

The Spear

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE
COLORADO GAMMA CHAPTER
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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, SIGMA PHI EPSILON
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Brother Carpenter develops visualization software

For the past five years, Jeff Carpenter '01 has been developing advanced data visualization and intelligence analysis software for the Department of Defense and U.S. Military. This work is important to Jeff for one simple reason: "Our personnel in Iraq and other parts of the world need our help." He continues, "In order to get home in one piece, they need the right information at the right time to make the right decisions." Jeff studied computer science, data visualization, and human factors in college and graduate school, and all these disciplines come together in his current job. As he describes it, "I ensure the analysis tools we deliver give an accurate picture of the current intelligence, are easily understandable, and easy to use."

The typical soldier/analyst in the field today has more than likely joined the military straight out of high school, and has relatively little computer experience. Combine this with the fact that they are performing their job under the most extreme circumstances and it is essential that the software tools they rely on meet the highest standards. This is especially true for usability.

"This is the most challenging software development and HCI (Human Computer Interaction) job I have ever heard of," Jeff says, "as the resulting systems must be designed to meet a variety of extreme operating environments."

Describing the end users of his work, Jeff says, "Our software operators are not sitting in a cubicle looking out for their bottom line. They are in a trench, looking out for mortar fire. They are in a convoy, looking out for IEDs. They are in tents, looking for suicide bombers."

Jeff has taken everything he's learned developing military intelligence solutions, and poured it into a new venture called AgileGraph.

While small business owners may not be dodging real bullets, they are certainly under a lot of pressure. Jeff believes that "they too need the right information at the right time to make

their own tough decisions. AgileGraph leverages advanced visualization and data discovery techniques used by military, government, and Fortune 500 analysts and makes them available, useful, and affordable to everyone."

For Jeff it is very exciting to make these techniques available to a greater audience. It requires the software be extremely user-friendly and work well with established tools like Microsoft® Excel® and Google® Spreadsheet. Jeff says, "We have put a lot of effort into AgileGraph's design and usability, so that anyone can make sense of their data."

AgileGraph beta is offered for free and customers are encouraged to register and provide feedback. Learn more at www.agilegraph.com.



JEFF CARPENTER '01 AND MELISSA MANN WERE MARRIED IN JUNE OF 2005 AT JEFF'S PARENTS RESORT AT LAKE BUCHANAN (WWW.WILLOWPOINTRESORT.COM/WEDDINGS.PHP).

Jeff, who now lives in Austin, TX, with his wife Melissa Mann, says his favorite memories of life as a SigEp are those that involve preparation for big chapter events—like float building or the Bachelor Auction. "That type of comradery,

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ZOLLINGER AWARD GOES TO CO GAMMA SENIOR

Ross Hendrix '07 has received the 2007 Zollinger Outstanding Senior Award. This award is based on outstanding scholastic achievement, fraternity and campus leadership, and community involvement, and is given to only one representative from each of the 26 districts of the Fraternity. Nominated by the chapter and selected by the District Governor, Ross competed for this

award with nominees from chapters in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah.

In honor of Brother Hendrix, the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation will designate a \$1,000 scholarship for a CO Gamma sophomore who exemplifies leadership and balance in all aspects of his life. Our Executive Board along with chapter seniors will select the recipient before the end of the month.

COLORADO GAMMA BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2006

CO Gamma's financial snapshot

Overall, 2006 was a successful year financially for the Colorado Gamma of Sigma Phi Epsilon House Corporation. The following financial statements for 2006 represent all operating and investing activities of the undergraduate chapter and the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC).

We did experience an operating loss of approximately \$10,000 in 2006, caused primarily by the installation of a fire escape window in the last residential room in the basement—to provide better ventilation and a safe exit in the event of an emergency. The construction was completed by ABC Concrete, with engineering oversight by Secure Foundation. Special thanks to Doug Braden '78 for obtaining the appropriate permits and Archie Lind '63 for plan reviews and recommendations on this project.

On the investment side of things, we continued to build our local investment account to \$14,464 in 2006. Great success came from the returns on our Chapter Investment Funds (CIF), a pooled account of all Sigma Phi Epsilon accounts with Merrill Lynch.

