

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2015

Around^{THE} Oval

Live your passions



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Colorado State University
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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

Cover: Middle Cabin Star Trail, CSU Mountain Campus. RYAN KIRKPATRICK ('06)
Top: Homecoming and Family Weekend Parade, CSU Campus. CSU PHOTOGRAPHY
Bottom: Homecoming and Family Weekend Friday Night Lights, CSU Campus. CSU PHOTOGRAPHY



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!**

Around ^{THE} Oval

SUMMER 2015

Mission of *Around the Oval*: To build relationships and conduct conversations with members of the CSU Alumni Association.

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CSU Alumni Association members make this publication possible. Keep Rams connected and become a member today.

HIGH NOTES AND STARLIGHT

RYAN KIRKPATRICK'S DISTRACTIONS

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

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYAN KIRKPATRICK

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 4x1-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’s 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





THE VIEW FROM THE TOP OF MOUNT KILIMANJARO. COURTESY RYAN KIRKPATRICK

tripod, pointed the lens skyward, set an ultra-long exposure, and waited while the Earth turned. The resulting photograph shows a small cabin beneath a vault of stars represented as graceful concentric arcs. The image reveals each star, each bright little distraction, as one part of a unified panorama.

Kirkpatrick credits Bill Bertschy with helping him see his distractions as a career toolkit. The Fort Collins community pillar and double CSU alumnus served as director of the Mountain Campus for more than three decades. During that time, he initiated CSU’s Elderhostel program for older adults; helped launch Eco-Week, an environmental science program for Poudre School District fifth-graders; and led rebuilding efforts following the 1994 Hourglass Fire that nearly destroyed the campus. He retired from CSU in 2008, and then founded a nonprofit organization called the Mountains and Plains Institute for Lifelong Learning and Service. Kirkpatrick had worked with Bertschy at Pingree and helped get the institute off the ground.

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 beyond occasionally make the list.

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 with early-onset Parkinson’s disease. He 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 mountain 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 Hatton and Andrew Berlin have been a part of every studio recording Kirkpatrick has

MEMBER PROFILE

created. Hatton was Kirkpatrick’s piano teacher at CSU and Berlin is an engineer/multi-instrumentalist at Blasting Room Studios in Fort Collins.

The 14ers opened for ALO at the Mishawaka Amphitheatre in 2012 and performed more than 60 shows last year, including one in Amsterdam. In March, they joined more than 100 Colorado bands at the SXSW Colorado Music Party in Austin, Texas, supported in part by the Fort Collins grassroots music nonprofit SpokesBUZZ.

Since work takes Kirkpatrick away from his wife, AnnMarie, and two young kids, for 20 weeks every year, he tries to protect his time with them by booking shows locally or wherever his guiding trips take him. “My biggest challenge is

time,” he says. “I wonder how much more I could do if I didn’t have to sleep.”

That sentiment might explain the title of his latest project. *I’m Awake* will be a



documentary featuring the music of The 14ers and behind-the-scenes footage of Kirkpatrick’s adventures. “Life is short, do what you

