

A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2016

Around^{THE} Oval

PASSING
DOWN PRIDE



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HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

This is our time to celebrate the people, places, and the traditions that make Colorado State University so special. Whether you are celebrating your first or 50th Homecoming, the weekend is sure to create a lifetime of memories for people of all ages.

Visit the official Homecoming & Family Weekend website at www.homecoming.colostate.edu to plan your weekend, find event information and purchase tickets.

While on campus, stop by the Lory Student Center and visit the Alumni Association's information desk to pick up your complete Homecoming & Family Weekend guide and for more information.

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!



Greetings from your University!

The highlight of my summer has been connecting with some of you in person through my travels across the country. I have had the pleasure of traveling with President Tony Frank to nearly every corner of Colorado along with stops outside of our great state, and will treasure the stories you have shared, the conversations we have had, and the insight you have provided on what it means to be a part of the Colorado State University alumni family.

Some interesting stories have surfaced along the way about families that have proud legacies here. To me, these stories reflect the power of CSU's land-grant mission and its ability to continue to provide access and opportunity to generation after generation of Rams. In this issue of *Around the Oval*, we are excited to bring a few of these stories to you. I was moved by the power of our great University in shaping their lives, and I hope you find them as inspiring as I do!

Excitement continues to grow as we prepare to open the Michael & Iris Smith Alumni Center in 2017. We are so grateful to the Smiths and others for their support of this fantastic building, and will soon be rolling out opportunities for all alumni to be involved in the project. We are less than a year away from having a facility to welcome you home!

We hope you are holding the weekend of Oct. 6-8 for this year's Homecoming & Family Weekend – it will be a fantastic celebration of Ram pride, and we would love for you to join us! Also, right after Homecoming we will be sending an all CSU alumni survey asking for your feedback on your experiences. We would love to know your thoughts so we can better connect with you.



Ram proud,
Kristi Bohlender
Kristi Bohlender, B.S. '93; M.B.A. '95
and Life Member

Cover: The CSU Administration building on the Oval looking east.
Top: Homecoming & Family Weekend bonfire on the west lawn.
Bottom: A family enjoys the Homecoming & Family Weekend alumni reception.
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, to CSU in meaningful ways. **THANK YOU!**



Around ^{THE} Oval

SUMMER 2016

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

EDITOR
Angie Dixon ('94)

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Ben Fogelberg (B.A., '94; M.A., '98)
Ann Gill ('76)
Becky Jensen ('93)
Amy Jo Miller

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Vance Sherwood ('99)

PHOTOGRAPHY
CSU Creative Services

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Kristi Bohlender
Executive Director (B.S. '93; M.B.A. '95)

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Colorado State University
7114 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-7114
(800) 286-2586
(970) 491-6533 (phone)
(970) 491-0798 (fax)
CSUAlumni@colostate.edu
alumni.colostate.edu

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CSU Alumni Association members like you make this publication possible.

CROCKETT GILLMORE

After being drafted 99th overall in 2014 by the Baltimore Ravens, former Rams football player Crockett Gillmore's reputation is growing. The 6-foot-6-inch tight end is known for being a tough guy. During the first game of the 2015 season against the Denver Broncos, he dislocated his shoulder and tore his labrum. Rather than head for the locker room, he popped his own shoulder back into place and played the rest of the game. While at Colorado State University, he played an entire game with a broken rib. Gillmore claims injuries are 90 percent mental.

"I TRAINED MYSELF MY WHOLE LIFE TO SUCK IT UP AND NOT FEEL IT," SAID GILLMORE.



Gillmore grew up in Bushland, a small town in the Texas Panhandle, in a sports family. He has three older brothers and a younger sister. Living next door to the Gillmore family had its drawbacks. During backyard batting practice when he was seven, Gillmore broke not one, but two windows in a neighbor's house. What did his mother say? Well...she was pitching.

In high school, he also played basketball, wrestled, and ran track, but it was football that took him to the next level. Colorado State University recruited him to play defensive end, which he did his freshman year. Then, at a spring practice session, head coach Steve Fairchild informed Gillmore he would "get reps" at tight end the following day. He scored on his first play as tight



GILLMORE RUNNING OVER WASHINGTON REDSKINS LINEBACKER KEENAN ROBINSON.

end that next practice and, as he came off the field, Fairchild came up to him and announced he now was the Rams' starting tight end. That moment is one of Gillmore's favorite memories.

He also is known for running over opponents. During his senior year at the University of New Mexico, he caught a pass, then ran over five Lobos players and made several others miss on his way to a first down. The TV sportscasters went wild, saying he looked like "a man among boys" on the field. In a 2015 game against the Oakland Raiders, Gillmore broke tackles and dragged two defenders into the end zone as he scored his second touchdown of the game.

Gillmore credits his father, who coached his grade-school football team, with developing his tough-guy mentality.

"When I was in third grade, Dad had us scrimmage against my brother Austin's team." Austin, also a CSU alumnus, is two years older than Gillmore. "Austin has always been a better athlete. He was stronger and faster and tougher than I was. That day, Austin's team ran the same play four times. The first three times, Austin ran over me. The fourth time, I tackled him. That was my deciding moment – I was not going to take a hit; I was going to give it. Dad always told me, 'football is like Christmas; it is better to give than to receive.' I realized at an early age that whoever wants it more is going to win."

He prepares himself for a game and his extremely physical style of play by "taking care of my body. You have to get lots of rest. You have to eat lots of calories." He gets massages

and "needling," which is similar to acupuncture. But the biggest part of preparation, Gillmore says, is mental.

"I believe you can control your body with your mind," he said.

He credits not only his father's philosophy on toughness for this perspective but also a psychology course he took one summer at CSU from Dr. Steve Ross, who Gillmore says taught him that everything is mental.

"The people you surround yourself with determine who you are going to be," says Gillmore. "The way you carry yourself when no one is watching will affect who you become."

The course had a profound impact on Gillmore, who still keeps in contact with his favorite professor.

Gillmore married former Rams basketball player Hayley Thompson in July. He met her in Corbett Hall the summer before their freshman year. In his version of that story, he came down to breakfast after his first night in the residence hall and immediately spotted her. His proposal on July 4, 2015, made as big a splash on sports media sites as his play on the field. Gillmore and Thompson were in his Texas hometown shooting guns on a range in an alfalfa field when he suddenly dropped to his knee and asked this tall, beautiful woman who was holding a rifle, to be his wife. The leadoff sentence from a Fox Sports online article was, "If the lady you're about to propose to is holding a gun, you better be sure she's going to say yes."

