



"A" TRADITION
THAT'S WEATHERED
THE TEST OF TIME



THE WILD RIDE
OF THE CSU
STUMP



Proud to Be
Ram Walk; a new CSU tradition

**CAM the Ram**Families carry on "Cam" namesake

Ram Network Spotlight

Making children's books accessible

Life Members
Welcome!

#### Welcome Home, Rams!

Tradition is what gives this place roots, what makes us all PROUD TO BE, and what comes to mind when we think back on our time here. Things such as hearing the cannon fire after a Rams touchdown, painting the "A," CAM the Ram, the Oval, the infamous Stump, and more.

In this issue, you'll get the inside scoop on some of our most treasured and time-honored traditions. How did they start? When did they start? How have they changed through the years? You're in for a real treat. Be sure to check out all the fun tidbits, throughout the magazine, about how your membership is tied to our traditions.

Meanwhile, back on campus, we're gearing up for perhaps one of the biggest and most anticipated traditions of the year – Homecoming and Family Weekend.

October brings about so much nostalgia across campus, and it's one of my most favorite times of year because of it. For me, the Homecoming festivities – from reunions to the Festival on the Oval, parade, bonfire, tailgate, football game, and more – aren't just events; they're traditions that remind us of the college experiences that unite and define us as Rams and Aggies.

I sincerely hope you'll come back to embrace the many new sights and sounds of your campus. If you haven't been back in a while, now is the time. We can't wait to welcome you home!

Mark your calendar, and visit homecoming.colostate.edu for event details.

Ram proud,

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

### Membership makes an IMPACT

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 220,000 alumni to CSU in meaningful ways. *Thank you!* 

# CSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS LIKE YOU MAKE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE

# Around ™ Oval

**FALL 2018** 

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#### ON THE COVER:

SFC Larry Kelser, military instructor for Colorado State University Army ROTC, tests Comatose before the 2018 home opener at Canvas Stadium.