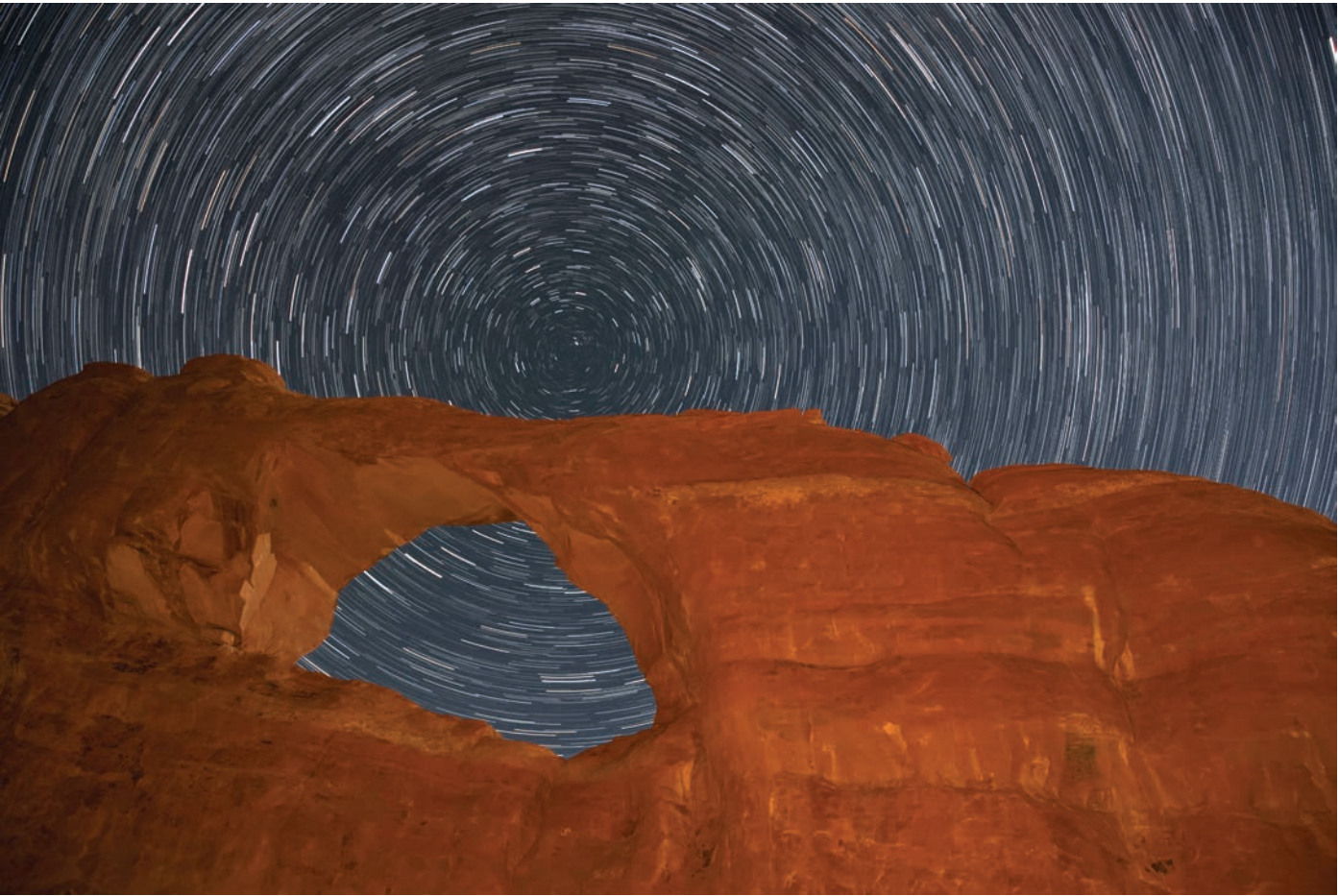
love,” says Kirkpatrick, who is still distracted by just about everything. 🍷🎵

by Ben Fogelberg (B.A. '94, M.A. '98)

I’M A MEMBER BECAUSE



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.



SKYLINE ARCH, UTAH. COURTESY RYAN KIRKPATRICK



LOCAL MUSIC-SCENE CHAMPION BRIDGES REAL WORLD AND CLASSROOM TO HELP CREATIVE ECONOMY THRIVE

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 that's tough to crack.

ESTABLISHING ROOTS

Grant grew up on the East Coast, splitting time between her free-spirited artist mother and her business-savvy dad. She inherited the best of both worlds. Eager for experience beyond the textbook, Grant left the M.B.A. program at the University of Denver to start her own project management consulting firm. That bold move, combined with her unbridled passion for music, led to live-music event production, including festival management.

Fast forward to 2004, when Grant and

husband, Matt Hoeven, moved to his hometown of Fort Collins to start a family and a business together. They opened Chipper's Lanes – family-friendly bowling alleys named for Matt's late brother Chip, a former Colorado State University graduate student.

Chipper's was right up their entrepreneurial alley. But Grant, now a mother of three, wanted to do more to support local artists, amplify the Northern Colorado 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 international attention at the 2015 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, bands have been further promoted through BandSwap 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 Poudre 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.

“THE UNIVERSITY IS ASKING ITSELF, ‘HOW DO WE PREPARE OUR STUDENTS FOR THE REAL WORLD AND HELP THEM FIND THEIR PLACE IN CREATIVE INDUSTRIES AFTER GRADUATION?’”



BRIDGING MUSIC INDUSTRY AND CAMPUS

As if running a nonprofit, mentoring 12 bands, and managing a legendary music venue weren't enough, in 2012, Grant began consulting with RamEvents, CSU's student programming board. In this role, she works with the University to produce and present national acts, such as Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, on campus. She also hosts local musicians at CSU events.

