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FOCUS ON CU FACULTY



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2017

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



Inmates, students learn from each other in first CU Boulder course of its kind

Daily Camera

(April 26, 2017) – The semester-long Inside Out social justice class, made up of 16 CU students and 16 inmates from the women’s facility, met weekly at the prison. Ethnic studies professor **Joanne Belknap** and her students engaged in discussions about crime and justice, and worked on projects brainstorming ways to keep convicted felons from re-offending.



Ice, tin cans doomed 19th century polar explorers

Colorado Public Radio

(April 27, 2017) – It might have been harder to reach the North Pole than to land on the moon, says astronomer **Doug Duncan**, director of Boulder’s Fiske Planetarium. But Duncan points out that the willingness to take on risk in the name of discovery inspires our space program today. And the science learned on these early voyages, whether they reached the pole or not, continues to be relevant.



First CU Boulder female history professor honored for ‘heck of a career’

Daily Camera

(April 25, 2017) – As the first female history professor on CU Boulder and first American woman to earn a Ph.D. in Japanese history, along with many additional pioneering accomplishments, **Joyce Chapman Lebra** made clearing the

hurdles in her way look easy. The people she inspired recently honored the 91-year old professor.



History of the death penalty in Colorado

9 News

(April 19, 2017) – **Michael Radelet** is a sociology professor at CU Boulder who has written seven books on the death penalty in Colorado. According to his research, there have been 103 executions in the state’s history. The last one was in Cañon City in 1997. There are three people currently on death row in the state.



A 1917 coal mine explosion in southern Colorado killed 121 – but it’s just a faint memory in the state’s history

The Denver Post

(April 27, 2017) – “This was the biggest mine disaster in Colorado history — and yet mines in the southern coalfields exploded so regularly as to numb the general public to the suffering mine workers experienced there,” said **Thomas Andrews**, a history professor at CU Boulder and the author of “Killing for Coal: America’s Deadliest Labor War.” More than 200 miners were killed at mines within a few miles of Hastings in 1910 alone, Andrews said.



CU Boulder researchers: Current wildfire policies can't protect people

Daily Camera

(April 17, 2017) – Wildfire experts assert current policies can’t properly protect people, homes and ecosystems from the more intense wildfires caused by climate change.

“For a long time, we’ve thought that if we try harder and do better, we can get ahead of wildfire and reduce the risks,” CU Boulder Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research scientist **Tania Schoennagel** said.

“This is bigger than us, and we’re going to have to adapt to wildfire rather than the other way around.” Nine of the record

fire years since 1960 in the West have all occurred since 2000, Schoennagel said.



Scientists fear climate data gap as Trump aims at satellites

The New York Times

(April 10, 2017) – Long before Donald Trump was elected, climate researchers had warned that the nation’s climate monitoring capabilities – which include satellites as well as air- and surface-based instruments – were less than adequate and faced data collection gaps and other uncertainties. Elimination of any of the missions would be a further blow, they said.

“That’s what’s giving my colleagues and myself heart palpitations as we think about what might be lost,” said **Betsy Weatherhead**, an expert on environmental monitoring at CU Boulder.



Exo-Earths with global magnetic fields most likely to have life

Forbes

(April 10, 2017) – “We think loss of a global magnetic field allowed the solar-wind stripping of the Mars atmosphere beginning around 4.1 billion years ago when the field turned off,” said **Bruce Jakosky**, MAVEN’s principal investigator. “Most of the action would have been completed within a few hundred million years.” However, the amount of such atmospheric stripping would also depend on the intensity of the star and stellar wind over time, the size of the planet and to a lesser degree the composition of the atmosphere.

