



Experts Grab Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado Boulder

CU-Boulder experts **Tierney** and **Pielke** tapped for national articles about Hurricane Irene

As Hurricane Irene threatened the East Coast, national experts were quoted concerning the precautions, probabilities, potential damage and cost. Two CU-Boulder experts were quoted in national publications for their expertise, including Kathleen Tierney, director of the Natural Hazards Center, featured in [The New York Times](#), and Roger Pielke, professor and fellow of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, in a [widely published AP article](#).

Colorado adding jobs, but at an anemic pace

Richard Wobbekind, an economist at the Leeds School of Business, said the projection for growth in 2011 is 10,000 jobs. "It is going to take 150,000 jobs to bring it down to pre-recession levels. We have a long way to go," he said. Wobbekind predicted it will take four years to reach pre-recession employment levels. In [The Denver Post](#), Wobbekind noted that during good times Colorado has a 4.5 percent unemployment rate.



Folks older than 50 struggle to get jobs

The news isn't good for job seekers older than 50. On average, it takes older workers 55 weeks to find a job, compared to 39 weeks for younger workers. **Bill Kaempfer**, a professor of economics at the University of Colorado Boulder, adds that job seekers should not be surprised if their wages are lower when they do find a job. That's not because of current labor conditions, but rather follows a historical trend. Despite the ideal that most people nurture -- that their wages will rise up until the point of retirement -- data show that most workers' earnings peak at age 55, he told the Daily Camera.



Great amount of seasonal ice loss this year

The seasonal melt has been claiming more and more ice since at least 1979, when researchers started monitoring that trend from space. "Within the satellite record, this [year] is the lowest ice extent for July that we've ever seen," says **Mark Serreze**, who heads the National Snow and Ice Data Center. Conditions aren't far from the 2007 record low for seasonal ice loss.



Plea for better schools gets personal

Kathy Escamilla, a professor in the School of Education, testified that limited funding has forced most school districts to adopt abbreviated programs directed at improving the language skills of students whose first language is not English. A study of academic proficiency among students who get dual-language attention throughout their educations showed they performed as well or better than students whose native tongue is English, Escamilla said. Her testimony spotlighted the statutory requirement in Colorado to educate children whose primary language is not English. She said Colorado does a poor job of living up to that mandate.



Gas clouds may have created biggest cosmic explosions

They would make supernovae look like firecrackers. Giant gas clouds in the early universe could have powered the most energetic eruptions since the big bang. Such gigantic, bright bursts might be detected with future observatories that could search for fleeting events, says [Mitch Begelman](#) of the University of Colorado Boulder.

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

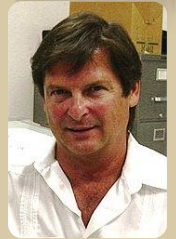
Gould selected for writing fellowship

Janice Gould, assistant professor of women's and ethnic studies, was recently selected as the 2012 Writer-in-Residence for the School for Advanced Research, a Santa Fe, N.M., center for the study of the archaeology and ethnology of the American Southwest.



Prof finds similar personalities might not be a factor in marriage success

Men and women in relationships need not be similar in personality to have a successful long-lasting marriage, a new study suggests. The study, which included couples who had been married for at least 40 years, found that neither personality similarities nor differences appeared to affect how happy the couples were. That also runs counter to what we might intuitively expect, said study researcher [Frederick Coolidge](#), a psychologist at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Coolidge spoke with LiveScience saying he suspects the evolutionary need to bond with someone might trump incongruences in personality.



Nelson honored for UCCS commercial

David Nelson, associate professor in the Communication Department, recently received a bronze award in the commercial category of the 32nd annual Telly Awards Competition. Nelson received the award for "Jigsaw Puzzle," a 30-second commercial about UCCS. [More information about the Telly Awards.](#)

University of Colorado Denver

Study: Vets more likely to have affairs, get divorced

Veterans were significantly more likely to have engaged in extramarital sex or gotten divorced than people who were never in the military, according to new research to be presented at the 106th annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. While the study considered both men and women, Andrew London of Syracuse University and his co-authors [Elizabeth Allen](#), an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Colorado Denver, and Janet M. Wilmoth, a sociology professor at Syracuse University, said their data set included too few female veterans to draw definitive conclusions about them as a separate group.

