



University of Colorado Boulder

Getting serious about the science of humor

CU-Boulder Associate Professor **Peter McGraw** is trying to understand the universal concepts behind what makes us laugh. McGraw's Humor Research Lab—aka HuRL—has done studies in recent years testing his theory of benign violation, which attempts to explain why some things are funny and why others aren't so funny.



Now McGraw is hitting the road with writer Joel Warner to test this theory for the forthcoming book *The Humor Code: A Scholar & a Sceptic Travel the World in Search of What Makes Things Funny*. They spoke about their recent travels and findings at a Denver Art Museum event, which featured comedians, curators and cartoonists. **KUNC**, May 24

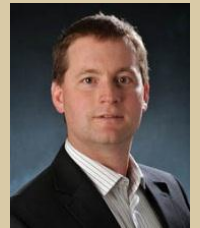
Ohm chosen adviser to Federal Trade Commission

CU-Boulder Law School Associate Professor **Paul Ohm** will serve in the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) as a senior policy adviser for consumer protection and competition issues affecting the Internet and mobile markets. Ohm will take a leave of absence to serve at the FTC and begin his new position Aug. 27 in the agency's Office of Policy Planning. The office focuses on the development and implementation of long-range competition and consumer protection policy initiatives, and advises staff on cases raising new or complex policy and legal issues. **CU-Boulder News**, May 21



Climate scientist receives honorary doctorate from Swedish university

CU-Boulder Professor of Environmental Studies **Roger Pielke Jr.** has been awarded an honorary doctorate of philosophy from Linkoping University, one of Sweden's top universities. Pielke traveled to Sweden to attend the university's graduation ceremony and receive the award. **Daily Camera**, May 15



Wahr elected to National Academy of Sciences

CU-Boulder Physics Professor **John Wahr** has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a top honor recognizing scientists and engineers. Wahr, who also is a fellow of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), is an expert on theoretical geophysics and on the use of satellite measurements to better understand the planet and its atmosphere.



In February, Wahr co-led a high-profile study using the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment to measure mass loss in global glaciers, ice caps and ice sheets during the past decade and the resulting contribution to sea level rise. Wahr also is a leading authority on the study of Earth's rotation and ocean tides. **CU-Boulder News**, May 1

Student-designed research cabin will save CU-Boulder thousands

Students from an environmental design class at CU-Boulder are slated to save the school's **Mountain Research Station** thousands of dollars by designing and building a new sustainable cabin. The students said they expect the 900-square-foot, net-zero energy cabin to run about \$200,000 -- a savings of nearly 50 percent. The students say most savings are attributed to design and labor reductions for the mountain environmental science facility. *Colorado Daily*, May 15

Dimon is latest exec tripped up by 'hubris'

Jamie Dimon, the CEO whose ability to navigate JPMorgan Chase through the banking crisis gave weight to his argument that the industry doesn't need tighter scrutiny of high-risk activities, is only the latest high-profile person to fall prey to hubris. "According to the Greeks, hubris was our cardinal sin and would always be with us," said **Mathew Hayward**, a former investment banker and venture capital investor who now is an associate professor of management at CU-Boulder's Leeds School of Business. "It happens because of the way that individuals — and it's not just CEOs, it's across the board — interpret their own success." *Chicago Tribune*, May 16



University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Mom, son graduate from UCCS together

Twenty-three years ago, **Melissa Lucero**, an administrative assistant at UCCS, was a pregnant first-year California community college student. She quit school, went to work full time and leaned heavily on family for support, struggling to raise her son with the help of her grandparents. But Lucero, now 43, isn't looking back. On May 18, she and her son, Jeff Tejada, participated in UCCS commencement exercises. Lucero earned a bachelor's degree in communication and Tejada a bachelor's degree in political science. *The Gazette*, May 18



Census: Minority births outnumber white births for first time

Births of ethnic minorities outnumbered those of nonminority whites for the first time, according to newly released 2011 U.S. Census data. For the 12-month period ending July 1, 2011, ethnic minorities accounted for 50.4 percent of the U.S. population under age of 1.

"Our country is becoming more diverse, as is the world," said **Kee Warner**, associate vice chancellor for diversity and inclusiveness and a professor of sociology at UCCS. Warner said America's youngest generation will have a completely different experience growing up compared to previous generations. "What we're seeing with the younger generations is not only a sense of tolerance, but really engagement with people from different social backgrounds, racial backgrounds, ethnic backgrounds." *The Gazette*, May 15



Promoting college for low- and moderate-income students

There's a new website that will help prospective college students get an overview of what southern Colorado schools have to offer and how to pay for the education. The site, www.socolo-edu.org, is intended to show low- and moderate-income students they can be the first in their families to pursue education after high school, officials said. UCCS Chancellor **Pam Shockley-Zalabak** leads the project, which was created by the Southern Colorado Higher Education Consortium, a collaboration of all 10 public colleges and universities in southern Colorado. *The Gazette*, May 15



'The Dictator:' Why do autocrats do strange things?