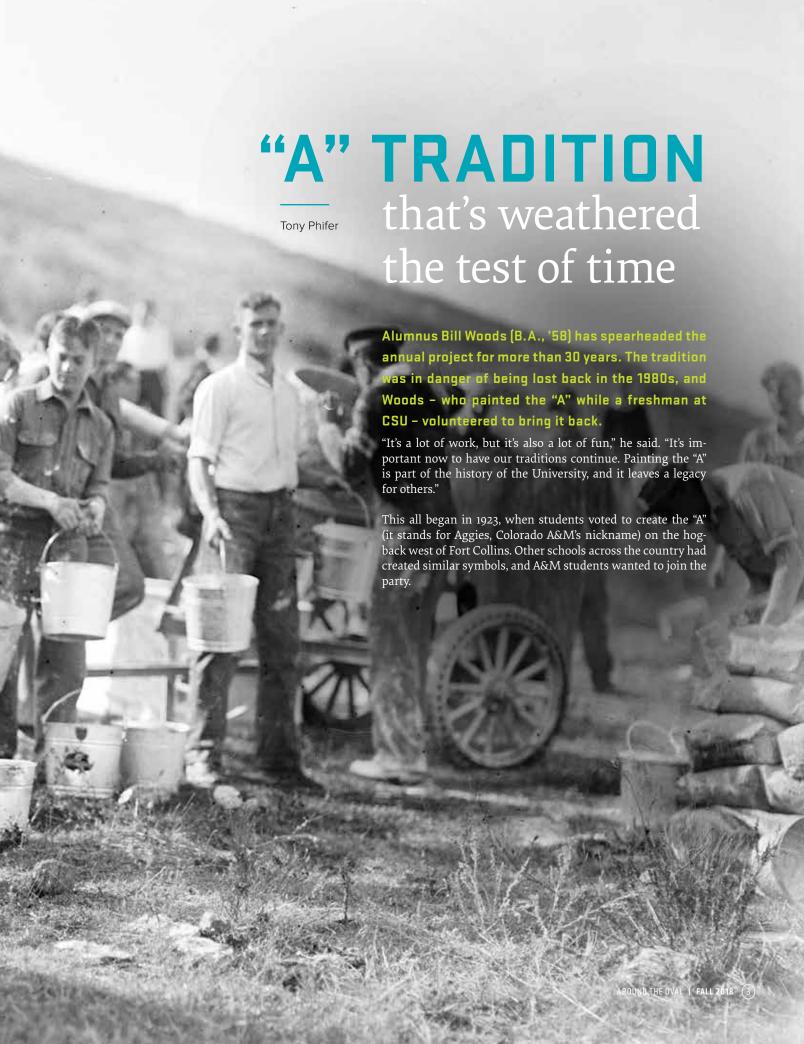


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## **HOW MUCH** PAINT?

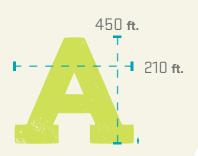
Nobody keeps official statistics on the "A" - the iconic symbol on a hillside west of Fort Collins - but here are a few things to consider:

It's estimated that more than 10.000 5-gallon buckets of whitewash have been used since the beginning of the "A." Stacked on top of each other, that's 12,500 feet of buckets. That's as high as:



20,00

STUDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED SINCE 1924



It's difficult to imaghow challenging this must have been. Fort Collins at the time was a sleepy town of around 10,000 residents, and A&M had only 675 students. Horsetooth Reservoir, which stretches 6.5 miles on the west side of the hogback, wasn't built until 1949.

Heck, CSU didn't even own the land targeted for the project. But area resident and landowner R.G. Maxwell leased the hillside to A&M for the grand sum of \$1. The original 99-year lease - set to expire in 2022 - was reworked in 2016 with the city of Fort Collins and the current landowner. The new deal is for 10 years and - inflation is everywhere, folks - cost CSU 10 whole dollars.

In the early, pre-Horsetooth Reservoir days, access to the site was limited to dirt roads that stopped well short of the bottom of the hillside. Bucket brigades formed a line from the cars and trucks that brought supplies as far as they could up to the site, adding a bit more work to the already arduous task.

These days, supplies are walked down from the paved road that weaves across the east side of the reservoir, making for easier access.

Still, it's a chore. Even with 200 or more volunteers - from freshman football players to fraternity and sorority members to first-year students eager to ignite their inner Rams fire by participating in one of CSU's oldest traditions - it still takes several hours to spruce up the "A" with a fresh coat of



Alumni Association members got to experience painting the "A" on Aug. 18, 2018 – some as first-timers, some reliving their glory days as students on campus.



paint each summer. Most of the equipment and paint is donated by area businesses, so the cost is minimal.

And beyond the annual painting, there is maintenance work that has to be done. Every few years, volunteers work with city of Fort Collins officials to trim or clear out trees and bushes that have become too large. Great care is taken to maintain the natural integrity of the land, which is part of the city's Maxwell Natural

Beyond the tradition of painting, the "A" is CSU's most recognized symbol. Visible from pretty much

anywhere on campus, it dominates the hillside and the surrounding foothills. It is so big and so widely recognized that for decades it has been a valued navigational tool for pilots flying in the area. It has been recognized since 1995 on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties as an example of hillside monograms that are distinctive landmarks in Western states.

In other words, the "A" is not only part of the University, but part of Fort Collins - and well worth the \$11 CSU has spent for use of the land since 1923.









Norma Lloyd ('65) rocks her finest CSU socks and actual freshman beanie as she participates in painting the "A" for the first time.



#### **MAXIMIZE YOUR MEMBERSHIP:** ONE-OF-A-KIND OPPORTUNITIES

Last year was the

first time alumni were invited to help paint the "A," and Alumni Association members were given first dibs at the volunteer spots. We were able to offer the same unique experience to members this year. Due to Ram Welcome festivities being scheduled during the same window in August, freshman students weren't available to paint, per tradition. As a result, we called on our members, as our most loyal alumni, to help us continue this timeless tradition of getting the "A" ready for the first kickoff of the season!







