EDUCATION

COMMENCEMENT MARKS
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Excitement was in the air last month, when more than 5,000 students earned degrees during CSU’s spring 2018 commencement ceremonies. They included:

- 4,165 students earning bachelor’s degrees;
- 1,203 students earning graduate certificates, master’s degrees, doctoral degrees, and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine; and
- 41 Army and Air Force ROTC commissionees.

President Tony Frank conferred two honorary doctorates to acclaimed business leaders whose remarkable philanthropy has improved Colorado State University and our world: James Kennedy, chairman of Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises; and Thomas H. Bailey, founder and retired CEO of Denver-based Janus Capital.

IDEAS

BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY: A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP

The responsibilities of corporate citizenship should include support for global species diversity, CSU economics and business faculty argue in the prestigious journal Science.

In their perspective piece, “How to pay for saving biodiversity,” Professors Edward Barbier, Joanne Burgess, and Thomas Dean propose an industry-supported global agreement for biodiversity to fund conservation. Such an agreement would directly benefit industries including seafood, forestry, agriculture, and insurance; many others would gain over time, while also contributing invaluably to society, the authors write. Read the paper at http://col.st/tzudX.
PARTNERSHIPS

SYMPOSIUM TAPS INTO WATER PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

More than 400 leaders gathered in Denver for the inaugural Water in the West Symposium to discuss the research, education, innovations, infrastructure, financing, policies, and collaborations urgently needed to better manage increasingly scarce water resources.

About 30 experts addressed critical water concerns for farmers and ranchers, municipalities, and a variety of industry users. Speakers included current U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, a special advisor to CSU; and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, among others.

The Colorado State University System hosted the event. Ideas presented will inform the work of the CSU Water Resources Center, the first building at the redeveloped National Western Center.

RESEARCH

SOIL ECOLOGIST NAMED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Diana Wall, below, has dedicated her career to understanding complex life within soils and its implications for much larger systems above ground. Her research findings – and their revelations regarding global climate change – have earned Wall international acclaim.

The latest: The University Distinguished Professor was elected in May to the National Academy of Sciences. The academy comprises the nation’s most respected researchers; its members advise federal agencies on critical issues affecting the nation and its welfare. Wall is CSU’s 11th faculty member to join the reigning body of scientific thought leaders.

TRADITIONS

THROWBACK GERANIUM IS LOST, THEN FOUND

Retired CSU horticulture Professors Ken Goldsberry and the late Carl Jorgensen collaborated to resurrect the Colorado Aggie Geranium, a cultivar developed in Colorado A&M greenhouses during the 1940s that symbolized the state’s floricultural vitality and blooming Aggie enthusiasm on campus.

Goldsberry sought the Aggie Geranium – with its orangey-red blossoms and dark-purple leaf banding – after he retired from CSU and established a commercial greenhouse. It had seemingly vanished.

Jorgensen had unintentionally become keeper of the Aggie Geranium, growing the plant for nearly 70 years in his home gardens and, finally, in a single container at his senior-living community in Fort Collins.

During Jorgensen’s 99th birthday party, Goldsberry and his older colleague connected, sparking a five-year plant-breeding and selection project that resulted this spring in some 200 individual plants becoming available for sale at Donath Lake Greenhouses of Fort Collins.

Jorgensen was delighted to see the geraniums just two weeks before he died on May 3 at the age of 104.

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