This is our time.
Greetings from your University!

The process of selecting a theme for each issue of Around the Oval is often organic. After reviewing a vast number of inspiring member stories, we also look around Colorado State University to identify the broader community stories that are begging to be told. Common trends rise to the surface, and possible themes begin to emerge.

That is why this issue’s theme, This is Our Time, is so fitting. Both CSU and the Alumni Association are in a time of great change that will result in greater impact for students, alumni, and our Rams community. To help ensure that CSU’s land-grant mission thrives for generations to come, CSU recently launched a new fundraising campaign with a goal of raising $1 billion by 2020. As part of this campaign, we discovered Alumni Association members of all ages who were impacted by donors’ generosity and, because of that, have chosen to continue the invaluable giving cycle for the well-being of others. You will read these remarkable stories throughout the publication.

We are also making great progress on the new Alumni Center, which is slated to open in the fall of 2017, and preparations are underway to welcome alumni back home like never before. New and enhanced Alumni Association programming that will support alumni throughout their lives is also in development through the Alumni Association’s new Academy. This truly is our time.

Your membership in the CSU Alumni Association makes an impact on Ram pride and helps keep our traditions and programs strong. We are incredibly grateful for your support. To learn about all the ways you can support your Alumni Association, today and in the future, please visit our newly redesigned website at www.alumni.colostate.edu.

Ram proud,

Kristi Bohlender, B.S. ’93; M.B.A. ’95
and Life Member

Membership Matters.

Your Alumni Association membership is an investment in the past, present, and future of Colorado State University. You make it possible for us to connect more than 200,000 alumni, to CSU in meaningful ways. **THANK YOU!**

Cover: CSU Alumni Association members: Joslyn McGlith (’98), Amy Heimerl (’96), and Adam Reiter (’98). Top, a recent graduate with CAM the Ram in front of Aarons Hall. CSU PHOTOGRAPHY
In February, after completing a successful pilot program in the Fall, Colorado State University launched YOU@CSU, a groundbreaking online mental health tool created to help students successfully cope with, and manage, their college life stressors. After all, transitioning to college for students is life-changing and, for many, surprisingly overwhelming. While there is great anticipation from students to experience the newfound freedoms of life away from their families – many for the first time, and in new cities, states, and even countries – this anticipation can also lead to unexpected emotions and stress. Learning new academic schedules, competing with themselves and hundreds of students for those top grades, balancing jobs, meeting new friends, and having a meaningful social life can seem too much for any student to handle. And sadly, there are times when students believe it is.

Today, college campuses across Colorado and the country, including CSU, are dealing with the growing epidemic of suicide among college students. According to the Suicide Prevention and Resource Center, suicide is the leading cause of death among college and university students in the United States. Nearly 1,100 suicides happen across college campuses annually, with many other students having suicidal thoughts and attempting suicide.

Increased education and breaking down the stigmas of the mental health issues that lead to suicide – depression, anxiety, loneliness, feelings of confusion or inadequacy, and stress – are key to preventing suicide and suicidal thoughts in students. Suicide.org, a nonprofit organization focused on suicide prevention, awareness, and support, reports that one in five college students believes that their depression level is higher than it should be, yet only 6 percent say they would seek help. Others don’t even see their struggles as mental health issues; they just see it as life.

That’s where YOU@CSU comes in. As the first technology of its kind, meaningful and personal communication is at the core of YOU@CSU. It helps students gain a better understanding of their mental health and of the hundreds of resources available, many through CSU, to support their overall health and well-being. The more students communicate and share with YOU@CSU, the more personalized information and resources the tool shares back with them. Currently, more than 947 students and nearly 271 faculty and staff have registered accounts on YOU@CSU, and 1,169 reality checks, or health assessments, have been completed. The average time spent on the site is more than five minutes.