### Other mountain monograms

Hillside letters started as a tradition in the Western United States and quickly spread. Of the approximately 500 geoglyphs you might see:

- A Arizona State University
- **A** University of Arizona
- **C** University of California, Berkeley
- KS Kansas State University
- M Colorado School of Mines
- **U –** University of Utah
- Y Brigham Young University
- W University of Wyoming



"M" photo courtesy Colorado School of Mines; "U" courtesy University of Utah; "KS" courtesy K-State Photo Services.

# **COMATOSE:**

Ben Fogelberg (B.A., '94; M.A., '98) Ann Gill (M.A., '76)

# the sound of service

An antique but perfectly usable military cannon has herelded were to Colorado State University opponents on the gridiron since 1920. Fired before the game and each time CSU scores, our cannon is one of our proudest and loudest traditions.

This summer, the cannon we fondly refer to as "Comatose" was in the care of Mile High Powder Coating Inc., a family-owned business in Englewood. Its employees were entrusted with the task of peeling back its layers of

history and restoring its parts to their original glory in preparation for the 2018 football season.

Any story about the cannon should start well before this project began, however. It should begin with those responsible for its management: the Army ROTC.

Land-grant colleges were required by their enabling legislation, the Morrill Act, to provide training in military tactics.





When Charles Ingersoll became president of the College in 1882, he instituted daily military drills and hired a regular Army officer to serve on the faculty.

Six months after Congress authorized the Reserve Officers' Training Corps in 1917, the College started an Army ROTC program, which then was merged with the artillery training unit in the 1919-1920 school year. Later, our alma mater became one of the first colleges in the country to have an Air (later "Air Force") ROTC program.

Male freshmen at the College were required to participate in ROTC until 1962. Women got the opportunity to join the cadet corps in 1969. The 2017-2018 school year marked 100 years of Army ROTC and 70 years of Air Force ROTC at CSU, and both programs combined have produced more than 5,000 commissioned officers. The Army and Air Force ROTC programs are currently thriving on campus, with each program having approximately 150 cadets enrolled. Graduates go on to serve our nation as leaders in our armed services.

No longer limited to freshmen, the Ram

Battalion is one of the region's most active and top-rated Army ROTC programs. Its graduates enter active duty in a branch of their choice at a much higher rate than the national average. The CSU Air Force ROTC program is also topranked and has earned the region's best of 34 detachments for the last two years. The Air Force ROTC program also supports cadets from the University of Northern Colorado as well as Front Range and Aims community colleges.

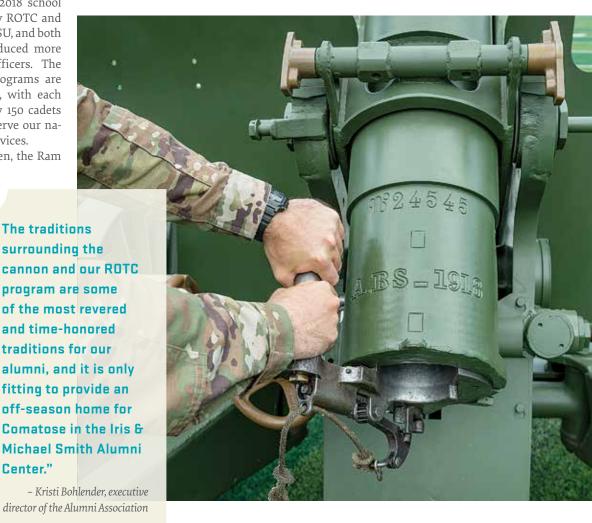
The strength and discipline of those cadets is on display behind

the south end zone at every home football game. Each time CSU scores, the men and women in uniform wait for the cannon to fire, then drop to the turf and pound out pushups for CSU's total score, in unison. Fans cheer them on by counting, but they are spared the pain a high-powered offense can inflict. In last year's home opener, the

Center."

















