CU in the news August 2011



Experts Grab Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado Boulder

Chancellor Phil DiStefano: NASA partnership with CU continues

As the nation watched the final launch of the space shuttle Atlantis, many waxed nostalgic about the spacecraft that has captivated our imagination for three decades. The feats of NASA's space shuttle program, and the Apollo program that preceded it, loom large in the American mind as symbols of our idealism and our strong desire to understand the marvels of our universe. CU-Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano wrote about the future in *The Denver Post*.

Prof monitoring 'mousanauts' as part of bone loss research

Among the daily tasks of the four American astronauts on board the International Space Station is to check in on 30 mice that traveled on the last flight of the space shuttle Atlantis and send updates about the fuzzy space companions to a University of Colorado scientist. The "mousanauts" are part of an experiment spearheaded by Virginia Ferguson, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, in collaboration with the biotech company Amgen to test a new drug that might be able to protect against bone loss. The experiment was detailed in the *Daily Camera* in Boulder.

Buffs shoot hoops for a 'Salaam Dunk'

When the American University of Iraq (AUIS) approached David Clough, right, about coming to the Middle Eastern country to consult, the school was seeking his expertise in helping start an engineering department. But Clough -- who is the faculty athletics representative at the University of Colorado Boulder in addition to his duties as professor of chemical and biological engineering -- always tries to wear his "other hat" as well. So when he came across the trailer for "Salaam Dunk," a documentary about the AUIS women's basketball team, Clough saw an opportunity for CU athletes to make a connection. CU Boulder women's basketball coach Linda Lappe, lower right, hopes the relationship between her Buffs and the AUIS Eagles benefits players in both programs for years to come. The article was featured in the *Daily Camera* in Boulder.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Co-director of women and ethnic studies guest curator at Cuban women exhibit

Andrea O'Reilly Herrera, co-director of women and ethnic studies at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, is the guest director at "women.embodied," a collection of artworks by expatriate Cuban women. On display in the King Gallery at the Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center through Oct.

15, the pieces were brought together because women seemed to be under-represented in the larger show, "Cafe XII: The Journeys of Writers and Artists of the Cuban Diaspora," on display this summer in the White Gallery at the arts center. The information was published in the *Pueblo Chieftan*.

Art director helps initiate pollination celebration

Daisy McConnell, co-director of the Galleries of Contemporary Art at UCCS, is a leader as six Colorado Springs arts institutions celebrate pollinators – bees, birds and moths – with a series of events known as Cross Pollination 2011. Pollinators include insects and animals that facilitate reproduction in 90 percent of the world's flowering plants. It's estimated that, on average, one in every three bites of food humans take comes courtesy of an animal pollinator. The exhibits, films and art will show the world's interconnectedness with pollinators, including how to support them in the backyard and on a global scale. The *Colorado Spring Business Journal* talked with McConnell about the exhibit

Yes or no to a global economy: UCCS prof weighs in

Paul Miller, an accounting professor at UCCS, was interviewed by CNBC on the United States moving to a global economy. In theory, switching to international standards would make it easier for investors to compare U.S. businesses to others around the globe, reducing companies' cost of capital. Multinational firms such as Ford and IBM, which use International Financial Reporting Standards for their businesses overseas, would no longer have to keep separate books to report in the United States. Though he often disagrees with the U.S. standard-setting board, Miller says, "It's a move away from innovation and progress. It's the best of them all, so why would anyone want to pull all of its teeth?"

University of Colorado Denver

As we pay less for music, we get less, too

How cheap is free? That's a question music fans have been pondering for the past decade as the digital revolution has driven down the price of music to, in many cases, close to nothing. And it's not a narrow concern about artists getting paid or label executives lining their pockets. It's about the value we place on art and about the relationship that consumers have with the people — and processes — that drive popular culture. Storm Gloor, assistant professor of music and entertainment industry studies at UCD, weighs in. "The devaluing of music is in some ways a misnomer because I think the phrase is right-pricing," Gloor said. "I don't think the value of music to consumers or artists has decreased. If anything it's increased, since music is more prevalent everywhere in TV shows and commercials — everywhere we go. More people have access to new artists than ever before." The article was featured in *The Denver Post*.



