DU'S TOP-RANKED INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS LET STUDENTS FIND THEIR TRUE DIRECTION OF INTEREST
Dear Friends,

This is an exciting time for the University of Denver, as we think about who we are as an institution and how we position ourselves to meet the challenges and harness the opportunities of an increasingly global society at a time when our students—and even knowledge itself—are undergoing significant change.

To date, we have engaged more than 2,000 students, faculty and staff members, alumni, parents and friends of DU in more than 100 conversations as part of our Imagine DU process. We have met with alumni; we have met with business, nonprofit and civic leaders; and we have met with faculty, staff and students across disciplines, units and departments in groups large and small. We are exploring changes in knowledge, research and teaching; how we can create the most transformative student experience inside and outside the classroom; and how we can best serve Denver, the region and the world beyond.

By early June, we will have recommendations from each of three working groups. By fall, we will have incorporated them into a draft plan that outlines a clear vision for DU. We will rely on further feedback to that plan in the fall to tell us if our message resonates with those who, like you, share our deep passion for the University. By January, we hope to have a final plan approved by the Board of Trustees.

In the meantime, we have developed a specific action plan for the remainder of 2015 as a result of our Engaging Community task force reports. We are making progress on the things most dear to DU, even as we develop our broader, longer-term directions. I encourage you to visit imagine.du.edu to review our action plan, which focuses heavily on such key elements as intentional and inclusive community and access and affordability.

I believe this process is helping to build and bring together our community. And given the top-notch faculty and programs we have at DU, as well as our passionate and bright students, I think many of our answers will come from within.

So what are your big ideas? What programs might we expand? What things about DU should never change? I encourage you to share your thoughts in our online discussion forum at imagine.du.edu.

Thank you for helping us to Imagine DU!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Chopp
Chancellor
FEATURES

18 Game changers
Chancellor Emeritus Dan Ritchie leads the crop of 2015 Founders Day honorees

24 World of opportunity
Whether they are pursuing graduate or undergraduate degrees, University of Denver students have many ways to explore the world through international learning

28 A delicate balance
In Kenya, students discover how the lives of humans and animals intersect

DEPARTMENTS

4 Editor’s note

6 Imagining a better DU
The University envisions its future with a new planning initiative

10 One to watch
For junior Brian Ketteman, to serve is to lead

11 From the desk of
Ann Petrila of the Graduate School of Social Work leads an annual service-learning trip to Bosnia

12 Provocative performances
Newman Center Presents announces 2015–16 season

14 DU’s shark tank
A challenge at the Daniels College of Business gives students a crash course in entrepreneurship

16 Nourishing interest
Alumna pursues her passion for food justice with Denver nonprofit

33 Alumni Connections

42 In Memoriam

On the cover: International learning experiences take students off campus and around the world; read the stories starting on page 24.

This page: Students from the Graduate School of Social Work visited an elephant orphanage operated by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust; read the story on page 28. Photo by Courtney Brown
We didn’t set out to create the “international issue” of the University of Denver Magazine, but we may as well have. These 44 pages are full of great examples of how a small private university in a landlocked state can make major connections around the world.

When we got the good news last year that the Institute of International Education’s annual Open Doors report had ranked the University No. 1 in the nation for the percentage of undergraduate students who participate in study-abroad programs, we asked some of our students to share the ways in which their international experiences impacted them. You can read some of their stories on pages 26–27.

That No. 1 ranking would not have been possible without DU’s Cherrington Global Scholars program, which is one of many topics that arose in an on-stage discussion between Chancellor Rebecca Chopp and Chancellor Emeritus Dan Ritchie at the 2015 Founders Day Gala. A transcript of their conversation—followed by a look at the other 2015 honorees—starts on page 18.

On the graduate student side, Tamara Chapman talked to students from the Graduate School of Social Work who traveled to Kenya in fall 2014 as part of a class that looks at human impact on the lives of animals—and the ramifications of that impact on human well-being. Their experiences with hippos, elephants and other animals are chronicled in the story beginning on page 28.

We know that alumni, too, have examples of how their international experiences at DU impacted their lives once they graduated, and we would love to hear yours. Please email me at gglasgow@du.edu to share your stories.

