

SigEp

The
SPEAR

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

The State of the Fraternity

Help Us Keep Moving Forward

Time goes so quickly; it's hard to believe that January will mark six years since SigEp Headquarters sent out two envoys to begin recolonizing Colorado Gamma. Since spring 2018, we have accomplished a great deal.

RECENT SUCCESS

Our charter has been reinstated, we received our accreditation as a SigEp Learning Community, and we have grown to 120-man chapter while winning SigEp National Awards:

- J. Edward Zollinger Outstanding Senior Award – Braden Courter '23
- Talent Power Award – 2023
- Recruitment Award – 2019-20
- Academics Award – 2020
- Benjamin Hobson Frayser Award – 2020

Colorado Gamma has received multiple CSU IFC awards while becoming #1 in academics amongst all fraternities. The chapter GPA of 3.27 is .16 above the CSU all-student average, 39 brothers had a GPA above 3.5, and five earned a 4.0.

THE ACTIVE EXPERIENCE

Undergraduates are fully immersing themselves in the SigEp experience by attending Carlson Leadership Academy, the Ruck Leadership Institute, and Grand Chapter Conclave. Members also attended Life After College, a program where brothers meet with industry leading SigEp alumni to learn more about their chosen fields.

Colorado Gamma is the only SigEp chapter in the nation involved in all three new Headquarters initiatives: Balanced Man Programming, Ritual Working Group, and Communications Working Group. SigEp hopes these improve the membership experience for more than 200 chapters and 13,000 members nationwide.

CURRENT OBSTACLES

We still face challenges regarding programming and chapter culture, and we are working hard to keep the house fully occupied and stabilize our chapter and AVC finances. We continue searching for younger AVC Board prospects as well as mentors for undergraduate executives, but I am happy to say the chapter is on a positive trend and getting stronger every year.

Today's Greek life governance is quite different. Our house is substance-free (as all SigEp houses have been since 2000), academic requirements are higher, and tolerance for behavioral misconduct is much lower. We are always one incident away from losing our charter. Alumni engagement and support is critical to rebuilding Colorado Gamma.

HOUSING CONCERNS

We completed a much-needed major house renovation in 2016, but we are now servicing the debt on a \$1.69 million mortgage through SigEp National Housing.

The annual AVC budget is approximately \$500,000. AVC revenues come from live-in fees, out-of-house parlor fees, SigEp through Headquarters and the Educational Foundation, and alumni donations. Our AVC expenditure breaks down to 30% mortgage, 30% food service, 30% property management, 8% business operations/contingency, 1% alumni engagement, and 1% chapter support.

FINANCIAL PLANS

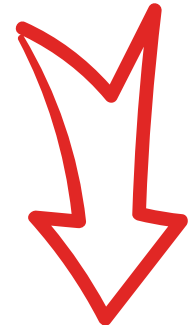
The long-term goal is to eliminate the mortgage and use that 30% for chapter support. In the next few years, we will be organizing an alumni fundraising campaign in hopes to retire our mortgage.

This past year, we raised more than \$67,000 with the help of \$50,000 from our anonymous donor. Thank you to those brothers who generously contributed. As we near the end of 2023, we once again ask 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.

While this past year was a success, we still face significant challenges. With your help, we will continue to perpetuate our Colorado Gamma legacy. Please visit csusigep.org/RLCgiving or scan the QR code to contribute today. All donations are restricted to supporting Colorado Gamma undergraduates as we invest in the young men who will be tomorrow's leaders.

With your support, we will continue providing 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



From the Chapter House to Capitol Hill

Alex Bolton '13 Shares How SigEp Prepared Him for a Career in Politics

"SigEp gave me foundational interpersonal skills that played a significant part in my success thus far."

Alex Bolton '13 was introduced to SigEp by Recruitment Chairman **Andy DiBala '11**. "I met him on the mall, and he invited me over lunch," he shared. Missing the influence of his older brothers, Alex joined SigEp with hopes of building meaningful relationships and finding wise mentors. "The brotherhood, the bonding over shared experiences, and the leadership and networking opportunities were all really attractive to me."

Alex organized his first political campaign in the Colorado Gamma chapter house. "I ran for recruitment chairman twice," he recalled. "I came up short the first time and then came out ahead the second time. I learned when at first you don't succeed, you must try again and keep going for it."

After graduating in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in political science, Alex got his start in U.S. politics by running a 2014 congressional race in Colorado. He moved to Washington, D.C., in 2015 and worked his way up to running priority races for the National Republican Congressional Committee in 2020. At the end of that election cycle, his hard work and integrity were noted by New York Congresswoman Nicole Malliotakis. "She said, 'Hey, I'd like you to be my chief of staff,'" Alex said. "There's not much you can say to that except 'Yes!'"

In the three years since, Alex has continued to serve on the Hill alongside a hard-working, supportive staff. "We've been very blessed in our productivity on behalf of the constituents of New York 11 and, hopefully, most of the country."

