

The Spear

For Alumni and
Friends of the
Colorado Gamma
Chapter



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

Winter 2020

2020 Annual Giving Campaign

Dear Brothers, Parents and Friends,

2020 will be remembered as an unpredictable year — nothing about this year has been typical. The challenges posed by a global pandemic and an economic recession have restricted our ability to raise funds. We were even forced to cancel this year's SPECAT Golf Tournament fundraiser, severely impacting our ability to fund undergraduate programming.

Like all higher education institutions, we face a situation of increasing costs and decreasing income. To accommodate this challenge, we have had to reduce our expenses or use our own resources to address these issues.

As a result, we had to deplete our working reserve, refinance our long-term debt, and draw upon our precious RLC funds. These funds support the chapter leadership programming and ensure undergraduate officers and emerging leaders receive leadership and development opportunities throughout their chapter experience.

Funding a chapter leadership program significantly reduces the chapter's annual dues and eliminates increasing leadership program registration fees.

We need your help to protect these life-changing experiences. Your gift will help



Happy Holidays from Colorado Gamma

deserving young men change their lives in dramatic and lasting ways. A gift of \$500 provides a Balanced Man Scholarship to one of CSU's exceptional students or sends one of the chapter officers to SigEp leadership training. That training helps develop their personal skillsets, hone their leadership abilities, and gain an advantage in life after college.

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

Simply visit www.csusigep.org/RLCgiving. All donations are restricted to supporting Colorado Gamma undergraduates and their fellow CSU students.

Thank you for believing in our Fraternity.

Fraternally,

Dan Reagan, '82

Academic Stars Recognized

Academic achievement is a cornerstone of the SigEp experience. In a year like no other, we would like to take a moment to recognize those brothers who have excelled in their studies and set the standard for all brothers in the Spring of 2020. Well done, men.

Clifford B. Scott Key Award – Top Chapter GPA

Spring 2020: Gabe Torres, '23

Past Winners: Skyler Hockmuth, '20; Connor Cloherty, '21

Ulysses Grant Dubach Scroll – Most Improved GPA

Spring 2020: Noah Melson, '23

Past Winners: Connor Cloherty, '21; Mike Holliday, '20

3.5 GPA or Above:

Gabe Torres, '23; Urial Diaz, '23; Jared Spencer, '23; Daniel Ton-That, '23; Xavier Mercer-Robert, '23; Brenden Beaver, '23; Connor Cloherty, '21; Jacob Utic, '23; Keegan Hughes, '23; J.R. Wright, '22; Grant Ogden, '22; Mike Holliday, '20; Nick Kowalczyk, '23; Xavier Ramos, '23

Call for Volunteers

Now, more than ever, Colorado Gamma is calling upon you.

An active, engaged alumni base is key to the success of any great fraternity. Colorado Gamma has a rich history of supporting our undergraduates and putting them in a position to succeed during their time in Fort Collins and for years to come.

No matter your skillset, interests, or availability, there is a place for you as a Colorado Gamma volunteer. We have roles ranging from AVC Board positions and mentorship roles down to one-time commitments. If you have any interest, no matter how small, please complete [this brief form](#) or reach out directly to communications@csusigep.org.

Thank you for being a caring alumnus!

Colorado Gamma welcomes two new academic advisors

Colorado Gamma is happy to announce the arrival of a new Resident Scholar and a CSU Chapter Graduate Advisor. These men are both current CSU graduate students and are responsible for providing effective, student-centered advising and support to the undergraduate chapter.

Advisors provide support to both the AVC and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life through reports and data related to students' academic progress, engagement in curricula and extra-curricular activities, and retention. Advisors work with members to enhance engagement in their majors, colleges, university, and community at large.

