



University of Colorado

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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST 2021



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Missing Antarctic Microbes Raise Thorny Questions about the Search for Aliens](#)

Science News

(July 20, 2021) -- Surprisingly, some of the coldest, driest soils don't seem to be inhabited by microbes. To [Noah Fierer](#)'s knowledge, this is the first time that scientists have found soils that don't seem to support any kind of microbial life. The results raise questions about how negative scientific results should be interpreted, especially in the search for life on other planets.

"The challenge comes back to this sort of philosophical [question], how do you prove a negative?" Fierer said.



[A Video Spreading Conspiracy Theories about a Satanic Sex-Trafficking Ring Is Going Viral](#)

Rolling Stone

(July 15, 2021) -- TikTok in particular has adopted something of a whack-a-mole approach toward regulating content, mostly by relying on user-generated reports or banning hashtags associated with misinformation as they surface.

“Misinformation and more subtle hate speech are some of the more challenging things for platforms to moderate right now,” explains [Casey Fiesler](#), assistant professor in information science at CU Boulder. “In part because creating consistent guidelines around what constitutes misinformation is really challenging.”



[Haze from Western Fires Settles in Colorado](#)

The Gazette

(July 13, 2021) -- [Colleen Reid](#), an assistant professor of geography at CU Boulder, warned that the smoke could have lasting health impacts, including trouble breathing, cardiovascular complications and effects on the immune system.

“Most of the time with wildfires we are worried about particulate matter,” Reid said. “They are solid and liquid

particles that stay suspended in the air and the smaller they are, the deeper they can go into the lungs.”



[Can A.I. Grade Your Next Test?](#)

The New York Times

(July 20, 2021) -- Using the methods that drove the Stanford project, researchers can significantly accelerate this work.

“There is real power in data,” said [Peter Foltz](#), a professor at CU Boulder who has spent decades developing systems that can automatically grade prose essays. “As machines get more examples, they can generalize.”



[Political Anger: It Works for Politicians and Some Voters, Not So Much for Democracy](#)

Colorado Politics

(July 19, 2021) -- All the anger in politics may have a short-term benefit for politicians and voters alike, according to a study published this month in the Political Research Quarterly. The study, by [Carey Stapleton](#) at CU Boulder and Ryan Dawkins at the U.S. Air Force Academy, surveyed 1,400 individuals online and found that angry politicians make for angry voters, but that may motivate voters to the ballot box.

“Politicians want to get reelected, and anger is a powerful

tool that they can use to make that happen,” Stapleton said.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[Colorado Springs Resisted Ku Klux Klan amid Rising Tide in Colorado](#)

The Gazette

(July 21, 2021) -- Some historians, such as [John Harner](#), a professor of geography and environmental studies at UCCS, believed the strong opposition to the Klan in Colorado Springs was driven by economic and business motives.

“Business leaders saw the Klan as just harmful for business,” Harner said. “They were worried about the effects upon the business environment in Colorado Springs attracting companies and workers and what not.”



[Colorado Springs' Story at 150th Anniversary: One of Desire and Innovation](#)

The Gazette

(June 30, 2021) – Birthdays are for reflecting. That’s the contention of [Leah Witherow](#), curator of history for the

Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum, as the city approaches its 150th birthday.

“Anniversaries like sesquicentennials are important because they give us an opportunity to pause and think and consider,” said Witherow, a history lecturer at UCCS.



[As Virginia Prepares to Legalize Marijuana, College Students Hope Schools Will Ease Rules](#)

The Washington Post

(June 30, 2021) -- “We do a lot of outreach,” said [Stephanie Hanenberg](#), assistant vice chancellor for health and wellness at UCCS. Incoming freshmen take a drug education course at orientation, and students have access to counseling programs throughout college.

“I don’t think they realize their brain is not done forming and growing,” she said. “By doing marijuana at this age, it is actually causing more harm because they’re not fully developed where they need to be.”



[Seeking a Balance between Work at Home, Work at the Office](#)

The Gazette

(July 18, 2021) -- In the U.S. before the pandemic, about 5% of all hours worked were from home. It’s still hard to

predict right now, explains [Tatiana Bailey](#), economics professor at UCCS.

“I was surprised to find out that just about every rigorous and large survey of employers and employees estimates that moving forward, about 20% of all hours worked will be from home,” she said.



[Federal Lawsuits Say Antiracism and Critical Race Theory in Schools Violate Constitution](#)

The Wall Street Journal

(July 1, 2021) -- [Joshua Dunn](#), a political scientist and education policy researcher at UCCS, said school boards should gird themselves for more legal attacks. “There’s going to be more lawsuits. They’re coming and school districts should probably be prepared for them if they’re doing things in classes that they’re doing in Las Vegas,” said Dunn, referring to lawsuits like the one in Nevada.



University of Colorado **Denver**



[One Thing Runners Do Leads to Injury, Says Study](#)

Eat This, Not That!

