Close examination called for

Spring enrollment increases

CU-Colorado Springs spring enrollment increased slightly overall with the Colleges of Education, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Engineering and Applied Science, and Letters, Arts and Sciences all posting increases.

Total student credit hours this spring increased 1.9 percent to 67,420 hours, according to Randy Kouba, director, Enrollment Management. In Spring 2000, 66,141 student credit hours were generated.

Leading in percentage increase for Spring 2001 was the College of Engineering and Applied Science with a 3.1 percent increase. Letters, Arts and Sciences increased 2.6 percent. Education and Nursing and Health Sciences each posted 1.1 percent increases. The College of Business and the Graduate School of Public Affairs each saw decreases in enrollment. Business dropped 1.5 percent and Public Affairs decreased 0.8 percent.

“These numbers warrant close examination,” Pam Shockley, vice chancellor for student success, said. “The campus increased in some important areas, including non-resident student enrollment and the general course load of our students. However, continued decreases in graduate level and unclassified enrollment are cause for concern and further study.”

About 6,300 students enrolled on the campus for the Spring 2001 semester.

Regents hold meeting on campus

The University of Colorado Board of Regents will meet on the CU-Colorado Springs campus today and tomorrow.

Several committee meetings are scheduled for today in the Lodge. The academic committee begins at noon and the capital committee at 3 p.m. A 15-minute public comment period precedes each meeting.

Tomorrow, the Regents will convene at 8 a.m. for their regular meeting. They are expected to begin a closed, two-hour executive session before reconvening at 10 a.m.

Chancellor Linda Bunnell Shade will deliver the official campus welcome tomorrow and an overview of the Reach Your Peak Scholarship Program.

Smart lunching

Sara Qualls, associate professor of psychology and director of the CU Center on Aging, talks with Colorado legislators and staff at a Feb. 7 CU Smart Lunch in Denver. Qualls’ topic was “Aging: it’s a Family Affair.”

Overheard... 

“The beauty of today is it’s not an ‘us against them’ mode, it’s a ‘we’ mode. It’s a togetherness mode. It’s a willingness to say, ‘Hey, you contribute something to humanity.’”

Guest speaker Jeff Fard at the opening of Black History Month.
Alumni gift ensures promising future for students

Several years before his death, Lee Lyon, MBA ’67, made a commitment to invest in the CU-Colorado Springs College of Business.

At the same time, he was investing in himself. Lyon’s gift of $366,000 — to be overseen and invested by the CU Foundation — was placed in a charitable trust. Lyon’s goal: to enhance the College of Business, particularly its MBA programs.

For the rest of Lyon’s life, his investment in CU-Colorado Springs paid a handsome dividend. When Lyon died Dec. 9, 2000 at the age of 82, his initial investment had grown by almost 20 percent to $425,000. The charitable remainder of the trust will be used to continue developing programs and providing scholarships to students in the College of Business.

Lyon’s generosity is a perfect example of how a charitable trust can work for both donor and recipient, according to Zell Rector, director of Planned Giving, CU Foundation. Lyon got a hefty tax break from the IRS, received a steady and sizeable income and was able to give back to the university that launched him into a business career.

Lyon graduated from campus in 1967 when the university was barely two years old. In order to complete his graduate career at the time, he also took courses at CU-Denver and CU-Boulder. He settled in Colorado Springs after World War II, where he was a successful real estate broker and appraiser. After retiring, he and his wife moved to Ojai, Calif. He lived there until he died.

The Lee M. Lyon MBA Program Enhancement Fund will be used to enhance programs at the College of Business. The college is fine-tuning how the endowment will be used to assist graduate students, Joe Rallo, dean, College of Business, said.

In a letter of sympathy to Lyon’s wife, Shirley, Rallo wrote, “Our goal is to move our undergraduate and graduate programs into the top 100 nationally. At the same time, we intend to maintain the quality of faculty, students, and programs that have made the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs such a special place to generations of graduates, including Lee. Lee’s gift will assist us in achieving these goals for generations of future students.”