With total current assets of \$272,946, Colorado Gamma has taken another step toward building the funds necessary to complete a major rebuild of the chapter facility. In 2007, the chapter is budgeting for a larger portion of revenue to be invested in support of this long-term goal.

Thanks to all for your support in 2006. Please contact the AVC at avc@cogammaalumni.org for additional information on our financials or investment plans.

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Investment Checking Account	4,519.73
Undergraduate Operating Checking	12,398.46
Total Bank Accounts	16,918.19
Other Current Assets	
Investment Accounts	256,028.68
Total Other Current Assets	256,028.68
Total Current Assets	272,946.87
Fixed Assets	
Larimer Cty Parcel 97133-31-019	468,200.00
TOTAL ASSETS	741,146.87

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Total Liabilities	0.00
Equity	
Accumulated Unrealized Gain / Loss	11,830.54
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	707,523.64
Total Equity	272,946.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	741,146.87

Colorado Gamma of Sigma Phi Epsilon House Corporation

Profit & Loss

January - December 2006

	Total
INCOME	
Alumni Donations	155.00
Combined Member Revenue	166,109.88
Investment Revenue	30,890.26
New Member Revenue	900.00
Uncategorized Revenue	18,574.81
Total Income	\$216,629.95
EXPENSES	
AVC	2,967.97
Brotherhood Development	1,192.52
Executive Board Compensation	1,600.00
Headquarters	17,821.26
Insurance	8,920.00
Kitchen	46,622.46
Miscellaneous – Undergrad	13,620.31
Office Supplies	1,681.70
Professional Services	9,320.32
Property Management	22,506.49
Recruitment	2,795.20
Scholarship	593.22
Social	38,045.89
Tax	3,970.61
University	3,272.00
Utilities	19,907.31
Total Expenses	\$194,837.26
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$21,792.69
Net Income	\$21,792.69

McHendry named Resident Scholar

Guy McHendry teaches public speaking as a graduate teaching assistant at CSU and is a full-time graduate student in the speech communications program. In addition, he has taken on the role of Resident Scholar for Colorado Gamma. As a graduate of Ripon College in Ripon, WI, Guy was not familiar with SigEp. However, when he arrived at 121 East Lake Street he was made to feel welcome right away. Now, more than six months into the job, he says he remains very impressed “with the caliber of gentlemen at Colorado Gamma.”

As Resident Scholar, he works in three capacities. He provides academic advising, helps with writing skills, and provides resume/cover letter mentoring for the chapter. He also presents talks or programs on university services, academic success, and Greek life throughout the year. And finally, he works with the executive board to suggest ways to make chapter operations more efficient.

The largest challenge Guy has faced has been balancing the needs of the chapter with the time he put into his own graduate work. However, he says, “It is really rewarding when I work one-on-one with a chapter member to help them with a project or paper.”

Guy has another year in his master's program and is looking for a Ph.D. program in communication and rhetoric.

STUDENT PROFILE:

Mike Miller '07

Past CO Gamma Chapter President Mike Miller '07 will graduate this spring with a degree in marketing, and some special memories of his time as a SigEp. "I will never forget going out to the front yard the last three years after winning Chapter of the Year and yelling the CO Gamma chant at the top of our lungs," recalls Mike. "What makes it even better is watching the circle of guys get bigger and bigger every year. We hope to bring it back a fourth year."



Mike grew up in La Canada, CA, a small town next to Pasadena. He attended at Flintridge Prep, where he played football, basketball, and golf, and earned a 3.8 GPA. "I am the youngest of three boys," says Mike, describing his family. "My oldest brother goes to Berklee College of Music in Boston, and my other brother goes to University of Arizona."

Mike's decision to come to CSU was based, in large part, on his experiences in Colorado growing up. He spent his first semester of college at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. "I went there because I was planning on playing golf in college," he explains. He soon decided that playing golf would cause him to miss out on the true college experience. "I ended up transferring to CSU for the second semester of my freshman year. I chose CSU because I have spent all my summers and winters in Colorado, and I liked the campus and the people. Some of the first guys I met were SigEps so needless to say I joined SigEp the semester I transferred."

When asked about his plans after college, Mike admits that he isn't entirely sure. After taking a year off, he will either go to law school or to graduate school at USC. While his immediate plans are a bit up in the air, his long-term career goal is clear:

"My ultimate career goal is to become a sports agent," he says. "I am hoping to shadow some sports agents as soon as I graduate and then figure out if I need to go to law school or graduate school for sports business."

