Proud to Be – through the years

Colorado State University’s 150th anniversary celebration, which kicked off in style during Homecoming and Family Weekend and continues well into 2020, provides an opportunity to look back, and to look forward too. It’s human nature, I think, to sort through the events and milestones of our past to try to bring order and purpose to a sometimes muddled narrative.

In this issue, we’ve attempted to create a timeline of CSU history that branches out into some of the amazing stories of our beginnings, development through the decades, and innovative impact driven by trailblazing alumni. I say “attempted” because we have to be honest with ourselves and admit that assembling a definitive timeline is impossible given the immense impact and incredible variety of accomplishments of our CSU community, on campus and beyond.

I would be remiss if I didn’t thank a few of the stewards of our stories and highlight books that informed this issue. See Professor Emeritus James E. Hansen’s Democracy’s College in the Centennial State and Democracy’s University for CSU’s institutional history. Hansen teamed up with Gordon Hazard (B.S., ’77) and Linda Meyer (B.A., ’95; M.A., ’00) on CSU’s Sense of Place: A Campus History of Colorado’s Land-Grant University. And Aggies to Rams: The History of Football at Colorado State University by John Hirn (B.A., ’93) is indispensable.

I hope you’ll discover something familiar that makes you proud, something new that makes you think, and please let me know if you have a story you’d like to share!

Ram proud,

Kristi Bohlender, B.S., ’93; M.B.A., ’95, and Life Member
Colorado State University acknowledges, with respect, that the land we are on today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute Nations and peoples. This was also a site of trade, gathering, and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We recognize the Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it. As these words of acknowledgment are spoken and heard, the ties Nations have to their traditional homelands are renewed and reaffirmed.

CSU is founded as a land-grant institution, and we accept that our mission must encompass access to education and inclusion. And, significantly, that our founding came at a dire cost to Native Nations and peoples whose land this University was built upon. This acknowledgment is the education and inclusion we must practice in recognizing our institutional history, responsibility, and commitment.

Colorado State recently adopted an official statement honoring the ties of Indigenous people to land on which the University was established, developed, and operates today. This issue’s reflection on our history acknowledges and respects those ties.

The land on which the Colorado State University campus stands is the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples. A large cottonwood known as the Council Tree once stood in what is now southeast Fort Collins. Arapaho Chief Friday would often hold councils under its branches. These lands retain their cultural value to Native Americans.

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The Council Tree, circa 1914

CSU Native American faculty and staff gather on the Oval, June 13, 2019.

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1862

President Lincoln signs Morrill Act, allowing grants of land to establish colleges specializing in agriculture and the mechanical arts.

1870

Colorado territorial government passes act establishing land-grant institution in Fort Collins.

Enrollment
1870-1878: 0
First classes 1879: 20

Population
Fort Collins area: 363
Colorado Territory: 39,864

Price of Milk
2¢/gallon

Popular Book
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Mark Twain

Popular Song
Pass Me Not
W.H. Doane

1876-1878

Enrollment
1870-1878: 0
First classes 1879: 20

Population
Fort Collins area: 363
Colorado Territory: 39,864

Price of Milk
2¢/gallon

Popular Book
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Mark Twain

Popular Song
Pass Me Not
W.H. Doane

1870

President Lincoln signs Morrill Act, allowing grants of land to establish colleges specializing in agriculture and the mechanical arts.
Like so many other lasting and meaningful endeavors, the Colorado State University Alumni Association started with a conversation among friends over a meal. Leondias Loomis, George Glover, and Libbie Coy became the first graduates of Colorado Agricultural College on June 5, 1884. At lunch following a ceremony held at the opera house on College Avenue, President Charles Ingersoll suggested forming an alumni organization and was prepared with a constitution and bylaws. Glover became president, Loomis was vice president, and Coy became secretary. These three alumni set the standard for alumni impact as they lived out their class motto: “Attempt and accomplish.”

Loomis spent his career in agriculture, the foundational discipline of the College. He started in the cattle business in Wyoming and then returned to Colorado, working on a ranch in North Park. Later, he became a prosperous farmer in the Cache la Poudre valley.

Glover started the College’s veterinary medicine program. After graduation, he completed a veterinary medicine degree at Iowa Agricultural College, thanks to an interest-free loan from College Professor James Lawrence. In 1900, the College hired Glover to teach its first veterinary medicine courses, leading to the creation of a department with Glover as head. Veterinary medicine flourished under his leadership; the hospital dedicated in 1900 bore his name.

