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FOCUS ON CU FACULTY



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2018

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



[Black holes head for collision as two galaxies merge in stunning butterfly formation](#)

NBC News

(April 19, 2018) -- “We dissected the butterfly,” said study author [Francisco Müller-Sánchez](#), CU Boulder research associate in the Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy. “This is the first galaxy in which we can see both the wind from the two supermassive black holes and the outflow of low ionization gas from star formation at the same time.”



[Kendrick Lamar makes Pulitzer Prize history](#)

NBC News

(April 16, 2018) – It’s a big breakthrough for the music industry, but [Adam Bradley](#) says it’s more than that. “It’s about damn time,” said Bradley, a professor at CU Boulder and director of the Laboratory for Race and Popular Culture there. “Rap is born out of a group of black and brown people who wanted to be heard, who have been ignored by the country at large. For more than 40 years now hip-hop has expressed itself in a voice that could not be ignored. Lamar is simply the most audible example that rap has always brought.”



[Facebook’s data privacy fiasco has trickled down to companies that use the ad-based service](#)

The Denver Post

(April 12, 2018) – [Tam Vu](#), a computer-science professor at CU Boulder, said a huge problem is that too many mobile apps and add-ons ask for permissions that don’t make sense — like a game needing to access your entire contact list. “The way Facebook writes its privacy policy is that it essentially delegates everything to the user,” Vu said. “But if you don’t configure it right, it’s your fault. That’s where the problem is. We trust our friends, but our friends sometimes are not always as cautious about our privacy.”



[The placebo effect's role in healing, explained](#)

PBS Newshour

(April 11, 2018) – “It’s really a family of mechanisms,” said [Tor Wager](#), a neuroscientist and placebo expert at CU Boulder, who did some of the earliest imaging studies of placebos. “If you were to get in a virtual reality roller coaster, you would feel your stomach turn. That’s a type of placebo,” he said. Wager, who now focuses mostly on chronic pain, is an expert in how the placebo effect can be used to ease suffering.



[The best way to handle your partner's worst behavior](#)

Psychology Today

(April 24, 2018) – New research by CU Boulder psychology professor [Mark Whisman](#) and colleagues suggests that when you and your partner disagree, the effects on your mental health can go on for years. The discord that erupts when your partner embarrasses you or otherwise results in guilt by association is a prime candidate for having negative long-lasting effects.

Also: [Men more likely to cheat, usually with friends, CU Boulder study shows](#), 7 News, April 4



[NASA hopes supersonic X plane will deliver less bang for the buck](#)

NPR

(April 5, 2018) – The new X plane is the first experimental jet built by NASA in more than a decade. “The thing that I’m most excited about is that NASA is moving back to this X plane concept,” said [Bobby Braun](#), dean of engineering at CU Boulder. He says experimental planes have been crucial to advancing aviation.



[Colorado seeing earthquakes where they've never happened before](#)

Fox 31

(April 4, 2018) – “There were no earthquakes in Weld County. So in 2014 when that magnitude 3.4 earthquake happened it caught our attention and we went out to study it right away,” said [Anne Sheehan](#), a CU Boulder geological sciences professor. Sheehan and her team of scientists immediately began setting up seismometers in the area.

Also: [CU Boulder prof contributes to study projecting](#)

[catastrophic Bay Area quake damage](#), Daily Camera, April 18

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS



[Captain Kirk beams down to UCCS](#)

The Gazette

(April 19, 2018) – Last month, UCCS hosted [William Shatner](#), best known for his classic role as Captain Kirk from the original Star Trek series. The Emmy and Golden Globe winner was the keynote speaker for the UCCS Bachelor of Innovation 10th Anniversary Celebration Gala.



[New collaboration to bridge workforce skills gap in Colorado Springs](#)

KOAA

(April 10, 2018) – [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the UCCS Economic Forum, says the partnership is an off-shoot of the Workforce Asset Map or WAM. It's an online tool that launched a few months ago. The one-stop shop aims to help job seekers, employers and students find access to workforce-related resources in Colorado Springs. It's something that continues to be an issue for people in those groups.



[UCCS Students raising money for MADD](#)

Fox 21

(April 9, 2018) – Local college students are raising money for victims and survivors of drugged and drunk-driving crashes. They're teaming up with MADD, or Mothers Against Drunk Driving, to help those affected. The three-week student-led fundraising campaign kicked off recently at UCCS. It's all part of 'Smart Move UCCS,' created three years ago by the Persistent Drunk Driver Committee of Colorado.



[GUEST COLUMN: Growth, impact moving UCCS into the future](#)

The Gazette

(April 29, 2018) – Completing my first year as chancellor, I would like to share some reflections on our progress, as well as plans for the exciting future at UCCS. In the past decade, the campus experienced significant growth in student enrollment and in infrastructure and that growth continues, writes [Venkat Reddy](#), UCCS chancellor.



[Colorado Springs Health Foundation gives \\$6 million in grants](#)

Colorado Springs Independent

(April 25, 2018) – “Some grants went to other government agencies, such as \$75,000 to the UCCS Aging Center, \$133,297 to El Paso County Public Health and \$240,000 to the city's Mountain Metropolitan Transit. The foundation focuses on access to care, a workforce shortage in primary and psychiatric care, suicide prevention and healthy environments.

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER



[Can new forensic tech win war on AI-generated fake images?](#)

Fast Company

(April 4, 2018) – “Historically speaking, remember when fingerprints started to be used by police, 100 years ago—the thieves started to learn to use gloves,” says [Catalin Grigoras](#), director of the National Center for Media Forensics at CU Denver. “But in time, the forensic scientists came up with new developments, and usually in this kind of investigation, it's not about one (piece of) evidence only.”



