

The Spear

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE
COLORADO GAMMA CHAPTER
No. 9 • FALL 2007

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, SIGMA PHI EPSILON
INFORMATION | WWW.COGAMMAALUMNI.ORG

AVC sets goals for 2007-2008

BY TONY MAURO '99, AVC PRESIDENT

The fall 2007 semester is well under way and the Colorado Gamma alumni board, now called the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC), is looking forward to a good year. The AVC recently reorganized roles and responsibilities and is focused on three tactical goals:

1. Provide the chapter increased mentorship and alumni access.
2. Connect alumni and coordinate alumni programming.
3. Maintain the chapter house facility operations and continue investing for a future house.

Mentorship:

The AVC is looking to take a more active mentorship role with

the chapter members throughout the semester and beyond. We hope to provide advice and guidance to help chapter members deal with challenges and identify opportunities for chapter and individual growth. In addition, we hope to provide insight and experience to help the men prepare for their post collegiate careers. As such, we would like to reach out to our alumni for volunteers to fill roles such as advising members of the executive board, preparing the chapter for recruitment events, or being guest speakers on careers or any specific interest.

In addition, we would like to organize at least one alumni/

chapter event each semester and we are always looking for alumni to organize and/or participate in an event. If you are interested in serving as a mentor or participating in alumni and chapter events, please send an e-mail to the AVC at avc@cogammaalumni.org.

Alumni Programming:

There are many great events that Colorado Gamma SigEps organize across the country each year. We would like to capture the details of the events and names of active alumni so that we can coordinate future programming across the various classes.

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CO GAMMA'S 2007 PHI CLASS MEMBERS CELEBRATE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS ATOP MOUNT BIERSTADT.

Phi Challengers Celebrate on Mount Bierstadt

The CO Gamma Phi class took a hike to the top of Mount Bierstadt in August of 2007 to celebrate completion of the Phi Challenge and to welcome these men to their next phase of Sigma Phi Epsilon membership.

Mt. Bierstadt, located off the Georgetown exit of I-70, is 14,060 feet at the peak. The men rose at 5:00 a.m. to arrive at the trail head at 7:45 a.m. Because of the different abilities of the hikers, the seven-mile round trip took about five hours to complete—but all of the brothers arrived at the summit together.

On top of the mountain, the men set goals to accomplish this semester and Phi coordinator Michael Oettinger '08 discussed his personal goals. The chapter plans on making this climb a new tradition within the Phi Challenge for years to come.

AVC sets goals

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If you organize or participate in events with a group of alumni brothers, please let us know about the details and consider being a class champion. By coordinating across the class champions, we will be able to connect more and more alumni and communicate through the Spear. If you are interested in being a class champion, please send an e-mail to the AVC at avc@cogammaalumni.org.

Facility Management:

One of the primary responsibilities of the AVC is to maintain the chapter facility to ensure the chapter can operate semester after semester. The house at 121 E. Lake Street continues to age and requires on-going maintenance. In the past year the AVC has put in a new emergency exit window out of the basement and new gutters on the house this summer. Upcoming projects include replacing the floor in the kitchen and foyer and repainting the exterior. The AVC is working to balance near-term improvement projects with saving and investing for a new house in the future.

The fall solicitation will be distributed in the next few weeks. We are hoping to raise funds to support large near-term maintenance projects for the chapter house. In addition, we are always looking for support from a time and materials perspectives as well, and it would be great to have work performed by SigEp alumni.

You can contact the AVC at avc@cogammaalumni.org or visit the website at www.cogammaalumni.org.

JOB WELL DONE

THE AVC CONGRATULATES COLORADO GAMMA FOR BEING #1 IN MANPOWER AND #1 IN GRADES FOR THE SPRING '07 SEMESTER WITH A 3.02 GPA.

ALUMNI PROFILE: Mike Jensen '96

Mike Jensen graduated from CSU in 1996 with a double major in real estate and finance, and he has built a very successful real estate career in Fort Collins. *The SPEar* caught up with him recently.

Why did you choose a career in real estate sales, investment, and now large-scale mixed-use real estate development?

I really enjoy the art and thrill of making a deal (I'm a bit of deal junkie most of my peers would tell you). Skillfully negotiating and bringing all the pieces together to the closing table drives me and gives me tremendous satisfaction.

I love downtown Fort Collins. Reinventing and enhancing it further as a vibrant, attractive urban center is a primary goal of mine. We have purchased a few dozen old and tired buildings and I love redefining them and making them new again. One by one these projects contribute to the overall beauty and charm of the historic Downtown. It gives me a sense of contribution and accomplishment, and it makes me very proud when I see people admiring and frequenting these renovated buildings.

Do you have any other interests, hobbies, or endeavors?

I lived in Puerto Rico as a teenager and it gave me a thirst for travel. From 2001-03 I lived on my own 57-foot sailboat for 20 months in Caribbean and experienced diverse lands, cultures, and people. I have also been to Australia, Europe, Canada, Mexico, and Boulder.

I also love to hunt, whether for birds, antelope, deer, or elk. I have also begun archery hunting recently and I would love to hunt a bear or a mountain lion with my bow and arrow. I'm definitely a thrill seeker.

I enjoy fishing, golfing, riding my bike, and spending time with my friends and family. I try to just enjoy life in general so I work hard and play harder.

What advice would you give to the undergraduate brothers for their college years and after?