Resident Scholar Jorge I. Rivera-Gonzalez

Jorge grew up in Puerto Rico until he was 15 years old, when he moved to Tampa, Florida. He recently graduated from Florida State with a degree in biology and Spanish. For the next two years, he will be attending the Colorado School of Public Health at Colorado State University where he is pursuing a master's

in public health. At FSU, he was involved in Beta Theta Pi, Florida State Alternative Breaks and FSU Athletics. His research at CSU focuses on infectious diseases.

In addition to his duties as Resident Scholar, Jorge has also agreed to become an Alumni Volunteer Corps Director. Jorge brings a fresh perspective and has already proven to be a valued asset to the Board. We cannot thank him enough for all that he has already done for us and the undergraduate members.

Chapter Graduate Advisor Carlos Rubio-Regalado

Carlos is a recent graduate from the University of Oklahoma, where he received his bachelor's in industrial and systems engineering. Carlos



Rivera-Gonzalez

led the High School Leadership Conference, a flagship organization that hosts an annual three-day, two-night leadership experience that is specifically designed for high school juniors. This organization has made an impact on thousands of students from across the country and gives Carlos a strong perspective on leadership and engaged mentorship.

Previously, Carlos has interned with



Rubio-Regalado

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute where he worked on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Carlos has also held positions at Columbia University in New York City within the school of

Professional Studies. This Fall, Carlos will start his M.S. in student affairs in higher education at Colorado State University.

Life @ 121 E. Lake: An undergraduate perspective

BY GRANT OGDEN, '22

The first semester in the house has been, a lot of work — lots of moving parts, and a lot of settling in. Overall, the guys love living in the house. It has really made the chapter feel more like a home, rather than a weekly meeting. We live together, we eat together, and everything in-between. The up-to-date house has been a blessing, and I am extremely thankful for all the work that went into getting the house ready for our August move-in.

My favorite feature of the newly renovated facility is definitely the library. Especially with online classes this semester, it has been difficult to stay engaged during class and easy to get distracted if you are doing class in your bedroom. The library provides us a space that is separate from our bedroom and gives more of a classroom feel, making it easier to stay engaged during remote learning.



Undergraduates practice COVID-19 guidelines wearing face masks to protect each other.

In addition to the challenges of moving into a new facility, COVID-19 has given us all an additional layer of responsibility. The guys have done a good job adjusting to COVID restrictions and have handled themselves well. As it currently stands, we are one of two chapters (with facilities) that have not had an outbreak, which is amazing. The day-to-day upkeep in the house has been good, and guys *mostly* pick up after themselves. Every week, we have been doing major cleaning days on Sunday which helps keep the house nice and tidy.

I think overall, chapter morale is high. This semester has been challenging

“My favorite part of living in the house, so far, has been the late-night talks with brothers.”

academically for many, (including myself). Looking back, school administrators seemed to be worried about

the numbers we would be able to recruit in such a virtual environment. I think the exact opposite occurred. People were bored and wanted something to do, as well as have meaningful connections. This gave us a large group of potential new members and a good number successfully recruited.

My favorite part of living in the house, so far, has been the late-night talks with brothers. I think connections have grown tremendously. Most nights of the week, I find myself finishing up homework and staying up way too late talking about the future of the chapter, life in general, and everything in between. These late-night talks build relationships better than anything else I can think of, and I have some of the best relationships with others living in the house that I never thought I would have had!

Colorado native is philanthropist, real estate developer and family man

David Jenkins, '64, and his family have a long history in city of Colorado Springs, spanning three generations. After serving in the Navy, David's father took a job with Hewlett-Packard in Colorado Springs, while his mother, Frances, dedicated her life to education. After a career teaching high school math, she served eight years on the school board. So great was her impact on the community that when she died, the city named Frances L. Jenkins Middle School in her honor.

David is one of four children born to the pair. He was a standout wrestler in high school, even competing at the state level his senior year. When asked by the yearbook editor what his primary interest in life was, David replied simply "ministry."

