

The Spear

For Alumni and
Friends of the
Colorado Gamma
Chapter



Colorado State University, Sigma Phi Epsilon
Current News | www.CSUSigEp.org

Fall 2016

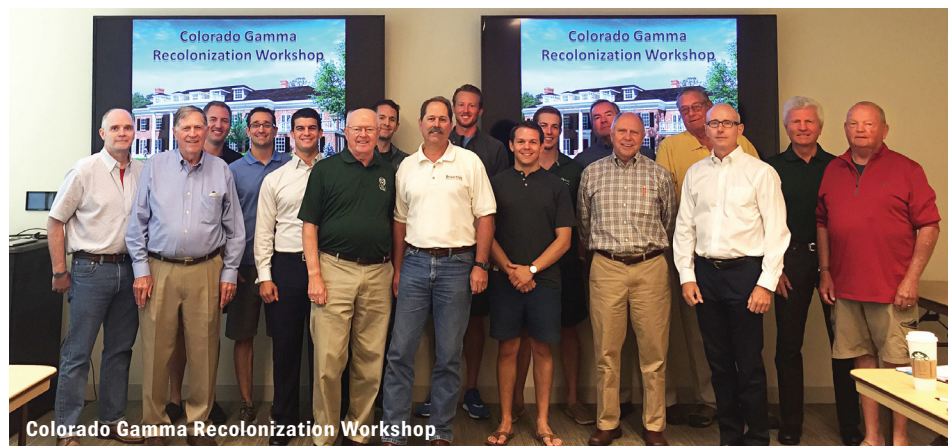
Transitioning to a modern fraternity is a hard process

SigEp is losing chapters faster that it can colonize—there are currently 150 dormant chapters. Hazing allegations, mortalities, substance abuse and a number of other serious issues riddle fraternity systems across the country.

After hitting a record of just over 400,000 undergraduates in 1990, SigEp fraternity membership plunged almost 30 percent by the mid 2000s. Membership is on the rise and back up to 380,500 today.

CSU Greek life is also staging a comeback after the same steep decline in the early 2000s. Currently there are 19 sororities and 25 fraternities on campus with only six housed fraternities and one lodge. Ten percent of CSU undergraduates are now members of a fraternity or sorority once again.

Colorado Gamma is very lucky, as we have moved to the top of both CSU and SigEp's list for recolonization. However, it is not going to be cheap. Headquarters has allocated well over \$100,000 and dedicated a team of people to recolonizing Colorado Gamma.



Colorado Gamma Recolonization Workshop

Trevor Bullard, SigEp Chapter Development Director, held a daylong meeting on August 20 at the Lory Student Center to present what it means to be a fraternity man in today's world. Trevor presented material on SigEp's Balanced Man Program and the importance of creating a Residential Learning Community within each chapter. 18 brothers were in attendance, gradua-

tion years ranged from 1958 to 2013. Men from the past seven decades came together to help preserve our history and plan for Colorado Gamma's future.

When the recruiting process begins in January 2018, two representatives from headquarters will live in Fort Collins and do the initial recruiting. They will spend the entire semester on campus using a process that has proven successful in many other recolonizations around the country.

Over the next 18 months the alumni board will begin its own recruiting for the chapter support team that will serve as a board of advisors for our chapter's undergraduate executive officers. They will be responsible for mentoring chapter leaders. They will help shape the direction of the chapter in recruitment, member development, leadership development and fiscal health, while ensuring long-term planning and stability for the Chapter.

The chapter support team will consist of Colorado Gamma alumni, non-local chapter alumni, CSU faculty, and other non-SigEp's and volunteers. Once the new members have been selected they will immediately begin mentoring the undergraduate officers and a hand full of other chapter leaders.

Contact RDHC President Dan Reagan, '82, if you'd like to be involved in re-colonizing CO Gamma in 2018.

Open letter to SigEp alumni from Sigma Nu



To the men of Sigma Phi Epsilon, the men of Sigma Nu wish to say: this is your home and we respectfully thank you for the opportunity to link arms in this new era, at a critical time, for the preservation of fraternity housing in Fort Collins. We have been where you are and stood where you stand. The best proof of that is the Clocktower Lofts

currently standing where our old 36-bedroom home at 701 Wagner Drive used to be—Fum McGraw is no doubt still shedding a tear from above. Therefore, it is our collective hope that you do not look at the letters of our Greek fraternal brothers from 1915 as anything other than a 100-year-old thank you, and then, only as a reminder that this historic structure is being protected and preserved for you by humble and respectful caretakers with whom you share the longest fraternal history at CSU. The red door will remain as a symbolic reminder that you are always welcome here. Wishing you a wonderful summer and if there are any questions we can help answer, please don't hesitate to reach out at alaydon@bfwlaw.com.

