



CU in the news

July 2011



Experts Grab Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado Boulder

Prof finds women roamed; men stayed home

A team led by CU-Boulder adjunct professor and lead study author [Sandi Copeland](#), at right, studied teeth from a group of extinct *Australopithecus africanus* and *Paranthropus robustus* – individuals from two adjacent cave systems in South Africa – and found more than half of the female teeth were from outside the local area. In contrast, only about 10 percent of the male hominid teeth were from elsewhere, suggesting they grew up and died in the same area. The research received national attention. [See the release and video.](#)



Solar storm delivers glancing blow and a warning

Solar activity is approaching the 2013 peak of its 11-year cycle, called the "solar maximum," and the developed world finds itself ever more dependent on systems vulnerable to massive solar storms. The power grid is 10 times larger than it was in 1921, when the last solar super-storm hit, effectively making it a giant new antenna for geomagnetic current. A far stronger solar outburst could black out 130 million people for months and cost as much as \$2 trillion. [Daniel Baker](#), director of the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder, weighs in, saying, "As society is becoming more and more dependent on vulnerable systems like the power grid, it is dramatically increasing its vulnerability." [The article was featured on yahooonews.com.](#)

Stress, faith and health: CU-Boulder prof discusses connection

The immune system alters neural activity and thereby behavior, thoughts and moods. Stress could cause fever, change liver metabolism, reduce food and water intake, reduce sexual activity and increase anxiety. How does the brain know there's an infection? [Steven Maier](#), University of Colorado professor of psychology, says it is in cytokines, which include interleukin-1, interleukin-6 and tumor necrosis factor alpha. Stressed animals seem to increase interleukin-1 in the hippocampus. Macrophages create these molecules to trigger the sickness response in the brain. [Maier spoke with mydigitalfc.com.](#)

CU-Boulder prof speaks on being a scientist in exile

[Josef Michl](#), professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of Colorado Boulder, was in Norway when the 1968 Soviet invasion began and he knew his previous political associations would bring his career to a screeching halt. [Michl talks with The Prague Post](#) about his life in exile and some of the positives he gleaned from his plight.



University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Elite triathlon training program launched at UCCS

The Elite Triathlon Academy, a landmark program that will provide the United States' up-and-coming triathletes the opportunity to receive a top-notch college education while benefitting from a full-time coach and the nation's best training

resources, will debut this fall at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs with national-level support from USA Triathlon and the United States Olympic Committee. The goal of the program, directed by Keith Dickson, the founder of the Illinois-based Multisport Madness Triathlon Team, is to develop potential Olympic triathletes into medal contenders on the sport's biggest stage. Five of the nation's best emerging multisport athletes, including 2010 Youth Olympic Games medalists Kevin McDowell and Kelly Whitley, comprise the first class of the [Elite Triathlon Academy](#), which will enroll in August.



Colorado Springs job growth sees incline; UCCS prof warns it could be misleading

Three months ago, Colorado Springs was ranked among the worst job markets in the United States. Now, it could be one of the best. According to the [Manpower Employment Outlook Survey](#), employers across the country report positive hiring intentions for the third quarter of 2011. Of the employers polled in Colorado Springs, 26 percent plan to hire more employees in July through September. That is up 7 percent from the same time in 2010. However, what appears to be a good sign for the local economy could be a bit misleading. "The Manpower Survey is based upon their clients," University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Professor [Fred Crowley](#) said. "Unfortunately, for the Colorado Springs sample size, they do not have very many clients in town and it depends on how many they get." [The article first ran in Fox 21 KXRM TV.](#)

Postell of UCCS speaks on Perils of the 'administrative state'

Purchasing shotguns and kicking down doors—the Department of Education's recent actions teach us about the frightening ascendancy of the "administrative state." [Joseph Postell](#), Ph.D., who is working on a book on the administrative state, spoke with Lee Wishing. Postell, formerly with the Heritage Foundation, now teaches political science at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. His first book, [Rediscovering Political Economy](#), co-edited with Bradley C.S. Watson, is due out in August. [Postell's insights](#) were published in [online.worldmag.com](#).