Gillmore says he got many wonderful things from CSU, including "a degree, a wife, a best man, lifelong friends, and

my best coach ever – Art Valero." His favorite memories of CSU include Saturday morning spring practices at Hughes Stadium in "that wonderful Colorado weather" and "fishing in all the local watering holes." But, he admits, "sometimes I got run off because I had chosen to ignore 'No trespassing/private property' signs."

Gillmore also loved being around the guys on his team, and he still keeps in touch with many of them, including other next-level Rams, Weston Richburg, who also was his high school teammate, Garrett Grayson, Shaq Barrett, Ty Sambrailo, Rashard "Hollywood" Higgins, Joe Hansley, and Cory James.

His plans after the NFL? He wants to be "a coach, a motivational speaker, and a dad." Gillmore is also very excited about the opening of the Rams' new stadium in 2017.

"AN ON-CAMPUS STADIUM CREATES A GREAT HOME-TEAM ATMOSPHERE, AND I CANNOT WAIT TO SEE THAT AT COLORADO STATE."

by Ann Gill ('76)



Gillmore married former Rams basketball player Hayley Thompson in July. He met her in Corbett Hall the summer before their freshman year. "If the lady you're about to propose to is holding a gun, you better be sure she's going to say yes."

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

THE CSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION works hard every day to serve your interests and keep you connected, and your opinions, needs and concerns have always been an important part of our planning efforts. As we continue to build for the future, we are asking all CSU alumni to take the 2016 CSU Alumni Association Survey.

In addition to helping us learn more about your experience at Colorado State University and how it influenced your life, your answers will help us improve alumni programs and develop new ways to serve alumni and keep you connected to your alma mater.

The confidential online survey will be sent to all CSU alumni with an e-mail address starting October 26. If we currently don't have your e-mail address, or if you are not receiving electronic communications from the Alumni Association, please visit our website at alumni.colostate.edu and click on Update Your Address to provide a current email address and other important contact information before October 1.

Please join your fellow alumni in participating in this online alumni survey. Your input is essential and will guide our planning for the future.



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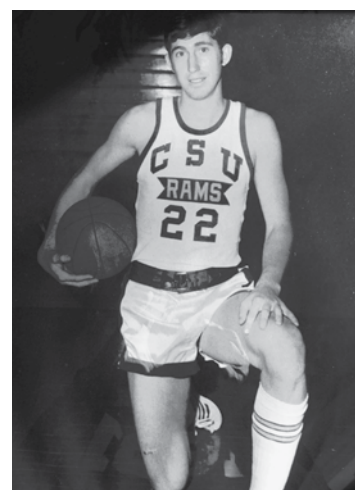
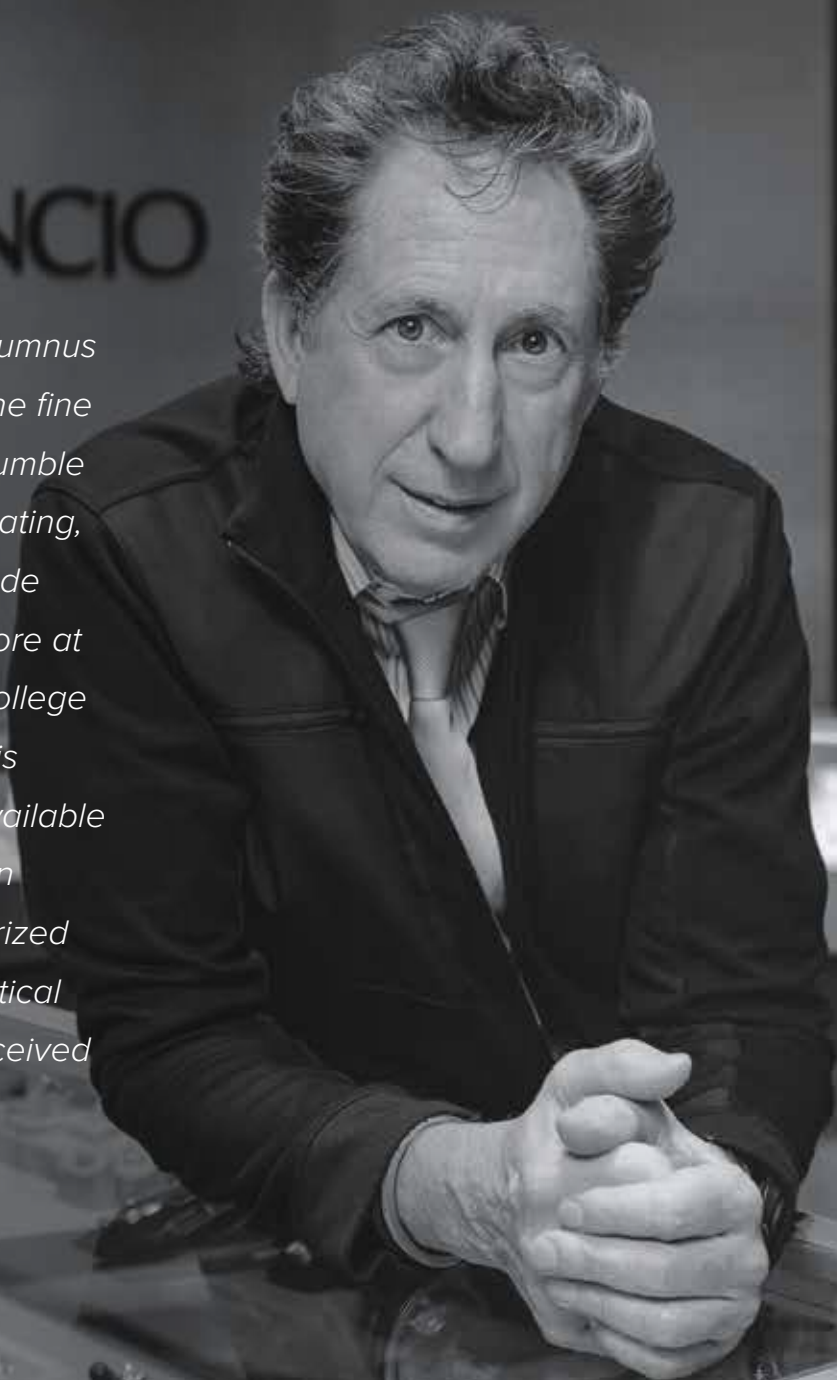


Every purchase supports Colorado State University. Details are available at alumni.colostate.edu

ONE GEM OF A RAM

JOHN ATENCIO

It's been 40 years since alumnus John Atencio burst onto the fine jewelry scene. From his humble beginnings designing, creating, and selling a few handmade pieces from a case in a small store at the intersection of Laurel and College in Fort Collins, to today where his "sustainable, wearable art" is available through seven boutique stores in Colorado and 18 national authorized retailers, Atencio has earned critical acclaim for his work and has received numerous awards.



