Inspirations

Stories about loyalty, generosity, and connections

College of Applied Human Sciences

Colorado State University
This inaugural issue of Inspirations is dedicated to people who define and shape this College through their loyalty, generosity, and kindness. It features people who see possibility around every corner and recognize that no one person can “do it all,” but one person can make a difference.

Inspirations celebrates people whom we consider part of our extended family. While this issue contains just a few stories, there are so many more in our college family album. Like each family member’s uniqueness, each person adds a new dimension, a special touch, and far-reaching possibilities.

No matter the physical distance from campus, we hope you feel a close connection to the College and CSU.

Our College Advisory Council understands that commitment from alumni and friends helps us define our goals and work through our challenges. For example, enrollment is rising in many of our majors, yet we are careful to maintain the quality of our programs. As tuition increases, we want to continue providing scholarships to deserving students. And while government and industry entities seek high-quality research from our faculty, we cannot sacrifice the educational experience for our students.

Even with these challenges, we are still doing well. Our students are receiving a first-rate education, with emphasis not only on the skill sets required for each profession, but also on the values, ethics, and character that make a person effective in his or her role.

Success stories from within the College continue to enthuse and inspire. The Department of Health and Exercise Science is offering a new Ph.D. program in human bioenergetics. Food Science and Human Nutrition is ranked among the most productive in the nation. The Department of Design and Merchandising attracts noteworthy speakers such as Diane Currie, senior manager of apparel product integrity at Nike Inc. A faculty member in Human Development and Family Studies is conducting research that will estimate the prevalence of autism.

Milestones such as these do more than fill newspapers and journals. They provide opportunities for you to reflect on what “your college” is doing to help better the human condition. This would not and could not happen without support from you, our alumni and friends.

Our communication is meant to be two-way. If you want to send me a message, please e-mail DeanApril@cahs.colostate.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

April C. Mason
Dean

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Monfort Professors Share Gifts of Time, Talent, and Treasure

The core of Robert “Bob” Fornaro’s message to students was, “Be in control of your own destiny.”

Bob has more than 25 years of marketing, planning, and management experience. In 1999 he joined AirTran, a Fortune 1000 company based in Orlando, Fla. He spoke to a group of students in the College’s Restaurant and Resort Management program, a field with many similarities to the airline industry.

“In addition to his lecture, Bob delivered inspirational remarks to faculty and staff at the All-College meeting,” said Dean April Mason. “He thanked the Social Work faculty for helping his daughter find her career and said that Colorado State will always be special to him and his family.” Today, Bob and his wife, Karen, continue to support the School of Social Work with gifts to the program.

Marcy Montgomery
Chief Operating Officer – Spectra Logic

Marcy Montgomery spoke to a group of students in the College’s Department of Design and Merchandising on a topic she is passionate about: mentoring.

Marcy (pictured on facing page) is a 1978 graduate of the program. She has directed many of her gifts to the College’s Students First Scholarship, a fund designed to assist first-year students from under-represented populations. Marcy’s career path brought her a career in banking, then later into technology at Spectra Logic of Boulder, Colo., one of the world’s leading data protection and storage companies with 330 employees worldwide.

Marcy addressed the role of the mentee: how to get the best connection and make the experience naturally rewarding. She advised that the relationship be initiated and guided by the mentee.

“The mentee shouldn’t expect to just be a sponge,” she said. “It will require your preparation before, during, and after the mentor meetings. Ask questions, be involved, and take initiative to learn.”

Marcy provided students with a set of guidelines, such as having a clear purpose, making a plan, providing a truthful self assessment, and being an effective listener.

“Marcy helped students see that a successful outcome depends greatly upon the initiative of the mentee,” said Dean April Mason. “Students who approach a mentor with an active plan will have a much more rewarding experience.”
Prue Kaley ‘72 says that people ask her how her degree in Human Development and Family Studies (HDFS) fits with her profession as a real estate agent. For Prue, it’s a perfect match.

“I use my degree every day. I’m counseling people through the sometimes stressful process of buying or selling a home,” she said. Often there is a change in a family situation such as a marriage, divorce, new baby, blended families, retirement, or job change that means a bigger or smaller house.

