



CU Community Grabs Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado Boulder

Earthquakes expected along Rio Grande Rift

Professor **Anne Sheehan** from CU- Boulder’s Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES) was not surprised when a 5.3 magnitude earthquake struck about 9 miles west of Trinidad in the vicinity of the Rio Grande Rift on Aug. 23, 2011. The quake was the largest in Colorado since 1967 and was felt from Fort Collins to Garden City, Kan. “We don’t expect to see a lot of earthquakes, or big ones, but we will have some earthquakes,” said Sheehan, also a fellow at CIRES. The Rio Grande Rift follows the path of the Rio Grande River from central Colorado roughly to El Paso before turning southeast toward the Gulf of Mexico. ~ **CU-Boulder**, Jan. 11



What we don’t know about the sun might erase our iPads

With the world increasingly dependent on electronics, “space weather”—variances in flares and solar wind (charged particles) emitted by the sun—is attracting more attention. Yet despite the possible vulnerability of the modern economy to solar activity, our knowledge of the star is surprisingly rudimentary. “We are a long way from being able to predict how the sun will behave,” said **Daniel Baker**, a solar-study specialist who directs the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.



In the time researchers have been monitoring the sun, its luminosity has shown almost no variance, which would suggest the roughly one degree Fahrenheit of global warming the past century has been caused by something else. Still, NASA’s recently launched Kepler spacecraft has begun inspecting nearby sun-like stars and is finding that their output changes more than expected, Baker said. Solar variation might play some role in climate trends. Solar wind and other forces from the sun also affect the temperature and density of the Earth’s upper atmosphere. ~ **The Atlantic**, January 2012

CU-Boulder groups support students on academic probation

There are a lot of reasons students at the University of Colorado might find themselves on academic probation. CU-Boulder psychologist **Andrea Iglesias** said it’s common for freshmen to find it challenging to adapt to college level courses from high school or to focus on academics while they’re still trying to adjust to life on their own. Iglesias launched the first Bounce Back support group last spring modeled after a program at San Diego State, where she previously worked. Another group was hosted in the fall. Bounce Back will host three support groups this spring starting the third week of classes. ~ **Colorado Daily**, Jan. 24



CU-Boulder students at spacecraft controls

The Kepler telescope is traveling through the Milky Way, finding planets nobody has seen before. Turns out, CU-Boulder students are at Kepler's controls, telling it where to go, what information to send back to Earth -- even how to fix its own glitches. Kepler is one of several spacecraft that students are responsible for at CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics. PBS's Ryan Warner spoke with CU-Boulder sophomore Rachael Collins and with the program's director, Bill Possel, who described the control center where the students work. ~ **CPR**, Jan. 9

Well, hail, it might be a thing of the past

Hail might no longer be a weather element for Colorado's mountain towns come about 2070. A shift from hail to rain could translate to more runoff and an elevated risk of flash flooding in Colorado. **Kelly Mahoney**, a research scientist at University of Colorado's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences and the National Center for Atmospheric Research said, "In this region of elevated terrain, hail may lessen the risk of flooding because it takes a while to melt." By examining how global warming might affect precipitation patterns, the study found that if small stones of hail fall through a warmer atmosphere, they are likely to melt into rain or evaporate back into the atmosphere. ~ **Daily Camera**, Jan. 9

Looking out for lemurs in Madagascar

Jenna Pyle, a second-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Anthropology at CU-Boulder, blogs about her research and experience with the Lemur Biology Project in southwestern Madagascar with anthropologist CU-Boulder Professor Michelle Sauter and her colleague Frank Cuozzo of the University of North Dakota. Sauter and Cuozzo are co-founders of the project and professors of biological anthropology. Since forest-use by humans is widespread in Madagascar, the major goal of the project is to assess how lemurs do in the face of the destruction of their habitat. ~ **The Boulder Stand**, Jan. 9

