

The Spear

For Alumni and
Friends of the
Colorado Gamma
Chapter



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

Spring 2016

Construction nears completion

BY MITCH CHRIST, '79

Construction on 121 E. Lake is progressing very well and nearing completion. Mark your calendars for the official Ribbon Cutting ceremony scheduled for May 21, 2016.

We are right on the construction budget of \$2.7M. There has been only one increase—a \$30K change order which was approved by the Board to incorporate some previously deferred alternates and some small changes in scope.

Our General Contractor, Dohn Construction, has done a great job and has been able to accommodate all the constructability issues that arose during construction. They are delivering on time, on budget and with the highest quality.



A new 2" gas line had to be installed.



New columns have been installed under the portico.

On the inside of the house we are working on the last of the finishes. Final trim, paint, door and hardware installation, wall tile, flooring, and trim out of all electrical, plumbing, and HVAC have been installed. All the new kitchen equipment is being installed.

Big changes are happening on the outside of the house. The new balustrade on the decks, house trim, and new columns have been installed. We are well into the site work activities having completed the new front sidewalk along Lake Street, utility work in the backyard, and new concrete on the front porch and the west side parking area. We are now commencing reinstallation of the front retaining wall, the front entry walkway and wheelchair ramp.

We are about to start the erection of the HVAC equipment enclosure and installation of the new library egress stairs in the backyard. In April, we will be into start-up and commissioning of the new Variable Refrigerant Flow heating and cooling system, testing the fire protection, security, and WiFi systems.

The house is looking absolutely amazing! You should plan to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on **May 21st, Noon – 4 p.m.**

Check out the progress photos at CSUSigEp.org and if you would like a construction tour, contact **Mitch Christ, '79**, at mitch.christ@gmail.com.

Capital Campaign coming to an end

BY AL HORNUNG, '61, CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

Together with the help of many Brothers, we have overcome the challenges laid before us during the rebuilding campaign. Together we have successfully rebuilt the foundation of the place which we all call home—a place where we all began our journey into adulthood. Wherever life has taken us, however strong our ties are, we all reflect back upon our time at Colorado State and the SigEp house.

When construction is complete a new phase of work will begin! Over the next two years the RDHC will be actively involved with both CSU and SigEp Headquarters. Together we will work to integrate our culture with the SigEp programs and develop new original programming that focuses on scholarship, leadership and life skills.

In January 2018 when it comes time to recolonize, future brothers will have the finest living environment on campus and receive an unparalleled fraternity experience during the most crucial years of their young lives.

With construction coming to an end soon we are entering the final months of the capital campaign. It's important we reach our goal of \$1.25M, so that the board does not have to exercise its option for additional financing. We need to raise another \$82,000. The board is asking if you have



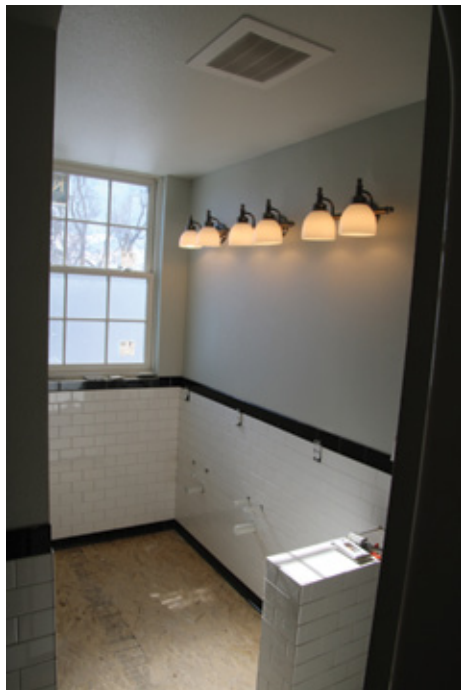
The new alley entry and parking is in place.

not already given yet please consider doing so. If you have made a donation please consider increasing it. Every donation, large or small, makes a real difference.

As a reminder, donors who give a minimum of \$5,000 will be recognized on a permanent plaque in the chapter house forever. So now is the best time to respond with your gift.

Brothers **Chad Ellington, '99**, and **Jim Benemann, '78**, are chairing the committee to assign room names for all donors who have given \$15,000 or more. So, it is not too late to have your name listed in this program for perpetuity.

Please give now! You will help us reach our goal, you will feel good and all Colorado Gamma brothers in the future will appreciate your generosity.



Bathrooms are being readied for vanities.

Financial posture remains strong

BY BRYAN A. HARMSSEN, '01, RDHC CFO

It is a pleasure to provide our annual Red Door House Corporation financial report. It's been a unique financial time for the house corp, as we've held a successful capital campaign, secured construction financing, and undertaken the first complete renovation of our 87 year old facility.

