

## HOUSE MOM EMERITUS RITA WILLIAMS CELEBRATES SILVER ANNIVERSARY



For many fraternity men, living in the Chapter Facility is a definitive part of their college experience. The camaraderie of living side-by-side with one's brothers is unique to Greek Life and almost impossible to replicate. For many Colorado Gamma SigEps, life at 121 E. Lake St was made all the more memorable by Fraternity Mother Rita Williams, who held the position from 1997 to 2014.

This year, Colorado Gamma Alumni, friends, and family members came together to honor Rita's 25th anniversary as a House Mother. In April, a GoFundMe was established to fund a humble gift to mark the occasion. Instead, the fundraiser took on a life of its own, rapidly outgrowing its initial goal and several subsequent benchmarks. All told, nearly 100 donors contributed to the fundraiser, raising more than \$11,000 – a testament to the impact Rita has had on so many and a fitting tribute to a woman who rarely receives the fanfare she deserves.

In conjunction with Mother's Day, representatives of the SigEp Alumni Volunteer Corps and the alumni body at large surprised Rita at dinner time at Alpha

Gamma Rho (AGR), where she currently holds the role. She was presented with a silver-dipped rose (representing both the red roses of Sigma Phi Epsilon and the Silver Anniversary), a custom floral bouquet, and a monetary gift of more than \$10,000. AGR undergraduates and alumni added to the festivities by presenting Rita with a custom concealed-carry purse and prepaid shooting lessons at a local gun range.

Visibly moved, Rita expressed her gratitude to all those who have made her time as a House Mother so special, even those with whom she has lost touch over the years. True to form, she was brief but sincere in her comments.

"I wish I would have found Greek Life earlier," she said.

We are extremely grateful for the years Rita spent with Colorado Gamma and for the impact she continues to have on the lives of Colorado State's fraternity men. If you would like to add your own thanks and congratulations, messages and well wishes for Rita can be directed to [communications@csusigep.org](mailto:communications@csusigep.org).

**When I think about my time at CSU and SigEp, I think about Rita - Watching "Days of Our Lives" in the kitchen with her during lunch, asking her for some ridiculous food request or just having someone to talk to. Whatever I needed, Rita made it happen. 25 years of service to young fraternity brothers (I can't imagine that's easy) is a tremendous accomplishment.**

**- Frankie Grundler**

## CO GAMMA ANNUAL GIVING UPDATE

Happy Holidays Brothers, While the pandemic has impacted all our lives, it hasn't changed Colorado Gamma Alumni's deep desire to help others. This past year, brothers truly opened their hearts and gave more than ever.

As we near the end of another year, we are once asking for your help. Please support the Colorado Gamma RLC with your gift through the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation; it is a 100% tax-deductible donation.

Only you can place a value on your Colorado Gamma experience and the importance of investing in an organization training the leaders of tomorrow. Your yearly gifts are vital to the success of our fraternity. While this past year was one of our most challenging, it was also one of our most successful. We were able to raise nearly \$61,000! Thank you to all those brothers who gave so generously.

Please visit [www.csusigep.org/RLCgiving](http://www.csusigep.org/RLCgiving). All donations are restricted to supporting Colorado Gamma undergraduates.

With your support, we can continue to provide our young brothers with an educational experience that will prepare them for successful lives after graduation. Make your impact today — together, we will become stronger!

Fraternally,

Dan Reagan '82  
Interim President

Colorado Gamma Alumni Volunteer Corps

## OBITUARIES

### Colorado Gamma Mourns Loss of AVC President, John Clark Jr.



John W. Clark Jr., President of the Colorado Gamma Alumni Volunteer Corps, passed away at the age of 78 on October 16, 2021 in Peoria, Illinois.

