CSU legend, Tuskegee Airman Mosley honored with Founders Day medal

Lt. Col. John W. Mosley, who passed away in 2015 at the age of 93, is the recipient of the 2017 Founders Day medal from Colorado State University. A heroic and groundbreaking figure in CSU history, Mosley has been a role model to generations of students and alumni. He came to CSU (then Colorado State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts) in 1939 following an outstanding athletics and academic career at Denver’s Manual High School and became the first African American football player in the modern (post-1900) era at CSU.

Mosley was Mountain States Conference most valuable player and honorable-mention All-American following his senior season. Mosley, a National Merit Scholar, became so respected on campus he was elected vice president of his junior and senior classes at CSU. Following graduation, he became a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, the all-African American fighter squadron that earned legendary status for valor and tenacity in World War II. Mosley went on to serve 25 years in the Air Force, flying missions in Korea and Vietnam before retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

He went to Washington, D.C., as a special assistant to the undersecretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare before returning to Denver and working for the regional office of HEW’s successor, the Department of Health and Human Services, until his retirement. CSU honored Mosley in 2004 with a Doctor of Humane Letters. Mosley was inducted into the CSU Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. The Edna and John W. Mosley P-8 school in Aurora was named in honor of him and his wife.

CSU recently established the John Mosley Leadership Program, a collaboration between athletics and the Black/African American Cultural Center, developed to serve underrepresented and underserved student-athletes by engaging them in a structured, multilevel mentoring program.

Blood-repellent materials create new approach to medical implants

Colorado State engineers developed a specially grown, titanium surface that is superhemophobic – extremely repellent to blood. The material could form the basis for surgical implants with lower risk of rejection by the body. The research is detailed in the journal Advanced Healthcare Materials.

Droplets of blood, plasma, and water beading on a specially designed titanium surface, created by Colorado State University researchers. The surface is repellant to blood and has potential applications for biocompatible medical devices. (Credit: Kota Lab/CSU)
Wildlife disease experts at CSU are investigating whether a test developed to detect early-stage chronic wasting disease in deer might also be used to identify the onset of brain disorders, including concussion-related trauma, in people. The research is funded with an $850,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to find better ways to detect and prevent concussion-related brain injuries, such as chronic traumatic encephalopathy or CTE, in U.S. soldiers exposed to munitions blasts in the field.

University Distinguished Professor Edward Hoover, right, professor of microbiology, immunology, and pathology, consults with Dr. Davin Henderson, postdoctoral fellow in the Prion Research Center.

Through its clinical trials for animal patients, CSU faculty helped prove the usefulness of the first drug approved by the FDA for treatment of canine lymphoma, a breakthrough in veterinary oncology that promises new hope for pet dogs with this common type of cancer. Research done at CSU’s Robert H. and Mary G. Flint Animal Cancer Center saw some positive activity in up to 80 percent of all the lymphoma patients treated with the medication, known as Tanovea-CA1. It is approved for one-year use in canine patients and will be available to veterinarians nationwide this spring.

From left: Dr. Douglas Thamm, professor of clinical sciences; Brittany Wittenboers, veterinary intern; and Emily Janik, first-year D.V.M. student, with Jake, a black Lab in a clinical trial.