

[CU research attracts \\$815.3 million in sponsored funding](#)[1]

Work by University of Colorado faculty garnered \$815.3 million in sponsored research funding in fiscal year 2011-12, a rise of nearly \$22 million over the previous fiscal year.

The preliminary figures indicate one of the highest research totals in CU history; the only higher total came in fiscal year 2009-10, when one-time federal stimulus dollars contributed to a final tally of \$884.1 million. Last year's total was \$793.5 million.

Sponsored research funding from federal, state and local agencies targets specific projects to advance research in laboratories and in the field. Research funding also helps pay for research-related capital improvements, scientific equipment, travel and salaries for research and support staff and student assistantships. CU cannot divert these dollars to fund non-research related expenses such as utilities, compensation, student financial aid or grounds maintenance.

"The increase in this critical stream is an extremely positive reflection of academic and research advancement at CU," said CU President Bruce D. Benson. "Our research benefits the greater good in Colorado and beyond, not only in scientific gain, but in economic development."

Much sponsored research funding is directed to departments and researchers with unique expertise, such as biotechnology and aerospace, which stimulates industry. Via the CU Technology Transfer Office, CU research commercialization has led to the formation of 114 companies, 11 of which were established in fiscal year 2010-11. Fiscal year 2011-12 sponsored research funding across CU, broken down by campus:

**University of Colorado Boulder**, \$380.7 million, including a five-year, \$4.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to a CU-Boulder-led team working to better understand the electrical processes that connect the Earth with the atmosphere and with space. Among the effort's goals are to improve data resolution and modeling capabilities to more realistically simulate complex processes and forecast disruptive events that may affect the planet's environment. **University of Colorado Colorado Springs**, more than \$5 million, including a five-year, \$954,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for the development of courses to prepare engineers for careers in developing new technologies in the design and implementation of electric vehicle drivetrains. The master's-level courses will be taught by faculty from UCCS and CU-Boulder. **University of Colorado Denver**, \$22.3 million, including a \$1.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition and its National Professional Development program. Faculty at CU Denver's School of Education and Human Development will lead the creation of online and professional communities in an effort to improve academic achievement, especially in the areas of math and science education for multilingual learners in urban K-12 schools. **University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**, \$407.3 million, including a three-year, \$1.5 million award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to create the Center for Excellence in Research in Implementation Science and Prevention (CRISP). Primary care and public health experts will team for research on ways to improve preventive health services within primary health care settings.

[Tenure list: August 2012](#)[2]

At its meeting Wednesday at the Office of the President, 1800 Grant St., the University of Colorado Board of Regents approved awards of tenure and appointments with tenure for 11 faculty members across the system:

**University of Colorado Boulder**, effective Aug. 20

**Jennifer Cha**, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering **Joshua Correll**, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience **Daniel Doak**, Environmental Studies Program **Paul Goodrum**, Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering **Joseph Polman**, School of Education

**University of Colorado Colorado Springs**, effective Aug. 13

**Qing Yi**, Department of Computer Science, College of Engineering and Applied Science

**University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus**, effective Aug. 8

**Scott D. Cramer**, Department of Pharmacology, School of Medicine **David C. Goff Jr.**, Department of Epidemiology, Colorado School of Public Health **Desmond Runyan**, Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine **David A.**

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**Schwartz**, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine **Daniel Tollin**, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, School of Medicine

[Former U.S. Attorney Miller to conduct independent review](#)[3]

Bob Miller

The University of Colorado announced Friday that Robert N. "Bob" Miller, former U.S. Attorney for the District of Colorado, has been retained to conduct an internal review in an effort to better understand the procedures and actions taken by the university and its employees in relation to the suspect in the Aurora Theater shootings, a former student on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Miller and his team began their review two weeks ago. They have been asked to assess various university systems, procedures and actions related to the suspect.

Miller's involvement was requested by University of Colorado Denver Chancellor Donald M. Elliman Jr. and Executive Vice Chancellor for the Anschutz Medical Campus Lilly Marks.

"We are committed to evaluating every step in the process to ensure it worked properly," Elliman said. "We want the community -- especially the loved ones of those who lost their lives and the individuals injured in this senseless tragedy -- to know our resolve rests with understanding all the facts so we can assist law enforcement and other authorities in ensuring that justice prevails."