This type of purposeful communication is no stranger to Joe Conrad (’87), the CSU alumnus and Alumni Association member, whose brainchild is YOU@CSU. Conrad is the owner of Cactus Communications, a full-service marketing agency that he founded in 1990 with the mission to grow brands that help people thrive. With 55 full-time employees, Cactus has earned a national reputation for delivering innovative, creative campaigns. Because Conrad is a firm believer that any problem can be solved through innovative, creative, and good communications, in 2015, he formed Grit Digital Health LLC, a human-centric business that combines specialists in behavioral health, wellness, and technology with marketing communications. Conrad brought this expertise, and experience from his work on the Colorado Office of Suicide and Prevention’s Mantherapy.org project, to create the YOU@CSU portal in partnership with Anne Hudgens and her team at the CSU Health Network.

Originally from northwest Denver and the youngest of five children, Conrad is the first from his family to graduate from high school. His eyes were always set on CSU, and he worked hard to get there. He always knew he wanted to go to a great school with a great reputation. At CSU, he wrote for the Rocky Mountain Communicators with a Purpose
Collegian and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in technical journalism. He believes that his education paved the way for his future, and he holds a very special place in his heart for CSU.

“I feel I owe much of my success to all that I learned at CSU,” said Conrad, “so it seems only appropriate for me to give back.”

And give back he does. Conrad makes it a regular practice to hire CSU graduates and, in 2011, he and his wife, Erin, established the Joseph and Erin Conrad Social Impact Scholarship fund with the founding principle that you can apply good communications and marketing to make an impact on the world. While their fund receives generous contributions from a variety of donors, there is one donor in particular who stands out.

Kyle Thornburg (’15) was entering his senior year at CSU and was actively preparing for his future. He was graduating from the journalism and media communication program, a member of CSU’s Presidential Ambassadors Program, and working in the College of Liberal Arts’ development office as a work-study student. Not only was he applying his education to real-world situations, but he was building his portfolio of work and his list of contacts. He was also gaining a new appreciation for the importance of donors and giving back.

“I never anticipated how my work in the development office would affect me,” Thornburg said.

“What started out as just a job, turned into a passion of mine, which was working closely with donors. I got to see, firsthand, scholarship recipients meeting their donors and the impact donors were making on students. That was very special to me.”

Thornburg turned that passion into action. The Presidential Ambassadors Program encouraged graduating seniors to find a fund they could give to and support the giving cycle. Thornburg’s communications background, coupled with his belief in making a positive impact on people, led him to the perfect fund for him – the Joseph and Erin Conrad Social Impact Scholarship.

From that moment on, it seems as if Conrad and Thornburg were destined to meet. Upon graduation, Thornburg expressed his desire to stay in the communications field to his College of Liberal Arts development supervisors and Dr. Ann Gill. With their support, he was introduced to Cactus Communications and Conrad. Today, Thornburg works for Conrad, at both Cactus Communications and Grit Digital Health LLC, managing content for YOU@CSU. It was only after Conrad hired Thornburg that he learned about Thornburg’s donation to his scholarship.

Conrad’s and Thornburg’s relationship is rooted in their joint belief of fostering success through philanthropy, collaboration, and creativity. That belief is reflected in YOU@CSU, which Conrad and Thornburg hope becomes the portal that generations of Rams use to lead thriving college lives.

If you would like to make a donation to the Joseph and Erin Conrad Social Impact Scholarship or any other CSU fund, please visit www.giving.colostate.edu.

by Angie Dixon (’94)
Multi-Generational Ram Pays It Forward

A number of generous alumni support Colorado State University, but Madeleine Sheahan (B.S., ’15) is special. She started a scholarship for undergraduate students who wish to major in political science, even while she was an undergraduate herself. She credits speeches Tony Frank gave at a Green and Gold Gala and to the presidential ambassadors for inspiring her philanthropy, along with the “paying-it-forward” values her family instilled in her.

Sheahan recalls President Frank speaking about the importance of philanthropic support for the University. He explained that organizations like the Red Cross receive significant public support because their mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of their fellow humans. He spoke about the hope CSU represents to many people throughout the world because of our discoveries and innovations, work people throughout the world because of Colorado State was the place “where I hit my stride” and notes that she felt empowered while she was a student there. She continues feeling empowered in her role.

Sheahan graduated cum laude in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science in business administration and a Bachelor of Arts in languages, literatures, and cultures, with a Spanish concentration. While at CSU, she served two years as a presidential ambassador and was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and a Legacy Scholar. She currently is in her second semester of law school at the University of Denver.

