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# CSU MATTERS

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



**A GREAT FUTURE  
WITH INFINITELY  
RECYCLABLE PLASTICS**

**PUBLIC SERVICE CREDIT  
UNION NAMES STADIUM**

**NATIONAL HONOR FOR  
SAFE-RIDE EMPLOYEE**

**NEW BREWERY OPENS**

MONTHLY UPDATE FROM  
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## RESEARCH

### THERE'S A GREAT FUTURE WITH INFINITELY RECYCLABLE PLASTICS

Chemists at Colorado State have developed a breakthrough material with the desirable qualities of plastic that may be easily converted to its original, molecular state, potentially preventing even greater volumes of plastic trash in worldwide landfills and oceans.

Unlike conventional plastics, the new polymer may be recycled and reused “infinitely,” said Eugene Chen, CSU chemistry professor, who led research published in the prestigious journal *Science*.

Synthetic polymers are a broad class of materials, including plastics. Creating a new polymer with repeatable recyclability is a major step toward waste-free, sustainable materials that, like traditional plastics, are cheap, flexible, strong, and lightweight.

Chen and colleagues envision a future of green plastics that, instead of surviving in the environment for millions of years, can be simply placed in a reactor and, in chemical parlance, de-polymerized to recover their value. Back at its chemical starting point, the material could be used over and over again – completely redefining what it means to recycle. ■

## TEACHING

### RAISE A GLASS: NEW BREWERY OPENS

With a gift of state-of-the-art equipment from Molson Coors Brewing Co., Colorado State has opened a teaching brewery to help train 125 undergraduate students in Fermentation Science and Technology.

The teaching brewery adds depth to the interdisciplinary, science-based program that prepares students for careers in food and beverage sectors involving fermentation, including the cheese, yogurt, and beer industries.

Fermentation Science and Technology, started in 2013, touts its “field to foam” approach: The program advances the brewing industry through wide-ranging academics and research, focused on the cultivation of barley and hops, business practices, and the engineering of complex equipment, among other topics.

Other industry partners include New Belgium Brewing Co., the Anheuser-Busch Foundation, and Odell Brewing Co., among others. ■

## STUDENTS

### SAFE-RIDE EMPLOYEE EARNS NATIONAL HONOR

Tom Walker realized the significance of his job with RamRide, the campus safe-ride program, after he and fellow employees stepped off a homecoming float to the praise of visiting parents.

“They were so grateful and said, ‘Thank you for keeping our kids safe.’ It gave me and our whole team a big sense of pride,” Walker, a graduating senior in mechanical engineering, recalled.

Walker is “the math guy” on the team – officially, the program’s data acquisition and analysis coordinator – and in April he was named Student Employee of the Year by the National Student Employment Association for contributions that have cemented RamRide as the country’s largest free safe-ride program among dozens on college campuses nationwide.

RamRide, established in 2003, runs a fleet of 19 vehicles and provides about 12,000 rides home for some 30,000 patrons each year; it operates with 10 paid employees and 2,500 volunteers.

On a busy night, RamRide offers as many as 250 free rides, getting hundreds of students home safely – and preventing many from driving while intoxicated.

Working 20 hours a week, Walker has made it his mission to improve RamRide through data-driven management practices. His number-crunching and re-zoning efforts have reduced wait times for riders by 24 percent over three years. He measures volunteer productivity to provide worker incentive and manages a mobile application that makes it easier to request rides.

Walker has received three scholarships for his award-winning work. His efforts also helped him land a job as a systems engineer for U.S. defense contractor Raytheon Co. several months before graduation. ■

*Rain or shine: Tom Walker, National Student Employee of the Year, has helped RamRide become the country’s largest designated driver for college students.*



## PARTNERSHIPS

### IT’S A BIG DEAL: PUBLIC SERVICE CREDIT UNION NAMES STADIUM

In one of the largest agreements of its kind in the nation, Public Service Credit Union is providing \$37.7 million to become the university’s official credit union partner and title sponsor of Colorado State’s new football stadium.

The agreement allows Public Service Credit Union, based in Englewood, Colo., to name the on-campus stadium that opened in August 2017. The official name will be publicly revealed in coming weeks as part of the credit union’s rebranding initiative.

The stadium sponsorship adds to an earlier gift of \$20 million from an anonymous donor to name Sonny Lubick Field in honor of the legendary former Rams football coach. With the substantial support from Public Service Credit Union, the stadium has attracted more than \$57 million in total naming rights revenues.

That makes the deal the second largest of its kind in history, behind a \$69 million agreement between United Airlines and the University of Southern California, according to the *Denver Business Journal*.

The deal adds to the stadium’s early success. The \$225 million facility attracted record attendance in its first year and has been financed without state funding – and without student tuition and fees. The stadium encompasses the new Iris & Michael Smith Alumni Center, multiple classrooms, and meeting spaces, among other amenities. ■

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