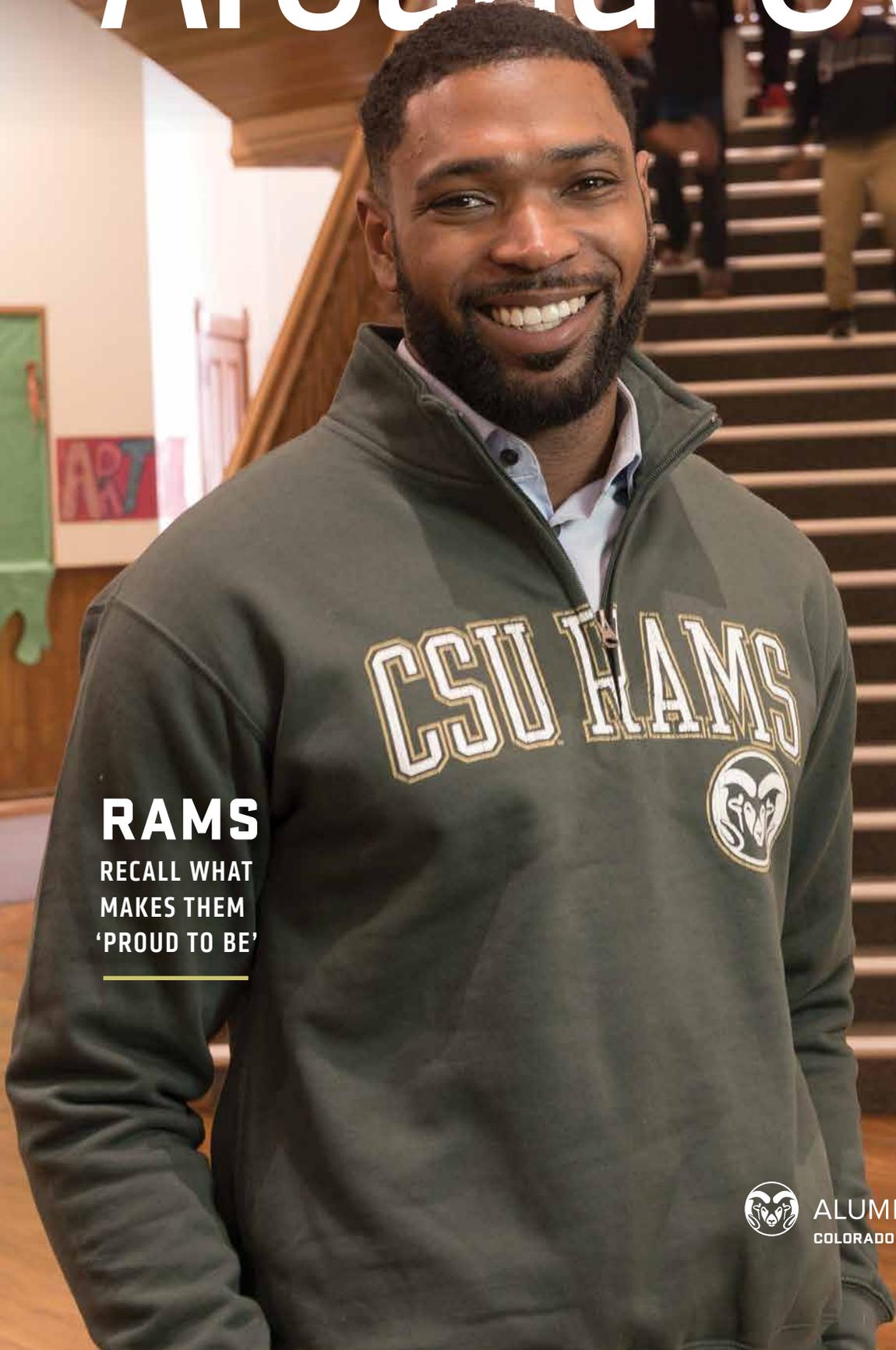


# Around THE Oval



## RAMS

RECALL WHAT  
MAKES THEM  
'PROUD TO BE'

---



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

10

PROUD TO BE  
RICK BREWER



14

PROUD TO BE  
JILLIAN SHOOK

INCLUDING AN  
INTERACTIVE WALK  
DOWN MEMORY LANE  
PULLOUT POSTER -  
PAGES 16-17

24

I LOVE CSU DAY  
TELL US WHY YOU  
LOVE CSU!



INSIDE

04 **Norma Andersen**  
Like Father, Like Daughter

08 **Darryl Beemer**  
Lessons from CAM

18 **Meghann Blach**  
Serving Up Success

20 **Desi & Lisa Rhoden**  
Persistence Pays Off

26 **Ram Networks**  
Meet your team members

28 **2018 50 Year Club Award Recipients**  
Congratulations to our winners

30 **Thank You**  
To our members for the impact you  
continue to make.

32 **Life Members**  
Welcome, new life members

Proud to Be - through the years

As a two-time graduate of Colorado State University and an employee for more than 20 years – the last three serving you as the Alumni Association’s executive director – I have plenty of stories that explain why I’m proud to be a CSU Ram. And though I find myself embellishing now and then, the stories all have one thing in common: genuinely good and talented people doing good things for each other, their communities, and the world.

One of those people is President Tony Frank. As he prepares to transition to his new role as full-time chancellor of the CSU System, I find myself feeling grateful for his leadership over the last 11 years and optimistic about the University’s future – optimistic in the same way I was when I was new to campus and fellow students and faculty made me feel welcome, valued, and challenged to always do better.

That feeling stayed with me and, in time, turned into pride: Pride in the University and those who count themselves among its stewards and ambassadors who are doing good in their careers and personal lives.

I feel privileged to be part of this community that has remained grounded in its land-grant mission of access and opportunity. And to get to carry that charge on behalf of all our alumni so they always feel, “once a Ram, always a Ram,” is why I’m forever “Proud to Be.”

As you dive into this issue, you’ll hear from seven other Rams about why they’re Proud to Be, and my guess is that you’ll find yourself relating to their experiences. There are even some fun interactive opportunities for you to show us how you’re Proud to Be waiting inside!



Ram proud,

*Kristi Bohlender*

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 228,000 alumni to CSU in meaningful ways. *Thank you!*

CSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS LIKE YOU MAKE THIS PUBLICATION POSSIBLE

Around THE Oval

SPRING 2019

EDITOR  
Amy Jo Miller

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS  
Jerick Flores ('10)  
Ben Fogelberg, (B.A., '94; M.A., '98)  
Ann Gill (M.A., '76)  
Savannah Hoag ('19)  
Becky Jensen ('93)  
Tony Phifer  
Kate Wyman ('99)

GRAPHIC DESIGN  
Christy Schuster ('18)  
CSU Creative Services

COPY EDITOR  
Betty Grace Mickey

PHOTOGRAPHY  
CSU Photography  
CSU Alumni Association staff

STAFF CONTRIBUTORS  
Kristi Bohlender  
Assistant Vice President (B.S., '93; M.B.A., '95)

Haley Katz  
Associate Director of Membership and Giving

*Around the Oval* is published twice a year by the CSU Alumni Association as a benefit of membership.