Also:

- **Microsatellite built by CU students launched**, 9News, April 18
- **NASA funds 22 futuristic ideas for space exploration**, Scientific American, April 12
- **Scientists found the contributions of sun’s UV rays behind the existence of life**, Science, April 10
- **See the explosion set off when two ‘teenage’ stars collide**, CNET, April 7
- **CU Boulder researcher lands NASA grant to**

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



UCCS hosting first head-to-head business plan competition May 3

The Gazette

(April 26, 2017) – Get in the Ring puts entrepreneurs in a boxing ring to pitch their startups and answer questions from a panel of successful entrepreneurs and business leaders. And audience members can vote with red and blue glow sticks for the best startup, though the panel gets the final say, said **Michael Larson**, a UCCS professor who is organizing the competition.



Commissioner: What Colorado Springs lacks is a beer school

The Gazette

(April 29, 2017) -- There's no dedicated, comprehensive beer school in Colorado Springs - yet - but there's certainly beer scholarship. The Biotech Center at UCCS, for example, has been conducting research into yeast genetics and fermentation science for 30 years, and annually hosts the highly regarded (and well- attended) Rocky Mountain Microbrewing Symposium.



Colorado Springs unemployment rate inches up as thousands return to job market

The Gazette

(April 6, 2017) – “To have such a small increase in the unemployment rate while more and more people are entering the labor force is really good news,” said **Tatiana Bailey**, director of the UCCS Economic Forum. “As more people join the labor force and find jobs, it means lower transfer payments, such as welfare and Medicaid. It is a double win.”



Colorado Springs arts supporters, teachers recognized at luncheon

The Gazette

(April 27, 2017) -- UCCS Chancellor Emerita **Pamela Shockley-Zalabak**, Sally Hybl and Betty and Murray Ross were presented with the Bee an Arts Champion award by the Bee Vradenburg Foundation at the 38th annual event at The Antlers hotel. The foundation's executive director David Siegel called the planning of the new facility a “monumental undertaking.”



Colorado Springs colleges team up to promote innovation in downtown center

The Gazette

(April 17, 2017) – Every piece of furniture in the 2,000-square-foot room in the basement of 408 S. Nevada Ave., which also houses Loyal Coffee, is on wheels to provide maximum flexibility to host business competitions and other events, educational programs like the summer pilot offered last summer, or provide an area for students working on consulting projects, said **Jacob Eichengreen**, executive director of the Quad Innovation Partnership, which operates the space. The partnership includes the Air Force Academy, Colorado College, Pikes Peak Community College and UCCS.



Colorado Springs Promise brings much-needed computers to low-income students

The Gazette

(April 17, 2017) – Mercedes Gomez won't have to go very far to conduct job searches. She was one of 100 UCCS students who received a free home computer through Colorado Springs Promise. The program is a partnership between Pikes Pike United Way, UCCS, Colorado Springs School District 11 and Mitchell High that targets students from low-income households.



Measure to replace Columbus Day holiday advances

The Durango Herald

(April 26, 2017) – House Bill 1327, which would eliminate Columbus Day as a state holiday and replace it with a floating holiday in October for state employees, was passed by the House State, Veterans and Military Affairs on a 6-3 party line vote with the GOP voting to maintain the holiday.

Glenn Morris, associate professor of political science at CU Denver, said the story that is typically taught in classrooms is “the view from the ship. There’s a view from the shore that is never taught.”



7 Everyday Hero is a volunteer tour guide at CU South Denver

7 News

(April 24, 2017) – **Jim Leibold** is a retired physician with a knack for education. “He knows how to teach and he has a passion for it,” said **Luella Chavez D’Angelo**, left, vice chancellor CU South Denver. And he is no stranger to giving back and celebrating CU.

“When I was in medical practice, I was on the clinical or volunteer facility at the CU Medical School for 36 years,” Leibold said.



Landmark school discipline reform legislation killed by Republicans on Colorado Senate panel

Chalkbeat

(April 17, 2017) – Last year, Colorado schools suspended students in grades below the third grade more than 7,000 times. Boys, especially black and Latino boys, were overrepresented in that group.

“The practice has shown repeatedly to make the problem worse,” said **Phillip Strain**, an early childhood education professor at CU Denver. “Suspension and expulsion occur at a local school level, but there is an economic ripple effect across the state and across the country.”



