

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).

FOCUS ON CU FACULTY



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2017

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



[Game design class births survival quest with magic mushrooms, rabid raccoons, cannibalism](#)

Daily Camera

(Nov. 26, 2017) -- On a Thursday evening, three Boulderites spent the night battling rampaging packs of weasels, high winds and madness on an island where the trio was battling to survive a plane crash.

Ravine is the first game to go commercial from CU's game design course. It launched two years ago as part of the master of engineering degree program in the ATLAS institute. Professor [Matthew Bethancourt](#) leads the class and enrollees are required to develop a full-fledged analog game for their final project.



[As a conspiracy theory video spread after Texas shooting, YouTube works to tweak its algorithm](#)

Washington Post

(Nov. 7, 2017) -- "There is no denying that the dominance of social media in providing news to people now has made it way, way easier to spread misinformation," said [Casey Fiesler](#), a professor of information science at CU Boulder. But a lot of people want to have what they already think verified. "And if that's the case, it doesn't matter what order an algorithm might show you search results in. If you just want your existing opinions or thoughts to be verified, then you are not going to care what the algorithm thinks is more valid."



[Living with oil and gas - an inside energy podcast special](#)

KUNC

(Nov. 29, 2017) -- [Joe Ryan](#), an environmental engineer at CU Boulder, is working with a team called AirWaterGas to gather more data on energy development, including setbacks. His main issue is that the state's setback distance isn't based on any sort of scientific analysis.

"We're still heating our homes with fossil fuels, almost everybody. We're still generating a lot of electricity with fossil fuels. We're still driving around and consuming fossil fuels," Ryan said. "So, we're making choices that create a demand for this activity that's now hitting us in our neighborhoods and disrupting lives, potentially affecting public health. How much of that are we willing to accept?"



[The Keystone XL Pipeline wins a battle, but faces a new war](#)

The Atlantic

(Nov. 20, 2017) -- While Nebraska commissioners approved Keystone XL, they also ordered that the pipeline take an alternate route through the state. [Sarah Krakoff](#), a professor of natural-resources law, agreed that the pipeline's new route would probably complicate its completion.

"I think, at a minimum, this slows things down a bit compared to a straight-up approval. Given the recent massive spill in South Dakota, this might buy time to galvanize opposition," she said.



[CU prof and travel buddy Bill Nye trek to Greenland for climate change documentary](#)

Colorado Public Radio

(Nov. 17, 2017) -- Bill Nye visited an ice core extraction site and the glaciers in Greenland with CU Boulder professor and climatologist [Jim White](#). White said it's important to show viewers what's happening far away, since the impact can be felt right here in Colorado. Snowboarders and skiers, in particular, are sensitive to the changing climate. "They are very concerned about the fact that we've lost a couple of weeks in the fall, and we lost a couple of weeks in

the spring to Colorado's ski season," White said. "We're taking away both money and fun."



Lori Bergen, dean of CU's media college, named to Poynter Institute's board of trustees

Daily Camera

(Nov. 15, 2017) -- [Lori Bergen](#), dean of the College of Media, Communication and Information, has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Poynter Institute, a journalism education organization.

"Global challenges in media and technology require new approaches to maintaining journalism's essential role in democracy," Bergen said. "Poynter is all about the future of journalism and is positioned to take the profession forward in new directions."



Boston Dynamics delivers robodog as man's new best friend

Boston Herald

(Nov. 15, 2017) -- [Nikolaus Correll](#), a robotics expert at CU Boulder, said devices such as SpotMini will make a major leap forward only when they integrate artificial intelligence. But Correll also said people are often afraid of life-like robots. He cited the so-called "Uncanny Valley Effect," which describes a user's revulsion toward electronic devices that appear animal-like or human, but seem off.