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

© 2019 by Colorado State University.  
All rights reserved  
An equal-access and equal-opportunity University

ON THE COVER:

*Rick Brewer (B.A., '11), a director at Wyatt Academy, is Proud to Be a CSU Ram. Learn more about how this Ram forged his own path from athlete to economics to educator.*

Join us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.



Search “CSU Alumni Association” to download today!

STATE YOUR PURPOSE  
THE CAMPAIGN FOR COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

# Proud TO BE

In his final Fall Address to the University, President Tony Frank reasserted a message he sent to campus more than a decade ago: “The success of Colorado State University in the future will have less to do with who occupies the president’s chair than who is teaching our classes, who is leading our research programs, and who we admit and graduate.”

On July 1, Dr. Frank will transition to a full-time role as chancellor of the CSU System. It’s tempting, and even fitting, to look back on the last 11 years through a historian’s lens, adjusting the aperture to shed light on some of the major University efforts championed by Dr. Frank and other CSU leaders: increasing access and opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds; upholding our mission of service to fellow Rams and our communities; growing our campus to meet the needs of students and researchers; cultivating a culture of excellence that endures long after students graduate; and fostering principles of community that ground us in common purpose when we’re confronted with incidents that challenge fundamental civil rights.

All of these efforts can be dissected and debated, but as we reflect on the state of the University, we need look no further than our alumni for perspective. Their stories, some of which are presented in this issue, tell us more about who we were and what we’ve become than any statistical analysis ever could.

Dr. Frank has stated that our alumni family is “the memory, the conscience, [and] the character” of CSU. We couldn’t agree more, and we wish him the best as he settles into his new role – and a new chair.

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

“THE SUCCESS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE FUTURE WILL HAVE LESS TO DO WITH WHO OCCUPIES THE PRESIDENT’S CHAIR THAN WHO IS TEACHING OUR CLASSES, WHO IS LEADING OUR RESEARCH PROGRAMS, AND WHO WE ADMIT AND GRADUATE.”

President Tony Frank

## SEVEN RAMS RECALL WHAT MAKES THEM PROUD TO BE

**4** **NORMA ANDERSEN (B.A., '60; B.A., '61; M.ED., '76)** is a triple alumna who promotes Ram Pride through her musical education and teaching, and memories of her father, George Andersen ('27), who gave her an appreciation of CSU sports.



**8** **DARRYL BEEMER (B.A., '14; M.S., '15)**, a former Ram Handler, works as a mechanical engineer in Boise, Idaho, where he volunteers his time for STEM outreach programs, waterway cleanup projects, and the Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit.



**10** **RICK BREWER (B.S., '11)**, a first-generation student and standout linebacker on the Rams football team, turned his passion for helping young people into a career as an elementary school administrator who’s developing equitable access to quality education – an extension of CSU’s land-grant mission.



**14** **JILLIAN SHOOK (B.A., '18)** came to the big city of Fort Collins as a first-generation student from a small farming community in rural Colorado. In May, she’ll start at CSU again, but this time as a graduate student who knows the University like the back of her hand, thanks to everything she embraced on campus her first time around.



**18** **MEGHANN BLACH (B.S., '10)** drew on advice from a CSU mentor before opening a coffee shop that has become a gathering spot for Yuma, Colo., farmers and ranchers, many of whom are alumni who represent the best of CSU’s agricultural roots.



**20** **DESI (B.S., '83; M.S., '84) AND LISA RHODEN (B.S., '84)** are electrical engineers and national leaders in their field through talent and determination. Now, they’re empowering the next generation of engineers through generous gifts to their alma mater.



# NORMA Andersen

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

Becky Jensen ('93)

Ram Pride is subtle, yet everywhere, in the Fort Collins home of Norma Andersen – a triple alumna with a degree in piano performance ('60), a B.A. in French ('61), and a master's in education ('76). Photographs of CSU friends and family grace the shelves of her music room. Next to her grand piano is an impressive stack of *Silver Spruce* yearbooks – a record of the Andersen family's nearly century-old connection to Colorado State University.

"These are my dad's," Andersen says, grabbing several book-marked volumes, the oldest dating back to 1920 when her father, George Andersen ('27), was a freshman at then-Colorado Agricultural College. She flips through the pages. "Oh, here's

a good one," she beams, pointing to a photo of her father in canvas pants, wool knee socks, and a leather helmet. He's posing in a three-point stance on the football field. A competitive and versatile athlete, George Andersen was quarterback for the Aggies under legendary coach Harry Hughes, point guard on his fraternity's basketball team, and captain of the wrestling team. He earned a degree in agriculture, became the head wrestling coach and assistant football coach for CAC, and would later become a farmer, 4-H leader, school board member, and Weld County commissioner from 1948 to 1960.



**A** George Andersen, pictured here in 1920, played football and basketball and wrestled for Colorado Agricultural College.



**E** Norma Andersen flips through her old *Silver Spruce* yearbooks, chronicling a near century-long family tradition of attending CSU.

Norma Andersen's first memories of campus were as a child attending football games with her family at Colorado Field (where the running track is now) more than 70 years ago. "He loved sports and gave me that love," she says of her father, who also passed down the pride he had in his alma mater to his daughter.

Andersen opens another yearbook to a black-and-white photo of a young woman wearing a long, beaded necklace and cloche hat, dressed like a 1920s flapper in CSU's 1958 performance of *The Boy Friend*, a Broadway musical. "That's me," she says, grinning. "The Charleston was my dance specialty." Page after page reveals Andersen as a go-getter – singing in choirs, dancing in clubs, honor societies, and her sorority.

A multitalented performer, Andersen became an accomplished piano accompanist at CSU under Julliard-trained Wendel Diebel. She also played flute in the CSU Marching Band and Fort Collins Symphony under distinguished conductor, Symphony founder, and CSU professor, Will Schwartz, another Julliard grad.

Looking back, Andersen deeply appreciates the high-caliber music



Andersen has each mention of her father marked in his old college yearbooks.



MAKING MUSIC

The CSU School of Music, Theatre, and Dance helped Norma Andersen find a sense of community, both on and off campus. "Choir is a wonderful memory for me," Andersen says of the experience that forged lifelong friendships. She also enjoyed playing flute, and touring Wyoming and Colorado towns, with the CSU Marching Band. "We played for locals and stayed in their homes," Andersen says of the fun spring break road trips that introduced her to new people and places across the West. Above, Andersen and lifelong choir friend Lorraine Shuler show their Ram Pride at Canvas Stadium in 2018.



