

# communique

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO-COLORADO SPRINGS

## Geography uses technology to aid state

**W**hat's the vegetation like in the Pikes Peak region? Where is the habitat for Colorado's Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep? And how does a south-eastern power company keep track of its customers spread across six rural counties?

These are just a few of the tasks CU-Colorado Springs' Geography and Environmental Studies (GES) department has tackled in the past few years. Now, after receiving a prestigious Program of Excellence Award from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the department is establishing the Southern Colorado Geodata Laboratory.

The award, the first ever received by CU-Colorado Springs, provides about \$350,000 over five years. The award recognizes the high quality of instruction and faculty in the department and will help support its efforts to expand the lab, which is housed in Columbine Hall. The lab will use satellite mapping and detailed computerized geographic databases to provide surprisingly detailed pictures of the world we live in. Tom Huber, professor, geography and environmental studies, says the award will be used to pay a coordinator, GES instructor Philippe Waterinckx, to keep the lab's hardware and software running. The money will also be used to provide outreach to the region for further high-

end satellite mapping projects, as well as to develop a certification program for people interested in using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He anticipates the certification program will be offered early next year.



Tom Huber, professor of geography and environmental studies, talks with Roy R. Wright, associate professor of neurology, at a reception honoring the Colorado Springs campus. The reception was held at the residence of CU President Elizabeth Hoffman on September 16.

The business applications for satellite mapping with computerized databases are endless, said Huber. "There are a million things to do with it," he said. Having a lab in the GES department will make further mapping projects easier, and gives students hands-on experience, he said. Last year Huber received a grant from the University Global Change and Environmental Quality Program to create a Hazard Clearinghouse for El Paso County on the web. The community service is available to all El Paso County residents, who can view what hazards relate to where they live. The web address:

<http://web.uccs.edu/geogenvs/hazards/main.htm>



### Presidential Vision

CU President Elizabeth Hoffman answers questions from faculty and staff during her September 18 campus visit.

Overheard . . .

*"They've pretty much made it so I can stay in school."*

—Sarah Irwin on her first class of the year after she was injured in a car accident and missed three weeks of school.

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Employee of the Month

Doers  
profile

**Name:** Lore Simpson,  
September Employee  
of the Month.

**Birthplace:** Smith  
Center, Kansas —  
the geographic center  
of the United States.

**Age:** I'm as old as Jack  
Benny — eternally 28.

**Occupation:**  
Accountant in the  
Bursar's Office.

**What's a bursar,  
anyway?**

It's, uh, French for holder of the purse.

**How long have you worked at  
CU-Colorado Springs?** Centuries.

**How did you get into this line of work?**  
It was an accident. I applied for the job  
on my lunch break when I was working  
as the payroll director at PPCC.

**What's your favorite part about the job?**  
The people.

**What's your reaction to being named  
Employee of the Month? Do you feel like  
Miss America?** It's amazing. I can think  
of hundreds of people who work at this  
campus who deserve it more than I do.

**Do you consider yourself a bean  
counter?** Oh, no, they're too conservative.

**What's it taken to be successful in your  
job?** Determination and a sense of  
humor.

**Are you a soft touch when it comes to  
stories about late fees?** Not anymore.  
I've heard them all. My rose-colored



Lore Simpson

glasses have changed their tint. I don't  
believe all the stories I hear now.

**Do students ever cry in front of you  
when they can't pay their tuition?**  
Oh, always.

**Do you ever cry in front of them?** No.

**What's the strangest form of payment  
you've ever received in the Bursar's  
Office?** One person paid his parking fine  
by wheeling in a wheelbarrow filled with  
pennies. The student thought he was  
going to make us mad, but we made it  
into a party. We sat in the hallway and  
counted them one by one.

**Why are people so touchy about  
money?** Money's a real personal issue.

**Complete this sentence for me: In my  
next life I want to come back as a . . .**  
In my next life I want to come back as  
an armadillo.

**Because?** They move slowly but they  
usually get where they're going. And  
they have a real tough hide.

## A conversation with Zell Rector

Zell Rector is in the advice business.

As director of planned giving for the CU Foundation, Rector's job is to advise people on how to plan their estate to help students at CU-Colorado Springs, not fatten the coffers of the Internal Revenue Service.

She gives advice to people of all ages and with incomes that range from solidly middle class to millionaires. Age and financial status are less important than a desire to help others, she says.

