BIMPER RECOGNIZED FOR STUDY OF RACE AND SPORT

Albert Bimper, on cover, a CSU associate professor of ethnic studies, recently was featured on the cover of the national newsmagazine Diverse: Issues in Higher Education and was profiled as one of 15 emerging scholars conducting "remarkable interdisciplinary work in the academic sphere.”

Bimper, who also is senior associate athletic director for diversity and inclusion, earned a bachelor's degree at CSU in 2006, after capping his time as an outstanding offensive lineman for the Rams. He played a season in the NFL – earning a Super Bowl ring with the Indianapolis Colts – and later received two graduate degrees. Bimper returned to CSU in 2013; he focuses on student athlete development, especially the intersection of race and sport and their ties to identity and educational development among student athletes of color.

DONOR RECEIVES FOUNDERS DAY MEDAL

Walter Scott, Jr., who graduated from CSU in 1953 with a degree in civil engineering, received the 2018 Founders Day Medal last month in honor of his transformative impact on the university. The Founders Day Medal, first awarded in 2010, recognizes people in the CSU family for contributions to institutional excellence. Scott’s long history of generous support to CSU climax ed in 2016, when he donated $53.3 million, the largest gift in CSU history, to support infrastructure, faculty, and student scholarships in engineering. As a result, the college he loves now bears his name: the Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering.
A BIRD? A PLANE? NO, A SPACEX ROCKET

It was a complete fluke when members of the Colorado State Astronomy Club spotted the SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket after it launched to worldwide fanfare on Feb. 6.

The students were setting up telescopes on a building rooftop and chatting about the rocket – but not expecting to see it. That’s when one student spotted a hazy, bright light; she figured it was a plane behind clouds in the evening sky.

Only later did the students realize what they’d seen. Fortunately, the club’s president, an astrophotographer, captured what the students surmised was the rocket’s third and final burn, which boosted it toward Mars.

WAKING ON THE DARK SIDE TO WATCH THE MOON

In other cosmic news, CSU sky gazers were mooning over the recent total lunar eclipse. About 100 people gathered on campus during the wee hours of Jan. 31 to watch the super blue blood moon through telescopes set up by CSU’s Little Shop of Physics. The viewing party helped students and others understand the first celestial event of its kind in more than 150 years.

DROUGHT RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

By mid-February, more than 90 percent of Colorado was experiencing some form of moisture shortage, ranging from abnormally dry conditions to extreme drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. That has prompted residents across the state to become watchful for late winter and early spring snows and to worry about potential effects – such as increased risk of wildfires and reduced water availability – later this year.

CSU Extension and the Colorado Water Institute recently activated a Drought Response Task Force to monitor statewide moisture levels and related issues. The university also offers a one-stop-shop for information with its Drought Resources website. Find information at extension.colostate.edu; click “Drought Resources.”

DATA SCIENCE MAJOR LAUNCHES THIS FALL

Big data and its analysis help run business, science, and government – leading to an estimated shortage of more than 1 million data scientists. To fill the void, CSU is launching a new major in data science this fall; it will be the first of its kind in the Rocky Mountain region.

The major, in the College of Natural Sciences, will offer 10 new data science courses and will give students a broad foundation in computer science, mathematics, and statistics.

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