



## SUCCESSSES

### Infectious-disease focus

CSU broke ground on a \$42 million, 90,000-square-foot Diagnostic Medicine Center that will be critically important to the state's livestock and biomedical industries. Scheduled for completion in December 2009, the center will house the University's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Clinical Pathology Laboratory, Animal Population Health Institute, and the Extension veterinarian. Collectively, the four entities monitor animal health throughout Colorado, test for such disorders as mad cow and chronic wasting diseases, establish diagnoses, and recommend treatments. The center will contribute to the health and safety of the state and nation by tracking diseases among animals that could infect humans.

### Accounting for excellence

CSU ranked No. 1 in Colorado and 17th nationally in percentage of first-time candidates without advanced degrees who passed the Certified Public Accountant exam. The CPA exam consists of four sections, including auditing and attestation, business environment and concepts, financial accounting and reporting, and regulation. "It is a true testament to the quality of the education and faculty at the College of Business," said Ajay Menon, dean of the College of Business. The 2007 results are based on exams taken in 2006.

## APPOINTMENTS

### Alumni director

CSU announced Colleen Meyer as the new executive director of the Colorado State University Alumni Association. Meyer, who has worked for the CSU alumni association for more than seven years, served as the organization's interim director since June 2007. The CSU Alumni Association represents more than 140,000 alumni and advances the University by strengthening lifelong relationships between alumni and CSU.

### Brainy

Michael Thaut, director of CSU's Center for Biomedical Research in Music, was named president of the new International Society of Clinical Neuromusicology. Thaut was elected president at the society's 2007 membership meeting in Hannover, Germany. Founded

by an international group of neuroscientists, physicians, therapists, and musicians, the society supports research in the neurobiology of music and applications to music learning, development, and therapy.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Organic agreement

The University signed an agreement with the Aurora Organic Dairy of Boulder for a research and educational exchange. The dairy will redevelop its production facility near Platteville, Colo., creating a 1,200-cow research dairy surrounded by organic forage production. The dairy, which provides \$1,000 scholarships to every student enrolled in CSU's organic agriculture degree program, will construct a building for CSU scientists to research organic forage production, environmental management, animal health, and cow management. The partnership is in keeping with CSU's ongoing commitment to 21st-century agriculture.

## SERVICE

### Camel medicine

CSU has extended its veterinary reach to the deserts of Mongolia. Ann Davidson, CSU equine field service clinician, provided expertise on a remote veterinary service visit to the South Gobi Desert. Davidson and her colleagues provided hands-on training to local Mongolian vets working in remote areas, sponsored a camel-medicine conference in the South Gobi, then traveled to other provinces to provide continuing education on equine and livestock diseases. The horse and the camel are vital to Mongolians' way of life.

## RESEARCH

### Virtual dog

CSU professors and students are building a simulated Labrador retriever to help veterinary medicine students learn to apply acupuncture, eliminating the stress a live dog would experience without the virtual technology. Electrical engineering students are developing the computer software to create a virtual reality environment to interface with the physical model of a dog. SimPooch will enable vet med students to hone their acupuncture-point precision and eventually could be used for applications in radiology and oncology, such

as teaching how to administer nerve blocks for interventional pain relief.

### Growing clouds

CSU atmospheric researcher Paul DeMott is flying at 25,000 feet in a C-130 aircraft to collect – air? DeMott is studying the formation of ice in clouds, which can help scientists better predict droughts and weather disasters throughout the world. CSU is the only university with the technology to take continuous air samples from clouds and measure the ice-forming ability of particles inside a plane. A diffusion chamber in the aircraft cools and humidifies the air and particles, essentially allowing DeMott to "grow" clouds. DeMott is not new to lofty exploration. Last year, he traveled to Japan to study how dust and pollution travel east to the U.S. and beyond.

### Managing manure?

Simple modifications in agricultural practices can help decrease the spread of antibiotic resistance genes in manure, says Amy Pruden-Bagchi, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering. Adding organic material to manure such as alfalfa and leaf waste and composting it reduces the proliferation of the genes. Pruden-Bagchi, who was recognized by President Bush in 2007 with a Presidential Early Career Award, found that even if cells carrying the genes have been killed, the DNA still ends up in the environment. Antibiotic resistance genes are not regulated, and scientists are now documenting the human health effects from antibiotic resistance in water.

### Tree stress

Even trees experience stress. Applying magnesium chloride to suppress dust and stabilize non-paved roads can damage nearby trees, say CSU researchers who examined 60 roadside plots on 15 non-paved roads in Colorado's Larimer and Grand counties. The scientists found high concentrations of magnesium chloride in trees within 20 feet of roads. Researchers also studied roadside vegetation along more than 200 miles of non-paved roads but found 80 percent to 90 percent of the foliage appeared healthy or only mildly damaged, indicating that trees are the roadside species most affected by the compound. Next, researchers will assess if safe application-levels of magnesium chloride exist.



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