Live your passions
Greetings from your University!

Thank you so much for the warm welcome you have given me since my being named executive director of the Colorado State University Alumni Association. It is truly my honor to represent you!

Our mission is to make a lasting impact on the lives of our graduates and to strengthen their connections to the University. We are looking forward to making the Alumni Association even better and providing more value to our 200,000-plus alumni. Our focus during the upcoming year will be on professional development and career success; prospective and current student engagement; and creating events, programs, and volunteer opportunities that appeal to a diverse group of alumni – both on campus and around the country. You’ll hear much more in the coming months.

This issue features stories about people who follow their passions: a bike advocate, a local music promoter, a modern Renaissance man, and a tribute to an amazing woman and friend, Nadine Henry. And be sure to check out plans for your new Alumni Center on Page 10.

Please know that your support and input truly matter. Your membership sustains our programs and grows our ability to serve and support your alma mater. We genuinely appreciate your feedback and hope you take pride in the impact of your involvement on the next generation of CSU alumni who will follow their passions.

Thanks again for the warm welcome and please let us know how we can serve you better. My door is always open. Hope to see you at Homecoming and Family Weekend, Oct. 15-17!

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, students, and friends to CSU in meaningful ways. THANK YOU!
The word “rest” is not in Ryan Kirkpatrick’s vocabulary. Yet, the 2006 Colorado State University grad doesn’t seem to favor the word “work” either. The key to lifelong happiness – or at the very least, a blueprint for turning passions into soul-feeding employment – might lie somewhere within this apparent contradiction. Kirkpatrick likens himself to Dug, the squirrel-chasing dog in the Disney Pixar movie, *Up*. “I’m super-distracted. It could be the theme of my life.” He earned a bachelor’s degree in technical journalism, but the diploma doesn’t begin to describe the breadth of his undergraduate experience. “I could have had three or four majors,” he says, citing interests in photography, graphic design, web development, health and exercise science, and, above all, music. He could have included persuasive argumentation in the list, given his ability to talk his way into music and health and exercise science courses usually reserved for majors. (He was just a few credits shy of earning a second major in the latter.) One class in particular, the biology and physiology of successful aging, would prove invaluable after college.

Outside the classroom, Kirkpatrick channeled his energy into distance running and outdoor life. He competed in track and cross-country – and still shares a school record in the 4x4-mile relay. During the summers, he worked at the CSU Mountain Campus (then called Pingree Park), doing everything from housekeeping and graphic design to running the ropes course and guiding hikes. “I did a lot of songwriting there too,” he says. “Every building has a piano in it.” After graduation, Kirkpatrick stayed at CSU for a year to volunteer as a distance coach under CSU great Bryan Berryhill and to continue his own competitive running. The work paid off with a ninth-place finish at the USA Trail Running Championships in 2007 and valuable leadership experience. Later, he went on to earn a master’s degree in health and exercise science from West Virginia University.

Then, somehow, Kirkpatrick managed to find the career path we all crave – the one combining all of our distractions, hobbies, and passions. “It was a natural progression that started at Pingree,” he says. Anyone who has spent time at CSU Mountain Campus remembers the night skies. On a clear evening, visitors can see the Milky Way, not as a wispy blur, but as a multitude of discrete, sharp points of light. On one of those nights, Kirkpatrick attached his camera to a...
That’s when the class on successful aging proved its value. MPILLS provides educational courses, travel, and service-learning opportunities for adults with an average age of 62. About 90 percent of its programs are associated with Road Scholar, formerly known as Elderhostel, a world leader in lifelong learning.

As the organization’s director of operations, Kirkpatrick manages the Road Scholar program and leads many of its tours. He’s guided more hiking, photography, bird-watching, skiing, and intergenerational programs than he can remember. “The job is a natural fit for me, being in the outdoors with like-minded people,” he says.