“For all of us, choosing a place to live and buying or selling a house is one of the most important decisions we make in our lives. My degree from CSU taught me to be a good listener. I use the excellent skills I was taught in the program to understand, listen, and focus on people’s needs. It’s not about me, it’s about them.”

As a successful real estate agent with The Group in Fort Collins for 27 years, Prue has been a leader in the community. She is also an entrepreneur, starting up NorthernColoradoRentals.com in 2003, which has proven to be a successful venture for her and a valuable resource for prospective renters. She supports many charities and non-profit organizations both as a volunteer and through her financial donations.

Since 2001, she has donated $1,972 annually to commemorate the year she graduated and to support a graduate student in HDFS. Prue says, “I always thought I would go back to school to get my Master’s, but I needed to work first and save up some money. I never fulfilled that dream, but what I didn’t do, I can now support somebody else to achieve with this scholarship.”

Prue has inspired her husband Mark Goldrich, also a real estate agent with The Group, to support CSU and the College of Applied Human Sciences as well. Mark sponsors a graduate scholarship in Construction Management. Mark and Prue recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

As a teenager, Prue came from New Jersey to attend CSU without knowing a soul. She thinks of the University as her second home. She says, “I did a lot of growing up at Colorado State — it was my first experience away from home. It was a safe, warm, and loving environment to be in.”

She cites professor Sally Sims Haxton as one of her inspirations. “One of my friends at the sorority house had her for a class and I used to go and sit in on her classes. She was a wonderful, passionate person. She’s the one who taught me to be passionate about what you do.”

In full circle, Prue has proven to be a welcoming voice for new department head Lise Youngblade. “Inspiration is a word that comes to mind when one thinks about Prue Kaley. She is a role model in the best sense — a distinguished professional who demonstrates excellence and who makes a difference in our community. Prue Kaley is an alumna of distinction. I am very proud to know that she is a graduate of Human Development and Family Studies.”
This fall Prue and Mark invited 35 children of the Department’s Early Childhood Center to visit their home where they have transformed a large portion of their yard to a wonderland full of miniature houses, scenes, and vistas all connected by model trains.

“The children had an amazing visit,” said Lise. “They got to watch the trains come ’round the bend and greeted ‘Thomas the Tank Engine’ with squeals of delight. Prue and Mark organized a wonderful scavenger hunt for the children and, after a morning filled with trains and a delicious pizza lunch, waved goodbye to some very tired but extremely happy children. I know this adventure will stay in their memories for a long time – we still are hearing the ‘chug-a-chug-a-toot-toot’ in the hallways!”

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— Lise Youngblade

Prue and Mark invited children from the Early Childhood Center to visit their backyard train wonderland.

Lise Youngblade, Head, Department of Human Development and Family Studies
Animals have a power to love that is all their own, and Georgia and Ben Granger have been directing that power to help people for over 30 years. Ben served as director of the School of Social Work at Colorado State for ten years before retiring in 2002. As a former schoolteacher, Georgia is also driven to make the world a better place. She has put her love of animals and her talent to work by founding both the Human Animal Bond in Tennessee and the Human Animal Bond in Colorado (HABIC).

At the 2007 College of Applied Human Sciences Homecoming Breakfast, Georgia gave an informative and inspiring talk about her work with HABIC. The presentation was followed by a surprise announcement that Ben, along with the couple’s children, had established the Georgia V. Granger HABIC Endowment with a generous gift to bring the current endowment total to $135,000.

Ben says, “This endowment honors Georgia for her 30 years of work and leadership in developing two organizations in the human-animal bond field. This endowment will help to secure the future of HABIC, and we hope that others will contribute to it as well.”

HABIC is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people of all ages through the therapeutic use of companion animals, primarily dogs. HABIC provides an opportunity for research in animal assisted therapy and activities, which can improve physical, social, emotional, or cognitive function in humans.

Georgia and Ben Granger s Pet Project Is Their Passion

HABIC, housed in the School of Social Work. They run an all-volunteer organization, with just one paid employee, and 120 human-animal teams have participated in the training provided by HABIC. The teams are linked with professionals at each site which includes three hospitals, long-term care and rehabilitation programs, schools, a youth corrections facility, and residential treatment programs.