John was born February 18, 1943 in Spokane, WA to John and Erma Johnson Clark. A veteran of the Air National Guard in Peoria, he worked at Caterpillar Inc. for 32 years, retiring in 1999. He was an avid sportsman and member of the River Valley Sportsmen's Club, where he enjoyed shooting trap and skeet with friends and served as the group's treasurer. He also loved bird hunting with his favorite companion, his loyal dog Jazzy.

John came to Colorado State University in the 1960's where he joined Sigma Phi Epsilon and met the brothers who would become such a large part of his life. Graduating in 1965, he never forgot his time with the fraternity; what followed was a lifetime of volunteerism and brotherhood.

In 1976, John served on the Alumni Board at Bradley University for four years, acting as President for two of those years. He resigned when the Clark family would relocate to Hong Kong for John's job with Caterpillar, but he remained active with the fraternity. He organized multiple reunions in Keystone, Colorado over the years for 20 brothers and their wives and was always happy to connect with SigEps of all generations.

In 2016 John joined the CO Gamma AVC in 2016, following his tenure as 1960s-Era Chairman for the House Rebuilding campaign of 2012-2014. Under his leadership, Colorado Gamma recolonized at CSU, reoccupied the chapter facility at 121 E. Lake St., and grew to more than 90 undergraduates.

John is survived by his wife, Maggie, son, Michael, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. The alumni and undergraduates of Colorado Gamma extend our condolences to his family and friends. We mourn his passing and will miss his passion for SigEp, committed leadership, humor, and friendship.

The alumni and undergraduates of Colorado Gamma mourn the loss of the following brothers. Our thoughts and sincerest condolences go to their families, friends and loved ones:

**Allen Koeneke '51 (1927 - 2019)** - US Navy Veteran, accomplished banker, and avid golfer.

**Robert Bruce Meyers '52 (1926 - 2019)** - US Army Veteran, Veterinarian, and co-owner of Sacramento Animal Hospital.

**Walter Scott, Jr. '53 (1931 - 2021)** - US Air Force Veteran, CEO of Kiewit Corporation, longtime director of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc., civil engineer, and philanthropist.

**John William Kelly '57 (1933-2019)** - US Navy Veteran, farmer, and businessman. Avid hunter, angler, and lover of the outdoors.

**Lanny R. Carter '74 (1952 - 2015)** - Farmer, banker, and beloved championship coach.

**Michael deChadendes '74** - Dedicated husband and father, Certified Financial Planner, active community leader, artist, and rock music archivist.

## MILES FOR SMILES RAISES FUNDS FOR ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

By Braden Courter



Through the months of September and October, the brothers of Colorado Gamma embarked on a mission to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Hospital. Using the app Charity Miles, brothers and friends of the chapter pledged to run/walk/bike miles and have people donate per mile completed. At the end of the two months, our brothers in the chapter tallied a total of 5,463 miles, raising almost \$700 for St. Jude.

Brothers Orion Young, Brian Felling, and our SigEp Sweetheart, Emma Pinsinski, finished in the top three with more than 900 miles between them. However, this would not have been a success if it were not for our great alumni for donating. Thank you to Dan Regan, Larry Morgan, and Robert Frey for going out of their way and donating. On top of our alumni, we also received a donation from the CSU Programming board for winning Homecoming! This was a philanthropy event we will continue to hold every year as it better our bodies and supports a good cause.



## 2021 SPECAT GOLF

### Record amount raised for the CO Gamma Residential Learning Community

by Dave Madden



Friday, Aug. 20, 2021 – On yet another picture perfect Colorado morning, 68 players made the turn at the Green Valley Ranch Golf Club, in Denver, CO at the 26th annual SPE Alumni Golf Tournament. Thanks to all of those players who participated in this year's event. For the first time in a long time, we had six undergrads from the Chapter join us, and it was fun to get to know these fine young men. In addition, we were delighted to welcome a foursome from the Colorado School of Mines alumni chapter who say they'll be back next year. Most importantly, this year's tournament raised \$7,500.00 for the Colorado Gamma RLC Fund, which is administered by the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation in Richmond VA, a qualified 501(c)(3) charity.