Sacha Baron Cohen's latest comedy, *The Dictator*, features the antics of a fictional leader from North Africa. Admiral General Aladeen is an extreme representation, but why do real autocrats so often do strange things? The figure is clearly inspired by leaders such as Muammar Gaddafi, killed after being ousted from power in Libya last year. **Fred Coolidge**, a psychology professor at UCCS who has profiled Kim Jong-il, Saddam Hussein and Adolf Hitler, believes that many such leaders might share a combination of personality disorder traits such as narcissism, paranoia and sadism. *BBC News*, May 14



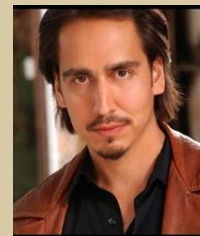
University of Colorado Denver

From 'Boots to Suits,' transitioning from military service to civilian life

A new CU Denver mentoring program called Boots to Suits hopes to tackle a handful of tough stumbling blocks for veterans returning to civilian life – such as finishing college and entering the work force. PBS highlights the transition of CU Denver graduate Tyler Heath during the Memorial Day weekend on the PBS NewsHour program. **PBS**, May 28

Historic Elitch Theatre gets donation from North High Class of 1946

The North High School Class of 1946 donated \$1,220 in leftover reunion funds to the Historic Elitch Theatre. **Jose Mercado**, a CU Denver professor who also had taught theater at North High School, hopes to establish a robust theater education program for all students in the community. Many of the students in north Denver attend schools without active theater departments. The renovated theater will also be home to summer stock productions and other community events. **North Denver Tribune**, May 2



The old college riot

Is there an American analogue to the European soccer hooligan? Two economists at CU Denver suggest that it could be the college football fan. In “College Football Games and Crime,” **Daniel I. Rees**, right, and Kevin T. Schnepel find that arrests for all sorts of belligerence and bad behavior rise after home football games—and skyrocket after upsets, whether the home team is on the winning or the losing end. The researchers examined crime data from 26 police stations that had jurisdiction over college campuses from 2000 to 2005, and then compared game-day arrests with typical daily crime stats. One thing the authors say they couldn’t discount as a root of game-day evils: lots and lots of booze. Even though all the stadiums in the sample had banned liquor sales, the authors note that “it is difficult to rule out the possibility that the relationship between college football games and aggressive behavior is entirely driven by alcohol consumption.” **The Atlantic**, April 2008



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Cardiac arrest: Residents of five Denver neighborhoods most likely to suffer

In five Denver neighborhoods -- Baker, Westwood, Whittier, Villa Park and Valverde -- residents are several times more likely to experience cardiac arrests than anywhere else in the city. Worse, locals who had heart attacks in three of the five communities during two recent years didn't receive CPR from bystanders. Their death rate was 100 percent. These figures, analyzed by CU School of Medicine's **Comilla Sasson**, an emergency medicine professor, form the basis of a grassroots program to counter the repercussions of these attacks with education. Two years ago, she and associates at the University of Colorado Denver began to brainstorm a practical approach to the issue and founded HANDDS, High Arrest Neighborhoods to Decrease Disparities in Survival, to combat the problem. **Westword**, May 23



CSPH prof discusses impact of fracking on health

The Capitol was jam-packed for an oil and gas policy discussion one day last month, including a pair of legislative bills and a lengthy congressional hearing. The bills and federal rules represent the ongoing federal, state and local battles over fracking and other energy regulations. **Lisa McKenzie**, from the Colorado School of Public Health, warned the subcommittee that she had found evidence that proximity to drilling rigs increases the risk of cancer, respiratory diseases and other illnesses. The meeting was a study session; the subcommittee didn't take action. **The Gazette**, May 2

Strengthening medicine for the long run

Jeremy A. Lazarus, M.D., a clinical professor at the CU School of Medicine, has traveled the world participating in grueling athletic events. He has completed 13 marathons and 13 Ironman triathlons. Now he is preparing for a new kind of endurance test. On June 19, the Denver psychiatrist will be inaugurated as president of the American Medical Association (AMA). During his year in the post, he will spend more than 200 days traveling throughout the country and abroad, speaking with physicians, students, health professionals and others to champion the AMA's initiatives. **AMA**, May 29