Georgia and Ben work with students and have completed several research studies evaluating the effectiveness of animal-assisted therapy with at-risk youth.

“Through the powerful connections developed between clients and human-animal teams, HABIC improves the quality of life for children, youth, and adults. We are lucky to have Georgia and Ben Granger provide leadership to such a professional and effective program within the School of Social Work.”

– Deborah Valentine

Deborah Valentine, Director, School of Social Work

Over 54 years of marriage, Georgia and Ben have been committed to helping others. With their gift, they leave a legacy of unconditional love.
Growing up in Louisiana, Carolyn Fineran cites her mother’s inventive costumes for the Mardi Gras Balls as one of her inspirations. Carolyn inherited her mother’s love of textiles and translated it into a successful business — Tapestry, a store she owned in Cherry Creek North in Denver from 1974-99. The store specialized in decorative textile weavings, and later in high-end clothing for women business professionals. Her current endeavors include starting up a textile arts center in Denver.

Carolyn has always had an appreciation for international cultures — she served as a Peace Corps volunteer in 1964 in Venezuela. She has combined her love of textiles with international service, helping to advise artisans in developing countries on colors and designs suitable for the North American market. As a member of Fashion Group International, Carolyn was introduced to the Department of Design and Merchandising. Carolyn frequently invited student interns to the store and was impressed with the depth of knowledge and the hands-on experience the students gained in the program.

Carolyn says, “At CSU, students are getting a real education. They learn how to be exceptionally successful in the industry.” Mary Littrell, Department Head, invited Carolyn to participate in the inaugural Department study abroad program, a 10-day trip to Guatemala for 15 apparel and merchandising students in the spring of 2006. Carolyn also agreed to set up a scholarship fund with her husband Bob Lindig to help four students who wouldn’t otherwise have been able to go. Carolyn says, “I want young people to see the world. I feel privileged to provide that opportunity and encourage them. Two weeks in a foreign country can make as big an impact as my two years in the Peace Corps.”

Mary has done extensive research and consulting in the area of fair trade and handicraft artisans around the world. Carolyn comments, “Mary organized a wide range of opportunities for the students, including visiting non-profit trade organizations, village marketplaces, and a blue jeans factory. Without her insight and experience, we never would have been able to view those places.”

Carolyn is especially excited about the Department’s historic costume and textiles collection, which is moving to the University Center for the Arts, located in the old Fort Collins High School. She says, “I’d encourage anyone who has a textiles collection to support the museum by donating it, or anyone who has a love of textiles to make a contribution to the project. Students learn from the collection and we will all benefit from exhibits in the museum space. It will truly be world class!”

“Carolyn constantly connects the department with the fashion world. Her astute networking introduces our students and faculty to industry leaders. Carolyn thinks outside the box and encourages our students to do likewise.”

— Mary Littrell
Legacy Stories: Personal and Memorable

Why give? This question was the focus of the Legacy Seminars sponsored by the College of Applied Human Sciences. Two seminars – one in Fort Collins and the other in Denver – were provided as a service to help alumni and friends think about and share personal perspectives on their legacy plans.

Guests were treated to presentations by Celeste Holder Kling, a Fort Collins attorney specializing in wills and estates, who is also an adjunct faculty member teaching family law in our College. Robin Finegan with the Denver District Attorney’s office gave an enlightening presentation on Identity Theft for Seniors.

When we asked Winnette Payne of Fort Collins to speak at the first seminar, she shared the loving and tender story of one of their daughters, Susie, who died in a kayaking accident a few years ago. To memorialize their daughter’s life, Winnette and her husband, Bud, established a scholarship at CSU as a legacy so that others will always remember this remarkable woman.

Bud and Winnette found the experience so rewarding that they are carrying on their life long passions through their planned gifts to Colorado State University – both in the form of named endowed scholarship funds.

Why give? Winnette says, “It’s a wonderful way to be remembered because your name will be on that scholarship fund forever and will keep helping students forever! It’s the best idea I’ve ever heard of.”