We secured our \$1.9M construction and permanent financing and we have an approved short-term 2nd mortgage to help us manage cash flow. **Mitch Christ, '79**, has managed construction to budget and made the most out of every dollar. We are fortunate that the lease agreement with our CSU Greek brothers from Sigma Nu will allow the RDHC to keep its zoning variance but cover operating expenses and allow us to build our reserve, until Colorado Gamma is ready to move back in to the house 2-3 years from now.

We need to reach our original \$1.25 M campaign goal and we are just \$82,000 away. A summary of campaign pledges and gifts is below and we are always happy to provide full financial reports to alumni.

	Pledged	Received	Future Pledges
Campaign Total	\$1,167,491	\$806,911	\$360,580
Gifts in Kind	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
SigEp Foundation Gifts	\$761,292	\$529,462	\$231,830
RDHC Gifts	\$416,199	\$287,449	\$128,750

Catching up with Willis "Tuffy" Holland

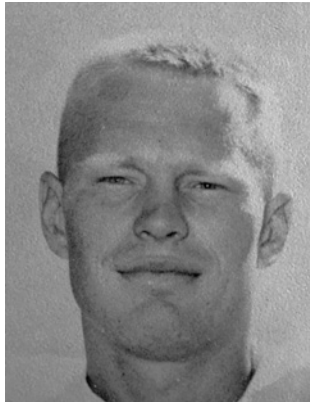
Willis "Tuffy" Holland, '56, put on a show for wrestling fans at Colorado A&M from 1953 to 1956, with a heavyweight career record of 40-4 and garnered two All-American accolades for the Aggies along the way.

Ironically, he went to Colorado A&M to play football so he could wrestle. He was on a football scholarship after a standout career in both sports at Wheat Ridge High School. Tuffy won the state high school heavyweight wrestling title his senior year and finished with a 10-0 record.

"My wrestling coach and football coach in high school were both Aggies, so I was going to be an Aggie."

Tuffy's football scholarship paid for his tuition. He also had a part-time job sweeping classrooms for \$40 per month. "They didn't have wrestling scholarships back then," Tuffy said. "I played tackle on the football team, both ways. We only had five tackles on the entire roster."

"Back then when you played football, after your last game practice was over until the next year. Now, it's 12 months, all



year. It was more fun back then and we played because we wanted to play."

Tuffy earned a degree in light construction and marketing. "It was an engineering and business degree." It is what we call an ICM degree today.

After a three-year stint in the Army, Tuffy worked for a small chemical distribution company in Pueblo for 39 years. The company later merged with Balcom

Chemical and Tuffy was moved to Kansas for 10 years. When Balcom Chemical merged with United Agri Products in 1983, Tuffy moved to the home office in Greeley, where he resides today. He finally retired from Balcom Chemical/UAP in 1999.

Fast forward to the fall of 2013 when Tuffy heard he was going to be inducted into the Colorado State University Athletic Hall of Fame.

"'Surprised, shocked, amazed,' is the best way I can describe my feelings when I learned of the honor," Tuffy said. On the day of my induction, there was a sense of pride and excitement for me, even more than winning the All-American honors."



McConnell elected president of dental fraternity

Brother Christopher McConnell DDS, '82, was elected president of Delta Sigma Delta International Dental Fraternity at their annual meeting in November of last year. Chris will lead Delta Sigs Supreme Council in bringing together the most talented dentistry students with teachers and practitioners to render the best dental services in the highest professional manner.

Delta Sig Chapters are located throughout the United States of America, as well as Europe and Australasia.

Let's all congratulate Chris on this tremendous career accomplishment.



Kitchen is nearing completion.

Call for archival material

The Archive Committee is requesting your help on an important effort currently underway: **Remembering those Brothers who have served our country.** So if you served or know of a Brother who served please provide us your/their name, graduating year, rank, branch of service, where you/they were stationed, any military honors, and most importantly if they gave their life in service to our country. **All submissions should be sent to Dan Reagan, '82, at dsreagan@reaganpartnership.com.**

Anyone who has historical items, or wants to share their personal knowledge of important milestones that relate to either Colorado Gamma or CSU is asked to consider donating those items or providing an interview that can be added so that they may be added to the archive. For more information on how to donate, contact Dan Reagan, '82, at dsreagan@reaganpartnership.com.



Spring 2016

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**Announcing the 22nd Annual
SPECAT Golf Event**

This year's proceeds will help raise funds toward the new Colorado Gamma Residential Learning Community.

**Friday, September 2, 2016
8:00 a.m. Shotgun**

Heritage Eagle Bend Golf Club – Aurora, CO

\$125 per player registered before July 31, 2016 includes green fees, carts, prizes and lunch.

Registration information at www.CSUSigEp.org/golf

Tournament organizers: Larry Koblica, '68, Dave Madden, '79, Tyler Burke, Mike Miller, '07, and Tom Krause, '88.

Registration is limited to the first 30, 4-person teams.

As part of the fundraising, teams are requested to bring an item for the silent auction to be held during lunch. Contact Tom with any questions at: tom.krause@urbanleasing.com.

Late registration fee \$140 per player