Her love for CSU still burns strong. When she writes an e-mail to a CSU faculty or staff member, the complimentary close, “Loyally,” goes above her name. She reports going to every home football game this year and says her family discovered that both her parents and her grandparents independently purchased bricks for the new stadium as holiday gifts, learning only later that their bricks will have nearly identical coordinates close, “Loyally,” goes above her name. She reports going to every home football game this year and says her family discovered that both her parents and her grandparents independently purchased bricks for the new stadium as holiday gifts, learning only later that their bricks will have nearly identical messages about the love this family has for their University.

If you ask her what sort of law she would love to practice, Sheahan will tell you she would love to work at a university or a business that is engaged in making changes and solving problems. She could see herself as in-house counsel who helps create proactive policies for an organization with an important mission, one she could be passionate about. Her dream job? Being in the Office of General Counsel for the University she loves most – Colorado State University.

“I want to support Colorado State University by staying engaged with the University at every opportunity and sharing that story. I want to encourage young students to do the same,” says Perich. “To give to a CSU fund visit giving.colostate.edu.”

What’s Brewing?

New Belgium Brewing Company CEO Christine Perich (business administration, ’91) knows what goes into a good beer. It’s not about holding the pint glass at a perfect 45-degree angle. And it’s not about adjusting that angle when you reach the halfway point. It’s about the beer and the people who pour their heart and expertise into its creation.

Perich took over as CEO last fall and oversees the company’s short-term strategy, executive team, and day-to-day operations. In her prior role as chief operating officer, she helped transition New Belgium into a 100 percent employee-owned brewery. Today, she’s looking forward to operating the company’s new brewery in Asheville, N.C. “It will give us 50 percent more capacity and allows us to sell beer in all 50 states and become a truly national brand,” she says.

On a more personal level, Perich gives back by serving on the College of Business Global Leadership Council. Made up of executives and business leaders from Colorado and around the world, the GLC serves as the dean’s advisory board, expanding opportunities for students and faculty through program development, advocating for the College in the business community, and fundraising.

If you ask her what excites her most about CSU right now, Perich doesn’t bring up the University’s accomplishments in teaching, athletics, or research. Nor does she mention athletics facilities, though she’s an avowed football, volleyball, and basketball fan. Instead, she focuses on students.

“The most exciting thing about CSU right now is the next generation of brewers and giving them the tools to be creative and contribute in meaningful ways. That’s impactful for the individual and for the community as well.”

For more information on Colorado State University, visit giving.colostate.edu.
As part of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Awards program, construction management graduate Terrance Unrein (B.S., ’10) was honored with the Graduate of the Last Decade award. Recipients of this award are recognized by Colorado State University’s Alumni Association for their accomplishments in career, service, and/or volunteer efforts that have brought honor to the individual and to Colorado State University.

This recognition aptly fits Unrein. A fourth-generation CSU student (he thanks his great-grandparents for starting this family tradition), Unrein works as an economics, regulatory, and technical consultant for the power and renewable energy markets locally and around the world. He is a volunteer member of the Dean’s Emerging Leaders Council for the College of Health and Human Sciences, and participates often as a guest lecturer.

Before graduation, Unrein was busy. Really busy. He volunteered in several leadership positions across CSU. He served as president of the Construction Management Student Board of Directors and as team captain for the construction management competition, and was a member of the college Dean’s Leadership Council. He also excelled at his schoolwork. He didn’t get one B in college, only A’s.

One might say that Unrein is self-motivated. Unrein, though, might say that his motivation was fostered from a purposeful gamble he made on himself during his second year at school.

As a student supporting himself to get through school, Unrein worked at the CSU recreation center to help pay the bills. But as his schoolwork became more demanding, he kept reducing his work hours, which made it tough to make ends meet. And then he had an epiphany.

“What role could scholarships play in my college experience?”

“I feel so lucky to have had such active professors and other resources available to help me through school,” Unrein said. “From helping us discover leadership positions within CSU, to showing us how to look for and interview for jobs, the College of Health and Human Sciences gave us so many opportunities. That is why we started our scholarship to be able to create the same opportunity for other students that CSU gave to us.”