Coy was the first woman to graduate from any Colorado institution of higher education, and she did so by taking the same courses as the men. Afterward, she taught preparatory-level classes at the College until 1890, when she married Glover’s benefactor, Professor Lawrence. She was central to the Alumni Association’s growth, organizing Homecoming and other alumni events. These first graduates also exemplify our commitment to public service.

Grace Espe Patton served as president of the Colorado Woman’s Democratic Club and then became her party’s nominee for state superintendent of public instruction. Dubbed “the little professor” due to her short stature, she was labeled too young and inexperienced for the office by opponents. However, she was a smart, dynamic, and engaging public speaker and proved to be a formidable campaigner, winning a decisive victory. As superintendent, she encouraged the establishment of kindergartens and libraries in Colorado schools and increased minimum teacher qualifications.

New York Fair in Yonkers, 1913. By then, Colorado and eight other Western states had already adopted women’s suffrage legislation.
While many inventions revolutionize a particular field of human endeavor, few remain in use a century later. Invented in 1921, the Parshall Flume measures water flow as uniquely related to water depth. This invention revolutionized water management, and it remains in use to this day. The inventor, Ralph Parshall (B.S., 1904), epitomizes Colorado State University’s values of excellence and problem-solving.

After completing an undergraduate degree at Colorado Agricultural College – CSU’s name when it was founded – Parshall pursued graduate studies at the University of Chicago. He returned to Fort Collins and joined the College faculty in 1907, becoming an internationally recognized pioneer in civil engineering and hydrology. His patent application for his invention that has endured for a century referred to it as a “Venturi-flume water-stage recording instrument,” but it is commonly known as the Parshall Flume. Initially, the flume’s main use was to measure the flow of water through ditches and canals in those arid states that used the doctrine of prior appropriation (“first in time, first in right”) as the basis for water rights. Not only have his flumes stood the test of time, but at his alma mater, the hydraulics lab Parshall helped develop continues to play an important role in maintaining CSU’s reputation as a top water research center.

Parshall Flumes as a means to protect those rights. Over time, Parshall Flumes were used more widely. They measure flow rate in industrial discharges, municipal sewer lines, and influent/effluent flows in wastewater treatment plants. These days, the flumes are not only constructed of concrete but a variety of materials from stainless steel to plastic. Not only has his flume stood the test of time, but at his alma mater, the hydraulics lab Parshall helped develop continues to play an important role in maintaining CSU’s reputation as a top water research center. – A.G. ©

Water flowing through concrete Parshall Flume from Moffat Tunnel outlet, 1936.

A PIONEER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

George Glover died Jan. 11, 1950. The new veterinary hospital, under construction at the time, was named after him the following day.

After studying veterinary medicine in Iowa, George Glover returned to his alma mater as a faculty member where he demonstrated – sometimes in dramatic fashion – the need for professionally certified veterinarians. Glover helped establish the program that became one of the top veterinary medicine schools in the nation and served as its dean from 1907-34.
EXTENDING THE LAND-GRANT MISSION

Service and leadership have been central to Colorado State University’s identity since its inception. Roud McCann (B.S., 1914) embraced those aims as a student and throughout his career.

As an undergraduate, McCann demonstrated leadership potential by founding the Livestock Club and serving as an officer in the then-Colorado Agricultural College’s military training battalion.

Following graduation, he stayed in Fort Collins and became deputy state dairy commissioner and later joined the faculty as an associate professor of animal husbandry. Notably, he was an active member of the Alumni Association and helped launch the alumni magazine.

He left the College for top administrative opportunities with agricultural organizations, including secretary of the National Dairy Council in Chicago, but returned in 1921 to lead the Colorado Cooperative Extension Service (today’s CSU Extension).

Congress established the Extension Service in 1914, World War I broke out shortly thereafter, so its initial role became urging farmers to increase production: “Food will win the war!” After the armistice, European farm production increased and demand for U.S. products dropped precipitously, as did prices. Extension’s goals then shifted to farmers’ economic issues.

Intelligent and an experienced public relations expert, McCann was well suited to reinventing Extension. He met with people around the state to gain a clear understanding of issues facing rural communities, then used what he learned to create the Colorado Code of Agriculture, issued in 1923. Widely read and well received, the code stressed the importance of marketing (including experimental radio programs), rural community development, improvements in rural home life, and youth programs.