Abe Laydon
President Delta Rho, LLC

Balanced Man Alumni Spotlight

During our undergrad years, it is easy to identify brothers who go above and beyond to live the principles of Sigma Phi Epsilon. Though we leave campus after just a few short years, we make a commitment to continually better ourselves personally, professionally and socially. The Balanced Man constantly pursues the Sound Mind, Sound Body ideal. A great example is our graduate brother **Bijah Gibson, '11**.



Serving as the 2010 Chapter President and 2009 VP of Programming, Gibson set an extraordinary example for the brothers around him. He graduated *magna cum laude* in 2011, and forged strong relationships as an intern in the Office of the President and as an executive member of the Inter-fraternity Council.

Bijah has built on his experiences as a Colorado Gamma SigEp and remains an exceptional brother. His leadership continues to shine at Accenture, LLP, where he celebrated his 5th anniversary in August as a consultant. In this role, he is responsible for the seamless integration of financials associated with the acquisition of Piedmont Natural Gas by Duke Energy Corporation. Gibson previously served as a consultant in multiple business areas for Duke Energy.

Bijah and his wife, Kristen, are happy to call Charlotte, NC their home. They often take advantage of the numerous outdoor activities it has to offer. He is consistently in contact with his brothers and is happy to announce a "SigEp to be," Cooper William Gibson, his adorable seven month old son.

As alumni, we are happy to have such a man in our ranks and extremely honored that Bijah is our first Balanced Man Alumni Spotlight.

New social media communications chair

We are happy to announce **Alex Bolton, '13**, as the new Social Media Communications Chair. He will serve as the voice of the Red Door House Corporation and the alumni chapter on all social media platforms. He joins the board with a resume rooted in campaign politics and mass political communication. Alex currently resides in Washington, D.C., and works as a Political Research Consultant for a leader in the Political Advertising Industry.

Bolton served as 2012 VP of Recruitment and 2011 Interfraternity VP of Recruitment while majoring in political science and ethnic studies. In his spare time Alex enjoys the outdoors, spending time with family, watching college football and catching up with his SigEp brothers.

We encourage you to actively participate with our social media outreach efforts in the following ways:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSUSigEpCoGamma

CSUSigEpCoGamma

Twitter: www.twitter.com/csusigep

LinkedIn: www.CSUSigEp.org/linkedin

94-year-old Russell Irwin Carver is Colorado Gamma's oldest member



When **Russell Carver, '44**, was born in Wiley, Colorado, it was the Roaring '20s, a time of speakeasies, the Charleston dance and jazz music. The 1920s also showed great strides in Women's Suffrage.

There were an amazing number of cultural firsts including the first talking film, Babe Ruth hitting his record of 60 home runs in 1927, and the first Mickey Mouse cartoon.

By the time Russell joined Colorado Gamma in 1940, pin number 392, World War II was already underway and it was definitely the big event of the first half of the decade. Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented third term as U.S. President.

Russell was Secretary/Treasurer of the livestock club. He also served on the interfraternity council. Russell currently lives and still works on his ranch in Spearfish, SD.

Brother "Trapper" John Rudd passes

Born in California and raised in the cold rivers of Colorado, **"Trapper" John Rudd, '86**, passed away from a heart attack May 5, 2016. Trapper was a trout hunter throughout his childhood, exploring the rivers of the upper altitudes of Colorado and eventually guiding others in the 1990s. Trapper graduated with degrees in sociology, archaeology and anthropology, thus explaining his affinity for foreign cultures and their local fish.

Trapper Rudd was always going to exotic locations in search of new places to fly fish. A typical month for Trapper would see him roaming the waters of the Zambezi River in Mozambique one week, jetting off to New Zealand for trout the next, and days later prowling the flats of Micronesia searching for giant trevally. Over his career he managed to fish every continent on the planet.