ATENCIO IN 1968. HE WAS A GUARD FOR CSU'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM.

With this kind of success, one would think that Atencio always dreamed of being an artist and a fine-jewelry designer but, growing up, that wasn't the first thing on his mind. While always interested in art, thanks in part to an inspirational uncle who worked closely with Walt Disney, Atencio's true passion was basketball. His real dreams revolved around one day playing in the National Basketball Association.

Born in Wheat Ridge, Colo., Atencio was a basketball star in high school, proving his talent by helping lead his team to victory in the 1968 state basketball championship game. After receiving scholarship offers from other colleges, Atencio decided to play basketball for Colorado State University after a recruitment visit.

"I had never been to CSU or Fort Collins," Atencio says, "but I thought the town was so charming and the people were really nice. I could see myself going to CSU."

He thrived on the basketball court at CSU. But it was his time in the art department that he really flourished.

Motivated by his desire to always create, and to always learn to create, Atencio chose art as his major at CSU. He credits the art department and the variety of art classes and resources available to him for sparking his interest in jewelry design.

"I learned what I needed to learn from the art department," Atencio says. "The skills they taught me are the cornerstone of what I do every day."

Sneaking into the art studio at night became a regular routine for Atencio. There, he would experiment by soldering simple shapes together, which became the basis for his early creations, which he sold to family, friends, and co-workers at Round the Corner, the local restaurant where he

worked. His restaurant job gave him money to buy supplies, time to make jewelry, and, because he was in management, a taste of learning how to run a business.

After his second year of school, he changed his major to business after a discussion with his

dad who didn't think art was a viable, moneymaking major. But he didn't really know what to with a business major, so he started exploring his options.

"I took a marketing class around branding, and it got me wondering if I could create my own jewelry brand," Atencio recalls. "That class really helped connect the dots for me with jewelry and branding."

With his trusty main source of transportation, his red spray-painted bike, Big Red, getting him around town, he continued on his path, going to work and then to Rainmaker, a small jeweler off an alley near campus, where he made his jewelry. He also began selling from Leather Limited, where he had a rented case in one corner of the store.

It was in 1975 when he made both the emotional and financial commitment to pursue his newfound dream.

"I was winning awards and growing capital while doing something that was bringing me great personal satisfaction," says Atencio. "The only way to I was going to give this a shot was to jump in with both feet."

Atencio opened his first store in Campus West in 1975 and attributes the relationships he made at CSU as a big factor in getting him off the ground.

"After I got out of school, the University indirectly supported me," he says. "The connections and networking and relationships I made along the way played an instrumental role in my future. Even to this day, I still have a tremendous following from people who went to CSU."

And when it came time for his niece, Dianna, and nephew, David, to make



decisions on where they should go to college, Atencio shared his experiences to help guide their decisions. Dianna is a schoolteacher and mother of four in Denver, and David is Atencio's right-hand man, working with him in the business.

Today, Atencio stays connected to the University as a way to say thanks for all it gave him. In addition to supporting the Alumni Association and athletics, he supports the art department by giving students excess gems and stones so that they can explore their passions, just as he did 40 years ago.

"Without the CSU experience, curriculum, and the lifelong support from alumni, I don't think I would be sitting here talking to you today," he says.

by Angie Dixon ('94)

I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



"When you are business owner, relationships are so important, and CSU is the place to make those relationships.

The Alumni Association is a great way for the University and alumni to stay in touch with each other."

ONE FAMILY MAKING A

DIFFERENCE

Blanche Hughes, Colorado State University vice president for student affairs, is a Ram at heart, and wherever life takes her, she always finds her way back home.

Blanche grew up in Lexington, Ky., then went to Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., where she received an undergraduate degree, played point guard on the women's basketball team, and discovered her passion. That discovery came from the extraordinary number of activities in which she was involved. In addition to being a student-athlete, she was a teaching assistant for an English professor and an RA in the residence halls, served on the student judiciary committee, and directed the coed intramural program. After graduating from Earlham, Blanche stayed on campus as a residence director, admissions receptionist, and counselor; after four years, she served as the director of a support office for students.

All those activities changed the plan Blanche had from an early age to become an elementary school teacher. Working in student affairs in higher education became her goal, and she was accepted into several graduate programs, including Harvard and Colorado State University. While that seemed like an easy choice, one visit to Harvard convinced her it was not the place for her or her family, which by then included two children. So, she and her family packed up and headed to Fort Collins, where Colorado State had offered her an assistantship in housing services as well as a fellowship.

During her master's program, Blanche also volunteered at Black Student Services and, after completing her degree, became CSU's first assistant director of apartment life. A year into that role, the director of Black Student

Services resigned. Blanche interviewed for the job and was hired in 1985.

When her husband, Wayne, was transferred to Texas in 1989, Blanche requested a two-year leave of absence from CSU and began attending the University of Texas in Austin, taking courses toward a doctoral degree. The family returned to Fort Collins a year later when Wayne received a promotion, and Blanche was offered an assistantship focusing on diversity projects and education in the in the Dean's Office for the College of Applied Human Sciences. She resumed her role as director of Black Student Services in 1991. Never one to be content with one full-time job, Blanche continued working on a Ph.D. in the Department of Sociology, which she completed in 1995.

During those years at CSU, Blanche also worked with groups and offices all over campus, which helped create her extraordinary network of people. She was part of starting the HELP/Success Center (now CASA – Center for Advising and Student Achievement), worked with the Multicultural Infusion Project, served on committees for the Department of Athletics' NCAA reaccreditations, started the African American Success class, and was involved in many other activities that improved CSU.