The MPILLS program schedule reads like a choose-your-own-adventure book, with trips to the Rocky Mountain West’s most scenic and historic places. More ambitious adventures to Africa, the Arctic Circle, and scenic and historic places. More ambitious trips to the Rocky Mountain West’s most scenic and historic places. More ambitious trips to the Rocky Mountain West’s most scenic and historic places. More ambitious trips to the Rocky Mountain West’s most scenic and historic places. More ambitious trips to the Rocky Mountain West’s most scenic and historic places. More ambitious trips to the Rocky Mountain West’s most scenic and historic places.

Kirkpatrick counts two trips to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro as career high points. “The eight-day trek to the 19,341-foot summit has about an 80 percent success rate,” Kirkpatrick says. “We had one participant who was among those who reached the top — in tears. It’s really special to help someone realize a life dream.”

As a runner, coach, guide, and artist, Kirkpatrick appreciates the relationship between effort and reward — between a spectacular summit view shared with new friends and the currency of sweat and blisters every hiker paid to see it. He expresses some of that understanding through his photography, and what can’t be expressed in pictures often shows up in his music. “Get Some!” the title track from his band’s debut album, is an open invitation from a mountaintop to hikers, skiers, and climbers. “I don’t care who you are. It doesn’t matter where you come from,” the mountain sings, “I’ve got the altitude ... come and get some!”

Part folk, part jam rock, Kirkpatrick’s music sounds upbeat, carefree, and soulful. He calls his band The 14ers (named after Colorado’s 14,000-foot peaks), but likes to shift lineups from a full band to a simple duet or trio, depending on the venue. “It started as a solo songwriting project,” he says, “but I didn’t want to go on stage with the help of other talented musicians and be billed as the Ryan Kirkpatrick Band.” Though the lineup varies when it comes to live shows, Kirkpatrick is proud of the fact that two people involved since Day One are CSU alumni, Chris Harston and Andrew Berlin. “I’m still distracted by just about everything,” he says.

I'm Awake

Life is short, do whatever you love,” says Kirkpatrick, who is still distracted by just about everything.

As a scholarship recipient at CSU, I benefited directly from alumni support when I was a student. I believe it is important that we all give back to our University and community.
Dani Grant dances to the beat of a different drummer—in her favorite pair of low-top Chucks, no less. And you can bet that drummer is in a local band. She’s not your typical live-music producer. Grant is overly generous with her time and industry connections. She embraces collaboration. She’s the northern Colorado music scene’s trusted mama bear—a confident force, a nurturing mentor, and fiercely protective when necessary. She rolls up her sleeves to teach local musicians how to survive in an industry when necessary. She’s not your typical live-music producer. Grant is overly generous with her time and industry connections. She embraces collaboration. She’s the northern Colorado music scene’s trusted mama bear—a confident force, a nurturing mentor, and fiercely protective when necessary. She rolls up her sleeves to teach local musicians how to survive in an industry when necessary.

**ESTABLISHING ROOTS**

Grant grew up on the East Coast, split-ting time between her free-spirited dad and a business-savvy mom. She inherited the best of both worlds. Eager for experience beyond the cultural alley. But Grant, now a mother of three, wanted to do more to support local artists, amplify the Northern Colo-rado music scene, and place a spotlight on her community as a progressive cultural destination.

**INCUBATING LOCAL BANDS**

‘SpokesBUZZ was the first step,’ she said of the nonprofit she founded in 2009. This was a critical step in what would later become a proven and replicable model that gained interna-tional attention at the ams Music Cities Convention in Brighton, U.K.

Local bands, upon acceptance into the competitive SpokesBUZZ program, gain access to professional workshops, expert panels, marketing guidance, artistic collaborations, and concert gigs. In the past, hands have been further promoted through BandsSwap partnerships and at the Colorado Music Party Showcase, hosted by SpokesBUZZ, at the SXSW Music Festival in Austin, Texas.

**PROVIDING A VENUE**

Grant knew she could affect the local music scene even more if she owned and operated a venue. In 2010, the 100-year-old Mishawaka Amphitheatre located in Fish Creek Canyon was on the brink of being demolished. Grant and Hoeven bought the troubled property, hauled away 120 cubic yards of trash, and renewed its reputation as a live-music destination by booking local and national talent.

