JULY 2015

Bohlender to lead CSU alumni

CSU alumna Kristi Bohlender is bringing her lifelong passion for CSU to her new role as executive director of the Colorado State University Alumni Association, effective Aug. 1. Bohlender brings more than 20 years of experience in athletics and advancement, having previously served as CSU’s assistant athletic director for development and most recently as the College of Liberal Arts’ director of development. She succeeds Colleen Meyer, who is transitioning to a new role as managing director of donor relations and stewardship for CSU.

A decade after Katrina, a family’s story of rebuilding

As the 10-year anniversary of the devastating Hurricane Katrina approaches, CSU anthropology Professor Katherine Browne is releasing a new book, Standing in the Need: Culture, Comfort and Coming Home after Katrina. The book follows an African-American family over the eight-year ordeal of their recovery from the aftermath of disaster, both natural and man-made. With a grant from the National Science Foundation, Browne connected with a family of more than 150 who fled Katrina to take refuge in Dallas, before embarking on a 20-month journey back to their bayou home in the St. Bernard Parish. Browne’s book will be published by the University of Texas Press.

CSU lands $2 million NSF grant to revamp engineering education

The National Science Foundation has entrusted CSU with a $2 million, five-year grant to revamp the way engineering and computer science are taught. One of only six schools in the nation charged with this task, CSU will break down the traditional approach of teaching one subject per course. Instead, students will simultaneously learn how various components of electrical and computer engineering fit together in real-world applications. This new approach allows students to work in teams while completing hands-on assignments from multiple fields. Skills such as communication, ethics, and social impact will also be brought into clearer focus within the new curriculum to encourage success beyond technical skills. NSF and CSU hope this grant will promote greater retention rates and provide students with the best educations for their future careers.

National cancer meeting unifies human and animal studies

Translational cancer research – a method of investigative study that seeks effective cancer treatments starting with animal patients, with results that benefit animal and human health due to similarities in tumors across species – was the topic of a meeting in Washington, D.C., helmed by CSU’s Flint Animal Cancer Center. The leading cancer experts in attendance were united in their goal to more fully characterize the genetic makeup of tumors that develop in dogs and people, and further investigate the role of cancer immunology in dogs.

Diana Wall awarded 2015 Ulysses Medal

Diana H. Wall, University Distinguished Professor and director of the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at CSU, has been awarded the University College of Dublin’s highest honor, the Ulysses Medal. This honor is bestowed annually on individuals whose work has made a global contribution. Of her award, Wall says, “I am extremely honored to be included in such an august group of recipients … The award shows that there is increasing recognition that we can’t breathe, eat, drink, or be healthy without sustainably managing soils and their hidden biodiversity.”

Guest Editor: Emily Beard, Presidential Communications Intern
CSU sets fundraising record ... again!

CSU alumni, friends and other supporters have backed the University in record-breaking fashion, donating $172.3 million for the fiscal year ending June 30. The total shatters the previous fundraising record of $143.3 million set last year, and gives CSU four consecutive years of record fundraising. Private support at CSU has more than tripled in the last five years, providing resources for student scholarships, academic programs, research, athletics, outreach initiatives, and construction efforts.

“Alumni and donors clearly see a very bright future for CSU, and we’re incredibly grateful they’ve helped deliver the largest amount of philanthropic support ever raised by a single campus in a single year at a Colorado university,” said V.P. for University Advancement Brett Anderson. “This shows that our supporters stand behind the vision of the University leadership and CSU’s almost 150-year-old mission of delivering world-class academics, research, and service.”

Alumni center, academic space to be infused into stadium

With the support of CSU’s faculty, staff, and student leaders, the CSU System Board of Governors has approved the addition of 82,000 square feet for state-of-the-art academic and alumni spaces in the University’s new on-campus stadium. Faculty, staff, and students collaborated to reach a decision on the use of the space and whether it should be included in the stadium project. The addition will house the Center for Advising and Student Achievement, and an all-new Alumni Center, including a large hall, community event and meeting spaces, and offices. The addition will cost $18.5 million with completion by the start of the 2017-18 school year.