

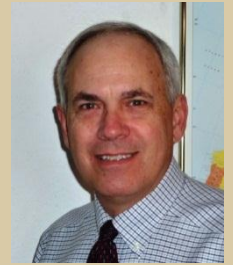


CU Community Grabs Headlines Around the Globe

University of Colorado Boulder

Study of twins suggests genetics affect ability to quit smoking

Nov. 16, 2011 – Smoking behavior among twins points toward an increasing role of genetics when it comes to quitting the habit, according to a study led by CU-Boulder. Researchers surveyed a database of nearly 600 pairs of twins — some identical, some fraternal — about their smoking patterns from 1960-80, as social attitudes about smoking changed. Among identical twins, if one quit, the other also quit within a two-year span 65 percent of the time, the study found. That happened only 55 percent of the time among fraternal twins. Because identical twins share the same genes and fraternal twins don't, the statistically significant difference suggests a genetic factor influencing the ability to quit, said [Fred Pampel](#), sociology professor at CU-Boulder and co-author of the study. **Denver Post**



Ancient bronze artifact from East Asia unearthed at Alaska archaeology site

Nov. 14, 2011 – A team of researchers led by CU-Boulder has discovered the first prehistoric bronze artifact made from a cast in Alaska, a small, buckle-like object found in an ancient Eskimo dwelling that likely originated in East Asia. The artifact consists of two parts – a rectangular bar connected to a broken circular ring, said research associate [John Hoffecker](#), who is leading the excavation project. The object, about 2 inches by 1 inch and less than 1-inch thick, was found in August by a team excavating a roughly 1,000-year-old house. It had been dug into the side of a beach ridge by early Inupiat Eskimos at Cape Espenberg on the Seward Peninsula, which lies within the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. **Science Daily**



Some ultra-athletes find extreme exercise interferes with fertility

Nov. 8, 2011 – As women athletes increase muscle mass and decrease the percentage of fat, their periods can become irregular and eventually cease altogether. That number leaps to as many as 55 percent for elite female distance athletes, according to [Robert Mazzeo](#) in the Department of Integrative Physiology at CU-Boulder. Even shortened or irregular periods might be a sign of a “luteal phase deficiency,” which can interfere with a woman's ability to conceive and sustain a pregnancy. This tends to be more common among runners, gymnasts and professional ballet dancers, he said. **The Daily Camera**



Particles tunnel out of black holes

Nov. 15, 2011 – [Andrew Hamilton](#), an astrophysicist at CU-Boulder, said the horizon of a black hole is an insurmountable barrier for the likes of humans and anything else larger than an atom. Occasionally, a subatomic particle manages to pass through the black hole. Thus, it is believed that all black holes emit an incredibly faint glimmer of stuff, named “Hawking radiation” after Stephen Hawking, the physicist who first theorized its existence in the 1970s. **Space.com**

CU-Boulder experts discuss focus, fatigue and anxiety while studying

Nov. 10, 2011 – CU-Boulder Psychologist **Glenda Russell** said students should take a break — even if it's only looking outside for a minute or walking to the bathroom — every hour when studying. Students often forget this important aspect when preparing for an exam, because of the stress of having numerous assignments at the same time and feeling like they have to push to get it all done. Yet taking the time out for a breather can improve the efficiency of your studying and help later on with remembering it all.

Colorado Daily



Author makes case for hip-hop and poetry

Nov. 13, 2011 – **Adam Bradley**, an associate professor of English at CU-Boulder, delivered the message that rap is pounding on the door of the literary establishment as part of what he called a “State of the Union of Hip-Hop 2011.” He was joined in Alderson Auditorium in the University of Kansas Union by a panel of guest speakers that included university faculty and staff as he discussed rap, writing a book and the structure of hip-hop. **Kansan.com**



University of Colorado Colorado Springs

UCCS prof's board game named in 'WIRED' magazine

Nov. 29, 2011 – The Khet 2.0 laser board game created in part by UCCS Professor **Michael Larson** won mention in the current issue of *WIRED* magazine because it tops a teenage Google Science Fair winner's holiday wish list. Science fair winner Lauren Hodge's list was published because the magazine considers her a teen with “geek cred.” Khet, the Egyptian word for fire, allows players to shoot lasers at opponents' game pieces, which include pharaohs, pyramids and scarabs. The game was created by three engineers, including Larson, who is director of Mind Studios at UCCS. The trio sells their game through their company, Innovention Toys. **Colorado Springs Business Journal**