Following high school, Dave attended Colorado State University where he joined the SigEp house, met his wife, Susie Brown, during a function with the Tri Delt sorority, and earned his degree in Business. Upon graduating in 1964, he returned to Colorado Springs to work for a local business. Soon, he began buying real estate with his earnings, accumulating small parcels of land around town, and eventually developing them. In 1978, he founded Nor'wood Development Group, one of the city's most successful real estate companies, even today.

Nor'wood was built on solid work ethic, perseverance, and strong family values. David is known as a tough businessman but he has earned the respect of his competitors and contemporaries. One peer was quoted as saying, "David's success is not just a result of luck or good fortune. He has earned it the old-fashioned way."

David's entrepreneurial spirit doesn't stop with business. He has been committed to his community from the start. In addition to helping create the Economic Development Corporation, (today known as the Colorado Springs Chamber and EDC), he has also been a major contributor to the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and is a life-long member of the East Colorado Springs Rotary Club. In 2014, David and Nor'wood Development Group donated the land on which the newly opened United States Olympic and Paralympic Museum was built.

David is a loving husband, father, grandfather and friend to his wife, Susie. They have three sons — Chris, Chad and Marc — and he regularly takes time off each week



David Jenkins

to spend with his grandkids. He is an avid bike rider, riding thousands of miles every year, and a member of the Pikes Peak Range Riders. But above all, David's faith guides him; he is a devoted and active member of First Presbyterian Church, actively supporting the many ministries efforts to fulfill God's mission.

He has been a devoted supporter of SigEp and our mission to build balanced men; in fact, he has made a financial gift to the SigEp every year for the past 50 years! When the AVC led a capital campaign to restore our 85-year old chapter house, many brothers were understandably reticent about pitching in because they worried about the future of Colorado Gamma. David, however, did not.

His faith and support allowed the AVC to complete the renovation and to re-establish SigEp on the CSU campus. Today, Colorado Gamma has a new life and has begun its mission to build balanced men who will become the leaders of tomorrow. We are and will forever be grateful for his support.

In 2014, when he was awarded the Lifetime Entrepreneurship Award from the College of Business at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, David spoke of the guiding principles he has always lived by: Integrity is easy to lose and hard to keep; actions speak louder than words; do what is right, not what is convenient; do your best at every task because it will make you happy, no matter what you do; never give up because failure will teach you more than success; and, quoting Mother Teresa, give until it hurts.

Chapter Facility Update

BY MITCHELL CHRIST '79, DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

For the first time since the Fall of 2013, we have SigEp brothers living in our house at 121 E Lake Street.

Currently, 22 men are living in the house and we expect to have a full house of 40 men in the fall of 2021. The brothers have assumed responsibilities for lawn care, snow removal, and general house cleaning. Additionally, undergraduate brothers have taken responsibility for the enforcement of COVID-19 protocols and have done a great job cleaning and sanitizing shared spaces. Our undergraduate brothers have shown great pride of ownership by keeping us appraised of maintenance needs. To date, there have been no major damage issues.

The Colorado Gamma Alumni and Volunteer Corporation owns the property in Fort Collins, and we were able to refinance our mortgage earlier this year with SigEp National Housing. This enabled us to manage our finances during a time while we have an occupancy less than our breakeven point of 35 men.

To finalize furnishing the house, we have completed procurement of new bedroom furniture this year including two bunkable beds, two four-drawer dressers, and one desk/chair for each of the 20 bedrooms. We also furnished the Resident Scholar bedroom and office with new furniture.

As we reach our financial breakeven in 2021 and begin to replenish our capital improvement reserves, we plan to address a list of desired facility upgrades including interior and exterior signage and branding, rework of the retaining walls, permanent covers over the basement egress stairs, exterior access stairs to East balcony, repainting all exterior trim, and more.

We are planning a major alumni fundraising campaign in the future to pay down our \$1.9M mortgage. We appreciate all alumni donations to date, and we plan to recognize all donors past and future. Please keep in mind that tax-deductible donations to the SigEp Foundation designated for Colorado Gamma are available for educational uses only. Any non-tax-deductible donations directly to Red Door House Corporation can be used for any purpose including capital improvements and mortgage payoff.