In August 2015, SpokesBUZZ and RamEvents kicked off a 28-week concert series at the Ramskeller in the revitalized Lory Student Center. SpokesBUZZ and campus media CTV, KCSU, and the *Rocky Mountain Collegian*, will collaborate to cover each event and broaden their audiences.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE REAL WORLD

Through SpokesBUZZ internships, CSU students such as Sommer Grandchamp with RamEvents dive into real-world event production and promotion. "Being one of the student coordinators for this fall's Lee Brice concert allows me to immerse myself in blending music and event coordination. SpokesBUZZ

is an amazing outlet for me to take on responsibility and learn new things that will shape my career."

CSU interns also spend time at the Mishawaka Amphitheatre developing marketing plans, working with artists, and gaining invaluable behind-the-scenes experience.

Mama-bear Grant assures, "Interns get a controlled, friendly introduction to the music industry – not a traumatic trial by fire."

The partnership between CSU and SpokesBUZZ doesn't end with internships and concert series. Grant is working with the University to develop a Music Industry 101 curriculum for CSU-Global. Online courses will be available in 2016.

"CSU is doing a great job of reaching out to connect students with the culture and resources of their community," says Grant. "The University is asking itself, 'How do we prepare our students for the real world and help them find their place in creative industries after graduation?'" In the long run, Grant is convinced that collaboration is the answer to helping students, academia, and industry strike the right chord.

by Becky Jensen ('93)



RAM FAMILY CONNECTION

Dani Grant and Matt Hoeven may not be alumni, but they have strong ties to CSU. Hoeven's brother, Chip, was working on his M.B.A. when he was killed in a motorcycle accident. His dad, Jim, was a respected finance professor in the College of Business before losing his battle with cancer. Every year, scholarships are given in their memories and funded through the Hoeven Games, a golf tournament in its 18th year.

I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



The creative industries are the culture of our community, and CSU recognizes their value. As more and more CSU graduates enter the creative class workforce, the Alumni Association maintains a sense of community and facilitates industry connections to help them thrive. I want to support that.



DANI DANCING WITH DAUGHTER EVELYN

Nadine Henry *a tribute*

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 30.

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. One auspicious night, at a dance in the Johnson Hall Ballroom, she met Jim Henry. They had so much in common that they went horseback riding together the next day. They wed in 1940, two days after Jim graduated with an animal sciences degree.

Colorado State was so special to Nadine and Jim that they dedicated a "Ram Room" in their home for CSU photos and memorabilia. Colorado State was also a primary channel for them to give back, which they did in many ways. In fact, they were so good at giving back that the Alumni Association gave them the distinct honor of "Alumni of the Century" in 2000.

Their generosity was not only financial, but ran deeper as they encouraged others to give and improve themselves and their communities. They nurtured future leaders with the many scholar-

ships they created and established connections diverse and far-reaching.

Nadine and Jim helped pioneer the 1870 Club in the mid-1980s, which created a true culture of giving for CSU's biggest donors. The annual 1870 Dinner is a chance for philanthropists, corporate leaders, alumni, and friends to come together and celebrate Colorado State's pursuit of excellence as a world-class University.

It's this devotion to excellence that inspired the Alumni Association to create the Jim and Nadine Henry Award, which has been presented annually since 1988 to individuals who demonstrate extraordinary service to CSU and its academic, athletics, and alumni programs.

These individuals, who do so much for the CSU community, keep Nadine and Jim's legacy thriving. Although Nadine and Jim are no longer with us, their example will live on through these and all future recipients.

E. Michael Rosser, who received the award in 2000, graduated from Colorado State's College of Liberal Arts in 1964 and has never wavered in his commitment to the University. For decades, he has given an abundance of his time and resources to CSU, including serving as the president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, co-founding the Everitt Real Estate Center, and supporting countless committees Universitywide.

Rosser, known for his bow ties and kind nature, was close friends with Nadine. He talked with her only three weeks before she passed away and recalled their conversation fondly. "She was the same Nadine who I had talked to over the last 50 years. Her mind was sharp, and her interest in people and the University was strong, just as it always was."

"Nadine was always there to lend



her support and encouragement," Mike Rosser continued. "She was my friend, mentor, coach, and teacher and had the essential qualities that make a good leader.

One could write a book about all the lives, like Mike Rosser's, that Nadine has touched and influenced. Her desire to serve more than herself has created a wonderful chain reaction of good that will continue to grow through the generations.

