

## awards, grants & honors

### Weather watch

CSU's Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, or CIRA, will receive up to \$64.4 million from the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration to improve the accuracy of weather forecast warnings. CIRA will work closely with NOAA researchers to continue to improve satellite-based algorithms for weather forecasting; advance weather and climate models; develop techniques to integrate satellite, terrestrial, oceanic, and biological observations; and establish effective and efficient methods to distribute environmental and model data. The new agreement begins July 1 and continues through June 30, 2014.

### Shoo fly

CSU has received a \$100,000 global-health research grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop a vaccine system to prevent sand flies from spreading infectious diseases. The project is one of 81 second-round Grand Challenges Explorations grants awarded to scientists in 17 countries to improve health around the world. CSU researchers will focus on a compound found in the saliva of sand flies called maxadilan, which amplifies the impact of parasites that cause the disfiguring and sometimes fatal skin disease leishmaniasis. The research also will provide a better understanding of other infectious diseases such as West Nile virus, plague, Dengue fever, and malaria.

### Pedal-powered honors

CSU mechanical engineering students won first place in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers human-powered vehicle competition. Twenty-seven universities competed for pedal-powered supremacy in the HPVC West contest held in Portland, Ore., in May. CSU seniors Dan Hipwood, Evan Jarvis, Mike Porter, Brett Schlueter, Christine Sednek and Matt Shirley took first place overall in the utility class and second place in the utility race. The team also earned first place in engineering design and fifth place overall for single-rider vehicles. CSU won first place three of the past four years and placed second last year.

### Student affairs leader

Paul Thayer, CSU associate vice president for student affairs and special advisor to the provost for retention, has received the 2009 Fields/Wolfe: Journey to Justice Leadership Award. The award honors extraordinary leadership and contributions to higher education and the student affairs profession. In March, Thayer received the Cynthia Gayles Memorial Award, which acknowledges exemplary

service in postsecondary transitions to help students access and succeed in college. Thayer serves on Gov. Ritter's P-20 Education Advisory Council.

### Distinguished teaching

CSU has named Toni Schindler Zimmerman a University Distinguished Teaching Scholar, which recognizes exemplary faculty who balance scholarship with a commitment to student learning. Zimmerman, a professor of human development and family studies and the founder and director of CSU's Marriage and Family Therapy program, received 46 letters of support from around the world – most notably, a letter from Archbishop Desmond Tutu. "Educators like Toni Zimmerman transform lives, and we are proud to recognize her among the most accomplished, master teachers on our faculty," says CSU President Tony Frank. Zimmerman's research examines relationship advice, power dynamics in therapy, and gender, diversity, and family relationships.

## research

### Ancient discovery

A CSU archaeologist has uncovered an ancient imperial ritual complex from Mexico's Purepecha Empire, dating from the 16th century. On an ancient island in Mexico's Lake Pátzcuaro Basin, archaeology professor Christopher Fisher discovered a pyramid, platforms, a structure believed to be an imperial treasury documented in historic papers, and an early 16th-century colonial chapel. The researchers – from CSU, France's Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, and the University of Louisville – surveyed the island using global positioning equipment, recording each prehistoric and historic structure. The archaeologists also documented 16 settlements that represent more than 2,000 years of island occupation and hundreds of ancient agricultural terraces.

### Wildlife declines

Populations of wild grazing animals in Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve have decreased substantially in 15 years as they compete for survival with growing human settlements, say researchers at Colorado State and the International Livestock Research Institute. Six species – giraffes, hartebeest, impala, warthogs, topis, and waterbuck – declined markedly and persistently throughout the reserve. Losses were as high as 95 percent for giraffes, 80 percent for warthogs, and 76 percent for hartebeest. Robin Reid, director of the CSU Center for Collaborative Conservation, co-authored the study, which was funded by World

Wide Fund for Nature and published in the May 2009 issue of the *British Journal of Zoology*.

### Deadly threat

Black walnut trees in the United States are facing a serious new threat: thousand cankers disease. The disease has already devastated trees west of the Rocky Mountains, say CSU researchers. It's caused by a fungus carried by a tiny bark beetle, which colonizes and kills an area of bark surrounding beetle galleries – tunnels made in the wood by the insects. The beetle galleries and dead bark eventually fuse and girdle limbs and trunk so nutrients can no longer move in the tree, says Ned Tisserat, the CSU plant pathologist who first identified the fungus last summer. Trees typically die within a couple of years after symptoms develop.

## programs & initiatives

### Industrial psychology online

Colorado State University is offering a new online Master of Applied Industrial and Organizational Psychology. The two-year terminal degree program, offered through the Division of Continuing Education, allows working professionals anywhere in the world to pursue a master's degree from convenience of the computer. The program covers training and leadership development, organizational development, selection and placement, performance measurement, organizational health, quality of work life, and talent management. Instructors provide specialized attention with a 10-to-one student/teacher ratio. Learn more at <http://www.learn.colostate.edu/degrees>.

### Grief guide

How do you know if your pet is in pain? When is it time to say goodbye to your companion animal of many years? Colorado State University's Argus Institute has developed the comprehensive guide *What Now? Support for You and Your Companion Animal* to help people deal with the difficult decisions surrounding the illness or death of a pet. The institute is the leading teaching, research, and service organization devoted to counseling pet owners through loss. The guide, \$3 plus shipping, is available at (970) 297-4143 or [www.argusinstitute.colostate.edu](http://www.argusinstitute.colostate.edu).



## The Green University



### *icy breakthrough*

A new study published by CSU researchers finds that bacteria and fungi not only survive but actively grow in the frozen Arctic tundra – a discovery with far-reaching implications, says Shawna McMahon, study co-author and post-doc researcher in CSU’s Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory. The findings suggest that if life did evolve on a cold planet such as Mars, the organisms could have persisted despite frozen conditions. The discovery also could help scientists further understand the effects of global climate change on Arctic soils, where global warming can speed the decomposition of frozen soil carbon and the release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The study was published in the March issue of *Environmental Microbiology Reports*.

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