Focus on CU Faculty [1]

September 2020

September (view all) [2]

- CU Boulder: Why Your Cucumbers and Tomatoes Won’t Grow, and Other Garden Woes This Summer [3]

August 2020

August (view all) pdf [7]

- CU Boulder: Faster, Painless COVID-19 Test Developed by CU [8]
- CU Colorado Springs: Play Therapy Can Help Kids Speak the Unspeakable [9]
- CU Denver: The Hits Keep Coming at the ‘Smash Lab’ After a Big Donation from the NFL to Make a Safer Helmet [10]
- CU Anschutz: 2020 Fourth of July Weekend was One of the Busiest Ever at UCHealth Burn Center [11]

July 2020

July (view all) pdf [12]

- CU Boulder: Could dark matter be a source of light in the universe? [13]
- UCCS: Studying fruit flies to understand neurologic disorders [14]
- CU Denver: How deepfakes could actually do some good [15]
- CU Anschutz: Would MLB be better off in a bubble? Experts say ... maybe [16]

June 2020

June (view all) [17]

- CU Boulder: These trippy Martian visuals hold clues to why the planet lost its atmosphere [18]
- CU Colorado Springs: Locals react to recent racism: ‘It’s always been there’ [19]
- CU Denver: This early human ‘Eden’ was so lush, even migratory animals didn’t bother to move  
- CU Anschutz: How bad is it really to sit with your legs crossed? 

May 2020

May (view all)  
- CU Boulder: One of geology’s great mysteries might be many smaller mysteries  
- CU Colorado Springs: UCCS to create National Resilience Institute focused on helping military, emergency responders handle trauma  
- CU Denver: Investigative journalists link senior FSB official to MH17 case  
- CU Anschutz: How climate change is putting doctors in the hot seat 

April 2020

April (view all)  
- CU Boulder: Fake Facebook ads used fear and anger to divide Americans  
- CU Colorado Springs: Voice of the consumer: Take extra precautions to keep children safe online  
- CU Denver: How human composting could revolutionize how we deal with death  
- CU Anschutz: Who should be saved first? Experts offer ethical guidance 

March 2020

March (view all)  
- CU Boulder: From Dubai to Mars, with stops in Colorado and Japan  
- CU Colorado Springs: New Colorado Springs installation explores meaning of objects in our lives  
- CU Denver: New CU Denver study examines how long before wildfires could burn the same terrain again  
- CU Anschutz: Why are more women dying from alcohol use? 

February 2020

February (view all)  
- CU Boulder: Scientists design bacteria-based living concrete  
- CU Colorado Springs: Denver’s Regis University paid ransom to ‘malicious actors’ behind campus cyberattack  
- CU Denver: State 23rd in economic benefits of immigration  
- CU Anschutz: Meals on Wheels working to combat senior loneliness 

January 2020
January (view all)  [42]

- CU Boulder: Concussions strike college students far more often than thought [43]
- CU Colorado Springs: Health Experts: Study drugs are not worth the risk [44]
- CU Denver: Female entrepreneurs face different challenges to achieve success [45]
- CU Anschutz: Ancient Egypt’s mythical female doctor Merit Ptah helped open medicine and STEM to women [46]

December 2019

December (view all)  [47]

- CU Boulder: CU Boulder scientist honored with asteroid named for him [48]
- CU Colorado Springs: Colorado Springs incomes continue losing ground at same time cost of living is rising [49]
- CU Denver: Colorado has 71 census tracts where high rates of mental health issues and high housing costs overlap [50]
- CU Anschutz: For your heart, eat fish or take pills? [51]

November 2019

November (view all)  [52]

- CU Boulder: Teens aren’t breaking language, they’re adding to it [53], CPR
- UCCS: Cognitive development lab makes debut at UCCS Cool Science Festival Day [54], The Gazette
- CU Denver: ‘Sugar daddy’ relationships aren’t just about cash for sex: study [55], New York Post
- CU Anschutz: Shingles vaccine remains in short supply, long waits possible at Colorado pharmacies [56], KDVR

October 2019

October (view all)  [57]

- CU Boulder: New studies warn of cataclysmic solar superstorms [58]
- UCCS: This decade-by-decade training guide will help you run strong for life [59]
- CU Denver: Builders profit, owners worry amid disaster-area development [60]
- CU Anschutz: Leukemia cure? New approach to kill cancer [61]

September 2019

September (view all)  [62]