(July 13, 2021) -- A study conducted by researchers at CU Denver was borne out of a single observation. "This was a pet peeve turned into a study," explained [Anna Warrener](#). Warrener had performed a fellowship with Harvard's Daniel Liberman, PhD, who is an avid runner himself.

"When [Lieberman] was out preparing for his marathons, he noticed other people leaning too far forward as they ran, which had so many implications for their lower limbs. Our study was built to find out what they were," she said.



[How MLB All-Star Week Will Affect Your Wallet](#)

KOAA (7 News)

(July 12, 2021) -- [Vicki Lane](#), associate professor at CU Denver and director of CU Denver's Sports Business Program, said the Denver area is expected to make \$40 to \$190 million in revenue from the MLB All-Star Game. She said while she doesn't know the specific models used to make this estimate, at CU Denver analysts typically look at consumer demand, historical data and other factors.



[Denver Home-Ownership “Totally Out of Reach” for Low-Income Earners](#)

Denverite

(July 12, 2021) -- [Carrie Makarewicz](#), assistant professor of urban and regional planning at CU Denver, said people’s annual incomes generally need to equal at least a third of the price of any home they want to buy. “I would claim it’s totally out of reach,” she said. “They may never get there.”



[Immersive Van Gogh Exhibits Are About to Take Denver by Storm](#)

5280

(July 9, 2021) -- CU Denver visual arts professor and painter [Melissa Furness](#) hopes that Van Gogh Alive, and immersive exhibits like it, will draw a larger audience to the scene.

“Going to a museum can sometimes be an intimidating thing for someone who isn’t an arts professional,” Furness says. “I hope it draws in a different group of people and inspires them.”



[Colorado's Air Is Unhealthy Right Now. Check the Air Quality Index before Venturing Outside](#)

KUNC

(July 22, 2021) -- Obtaining a precise air quality index measurement can be hard to do in smaller communities. [Ben Crawford](#), an environmental science professor at CU Denver, said Colorado determines AQI with specific regulatory stations.

“They look like trailers, and they’re full of instruments to measure air pollution,” he said. “Each one of these instruments can cost tens of thousands of dollars, and each one of these trailers to measure a whole bunch of different air pollution measurements can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.”



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[How Do Dogs Sniff Out Diseases?](#)

Discover

(July 19, 2021) -- One of the chemicals recovered from seizure sweat that seemed most important to the dogs was menthone. The molecule is a precursor to menthol, which gives peppermint some of its sharp, cooling sensation. It’s not clear how our bodies make menthone, said [Edward Maa](#), a neurologist at the CU Anschutz

Medical Campus, and most of the time, researchers don't think of humans needing to produce any smells when in distress.

"We don't typically think of humans as needing alarm pheromones because we have speech," Maa says.



[Why You're Always So Tired — and What You Can Do about It](#)

Real Simple

(July 12, 2021) -- The first step to dealing with constant or chronic exhaustion is to determine what's behind it.

"Fatigue is a symptom with a very wide range of causes," says [Katherine Green](#), director of the Sleep Center at CU Anschutz. "The challenge with fatigue is that each underlying cause has its own treatment." These include a variety of medical conditions, as well as certain circumstances and/or environmental factors.



[Fútbol, Flags and Fun: Getting Creative to Reach Unvaccinated Latinos in Colorado](#)

Colorado Public Radio

(July 10, 2021) -- [Fernando Holguin](#), a pulmonologist and critical care doctor at the Latino Research and Policy Center at the Colorado School of Public Health, worries

cases, hospitalizations and deaths will keep flaring up in less-vaccinated communities, especially predominantly Hispanic communities in parts of Colorado or other states where overall vaccination rates are poor.

“They’re at risk, especially moving into the fall of seeing increasing waves of infections. I think it is really critical that people really become vaccinated,” Holguin said.



[Virus Cases are Surging at Crowded Immigration Detention Centers in the U.S.](#)

The New York Times

(July 6, 2021) -- [Carlos Franco-Paredes](#), an associate professor at the CU School of Medicine who has inspected immigration detention centers during the pandemic, said that several factors were to blame for the surge, including transfers of detainees between facilities, insufficient testing and lax COVID-19 safety measures.

For example, he said, during a recent inspection at a center in Aurora, Colo., he saw many staff members who were not wearing face coverings properly, adding: “There is minimal to no accountability regarding their protocols.”



[As Pandemic Wanes, Will Burnout Fuel Exodus of Colorado Health Care Workers?](#)

The Denver Post

(July 3, 2021) -- “It’s as if we’ve been in a war zone for the last year,” said [Marc Moss](#), head of the Division of Pulmonary Sciences and Critical Care Medicine at the CU School of Medicine. Moss has researched burnout among hospital workers.

“It’s not anyone’s fault. We have tough jobs and we see tragedy.”

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