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Nadine Henry embodied a pioneer spirit of responsibility, rugged independence, and deep generosity. A third-generation Coloradan, she relished the open air and wide-open spaces of farm life. She lived on her Longmont farm for more than 65 years with her husband, Jim, and savored her passion for agriculture. She drove a tractor with ease and gained pleasure from herding sheep and other farm chores that would bewilder most city dwellers. One of her favorite pastimes was riding her horse, and she cherished her social clubs and community activities.

Nadine was not alone when Jim died in 2006. Her family, friends, and connections to Colorado State University continued to give her an abundant life until she passed away peacefully in her home on May 9.

Other than Longmont, CSU was the only place Nadine (B.S., home economics, ’41) called home, and it was the setting of the most important encounter of her life. Oneauspicious night, at a dance in the Johnson Hall Ballroom, she met Jim Henry. They had so much in common that they would set off on a horseback riding together the next day. They wed in 1940, two days after Jim graduated with an animal sciences degree. Nadine and Jim are no longer with us, but their example will live on through the generations.

Scholarships were an essential part of the Hennys’ support of CSU. They established several, including awards for the colleges of Health and Human Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. The Alumni Association’s Jim and Nadine Henry Scholarship rewards students who display a meaningful commitment to community service and leadership activities. It helps future leaders find their paths and discover the full value of giving back.

For more information, visit alumni.colostate.edu or call (970) 491-6533.

by Mark Schopker
This is our time.

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 Heritage Hall using the latest in digital technology to tell the story of our alumni and the University.

Additional features include:
• Visitor information center
• 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

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.
Spokes-person of the Year

Remember when you were a kid and your bike was more than the sum of its parts? It broadened your experience by extending the known world beyond your block or immediate neighborhood. It united you with friends who didn’t live within walking distance. It taught you independence by offering an alternative to asking mom or dad for a ride. It wasn’t just a frame, wheels, spokes, pedals, gears, handlebars, and saddle. It was freedom. It was a personal revolution. And it was fun.

Nelle Pierson (’10) remembers. The Alliance for Biking and Walking’s 2014 Bike Advocate of the Year believes bikes are much more than transportation or recreation, and she’s putting bikes to a purpose, rather than transport. She says, “I knew I couldn’t keep my car, and I was smitten with Fort Collins, it was the state school I could afford, I wanted to find a way to make a more immediate impact.

Pierson infused her love for bikes into everything, including academics. She filled notebooks with bike doodles and the recurrent mantra, “Dear bike, thanks for getting me so far in life.” A Rocky Mountain Collegian article noting her involvement in ASCSU as an associate senator and then as assistant director of the Legislative Affairs committee called her “the crazy bike lady.”

But Pierson wasn’t crazy—just passionate about her beliefs and determined to make a difference in the world. She was raised in the Denver area by an environmentalist father and was smitten with Fort Collins culture to D.C.” Nine months later, she moved to Washington, D.C., and got an internship with the House Appropriations Committee for Interior and Environment. Though she learned about public funding and the legislative process and had a nice view of the National Mall from her desk, she wanted to find a way to make a more immediate impact.

The Washington Area Bicyclists Association offered a nonconfrontational, positive way to tackle big political issues such as a healthier environment, obesity, and gender equality. Pierson started as a volunteer at the nonprofit and then essentially created a community outreach position where she established five programs, including a determination to improve lives through bicycle advocacy with a well-known program that would encourage more women to bike and become teachers, or what she calls “roll models.” Since then, Pierson has continued to model “roll model” behavior. In May, Pierson was named “Spokes-person of the Year” because she is a part of a community linked to the University that provided me with a supportive and inspiring environment to grow and thrive.

I want to be a member of a community that provided me with a supportive and inspiring environment to grow and thrive.