Although he resigned in early 1929, his time at Extension was tremendously successful; it became a well-administered and effective branch of the College. He focused its organization at the local level by extending the system of county agents. He also made technical assistance a central part of its services, hiring specialists in areas ranging from marketing and home economics to animal husbandry and agronomy. Roud McCann left indelible footprints on this institution and the state.

– A.G. Ø.
Glenn Morris (B.S., '35) won the gold medal in the decathlon at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. He represented the United States at the Berlin Olympics, where he competed in various track and field events. A direct descendant of the oak trees awarded to gold medalists grows outside the Iris & Michael Smith Alumni Center today.

**1935**
- Glenn Morris (B.S., '35) won gold medal in decathlon at the Berlin Olympic games
- Population: Fort Collins: 11,489, Colorado: 1,035,791
- Popular Book: *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell is published in 1936
- Popular Song: *On the Good Ship Lollipop* by Shirley Temple
- Price of Milk: 47¢/gallon

**1936**
- Glenn Morris (B.S., '35) served as class president and competed in football and track. He then represented the United States at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, winning the gold medal in the decathlon. A direct descendent of the oak trees awarded to gold medalists grows outside the Iris & Michael Smith Alumni Center today.

**1937**
- Sherwood Forest planted
Flood inflicts heavy damage to the campus in 1938.

**ABOVE AND BEYOND**

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

Most Americans who enlisted in the U.S. armed services after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 couldn’t wait to fight for their country. **John Mosley (B.S., '43)**, like so many other African Americans, had to fight just to get in the fight.

Mosley attended Manual High School in Denver, where he excelled in academics and athletics and developed an interest in flying. The Class of ’39 valedictorian took his leadership skills to Colorado A&M, where he broke through color barriers in sports and student government. Mosley served as student body vice president twice and played football for legendary coach Harry Hughes, becoming the school’s first black player on record.

During his senior year, Mosley applied for entrance into the Advanced ROTC program, but was rejected due to a failed physical exam that may have related to racial tensions of the time. Undeterred, he passed an independent exam and completed a local civilian pilot training program in hopes of increasing his chances to fly with the 332nd Fighter Group (the Tuskegee Airmen) in Alabama. Rejected again, he appealed to Congress and even wrote to the White House. His persistence paid off, and he was finally accepted.

Mosley learned to fly B-25 bombers, but World War II ended before he could be deployed. After the war, he earned a master’s degree in social work from the University of Denver and then served his country again in the Korean War and in Vietnam. He retired from the Air Force in 1970 as a lieutenant colonel.

Afterward, Mosley worked as a civil servant in the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (renamed Health and Human Services in 1979) in Washington, D.C., and Denver. Outside of his career, he helped provide opportunities that he never had through organizations such as the Mile High Flight Program, which introduces young women and men – especially minority youth – to careers in aviation, aerospace, and STEM fields.

In 2004, CSU awarded Mosley and his wife, Edna, honorary doctorates in recognition of their service to their communities and nation.
The list of Thurman “Fum” McGraw’s athletics accomplishments defies comprehension. Diehard Aggies and Rams fans can tick them off on their fingers: He was the only athlete in school history to receive All-American honors in three sports (football, 1948, ’49; track, ’49; and wrestling, ’48). Drafted by the Detroit Lions, he made an instant impact, nabbing the Rookie of the Year trophy for linemen. He went on to win two national championships in five seasons before a knee injury forced his exit from professional football.

These are the kinds of achievements that get a jersey retired, but McGraw wasn’t finished. In three separate spans, he served his alma mater as an assistant coach, assistant athletics director, and athletics director. Through it all, he demonstrated leadership and a deep understanding of the ties that bind a university community together.

Traditions ranked high among his administrative priorities. Facilitating the construction of Moby Arena and Hughes Stadium would count for nothing unless students and fans attending games felt part of something greater.

To that end, McGraw revived a tradition that had begun to fade – literally. Students painted the iconic Aggie A on the hogback west of campus on Dec. 4, 1923, and enlarged it the following year to present proportions. Whitewashing the A became an annual freshman ritual until the tradition lapsed in the 1970s. McGraw enlisted longtime friend and Sigma Alpha Epsilon alumni adviser, Bill Woods (’58), who persuaded the fraternity chapter to shoulder the task. Later, he recruited red-shirted football players and track athletes. He and agriculture Professor Marshall Frasier kept the tradition strong with help from the Alumni Association and, of course, students.

