

CU in the News

April 2012



CU Community Grabs Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado Boulder

Two honored as President's Teaching Scholars

Two CU-Boulder professors have been designated as 2012 President's Teaching Scholars. The recipients are **Noah Finkelstein**, associate professor of physics, and **Harihar Rajaram**, professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering. The award is the university's highest recognition of excellence in and commitment to learning and teaching, as well as active, substantial contributions to scholarly work.

Faculty explore publishing textbooks online to cut students' costs

A CU-Boulder psychology professor pitched an idea to fellow faculty leaders and university President Bruce Benson that educators be encouraged to publish their books online rather than through a publisher. **Greg Carey**, an associate professor on the Boulder campus, said that the cost of his textbook has increased from \$70 to \$120 the past several years and he now urges his students to purchase used copies. Carey said that publishers want to put his new book on the market for \$180 to \$200. "I could put it on the Web and students could download it and print it out for maybe \$35 to \$40," Carey said. **Daily Camera**, March 15

CU-Boulder plans accommodations for student vets

CU-Boulder is expanding resources for student veterans in preparation for an expected increase in veteran enrollment next fall, following a withdrawal of American troops from Iraq last year. Until August, CU-Boulder's Office of Veterans Services was a one-man operation, according to **Mike Roberts**, program manager for the department. Roberts is now one of three full-time staff members responsible for the department, not including five work-study student veterans.

"We want to make this a one-stop shop for vets on campus," Roberts said. "That's what the students are telling us they want and we want to give them any support we can to make this a positive experience for them." **Daily Camera**, March 5

Don't knock Wenlock and Mandeville, they're not meant for grown-ups

Olympic mascots Wenlock and Mandeville entered the modern-day wilds of photo-editing software and a flourishing culture of online snark. They have been turned into Queen Victoria. They emerge from the eyes of Gordon Brown, the former prime minister of Britain. They are drooping objects in a Salvador Dalí painting.

The mockeries are irrelevant to the audience the host city is trying to attract, said **Peter McGraw**, a marketing and psychology professor who runs the Humor Research Lab (known as "HuRL") at CU-Boulder. "Most people fail to realize that the mascots aren't designed for them," he said. "They're designed for children." **The New York Times**, March 27



Rajaram

Finkelstein

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

UCCS chooses new academic dean

Peter Braza, a mathematics professor who was recently an interim dean and the acting associate provost at the University of North Florida, will be dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. The College of Letters, Arts and Sciences is the largest of six colleges at UCCS and enrolls more than 5,100 students annually. Braza will replace Tom Christensen who will return to full-time teaching and research after serving as dean since 2005. **The Gazette**, March 14

Scholarship recipient paying it forward

Matt Seay got a lot out of his four years at UCCS. The first thing he did when he graduated and got a job was to give something back. Seay is one of 1,100 students to have received need-based scholarships at UCCS the past 11 years — all courtesy of the Bruce & Anne Shepard Reach Your Peak Scholarship Program.

Last year Seay, now a fiscal analyst for Lockheed Martin, graduated summa cum laude with a 3.98 grade point average. As soon as he got a job, he mailed a check for \$100. He wrote a letter to Shepard, saying "I

worked hard, and because of your help, I succeeded . . . I will be giving back to this program for many years to come." The Gazette, March 9

Dancing in ambiguity

Kevin Landis, director of the UCCS theater program, has taken the mysterious nature of Salome's dance, and artist Aubrey Beardsley's interpretation of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*, and used them as the basis for *The Seven Veils*, a multidisciplinary festival that will run through the end of April at UCCS. "Because [the Dance of the Seven Veils] is so foggy and nebulous, I thought it would be a nice title for this festival, in which we're kind of exploring, in the dark, some of these themes — these grand themes that we've discussed," says Landis. Colorado Springs Independent, March 8

UCCS among finalists for homeland security competition

UCCS is one of 10 colleges and universities chosen as finalists for the National Homeland Defense Foundation National Security Innovation Competition. The prize for first place is \$10,000, \$5,000 for second and \$2,500 for third. The competition will be April 27 at UCCS. Other finalists are Colorado Technical University, North Eastern University, Stevens Institute of Technology, University of Calgary, University of Florida, University of Utah, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S Military Academy and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. The finalists will make an oral presentation to a panel of level judges at the final competition. **KKTV.com**, March 26