Through it all, Pierson’s having the time of her life. Last December, she loaned Stephen Colbert a tandem bike for the final episode of The Colbert Report and managed to convince the king of political satire to share a ride with her around the Capitol building. It was a fitting moment for someone who combines a determination to improve lives through bicycle advocacy with a well-known love of pedaling just for the fun of it.

by Ben Fosberg (B.A. ’04, M.A. ’08)
CSU AND ALUMNI EVENTS

Fall 2015

Online Learning

Personal Enrichment
- Oct. 1, 13 - Weight Loss for the Long Term (online class)
- Nov. 3 - The Caregiver Experience (free webinar)

Career Development
- Sept. 3 - Creating Innovative Conversations (free webinar)
- Oct. 20 - Understanding Your Strengths (free webinar)
- Nov. 3 - Career Fit (online class)
- Nov 4 & 5 - Understanding Your Strengths (webshop)

Game-Watch Parties

Nothing shows your Ram pride more than participating in game-watch parties. Game-watch parties bring fellow Ram fans together from across the country to cheer Colorado State University’s football and basketball teams on to victory!

To find a game-watch party near you, and to learn about becoming a party host, visit alumni.colostate.edu.

Rocky Mountain Showdown

Alumni Association Activities

Help our Rams charge to victory at the Rocky Mountain Showdown by joining fellow fans at these pregame events. For full event details, visit alumni.colostate.edu.

Wednesday, Sept. 16

Scrimmage: Football in American Art from the Civil War to Present
CSU Denver Center, 475 17th St.
Denver, CO 80222 – 5:30 p.m.
Scrimmage: Football in American Art from the Civil War to the Present is an exhibition of artwork by 53 artists with subject matter that examines the quintessentially American sport of football. Linny Fridkman, director of the University Art Museum, and Albert Bimper, Ph.D. (’06), senior associate athletics director, discuss their work bringing this incredible exhibition to life at CSU.

Friday, Sept. 18

Ram Rally
C.B. & Potts, 6575 Greenwood Plaza Blvd.
Englewood – 6-8:30 p.m.
Enjoy amazing CSU giveaways, a photo booth, great discounts on food and drink, and a program emceed by CSU great Joel Dreessen (’05).

Saturday, Sept. 19

CSU Alumni Tailgate
Sports Authority Field at Mile High
3-5 p.m.
Join CSU faithful and tailgate outside the stadium with food, music, games, and giveaways! Kick off at 5 p.m. Purchase game tickets at www.csutickets.com.

Members of the Alumni Association receive discounted or free registration to Alumni Association events.

Impacting the student experience and projects across campus through:

- student scholarships
- world-class academic programs
- groundbreaking research
- student health and well-being
- athletics success

SHATTERING RECORDS BECAUSE OF YOU

ASCU Alumni Associations have delivered the largest amount of philanthropic giving ever raised by a single campus in a single year at a Colorado university.

Colorado State University alumni, friends, and other supporters have

$172.3 Million
combined donations
from more than
34,000 donors

highest rate of ALUMNI PARTICIPATION in CSU history

and increased membership by
34.6%

The Alumni Association welcomed
4,399 new members,
rased $49,570
for the Sustaining Life program,

5 out of 8 colleges
each raised more than
$10 Million

private support TRIPLED in the last 5 years

OCT. 15-17

Distinguished Alumni Awards
50 Year Club Luncheon
Football on the Oval
Homecoming Parade
Friday Night Lights
Homecoming 5K Race
Homecoming & Family Weekend Tailgate
Football Game: CSU vs. Air Force

For details and a complete list of events, visit homecoming.colostate.edu.

Be sure to get the latest event updates. A comprehensive list of events and the 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.

Homecoming & Family Weekend

Oct. 15-17

Join us for this year’s Homecoming & Family Weekend, the time of year when we all come together to celebrate the past, present, and future of Colorado State University.

The Homecoming & Family Weekend website at homecoming.colostate.edu is your one-stop shop for all weekend details, including event information and ticket purchases. It also includes an interactive map to help you get around campus and Fort Collins. Visit the Lory Student Center’s information desk on Friday and Saturday for event information, as well.