Stacks of yearbooks showcase story upon story of the Andersens' time on campus.



education she received as a Ram. "I'm so proud of the music department and the time I spent there," she says, describing the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance as an unsung treasure at CSU. After graduation, Andersen joined a touring melodrama theater out of Jackson, Wyo., and eventually returned home to teach French and vocal music – and become a beloved piano accompanist – in

Poudre School District for 30 years. "I used all of my degrees throughout my career," she says, "and I feel good about that." Today, Andersen is the president of Opera Fort Collins Guild, and she plays piano at fundraising events that benefit local nonprofits, including Friends of the Symphony. She's an award-winning photographer to boot. "I've had an interesting life,"

she chuckles as she reshelves the yearbooks. It's obvious Andersen is proud of her father's legacy at CSU, but she's even more proud of the well-rounded, community-minded man he evolved into because of his college experience. "In my opinion, he became a very great man," she says, and she's right. And Norma Andersen is her father's daughter.





“Traditions like CAM help root an experience and provide unity across generations,” Darryl Beemer said. The Alumni Association is proud to be the keeper of traditions like CAM, and proud of what our Ram Handlers, like Beemer, are becoming.

# DARRYL Beemer

## LESSONS FROM CAM

Jerick Flores ('10)

Ram Handlers are the backbone of Colorado State University’s mascot tradition, ensuring CAM is well taken care of and ready to interact with Rams fans. Coming into the program from different backgrounds, with different experiences, and pursuing majors across the University, they all have one thing in common – their passion for CSU’s cutest tradition. And the Alumni Association’s goal is to provide a meaningful leadership experience while fostering a special understanding of Ram Pride and engagement through the Ram Handler program.

Darryl Beemer (B.S., '14; M.S., '15) grew up a Ram. His mother and oldest sister are alumnae, but despite all that, CSU wasn’t in his plans. However, those plans quickly changed after a visit where he was immediately impressed with the quality of the engineering program and couldn’t deny the positive vibes he got about the University. “CSU’s land-grant mission resonated with my professional desires and background,” Beemer explained. “I saw that I could make it feel as small as I wanted while maintaining the advantages of a major research University.”

Beemer became a Ram Handler upon arriving at CSU his freshman year and was immediately at home, as his family raises Rambouillet sheep at the Ewe Bet Ranch in Loveland, Colo. Beemer credits the Ram Handler program as a major leadership opportunity that allowed him to mentor fellow handlers and educate the public about CAM. Being one of CAM’s best friends, running him across the field, getting some face time with President Tony Frank, and walking in downtown Denver parades weren’t bad perks either!

Since graduating, Beemer has landed in Boise, Idaho, where he is a mechanical engineer for HP. He’s also been involved with STEM outreach programs, waterway cleanup projects, and the Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit – all using skills that handling CAM helped him foster.

Beemer will tell you being a Ram Handler also helped shape his pride in CSU, as it gave him a chance to be part of the University’s engagement within the community – a mission he grew to embody himself, and part of why he became a life member of the Alumni Association after graduation. “It is important for alumni to be involved with their alma mater; it holds them accountable in scientific and social progress and carrying out the land-grant mission,” Beemer says.

 Life Member

# RICK Brewer

## NURTURING THE FUTURE

Kate Wyman (B.A., '99)  
and Ann Gill (M.A., '76)

A single-file line of third-grade students in matching blue uniform shirts winds into the classroom at Wyatt Academy, a charter elementary school in Denver. Their teacher quiets the group, and she is beaming – one of her students who was lagging behind in literacy bumped up a full grade level on his latest test.

“Wow. That’s a huge achievement,” says Rick Brewer (B.A., '11), a director at Wyatt Academy. With a wide grin, he shakes his head, almost stunned, and gives a shoutout in front of the entire class to the student. He walks down the line of third-graders, fist-bumping each one along the way. Achievements are shared and encouragement is commonplace at Wyatt Academy. Brewer knows every student by name, and he greets every teacher, mentor, or support staffer who passes by.

“Third grade is the hardest; it’s where kids learn cause and effect,” he says. “This is where the real learning begins.” But it extends beyond a test score for these kids, he says. “This is when we have the chance to break the path of school to prison – a real concern for these scholars, who are 98 percent students of color,” Brewer explains. “The propensity for dropout is based on how students do in third grade.”

Brewer approaches life with passion – a passion for excellence and for helping young people overcome challenges and achieve excellence.

A star linebacker and economics major, this Ram became a capital manager following graduation. As a first-team All-State selection at Mullen High School in Denver, Brewer led the state with 156 tackles as a junior. At Colorado State University, he had multiple 100-tackle seasons.



Scholars at Wyatt Academy in Denver pass in a single-file line from class to lunch recess. Director Rick Brewer (B.A., '11) knows each by name.



**A** Rick Brewer congratulates a third-grade scholar on his improved test score on a break between classes at Wyatt Academy in Denver. The achievement is shared with the entire class (right).

But his students don't know that. Brewer doesn't talk about his football days – most don't even know he played at Colorado State University until they sit in his office where his helmet is on display. He says he wants students to focus more on academic opportunities than on athletics; “it shouldn't be their identity to help overcome their circumstances,” he shares.

“It's a slice of the pie, not the whole pie.” As a role model, Brewer wants them to see him as intellectual, as a professional, and as someone to aspire to be.

That's the kind of inspiration and motivation he received from his coaches, advisers, and professors at CSU. He knew he could be more than an athlete because of them.

As a first-generation student, Brewer worked hard in the classroom; “I saw myself becoming a Wall Street broker, a hotshot.” After graduation and a year in capital management, he realized it was not the right fit. His joy in life came from volunteering at Hiawatha Elementary in Minneapolis; “there was not a day when I did

not leave there happy.”

After leaving capital management, he set out to earn a master's degree in special education. At the same time, he taught at-risk and special-needs children at George Washington High School in Denver, and he worked at Jefferson Hills, a residential child care facility in Aurora that is part of the Colorado Crisis Services system.

In his second year at Wyatt, Brewer helped to create the progressive leadership model now in place. Rather than a traditional principal, the team

uses a four-person leadership model. He explains there is no hierarchy, so the four directors can focus on important aspects of the program at Wyatt while working together to create an outstanding educational experience. Brewer serves as director of scholar services. Among his responsibilities are developing equitable access and ensuring teachers use cultural competencies that help all students learn.

You might be wondering what his economics degree is doing for him now, but Brewer has a different take. “Economics focuses on scarcity of resources,” he explains. “While resources in education may appear to be abundant, quality education is scarce.” And as a leader in his field, he's also landed a few “other duties as assigned,” such as budget management and fundraising, for which his numbers education comes in handy.

As Brewer talks through how he is using his degree, a student is yelling down the hall, pacing and arguing with his teacher. Brewer approaches him, drops to one knee, and looks him directly in the eyes. “You need to have respect,” he says. “It's OK to feel, but you deserve to be better to yourself.” He speaks about fairness and doing the right thing. “The first thing is

to listen, then to back it up,” he explains later.

Brewer is determined to bring quality education to grade school “scholars,” as Wyatt Academy calls them, and to create a nurturing environment of excellence that will be a foundation for their success in life. The school's vision statement proclaims, “100 percent of Wyatt Academy scholars will

be college-ready.” It also provides for nurturing the educators' continuing education.

