As students returned to campus in mid-August, those studying natural resources found a new home: a soaring, 50,000-square-foot addition to the Michael Smith Natural Resources Building.

The new facility is an essential expansion for the Warner College of Natural Resources, providing a new student success center, meeting and office space, and state-of-the-art classrooms and teaching laboratories.

The addition is another new academic facility in a modern building boom that is updating the entire campus in the name of improved teaching, research, and outreach. In the past decade, the University has undertaken about $1.5 billion in new construction projects; many result from philanthropic gifts during CSU’s State Your Purpose campaign.

The new wing of the Michael Smith Natural Resources Building is a $20 million project, funded by students through support from the University Facility Fee Advisory Board; major donor and alumnus Ed Warner, for whom the College of Natural Resources is named; and alumnus Michael Smith, a natural-gas entrepreneur and building namesake, among others.
For the first time this summer, gardening fans had the chance to evaluate more than 1,000 flower varieties growing in Colorado State’s renowned Annual Flower Trial Garden – a stunning, 3-acre collection of test plots across from the University Center for the Arts. Each year, industry experts scrutinize the plants’ growth characteristics; their input helps guide the work of commercial and retail outlets, ultimately influencing the availability of plants for home gardeners. The first Consumer Day on Aug. 11 gave regular flower fans a crack at judging the colorful cultivars.

Betty Hood is celebrating 50 years as a 4-H leader in Elbert County, a rare accomplishment. For most of that time, she has helped lead the Kiowa Community Club. Hood also is a charter member of the Elbert County 4-H Leaders’ Council and was named Outstanding 4-H Adult Leader in Colorado in 2006-07.

"Hundreds of 4-H youth over the past 50 years have been nurtured, scolded, encouraged, guided, and loved by a remarkable and talented soul – a soul who has poured her heart and energy into making the best better for our youth, our families, our community, and even our world," Ben Duke, a fellow 4-H leader in Elbert County, southeast of Denver, wrote in a newsletter to honor his friend.

For her dedication, Hood was named marshal of the Elbert County Fair parade in August.

A record number of students – 8,100 in all – is living on campus in residence halls and University apartments in 2018-19. Plenty of helping hands greeted students during move-in. About 2,350 student athletes, sorority and fraternity members, community volunteers, and staff members helped the new arrivals get settled. Four days of Ram Welcome activities then preceded the start of classes Aug. 20.

Award-winning poet Camille Dungy, a professor in the Department of English, earned high-profile recognition for her work last month, when her poem “Still Life” was published in the weekly poetry section of the New York Times Magazine, which is curated by Rita Dove, a former U.S. poet laureate.

Dungy has published four collections of poetry, most recently Trophic Cascade, from Wesleyan University Press, which received the 2018 Colorado Book Award for poetry; and a collection of personal essays exploring race, motherhood, and history.

The University’s cannon, nick-named Comatose, is back at Canvas Stadium after undergoing extensive restoration this summer. The 100-year-old mounted gun was forged during World War I. Since 1920, ROTC members have fired the cannon during home football games, making it the star of one of CSU’s best-known game-day traditions.