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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2019



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[How artificial intelligence can tackle climate change](#)

National Geographic

(July 18, 2019) -- Artificial Intelligence can unlock new insights from the massive amounts of complex climate simulations generated by the field of climate modeling. Of the dozens of models that have come into existence, all look at data regarding atmosphere, oceans, land, cryosphere or ice. Yet, even with agreement on basic scientific assumptions, [Claire Monteleoni](#), a computer science professor at CU Boulder, said that while the models generally agree in the short term, differences emerge when it comes to long-term forecasts.



[Here's what we thought we knew about the moon before Apollo 11](#)

Space

(July 17, 2019) – “There was real concern that our lunar landers would sink into the surface because the material was so fluffy,” said [Paul Hayne](#), assistant professor at the Department of Astrophysical and Planetary Sciences at CU Boulder. This was not merely an irrational fear; rather, it was based on observations from Earth that showed the surface of the moon to be quite fluffy. “What they didn't know was that layer of fluffy material was not very deep,” Hayne added. “So, fortunately, nobody sunk into the moon, and that misconception was put to bed.”

Also:

- [Boulder claims strong ties to first manned moon landing](#), Daily Camera, July 13
- [Robots to install telescopes to peer into cosmos from the moon](#), Reuters, July 15



[Weird 'praying monk' ice daggers host life in one of Earth's highest, most extreme environments](#)

Newsweek

(July 8, 2019) -- Researchers traveled to Chile's Volcán Lullailaco, where nieves penitentes form, to study the frozen daggers.

"This is a very remote area that's difficult to access," said study co-author [Steve Schmidt](#). The penitente fields, found at an elevation of over 16,000 feet, have red ice patches—a sign that microscopic life exists in the ice. Analysis revealed the patches contained a community of snow algae that is closely related to other alpine and polar environments.

Also: [This mountaineering mouse is the world's highest-dwelling mammal](#), National Geographic, July 22



[Give Neanderthals some credit: They discovered glue, CU researcher finds](#)

7 News

(June 26, 2019) -- A new study co-published this month by CU Boulder researcher [Paola Villa](#) found evidence that our pre-Homo sapien cousins collected resin off pine trees to stick tools and handles together. Basically, they invented glue, or at least the concept of it.

"We continue to find evidence that the Neanderthals were not inferior primitives but were quite capable of doing things that have traditionally only been attributed to modern humans," Villa said.



[New brain-inspired computer can tell a sad image from a happy one](#)

Interesting Engineering

(July 27, 2019) – “Machine learning technology is getting really good at recognizing the content of images -- of deciphering what kind of object it is,” said senior author [Tor Wager](#), who worked on the study while a professor of psychology and neuroscience at CU Boulder.

“We wanted to ask: Could it do the same with emotions? The answer is yes.” The experiment highlights that what we see could have a more severe impact on our emotions than we might think.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[Report shows more millennials dying from drugs, drinking and suicide](#)

KOAA

(June 28, 2019) -- Experts with UCCS' Wellness Center said they see students dealing with depression, anxiety, substance use and abuse, and suicidal thoughts.

“As stress and demand increases and support and access to resources does not also increase at the same rate, that’s where we see distress and pain,” said UCCS Mental Health Therapist [Jesie Steffes](#). In addition to having resources, like those provided at the Wellness Center, a

sense of community and belonging is very important for mental health.



[What parts of Colorado see the most lightning?](#)

The Denver Post

(July 22, 2019) -- The April study, conducted by scientists from the National Weather Service in Pueblo and UCCS, outlines Denver's southern and western suburbs as part of the lightning capital of Colorado. The San Juan Mountains in southwestern Colorado typically see the most lightning in the western half of the state, while Colorado's plains are also fairly active, particularly during the spring months.



[Dozens of new citizens sworn in at Library 21c in Colorado Springs](#)

KKTV

(July 22, 2019) -- [Fernando Feliu Moggi](#) recently decided to pursue citizenship. Now that he's a citizen, he's eager to join the community and contribute more to the nation.

"I realized that the kind of opportunity, the kind of life, the kind of ideals that this country represents are really what I wanted to be about," said Moggi, a 17-year resident of Colorado Springs and Spanish and humanities professor at UCCS.



[Thriving, not surviving: Chancellor Venkat Reddy talks on creating a culture of well-being](#)

Healthy Campus Executive Update

Chancellor [Venkat Reddy](#) talks about the importance of student well-being and how UCCS is committed to nurturing a culture of wellness that permeates the entire UCCS community and is a part of the university's strategic plan.

“Mental health has been one of the highest priorities in my two years as chancellor of UCCS,” Reddy said. “In fact, it’s an issue that has taken precedence for each of the four CU chancellors, and we’re addressing it at the system level.”



[Q&A: UCCS creates a seamless indoor-outdoor Wi-Fi experience](#)

EdTech

(July 17, 2019) -- [Cody Ensanian](#), a wireless network technician at UCCS, talks about the unexpected challenges that come with a major Wi-Fi upgrade outdoors.

