

# COLLEGE AVENUE

Volume 17, Issue 1 | Fall 2021  
A Rocky Mountain Student Media Publication

## Homecoming History

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From the roots to the future  
of Homecoming at CSU

## A Patch of Community

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The story of the  
Bartel's family Farm

## Rebranding Tradition

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International students bring  
their own traditions to CSU



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# COLLEGE AVENUE

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## From Your Editors

The past year and a half has presented a series of challenges and obstacles for us all that have thrown our lives around. Despite the chaos of the last year and a half, the Colorado State University and Fort Collins community has stood together.

As we begin to emerge from this turning point in our lives, our world is coming back to life. Homecoming traditions will thrive in person, international students will celebrate their traditions and locally owned businesses will bounce back.

As the fall season approaches and we are greeted with welcoming traditions and festivities, we also enter a new season for beginnings and old pastimes. A season of normal has returned, where friends can hang out at a football game, students can gather to celebrate traditions and kids can visit their favorite skatepark program.

We can safely return to the traditions and events that play such a big role in our community. As events begin to return to normal, it only seems right to celebrate the yearly traditions and festivities in Fort Collins and CSU with our fall edition.

I hope the stories ahead of you spark your sense of adventure, inspire you to take part in a new tradition or warm your heart to hear of our surviving past times in Fort Collins.

Kailey Pickering  
Editor-in-Chief

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# Contents



**08**

*From the Roots to the Future: a Look at CSU's Homecoming*

**12**

*Finding a Patch of Community*

**16**

*Skateboarding Program Launches Youth Into Community*

**21**

*Rebranding Tradition*

**26**

*CSU Military Traditions*



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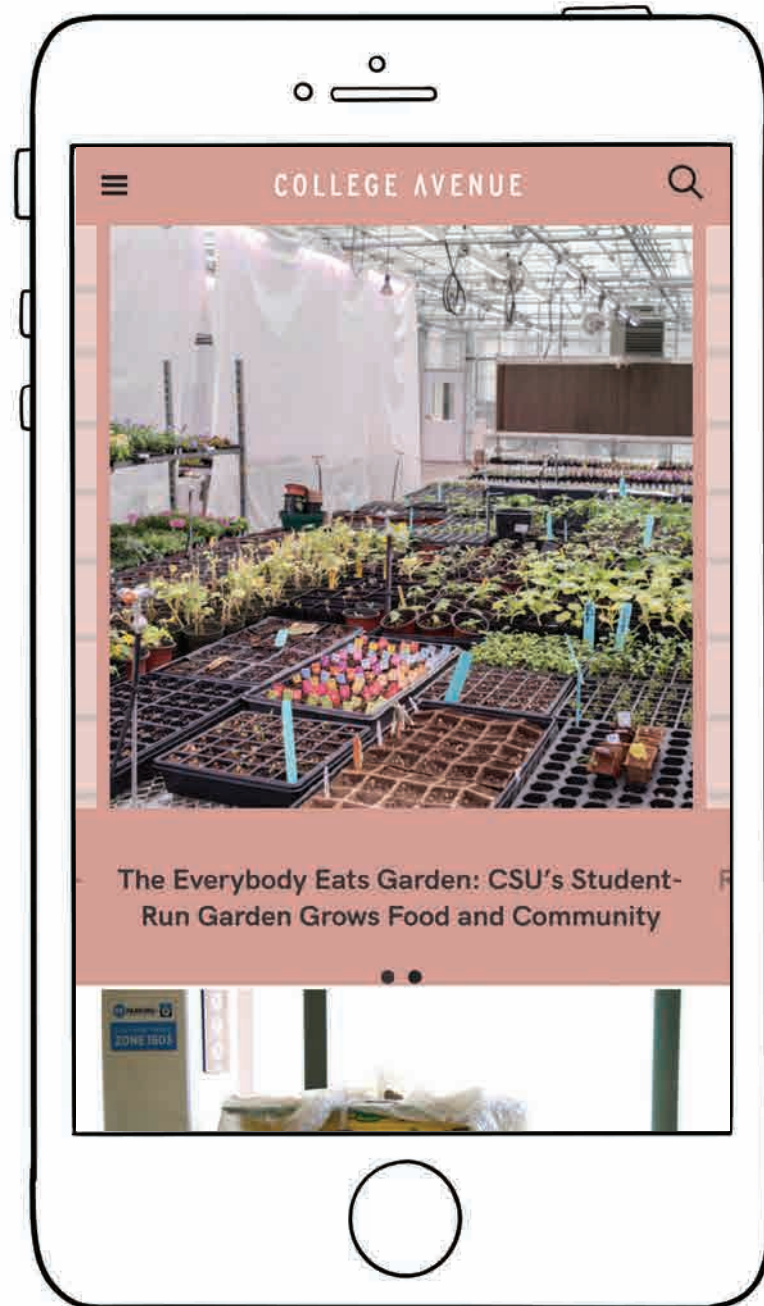
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From the Roots  
to the Future:

# A Look at CSU's Homecoming



*Aspen Flores*

For Colorado State University, the first few weeks in October where homecoming falls is full of excitement and festivities. In past years, streets closed off for the parade, there were a variety of events at the Oval and a giant bonfire lit up the night outside the Lory Student Center. Although a lot has changed since the first CSU Homecoming, one common theme has united each student and alumni since the beginning: homecoming is about returning to your roots and connecting with family and friends.