So, whether you’re reconnecting with classmates and friends, sharing memories with your family, or reliving your old stomping grounds, join us at Homecoming & Family Weekend and help us celebrate all that is CSU!

The Homecoming & Family Weekend website at homecoming.colostate.edu is your one-stop shop for all weekend details, including event information and ticket purchases. It also includes an interactive map to help you get around campus and Fort Collins. Visit the Lory Student Center’s information desk on Friday and Saturday for event information, as well.

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101st Homecoming & Family Weekend

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Shattering records because of you

alumni.colostate.edu
Former Aggie Honors Veterans

Stan Cass grew up on a ranch outside Briggsdale, Colo. His high school graduating class consisted of only seven people. Cass appreciated his ag roots, but dreamed of bigger things.

When Cass went to Colorado State University in the 1950s, it was known as Colorado A&I, and he was proud to be an Aggie. He joined the ROTC and studied engineering, in his words, “get smart enough” to pass the entrance exam for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Cass received his acceptance letter during his sophomore year, left Fort Collins to become a cadet, and graduated from the academy in 1957.

Shortly after graduation, he attended Ranger School and then flight school. While on active duty, he served two tours in Vietnam (1966, 1972) where he commanded combat aviation groups. After returning stateside, he served seven years at the Pentagon, and was project manager for the Army’s HELLFIRE Missile Program in Huntsville, Ala.

Cass retired from the Army in 1986 and eventually returned to his family’s ranch in Colorado. Years later in Florida, Cass’s old-est daughter sent him a newspaper article she thought he would appreciate. It was for the Army’s Honor Flight Network.

In May 2015, the 14th Honor Flight Northern Colorado took 123 veterans and 63 guardians to the nation’s capital. On the morning of their departure, more than 400 people rallied in Loveland for the send-off. Sheriff’s vehicles, police cars, and Patriot Guard motorcycles escorted four CSU charter buses full of veterans to Denver International Airport. Along the way, firetrucks raised flags from their ladder buckets and people covered overpasses waving signs, arms, and flags in appreciation.

Since 2014, each time the Honor Flight reaches Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, the D.C. Ram Network is there with signs to greet and thank them. “When we arrive, we receive a wonderful welcome from CSU,” says Cass.

Cass says, “I am a member of the Honor Flight Network because I am a strong supporter of veterans. I consider my involvement to be a great service to our nation.”

For details about Honor Flight Northern Colorado, visit honorflightnorthernco.org.

by Becky Jerzem (’63)

It’s Easier than Ever to Volunteer

Diana Atad, B.A., Technical Journalism, ’97, Life Member
Diana Atad says it perfectly, “I left Colorado State in 1997, but CSU has never left me.” This statement is true for thousands of our proud Rams across the country.

Although Atad lives 1,000 miles from Fort Collins, she stays connected to her fellow alumni by volunteering as co-president of the Chicago Ram Network. Ram Network volunteers help to engage alumni in more than 40 cities in the United States through game-watch parties, CSUnity projects, social media, and scholarship reviews. For her, the best part of volunteering through the Alumni Association is welcoming fellow Rams who are new to the city of Chicago and creating an instant network of friends for them.

Volunteering with the CSU Alumni Association is an easy way to give back to the University in a meaningful way. “The Alumni Association backs us up, so you always have someone to check in with, get a question answered, and talk event logistics,” says Atad. “The takeaway is that volunteers can organize some fun occasions without feeling overwhelmed.”

For more information, visit www.alumni.colostate.edu
Sustaining Life Member Spotlight
How a Biochemist Bonds with CSU

You could say green and gold are in Kristin Victry’s (B.S., ’90; M.S., ’95) genes. The biochemist grew up in Fort Collins and started going to Colorado State University basketball games by age 2. She’s a third-generation Ram and says, “My life has never not included CSU.”