For Alex, being a member of Colorado Gamma was all about getting out of his comfort zone and reaching for the stars. "SigEp was the foundation that gave me the confidence to pursue uncomfortable things, deal with real problems, and find ways for everybody to win." He encourages today's undergraduates to live in the moment, try new things, and learn to be OK with failure. "I've been fortunate to accumulate mentors that help me avoid the potholes and push on when times are good and when times are tough."

SigEp brothers have been a steady source of support and encouragement throughout Alex's life. "My grandfather passed away when I was in the house and it hit me really hard," he recalled. "Some brothers took me out to dinner and helped to ground me during a difficult experience." Several alumni also attended Alex's wedding in July 2022. "A section of the CO Gamma chant made it into the ceremony, and they chanted it back from the audience," he shared. "It was pretty neat!"

Alex intends to stay with his current team and continue working for the good of his fellow citizens for as long as he can, although he can't help being a little homesick. "It's harder to leave Colorado every time I go back," he admitted. "I aim to be back to stay one day." In the meantime, he hopes his story will inspire other SigEp brothers to pursue careers in D.C. "There's a lot of success to be had, and I'm here for you! I look forward to meeting and continuing to network with any guys who come my way."

If you'd like to see the video interview go to: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL37jfFrcP1kdp7MXkevwoxU9sEvGDQ5jN>

Brother Jim Benemann '78 Receives CSU's Highest Honor



At Homecoming, **Jim Benemann '78** received The William E. Morgan Alumni Achievement Award, the highest honor given by the Alumni Association that's reserved for individuals who have excelled at the national or international level.

The award recognizes a graduate of Colorado State University who has attained extraordinary distinction and success in their field of endeavor and whose achievements have brought credit to CSU and benefit to their fellow citizens. Jim received the award for his Emmy Award-winning work as a journalist, working as a reporter and news anchor around the country and on five continents. Jim is the fifth Colorado Gamma brother to receive this distinction.

- **1985: Charles Delp '50** – Research scientist honored for his work in systemic fungicides.
- **1987: Joseph Phelps '51** – Owner, president, and general manager of Hensel Phelps Construction company.
- **2001: Kenneth Monfort '51** – Monfort of Colorado Inc. became a Fortune 500 company, sending 500,000 head of cattle to market each year.
- **2014: Walter Scott Jr. '53** – Developed Kiewit, a regional construction company, into one of the largest and most respected construction and mining companies in North America.

Ruck Scholars Look to Elevate Colorado Gamma to New Levels



Brendon Beaver '23



Owen Harrison '26

This summer, **Brendon Beaver '23** and **Owen Harrison '26** were selected to join 160 SigEps from around the country, out of about 600 applicants, and traveled to Richmond, Virginia, for the Ruck Leadership Institute. At SigEp's landmark leadership program, they spent five days learning leadership principles and how to lead and inspire positive change in their chapters and beyond.

They were mentored by executive-level alumni mentors and engaged with brothers from across the country to learn how to make a lasting impact at Colorado Gamma and improve many areas of chapter operations. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and donors, brother are able to create actionable takeaways to lead their chapters and grow as individuals for years to come.



Our fall recruitment class gathers outside 121 following their first formal chapter since initiation.

Strengthening Our Fraternal Bonds

Recruitment, Homecoming, and Much More

GROWTH AND LEADERSHIP

Our new Sigma Class is a diverse group of Balanced Men from across the country. Many new members partake in club sports, while others are in some of the hardest programs CSU has to offer. I'd like to thank VP of Recruitment **Jack Livingston '25** for the hard work he put in alongside his committee.

Owen Harrison '26 and I were accompanied by former President **Braden Courter '23** and **Shelby Styer '24** at the 58th Grand Chapter Conclave in San Antonio, Texas. We had a great time alongside Colorado Gamma alumni and chapter advisors. I enjoyed serving as our primary delegate during legislation and was appointed by nationals to be the head of a committee. Owen and I also represented at the Ruck Leadership Institute, which you can read about on page 2.

HOPEFUL FOR ANOTHER FSL AWARD SWEEP

Last year, we were honored with five awards at the Fraternity Sorority Life Awards. We hope for similar results this year. Brothers will be in consideration for Member of the Year, Emerging Leader, and Chapter President of the Year, among others.

The chapter is considered for awards like Excellence in Academic Achievement, in External Relations, and in Chapter Management. We look forward to bringing home extra hardware in a few months and might have to consider getting ourselves a new trophy cabinet!

FALL CAMPING TRIP

Continuing one of our most cherished yearly traditions, we traveled down to Ward and set up for a fun weekend together. The camping trip is a tremendous opportunity for brothers to really get to know our newly initiated Sigma class while instilling our fraternity values,

especially brotherly love. It's also an essential weekend for setting our chapter culture straight as we start a new school year. We already can't wait for next year's trip!

HOMECOMING WEEK

This year, the Interfraternity Council brought back the tradition of IFC Field Day. SigEp won both the basketball and volleyball tournaments, finishing in first place overall after a close race with Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Gamma Rho.

This was a great start to Homecoming week and gave Colorado Gamma some much-needed momentum as we sought a third championship in three years. It was a long week, but we are proud to say we are now back-to-back-to-back champions, and we could not have done it without Homecoming Chairman **Todd Soellner '26**. We are looking forward to next year and can't wait to bring home a fourth title.

