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# FOCUS ON FACULTY

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER 2019



University of Colorado **Boulder**



### [CU Boulder scientist honored with asteroid named for him](#)

#### Daily Camera

(Nov. 26, 2019) -- The International Astronomical Union recently announced that it would honor CU Boulder scientist and researcher [Paul Sánchez](#) by renaming asteroid 2000 VH57 — spanning about three miles — in his honor.

Sánchez's research includes rubble pile asteroids, or asteroids that are not one large piece of rock, but many pieces held together.



## [Technology, the law, college costs and our culture have made academic stress much worse for teens](#)

**Colorado Public Radio**

(Nov. 20, 2019) -- There is something about the adolescent brain that makes teens particularly vulnerable to high-stakes testing. It is still developing prospection, the ability to envision oneself in the future, said CU Boulder clinical psychologist and researcher [Roselinde Kaiser](#).

“If you can’t imagine a life after failing this test, then, of course, you’re going to be incredibly anxious about the test itself,” Kaiser said.



## [What happens when the roof of the world melts?](#)

**National Geographic**

(Nov. 14, 2019) -- The ice that has long defined South Asia’s mountain ranges is dissolving into massive new lakes, raising the specter of catastrophic flooding.

“It’s all happening much faster than we expected it to even five or 10 years ago,” said [Alton Byers](#), a National Geographic explorer and mountain geographer at CU Boulder.



## [Down on the body farm: Unlocking the forensic secrets of decaying corpses](#)

**Undark**

(Nov. 11, 2019) -- [Jessica Metcalf](#), a microbial ecologist at CU Boulder, has spent several years plotting the macabre ebb and flow of microbes in hopes of developing a new forensic tool. She calls it a “microbial clock,” and it’s made from groupings of species that rise and fall in complex, yet predictable ways over time.

“As different nutrients become available, different microbes flourish, so you see different profiles at different time periods,” she explained. “An investigator can collect the microbes, and we can match them to a model based on experiments.”



## [Should you let your kids play football? Findings from a new CU study may surprise you](#)

**The Denver Post**

(Nov. 8, 2019) -- A new study from CU Boulder found no link between youth contact sports and future brain and mental health problems, a finding that has sparked criticism in some scientific circles and support in others.

“We talk about football and contact sports as all risk and no reward,” [Adam Bohr](#), the study’s lead author and a CU postdoctoral researcher, told The Denver Post. “We

want to make sure the benefits of sports are weighted as heavily as risks are.”



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



## [Colorado Creatives: Ben Kinsley and Jessica Langley](#)

**Westword**

(Nov. 4, 2019) -- [Ben Kinsley](#) and Jessica Langley might be a gift from the heavens to Colorado’s art community since landing in Colorado Springs, where Kinsley now teaches at UCCS. Kinsley’s artistic interests have always been around the exploration of context and situating/creating art experiences outside of traditional art venues.



## [Does Colin Kaepernick still need football?](#)

**The New York Times**

(Nov. 14, 2019) -- “Going back into the cage, so to speak, is a big decision,” said [Jay Coakley](#), a sports sociologist at UCCS.

“I think that many of us who understand where athletes are coming from, the love of their sport and the desire to play, often supersedes other considerations.”



## [Colorado Springs incomes continue losing ground at same time cost of living is rising](#)

**The Gazette**

(Nov. 14, 2019) -- “If the cost of living is above the national average and wages are just 89% of the national average, that is a problem. You are losing purchasing power,” said [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the UCCS Economic Forum. “If we want to sustain economic growth, we have to be able to attract labor and this makes it more difficult to attract and retain labor.”



## ['Ugly Lies the Bone' tells the story of an injured veteran at UCCS](#)

**The Gazette**

(Nov. 15, 2019) -- “Ugly Lies the Bone” isn’t the most established play or the easiest to pull off. But [Max Shulman](#), an assistant professor of theater at UCCS, wanted to give it a go anyway.

The 2015 play is centered on an Army veteran named Jess who returns home from Afghanistan after being discharged.



## [Gunfight: Firearms, money and politics](#)

**The Gazette**

Does the money affect how politicians vote? The answer is no, according to [Josh Dunn](#), a political professor at UCCS.

“Interest groups give to officeholders who already agree with them,” said Dunn. “There’s very little evidence to indicate they’re buying votes. It’s not really shaping legislative behavior.”

Also: [360° Perspective: Impeachment Inquiry](#), KOAA, Nov. 21



University of Colorado **Denver**



## [A day after resigning as sheriff, Patrick Firman quietly got a job with the Hancock administration](#)

**Denverite**

(Nov. 15, 2019) -- [Mary Dodge](#), a criminology professor at CU Denver, called the move “cronyism.”

