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FOCUS ON FACULTY

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2020



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Some See Irony in Virus' Impact on Mayflower Commemoration](#)

Washington Post

(Sept. 21, 2020) – Many activities have been postponed or canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, and CU Boulder historian [Elizabeth Fenn](#) finds a certain perverse poetry in that.

“The irony obviously runs quite deep,” said Fenn, who has studied disease in Colonial America. “Novel infections did most of the dirty work of colonization.”



[“My Friends Were Lied to”: Will Coalminers Stand by Trump as Jobs Disappear?](#)

Mother Jones

(Sept. 28, 2020) – “The fall of coal is first and foremost a market story,” said [Daniel Kaffine](#), a CU Boulder economist. “The days of coal supplying the majority of U.S. electricity production are not coming back.” While metallurgical coal – needed for the making of steel – will hang on, the practice of burning thermal coal for energy is in “a death spiral.



[A Failure of Empathy Led to 200,000 Deaths](#)

The Atlantic

(Sept. 22, 2020) – The COVID-19 death toll probably passed 200,000 some time ago. Yet the photos of body bags have not had the same effect in the pandemic as after other mass-casualty events such as Hurricane Katrina, said [Lori Peek](#), a sociologist at CU Boulder who studies disasters.

“Is our national empathy – our care and love and concern for one another – at such a low level that we are not truly feeling, in our bones, in our hearts and in our souls, the magnitude of the loss?” she asks.



[Shame Is the Name of the Game as Colorado Advisory Board Meets](#)

Westword

(Sept. 17, 2020) – Soon after CU Boulder Professor [Patricia Limerick](#) arrived at the history department, she wrote a report on a dormitory bearing the name of a participant in the Sand Creek Massacre. Limerick’s work led to the residence hall being renamed Cheyenne Arapaho in 1989, honoring the indigenous people whose land it occupied.



[Scientists Spot Potential Sign of Life in Venus Atmosphere](#)

The Washington Post

(Sept. 14, 2020) -- “My first reaction, as always, is skepticism,” said [Bruce Jakosky](#), a planetary scientist at CU Boulder. “One of the things I’ve seen is that when people discover new, cool things, their first thought is life, and then they’re able to come up with alternative, plausible explanations for what they saw.” Even so, he said, the phosphine discovery is “intriguing.”



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[New Commission for Police Accountability Starts in Colorado Springs](#)

KOAA

(Sept. 22, 2020) -- The city of Colorado Springs now has its first citizen-run police oversight committee, which includes [Kate Angulski](#), assistant professor of criminal justice at UCCS. Angulski is a published author with an extensive background in research in the areas of drug use and policy, criminal desistance and international / comparative criminal justice.



[Lifting the Stigma Around Suicide: Experts Encourage More Conversations](#)

KRDO

(Sept. 17, 2020) -- Between 1999 and 2016, Colorado suicide rates increased by a staggering 34%. [Benek Altayli](#), the director of mental health at UCCS, and health experts in Southern Colorado want to combat those numbers by having more conversations about suicide, especially with people who might be struggling.

“It is very helpful just to come out and ask, ‘Are you feeling safe? Are you thinking about suicide? Are you thinking about hurting yourself?’” Altayli said.



[Colorado Springs Cemeteries Offer Historical Perspective, Museum Experience](#)

The Gazette

(Sept. 6, 2020) -- “Cemeteries are mirrors of the living community,” says [Barb Headle](#), a history instructor at UCCS. She has taught the class “Cemeteries and Memory in American History” since 2012.

“When you walk into a cemetery — it doesn’t matter how big or small — you’re walking in that community’s history. I tend to call those who are buried in cemeteries residents. Just as we would call ourselves residents of Colorado Springs. The only difference is we’re breathing.”



[Growth of Local Space and Cybersecurity Industry Creates New Career Opportunities](#)

KOAA

(Sept. 2, 2020) -- [Gretchen Bliss](#) is encouraging students to chase their career dreams at UCCS.

“The issue of cybersecurity is broad. It’s not just dits and dots. It’s not just sitting on the computer. It’s not just a router or the firewall,” she said. “It’s actually the legal, the policy, the business ethics, the management of cybersecurity programs, risk protocols, all those things that not just engineers do.”