“Without scholarship support, I wouldn’t have been able to do that,” said Unrein.

Upon graduation in 2010, Unrein, Bair, and Babitt decided to start a scholarship for construction management students that they still fund today. In addition to maintaining good grades, qualifications include being active in extracurricular activities. To donate to their scholarship, or to any other CSU scholarship, including those offered by the Alumni Association, please visit www.giving.colostate.edu.

“My wife and I enjoy being members of the CSU Alumni Association because it is a simple and easy way to stay connected with the University while not being in Fort Collins. From the Around the Oval magazine, occasional Denver and Fort Collins events, and e-mail updates, the organization does a great job of helping you maintain a sense of pride in the Rams family.”

Scholarship Power
One Billion Dollars. This is our time … time for us to rise to the heights to which we are called. Colorado State University is on a quest for greatness, and to get there we need your help.

Colorado State University officially launched its one billion dollar comprehensive fundraising campaign on Saturday, February 13 at its annual donor celebration event on the CSU Campus.

State Your Purpose – The Campaign for Colorado State University has a target completion date in 2020 to mark the 150th birthday of the University. In 2012, Colorado State University celebrated the early and successful conclusion of its first comprehensive campaign. Now, less than four years later, we are embarking on a far more ambitious quest, looking to raise $1 billion dollars to invest in the never-ending pursuit of across-the-board excellence.

“We’re incredibly proud of this campaign – the goals it embodies, the promise it holds, and its symbolism,” CSU President, Dr. Tony Frank, said. “This isn’t a campaign that quietly questions our thinking about the future. This is a campaign that demands a declaration: State Your Purpose. That theme embodies the character of a university that is committed to continuous improvement, that rolls up its sleeves and redoubles its efforts, and that leaves no one behind as we move forward.”

Brett Anderson, vice president of University Advancement, shepherded the first campaign to a successful conclusion. He announced that the new campaign has already raised more money – nearly $540 million – in just over three years, than the previous campaign raised in seven full years.

Learn more about the campaign at giving.colostate.edu. Explore purpose-driven opportunities for giving and connecting with CSU programs and people who are changing our world. Purpose is what gives life definition and direction. It’s what ignites that flame and passion burning deep inside. It’s what compels you to give and drives you to do more. Join us.

State Your Purpose – The Campaign for Colorado State University.

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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND SYSTEM CHANCELLOR TONY FRANK

It’s time. The quest for greatness is ever-present. Since 1870, Colorado State University has been blazing a trail for Rams, for Coloradans, for people across the globe. We are investing in our academics, students, faculty, and campus like never before. Our mission is to help our students realize their dreams and their purpose to impact the world. We’re rising to the heights to which we are called. Join us.

alumni.colostate.edu

THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THE CAMPAIGN INCLUDE:

• Dramatically increase the number of scholarships so CSU can continue to recruit outstanding students throughout the state, the country, and the world.
• Invest in world-class infrastructure – classrooms, labs, residence halls and events facilities – so CSU can achieve across-the-board excellence.
• Provide resources to its exceptional programs so CSU can continue to attract the leading minds in the world to further research and teaching.
• Significantly increase CSU’s endowment for the long-term financial health of the University.

“Raising a billion dollars would put us in an exclusive club – only a small number of universities have completed billion-dollar campaigns,” Anderson said. “It’s a monumental and meaningful task, and it’s also the ideal target when we looked at the needs of the institution to continue on our path toward excellence. If we want to continue on our journey to become the greatest land-grant university in the country, we need to successfully complete this campaign.

“We will succeed in reaching our goal, and when we do, we will have ensured that greater numbers of our graduates leave with a diploma and not a crippling debt load,” said Dr. Frank. “We will have given our faculty the resources to continue to make groundbreaking discoveries that transform our world. We will have expanded opportunities for student veterans. And we will have demonstrated that excellence is built with the leadership of people who have both a sense of purpose and the vision to lead us forward.”

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alumni.colostate.edu
The Colorado State University Alumni Association is excited to embark on the construction of a new Alumni Center to serve as a place of pride and home to more than 200,000 alumni when they return to campus.

The Alumni Center will be funded through private support. For more information about being involved in the project, contact Kristi Bohlender, executive director, at (970) 491-6533 or kristi.bohlender@colostate.edu.

