

Focus on CU Faculty September 2020

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FOCUS ON FACULTY

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 2020



University of Colorado **Boulder**



[Why Your Cucumbers and Tomatoes Won't Grow, and Other Garden Woes This Summer](#)

KUNC

(Aug. 20, 2020) -- [Adrian Carper](#), a postdoctoral researcher at CU Boulder, said that a poor tomato crop could point to a disruption in the bumblebee population.

"Bumblebees are the great tomato pollinators," Carper said. "They hold onto the flower with their mandibles and they'll curl their abdomen under and then you'll hear them buzzing their

wings together and raining the pollen out, at a frequency that's targeted just to release the pollen from tomato plants.”



[‘Our Voices Carry Weight:’ Young Women of Color Lead Activist Charge](#)

Christian Science Monitor

(Aug. 3, 2020) -- U.S. suffragists drew heavily from liberation movements abroad, taking inspiration from events such as the Mexican Revolution, and benefited from the support of women of color.

Yet the movement “split because of race,” says [Celeste Montoya Kirk](#), associate professor of gender studies at CU Boulder. “Some white women in the South didn’t want Black people to get the right to vote, and actively worked against that, even while fighting for women to vote.”

Also: [Use of the Word “Bitch” Surged after Women’s Suffrage](#), Vox, Aug. 19



[Why Deaths from Hurricanes and Other Natural Disasters Are Lower Than Ever](#)

Forbes

(Aug. 26, 2020) -- Given the flood of alarming news about climate change, many will be surprised to learn that hurricanes aren’t increasing in frequency, and that deaths

from natural disasters are at their lowest point in 120 years.

“One of the greatest successes of turning science into policy is reducing deaths from disasters,” said [Roger Pielke](#), a CU Boulder professor and leading expert on climate change and disasters. “It’s up there with vaccinations. It’s huge and can’t be overstated.”



[CU Economists: State Will Lose More Than 128K Jobs in 2020](#)

Daily Camera

(Aug. 13, 2020) -- Economists at the Leeds Business Research Division of CU Boulder predict Colorado’s economy will shed about 128,500 jobs this year.

“We have no context, nationally or in Colorado, in which to assess this magnitude of economic devastation,” said [Richard Wobbekind](#), senior economist and faculty director of the Leeds Business Research Division. “We can try and compare it to the Great Recession, but the numbers are orders of magnitude different. We never shut the economy down before.”



[Earth Gets Ultimate Mirror Selfie Thanks to CU Researchers](#)

KDVR

(Aug. 6, 2020) -- Researchers at CU Boulder, led by astrophysicist [Allison Youngblood](#), used the Hubble Space Telescope to view Earth by pointing it at the moon. In the new study, researchers recorded sunlight that passed through Earth's atmosphere as it reflected off the moon's surface, like a giant mirror.

"It's like what an astronaut might see standing on the surface of the moon," said Youngblood, a research scientist at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics.



University of Colorado **Colorado Springs**



[Professor: Several Factors Feeding Wildfires, Including Climate Change](#)

KOAA

(Aug. 19, 2020) -- [Christine Biermann](#), assistant professor of geography and environmental studies at UCCS, said the rate at which climactic changes are occurring is consistent with the short time scale regarding human emissions of greenhouse gases.

"What we're seeing now is increases in greenhouse gas emissions that are consistent with changes in climate mostly

associated with warming,” she said. “The strong inference here is that these changes are caused by human emissions of greenhouse gases.”



[Opinion: What Role Should Religion Play in Social Justice?](#)

Colorado Springs Independent

(Aug. 19, 2020) -- A deep concern about injustice that occurs on a societal level exists in all of the great world religions — the question is how is the divine marshaled to act on behalf of those who seek to speak truth to power and whether the powerful agree to relinquish some of it, writes [Jeffrey Scholes](#), associate professor of philosophy and director of the Center for Religious Diversity and Public Life at UCCS.



[Political Campaigns in the Age of COVID](#)

KOAA

(Aug. 28, 2020) – With the COVID-19 pandemic changing the way many parts of lives operate, it’s the same for political campaigns. Between social distancing and limited crowds, political candidates are going about things differently. Some political candidates are continuing to canvas neighborhoods, oftentimes in masks and with distance away from front doors.

“Knocking on doors is one of the most effective ways to get

people out to vote for you,” said [Joshua Dunn](#), chair of the Political Science Department at UCCS.



[How College Students Can Improve Their Mental Health During the Pandemic](#)

KOAA

(July 31, 2020) -- [Stephanie Hanenberg](#), executive director of health and wellness at UCCS, said the biggest issue this semester for students will be isolation.

“We’re trying to make sure we are engaging students as much as possible, not just virtually but in person. So making sure we are maxing out on the amount of things we can do for our students. Bringing them to welcome back events, bringing them to the campus recreation center, making sure they still have the opportunity to join clubs and do other activities,” Hanenberg said.