Here is their legacy story:

Meredith (Bud) and Winnette Payne

It was 1945, Colorado Springs, Peterson Field… Bud was working as an air-

Winnette Payne presented a personal and memorable opening to the Legacy Planning seminar in Fort Collins by sharing why she and her husband decided to endow scholarships through their wills. Above, Winnette and Bud at the Frontier Society Luncheon with Bill Sheets (left), Office of Planned Giving. The Frontier Society recognizes people who have made planned gifts to CSU.

“It’s a wonderful way to be remembered because your name will be on that scholarship fund forever and will keep helping students forever! It’s the best idea I’ve ever heard of.”

– Winnette Payne
craft mechanic and Winnette as a parachute rigger. Bud says, “I met her in the coffee line and decided to put out my own line and get her hooked!”

They were married a year later, had their first child, and decided to move to Timnath (Colo.) where Bud worked on a dairy farm while attending CSU on the GI Bill. Farm life was certainly not foreign to Winnette who grew up on a homestead in eastern Colorado. As for Bud, his family owned a grocery store in Indiana, but he had always loved everything about farm life from growing crops to working on equipment, so farming suited him well.

Eventually, Bud’s love for agriculture led him to a position with the USDA Agricultural Research Service in Fort Collins. He worked as a research technician in irrigation and water management for 23 years, during which time he invented several types of water release valves for automated irrigation systems. Bud retired in 1990, well past the typical retirement age, but says his job was not really work to him because he enjoyed it so much.

Winnette’s passion is education. After their youngest daughter Maggie went to kindergarten, Winnette enrolled at Colorado State University. She graduated with a B.A. in English in 1966 and a Master’s in Education in 1971. She taught at Lesher Junior High School in Fort Collins, then worked for Poudre School District as language arts coordinator for 10 years, followed by two years teaching remedial reading at Fort Collins High School.

Winnette retired in 1987 but continued teaching at the Education and Life Training Center and has remained actively involved in many community organizations. She is also working on a book about phonics, a building block she sees as fundamental to learning. In addition, she is collaborating on another book about learning to read with dyslexia.

We are always grateful for people like Bud and Winnette who look for ways to help others and leave their legacies with CSU.

For more information on how you may make a similar gift to Colorado State University, contact Bill Sheets at (970) 491-4679, bsheets@ua.colostate.edu or Marianne Blackwell at (970) 491-7862, mblackwell@ua.colostate.edu. Or you can access our resourceful website at www.plannedgiving.colostate.edu.

At the Denver Legacy Seminar, Robin Finegan with the Denver District Attorney’s office (standing) shared practical advice on how not to be a victim of identify theft.
As a college co-ed in the mid-1950s, Roberta Kirschbaum joined Gamma Phi Beta and met other young women, many of whom became her life-long friends.

The warm spot in her heart for CSU was the reason she left a portion of her estate to the College of Applied Human Sciences, said her personal attorney, Donald Burkhardt of Denver. Mr. Burkhardt helped us learn more about this remarkable woman who died in June.

Roberta graduated with a degree in occupational therapy in 1957. “She thought very fondly of CSU; some of her closest friends were the sorority sisters she met in College,” he said. “After graduating, she practiced as an OT for a number of years, then later did medical transcription for a clinic in Wheat Ridge (Colo.) She retired in the late 1980s.”

Anyone who knew her would remember her as a wholesome person, he said. “She was a very nice lady. Delightful. She made doll clothes as a hobby, and they were donated upon her death to different organizations. She volunteered at Jeffco Action Center, a community service organization that collects and distributes clothing and food to the needy.

“Roberta never married, had no children. She left most of her estate to charitable and educational organizations,” he said.

A private person, Roberta did not tell us during her lifetime about her plans to leave a legacy at CSU. While we can’t tell Roberta directly, we’re very grateful for her generosity and want to share her legacy story with others who may have known her.

“I wish I would have known Roberta,” said Karen Spencer, interim department head for Occupational Therapy. “She sounds like the kind of person who would have been a loyal and genuine friend. I hope others who knew Roberta will tell us more about her.”

