Frigid temperatures don’t stop Rams from celebrating CSU Day at the Stock Show
By Allison Sylte

If you’re a Colorado State University Ram, you don’t skip the National Western Stock Show just because it’s below zero degrees outside. Instead, you throw on your green-and-gold beanie and make the trek to Denver to celebrate a partnership that began in 1906 and is still going strong.

“It’s a day for the whole family,” said Allison Trembly, an '03 CSU grad who helped staff the university's stock show display on the second floor of the Hall of Education. "The fact that Ram fans are bundling up their newborns and making their way to the stock show grounds shows the power of this tradition."

This year’s edition of CSU Day at the National Western Stock Show was held on Jan. 13, and as usual, Ram fans showed up in a big way. Volunteers like Trembly handed out bandanas and the ever-popular Ram horns at the CSU booth – both were a common sight at the rodeo and throughout the stock show grounds.

Over at the CSU Spur campus, student volunteers demonstrated a variety of STEM activities, ranging from boat wars in the Water TAP lab to 3D printing to interactive robots.

“It’s so awesome to expose kids to engineering, and even if they choose not to go into the field, they can come here and see what’s possible,” said Gabriela Gritz Moya, a fourth-year engineering student.

CSU Day visitors even got to check out parts of Spur that are usually not open to the general public. That included a second-floor bioengineering lab where CSU graduate students and faculty members explained their work and showed kids how to extract DNA from a strawberry at home.

“It’s a fun challenge to take what you do and try to explain it to a general audience,” said Claire Bailey, a bioengineering Ph.D. student at CSU. "I never got to do this as a kid – I never got to go into a lab – and it's fun to help show the possibilities of where science can take you."
APPLAUSE

Warner College of Natural Resources

Geosciences Professor Ellen Wohl is the recipient of the G.K. Warren Prize for her expansive research and advancements in river and watershed sciences from the National Academy of Sciences. The prolific field scientist and University Distinguished Professor has studied rivers and watersheds from ephemeral desert channels to torrential in the tropics on every continent except Antarctica. Wohl is known as a fluvial geomorphologist, or a scientist who studies river processes and physical characteristics. She was drawn to CSU by its legacy of water research and its location, where she would have quick access to mountain streams.

College of Liberal Arts

Justin Frigault, who graduated in December with his bachelor’s degree from the College of Liberal Arts, is one of only 45 students in the country to receive a fellowship from the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program. The Rangel Program awards up to $42,000 annually for a two-year master’s degree program. At CSU, Frigault was an English major with a concentration in languages. Before enrolling, he had served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2015-20, where he worked on security details at U.S. embassies in Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and South Korea, earning the rank of sergeant.

CSU Drone Center

The CSU Drone Center staff was honored by CSU’s Employee Appreciation Board for kindly and proactively setting up a shared folder to track the expense receipts of an FAA grant they were awarded. The Drone Center is the full-service unmanned aerial vehicle drone hub for the university, providing consultation on aircraft systems, project guidance, piloting, pilot training, logistical support, sensor integration and equipment rental. They collaborate with industry and educational partners, both internal and external to the university, and manage the Chrismas Field airstrip and flight training area.

Meet Wiz Kid, CSU Spur’s newest host who wants to share her enthusiasm for all things science

By Allison Sylte

The Colorado State University Spur campus is all about embracing the excitement that comes from learning something new, and no one embodies this quite like Wiz Kid. Wiz Kid is CSU Spur’s newest host. Her job is introducing kids – and the young at heart – to the wonders of this Denver-based learning destination, and to share her excitement about all things science. In fact, the initial season of the Wiz Kid educational series will premiere on April 4.

Here are some facts to help you get to know Wiz Kid, who made her debut at CSU Day at the National Western Stock Show.

+ Wiz Kid considers her laboratory to be the CSU Spur campus at the National Western Center in Denver.
+ Some of her favorite things to do at CSU Spur are to play at the stream table, explore the virtual reality laboratory and visit the trout in the Hydro building and watch them grow before they’re released into Colorado’s rivers.
+ Her favorite subjects are chemistry, biology, botany and art.
+ Speaking of art, she loves to check out all the interactive exhibits all around CSU Spur. One of her favorites is Esperanza, the 9-foot kitten in the lobby of the Vida building.
+ Wiz Kid’s favorite things are experiments, and she loves getting her hands dirty and trying new things. She’ll showcase some of her experiments on video, which include everything from at-home chemistry activities, a look at what plants need to grow and a behind-the-scenes peek at taste testing activities in CSU Spur’s sensory lab.