"Comatose" before (INSET), after (CENTER), and during (TOP) the restoration process. UPPER LEFT: Honorary guest cannoneers have included Amy Van Dyken ('94). LEFT: Army ROTC cadets put in their pushups at Canvas Stadium.

Rams beat Oregon 58-27, which required the cadets to do 313 total pushups.

Cannons, on loan from the U.S. Army, were part of our military training program since the early days of the institution. One of them became the cannon we used for our football tradition. When the Aggies played football games at Colorado Field on College Avenue, the cannon sat in a wagon near the field. In those early days,

the ROTC cadets even used the wagon to transport the cannon to a few away games. CSU Athletics historian John Hirn writes that cadets "caused some commotion with the Longmont police" in 1922, when they fired the gun

from the back of its truck while traveling down Main Street on their way to Boulder.

The Army recalled the cannon we were using for our football tradition during World War II and replaced it with a "loaner." In 1948, the Fifth Army permanently deeded a 1918 75 mm French Howitzer mounted on a 1941 retrofitted carriage to the College. We call our cannon "Comatose." Today, Comatose still makes an annual trip to Denver for the Rocky Mountain Showdown. Longmont residents are happy to report that they have been spared any further wake-up calls.

Hughes Stadium. Comatose sat on the south concourse. In Canvas Stadium, it sits in a field-level recessed area of the south end zone during football season. And this year, its glossy shine will once again match its shout.

Asked if the cannon rehabilitation project presented any surprises, Mile High Powder Coating shop manager John McRee said, "Not really. Except for the layers." After disassembly and photo documentation, careful sanding revealed layers of green, gold, and even blue; colors that witnessed hundreds of football games, withstood good weather and bad, and brought a joyful and often jolting noise to crowds over the

The cannon made the trip to the shop in Englewood on April 27, 2018, and it was finished by the end of July. "It's not easy to disassemble," McRee explains,

In last year's home opener, the Rams beat Oregon 58-27, which required cadets to do 313 total pushups.

> noting that the shop had to buy additional tools to do some of the more specialized work. They started with the smaller items - brackets, clamps, and so forth - and then continued with the French 75 mm barrel and World War II-era chassis.

> They polished the brass parts and added a clearcoat to retain the shine. The barrel and other painted parts were sandblasted and placed in a paint booth, where the powder coat - essentially a dry paint - was applied. Then they baked the painted parts in an oversized oven at 400 degrees for 30 minutes, until the surfaces turned as smooth as glass. The parts can be handled immediately after they cool.

After reassembly, Comatose was returned to CSU. Alumni and fans who want to get up close and personal with the cannon will be pleased to learn that it will be on display in the Iris & Michael Smith Alumni Center during the off-season, ready to start another chapter of its story startling new generations of alumni, students, and fans with every boom.



#### Be a big shot with the Cannon Tradition fund

Until recently, the U.S. Army supplied 75 mm blank shells for Comatose. A cannon round costs approximately \$50, and the more the Rams score, the higher the cost per football game. Be a big shot and give a gift to the Cannon Tradition fund. Your donation will give new meaning to our fight song's lyrics, "As down the field we thunder!" Visit

advancing.colostate.edu/ CANNONTRADITION



#### **MAXIMIZE YOUR** MEMBERSHIP: **EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES**

Alumni Association members enjoyed a members-exclusive event in August that put them among the first to see, touch, and snap selfies with Comatose! Were you here? Share your photos with us on social using #ComatoseCannon. And if you missed it, be sure you're keeping up with all of our members-exclusive opportunities and event discounts on our calendar alumni.colostate. edu/alumnievents-calendar



# The wild ride of the

Ann Gill (M.A., '76)



The issue brought many speakers to the Stump, and 4,000 students and faculty traveled in a motorcade to Denver, where they formed a human ring around the state Capitol in protest. The Stump also made the trip in the back of a pickup truck to serve as the on-site speakers' platform. Kimsey cites former Collegian editor John Gascoyne's (B.A., '67) report of law enforcement reaction to the Stump: "A police helicopter radioed a warning that protestors were transporting a battering ram with the apparent intention of forcing their way in" to the Capitol building. (Denver police apparently did not know that our "battering ram" is CAM!)