For more information about charitable trusts, contact Rector, CU Foundation, 262-3166.

Leonard Gilchrist

Leonard Gilchrist, 62, died Feb. 11 at his home. He retired as Sgt. 1st Class from the Army after 21 years of service and had been a member of the university’s custodial staff since 1987.

Gilchrist was born March 6, 1938, in Philadelphia to Herman Gilchrist and Essie Dennis, who are deceased. He was married Aug. 2, 1958, to Geneva Owens.

He is survived by his wife; a son, Lester Robinson; four daughters, Brenda Robinson, Marsha “Marsi” Loving, Phyllis Gilchrist and Anjanette Gilchrist; a brother, Earl; a sister, Juanita Webb; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Dennis and Sonny.

Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. tomorrow at Shrine of Remembrance Funeral Home, 1730 E. Fountain Blvd., 634-1597. A funeral service will be at 2 p.m. Friday at Shrine of Remembrance “America the Beautiful” Chapel of Roses. After the service, a reception will be at Olympian Plaza Reception and Event Center, 975 S. Union Blvd. Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery, 1005 S. Hancock Ave.

Memorial contributions may be made to American Heart Association, Pikes Peak Division, 415 N. Tejon St., Suite 201, Colorado Springs 80903.
Engineering joins with industry to recruit graduate students

A local high-technology company may have found a way to attract employees and increase research and development laboratory time.

“Beyond the call of duty

They’ve been asked to unclog toilets in the residence halls, evict skunks from Main Hall and shoo a six-point buck from the parking lot – and that’s just for starters. No, they’re not animal control officers or plumbers, but when duty calls, the campus police officers go where they’re needed.

This isn’t cop appreciation week. But given the number of tasks the officers routinely do to help keep the campus community safe and secure, maybe it should be. Several times a day, they’re asked to jump start cars, retrieve keys in locked cars, call tow trucks, or escort students to and from class in the evening, said Officer Jim Spice, who’s worked for the Department of Public Safety for several years. They also teach self-defense classes, run crime-prevention programs, oversee the Lost and Found Department, and constantly patrol the campus. The officers – contrary to what some people might think – are state-certified peace officers. They’re not security guards.

“It’s almost like you’re a small-town cop, but you’re in the middle of a big city,” said Officer Steve Linhart, who joined the campus police force two months ago after serving with the El Paso County Sheriff’s Department.
Jim Barlow, chief financial officer, CU Foundation, and Martin Wood, vice president, CU Foundation, answered questions about Foundation operations at the Feb. 9 Faculty Assembly meeting. Some of the questions, and their answers, follow.

At 10 a.m. Friday in Columbine 317, Wood, Chancellor Linda Bunnell Shade and Pam Shockley, vice chancellor for student success, will discuss private fund raising efforts. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Q – What is the CU Foundation?
A – An independent, privately governed non-profit corporation established in 1967.

Q – What is its mission?
A – To support the University of Colorado.

Q – What are the CU Foundation’s assets?
A – In FY 2000, the foundation assets were $598.7 million. Our goal for 2001 is $700 million and in 2005 we hope to have $1 billion in assets.

Q – How much of that comes to the campuses?
A – In 2000, $42.9 million was distributed to the campuses. In 2001, we hope to increase that to $55 million and by 2005 to distribute $100 million.

Q – What is an endowment?
A – An endowment is comprised of assets invested to support a university’s mission in perpetuity. An endowment allows a donor to transfer private dollars for public purposes and assures donors that a gift will serve the intended purpose as long as the institution exists.

Q – How many endowments does CU have? The Colorado Springs campus?
A – There are about 1,500 endowment accounts with 100 that are more than $1 million each. Endowment assets total $378.3 million. For CU-Colorado Springs, endowments total $16 million.

Q – What are the returns on a CU Foundation investment?
A – We try to rank in the top quartile of university endowment associations in returns. Our annualized three-year return is 17.5 percent and for five years it is 16.7 percent.