Brewer is a living, breathing example of so many of the principles this institution is built upon, and he's working to carry that through in the work he does. “The overall culture of the Rams family is inclusive, and for me, that's proud to be.”  Member

“THE OVERALL CULTURE OF THE RAMS FAMILY IS INCLUSIVE, AND FOR ME, THAT'S PROUD TO BE.”

Rick Brewer



# JILLIAN Shook

## ALL IN AND FOR-EVER-GREEN

Savannah  
Hoag ('19)



Take a stroll down memory lane with the "70 Things to Do Before You Graduate" list – a tradition introduced about 10 years ago, and included on the next page for you to fill out about your time on campus! Taking a picture with CAM was the first thing Jillian Shook checked off her list as an incoming freshman (see below) – and she later went on to become a Ram Handler.



"My freshman year, I told myself that I was going to dive into this whole college thing with everything I had," and Jillian Shook, 2018 social work graduate, Ram Handler, first-generation student, and volunteer for more organizations and causes than we have pages available to tell you about, did just that.

Hailing from a small farming community in eastern Colorado, choosing CSU meant moving to the city for Shook – and while she was nervous, she wasted no time getting involved.

"I wanted to do everything! Though, I quickly learned that CSU has too many options to do it all, so I honed in on some of my passions and developed some new ones," she said. And on top of all of the community service and student organizations she was part of during her time on campus, Shook took on the *FOR-EVER-GREEN* "70 Things to Do Before You Graduate," checking off number 70 last December when she turned her tassel and joined the Alumni Association as a member.

The *FOR-EVER-GREEN* book was introduced in 2008 as a way to welcome freshmen to campus. Think of it like a manual for all things green and gold, serving

as a way to get students involved and connected as soon as they become Rams.

"I just thought this is what you did as a Ram. My Ram Welcome leader challenged us to complete them all, and when someone challenges me to do something, I have to do it."

"Looking back, completing the list gave me experiences and opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise," Shook shared. "I have a lot of memories from CSU that started with something on the list."

She may have turned her tassel, but Shook will forever be a Ram. She will start her Master of Social Work at Colorado State in May and is staying connected in the meantime as an Alumni Association member. In fact, Shook was among 81 percent in her class to graduate as an Alumni Association member.

"Being a member of the Alumni Association has shown me the power of our Ramily – that there is always room to grow, to learn, and to expand upon my knowledge and experiences to continue a journey with CSU beyond our college years. I know I'll always have a home at CSU."

 Member

 Jillian Shook with CAM the Ram during 2018 Fall Commencement.



- 1 Wear your For-Ever-Green shirt
- 2 Learn about a new culture or community at a Student Diversity Programs event
- 3 Participate in Ram Welcome



- 4 Take a selfie with CAM the Ram
- 5 Attend a Monfort Lecture
- 6 Meet the dean of your college



- 7 Serve the community by participating in CSUnity or Cans Around the Oval
- 8 Eat a free lunch and listen to the speech at the President's Annual Fall Address and University Picnic
- 9 Join a student organization (learn more through the annual Involvement Expo and on RamLink)



- 10 Attend "Grill the Buffs" rally to support the Rams as they take on the CU Buffaloes
- 11 Cheer on the Rams at the Rocky Mountain Showdown
- 12 Take a picture of you and your friends on the steps of the Administration Building



- 13 Help build a float and cheer on the annual Homecoming and Family Weekend Parade
- 14 Learn why CSU is called a "land-grant university"
- 15 Volunteer for RamRide



- 16 Make a statement on the Stump
- 17 Introduce yourself to a CSU police officer
- 18 Submit a "RamTalk" to the *Collegian*
- 19 Join in Recyclemania



- 20 Climb, hike, swim, camp, or relax at Horsetooth Reservoir (or all five!)
- 21 Find out who Peanuts the Bulldog was
- 22 Learn the CSU Fight Song and sing it with gusto
- 23 Go to CSU's world-famous Colorado International Invitational Poster Exhibition
- 24 Sing or dance along with the CSU Marching Band – in the audience or as a member
- 25 Learn how to make – and stick to – a budget



- 26 Vote in each ASCSU election
- 27 Have your picture taken with all the Ram statues on campus
- 28 Join in the MLK Day March in January
- 29 Dine at the Aspen Grill



- 30 Spend a Saturday night studying in Morgan Library
- 31 Rub Bill Morgan's nose in the library for good luck



# 70 THINGS

## TO DO BEFORE YOU GRADUATE

- 32 Make – or fill – a request on KCSU (90.5)
- 33 Find the high-water mark from the 1997 flood in the Lory Student Center and in the Oval
- 34 Take a moonlight stroll across the Oval



- 35 Have a picnic on the grass of the Oval
- 36 Ride a TransFort or MAX Bus

- 37 Play in the snow on the West Lawn
- 38 Attend – or perform in – a University Center for the Arts production
- 39 Go to an art show in the Curfman Gallery
- 40 Hug a tree in Sherwood Forest



- 41 Study in the sun on the Monfort Quad
- 42 Spend a Friday afternoon in the Ramskeller
- 43 Have a meaningful international experience
- 44 Watch a program on CTV
- 45 Hike to, help paint, or light the "A"



- 46 Attend a RAM Events concert, comedy program, or other event
- 47 "Get your Green on" and wear CSU gear on Fridays
- 48 Cross the Vietnam Memorial Bridge and think about why it's there
- 49 Put together a stellar résumé at the Career Center
- 50 Throw a Frisbee by the Lagoon
- 51 Go to the annual CSU Rodeo



- 52 Profess your love for CSU on "I Love CSU" Day
- 53 Do a victory lap at the Jack Christiansen Memorial Track
- 54 Wish CSU a happy birthday at the annual Founders Day Celebration in February



- 55 Learn about or visit CSU's Mountain Campus
- 56 Get an internship or seek out a practical learning experience outside the classroom
- 57 Debate with a speaker on the LSC Plaza – the CSU community values the free exchange of ideas
- 58 Chalk the sidewalks on the Lory Student Center Plaza



- 59 Sport your Aggie colors at an "Orange Out" game
- 60 Get in the CSU spirit by tailgating before a CSU home football game



- 61 Work off a stressful day at the Recreation Center
- 62 Play in or cheer on an intramural or Sport Club team
- 63 Celebrate CSU's commitment to sustainability by getting to class in a greener way than a car



- 64 Attend a Border War Game against Wyoming
- 65 Take a picture at the place that meant the most to you on campus
- 66 Have coffee with your favorite faculty member



- 67 Yell loudly when the ROTC cannon, Comatose, is fired after CSU scores during a football game
- 68 Swap stories with a CSU alum
- 69 Thank whomever made your college experience possible (parents/family, professors, yourself, scholarship donors)



- 70 Graduate – and join the Alumni Association

MEGHANN

Blach

SERVING UP SUCCESS

Tony Phifer

If you walk into the Farm House Market in Yuma, Colo., and ask for the coffee shop's most popular beverage, you soon will be tasting a – believe it or not – CAM the Ram latte.