Insights: Hickenlooper not too mighty on national stage by one new measure

Colorado Springs Gazette

(April 16, 2017) – Gov. John Hickenlooper’s in-state approval rating is 61 percent and his disapproval is 28 percent, according to Morning Consult. Keep in mind, registered Democrats make up only 31.6 percent of the state’s 3.3 million active voters. That’s big. Attracting non-party moderates rises above the national political landscape.

“If his popularity holds, you would imagine that is good for the Democratic gubernatorial candidate that emerges for 2018,” said **Paul Teske**, distinguished professor and dean of CU Denver’s School of Public Affairs.



Elitch Gardens owner exploring redevelopment of amusement park’s sea of surface parking

The Denver Post

(April 12, 2017) -- Surface parking made sense when the Pepsi Center and Elitch Gardens were built, but downtown is not the same place as it was in the 1990s, said **Ken Schroepfel**, an associate urban planning professor at CU Denver who runs the Denver Infill and Denver Urbanism websites.

“We’ve reached a point in downtown Denver’s growth where surface parking around sporting venues and amusement parks is simply a waste of valuable land. It’s time to go vertical,” Schroepfel said. “If the Pepsi Center had been developed today, it would have gone in with structured parking.”

Also: Denver construction is a-boomin’, but for how long?
CPR, April 5

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



Colorado doctor researching antidotes for chemical weapons like ones used in Syria

7 News

(April 13, 2017) -- **Vik Bebarta** is a medical toxicologist for the CU School of Medicine doing groundbreaking research on better antidotes for chemical weapons such as mustard gas, cyanide and hydrogen sulfide.

“They need to be simple. They need to be injectable, and they have to be very safe,” said Bebarta, who wants to get more effective antidotes into the hands of first responders to immediately save lives. “If the paramedics don’t have those antidotes in their pockets, the patients will probably die before they ever reach the hospital, and we need to be better about that.”



Drunken crayfish show that loneliness raises alcohol tolerance

New Scientist

(April 19, 2017) -- A link between social isolation and an animal’s response to alcohol has been noted in several species of mammal, says **Boris Tabakoff**, a behavioral geneticist and pharmacology professor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. But this study goes further by linking the altered response to changes in specific neurons, he says.



Most Americans support restrictions on where firearms can be carried

Reuters

(April 24, 2017) -- **Emmy Betz** from the CU School of Medicine and Colorado School of Public Health has also examined gun issues.

“This is the most in-depth examination I’ve seen of what the public thinks about carrying firearms in public. The variation in views – and the fact that overall views weren’t as supportive of public carrying as basic polls suggest -- highlights how important research in this area is,” she said.



Cannabis creams show promise in relieving itch in some skin diseases

CBS 4

(April 18, 2017) -- Researchers at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus say the chemical compounds found in marijuana contain anti-inflammatory properties that could make them useful in the treatment of eczema, psoriasis, atopic and contact dermatitis. **Robert Dellavalle**, associate professor of dermatology at the CU School of Medicine, concluded the topical treatments containing the cannabis compounds show a promising role in the treatment of itch associated with skin diseases.



What can sleep patterns tell me about possibly having M.S.?

U.S. News and World Report

(April 14, 2017) -- "It's not only insomnia," points out **Enrique Alvarez**, assistant professor of neurology at the CU School of Medicine. "People with M.S. are affected by nocturnal leg spasms, restless leg syndrome, narcolepsy, REM sleep behavior disorder and sleep disordered breathing (apnea). Any one of these conditions can interfere with slumber and contribute to profound fatigue during waking hours."



Celiac disease and anorexia may be linked in women

Live Science

(April 3, 2017) -- This is the first large study to show an association between celiac disease and anorexia nervosa, both before and after celiac disease has been diagnosed, said the study's lead author, **Karl Marild**, a pediatrician and a postdoctoral fellow at the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Scientists don't really know the exact biological explanation for why celiac disease and anorexia might be linked, Marild said.

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