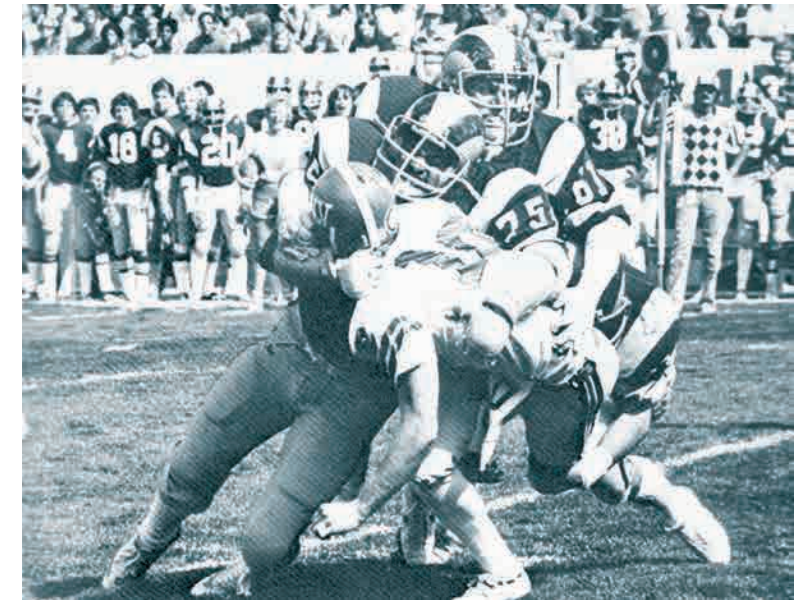
While most people know what homecoming generally involves event-wise, where does the tradition come from, and how does it influence what we do today?

Homecoming has a history reaching back to the alumni football games held at colleges and universities in the 19th century. It is unclear who had the first official homecoming, because many schools have made that claim. However, by the 1920s, homecoming became popular among United States colleges, and CSU, then Colorado Agricultural College, was no different.

On Oct. 3, 1914, Colorado Agricultural College had its first homecoming game according to the history and traditions timeline on the CSU Homecoming & Family Weekend website. Charles A. Lory, the president of the university at that time, announced an alumni reunion in the form of a football scrimmage between the alumni team and the present team. That tradition changed when other colleges started playing against each other.

These games helped promote Lory's original goal of encouraging alumni to come back to campus, celebrate their alma mater (the college or university that someone attended) and carry on traditions for the next generation of students. Over the next few years, many of CSU's traditions that exist today would begin to take shape, such as the firing of the cannon during football games, which began in 1920. The CSU Homecoming & Family Weekend page calls this "one of the oldest, and certainly the loudest, of CSU traditions," and for anyone who has been to a game, the sound is impossible to miss.

According to John Hirn, the volunteer CSU Athletics Historian, the first intercollegiate homecoming football game was on Nov. 18, 1922 between Colorado School of Mines and the Aggies.



His article, "This Week in CSU Football History – 104 years of Homecoming, Football Tradition," goes more in-depth on which games had a meaningful impact on CSU's history and football program.

Finally, one of the largest traditions CSU has, the 'A,' first began construction in December of 1923, when students cleared the rocks and underbrush. The following year students finished painting the 'A,' and it has been there ever since. Students today still complete the hike up to either paint the 'A' at the beginning of the school year or light it during homecoming. The iconic landmark everyone can see around Fort Collins helps to remind us of CSU's Aggie origin.

More than a century of games later, many traditions have changed slightly, but these roots hold strong and make homecoming what it is today. This year, homecoming takes place Oct. 6 through Oct. 9, and includes a variety of activities. The event "Get Your Green On the Plaza" will include food trucks and live music, and the "Friday Night Lights" event includes the annual bonfire, fireworks and Lighting of the 'A'. Although there will be no parade this year, the Homecoming 5k race, among many other opportunities to participate will still make for a full weekend of activity.

Each year, the Alumni Association is responsible for homecoming. According to Amy Jo Miller, the Director of Alumni Marketing and Communications for the Alumni Association, they plan this event from April or May through October with their partners across campus.



"We do kind of refer to ourselves as the keeper of traditions on campus," Miller says. "Ram Pride shines brighter when we're together, and to get to be the reason that people are back and welcome them home...has been a real light for our campus community as well as our alumni."