CU Boulder's Nick Schneider lands prestigious NASA honor

Daily Camera

(Nov. 10, 2017) -- Professor [Nick Schneider](#) has been awarded NASA's Exceptional Scientific Achievement Medal for his contributions to the success of the MAVEN mission now orbiting Mars. A research associate at CU's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics, Schneider is the lead scientist on CU's Imaging Ultraviolet Spectrograph, part of the payload on NASA's MAVEN spacecraft, which has been orbiting at Mars since 2014.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



[Old tensions come to life as medieval Spanish synagogue goes online](#)

Times of Israel

(Nov. 27, 2017) -- Professor [Roger Louis Martinez Davila](#) addresses his class at the Museo del Transito — a 14th-century synagogue, now museum, in the historic Spanish city of Toledo. But his students are not inside with him: They are watching via a video that's part of his massive open online course, or MOOC, *Deciphering Secrets: Unlocking the Manuscripts of Medieval Toledo*.

In medieval Spain, Muslims, Christians and Jews lived side by side before the Reconquista and the Inquisition. It's a subject that Martinez, a CU Colorado Springs history professor, has been exploring online since 2014 with his series of MOOCs.



[El Paso County changing perception against taxes](#)

KRDO

(Nov. 8, 2017) -- Election Day results show the county's long-held perception of being a strong anti-tax community appears to be changing. But [Josh Dunn](#), a political science professor at UCCS, downplayed the apparent trend.

"Certainly, there's that anti-tax element in the community," he said. "The anti-tax perception isn't totally undeserved, but I think it has been overstated. I don't think voters need to worry about an increase in ballot questions asking for more money."



[Website serves up information on job market in Colorado Springs area](#)

The Gazette

(Nov. 28, 2017) -- [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the UCCS Economic Forum, led the effort to develop the site after a panel discussion on workforce issues during the forum's annual economic presentation. The working group also included representatives from the workforce center, the city of Colorado Springs, El Paso County, Pikes Peak Community College, the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce and EDC, the Pikes Peak Small Business Development Center and Harrison School District 2.



[Colorado Springs professor who focuses on race and religion wins prestigious award](#)

Colorado Springs Gazette

(Nov. 27, 2017) -- When you combine the American propensity toward religiosity with the nation's struggles with slavery and segregation, you get an idea of the powerful union of religion and race. It's a relationship [Paul Harvey](#) finds fascinating and has made his life's work. Known as one of the country's early pioneers of the study of religion and race in American history, Harvey has been teaching college classes at UCCS for more than two decades.



[UCCS' Aging Center helps families develop tools and 'build back'](#)

Colorado Springs Independent

(Nov. 29, 2017) -- Founded in 1999, the Aging Center provides mental health services for adults 55 and older as well as support services for their loved ones and caregivers.

The center is the only local community mental health provider serving this specific population. And according to director [Sara Qualls](#), Ph.D., who has been with the program since it began, it addresses issues including eating disorders, cognitive impairment, personality disorders, grief and hoarding. The most common issues their clients seek help with are depression or anxiety, and sometimes both.



[Net neutrality explained ahead of FCC vote](#)

KOAA

(Nov. 29, 2017) -- The plan would lift rules that stop internet service providers from slowing some web traffic and create so-called paid internet fast lanes.

"If we don't have net neutrality, Amazon is able to talk to 'road' people and say here's a lot of extra money, I just want to use the 'road,'" said [Morgan Shepherd](#), a UCCS professor of information systems. Shepherd says this is something that will work in favor of the bigger internet service providers such as Verizon, AT&T and Comcast.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER



[Think those slot homes in Denver are ugly? You're not alone](#)

9 News

(Nov. 10, 2017) -- "This doesn't look like Denver," said [Christine Franck](#), a researcher at CU Denver who began researching slot homes after she moved to Denver in 2012. "Large blank facades that are unarticulated, that don't have openings; they produce a fear response in people. It creates a real anxiety."

Also:

- [How can we fix the city's worsening architecture?](#) 5280, December
- [7 commercial developments to watch in 2018](#), 5280, December



[Hurricane devastation in Puerto Rico impacts medical supplies in Colorado](#)

KDVR

(Nov. 9, 2017) – Seventy percent of Puerto Rico's exports are pharmaceutical materials. Hospitals on the mainland rely on the island for a big chunk of its pharmacy supplies, including IV bags and fluids.

"A lot of our things are made in places that we don't even think about," CU Denver assistant economics professor [Andrew Friedson](#) said. "This industry cluster could start to move out of Puerto Rico to places that are less susceptible to supply chain disruptions."



