Record-setting $42.5 million gift propels regenerative medicine

Philanthropists John and Leslie Malone, fascinated by the healing power of stem cells, have committed a record $42.5 million to Colorado State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to develop regenerative medical therapies for animals and people. The donation will launch the CSU Institute for Biologic Translational Therapies to investigate next-generation remedies based on living cells and their products, including patient-derived stem cells, to treat musculoskeletal disease and other ailments. This is the largest cash gift in University history.

“We are tremendously grateful to John and Leslie Malone for their generous philanthropy, foresight, and dedication to scientific discovery,” CSU President Tony Frank said. “In addition to this being the largest cash gift in the University’s history, the Malones’ commitment positions us to build on our foundation as a leader in translational medicine, where advances in veterinary medicine very rapidly move into the sphere of benefiting human health.” Those interested in donating to the project may visit https://advancing.colostate.edu/IBTTBUILDING.

Mike Bobo named head football coach

Mike Bobo in December became the 22nd head coach in the history of Rams football. He comes to Fort Collins after spending the past 14 seasons at the University of Georgia, including the last eight as offensive coordinator. During his time there, Bobo helped lead the Bulldogs to 135 victories, including two Southeastern Conference championships, five SEC Eastern Division titles, and eight bowl victories.

Happy feat: World’s oldest penguin undergoes cancer radiation

Tess, the world’s oldest African penguin, is back swimming at the Pueblo Zoo after CSU veterinarians used specialized radiation to treat an aggressive form of skin cancer on her face. An endangered species, the African penguin population has declined by 90 percent in the past 100 years and is expected to be extinct in the wild within 20 years.

CSU student digs famous archaeological site

A CSU graduate student had the rare opportunity last summer to work at an archaeological site considered one of the world’s most important to the study of human evolution. Anthropology master’s student Kristen Welch accompanied anthropology Assistant Professor Michael Pante on a dig at the world-renowned Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. It is one of the most significant sites for human origins research, and research access is very competitive. In the past, there was a large lake where the gorge is today but, over time, the lake dried out. Most artifacts have been found along the former shoreline of the ancient lake, suggesting our ancestors exploited resources offered in these areas.
CSU, Denver Broncos team up
The Denver Broncos and Colorado State University announced the creation of The Denver Broncos Sports Management Institute, offering three courses toward a newly developed minor in sports management at Colorado State (pending approval by CSU’s Faculty Council). Students will benefit from a variety of course offerings developed by Colorado State faculty and take part in hands-on experiences and opportunities with the Denver Broncos organization. The program will include internships with the Broncos, guest lectures from management, and case studies developed in coordination with the team.

Finding reason for expanded blood flow
CSU has teamed up with the Mayo Clinic to pin down what causes blood vessels to expand during exercise. Findings from the $3 million project, funded by the National Institutes of Health, could uncover new treatment options for diabetes, strokes, and heart attacks. Associate Professor Frank Dinenno, director of CSU’s Human Cardiovascular Physiology Laboratory, is a principal investigator on the study that looks at the role of adenosine triphosphate, or ATP, a chemical that can be released by red blood cells and is believed to cause blood vessels to dilate during exercise, when muscles demand more oxygen.