- CU Boulder: Careful with those birthday candles, Smokey [63]
- CU Colorado Springs: Study warns more college students are using prescription drugs for non-medical purposes [64]
• CU Denver: What the measles epidemic really says about America [65]
• CU Anschutz: Study reveals low IQ in children linked to prenatal fluoride intake [66]

August 2019

August (view all) [67]

• CU Boulder: How artificial intelligence can tackle climate change [68]
• CU Colorado Springs: What parts of Colorado see the most lightning? [69]
• CU Denver: ‘Crawl’ could usher in a new wave of climate change horror films [70]
• CU Anschutz: CU study suggests women living near oil and gas wells are more likely to have children with heart defects [71]

July 2019

July (view all) [72]

• CU Boulder: Researcher looks to voles to learn about love [73]
• CU Colorado Springs: Your healthy family: Springs art show supports teen suicide prevention [74]
• CU Denver: What will make you believe in global warming? How about a life-altering flood, study asks [75]
• CU Anschutz: Storytelling helps hospital staff discover the person within the patient [76]

June 2019

June (view all) [77]

• CU Boulder: Students take a front-line role in school shootings [78]
• CU Colorado Springs: Author examines how lands were converted to wildlife refuge [79]
• CU Denver: Why symbols aren’t forever [80]
• CU Anschutz Medical Campus: The increase in Everest deaths might have nothing to do with crowds or waiting [81]

May 2019

May (view all) [82]

• CU Boulder: After Paradise was decimated by wildfires, the anguish endures [83]
• CU Colorado Springs: Why are so many teen athletes struggling with depression? [84]
• CU Denver: Risky renovation: Notre Dame Cathedral [85]
• CU Anschutz: Parents learn how to talk about mental health with kids at Stapleton event [86]

April 2019
University of Colorado Boulder

The mathematical madness behind a perfect NCAA basketball bracket

Smithsonian

(March 21, 2019) -- “The simplest thing to ask yourself is how many games of the 63 are you willing to say, ‘I will have 100 percent chance of winning,’” said Mark Ablowitz, an applied mathematics professor at CU Boulder. If all the No. 1 seeds were guaranteed to win their first-round games, and every other game were chosen at random, the probability of a perfect bracket would improve to 1 in 259.

Geothermal power plants triggered 2017 Pohang quake

KBS World Radio

(March 20, 2019) -- Professor Shemin Ge from CU Boulder, who co-headed the joint team’s probe, said the high-pressure water injected into one of the nearby pits vitalized an unknown fault zone, thereby triggering the quake.

“Soon after the earthquake, the questioning rose about the possible involvement in the earthquake of Korea’s first Enhanced Geothermal System and because the epicenter is located near the EGS,” Ge said.

Weekend ‘catch-up sleep’ is a lie

The Washington Post

(Febr. 28, 2019) -- “If there are benefits of catch-up sleep, they’re gone when you go back to your routine. It’s very short-lived,” said Kenneth Wright, director of the sleep and chronobiology laboratory at CU Boulder.

“These health effects are long-term. It’s kind of like smoking once was – people would smoke and wouldn’t see an immediate effect on their health, but people will say now that smoking is not a healthy lifestyle choice. I think sleep is in the early phase of where smoking used to be.”

Wildlife in winter

Telluride Daily Planet

(March 21, 2019) -- William Bowman, an ecology and evolutionary biology professor at CU Boulder who directs the university’s Mountain Research Station, said it can take more than one season for forage to regrow.
“If native grasses have been grazed to the point where they’ve died in spots, they’ll take a couple of years to respond” following a drought, Bowman said. “However, if the grasses haven’t been hit too hard by grazing in the past, they’ll respond well this year, and probably better next year, once they replace their reserves of stored nutrients and energy.”

**Trump wants appeals court to let him block critics on Twitter** [85]

Bloomberg

(March 24, 2019) -- The case gives the appeals court the chance to show government officials that their decision to use social media, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, has consequences, said Helen Norton [96], a professor at the CU Law School.

“Government speakers need not choose to speak through platforms that permit public interaction -- for example, they can have blogs or websites without enabling comment threads,” Norton said. “When government officials speak to the public about the government’s work through platforms that permit public interaction, they enable a forum for public comment, and the First Amendment permits them to control the content of their own posts but forbids them from controlling private parties’ participation.”

**University of Colorado Colorado Springs**

**Young people are falling for scams more often than their grandparents** [97]

KOAA

(March 24, 2019) -- In 2018 people under the age of 30 were fooled and paid scammers more often than any other age group. College students have become a popular and rewarding target for scammers and fraudsters. In Colorado Springs UCCS Police Chief Marc Pino [98] says he’s seen the impact.

