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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2020



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[One of geology's great mysteries might be many smaller mysteries](#)

Atlas Obscura

(April 28, 2020) -- In some outcrops around the world there's a gap, a huge swath of geological data that should be there but isn't. It's called the "Great Unconformity," which was before the Cambrian explosion, around 540 million years ago. A new study might have some answers.

"This study suggests that major erosion happened long before the Cambrian explosion and was associated with either the assembly or the breakup of Rodinia," said [Rebecca Flowers](#), a geochronologist at CU Boulder. "The Great Unconformity formed at different times and in different places and for different reasons."



[‘Plowable’ hail is a thing, and Colorado might have more of it than anywhere else](#)

9 News

(April 24, 2020) -- Our biggest problem on the Front Range is hail – it can range from 2 inches to 2 feet – and that includes a phenomenon known as “plowable” hail.

“Plowable hail is a nice metaphor for what’s going on because a lot of times they have to use snow plows,” said [Katja Friedrich](#), an atmospheric scientist at CU Boulder.



[As Earth Day marks 50th, a quieter world draws scientists’ scrutiny](#)

Daily Camera

(April 18, 2020) -- “We’re all hoping that this may be a great experiment,” said [Bruce Vaughn](#), a research associate and fellow at CU Boulder’s Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research. “I don’t think we could have designed an experiment like this, on our own, to be able to have such a widespread simultaneous and instantaneous reduction in fossil fuel emissions. That said, we’re all anxious to see what this perturbation in the atmosphere is going to look like in the upcoming weeks and months.”



[There are more viruses than stars in the universe. Why do only some infect us?](#)

National Geographic

(April 15, 2020) -- Most of the time, our species manages to live in this virus-filled world relatively free of illness. The reason has less to do with the human body's resilience to disease than the biological quirks of viruses themselves, said [Sara Sawyer](#), a virologist and disease ecologist at CU Boulder. These pathogens are extraordinarily picky about the cells they infect, and only an infinitesimally small fraction of the viruses that surround us actually pose any threat to humans.



[Astronomers find 139 new minor planets in the outer solar system](#)

Astronomy

(March 31, 2020) -- A new method for hunting minor planets uncovered more than a hundred small, distant worlds. And the novel technique could even help resolve the mystery of Planet Nine.

"TNOs (trans-Neptunian objects) are difficult to detect, and so each one we find tells us that there is a much more massive underlying population [of objects] out there," explained [Ann-Marie Madigan](#), an astronomer at CU Boulder. "The more TNOs we discover, the more we can tell if there's evidence for Planet Nine."



[UCCS to create National Resilience Institute focused on helping military, emergency responders handle trauma](#)

The Gazette

(April 9, 2020) -- UCCS plans to build a \$15.75 million National Resilience Institute on its campus, focusing on helping veterans, active-duty military, first-responders and their families overcome trauma. The institute will be led by UCCS psychology professor [Chip Benight](#), who has developed a new model — Greater Resilience Intervention Teams or GRIT — to train volunteers to promote wellness and resilience tools for the community, in the wake of the stress being caused by the pandemic.



[Colorado Springs author recalls embarking on her own life after decades of caregiving for loved ones](#)

Colorado Springs Gazette

(April 23, 2020) -- [Magdalene Lim](#), clinic director of the UCCS Aging Center says, for the caregiver, self-compassion is important for optimism and resiliency. It can also improve the care you provide once you've been able to support yourself mindfully. She suggests taking small breaks if possible, be aware of the challenges, try to find a relaxing moment and reframe unhelpful self-talk.

“Self-compassion can buffer anxiety and improve psychological health,” Lim says.



[Gifted or not, you can still lend your voice to the World-Wide Tuning Meditation](#)

Colorado Springs Indy

(April 23, 2020) -- Back in 2007, when more than 85% of Americans still had operational landlines, Pauline Oliveros was already envisioning a world in which music and technology would help foster a sense of community during a time of extreme social isolation.

“As a composer, performer and electronic music pioneer, Pauline understood the fundamental ways in which technology could be used to bring people together,” said UCCS music professor [Jane Rigler](#). “In the World-Wide Tuning Meditation, we connect at a distance through the simple act of projecting, on the exhale, a single tone. We send a tone. We receive a tone. There’s no need to judge any tone, each one arrives just as it is, unique and pure-hearted.”



[Colorado Springs arts creatives delivering virtual shows, gatherings and activities](#)

The Gazette

(April 23, 2020) -- Once upon a time, Lunch Beat Dance Party at Galleries of Contemporary Art at UCCS was an in-person thing. Now it's streaming live on Instagram from noon to 1 p.m. Fridays. Weekly guest DJs spin the tunes while you gyrate around your house at [instagram.com/gocacolospgs](https://www.instagram.com/gocacolospgs). Also new is a series of recorded virtual studio visits hosted by [Daisy McGowan](#), the GOCA's director and chief curator. She invites artists from across the Rocky Mountain West to allow viewers into their studios, where they discuss their artistic process and what it's like to make art in isolation.



[Do conservatives view Trump differently from liberals?](#)

Psychology Today

(April 20, 2020) -- Few of us know President Donald Trump personally, but all of us know a lot about him. As arguably the most public person in the United States, Trump is familiar to us all, and we each have a good sense of how we perceive his personality. This observation led psychologist [Jacob Fiala](#), with the UCCS Aging Center, and colleagues to the idea that they should ask American voters directly how they view the personality of the president.