As a proud Aggie, McGraw knew that CSU’s reputation was rooted in agricultural education, research, and Extension. What better way to underscore that connection than a good old-fashioned barbecue? The Ag Day concept, attributed to animal sciences Professor John Matsushima, became a reality and was first held outside Hughes Stadium in 1981. Supporting student scholarships in the College of Agricultural Sciences, the event has grown through the decades and still highlights Colorado-grown commodities that have benefited from CSU research.

Longtime athletics department fixture Gary Ozzello (’78) recalls that McGraw should get credit for another fundraising tradition. “Fum actually began the Ram Good Time Auction,” Ozzello says. “He and other staff members – I was fortunate enough to be included – put together the first auction in the Lory Student Center main ballroom to raise additional funds for supporting student-athlete scholarships.” The event has raised more than $5 million to date.

McGraw’s place in University history and legend is assured by the placement of his name and number atop the west stands in Canvas Stadium; the athletics center named in his honor; and the annual Thurman “Fum” McGraw Award, presented to the CSU student-athlete who best exemplifies academic and athletics excellence, character, leadership, service, and Ram Pride. Just as important to his legacy are the traditions that endure because he knew what “Proud to Be” meant long before it became our signature chant. – B.F.
When Franklin Anderson (’56) left Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado, in 1955, to finish his undergraduate education at Colorado A&M (Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts), he made the move for its livestock program. “I was going to Fort Lewis College at the time and it was a branch of CSU, so it was very easy to transfer,” said Anderson, now 85, recovering well from a stroke he had in May 2019. Two years later, he graduated and was working for a rancher in Denver. That’s where his path began to veer significantly. “I got my military draft notice. Going into the military was the furthest thing from what I wanted to do. My perception of what that would be like was so different.” After reporting to one branch of the military to ask questions, he walked out. He didn’t appreciate their attitudes, he said. Instead, “I went next door and enlisted in the Navy.” Soon after, in 1957, Anderson shipped out to Officer Candidate School. There, he tried to get into flight school. He was an inch-and-a-half too short. “My next choice was to be in the underwater demolition team, because I had seen the movie, *Frogmen*, with Richard Widmark.” He figured growing up swimming in the rivers around Pagosa Springs would help. Anderson served in Vietnam for a year, starting in 1964, training Vietnamese military forces with Underwater Demolition Team 11. It was when he returned that his career path solidified. At the time, the Navy was on the verge of shutting down its World War II-era maritime commando units, also called SEAL – for Sea Air and Land – program. In 1966, they gave the program one last shot, and named Lt. Cmdr. Anderson acting commanding officer of what would become SEAL Team One. He handpicked officers, rewrote policy, changed training to include weapons and small-unit tactics, and updated curriculum with intelligence collection and unconventional warfare, thereby establishing the Navy SEAL program we know today. “Most of the programs that I set up are still in existence. The SEALs started performing admirably, and everybody wanted them. We had 50 officers and 350 men at the time. “What’s a point of pride is the advancement that we have made within SEALs. I was involved in writing letters to get the SEAL program as an independent group. We had an admiral who was our best supporter.” Anderson went on to Defense Intelligence School, Commander in Chief, Pacific, and Special Target Analysis Group to write plans that included POW recoveries. By the time he retired in 1977 after 21 years in the Navy, Anderson had received the Legion of Merit as commanding officer of SEAL Team One, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Meritorious Service Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation.

On the homefront, Anderson and his wife, Martha, raised four children. One of their sons entered SEAL training but was injured. The couple retired to their ranch in Tiffany, a small town in southwestern Colorado. They have been married for 58 years. He still keeps in touch with friends from school – members of the Livestock Club and Rodeo Club – and fondly remembers time spent swimming at Horsetooth and studying at CSU. In 2017, the CSU Alumni Association’s 50 Year Club honored Anderson with the Public Service Award. And, for so many reasons, the SEALs keep Anderson close. They invite him to speak to classes of SEALs and, just this August, he traveled to Coronado, California, for SEAL team reunions. Anderson’s ties to his military career remain strong. The sense of pride he carries about his time in the Navy and his role establishing the Navy SEAL program, is palpable.