Rector will share her more than ten years of planned giving experience with the campus and the community during Fall Fest, October 14. Her session, "Don't Give It All to The I.R.S." begins at 10 a.m. in Cragmor Hall 204. It is one of many sessions designed to educate or entertain the alumni, faculty and staff and community members who are expected to attend.

A complete list of Fall Fest activities is available at <http://web.uccs.edu/fallfest>.

*"Age is in your mind.  
Your true age is in  
your heart."*

Rector honed her skills at Colorado College, where she was also director of planned giving. She joined the CU Foundation in July 1999 and immediately began learning the difference between public and private universities and 125 years of tradition versus 35.

"Raising planned giving dollars for Colorado College was relatively easy," said Rector, "I was in a very comfortable position at CC. I knew that no matter what I did, those gifts were going to come in."

But taking the easy route is not part of Rector's personality. The chal-



lenge of working for a younger university appealed to her. She also identified with many CU-Colorado Springs students. After raising two daughters, she returned to college and completed a long-delayed goal of a bachelor's degree in 1990.

"Having received financial aid myself, it's easy for me to talk with people about providing scholarship aid for others," she says. That many CU-Colorado Springs students are local residents was an added appeal. "I've looked at the Garden of the Gods every day for years, but until I spent a week mapping it in a geology class, I didn't fully appreciate the uniqueness of the park. To me, that's what learning is all about," Rector said.

One of her favorite quotations is from an unknown author: "education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know."

### Staff heading to Cripple Creek

All-Staff Council is sponsoring a trip to Cripple Creek. The Ramblin' Express bus departs at 5 p.m. Sept. 29 from a location to be determined. The trip costs \$12 per person. This includes \$30 coupons from casinos. To reserve your spot by Sept. 20, call Ella Stanton, budget analyst, at 262-3389.

## Campus enrolls record class

CU-Colorado Springs will have its largest and best-qualified freshman class ever, according to final Fall 2000 enrollment figures.

Randy Kouba, director of admissions and records, said a total of 791 new freshmen enrolled at the university this fall — a record breaker. Additionally, 54 percent of the students met the state's highest college admission standards and 35 percent of students met the campus' selective admission standard. The rest of the students, about 10 percent, were close to the campus admission standards and were admitted under an admissions window.

"We have an exceptional group of students on campus," Kouba said.

Kouba said enrollment measured by student credit hours increased by 2.1 percent this fall compared to last year. Student credit hours determine the amount of funds the university will receive and are the most accurate measure of campus activity.

The number of people on campus declined by 27 — a decline of less than one half of one percent — to 6,588 this fall. There were 2,694 men and 3,894 women enrolled on census date, Sept. 7.

In coming weeks, the Office of Admissions and Records will closely analyze enrollment trends and issue reports to deans of the schools and colleges that make up the university.

## WHAT'S GOING ON???

Check out the Campus Calendar to find out what's going on. Events that are typically open to the campus community at large are being posted on-line.

Faculty and staff have been entering events in the calendar. Anyone can do it. If you need to find someone near you who can help, contact any of the following people: Marla Giarratano, Alumni Relations, ext. 3046, Andrea Hamand, Chancellor's Office, ext. 3436, Carmen Abeyta, Campus Activities Board, ext. 3447, Kassandra Flanagan, College of Business, ext. 3433, Mary Lou Kartis, Graduate School of Public Affairs, ext. 4182, Tamara Townsend, Marketing, ext. 3088, Connie Ott, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, ext. 4074, Steve Ellis, Admissions and Records, ext. 3380, Jerry Cross, Athletics, ext. 3003, or Bev Watson-Goodwin, Beth-El College of Nursing, ext. 4415. Staff and faculty in the College of Engineering and Applied Science should contact Tina Moore, ext. 4072.

Requests for events placed in the calendar are approved by staff in the Office of University Relations.

Who's looking looking at our calendar? It's not just the staff and faculty on campus. Alumni and community members, including University Club members, are looking at the calendar. Linda Doty, *Gazette* calendar editor, said she has added it to her favorites listing.

Click here to find out what's going on: [web.uccs.edu/ur/events.htm](http://web.uccs.edu/ur/events.htm) and click on "post an event."



**Jane Wampler**, instructor of English, is featured in the fall issue of *The Missouri Review*.

**Lea Barbato Gaydos**, instructor of nursing, is among 11 distinguished graduates from the University of Texas-Arlington who will be honored at a special gala on Oct. 14. The gala is hosted by UTA's alumni association. Gaydos earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from UTA.