In fact, Trapper is the only known angler to have ever fished the Imperial koi ponds of the Emperor of Japan. Unfortunately, upon his discovery, the Imperial Palace Guards were summoned. He was later released with a smile and asked never to return. In typical Trapper fashion, he blamed the whole affair on translation difficulties.

Trapper was featured on numerous television shows including "In Search of Flywater," "Legends of Rod and Reel," "Backroads with Ron and Raven" and "Eco Fishing Adventures." As a contributing editor, Trapper contributed many articles to Fly Fish America. He was one



"Trapper" John Rudd

of the few on the G. Loomis Elite Pro Staff and also fished for Scientific Anglers.

He was also known as the first global do-it-yourself adventurer who published self-filmed videos of his adventures around the world. You can still check out many of his adventures on the Trapper Rudd YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/user/trapperrudd

Trapper was the owner of Cutthroat Anglers in Silverthorne, Colorado, from 1999 to 2010. He created a unique and coveted fly shop and guide service, but eventually his devotion to his wife and children convinced him to pass the legacy on to another. Trapper and his family moved to Bonita Springs, Florida, to become a partner in Sporting Life Adventure Travel, a fly-fishing destination company specializing in unique angling destinations and exceptional client relations.

The new Residential Learning Community will bring together CSU faculty, volunteers and students around an explicit focus

Residential Learning Community students, together with CSU faculty and volunteers for the chapter support team will explore and develop program concepts to take place in real-world community settings.

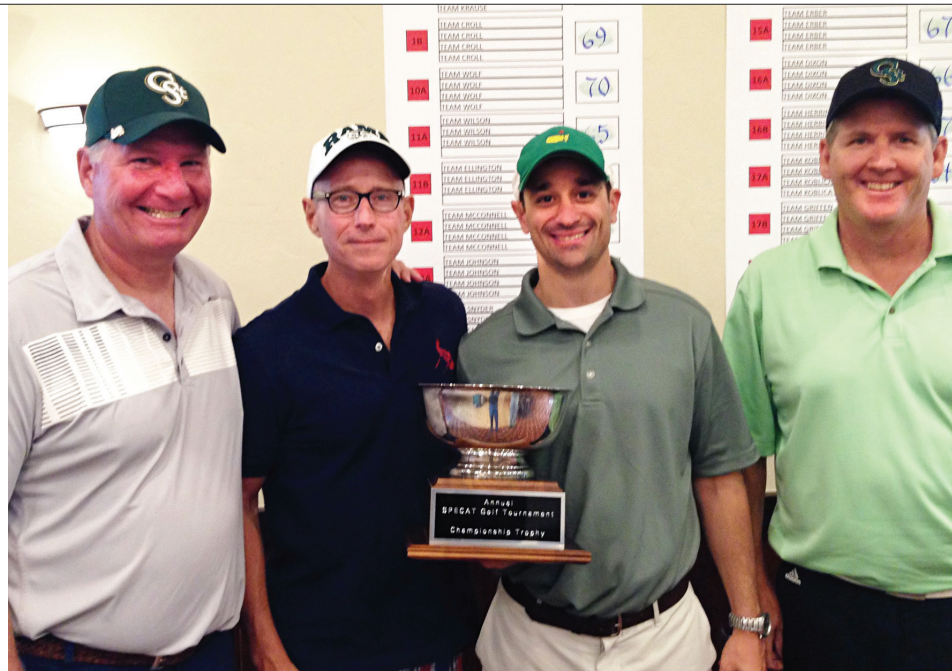
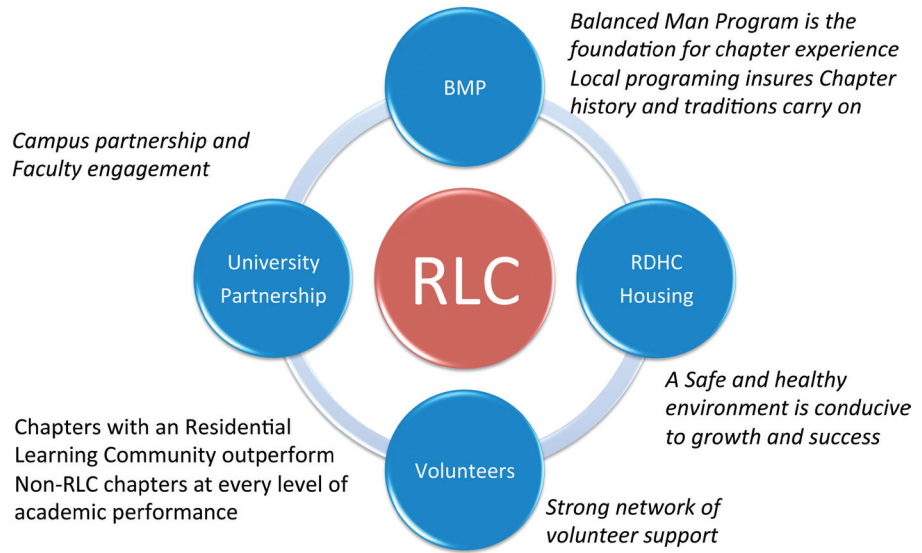
Every semester, students will take part in these programs that enhance their coursework. Special dinners, speakers, cultural activities, retreats and field trips into Colorado's great outdoors are just a few of the things in the planning.