In 1998, Wayne's job again took the family away from Fort Collins, this time to Colorado Springs. Blanche taught sociology at Pikes Peak Community College and served as department chair. When the family returned to Fort Collins

“WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT CSU IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE TRULY CARE ABOUT YOU. YOU ARE NOT A NUMBER. YOU MATTER. FROM CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TO FACULTY AND IN-CLASS INTERACTIONS, YOU MATTER. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

after two years, Blanche was named interim assistant vice president for student affairs following a resignation in that office and later became the permanent assistant vice president. She was promoted to associate vice president, then became the vice president for student affairs in 2006. During this time, she helped start the Ram Welcome program and served as the acting vice president for diversity while chairing the search committee for the University's first vice president in this area. She has been a partner in leading the Student Success Initiatives on campus and assumed leadership of the Student-Athlete Support Services Program for Athletics. Albert Bimper, senior associate athletics director for diversity and inclusion and faculty member in the Department of Ethnic Studies, praises her work with student-athletes.

“Blanche makes sure that the entire campus community remembers our student-athletes are students of our University. Therefore, she's both an advocate and an anchor of accountability for the holistic growth and success of our students who happen to be athletes.”

Two of Blanche's four children hold CSU degrees. Her daughter, Dana, graduated in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in performing arts, and now works for the United Nations in Nairobi, Kenya. Allison graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor of Science in human development and family studies. She is director of the Learning Experience child care center in Westminster, Colo. Blanche also has two sons. Marcus is a high school teacher and head football coach in Diamond Bar, Calif., and the youngest, Matthew, is still searching for his passion, according to Blanche.

While her graduate degrees, along with her alumni daughters, are part of

Blanche's Colorado State legacy, they are far from the whole story. This amazing woman has made a positive impact on the lives of so many Colorado State students and employees. Bimper captures the impact she has had on CSU.

“Blanche is simply inspiring,” he says. “She inspires us with her passion for students and her commitment to seeing each person fulfill their potential so they, too, may have the opportunity to positively impact the world around them. I appreciate Blanche as a colleague, as a mentor, and as a friend because she doesn't just tell you how, she walks alongside you to show you how. There are just a few people willing to invest their time to do this the way she has for so many years. Simply said, we are all better because of her!”

What does Blanche say when asked by prospective students whether they should attend CSU? She tells them they should think about what they are looking for, and then choose a school where they would fit in.

“Whether you are a cowboy/girl or an urban person, you will find your people at Colorado State,” she says. “What is important is that CSU is a place where people truly care about you. You are not a number. You matter. From co-curricular activities to faculty and in-class interactions, you matter. You can make a difference. And, when graduation nears, you won't want to leave this special place.”

Hughes has been living that promise of CSU since the day she first walked on our campus. So many programs and alumni are part of her amazing legacy. We truly are fortunate that Blanche kept coming home.

by Ann Gill ('76)

Black/African American Cultural Center & El Centro office

This year, the Black/African American Cultural Center and the El Centro office at CSU are celebrating their 40th anniversary, and 40 years of programs and services provided to CSU students. Both organizations hope to bring back many of its alumni, friends and previous staff members during Homecoming and Family Weekend to celebrate. For more information on events planned, visit homecoming.colostate.edu.



I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



I am an Alumni Association member because I am so proud to be a graduate of Colorado State University! As a graduate and as a staff member at CSU, I am always an advocate for the University; it is a privilege to be part of the alumni Ram family.

CAPTURE YOUR

MOMENT.



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.



Homecoming & Family Weekend 2016

This is our time to celebrate the people, places, and the traditions that make Colorado State University so special. Whether you are celebrating your first or 50th Homecoming, the weekend is sure to create a lifetime of memories for people of all ages.

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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!

EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCT. 6

- Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

- 50 Year Club Luncheon
- Festival on the Oval
- Homecoming Parade
- Reunion Receptions
- Friday Night Lights pep rally, bonfire, and Lighting of the A

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

- Homecoming 5K Race
- Parent and Family Breakfast
- Homecoming & Family Weekend Tailgate
- CSU vs. Utah State Football Game

OCTOBER 6-8



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BUILDING A FAMILY LEGACY AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



SANDY, WITH DAUGHTERS JO LYNN AND BETH, AND PROUD HUSBAND AND FATHER, JOE, ON GRADUATION DAY.



THE MARTINEZ FAMILY WITH CAM THE RAM ON GAME DAY.

Joe and Sandy Martinez define what a legacy family is at Colorado State University. From their small hometown of Lamar in the far southeast corner of Colorado, the Martinezes are a family firmly established in Fort Collins who attribute their Colorado State University experiences to shaping their lives. Their experiences with CSU athletics, academics, and traditions, coupled with the perpetual feeling of being part of a larger family, in them, and their children, a sense of “giving back what they were given.”

TODAY, THE MARTINEZ FAMILY intrinsically spreads the spirit of CSU's land-grant mission to their communities.

There are few places around CSU, Fort Collins, and Colorado that haven't been touched by the humble and active generosity of the Martinez family. Joe ('62, '63) and Sandy ('82) are both retired from Poudre School District in Fort Collins; Joe as an elementary art, Spanish, and physical education teacher, and Sandy as a librarian and media specialist. Of their four children, two are CSU alumnae. One daughter, Jo Lynn Martinez Troudt ('82), is a research associate for the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and another, Beth Martinez Humenik ('82, '01), is a state senator for Senate District 24 in Adams County, Colo.

And, if you are reading closely, you may have noticed that Sandy, Jo Lynn, and Beth all have the same CSU graduation years. In 1972, at the age of 34 and with a house full of kids running around, Sandy made the decision to finish her college education.

“I am pretty sure I was one of the first nontraditional students for CSU,” she says with a smile. “I was working for Poudre High School, and I took the entrance exam with all of these 18-year-olds.”

Determined to finish, she chipped away at her music degree for 10 years. It wasn't until shortly before graduation that she realized she would be graduating with her daughters.

Her motivation to get her college degree was based on the unexpected passion for learning that both she and Joe developed from their earliest years at CSU, in 1958, when they were newlyweds and Joe was recruited from Pueblo Community College, now CSU's Pueblo campus, by Coach Don “Tuffy” Mullison to play football for Colorado A&M.

“Neither Sandy nor I had ever been to Fort Collins, and Coach Mullison just told us to get on the valley highway and keep driving north,” Joe said with a chuckle. “We didn't realize that Fort Collins was so close to Wyoming.”