Karen Spencer, Interim Head, Department of Occupational Therapy

“I wish I would have known Roberta. She sounds like the kind of person who would have been a loyal and genuine friend. I hope others who knew Roberta will tell us more about her.”

– Karen Spencer
Gene and Carol Vaughan have a special place in their hearts for Colorado State. A 1970 graduate with a B.S. in physical education, Gene went on to earn his master’s in education in 1972. Carol is a 1971 physical education graduate. Gene describes himself as a “gym rat” during his days at CSU, serving as a work study student and a graduate teaching assistant. Carol was an outstanding swimmer and golfer. Both still have a love of sports.

Gene has been broker/owner of RE/MAX Alliance in Fort Collins since 1987. Gene and Carol have maintained close ties to their alma mater and have been long-time supporters of the Department of Health and Exercise Science (HES), where they both earned their degrees. Because of his outstanding support, Gene was the 2006 recipient of the College Honor Alumnus Award from the CSU Alumni Association.

Gene’s professional service and accolades are impressive. He is the former director of the Colorado Association of Realtors and former president of the Fort Collins Board of Realtors. Because of his dedication to his clients and the Fort Collins community, he was honored as Realtor of the Year in 1995 by the Fort Collins Board of Realtors. He also has received numerous awards from RE/MAX.

But it is their love and support of the green and gold which really makes Gene and Carol stand apart. They have been generous Gold Sponsors for the annual HES Homecoming Race since 1998. They were major donors for the Human Performance Clinical/Research Laboratory (HPCRL) which was dedicated in 2000. They were able to dream alongside department head Gay Israel and help build an outstanding facility, which has served to transform the departmental research mission.

“Dr. Israel has built a really high caliber program, and it’s a joy to work with him,” says Gene.

This 5,739-square-foot state-of-the-art laboratory is used to support hands-on student and faculty research. Gene has participated in the Heart Disease Prevention Program, an outreach activity of the laboratory, and has also encouraged his associates to do the same. Gene says, “The program has unbelievable value and there’s lots of talent in the lab. They have many outstanding professionals.”

The Department is currently working on the next phase, which includes a $500,000 expansion of wet lab space within the HPCRL. This first phase will only match current research space demand; thus, a program plan for a more than $5 million addition is currently under review.

With their generous support of HES and also of Athletics, Gene and Carol are synonymous with “Ram Pride” on the CSU campus. Gene is also a past member of the CSU Development Council.

HES promotes healthy lifestyles and healthy hearts, and Gene and Carol Vaughan have lent their heart and soul to help forward the Department mission.

“Gene and Carol bring honesty, integrity, and enthusiasm – qualities which have made them valued friends of the Department for many years. We are extremely proud to count these two highly successful people among our departmental alumni.”

– Gay Israel
Joe Newlin was a reflective kind of person. He was caring and warm. Joe was passionate about education – especially rural education – and understood the special challenges that teachers and students endured in rural areas.

Dr. Joseph T. Newlin, Sr., taught in the School of Education from 1972 until he died in May 2001. If he were with us today, Joe would be pleased with the heart-felt effort underway, says his widow, Vivian Newlin of Fort Collins. A memorial bench is being placed near the Education Building under a tree in a grassy, park-like setting, an area most suited for rest and reflection.

The bench and an associated memorial gift are being funded by the National Rural Education Foundation in recognition of Dr. Newlin’s service as executive director of the National Rural Education Association (NREA) from 1980-2001. Spearheading and donating to this meaningful intention on behalf of NREA is long-time friend and former colleague, Paula Hodges, Ph.D. Paula, who now lives in Beaver, Okla., taught at CSU from 1976-1985.

“Dr. Newlin built a new organization for the support of rural schools from the former group with the National Education Association, all while he was on the faculty at Colorado State,” said Paula. “His leadership gave those schools a national presence in Washington, D.C., provided for recognition of the National Rural Teacher of the Year, and established a National Essay Contest for rural students in grades 3 through 12 with monetary prizes for their efforts.”

