Public Affairs, CU system, will also join the forum.

In its report "Steady Progress: Higher Education Governance in Colorado at the Dawn of the 21st Century," NORED officials recommended that CU-Colorado Springs remain part of the CU system "but with clarified responsibility and flexibility for delivering needed higher education services to the Colorado Springs area and southern Colorado and as another alternative for students who want a residential campus experience."

The CCHE commissioners accepted NORED's report without changes. Its recommendations are likely to be discussed at later CCHE meetings as well as by the Colorado Legislature during the upcoming session.

A copy of the NORED final report, as well as a summary of recommendations affecting CU campuses, is available at http://www.cusys.edu/legislation/nored.html.

Where did they go????

Many campus offices have recently changed locations as part of planned renovations to Main Hall and continuing work on the University Center.

Modular units near Columbine Hall on the former Bennett property are named buildings 992 and 993. The modular unit at the front of Cragmor Hall is Building 991.

Beginning Thursday and continuing through Sunday, the following offices are scheduled to move. The office, and its new location, follow.

For exact office numbers, call offices directly (telephone numbers have stayed the same in most cases) or visit the construction web site at http://web.uccs.edu/mainhall/schedule.htm.

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