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### CU COMMUNITY GRABS HEADLINES AROUND THE GLOBE

#### UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

##### [LET'S FACT CHECK THE OSCAR-WINNER 'LIFE OF PI'](#)

If you're curious about the "Life of Pi's depiction of the natural world, you may wonder: How true-to-life was "Pi"? Pi lands on a lush island that becomes carnivorous by night. What the what? Well, it's not so far off from the truth according to CU-Boulder ecology professor [John Patrick](#). "In the good old day, we could split things into plants and animals," but now we know about flesh-eating algae. National Geographic, Feb. 25



##### [BOULDER SCIENTISTS: RUSSIAN METEOR STRIKE COMMON, NOT CAUSE FOR ALARM](#)

The meteor that exploded across the sky last month above Chelyabinsk, Russia, with the force of 20 nuclear bombs may not be cause for alarm, Boulder scientists say.

"This actually happens hundreds of times a day," said [Doug Duncan](#), the director of CU-Boulder's Fiske Planetarium. "Even ones that are basketball-sized -- those hit all the time. The reason it's not in the news is that most come down in the ocean or in mountains or deserts." Daily Camera, Feb. 16



##### [CASE WILL TURN ON FREE SPEECH VS. CRIMINAL SPEECH](#)

The man arrested for sending harassing e-mails to state Rep. Rhonda Fields acknowledged to Denver police that the messages were racist, offensive and worthy of an apology. But now police and prosecutors must determine whether Franklin Glenn Sain was exercising his free speech or committing a crime.

"The most clearly illegal threat is the unsigned letter saying that the speaker has specific kinds of guns, and is coming for her, and there will be blood. There is no free speech to that," said [Scott Moss](#), an associate law professor at CU-Boulder. "What we'll have to see in court is the evidence that the unsigned writing is his." Denver Post, Feb. 27



##### [CU-BOULDER RESEARCHER LEADS STUDY LINKING BIODIVERSITY, DISEASE CONTROL](#)

The richer the assortment of amphibian species living in a pond, the more protection that community of frogs, toads and salamanders has against a parasitic infection that can cause severe deformities, according to a new study by CU-Boulder. The study, led by [Pieter Johnson](#), an assistant professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, determined that the greater the diversity of amphibian species living in a pond, the less vulnerability frogs, salamanders and toads living there would have against parasitic infection that can cause deformities such as the growth of extra legs. Daily Camera, Feb. 13



### [CU PROF GIVEN GRANT TO STUDY HEART FAILURE](#)

CU-Boulder professor [Leslie Leinwand](#) received a \$45,837 grant to study a protein that causes heart failure in adults and children. Leinwand plans to use the grant from the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation to study the differences in myosin mutations between adults and children. **Boulder County Business Report**, Feb. 26



### [HIGH-ELEVATION FOREST MORTALITY CONTINUES AS SPRUCE SURPASSES LODGEPOLE](#)

While most of the spruce beetle infestation was centered in southern Colorado, other high-elevation tree species in the state continue to suffer, as witnessed by the lodgepole die-off and increased mortality in sub-alpine fir. Bark beetles get much of the credit, but some experts believe the time has come to recognize climate change as the real driver in the situation.



"The effects of climate change are verified to be more extreme at higher altitudes," said CU-Boulder entomology and evolutionary biology researcher [Scott Ferrenberg](#). "And the signal for climate change at tree level is very strong." **Aspen Business Journal**, Feb. 20

### [OPINION: 10 YEARS LATER, DREAMS OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA](#)

Brad McLain, an educational researcher with a doctorate from the University of Colorado in educational leadership and innovation, recalls interviewing CU-Boulder alumna Astronaut Kalpana Chawla and is haunted still by the 2003 Columbia tragedy. **Denver Post**, Feb. 7

## UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

### [FOR TRAUMATIZED CAREGIVERS, THERAPY HELPS](#)

[Sara Qualls](#), a professor of psychology at UCCS, said it's natural for caregivers to be disgusted by some of what they have to do — toileting a loved one, for instance — and to be profoundly conflicted when they try to reconcile this feeling with a feeling of devotion. Her work entails naming the emotion the caregiver is experiencing, letting the person know it's normal, and trying to identify the trigger. **New York Times**, Feb. 22



### [UCCS SOFTBALL PITCHER SMITH BACK AFTER TAKING YEAR OFF TO CARE FOR BROTHER](#)

As a star pitcher for the UCCS softball team, Becca Smith confounds hitters. But, last year, weeks short of the beginning of softball season, Becca went to Houston to care for Brett, her brother who had leukemia, leaving her education and athletic career in limbo. **Colorado Springs Gazette**, Feb. 22

### [UCCS SOFTBALL COACH BACK IN DUGOUT AFTER NEARLY DYING ON CHRISTMAS](#)

On Christmas Day, [Scott Peterson](#) was not expected to survive. Today, he's never felt more alive. The UCCS softball coach went through surgery for a brain tumor and meningitis that nearly killed him. Just more than a month later, he was back coaching the Mountain Lions at a preseason tournament in Denver. **Colorado Springs Gazette**, Feb. 22





### UCCS GOES BOLDLY INTO ENTREPRENEURIAL FUTURE

UCCS has joined private citizens to create a nonprofit organization, the UCCS Development Corp., to launch startup firms, participate in public-private business ventures and attract investors. It's new ground, says [Charlie Sweet](#), UCCS executive director of strategic planning and initiatives.

