

# The Spear

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE  
COLORADO GAMMA CHAPTER  
No. 6 • FALL 2005

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, SIGMA PHI EPSILON  
INFORMATION | [WWW.COGAMMAALUMNI.ORG](http://WWW.COGAMMAALUMNI.ORG)

LETTER FROM ALUMNI BOARD VOLUNTEER ▼

## “If It Feels Good and It Feels Right, Do It!”

I'm a man run by emotions, in business, with my family, and in my pursuit of recreation. Several years ago I was invited to attend an alumni meeting back at 121 East Lake Street. I was happy to see the chapter alive, but struggling to keep active numbers up. I met a group of gentlemen, a sound and scholastically conscious bunch, facing even more scrutiny than we did

in the 70s. These young men had, and still have, so much going for them. They showed great enthusiasm and drive to reach for the SigEp ideals of achievement and brotherhood. My emotions told me that without the SigEp experience of academic and social interaction, and my successes and failures at the house, I would not have been prepared to step into any profession, let alone mortgage lending. Sharing a little bit of my time and energy helping with simple tasks for the Alumni Board and the chapter seemed like the right way to give back—plus it has been satisfying and fun.

On a recent tour, I was swept again by the pride I have for the house. It's not just an old building. It is a place of historic character. Every room brought back memories of people and experiences shared by my brothers, as well as recent meetings and reunions with old friends.

**A VOLUNTEER IS A PERSON  
WHO BELIEVES THAT PEOPLE  
CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—  
AND IS WILLING TO PROVE IT.**

—ANONYMOUS

The men of Colorado Gamma have a great product to sell! Enhanced by the spectacular gardens across the street, and the new walkway tunnel under College Ave, this is a house you could make your home as a student at Colorado State University. Plus Rita's great cooking is gaining notoriety across campus.

I know that my involvement with the active chapter helps show my support for the ideal of brotherhood, and that is an important emotional aspect of SigEp that deserves reinforcement. The independent lifestyle can overshadow the power of brotherly love. The best way I can see to

reinforce this to the actives is to show our support by showing up and showing off. I am proud to be included as a member of this chapter and am even more proud of the accomplishments of my brothers.

Because I live close to the house, it is much easier for me to commit my time than it is for the majority of the alumni brothers who support the chapter even though they live and work at some distance. I hope that this year you will share some of your time and experiences with the actives. Events like the SPECAT golf tournament are a great way for us to reunite, but a trip to the house together means the world to the chapter. Let's show these lads what brotherhood means to us.

Fraternally,  
**DOUGLAS “RUDEE” BRADEN '78**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS, BOOK YOUR FLIGHTS

**October 8, 2005 – Colorado Gamma  
90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration –  
Homecoming Weekend**

**CSU vs. UTAH**

**WATCH THE CO GAMMA WEB SITE AT  
[WWW.COGAMMAALUMNI.ORG](http://WWW.COGAMMAALUMNI.ORG) FOR DETAILS.**



### COLORADO GAMMA WINS CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

SigEp stands alone as Chapter of the Year at CSU for the second straight year. Colorado Gamma also brought home awards for Commitment to Fraternal Values, Alumni Relations, Scholarship and Academic Program, and Risk Management. Here a happy group of SigEps along with House Mom Rita Williams show off their Greek Night Out awards. Full state-of-the-chapter report in the next issue of the SPEar.



CO Gamma Brother

## Chooses Love Over Money

It isn't every day that one of us gets to meet one of the biggest stars of the entertainment industry, but for Preston Mercer '01 meeting Jessica Simpson isn't the only opportunity he has had over the past year. In 2004, NBC molded their 3rd season of the reality series "For Love or Money" around him.

The premise behind the show was to put bachelor Mercer into a situation where he was able to date 16 amazing women, eventually being forced to narrow the field down to a single one. Ultimately, he was left with the decision to choose either the final woman or forgo her for the chance at one million dollars. The interesting twist to the show was that each bachelorette was worth varying amounts from one to one million

**PRESTON MERCER'S CELEBRITY STATUS GAVE HIM ACCESS TO THE STARS. HERE HE POSES WITH P.J. SPILLMAN (LEFT) AND JESSICA SIMPSON (CENTER).**

dollars. While the audience knew each of the women's dollar values, Mercer was left in the dark and had no idea how much each of the women was worth.

