

121's Winter Wonderland Holiday Toy Drive & Light Show

By TYLER BURKE '13, V.P. OF BROTHERHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Last winter the brothers of Colorado Gamma opened the doors of 121 E. Lake to the Larimer County communities in an effort to collect toys for needy children by putting on a holiday light show and toy drive. The event known as *121's Winter Wonderland* became an instant success in its inaugural year by generating over \$3,000 in cash and toy donations for the Larimer County Chapter of Toys for Tots.

In recent history, Greek Organizations at CSU have targeted their philanthropies solely to other Greek Organizations. The beauty of this event is that it is not only for the CSU Greek community, but the Larimer County communities as a whole. As Tyler Nichols '14 stated, "Its an event to better the community, so what better way to do so then inviting them to participate in the event itself." Members of the community are encouraged to come to the house to see the light show, meet the undergraduate brothers, and enjoy a steamy cup of hot cider.

After the event's overwhelming success in 2011, the brothers of CSU SigEp have planned its return in 2012 making *121's*



Winter Wonderland a holiday tradition for CSU and the communities of Larimer County. This year the toy drive and light show will be available for viewing from 6-9 p.m. on December 7th, 8th, 14th, and 15th. Guests are urged to fill Santa's sleigh with toy donations, which will be given to the Larimer County Chapter of Toys for Tots. The goal for this years toy drive is to triple last years amount.

Those unfamiliar with the event can experience some of its magic by viewing pictures and videos from last year by visit-

ing CSUSigEp.org and clicking the "Photos" tab found on the left side of the page for photos and visiting the CSU SigEp YouTube Channel by searching "CSU SigEp Winter Wonderland" on YouTube for videos. I warn you though, the pictures and videos of *121's Winter Wonderland* are fantastic but do not give the event the justice and respect it deserves. The only way to enjoy it to its full potential is by seeing it for yourself, so come one, come all, to the 2nd Annual showing of *121's Winter Wonderland* Holiday Light Show and Toy Drive!

40 applicants vie for Balanced Man Scholarship

By RYAN HARRISON '14, BMS CHAIRMAN

The Sigma Phi Epsilon Balanced Man Scholarship (BMS) is a national program that was recently reintroduced to CSU SigEp. Described by Headquarters, "The Balanced Man Scholarship is the single best recruitment tool in the fraternity world," as it "recruits great students, strong leaders and well-rounded brothers." To earn the scholarship, applicants needed to exemplify excellence in academics, athletics, and community service in their everyday lives. Thanks to assistance to from Brian Walker '09, the chapter received forty applicants this fall.

All applicants went through three rounds of interviews throughout the first two weeks of school. During the first

interview, applicants met the Balanced Man Scholarship Chairman and nearly half the field was cut. In the second and third interviews, applicants met with two members of the chapter's executive board in addition to the BMS Chairman and the field was narrowed down to five exceptional young men who became the finalists for the scholarships.

The five finalists were invited to our annual Balanced Man Scholarship Awards Banquet, which was held for the first time in the Rams Club Suite at Hughes Stadium thanks to our chapter advisor, Todd Donovan. The new venue at Hughes was amazing and played a perfect reminder for the scholarship's finalists that Sigma Phi Epsilon Colorado Gamma



**SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
GRANT VANHOOSE
AND BMS CHAIRMAN
RYAN HARRISON**

is not only the top fraternity on campus, but that it is comprised of Gentlemen, Scholars and Athletes.

This years Balanced Man Scholarship runner-up

was Conner Kleinhenz '16 and Grant VanHoose was the recipient. This year's scholarship would not have been possible if it were not for the generous donation from CoGamma Alumni and Chairman of Colorado Gamma's Red Door Corporation, Bryan Harmsen '01. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to CSU SigEp and its excellence!

When father and son become Brothers

BY MITCH SNOW '14, V.P. OF COMMUNICATIONS

Bill Maloney '80 joined the brotherhood of Sigma Phi Epsilon's Colorado Gamma chapter as a member of the Fall Class of 1976. Thirty three years later, Bill's son, Sean Maloney '13, followed in his father's footsteps by joining Colorado Gamma as a member of the Fall Class of 2009. Although they spent their days in 121 East Lake during completely different eras, their experiences in Colorado Gamma took their relationship to a level few fathers and sons get the privilege to experience. Because of this house, Bill and Sean Maloney's relationship was no longer simply father and son. They had become brothers as well.