UCCS initiative aims to engineer funds, businesses, jobs

Nov. 19, 2011 – The engineering school at UCCS has launched an initiative to turn research done by its faculty into marketable products and to create jobs for local residents by fostering startup companies. **R. “Dan” Dandapani**, dean of the UCCS College of Engineering and Applied Science, started Global Engineering Ventures in April. The initiative will help seek financial backing for startups that will turn technologies into marketable products, including national security and nanotechnology technologies, next-generation online learning and assistive technologies for disabled people. **The Gazette**



Teachers sue to protect pensions

Nov. 21, 2011 – An article co-authored by **Joshua Dunn**, associate professor of political science at UCCS, notes cuts in state spending coming with the economic downturn have spurred litigation. New Jersey has been ordered to restore funds for urban schools, and in Florida a class action suit brought by the state's teachers union seeks to protect state employee pensions from the budget knife, a fresh field of litigation. **Education Next**

University of Colorado Denver

Neanderthals died out from interbreeding with humans

Nov. 17, 2011 – Rather than being outwitted by the more numerous early humans, Neanderthals were equally as sophisticated and so impressed the humans they were seen as potential mates, scientists said. The interbreeding meant their own line died out, said CU Denver **Professor Julien Riel-Salvatore**, adding: “In many ways they were simply victims of their own success.” **Daily Mail**



Budgeting smartly for digital success

Nov. 22, 2011 – [Paul Teske](#), dean of the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver, writes that for decades, some education pundits have predicted that technology would radically alter and improve the delivery of educational services. Radio, Ed TV, and computers in classrooms were all examples that were highly touted in their time. And, while none of these has really had much impact on student learning, a cottage industry has also developed within academia to explain why – no changes to teaching approaches, use of a mass media, poor content, lack of training, etc. Teske said now, with widespread digital access and technologies, we might be on the cusp of a technological change in education that will be meaningful. **Ed News Colorado**



CU Denver receives Grand Challenges Explorations funding

Nov. 7, 2011 – CU Denver announced that it will receive funding through Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative created by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that enables researchers worldwide to test unorthodox ideas that address persistent health and development challenges. Assistant Professor [Zhiyong \(Jason\) Ren](#) in CU Denver's College of Engineering and Applied Science will pursue an innovative global health research project, "Direct Electricity from Fecal Sludge in Bioelectric Systems." Ren proposes to develop a low-cost and easy-to-operate bioelectric system that can directly convert human waste to usable electricity. If successful, the technology will provide a sustainable solution for communities in need of both sanitary waste disposal and an energy supply. **Bio-medicine.org**



University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Bone-density drugs linked to increased fracture risk

Nov. 7, 2011 – Millions of women take bone-strengthening supplements such as Fosamax, Actonel, Boniva and Reclast to prevent osteoporosis, but medical experts say they can cause a dangerous side effect in some patients. [Sheryl Vondracek](#), an associate professor at the CU Department of Clinical Pharmacy, said bone density drugs can weaken the bones they are designed to strengthen. "(They can cause) osteoporosis of the jaw that has been reported with longer term use and atypical fractures, which are fractures of the femur, or thigh bone," Vondracek says. **CW2**



Impaired cognition in elderly affects postoperative outcomes

Nov. 14, 2011 – Impaired cognition among older adults who undergo elective surgery is significantly associated with adverse postoperative outcomes, including increased complications, length of stay, and long-term mortality, results from a study showed. In the first study of its kind, lead investigator [Thomas N. Robinson](#), assistant professor of surgery in the CU School of Medicine, and his associates prospectively evaluated 186 adults aged 65 and older who underwent an elective operation requiring postoperative ICU admission. **Internal Medicine News**



Arginine could boost brain cancer vaccine success

Nov. 23, 2011 – CU Cancer Center researchers have discovered that arginine, an amino acid that's available over the counter, could re-energize cancer-fighting T-cells that are suppressed in patients with glioblastoma brain cancer. That could give the body an additional boost needed to fight the cancer. "Our overall goal is to improve the efficacy of immunotherapy for glioblastoma," said [Allen Waziri](#), assistant professor of neurosurgery, on the CU Cancer Center blog. "It's likely that this will require a two-stage approach, including stimulation of the immune system with something like a tumor vaccine while simultaneously targeting the suppressive effects of tumors on the immune system." **Bioportfolio.com**