**Andrea Herrera**, director of minority and ethnic studies, and **Abby Ferber**, associate professor of sociology and women's studies, will be featured panelists for the Women Deans Breakfast at this year's meeting of the Council on College of Arts and Sciences Meeting in Toronto.

Have a submission for "Hats Off"? Please e-mail [thutton@uccs.edu](mailto:thutton@uccs.edu) with news about CU-Colorado Springs' achievers.

## A Golden October Opportunity: Fall Fest 2000

Mark your calendars for Fall Fest 2000 at CU-Colorado Springs. This special, free gathering is a chance for alumni and community members to catch up with each other, and experience the university in an informal, fun way. They'll be able to participate in a host of activities, from campus tours to digital map demonstrations at the Geodata Lab to testing their language aptitude at the Language Technology Center.

**Fall Fest:** Just think of it as a gigantic family reunion filled with relatives eager to show off their family snapshots and brag about their achievements.

**When:** Saturday, Oct. 14, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Where:** CU-Colorado Springs, 1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway, Colorado Springs.

**For more information:** Call the CU-Colorado Springs Alumni Association, (719) 262-3180.

For a complete listing of activities, lectures and workshops, please check out: [web.uccs.edu/fallfest](http://web.uccs.edu/fallfest)



### Coming Next Week:

- Progress report on the development of the new University web site.
- Meet Beth-El College of Nursing Distance Education leader.

## CU-Colorado Springs recognized for promoting diversity

The CU-Colorado Springs College of Engineering and Applied Science was recently recognized for its efforts to promote diversity among its students and faculty.

Chancellor Linda Bunnell Shade, Ron Sega, dean, Engineering and Applied Science and Tina Moore, director, Engineering and Applied Science student support, accepted the 2000 President's Diversity Award from CU President Elizabeth Hoffman at the Sept. 7 meeting of the University of Colorado Board of Regents. Hoffman highlighted the school's efforts to recruit minority students and faculty to the campus and to increase minority student scholarships.

"We are honored to receive the President's Diversity Award," Sega said. "I am very proud of the faculty, staff, and students who have worked so hard to create a positive environment for diversity initiatives within the college. I would like to give special recognition to Dr. Rangaswamy and Tina Moore for their work to establish new student organizations, develop diversity initiatives and activities, and to increase student participation in these initiatives."

The diversity award is given annually to units within the four CU campuses. The College of Engineering and Applied Science was selected because of its record of recruitment and retention of minority students, its outreach efforts, and success at securing corporate scholarships. In spring 2000, 22 percent of the students enrolled in the College of Engineering and Applied Science were ethnic minorities, a 4.3 percent increase from spring 1998.

Engineering and Applied Science also undertook a number of special events designed to promote engineering opportunities for women and minorities. These events ranged from participation in Native American History Month and Hispanic Heritage Day to helping establish several student organizations for minority science and engineering students.

This year's award was the second President's Diversity Award for the College of Engineering and Applied Science. The college also won the award in 1998.

## Governance consultant issues draft report

A consultant group hired by CCHE to evaluate the state's higher education governance structure is calling for comment on its draft recommendations for changes.

The Northwest Research Education Center, an Olympia, Wash.-based consulting group, recently posted its report on Colorado higher education on its web site, in draft form. It is available for review on the web site of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, [www.state.co.us/cche](http://www.state.co.us/cche).

The report makes many suggestions, including eliminating the current State College System and Board and creating so-called charter universities, which would function with less regulation and more local control as an experimental program. CU-Colorado Springs was mentioned in the report as a possible candidate for the program termed the Colorado Compact.

CU-Colorado Springs was also mentioned in the report as recommended to continue "as a full-fledged branch of the University of Colorado but with clarified responsibility for delivering needed higher education services to the Colorado Springs area."

The report also:

- calls for a review of state funding requirements regarding the delivery of off-campus instruction,
- poses the possibility of changes in the TABOR amendment for those schools that participate in the Colorado Compact,
- makes recommendations about changing current and proposed classification statements for Colorado higher education institutions. These changes could affect future roles and missions of the state's colleges and universities.

After discussing the report with governance leaders, and campus administrators, Cleve McDaniel, vice chancellor for administration and finance, will coordinate a campus response to the NORED report. Responses from across the campus will be added to responses from the other CU campuses – Boulder, Health Sciences and Denver – and combined into a single response to the draft NORED report.

NORED is expected to review responses from the state's higher education governing bodies and provide its completed report to the CCHE by Nov. 1. The report and its findings are expected to be widely discussed during the 2001 session of the Colorado Legislature.