[Investigative journalists link senior FSB official to MH17 case](#)

Meduza

(April 29, 2020) -- A senior official from the Russian Federal Security Service has been identified as a key figure in the downing of Malaysian Airlines Flight 17 over eastern Ukraine in July 2014. Journalists compared the voice of “Vladimir Ivanovich” from the intercepted telephone calls with recordings of interviews Gen. Andrey Ivanovich Burlaka gave in 2013 and 2018.

The audio samples were sent to the National Center for Media Forensics at CU Denver for voice analysis. The comparison through the center, which is directed by [Catalin Grigoras](#), showed a likelihood of about 94%.



[Seniors in Colorado say it's prudent to stay at home to fight the coronavirus](#)

Denverite

(April 24, 2020) -- [Ronica Rooks](#), an associate professor in the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences at CU Denver, is concerned that easing off on stay-at-home orders will make people less vigilant about, for example, wearing protective gear while interacting with older adults. She said older people should continue to practice social distancing for their physical health.

“But I’m also concerned that with less social interaction, older adults will become socially isolated, and possibly depressed, which could weaken their immune systems, worsen any existing chronic conditions, and make them more susceptible to COVID-19,” said Rooks, whose research focuses on racial and ethnic disparities in adults’ health conditions.



[Anti-vaxxers and lockdown protesters form an unholy alliance](#)

Daily Beast

(April 22, 2020) -- Much of the rhetoric at the reopening rallies mirrors the language of anti-vaccine activists, according to [Jennifer Reich](#), a CU Denver sociologist who has studied why parents don’t vaccinate their children. According to Reich’s research, the rise in non-vaccinations among children has come as a result of two trends: pressure on parents to research every detail of the choices available to their children; and the idea that individuals, not public health experts or doctors, are best positioned to handle their own health decisions. “We’ve perfectly set the stage for parents not to trust vaccines,” Reich said.



[What it'll take for the economy to bounce back](#)

Fox 31

(April 19, 2020) -- Thousands of small businesses are closed and more than 230,000 people have filed for unemployment in Colorado in the last month.

“There’s a lot of unknowns,” said [Andrew Friedson](#), an assistant professor of economics at CU Denver. “We haven’t seen anything like this in over 100 years.” Those unknowns include when and how quickly Colorado’s economy will bounce back.



[Historic demands on Colorado unemployment trust fund pose risk of payroll tax hike](#)

Greeley Tribune/Biz West

(April 11, 2020) -- [Todd Ely](#), director of CU Denver’s Center for Local Government Research and Training, said it’s highly likely the state will need to borrow millions to stay solvent and pay out claims for Coloradans because the current economic crisis has grown more intense in a faster period of time than any existing models could have predicted.

“CDLE’s own stress test suggests multi-year insolvency in the case of a severe recession beginning in 2020. This stress test likely understates the actual financial demands

given the outsized impact on employment of the current crisis,” he said.



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[How climate change is putting doctors in the hot seat](#)

Kaiser Health News

(April 20, 2020) -- [Jay Lemery](#), a professor of emergency medicine at the CU School of Medicine, said he’s seeing how people with chronic illnesses like diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease suffer more with extreme heat.

There’s no medical code for “hottest day of the year,” Lemery said. “But we see it; it’s real. Those people are struggling in a way that they wouldn’t (because of higher temperatures). Climate change right now is a threat multiplier — it makes bad things worse.”



[This CU professor’s research could hold a clue to treating COVID-19](#)

5280

(April 26, 2020) -- By the time [Mercedes Rincon](#), professor of immunology, sits down at her computer at 11:30 p.m., she’s already counseled her 93-year-old

father, who lives alone in Madrid, about how to stay safe and stave off loneliness during the lockdown. She's already met remotely with graduate students and lab techs overseeing a number of projects at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. And she's already participated in a virtual conference about arthritis research. Yet her real work, which is showing great promise, has not yet begun.

"We can't conclude anything yet," Rincon cautions. "We have to be careful. We need more data."



[New insight into the neural circuitry underlying irritability and anxiety in youths when processing social threat](#)

PsyPost

(April 21, 2020) -- "Over the years, I have met with families struggling with all types of anxiety and irritability," explained study author [Joel Stoddard](#) of CU Anschutz and Children's Hospital Colorado. "When I was early in my career, I began to appreciate that even though 'anxiety' and 'irritability' seem like straightforward symptoms, their presentation is often intermingled. We simply don't know why they co-occur or conversely why a child might have one symptom but not the other."



[Six brothers with schizophrenia fascinated researchers. A new book explores the family's trauma.](#)

Slate

(April 8, 2020) -- [Robert Freedman](#), professor of psychiatry at CU Anschutz who researches nutrient choline, first met the Galvin family in the 1980s. Children who first got it when they were in utero are 4 or 5 years old now. The FDA in 2015 recommended that pregnant women take choline supplements for “better brain health,” although it might not have made it into the multisupplement prenatal tablets yet. Freedman is trying to spread the word on his own.



[Conspiracy theorists burn 5G towers claiming link to virus](#)

The New York Times (Associated Press)

(April 21, 2020) -- “To be concerned that 5G is somehow driving the COVID-19 epidemic is just wrong,” [Jonathan Samet](#), dean of the Colorado School of Public Health who chaired a World Health Organization committee that researched cell phone radiation and cancer. “I just don’t find any plausible way to link them.”