



University of Colorado Boulder

Four CU-Boulder faculty honored with Presidential Early Career Award

Four CU-Boulder faculty members are among 96 U.S. researchers chosen by the White House as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, or PECASE. The winners are, from left, assistant professors **Cindy Regal**, physics department and **Erin Furtak**, School of Education; **David Noone** associate professor in the atmospheric and oceanic sciences department; and **Rebecca Washenfelder**, a scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES). **CU-Boulder News**, July 20



Start date for human civilization moved back 24,000 years or so

A new analysis of artifacts from a cave in South Africa reveals that the residents were carving bone tools, using pigments, making beads and even using poison 44,000 years ago. These sorts of artifacts had previously been linked to the San culture, which was thought to have emerged around 20,000 years ago.

“Our research proves that the Later Stone Age emerged in South Africa far earlier than has been believed and occurred at about the same time as the arrival of modern humans in Europe,” said study researcher Paola Villa, a curator at the CU-Boulder Museum of Natural History. **Christian Science Monitor**, July 30

CU research helped propel amputee sprinter to Olympics

“The Blade Runner,” a South African sprinter and bilateral leg amputee participating in the 2012 London Olympics, has two CU-Boulder professors to thank for helping him make his way to the starting line. Integrative physiology professors, from left, **Rodger Kram**, and Alena Grabowski were involved in studies analyzing the performance of Oscar Pistorius, who uses blade-like, carbon fiber leg prostheses in track events.



Shortly before the 2008 Olympics, Pistorius was barred from international competition by officials from the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) ruled his leg prostheses gave him an advantage over other runners. **KWGN**, July 10

CU-Boulder researchers: Pine beetles not always tied to increased fire danger

Researchers at CU-Boulder’s Biogeography Lab, led by professor **Thomas Veblen**, have published a number of studies in recent years showing that the degree to which beetle-killed trees increase wildfire risk -- if at all -- is related to the makeup of the forest vegetation, the time that has passed since the trees were killed and the prevalence of other weather conditions that favor forest fires, such as high winds and low humidity, among other factors. **Daily Camera**, June 7

Student works with ancient filtering system to treat water in developing countries

Using principles from a 4,000-year-old technique of filtering water through charcoal, a CU-Boulder doctoral student is close to being able to provide safe drinking water free of pesticides to those living in developing countries. The same pesticides and chemicals that are strictly banned in the United States are not well regulated in rural, developing areas, said engineering student Josh Kearns. The drinking water -- contaminated with fuel products, industrial chemicals and pesticides -- can cause a host of human health problems, including cancer, birth defects and neurological problems. **Daily Camera**, July 17

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Tim Gill Center for Public Media, result of \$1.3 million gift to Rocky Mountain PBS

Tim Gill's Gill Foundation has made a one-time gift of \$1.3 million to Rocky Mountain PBS through the donation of its building in Colorado Springs. The intent is to create the Tim Gill Center for Public Media, which will produce cross-platform content for public media. Some 21 media entities will participate, increasing the profile of public media in Colorado and giving area college students access to equipment and training. UCCS, Colorado College, KRCC 91.5 FM, Pikes Peak Community College and RMCommunity Radio are among those involved. **Denver Post**, July 17

UCCS studying community response to fires

A team of researchers from UCCS already was digging into community responses to fire disasters when the Waldo Canyon fire began burning west of their hometown. A proposal had been submitted in July for a National Science Foundation grant to study the sharing of information and community resiliency locally, said **Jeannette Sutton**, senior research associate.

"This is extremely important as much of the U.S. is currently experiencing drought-like conditions and extreme heat," she said. **The Gazette**, July 15



Anti-tax attitudes might have burned Colorado Springs

As Colorado Springs battles a rash of robberies after a wildfire, it does so with fewer police and firefighters and a limited tax base that might hamper its rebound, according to a UCCS professor. The place where the Waldo Canyon fire destroyed 346 homes and forced more than 34,000 residents to evacuate turned off one-third of its streetlights two years ago, halted park maintenance and cut services to close a \$28 million budget gap after sales-tax revenue plummeted and voters rejected a property-tax increase.



"People are going to be looking at the aftermath of this disaster to see what is possible," said **Joshua Dunn**, an associate professor of political science at UCCS. "How far can you go in cutting the size of city government?" **Seattle Times**, July 2

University of Colorado Denver

Program puts technology in girls' hands

A summer program for teenage girls at CU Denver is working to close the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math. COMPUGIRLS is a three-week technology program for girls in grades 8 through 12. The course combines critical thinking, social-justice issues and hands-on training using digital cameras, camcorders and several types of software. **9News**, July 18

Preventing wildfires in Waldo's wake

CU Denver Professor Lloyd Burton, at right, School of Public Affairs, has studied past wildfires to prevent the destruction in the future and talks about the conditions leading up to Colorado's most devastating fire, Waldo Canyon in Colorado Springs. "I've been studying, when we go into the recovery phase, are there things we can do that will make it less likely to have catastrophic wildfires in the future," he said. **Fox 31**, June 28



Noel: Wildfires are part of Colorado's history

Wildfires have always been part of the Colorado ecology, but are getting deadlier and more destructive, says **Tom Noel**, professor of history at CU Denver. Noel noted Edwin James, the physician traveling with the 1820 Long Expedition, reported what is probably the first recorded Colorado blaze. And once the Colorado Gold Rush began in 1858, wildfires set by miners became a common and sometimes deadly occurrence. **Denver Post**, July 15



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Drug can improve memory in Down syndrome patients

CU School of Medicine researchers said the drug memantine improved visual episodic memory, such as retaining long lists of vocabulary words, in Down syndrome patients. The 16-week course compared the results to a control group taking only a placebo. Researchers, led by Alberto Costa, M.D., also said they must expand the study to more subjects to solidify their results, as the CU study focused on about 38 adolescents and young adults. **Denver Post**, July 18



Zane to chair Department of Emergency Medicine

The inaugural chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the CU School of Medicine, Richard Zane, M.D., sees his specialty as one of medicine's most immediate and demanding disciplines. In his new role, Zane will serve as a professor at the School of Medicine, oversee all emergency medicine academic programs and work closely with partners such as Denver Health. The injuries and treatments are exponential, the interactions with the patients intense. **Life Science**, July 11



Increasing waistlines lead to decline in fertility

While it's long been known that obesity has some effect on fertility, overweight women face other little-known, but major risks, said **Alex Polotsky**, M.D., of CU Advanced Reproductive Medicine and author of *Obesity and Female Fertility*. According to the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, women who are obese face a 120 percent increase in difficulties with conception/infertility, a 67 percent increase in miscarriage, and a 124 percent increase in some birth defects. **Denver Business Journal**, July 10



Skills training helps success of foster children

Foster children who receive mentoring and training in skills such as anger management, healthy communication and problem solving are less likely to move foster homes or to be placed in a residential treatment center and more likely to reunite with their biological families, according to a study by CU School of Medicine researchers.

"Focusing on child well-being is a major push nationally within the child welfare field. This study demonstrates the positive impacts that can result from such a focus," says **Heather Taussig**, Ph.D., an associate professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the CU School of Medicine. **Daily Camera**, July 5