When they arrived, they began

“CSU IS JUST A PART OF US”

establishing their lives in one of the “new” Quonset huts off Lake Street. Joe, the All-American high school and junior college football player, shared his impressive talents on the field with other A&M greats, including Freddie Glick and Wayne Schneider.

Joe played football in the '58 and '59 seasons, and graduated in '62 with a commercial arts degree. But immediately after graduation, he went back to school for his education degree to become a teacher, which made it possible for him and Sandy to stay around campus.

While in school, he worked washing dorm windows and officiating intramural sports. He also played a lot of intramural fast pitch.

Joe's intramural fast pitch softball team, the Rainbow Royals, was made up of football players, and they were good. Named after a Rainbow restaurant sponsorship, the team won two independent league championships and one All-Sports championship. During his next 40 years of pitching softball, Joe was honored as an Amateur Softball Association All-American pitcher and inducted into the Colorado ASA Sports Hall of Fame and the Colorado Mexican American Hall of Fame for both football and softball.

“Those were such special times for us, and some of Joe's favorite memories,” recalls Sandy. “CSU was so supportive of sports, and even though we didn't have a lot of money, there were so many things for our family and friends to do for free. We were all in the same boat, and there was a strong sense of community because of that.”

She also remembers taking part in CSU traditions, such as music events, art exhibits, opera, plays, and of course, Homecoming.

“The sororities and fraternities would decorate their parade floats so nice,” she said, “and the pictures we have of the girls in their ponytails watching from the Oval are really special.”

But Sandy and Joe both agree that the biggest imprint CSU left on their lives was a newfound appreciation for continuing to learn. It's that appreciation

that ignited Sandy's desire to go back to school when she had every reason not to, and Joe's desire to become a teacher, even though he always struggled in school.

When Joe was just 5 years old, he lost his mom to tuberculosis, leaving his sister and him to be raised by grandparents who didn't speak English. He entered first grade not speaking English and, on top of that, he began losing his hearing.

“My teachers would keep me in from recess, and they worked with me until I was in fifth grade,” he said, “I am grateful for the chance they gave me. They inspired me to become a teacher, and I always want to give back in that same way.”

It also nurtured the couple's already firm beliefs around the importance of giving back. The Martinezes are supporters of CSU's arts and athletics programs, the Morgan Library, and the Alumni Association.

“CSU is just a part of us,” says Sandy.

So, when it was time for their children to go to college, according to Jo Lynn, CSU was really the only choice.

“CSU was always a part of our lives growing up,” she said, “and even after graduation and today, people at CSU continue to be there for me.”

Today, you can find the Martinezes at almost any CSU athletics event, and Joe still catches a softball game or two. They are also busy spending time with their five grandchildren, two of whom are CSU alumni, and two great-grandchildren.

“Who knows,” Sandy says, “we may have some future CSU graduates coming up!”

by Angie Dixon ('94)

I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



When we go to out-of-town games, the Alumni Association is always there, putting on a tailgate or a get-together. Plus, we are proud that we graduated from CSU, and we want people to know that.

LEGACY OF AN AGGIE LEGEND

Open the 1952 *Silver Spruce* yearbook to the Who's Who section on Page 45. Scan down to the third row to the only candid photograph among a page full of posed portraits. There sits a square-jawed senior in a Colorado A&M T-shirt, hunched over a stack of papers. He's glancing upward with the beginning of a smile and one raised eyebrow, his face revealing a mixture of bemusement and hard-earned confidence.

Now 86 years old, Kenneth Wilhelm's confidence and sense of humor is just as evident when he talks about his college days, service in the Air Force during the Korean War, and successful career in selling and renting Caterpillar earthmoving equipment. Taken together, those stories make up a legacy that's honored and carried on by his family, including children who now run the business he started and grandchildren who graduated from Colorado State University. Kenton Baron played football for the Rams and graduated in 2007, and Kenna Wilhelm, a Golden Pom dance team member, graduated in 2015.

Wilhelm grew up on a farm near Eaton, Colo., about 20 miles east of Fort Collins. His parents were Germans from Russia, an ethnic group that escaped Stalinist persecution and played a significant role in the development of northeastern Colorado's agricultural industry in the early to mid-1900s.

Wilhelm came to Colorado A&M on a football scholarship in 1948. He made an immediate impact on the freshman football team, starting every game and scoring the only touchdown in a victory against rival University of Colorado. He moved up to varsity the following year, playing halfback in Coach Bob Davis's "T" offensive formation. Fellow players included the legendary Thurman "Fum" McGraw; Dale Dodrill, a returning World War II veteran; and Jack Christiansen, a speedster whom CSU would honor

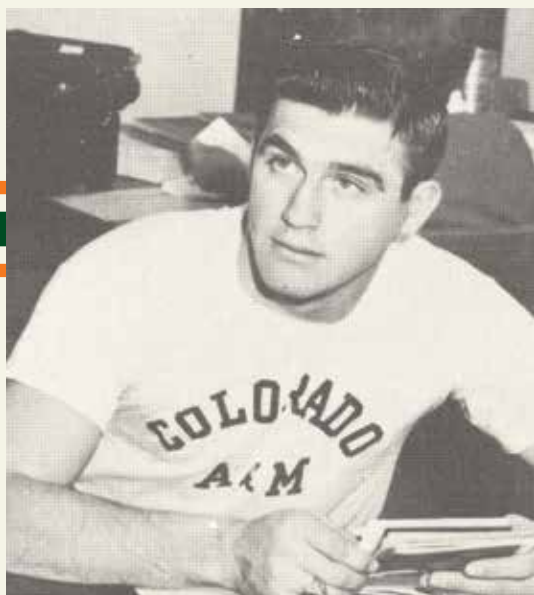
by naming the school track after him. Wilhelm joined the ROTC as a way to pay for college in exchange for a four-year commitment after graduation.

Wilhelm would later serve as McGraw's best man at his wedding. He earned the honor by introducing Fum, his roommate at Sigma Nu, to his future wife, Brownie. It all started, as these things often do, with a little chemistry. "I asked a pretty girl who sat in front of me in my chemistry class for a date, and she said 'not unless you introduce Brownie (her friend) to Fum.'" The two got married a few years later.