The Stump made a second trip to Denver in 1966 for a women's rights demonstration, but spent the rest of its time during those early years on the Plaza, where many speakers delivered lively rhetoric from atop it. According to Kimsey, not all speakers' experiences on the

Stump were effective or pleasant, however; listeners pelted one student-government candidate with a dozen eggs while he was attempting to persuade potential voters.

The Stump not only is a platform for speakers; it has its own story to tell. In 1967, it was stolen from the Collegian office. The thieves wrote a letter to the editor, taunting that they knew where the Stump was, signing it "Peeps Raven." The Collegian ran ads requesting to discuss the issue with Peeps Raven and offering a \$50 reward for the return of the Stump but got no response. In 1970, a student came into the Collegian office to report he had spotted the Stump in a ravine at Horsetooth. Then-editor Kimsey went to Horsetooth and confirmed the student's story, but before newspaper staffers were able to assemble a crew to retrieve it, the Stump disappeared again.

In 1971, *Collegian* reporter Alan Worline (B.A., '98) made it his mission to find the Stump,



# THE FABLED CHUNK OF WOOD STUMP HISTORY

The Stump has not always been a fixture of the Plaza. In fact, it has been stolen, dumped, chopped, replaced, and even lobbied at the state Capitol.



#### 1964

The Stump is created by Collegian editor John
Hyde (B.A., '66) and Reach
editor Shelton Stanfill
(B.S., '65; CERT, '65) as a
platform for free speech.

#### 1966

The Stump travels to the state Capitol for a women's rights demonstration.

## 1967

The Stump is stolen from the Collegian



Spotted in a ravine at Horsetooth, the Stump disappears again before it can be retrieved.

### 1965

The Stump travels to Denver for a protest of a proposal to cut CSU funding and is mistaken by police as a battering ram.





campus fol-

lowing ransom

payment of \$10 and two cases of beer.

finally locating it in some students' apartment, where it functioned as a coffee table. After a ransom of \$10 and two cases of beer, the Stump came home again. Worline's article recounted the celebration: "After the Stump was returned to the Collegian, everyone stood on it and marveled at the extraordinary speaking powers that it seems to have given those who climb upon it."

After its return, many speakers again stood atop the Stump to pitch their points of view. In April 1973, Vernon Bellecourt of the American Indian Movement spoke from the Stump, rallying individuals to caravan to South Dakota and support the occupation force at Wounded Knee.

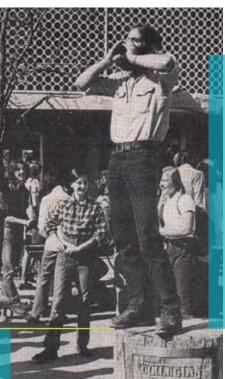
The return lasted only a few years. The Stump was stolen again in the mid-1970s and was gone until the end of 1980 when Kimsey spotted it in another ravine, this one behind a cabin near Rustic where it was being used as a chopping block for firewood. Mark Silano, Collegian editor at the time, retrieved the Stump, which was in poor shape. He had a brass band, emblazoned "Collegian," installed around it to keep the wood from splitting further.

The Stump made its reappearance on the Plaza on Dec. 9, 1980, the day after John Lennon was shot. Several hundred people had gathered to mourn the singer's death. Collegian reporter Stewart Schley (B.A., '81)

wrote: "The Stump served as the speaking base for several

who shared their feelings and thoughts about John Lennon and his music." Student Center Director Bill Weddel then "introduced the fabled chunk of wood," saying, "Today, we'd like to resurrect the Stump and all the ideals for free speech it entails." Schley concluded, "With those words, another chapter of CSU Stump history has begun."