Miller conducts his review with the endorsement and support of the University of Colorado Board of Regents and University of Colorado President Bruce Benson.

Said Board of Regents Chair Michael Carrigan, "The Board of Regents serves the state of Colorado and is committed to understanding the circumstances of the tragic event that has so deeply affected our community. Engaging an independent attorney of Bob Miller's caliber is an important part of that commitment and the Board of Regents appreciates his efforts."

University of Colorado President Bruce D. Benson pledged the university's cooperation in this independent assessment.

"The university is doing everything it can to fully cooperate with the criminal investigation," Benson said. "Additionally, we are doing everything we can to understand how the university's systems and processes functioned in this situation. Bob Miller comes to us with a stellar reputation for diligence and integrity. We have given him broad latitude to conduct his review."

The internal review is anticipated to take some time and the university has imposed no specific timeline on Miller and his team. The university also has not imposed any restraints upon the scope of Miller's review and has pledged its cooperation as it occurs.

At the conclusion of the review, Miller will report his findings. At this time, it is uncertain what information collected in the review can be disclosed publicly. Beyond the court order, which bars the university from discussing matters related to the law enforcement investigation, it must also abide by other laws that protect some types of information from disclosure.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) precludes the university from disclosing many student-related records. The Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPAA), as well as laws governing physician-patient relationships, also precludes the university from providing information on care provided to patients. Upon receiving Miller's findings, the university will determine how these laws apply and what disclosures are legally permissible.

For more than 45 years, Miller has served as a prosecutor and defense counsel in many complex legal matters. He routinely conducts internal investigations and advises companies on compliance programs. He was a Judge Advocate General in the U.S. Air Force, District Attorney of Weld County, U.S. Attorney for Colorado, Chief Counsel of Litigation for US WEST Inc., and has worked for several prestigious law firms including his present position as a partner at Perkins Coie, LLP.

[Five questions for Ken Foote](#)[5]

One of several community memorials for the victims of the July 20 shooting at the Century 16 Theater in Aurora. This photo, taken on the afternoon of July 21, shows some of the mementos being left at the site, though not how quickly it was growing. Often memorials like this are created right at the death site, but this memorial, just across from the theater along South Sable Boulevard, was as close to the guarded theater as mourners were permitted. Photo courtesy of Ken Foote

One of several community memorials for the victims of the July 20 shooting at the Century 16 Theater in Aurora. This photo, taken on the afternoon of July 21, shows some of the mementos being left at the site, though not how quickly it was growing. Often memorials like this are created right at the death site, but this memorial, just across from the theater along South Sable Boulevard, was as close to the guarded theater as mourners were permitted. Photo courtesy of Ken Foote

Ken Foote

In Western civilization, memorials honoring soldiers and heroes have been traced to Roman and Greek times, and the tradition remains relevant today. But in the past 20 to 30 years, communities also have commemorated a wider range of heroes, victims and events, such as the recent shooting in Aurora. Ken Foote, a geography professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, has studied the trend and described his research in a book, [“Shadowed Ground: America's Landscapes of Violence and Tragedy](#)[8].” He spent more than 10 years visiting about 200 sites before he felt he had enough comparative information to write the book, which focuses on the United States and how communities have chosen to deal with turmoil and disastrous events.

Foote came to CU in 2000, after spending 17 years at the University of Texas at Austin. Along with researching cultural and historical geography, Foote’s interests include geographic information science, which examines systems that use geographic information for decision making. Foote also is dedicated to improving development programs for early career faculty, department leaders and people moving into careers in geography so they will be able to respond to challenges in the discipline.

“Even though people are getting exceptional training in their doctoral programs, there are a whole range of issues not so well covered in graduate school that are important to success,” he says. These include course and curriculum design, active pedagogy, advising strategies and time management. “The broader issue is that unless people have this kind of background, which is necessary for professional success, they won’t be ready to face the challenges coming along.”