That spirit helped inspire the theme for this year: charging forward.

"We Rams have been resilient, we have taken care of one another and now you know we're taking the steps to charge forward and continue towards tomorrow," Miller says.

With more than 10 years working at CSU, and in the five she has been at the Alumni Association, Miller says to her homecoming means it is a time to come home and for people to feel like they have a place to come home to.

This sense of home comes from reconnecting with people who, despite their differences, all share the alma mater of CSU. Whether a person is in Fort Collins or somewhere abroad, seeing the ram logo helps identify one another and connect on a different level. Everyone involved in homecoming plays a significant role, whether it is participating in the events or helping make the traditions happen.

Jenna Moore, a fourth-year music performance major, is involved in many programs, but playing in the marching band has given her a unique look at homecoming and its traditions. For her, this special weekend in October has always been a routine of performances.

"Being in band is a great experience, but it's a separate experience from what everyone else does," Moore says.

When most people watch the festivities unfold, Moore gets directly involved by playing her flute for others. Once again, she will be in the stands performing and cheering on the football team with the CSU Marching Band.

"I'm kind of excited just for people to be able to gather together again, because that's kind of the whole idea of homecoming, I'm hoping that there's a really good turnout of people who maybe missed it last year," Moore says.

Due to COVID-19, many people felt like they missed out on a lot last year, but homecoming provides a moment to catch up on lost time and make new memories. Especially for the first-year students, the 2021 homecoming gives another opportunity to grow closer to CSU and the people on campus.

Rebecca Pallotta, a first-year criminology major, did not know that CSU had a homecoming. So far, her only experience with on-campus events came from Ram Welcome.

"Events helped me feel a sense of community, everyone is having fun and everyone is in a good mood so you can just talk to people that you wouldn't normally talk to," Pallotta says.

As she adjusts to college life, Pallotta says she has a lot to learn about CSU and the on-campus traditions, but plans on going to as many events as she can.

Once homecoming comes around this year, campus will feel a little more normal, and for many, it will hopefully feel a little more like home.

Archive photos courtesy of Silver Spruce

Photo research by Luke Bourland

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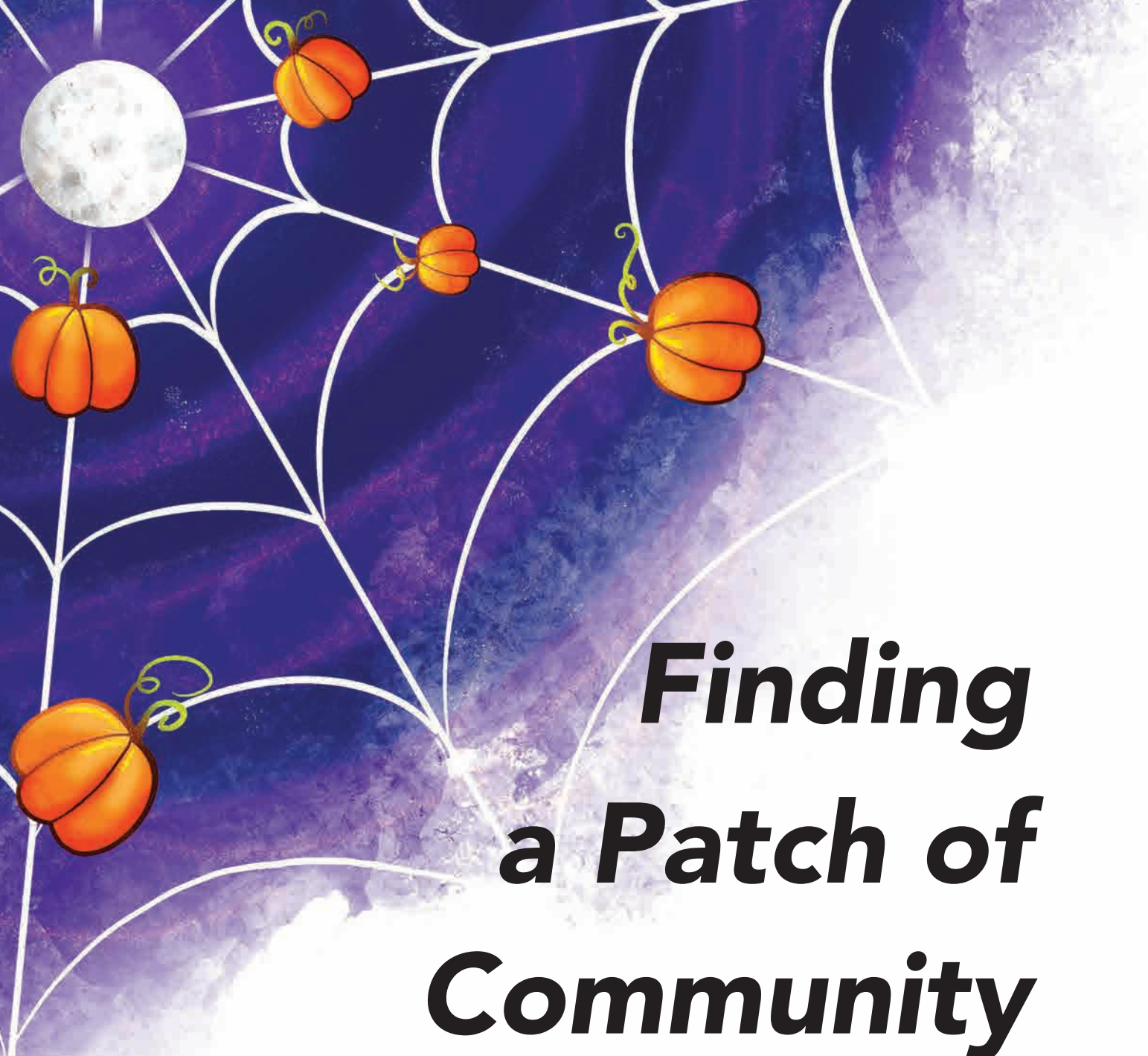
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# Finding a Patch of Community