“I don’t know him so I don’t want to say terrible things about anyone, but he obviously lacked a great deal of leadership skills,” Dodge said. Patrick Firman is no

longer in a leadership position, but Dodge said that doesn't make a difference.

Also: [Police release body camera video from Aurora officer-involved shooting](#), Fox 31, Nov. 11



## [Colorado has 71 census tracts where high rates of mental health issues and high housing costs overlap](#)

**The Colorado Independent**

(Nov. 18, 2019) -- Researchers seeking to better understand where the lack of affordable housing intersects with mental health needs in Colorado have for the first time mapped data for both, zeroing in on the areas where needs overlap.

The interactive map will be used by public officials and lawmakers to target services and funding, according to researcher [Ivan Ramirez](#), a visiting assistant professor CU Denver.



## [Half their community burned in the Woolsey fire. Recovery is wreaking its own misery](#)

**Los Angeles Times**

(Nov. 8, 2019) -- "Privately owned mobile home parks are one of our biggest sources of affordable housing, but

they're also one of the most insecure," said [Esther Sullivan](#), an assistant professor of sociology at CU Denver and an expert in mobile home parks. "Eighty percent of households in parks own the unit, but only 14% own the land underneath. You're living with insecurity inscribed into the land underneath you."



## [Controversial 'Supermax' prison known for extreme isolation](#)

**CGTN America**

(Nov. 1, 2019) – It's known as Supermax: the most-secure federal prison in the United States. Located in Colorado, it houses some of the world's most notorious criminals, including Mexican drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman.

"The studies that have been done show that it is tremendous, irreparable damage to these people psychologically," said criminal justice expert [Mark Pogrebin](#), professor in the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver. Pogrebin and others said ADX was built with control and punishment in mind, not rehabilitation, even though many inmates there are eventually released.



## [Making just one change to your diet benefits you, animals, and the planet](#)

**Inverse**

(Nov. 22, 2019) -- [Laura Scherer](#), assistant professor at CU Denver, said that eating less meat doesn't necessarily mean you're helping animals lead better lives. For example, eating less beef but more eggs might benefit the environment — especially when it comes to climate change — but it isn't so great for animal welfare. Only by cutting down on animal products as a whole can people meet all three goals at once, the study suggests.



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



## [For your heart, eat fish or take pills?](#)

**WAMU (NPR)**

(Nov. 25, 2019) -- In addition to delivering a higher dose, medical experts say a prescription formulation of fish oil may be more reliable than a dietary supplement.

“Pharmaceutical drugs are regulated by the FDA, the manufacturing has to meet high standards, so you can be sure that when you take it you are getting the amount listed on the label it is safe and free of impurities,” said [Cecilia Low Wang](#), a member of the FDA advisory panel and a professor of medicine at the CU School of Medicine.



## [The benefits of nurse visits for moms, children](#)

**U.S. News and World Report**

(Nov. 20, 2019) -- The nation's premier nurse home-visiting program for first-time mothers led to lower public spending and better cognitive outcomes for their children at the time they reached adulthood, according to a pair of new studies published in the journal Pediatrics.

"It's rare for studies of early invention programs to examine early-intervention effects over an 18-year period," said [David Olds](#), a pediatrics professor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.



## [Veteran who suffered traumatic brain injury now helps others with recovery](#)

**CBS 4**

(Nov. 11, 2019) – Retired Staff Sgt. [Spencer Milo](#), a veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who suffered two traumatic brain injuries while overseas, now serves as a resource for others trying to recover from the same experience at the Marcus Institute for Brain Health at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

"Getting that second injury got me to where I am today," Milo said. "Things happen for a reason."



## [Should you screen your child for celiac disease?](#)

### **Parenting**

(Nov. 4, 2019) -- Because symptoms can be vague or families might not know if they have risk factors, some experts have argued that testing all kids for celiac antibodies is best. [Marian Rewers](#), a pediatric endocrinologist at the CU School of Medicine, regularly sees patients who, in his mind, could have benefited from universal screening.

One little girl was skinny with high blood sugar; another was in the 97th percentile for height and weight but had chronic vomiting; and another boy was overweight with psychological symptoms — all three turned out to have undiagnosed celiac disease.



## [Problem Solvers Investigation: Colorado paramedics injecting sedative ketamine into agitated patients](#)

### **Fox 31**

(Nov. 21, 2019) -- “It’s difficult to determine what role ketamine played in this particular patient. The biggest issue was that he was intoxicated,” said [Andrew Monte](#), an associate professor of emergency medicine and medical toxicology at the CU School of Medicine, who reviewed the medical records for FOX31.

“He ended up requiring medications in order to sedate him and yes, that contributed to his care. But I think from everything that I looked at, it seemed like he was a danger to himself and others.”

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