**1. How did you begin researching the way tragedy affected landscapes and what have you found?**

For 25 years I have studied sites that have been affected by violence and tragedy, largely in the United States, but I’ve also done comparative work in Western Europe, including Hungary, Germany, the United Kingdom and other countries. I’ve focused on a wide range of events, from individual homicides and assassinations to wartime losses and battlefields, to things like the recent tragedy in Aurora and other incidents of mass violence.

One summer in the 1980s, I was traveling and thinking about “sense of place” and the strong emotional bonds people

develop with homes and the places they like and enjoy. There had just been a horrible mass murder in San Ysidro, Calif., at a McDonald's restaurant, and I had just visited Salem, Mass. In those days, there was no commemoration of the people killed during the witch trials, and I became interested in the way some events elicited a negative side to the emotional bonds of places.

There are some general patterns I found after researching so many sites. I see the responses as ranging along a continuum. At one end is the response I term "sanctification," where people see some real moral value or lesson epitomized by tragedy. Gettysburg or shrines to prominent leaders like John F. Kennedy are examples. Also, when communities experience loss, they often want to honor the victims and families who lost loved ones. At the other end of continuum is "obliteration." After events like Aurora, which are shocking or shameful, or involve taboo subjects like child abuse, people tend to obliterate or remove the evidence of the crime in efforts to downplay the event and create some distance. In between sanctification and obliteration are "rectification" and "designation." With rectification, people fix up and reuse sites, perhaps after a fire or accident. People know why it happened and they're saying, "Let's get on with life." The last area on the continuum is "designation." People put up a sign indicating that the place is significant. Someday, it might be sanctified, but it isn't quite at that stage yet.

Some sites move along the continuum as they are reinterpreted over time, attaining new meaning or fading from view. Some sites also become rallying points for protest and resistance as, for instance, happened at the Little Bighorn battlefield in regard to recognizing the Native Americans who fought there. Now there's a Native American memorial there as well as the cavalry memorial honoring Custer's troops.

Sometimes memorials are removed, including the recent removal of Joe Paterno's statue at Penn State. There was a debate about moving the statue, but it was such a bad instance of child abuse, they decided to remove it. It also has happened in areas of political change. In Hungary, the Czech Republic and East Germany, when the communist governments fell, the memorials were moved out of public sight and new statutes were erected.

Sometimes when we visit memorials today, we don't see the controversies lying behind their creation. The Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument are two of the most popular tourist sites in Washington, D.C., yet they took decades to complete. Lincoln today is viewed as a hero, but in his time he was a despised and divisive figure. It took decades to gain the support needed to create the memorial, dedicated in 1922. Washington's monument was started in 1848 (almost 50 years after his death) and not completed until 1884. The Civil War certainly slowed progress, but there was resistance for years to having a memorial to a president that was as grand as a king's. Sometimes people's ideas change in a positive way, but sometimes feelings move in a negative way, like in Paterno's case.

## **2. It seems that early in American history, we predominantly memorialized presidents, but now we are just as likely to commemorate other people or tragic events. What has changed?**

A plaque on a stone honors Elaura Jaquette, a CU student brutally murdered by a custodian in Macky Auditorium in 1966. Dedicated in 2006, the memorial was donated by friends and family and is located on the bank of the creek running between the Guggenheim Geography Building and Hale Science. Jaquette had been studying there immediately before her death. Families and friends often hesitate to mark crimes like this one, or delay for many years, because they do not wish to have loved ones remembered as murder victims. Photo courtesy of Ken Foote

Probably over the last generation, there has been an increase in the types of events that might be memorialized and commemorated. The struggle over commemorating Martin Luther King Jr. is a good representation of how the pantheon of American heroes has been expanded to include a far broader range of voices. Up until the MLK debate, very few African Americans were commemorated; now we can find more. There's a much greater sense that everyone – Native Americans, Japanese Americans – represent our past and should be recognized.

Up until 20 or 30 years ago, events like the shooting in Aurora would probably not have led to memorials. They were a rarity, but nowadays, people are talking about putting up community memorials within days of a shooting or bombing. There are situations with similar events in the past in which communities tried to efface all evidence of the crimes; they didn't want to be reminded. But now people sense that something needs to be done for the victims.