While many college students worry, those in two fields have hope

Every person on the Auraria Campus will eventually be looking for a job. But there are two fields at the University of Colorado Denver that are growing even during a recession. "If you look around this room, you'll notice it is quite full. More and more students are enrolling in engineering classes, particularly in the field of sustainability," [Anu Ramaswami](#) said. Ramaswami is a professor of civil engineering with CU Denver's Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems. She told 9News that students are interested in expanding wind power, solar energy and water management systems.



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Mmmmm . . . Beer! SOM researchers find its origins

Many a beer drinker has stared into the bottom of a glass and gone blearily philosophic wondering just where that golden gift of brew came from. The University of Colorado School of Medicine can do Homer Simpson one better. They searched for something deeper than the foam in a freshly tapped keg and found yeast holds keys to human evolution because of similarities in the organisms' DNA. And now those CU researchers have solved an ancient, beer-soaked mystery — how 15th-century Bavarian monks stumbled upon a yeast from halfway around the world that allowed them to brew lager beer in the cold. The Denver Post was one of many publications that ran the article.

School of Pharmacy researchers find enzyme that could detect colon cancer earlier

University of Colorado researchers have discovered a new colon-cancer marker that could eliminate the need for colonoscopies. Led by [Vasilis Vasiliou](#), M.D., professor of molecular toxicology at the university's School of Pharmacy on the Anschutz Medical Campus, the researchers identified an enzyme that has the potential to be used to diagnose colon cancer earlier, when treatment has a better chance of success. It also appears that the enzyme, known as ALDH1B1, might provide a way to treat the disease. While it is at least five years away, Vasiliou said doctors could be able to test for the presence of the enzyme in blood or feces instead of performing a colonoscopy. The findings were detailed in *The Denver Post*.



CSPH prof: Weave health through community gardens

It's no wonder community organizers use terms such as "grassroots" and "from the ground up." These metaphors for local involvement are playing out in real garden plots throughout the city. Planting seeds, getting dirty, cultivating connections, even creating compost might be political phrases, but a new study from the Colorado School of Public Health urges leaders to "weave gardens throughout the fabric of communities." The project, headed by [Jill Litt](#), an associate professor at the Colorado School of Public Health and an assistant professor in the University of Colorado Boulder's environmental studies program, started with the question: "What does it take to get people to be more active where they live?"



Scientist finds altered cerebellar functions in those with Down syndrome

A scientist investigating why people with Down syndrome often have poor balance and motor coordination has found that key eye reflexes are substantially altered. The findings by University of Colorado School of Medicine researcher [Alberto Costa](#), M.D., Ph.D., could lead to new tools to assess the effectiveness of new drugs and therapies aimed at improving quality of life for those with this genetic disorder. Costa's research was picked up by several publications, including *HealthCanal.com*.

Students and Alumni

CU-Boulder runner wins gold in 1,500

In a golden half-hour for the United States, three Americans won IAAF World Championship titles on Thursday, none more surprising than University of Colorado student Jenny Barringer Simpson getting the first 1,500-meter victory since Mary Decker-Slaney in 1983. The astonished face of Simpson said it all after the race. She did not figure in the top 10 of this season's performers before outpacing all the favorites and winning the first title for the United States in the race in 28 years. Simpson sped past rivals on the finishing straight and then, with big eyes, looked at the giant screen facing her to see if it really happened. At the end of the night, the United States led the medal standings with seven gold medals and 12 overall. Russia was closest with four gold and 12 in total. The win was covered in several media, including CBS Denver.

Alumnus Arnold A. Chacón new ambassador to Guatemala

President Barack Obama has named Arnold A. Chacón, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, as ambassador to Guatemala, succeeding Stephen G. McFarland, who held the post since 2008. Chacón, whose nomination was confirmed last month by the U.S. Senate, had been deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid. Previously he served as director of Andean affairs in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and deputy executive secretary in the department's executive secretariat. Chacón earned a bachelor of arts degree in international affairs from the University of Colorado Boulder.