“Students fall victim to this type of crime; it ranges from a couple hundred dollars to thousands of dollars,” Pino said.

**Colorado Springs unemployment rate inches up to 3½-year high** [99]

The Gazette

(March 15, 2019) -- “When the unemployment rate falls below 4 percent, that is often a sign of the economy overheating, and sometimes triggers a slowdown,” said Tatiana Bailey [100], director of the UCCS Economic Forum. “In this case, it looks like job growth and the unemployment rate are leveling off, and I would rather have more moderate and sustainable growth than booms and busts.”

**Honoring Helen Hunt Jackson’s legacy: Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum provides intimate look into life of renowned local author** [101]
The Gazette

(March 13, 2019) -- For a decade — 1875 to 1885 — Helen Hunt Jackson resided here, becoming one of the most famous authors of her time. Last month at the Colorado Springs Pioneer Museum, Lesley Ginsberg shared the story of Jackson’s remarkable life and rise to fame. Ginsberg, a professor at UCCS, is well-versed in 19th century American literature.

Most voters favor firefighters’ collective bargaining Issue 1

Colorado Springs Independent

(March 12, 2019) — It might come as a surprise, considering that El Paso County is a GOP stronghold where Republicans — who generally oppose unions and outnumber Democrats nearly two to one — support the firefighters’ Issue 1. But not to Joshua Dunn, professor and chair of the department of political science at UCCS.

“Public safety and first responders generally have high levels of support among the public,” Dunn said. “If you have something about firefighters or police, you’re going to get a decent number of people supportive if it’s interpreted to be in favor of first responders.”

Ent Center director works to raise profile of ‘very robust’ arts scene in Colorado Springs

The Gazette

(Fe. 28, 2019) -- Aisha Ahmad-Post had a clear and ambitious goal: to become the principal bassist for the New York Philharmonic. But years of practice toward that goal took a toll on her body. And when an injury forced her to abandon that dream, she set on a new career path — one that eventually would lead her from the Big Apple to Colorado Springs and a job as director of the new Ent Center for the Arts at UCCS.

University of Colorado Denver

As riders pick Uber and Lyft, Denver may need less parking

The Denver Post

(March 13, 2019) -- The study by a researcher and CU Denver professor found that since more than a quarter of the hundreds of riders surveyed would have driven themselves otherwise, their ride-hitching choice meant they no longer needed a parking spot at their destination.

“With this new study, it is nice to show that these companies aren’t all bad — and that our ability to reduce parking can definitely be one of the benefits,” said Wesley Marshall, associate professor at the CU Denver College of Engineering, Design and Computing and director of the Transportation Research Center.
Margarita Bianco named among Top 35 Women in Higher Education

Diverse Issues in Higher Education

(March 21, 2019) -- CU Denver’s Margarita Bianco is an honoree among the 2019 class of leading women in higher education. Bianco, a professor in the School of Education and Human Development, is the founder and executive director of Pathways2Teaching, an innovative pre-collegiate program designed to encourage high school students of color to enter the teacher workforce as a way to disrupt educational inequities.

Kafer: Overpaying for prestigious degree is also a scam

The Denver Post

(March 14, 2019) – “What do Colorado House Majority Leader Alec Garnett, House Minority Leader Patrick Neville, Senate President Pro Tempore Lois Court, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Chairwoman of the Colorado Democratic Party Morgan Carroll, Colorado State Treasurer Dave Young, Singer Isaac Slade of The Fray, Tuba/Bass Virtuoso Jeanie Schroder of Devotchka and I all have in common? We are University of Colorado Denver alumni.”

How John Hickenlooper defied the odds in 2003, and how he might do it again in 2020

The Denver Post

(March 10, 2019) -- “You can be a totally unknown candidate in an early stage of the race and go on to win the election,” said Tony Robinson, chair of the political science department of CU Denver. Robinson, a Denver City Council candidate in 2003, witnessed firsthand how Hickenlooper pulled it off.

“Ari Zavaras and Don Mares, those were clearly the two titans in the mayoral race. And Hickenlooper came out of nowhere and had a strategy to win the election.”

Full-day kindergarten works, educators say. Paying for it remains Colorado’s challenge

The Denver Post

(March 17, 2019) -- “The thing we want to establish is that it works,” said Rebecca Kantor, dean of the School of Education and Human Development at CU Denver. “We know that from multiple studies — national and local — that children who are in full-day programs make significant gains in early reading and math by the end compared to their peers who attend a half-day program.”

