



## CU Community Grabs Headlines Around the Globe

### University of Colorado Boulder

#### CU-Boulder python study might have implications for human heart health

Oct. 27 – A CU-Boulder study shows that huge amounts of fatty acids circulating in the bloodstreams of feeding pythons promote healthy heart growth, results that may have implications for treating human heart disease. CU-Boulder Professor [Leslie Leinwand](#) and her research team found the amount of triglycerides -- the main constituent of natural fats and oils -- in the blood of Burmese pythons one day after eating increased by more than fiftyfold. Despite the massive amount of fatty acids in the python bloodstream, there was no evidence of fat deposition in the heart, and the researchers also saw an increase in the activity of a key enzyme known to protect the heart from damage.



#### People often donate based on emotions

Oct. 4 – Professor [Leaf Van Boven](#) set out to understand how people's emotions affect their decisions when it comes to making charitable donations. The findings: People act on what immediately arouses their emotions and give to what "makes them upset in the here and now," Van Boven said. Many organizations are aware of these tendencies, Van Boven said, and are using technology to reach out to the public, often immediately following tragic events like the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The Red Cross made it easy for people to donate via their cell phones by text messaging pledges. [Colorado Daily](#)



#### Worms show extinction recovery

Oct. 11 -- After a global extinction 65 million years ago that wiped out much of life on Earth, lowly worms were likely the first life to re-emerge. Researchers at CU-Boulder studied sediments laid down shortly after an asteroid crashed into the Gulf of Mexico 65.5 million years ago and caused widespread global extinctions, including the demise of big dinosaurs. They found networks of crisscrossing burrows less than 3 inches above the so-called K-T boundary layer marking the impact. "Fossil burrows provide direct evidence of animal activity that occurred right at that spot, and these burrows are quite extensive," said [Karen Chin](#), geological sciences professor. Chin said she believes the burrows were probably made within a few thousand years of the extinction event. [UPI](#)

#### CU-Boulder team digs up ancient Mayan road

Oct. 5 – An excavation team led by CU-Boulder researchers continues to uncover pieces of a small town frozen -- or, in this case, burned -- in time. The team recently uncovered an ancient white road used by the residents of the Mayan village Ceren in El Salvador that was buried by a volcanic eruption 1,400 years ago. The team had no idea the road was even there when they made a test dig in July on the outskirts of the site, which was discovered in 1978 by CU-Boulder Professor [Payson Sheets](#). But, under 17 feet of volcanic ash, the team stumbled upon the rare find. "We were very fortunate that the test dig hit it right on," Sheets said. "The test dig is 3 meters by 3 meters, and the road is only about 2 meters, so we were very lucky." [Daily Camera](#)



### [Planetary scientists spread word, images of new discoveries in Spanish](#)

Oct. 6 – A group of planetary scientists have released a new Spanish-language teaching resource featuring colorful graphics and explanatory text to get the word out on the latest space discoveries both in and outside of Earth's solar system. "Descubrimientos en Ciencias Planetarias," Spanish for "Discoveries in Planetary Science," comprises easy-to-use computer slide sets that college and high-school instructors can present in the classroom, said CU-Boulder faculty member [Dave Brain](#), project leader. The translated slide sets are targeted for Spanish-speaking audiences in the United States, Latin America and Spain. [Hispanic Trending](#)



### **University of Colorado Colorado Springs**

#### [Beth-El instructor aims to assist disabled athletes](#)

Oct. 18 – When [Craig Elder](#), instructor, Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, heads to Mexico later this month, it won't be for a beachside vacation. Instead, Elder, will serve as an athletic trainer for some of the world's top athletes participating in the Parapan American Paralympic Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, Nov. 12- 20. The games are 20 days after the XVI Pan American Games, one of the most important and highly publicized athletic events leading to the 2012 London Olympic games. Elder works with the Paralympic Archery Team and previously worked as an athletic trainer for shooting and table tennis teams during the past decade.

#### [After School University in Colorado Springs offers college prep for children](#)

Oct. 7 – UCCS Physics Professor [Anatoliy Glushchenko](#) has planned a rigorous curriculum for students at the After School University. Under his direction, they will go from algebra and geometry to physics and the study of quantum theory and then on to computer science engineering and computer programming. After School University is a private program for elementary, middle and high school-age students founded in December by Maria Feekes. Glushchenko is director of the UCCS Center for Innovation in Biophysics and Energy Research, Advanced Technologies & Optical Materials, a center designed to assist local high-tech companies. He also is the curriculum advisor for the After School University. [Dolan Media](#)



#### [Unemployment could increase](#)

Oct. 27 – Hiring for the holiday season has started locally, but it could be a brutal market, economists say. [Fred Crowley](#), the UCCS professor who is with the Southern Colorado Economic Forum, says holiday spending will increase only 2-3 percent compared to last year. "The side effect of that is, we expect unemployment rates to increase toward the end of the year," Crowley says. "For every retail job out there, there are probably 50 to 100 people applying for it. It's a tough market. This is a market that usually is filled with college and high school kids looking for a holiday job. Now it's becoming a need-it-to-survive type of job." [Colorado Springs Independent](#)



### **University of Colorado Denver**

#### [Program improves teacher retention and may contribute to increases in student achievement](#)

Oct. 18 – The ProComp teacher incentive-pay system at Denver Public Schools has improved teacher retention and might have contributed to increases in student achievement, according to the findings of a three-year study by researchers from the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Washington Bothell. The study was released at a news conference at Skinner Middle School. ProComp, a \$25 million project approved by voters, was implemented in 2006. It has received nationwide attention as efforts to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement have been tried across the country. "The key message of this evaluation is that innovation begets innovation," said [Robert Reichardt](#), research team director at the Buechner Institute for Governance at the School of Public Affairs.