Nadine is survived by her children Denzel Henry and his wife Kathy, Linda Henry, Kathleen Henry, and Sharon Crangle and her husband, David; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. She was devoted to her family, and they may be her greatest legacy.

Scholarships were an essential part of the Henrys' support of CSU. They established several, including ones 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 Schapker

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5P8

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

ALUMNI CENTER



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



NELLE PIERSON WITH STEPHEN COLBERT

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 that belief into action one ride at a time in Washington, D.C.

Her personal revolution started in 2006 at Colorado State University. At that time, more than 10,000 students, faculty, and staff rode their bikes to and across campus every day. The racks outside the student center, academic buildings, and residence halls bristled with a glorious variety of form and style: mountain bikes, road bikes, hybrids, chromed cruisers, fixies, commuters, and an occasional recumbent that may or may not have been made from scratch by an engineering professor.

Each of those 10,000 bikes meant something to its owner, but Pierson's was truly special. "I chose CSU because it was the state school I could afford, and I was smitten with Fort Collins," she says. "I knew I couldn't keep my car,



PIERSON EDUCATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CYCLISTS

so I gave my beloved Jeep to my dad and came to campus with a beautiful pawnshop bike. Thirty years old. Green and gold. The model was called Free Spirit, which I loved."

"When I arrived on campus, I realized very quickly that my bike was going to be my life," Pierson recalls, admitting that she lacked a helmet, lights, and lock at first. That changed after she fell in with a group of "quintessential badass women" who taught her how to fix a flat, and ride safely in traffic, and other bike basics. "CSU attracts all these cool kids from around the country," she says, remembering rides with her new friends along the Poudre River and hanging out in Old Town. "I probably spent a third of my student loan at the Bean Cycle."

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 environ-

I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



I want to be a member of a community linked to the University that provided me with a supportive and inspiring environment to grow and thrive!

mentally conscious mom who grew up in D.C. Her grandfather had worked on Capitol Hill. Politics ran through her veins, and a political science major seemed natural. Looking back on her academic experience, she cites Dr. John Straayer's legislative internship program and classes on climate change, economics, and gender taught by professors outside her major as foundational elements of her worldview and career path. "I feel privileged to have received the education that I did. And with privilege comes the weight of responsibility to do some good with it."

Two weeks after graduation, she moved to Washington, D.C., and got an internship with the House Appropriations Committee for Interior and the 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 Bicyclist 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 one that owes its structure, and its logo, to her CSU experience.

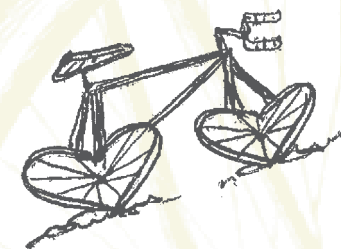
In D.C., just 26 percent of bicyclists are women, a statistic reflective of the high number of white-collar female workers there. Remembering her sup-

portive group of "badass" mentors at CSU, Pierson set out to design a pro-to-protégé program that would encourage more women to bike and become teachers, or what she calls "roll models." Since 2013, the Women & Bicycles program has inspired more than 3,000 women to make biking part of their everyday lives. Last year, the Alliance for Walking and Biking recognized her efforts by naming her the 2014 Bike Advocate of the Year.

Since then, Pierson has continued to model "roll model" behavior. In May,

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-remembered love of pedaling just for the fun of it.

by Ben Fogelberg (B.A. '94, M.A. '98)



LOGO BASED ON PIERSON'S NOTEBOOK DOODLE (ABOVE).

she helped coordinate D.C.'s version of New Belgium Brewing's Tour de Fat bike festival. "I would never have imagined it would've come to the buttoned-up, type-A capital of the world," she says. "You can't imagine how thrilled I was to bring my Fort Collins culture to D.C." Nine thousand people participated, and the event raised more than \$65,000 for local nonprofits. And today, she's filling in as WABA's interim executive director.



PIERSON (TOP LEFT) AND HER CSU "ROLL MODELS."

Online Learning

Personal Enrichment

Oct. 1-31 Weight Loss for the Long Term (online class)
Nov. 3 The Caregiver Experience (free webinar)

Career Development

Sept. 1-30 Career Fit (online class)
Sept. 10 Creating Inclusive Conversations (free webinar)
Oct. 20 Understanding Your Strengths (free webinar)
Nov. 1-30 Career Fit (online class)
Nov. 4 & 11 Understanding Your Strengths (webshop)

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 80220 – 5-7 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 Frickman, 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! Kickoff at 5 p.m. Purchase game tickets at www.csurams.com.