In the ensuing years, the University has replaced the actual log that serves as the Stump more than once. In 1992, the Fort Collins Forester's Office replaced it in honor of ASCSU's 75th anniversary, adding a plaque featuring a Robert F. Kennedy quotation. Throughout the replacements, the misadventures, and all those speakers, our stalwart platform for free expression has endured.



#### 1980

The Stump is found being used to split firewood behind a cabin in Rustic. It's restored and placed back on the Plaza.



### MID-1970s

Stolen again, the Stump remains missing for another five years.



## 1992

Replaced for ASCSU's 75th anniversary, the Stump is dedicated with a bronze plaque with a quote from Robert F. Kennedy.





# **RAM** WALK

In 2017, a new tradition was introduced to CSU. This bright Aggie orange road leads your green and gold to the gridiron on home Game Day weekends. Rams fans gather on the Ram Walk as CSU celebrities, such as CAM the Ram, the Ram Handlers, the CSU Marching Band, cheerleading team, and, of course, your CSU football team and Coach Bobo head for Canvas Stadium with chants of the CSU fight song filling the air: "FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! GO RAMS!"

And when we're not lining the orange path to send our team into battle, thousands of students pass over the Ram Walk every day as they head one way or another down Meridian Avenue. The painting of Ram Walk is no small feat - in fact, the 4-foot-tall letter stencils are hand-positioned and sprayed.

Ram Walk was created in large part by CSU student Savannah McNealy ('17), who sadly passed away last fall. Since then, the Ram Walk has served as a reminder of the pride and support Rams feel for each other and for the CSU community.









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· Alumni Night Out at the Gilded Goat



• Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

- Festival on the Oval
- · Homecoming Parade
- Friday Night Lights (Pep Rally, Bonfire, Fireworks, Lighting of the "A")
- Alumni Association Member Reception
- 50 Year Club Luncheon

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

- Parent and Family Breakfast
- · Homecoming & Family Weekend Tailgate
- Homecoming Football Game: CSU vs. New Mexico

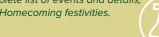
## **SUNDAY**, OCTOBER 14

• Homecoming 5K Race



Please visit homecoming.colostate.edu for a complete list of events and details, including Smith Alumni Center open hours during Homecoming festivities.









# Boston Rams' Gift of Reading

Ann Gill (M.A., '76)

The Boston Ram Network had an outstanding project for CSUnity, the annual day of service by Colorado State Unversity alumni, students, and friends. These National Braille Press, an organization whose goal is to make braille books available at a cost no greater than print versions. As a braille book costs three to four times more to produce than a print version, reaching this goal requires significant volunteer assistance.

The children's books assembled

by the Boston Ram Network are

"dual-sighted/braille," according to

steering committee member Dave

Harelson (B.S., '85). The volunteers

assemble the books by inserting a

clear plastic page with the text in

braille along with an explanation

of the picture next to each paper

page. This allows families with

both blind and sighted members

to read together. Harelson ex-

plains that enabling "a child to sit

on a parent's lap, reading" makes

their volunteer effort feel "pretty

worthwhile!" They collated Arnold

Lobel's award-winning children's

book Frog and Toad are Friends this

The Boston Ram Network, established in 2008, also sponsors watch parties and other fun events, including hockey games and apple picking. Recently, a dynamic steering committee has engaged Boston-area alumni with new activities, including livening up their Rocky Mountain Showdown watch party by inviting local CU alumni to join them.

Network, according to Susan Cook

(B.A., '92), as the city has a "last-

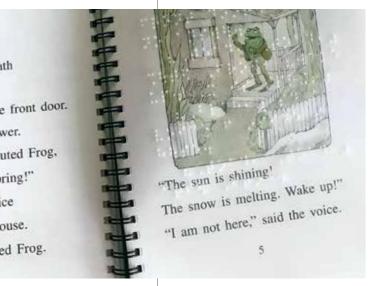
ing legacy of helping the blind."

Boston's Perkins School for the Blind was the first school of its

kind in the United States.

"Moving to a new city can be daunting, but knowing there is a group of CSU Rams you can hang with makes it easier," said Jarad Yost (B.S., '15).