[Lynxgiving: A concert for Las Vegas shooting victims' families](#)

Westword

(Nov. 14, 2017) -- A group of CU Denver students, enrolled in the Music Entertainment Industry Studies program and taking a concert and venue promotion class, chose to do something to support the Las Vegas shooting victims' families. Under the guidance of professor [Chris Daniels](#), the students organized a concert, called Lynxgiving, which took place at Herman's Hideaway on Thursday, Nov. 16, to raise money through ticket sales, raffles and merchandise sales.



[Texas church shooting](#)

Fox 31

(Nov. 6, 2017) – Despite having only 5 percent of the world’s population, the U.S. has more than one-third of the world’s mass shootings. [Jordan Hill](#), a CU Denver instructor who researches mass shootings, explains the link between American mass shootings and males with a history of domestic violence.

“It’s always men that do it,” Hill said. “Always.”



[Denver is one of the first U.S. cities to require green roofs — so what happens now?](#)

Denverite

(Nov. 9, 2017) -- [Leila Tolderlund](#), an assistant professor in CU Denver’s College of Architecture and Planning, said there’s really nothing to fear about green roofs. Tolderlund is an expert on green roofs and the author of the EPA’s design guidelines and maintenance manual for green roofs in the semi-arid and arid West.

“There really are a lot of pre-made modular green roof systems that meet the minimum requirements,” she said. “There is no need for anxiety.”

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



[For Native Americans, fighting diabetes means fighting for their fair share of health care funds](#)

Boulder Weekly

(Nov. 22, 2017) -- [Spero Manson](#), a Chippewa from Turtle Mountain Reservation and the research director at CU Anschutz’s Center for American Indian and Alaska Native Health, said that even his colleagues within the program aren’t aware of all the issues that plague Native communities.

“They’re stunned by the extent of discrimination that our people experience,” Manson says. “It’s just not even on the radar screen for them. These are colleagues whom I work with who are studying these matters. Think about how that multiplies when you go out into the broader community.”



Study: For patients with heart failure, little guidance as death nears

The New York Times

(Nov. 6, 2017) –There are no widely accepted guidelines for dealing with patients who are living longer with heart faculty as they near death.

“Getting shocks at the end of life is not really helping patients live longer or better,” said [Larry Allen](#), a heart failure specialist at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and an author of the study.



Physicians may be biased against research from poor nations

Reuters

(Nov. 15, 2017) -- [David Kuwayama](#), a vascular surgeon and professor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, said a recent study clearly illustrates the inherent biases that experts in academic medicine share when it comes to devaluing research from outside of the U.S. and Europe.

“If a journal publishes a groundbreaking paper from a low-income country, but we in the Western world are unwilling to value it, then we are depriving both ourselves and our patients of valuable, maybe even life-saving, medical knowledge,” he said.



Even easy exercise is linked to a longer life

Consumer Reports

If you're looking to add activity to your day, start by setting a specific goal, whether it's to stand for 10 minutes an hour or walk around the block a few times a day, suggests geriatrician [Rebecca Boxer](#), M.D., an associate professor of medicine at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.



Research underway to detect diabetes in children before it develops

7 News

(Nov. 14, 2017) -- Researchers at the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes are screening thousands of children using blood samples. They're looking for autoantibodies associated with Type 1 diabetes to

determine if a child will develop the disease.

“It just suggests that they are an increased risk for developing diabetes over the next five to 10 years,” said [Cristy Geno Rasmussen](#), M.D., the program manager for the Autoimmunity Screening for Kids (ASK).



[Concussion laws work at lowering head injury risk for young athletes, CU study finds](#)

The Denver Post

(Nov. 14, 2017) -- Most of the new laws approved in the past decade — including in Colorado — require youth-sports coaches to remove athletes from play if they show signs of a concussion and to prevent the athletes from returning to play until they are cleared by a doctor. [Dawn Comstock](#), a researcher at the CU School of Public Health, said the study suggests that athletes who sit out until they fully recover from a concussion are less likely to suffer a new concussion when they return to competition.

University of Colorado | Focus on CU Faculty
www.cu.edu/focus-on-faculty | cunews@cu.edu
1800 Grant Street, Suite 800, Denver CO, 80203