Wilhelm graduated in 1952 with degree in agricultural sciences and a long list of achievements: *Silver Spruce* sports editor; A Club and Sigma Nu president; three varsity letters in football and four in track; a record-setting performance in the 4x220 relay at the CU Relays; and membership in the Livestock Judging team, Arnold Air Society, Wings and Cannon club, and student council.

After graduation, Wilhelm received a few inquiries from professional football teams. "I also received some 'inquiries' from Uncle Sam," he remembers. The Korean War was in its second brutal year. "I had orders to report to pilot training in six weeks."

After training, Wilhelm was assigned to Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio as a pilot for Military Air Transport Service, flying a C-54 plane delivering supplies. The Air Force needed pilots in Germany and Iceland and, as the ranking officer, Wilhelm had first choice. He selected Wiesbaden Air Base in Germany, home of the Air Force headquarters in Europe, where he played football between his duties flying supplies to Germany, England, and France, whose people were still suffering from the devastation of World War II. He was also recruited to fly reconnaissance missions for the Central Intelligence Agency. His



WILHELM'S WHO'S WHO PORTRAIT IN THE 1952 SILVER SPRUCE.

neighbor, Father Lawler, who was also the coach of the base football team, recruited him to play running back. They competed against other European teams, winning the European Championship in 1955 between Army and Air Force. Wilhelm also was named to the worldwide All Air Force team.

In 1956, Wilhelm returned to civilian life and made a brief attempt at a professional football career, receiving a letter from Paul Brown inviting him to try out for the Cleveland Browns, but he didn't make the team. He planned to become a farmer again, but a "cattle-feeding fiasco" put him on another path selling Caterpillar earthmoving equipment for McCoy Company, the Caterpillar dealer for the state of Colorado. "My boss wanted me to open a branch in Durango. I established the business there, then came back to Greeley to work as a Caterpillar salesman in Weld and Larimer counties and later became sales manager for the company in Denver."

Wilhelm was the CEO for McCoy Caterpillar from 1972-1977 before starting his own company. Realizing many contractors needed to rent – rather than buy – expensive Caterpillar equipment, he opened BECO Equipment Company and ran it successfully for 25 years. Today, he's recognized as a pioneer in the heavy-equipment rental business, and his company is still going strong under the direction of his son,

Kyle, and daughters, Kendra, who also attended CSU, and Kayre.

Throughout his career and retirement, Wilhelm has remained committed and connected to his alma mater. He served on the Alumni Association board of directors (and is a lifetime member) as well as the Athletic Council and, as a member of the Hughes Stadium construction steering committee, "was honored to take up the first shovel of dirt to start construction." He also supports the College of Agricultural Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. In 2006, he received a Distinguished Alumni Award for his accomplishments as a student-athlete and his ongoing, outstanding commitment to Colorado State University athletics.

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

AS A HALFBACK, WILHELM PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN COACH DAVIS'S T-FORMATION.



WILHELM SCORING ON AN END-RUN AGAINST MONTANA.



WILHELM EARNED THREE VARSITY LETTERS IN TRACK.

I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



I was at graduation, already had my orders from the Air Force, and I knew I would be gone for four years. I wanted

the lifetime membership to be able to receive the magazine and keep up with things going on at CSU. It was a graduation gift from my parents.

TODAY, WILHELM REMINISCES ABOUT HIS TIME AT CSU WITH THE SAME AMUSEMENT AND CONFIDENCE HE DISPLAYED IN THE 1952 YEARBOOK PHOTOS. HE'S JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN COLLEGE AND BEYOND, AND EVEN MORE PROUD THAT HIS FAMILY IS PART OF HIS ENDURING LEGACY.

Get your green on and join the CSU Alumni Association this fall for rallies, tailgates, and game watch parties across the country. CSUAA events are open to everyone. Most game times are pending, please check alumni.colostate.edu for updates on start times and locations.

TAILGATES – day of game

Tailgates are free and open to all Rams fans. Advance registration will be available, including options for purchase of food and drinks. Cash bar available on-site.

New in 2017! RAM RALLIES – night before the game

At select locations, the Alumni Association will be hosting rallies the night before the game. Times and locations will be posted at alumni.colostate.edu. Rallies are free. Light snacks and cash bar will be available.

Following is a list of events; times and locations pending or subject to change.

Friday, September 2 CSU vs CU

• Tailgate time: 2 P.M. MT • Kickoff time: 6 P.M. MT

Saturday, September 24 CSU at Minnesota

Saturday, October 8 CSU vs Utah State

• Tailgate time: 4 P.M. MT

• Kickoff time: 8 P.M. MT



Saturday, October 15 CSU at Boise State

Saturday, October 22 CSU at UNLV

Saturday, November 12 CSU at Air Force

Saturday, November 26 CSU at San Diego State

• Tailgate time: 4:30 P.M. MT • Kickoff time: 7 P.M. MT

Visit alumni.colostate.edu for more information and to register.
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October 4-15, 2016

IMPRESSIONS OF HAVANA
October 27-November 1, 2016

CUBAN DISCOVERY
January 21-29, 2017

PALMS IN PARADISE
April 24-May 10, 2017

BALTIC AND SCANDINAVIAN TREASURES
August 17-28, 2017

MEDIEVAL MASTERPIECE
November 5-14, 2017

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6P6

ENGINEERING A LEGACY

HOMEGROWN TALENT BRINGS
GREEN AND GOLD TO HP INC.
AND HOLLYWOOD



Colorado State alumni include Pulitzer Prize winners, astronauts, gold medal Olympians, former governors, CEOs, and quite a few professional athletes. But Jeff Wood (computer science, '86) is the only CSU graduate who can boast winning an Academy Award.

More accurately, Wood and his team helped global technology giant HP Inc. win the prestigious golden statue. The former Ram is general manager/vice president for workstations and thin clients at HP Inc. That title is a mouthful, and for good reason. It's a big job worthy of red-carpet recognition.

The phrase "The harder you work, the luckier you get" seems fitting for this Cinderella story. Wood was born in Boulder while his father, David, was a student at the University of Colorado and his mother, Carol, ran the Gasamat gas station issuing tokens for the self-service pumps. "I was in the basinet next to her as she handed out tokens and my

dad went to law school," Wood says of his humble beginnings.

The family moved back to their hometown of Fort Collins, where Wood's father started his own law practice and dreamed of his son becoming a CU Buff.