Greg Glasgow
Managing Editor
For the second year in a row, students from the Franklin L. Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management at the Daniels College of Business got out of the classroom and joined forces to build a playhouse for a needy family. This year’s recipient was U.S. Army veteran Nick Orchowski, of Parker, Colo., his wife, Jamie, and their kids Mikayla and Colton. “We’re in this real estate/built-environment business, but it’s not about the bricks and the sticks and the concrete and steel; it really is about how we connect people, purpose and projects,” says Barbara Jackson, director of the Burns School. “Whenever we do anything, it’s how it impacts the community, the family or the organization. That’s what we want our students to understand—that this is a very impactful business we’re in.”
The University envisions its future with a new planning initiative

From inclusive excellence to the student experience, sustainability to local engagement, Chancellor Rebecca Chopp and Provost Gregg Kvistad are asking the DU community to help plan the future of the University.

Via an initiative called Imagine DU, alumni, parents, faculty, staff and students are being asked to contribute to the strategic plan that will guide the University’s next few years—and its long-term future.

Informed by a 100-day “listening tour” in which she gathered feedback from alumni, donors and friends of the University, Chopp announced Imagine DU in November 2014 as a way to engage the DU community and to create directions to guide the University over the next decade.

The initiative has two prongs: Engaging Community and Transformative Directions. Engaging Community is the short-term aspect of the program, focusing on what can be done now and within the next year, while Transformative Directions looks at what can be done as far into the future as 2025.

“At the same time that we can get to work, as we already have done, with initiatives that will strengthen our community, we can also dream big about how DU can meet the challenges and harness the opportunities of the 21st century,” Chopp says.

To begin the Engaging Community process, Chopp created four task forces: Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence; Student Access and Support; Professional Development for Faculty and Staff; and Expanding Sustainability on Campus.

Despite the different focuses of each task force, there are consistent themes that were explored by all the committees, including the need for universitywide coherence and cooperation.

Some of the work has already begun. In dialogue with the task force on Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence, three new positions have been created at DU: a vice chancellor for campus life and inclusive excellence; a senior associate provost for diversity, equity and inclusive excellence; and a diversity recruiting and retention leader in the human resources department. The Student Access and Support group is focused on the need for more financial aid, diversification of the faculty, coordination of all student access and support programs, and an enhanced advising and registration program.

“I hope everyone will look at the Imagine DU website, specifically the Engaging Community Implementation Plan, to see the ambitious tasks we have committed to for this calendar year,” Chopp says. “Just as importantly, I hope even more members of our community will help us to envision a bold future for the University.”

Beyond implementing the short-term Engaging Community actions, DU has been reaching out to students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends to learn more about how it can best fulfill its mission in a fast-changing world over the long term. As of March, DU had held more than 90 meetings with more than 1,200 people, and those numbers continue to grow.

>> Share your ideas at imagine.du.edu

Clarion reporter Madeline Zann (’18) contributed to this story.
The University of Denver and Quarterly Forum, a nonpartisan, not-for-profit leadership organization of 100 of the Rocky Mountain region’s most influential business and community leaders, have announced that the University will serve as the organization’s exclusive academic partner.

Founded in 1999, Quarterly Forum is a community of leaders that comes together for programming and social events that cultivate professional growth and community engagement. DU will provide Quarterly Forum with academic thought leadership and venues for its events. In turn, the University’s faculty and students will enjoy opportunities to engage with the Colorado business community.

“We are always seeking deeper connections to the business community and more opportunities for our students,” says Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. “Partnering with Quarterly Forum achieves both of these objectives and will help us all to generate a more comprehensive understanding of how education and commerce—working together—contribute to the vitality of our state.”

Each year, Quarterly Forum hosts 10 to 12 events and small group discussions that focus on business, politics and culture. Recent speakers include Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper; Mike Fries, president and CEO of Englewood-based Liberty Global, the nation’s second-largest cable provider; and Kent Thiry, president and chief executive officer of Denver-based DaVita HealthCare Partners.

“Quarterly Forum members are very proud of their role in the community, and this partnership with DU further elevates our organization,” says Ryan Heckman, executive director of Quarterly Forum. “Our mission is to serve the community through promoting professional growth, civic engagement and leadership development. This partnership will create new possibilities for our members and the broader community.”

Arimus Wells is a student with a passion for helping people. Volunteering with the University of Denver’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning allows him to hone that passion and to effect positive change in the lives of others throughout the Denver community.
The **1864 Challenge**, a sesquicentennial initiative that urged students, alumni, faculty and staff to join forces to shoot for a combined yearlong total of 186,400 service hours to reflect the University’s founding in 1864, came to a close in March with a whopping 385,832 hours logged, including more than 10,000 hours contributed by individual alumni and alumni teams. Projects included a DU Global Brigades student service trip to rural Nicaragua, University Advancement’s cleanup and painting day at the Washington Street Community Center, and the first annual nationwide Chapter Day of Service, which benefited organizations including Habitat for Humanity and Food Bank of the Rockies.