This may also be related to a revival of interest in the spontaneous memorials that spring up at the sites of accidents. Many more cities and states will allow them and, for instance, allow families to pay a certain amount to erect a memorial. A generation ago, when people died and the body was buried, tribute was attached to physical remains at the gravesite. People now are much more connected to the last place that their loved one was alive, which represents a spiritual connection to the loved one. This seems to be a gradual shift in attitude toward death and dying.

### **3. Has anything about your research surprised you?**

I often revisit sites and am often taken aback by the care and attention these sites receive a hundred or more years after a tragedy. Sometimes it takes my breath away to see that the site still resonates with people generations later. A couple of years ago, I attended an Armistice Day ceremony in Belgium. Ypres was the site of some of the worst fighting in World War I and more than a half-million soldiers were killed there. When I was there, thousands of British and Commonwealth visitors – families – were trying to find the names of those they had lost.

### **4. You mentioned the struggle surrounding the MLK memorial. In what other ways are landscapes racialized?**

These days, people are much more open to acknowledging the broader array of ethnic and racial groups that have contributed to American history, but much of the legacy of these groups has been obliterated from the landscape. For example, Chinese American and Japanese American landscapes have not been seen, until very recently, as significant to conserve or worth remembering. Landscapes are highly segregated by race and ethnicity. In one of my classes, I was trying to get students to look at the way travel is racialized. Between 1936 and 1964, Victor Green published the “Negro Motorist Green Book,” a guide to navigating America in the Jim Crow era. It lists places where African Americans could safely buy gas or find a room for the night. I had my students map out the sites so they could see how limited opportunities were. In Colorado, for instance, the options were limited to the Five Points neighborhood in Denver and just a few other places.

### **5. Do you have a favorite memento from your travels to memorialized sites?**

I do have artifacts from some of these sites. It’s usually debris from the side of the road: ashes or bricks and barbed wire. For survivors and me, it is the tangibility of the site that makes a connection. It’s the reason why these sites are so powerful.

[After disaster, self-care critical](#)[10]

[11]

This summer’s traumatic events across the state, from wildfires to the Aurora theater shooting, hit close to home for many across the University of Colorado system.

The article “After a Disaster: Self-Care Strategies” is sponsored by Be Colorado, the wellness program of the University of Colorado Health and Welfare Trust. It was prepared by Cigna, one of the administrative services organizations of the trust.

This material is the first in a series addressing self- and family-care after disaster strikes. [Click here](#)[12] to read about strategies you can use or recommend to others.

[Former NFL player’s goal: change face of lung cancer](#)[13]

During his visit to University of Colorado Cancer Center, former NFL player Chris Draft met with lung cancer survivor Ellen Smith and her son.

His goal is changing the face of lung cancer. Former NFL linebacker Chris Draft is logging thousands of miles to reach that goal. Draft is traveling to cancer centers across the country to learn everything he can about the disease that took the love of his life. Despite his loss, Draft's message is about people living and fighting lung cancer. People like his wife.

Keasha Draft was diagnosed with advance stage non-small cell lung cancer in December 2010. A year later, in December 2011, she died. Since then, Chris Draft shares her story to keep her memory alive and to dispel myths about lung cancer. Keasha Draft was 38 years old and, like about 20 percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer, never smoked a cigarette.

When he arrived on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in July, Draft was well-versed on the challenges involved in early detection, the molecular testing of lung tumors, targeted therapies and the leading edge research conducted by [University of Colorado Cancer Center](#)[15] investigators.

What he found at CU Cancer Center is lung cancer survivors and hope. He met [Ellen Smith](#)[16], who got another chance at life by participating in a clinical trial for people with anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) positive non-small cell lung cancer. Smith told Draft about her life since her diagnosis. She has traveled, gained precious time with her family, become a grandmother again and even gotten married. Draft encourages lung cancer survivors like Smith to tell their stories.

"Lung cancer doesn't have a face and if it does, it's a cigarette," Draft said. "But things are changing. People need to see people with lung cancer living."

Draft wants to change the face of lung cancer. He wants people to know it is the No. 1 cancer killer in the United States. He wants to spread the word that lung cancer kills more people than breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney and skin cancer combined.

Draft's stop at CU Cancer Center was the 40th in his tour of cancer centers across the country. He wants to share Keasha's story of living for each day to inspire others so "they can be energized regardless how long they have. They are living."