EXPERIENCE MORE OF CSU LIFE ONLINE

Print editions of CSU Life are being delivered in smaller batches to campus buildings this semester as some university community members are working remotely. Additional copies are available in the Lory Student Center. Read more stories about faculty, staff and the CSU community online at csulife.source.colostate.edu.
Community celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Lincoln Center
By Joe Giordano

The frigid weather didn't stop community members from celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Fort Collins.

Despite the cancellation of the annual march portion of the event due to sub-zero temperatures on Jan. 15, several hundred community members gathered in the warm confines of the Lincoln Center to experience "From Myth to Man: Martin Luther King."

The one-man performance by Ira Knight—a playwright, producer, director and author—gave attendees an intimate glimpse of the late Civil Rights Movement icon. Set in King's Lorraine Motel room in Memphis on the day he was assassinated, Knight gave a Shakespearean soliloquy that portrayed the emotions King might have experienced in his final hours.

"I'm just working through some things," Knight said during his performance as King. "I miss my family. I really, really miss my family. I miss my children. I really miss my children because I know that I will never get to see them grow up."

Following the hourlong show, Knight explained during a question-and-answer session that his inspiration for the play came from King's final public speech—"I've Been to the Mountaintop"—in which he discusses his mortality.

During the performance, Knight spoke in a stream of consciousness to the audience, sharing King's emotions: "In case you're not aware, I am human. I get tired. I get worn down. I get discouraged. I get depressed."

The performance ended with King contemplating whether to call his children before taking a meeting on the balcony outside of his motel room. He ultimately decided against it to not disturb them during dinner. He exited the stage, and two shots rang out.

"The purpose and intent of this piece was to connect Dr. King to this and all generations as a human being," Knight said following the performance. Knight also touched on the theme of this year's celebration—"It Starts with Us"—noting everyone has unique talents and gifts like Martin Luther King Jr.

In the spirit of King, CSU and Fort Collins community members gathered at the Lincoln Center prior to the performance to assist in a clothing drive benefiting Northern Colorado's Homeward Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to providing basic needs to families, adults and seniors.

Photo by John Eisele/CSU Photography

Leap year: The cosmic phenomenon behind February 29
By Annie Weiler

This year, February is feeling a little extra special and gets 29 days instead of the usual 28! We all know about leap years, but let's dive into the cosmic complicated reasoning behind this phenomenon. What's going on, and why do we have leap year?

A calendar year is typically 365 days, but Earth takes about 365.242190 days to complete its journey around the Sun – 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 56 seconds to be exact. That's a lot of time unaccounted for in our usual calendar. Without this year's bonus day, the seasons would start playing musical chairs with the months - summer would start in December, and winter would start in June! By throwing in an extra day every four years, we keep our calendar in sync with Earth's sidereal year.

But here's the twist: The sidereal year doesn't add exactly 24 hours over four years – it's 23.262222 hours. Adding a leap day every four years seems like a solid plan, but it turns out we're overshooting a bit. We're making the calendar longer by over 44 minutes. Those extra minutes might seem small, but over time, they'd push the seasons into different months. So, not every four years gets the leap year treatment. The party skipped a beat in the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 to account for it.

Don't stress about missing the next leap year, though – the next time we hit pause on the leap year is in 2100. Until then, we have plenty of leap year fun coming our way.
Cabinet complete: Three new leaders fill out President Parsons’ Cabinet

By CSU MacComm Staff

Colorado State University’s Cabinet is now complete, following the start of three leaders at the university last month.

On Jan. 1 two leaders took their new roles. Marion Underwood as provost and executive vice president, coming from leadership roles at fellow land-grant Purdue University; and James Pritchett as vice president of Engagement and Extension. Pritchett joined the CSU College of Agricultural Science in 2001 and most recently served as dean of the college. Cassandra Moseley, the new vice president for research, previously held leadership roles at the University of Oregon and started at CSU on Jan. 8.

CSU President Amy Parsons added: “With Dr. Moseley’s strategic leadership and outstanding track record of campus collaboration, we can look forward to the continued expansion of CSU’s research portfolio and the advancement of the university as a top-tier research institution.”

For more information about the CSU Cabinet and its members, visit president.colostate.edu/cabinet.

Provost Marion Underwood

Marion Underwood’s career journey in higher education has always been driven by a desire to seek out and serve at institutions that advance CSU to the next level.”