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Are cows key to edible chemotherapy?
KSAT

(March 5, 2019) – “Some drugs just cannot survive the condition in the stomach,” said Tom Anchordoquy, a pharmaceutical scientist at the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Anchordoquy has found an unusual way to change that – he is putting powerful drugs into raw milk. “It’d make things a lot easier and cheaper,” he said.

The measles emergency: What are religious exemptions? [118]

The New York Times

(March 27, 2019) -- Health and community leaders have stressed open communication between health officials and religious leaders to bridge cultural divides. In Colorado, Joshua Williams, an assistant professor of pediatrics at the CU School of Medicine, has recommended that the groups talk at specific times, such as when the academic year begins or at the start of influenza season, and not just during a health crisis. He is also working with the state’s Council of Churches to hold sessions with parishioners to hear their concerns.

Also:

- God, country and chickenpox: How an outbreak entangled one school in a vaccine showdown [120], The Washington Post, March 19
- One more time, with big data: Measles vaccine doesn’t cause autism [121], New York Times, March 5

One in three young adults suffers from loneliness in U.S. [122]

U.S. News and World Report

(March 11, 2019) -- The study surveyed people at one point in time. So it's not clear whether loneliness preceded -- and possibly contributed to -- people’s poorer health, said lead researcher Rebecca Mullen. It’s possible the relationship goes in both directions -- with loneliness and health issues feeding each other, added Mullen, an assistant professor at the CU School of Medicine. In talking about loneliness, it's important to distinguish it from time spent alone, said Maddux.

“People who are more introverted may be perfectly happy with their alone time,” Maddux explained.

Arthritis in the knees [124]

U.S. News and World Report

(March 8, 2019) -- Osteoarthritis doesn’t have to sideline you. “An arthritic knee still loves to move. It’s just a matter of finding the right type of lower-impact activity to keep an individual active and functional,” says Sourav Poddar, director of the primary care sports medicine program at the CU School of Medicine.

“Women are more likely than men to develop osteoarthritis in the knee,” Poddar said. It’s
unclear why, but some evidence suggests that low estrogen levels after menopause may play a role.

**El Paso County declared ‘Second Amendment Preservation County’ as Legislature weighs red flag gun bill** [126]

The Gazette

(March 21, 2019) -- **Erik Wallace** [127] said that burden of proof is on the petitioner who is seeking to have a person declared dangerous. The proposal does “not violate the Second Amendment rights of anyone who is not in immediate danger of killing themselves or anyone else,” said Wallace, associate dean for the CU School of Medicine’s branch in Colorado Springs.

**Women’s genes may increase risk of birth control failure, study suggests** [128]

Live Science

(March 12, 2019) – “When a woman says she got pregnant while on birth control, the assumption was always that it was somehow her fault,” said study lead author **Aaron Lazorwitz** [129], assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the CU School of Medicine. “But these findings show that we should listen to our patients and consider if there is something in their genes that caused this [unplanned pregnancy].”

**April (view all)** [130]

**March 2019**

**March (view all)** [131]

- CU Boulder: Cooking a roast dinner makes your home as polluted as inner city London [132]
- CU Colorado Springs: Yuck! Disgust and short-term relationships [133]
- CU Denver: Aging African-Americans are hit with a double-whammy: health and financial troubles [134]
- CU Anschutz: ‘Every 30 seconds another alarm is going off’: Neonatal ICUs can take their toll on parents [135]

**February 2019**

**February (view all)** [136]

- CU Boulder: NASA opens the door to commercial moon landing, including two Colorado companies [137]
- CU Colorado Springs: Counselor weighs in on why homeless refuse to go to shelters even on extremely cold nights [138]
- CU Denver: A deepfake explained [139]
- CU Anschutz: Yes, it’s trendy right now — but what exactly is self-care? [140]

**January 2019**
January (view all) [141]

- CU Boulder: Radio stations are banning 'Baby, It's Cold Outside' for its questionable language, but a historian says it was once a feminist anthem [142]
- CU Colorado Springs: Fruit fly brain cells give CC, UCCS researchers insight into neurological disorders [143]
- CU Denver: Gentrification is changing the essence of 29th and Colorado [144]
- CU Anschutz: Susan Potter knew in exquisite and grisly detail what was going to happen to her body after death [145]

December 2018

December (view all) [146]

