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FOCUS ON FACULTY

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2019



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Careful with those birthday candles, Smokey: Beloved bear turns 75](#)

WCAI

(Aug. 9, 2019) – “We still need fire in our landscapes, and this is incredibly important, and it’s very hard to understand,” said CU Boulder geology professor [Jennifer Balch](#). “In part because of Smokey, you think that all fire is bad and we must remove fire from the landscape, whereas that’s actually not what we should be doing.”



[New date for ‘Late Heavy Bombardment’ may change life’s timeline on Earth](#)

Discover

(Aug. 15, 2019) -- The solar system once experienced a meteor shower of epic proportions: Asteroids whizzed around the inner planets, crashing down in a rain of fire that left their surfaces scarred for billions of years. Astronomers typically call this period the Late Heavy Bombardment. Now, astronomers led by [Stephen Mojzsis](#), CU Boulder, have shown that the bombardment might have happened much earlier: 4.48 billion years ago. That would leave plenty of time for Earth to cool and life to emerge.



[CU prof William Wei brings new perspective to the revamped role of Colorado’s state historian](#)

The Colorado Sun

(Aug. 1, 2019) -- As [William Wei](#) stands amid the museum exhibit he helped conceive, a collection of 100 Colorado historical artifacts at the History Colorado Center dubbed “Zoom In,” someone asks him to pick out his favorite. He walks directly to where two sturdy wooden containers sit side by side. Assembled one inside the other, they served as a ballot box from El Paso County, circa 1884, the first statewide election that counted the votes of Colorado women.

“The reason why I like this artifact is because it represents something central to democratic society, and that is voting,” said Wei, who takes over the role of state historian. “And these days, in this time and place, voting securely is a national issue.”



[Boulder’s Avery Brewing partnering with CU Buffs on new ‘Stampede’ lager](#)

Daily Camera

(Aug. 13, 2019) -- Ralphie is getting canned. CU Boulder and Boulder’s Avery Brewing Co. are teaming up on a new beer called “Stampede” in honor of the CU Buffs. [Travis Rupp](#), Avery’s beer archaeologist and a professor at CU Boulder, brought up the idea for the project.



[Walmart shooting in El Paso renews attention on crime frequency at its stores](#)

The New York Times

(Aug. 5, 2019) -- In the week before the El Paso shooting, at least three people were killed at Walmart stores across the nation, including two employees who, officials said, were shot by a former colleague at the store in Southaven, Miss.

“In some ZIP codes, Walmart is a significant driver of crime rates,” said [David C. Pyrooz](#), an associate professor

of sociology at CU Boulder who was the co-author of a 2014 study analyzing the stores' impact on local crime.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[Study warns more college students are using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes](#)

KOAA News

(Aug. 18, 2019) -- [Stephanie Hanenberg](#), executive director of health and Wellness at UCCS, said students typically take them to try and improve their grades, but it does not always work out that way.

“Usually they stay up and the lack of sleep makes them perform worse, or they have so many side effects they can’t sleep even if they intended to, and then they can’t quiet their mind enough to focus when they get in to take an exam,” she said.



[Poll: Hickenlooper would have big lead in Democratic Senate primary](#)

KRDO

(Aug. 12, 2019) -- Several Democrats are running for the chance to face Gardner, but despite being pressured,

former Gov. John Hickenlooper has rejected calls to switch to the Senate race. [Josh Dunn](#), a political science professor at UCCS, said despite Hickenlooper's dismissal, it would be a good idea.

“That’s a race he could win if he were to jump into it,” Dunn said.



[Concern, opposition grows to 5G in Colorado Springs](#)

KRDO

(Aug. 27, 2019) -- [Jerry Phillips](#), a professor at UCCS, said there are several reasons why the growing controversy surrounding 5G is getting more public feedback than the arrival of 4G or 3G.

“It’s still an unknown when it comes to the placement of towers or any health risks,” he said. “It's going to require the placement of more towers because 5G information is transmitted over shorter distances, and it's easily blocked. It’s based on line of sight.”



[Dow plunges, trade wars rage on: Is the U.S. headed for a recession?](#)

KOAA

(Aug. 16, 2019) -- The winds of the U.S. economy could be shifting with things coming to a head this week - bad news for global growth. [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of the

UCCS Economic Forum, said she's concerned. "Most economists are saying that we have a greater than 50% probability of hitting a recession within the next 12 months."



[Wildlife roam where U.S. once made nuclear and chemical arms](#)

ABC News (Associated Press)

(Aug. 18, 2019) -- The military, the U.S. Department of Energy and private companies have spent more than \$57 billion to clean up the six heavily polluted sites. Despite the complicated and expensive cleanups, significant contamination has been left behind, some experts say.

"They would be worse if they were surrounded by a fence and left off-limits for decades and decades," said [David Havlick](#), a professor at UCCS who studies military-to-wildlife conversions. "That said, it would be better if they were cleaned up more thoroughly."