University of Colorado Denver

Students helping design better homes for Navajo families

DesignBuildBluff (DBB) gives architecture students at CU Denver and the University of Utah the opportunity to design and build new homes for Navajo families living in Bluff, Utah. The educational nonprofit is taking the principles of design-build, where designers are involved in construction, to address the situation of housing on the Navajo reservation. The students do all of the design work for a specific family and the same students construct the building. The designs must focus on sustainability, and the houses must be 1,000 square feet or less. **Smart Planet**, March 23

Study finds link between green schools and academic success

A team of researchers at CU Denver found a small positive correlation between academic success at schools that employ environmentally conscious practices. These practices are based on a set of core beliefs that have been devised by the Green School National Network (GSNN). The research consisted of a survey sent to more than 350 primary and secondary schools that self-identified as "green." The research team, composed of Assistant Professor **Bryan Wee** and students Hillary Mason and Jason Abdilla, received responses from more than 100 schools. **2**nd **Green Revolution**, March 15









Sustainability Club nets national honors

The CU Denver Sustainability Club was among the winners of a U.S. Department of Energy competition that challenged university students to develop real-world solutions to boost the energy efficiency of buildings across the country. As part of President Obama's Better Buildings program, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced the winners March 5 at an event at the White House. The CU Denver team, comprising six students from the College of Engineering and Applied

Science, the College of Architecture and Planning and the Business School, received the most innovative award for its case study for HEI Hotels and Resorts. **U.S. Department of Energy**, March 5

Businesses learn to trim carbon footprint while boosting the bottom line

Only 20 percent of the greenhouse gas produced by San Miguel and Ouray counties comes from tailpipe emissions, while 63 percent comes from our buildings' energy usage. This was the conclusion of a recent greenhouse gas inventory conducted by CU Denver's Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems, through the auspices of the Telluride-based organization the New Community Coalition.

If enough people were to invest in a tube of caulk, install programmable thermostats or buy a batch of new light bulbs to make their homes and businesses more energy efficient, the counties could significantly downsize the region's carbon footprint. **The Watch**, March 15

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Krugman introduces new Penn State child-abuse center

Child abuse expert **Richard D. Krugman**, School of Medicine vice chancellor for health affairs at CU Anschutz Medical Campus, spoke at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center before a reception held for the new Penn State Hershey Center for the Protection of Children.

One focus of Krugman's presentation was the problem of gaze aversion – the avoidance of recognizing that abuse has occurred – which he said can either be deliberate or inadvertent. "Perhaps people believe it existed but only in communities other than theirs," he said. **Penn State Daily Collegian**, March 23

Coloradans tip the scale of 20 percent obesity

For the first time, more than 20 percent of adult Coloradans are obese, making it imperative that strategies and resources for healthful living be developed to reverse this dangerous trend.

James Hill, Ph.D., executive director of the soon-to-open Colorado Center for Health and Wellness at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, said the report offers good news in that Colorado remains the leanest state, but warns, "We are losing ground. This report card shows that we need to ramp up our efforts to address obesity. Part of this is making sure we nurture new ideas, and new research that may lead to better strategies to address obesity. The new Colorado Center for Health and Wellness will do exactly that." Health Canal, March 22

Study finds racial gap in breast cancer deaths

Black women in Denver with breast cancer are nearly twice as likely to die from the disease than white women, the second-worst disparity among 25 major American cities. Chicago researchers found white women get excellent cancer care in Denver, while black women are falling into dangerous health gaps. The new study backs up what Colorado researchers know, said **Tim Byers**, M.D., associate dean of the Colorado School of Public Health. "These racial differences are not just genetic. There are social and system differences that largely drive them," Byers said. **Denver Post**, March 23









Among doctors, there is fierce reluctance to let go

Daniel Matlock, M.D., still vividly recalls the conversation. Matlock, a geriatrician who specializes in palliative care, had been called in to consult when a woman in her 70s arrived at the University of Colorado Hospital, unresponsive after a major stroke. She'd drafted an advance directive and had it notarized: no life support, no artificial nutrition or hydration, no nursing home.



After the palliative team removed her ventilator, she was able to breathe on her own. She even opened her eyes, though she couldn't track or follow objects and remained unresponsive. That's when the prominent surgeon directing her care ordered intravenous fluids.

Matlock, alarmed at this direct contradiction of her preferences talked with the patient's sister, who held her medical power of attorney. He called the surgeon to suggest stopping the IV and was told by the surgeon, "You would have been hung in World War II for doing what you are doing now." Matlock is not alone in being branded a murderer for heeding a patient's advance directives. **The New York Times**, March 29