Colorado State University celebrated the grand opening of the new Biology Building and the new Chemistry Research Building in October. The 155,000-square-foot Biology Building houses the entire department, including all of its research labs, special collections used for teaching, and faculty offices. The Chemistry Research Building is a 60,000-square-foot, hood-intensive facility that houses 11 faculty labs, as well as dozens of researchers, graduate students, and undergraduates.

A stimulating environment could affect how quickly a person’s cognitive ability deteriorates, and creating stimulating environments in senior housing may help keep the minds of senior citizens sharp, say Aga Burzynska, an assistant professor in CSU’s Department of Human Development and Family Studies, and Laura Malinin, an assistant professor in the Department of Design and Merchandising.

Traditionally, retirement homes or assisted-living communities have been simple, drab places. Burzynska and Malinin say that the aging brain still needs to be challenged. Interactive facilities that elicit physical, social, and cognitive stimulation could keep the brain healthy longer.
OAK TREE TO HONOR LEGACY OF CSU OLYMPIC CHAMPION

An oak tree – a direct descendant of one of the trees given to gold medalists at the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games – is now planted outside the new Iris & Michael Smith Alumni. CSU alumnus Glenn Morris, once dubbed “The World’s Greatest Athlete,” won the decathlon competition in 1936 and was given an oak tree along with his gold medal for his world record-breaking performance. He later presented his tree to then-President Charles Lory.

NEW CSU STUDY SHEDS LIGHT ON FARM-TO-SCHOOL’S IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMIES

Farm-to-school farms purchase more goods from their local economies, which results in a positive local economic impact, according to a new CSU study examining the economic impact of local food purchasing. “Farm to school” is the connection communities have with fresh, healthy food and local producers by changing food-purchasing and education practices at schools and early-care and education sites. The study also found that surveyed farmers were satisfied with most aspects of farm-to-school sales.

CSU RESEARCH REFLECTS EXHIBIT AT DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE

Bighorn rams escape injury when they ram against one another, so how can this observation make better helmets for humans? Mimicking nature for new-age innovation is the focus of the Denver Museum of Nature & Science’s Nature’s Amazing Machines exhibit, which will run through Jan. 1. CSU is a major supporter of the exhibit, and CSU research is featured throughout.