By the time Wood was in high school, his dad had a friend working at the new HP facility in Fort Collins. Wood went on a private tour that forever changed his life. "That's when I knew I wanted to be an engineer, and I had to work at HP."

He also wanted to go to college in Colorado, so he applied to CU, CSU, and Colorado School of Mines. "My dad was pushing CU hard, as you might imagine," Wood says with a wry smile.

He was accepted into all three universities. When Wood opened the CU acceptance letter, his dad was thrilled, but the college-bound freshman wasn't satisfied with Boulder's offer. "I threw the CU letter into the fire and said 'I'm going to CSU.'"

But after two years in electrical

engineering, Wood realized his heart was in coding, so he switched his major to computer science. He got his hands on some of the first HP workstations, such as the HP 9836 color graphics computer, to start writing graphics code. "That really got me excited."

Wood's heart also belonged to a CSU interior design student named Debra. They married in 1982 and had their first baby two years later. To make ends meet, Wood got a job as a part-time mechanic and pumped gas at a Schrader Oil service station. "It was tough. I was working part-time, going to school, and trying to help raise a family."

His wife had their second baby in 1986, just one month after Wood graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science and a minor in math. HP wasn't hiring at the time, so Wood went to work for an HP-approved value-added reseller specializing in workstation equipment with applications for civil engineers and surveyors.

Three years later, Wood joined HP to manage a team developing integrated circuits. In 1992, he moved to the graphics software lab for workstations. Workstations, or high-end computers built for creative professional and technical applications that require a lot of data crunching, were being used more and more in the automotive, aerospace, banking, motion picture, and health care industries.

Wood thought he wanted to be a software engineer, wearing shorts and flip-flops and listening to his Walkman as he hammered out code in his cubicle all day. "But then I really got a passion for solving customer problems," Wood reflects. He moved around to different jobs within HP to better understand and tackle client challenges. Ultimately, he created custom solutions for companies such as General Motors and Ford to optimize their internal applications for HP workstation equipment.

By the mid-to-late 1990s, Intel and Microsoft hit the market with competitive products. Wood was convinced that high-end workstations were the future of his industry.

In 1997, he left HP to join Compaq Computer in Houston where he helped turn the company into one of the leading workstation providers in the world. "I called that my M.B.A.," Wood says half-jokingly about his three-year stint in Texas.

By 2000, Wood and his wife had four children, and the entire clan was eager to move back to Fort Collins to be closer to family.

Wood reached out to his contacts at HP and was rehired to merge two fledgling workstation product lines into one. Two years later, HP acquired Compaq with Wood helping to lead the integration. Seven years later, HP's workstation business grew three times the market rate. By 2010, and under Wood's product management leadership, HP became the world's No. 1 provider of workstations and has held top market share ever since. "We never looked back," he says with satisfaction.

So what does any of this have to do with an Academy Award?

As Wood was building HP's

workstation business, a company called Silicon Graphics Inc. was deeply embedded in Hollywood. Every production studio used SGI equipment to produce 3-D animation and computer-generated imagery for groundbreaking movies such as the original Jurassic Park. This drove Wood nuts, because he knew HP had superior graphics capabilities.

As time went on, studios recognized the need to keep up with emerging Intel-based workstation technology, but they didn't know how to make the transition from SGI to something new. DreamWorks was the first to abandon the SGI ship, and they asked HP for help.

"Very quickly we had their performance up to the level they needed with all the key features they required," Wood recalls. "DreamWorks transitioned to HP workstations and it was like dominos. Every studio came to us." Studios including Disney, Pixar, Lucas Films, and even Weta Digital in New Zealand, the makers of Avatar, The Jungle Book 2016, and the Lord of the Rings franchise, began using HP workstations.

When asked if any Hollywood production studios used something other than HP equipment, Wood replied, "They are 100 percent HP. Whether it's 3-D animated or it's CG on a live-action film, you will see HP workstations in every studio." From animation to audio track work, HP equipment is top dog in Tinseltown. "We love it. It's a sense of pride," Wood says.

With a commitment to deeply understanding customer pain points and requirements, Wood and his team developed a 3-D workstation display specifically for the production studio market. The HP DreamColor display, which shows a production team how their movie will ultimately look when viewed in the theater, quickly became the industry's color-critical display standard. In 2015, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honored HP with the Scientific and Engineering Award, recognizing HP's



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DreamColor display as an innovation that has “contributed in a significant and lasting way to motion pictures.” HP proudly showcases the award at its headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif.

Wood's oldest son, Josh (journalism and technical communication, '09), is also reaping the benefits of his dad's labor. As the post-production supervisor at DreamWorks Animation in Glendale, Calif., Josh Wood's production team uses HP workstation equipment on every project, including the movie *Trolls* coming out in November.

Youngest son, Mitchell Wood (journalism and technical communication, '17), is following in his brother's footsteps. He's currently an intern at HP, working on video production.

And speaking of interns, HP recruits more interns from CSU than any other university in the world. The world. Wood currently sponsors a whopping 38 CSU interns at HP, ranging from computer science to business to electrical engineering students. HP taps potential candidates as seniors in high school and offers them four-year internships as they earn their degrees at CSU. The intent is to hire interns once they graduate, or to help them find jobs at partner companies such as Google, Microsoft, and Intel.

Wood's passion runs deep for both HP and CSU, and he works tirelessly to

strengthen the symbiotic relationship between the two world-class institutions. As a major donor, HP invests in multiple colleges and provides scholarships to recruit top talent to CSU. In turn, HP is the exclusive computing solutions provider at Colorado State and a valued corporate partner in education.

“We are exceptionally proud to see the incredible accomplishments Jeff Wood has achieved as a graduate of CSU's College of Natural Sciences,” says Jan Nerger, dean of the college. “His hard work, creative problem-solving, and dedication to current and future students sets an inspiring example for us all,” she says. “Collaborations create a stronger community, and we are grateful for the partnerships Jeff has helped us forge.”

Today, Wood still enjoys spending time on campus. He's often a guest speaker in capstone business courses, and he was a member of President Tony Frank's decision committee for the new stadium.

“What I'm really excited about is everything coming back to campus. I think the new stadium is going to help that. There's so much beautiful growth – new buildings, new facilities, and student programs – happening right now. I challenge all alumni to get back and re-engage with your University and somehow help out.”