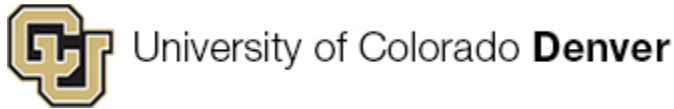


[Colorado Springs Police Accountability Commission Finalists](#)

The Gazette

(Aug. 26, 2020) -- “The protests and riots we are seeing right now are not a result of a new issue,” wrote [Kate Angulski](#), an assistant professor of criminal justice at UCCS. “Rather, they are a result of a new level of exposure to an old issue. As a professor of criminal justice, I have spent my career trying to

find a balance between enforcement and protection, rules and rights, and communities and those who monitor them.”



[School's Back, and So is Online Learning. Here Are Some Expert Tips for Teachers and Parents](#)

CPR

(Aug. 13, 2020) -- There are things teachers and parents can do to make online learning go more smoothly, according to [Sean Michael Morris](#), who teaches at the School of Education and Human Development at CU Denver.

“My hope is that we will have learned the ways in which technology can enhance learning. Technology can deepen learning, and it can provide alternatives for students whose learning may be different,” he said. “It is a really great creative space for teachers and learners alike.”



[Here's What the Oil Industry's Future Looks Like Globally and in Colorado](#)

Denver Business Journal

(Aug. 12, 2020) -- Oil and gas is down, and recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic looks to be slow, but don't count the industry out, says economist [Tom Brady](#), director of the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities at the CU Denver Business School. Oil prices are likely to linger where they are for more than a year, then, after a period in which mergers and acquisitions consolidate the U.S. shale oil industry, the likelihood is that demand for oil and gas recovers and growth returns, Brady predicts.



[Homeless Camps in Central Denver Are Growing, but Nothing New](#)

Westword

(Aug. 8, 2020) – During the coronavirus pandemic, encampments have sprung up not only on streets in and around downtown, but in other spots in the metro area.

“We’re seeing more visible homelessness as people are seeking out groups, seeking out safety, but also sharing information and sharing resources, especially right now when there’s so much uncertainty going on,” said [Marisa Westbrook](#), public health adviser in the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences at CU Denver.



[The Role of Police in Gentrification](#)

The Appeal

(Aug. 4, 2020) -- Research suggests that the continued use of police to pursue economic development will most likely result in more needless stops, arrests, and deaths like Breonna Taylor's. Recent protests have demanded that police no longer be used as the first response to social problems like mental health crises and drug addiction. That demand might also extend to excluding police from urban "renewal," writes [Brenden Beck](#), an assistant professor of sociology at CU Denver.



[Wall Street Record High Belies Widening Gap Between Investor Haves and Have-Nots](#)

Marketplace

(Aug. 24, 2020) -- The statistical divide in stock holdings has widened since the Great Recession. During market drops, the wealthy have stayed in while many others sold. Middle-class investors have bailed out as volatility made it hard for many to sleep at night, said [Yosef Bonaparte](#), associate professor of finance at CU Denver. His example: himself.

"In March, when the market was falling apart, I had to go on a different bed and sleep," Bonaparte said. "At 2 a.m. I woke up sweating and cold. Stock market volatility, it's not easy."



[Best Life: Life Changer for Those with Down Syndrome](#)

WMC5

(Aug. 6, 2020) -- [Joaquin Espinosa's](#) team at the Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome has found which part of the immune system is hyperactive and responsible for several painful skin conditions associated with Down syndrome.

“It’s called the interferon response; it is the aspect of the immune system that we use to fight off viruses, but we use it only when there is a virus. Whereas people with Down syndrome activate the interferon response constantly,” explained Espinosa, center executive director at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.



[Young Adults' Pandemic Mental Health Risks](#)

The New York Times

(Aug. 24, 2020) -- [Maya Haasz](#), assistant professor at the CU School of Medicine, said that for the past few years, every child over age 10 who comes to the emergency room at Children’s Hospital Colorado is screened for suicide risk, using a questionnaire.

“Somewhere between 5% and 10% of our patients presenting

for non-mental health concerns screen positive,” she said — and this was true before the pandemic.



[A Newborn’s Fat Mass is Associated with Obesity as a Preschooler, Study Finds](#)

CNN

(Aug. 13, 2020) -- The new study is probably the first “that has shown a relationship between the proportion of fat mass at birth and later childhood obesity,” said study author [Dana Dabelea](#), a professor of epidemiology and pediatrics at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

“We know that the higher the birth weight of the baby, the higher the weight later in life,” Dabelea added. “Some of these exposures during pregnancy might have specific effects on neonatal fat mass that are not captured when you only measure birth weight.”



[Going Drop-less after Cataract Surgery Thrills Patients](#)

CBS4

(Aug. 26, 2020) -- Ophthalmologist [Richard Davidson](#) at the Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Eye Center at the CU Anschutz Medical Center said dealing with the drops stresses patients more than the actual surgery. “Patients, A, are nervous about putting the drops in. B, they’re afraid they’re going to miss the

eye. They are nervous about causing damage if they miss a dose,” Davidson said.



[Study: Coronavirus Cases in Children Rise Sharply in the Second Half of July](#)

The Washington Post

(Aug. 10, 2020) -- “It will be a little hard to sort out the degree to which a lot more kids are getting infected and the degree to which our testing capacity has gone up,” said [Sean O’Leary](#), a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and professor of pediatric infectious diseases at the CU School of Medicine. “What we can say is that it’s not particularly surprising given the large increase in cases we’ve seen nationally overall.”

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