- CU Boulder: CU Boulder professor links brain’s expectations and pain sensation [147]
- CU Colorado Springs: Obsession or addiction? Fortnite is what’s on kids’ minds [148]
- CU Denver: Seattle police return artifacts found at estate sale to Mexican government [149]
- CU Anschutz: Experts detail proposals to improve clinician well-being [150]

November 2018

November (view all) [151]

- CU Boulder: CU prof to zero in on zombie love [152]
- CU Colorado Springs: Colorado Springs science festival shoots for making learning and exploring cool for all ages [153]
- CU Denver: Dispatches from the mobile ad fraud battlefield [154]
- CU Anschutz Medical Campus: Here’s what you need to know about using marijuana while pregnant or breastfeeding [155]

October 2018

October (view all) [156]

- CU Boulder: Can Colorado burn its way out of a wildfire crisis? [157]
- CU Colorado Springs: A lack of confidence isn’t what’s holding back working women [158]
- CU Denver: Can science solve a music industry mystery? [159]
- CU Anschutz: The ‘three horsemen’ that could help cure Alzheimer’s [160]

September 2018

September (view all) [161]

- CU Boulder: Cyber-espionage is a whole new ballgame for spies and governments alike [162]
- CU Colorado Springs: Colorado Springs unemployment rate jumps to 3.6 percent [163]
- CU Denver: ‘40 Years in the Making: The Magic Music Movie’ [164]
CU Anschutz: Pet owners are abusing their animals to get opioids, say vets

August 2018

August (view all)

- CU Boulder: Terraforming Mars might be impossible due to a lack of carbon dioxide
- CU Colorado Springs: Colorado economists agree slowdown is coming, but not on when
- CU Denver: Election takeaways: Colorado’s primaries show Democrats have momentum heading into November
- CU Anschutz: New study reveals startling results for cancer patients who opt for natural remedies

July 2018

July (view all)

- CU Boulder: Long-standing mystery of universe’s hidden matter finally solved
- CU Colorado Springs: Unaffiliated voters flex their muscle in 2018 Colorado primary election
- CU Denver: New aluminum tariffs could hit beer drinkers
- CU Anschutz: Summer means camping, grilling and fun around the fire pit, but …

June 2018

June (view all)

- CU Boulder: Asteroid impact that wiped out the dinosaurs also caused abrupt climate change
- CU Colorado Springs: UCCS professor weighs in on President Trump canceling summit with North Korea
- CU Denver: A Coloradan’s guide to surviving the end of the world
- CU Anschutz: In elderly hands, firearms can be even deadlier

May 2018

May (view all)

- CU Boulder: Black holes head for collision as two galaxies merge in stunning butterfly formation
- CU Colorado Springs: Captain Kirk beams down to UCCS
- CU Denver: Can new forensic tech win war on AI-generated fake images?
- CU Anschutz: Family caregivers finally get a break — and some coaching

April 2018
April (view all) [186]

- CU Boulder: CU mathematician on Brackets: ‘You won’t make a perfect prediction.’ [187] CBS
- CU Colorado Springs: Conservative professors say they’re alone in a sea of liberals [188], CPR
- CU Denver: Denver author’s new children’s book is all about deportation [189], Denverite
- CU Anschutz: Many ER doctors underestimate how many opioids they prescribe [190], Pacific Standard

March 2018

March (view all) [191]

- CU Boulder: Scientists say everyday chemicals now rival cars as a source of air pollution [192]
- CU Colorado Springs: How to become less afraid of death [193]
- CU Denver: Getting beyond the science of attraction [194]
- CU Anschutz: Unconditional love: Having a dog can help your heart [195]

February 2018

February (view all) [196]

- CU Boulder: The super blue blood moon of 2018 may unlock secrets of the lunar surface [197]
- CU Colorado Springs: National radon action month declared in Colorado [198]
- CU Denver: After Denver hired homeless people to perform day labor, more than 100 landed regular jobs [199]
- CU Anschutz CU study: Medicaid expansion states were less likely to see hospitals close [200]

January 2018

January (view all) [201]

- CU Boulder: Hickenlooper picks CU professor for vacant Colorado Supreme Court seat [202]
- CU Colorado Springs: Colorado’s rapid growth sets stage for political war [203]
- CU Denver: Salazar Family Foundation gives $10 million to build CU Denver campus wellness center [204]
- CU Anschutz: Study explains how exercise can slow Parkinson’s disease [205]

December 2017

December (view all) [206]

