

# The Spear

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE  
COLORADO GAMMA CHAPTER  
No. 4 • FALL 2004

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, SIGMA PHI EPSILON  
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MESSAGE FROM ALUMNI COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR ▼

## A New Year Begins

Dear Brothers:

On September 5, 2004, a Colorado State University student died of alcohol poisoning. This tragedy deeply saddened the entire University community. In the coming months, Colorado State's Greek system will be thoroughly investigated, along with the rest of the community. Our Alumni and Volunteer Corporation and our undergraduates have volunteered to support President Penley and his newly created task force on alcohol abuse in any way we can. Please be assured that our Fraternity had nothing to do with this incident, and continues to be one of the top fraternities on campus, both academically and athletically. Before this incident, only a few fraternity houses were alcohol free, including CO Gamma. In an effort to help the University community, all fraternities have volunteered to be alcohol free. The healing process has begun and the semester continues. However, this tragedy remains in the back of our minds, and we all hope that nothing like this will happen again.

On the positive side, the past few months have been outstanding. We have received many congratulations on winning Chapter of the Year, we continue to get "lost alumni" responses regularly, and we have had some great alumni events.

Approximately 100 Colorado alumni participated in the Annual SPECAT Golf Tournament, on September 3, 2004, at Heritage Eagle Bend in southeast Denver. Congratulations to two-time defending champions Tyler Swan '95, Bobby Kline '95, Nick Florek '96, and Mike "Putting Machine" Bowden '96. Our appreciation and thanks go to T.J. Gordon '87 for organizing this tournament. It gives everyone the opportunity to see their old classmates and meet new friends. This year all contributions (after expenses) were given to the undergraduate program for a SPECAT Scholarship Fund. We were able to raise enough to fund two \$500 scholarships to be awarded to current members living in the Chapter house.

The CSU-CU football game was the following day in Boulder, and even though we didn't win, we were gracious in defeat. It was another great rivalry game this year, with the Rams coming up just one yard short on the last play in the 27-24 loss.

Many Brothers from CO Gamma had the opportunity to attend the 35<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup Matches in Oakland Hills, Michigan. They were invited by Tournament Director Andy Odenbach '96 (see profile on page 2). I was one of those Brothers, and my experiences and memories will last a lifetime.

Faternally,

**NICK FLOREK, '96**

Alumni Communications Chairman



### HOMEcoming!

THE FIRST ANNUAL ALUMNI HOMEcoming EVENT WAS A SUCCESS. MANY ALUMNI STOPPED BY TO SAY HELLO BEFORE THE CSU-BYU FOOTBALL GAME. PICTURED HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS WHO CHECKED OUT THE "RAMWAGON"—CUSTOM MADE, INSIDE AND OUT, FOR CSU TAILGATING BY MIKE JENSEN '96.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS, BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS

**Monday, November 1, 2004 –  
Alumni Board of Directors Meeting**

AT THE CHAPTER HOUSE

**Saturday, November 13, 2004 –  
Hall of Fame Weekend**

**FOOTBALL: COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY VS.  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS**

**Saturday, November 27, 2004 –  
89<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Founding of  
CO Gamma**

# Three Years in the Making

Despite U.S. Team loss, 2004 Ryder Cup was clear success

**S**ome might consider the recent Ryder Cup a disappointment. Not Andy Odenbach '96, the 35<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup Matches Tournament Director.

To Andy it was a huge success. Of course, a U.S. victory would have been great, but for Andy the nearly flawless six-day event more than justified the three long years of preparation.

Andy's career in golf tournament management began when he was still a student at CSU, with an internship at the 1996 PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, KY. That experience led to a position after graduation as operations manager at the 1997 PGA Championship at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY. Then, at 23, Andy became one of the youngest tournament directors in the history of the PGA when he managed the 1998 PGA Championship at Sahalee Country Club in Redmond, WA.

After serving as operations manager at the 1999 Ryder Cup at The Country Club at Brookline, MA, Andy was named tournament director at the 2001 PGA Championship at the Atlanta Athletic Club in Duluth, GA, where he generated the highest profit ever for a PGA Championship. Clearly, he had made his mark.

As a result of his early successes, Andy was chosen by the PGA as tournament director for the 2004 Ryder Cup Matches, the largest golf event in the world. Andy arrived in Detroit, MI, in 2001 expecting to spend the next two years preparing, but the events of September 11, 2001, postponed the 34<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup until 2002, and Andy spent another year in preparation.

During those three years, he laid the groundwork for the 2004 Ryder Cup Matches at the challenging



2004 RYDER CUP TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR  
ANDY ODENBACH '96

Oakland Hills Country Club: implementing and selling a marketing plan, managing corporate sponsorships, directing large operations and production staffs, recruiting and training over 4,000 volunteers, coordinating with two television networks, attending to every detail.

All of that hard work paid off. After the final match on Sunday, September 19, and the European team's victory celebration, Andy was asked if anything went wrong during the tournament. "We had a few minor hiccups, mostly with the spectators. It is hard to plan for 40,000 spectators without actually having them on the course." Overall, the 35<sup>th</sup> Ryder Cup was a clear success.