Nearly 20,000 square feet at the northeast corner of the stadium will be dedicated to honoring our alumni—past, present, and future.

The center will feature a Great Hall using the latest in digital technology to tell the story of our alumni and the University.

Additional features include:
- Visitor information desk
- Event hall
- Seminar rooms
- Executive board room
- Alumni Association offices

The center will host gatherings year-round and serve as the first stop for alumni visiting campus.

OPENING FALL 2017
www.alumni.colostate.edu
April
27  Innovation Symposium, Fort Collins, Colo.
30  Green and Gold Gala, Denver, Colo.

May
3   Senior candlelight celebration
13-15 Spring Commencement
19  College and Beyond retreat

ONLINE PROGRAMS
Online Courses (through May)
Career Fit: Comprehensive career exploration
Weight Loss for the Long Term: Explores strategies to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

Webinar Series On Demand
• The Race to Feed 9.7 Billion People: The Secret is in the Soil
• Smart Village Microgrids:
• Electrification and Development for Rural Villages
• Professional Resilience: How to Navigate Tough Times in Your Job
• CSU Ventures: Guiding Great Innovation to the Marketplace
• Virtual Reality: Opportunities for Business and Beyond

Career Resources
Handshake: A free online job system designed to assist you and your employment needs.
Career Communities: A NEW and FREE service
Industry-related communities of alumni, students, faculty and employers share relevant information with each other.

April 27
Innovation Symposium, Fort Collins, Colo.
30  Green and Gold Gala, Denver, Colo.

Welcome to THE ACADEMY
They say education is the kindling of a flame. If that’s true, it may explain why you never lost the feeling that everything’s possible – that the best is yet to come. You may have left college last year or long ago, but you never stopped learning. You kept the fire going.

Introducing The Academy, a suite of alumni programs, services, and opportunities designed to enhance your personal and professional journey.

• Webinars and online courses bringing Colorado State University to you
• CSU and Beyond retreats for career and life
• Career counseling consultations, mock interviews, resume critiques, and more
• Handshake job system
• Career Communities online networking
• Volunteer opportunities connecting alumni to students

Be sure to get the latest event updates. A comprehensive list of events and details are sent via e-mail. Send your name, class year, and e-mail address to csualumni@colostate.edu to receive e-updates on CSU events in your area.

For a complete list of:
Alumni events, visit alumni.colostate.edu
Athletics events, visit csurams.com
Watch select sports via live stream at csurams.com/videos
Arts events, visit uca.colostate.edu
Dates listed are subject to change.

Homecoming & Family Weekend
Oct. 6-8, 2016
Alumni, families, community members, and visitors are invited to Homecoming & Family Weekend, the time of year where we all come together to celebrate the past, present, and future of Colorado State University.

Sonny Lubick Field Lives On At New On-Campus Stadium
Colorado State University announced in March that, thanks to an anonymous donation, the name “Sonny Lubick Field” will continue at the University’s new on-campus stadium when it opens for the 2017 season.

“We are thrilled to continue to honor the legacy of one of the true greats in Colorado State history,” said Colorado State President and CSU System Chancellor Tony Frank. “Coach Sonny Lubick showed CSU how to win and be competitive at the highest levels – and in doing so, he helped set a trajectory that continues to this day. Sonny means so much to our community, it’s wonderful to honor him in this way.”

Alumni.colostate.edu/academy

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**Sustaining Life Members**

Following are Life Members who made an annual Sustaining Life contribution, July 1, 2015 — February 25, 2016.