*The Bartels Farm  
and Pumpkin Patch*

*By Beatrice Lincke*

At the northeast edge of Fort Collins, just as fields of corn, hay and wheat sweep over the horizon, there is a small haven blanketed with orange, speckled, leafy mats, towers of yellow halos that obscure the sun and an interlude of squawks from meandering birds. This space that welcomes city faces to the agricultural expanses of Northern Colorado is The Bartels Farm and Pumpkin Patch.

Doug and Nancy Bartels might be mistaken for any other visitor, if not for their warm and confident demeanors. The easy-going duo represent the labor and love that goes into transforming a field of vegetables and squash into a center of community for residents throughout Colorado and Wyoming.

But the farm has not always bustled with pumpkins and people. Founded in 1905 by Clyde Bartels and his son, Frank Bartels, the farm started out primarily as a sheep ranch, growing various crops including corn, hay and barley on the side. After Frank's son Duane took over the farm, sheep trickled out and hogs became the main livestock they worked with. In the peak years, thousands of hogs lined the Bartels property.

When the hog market began to fizzle out, the farm shifted its focus to crops. The Bartels grew corn and hay, as well as barley for Coors Brewing Co., cucumbers for Dreher Pickle Factory, pinto beans and Doug's father Duane even took a chance with tobacco. However, the farm was not able to restore its profit back to the levels when they were working with livestock.

Twenty-one years ago, Nancy was working

with a flower shop franchise in Fort Collins called Flowerama. One day, Doug was helping the store unload pumpkins when he was asked to grow the bulbous orange crop for them the next year. That year, he planted three rows of pumpkins. Twenty-one years later, their three rows have exploded into 72 acres and now serve thousands of visitors each season.

"Economically, we might have lost the farm a few years back," Doug Bartels said. "If we didn't stick out our neck and try to do something different, it wasn't gonna work."

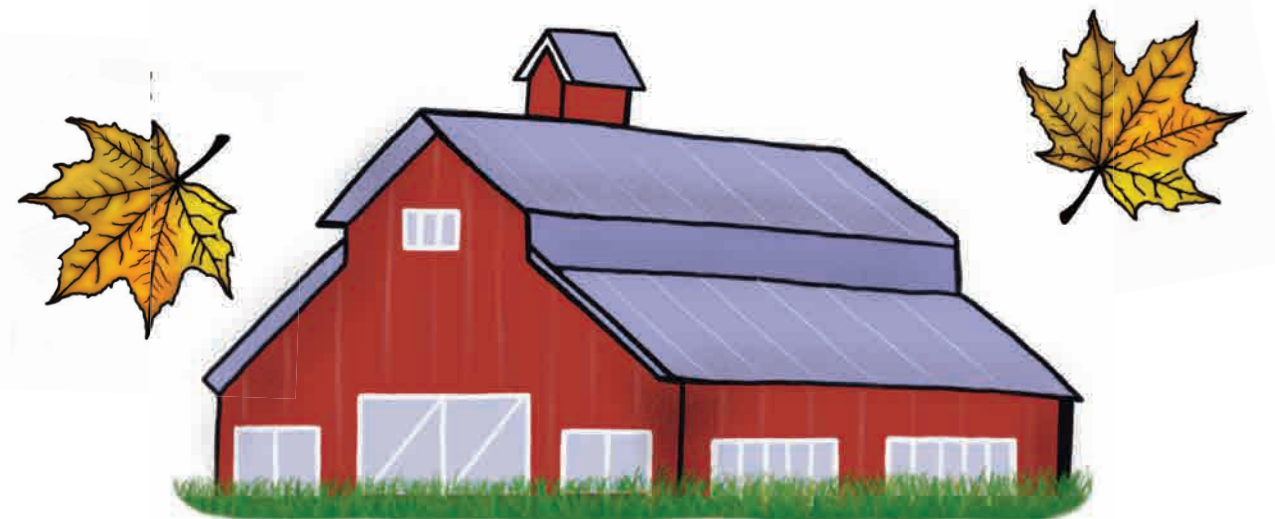
All across the United States, small farms like The Bartels are being pushed to sell their farms to be consolidated into larger farms that have more economic support from the government, or for city development that seeps into surrounding agricultural land.