A Feb. 6 event titled **“Bridging the Gap: A Solutions Forum on Housing”** brought to campus more than 300 industry stakeholders from the public, private and nonprofit sectors throughout the Denver metro area to discuss ways of keeping the region’s housing affordable and accessible. The summit also provided a platform for Denver Mayor Michael Hancock (pictured) to announce the launch of a $10 million finance tool to support affordable housing development throughout Denver.

In a February poll released by USA Today, the University of Denver was rated as the No. 1 institution in the country at which to play **women’s college soccer**, and the No. 4 institution at which to play **men’s college soccer**. Rankings were based on the athletic success of the team, the overall quality of the school and the academic success of the players.

**Aaron Goldman**, professor emeritus in the physics department at the University of Denver, was recognized on Thomson Reuters’ 2014 list of the “World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds.” Goldman was one of 187 scientists in the engineering field worldwide to be recognized for writing papers between 2002 and 2012 that were cited most often by other researchers. Goldman also received a separate award for ranking among the top 1 percent of researchers for most cited documents in their specific field.
For the second year in a row, the University of Denver is ranked No. 1 on the Peace Corps’ list of top volunteer-producing colleges and universities in the graduate school category, with 18 students currently volunteering worldwide. Many of them are Josef Korbel School of International Studies students taking part in the Peace Corps’ Master’s International Program, which allows students to spend one year on campus before completing 27 months of Peace Corps service while undertaking an academic project. To date, 615 University of Denver alumni have served in the Peace Corps.

The University announced in February that Colorado Women’s College (CWC) has begun a process of reimagining how the college should move forward in serving its mission to educate women to lead. CWC has seen declining enrollment over the past 15 years, as have many women-only colleges. Current CWC students will have the opportunity to complete their degree at CWC through the 2015–16 academic year, or at DU in their academic degree area after that.

Since 2006, the University of Denver has shrunk its carbon footprint by 27 percent, even as campus square footage has grown by 8.7 percent. DU’s dramatic drop in carbon emissions, realized in fall 2014, comes well in advance of the 2020 target date established by an ambitious sustainability plan that seeks to minimize the University’s contribution to global warming. The plan calls for the University to achieve carbon neutrality—or zero net emissions—by 2050.

The University of Denver was recognized twice in January for its dedication to community service. DU was one of 63 private universities nationwide selected in 2015 for the Community Engagement Classification from the Carnegie Foundation, which recognizes schools that demonstrate a distinctive institutional focus on community engagement locally and globally. The University also was named to the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for community engagement and service to promote positive change. Launched in 2006, the honor roll recognizes institutions that embody the values of exemplary community service and civic engagement and that raise the visibility of best practices in campus-community partnerships.

Professors Julie Sarama and Douglas Clements, of the Morgridge College of Education, received nearly $700,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to upgrade and enhance their “Learning and Teaching With Learning Trajectories Tool,” a web application that trains teachers and caregivers in the ways young children think and learn about math. The funds will help the couple make their tool available on multiple platforms, including tablets and smartphones.
Brian Ketterman got an early introduction to the spirit of community service that is so important at the University of Denver.

A member of the University’s Pioneer Leadership Program (PLP), Ketterman spent his first year on campus immersed in the idea that “to serve is to lead.” The program requires each student to serve his or her community, and Ketterman—now a junior majoring in biology and psychology, with his eye on medical school—did so at Denver’s Craig Hospital, which specializes in treating patients with severe spinal and brain injuries.

“The best part about it—and this is one of those things that really made me want to volunteer more—is the nature of the place,” he says. “It’s easy to think it’s going to be a really depressing environment, but I went there every day, and that was the opposite of the way it actually is. Everybody had an incredible attitude, and it was absolutely infectious.”

In his sophomore year, as part of another PLP project, Ketterman helped establish a program that teaches parents in a low-income Denver neighborhood the importance of reading to their children. He logged his service hours for the 1864 Service Challenge, a sesquicentennial initiative in which alumni, faculty, staff and students aimed for a combined total of 186,400 service hours to reflect the University’s founding in 1864. The challenge came to a close in March 2015 with 385,832 total hours logged.

This year, Ketterman is volunteering at Swedish Hospital near DU; he also tutors children once a week at a local elementary school. It’s all a continuation, he says, of that first year on campus, when he learned the importance of service.