Maintaining positive connections in military marriages during combat

Beth Allen, assistant professor of psychology, shares her research about military marriages and techniques for preserving connections and relationship health during wartime in *Pinnacle*, the UCD College of Liberal Arts and Sciences online magazine. Allen worked with the Richard Lee Simpson Distinguished Professor of Psychology Don Baucom, one of the nation's top marital researchers and clinicians, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she devoted much of her energy to a marriage workshop for couples based on the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program.

Beer wins 2011 Colorado Book Award for poetry

CU Denver's Nicky Beer, senior instructor of English, is the recipient of the 2011 Colorado Book Award for Poetry. In Beer's *The Diminishing House*, birds are disemboweled, a father is mourned and a basement fills with snakes. This first book of resonant lyric poetry meditates on such subjects as animals, art and anatomy, and transforms the familiar and mundane into something strangely mythic. Beer explores the exhilaration and frustration of living in an unstable world filled with grief and desire.



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Doc whose daughter has Down syndrome dedicated to change

Early in the evening of June 25, 1995, hours after the birth of his first and only child, the course of Dr. Alberto Costa's life and work took an abrupt turn. A clinical geneticist took Costa aside to deliver the news that the baby girl appeared to have Down syndrome, the most common genetic cause of cognitive disabilities, or what used to be called "mental retardation." Costa's story and research were featured in *The New York Times*.

School of Medicine's Dugoff enlists cancer survivors as teachers

After two years of training, medical students at the University of Colorado School of Medicine are used to lectures, but on a recent afternoon, their teachers were new. Four ovarian cancer survivors talked about their experiences, concerns and insights gained while fighting the cancer. Lorraine Dugoff, M.D., initiated a program that she hopes will provide her students with a heightened awareness of ovarian cancer into whatever specialty they choose. The program was outlined in *9News*.

Researchers get closer to understanding brain function and bulimia

The University of Colorado School of Medicine announced new findings in the area of brain research associated with bulimia nervosa, an eating disorder that causes a person to be so overly fearful of becoming obese that they deprive the body of calories using self-induced purges of the stomach, intestines and sweat glands. The way the functions of the brain contribute to bulimia is at the beginning stages of being understood. A new study has been led by Guido Frank, M.D., assistant professor of the psychiatry and neuroscience departments and the director of the Developmental Brain Research Program at the Anschutz Medical Campus. The article was posted in *Examiner.com*.



Physicist building advanced microscope

Stephanie Meyer, a physicist specializing in optics, is bringing new capabilities to the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus by building an advanced, super resolution microscope able to see some of the innermost workings of the cell. The university began the project after receiving funding from the National Institutes of Health through a shared grant with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Diego Restrepo, professor of cell and developmental biology and principle investigator of the grant, won the funding by working with a team of researchers at CU Denver. The microscope will open up new opportunities in neuroscience research. Meyer's research was featured in *Bizcommunity.com*.

University of Colorado Students and Alumni

Grad opens school, safehouse for some of Cambodia's poorest

University of Colorado Boulder alumnus Andrew Wolff bought a one-way ticket to Bangkok, hoping to volunteer somewhere in southeast Asia. Now, he's the co-founder of a school and women's safehouse in northwest Cambodia, which also houses some of the area's poorest and most neglected children. The school educates 200 children, teaching them math, Khmer literacy, English, computer skills, music, art, sports and critical thinking. Wolff's journey and an inspirational video of some of the children saved by Children's Future International were published in the *Daily Camera* in Boulder. A key program in CFI for at-risk girls is profiled in *Examiner.com*.

Zack Shapiro develops the Beeline RTD 2 App

Beeline RTD 2 is an iPhone app that provides Regional Transportation District bus and light rail route schedules for Boulder and the Denver metro area. The *Daily Camera* in Boulder recently spoke with its developer, Zack Shapiro, at right, a senior at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Students win Heartland Emmy for video on Pluto as the 'un-planet'

A group of University of Colorado Boulder journalism students and graduates won a Heartland Emmy award for a video they created about Pluto being bumped down to "dwarf planet" status. The students were part of an advanced-level video-editing course and worked on the CU Science Update video series. Jenna Browder, Eric Duggan, Greg O'Brien, Sabina Hadzic, Sara Handing and Amanda Yourick produced the winning episode, *Pluto -- The Un-Planet*, under the direction of journalism instructor Paul Daugherty last fall. CU professor Fran Bagenal of the astrophysical and planetary sciences department is featured in the video discussing the controversial decision to downgrade Pluto to a dwarf planet.