Student from pre-collegiate program thriving at CU-Boulder

Basalt High School graduate **Estefania Vigil** knew higher education was the key to greater opportunity. That's where the Roaring Fork Pre-Collegiate Program came into play. The Pre-Collegiate Program, initiated in 2004, boasts a 95 percent record to date for keeping students on a college-bound track. "I got involved with the Pre-Collegiate Program my freshman year," Estefania said. "Because my parents had never attended college and certainly didn't know the ropes at all, it was great to have mentors who did. They encouraged me and helped me a lot. The two-week summer program at CU-Boulder was the clincher, and I knew then I was going to go to college," she said. ~ **Post Independent**, Jan. 24



University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Economists predict zero economic growth in 2012

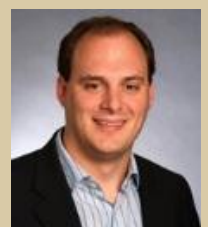
Economic growth in 2012 in Colorado Springs will remain stagnant, said **Tom Zwirlein**, a professor of economics at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs and one of the directors of the Southern Colorado Economic Forum. The economic indicators – increased consumer confidence, lower inventory and sales, lower unemployment, higher gas prices – all add up to not much change for the coming year, Zwirlein said.



El Paso County suffered because of its loss of manufacturing jobs and relies heavily on the military bases for jobs, increased personal income and the Gross Metropolitan Product. Even as the country is readying for a manufacturing renaissance of sorts, El Paso County might find itself falling further behind, he said. ~ **Colorado Springs Business Journal**, Jan. 20

How's my teaching? Some schools might be missing the mark

Marcus A. Winters, an assistant professor in the College of Education at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and the author of *Teachers Matter: Rethinking How Public Schools Identify, Reward, and Retain Great Educators*, was published in the magazine *City Journal*. Winters said that under the current system, public schools measure teacher quality by placing weight on a set of professional credentials. The teacher's actual performance in the classroom, however, escapes serious scrutiny.



Officials base teacher evaluations primarily on classroom observations by principals that take place usually only once or twice a year, and often for less than a full class period. Typically, 98 percent or more of teachers in a school system are identified as “satisfactory” or better. ~ **City Journal**, Jan. 20

Fort Carson likely not to suffer worst of military cuts

The Pentagon is cutting its budget by some \$260 billion throughout the next five years. Military sources have leaked that as part of budget cuts, the Army plans to reduce the number of combat brigades from 45 to as few as 32. That could mean the loss of about 80,000 soldier jobs. If a chunk of those cuts were to come to the Mountain Post, the effects could be devastating according to UCCS Economic Professor **Fred Crowley**. But Fort Carson has plans under way to bring in an additional 2,700 troops in 2014 as part of a new combat aviation brigade. That plan also comes with a construction price tag of about \$238.6 million. Crowley says it's not time to panic yet. With big projects like these in the works, large cuts for Fort Carson don't seem likely when it comes down to simple dollars and cents. ~ **KOAA**, Jan. 26

Power of mentoring celebrated nationally and at UCCS

Courtney Camelin thought having an assigned mentor, a regular part of the Karen Possehl Women's Endowment Scholarship, was unnecessary. “I thought ‘I'm 35 years old, if I haven't figured out life by now, what's the chance someone else is going to be able to teach me?’” the senior economics and political science major, mother, and employee of a local law firm, said.



But having **Jan Weiland**, right, vice president, Cascade Investment Group, and a three-year supporter of KPWE assigned to her, is something that Camelin says changed her life. “I found out she'd been a non-traditional student, too,” Camelin said. “Talking to someone who had ‘been there and done that’ made me understand that I could do it and that her words were not hollow or empty.” January was national mentoring month. ~ **Communiqué**, Jan. 27

University of Colorado Denver

Greer represents CU Denver students -- and all students -- at president's address

Mahala Greer, a University of Colorado Denver student who grew up in Paonia, was in the audience Tuesday night for President Barack Obama's State of the Union address, representing students struggling with education loans. Obama invited Greer to the event and she sat next retired astronaut Mark Kelly. Greer, a senior majoring in Spanish, came to Obama's attention in October when she was selected to introduce the president when he spoke at the Auraria Event Center about making education more attainable and affordable. Greer has borrowed \$30,000 in federal loans to finance her education and works 20 hours a week while attending classes. ~ **CU Denver Newsroom**, Jan. 25



Tebowmania helps bring ethics into the classroom

An important aspect of teaching ethics is reaching students on a level on which they can identify. As the Denver Broncos advanced in the NFL Playoffs, **Mitch Handelsman**, a psychology professor at CU-Denver, talked Tim Tebow.