[Community block party will celebrate Business School, education corridor](#)[17]

[18]

The University of Colorado Denver celebrates the grand opening of its new Business School and the start of the 2012-13 academic year with a first-ever Block Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event features cuisine from Denver's favorite food trucks, music by some of the city's hottest bands, a rock-climbing wall, an urban zip line and useful academic information. It will take place in front of the Business School on Lawrence Street between 14th and 15th streets.

The Block Party is a celebration of our growing campus community and our community partners as we kick-off the new academic year, according to Genia Larson, director of the [Office of Outreach, Events and Alumni Relations](#)[19]. She said the event will highlight the amazing work and talent of students, faculty and staff at CU Denver. It also will bring

attention to the CU Denver “education corridor” into downtown Denver.

“It is events like this that allow us to come together and celebrate who we are, what we have done and where we are going as an institution and as a community,” Larson said.

The event is free.

For more information on the Block Party click [here](#)[20], or call 303-315-2500.

### [Udall, energy committee to discuss wildfires with public](#)[21]

Sen. Mark Udall

Sen. Mark Udall, D-Colorado, will host a field hearing of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee at 10 a.m. Aug. 15 at Centennial Hall on the UCCS campus.

The hearing will focus on forest health issues and recent wildfires, with discussion on lessons learned that can be applied to future suppression, recovery and mitigation efforts.

“Colorado has experienced a record-breaking wildfire season this year,” Udall said. “I am pleased that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing in Colorado for a firsthand perspective on the devastating wildfires Colorado has endured. This hearing should be an informative discussion on the wildfire challenges the West faces as well as finding workable solutions to help restore our forests and reduce the threats that wildfire poses to our communities and economy.”

The hearing will be in Centennial Hall Room 203 and is open to the public. It will provide an opportunity for the committee to receive testimony from experts on forest health and wildfire issues.

### [CU-Boulder chancellor names Shea chief of staff](#)[23]

Catherine Shea

University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano on Tuesday named Catherine Shea his next chief of staff, effective Aug. 20.

Shea currently serves as senior associate counsel for technology transfer and research compliance for the University of Colorado system.

The chancellor’s chief of staff reports directly to the chancellor and is a member of the chancellor’s senior leadership team, serving as a point of contact for the chancellor in coordinating with the cabinet and executive committee, campus faculty and students, and other internal and external constituencies.

“Catherine brings years of knowledge of CU policies and procedures into this position and I’m delighted she has

agreed to serve as my next chief of staff,” DiStefano said. “In addition, her strong ties to our federal lab community and her years as chief of staff at the National Center for Atmospheric Research will be an asset to the university.”

The chief of staff also coordinates work flow and project management for the Office of the Chancellor and assists in policy coordination and implementation in conjunction with the Office of the President and the University of Colorado Board of Regents.

In her current position, Shea handles a wide variety of transactions related to the university’s research and education missions, including those that involve technology transfer, intellectual property policies, data and privacy rights, as well as trademark and copyright issues.

Before joining CU in 2007, Shea served as chief of staff at the National Center for Atmospheric Research where she led several management initiatives during the center’s reorganization. She also has held legal positions with the University Center for Atmospheric Research, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Shea has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Notre Dame and a law degree from the Catholic University Columbus School of Law.

Shea succeeds Mary Jo “Joey” White, who will continue to work limited hours assisting Shea in the transition to her new position and completing special projects for the chancellor.

[Has your data been hacked?](#)<sup>[25]</sup>

<sup>[26]</sup>

Using computers on the Internet is like driving a car on the road: You take steps to protect yourself, but sooner or later an accident might happen.

Despite taking steps to protect yourself, sometimes your computer or personal information might be compromised. Still, you can take steps to respond quickly and save yourself a lot of trouble.

To learn more about spotting and responding to hacking, please see the August 2012 [Office of Information Security Cyber Security newsletter](#)<sup>[27]</sup>.

This [IT Security Program APS](#)<sup>[28]</sup> provides more information about the responsibilities of users as it relates to using IT Resources and protecting data.