[Focusing on Student Veterans' Strengths](#)

Inside Higher Ed

(Sept. 24, 2020) -- [Katie Sullivan](#), at left, and [Kay Yoon](#), associate professors of communication at UCCS, surveyed and interviewed 115 total student veterans at a large public university in the Southwest. They wanted to explore a more balanced way to view the more than 3.5 million student veterans in the United States that looked at their strengths and not only the challenges facing the population, Sullivan said.



University of Colorado **Denver**



[The Sturgis Motorcycle Rally Might Have Led to More than 260,000 New COVID-19 Cases](#)

Insider.com

(Sept. 8, 2020) -- The infections come at a public health cost of more than \$12.2 billion, according to the research. [Andrew Friedson](#), one of the authors of the paper and an economics professor at CU Denver, said that the rally's length, density and location were "the perfect storm" for COVID-19 spread.



[Researcher Analyzes the Use of Solar Energy at U.S. airports](#)

Science Daily

(Sept. 21, 2020) -- By studying 488 public airports in the United States, CU Denver School of Public Affairs researcher [Serena Kim](#) found that 20% have adopted solar photovoltaic (PV), commonly known as solar panels, over the past decade. PV is the conversion of light into electricity using semiconducting materials that exhibit the photovoltaic effect.



[The Moment Is Primed for Asynchronous Learning](#)

Inside Higher Ed

(Sept. 16, 2020) – “For community college students in particular, because they’re usually nontraditional students, asynchronous learning is really useful,” said [Sean Morris](#), senior instructor of learning design and technology at CU Denver and director of the Digital Pedagogy Lab. “In our current situation, asynchronous learning is the way to go.”



[The Great Experiment](#)

Washington Post

(Sept. 10, 2020) -- A research team is investigating whether gender bias plays a role in how people respond to coronavirus-related information from female governors. An early analysis suggests that male governors are viewed as better pandemic policy communicators and that residents of states with male governors are more likely to comply with public health recommendations, said lead investigator [Sebowit Bishu](#), an assistant professor of public administration and management at CU Denver.



[How Do Cops Spend Their Time? These Numbers Offer an Inside Look](#)

Denver Post

(Sept. 6, 2020) -- [Paul Taylor](#), who teaches police policy and training at CU Denver, said it's time cities look for creative solutions to address duties long-held by police.

“The question becomes: Are they the right tool for that job?” Taylor said. “What happens when they have an interaction and their only tools are the use of force, citation or arrest?”



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[How the Cerebellum Optimizes Split-Second Decision Making](#)

Psychology Today

(Sept. 20, 2020) – “We wanted to know how [quick] decision making takes place,” said senior author [Diego Restrepo](#), professor of cell and developmental biology at the CU School of Medicine. “How, for example, do you decide to swing or not swing at a fastball in baseball? We found an entire subset of [cerebellar] brain cells that change after learning.”



[How America’s Healthiest Communities Have Battled the Coronavirus](#)

U.S. News & World Report

(Sept. 22, 2020) – “We’ve seen quite a bit of variation across local communities, both in capacity to respond and capacity to implement recommendations” to keep the virus from spreading, said [Glen Mays](#), chair of the Department of Health Systems, Management and Policy at CU Anschutz. “There have been variations in trajectory of infections across communities.”



[Colorado Testing Fish in New Push to Prevent Health Harm From Toxic ‘Forever Chemicals’](#)

Denver Post

(Sept. 20, 2020) -- Blood testing by a Colorado School of Public Health team on 213 southern Colorado residents – who for years ingested per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in their drinking water – showed absorption of the chemicals at levels up to 15 times higher than the national norm.

“We want to make sure we have enough information to protect the public,” said health researcher **Sarah Erickson**.



[How to Date in Denver During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

The Know/Denver Post

(Sept. 17, 2020) -- [Lisa Miller](#), professor of epidemiology with the Colorado School of Public Health, said that come winter in Denver, we’ll need to continue relying on the outdoors if we want to continue meeting new people. “We all need to up our tolerance and maybe layers of clothing a little bit and be willing to get outside and take walks and do those outdoor activities, weather and health permitting,” Miller said.



[More Than 1 in 3 U.S. Pediatricians Dismiss Vaccine-Refusing Families](#)

U.S. News & World Report

(Sept. 15, 2020) – “Arguments for dismissing families include that vaccination is the standard of care and the benefits far outweigh the risks. The evidence for vaccines is so strong that doctors may feel they just can’t work with parents who stray so far from the standards of medical care,” said lead author [Sean O'Leary](#), professor of pediatrics at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and Children's Hospital Colorado in Aurora.

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