### [Prof plants seeds to better nutrition in elementary school](#)

Sept. 28 – Colorado is the leanest state; however, our rate of childhood obesity is growing quickly, said [Rachel Cleaves](#), LiveWell Westwood coordinator from CU Denver. “In fact, we’re the second- fastest growing state for childhood obesity.” To reverse that unhealthy trend, Cleaves says a seed needs to be planted. “When a kid is involved in growing and harvesting his own food, he is much more interested in trying it,” Cleaves said. At Monroe Elementary School in Denver, grade school gardeners are growing everything from beets to arugula, thanks to the Wellness in the Garden program co-sponsored by CU Denver. [KWGN](#)



### [Making a game out of work](#)

Oct. 10 – In an effort to build worker engagement, more companies are bringing elements of video games to the workplace. A study last year by [Traci Sitzmann](#), an assistant professor of management at the CU Denver Business School, found that employees trained on video games learned more factual information, attained a higher skill level and retained information longer than workers who learned in less interactive environments. This “gamification” of the workplace, or “enterprise gamification” in tech-industry parlance, is a fast-growing business. Companies have used digital games for a number of years to help market products to consumers and build brand loyalty. What’s emerging is using games to motivate their own employees. [The Chicago Tribune](#)



### [University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus](#)

#### [Business of science vital for health career success](#)

Sept. 29 – Bioscience might be the new frontier for job creation but it’s hard for students to get jobs in the industry without business knowledge. That’s why Arlen Meyers, professor at the Department of Otolaryngology, Dentistry and Engineering at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, has started a new program where students can combine bioscience and business to be more marketable. Meyers developed the Certificate Program in Bioinnovation and Entrepreneurship. The program combines two courses at the Bard Center for Entrepreneurship at CU Denver with a Building Biotechnologies course, taught by Meyers. Enrollment for Meyers’ course opens to students in November. [Aurora Sentinel](#)



#### [Researchers question key quality measures for asthma](#)

Oct. 4 – Researchers studying the first national quality measure for hospitalized children have found that no matter how strictly a health care institution followed the criteria, it had no actual impact on patient outcomes. The scientists examined 30 hospitals with 37,267 children admitted for asthma from 2008 to 2010 and discovered that the quality of discharge planning made no difference to the rate of return to the hospital for another asthma attack in seven, 30 or 90 days. “Our research concluded that there is no relationship between compliance with this measure and readmission rates for asthma patients,” said study co-author [Marion Sills](#), M.D., MPH, and associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. The findings have been published in October’s *Journal of the American Medical Association*. [Bio-Medicine](#)



#### [Getting started on a weight loss plan](#)

Oct. 18 – So you’re gearing up to eat better and lose some weight. Good for you. However, how do you get started? With the hundreds and hundreds of diets out there, how do you choose the best approach? To find out, WebMD turned to [James O. Hill](#), M.D., director of the Center for Human Nutrition at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Much of Hill’s research has focused on the habits of people who manage to achieve what we all want: stable and sustained weight loss. So how do these people lose weight and how do they keep it off? Hill has some answers. [WebMD](#)

## University of Colorado Students

### CU-Boulder student's app helps people tweet during disasters

Sept. 28 – Inspired by the swift swapping of emergency information through Twitter during last year's Fourmile Fire near Boulder, a CU-Boulder graduate student developed an Android application to help people use a common language while tweeting disaster information. Daniel Schaefer, a doctoral student in communication, created a software app for mobile devices that turns everyday language into a Twitter syntax used during disasters through a special smart-phone keypad.

[Colorado Daily](#)

### CU-Boulder student research helps feed the hungry

Oct. 7 – Enough food is thrown away or otherwise wasted each day to feed everyone in Boulder and Broomfield counties who goes hungry, according to the findings of a University of Colorado student researcher. Caleb Phillips, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in wireless networks, helps run a local chapter of Food Not Bombs – a national movement that seeks to collect produce, bread and other foods that can't be sold and turns it over to shelters and others in need. With the help of fellow researchers Rhonda Hoenigman and Becky Higbee, Phillips went about using computer science to model whether it would be possible to feed the homeless and others who go hungry using food that's on its way to the garbage can.

[Daily Camera](#)



### Tree planting honors Nobel Peace Prize recipient Maathai

Oct. 3 – Rose Chiteva knew immediately what should be done when she heard of the death of her hero, Nobel Peace laureate Wangari Maathai, on Sept. 25. She wanted to plant trees. At the suggestion of Chiteva, a Kenyan and CU Denver student, four fruit trees – two plums, two pears – were planted on the south side of the Golda Meir House along the Ninth Street Park on the Auraria Campus on Oct. 10.