**$1,870 and above**
Ronald C., ‘89 and Michele J. Stettner

**$1,000-$1,869**
Benjamin F., ‘73 and Margaret Kitchen

**$500-$999**
William G., ‘53 and Charlotte L. Evans

Richard W. Fuller, ‘63

Judith E. Gustation, ‘62, ‘68

Gary R., ‘80 and Elizabeth G. Langle

Constance L. O’Brien, ‘00, ‘13

**$50-$99**
Edward L., ‘69 and Mary E., ‘68, ‘70 Zorn

Glen C. Y oung, ‘61

**$500-$999**
Daniel P., ‘88 and Marla Tweit

**$1,000-$1,869**
William C., ‘50 and Vonnie E. Allen

Robert E., ‘58 and J linda B. Winter, ‘72

**$1,870 and above**
Wayne E. Eberhard, ‘70

Robert W., ‘68, ‘92 and Anita C. Eatman

L. G. Earl, ‘63 and Cynthia A., ‘65 Duncan

Jimmie L., ‘61 and Billie J. Colvin

Harry R. and Annemieke D., ‘69 Ambrosier

Paul S. Fedor, ‘77

Gerald B., ‘65 and Johnanne A., ‘64, ‘66 Fitzgerald

Robert T., ‘95 and Stephanie L., ‘95 Foster

Jerry D. Fryden dall, ‘31

Carlton E., ‘80 and Michelle L. Gayles

Kenneth L. Goldberr y, ‘54, ‘62

John T., ‘59 and Dolores A., ‘58 Goodier

Linda L. Granberg, ‘68

Roger T., ‘63 and Joan D. Grim e

Bonnie G. Gupperhen, ‘77

J erome M., ‘70 and Wendy Hause

Kathleen Henry, ‘70

Linda J. H enny, ‘66, ‘93

Kenneth L. H illston, ‘58

Steven B., ‘58, ‘63 and Susan Holtm an

Mary E. Jacobs, ‘73

H. Gordon Johnson, ‘48

Stephen A. Johnson, ‘68

Robert W., ‘72 and Shawn A., ‘81 Kinney

Narayanaswamy Krishnamurthi, ‘75

Donald P., ‘59 and Judy A. Kundert

Stephen M., ‘73 and Diane A., ‘73 Lowe

Dawne G. and Betty J., ‘65 Manwaring

John P., ‘60 and Carol A. Mari

John K. Matsu shi, ‘43, ‘45

Loren R. Max ey

W ilbur H., ‘78, ‘80, ‘92 and

Ruth McCormick

Stephen L., ‘58 and Maxine A. Miller

Avery R., ‘67, ‘68, ‘74 and

Susan M., ‘67 Mosier

Maryam Niaimi-Fuller

Russel W., ‘64 and Barbara A., ‘64 Nun

Donald A., Sr., ‘55, ‘57 and

Jo Ann, ‘58 Orstow d

Rene L. Parish, ‘78, ‘80

Dean A., ‘66 and Janiece K., ‘67 Pigm an

Narasipur S. Raj, ‘67

Racul F., ‘80 and Donna L. Reiser

Vernon E. Retttig, ‘55

Anna K. Robinette, ‘92

Alvie W., ‘59, ‘64 and Janet S. Rothe

Jeffrey S. and Alison L., ‘93 Salerno

Vernon E., III, ‘80 and

Margaret L., ‘80 Shoup

Vern R., ‘55, ‘57 and Mary R. Smith

Carl S. Sorensen, ‘54

Marion E., ‘54 and Viola M. Stanley

Gregory R., ‘72 and Susan M., ‘73 Super

Richard G., St., ‘78 and

Lorraine M. Tanaka

Charles M., ‘67, ‘71 and

Shelby E. Thimmig

Stafford T. Thomas and Carol L., ‘69 Berg

Charles L., ‘70 and Lana Van Cleave

Kristin D. Victry, ‘90, ‘95

Glenn P. Violette, ‘82

Edward A. Wallace, ‘90

Jason and Megan G. Weber

Norman J., Jr., ‘70 and Ann E. Wells

Ralph A., ‘63 and Janiece L. Williams

Glen C. Young, ‘61

Edward L., ‘69 and Mary E., ‘68, ‘70 Zorn

Gary P., ‘68 and

Arensmeke D., ‘69 Ambrosier

Harry R. and

Georgette K., ‘72 Boeselager

Jenni l L., ‘63 and Billie J. Colvin

Gerald D., Jr., ‘52, ‘60 and

Karlene H. Ferguson

Patrick E., Ill and

Marilyn A., ‘51, ‘53 Fontane

Robert L. and Martha E., ‘60 Gustafson

W arren D., ‘69 and

Margaret M. Housinger

Kevin P. Koehler, ‘81

Duane A. Newman, ‘54, ‘56

Lincoln J. Parker, ‘54, ‘57

James G., ‘57, ‘59 and

Marilyn Y., ‘57 Savoint

Konneth S. Sek, ‘73

David L., ‘70 and Miriam M., ‘71 Stout

Brad Vichte

Donald E., ‘63, ‘65 and

Patricia E., ‘58, ‘61 White

Dale L., ‘74 and Judith A. Wilken

Life members can continue their investment in the Alumni Association by making annual contributions to the Sustaining Life Member program.