While urban expansion can threaten the existence of farms that border urban centers, the expansion of Fort Collins provided a uniquely ripe market for The Bartels Pumpkin Patch.

Fort Collins' ever-expanding population has created an interest and demand for agritourism activities like pick-your-own farms and The Bartels Pumpkin Patch where people can engage with agricultural traditions in a relaxed, outdoor environment.

The community pumpkin patch that Fort Collins residents know today was born when

*“If we didn't stick out our neck and try to do something different, it wasn't gonna work.”*



some neighbor children were out playing in the fields of pumpkins the Bartels used to supply local Flowerama shops, and someone stopped to ask if they had a pumpkin patch. “We looked around, and we said, ‘Yep, we do!’” Doug Bartels said. Since then, word of the pumpkin patch has proliferated into the crowds that now flock to the farm every fall. “We hardly do any advertising, we put up a few signs, but it’s just word of mouth and people just keep coming back.”

On a peak day in October, their pumpkin patch will be dotted with swaths of children lost in the excitement of an outdoor oasis, groups of college students basking in the last bit of sun before exams push them indoors and families vying for pumpkins with which to adorn their homes. Together, these numbers reach into the thousands. Even during the peak of the pandemic last fall, the farm stayed alive with groups of elementary school students who gathered outside of school hours to avoid restrictions placed on school-organized field trips.

Similar to their approach to pulling through rough times and uncertain economies, the charm of the Bartels farm lies within its versatility and commitment to providing a welcoming space for everyone in the community. Each year brings something new, whether it is an exciting new adventure tromping through the mud, an expanding city of sunflowers or a new playground, the Bartels continue to push their farm into the future.

Some of these experiments turn into tradition, like their field of sunflowers where people now congregate for cozy photo ops, the caramel apple stand that they bring from out of state, hay rides and their pumpkin chucker that slings pumpkins half a mile. And as some of their activities turn into tradition for their farm, fall trips out to The Bartels Pumpkin Patch have become a tradition for members of the Fort Collins community. Nancy and Doug have no plans of changing that.

“We’re pressured all the time with developers, because the money’s there, but that would make lots of children sad — that wouldn’t be good,” Doug said, standing against the backdrop of their ever expanding fields of flowers and fall squash. “You get kids out here, they’re 50 years old, it’s kind of a universal love.”



Corn, and flowers grow at The Bartels Farm, Sept. 19.

Photos by Ryan Schmidt

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# SKATEBOARDING PROGRAM LAUNCHES YOUTH INTO COMMUNITY

By Jackson Patrick

Sitting behind a tattoo parlor and a Mexican restaurant is a fairly nondescript warehouse. However, in the back, through an open garage door, you will find a room full of various obstacles such as boxes, quarter pipes, flat bars and even a vertical ramp.

This 2,000 square foot facility, called Launch: Community Through Skateboarding, houses a skatepark, skateboarding museum, library and makerspace. The facility exists solely for the benefit of the surrounding community and relies on the support from those who believe in the organization's mission in order to operate.

The constant pool of volunteers wanting to work for the park has allowed Launch to stay open while charging little to nothing for the use of their facility.

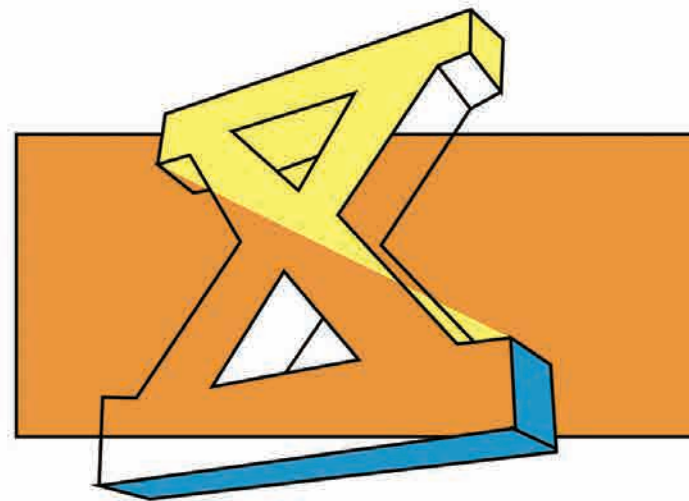
Andy Weiss, Executive Director of Launch and past owner of Brothers Boards, now called The Market Skate Shop, says that he often has to turn prospective volunteers away because there are so many people who want to help.