By Becky Jensen ('93)



A FAMILY FOUNDATION

Pat and Edna Griffin, owners of the Gasamat chain of gas stations, were close friends of the Wood family. The Griffin Foundation, which was funded following Pat Griffin's death in 1993, supports higher education, health care, and the performing arts.

Jeff Wood's father, David Wood, helped establish the Griffin Foundation and serves as president and board chairman. Jeff Wood's mother, Carol, is a board member, serves as secretary/treasurer, and is director of the Griffin Foundation scholarship program. Since 1993, the Griffin Foundation has granted more than \$7.8 million to CSU, including \$2.5 million to renovate Morgan Library and \$2 million to construct the Edna Rizley Griffin Concert Hall at the University Center for the Arts.

I'M A MEMBER BECAUSE



“I always want to give back. I would not be where I am today if it weren't for my education at CSU. It opened doors for me that wouldn't have been opened otherwise.”

CSU AND ALUMNI EVENTS

FALL 2016

CSU Alumni Association members make these programs and events possible.

August

- 27 CAM Jam, Centennial
- 31 President's Fall Address, CSU Campus

September

- 2 Rocky Mountain Showdown Tailgate and Game, Sports Authority Field at Mile High, Denver
- 9 CSU Volleyball vs. Texas, Fort Collins
- 10 CSU Football vs. UTSA, Fort Collins
- 10 Gregory Allicar Museum of Art Grand Opening, Fort Collins
- 10 Rams For Diversity Tailgate, Fort Collins
- 11 Northern Colorado Recognition of Honor Flight
- 17 CSU Football vs. Northern Colorado, Fort Collins
- 17 CSU Volleyball at Colorado, Boulder
- 20-22 Diversity Symposium, Fort Collins
- 24 CSU at Minnesota Tailgate and Game, Minneapolis, Minn.

October

- 1 CSU Football vs. Wyoming, Fort Collins
- 6-8 Homecoming and Family Weekend
- 8 CSU Football vs. Utah State Tailgate and Game, Fort Collins
- 15 CSU at Boise State Tailgate and Game, Boise, Idaho
- 22 CSU at UNLV Tailgate and Game, Las Vegas, Nev.
- 24-25 Veteran's Symposium, Fort Collins
- 31 Halloween Organ Extravaganza, CSU Campus

November

- 5 CSU Football vs. Fresno State, Fort Collins
- 12 CSU at Air Force Tailgate and Game, Colorado Springs
- 19 CSU Football vs. New Mexico, Fort Collins
- 26 CSU at San Diego State Tailgate and Game, San Diego, Calif.

December

- 1 Preview Parade of Lights, Fort Collins
- 2 Parade of Lights, Denver
- 17 CSU Men's Basketball vs. Kansas State, Pepsi Center, Denver
- 3 Holiday Spectacular, CSU Campus

Dates are subject to change.

Football Watch Party Locations:

Support the Rams when they are on the road at these watch party locations:

Denver:

C.B. & Potts, Denver Tech Center and Westminster locations

Downtown Denver:

Rock Bottom, 16th Street Mall, Denver

Fort Collins:

The Boot, Laurel and Mason, Fort Collins



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PARADE OF LIGHTS



CAM JAM



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHOWDOWN

HOMECOMING



OCTOBER 6-8

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THURSDAY, OCT. 6

- Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

FRIDAY, OCT. 7

- 50 Year Club Luncheon
- Festival on the Oval
- Homecoming Parade
- Reunion Receptions
- Friday Night Lights Pep Rally, Bonfire, and Lighting of the A

SATURDAY, OCT. 8

- Homecoming 5K Race
- Parent and Family Breakfast
- Homecoming & Family Weekend Tailgate
- CSU vs. Utah State Football Game

For a complete list of:

Alumni events, visit alumni.colostate.edu

Including watch parties, away-game alumni receptions, and more

Athletics events, visit csurams.com

Watch select sports via live stream at csurams.com/videos

Arts events, visit sota.colostate.edu

Be sure to get the latest event updates. Update your contact information at alumni.colostate.edu to receive e-updates on CSU events in your area.



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JEFF, WITH SONS JOSH (LEFT) AND MITCHELL (RIGHT) IN THE POUDRE CANYON.



Proud to Be CSU RAMS

Sustaining Life Members, Pat and Linda Brisnehan

Pat and Linda Brisnehan still bleed green and gold – even in retirement. In addition to splitting their time between homes in Arizona and Colorado, the Brisnehans can be found cheering their Colorado State University Rams on at football games, volleyball matches, and golf tournaments.

Now proud alumni, their life as Rams started in 1968 when Pat decided he wanted to stay in state for college and, like many others, saw Colorado State University as the best fit for him. Linda made the move from Denver to Fort Collins with her high school sweetheart, and they were married after Pat's freshman year. From there, they lived in University Village, which was specifically designed as married student housing on campus at the time.

“Some of our favorite memories center around living in married student housing at University Village,” Linda shared. “Our daughter, Steph, was born when we were at CSU, and she loved playing on the playground and riding her tricycle around the complex. We made friends with several of our University Village neighbors and have remained close for more than 45 years.”

After Steph, the couple had a son named Brian, and now, four grandchildren later, the Brisnehans enjoy looking back at how their family really got its start at CSU.

Upon Pat's graduation (B.S., '72; M.S., '73), they moved to Houston for career opportunity and Linda says, “we



THE BRISNEHAN FAMILY ON THE OVAL,

wanted to stay connected with CSU, so becoming an Alumni Association member just seemed like the right thing to do.”

Having caught the travel bug in retirement, Pat and Linda still find it easy to stay connected with their alma mater through alumni events across the nation and as football season ticket holders.

“As you go through life, you'll find the finer people you meet have gone to CSU,” Pat said, and he and Linda continually find this to be true. Through their careers, the communities they've been a part of, and the connections they've made as Alumni Association members, one of their favorite things about being alumni has been meeting other proud

CSU alumni along their journey.

But what drives these Rams to give above and beyond their membership as Sustaining Life members? Linda explained with a quote from Winston Churchill, “We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” We feel very fortunate to be able to donate additional funds to the Alumni Association, and we try to increase our giving by 10 percent each year.”

What began as a way to simply stay in the loop upon graduation, has become a deeply rooted mission for these Sustaining Life members. “We are proud of what CSU has accomplished since our time there, and we believe with the leadership of Dr. Tony Frank and the CSU staff and faculty, that we will continue to be proud Rams.”

by Amy Jo Miller



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