

## acknowledgements

### Regional economic outlook

Northern Colorado will feel the deepening recession with regional job totals expected to remain relatively unchanged in 2009, according to a revised economic forecast issued by Colorado State economists. Reflecting low consumer confidence in the wake of national layoffs, CSU's Martin Shields and David Keyser in January projected regional job totals will only grow 0.1 percent by year's end, translating into about 230 new jobs in Larimer and Weld counties. Over the past year, the number of people out of work in the two counties swelled to 15,700, nearly 4,450 more than a year ago.

### Peace Corps legacy

The CSU civil engineering professor emeritus who played a critical role in the creation of the Peace Corps died Jan. 12 at 90. Maurice L. Albertson served as the first director of the Colorado State University Research Foundation, director of International Programs, and professor of civil engineering. One of Albertson's most recognized contributions was his critical role in the formation of the Peace Corps. "Professor Albertson will be remembered as one of the truly great figures in the history of Colorado State University," says CSU Interim President Tony Frank.

## programs

### Precipitation network

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network, or CoCoRaHS, has added Idaho to the CSU-based national network, which now includes 38 states. More than 12,000 CoCoRaHS weather volunteers across the country document the size, intensity, duration, and patterns of precipitation by taking simple measurements in their own backyards and uploading the information to the network's website. The data provides important daily and long-term information on drought conditions and water supplies, which is used by the National Weather Service, meteorologists, hydrologists, emergency managers, city utilities officials, insurance adjusters, the USDA, engineers, mosquito-control specialists, ranchers and farmers, outdoor recreationists, teachers, and students. Access the CoCoRaHS website at <http://www.cocorahs.org>.

### Wildfire management

CSU researchers have developed a groundbreaking wildfire management guide for federal agencies — an approach that considers the ecosystem benefits of wildfire while suppressing fires that threaten life and

property. Working with the National Park Service, Doug Rideout and Yu Wei from Colorado State's Fire Economics and Management Laboratory pioneered a system to manage the cumulative effects of wildfires, which cost federal agencies more than \$3 billion annually. The Strategic Treatment Assessment Response Spectrum and Fire system, known as Starfire, is the first plan that establishes fuel treatment priorities, analyzes when and where to encourage or suppress fires, and addresses the air-quality effects of smoke.

## appointments

### Board of Governors

On Jan. 9, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter made two appointments to the Colorado State University Board of Governors. Alamosa businesswoman Marguerite Salazar was re-appointed to serve a complete term. Salazar was selected in 2007 to fill a vacated seat. Ritter also appointed Joe Zimlich, CEO of Fort Collins-based Bohemian Cos., to a complete term. Both will serve through Dec. 31, 2012.

### Continuing ed chief

Longtime entrepreneur and faculty member Hunt Lambert was appointed CSU's new associate provost of Continuing Education. Lambert most recently served as associate vice president for CSU's Office of Economic Development, which now will be overseen by CSU Vice Provost for Outreach and Strategic Partnerships Lou Swanson and an economic development director. "I am honored to be given the opportunity to lead this very successful unit," Lambert says. "Continuing education is a critical component in delivering required lifelong learning to the people of Colorado and beyond."

## awards, grants & honors

### On-call vets

Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, an equine orthopedic veterinary expert at CSU, and his colleagues have received a Special Eclipse Award, which honors outstanding contributions to Thoroughbred racing. The award was presented in January to On Call, a media-assistance program of the American Association of Equine Practitioners that was created in the wake of accidents and injuries at the 1990 Breeders' Cup. On Call's equine professionals provide accurate veterinary information to the broadcast and print media during live network races.

### Global health advocates

Barry Beaty, Colorado State University Distinguished Professor and infectious disease authority, has

been selected to join a group of 25 experts who will advocate for greater U.S. investment in global health research. These experts will join 50 of their peers in Research!America's Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research to establish a national dialog about the value of U.S.-funded global health research. The Rogers Society works to make the case for greater U.S. investment in research to fight diseases that disproportionately affect the world's poorest nations.

### Solar energy technologies

Colorado State University is working to convert the sun's energy to clean, low-cost electricity and fuels with four projects funded by a \$375,000 grant from the Center for Revolutionary Solar Photoconversion. CRSP, the newest research center of the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory, recently was awarded more than \$1.1 million for novel solar research projects. CSU's projects include the development of revolutionary organic photovoltaic polymers; inexpensive, thin films for solar panels that are capable of producing electrical current; semiconductor nanocrystals that absorb energy from sunlight then transport that energy in the form of electricity; and plasma processing in relation to film properties and interfaces in organic, polymeric, and hybrid solar cells.

## research

### Car crash hazard

Media coverage of car crashes could harm public health, finds a new CSU study. Lorann Stallones, study author and director of the CSU-based Colorado Injury Control Research Center, found that accident coverage reported as human interest stories obscure the fact that motor-vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury and death among Americans. The study tracked accidents reported in 473 major U.S. newspapers and concluded that media coverage erroneously presents car crashes as random and unpreventable. Stallones recommends that public health professionals inform editors and reporters about the importance of presenting more factual, contextual information about crashes and accident risks.



## The Green University



### *csu spin-off is star solar start-up* **CSU spin-off is star solar start-up**

*Business Week* has named AVA Solar, a Colorado State University spinoff company, one of the nation's most successful start-ups for 2008 and one of 25 "hot" companies. AVA Solar raised \$104 million – the most venture capital for any Colorado firm and among the most nationally in 2008, according to the online magazine. AVA is expected to start production by the end of 2009 on pioneering solar-panel technology developed by CSU mechanical engineering professor W.S. Sampath. The panels will dramatically reduce the cost of generating solar electricity and could power homes and businesses around the world with clean energy for roughly the same cost as traditionally generated electricity. A 200-megawatt factory in Longmont, Colo., will make the 2-foot by 4-foot panels. Based on the average household usage, 200 megawatt panels will provide energy for 40,000 U.S. homes.

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