However, nothing is free, and with this in mind Launch does what it can to raise money through various programming and events.

The biggest fundraiser for this small organization is the annual "All Hands on Deck" art show. This year's show took place at The OBC Wine Project on September 23 through 25, and included a special exhibit of skateboards designed by local and national artists.

A free show to attend, all money made was through the auctioning off of the skate decks from the exhibit. All of the proceeds from this event go directly to Launch.

While some of this money will go towards funding new programs for children, much of it will go to the upkeep of the indoor facility.



**"WE ARE TRYING TO HOLD  
ONTO THE HISTORY OF  
SKATEBOARDING... WE  
DON'T WANT IT TO BECOME  
ANOTHER SPORT."**

"The skatepark is a program in itself," Weiss says. "It's a destination for a lot of kids to connect with other friends."

This is the focal point for Launch's existence. Having only been formally operating since 2011, the small organization has relentlessly sought to give the community a safe and welcoming place to enjoy a once frowned upon activity.

"We really wanted to go in a direction that was really focused on the skateboarding culture," Weiss says regarding himself and the other founding members. "We are trying to hold onto the history of skateboarding... we don't want it to become another sport."

This isn't to say that skating is nothing but the misconception of angry teenagers running away from police officers. It means that those involved in the scene desperately want to hang on to what it means to be a skater: problem solving, physical exercise and social camaraderie that the community offers. No matter what trick you are attempting to land, a group, once deemed misfits by society, will be cheering you on through every hard fall.

This motif can be seen in Launch's programming itself.

All of the programs offered through Launch are relatively relaxed and guided in a way that fosters individual creativity and personal improvement. After all, according to Weiss, "if we structure skateboarding too much, then it's not skateboarding."

When asked about the community itself, Launch board member and skater Chris Jones said that one of the things he loves about Fort Collins is how amazing and strong the skateboarding scene is.

Being a Fort Collins native, Jones has seen the scene evolve in many ways, but there has always been one constant: a deep-rooted love for skating.

When Jones started skateboarding, Launch did not exist. What he had instead was the local skate shop Brothers Boards. Here, he spent all of his time hanging out with friends, reading magazines, watching skating videos and learning how to skate himself.

"It was my home away from home," Jones says. His parents knew that if he was there, he was alright.

Launch seems to be the very embodiment of this. It feels like that one friend's house whose parents were cool and let them trick out their garage with couches, posters and a mini-fridge. It's a spot to come relax after a long day and share some laughs.

All of this comes with the added benefit of being a place to improve your skateboarding. So when you do get that itch to step out of your comfort zone and catch an adrenaline rush, you only have to walk a couple of feet.

"It provides a safe space that helps kids learn about skateboarding from people that love it and grew up doing it," Jones says.

For the kids that means a lot because they are able to learn in a setting that is not intimidating. Going to a local skate shop or skatepark for the first time can be super unnerving, especially if you have barely touched a board. With how strong some local skaters can be, it is easy to shy away from going out and working on improving one's skills.

Launch seeks to attack this problem at the source by forging real connections and making newbies feel inclined to love skating just as much as the local park veteran.

"In my experience with running programs here, building real relationships through skateboarding I think, has an effect on people and makes them want to continue to skate," Jones says.

After all, some of the biggest enjoyment some people get out of skating is by seeing others pull off amazing tricks, and they will never get to see that if that individual quits skating before they even get a chance to try.

Although there is always a big emphasis on helping kids in the present, the future is always sitting in the back of the minds of the board of directors.

"Currently a pretty big focus of ours is expanding and growing into more programming," Jones says.

For example, Jones mentions an idea to offer classes to teach kids how to build their own obstacles that they can take home to

skate whenever they want. According to Jones, giving kids the resources to take creativity home with them is "super impactful."

A piece of Launch's mission statement reads "The organization provides an environment in which to engage in skateboarding as a form of recreation, develop leadership skills through volunteerism, utilize creative-thinking skills through hands-on learning experiences and ultimately make meaningful connections within our community."

Launch, through funding from events like the art show, intends to live up to these tenets far into the future. All, so that everyone who walks through Launch's front door is able to learn, through self-expression and self-determination, they are in charge of their own futures.



About 50 local artists have painted and prepared skateboards to be used in the annual Launch fundraising event at Odell Brewing Company where guests will have the opportunity to bid on skateboards.

Photo by Skyler Pradhan



Launch founder and executive director Andy Weiss (above) started the non-profit in 2011 with the goal to bring people together through skateboarding

Photo by Skyler Pradhan



Andy Weiss admires a skateboard painted by a local artist.