- CU Boulder: CU game design class births survival quest featuring magic mushrooms, rabid raccoons and cannibalism [207]
- CU Colorado Springs: Old tensions come to life as medieval Spanish synagogue goes online [208]
- CU Denver: Think those slot homes in Denver are ugly? You’re not alone [209]
- CU Anschutz: For Native Americans, fighting diabetes means fighting the federal government for their fair share of health care funds [210]

**November 2017**

**November (view all) [211]**

- CU Boulder: Sloshing of Earth’s core may spike major earthquakes [212]
- CU Colorado Springs: Mike Ditka’s comments on anthem protests underscore larger, chilling effect [213]
- CU Denver: Denver sensory garden planted to help special needs kids [214]
- CU Anschutz: Newly approved shingles vaccine was developed at CU [215]

**October 2017**

**October (view all) [216]**

- CU Boulder: Could gardening lower your risk of cancer? [217]
- UCCS: Turning a spotlight on tattoo regret [218]
- CU Denver: A woman’s appearance affects her career [219]
- CU Anschutz: Flu season outlook: Hospitals already seeing influenza cases [220]

**September 2017**

**September (view all) [221]**

- CU Boulder: Colorado’s long history — and uncertain present — with the KKK and other hate groups [222]
- UCCS: This is how women today REALLY feel about getting naked [223]
- CU Denver: How would a storm the size of Harvey impact Colorado? [224]
- CU Anschutz: Many heart failure patients don’t recognize the risks of their illness [225]

**August 2017**

**August (view all) [226]**

- CU Boulder: Rising death rates for whites not the result of despair, CU study finds [227]
- CU Colorado Springs: Colorado’s National Cybersecurity Center plans to serve and protect [228]
- CU Denver: Wildfires are becoming more destructive: That’s not natural -- and it's not climate change [229]
- CU Anschutz Medical Campus: Despite serious opioid crisis, research on medical marijuana remains stifled by federal rules [230]
July 2017

July (view all) [231]

- CU Boulder: 8-year-old ponders existence of mermaids, receives detailed letter from CU scientist [232]
- CU Colorado Springs: How Hermione Granger went from literary witch to powerful feminist symbol [233]
- CU Denver: Houston’s trailer parks offer cheap housing in a pricey city, but with a catch [234]
- CU Anschutz: National MS Society key in funding research, technology [235]

June 2017

June (view all) [236]

- CU Boulder: When the lab rat is a snake [237]
- CU Colorado Springs: Program brings together students and playwrights on topic of violence [238]
- CU Denver: Denver’s hunger for housing is squeezing mobile home parks [239]
- CU Anschutz: The seven injuries doctors see most on summer weekend [240]

May 2017

May (view all) [241]

- CU Boulder: Inmates, students learn from each other in first CU Boulder course of its kind [242]
- CU Colorado Springs: Commissioner: What Colorado Springs lacks is a beer school [243]
- CU Denver: Measure to replace Columbus Day holiday advances [244]
- CU Anschutz Medical Campus: Colorado doctor researching antidotes for chemical weapons like ones used in Syria [245]

April 2017

April (view all) [246]

- CU Boulder prof explains how humor gets you ahead [247]
- UCCS notes steady job growth in the Springs [248]
- CU Denver researcher discusses why cyclists break the law [249]
- CU Anschutz experts explain why rural areas are in danger of a doctor shortage [250]

March 2017

March (view all) [251]

- CU Boulder astronomer discusses newly discovered alien worlds [252]
Meet the colorful new weapon scientists are using to save toads

Valerie McKenzie's hotel guests could only be described as extraordinarily high-maintenance. After all, the CU Boulder biologist was running a “toad hotel.” The fieldwork that McKenzie wrapped up in October has the potential to save billions of lives—amphibian lives, certainly, but possibly some human lives as well. Smithsonian, Dec. 15

A ‘Stonehenge’ and a mystery in the Amazon

Researchers have drawn parallels to the legends surrounding mythical lost cities in the
Amazon, but evidence of large settlements in the area remains elusive. John McKim Malville [266], a solar physicist at CU Boulder who writes extensively on archaeoastronomy, said the field is moving away from focusing exclusively on astronomical functions to interpretations that are more holistic, by including the ceremonies and rituals of ancient cultures. The New York Times, Dec. 14
Ted Scambos

New NASA imagery shows how fast glaciers are melting

The NASA data will enable researchers to understand what effect atmosphere and ocean conditions have on ice sheets and how that changes how much ice is flowing into the ocean.

