



CU in the headlines

June 2011



Experts Grab Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado system

Four faculty join ranks of President's Teaching Scholars

Four University of Colorado faculty leaders in math, aerospace, psychiatry and internal medicine have been designated as President's Teaching Scholars for 2011. CU President's Teaching Scholars exemplify the university's highest recognition of excellence in and commitment to learning and teaching, as well as active, substantial contributions to scholarly work.



The new members of the [President's Teaching Scholars Program](#) are:

- Mark Earnest, M.D., Ph.D., top left, associate professor, general internal medicine, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus.
- Robert Feinstein, M.D., top right, vice chairman for clinical education and evidence-based medicine integration and professor of psychiatry, department of psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus.
- David Klaus, Ph.D., bottom left, associate professor of aerospace engineering sciences, University of Colorado Boulder.
- Eric Stade, Ph.D., bottom right, professor of mathematics, University of Colorado Boulder.



Three researchers from CU chosen 2011 Boettcher Investigators

Three University of Colorado researchers have been named to the 2011 class of Boettcher Investigators as part of the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Program. In its second year, the program supports early career scientists in their work toward discoveries that improve human health. CU researchers include [Zhe Chen](#), Ph.D., left, assistant research professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado Boulder, [Robert C. Doebele](#), M.D., Ph.D., right, assistant professor of medical oncology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and [Jing H. Wang](#), M.D., Ph.D., lower left, assistant professor of immunology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.



The Boettcher Foundation created the Boettcher Investigators program in 2008 as the result of an innovative agreement among the Boettcher Foundation, the Webb-Waring Foundation for Biomedical Research and the University of Colorado. Through the program, Boettcher Foundation now invests more than \$1 million each year into efforts to increase Colorado's competitiveness in biomedical science.

University of Colorado Boulder

Hynes and Ye elected to National Academy of Sciences

Two faculty members from the University of Colorado Boulder have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, a top honor recognizing scientists and engineers for distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. [James Hynes](#), a professor in CU-Boulder's chemistry and biochemistry department, and [Jun Ye](#), an adjunct professor in CU-Boulder's physics department, are the only Colorado scientists elected to the [National Academy of Sciences](#) in 2011. Their accolades were [reported in examiner.com](#).

CU-Boulder researcher one step ahead of 'Back to the Future'

The end of the 1985 film *Back to the Future* has Dr. Emmett Brown returning to present day in a time machine to pick up Marty McFly. Before they can make the trip, Brown begins placing garbage in a processor where it is turned into fuel for the time machine made from an automobile. In the movie, the year in which fuel-from-trash is possible is 2015. Chemical engineering professor [Al Weimer](#) and his team one-upped Brown by a few years by successfully turning yard clippings into green gas. Weimer's research was featured in [coloradobiz.com](#).

Study: Russian heat wave not because of climate change

Last summer, Russia suffered a debilitating heat wave – its hottest since 1880 – making Russian officials [advocates for stemming climate change](#) for the first time. But a new study says that Russia experienced a fluke unrelated to the trend last year that made 2010 the hottest on record. The study out of [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) and the University of Colorado Boulder found that natural variability produced the 62-day mercury spike that killed 11,000 people in Moscow, scorched 300,000 acres and destroyed 1,500 homes. *Astrobiology Magazine* highlighted the findings in its [May 9, 2011, edition](#).

CU-Boulder researchers building a better wind farm

Scientists are finding out that when you put together a whole farm of windmills, the wind gets knocked around in between each windmill and that means less wind-generated power. Fox31 spoke with [Julie Lundquist](#), atmospheric scientist at CU-Boulder, about the future of wind power.

Researchers find smoke partially responsible for human health problems

Jim Roberts, lead author of a new paper and a chemist with [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's](#) (NOAA) Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, and a team of researchers at CU-Boulder found that cigarette smoking, forest fires and wood burning can release a chemical that might be at least partly responsible for human health problems related to smoke exposure, according to a new study by NOAA researchers and their colleagues. The research was published in [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) and highlighted in [Science Daily](#).

University of Colorado Colorado Springs



Campus' largest building renamed Osborne Center

UCCS renamed the campus' largest building the Osborne Center for Science and Engineering in honor of a landmark estate gift to the campus at a 10:30 a.m. May 12 ceremony. Ed and Mary Osborne, campus chairs for the Creating Futures campaign, were recognized by university leadership including CU President Bruce Benson, UCCS Chancellor Pamela Shockley-Zalabak and members of the Board of Regents for their lifetime generosity to UCCS.