The memorial bench on the CSU campus will honor Joe’s legacy in teaching and service to the education profession. Vivian and Paula considered various placement sites for the bench and found the area near the School of Education as an ideal spot, allowing people to enjoy the shade of the tree and have a serene view of campus life and activities.

NREA announced the memorial bench in connection with the organization’s 100th convention in Oklahoma City in November.

“We know the memorial bench will be a place for friends to meet. Teachers are social people, so this is a fitting tribute to one of our former colleagues.”

– Tim Davies

Tim Davies, Director, School of Education
Nadine Henry (Hartshorn) Henry is a true example of what it means to be a CSU Alumna. A 1941 graduate of Home Economics (now the College of Applied Human Sciences), she has shown outstanding commitment to CSU and its community for over 65 years. The former Aggie and her late husband, Jim Henry, were named “Alumni of the Century” in 2000.

Nadine has left her mark in many different areas of the university. She helped pioneer the 1870 Club, CSU’s premier giving club, along with Jim and a few other CSU supporters in the mid-1980s. The Jim and Nadine Henry Award was created in honor of the couple to recognize individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service and dedication to the university and the Alumni Association.

Nadine continues to contribute to the university through multiple scholarship funds, including a scholarship in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. She is an avid sports fan who, of course, cheers for her beloved Rams. Her passion to continually support her alma mater stems from her strong green and gold roots.

Nadine’s connection to CSU began with her uncle, Dr. Duane Hartshorn, who was the football team physician for 30 years and for whom the Hartshorn Health Center was named. Jim was a 1940 graduate of the Animal Sciences program. His ties with CSU were initiated with his father, who had three of the four cows on one of the best producing pedigrees in the 1930s and 1940s at the stock judging pavilion.

The couple met each other on campus during a dance in the ballroom of Johnson Hall. Jim took her horseback riding the next day. They found they had a lot of things in common, one being that they were both from farm families. They married two days after Nadine’s graduation and went on to raise a family of Rams. CSU Rams, that is. All four of their children and three of their grandchildren graduated from CSU.

The College of Applied Human Sciences owes a great deal to its Home Economics roots, and we are proud of our many generous alumni such as Nadine Henry, who embody the spirit of Colorado State University.

“The scholarship endowed by Nadine Henry and her late husband, Jim, has helped many students in Food Science and Human Nutrition to develop into outstanding professionals, dedicated to improving the health and well-being of their patients and clients. Nadine’s legacy of care and concern for others is now being carried forward by those CSU graduates who are beneficiaries of their generosity.”

– Chris Melby
Although trained in engineering at Colorado State, Buzz Bruner has been a decades-long supporter of the Construction Management program. Not only has he contributed his financial support, but he lent the support of his employer, Bechtel Corporation, where he worked for 36 years.

Buzz credits one of the senior vice presidents at Bechtel for seeking to further professionalize the industry by supporting Construction Management programs. Construction managers were the type of skilled worker the company needed to handle its large construction projects.

In 1976, Buzz was designated as the construction management liaison from Bechtel to his alma mater. He has worked closely with several department heads over the years, and he praised how the program has developed and prospered. “It’s great to see such a professional curriculum, an excellent internship program, and strong industry connections,” said Buzz. “Companies really like to recruit at CSU. They think highly of the Construction Management program and are impressed with the quality of the students.”

Buzz’s connections to CSU run deep and wide, with 22 relatives in his family tree who attended, including his parents and two of his children. He never intended to go to college, but a stint in the military after high school changed his perspective. He says, “I came to CSU as a result of the GI bill after serving in the Marine Corps as a private during the Korean War. It was an eye opener. I realized I needed to go to college in order to get ahead in life.”

After two years in community college in California, Buzz came to CSU, working his way through college by doing janitorial work and as a surveyor. He credits the military for giving him the discipline and accountability to study along with working almost 40 hours per week.

Buzz excelled in the construction industry with Bechtel. He worked his way up from field engineering through construction project management to senior vice president. His entire career was spent building power plants. Some of his projects had 10,000 people working on them.