We wish Mike every success in his pursuit of his career goals.

Chapter sets its sights on a Buch Cup win

BY FORMER CHAPTER PRESIDENT MIKE MILLER '07 AND CURRENT CHAPTER PRESIDENT JESUS CONTRERAS '08

The 2006-7 academic year started well for CO Gamma. Since last year, we have found a new Resident Scholar, received a new Regional Director, and set up a number of great programs and events. Our Resident Scholar is Guy McHendry from Ripon College in Wisconsin. He has been a great help to the chapter already and he has been working hard to provide us with great academic support. Our new Regional Director, Sean Anthony, Dartmouth '06, has proven to be a very valuable asset to our chapter. He delivered an outstanding recruitment workshop at the beginning of the year and he is continuing to help our chapter out.

We added 16 guys during formal recruitment in the fall, but we are now heavily focused on year round recruitment. Our new members are showing great promise and are involved all over campus.

We had a number of Sound Mind Sound Body events in the fall, including a cigar 101 class, an etiquette dinner, a cooking class, and dinner with our Professors. Events like these are fun and help in the development of the members. Many of these skills are extremely valuable in the business world, and also help for networking. Every semester we are raising the bar and our members keep living up to our expectations.

This semester, members of our Executive Board attended the annual Carlson Leadership Academy, this year in Woodland Hills, CA. This is always a very exciting time for our members and a great opportunity to gain a fresh perspective on goals. We plan to have Brother Paul Chabot, California State University-San Bernadino '97, speak on Risk Management and Alcohol Policies that are specific to Greeks. The event will be open to the Greek community and the campus generally.

After winning three consecutive CSU Chapter of the Year awards and being a strong contender for a fourth this year, we feel we are in the hunt for a Buchanan Cup by the end of next year. We are focusing our efforts on addressing two specific requirements for the Buch Cup: a house GPA of 3.15 and a significant advantage in manpower compared to other chapters on campus.

You can see what else we are up to on our recently updated chapter website at coloradogamma.org. We would love to hear from you, and encourage you all to come back and attend Flower Dance on April 28, 2007. For more information and to RSVP, contact Jesus Contreras '08 (970-980-3244) or Drew Mason '09 (719-650-4330).



COOKING CLASS PROVED TO BE A "HANDS-ON" EXPERIENCE FOR THESE SIGEPS.

Visualization software

Continued from page 1

cooperation, and shared vision is hard to find in the business world. When I do see it, or experience it again, I appreciate it more. I'll never forget how easily and honestly it came to those at SigEp, especially when an important event was being planned; there was much to do, and little time."

These SigEp experiences helped to form Jeff's views about leadership. "At SigEp, we had a house full of leaders, but obviously, there were only so many positions. This is true anywhere you go, for any career you choose. I held the position of Resident Scholar at SigEp, but other brothers were more effective leaders in certain areas than I was. I chose what I was good at, and led in that area. Other brothers did the same without even holding a position. As a result, we became a better house, together." How would Jeff summarize leadership for the current undergraduate brothers?

"You can be a leader without holding a leadership position, just like you can steer a ship from the stern or the wheelhouse. (In fact you have more direct access to the rudder!)."



Grand Chapter Conclave convenes in Atlanta

WHO: Over 1,400 Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers who have a passion for their Fraternity.

WHAT: The 50th Grand Chapter Conclave, where SigEp will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Fraternity's Ritual, where chapters will be awarded the prestigious Buchanan Cup for Chapter Excellence, where policy for

the national organization will be set, and where you can reconnect with your friends and create new friendships among brothers and guests who gather from across the 50 states.

WHERE: Atlanta, GA, at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta.

WHEN: August 8 – 12, 2007

HOW: Register now online at www.sigep.org or call Stacy Dudley at SigEp HQ (804-353-1901, ext. 316).

COST: Registration fees are \$395 for alumni and guests, \$335 for undergraduates.

Want to get the most up-to-date news from CO Gamma? Update your contact information to include your email address. Go to www.cogammaalumni.org, or send an email to update@cogammaalumni.org. While you're at it, tell us what you've been up to. www.cogammaalumni.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NO. 8 • WINTER 2007
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The Spear

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