"Hands down, it's our most popular drink," owner and Colorado State University alumna Meghann Blach (B.S., animal science and agricultural business, '10) proudly proclaimed of the beverage that includes caramel, white chocolate, and Irish cream. "I especially love it when a CU alum comes in and orders it!"

So, what the heck is a coffee/specialty shop on U.S. Highway 34 some 145 miles from the CSU campus doing selling a drink named after the Rams mascot? It's simple, really: Blach, is a third-generation Ram, and she's more than happy to tell anyone in the small (pop. 3,500) town of Yuma that she's all in for CSU.

Not only does she have two degrees from CSU, she met her husband, Jeremy – a third-generation Ram himself – at CSU,

and both credit their educational experience with helping them forge successful careers. Jeremy Blach oversees the Blach family cattle operation, and Meghann Blach has turned a dream into a successful business.

"CSU has been in my family for generations, and it has always been a big part of my life," she said. "My parents were both alums and have had season tickets for football and basketball for years. My older brother went to CSU, and both of my mom's parents went there. A lot of things in our everyday lives can be tied back to CSU."

Blach said a class taught by Marshall Frasier in the College of Agricultural Sciences was the inspiration behind Farm House Market. She created a business plan for a fictional coffee shop, and Frasier gave her some pointers.

"He said he thought I could really make this work, and that gave me the confidence to move forward," Blach said. "When I got married, I asked Jeremy what kind of career I could build out in Yuma; he suggested working at the bank, but I'm just not the type to wear high heels every day. The store has been perfect for me."

Blach opened Farm House Market in 2011 and now has nine employees. She tries to limit herself to working two days a week but admitted, "I'm there every day." As if operating a small business doesn't take enough time, she also helps with the family cattle business – while raising two kids (Adley, 4, and Kashton, 2) and preparing for the arrival of a third in June.

"Jeremy has been behind me from the beginning on this; he's so supportive," she said. "The store gives me something I can say is 100 percent mine."

Member

"I LOVED MY FOUR YEARS THERE, AND I LOVE TO BE ABLE TO DO THINGS FOR CSU WITHOUT LEAVING YUMA. I AM HAPPY TO HELP THE UNIVERSITY HOWEVER I CAN."

Meghann Blach



Meghann Blach represents her Ram Pride in her hometown coffee shop, which also happens to be the home of the CAM the Ram latte.



Meghann Blach and her husband, Jeremy, with their two kids, Adley and Kashton, at their sugar beet farm in Yuma.



The Rhodens love to travel and show their Ram Pride – like during their time at Banff National Park in Canada.

## PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

Ann Gill (M.A., '76)

Some people become discouraged by challenges, nay-sayers, or occurrences beyond their control. Others, like Desi (B.S., '83; M.S., '84) and Lisa Rhoden (B.S., '84), see such things as motivation to work harder and succeed. These 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award winners used their degrees in electrical engineering to launch extraordinary careers.

Both knew they wanted to be engineers from a young age but arrived at Colorado State University's Department of Electrical Engineering via different paths. Before Lisa's senior year in high school, her father was transferred from New Orleans to Denver. She graduated from high school midyear and moved with her mother and sister to Colorado. The decision about what college to attend was influenced by her father, whose job involved interviewing engineering graduates from Colorado universities. He was so impressed by CSU alumni, he urged her to go there. She chose an electrical engineering major after taking a circuits class, which she loved.

Desi's plan to become an engineer was derailed when he was drafted to serve in Vietnam. Upon his return, he couldn't start school right away so he became an electrician. After about a decade, he was admitted to CSU but was advised by the assistant dean to enroll in junior college, as "older students do not do well in engineering." With Professor Aram Budak's help, Desi bypassed the assistant dean and started attending CSU through the SURGE program, which in those days involved watching videotaped lectures. Desi credits Professor Budak with inspiring him to complete the degree and then pursue a master's.

Motivation and hard work paid great dividends for these two. Currently, Desi is executive vice president of Montage Technology and chairman of the JEDEC Memory Committee. He also is past chairman of the board for JEDEC, the world leader in standards and technology development for the semiconductor industry. Lisa is president of Universal Flash Storage Association and

“CSU ENABLED US TO GET WHERE WE ARE TODAY, AND WE LOVE THE UNIVERSITY AND THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF.”

Lisa Rhoden



Desi and Lisa Rhoden visit Yellowstone National Park with Dr. Aram Budak.

executive director of the MobileBench Consortium. They own Brite Sun Technology, a company that provides consulting services.

When they aren't working, the Rhodens spend time on their 42.5 tree-covered acres in Texas. The land is used to promote wildlife habitat; researchers from various universities go there to study lizards

and other wildlife.

“CSU enabled us to get where we are today, and we love the University and the students, faculty, and staff,” Lisa explains. “Alumni Association membership is important because it connects all CSU alumni together. Since we will be alumni for life, we joined as life members.”

 Life Members

#### SPARKING THE FUTURE

**DESI AND LISA** have been tremendously generous to their alma mater. The couple endowed the Lisa and Desi Rhoden College Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering. They also funded the Lisa and Desi Rhoden Biomedical Engineering Lab; helped launch a scholarship in the name of former mechanical engineering Professor Paul Wilbur (in whose class they first met); and have contributed to a fellowship honoring Professor Aram Budak (above), among other gifts to CSU.



# HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND

**OCTOBER 2-5, 2019**

#### WEDNESDAY, OCT. 2

- Alumni Night Out

#### THURSDAY, OCT. 3

- Distinguished Alumni Awards

#### FRIDAY, OCT. 4

- 50 Year Club Luncheon
- Festival on the Oval
- Homecoming Parade
- Friday Night Lights: Bonfire, Lighting of the A, Member Reception

#### SATURDAY, OCT. 5

- Homecoming 5K Race
- Parent and Family Breakfast
- Coors Light Ram Walk Tailgate
- CSU vs. San Diego State football game, kickoff TBA



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

[HOMECOMING.COLOSTATE.EDU](http://HOMECOMING.COLOSTATE.EDU)

# I Love CSU Day

APRIL 18

USE THIS HEART TO  
SPREAD THE LOVE

On April 18, we sprinkle campus with green hearts, thank students for being awesome, and rock our Ram Pride in every sense of the words.

We hope you'll join us this April 18, from wherever you are! Snap a photo with this heart and tag us on social telling us why you love CSU.

**#ILOVECSUDAY**

 @CSUALUMNI

 @CSUALUMNI

 @COLORADOSTATEALUMNI



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Redeem for coffee and donuts at the  
Smith Alumni Center while supplies last!

I  LOVE

CSU DAY

— *april 18* —



(from left to right)

**COREY SLACK** manages Denver and Colorado Springs.

**MATT FLICK** covers the northern half of the U.S.

**DAKOTA BOGNER** serves as the contact for southwest states and Chicago.

**LISA HANSEN** has the southeastern territory.

**RACHEL BLUM** serves as the contact for the rest of Colorado outside of Denver and Colorado Springs.

## Find a Ram Network Near You

There are Rams all over the nation. For example, we have 5,142 alumni currently calling Arizona home; 3,438 residing in Oregon; 7,180 in Texas; 1,169 in New Jersey; the list goes on. We have Colorado State University representation in every state – and 41 alumni in Puerto Rico!

