

Focus on CU Faculty April 2021

To view this email as a web page, go [here](#).



# University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2021



University of Colorado **Boulder**



### [Scientists Get Closer to Redefining the Length of a Second](#)

NPR

(March 29, 2021) -- Having a clock set back billions of years to the beginning of the universe would only be off by a second, said physicist [Jun Ye](#). Researchers from CU Boulder and the National Institute of Standards and Technology compared three next-generation atomic clocks that use different elements: aluminum, strontium and ytterbium.



## [Watch a Sneaky Dust Devil Whirl Its Way across the Martian Surface](#)

**Inverse**

(March 18, 2021) -- [Nick Schneider](#), a planetary science professor at CU Boulder, said that dust devils have been observed on Mars across time — even if our understanding of them is more recent.

“There was a time when astronomers would study Mars through telescopes and they could actually see changing patterns which they thought was vegetation,” Schneider said. “But it actually was just the dust being blown around.”



## [CU Boulder Scientists Find Antarctica’s George VI Ice Shelf Experienced Record Melting](#)

**Daily Camera**

(March 13, 2021) -- Scientists at CU Boulder found that a northern Antarctic ice shelf, George VI, melted at a record rate during the 2019-20 summer season. Lead author and research scientist at CU Boulder’s Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Science [Alison Banwell](#) said the recent data is noteworthy because George VI “buttresses more upstream ice than any other ice shelf on the peninsula.”



## [New Image Reveals Supermassive Black Hole's Swirling Magnetic Field](#)

News 3

(March 30, 2021) -- Astronomers have a more complete picture of the supermassive black hole at the center of a galaxy, 55 million light-years from Earth. They were able to learn about the gas that produces the light in the image, as well as how the black hole grows, said study coauthor [Jason Dexter](#), a coordinator of the EHT theory working group and assistant professor at CU Boulder.



## [NASA Will Map Every Living Thing on the International Space Station](#)

Scientific American

(March 11, 2021) -- Although scientists do have the capability to perform genomic analysis onboard the ISS, the process is not particularly speedy, and in the event of a dangerous outbreak, every moment may count. "You want to make sure you can stay on top of that – as we're all too aware these days of how some little bug can kind of mess up your world," says [David Klaus](#), a space microbiologist at CU Boulder.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



## [Should Freedom of Speech Include the Critique of Religions and Faiths?](#)

**Colorado Springs Indy**

(March 31, 2021) -- [Jeffrey Scholes](#), associate professor of philosophy and the director of the Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life at UCCS, said the right to the freedom to say whatever one wants about religion is no different than other forms of free speech, with the constraints that come with it. For instance, comedian Bill Maher has the right to claim (falsely) that Islam is a violent religion. But when pastor Terry Jones plans a “Burn the Koran” day, this could certainly be seen as an incitement to violence across the Muslim world and therefore he possesses no right to say this.



## [UCCS to Distribute Vaccines to Employees and students; sets spring graduation plans](#)

**The Gazette**

(March 17, 2021) -- As plans are taking shape for a new twist on spring commencement ceremonies for 1,600 graduates, UCCS received final approval this week to become a distribution point for COVID vaccines for employees and students.

“The hope is that by fall we’ll have built herd immunity, and we can allow for more normal classroom capacity,” said [Stephanie Hanenberg](#), assistant vice chancellor for health and wellness.



## [Colorado Springs Sales Tax Revenue Surge Continues into 2021](#)

**The Gazette**

(March 12, 2021) – “I don't expect this to slow for the rest of the year. I'm expecting a really good year in 2021” for the Colorado Springs economy, said [Tatiana Bailey](#), director of UCCS Economic Forum. “The only things limiting housing construction are availability of land and labor, so I expect the boom to continue. The availability of the COVID-19 vaccine also has helped build consumer confidence.”

Also: [Colorado Unemployment Rate Unchanged in February](#), The Gazette, March 26, 2021



## [After Hard Year, Lessons on Happiness from Colorado Springs Leaders, Artists and Thinkers](#)

**The Gazette**

(March 14, 2021) – “Because of the nature of lockdowns and not being able to travel and do what you always do, I spent a ton of time with family in California. Four months with my mom, dad and brothers. I had a realization that, as a middle-aged person, I haven't done that since high school. The reconnecting with what's essential has given me happiness,” said [Kevin Landis](#), professor of theater and director of the theater and dance program at UCCS.



## [Ew, gross! Why humans are hardwired to feel disgust.](#)

**National Geographic**

(March 30, 2021) -- Disgust is a major facet of the behavioral immune system, a collection of actions influenced by some of the most primal instincts that keep our bodies in prime condition. [Tara Cepon-Robins](#), a parasites expert at UCCS, surveyed 75 participants about what disgusted them.

“They were most disgusted by things like directly stepping in feces and drinking chicha, a drink that’s made by chewing up yucca and spitting it out,” Cepon-Robins says.