“We can use the method to identify which areas to keep an eye on, or which events might lead to a rapid change,” said Ted Scambos, a senior research scientist at CU Boulder. CNN, Dec. 12

Sarah Krakoff

The historic victory at standing rock

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Dec. 4 legally blocked the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, denying it a needed easement to drill beneath the Missouri River. “The effect of this protest was to make the administrative state do its job,” said Sarah Krakoff, a professor of law at CU Boulder. “It read the statutes, it listened to its president’s general policy goals, and then it did its job.” The Atlantic, Dec. 5

The thundering launch of GOES-R

Part of the GOES-R spacecraft, the EXIS (Extreme ultraviolet and X-ray Irradiance Sensors) instrument, was built at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at CU Boulder. Frank Eparvier, the lead scientist for the instrument, said “EXIS measures the absolute amount of light coming from the sun in the energetic, highly variable, short wavelength ranges.” Boulder Weekly, Dec. 8
Mark Borden

Microbubble technology could save lives by helping create a ‘third lung’ [273]

CU Boulder researchers are part of a new project to develop microbubbles that could create a “third lung” for people who suffer lung injuries. Mark Borden [274], an associate professor, created the microbubbles years ago to help with ultrasound imaging. Borden and CU Boulder graduate Benjamin Terry – now an assistant professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln – came up with the idea of putting oxygen in the bubbles. Terry then suggested injecting the bubbles into a person’s abdomen to get oxygen to their blood. 9News, Dec. 6

Tad Pfeffer

Climate change is wreaking havoc on indigenous people in Alaska [275]

On Nov. 21, the decline on the long-term average of sea ice extent was at 888,000 square miles – an area 10 times larger than the U.K., but smaller than the long-term average.

“Almost every year now we look at the record of sea ice and say ‘wow,’ but this year it was like ‘three times wow,’” said Tad Pfeffer [276], a geophysicist at CU Boulder. “This year has been a big exaggeration on the trends we’ve already been seeing.” Business Insider, Dec. 19
Michael Radelet

‘See what racism looks like’: Charleston families brace for Dylann Roof’s trial

Dylann Roof filed a handwritten note requesting representation for the first part of the trial, which will determine whether he is guilty, and saying he would represent himself during sentencing.

Michael Radelet, sociology professor and criminologist at CU Boulder, said it took an average of 19 years before prisoners executed in the U.S. in 2016 were killed. If Dylann Roof continues representing himself at either the guilt or sentencing phase of his trial, he would hardly be the first high-profile defendant to do so. TIME, Dec. 5

University of Colorado Colorado Springs
Pam Shockley-Zalabak

UCCS Chancellor Shockley-Zalabak retiring in February

Pam Shockley-Zalabak has worked at UCCS in various capacities for 40 of the 50 years the campus has been in existence. She has continued to teach classes in the Communication Department while serving as head of the campus. The Gazette, Dec. 17

Also: EDITORIAL: Chancellor a big part of our area’s success, The Gazette, Dec. 20

Charles Sweet

City for Champions: UCCS’ Sports Medicine and Performance Center

While other projects have hurdles to clear, UCCS’ Sports Medicine and Performance Center is expected to gain form in 2017, said Charles Sweet, the university’s vice chancellor for strategic initiatives. The goal: create a national hub for elite athletes, first responders, military personnel and exercise buffs. The Gazette, Dec. 18

UCCS entrepreneur lab allows students to wade into shark tank

UCCS has opened a laboratory where student entrepreneurs can wade into the shark tank. Instead of competing for an investment, six student teams have to show continued progress to stay in The Garage, a space in the school’s engineering building that student companies can
use to turn their business ideas into companies that generate revenue. The Gazette, Dec. 3

Geographers analyze public comments on Browns Canyon

A team of geographers at UCCS has begun translating comments from listening sessions concerning Browns Canyon National Monument into documents and maps that will guide the development of a management plan for the area. John Harner, UCCS professor of geography, received a $28,746 grant from the Forest Service to process information using geographic information system software and spreadsheets to create maps and reports to better understand the diverse connections people have to the land, including places where activities occur and places that have special meaning. Chaffee County Times, Dec. 16

UCCS debuts spirit song

UCCS unveiled its spirit song before tip-off of the women’s home basketball game against Black Hills State University. Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak said the spirit song is a way to build excitement during sports events and other activities on campus. John Standish of City Tracks produced the spirit song, which consists of a clapping rhythm accompanied by a chant. Gazette, Dec. 2