I am confident in the work that this Cabinet will complete individually and collectively,” Parsons said. “Our team is stronger than ever, and I am confident in the work that this Cabinet will complete individually and collectively.”

She was a graduate student at Yale when the quest to save the spotted owl – and the ensuing Northwest Forest Plan dominated headlines, providing firsthand lessons about the value of collaboration among federal and local partners.

“Looking at the aftermath of the Northwest Forest Plan gave me a presence in every county and a commitment to equity,” Underwood said. “I’ve always been attracted to places that have good people who are excellent and caring, and that’s what I sense about CSU.”

Cassandra Moseley, VP for Research

Cassandra Moseley’s career has always been shaped by a desire to find solutions to complex problems. She was a graduate student at Yale when the quest to save the spotted owl – and the ensuing Northwest Forest Plan dominated headlines, providing firsthand lessons about the value of collaboration among federal and local partners.

As VP, Pritchett will be focused on what matters for a healthy and prosperous Colorado:

“We’ll be supporting Colorado as it grapples with its most pressing challenges,” he said.

Pritchett expects top areas of concern for the state will include health, workforce development, rural housing and prosperity, access to nutritious food and climate change resilience. Engagement and Extension will work to identify gaps and find ways to help people, as CSU has done since its founding in 1870.

“The questions that CSU was answering 154 years ago were different than the questions we’re answering now, but the idea behind our mission and the impact that we want to have, that’s unchanged,” Pritchett said.

Using the FCC Speed Test App

Learn more: fcc.gov/challenge

More info at fcc.gov/fccchallenge.

Mobile users must download and run the FCC speed app on their smartphones.

Users must then run speed tests outdoors or in a moving vehicle (do not do this while driving).

Data from the speed tests is automatically reported to the FCC.

Open to CSU faculty, staff, and public

3 weeks online instruction

12 days in Baja Sur California, Mexico

Improve your Spanish language skills

Two Spring 2024 options available!
**Lagoon Concert Series named best outdoor concert in Readers’ Choice Best of NOCO awards**

By Jeff Dodge

Colorado State University’s Lagoon Concert Series has received first place in the category of Best Outdoor Concert in the Readers’ Choice Best of NOCO awards.

Results of the annual competition, which were announced in December and are drawn from a survey conducted by NOCO Style magazine, featured a couple of other honors for CSU. The university’s Youth Sport Camps got second place in the “Youth Summer Camp” category, and in the “Weddings” section, the CSU Trial Gardens got second place for best proposal spot.

In the outdoor concert category, the Lagoon Concert Series beat the Greeley Stampede and the Bohemian Nights Thursday Night Live. CSU’s Division of University Marketing and Communications fully produced the series for the first time this summer after working alongside the Mantooth Company for 11 years.

The six-week series featured local and Colorado bands each Wednesday evening, partnered with local food trucks, and was funded by local sponsors. Each week, interactive booths were featured in partnership with sponsors and CSU units.

And for the first time, four themed nights were added as part of the series, with a focus on first responders, educators, military members and Rams Against Hunger. Associate Director for Events Jennifer Wright is already planning for the 2024 series and is partnering with the Bohemian Foundation to elevate the music experience. The lineup will be released this spring at lagoonseries.com.

**Graduate Center for Inclusive Mentoring welcomes new director**

Lisa Angeloni has stepped into a new role at the Graduate School as the director of the Graduate Center for Inclusive Mentoring at Colorado State University.

Angeloni, a long-time faculty member in the Department of Biology and the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology, brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to equitable mentoring practices. She plans to expand GCIM’s offerings, connect students with mentors, and develop initiatives to support graduate students with marginalized identities.

“For me, mentoring students is the most rewarding aspect of being a professor; and mentors play a huge role in post-graduation success,” said Angeloni. “When mentors take the time to learn about a student’s unique experience, interests and career path they can connect students with the right resources to help them advance.”

GCIM equips mentors in CSU’s graduate community with the tools they need to help their mentees reach their goals and overcome challenges. Faculty who advise graduate students are encouraged to enroll in GCIM’s Mentor Well training. This program covers mentoring topics critical to graduate students, such as maintaining effective communication and promoting independence. Faculty, from any department, who complete a series of eight sessions receive a GCIM Mentor Well certificate. Registration for Mentor Well training is open now and sessions will begin in the spring of 2024.

Mentor Well certification is only one part of a multi-pronged approach to advance mentoring at CSU. The Mentor Monday series features discussion-based sessions on the first Monday of each month, providing a forum where graduate students and mentors can discuss various challenges and opportunities present in graduate school. This spring semester, Angeloni will further focus discussions towards equity, diversity, and inclusion.