Not a Life Member? Upgrade today and get your new Ram Flag!

New Alumni Website

The Colorado State University Alumni Association is proud to announce the launch of its brand-new, mobile-friendly website. Our previous website launched in 2008, less than a year after Apple sold its first iPhone and two years before Apple unveiled the iPad. Since then, the world – as they say – has changed.

For those who like facts and figures, here are two: Traffic on the alumni website from mobile devices went from 0% in 2008 to 26% in 2015. That means 21,060 visitors who accessed the website on their phone may have felt frustrated by pinching and zooming. A website that adapts to every user's screen size, whether it's on a desktop, tablet, or mobile device, not only maximizes our ability to inform you, it also allows you to get the information you want quickly and easily. Our goal has always been to connect CSU alumni to the University and each other. We hope the new site will make your online experience easier and more engaging than ever.
When I earned my degree in ’78, I attended Fort Collins High School and was among the students in its first graduating class.

Proximity and affordability made CSU his “natural choice” for college, but he still put in 60-plus hours a week at the Fox Theater and Century Triplex to make it work. Pell Grants helped too. “I wasn’t that involved in college life,” he admits, remembering a desire to move on to a career as quickly as possible. “When I earned my degree in ’78, I wanted to work hard and help make a difference.” His chance to get involved would come later.

Thompson flew to Denver for an interview and was offered a job with First Interstate Bank. Today, he is a senior manager in the personal trust group at MidFirst Bank of Colorado located in Cherry Creek and looks back on 26 years of his career in Colorado not as jobs with financial institutions, but as a long list of individual relationships with wonderful people and organizations. “I never had to push a product on any client,” he says. “I am able to listen to them and do what’s in their best interest.”

Thompson joined the Alumni Association’s board of directors in 2010 and serves as its current president. He considers himself lucky to be involved while the new on-campus stadium takes shape. Nearly 20,000 square feet at the northeast corner of the stadium will be dedicated to a new Alumni Center. The center will host gatherings year-round and serve as the first stop for alumni visiting campus.

“It’s a game-changer,” he says. “Coming home is what it’s all about to me. Before, when we’d come up to Fort Collins for football games, we didn’t set foot on campus. In the rare moments we did make it to campus and would walk through the Oval or the Lory Student Center, I’d get teary-eyed because it’s home.”

When alumni come home for games after the stadium and Alumni Center open in 2017, they’ll be able to share their CSU experiences, traditions, and Ram pride with family and friends through events and interactive exhibits that will tell a story they played a part in creating. And that’s a crucial point, asserts Thompson. “We will increase the awareness of the University and the Alumni Association through the new Alumni Center. People will want to be part of it because they will be proud of it.”

Sponsorship Basketball 101

Each spring, Basketball 101 brings CSU’s international students into the heart of campus life and American culture through an inside look at CSU athletics, and specifically basketball. Ross Thompson, a current men’s and women’s basketball season ticketholder and believer in the idea that sports can be a starting point for lifetime engagement with the University, is proud of the program’s heritage. Sponsored by the CSU Office of International Programs, the Department of Athletics, and the Alumni Association, it was modeled on football 101, which democratized the sport for international students and was started by Darshan Shah (B.S., ’92; M.E., ’01), a past Alumni Association board of directors president. This year’s event—which took place prior to the CSU women’s border War game vs. Wyoming—was extra special because nine of the 15 players on the Rams roster are international students from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Romania, and Brazil. “International students are an important part of CSU’s story,” Thompson says. “They’re part of our Rams family.”

Your Legacy

Colorado State University’s Future

Have you already included CSU in your estate plans? Let us know.