“Things have changed so much since I was there. People find it hard to believe a lot of the stuff that we do. They (the SEALs) are operating all over the world now. Our camaraderie is second to none. “I would do it all the same at the drop of a hat.”

Franklin Anderson was named commanding officer of SEAL Team One in 1966.
CAM takes the spotlight

As Colorado State University celebrates its sesquicentennial, our beloved mascot will mark his own major milestone. The Colorado A&M student body voted to call themselves “Rams” in 1945, the college’s diamond anniversary.

The first woolly mascot, a ram named Buck, made his debut at a basketball game against Denver on Jan. 11, 1946. “The senators spruced up the ram they’d chosen and presented Buck to the college,” reported the Silver Spruce yearbook. “He was greeted with wild applause, and served as a spirit booster the rest of the basketball season. He attended each game faithfully, escorted in style. Truly a loyal Aggie.”

President Morgan officially named our mascot CAM the Ram – for Colorado A&M – during halftime at a basketball game versus archrival Wyoming in 1954. CAM has been a steady spirit booster ever since, still escorted in style by student volunteers.

The Ram Handlers participate in CAM’s training and care, transportation to events, sharing CAM’s story with Rams fans of all ages, and traditions such as his sprint across the end zone during home football games. The Alumni Association, which supports CAM and manages the Ram Handler program, encourages students from any and all majors and backgrounds to apply to join the group. The most rewarding part of their job? Capturing the smiles of students, alumni, and Rams fans who line up to get their photo taken with their beloved mascot. – B.F. 📸
Colorado State University consistently ranks among the top Peace Corps volunteer-producing schools in the nation. This enduring connection is, in part, a living legacy of CSU’s contribution to the service organization’s origins. More importantly, the 1,700-plus current and former volunteers represent the land-grant mission in action. Their so-called “scarce skills” in fields such as agriculture, civil engineering, animal sciences, and sustainability have always been in high demand. – B.F.

SCARCE SKILLS

A young photographer, 1966

Enrollment
1957: 5,282

Population
Fort Collins: 25,027
Colorado: 1,753,947

Popular Book
Atlas Shrugged
by Ayn Rand is published

Popular Song
All Shook Up
Elvis Presley

Price of Milk
$1/gallon

John Matsushima (B.S., ’43; M.S., ’45) joins the faculty of his alma mater. Later, he developed a method for turning corn kernels into flakes, a technique adopted worldwide that significantly improved cattle feeding.

1961

Maurice Albertson, Pauline Birky-Kreutzer, and Andrew Rice conduct study that helps lead to the creation of the Peace Corps

1962

The Lagoon is built; filled in 1964

1963

Morgan Library opens

1965

Shelton Stanfill (B.A., ’65; CERT, ’65) along with Collegian editor John Hyde (B.A., ’66) place The Stump on the Plaza

1965

A young photographer, 1966

1957

Now

INNOVATION

1957

INNOVATION

1957

-Now

1957

AROUND THE OVAL | FALL 2019

9
Leann Saunders (B.S., ’92; M.Agr., ’94) is a fearless innovator and leader. Highlights from the 2018 CSU Distinguished Alumni Award recipient’s career include co-founding and operating Where Food Comes From Inc. – the No. 1 provider of certification and verification services to the food industry – with her husband, John; developing the first-ever USDA Process Verified program for beef; serving as a board member for the International Stockmen’s Education Foundation and the University of Nebraska’s Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship; and serving as one of only two female chairs for the U.S. Meat Export Federation.

Does Saunders think she is fearless? She is quick to attribute that trait to other people in her life, such as her husband, her father, and her grandfather. But Saunders pauses in describing herself that way.

“I am just someone who steps out of my comfort zone to do the things I want to do in life,” she said. “There are moments when I can be very fearful, but I have to coach myself to move beyond it. Fear keeps us from doing things, like trying something new or asking someone for help. I don’t ever want to be fearful of taking a chance.”

For those who know Saunders, it’s probably not surprising that she would offer this sage advice and that fearlessness is central to who she is. Saunders is the daughter of CSU alum Butch Mayfield (’67), who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and a master’s in math, then made his own fearless decision to follow his lifelong passion and become a full-time, first-generation rancher with his parents. He raised his children the same way.

“My parents raised my sister and me with the idea that we could do anything a man could do,” Saunders recalls. “We fixed fence, herded cattle. We never sensed a gender difference.”