University of Colorado Denver

Disabled adults, likely to outlive parents, face unclear future

Years ago, the mother of an autistic son who also had two daughters was told by a doctor, "Maybe you just don't like boy babies.'" Professor [Phil Strain](#), at right, an autism expert at CU Denver, says unfortunately that belief among doctors back then was prominent. "There was a lot of parent-blaming, and that was really promoted by one of the original developers in the field, Bruno Bettelheim." Now, aging parents worry about what will happen to their autistic children after they are gone. [The topic was featured in the Denver Post.](#)



Near and far and land and sea, UCD Prof Allen advocates for learning by living

Having taken students on regional and national learning excursions, and as far away as Grenada in the Caribbean, Casey Allen, assistant professor of geography and environmental science in the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, knows this well. One of his more popular adventures, Allen offers students a field study class on the island of Grenada. "We spend all Maymester conducting fieldwork on site," Allen explains. This involves students conducting environmental analyses such as monitoring sea surface temperature and water quality, but also extends into the human realm such as learning about tourism, economics, and politics first-hand. "Grenada is an intense, field-based experiential learning opportunity that is difficult to duplicate," he says. [Casey was featured in the publication 'Latitude.'](#)

Anschutz Medical Campus

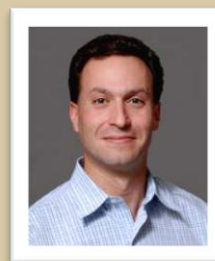
Pew singles out CU scientist for funding as a 'most promising scientist'

[Chad Pearson](#) of the University of Colorado School of Medicine, at right, is among the 22 "most promising scientists" in the nation by and will receive \$240,000 from [The Pew Charitable Trusts](#) to fund his research into cell biology. [Pearson was featured in the Denver Business Journal.](#)



Anschutz Medical Campus researchers discover new process to cultivate adult blood cells

Researchers on the Anschutz Medical Campus have discovered a scientific process that could make blood drives a thing of the past. [Yosef Refaeli](#), at right, and [Brian Turner](#), co-founders of Taiga Biotechnologies Inc., have developed a new method in which they use their proprietary blood stem-cell lines from cord blood to generate mature, adult red blood cells in the lab in 14 days. [The medical advance was reported in the Denver Post.](#)



Women with breast cancer, other ailments less likely to survive than those with only breast cancer

Women diagnosed with breast cancer who also suffer from other health problems have higher death rates than women who only have breast cancer, according to researchers. Even compared with women with more advanced breast cancer but no chronic illness, those who had conditions such as heart disease, ulcers or diabetes still had a similar or lower survival rate, the study authors reported in the June 30 online edition of the [Journal of the National Cancer Institute](#). "Careful attention to the effective management of comorbid [co-occurring] conditions, as well as to the management of a patient's cancer, might result in longer overall survival for older breast cancer patients," Jennifer Patnaik, from the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, and colleagues wrote in a [journal news release](#).

College of Nursing's Neu receives writing award

The Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) presented its Best of JOGNN Writing Award to [Madalynn Neu](#), R.N., Ph.D., of the University of Colorado College of Nursing, for her article, "Maternal Holding of Preterm Infants During the Early Weeks After Birth and Dyad Interaction at 6 Months." The award was presented June 28 at the AWHONN national convention in Denver. This Best of JOGNN Writing Award honors the first author of an original paper published in JOGNN. Papers are nominated by the editors and the winning paper is chosen by the members of the JOGNN Editorial Advisory Board.



Student news

CU Buffs' Emma Coburn earns NCAA title

Emma Coburn had company for most of the 3,000-meter steeplechase last month. But as she crossed the finish line, she was all alone. After being pushed by Virginia's Stephanie Garcia for most of the race, Coburn won her first NCAA title in the steeplechase at the Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Drake Stadium. The University of Colorado junior won in 9 minutes, 41.14 seconds. Garcia hung with Coburn until about two laps remained, but settled for second in 9:47.29. Another Buff, Shalaya Kipp, rallied to finish third in 9:56.37. [Coburn's accomplishments were featured in the Boulder Daily Camera.](#)

Bard Center competition: Business School grad wins with indestructible guitar

The makers of a high-tech, carbon-fiber electric guitar walked away with first place last month in the 10th annual Business Plan Competition sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver Business School's [Bard Center for Entrepreneurship](#). Josh Jacobson, at right, CEO of Viktorian Guitars, won \$10,000 for the fledgling company's first place showing, beating out five other finalists with his presentation touting the qualities of the sleek, hand-built guitars. "I'm elated to bring this new technology to Denver," said Jacobson. "I graduated in 2009 with an MBA from CU Denver but this is really the beginning of my career." [Full story>>](#)



CU-Boulder business student helps education effort in Ghana

University of Colorado business student Shaun Elley is heading back to Boulder with an internship already lined up for the fall. Last fall, Elley's Critical Leadership Skills class worked with nonprofit African Einstein Initiative, which aids education in Ghana. After taking a special interest in the mission, Elley, who will be a senior this year, remained in touch with the organization's founders and agreed to accompany the donations overseas. Last month, he handed out school supplies and soccer gear to students in Ghana. "I really wanted to come see it for myself," he said. "It's been amazing, a mix of helping out and a lot of culture too." Elley and the program were highlighted in [ColoradoDaily.com](#).