University of Colorado **Denver**



[What the measles epidemic really says about America](#)

The Atlantic

(August 2019) -- Declining vaccination rates not only reflect a great forgetting, they reveal a population that suffers from overconfidence in its own amateur knowledge. In her book "Calling the Shots: Why Parents Reject Vaccines," CU Denver's [Jennifer Reich](#) notes that starting in the 1970s, alternative-health movements "repositioned expertise as residing within the individual."



[Inverted yield curve not a warning flare for recession, CU Denver professor argues](#)

The Denver Post

(Aug. 24, 2019) -- [Yosef Bonaparte](#), finance director of the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities CU Denver, argues there is a reasonable explanation for why long-term yields dropped below short-term ones. Sweden, Japan, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Germany and Denmark are all mired in negative rates, including on their 10-year bonds.



[First person in your family to go to college? Here's some advice from first-generation Colorado students and experts](#)

The Denver Post

(Aug. 21, 2019) -- [Christy Heaton](#), CU Denver's director of first-year experiences, said it's important to recognize that first-generation students sometimes come from backgrounds that change how they interact with the college experience. Some may commute to campus rather than live in dorms or have jobs to help finance their education. "We want to help you find meaning in what you do here because we want you to stay and we want you to succeed," Heaton said.



[Why do scooters crash so often? Tiny tires don't help](#)

The Denver Post

(Aug. 17, 2019) -- [John Tinnell](#), a CU Denver professor of digital initiatives, urged caution in allowing private companies to capitalize on public space. At a recent forum, he asked the city to publish more detailed information about each company's record.

"We need to start pitting scooter companies against one another on our terms and conditions," he said. "Who has the best safety record? Who has the least amount of improperly parked scooters?"



[Unnecessary ambulance calls in NYC spiked after Obamacare](#)

Colorado Public Radio

(Aug. 16, 2019) -- Economic impact studies are often used to support a conclusion that has already been reached, according to [Geoffrey Propheter](#), assistant professor of public policy at CU Denver. It doesn't mean the study is inaccurate, but he did caution against taking the \$711 million figure at face value.

“Uninformed consumers of these reports will read that and equate that to some sort of estimate for the amount of money that’s going to make it back into resident’s pockets or the amount of money that’s going to make it into local government coffers, and that’s not what it is,” Propheter said. “Economic impact is just an estimate of the money changing hands.”



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**



[Researchers examine altitude’s role in depression and suicide](#)

NPR

(Aug. 19, 2019) -- Researchers think the mountains, with a lack of oxygen at high altitude, could be interfering with people's mental health. [Emmy Betz](#), an emergency physician and researcher at the CU School of Medicine, said it's crucial to look at other factors.

“Things like access to firearms, access to behavioral health care, the sort of potential stigma in the society around asking for help,” she said.

Also:

- [There's Now A Map To Help Find Places In Colorado To Safely Store Firearms When A Gun Owner Or Others Are In Crisis](#), CPR, Aug. 26
- [Guns, Hate And Mental Health: Where Do They Intersect? And How Should We Move Forward?](#), CPR, Aug. 15



[Whatever happened to the mysterious kidney disease striking Central America?](#)

NPR

(Aug. 26, 2019) -- [Cecilia Sorensen](#) calls this new mysterious form of kidney failure a sentinel disease in the era of climate change.

“We know that climate change is exacerbating a lot of different human diseases. It exacerbates cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease,” said Sorensen, an emergency medicine physician at the CU School of Medicine. “But this is one of the first identified where we can say this disease probably wouldn’t have occurred if it weren’t for the extreme global temperatures that we’re seeing.”



[Study reveals low IQ in children linked to prenatal fluoride intake](#)

Science Times

(Aug. 26, 2019) -- [Patricia A. Braun](#), a professor of pediatrics at CU Anschutz Medical Campus, said many articles testify for the safety of fluoridating community water. However, it is essential to consider the impacts. The professor, who is also the chair to the AAP Section on Oral Health Executive Committee, added that the recently released study does not change the fact that fluoride has benefits as well.



[Let's talk about that whole fertility and age 35 thing](#)

SELF

(Aug. 22, 2019) -- All of the experts SELF spoke to pointed out that this focus on fertility and age 35 isn't baseless. This notion is founded in science.

“Declining fertility around the age of 35 is not just guesswork,” said [Joshua Johnson](#), assistant professor in the division of reproductive sciences at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Large clinical studies using data from assisted reproductive technology (ART) clinics have helped experts parse out how fertility declines with age, Johnson said.



[To boost workforce, medical schools try to sell rural life](#)

ABC News

(Aug. 9, 2019) -- At the CU School of Medicine, students can meet with the mayor, police chief or other leaders of rural communities and interview residents to learn about the town.

“We want to give the students an idea about what goes into the workings of a small community,” said [Mark Deutchman](#), director of the school’s rural track.

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