It was this expertise that he brought to the Construction Management program as a valued adviser and supporter. He was even asked at one point to take over as interim department head, a measure of the respect the leaders of the College held for Buzz. He often came back to Fort Collins as a guest speaker for classes, and he co-chaired the 50th anniversary gala in 1996.

Now retired and living in Tucson, Ariz., with his wife Ann, Buzz still maintains his connection to CSU. “CSU is a great school! I’m happy to provide my financial support to Construction Management. It’s impressive how the program has grown through the years. They’ve done a remarkable job professionalizing the curriculum.”

“Throughout the years, Buzz Bruner has been one of the most loyal supporters of the Department of Construction Management. Buzz has freely given of his expertise and his time, as well as made donations to support many of our programs and events. It is outstanding individuals such as Buzz whose faith in our programs has built a strong foundation for educating our students.”

– Mostafa Khattab
College Focuses on Bringing Small Groups Together

Even though we’re one of the largest colleges at CSU, our focus is small. Small groups, that is. We feel it’s important to meet alumni individually, whether that’s one on one or in small groups.

That’s why this year we launched the Denver Connections event series. These are small-group events in the homes of alumni and friends designed to offer a comfortable and inviting place to gather. It’s also a time to “bring campus experts to you,” with programs presented by department heads and faculty in the College of Applied Human Sciences.

“A number of campus events draw alumni and friends in the northern Front Range, and the Denver Connections events were established as a special outreach effort,” says Dean April Mason, who attended both events.

“We hope to do the same in other communities.”

Special thanks to Carolyn Fineran (see related feature on page 5) and her husband, Bob Lindig, for hosting the inaugural Denver Connections event in June. Gay Israel, department head for Health and Exercise Science, presented the program on heart health. John and Amy Lawton hosted a second event in September, with

Chris Melby, Ph.D., head of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, leads an engaging discussion, “Weighing the Diets,” at a Denver Connections event in September. Held in people’s homes, these events foster one of the College’s core values: to meet in small-group settings to truly get to know our alumni and friends.

Chris Melby, department head for Food Science and Human Nutrition, delivering a program about diets.

If you are interested in hosting a Denver Connections event or one in a different community, please contact Joan Trussell at (970) 491-1938, or e-mail Joan.Trussell@colostate.edu.

Development Team Connects People with Possibilities

We believe that raising funds for college programs happens as a natural occurrence between alumni and friends. When people have a passion for a particular program, inspiration is not far behind. The development team helps bring people closer to what they already support and have identified as a passion. It might be scholarships, a particular department, a special program, or even a new or renovated building. Please contact Joan, Geoff, or Lori if you have questions or want to make a gift to an area of interest.

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Students from the Dean’s Leadership Council who made ‘thank you’ calls last spring said they enjoyed their visits with alumni and friends, and especially enjoyed being able to express their appreciation for supporting programs in the college. Pictured from left to right are Lilly Berger, Alison Fawkes, Laura Maldonado, Melissa Weil, Georgia Adrahtas, Sean Creeden, Kevin Simonds, Beverly Levy, and Laura Ryer.

Thank you!
The College Dean’s Leadership Council sponsored a “Thank-a-Thon” last spring during which a group of students called more than 250 alumni and friends who had previously made gifts to our college through the CSU Foundation. The only purpose was to say “thanks!”

The students were able to tell donors how much gifts to scholarship and program support mean to them,” said Lori Sims, director of development. “Students understand how gifts directly affect the quality of their education, and they don’t take it for granted. It was special to hear about some of the conversations students had with alumni and friends during the Thank-a-Thon. They made some nice connections.”

The students were joined by Dean April Mason, and Associate Deans Jean Lehmann and Dale DeVoe, who spoke to a number of people that evening as well. Students found the experience to be especially meaningful.

The next Thank-a-Thon is planned before year-end.

It felt really great to be part of the Thank-a-Thon! The alumni and friends of the College who contribute mean so much to us, and it was nice to personally thank them!”

Georgia Adrahtas, senior, Health and Exercise Science

“The Thank-a-Thon was an excellent way to see how much the alumni really contribute to CSU and thank them for their support.”

Melissa Weil, senior, Human Development and Family Studies

Gratitude

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