Photo by Skyler Pradhan

13-year-olds Dawson Gordon and Ian Bradley skate at the Launch indoor skatepark on Sept. 10.

Photo by Anna Tomka



"Before I moved to Loveland, I used to come here everyday after school, and I would go to the camps over the summer," said Gordon. "I was riding on that Launch bus when I was six years old."

Photo by Anna Tomka

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# REBRANDING TRADITION



Colorado State University students perform the Indonesian Saureka Reka Dance on March 1, 2020. They won the award for the best performance in the World Talent Show.

All photos are by Pratyosh Kashyap

S. C. Pedroza

It's close to midnight on a day like any other, as you find yourself walking through the university apartments west of campus. You pass a window and get a sneak peek to the inside: There's a group of people gathered around a table with a little pot in the middle. There is food all around it, and you can even smell the faintest trace of exotic smells as you try figuring out what the occasion is for such a vivid and warm reunion. You also hear music that's not in a language you recognize, but it has a popular sound to it. Nevertheless, you turn your head and continue your walk towards your destination.

Even though it may not always be seen, this is the case for many international students at Colorado State University. As we go through our ordinary days, some of those students bring a piece of their homes and families to celebrate the most meaningful aspects of their culture. Traditions and festivals all around the world that sometimes go unnoticed by us, are celebrated in the most singular and creative ways international students can think of to feel more at home in a not-so-familiar place.

At CSU, sometimes it is difficult to find other people that share one's specific cultural background, ethnicity and nationality given the diversity in campus students. Irl Paulalengan, a sophomore student from Indonesia who moved to the United States at age 14, shares one of the many ways the international community goes about this. "A couple of us international students from different nationalities, like Indian and Chinese, get together and celebrate the biggest tradition we have in common: Chinese New Year," Paulalengan says. "We always celebrate it and it's quite different from how Chinese people do it."

The Lunar New Year is typically celebrated between January and February, depending on the day it falls on the lunar calendar, and is perhaps one of the biggest celebrations in all of Asia. Paulalengan explains



Elena Haverluck performs a sample of the traditional Hopak dance from the Poltava region of Ukraine at the International Dance Party Nov. 14, 2019.

Adhi Pathuk performs and teaches a Bollywood-style dance from the song Kala Chashma, translated as "Black Sunglasses" at the International Dance Party Nov. 14, 2019.

that the day of the festival begins with a thorough cleaning session of the home where the celebration will take place, as they don't want to sweep out the luck when the Lunar New Year comes. Throughout the day, they ask for blessings from others and to welcome the occasion as they reconnect.

When it's time to eat dinner, Paulalengan and her friends set up the traditional hotpot in the middle of the table. The hotpot is a pot of boiling hot broth seasoned with spices and vegetables of their choosing, like ginger and mushrooms. "This definitely means so much because even my friends tell me we never do this in the U.S.," Paulalengan says.

"We are creating this new tradition as young people since we don't follow the traditions our parents do,....So, I think that has been really cool to realize this, like, Oh! These are my roots; this is where I come from."

However, more centralized cultural events also exist at CSU, as is the case with "India Night". Shweta Haran, a graduate student from Southern India and former Director of Finance of the Indian Student Association, describes this specific event as a celebration of India itself and all of its traditions and diverse culture. Anyone can come to "India Night" and experience all of the local dances, music and food, such as samosas, centered around India. Indian students typically wear their regional attire and celebrate along with members of many other nationalities.

This event is organized by the Indian Student Association, and its objective is to display the full extent of Indian Culture. The celebration begins with traditional aspects of India, where students dance to traditional Indian music. As the evening progresses the ambient changes as Bollywood music and dances take place. The students even organize a fashion show to display their dresses.

"India Night" is a celebration of India and Indian culture," explains Haran. "India is a very diversified country, we have lots of different cultures, languages, traditions and religions. So, we come together and unify for this one night to celebrate our culture and at the same time show the people of Fort Collins what that culture is."

Similar to Paulalengan with her friends and Haran with the ISA, there are several other international students that are rebranding the traditions they bring with them to their new home at CSU. As of spring 2021, according to International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), our campus is home to around 1,470 international students. Most of these students are from China and India, but all of them are trying to connect, not only with the life they left behind, but also with other people that have been through the same circumstances. They want to form a community and acquire a sentiment of belonging.

The ISSS ensures that all international students, along with the 106 countries they represent here in the U.S., never go unnoticed as they undergo a difficult transition to a new culture and a new environment.

The ISSS organizes cultural nights every semester, football 101 classes for international students, mountain weekends at the CSU Mountain Campus and perhaps the biggest of them all, The World Unity Fair.

Both foreign and domestic students come together at the fair with one goal in mind: to know a little more about each other. "We want to make sure that domestic students



are familiar with our international community," explains Mary Swing, ISSS Programming Coordinator. "We want to connect them so they have a world perspective."