Part of our mission as your Alumni Association is to keep you connected, and we do that through Ram Networks.

We currently have about 20 active Ram Networks in cities such as Chicago, Boston, and Washington, D.C., with new ones being born all the time – Nashville, Atlanta, Tacoma,

and a couple coming to Hawaii soon!

As we begin to reach out and grow our engagement across the country, we'd like to officially introduce you to your Ram Network team. The team is excited to see Ram Pride alive and active again and can't wait to meet you!

Watch for exciting things to come as we roll out our plans for the future of Ram Networks.

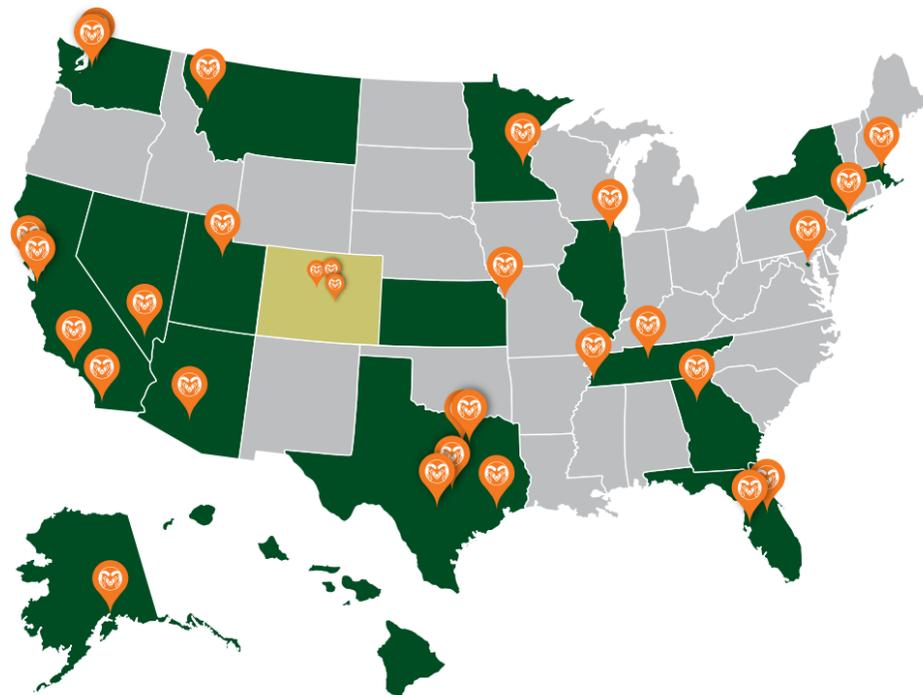
Find out if there's a Ram Network near you at [alumni.colostate.edu/alumni-in-the-nation](http://alumni.colostate.edu/alumni-in-the-nation), or email us with any questions about how to start one in your area – [RamNetworks@colostate.edu](mailto:RamNetworks@colostate.edu).

### HELP US TURN MORE OF THE MAP GREEN!

We're counting on you, as members of the Alumni Association, to rally Rams in your area! Join a Ram Network or start one in your city today!

 ACTIVE STATES

 RAM NETWORK LOCATION



## Serving Rams through life's proudest moments.

Call **1-800-922-1245** today or visit [www.TheAIP.com/rams](http://www.TheAIP.com/rams)

Auto • Home • Life • Health • Dental • Vision • ID Theft • Travel



9P4

## RAMBLIN' RAMS TRAVEL PROGRAM



### EXPLORING SOUTH AFRICA, VICTORIA FALLS, & BOTSWANA Oct. 5-19, 2019

From cosmopolitan Cape Town to the power of Victoria Falls to the remote wilds of Botswana, this is the complete African travel experience. This small-group tour has experiences such as gazing out from the top of Table Mountain, exploring the Cape of Good Hope, viewing legendary wildlife, and sampling wines at a vineyard; and that is just the start!

### ARTISTS & ARISTOCRATS – ROME TO BARCELONA Oct. 29-Nov. 6, 2019

Take in the legacy of the great patrons, popes, and painters of the Mediterranean on this weeklong voyage. See the Tuscan countryside, Florence, Pisa, Monte Carlo, Cannes, Provence, the cathedrals and architecture of Valencia, and so much more!

### LEGENDS OF THE NILE Jan. 7-20, 2020

Treat yourself to a thrilling adventure along the Nile River, plus explorations in Cairo and Abu Simbel. This 10-night, small-group journey includes a first-class, four-night cruise and the company of an expert Egyptologist who will guide you through the Pyramids of Giza, the Valley of the Kings, and the magnificence of ancient Egypt.





## CONGRATULATIONS to our 2018 50 YEAR CLUB AWARD RECIPIENTS

The following were awarded at the 2018 50 Year Club luncheon during Homecoming and Family Weekend:

### ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE AWARD

Jon Larsen (B.S., '64)

### PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Jack Welch (B.S., '68; CERT, '68)

### CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kenneth Goldsberry (B.S., '54; M.S., '62)



### CALL FOR 2019 NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 2019 50 Year Club Awards are currently open and will be accepted until July 12, 2019. To learn more about the 50 Year Club Awards and to submit your nomination, please visit the CSU Alumni Association's website at [alumni.colostate.edu/50-year-club](http://alumni.colostate.edu/50-year-club) or call (877) 498-7787.



For the first time ever, we are offering Disability Insurance to members in the state of Colorado.

- Simplified underwriting available
- Own occupation coverage
- Fixed rates

*"More than half of all personal bankruptcies and mortgage foreclosures are a consequence of disability."*  
FACTS FROM LIMRA, 2016

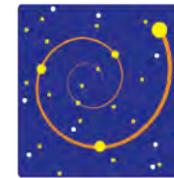
Protect your most valuable asset—  
your ability to earn an income.

To learn more on how to protect your income, call (720) 588-9109, or visit [coloradodisabilityadvisors.com](http://coloradodisabilityadvisors.com)

If you're going to buy office products, shop where you can support Colorado State.

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

**Office DEPOT**  
**OfficeMax**



The MindShare Network

The Global Network for  
Dreams, Hope and Life Activation

[mindsharenetwork.com/CSUAlumni](http://mindsharenetwork.com/CSUAlumni)  
Access your free toolkit today!

# SUPPORT CAM FOREVER

[alumni.colostate.edu](http://alumni.colostate.edu)



Proud sponsors of CAM the Ram:



# Thank You

## FOR BEING A MEMBER

We wanted to thank you for continuing to make an impact on your alma mater as a member of the CSU Alumni Association.

Your stalwart Ram Pride allows us to:

- Preserve traditions such as CAM the Ram and Homecoming & Family Weekend
- Make a college education possible for scholarship recipients each year
- Support Ram Networks around the country
- Connect thousands of Rams at events across the nation
- Elevate CSU's alumni participation rate and enhance the value of your degree

### MEMBER BENEFITS

You've earned it!