“We are very lucky to have an experienced mentor as our new GCIM director,” said Colleen Webb, vice provost for graduate affairs and dean of the Graduate School. “The advocates for all graduate students, especially those with underrepresented identities.”

Departments are encouraged to utilize GCIM opportunities such as scholarships, awards, department grants; and other provided activities and programs to support graduate students. GCIM, housed in the Graduate School, provides these opportunities with the understanding that lifelong mentors have a positive impact on scholarly achievements at CSU. As director, Angeloni plans to expand offerings while continuing successful initiatives.

**Try to tell a Ram not to re-charge: CSU Bookstore selling reusable batteries**

By Mark Gokavi

In fiscal year 2023, CSU collected 1,775 pounds of batteries from all campus departments. That’s more than 8.2 tons that have been recycled by Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations.

“Try to tell a Ram not to re-charge,” said Tonie Miyamoto, executive director of communications and sustainability in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

At the CSU Bookstore, a four-pack of AA Paleblue batteries including a charging cord – which can charge four batteries at once – costs $20.99, but they may outlive whatever device they power. Widescale use of rechargeable batteries would reduce the amount of standard batteries, but they can be recharged hundreds of times, so the long-term savings is very big.”

At the CSU Bookstore, a four-pack of AA Paleblue batteries including a charging cord – which can charge four batteries at once - costs $20.99, but they may outlive whatever device they power. Widescale use of rechargeable batteries would reduce the amount of used single-use batteries collected around campus.
Flowers have carried special meanings for generations, adding an extra message to your Valentine's Day bouquets. The right flower can help you express love, happiness, or gratitude—the wrong one, however, can represent anxiety, jealousy, or danger. Dive deeper into the language of flowers, and we'll guide you in creating the perfect arrangement for your valentine.

Lilacs

Lilacs, commonly found in parks and gardens, are celebrated for their lush, fragrant flowers and clustered blooms. White lilacs exude youthful innocence, while the purple varieties symbolize the first stages of love, making them ideal for someone you've recently met. When lilacs lean towards soothing blue hues, they communicate happiness and tranquility. If they boast a more magenta shade, they boldly express love and passion.

Roses

Roses are the quintessential flower to express love—florists call the red variety “the lover’s rose.” A multicolored rose bouquet can convey a bunch of hidden messages: white roses symbolize humility and innocence, yellow roses express friendship and joy, pink roses represent gratitude or admiration, and purple roses are for someone who captivates you.

Peonies

Peonies are favored among gardeners and interior decorators for their sweet fragrances, lush petals and vibrant colors. Pink peonies are especially popular, representing prosperity, appreciation and good luck. Meanwhile, red peonies symbolize passionate romance like red roses.

Sunflowers

No surprises here! The striking, warm beauty of sunflowers symbolizes optimism, happiness, adoration and peace. Sunflowers shine so brightly that they’re best given on their own, so that they don’t outshine any other stems in a Valentine’s Day flower arrangement. Their vibrant presence is perfect for conveying not just affection but also a heartfelt wish for lasting happiness, safety and abundant opportunities.

Orchids

Orchids are often regarded as symbols of purity, elegance and beauty. When it comes to pink orchids, they take on an additional layer of meaning, symbolizing joy, grace and elegance. On the passionate side, red orchids align with desire and infatuation, echoing the sentiments of other red flowers. The orange variety signifies excitement and success, making them ideal for celebrations, be it an anniversary, milestone or special occasion like Valentine’s Day.

Lilacs

Lilacs, commonly found in parks and gardens, are celebrated for their lush, fragrant flowers and clustered blooms. White lilacs exude youthful innocence, while the purple varieties symbolize the first stages of love, making them ideal for someone you've recently met. When lilacs lean towards soothing blue hues, they communicate happiness and tranquility. If they boast a more magenta shade, they boldly express love and passion.
Refer a Friend and GET A $50 CREDIT!

Spread the love of lightning-fast internet! When your friends and family sign up for Fort Collins Connexion and mention your name and address, you’ll both get a $50 credit.*

*Terms and conditions apply

Spread the Love and Get Rewarded.

Learn more!

1. Tell your friends & family about Fort Collins Connexion.

2. After signing up, they will receive a survey via email one week after installation. Within the survey, they will be prompted to provide us with your name and address.

3. You will both receive a $50 credit on your internet service bill!

FCCONNEXION.COM | 970.207.7870