[James seeks Waldo Canyon victims to improve disaster coping skills](#)<sup>[29]</sup>

Lori James

**Lori James**, associate professor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Department of Psychology, is



preparing a research study that will document the difficulties people are experiencing in the wake of Colorado's worst wildfire.

Issues may include anxiety or depression that occurred as a result of loss of property or income, the stress of evacuations, or fears caused by news coverage of the fire. James is particularly interested in people who feel they are experiencing significant distress at this time. She is seeing 200 people to participate in the study.

"As researchers, we've studied communities in Texas that were affected by hurricanes and also by wildfires," James said. "The Waldo Canyon fire provides an opportunity to gain new information about helping people increase their skills in coping with unhealthy reactions to a disaster. This might help the next community recover more quickly from a natural disaster but also might help members of our home community cope."

Study participants will be asked to complete a survey that examines the difficulties they are experiencing, their coping abilities, and general demographic information. Some will be provided with tools available through a website that they will be encouraged to use to help them work through their difficulties immediately. Other participants will be provided website access 30 days later. James' goal is to determine if the tools prove helpful to participants.

The study is expected to last about 60 days and all participants will complete three sets of assessments. For each assessment they take, they will be paid \$25 for their time. All data will remain confidential.

For more information, contact study personnel at 719-255-3709, or [bjohns17@uccs.edu](mailto:bjohns17@uccs.edu)[31]. To participate immediately, please go directly to the survey website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/waldorecovery>[32]

### [Denman to lead social media at UCCS](#)[33]

Philip Denman

Following a national search, **Philip Denman** was selected as social media specialist for the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, University Advancement. He began work July 1.

As social media specialist, Denman is responsible for creating content for UCCS pages on Facebook and Twitter, developing responses to inquiries posted on various social media sites, and providing training for UCCS faculty and staff members interested in creating university social media accounts. He also will contribute to *Communique*, the UCCS faculty and staff newsletter and assist with media relations.

"Philip has an excellent understanding of communication tools and tactics as well as their importance in an organization's effectiveness," said Tom Hutton, executive director of University Advancement. "I am confident the campus community will benefit from his insight into the use of new communication tools."

Before being named social media specialist, Denman worked as a student employee and intern for University Advancement, completing several key projects including a survey of *Communique* readers and analysis of television news coverage of UCCS. Previously, he was an intern for the city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, Washington State University and the United States Coast Guard.

He earned a master's in public administration from UCCS in May 2012 and a bachelor's degree in communication from Washington State University, Pullman.

[Stoecklein on job as new emergency management director](#)[35]

Tim Stoecklein

**Tim Stoecklein**, the new emergency management director at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, hopes to build on personal and professional experiences to help the campus prepare for an emergency. He will work with other Department of Public Safety staff members to complete tasks ranging from teaching the proper way to operate a fire extinguisher to developing evacuation plans for campus buildings and both developing and testing campus emergency plans.

Stoecklein joined the university in 2007 as associate director of the Campus Recreation Center. Since 2011, he served as part-time assistant director of emergency management.

“Emergency preparedness is really about being aware of your surroundings,” Stoecklein said. “Many of us take the same path to work every single day and never think about what would happen if that stairway was blocked. The time to think about taking a different route is before you need to.”

Among his plans are visits to classrooms this fall to encourage use of the E2Campus emergency notification system and to educate UCCS faculty, staff and students about campus emergency preparation. The emergency messaging system, in addition to sending text messages, also will call many campus telephone numbers, issue email messages, and tap social media to warn of an emergency.

For several years, he has served as a weather spotter for local television stations and the National Weather Service, earning the nickname “Tornado Timmy” for his on-the-ground reports of severe weather. Weather watching is a skill he earned growing up on a western Kansas farm where storms were an important component to his family’s livelihood.

In 2001, Stoecklein was a Fort Hays State University student headed for a weekend camping trip when a tornado ripped through nearby Hoisington, Kan. Instead of a weekend of fishing, Stoecklein and others taking part in his class spent several days helping Hoisington residents recover from an F4 tornado that ripped through the city of 2,700 and nearly wiped it from the map.

“It was an amazing experience,” Stoecklein said. “I realized then that while we can’t control the weather, there is a lot that individuals can do to minimize their risk.”

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## Links

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