We’d love to thank you with a small token of our appreciation.

When you make a gift to the CSU Alumni Association, you help the organization deliver programs and services that make lasting, positive impacts on graduates and foster lifetime CSU connections.

With a request to the CSU Alumni Association you:

• keep control of your assets throughout your lifetime
• meet your philanthropic goals while supporting your passion
• reduce (or possibly eliminate) estate taxes
• become a member of the Frontier Legacy Society

The legacy you create today empowers future generations and allows CSU to remain a world-class institution. For more information about charitable estate planning, please call or email us at (970) 491-3414 or giftplanning@colostate.edu

Basketball 101

If you’re going to buy office products, shop where you can support Colorado State.

Visit alumni.colostate.edu for details, or call the Alumni Association at (800) 286-2586.

Have you considered leaving CSU in your will or trust?

Because It’s Home

As Ross Thompson celebrates Ag Day with (from left) his nephew, Matt Hoppal; his wife, Sue; son, Andrew; and daughter, Stephanie.

The last count, nearly 50,000 Colorado State University alumni call the Denver metro area home. Ross Thompson (’78) sees that number and imagines 50,000 reasons to give back to his alma mater by donating his time and talents during one of the University’s most exciting eras of growth and change.

Born in Minnesota, Thompson moved to Colorado with his family in 1973. He attended Fort Collins High School and was among the students in its first graduating class.

Ross Thompson celebrates Ag Day with (from left) his nephew, Matt Hoppal; his wife, Sue; his son Andrew; and his daughter, Stephanie.
Engineers do not talk until they know the answer. You liberal arts people work toward an answer out loud.1 Students and their youthful exuberance are the source of many stories. I recall opening the Colégien to find a full-page remake of a Robert Mapplethorpe photograph from his The Perfect Moment show, which created enormous public controversy. This particular photo featured two nude and completely shaved males facing the camera. Recognizing one of the young men in the CSU re-creation of that photo as my student, I could only sputter, “Well, hello John!” (A number of you will be relieved to know I intentionally forgot every College Days story I ever heard.)

One thing I love about Colorado State people is their can-do spirit. I came to campus the morning after the 1997 flood and, as I walked toward Eddy, I could see computer monitors and personal items bobbing in water inches below the ceiling in the basement offices. Later, I ran into a theater professor outside Johnson Hall, where the entire costume collection had been ruined by the water. I asked her how she was doing, prepared for tears. Instead, she kicked a foot in the air and announced, “The show must go on!” And indeed it did, all over campus. When the football team qualified for a bowl game that was below the ceiling in the basement offices. Later, I ran into a theater professor outside Johnson Hall, where the entire costume collection had been ruined by the water. I asked her how she was doing, prepared for tears. Instead, she kicked a foot in the air and announced, “The show must go on!” And indeed it did, all over campus. When the football team qualified for a bowl game that was played on the day of fall commencement, the marching band went, too, leaving us short a number of musicians for the commencement ensemble. Local musicians with the Fort Collins Symphony agreed to fill in the vacant spots, but they had a performance scheduled just before commencement would begin. No problem — staff members in Motor Pool vans, motors running, were parked behind the Lincoln Center. The moment that performance was over, the musicians showed their instruments in cases and jumped into the vans, which raced to Moby. The musicians then ran inside, pulled out their instruments, and the ensemble launched into “Promenade and Circumstance” just as the graduates arrived for the processional. The game? Our Rams scored 20 points in the last quarter to beat Fresno State 40–19.

I have learned many lessons from alumni. Over the years, several have said to me, “I will never forget what you said...” and sometimes I had no memory of saying it. That taught me to be very careful about every word that came out of my mouth, knowing it might take root and grow in someone else. Years ago, I attended the wedding rehearsal dinner for an alumnus. He was part of an African American family from Detroit; the bride came from a Caucasian Nebraska farm family. When the two family groups came into the event hall for the first time, there were a few moments of awkwardness. I, as an alumni, turned the round and walked over to the corner of the new stadium. Please visit libertymutual.com/colorado or call 1-888-964-2146 for a free quote.}

Stories From a Retiring Dean

by Ann Gill ('76)
14th Annual
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APRIL 30, 2016

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