Now that it is over, Andy, his wife Karri (also a CSU graduate), and their young son will move to Palm Beach Gardens, FL, headquarters of the PGA of America, where Andy will become Marketing Director for future PGA tournament sites. However, he won't soon forget his Ryder Cup experience — especially since his son's name is Gavin RYDER Odenbach.

**PAUL BUDIN '60** lives in Sterling, CO, and works as a Financial Representative for Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. He and his wife Mary have three children and one grandchild. Contact Paul at [pbudin@kci.net](mailto:pbudin@kci.net).

**CHRIS CRUMP '85** lives in Lone Tree, CO, and is Vice President for Mortgage Sales at Residential Prime Lending. Email Chris at [crumpso2@msn.com](mailto:crumpso2@msn.com).

**GEORGE DEORIO '95** is a deputy sheriff with the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, and lives in Denver. Get in touch with George at [gdeorio@aol.com](mailto:gdeorio@aol.com).

**MIKE DOMINGUEZ '94** is married with two children, and lives in Cherry Hills Village, CO. He is President and CEO of HD Communications, a provider audio and video solutions for the commercial marketplace. Email Mike at [mike.dominguez@hdcommunications.org](mailto:mike.dominguez@hdcommunications.org).

**BRYAN HARMSSEN '01**, a knowledge engineer for IBM, recently accepted a new position within the company, and moved from Denver to Austin, TX. "Enjoying Austin very much and glad to still be able to volunteer remotely as the Alumni Board Treasurer. Work, graduate school studies, and volunteering with the Board seem to fill my schedule, but I also enjoy taking long weekends to travel." In September, Bryan visited New Orleans and went to L.A. for the Rams game at USC. "I would love to meet any CO Gamma alums that might be in Austin!" Email Bryan at [bryan\\_harmsen@hotmail.com](mailto:bryan_harmsen@hotmail.com).

**J. DUNCAN LEEVER '03**, a second-year medical student at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine, recently became engaged to Holly Hollcrott, a Chi Omega from CSU. Send your congratulations to [duncanleever@hotmail.com](mailto:duncanleever@hotmail.com).

**JASON LEPERA '99** lives in Parker, CO and is a hotel executive in Denver. He was married in October. Email Jason at [jasonlepera@yahoo.com](mailto:jasonlepera@yahoo.com).

**CHRIS MCCONNELL '82** is a dentist in Highlands Ranch, CO, and has been on the faculty at the University of Colorado School of Dentistry since 1987. Chris and his wife Collette have a daughter, Brook (15) and a son, Michael (12). He enjoys golf and ice hockey. Contact Chris at [mcconnell1584@msn.com](mailto:mcconnell1584@msn.com).

**EUGENE MILLER '51**, a retired consulting engineer, has started a new career as a book publisher. He formed Antelope-Press, an independent publisher of western history. The first title, just off the press, is *Photographer of the Early West, The Story of Arundel Hull*. It is a biography of a photographer who followed the Union Pacific Railroad during the construction years. Find out about the next book due out in 2005 from Eugene at [eamiller@iscweb.com](mailto:eamiller@iscweb.com). Or visit his web site at [www.Antelope-Press.com](http://www.Antelope-Press.com).

**PHIL MONTERO '86** lives in Walnut Creek, CA, with his wife Kurstin and their two children—William (10) and Olivia (7). After working in Silicon Valley for 13 years, Phil left the "rat race" to

Send your news to  
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## PROFILE

join Chetcuti & Associates, a real estate investment firm, founded by his brother-in-law. He loves the flexibility it gives him to be involved with his children's extra-curricular activities. Phil writes, "I have fond memories of my days at Colorado Gamma, and look forward to reading news about other Brothers in *The Spear* every time it comes out." Contact Phil at [phillybod@yahoo.com](mailto:phillybod@yahoo.com).

**DAVID POGUE '60** has practiced cardiology for 29 years in Wichita Fall, TX. He stopped office practice in 2001, due to Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency and emphysema, but continues to work part-time as co-director of the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Program at the United Regional Health Care System. Get in touch with David at [cardiodmp@aol.com](mailto:cardiodmp@aol.com).

**GARY PURSE '58** is now semi-retired after four years as a LTJG in the Navy, 16 years with the U.S. Forest Service, and 22 years as owner of a flower shop in Albuquerque, NM. Currently, he raises and shows miniature horses. Gary has three children and 12 grandchildren. Check out his web site: [www.minifarmer.com](http://www.minifarmer.com), or email him at [minifarmer@sprintmail.com](mailto:minifarmer@sprintmail.com).

**KIRK REID '95** is Manager of Retail Operations for Janus Funds. He and his wife have one son, two-year old Max, and another child on the way. Contact Kirk at [kirk.reid@janus.com](mailto:kirk.reid@janus.com).

