

# The Spear

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE  
COLORADO GAMMA CHAPTER  
NO. 11 • FALL 2008

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

## The 80s revisited – Historical *Spears* added to archive

The Colorado Gamma Chapter has a rich history as the oldest continuously active fraternity at Colorado State University, established on November 15, 1915. Colorado Gamma also has a historic chapter publication, *The Spear*, dating back to at least 1950, when Gene Miller '51 provided the newsletter with its now legendary name.

1980 and 1982 *Spears* are now available in digital format at [cogammaalumni.org](http://cogammaalumni.org) and the AVC would like to send out a special thanks to Brother Al Hornung '61 for submitting these great newsletters.

Read about the establishment of the Bradford Scholarship Endowment in the fall 1982 *Spear*. The Bradford endowment was established in 1978 through the gift of Brother Edward T. Bradford '43 at

his passing and continues to provide financial assistance to Colorado Gamma undergraduate brothers to this day. The 2008 Bradford and Saylor Scholarship applications were recently distributed to the undergraduate brothers. Look for the award announcements in the spring '09 *Spear*.

The AVC is pleased to present some of Colorado Gamma's history. We know the undergraduate brothers love reading about the chapter's past and we'd love to hear from alumni with stories about these great times in the chapter's history.

Help us add more back issues to the *Spear* archive. Contact [avc@cogammaalumni.org](mailto:avc@cogammaalumni.org) if you have other issues of the *Spear* tucked away with your college momentos!



## 121 East Lake's continuing improvements

The AVC and chapter continue to balance short-term improvements to 121 East Lake Street with the long-term need for significant renovation. While we continue to save for major renovation, we decided to have the exterior of the chapter house painted this year to improve the aesthetics of the chapter property and to enhance an already picturesque fraternal setting. We have received extremely positive feedback about this improvement.



ALUMNI, PARENTS AND UNDERGRADUATES  
LEND A HAND ON HOME IMPROVEMENT  
WORKDAY.

In addition to the summer paint job, the chapter organized an Alumni and Parents Home Improvement Workday and Luncheon on Sunday, October 12. It was an amazing day in the growth of support of Colorado Gamma from alumni and parents. Cameron Acres '11 organized a house work day in which eight parents and five recent alumni worked along side the active members. Together they patched holes in the dry wall, reshaped the heart bushes in the front yard, and repainted the entire second and third floors. Thanks to everyone who pitched in to make our home improvement day a big success!

## CO Gamma wins decathlon championship

Colorado State kicked off its first annual fraternity decathlon on September 13. Colorado Gamma turned in a great performance over the three-day event to win the championship.

The chapter donated the decathlon prize money to the national YouthAIDS organization and was featured on the front page of the *Collegian* for their efforts.

Decathlon events included a golf tournament, a trivia competition, a three-on-three basketball tournament, a tug of war competition and a

100 meter swimming race. At the end of these events Sigma Phi Epsilon was in first place, but there was still a lot to be done.

Sophomore **Josh Bowman '11** stepped his game up for the wing eating contest, eating two pounds in three minutes, **Kyle Miller '10** followed with victory in the

Marine challenge and **Alex Griffin '09** won the American gladiator jousting competition, leaving little doubt that SigEp would take the title.

After a third day of competition at the track, where **Bill Tiejde '11** completed the mile run in a blistering five minutes and twenty seconds, Sigma Phi Epsilon

was awarded a four foot trophy and named the overall winners of Colorado State University's first annual fraternity decathlon.



**MEMBER OF THE VICTORIOUS FRATERNITY DECATHLON TEAM: FROM LEFT GARY SHAFER '10, PAUL LACY '09, MATT TALAFUSE '10, ETHAN TOWNSEND '09, MICHAEL "FRITZ" OETTINGER '08**

## Greeks go green: Colorado Gamma wins best CSU Homecoming float

By **ALEX ADAMS '11**,  
HOMECOMING COORDINATOR

The Parthenon float of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Gamma Phi Beta was not only eco-friendly during the Homecoming parade when it was propelled by manpower through the streets of Fort Collins, but it was also eco-friendly in its design, being made of the recycled wood of three discarded bed lofts and a broken bicycle. This rolling throw back to ancient Greece was eco-friendly through and through.