Knowing those alumni come together not only for fun and networking but also to make a difference in their community makes it even better. We celebrate this outstanding volunteer project by a group of stalwart Boston Rams.



Boston-based alumni gathered to assemble braille books - a writing system using raised dots that allow the blind community to read by touch.

They did the project for the

This is a particularly appropriate project for the Boston Ram

new city can be daunting but knowing there is a group of CSU Rams you can hang with makes it easier"

Moving to a

**Jarad Yost** (B.S., '15)



year.



Boston Ram Network CSUnity volunteers. From left: Dave Harelson (B.S., '85), Emily Adquist, Aaron Martinez (B.A., '08), Jarad Yost (B.A., '15), Amanda Dudek (B.S., '12), Samantha Guinn (B.S., '15), Emmy Arhelger, and Susan Cook (B.A., '92).

Children's Book Club of the

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#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

# Kids named

# CAM

RAMS FANS AROUND THE COUNTRY show their pride in a variety of ways - some even impacting generations to come. Here are three little Ram legacies whose parents instilled a love of green and gold in them at birth with a very stalwart name.



#### CAMDEN

Camden may be one of the younger Rams fans at just 2 years old, but that doesn't hinder his Ram Pride! "He notices and calls out Ram logos already," explains his dad, Mike Flick (B.S., '05). "His two older siblings have tried to teach him the fight song, and he sings along as best he can," said Flick. "I showed him a picture of CAM, and he started chanting 'Go Rams! Go Rams! Go Rams!"" Camden's parents met at CSU and are sure to show their love of their alma mater in whatever way they can for their kids.









#### **CAMPBELL**

Now 15 and a sophomore in high school, Campbell is "an amazingly polite, considerate, and loving kid," according to his dad. Joel Cantalamessa (B.A., '95). Cantalamessa runs RamNation.com, a website where CSU fans can chat about their time on campus

and what's happening at the University now. Campbell's fame as a "new CAM" began when he was born and his father featured him on the home page. Cantalamessa's wife, Laura (B.S., '96), was hesitant about the idea of a CSU-centered name; "in fact, it wasn't even a part of the

plan," he explained. "But as we rolled name after name off the tongue, one in particular stuck: Campbell. She liked the Gaelic sound of it, and said, 'We'd call him Cam for short.' We both looked at each other and the lightbulb went off. It was perfect. Instantly, we knew that was the name we wanted."



#### CAMERON

Strong-willed and full of spunk are a couple of the ways Adam Fisher (B.S., '02) describes his 8-year-old daughter, Cameron – a name Fisher and his wife, Kim (B.A., '01), chose to pay homage to the University that paired them together almost 20 years ago. "We met at the 1999 Liberty Bowl in Memphis, and we're athletics supporters," Fisher said. "We wanted to recognize what we have done and (that CSU has) brought us to this point. The other reason I wanted to (name her Cam) was because I want to tell this story at her wedding reception." Fisher explains how both of his daughters are future CSU hopefuls, thanks to their time at athletics events and ties to the University. Cameron's pride in CSU stems from her namesake, and Fisher describes how she never misses an opportunity to steal a hug or photo with CAM the Ram.

Savannah Hoaq ('19)



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# Join us!

Be sure to check the Alumni Association calendar regularly for updates, details, and new events near you!

#### alumni.colostate.edu/alumni-events-calendar

Whether it's joining your fellow Alumni Association members for the Friday Night Lights Member Reception during Homecoming and Family Weekend, Ram Rallies and Tailgates, Alumni Nights Out, personal and professional development webinars and workshops, or any number of other events, the Alumni Association offers members-exclusive opportunities and







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



The MindShare Network

The Global Network for Dreams, Hope and Life Activation

mindsharenetwork.com/CSUAlumni





#### **WELCOME, NEW LIFE MEMBERS** MARCH 14-SEPT. 4, 2018

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M. David and LeAnn G., '78, Massey

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