Victry always knew she would attend Colorado State, and she had a great academic experience as a Ram. Today, she lives with her family in Washington and works in the Biodetection Science Group at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Life members like Victry ensure that the Alumni Association is able to develop the programs and communications that connect alumni to what’s happening at CSU. Her support helps fellow Rams maintain strong ties to traditions, events, and other alumni. The Sustaining Life Member Program is an opportunity for life members like Victry to do even more. Sustaining life members provide additional, annual support to enhance existing alumni programs and develop new ones – making our Ram network stronger for years to come.

Victry’s Favorite Ways To Stay Connected
“I like getting Around the Oval in the mail, and the CSU Facebook pages are fabulous.” She admits CAM’s page is her favorite. “When CAM is ready to retire, he can come to my house. We have a fenced pasture for him. We can give him a forever home.” When Victry sees a social media post about Orange-Out Day on campus, she proudly wears an Aggie orange T-shirt to work in Washington. Her co-workers have gotten used to her unwavering Ram pride.

Visit www.alumni.colostate.edu to learn more.

SUSTAINING LIFE – Life members can further their support of the Alumni Association by making annual contributions to the Sustaining Life Member program.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP dollars support the Alumni Association endowment, making possible what we do – now, and in the future.
Colleen Meyer: New Beginnings

Colleen Meyer (’94) led the Alumni Association through a period of tremendous growth and success during her seven-year tenure as executive director. In early August, she started a new chapter in her professional career as managing director of donor relations and gift stewardship in CSU’s University Advancement division. Seeing her leave is not easy, but we benefit by knowing that she is staying at CSU and will continue to make a significant impact on the alumni community.

As Meyer wrapped up her time with the association, she graciously sat down to answer questions about her accomplishments, her new role, and the importance of giving back.

The Alumni Association has reached new heights under your leadership. What is your proudest accomplishment?

Overall, I’m proud that we’ve been able to elevate the association’s relevance. We’ve moved beyond just hosting tailgates (and those are still important!) to building a robust Homecoming and Family Weekend, offering career services, and providing programs that support student scholarships. We’ve made intentional efforts to provide opportunities for alumni to engage with CSU in ways that are meaningful to them.

Your lifetime commitment to CSU shows through your work, service, and giving. What inspires and motivates you?

The people. Not a day passes that I’m not in awe of the generosity, wisdom, and compassion that our alumni, donors, volunteers, students, faculty, and staff have for CSU and each other.

How do you see the Alumni Association moving forward?

Kristi: Wear comfortable shoes during Homecoming and Family Weekend!

How do you and your husband give back to CSU and the community?

Gratitude is an important value in our family. Philanthropically, we do what we can to support and invest in CSU and our community in ways that are meaningful to us and will have an impact on the well-being of others. We also give back by volunteering, hiring CSU interns, buying from local businesses, and in other ways. Our 10-year-old daughter, Karlie, has found her calling in philanthropy too. She donates the profits from her lemonade stands to the local humane society and scours every couch cushion, car console, and purse for spare change to add to her “change for charity” jar.

What are you looking forward to most in your new role as managing director of donor relations and gift stewardship?

I’m looking forward to enhancing CSU’s culture of gratitude and appreciation for our donors. It’s the act of giving that we should recognize, not just the size of the donation. I think we have incredible opportunities ahead to tell the stories of impact that our donors are making on our students and this world-class University.

What will you miss most about leading the Alumni Association?

I’ll miss working with the dedicated, creative, and talented alumni relations staff. They work incredibly hard on behalf of more than 200,000 alumni worldwide. And I’ll miss working with our past and current boards of directors. They’ve been my rocks, mentors, and confidants through thick and thin.

Any final thoughts for alumni and friends who are reading this?

You’ve enriched our lives. We are so grateful to call you family.

There’s something magical about giving back and helping others. It evokes an indescribable emotion that is personal and moving. It’s worth every penny, every minute, and even sticky lemonade footprints on the kitchen floor!

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You’ve enriched our lives. We are so grateful to call you family.

Auto insurance as special as your alma mater.

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OCTOBER 15-17, 2015