The idea was hatched over lunch the day before Homecoming, and after about 15 man-hours of labor, decorations constructed by the women of Gamma Phi Beta and a few trips to Home Depot for some of the finishing touches, we had ourselves a prime example of Greeks going green.

We were ecstatic to learn later that evening that we had won best in show. A float that started out as nothing more than an idea the day before at lunch received highest honors and we couldn't have been happier.



**SIGMA PHI EPSILON PARTNERED WITH SIGMA ALPHA EPSILON AND GAMMA PHI BETA TO WIN THE 2008 HOMECOMING FLOAT COMPETITION WITH A "GREEN" VERSION OF THE PARTHENON.**



**GRAND PRESIDENT STEPHEN B. SHANKLIN LEADING A TOUR OF THE ZOLLINGER HOUSE AT THIS YEAR'S RUCK LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE.**

## Ruck Leadership Institute provides inspiration

Chapter President **Michael Oettinger '08** and **Mike Williams '10** were invited to the 2008 Ruck Leadership Institute in Richmond, Virginia, over the summer break. The Ruck program is a focused and intensive leadership development experience that blends traditional methods like seminars and work sessions with experiential learning through activities like rafting and hiking. Ruck is "SigEp's Top Gun leadership program" and we're proud to have two members represent Colorado Gamma this year.

Mike Williams had the following to say about Ruck: "It was an incredible experience! We both left Virginia filled with ideas, and ready to make some awesome changes to our chapter. Fritz and I were very lucky to be in the breakout group facilitated by Sigma Phi Epsilon Grand President Stephen B. Shanklin, an incredible individual. We toured the Zollinger house and got to network with executive board members from across the nation. Ruck will definitely be one of my greatest college experiences and it was only possible with the AVC's sponsorship."



**Let us know when SigEps get together!**

Whether its five guys who go fishing once a year, eight men who attend a brother's wedding, or ten Ram fans who sit together at every CSU home game. Send details (and photos!) to PO Box 2051, Fort Collins, CO 80522 or email [avc@cogammaalumni.org](mailto:avc@cogammaalumni.org).

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

### ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

**1970s** **J. TIM BIDDLE '73** lives in San Rafael, CA, where his is senior vice president of the Segal Company, an independent actuarial and consulting firm founded in 1939. He was recently elected vice chairman. Get in touch at [jtimbiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:jtimbiddle@hotmail.com).

**GARY PAULSON '78** has been teaching physical education in Colorado at Thornton High School (1981-89) and at Horizon High School (1989- present). He has three kids: David, Tandra and Griffin. "I hung up the coaching whistle after coaching high school football for 29 years and most recently started coaching my nine-year-old's youth football team. Young kids are so eager to learn and please. I am married to Shelley who also teaches physical education at Horizon High School. We both will be retiring soon. Who knows what lies ahead?" Email Gary at [gpaulson51@yahoo.com](mailto:gpaulson51@yahoo.com).

**DAVID GEHLE '79** reports, "I worked for Georgia Pacific after finishing my B.S. in forest management. Began in Florida helping to manage over 100,000 acres. Moved to Sandersville, GA, in 1988 to timber procurement, buying saw timber for the company mills. Moved to Lawrenceville in 1990 to buy the mature logs around Atlanta and north for three plywood mills. Worked for G-P until April 2007 when I left to form my own company to buy and sell timber products, help tree farmers, and work my way into real estate. I got married in 1990 and my wife is an emergency pediatrician working at the local hospital ER. We have four children, two boys and two girls, ages 10 - 15."

**2000s** **BRIAN FLEMMING '01** writes, "My wife Patty and I are getting ready to have our third child. Our baby girl is due in December. Our business has been doing very well up here in Alaska in spite of the declining housing market in the lower 48. In addition, we are in the process of building a Maze Mill in Uganda, Africa, and will send pictures to the *Spear* upon completion this winter. Sure miss the good old days of living at the 'House!'" Email Brian at [bigstreetconstruction@yahoo.com](mailto:bigstreetconstruction@yahoo.com).

