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FOCUS ON FACULTY

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2019



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Students take a front-line role in school shootings](#)

The New York Times

(May 9, 2019) -- What academics who study school violence have learned from their research is that what matters most is that the drills do not traumatize children, said [Beverly Kingston](#), the director of the Center for the Study and the Prevention of Violence at CU Boulder.

“It matters the way the training is done and how it’s done,” Kingston said. “It can either add to the trauma or reduce the trauma. We always want to do it in ways that reduce the trauma.”



[Science just moved a step closer to making a stress vaccine from bacteria](#)

Forbes

(May 30, 2019) -- In 2018, a research team led by [Christopher Lowry](#), integrative physiology professor at CU Boulder, published a study showing that a soil-based bacterium called *Mycobacterium vaccae* decreased stressful reactions in mice. Fast-forward to 2019 and a new study authored by Lowry and his team has identified and isolated a fatty acid (aka lipid) in the bacterium that appears responsible for the effects. Going a step further, the team was also able to chemically synthesize the lipid to deconstruct how it interacts with immune cells.



[New words help bring back native languages](#)

Voice of America

(May 12, 2019) -- Some tribes would rather not borrow, said [James Andrew Cowell](#), a linguist at CU Boulder. Cowell is interested in keeping Arapaho culture and the structure of the language unbroken. He gives an example: In Arapaho, the word for computer translates as 'It knows everything.' And there is also a way to turn verbs into nouns. Cowell said, "So, 'I am typing on the 'it knows everything' means 'I am typing on the computer.'"



[On Mars, organics are hard to find](#)

Air & Space

(May 17, 2019) -- Often a paradigm literally blinds researchers to the presence of anomalies, according to a new paper by [Carol Cleland](#), director of the Center for Origins at CU Boulder. She says instead of trying to come up with a universal definition of life – which cannot be done when we only know the kind that exists on Earth – we should look for phenomena that “shouldn’t be there” given our current Earth-centric understanding of biological and non-biological processes. Only that way can we make leaps in understanding, and actually have a chance of finding life as we don’t know it, she said.



[Researchers want to make antibiotics more effective](#)

KSAT

(May 7, 2019) – “The days when you can give a patient an antibiotic and you were pretty darn sure it was going to work are pretty much gone,” said [Corrie Detweiler](#), a microbiologist at CU Boulder. Bacterial infections that could once easily be cured now have potential to kill. Each year, 23,000 Americans die from an antibiotic-resistant infection. Detweiler’s team wants to make antibiotics more effective. It searched through 14,000 compounds and found three that show promise.





[Author examines how lands were converted to wildlife refuge](#)

The Colorado Sun

(May 24, 2019) -- [David Havlick](#) 's field work sent him all over the world -- including pedaling through central Europe and researching militarized sites in Japan. A professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at UCCS. Havlick is the author of "No Place Distant: Roads and Motorized Recreation on America's Public Lands" and co-editor of "Restoring Layered Landscapes: History, Ecology, and Culture."



[UCCS' Women's and Ethnic Studies program spared amid debate](#)

The Gazette

(May 26, 2019) -- Amid a national debate over academic freedom, inclusion and whether conservative voices are unwelcome on college campuses, the Women's and Ethnic Studies degree program at UCCS has been spared from being diminished.

"People are seeing the need for women's and ethnic studies," said [Stephany Rose Spaulding](#), director of UCCS' WEST Department. "The program is definitely safe."



[Thousands of legal, highly skilled immigrants, mostly women, could lose the right to work](#)

Colorado Springs Independent

(May 14, 2019) -- [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the UCCS Economic Forum, said ending H-4 EAD visa doesn't make sense for the current U.S. and local economy. "Mostly because of the rapid technological changes that have happened in the last 20 years or so, we're just simply not able to produce enough [American] graduates in the highest demand occupations," she said.

Also:

- [Southern Colorado stores impacted by tariffs](#), Fox 21, May 23
- [Colorado Springs area unemployment rate falls to 10-month low of 3.9%](#), The Gazette, May 29,



[Electoral vs. popular vote: Is it constitutional?](#)

KRDO

(May 20, 2019) – As of the March 15 signing of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, Colorado's nine electors could now vote for the presidential candidate who receives the most votes on the national stage -- regardless of how Colorado voters were swayed. But the law would only go into effect when enough states with

enough electors -- 270 -- also join in.

“This clearly violates the Constitution,” said UCCS political science professor [Josh Dunn](#). “In Article 1, Section 10, there’s something called the Compact’s Clause. What it says is that states can’t enter into any compact with each other unless they are approved by Congress.” Dunn is confident that, if enough states join the compact, it will eventually land at the Supreme Court to determine its constitutionality.



University of Colorado **Denver**



[Why symbols aren't forever](#)

Sapiens

We build statues, then later deface or demolish them, said [Jamie Hodgkins](#), assistant professor of anthropology at CU Denver. Archaeology is often assumed to be limited to the realm of the ancients. However, the point of archaeology is not to dig up static moments in time from long ago but to use material items to track the ebbs and flows of human culture: to show how things change, how values change, she said.