So, when her husband, John, started their company 20 years ago, she knew that accepting and embracing her fear was key to their success.

“There were so many times when I wanted us to quit, but we didn’t,” she said.

Saunders is grateful for the opportunities she had at CSU to gain hands-on experience in the agriculture industry before she graduated. She is also grateful for the support she received from professors within the College of Agricultural Sciences.

“I tried to take advantage of all CSU and the College of Ag had to offer,” Saunders said. “But it was the support from people like Dr. Gary Smith, Dr. Tom Field, Dr. Jim Heird, and Dr. Lee Gray, just to name a few, that means so much to me.”

Through the Saunders’ generous support, Where Food Comes From Inc. sponsors the meat and dairy retail store at the JBS Global Food Innovation Center in Honor of Gary & Kay Smith.

“I truly believe that we can do whatever we want to do,” said Saunders. “If we aren’t afraid to ask for help from others, and thank people along the way, I don’t think there are any barriers to getting to where we want to be in life.”
Albert Yates becomes president

Philip E. Austin becomes president

First Ag Day held

State creates the Colorado State University System

Services for Asian American Students (Asian Pacific American Cultural Center) founded

Philip E. Austin becomes president

College Days abolished

Albert Yates becomes president

CSU Professor Tom Sutherland released after being held six years as a political prisoner in Lebanon

U.S. District Court finds CSU in violation of Title IX and requires reinstatement of women’s softball

Pingree Park (CSU Mountain Campus) damaged by Hourglass Fire

State creates the Colorado State University System

Services for Asian American Students (Asian Pacific American Cultural Center) founded

First Generation Award program started; the first such scholarship offered in the nation

Resources for Disabled Students established, initially serving about 180 students self-identified as having disability. The office is now Student Disability Center and serves approximately 2,300 students

Pingree Park (CSU Mountain Campus) damaged by Hourglass Fire

Scotland native Thomas Sutherland joined the animal sciences faculty in 1958. In 1983, he accepted a position as dean at American University in Beirut, Lebanon. The Islamic Jihad abducted Sutherland in 1985 and held him captive for 2,353 days. When finally released, he returned to a jubilant celebration in Moby Arena, displaying the spirit and optimism that had buoyed him and a fellow captive throughout their ordeal. Sutherland spent his last 25 years generously supporting the local community. Today, the Lory Student Center’s Sutherland Memorial Garden honors his legacy and his family’s commitment to education.

In 2019, the CSU softball team won the Mountain West Conference title for the third time in program history. At the season’s outset, the team adopted the hashtag #25Strong, symbolizing the unity of its 20 players and five staff. The hashtag also acknowledged the significance of the program’s reinstatement 25 years prior. The University had cut the sport in 1992 due to budget constraints related to reduced state funding, but players and parents sued, citing violations of Title IX gender-equity requirements. Signed into federal law in 1972, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination in education. The claimants won in U.S. District Court a year later. CSU recently announced plans to build a women’s athletics complex serving the softball and soccer programs within the former football practice area south of Moby Arena.

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Once in a Blue Moon

John Legnard (B.S., ’90) has been a part of the explosion in craft brewing in Colorado since the late 1980s. His love of brewing started at Colorado State University when one of his roommates saw an ad in the Collegian for a home-brewing class taught by CSU Extension. Legnard’s journey from those home-brew roots has taken him from the Hedgling Fort Collins brewing scene, to the SandLot Brewery at Coors Field, to his present role as brewmaster at the Blue Moon Brewing Company in Denver.

**Home-Brewing Class at CSU**

Originally from Connecticut, Legnard found CSU when he checked a box on the SAT to indicate an interest in pre-veterinary studies and agreed to share his scores. CSU sent him a postcard and that was all it took to convince him to visit in 1986 and then enroll.

“CSU was such a fun place to go to school and hang out and meet people. That’s what is so cool about CSU – I still have tons of friends from my days as a student. A group of us gets together for a reunion every five or 10 years. We buried a time capsule in Poudre Canyon the day after graduation and look forward to going back and finding it,” said Legnard.

Legnard was majoring in microbiology when he took the home-brewing class, held in a house across from the Gifford Building his junior year, changing his life’s course. After learning how to brew beer, he experimented with different recipes, with his roommates as testers. He even won an award for a Pilsner from Fort Collins’ home-brewing club.