Thank you for your continued support of the chapter and the chapter facility. Your contributions do not go unnoticed and ensure we always have a place to call home at Colorado State University.



Winter 2020

Red Door House Corporation

P.O. Box 2051
Fort Collins, CO 80522

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



MILESTONES

Colorado Gamma would like to congratulate the following brothers on their recent milestones:

- **Sean Sweeney, '10**, and his wife, Holly (Colorado State, Pi Beta Phi), for the birth of their daughter, Hattie.
- **Kyler Miller, '10**, and his wife, Alton, for the birth of their daughter, Edie Kae.
- **Andrew Dibala, '11**, for his marriage to Jillian (University of Colorado).
- **Alex Griffin, '09**, and his wife, Suz (University of Colorado, Delta Gamma), for the birth of their son, Kit.
- **Jeremy Branting, '11**, and his wife, Kim (Colorado State, Pi Beta Phi), for the birth of their son, Jude.
- **Sean Maloney, '13**, and his wife, Kerri (Colorado State, Gamma Phi Beta), for the birth of their daughter, Madison.
- **Vance Connolly, '12**, and his wife, Grace (Colorado State, Gamma Phi Beta), for the birth of their son, Bennett.

Have you or a brother celebrated a recent milestone? Submit news to communications@csusigep.org.

OBITUARIES

Colorado Gamma and the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon mourn the loss of the following alumni.

BROTHER VINCENT LEONE

Vincent D. Leone, '49, was born in Beaumont, Texas on January 21st, 1925. He graduated from Beaumont High School in 1942 and enlisted in the Naval Air Corps program in 1943. He served and was honorably discharged in 1946. Vince earned his degree in Mechanical Engineering from Colorado A&M in 1948.

Vince went on to form his own oilfield service company that operated in Venezuela and Trinidad and later took control of a family industrial janitorial supply company. A dedicated husband, passionate golfer, and master martini aficionado, Vince died peacefully at home on the 30th of November 2018 at the age of 93.

BROTHER JOHN WILLHITE

John "Marvin" Willhite, '52, was born south of Holly on January 8, 1931. After graduating from Holly High School, he attended Colorado A&M, where he joined SigEp and became a member of the ROTC. Marvin joined the U.S. Air Force after graduation and served as an officer for four years, after which he moved back to Holly to farm and ranch.

Marvin served as the Mayor of Holly and owned and bred show and racehorses. In life, he enjoyed traveling, fishing, and spending time at his mountain cabin with his wife and their family. Marvin departed this life on June 12,

2019 at the Holly Nursing Care Center in Holly, Colorado at the age of 88.

BROTHER GEORGE THOMPSON

George Fox Thompson, '67, died on November 5, 2020 in Durango, Colorado, at the age of 75.

George married Lynn Brown in 1966 while at Colorado State University and had two children. He worked in Denver as a bond trader before relocating to Durango, where he founded Pride Weed Control, servicing oil fields in several of the Western states. Himself a pilot, he wrote a book on the life of Frank Van Dersarl, an aircraft pioneer in Colorado, which is awaiting publication.

He is survived by children Kelly and Kristin and numerous grandchildren.

BROTHER CARL MELINE

Carl "Bud" Meline, '60, was born November 21, 1937 in Julesburg, Colorado. He attended Colorado State University and graduated in 1960 with degrees in Animal Nutrition and Husbandry, as well as Biochemistry. After college, he joined the Navy, serving as an officer for 4 years aboard the USS Tulare throughout the Pacific, then the Tonkin Bay of Vietnam. Upon his return, he married Konnie (Linton) Reynolds in 1966, and had 3 children — Melinda, Marc and Michael.

He enjoyed playing games and cards, watching football, antiquing, tinkering in his shop, and visits from his grandkids. Carl died peacefully at home in Julesburg, Colorado, Thursday, March 7, 2019 surrounded by his children.