Bill left his hometown of Phoenix, Arizona, for Colorado in 1976 where he joined his older sister, Mary Ann, a Colorado Gamma Golden Heart at Colorado State University, to study Construction Management. He joined SigEp the first semester of his freshmen year, after getting to know a handful of the guys while he was in high school. Every spring break, Mary Ann would return to Phoenix with a group of her closest girlfriends and SigEps to water ski and have fun in the sun. This is when Bill first met some of the guys and started to experience SigEp. "They were so much fun and treated me like I was one of them," Bill explained. "I definitely wanted to be a part of that."

Sean, on the other hand, always knew about CSU but for some reason never thought he would actually go there. He wanted to study Construction Management like his dad and when he found out that CSU was one of the best schools in the nation for that discipline, he made his decision. He came to Colorado knowing no one and wanted to join a fraternity to meet people and experience something new. Bill told him to look at all the houses and pick the one that suited him the best, but Sean knew his SigEp visit would be special because his dad had done the same 33 years earlier. "Without a doubt, SigEp was the house for me, and I am sure it was a relief to him," Sean stated. "I instantly became friends with greats guys—guys that I knew would be friends for the rest of my life."

Sean remembers the night he accepted his verbal bid as one of the most exciting times of his college career. "I called my dad right away to tell him the news," explained Sean. "Which was followed by congratu-



SEAN AND BILL MALONEY ENJOY A CSU GAME AS BROTHERS

lations pledge and (my dad) wishing me luck." Bill remembers that night as well and says it's something he will never forget. He was so proud of Sean that the news brought tears to his eyes.

Since Sean's joining of SigEp, the father and son have shared countless SigEp related memories but both agree that Homecoming Weekend of Sean's freshmen year where a large group of Bill's brothers from the late 70s came to town for a reunion is their favorite. Bill loved introducing Sean to all of his college buddies at the Homecoming Tailgate and for them to share favorite memories from their days at 121 East Lake with him. Sean got a kick out of hearing stories from some of his dad's best friends from the house, Brian Cuje '80 and Shannon Gillespie '80, and had a blast introducing his brothers to his dad and his brothers from the 70s. "It was amazing to see how he was still best friends with guys he had pledged with 30 years ago," stated Sean. "That is when I knew what SigEp would mean to me."

Despite the changes the chapter has undergone since Bill was an undergraduate, he feels that Colorado Gamma was a great fit for the both of them. Sean agrees. "It's changed a lot since then but I think we both have had very positive experiences in SigEp and I know I wouldn't change mine a bit."

After experiencing it himself, Bill recommends his fellow alumni to encourage their sons to join SigEp and continue the legacy. "Being a part of SigEp adds to the college experience in such a positive way," explained Bill. "As a SigEp, they will make friends that they will have for the

**IT'S ONE OF
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rest of their lives, just as we did, and they will learn maturity, loyalty and selflessness. Likewise Sean encourages other sons of alumni to join SigEp. "It's one of the coolest things to have in common with your

father. Plus it won't be hard to talk your parents into helping with paying dues."

Bill resides in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife of 27 years, Diane. Together they have raised three sons: WJ (SigEp at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles '10), Sean, and Connor (FIJI at the University of Arizona '14 in Tucson, where the SigEp chapter has been dormant until re-colonizing this fall). Sean graduates this spring and hopes to work for a construction firm in Denver as a construction manager. Bill ran a commercial plumbing business in Phoenix for 30 years. He has since sold the business and is currently a consultant on various projects.

Tackling Pikes Peak

By MITCH SNOW '14, V.P. OF COMMUNICATIONS

Since being chartered 97 years ago, Colorado Gamma has produced hundreds of men who have left the doors of 121 East Lake to tackle some of the greatest challenges the world has to offer. One example is Ryan Schnell '06 whose challenge lies in America's second oldest motorsport event behind the Indianapolis 500, the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb. In the race to the summit of "America's Mountain" competitors cover a treacherous 12.42 mile course by perfecting 156 turns and avoiding 3,000 foot cliffs at speeds upwards of 145 mph, while the thin air of 14,110 ft. plays with drivers' minds and strips them of their reflexes and physical strength.

In 2009, Ryan and his team overcame these obstacles and won the Pikes Peak Hill Climb's Open Division (reaching the mountains summit in 11:52.837). The Balanced Man lifestyle Ryan embodied as a Colorado Gamma SigEp not only contributed to this success but helped him get there. Here is what Ryan had to say when reflecting upon his SigEp experience.