*Discounted registration* for nearly all Alumni Association events



Full-color *wall calendar* that brings you back to campus every month



*Free drink ticket* at every home game Alumni Association tailgate



*Tuition discounts* for online degree programs through CSU Online



*Around the Oval*, our biannual print magazine



*Members-only* experiences and opportunities

**YOURNAME**  
@alumni.colostate.edu

*Lifetime email* account using yourname@alumni.colostate.edu



Opportunity to have your business listed in our *Alumni Business Directory*



Free *one-on-one consultations* with our in-house career coach



On-campus and online personal and professional development *workshops*



*Free standard shipping* on Bookstore orders of \$30 or more



*CSU Bookstore coupons*, renewed every year

Learn more at: [alumni.colostate.edu/membership-benefits](http://alumni.colostate.edu/membership-benefits)

## YOUR LEGACY, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY'S FUTURE



Have you considered putting CSU in your will or trust?

When you make a gift to the CSU Alumni Association, you help the organization deliver programs and services that make lasting, positive impacts on graduates and foster lifetime CSU connections.

### WITH A BEQUEST TO THE CSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, YOU:

- keep control of your assets throughout your lifetime
- meet your philanthropic goals while supporting your passion
- reduce (or possibly eliminate) estate taxes
- become a member of the Frontier Legacy Society

*The legacy you create today empowers future generations and allows CSU to remain a world-class institution. For more information about charitable estate planning, please call or email us at (970) 491-3414 or [giftplanning@colostate.edu](mailto:giftplanning@colostate.edu).*

Have you already included CSU in your estate plans? Let us know. We'd love to thank you with a small token of our appreciation.

## KEEP LEARNING. KEEP GROWING. CSU IS STILL HERE TO HELP.

Even after graduation, your alma mater still offers valuable learning tools to meet you where you are. Through your CSU Alumni Association, you have access to real-life, immediately applicable, professional development tools and career services for your life beyond campus.

### START TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THINGS LIKE:

- In-person workshops and online webinars
- One-on-one career-path coaching
- Job-seeker resources
- Access to exclusive career fairs and industry events
- Career speaker series
- Individual consultation opportunities

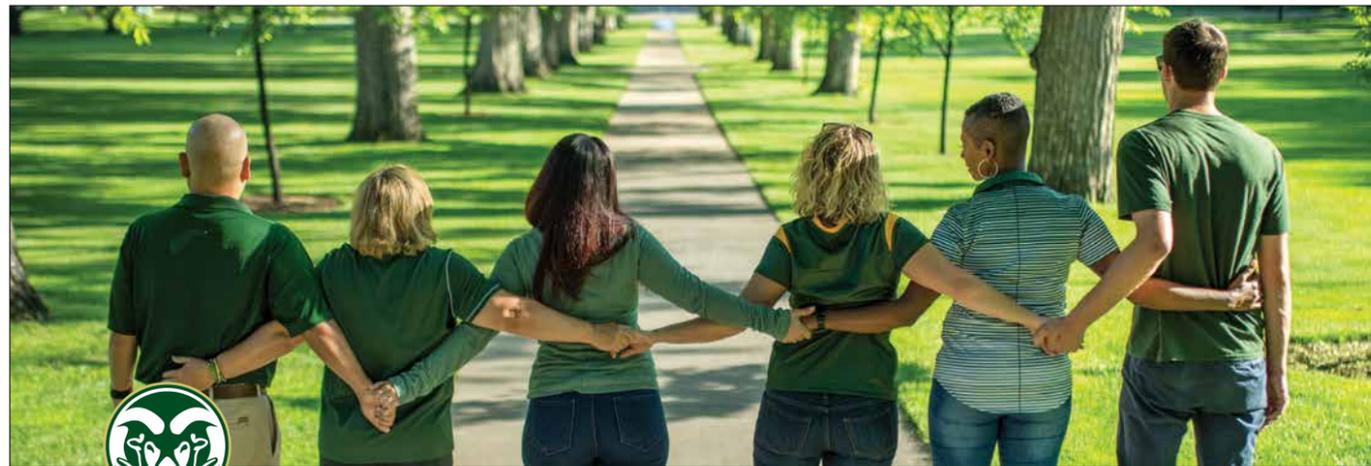
[alumni.colostate.edu/career-services](http://alumni.colostate.edu/career-services)

WELCOME, NEW LIFE MEMBERS | SEPT. 8, 2018 – MARCH 14, 2019

A. Blaine, '65, and Judy G., '67, Alley  
 Kyle T. Althouse, '18  
 Kevin E., '77, and Virginia M., '78, Appareti  
 Daniel R., '00, and Angelina R., '99, Armstrong  
 Scharee L. Atchison, '72  
 Katherine Auzenne, '84  
 Allen D., '75, and Deborah A., '75, Baker  
 Michael R. Barksdale, '93  
 Richard H., '06, and Katie M., '14, Brayden  
 James P. Callan, '79  
 Samuel C. Carpenter, '06  
 Simone S. Clasen  
 Dr. Jean Bryan Coe, '92, and Augustus V.R. Coe, '91  
 Hugh M. Currah  
 Curtis C. Dallinger, '78  
 Paul L. Derby, '73  
 Jeremy C. Fix  
 Judy I. Gaukel, '83  
 Mark and Mari Lynn (Stockton) Glidden, '81  
 Paul M. Goeman  
 Michelle M. Gramke, '06  
 Kimberley A. Greenwood, '96  
 Charles W. Gregory, '18

Brandon S. Griffith, '18  
 Carolyn L. Grubb, '12, '18  
 Katie J. Hansen, '06  
 Carmen R. Hardy, '99  
 Aaron G., '03, and Sara K., '03, Harris  
 Debra L. Hicks, '75  
 Ralph W. Hinrichs Jr., '70  
 Neil A., '02, and Emily Jorgensen  
 James R. Kuhlman, '17  
 Michael R. LaPlante, '18  
 Michael J. Lasorda, '18  
 Jooh Lee, '81  
 Ronald R. Jr., '87, and Tonya L. LePlatt  
 Richard M., '75, and Nancy L., '75, Liebetrau  
 Hannah B. Love, '11, '15  
 J. Brent Loy, '65, '67  
 Debra J. Marbut-Burger  
 Timothy D. Mercer, '80  
 Patricia I. Mulcahy-Ernt, '77  
 Peyton Mysliwicz  
 Edouard Ntirampeba, '18  
 Kristoffer S., '98, and Kristina D. Nylander  
 Gerald, '60, '62, and Marilyn J., '61, Outsley

Elaine K. Pahio, '99  
 Victoria E. Palmer  
 Michael R. Pedersen, '76  
 Philip A. Pettigrew, '75, '83  
 Travis A., '00, and Kelly L., '99, Polzin  
 Jeffrey A., '89, and Allison J., '90, Rittner  
 Robert A., '57, and Deanne G. Sarchet  
 Kamathy E. Schuppe, '88  
 Joel Schwartzkopf  
 Wesley A., '62, and Martha J. Segelke  
 McKenna K. Shuler  
 Sean A. Soliz  
 Apryl S. Steele, '97, and Kimberly E. McKee  
 Meagan C. Stratton  
 Alice Street  
 Jacob D. Sweeney, '15  
 Donald C., '96, '01, and Bridget I., '96, Thorn  
 John Weiss  
 Daniel J., '82, and Elizabeth N., '81, Wilberding  
 Mark L. Williams, '69  
 Rebecca D. Zimmerle



STALWART LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A Stalwart Life Member is someone who gives annually beyond their Life Membership to support Alumni Association programs.

