



SUCCESSSES

Degrees awarded to nearly 4,000 students

CSU awarded 3,900 undergraduate baccalaureate degrees and 753 graduate degrees, including 130 professional doctorates of veterinary medicine and 122 doctorates, at the spring 2007 commencement ceremonies May 11 and 12 – human capital that positively contributes to the economy. College graduates earn 72 percent more than high-school graduates, on average, and master's and Ph.D. students earn 261 percent more.

Students engineer solution

Colorado State students have engineered a solution to speed the production of a simple cookstove and in the process have helped some of Guatemala's poorest residents. The cast concrete stoves replace the traditional but dangerous fire pits typical in homes in developing countries. The stoves decrease serious cooking burns and reduce indoor air pollution – a leading cause of death for young children. The engineering students, working with a manufacturer who supplies stoves to the Guatemalan homes, developed a process that reduces the curing time of the stoves' cast concrete. The manufacturer can now produce more stoves and get them more quickly to those who need them.

Cloud-profiling satellite reaches milestone

CloudSat, the world's most sensitive cloud-profiling radar in orbit, recently celebrated its first anniversary. Since launching 438 miles above Earth, CloudSat has made 5,307 orbits around the Earth, snapped 162 million vertical profiles of clouds, and distributed more than 6 terabytes of data to the international science community. The CloudSat technology, developed by Colorado State University researchers, will help scientists around the world better predict weather patterns and climate changes. The CloudSat spacecraft is part of a constellation of satellites, including NASA's Aqua and Aura satellites, the French Space Agency PARASOL satellite, and the NASA-CNES CALIPSO satellite.

Governor unveils renewable energy center

Researchers at Colorado State University will play an integral role as the state continues its

push for more renewable energy innovation. In March, Gov. Bill Ritter announced the formation of the Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels, the first research center created under the umbrella of the new Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory. The Collaboratory is a partnership of Colorado State, the University of Colorado, Colorado School of Mines, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. Dubbed C2B2, the center will conduct world-class research to develop new biofuels and biorefining technologies.

Inventory documents Colorado's open space

The first statewide inventory of open space, which provides comprehensive information about the status of the land in Colorado, has been released by the Great Outdoors Colorado Board and CSU's Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory. Nearly 30 million acres in Colorado have some form of protection by government or private conservation organizations. Roughly 1.8 million acres – 3 percent of Colorado – is made up of locally protected open areas. This is the most ambitious and comprehensive mapping of open space in Colorado ever undertaken, providing critical information to help focus conservation resources and document successful conservation. www.nrel.colostate.edu/projects/comap/

PROGRAMS

New center launched for public history and archeology

The Colorado State University College of Liberal Arts has crossed disciplinary boundaries with the creation of the new Center for Public History and Archaeology, a collaboration that will maximize research efforts and help students develop essential professional partnership skills. Combining research in public history and archaeology will be unique to Colorado State. No other land-grant university combines the two disciplines.

RESEARCH

Biofuels reduce greenhouse gases

Compared with the life cycle of gasoline and diesel, ethanol and biodiesel produced from biofuels can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, ultimately, U.S. dependence on imported fuel, say Colorado State researchers. CSU

has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct the first complete analysis of greenhouse gas emissions from biofuel production. The study found that ethanol and biodiesel from corn and soybean rotations reduced greenhouse gas emission by nearly 40 percent, reed canarygrass by 85 percent, and switchgrass and hybrid poplar by 115 percent. <http://newsinfo.colostate.edu/story.asp?id=11182593>

Climate change will affect grasslands

Some U.S. grasslands will become more diverse but less productive as precipitation patterns change due to global warming, say CSU scientists, and the results could have a negative economic impact on ranchers. Research on the native tallgrass prairie of eastern Kansas simulated predicted future rainfall patterns in which storms occur less often but with a larger volume of precipitation. In a different study, CSU researchers found that rising atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and global warming will increase grass production and decrease forage quality. Livestock and native animals require sufficient forage protein nitrogen to sustain normal weight gains. "If you are a rancher, anything that reduces the total biomass produced by these grasslands would be an economic disadvantage," said Alan Knapp, senior ecologist and professor of biology at CSU. <http://newsinfo.colostate.edu/story.asp?id=926420491> and newsinfo.colostate.edu/story.asp?id=715292414

APPOINTMENTS

Business leaders elected to System Board

The Colorado State University System Board of Governors has named Douglas L. Jones, president and owner of The JONES Realty Group in Denver, its chairman and Joe Blake, president and chief executive officer of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, vice chairman. Diane Evans, vice president of the Land Title Guarantee Co., is now treasurer and Ed Haselden, president and chief executive officer of Haselden Construction LLC, secretary. All four board officers were elected to two-year terms by a unanimous vote of the board at a meeting in May.



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