



CU Community Grabs Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado Boulder

Two CU-Boulder scientists win National Science Foundation awards

Two professors -- both from CU-Boulder's ecology and evolutionary biology department -- have received prestigious National Science Foundation awards. The Early Career Development honors were awarded to **Pieter Johnson** and **Rebecca Safran**. The awards recognize faculty members who are in the early stages of their careers and integrate innovative research and educational outreach.



- Johnson was awarded \$700,000 over five years to study how ecological diversity in natural communities can affect disease risk for amphibians, the most threatened class of vertebrates worldwide.
- Safran was awarded \$850,000 over five years to study genetic differences in barn swallow populations to gain a greater understanding of how new species are formed. **Daily Camera**, Feb. 16

Cleanest-burning fossil fuel might not be much better than coal

Led by researchers at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the University of Colorado Boulder, a study on urban smog estimates that natural-gas producers in an area known as the Denver-Julesburg Basin are losing about 4 percent of their gas to the atmosphere — not including additional losses in the pipeline and distribution system.

"If we want natural gas to be the cleanest fossil fuel source, methane emissions have to be reduced," said **Gabrielle Pétron**, an atmospheric scientist at NOAA and at CU Boulder, and first author on the study. Emissions will vary depending on the site, but Pétron sees no reason to think that this particular basin is unique. **Nature.com**, Feb. 8

CU-Boulder professor elected to National Academy of Engineering

Diane McKnight, professor of civil, environmental and architectural engineering and a fellow of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at CU-Boulder, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering. McKnight is among 66 new members and 10 foreign associates of the academy. She joins 16 other faculty from the campus who have been elected since the academy's formation in 1962. Election to the National Academy of Engineering is among the highest professional distinctions accorded an engineer. **CU-Boulder News**, Feb. 9



Using rap to teach pithy lessons in business

Much of rap is about business, whether the drug business, the music industry or work ethic, said **Adam Bradley**, an associate professor specializing in African-American literature at CU-Boulder who wrote "Book of Rhymes: The Poetics of Hip Hop" and co-edited *The Anthology of Rap*. "It comes out of the fact that rap is such a direct mode of expression, maybe more so than any other music lyric, because of the emphasis on language, of words above melody or harmony," Bradley said. **The New York Times**, Feb. 20



University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Astronaut shares stories, insights with Canadians

John Herrington, a UCCS alumnus, has done what most children only dream about. In 2002, the former NASA astronaut blasted off in the space shuttle Endeavour and spent almost 14 days in low Earth orbit. Herrington recounted his role in the 16th shuttle mission to the International Space Station. He told the Georgia Straight newspaper in Vancouver, Canada, that the launch was “exciting” and “dynamic.” By the time Herrington returned to Earth, he had carried out three space walks lasting a combined 20 hours. A member of Oklahoma’s Chickasaw Nation, he had also become the first American Indian to fly in space. **Straight.com**, Feb. 21



Bill seeks to protect job seekers

It’s the ultimate Catch-22 for the unemployed: Not having a job lowers your credit score, but that lower score also makes you less attractive as a job applicant. Democrats in the state legislature want to empower job seekers by creating restrictions on how and when employers can use credit reports in evaluating applicants.

Business Management Professor **Don Gardner**, Ph.D., at UCCS says there are legitimate reasons for employers to check credit reports. However, he believes that employers too often use credit reports as a crutch and says they are not an accurate means of screening future employees. “A better alternative in my opinion, it has a much better track record, is to just use paper and pencil integrity tests or more generally contentiousness tests,” Gardner said. **News 5**, Feb. 14

Beth Kumar takes First Step honors

The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) announced that **Beth Kumar**, e-resources and serials librarian at UCCS, is the recipient of the 2012 First Step Award, A Wiley Professional Development Grant presented by the ALCTS Continuing Resources Section. The award will be presented on Sunday, June 24, at the ALCTS Awards Ceremony during the 2012 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Anaheim, Calif.



Kumar began her position in August 2010, providing daily management and troubleshooting of subscription databases and individual journals, both print and electronic. **ALA News**, Feb 13

UCCS taking part in RecycleMania Tournament

UCCS students combed through a mountain of garbage as part of an eight-week competition called RecycleMania. The volunteers from UCCS picked through “Mount Trashmore,” a pile representing one full day of trash thrown away on the campus. Every bit of recyclable material they found was diverted.