[Education may be key to a healthier, wealthier U.S.](#)

University Herald

(April 29, 2019) – “We often think about health insurance access or medical procedures, like mammography or colonoscopy, as the most important drivers of health,” said study co-author [Patrick Krueger](#), associate professor in the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences at CU Denver. “But education could be a more substantial contributor to longevity than medical care. Policy makers seldom act on that evidence, though, because researchers haven’t demonstrated the value of education for longer, healthier lives in terms of dollars and cents.”



[Residents see trailer parks as home. Investors see them as cash cows.](#)

Huffpost

(May 22, 2019) -- While they provide affordable housing to many Americans, mobile homes continue to face stigma and marginalization. Mobile home parks are often seen as unsightly, derelict places to live, where drugs, violence and poverty are common. As a result, they are largely kept out of mind and out of sight, said [Esther Sullivan](#), a professor of sociology at CU Denver and the author of “Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place.”



[Rural Colorado faces a teacher shortage. University of Colorado Denver has plans to help.](#)

Chalkbeat

(May 22, 2019) – “Many of our students are working students with really deep roots in the community,” said [Barbara Seidl](#), associate dean for teacher education and undergraduate experiences at CU Denver. “We believe that people who are from a rural community are more likely to stay and teach and lead across an entire career. We hope it will have a significant impact.”



[Carman: We have to overcome our selfish gene – or be willing to say goodbye to Earth’s species](#)

The Colorado Sun

(May 16, 2019) -- My question to professor [Charles Musiba](#) was deliberately provocative. Has the human species reached its evolutionary limit? Are we incapable of cooperating to do what needs to be done? The genial anthropologist at CU Denver laughed heartily. Homo sapiens have often been on the brink of extinction, he said. And yet here we still are.

“People all over the world are becoming greedy,” he said. “We’re depleting almost everything. We no longer care about shared values. Our resources are not distributed equally and we’re not even trying to address that. Some people are going after everything and leaving everybody

else with nothing.” W



[Why is running Colorado's elections division a partisan job?](#)

9 News

(May 24, 2019) – “Pretty much everything we elect at the state level in Colorado is, rightly or wrongly, partisan, including the CU Board of Regents, including the state K-12 Board of Education,” said [Paul Teske](#), dean of CU Denver’s School of Public Affairs. “There are a handful of states, less than a handful that have no Secretary of State. The Lieutenant Governor does that job.”

Also: [What history tells us about Denver's runoff elections](#), May 24, 5280



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[The increase in Everest deaths might have nothing to do with crowds or waiting](#)

Popular Science

May 29, 2019) – There have been 11 deaths on Mount Everest so far this year, and it has Nepal wondering about its policies for attaining a climbing permit. But it might not

only be crowding and inexperience that are taking the toll.

“You’re slowly dying above 18,000 feet,” says [Peter Hackett](#), a clinical professor in the CU School of Medicine’s Department of Pulmonary Sciences. “But when you get above 26,000 feet, you start dying much more quickly.”



[How pharmacists can play a role in spotting signs and symptoms of mental illness](#)

9 News (Video)

(May 21, 2019) -- Recently, Walgreens announced it would begin training its pharmacists to start spotting mental health issues. It’s part of a much broader push to get pharmacists around the country to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness. [Benjamin Chavez](#) of the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at CU Anschutz talks about it.



[EPA could make thousands of pollution deaths vanish by changing its math](#)

The New York Times

(May 20, 2019) -- [Jonathan M. Samet](#), a pulmonary disease specialist who is dean of the Colorado School of Public Health, said the most recent studies showed

negative health effects well below the 12-microgram standard.

“It’s not a hard stop where we can say ‘below that, air is safe.’ That would not be supported by the scientific evidence,” Samet said. “It would be very nice for public health if things worked that way, but they don’t seem to.”



[For nurses, trauma can come with the job](#)

New York Times

(May 7, 2019) -- Mental health experts now recognize that PTSD can indeed affect nurses, both military and civilian. As many as 28% of nurses experience PTSD at some point in their careers, said [Meredith Mealer](#), an associate professor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. The stressful environment of nursing can support many of the “triggers and traumas of PTSD,” Mealer said.

“Nurses see people die. They work on resuscitating patients. They try to control bleeding. They have end-of-life discussions. And sometimes they are verbally or physically abused by patients or visiting family members.”
W



[With Denver's vote on magic mushrooms, will Colorado anchor a psychedelic medicine revolution?](#)

The Colorado Sun

(May 20, 2019) -- [David Kroll](#), a professor at the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, has spent 35 years studying drugs from nature — like psilocybin mushrooms and other naturally occurring chemicals — that he says have given rise to 25% of all prescription drugs and 65% of all the country's over-the-counter medications. Kroll said the growing population of patients who are not responding to traditional treatments for depression, anxiety, PTSD and substance abuse has opened the door to further investigation of any chemicals that may deliver relief.

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