Legnard found encouragement for his interest in brewing within his major at CSU, where he completed a senior project on industrial fermentation. It would be many years before CSU’s brewing class (2005) and, eventually, the Fermentation Science and Technology Program (2013), were launched to fill a need for trained professionals in the brewing and fermented foods industries.

**Sandlot at Coors Field**

As a student, Legnard made several connections to the brewing community in Fort Collins, including pioneers Sandy Jones and Doug Odell. After graduation, he had a temporary position at Coors in Golden, where he was a quality control technician. He was commuting to Golden when Jones called him about launching a brewery during the Rockies’ inaugural season.

In the summer of ’95, they experimented with a Belgian wheat beer they called Bellyslide Wit. A Coors employee tried it and said, “A beer this good only comes along once in a blue moon,” and Blue Moon was born.

**Sandy Jones Memorial Scholarship**

John Legnard (B.S., ’90) has continued to support the fermentation science program. When Fort Collins’ brewing pioneer Sandy Jones, who founded H.C. Berger Brewing, passed away unexpectedly in February 2018, Legnard revived one of the early H.C. Berger recipes, Red Banshee Ale, with proceeds from sales at Blue Moon Brewing Company going to the Sandy Jones Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a student majoring in fermentation science and technology at CSU. Legnard hopes to raise enough funds to eventually endow the scholarship in memory of his mentor, who also founded Fort Collins Brewery.
preparing students to meet the needs of the Colorado workforce. The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition in the College of Health and Human Sciences had been preparing to launch a major in fermentation science and technology to help support the growing brewing and food fermentation industries in the state. They pulled together an advisory board of professionals in the industry, including Legnard.

“John attended our inaugural industry advisory board meeting and has been an active and reliable member ever since,” said Jeff Callaway, associate director of the fermentation science program. “He has supported the FST program and CSU in many ways – everything from advice on curriculum and brewing and giving tours and his time, to leveraging his network to create scholarships to support the next generation of brewers.”

Legnard also worked with Molson Coors to secure brewing equipment that Coors had in storage. The equipment was donated to what is now the Lory Student Center Teaching Brewery in the Ramskeller, which served its first beer in 2018.

Legnard became the brewmaster at the new Blue Moon Brewing Company in the RiNo District in Denver in 2016, while continuing to oversee the SandLot Brewery at Coors Field. He is excited about CSU’s fermentation science program and the potential to train new professionals to meet the needs of the brewing industry in Colorado.

“I started off as a home brewer doing five-gallon batches,” said Legnard. “I just imagine where I would be if I had started off with a degree in CSU’s Fermentation Science and Technology Program. With all of the classes and background knowledge, I would be light-years ahead of where I am now.”

BOB LEGNARD

Brewmaster
Blue Moon Brewing Company
2018.

Becky Hammon (B.S., ’00) is assistant coach of the San Antonio Spurs. She was the first female full-time assistant coach in NBA history, the first woman to coach an NBA summer league team, and the first woman to coach in an NBA All-Star Game. As a Ram, Hammon was a three-time All-American and set the all-time Western Athletic Conference scoring record for men or women. She then spent 16 years in the WNBA, where she was named a Top 15 player in the league’s history.

Becky Hammon
Assistant Coach
San Antonio Spurs
2018.

University raises record $197.8 million
Old Main Bell returned to CSU

2014

Becky Hammon (B.S., ’00) becomes first woman full-time NBA coach

2016

On-campus football stadium, later named Canvas Stadium, opens; Old Main Bell installec in the Jim and Nadine Henry Family Tower at the Iris & Michael Smith Alumni Center

2017

C. Wayne McIlwraith Translational Medicine Institute opens
CSU ranks 5th nationally in Military Times ‘Best for Vets’ list

2019

Joyce McConnell becomes president

JOYCE McCONNELL

Joyce McConnell became the 15th president of Colorado State University on July 1, 2019. Taking the helm during CSU’s sesquicentennial anniversary, she is excited to lead the University into its next 150 years by leaning on principles that have guided her throughout her life, including a belief in providing opportunities to help others achieve their dreams. “If you give one student access and that student becomes successful, forever after their family is affected by that success,” she says. “You’re empowering students to live lives that they never would have expected they could live, and that’s just extraordinary. I’m driven by that sense of purpose.”

The CSU Marching Band participates in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Dublin

2013

2010

Fostering Success Program created to support CSU students who were former foster youth. It currently serves more than 200 students

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