“What we’re doing is going through all the resident trash and trash that’s found on campus. Our point of it is going through and finding what we can save and recycle,” explained student Jennifer Leisser. Colleges across the U.S. and Canada are competing to see how much waste they recycle during the eight weeks. They are ranked in a variety of categories after each week and the schools who win are given a trophy made of recycled materials. **11 News**, Feb. 22

University of Colorado Denver

Cinematographer's Academy Award-winning 'Saving Face' to air on HBO this spring

University of Colorado Denver College of Arts & Media alumnus **Aaron Kopp** co-produced and shot the Academy Award-winning “Saving Face,” a documentary short about acid attacks on women in Pakistan by directors Daniel Junge and Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy. It follows a London-based Pakistani plastic surgeon returning to his home country to help these women as they struggle for justice and healing. The film will air on HBO this spring. Kopp received a bachelor of fine arts degree, with a major in theater, film and television, emphasis in writing and directing, in May 2009. **CU Denver Newsroom**, Feb. 10



Lost boy finds better life in Colorado

During years of near-starvation in their native Africa, all **Arok Garang** and the other "Lost Boys" wanted was a shot at improving themselves. Garang was one of more than 20,000 boys of the Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups driven from their villages during the Second Sudanese Civil War, from 1983 to 2005.

Garang, 30, emphasized the importance of education and leadership to a rapt audience of about 150 third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. "In Africa, children are not being educated," said Garang, who is pursuing a master's degree in economics at CU Denver. "But here, you can study and be a leader. Your education will take you very far." **The Denver Post**, Feb. 16

Beall selected for ALCTS Outstanding Publication Award

The Association for Library Collections & Technical Services Outstanding Publication Award recipient for 2012 is **Jeffrey Beall** for his article "Academic Library Databases and the Problem of Word-Sense Ambiguity," published in *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, January 2011.



Beall is metadata librarian at Auraria Library, CU Denver. An academic librarian for more than 21 years, he has published extensively in the areas of metadata, full-text searching and information retrieval. In the past two years, his research interest has expanded into the field of scholarly open-access publishing. **ALA News**, Feb. 13

San Luis Valley students working for healthier future

Middle school students all over the San Luis Valley are working together to shape their environments for a healthier future. The Colorado School of Public Health in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Prevention Research Center and Valley school districts are creating healthier learning atmospheres in Valley schools through the Working Together Project. The service-learning project uses positive youth development and environmental change to increase healthy eating, physical activity and emotional wellbeing while aiming to decrease teen pregnancy, substance abuse and injury. In 2009, the project began preparing for its 2011 launch in the Valley under the guidance of CU Denver's **Elaine Belansky**, M.D. **The Valley Courier**, Feb. 7

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

While there's no MS cure, new drugs have made symptoms recede

Some 800 MS patients are on the drug Tysabri through the Rocky Mountain MS Center and CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Hundreds more are on Gilenya, the first approved oral treatment for MS, and other new drugs introduced in recent years. The program is working. **Tim Vollmer**, M.D., a CU Anschutz Medical Campus MS expert, calls it a "rich tool set of many drugs" and said it's "not unusual for those patients to come in and say, 'I don't feel like I have MS anymore.'" **The Denver Post**, Feb. 25

Fight menopause with a strong heart

A new study shows that a hormone might help fight age-related arterial stiffness, a condition that's associated with menopause. Nitric oxide causes arteries to dilate, and without it, arteries can stiffen and cause high blood pressure, thickening of the left ventricle and may increase the risk for heart disease, stroke and dementia, says lead researcher **Kerrie Moreau**, M.D., associate professor of medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, in a statement. **Daily Rx**, Feb. 19



Program creates pathway for student from high school to med school

A CU Anschutz Medical Campus program will track high schooler Janet Mensah through a pre-med program and med school as part of unique scholarship offering. Mensah found an early academic direction as part of the Aurora LIGHTS health sciences program at Aurora Public Schools, a specialized track she said helped formalize her goals in the medical field.

Summer weeks spent working with doctors and researchers at the Anschutz Medical Campus, middle and high school courses with a rigorous emphasis on biology and science – these elements served as crucial precursors to her career decision. "I heard of the Aurora LIGHTS program when I was a freshman. It solidified it for me. My mom used to work at the hospital, I would go and see all the machines and people and thought it was wonderful," Mensah said. **Aurora Sentinel**, March 1