What made you want to join SigEp, and when did you know it was the right fraternity for you?
I wanted to get involved with SigEp and the Greek system at CSU because I felt like



it offered a better college experience. An experience that included more social events, community service opportunities and leadership opportunities. SigEp was by far the most complete fraternity on campus and the brothers in the house were great guys who I could tell were going places. They didn't focus on just one thing; they sold me on the Balanced Man Program and how important it was to have a well rounded college life.

What has SigEp done to help you in life post graduation?

Being in SigEp helped with post graduation networking skills for sure. You get an opportunity to meet and interact with a lot of people during your time in a fraternity and those experiences prepare you for life after graduation.

How did you get into motorsports?

I got involved in motorsports while attending CSU. I started volunteering to co-drive for various race teams around the country

MEET RYAN SCHNELL '06

Major: Construction Management

Profession: Project Controls Manager

Avocation: Motorsport racing

Family: Married to Ashlin Schnell, one son, Gavin

Best memory about your SigEp experience:
Fall formal in Breckenridge, 2006

and that opened the door to learning the sport. That led to me getting more involved with racing locally in the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb and starting my own racing team. Motorsports is an incredibly challenging sport to participate in, both financially and sustainably, but it's also very rewarding and one of the most exciting things you will ever do.

What advice would you give to the undergraduate brothers for their college years and life post graduation?

I would tell undergraduate brothers to get involved in clubs and organizations that are relative to their specific major. You never know what the job market will look like when you graduate, so do as much networking as you can at career fairs, online on sites such as [LinkedIn](#) and land a few internships to get your feet wet in your chosen industry.

CoGamma SigEp reflects on Ruck Leadership Institute

By JOHN DIETRICK '13, V.P. OF RECRUITMENT



DIETRICK

This past summer I was fortunate to attend SigEp's Ruck Leadership Institute at Richmond University thanks to support from Colorado Gamma alumni as well as alumni from other chapters.

Often referred to as Ruck, this program is an intense five-day learning experience focusing on personal leadership skills and the Balanced Man Ideal. Prominent SigEp alumni serve as mentors who guide Ruck Scholars through competitive challenges and lessons in leadership where I was not only pushed to my limits mentally, but physically. We grew as leaders everyday

as we were constantly learning something new from when we woke up at 7:30 to late at night and sometimes early in the morning when we would go to sleep.

From this experience I took away many things that I have since brought back here to Colorado Gamma and the CSU Community. Although everything I learned helped me become a better leader I found the Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership and how to improve the ones we struggle with the most rewarding. The Five Practices of Exemplary Leadership are: 1. Model the Way, 2. Inspire a Shared Vision, 3. Challenge the Process, 4. Enable Others to Act, 5. Encourage the heart. Out of the five I chose to focus and improve the most on Enabling Others to Act, because it let me use my experience and knowledge to encourage and mentor younger brothers to become involved with the chapter, which

enabled them to start contributing and making a positive impact early on in their time as a member of CSU SigEp.

Ruck was an experience I will always remember. The things I learned there will stick with me forever and continue to make an impact in my life as I graduate and move on to the professional network. I'm going to recommend for all my brothers to apply for this program because it made me grow as a leader by, "Teaching the few to impact the many." At Ruck I became friends with brothers from around the nation who I have stayed in contact with since leaving Richmond. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I would like to give a special thanks to **Tony Mauro '99** as he made a special contribution in making this Ruck experience possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Brothers Born

Mike Flemming '03 – Boy – 2nd Child
 Ryan Schnell '06 – Boy – 1st Child

Housing Updates

This fall 121 E. Lake saw updates to two of its most popular gathering areas. The pool table, which was previously located in the T.V. room was resurfaced and relocated to the trophy room on the east side of the house. The T.V. room saw updates as well with the addition of new leather couches.

This fall the undergraduate chapter continued its dominance on campus by winning...

- IFC Fraternity Decathlon
- Chi Omega's Swishes for Wishes Basketball Tournament
- CSU's Cans around the Oval by gathering over 2,295 pounds of food
- 2nd Place - Greek Week with the lovely ladies of Chi Omega
- Our Homecoming Float to 3rd place overall in the Homecoming Parade with the lovely ladies of Chi Omega



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: IFC DECATHLON CHAMPS, AVC AND UNDERGRADS MEET IN THE RENOVATED T.V. ROOM, BROTHERS COLLECT CANS FOR CANS AROUND THE OVAL COMPETITION, NEW POOL TABLE IN COMMON ROOM, FALL CLEANUP HELPS NEIGHBORS.

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