Ultimately, Preston ended up choosing "Love" over the "Money." Luckily for him it was the right decision. In the end, Preston chose P.J. Spillman, a graduate of Baylor University and a Kappa Alpha Theta alumnae, over a mystery check that was later revealed to be for one dollar. Preston and P.J. are still together. She moved to Denver from Dallas and is working with The Integer Group. Preston resides in

Stapleton, and has a mortgage company, Mercer Financial Group, Inc., located in Cherry Creek.

When asked what was the best part of the whole experience, he said, "I would have to say, going to New York for the premier with my friends [which included Isaac Greenlee '01], and getting the chance to be on the 'Today Show.' Oh, and of course, getting a great girl out of it!" When asked if he'd do it again, he replied, "It would take some deep thought. The television world isn't all that it is cracked up to be. You quickly realize the producers are there to make a dollar, and really don't care all that much about you. People take for granted that a normal, private life



**A HIGHLIGHT OF PRESTON MERCER'S "FOR LOVE OR MONEY" EXPERIENCE WAS APPEARING ON THE TODAY SHOW WITH AL ROKER (LEFT).**

is a really nice thing."

Mercer wasn't the only spring 2001 graduate to be on reality television. Pat Coy '01 was a part of "My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiancé," in which his sister was the

bride to be. Preston recalls, "I remember sitting in my hotel room in LA, getting home from a day of shooting, watching the season finale of MBFOF and thinking how ironic it was that two guys who joined the chapter at the same time are on reality TV shows."

Preston can be reached through his company website at [www.123lend.com](http://www.123lend.com). He said he'd love to hear from anybody from his days of living in the house.

### DONATIONS FROM 30 ALUMNI AND FRIENDS IN 2005 TOTAL \$1,693

*Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far this year to Colorado Gamma.*

**\$1 to \$50**

- Bruce Bergstrom '63
- James Berkes '62
- Warren Breniman '49
- R. Dean Cannon '64
- Brian Donovan '85
- Brian Etheridge '64
- Harold Felte '54
- Alva Finker '34
- Jim Gleason '64
- James Hindman '61

- Stephen Kaplan '70
- Archie Lind '63
- Gerland Lindgren '59
- Russel Lowe '46
- Don Morgan '79
- James Phelps '50
- Loren Shepherd '59
- Charles Simon '54
- John R. Sprengle '57
- John G. Sprengle '79
- Jack Ticen '44
- Willard Walker '49

- Norman Warner '65
- Robert Warner '59
- Victor Weed '58

**\$51- \$100**

- Robert Frey '65
- Bryan Harmsen '01
- Richard Long '79
- Eugene Miller '51

**OVER \$100**

- Anonymous

**PHILANTHROPIC OPPORTUNITY AT FORT COLLINS AREA CAMP**

Sky Ranch, a youth camp in the Fort Collins area, is in need of repairs to shower and sanitation facilities for hundreds of campers who visit the camp each year. If you can help with a donation of materials or skills, please contact Ralph Yemberg at [ryemberg@LdoubleR.org](mailto:ryemberg@LdoubleR.org) or at 970-493-5258.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

**1950s** **JIM PHELPS '55** is retired from the insurance claims industry and lives in Colorado Springs. Since retiring Jim has volunteered in many ways, and still enjoys a round of golf. He goes to football and basketball games at the Air Force Academy and occasionally gets to CSU for games. Get in touch at [phelps1715@yahoo.com](mailto:phelps1715@yahoo.com).

**1970s** **JACK MERCER '73** retired in 2004 after 24 years in the ceramic tile business. Most recently, he served as a Regional Vice President and General Manager for Daltile, the world's largest ceramic/stone manufacturer and distributor. "The company was purchased, structure changed, options exercised, life is good." Jack is exploring other opportunities that would allow him to remain in Colorado. Email him at [jackmercer@mindspring.com](mailto:jackmercer@mindspring.com).

**1990s** **MICHAEL LOMBARDI '92** lives in Weston, FL, with his wife and three children—two girls and a boy. He owns and operates a construction company, LM Development Group, specializing in design-build commercial properties in Southeast Florida. His company builds one-story retail strip malls and multi-story office buildings. Contact Michael at [mlombardi@imdevelopment.com](mailto:mlombardi@imdevelopment.com).

**2000s** **RYAN LASSEN '02** is a Senior Project Manager with The Integer Group, a leading marketing firm. Ryan reports that he has been "traveling the world, been to over 30 countries since graduation." He's been working on the Coors Brewing Company account for the past three years. "I only sent one résumé out upon graduation and they hired me, been there ever since." Get in touch at [lassen22@hotmail.com](mailto:lassen22@hotmail.com).