These programs will help develop a connection between students, faculty and the community; promoting self-development and increasing skill development; and developing a support network for academic success.

The qualitative data also shows that Residential Learning Community students' overall university experience is enhanced by the connections they develop working with other students, faculty and the university.

Students also deepen their understanding of the world and learn how to help strengthen the communities where they live.

COLORADO GAMMA RLC FOUNDATION



The winners at the 2016 SPECAT Golf Tournament were Tony Mauro, '99, Chris Herring, '85, Rox Shain, '85, Dan Reagan, '82, with a score of 57.

2016 SPECAT Golf raises record amount for the Residential Learning Community

Sixty players made the turn at Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Course in this years SPE Alumni Tournament. Special guests included Tami Lee and Tonya Everist. This year's tournament raised more than \$3,000 for the Colorado Gamma RLC fund, which is administered by the Sigma Phi Epsilon

Educational Foundation in Richmond, a qualified 501(c)(3) charity. All donations are tax deductible and donors receive a gift receipt from the SigEp Foundation.

We want to give a special thanks to all those brothers who made donations. They include Chris Lonigro, Clark Johnson, Chris McConnell, Todd Erber, Terrence Smith, Jeff Croll, Ben Dilsaver, Richard Pilgrim, Ed Zorn, Tom Hinchsliff, David Beck, Jim Benemann, Chris Herring, Dan Reagan, Tom Adkins, Tim Griffin and Joe Boatright.

Let's all thank brothers Larry Koblica, '68, Dave Madden, '79, Tyler Burke, '13, Mike Miller, '07, and Tom Krause, '88, for all their hard work on putting together this year tournament.

We look forward to seeing you at the 23rd annual SPECAT tournament in fall 2017.



Fall 2016

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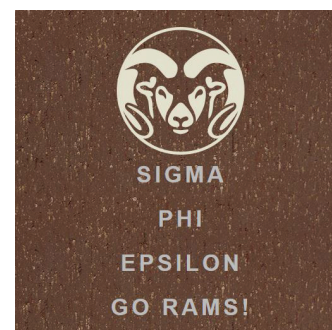
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CSU SigEp memorialized with stadium brick

To support our beloved university and honor our 100+ year history on campus, the House Corp Board of Directors has purchased a brick at Colorado State's new stadium.

Join fellow SigEp alumni for Homecoming 2017 to celebrate the new stadium and locate our brick on the North Plaza of the new stadium. Get your personalized brick by December 31st.

www.stadium.colostate.edu/bricks



NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

Largest, most diverse freshman class in CSU history

For the first time in history, CSU's overall enrollment has surpassed 32,000 and now stands at 32,236—a more than one percent increase above last year's record enrollment of 31,725. This number includes 27,566 students who study on-campus ("resident instruction") as well as others who take classes online, study abroad, or are university employees or guests. Among racially and ethnically diverse on-campus student enrollment is at an all-time high, increasing by almost

five percent to 4,841 students, or 17.5 percent of the total student population.

University to invest \$700M to meet changing world challenges

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CSU is in the midst of a transformational \$700 million, three-year building boom. The University is investing with intent to create a physical environment that shapes its future, enhances the student experience and keeps CSU at the leading edge of discovery, prepared to meet the new challenges of learning, teaching and innovation in a complex, changing world.