**JASON MILLIGAN '06** has been working for oilfield service company Weatherford Int. for the past two years. "They have had me living in Vernal, UT, Houston, TX, Edmonton, Canada, and I've finally been able to move back to home sweet home Colorado. I'm getting married this upcoming fall, and that's about it." Contact Jason at [jason.milligan@weatherford.com](mailto:jason.milligan@weatherford.com).

## SigEp shines at Greek Night Out awards

Colorado Gamma was recognized for its hard work and commitment at the 2008 Greek Night Out Awards on Sunday, April 20. The chapter regained the prestigious Chapter of the Year title and continues to stand out in the Greek community at Colorado State. **Tony Mauro '99**, current AVC president, spoke with the Greek Life advisor who indicated that SigEp is playing a significant leadership role in the rebuilding of CSU's Greek community.

### Highlight Awards

- Chapter of the Year
- Presidential Greek Vision Award (based on SigEp National Fellow Challenge Program to provide 5,000 people in Fort Collins with CPR training next year)

### Chapter Awards

Finalists in nine out of 11 categories, and winners of six awards:

- Alumni relations
- Neighborhood civility
- Chapter management
- Risk management
- Campus involvement
- Scholastic and academic programming

In addition, Brother **Tim LeBlanc '08** received the award for Outstanding Campus Involvement, and Resident Scholar **Guy McHendry** was awarded the Order of Omega Partnership Award.



**CURRENT CHAPTER PRESIDENT MICHAEL "FRITZ" OETTINGER '08 (LEFT) HOLDS THE PRESIDENTIAL VISION AWARD THAT CARRIES A \$5,000 GRANT FOR BRIAN WALKER'S '10 SIGEP FELLOW PROJECT TO PROVIDE FREE CPR TRAINING TO 5,000 FORT COLLINS RESIDENTS. 2007 CHAPTER PRESIDENT JESUS CONTRERAS '08 HOLDS THE 2008 CSU CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD, WHICH WAS RECLAIMED AFTER A ONE-YEAR ABSENCE. COLORADO GAMMA HAS RECEIVED CHAPTER OF THE YEAR HONORS FOR FIVE OF THE LAST SIX YEARS.**

## 75<sup>th</sup> Flower Dance offers something extra

Colorado Gamma held the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Flower Dance at Eagle Canyon Ranch in the Colorado foothills near Fort Collins in May. The event remains one of the highlights of the year for CO Gamma brothers. For a social event to continue for three quarters of a century is a great honor to the brothers who initiated the event, to those who keep it going today, and to all those who came in between.

The 2008 Flower Dance was especially meaningful because, at the suggestion House Mother Rita Williams, the chapter donated all of the flowers purchased for the dance to the Spring Creek Nursing Home in Fort Collins. The chapter received the following thank you note from a Spring Creek staff member after the event:

*Sunday afternoon was a very difficult time for me. I spent several hours holding the hand of a very kind woman while she passed away. After I left her room feeling extremely saddened, I saw the most beautiful flower arrangements surrounding our residents. Everyone was smiling and talking about those flowers. I felt instantly better. Thank you so much for your kindness in sharing this gift. You have touched so many more lives than you could possibly imagine.*

# CHAPTER REPORT CARD

OCTOBER 24, 2008

Total Members: 79

Members living in chapter house: 23

CSU Greek Intramurals: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Spring 2008 chapter GPA: 3.03

New members (Sigmas) GPA: 3.52

Members with a 4.0 GPA:

Bijah Gibson '11, Carson Hinderks '08,  
Danny Jackson '08



ON SUNDAY, APRIL 10, THE ACTIVE CHAPTER CHALLENGED COLORADO GAMMA ALUMNI IN A SOFTBALL GAME. THE ALUMNI TEAM, ORGANIZED BY BEN LUCAS '07, WAS TRIUMPHANT THAT DAY, WINNING THE GAME 21-5. THE UNDERGRADUATE TEAM IS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SWEET TASTE OF REVENGE AT NEXT YEAR'S GAME.

## 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:

COLORADO GAMMA AVC • P.O. BOX 2051 • FORT COLLINS, CO 80522

Do this online at [www.cogammaalumni.org](http://www.cogammaalumni.org) or email [update@cogammaalumni.org](mailto:update@cogammaalumni.org)

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Sigma Phi Epsilon

Colorado Gamma AVC

No. 11 • Fall 2008

The Spear

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