### Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 4th</td>
<td>5:30-8:30 pm, Student Center Ballrooms B &amp; C - EPICS 151 Competition. The top 26 teams will be competing to win cash prizes for their architectural designs that they created for the MLI, a local language learning institution here in Golden. Anyone is welcome to stop by to check out the prototypes and to snack on some hors d’oeuvres.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 8th</td>
<td>10:15am-12:15pm, Brown Hall Atrium - Amanda Hering’s (AMS) Spatial Statistics class will be presenting their final project poster presentations.</td>
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<td>Friday, December 12th</td>
<td>Immediately forthcoming commencement, Brown Hall Atrium, - CECS graduation celebration.</td>
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### News

**Cristian Ciobanu, (ME)** has been awarded the status of Fellow of the Institute of Physics, the premier United Kingdom professional society for the advancement of physics education, research, and applications. According to the Institute of Physics, this status reflects a "high level of achievement in physics and an outstanding contribution to the profession".

**Kenneth Lynch (CEE)** graduate student has been awarded the Outstanding Graduate Research Oral Presentation in Chemical and Environmental Engineering Award at the 2014 SACNAS Conference that took place this October in Los Angeles, CA. The title of her session talk was Near-Infrared Spectroscopy of Sediments in the Great Salt Lake Desert, Utah: Analogues for Lacustrine Environments on Early Mars. The award was also sponsored by the American Chemical Society. SACNAS stands for the "Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science". With over 25,000 members and alliances with over 1000 institutes, agencies and programs, it is one of the largest organizations that promote the development of underrepresented minorities pursuing careers in STEM disciplines.

Tzahi Cath (CEE) was recently featured in 5280 for Bringing out-of-this-world solutions to Colorado’s water problems. See the article at [http://www.5280.com/bigideas?page=full](http://www.5280.com/bigideas?page=full).

CSM recently hosted the Rocky Mountain Regional of the ACM ICPC, the premier world programming competition (more info at [http://icpc.baylor.edu/](http://icpc.baylor.edu/)). Mines had 4 teams registered for the competition (these are 3-person teams). Mines did very well, all teams answering at least two questions, and one team (Odin Security Services) answering four. That team placed second at Mines and 16th overall out of 54. For comparison, note that only 8 teams managed more than 4 correct answers. **Christopher Painter-Wakefield (EECS) was our faculty sponsor for the competition.**

Paul Martin (AMS) was appointed as an Associate Editor of the Journal of Ocean Engineering and Marine Energy, a new journal to be published by Springer.

Tzahi Cath, (CEE) and Mike Wakin, (EECS) have been selected as the first two Ben L. Fryrear Professors in CECS. Both Tzahi and Mike will hold the title "Ben L. Fryrear Professor" for a period of three years, from January 2015 to December 2017, and will receive an annual addition to their research development funds. The only "obligation" is the expectation that as one of the Fryrear Professors they will continue to model excellence in student mentoring, including integration of undergraduate students into their research programs. Tzahi and Mike were each chosen in recognition of their academic excellence, both in research and teaching.

**Senior Design Trade Fair** was held on November 20th. The winners and faculty advisors are:

1st Place: CSM FlightLab  
**Client:** Mounir Zok, Faculty Advisor: Joel Bach, Consultant: Sam Strickling  
**Team Members:** Michael Blaise, Adam Casanova, Andrew Eberle, Ryan Elliott, Kelli Kravetz and Perry Taga

2nd Place: JB Engineering  
**Client:** Edge of Seven, Faculty Advisor: Judy Wang, Consultants: Joe Crocker and Juan Lucena  
**Team Members:** Matthew Craighead, Steven Johnson, Ali Khavari, Brian Klett and Jasmine Solis

3rd Place: AutoBots  
**Client:** Jered Dean, Faculty Advisor: Judy Wang, Consultant: Jenifer Blacklock  
**Team Members:** Arveen Amiri, Dorian Illing, Adriana Johnson, Keeranat Kolatat and Jennifer McClellan

4th Place: SoliTrak  
**Client:** IDE, Faculty Advisor: Judy Wang, Consultant: David Frossard  
**Team Members:** Miranda Barron, Lincoln Engelhard, Oluwaseun Ogunmode, Brenda, Ramirez Rubio, Eric Rosing and Kevin Wagner

### Fiscal Information

- **Minimum wage change for State of Colorado to $8.23 effective 1/1/15.** Note that anyone on a federal contract will have a minimum wage of $10.10 effective 1/1/15.
- **Beginning in 2015, due to the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), Mines is obligated to offer health insurance to all full time employees. This change will pertain to adjuncts, TA/RAs, student hourly, research staff and others that meet the federal definition of full-time status.** HR will be providing training to department support staff on percent of effort calculations. It is very important to ensure your employees report time as it is worked in order to stay compliant with the new regulations.