**THOMAS MUELLER '03** graduated from Euro NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training in February and earned an F-16 slot. He's moving to San Antonio, TX, in August to learn how to fly "that bad Johnny." He's looking forward to the move. Contact him at [tmueller\\_af@yahoo.com](mailto:tmueller_af@yahoo.com).

### OBITUARY

**LAURIE D. "IKE" RAMSAY '52**, died Tuesday morning, July 26, 2005, at Westminster Village Nursing Center in Muncie, IN, after an extended illness. Mr. Ramsay was born in Haxtun, Colorado, on February 28, 1921, the son of E.L. and Elizabeth Cooper Ramsay. Ike graduated from Colorado State University in 1952 in Veterinary Medicine. He practiced large animal veterinary medicine for 25 years in LaPorte, IN, and he worked 10 years for the Indiana State Board of Health. He was a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Indiana Veterinarian Medical Association. He was also a U.S. Army Veteran serving in the South Pacific during WWII. Survivors include his wife of 53 years Elaine (Cash) Ramsay, and three daughters, Diane, Jan, and Laurie, and their families.

## ALUMNI BOARD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Colorado Gamma Alumni Board needs your help. We are looking for alumni brothers who want to reconnect with SigEp and contribute their time and talents to making the chapter and the alumni program stronger. If you are interested in serving on the Board, or want to know more about how you can help, contact Bryan Harmsen at [harmsen@bryansrentals.com](mailto:harmsen@bryansrentals.com) or 303-746-0522, or Regional Director Matthew T. Hunt at [matthew.hunt@sigep.net](mailto:matthew.hunt@sigep.net).

IT IS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL  
COMPENSATIONS OF LIFE, THAT NO MAN CAN SINCERELY  
TRY TO HELP ANOTHER WITHOUT HELPING HIMSELF.

—RALPH WALDO EMERSON



2005-06 RESIDENT SCHOLAR  
CRISTA COHEN

## Resident Scholar Named

Crista Cohen is the 2005-06 Resident Scholar for Colorado Gamma. She will be living at the chapter house and providing academic programming and consultation for the brothers. Crista is a graduate of the University of Central Florida, with a degree in hospitality management, and is currently enrolled in Colorado State's graduate program in Student Affairs in Higher Education.

"I wanted to take the job with Colorado Gamma because I felt it was an opportunity I could not pass up," says Crista. "I have a passion for being a 'mentor' and a love of Greek Life." Crista's dad, Allan Cohen '70, was a SigEp at Jacksonville University, FL Theta, so she knew that she would be working with a wonderful organization that promotes a lot of the same values she holds. "I'm anxious to form bonds with the guys and really create relationships that will have an impact. I really want to make a difference, or at least try to be as helpful as I can for the Colorado Gamma chapter."

After Crista completes her Student Affairs program, she eventually wants to direct an outdoor adventure program at a university. "I want to give students the ability to explore the world outdoors and really allow them to appreciate our 'natural playground.'"

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
RAMS  
2005 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE**

<b>September 3</b> Colorado	<b>October 28</b> New Mexico
<b>September 9</b> Minnesota	<b>November 5</b> TCU
<b>September 24</b> Nevada	<b>November 12</b> <i>San Diego State</i>
<b>September 29</b> <i>Air Force</i>	<b>November 19</b> UNLV
<b>October 8</b> <i>Utah *</i>	
<b>October 15</b> BYU	
<b>October 22</b> <i>Wyoming</i>	

*Italics = Home game*  
\* = Homecoming

**O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU?**

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR GRADUATED \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

MAIL TO:  
COLORADO GAMMA CHAPTER • P.O. Box 46063 • DENVER, CO 80201  
**Do this online** at [www.cogammaalumni.org](http://www.cogammaalumni.org) or email [update@cogammaalumni.org](mailto:update@cogammaalumni.org)

CUT THIS OUT. MAIL IT BACK.

THE CO GAMMA SPEAR  
WINS THE  
BENJAMIN HOBSON  
FRAYSER CHAPTER  
PUBLICATIONS  
AWARD AT 49TH  
CONCLAVE IN RECOGNITION  
OF OUTSTANDING CHAPTER  
ALUMNI COMMUNICATIONS.

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