As always, we want to give special shout-out to those 25 brothers who made additional monetary donations this year. They include **Cameron Acres, Mark Alexander, Dave Beck, Jim Benemann, Joe Boatright, Brad Brady, Mark Cousins, Jeff Croll, Chris Herring, Chris Johnson, Clark Johnson, Dave Madden, Chuck Manley, Don Morgan, Rick Pilgrim, Rick Platz, Dan Reagan, Rob Schafer, Terry Scoby, Andy Sexton, Phil Shepardson, Dave Swinehart, Scott Webermeier, Bob Welanetz, and Ed Zorn.**

Once again, the awards luncheon, raffle, and auction proved to be a big winner. Master of Ceremonies, Jim Benemann, did an outstanding job auctioning-off some fabulous gifts which were all donated by tournament participants. A very sincere thank you to all those brothers who participated with their generous gifts and/or their bidding.

Next year will be the 27th annual SPECAT and we're hoping for a record number of participants as well as another rowdy and raucous auction! Look for additional details in upcoming SPEAR editions.

Finally, congratulations to this year's winning team. Dan Crass, Ben Lucas, Joel Tyus and Jason Max. Their winning score was an impressive 60, which was 12 under par. Nicely done!



Some of the players from the 70's

## FLOWER DANCE BOWS AGAIN

by Ryan Fry, Undergraduate VP Communications

Flower Dance is one of Colorado Gamma's most well-loved events, inspiring many cherished memories for SigEp's of all ages. After a hiatus of several years, this time-honored tradition was held once again at 121 E. Lake St.

On September 5, 2021, the undergraduate brothers celebrated Flower Dance at the Chapter with an open house and a catered lunch on the front lawn. The chapter set up tables and chairs in front of the house and greeted their dates in their finest attire. Past Vice President of Communications, Ryan Lamson, gave a speech welcoming everyone and detailing the history of the event and its importance to the chapter. Chapter President, Manley Feinberg, invited his girlfriend, Emma Pinsinski, to join him in front of the crowd where she was recognized as newest SigEp Sweetheart. All brothers then rose and serenaded Emma and their dates with a rendition of "Wonderful SigEp Girl."

After photos and lunch, attendees proceeded to the basketball court where large bins of flowers and glass vases had been set out. Dates were allowed to pick their own vase and assemble an arrangement of their favorite flowers as a token of the chapter's appreciation. Brothers helped their dates cut stems and decorate their vases with ribbons.

This was a great tradition to bring back and it is something we will look forward to doing again next year!





SUMMER 2021

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RUN OF KNOWLEDGE TESTS THE BALANCED MAN

by Ryan Lamson

This fall, the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon participated in the annual run of knowledge.

Led by Vice President of Member Development, Brendon Beaver, the chapter ran several miles as a group between destinations of significance around the Colorado State campus. At each stop, participants were taught how SigEp has left its mark at CSU and what it means to develop a sound mind and body.

One stop of particular importance was the Monfort Quadrangle, located due east of the Clark Building, near the heart of campus. Named for brother Kenneth Monfort '51, the Quad is a visible reminder of one of CSU's

most influential alumni. After receiving his degree from Colorado A&M, Monfort went on to make his fortune in agriculture, using the lessons learned during his time as a SigEp to excel in business and philanthropy alike. Today, the Monforts remain the second largest private donors to the University. Brother Monfort's example is a powerful lesson in what it means to embrace change and dare to be different – qualities every SigEp should embrace.

Another noteworthy stop was the Jack Christensen Track and Field. At this stop, new members were challenged to run a 40-yard dash, identifying the fastest new member. This is meant to highlight

the individual new member's individual abilities. This is followed by a 40-yard dash in which all members link arms and run in unison, showcasing the value of working as a brotherhood. This run showed us how our past brothers have made an impact on campus and how we will continue to have a positive impact on the university.



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