International students from all around the world take this opportunity to share about their home country and local traditions, in hopes to start building traditions of their own, share with others and keep home close to them even from thousands of miles away.

Elena Haverluck performs a sample of the traditional Hopak dance from the Poltava region of Ukraine at the International Dance Party Nov. 14, 2019.

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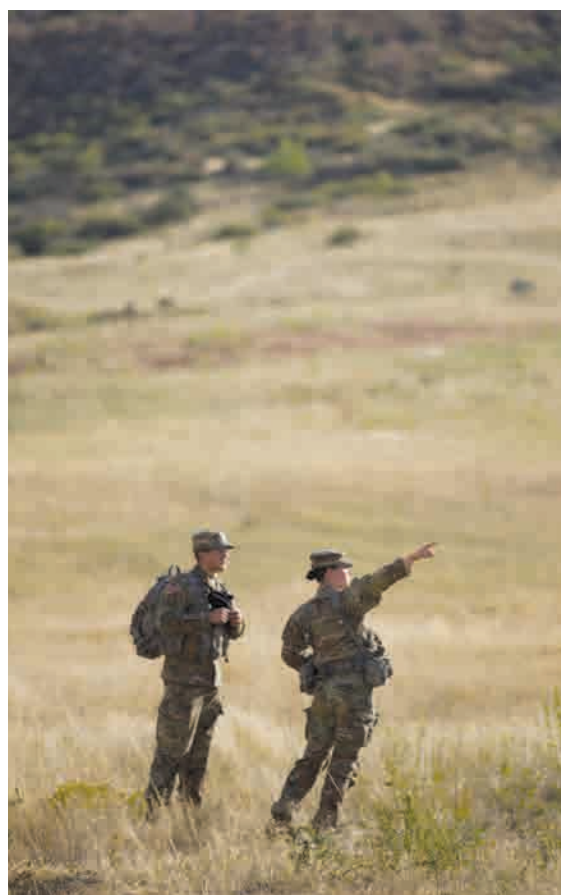
# Traditions

Photo Story by Ryan Schmidt

Colorado State University has a long history of military instruction on campus that dates back to 1884. As part of this tradition, CSU offers Reserve Officers' Training Corps for both the Army and Air Force. Upon graduation, students in ROTC receive a commission as a second lieutenant in their respective branch. As part of the ROTC curriculum, students take a variety of labs, classes and training, in addition to their regular schedule. Many cadets receive stipends and scholarships to help cover the financial costs of this education. Some students also participate in CSU military traditions on campus, such as the Army ROTC's Push-up Crew, which does push-ups whenever the CSU football team scores a touchdown, and the Army ROTC's Bronze Boot Run, where cadets from both CSU and the University of Wyoming run the game ball for the rivalry football game from the state border.

One aspect of Army ROTC is the leadership lab, where once a week cadets engage in training that supports what they have been learning in the classroom. Such training generally involves a significant amount of hands-on experience. During the leadership lab, cadets learn a variety of skills, including tactics, navigation, and basic rappelling. For the leadership lab on September 16, cadets met near the Engineering Research Center at the CSU Foothills Campus to learn and practice squad tactics. Professor of Military Sciences and Lt. Col. Matthew Tillman explained that, "we picked out some of the more experienced cadets to demonstrate how to do a squad attack and recon array across a linear danger area" and then sent the rest of the cadets to actually do those tasks. Later in the year, the cadets will be tasked with employing these techniques at an activity by the Red Feather Lakes area. These activities, alongside the whole of the ROTC curriculum, help prepare cadets to be part of the long line of CSU graduates that have gone on to be active service members.





# DON'T KNOW

exactly what you need?

You can still use drop-ins, and

## ALL QUESTIONS ARE WELCOMED

What are the different types of interviews and how do I prepare for them?

I've never written a cover letter before. Can you help me get started?

How do I decide if graduate school is my next step?

Ask these questions, and more at drop-ins!  
M-F 10 am - 2 pm

## Career Mythbuster:

“There are ‘right’ and ‘wrong’ choices when it comes to career”

Whether we are conscious of it or not, we all grew up with lots of messages about career, which influence how we perceive different career paths. You might be feeling pressure about making the “right” career choice, but most people have many interests and skillsets that can be applied in a number of careers, and every choice we make along the way helps us refine the best career options for us. There are likely many possible great careers and lives for your future--so you don't have to find the “right” one, you can create a great one!

Stop by the Career Center in LSC 120 for Drop-Ins every day!  
Drop-ins are simple and quick sessions with a career education team member.

Need more than quick and simple? Schedule an appointment on Handshake or through the chat!  
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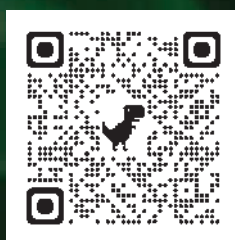
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