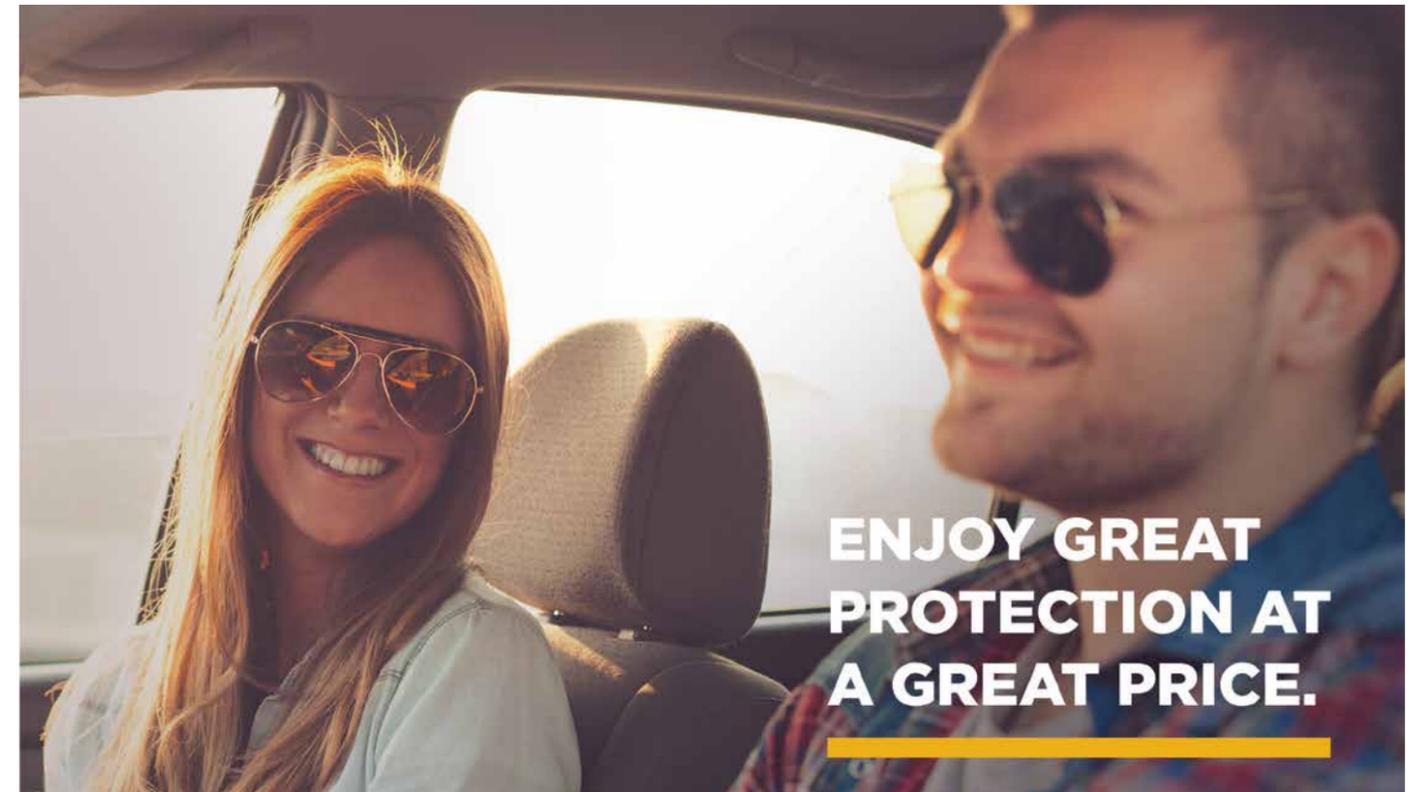
It is the highest level of pride a member of the Colorado State University Alumni Association can show.

LEARN MORE AT [ALUMNI.COLOSTATE.EDU/STALWART-LIFE-MEMBERSHIP](http://ALUMNI.COLOSTATE.EDU/STALWART-LIFE-MEMBERSHIP)



North American Van Lines offers a **60% discount** for interstate moves and free replacement cost insurance.

Contact Gordon Taylor at **(800) 987-3608** and mention CSU.



Colorado State University Alumni Association partners exclusively with Liberty Mutual Insurance to help you save up to \$782 a year on auto and home insurance.<sup>1</sup> You'll also have access to many other benefits.



Exceptional Service

Join thousands of satisfied customers of Liberty Mutual Insurance.<sup>2</sup> Whether you're in an accident or just need some advice, know we'll always be on call for you.



Superior Benefits

Enjoy a number of superior benefits, such as 24-Hour Claims Assistance, Accident Forgiveness,<sup>3</sup> Roadside Assistance,<sup>4</sup> and Better Car Replacement.<sup>TM5</sup>

For your free quote, call 1-888-964-2146 or visit

[www.libertymutual.com/colostate](http://www.libertymutual.com/colostate).

Client #101163



<sup>1</sup>Average combined annual savings based on nationwide survey of new customers from 1/1/15 to 1/29/16 who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to Liberty Mutual. Savings comparison does not apply in MA. <sup>2</sup>Based on Liberty Mutual Insurance Company's 2014 Customer Satisfaction Survey in which more than 81% of policyholders reported their interaction with Liberty Mutual service representatives to be "among the best experiences" and "better than average." <sup>3</sup>Accident Forgiveness not available in CA. Terms and conditions apply. <sup>4</sup>Coverage is provided on the optional Towing & Labor coverage endorsement. Applies to mechanical breakdowns and disablements only, and may be subject to limits. <sup>5</sup>Optional coverage in some states; availability varies by state. Eligibility rules apply. Coverage provided and underwritten by Liberty Mutual Insurance and its affiliates. 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116. ©2018 Liberty Mutual Insurance 18PERB10010 CW 2018/04 This organization receives financial support for offering this auto and home benefits program.



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

7114 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-7114

# AN APP FOR ALUMNI

Stay connected to your alma mater the same way you do everything else – on your phone!

The CSU Alumni app features:

- Digital membership card with access to benefits and discounts
- Game Day activities
- Event calendar for Rams everywhere
- Alumni, athletics, and campus updates
- Access to the Career Center and Handshake (job search tool)



**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

[alumni.colostate.edu](http://alumni.colostate.edu)



Search "CSU Alumni Association" to download today!