All across the metro area there were strange things happening:

- In the game with the Steelers, Tebow passed for 316 yards. Tebow's favorite Bible verse for years has been John 3:16.
- Tebow is the worst NFL quarterback in the first three quarters but in the top three in the fourth quarter and overtime.
- Tebowing is now a word and “movement” of sorts around the world.

“To my students Michael Jordan is not relevant,” Handelsman said. “I have to bring them something they can relate to. By my way of thinking, Tim Tebow is the perfect example. He works hard, practices hard, and gives 100 percent in everything he does. If I can get these students to adopt that ethic, they will be successful students.” ~ **Fox31**, Jan. 10

DPS board retreat attempts to foster unity

Less than 12 hours after a meeting that saw Denver Public Schools board members splitting their votes into familiar 4-3 factions, its members came back together for a retreat, at which they focused on learning to better work together. Facilitator **Lisa Carlson**, from the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs-Buechner Institute for Governance, challenged each member to jot down elements they envisioned as being part of a successful Denver Public Schools. Board members collectively created a vision for several years down the road, limiting themselves to one, positive idea per sticky note. ~ **Education News**, Jan. 20



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Center

CU Med School works to increase diversity of students

It's impossible to miss the tone of pride that creeps into **Robert Winn**'s voice as he talks about the names and faces printed on two pieces of paper. There are 160 black-and-white profile pictures printed in rows on the two pages, smiling faces that represent a wide range of academic backgrounds and future goals. The sheets are a snapshot of the University of Colorado School of Medicine's class of 2015, and Winn played a big part in putting the roster together.



"My vision was to increase the ethnic and racial diversity, but also to increase the geographic diversity of the school. I wanted to mix it up a little bit," said Winn, now in his second year as the associate dean of admissions for the School of Medicine. Winn, a doctor with a background in pulmonary and critical care, made more than 300 calls to prospective students from the class of 2015. From promising students attending Ivy League schools to former CU football stars making a name for himself in academia, Winn had his ideal class singled out. And he wasn't going to let them go without a fight. ~ **Aurora Sentinel**, Jan. 25

Veteran diabetes expert pens history of renowned research and treatment center

He's had an illustrious career at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes, but **H. Peter Chase** is known for more than being the longest-tenured professor at the university. Chase, professor of Pediatrics and Clinical Director Emeritus, is also known for authoring several books on diabetes for newly diagnosed children and families and, most recently, a book about the history of the Barbara Davis Center. The wordsmith's most recent book, *Diabetes: A History of a Center and a Patient* was published in September 2011 and co-authored by Sue Palandri, who founded the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation in 1976. ~ **Aurora Sentinel**, Jan. 11

Why never-smokers get lung cancer

While the incidence of lung cancer is decreasing in this country, there's another alarming trend. Roughly one in 10 individuals who is diagnosed with lung cancer has never smoked. Researchers are trying to understand why. Scientists have identified genetic mutations in never-smokers with lung cancer. These findings could open the door for developing ways to target these aberrations as a means of fighting the disease.



"Looking at the genetic background in never-smokers is very relevant because the incidence of lung cancer is increasing in this group and we don't know why," **Fred R. Hirsch**, M.D., Ph.D. professor of medicine and pathology at the University of Colorado Cancer Center, told dailyRx. Never-smokers are people who have smoked fewer than 100 cigarettes in their lives. This population of lung cancer patients has not been largely studied, until now. ~ **Daily Rx**, Jan. 10