Work hard but smart, be diligent and aggressive but not pushy. It is critical to develop a network of friends and business acquaintances, get involved in everything that you can—especially when it comes to the community that you plan to make your work and your life in. Plan to succeed and



MIKE JENSEN '96 IN FRONT OF ONE OF HIS REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN FORT COLLINS.

take risks in order to achieve your goals. Never put off until tomorrow what you could do that day. Save time and a piece of yourself for those who mean the most to you and, most of all, enjoy what you do in your work and in your personal life—and if you don't, change it immediately! My final piece of advice is credited to Wayne Gretzky, and it is one I try to live by: "Skate to where the puck is going, not where it's been." That's why I change my business model regularly as I see new things happening and new opportunities presented. Count on society, technology and the way we work live and play changing, and do something about it before it's too late.

2007 Colorado Gamma AVC Board

PRESIDENT: TONY MAURO '99

TREASURER: BRYAN HARMSSEN '01

HOUSE DIRECTOR: RITA WILLIAMS

**CHAPTER COUNSELOR:
TODD DONAVAN, OKLAHOMA
STATE '86**

**ALUMNI COMMUNICATIONS
& EVENTS DIRECTOR:
NICK FLOREK '96**

**BALANCED MAN STEWARD /
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM
COORDINATOR: OPEN**

SCHOLARSHIP DIRECTOR: OPEN

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
DOUG BRADEN '78**

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
ROB BOYER '99**

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
CHAD MARTURANO '03**

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
AUSTIN MARTINEAU '00**

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
KENT LEIER, NORTH DAKOTA '02**

**MEMBER AT LARGE:
MARK SLOAN '04**

Brother Hendrix named College of Business Outstanding Senior

Ross Hendrix transitioned from chapter member to alumnus this past May when he graduated with the class of 2007. This past spring, he received the Top 10 College of Business Senior Award, which recognizes students that exemplify scholarship, service, and leadership throughout their undergraduate careers. To be eligible for the scholarship you must be nominated by a faculty member and submit an application.

Ross served as Colorado Gamma's vice president for programming and community service chair. He won the Fraternity's Zollinger Award, which recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement, Fraternity and campus

leadership, and community. Ross said, "I was honored to get this award and know that if it had not been for the experiences I had and friendships I made at SigEp, I would not have been qualified for the award." Ross graduated with a degree in business administration with concentrations in marketing and CIS. He currently works for the management and technology consulting company Accenture.



Chapter Achieves Brother Mentor Milestone

On April 27, 2007, the first five members of Colorado Gamma earned the title of Brother Mentor. Ross Hendrix '07, Fletcher Drogos '07, Ben Lucas '07, Alex Griffin '09, and Sam Herrin '09 traveled to Colorado School of Mines to be put through the Ritual by the Brother Mentors of the Colorado Delta chapter. All five had to complete a series of Balanced Man-related tasks which included holding an executive or intra-fraternity council board position, and completing an additional 30-hour community service project. The Brother Mentor title also denotes that the member has gone above and beyond the call of duty for Colorado Gamma and serves as a mentor for other chapter members. CO Gamma hopes to build its Brother Mentor numbers into more of a majority rather than a minority as the chapter continues to grow and move closer to bringing home another Buchanan Cup.

CO GAMMA REPRESENTED AT 2007 CONCLAVE

Brothers TJ Keller '10 and Drew Mason '09, attended Conclave this summer along with chapter counselor Todd Donovan, Oklahoma State '86. The event began with the Buchanan Cup award ceremony. The top 5% of chapters were recognized with a "Buc Cup" for their outstanding performance in grades, brotherhood development, alumni support, athletics and community service. The award evaluates performance over the two-year period since the last Conclave.

Colorado Gamma did not win a Buc Cup in 2007, but the feedback we received on our application indicates that we are close, and headed in the right direction. We expect to be on



stage at the next Conclave as we build on our strong philanthropies, reach new heights with our membership development program, and continue

our academic excellence (3.02 chapter GPA in the spring of 2007).

The week was filled with legislative sessions, training, and banquets. One highlight of the alumni awards banquet was the auction-style bidding that resulted in alumni committing over 15 million to support Sigma Phi Epsilon scholarships and Leadership Continuum programs—all in less than fifteen minutes.

Overall the trip was a successful event for all who attended and Colorado Gamma was represented well by T.J., Drew, and Todd.

Auto-Donation: Set it and forget it

Make an automatic monthly donation to CO Gamma by visiting cogammaalumni.org and clicking on Make a Donation. All gifts made online are processed locally by the Colorado Gamma AVC and reflected in the headquarters lifetime giving totals. The automatic monthly donation benefits the chapter by spreading out your donation over time to address different needs as they arise. You may cancel or change the amount of your donation at any time by contacting the AVC at avc@cogammaalumni.org. Sign up now!

O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU?

Reconnect with SigEp by filling out the update below.

NAME _____

CHAPTER _____

YEAR GRADUATED _____ HOME PHONE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

COMPANY _____ WORK PHONE _____

OCCUPATION/TITLE _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____

WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO? _____

WHAT POSITION DID YOU HOLD IN THE FRATERNITY AND WHEN
(E.G. CHAPTER PRESIDENT, 1995-6)? _____

MAIL TO:
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Do this online at www.cogammaalumni.org **or email** update@cogammaalumni.org

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