UCCS conference brings disaster experts together

Jeanette Sutton, senior research associate, UCCS Trauma, Health and Hazards Center, spoke at the [Information Technology and Humanitarian Disaster Relief Workshop](#) at UCCS on how digital volunteers, people who can work virtually to connect first responders and aid workers to people who need help, can be more effective if they have access to information controlled by governments and military.

University of Colorado Denver

Prof Tom Noel: Denver a national pacesetter in preservation

An op-ed in the May 22 edition of *The Denver Post* by CU Denver [History Professor Tom Noel](#) notes that Denver's 50 historic districts and 330 individually designated landmarks have done much to stabilize once-decaying urban neighborhoods and have transformed areas such as the old Skid Row, reborn as the LoDo Historic District. Denver is a national pacesetter in preservation and one of the country's healthiest, still-growing core cities.

CU Denver instructor's trio likened to rock 'n' roll greats

[Owen Kortz Trio's](#) self-titled five-song EP was highlighted in *Westword* magazine, which notes "All of the tracks are stripped down to two acoustic guitars and three voices, the centerpiece on each is Kortz's voice, and the three-part harmonies work quite well in a Crosby, Stills & Nash sort of way." Kortz is a music instructor at CU Denver.

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Altitude Research Center helping spare soldiers from acute mountain sickness

The [Altitude Research Center](#) at the [University of Colorado School of Medicine](#) is working on molecular biologic studies aimed at relieving soldiers of [Acute Mountain Sickness](#) (AMS). Robert Roach, Ph.D., director of the Altitude Research Center said in a [news release](#), "We believe the immediate impact of these studies will be to save lives and improve the performance of those fighting at high altitude. But, in the long term, we hope it will lead to new discoveries that can benefit those who suffer from low oxygen states." The university recently received a grant of \$4 million from the Department of Defense that consists of two smaller grants, both aimed at AMS. [Examiner.com](#) wrote an article on the grant, [Using biology to make better soldiers](#).

Krugman, Tanner receive Nightingale honors

Mary Krugman and Tanya Tanner received the prestigious Nightingale Award for Excellence at the [Colorado Nurses Foundation's](#) annual awards event May 14. The 2011 awards were designed to highlight nurses whose actions and outcomes exemplified the spirit of a citizen of the profession through leadership, advocacy or innovation. Krugman, director of professional resources at the University of Colorado Hospital, received the award "Leadership in Administrator, Educator, Researcher or Nontraditional Roles: Outstanding nurses who motivated others to work toward a common goal." Tanner, a certified nurse midwife at Denver Health Medical Center and Medical Center of Aurora and a Ph.D. student at the University of Colorado College of Nursing, won for "Advocacy in Clinical Practice: Outstanding nurses who advanced a cause or a purpose." Some 266 nurses were nominated.

Fitness device by School of Medicine's Browning, Hill helps keep up with daily goals

University of Colorado School of Medicine Drs. [Raymond Browning](#) and [James Hill](#), in collaboration with Edward Sazonov of Clarkson University and Yves Schutz of the University of Lausanne, developed the Fit Companion device, a small, unobtrusive device that can be mounted in any shoe. The device wirelessly transmits data to a cell phone where the user receives easy-to-understand information about his or her physical activity throughout the day. The fitness device was featured in the online magazine [BioSpace](#).

Students in the news

CU student-built earth block home brings natural cooling to home on the Navajo reservation

When 22 University of Colorado students designed and built a home for Maxine Begay and her son on the Navajo reservation in southeastern Utah, they were well aware that keeping the home cool in the harsh desert climate would be one of their biggest challenges. They rose to it, incorporating an evaporative cooling tower known as a Windcatcher into the 1,500 square-foot earth block home's center. Their accomplishments are detailed in [Mother Earth News](#) in the article [Student-built earth block home brings natural cooling to Navajo reservation](#).

Student who worked his way back from severe brain injury earns doctorate in pharmacy

Jason Dollerschel spent 10 days in a coma after an ATV accident that left him with a severe brain injury. As he received his doctoral degree in pharmacy, he shared his story to offer hope to other families dealing with a traumatic brain injury. “I always wanted to be a pharmacist as far back as I can remember,” he said. It was a professional goal inspired by his years as a patient and the motto he lives by, “Difficult takes a while. Impossible takes a little bit longer.” Dollerschel was [profiled by 7News](#).

Graduate from UCCS sets aside her grief to realize her dream

Debra Bascom, a wife and mother, had always wanted to go to college, but motherhood came first. She was excited to finally get her turn and attend UCCS. Two years into her college journey, her son Douglas was killed in Iraq. [NewsFirst5 tells her story](#).