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

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.

101st 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 revisiting your old stomping grounds, join us on Homecoming & Family Weekend and help us celebrate all that is CSU!



OCT. 15-17

15
16

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

17

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.

SHATTERING RECORDS BECAUSE OF YOU



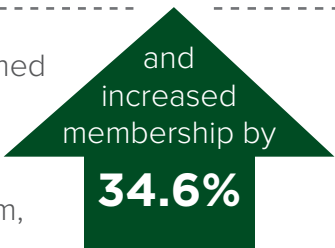
Colorado State University alumni, friends, and other supporters have delivered the largest amount of philanthropic giving ever raised by a single campus in a single year at a Colorado university.

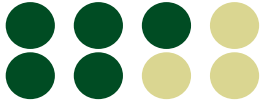
\$172.3 Million
combined donations
from more than
34,000 donors



highest rate of
ALUMNI PARTICIPATION
in CSU history

The Alumni Association welcomed
4,399 new members,
raised **\$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



Impacting the student experience and projects across campus through:



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student health and well-being



athletics success

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&M, and he was proud to be an Aggie. He joined the ROTC and studied engineering to, 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 oldest daughter sent him a newspaper article she thought he would appreciate. It was about the national Honor Flight Network.

The Honor Flight Network is a group of 135 Honor Flight chapters, or regional nonprofit “hubs,” dedicated to transporting American veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials that honor their military service. The trips are free, but space is limited, so priority is given to World War II and terminally ill veterans.

The Honor Flight program resonated with Cass. For him, it was personal.

When he returned from Vietnam, Cass did not receive a hero’s welcome. “Nobody gave a hoot about us,” he says. “Every veteran has a right to be acknowledged. Each Honor Flight is an opportunity to say thank you. It’s a big step forward in appre-

ciating our veterans.”

Cass had a new mission. In 2008, he established Honor Flight Northern Colorado and raised enough money to fly more than 200 World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., during the hub’s inaugural year.

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.

Honor Flight Northern Colorado is becoming a strong semiannual tradition for Rams in Colorado and the D.C. area. Alumni are encouraged to wear CSU colors, bring flags, and show their appreciation for veterans at the 15th Honor Flight Northern Colorado event on Sept. 13, 2015.

For details about the Honor Flight send-off in Colorado, and the D.C. Ram Network welcome reception in Baltimore, visit calendar.colostate.edu and click on Alumni Calendar.

For more information about Honor Flight Northern Colorado, visit honorflightnortherncolorado.org.

by Becky Jensen ('93)



STAN CASS

I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



It was very satisfying when I came back to Colorado to find I still had some Aggie classmates living in the area. My wife and I immediately got involved with CSU. Now, some of our happiest times are attending football games, being involved with the CSU Beef Club, and observing the fervent reaction to some of my passions, such as Honor Flight. I am very proud to be an Aggie and to have a daughter and son-in-law who are both CSU grads!

It's Easier than Ever to Volunteer

www.alumni.colostate.edu



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.”

**3 Ways
to Volunteer**

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October 4-15, 2016

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.

I'M A SUSTAINING LIFE MEMBER BECAUSE

I don't live in Fort Collins anymore and I miss being part of the CSU community. The Alumni Association allows me to keep that connection with CSU and my hometown.

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.



KRISTIN VICTRY WITH HER SONS

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.



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Visit alumni.colostate.edu for details,
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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.



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 blown away by 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? Do you have any words of wisdom for your successor, Kristi Bohlender?

Having a new Alumni Center on campus will catapult our alumni engagement. I am thrilled that alumni will have a state-of-the-art place to connect, collaborate, and celebrate with one another. Our alumni deserve it. Words of wisdom for

Kristi: Wear comfortable shoes during Homecoming and Family Weekend!

You're married to another CSU graduate. What does it mean to be part of the Ram family?

My husband, Keith ('93), and I are proud to be CSU alumni. We brag about our alma mater every chance we get. We were both born and raised in Colorado, so being part of this land-grant institution is a natural fit. Being part of the Ram family means supporting CSU through good and tough times and through opportunities for change and progress. There is nothing we want more than to see CSU continue to rise in all areas (research, teaching, athletics, and academics).

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.

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!

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.

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.

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

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



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