**MICHAEL SCHOLZ '82** was transferred from Colorado to Overland Park, KS, by his employer—Kiewit Construction Company, which builds power facilities across the country. Michael reports, "The plains of eastern Kansas are much like Aurora, CO, only with trees and rainfall, but no view of the mountains. They have great bar-b-que here, Cabela's, and the Lake of the Ozarks is close; but no skiing on snow. Home is where the family is." Email Michael at [Michael.Scholz@kic.kiewit.com](mailto:Michael.Scholz@kic.kiewit.com).

**RYAN SMITH '04** has joined Avaya, a global leader in communication systems, applications and services, as a project manager. He will design a web-based database application for a new product introduction, and improve other aspects of the web site layout. Contact Ryan at [rcsmith@comcast.net](mailto:rcsmith@comcast.net).

**BRANDON TOWNSLEY '91** is Director of Sales, Central Region, for Norwegian Cruise Line. He lives in Austin, TX, and can be reached at [btownsley@ncl.com](mailto:btownsley@ncl.com).

**STEVE TRAN**, a CO Gamma who graduated from University of Denver in '97, has a Subway franchise in Aurora, CO. He and his wife of four years, Lyna, whom he met at DU, have a two year-old daughter named Madelyn. He spends most of his time looking over the operations of the store and expanding the business. He does try to play as much golf as possible (hoping to win the Subway Golf Tournament!). Steve would like to hear from some of his Brothers who have been lost over the years. Get in touch with him at [stln74@comcast.net](mailto:stln74@comcast.net).

## Flying high with Timothy Matson

Lt. Col. Timothy Matson is a mission operations duty officer with the USAF, which doesn't sound all that extraordinary until you learn

that his mission is to pilot Air Force Two. In addition to the Vice President, Tim and his crew fly the First Lady, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and "a myriad of other senior government officials" around the country and the world. Tim also does "advance" work for Air Force One. He travels in advance of the President and works with the White House Staff, the Secret Service, and local officials to get airports ready to receive Air Force One.

Tim's story with CO Gamma is also out of the ordinary. Tim is from Colorado Springs and started CSU in the fall of 1982, joining SigEp the following spring. At the end of that semester, Tim went on active duty, and completed his degree at the Air Force Academy in 1987. "I returned to CSU and the Fraternity house every chance I had...and, except when CSU plays the Air Force Academy, I'm still a Ram fan."

Piloting Air Force Two is Tim's last assignment before he retires in three years, and begins a second career. He is currently stationed at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, DC, and while his wife Lori, son Ryan (4) and daughter Julia (20 months) enjoy living in Maryland, they can't wait to move back to Colorado.



## COLORADO GAMMA LIFE

BY DAVE SIME '05

The men of Colorado Gamma have come back in force this semester with high ambitions of winning Chapter of the Year again. With a rush class of 13, a list of potential members, and a solid membership, there is nothing holding Colorado Gamma back from achieving whatever we put our minds to.

At the beginning of the semester, the Muscular Dystrophy Association awarded the Chapter a plaque for raising over \$600 to send a child to summer camp. This award confirms that we can make a difference. The Chapter has been doing park clean-ups, Habitat for Humanity, helping senior citizens move, and many other community service projects.

We have our Seventh Annual Bachelor Auction coming up on November 9, 2004, to help raise money for The Boys and Girls Club of Laramie County and Catholic Charities Northern. We hope to hit our new goal of \$4,000. We will be auctioning off Colorado State University star athletes, bachelors from other fraternities, and, most importantly, the members of Colorado Gamma.

This year, academic performance is our number one priority. The Chapter is striving to regain Wheelhouse status by increasing our current 2.87 GPA to a 3.15 GPA, or higher. We are very confident we can achieve this goal.

The Homecoming Chair has everyone pumped up for the upcoming Homecoming Parade and football game. The theme for the parade is "The Spirit of Adventure," and Colorado Gamma is planning to take first place. We have also had many fun social events with other chapters that have given us something to look forward to at the end of our work-filled weeks.

Overall, the Chapter has a positive and ambitious attitude for the 2004 school year. The Executive Board is setting new and strong goals for CO Gamma that will ensure a positive impact on the University, the community, and all CO Gamma Alumni.

I am looking forward to seeing Colorado Gamma fly high and achieve even more than we could imagine.



## Blue skies, warm breezes and golf

IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR GOLF AT THE ANNUAL SIGEP GOLF TOURNAMENT. OVER 100 ALUMNI GATHERED AT THE HERITAGE EAGLE BEND GOLF COURSE TO COMPETE FOR THE COVETED SPECAT TROPHY. PICTURED HERE ARE (FRONT ROW, FROM LEFT) ROCCO VERRETTA '87, TOM HINCHLIFF '89, (BACK ROW, FROM LEFT) JOE GALLO '87, ANDY SEXTON '87, MARCO CAPRA '88, JOHN HOOD '84, TODD ERBER '87, KIRK LYNCH '87, STEVE MOORE '87, AND ERIC MULLER '86.

## O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU?

Reconnect with SigEp by filling out the update below. Don't be shy.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

SEEN ANY OTHER BROTHERS RECENTLY? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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