Q – How much money does the Colorado Springs campus put into the CU Foundation?
A – University Relations’ and Alumni budgets have been folded into the CU Foundation to provide some economy of scale and efficiency. In terms of funds strictly for fundraising, the university provides about $155,000 to the Foundation. In turn, last year we raised about $4 million or, for every $1 invested, there’s a return of $25.

Q – Who runs the Foundation?
A – A board of approximately 50 people and they are responsible for the governance. There is also an investment committee that is responsible for asset allocation and investment of foundation dollars.

Q – Is there a connection between the university and who sits on this board?
A – We have representatives from each of the four campuses. Mike Byram, before being named as the CU Foundation president, was the Colorado Springs representative.

Q – If a donation is made to the CU Foundation, and it is dedicated for a certain purpose, is the interest that the donation generates also dedicated for that same purpose?
A – It depends. If it is an endowment, definitely. In that case, the donor has said “hold this gift, invest it and use a portion of the gift each year.” We dedicate those earnings to further the original intent of the donor. If it is what we call current funding – that dollars are given today for a specific program – then the investment earnings are not allocated for that program.

Q – What happens to gifts that come from donors that are unrestricted? And who makes the decision about where those funds are spent?
A – In fiscal year 2000, 98.6 percent of all contributions to the Colorado Springs campus were restricted so there basically are no unrestricted monies! CU is very unique in that regard. People when they give money to CU always want to put some sort of restriction on it. This creates some challenges within the campus because we cannot always put money where it is most needed.
Employee of the Month

For some, life has a way of coming full circle.

That’s certainly the case with Lee Ingalls Noble, who’s been at CU-Colorado Springs “practically since dirt” and is the January 2001 Employee of the Month.

In the summer of 1971 — several years after dropping out of CU-Boulder — she wandered into the student relations office, looking for advice: “I need to go to school and I don’t have any money,” she told Mike Sanchez, who was the associate dean back then. “I can help you,” he replied.

Sanchez gave Ingalls Noble a work-study job. She was the first student ever hired to work in the financial aid office. She began processing financial aid applications in a tiny “office” — a closet on the third floor of Main Hall filled with Miller moths. That was more than 30 years ago.

Today, Ingalls Noble is director of the Financial Aid office, overseeing a staff of 30 full- and part-time employees. Her financial aid budget is $26 million. The irony of the situation isn’t lost on Ingalls Noble. Now, from her sunny — and moth-free — Dwire Hall office, Ingalls Noble looks back on a career that started when the university was in its infancy.

Name: Lee Ingalls Noble
Age: 50
Birthplace: Durango
Job Title: Director of Financial Aid, CU-Colorado Springs
Education: Bachelor’s in sociology, master’s in sociology.
Reaction to being named Employee of the Month:
I was very surprised. I was in the middle of a staff meeting when they (the nomination committee) came pounding on the door. I didn’t know who it was. At first I thought, “How rude.” My staff conspired with the notification team and it was a total surprise! It was fun to receive balloons, a certificate and the traveling ocean trophy.

Has the campus changed a lot in 30 years?
Absolutely. I remember when people used to ride their horses to school. They tied them up in back of Main Hall. It was pretty casual. We all used to hang out in the old sanatorium (later, the Admissions and Records office) dining room. It had canteen machines and that was our student center. I also had a few classes in local pubs, and we were very fortunate to know our professors well.

Your job as financial aid director seems challenging. You’re dealing with students who are financially strapped. Is it hard?
There’s always stress around money. We try to make filling out a financial aid application as non-stressful as possible, but the whole process is controlled by the federal and state governments.”

What does it take to be the director of Financial Aid at a university like CU-Colorado Springs?
You need to be a people person, but you also need to be good with details, and not mind everyone from the federal and state governments, auditors and program reviewers looking over your shoulder.

What’s the best part of our job?
The people. I like the students a lot. I think higher ed. is a positive situation. You’re trying to help students attain a worthwhile goal.

What’s the hardest part?
Sometimes the rules and regulations governing our programs seem absurd from my point of view, but we must comply if we want to stay in the game. If it gets too stressful, I just take a walk around campus, get some fresh air and talk to students.