As always, Colorado Gamma brothers appreciate the support of our alumni. We hope to exceed expectations throughout the remainder of the year as we strengthen our SigEp brotherhood at Colorado State.

Fraternally,
Brendon Beaver '23
Chapter President

From left: Todd Donovan OSU '86, Dan Reagan '82, Shelby Styer '24, Braden Courter '23, Owen Harrison '26, and Brendon Beaver '23 attend our Grand Chapter Conclave this summer in San Antonio, Texas.



Welcome,

NEW MEMBERS

Colorado Gamma recruited a class of 33 new members this fall. We are excited to see what these members will accomplish as our chapter continues to develop exceptional young leaders.

Jared Barton | Norco, Calif.
Vinny Besser | Highlands Ranch, Colo.
Aden Blake | Lone Tree, Colo.
Brady Blizzard | Vail, Colo.
Eli Brooks | Elizabeth, Colo.
Jack Buel | Chicago, Ill.
Joey Cavallaro | Littleton, Colo.
Jack Childress | Sammamish, Wash.
Colby Clark | Boulder, Colo.
Trip Crowe | Dallas, Texas
Joseph Curtis | Boise, Idaho
Joey Daniel | Austin, Texas
Mikel Faccio | Tempe, Ariz.
Johnny Forbes | Littleton, Colo.
Zach Garmire | Seattle, Wash.
Gabe Garrahy | Farmington, Minn.
Jack Holsinger | Dallas, Texas
Luke Johnson | Pueblo, Colo.
Noah Keller | Colorado Springs, Colo.
Tim Kervin | Boston, Mass.
Chris Koon | Seattle, Wash.
Jacob Olguin | Pueblo, Colo.
Danny Pepe | Centennial, Colo.
Chris Ronga | Berkeley Heights, N.J.
Jimmy Shull | Folsom, Calif.
Graham Smith | White Bear Lake, Minn.
Sam Smith | Long Beach, Calif.
JR Sonstegard | Moorpark, Calif.
Luke Spencer | Fort Collins, Colo.
Chris Terrigno | Huntington Beach, Calif.
Ford Thompson Jr. | Austin, Texas
Renic Vincent | Durango, Colo.
Calvin Ward | Littleton, Colo.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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SAVE the DATE

30th SPEcat in August 2024

Stay tuned for more details! This year's event was a great time that brought 72 brothers together to Walnut Creek Golf Preserve, and we hope for even greater numbers next summer.

Read below for a full recap of our recent golf outings.

Mentoring the Next Generation of the Workforce

With more than 252,000 living alumni, SigEp has a network of knowledgeable brothers to help young members prepare for nearly any career. Currently, more than 1,600 undergraduate brothers are taking advantage of personalized career coaching from alumni within their desired field. SigEp's goal is to ensure each undergraduate brother receives career coaching to prepare him for the next step after graduation.



Interested in becoming a career coach? Scan the QR code or visit the link below to complete an interest form today!

[sigep.org/the-sigep-experience/events/career-coaching/career-coaching-alumni](https://www.sigep.org/the-sigep-experience/events/career-coaching/career-coaching-alumni)

CATCH UP ON COLORADO GAMMA SUCCESS

Follow your beloved brothers on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/sigepcsu/>
and on the chapter website:
<https://www.csusigep.org/>

COLORADO GAMMA GOLF DIGEST

Join Us for Next Year's Events



SigEp brothers gather for the Colorado Gamma Challenge Cup.

INAUGURAL CO-GAMMA CHALLENGE CUP

Our undergraduates hosted this on Friday, May 5, at Mariana Buttes Golf Club. Ten teams played a two-man scramble/match play tournament. While the Old Rams squeaked out a 6-4 victory over the Mighty Lambs this year, it might not be so easy next year: I heard a rumor that the Mighty Lambs are offering bids to the guys on the golf team!

Shelby Styer '24 will be captaining the undergraduate team, so if you missed this year's event, mark your calendars for Friday, May 3, 2024. We will be playing at Mariana Buttes once again.

ANOTHER GREAT SPECAT IN THE BOOKS

We had another successful SPEcat, with 72 players making it out to Walnut Creek Golf Preserve in Westminster for the 29th annual SPE Alumni Golf Tournament. Thanks to all those players who participated in this year's event, including 12 undergraduates!

The awards luncheon, raffle, and auction proved to be a big success. Master of Ceremonies **Jim Benemann '78** did an outstanding job auctioning the fabulous gifts donated by tournament participants. This year's tournament raised \$6,500 for Colorado Gamma RLC Fund, bringing our seven-year giving total to just beyond \$34,000! Thank you to all those brothers who participated with gifts and generous bidding.

Undergraduates made history this past August, winning the tournament for the first time in our 29-year running! Congratulations to this year's winning team: **Braden Courter '23**, **Shelby Styer**, **Aden Pesicka '25**, and **Jack Livingston '25**. Their winning score was an astonishing 60, which was 12 under par.

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT CHALLENGE CUP!

Mark your calendars for Friday May 3rd, 2024, as we will be playing at Mariana Buttes once again.