“We’d really been wanting to increase the coverage because there’s plenty of opportunity for learning, teaching and studying outdoors,” he said. “Wireless networks are becoming more and more of an expectation from everyone on campus, which is another good reason

that we wanted to extend beyond the insides of our buildings.”



[‘Crawl’ could usher in a new wave of climate change horror films](#)

Vice

(July 17, 2019) -- It was the early 1970s, Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring* had become a New York Times bestseller, and Americans were reckoning with the way that pesticides were decimating plants and animals.

“There was this idea that we’ve wrought all this damage upon the natural world and that one day, the natural world is going to turn on us,” said [Andrew Scahill](#), an assistant professor of film studies at CU Denver. “And this anxiety had a strong influence on an emerging subgenre of horror that I like to call the ‘Nature’s Revenge’ film.”



[Do Colorado’s kindergarteners need more play in the classroom?](#)

5280

(August) -- Since Gov. Jared Polis signed the \$175 million full-day kindergarten bill into law in May, prominent early education experts have been pushing to usher in even

more shifts in the way the Centennial State educates its children.

“People are reflecting on kindergarten planning a lot right now,” says [Rebecca Kantor](#), dean of CU Denver’s School of Education and Human Development. “It’s the perfect time to consider curriculum.”



[“There’s speculators buying up houses:” Denver’s East Colfax braces for transit, density and displacement](#)

The Denver Post

(July 22, 2019) -- East Colfax is “one of the most vulnerable neighborhoods to gentrification in the region,” according to [Jeremy Németh](#), a CU Denver researcher who modeled economic changes in Denver. It will be one of the greatest challenges of Mayor Michael Hancock’s final term: Can the city improve living conditions and create a new transit line without losing an affordable housing refuge?

Also: [Predicting gentrification: CU Denver research model predicts neighborhoods likely to gentrify](#), 7 News, July 29



[CU Denver helps Pentagon battle the threat posed by deepfakes](#)

CBS 4

(July 17, 2019) -- CU Denver is hoping to develop automated techniques that can be used on social media platforms to ferret out the fake videos before they have real consequences.

“It could create protests, riots, incite World War III. By the time forensic scientists get it and debunk that video, those ill effects could have already occurred,” said [Jeff Smith](#), director of the National Center for Media Forensics.



[Unnecessary ambulance calls in NYC spiked after Obamacare](#)

U.S. News and World Report

(June 28, 2019) – “Medicaid patients in particular have incredibly low out-of-pocket responsibility for ambulances,” said study author [Andrew Friedson](#), an assistant professor of economics at CU Denver. “The most an ambulance ride covered under Medicaid costs the patient [is] \$3. If there’s a low-cost alternative to Uber to get to the hospital, you’re going to take it.”



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[CU study suggests women living near oil and gas wells are more likely to have children with heart defects](#)

Fox 31

(July 18, 2019) -- A new study from the CU Anschutz Medical Campus hits on a heated debate in Colorado over oil and gas production. The highlights suggest mothers living in areas with the most intense levels of oil and gas well activity were about 40-70% more likely to have children with congenital heart defects.

“This may be something people may want to consider in the decisions they are making,” said the study’s senior author [Lisa McKenzie](#) of the Colorado School of Public Health.



[Driving while high: A new study wants to show the effects of marijuana impairment on driving](#)

WXYZ Detroit

(July 24, 2019) -- “There’s been increasing concern about the potential of public health impacts of people using cannabis while they drive or shortly after,” said [Michael Kosnett](#) of the Colorado School of Public Health.

The study tests three focus groups: daily smokers, occasional smokers and non-smokers as they go through tests measuring reaction times, hand-eye coordination and short-term memory. More than a year into the study,

the team has hit an unexpected road block: they can't seem to find occasional smokers.



[How film in medical school makes better doctors](#)

WUWM (Audio)

(July 24, 2019) -- [Tess Jones](#) uses film in her work. Jones is the director of the arts and humanities program at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Jones explained why film in medical school is so effective: "I think it gives students an opportunity to see how cultural representations — film, literature, the visual arts — actually do impact the way we think about doctors and patients."



[When doctors dismiss your symptoms as perimenopause](#)

Prevention

(July 23, 2019) -- "Sometimes there is a tendency to over-attribute everything to the onset of menopause," says [Nanette Santoro](#), chair of obstetrics and gynecology CU School of Medicine. Since perimenopause can last years, if your doctor seems to feel that perimenopause explains everything, she says, "You should be suspicious."



[Could altitude partially explain suicide and mental health issues in the mountain west?](#)

KUNC

(July 16, 2019) -- [Emmy Betz](#), an emergency physician and researcher at the CU School of Medicine, doesn't dispute that there's something going on with altitude.

"There clearly are differences in suicide rates by altitude and that's a trend that has been seen and documented over a number of years," said Betz. "The question is, is it the altitude alone? Or is it something else? Or, most likely, I think it's a mix of contributing factors."

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