University of Colorado **Denver**



## [Stimulus check: Young Investors Use \\$1,400 COVID-19 Relief Payments to Join Stock Market Boom](#)

**USA TODAY**

(March 17, 2021) -- Retirement investors need to understand how to buy and hold over the long term to build their nest egg, according to [Yosef Bonaparte](#), an economics professor at CU Denver. Set a long-term strategy and then try dollar-cost averaging, he said.

“Don’t enter and exit the market often,” Bonaparte said. “Don’t time the market.”

Also: [In the year of COVID-19, Who has Really Benefited From the Stock Market Boom?](#) USA Today, March 14, 2021



## [Why Denver's Irish Celebration Makes Other Cities Green with Envy](#)

**7 News**

(March 17, 2021) -- While cities like New York, Boston and Chicago are widely recognized for their Irish American communities, Colorado can trace its Irish connection back to the late 1800s and a mining boom in the state.

"The first Irish communities in the state were in the Central City area," said [James Walsh](#), clinical associate professor at CU Denver.



## [Shanghai Futures Ride Reform to Enrich Oil Market](#)

**The Star**

(March 29, 2021) -- Against the backdrop of an increasingly complex global economic environment, the development of China's crude oil futures market will benefit more from the country's deepened reform, driven by domestic circulation, facilitation of fair market competition and nurturing of more independent oil companies and oil refineries, said [Yang Jian](#), discipline director of finance at CU Denver.



## [Sharing Vaccination Status Gaining in Popularity on Dating Websites](#)

7 News

(March 16, 2021) – CU Denver Sociology Professor [Jennifer Reich](#) said sharing your vaccine status on a dating site isn't just about letting someone know you're protected from COVID-19.

"It potentially signals people's approach to health care, to their relationship, to science, their trust and expertise. It can signal a lot of other kinds of things that might be an indication of whether someone shares some of your values," she said.



## [Worn Out, Isolated and Sad — Grief of All Kinds Mounts for Coloradans a Year into Pandemic](#)

The Denver Post

(March 13, 2021) -- "As new grief comes, they're often feeling overwhelmed, unable to fully respond emotionally because they're so exhausted," said [Amy Wachholtz](#), director of clinical health psychology at CU Denver. "Even to the point where I've heard from some patients, 'I feel like I should cry but I don't have anything left.'"



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**





## [Drug Used in Cancer Patients Might Help Treat Alzheimer's](#)

**U.S. News & World Report**

(March 25, 2021) – “This discovery of the safety and [effectiveness] of GM-CSF in Alzheimer’s disease has the potential to be a breakthrough, which will be proved when a larger, longer trial is done to show that the benefits we saw are stronger and long lasting,” said study lead author [Huntington Potter](#), director of the CU Alzheimer’s and Cognition Center.



## [In Latinx Communities, Economic Insecurity, Immigration Fears and Misinformation Fuel Disparities](#)

**Contagion Live**

(March 21, 2021) -- [Lilia Cervantes](#), associate professor at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, and colleagues noted that Latinx people are more likely to be infected, hospitalized, and to die of COVID-19 compared to white individuals. Cervantes and colleagues conducted semi-structured interviews of 60 Latinx adults who were hospitalized in Denver and San Francisco between March and July 2020. Both cities had significantly higher rates of COVID-19 among Latinx individuals compared to the overall population.



## [American Indians Have Highest Risk for Non-hemorrhagic Stroke](#)

**Health Day**

(March 3, 2021) -- [José M. Sanchez](#), cardiology specialist at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, and colleagues examined the risk for non-hemorrhagic stroke among American Indians compared to Whites, Blacks, Hispanics and Asians using the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project for all adult California residents receiving care from 2005 to 2011. The researchers found the overall risk for stroke was highest for American Indians.



## [Is Coffee Good for Us? Maybe Machine Learning Can Help Figure It Out](#)

**New York Times**

(March 24, 2021) -- “The overall question was, ‘What are the factors in daily life that impact heart health that we don’t know about that could potentially be changed to lower risk?’” said [David Kao](#), a cardiologist at the CU School of Medicine. Because one in five Americans will develop heart failure, even small changes in their behaviors could have a big cumulative impact, he said.



## [Relief for Native Americans Will Go Beyond Expanded Vaccine Distribution](#)

### Marketplace

(March 16, 2021) -- In late February 2020, it became clear to [Spero Manson](#) that the Native American communities in and around Denver were going to be hit especially hard by COVID-19.

“Several individuals, elders in my community, contracted coronavirus and were subsequently hospitalized. We became very concerned,” said Manson, the director of the Centers for American Indian and Alaska Native Health at the Colorado School of Public Health. By December, the CDC found the death rate for Native Americans from COVID-19 was nearly twice as high as it was for white Americans.

University of Colorado | Focus on CU Faculty  
[www.cu.edu/focus-on-faculty](http://www.cu.edu/focus-on-faculty) | [cunews@cu.edu](mailto:cunews@cu.edu)  
1800 Grant Street, Suite 800, Denver CO, 80203

---

This email was sent to: [cathy.beuten@cu.edu](mailto:cathy.beuten@cu.edu)  
This email was sent by the University of Colorado  
[Manage your email preferences](#) | [Update your contact information](#)

Your CU ID:003f400000mHxRGAA0