University of Colorado Denver
Christoph Stefes

How ‘islands of honesty’ can crush a system of corruption

Democratic checks on public abuses can be weakened. That is the situation in countries like Russia, said Christoph Stefes, a professor of political science at CU Denver, who studies authoritarianism and democratization. In Russia, control over both political power and corruption is concentrated among a small group of politicians and the oligarchs in their inner circle, and no institution or prosecutor has enough power to challenge them. The New York Times, Dec. 9

Jeffrey Beall

Fake academe, looking much like the real thing

Stacking multiple fake conferences at the same hotel is a common practice, says Jeffrey Beall, a tenured CU Denver librarian. He maintains a website for identifying “predatory open access scholarly publishers” that masquerade as scholarly journals, but are actually in the business of pumping out worthless articles and exploiting scholars with hidden fees. “You just rent a hotel, make up a name and stand around while everyone is reading their papers,” Beall says. “It’s easy money.” The New York Times, Dec. 28
Wrong man arrested for attempted murder after witness misidentification

In 2015, Cesar Hernandez was charged with attempted murder for a double shooting he didn’t do.

“Memories aren’t always clear,” said Mary Dodge, a criminal law professor at CU Denver. Dodge said research shows relying solely on witness identification can lead police in the wrong direction. “It’s dangerous, it may be the first step, but they need to build the case from there.” she said. KDVR, Dec. 20

The Dakota Access Pipeline isn’t just about the environment. It’s about religion

Greg Johnson, a Hawaiian religion expert and an associate professor of Religious Studies at CU Denver, said the indigenous protests are increasingly led by organizers who are “generating” religion through their activism.

“The kids of today’s generation know a new set of chants, a new set of prayers because of those who came before them,” Johnson told ThinkProgress. The Washington Post, Dec. 5
Trump’s tax plan saves most families money, some to pay more

President-elect Donald Trump’s tax plan will reduce taxes by thousands of dollars for millions of Americans, but could require fewer people to pay more taxes. CU Denver professor Eric Zinn, director of the Graduate Tax Program, cautions people from relying on specific numbers. “The proposed policy of Trump’s administration is unclear,” Zinn said. 7News, Dec. 8

Dorothy Horrell

Downtown Denver university is growing up

With Dorothy Horrell’s appointment as chancellor, CU Denver is laying out a sweeping plan to integrate itself into the business and civic community in ways it never has before: As the city’s only public, urban research university. Horrell said CU Denver is different from other Colorado institutions that state business leaders and policy makers have looked to in the past. The Denver Business Journal, Dec. 2

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Cheryl Krause-Parello

Study examines the health effects shelter dogs may have on veterans with PTSD

A small nonprofit organization studying the health of American veterans recently received funding to examine how shelter dogs physically and psychologically impact veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder. The funding was provided to Canines Providing Assistance to Wounded Warriors by the College of Nursing at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. “Our study’s findings have the potential to contribute physiological and psycho-social evidence indicating that volunteering at a dog shelter can decrease stress and enhance quality-of-life indicators in reintegrating veterans with PTSD,” said principal investigator Cheryl Krause-Parello
In a new study published in the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity, researchers from the CU Anschutz Medical Center, the Johnson & Johnson Human Performance Institute, and other institutions decided to test several methods of increasing movement among office workers. The New York Times, Dec. 28

With the autoimmune protocol diet, a last-ditch effort at regaining health

“There is absolutely zero research this kind of diet is effective for anything, not to mention autoimmune disease,” says Bonnie Jortberg, assistant professor in the department of Family Medicine at the CU School of Medicine. One of Jortberg’s big objections to the diet, in addition to the lack of research showing its efficacy, is that it eliminates many nutritious foods
and adds a lot of animal fat into a person’s diet. The Denver Post, Dec. 16

**These drinks are most likely to give you a terrible hangover** [307]

Be careful of champagne. The carbon dioxide used to create those fun bubbles also makes your bloodstream absorb the alcohol more quickly. “You get a faster rate of absorption, higher blood alcohol levels — and brain levels — if you drink champagne as opposed to something non-carbonated,” said Boris Tabakoff [308], pharmacology professor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Esquire, Dec. 4

![Boris Tabakoff](image)

**Joshua Denson**

**Patient safety may drop during doctor rotations** [309]

Hospitalized patients who are handed off by their original medical team to a new set of caregivers might face a higher risk of early death, new research warns. The transitions “occur each month when a training physician [resident] switches clinical rotations by transferring the care of hospitalized patients, often up to 10 to 20 at a time, to an oncoming physician who has never met the patients,” said study author Joshua Denson [310], a fellow in the division of pulmonary sciences and critical care medicine at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. CBS News, Dec. 7

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