[Customer lifetime value revisited](#)

Forbes

(April 25, 2018) – If marketing people focused in customer acquisition aren't sharing data with their counterparts focused on customer retention, customer lifetime value initiatives can wind up in the ditch. [Summer Zixia Cao](#), an assistant professor of marketing at CU Denver, says this can be an expensive problem. “While many firms closely track the costs (acquisition cost and retention cost) and profitability, they often focus only on the short-term transactions not long-term profitability. Customers who are easy to acquire and retain may not yield the most profits,” she said.



[Why New Guinea warriors prized human bone daggers](#)

Live Science

(April 24, 2018) – “The research showed that human daggers are about twice as strong as cassowary daggers, said study co-researcher [R. Dana Carpenter](#), an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at CU Denver. Given that cassowary (large non-flying birds) daggers are easier to replace than

human-bone daggers, it makes sense that the human daggers were carved with greater care to make them stronger, the researchers said.



Thought Leader: CU Denver's Nan Ellin sees prosperity as the goal

Denver Business Journal

(April 18, 2018) – CU Denver Dean [Nan Ellin](#) says sustainability is outdated and Denver's architecture is overshadowed by the Rockies — but hear her out. The new head of the College of Architecture and Planning at CU Denver is an accomplished urban planner and academic. "Sustainability means to stay the same," Ellin said. "But now we're moving to the next place. Prosperity says, 'Let's take it to the next level so we're moving as a civilization.'"



Teacher rallies could continue in Colorado

KDVR

(April 16, 2018) – "Certainly, when teachers walk out and a whole school district (Englewood) closed classes, that definitely has an impact and definitely gets people's attention," said [Parker Baxter](#), the director of the CU Denver's Center for Education Policy Analysis.



Tech companies aim for easy access over brawny security at offices

Reuters

(April 4, 2018) – [Jeremy Németh](#), associate professor of urban and regional planning at CU Denver, said that recent attacks on public forums are forcing a rethinking of security, but that there is a reluctance to exchange civil liberties for security "particularly in a liberal environment like the Bay Area."



Colorado's gubernatorial race 2018: What's next?

5280

(April 27, 2018) – "There's so much on the ballot," said CU Denver's [Paul Teske](#), pointing to other statewide races, yet-to-be-determined ballot initiatives, and the fact that much of the state Legislature is in play. "It means that any one race gets less attention than if it were standalone."



[Researchers are hacking the human body in Colorado labs](#)

The Denver Post

(April 27, 2018) –Although pop culture’s version of the future human body might never materialize, that doesn’t mean real-world university researchers aren’t trying to create their own vision of the future — and some are seemingly pulling from the movie screen to do so. “I’ve seen a back-and-forth between art products as well as the science products,” said [Farnoush Banaei-Kashani](#), assistant professor in the computer science and engineering department of CU Denver. “There’s a synergy there, and they feed each other.”

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS



[Family caregivers finally get a break — and some coaching](#)

NPR

(April 27, 2018) – [Eric Coleman](#), a gerontologist and recipient of a MacArthur Foundation fellowship in 2012, created the Care Transitions Intervention model. The national program, based at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, trains coaches to help caregivers ease the transition of a patient to home care. The coaches are usually social workers, nurses or others hired by hospitals and other facilities to work directly with caregivers.

Also: [Leaving hospital? Heed care tips or you may return](#), The Daily Courier, April 4



[Colorado researchers develop virtual reality training to help first responders cope with mental illness](#)

Fox 31

(April 3, 2018) – When the elevator door opens, you are outside, 400 feet up and the only place to go is a thin wooden plank hanging over the edge. What do you do?

“Only about half of the people who do this actually get out of the elevator,” said [Matt Vogl](#), executive director at the National Mental Health Innovation Center at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. The exercise is part of a virtual reality simulation designed to induce stress. “For most people, fight or flight kicks in and even though people know they’re on the floor, their brain says no way, you’re not safe so I’m not going to let you go out there.”



[‘Adrenal support’ supplements might contain unsafe ingredients](#)

Reuters

(April 25, 2018) – Lab tests of the supplements found they all contained thyroid hormone and most had at least one steroid hormone. “Patients should be aware that any supplement that is sold as ‘natural,’ ‘organic,’ ‘herbal,’ ‘plant-based,’ may not be safe,” said lead author [Halis Kaan Akturk](#) of the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.



[Are we ready for the deadly heat waves of the future?](#)

Science News

(April 4, 2018) – The human body can’t tolerate excessive heat. The biological and chemical processes that keep us alive are best carried out at a core temperature of 96.8 degrees to 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, with slight variation from person to person. Beyond that, “the body’s primary response to heat is to try and get rid of it,” says [Jonathan Samet](#), dean of the Colorado School of Public Health. Blood vessels in the skin dilate and heart rate goes up to push blood flow to the skin, where the blood can release heat to cool down. Meanwhile, sweating kicks in to cool the skin. Eight skin cancer causes and risk factors that might surprise you



[Eight skin cancer causes and risk factors that might surprise you](#)

Prevention

(April 5, 2018) – “There’s no real way to reverse the damage that has already been done, but you can help protect your skin from future burns (and prevent your melanoma risk from rising even higher) by faithfully slathering on sunscreen, says [Whitney A. High](#), director of dermatopathology at the CU School of Medicine. Regular daily use of an SPF 15 or higher sunscreen lowers the risk of developing melanoma by 50 percent.

Also: [IMPACT Melanoma offers free sunscreen dispensers for multiple campuses](#), ABC Montana, April 24