"As we look at developing new relationships with business, we need to expand the capabilities to engage in those relations," Sweet said. **Colorado Business Journal**, Feb. 7



### UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

### DOWNTOWN DENVER UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Downtown Denver is booming again, and this time construction is being driven by a demand for apartments. Ryan Warner talks to urban planner [Ken Schroeppel](#), who teaches at CU Denver and tracks downtown development on his blog, DenverInfill.com. **Colorado Public Radio**, Feb. 26

### DENVER PROGRAM USES VIDEO TO BRING SCIENCE TO STUDENTS ACROSS AMERICA

Students in the Denver Center for International Studies class didn't have to take a field trip to see [Charles Musiba](#) in his research lab at CU-Denver. Theirs was one of several classes throughout the nation that participated in a video conference with Musiba. **Denver Post**, Feb. 25



### COLORADO COLLEGES HOPING SCIENCE, MATH TAKE ROOT WITH STUDENTS

CU Denver has been hosting a series of free workshops in which high school and middle school students can dip their toes into subjects such as "Mathematics for Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Emergencies," "Closing In on Dark Matter" or "Computer Vision." So far, the evenings have been successful, usually drawing standing-room-only crowds of eager students and parents.

"I love it when it's packed; it makes me feel optimistic about the future," said Peggy Mott, whose daughter Terran is a freshman at Lakewood High School. **Denver Post**, Feb. 25

### DENVER'S HOMELESS GIVEN A VOICE ON EFFECTS OF CAMPING BAN

Eight months after the Denver City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting unauthorized camping within the city, an independent group is looking at its effects on the homeless. [Denver Homeless Out Loud](#) formed shortly after the ordinance went into effect. Members of the group said they are not part of the Occupy Denver movement.

The group enlisted the help of [Tony Robinson](#), a professor of political science at CU Denver, who has done similar surveys. He said the 512 completed surveys is a tremendous accomplishment. **Denver Post**, Feb. 11





### UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

#### [PROSTHETIC SPECIALIST IN BIOENGINEERING DEPARTMENT HAS VESTED INTEREST IN HELPING AMPUTEES](#)

[Richard Weir](#), a research professor in CU Denver's new Department of Bioengineering, is a lead researcher on a new kind of mechanical hand, an artificial limb that would offer amputees a new range of movement and control.

"I have a twin sister who lost her hand when she was 5 in a lawnmower accident," Weir said. "I'm part of a medical family, but I was never really interested in the people side of it, the gooey, bloody part." **Aurora Sentinel**, Feb. 12



#### [CU MED SCHOOL DOCS QUESTION RISKS OF SMOKING POT](#)

Any pack of cigarettes features a warning from the surgeon general about lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and other risks associated with tobacco. Coming up with a similar standard label for a pack of marijuana joints could be tricky, said CU School of Medicine professor [Christian Hopfer](#).

"It took 40 or 50 years for people smoking tobacco to really get a clue," Hopfer said. "We haven't had a generation of chronic marijuana smokers that we've followed for a long time." **Aurora Sentinel**, Feb. 27



#### [FIGHTING CHILDHOOD OBESITY](#)

Drs. [Jim Hill](#) and Cindy Goody talk to KWGN about the 5th Gear Kids program, a fun, new wellness program for fifth-graders in Colorado. The goal is to teach healthy habits to children so they have the skills to achieve lifelong health, prevent obesity and improve academic performance. **KWGN**, Feb. 12



#### [UNDERWEIGHT? MAINTAIN A HEALTHY WEIGHT WITH NUTRIENT-DENSE FOODS, EXERCISE](#)

It is a problem that most Americans think they would like to have: Being told they [don't weigh enough](#). "Underweight can be a problem, especially for seniors," says [Bonnie T. Jortberg](#), assistant professor of family medicine at the CU School of Medicine. **Denver Post**, Feb. 12



#### [DIET SODA MAY BE THE MORE DANGEROUS ALCOHOL MIXER](#)

Not all alcohol experts agree that going diet with your cocktails is helpful. [Boris Tabakoff](#), a professor of pharmacology at the CU School of Medicine, pointed to a study in which subjects drank the equivalent of three to four drinks during a 5-minute period. The study suggests that cutting alcoholic drinks with diet soda makes them more potent than using their full-calorie counterparts. **ABC News**, Feb. 5



#### [MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGIST WORKS TO KEEP CULTURES AND COMMUNITIES FIT FOR LIFE](#)

[Spero Manson](#), a professor of psychiatry and public health at the Nighthorse Campbell Native Health Building at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, originally taught topics ranging from psychiatric assessment and diagnosis to epidemiology. "What I really wanted to do was make my life's work about understanding how social and cultural factors affect people's risks of physical health, emotional and psychological problems," he said. **Aurora Sentinel**, Jan. 30