“It’s cool to see everybody who stuck with it,” he says of his peers in PLP. “I think a lot of people realize how important it is to give back a little bit.”
FROM THE DESK OF

Ann Petrila, assistant dean for field education at the Graduate School of Social Work

Every summer, Petrila (BA ‘79, MSW ’82, MA ’82) leads two trips to Bosnia, where students from the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) and other departments on campus work with organizations that are helping with post-war recovery. “When I’m over there, I always buy kids’ books in the local language, just because I love kids’ books,” she says, adding that she “does my best” to speak the local language. “During spring quarter, before we go to Bosnia, we have a 10-week language class that students can take,” she says. “I take it as well, whenever possible.” The Bosnia internship program, Global Practice Bosnia, started at DU in 1996; the GSSW course is in its fifth year.

Before coming to DU, Petrila worked supervising interns at the Kempe Foundation for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect at Children’s Hospital in Denver. Her colleagues gave her this “master teacher” award when she left.

This souvenir from Montenegro was a gift from two of Petrila’s young friends in Bosnia. She describes the country as a second home where she has many friends and colleagues. In addition to the student trips every summer, Petrila goes to Bosnia for her own research—in March, she and a colleague interviewed survivors of the 1995 genocide. “There were six main execution sites around Srebrenica where they killed over 8,000 people in five days,” she says. “From one site there were no survivors, and from the other sites there were one or two survivors. Their stories have never been told.”

Soon to be hung on the walls of Petrila’s office, this stack of cards is left over from a display that GSSW students put together as part of DU’s sesquicentennial celebration in 2014. “We were able to bring a Bosnian scholar here as part of the speaker series to talk about a university’s responsibility for human rights and social justice,” she says. “He’s a survivor of the genocide, and he talked about his experience. In preparation for that, the students who had been to Bosnia put together this display about the history of Bosnia and their own experiences of being in the country.”

This decorative box from Kenya was a gift from GSSW Dean James Herbert Williams, who does research in Kenya and who takes students to South Africa every year in the same way that Petrila takes students to Bosnia. “We really have quite a large international program, both with internships and with the courses that we offer, and we’re working to increase that,” Petrila says. Her main job at GSSW is directing the internship program that sends 450 social work students to agencies all over Denver and beyond.
Further cementing its reputation as Denver’s primary presenter of modern dance, the Newman Center Presents series welcomes four dance companies to campus in its 2015–16 season, which includes the world premiere of a new dance co-commissioned from Paul Taylor. The season also features musicians ranging in style from classical and jazz to pop and Creole. Eight of the artists on the schedule are making their Denver-area debuts.

“Denver, for a couple of decades, wasn’t getting as much touring dance as other major cities,” says Newman Center Executive Director Steve Seifert. “We discovered that there was a real need that we could try to fill. Another thing we discovered is [that the Newman Center] works beautifully for dance. The sightlines are great, the seating area feels intimate compared to the size of the stage, and we have great lighting, so we can handle almost all of the technical lighting needs of dance companies without having to rent special equipment.”

The performances by Paul Taylor Dance are scheduled for Feb. 20 and 21; they are preceded on Jan. 20 by a special concert staged in conjunction with the International Association of Blacks in Dance 2016 conference, which takes place in Denver. New York City’s Kyle Abraham and his Abraham.In.Motion will perform “When the Wolves Came In,” featuring works inspired by jazz drummer Max Roach’s 1960 protest album, “We Insist: Max Roach’s Freedom Now Suite.” The album celebrated the impending centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation and shed a powerful light on the growing civil rights movements in South Africa and the U.S.

Other dance performances in the Newman Center’s 2015–16 season include modern dance pioneer Twyla Tharp, celebrating her 50th anniversary in dance, on Sept. 24 and 25; and the Israeli Vertigo Dance Company on Oct. 17.

On the musical end of the scale, the new season finds the Newman Center spotlighting another of the specialties for which it has become known: young composers working at the intersection of classical, rock and world music.

“In the same way that we’ve been devoted to contemporary dance, we have been devoted also to new music, alternative classical music—nobody seems to know exactly what to call it,” says Seifert, pointing to past Newman Center Presents concerts by artists such as Alarm Will Sound and yMusic. “This upcoming season has three shows that continue to show our work in that field.”

First on that list is Brooklyn Rider, an adventurous string quartet that will make its Denver premiere on Jan. 14 with a show based on its latest album, “Almanac.”

“They went out and asked a wide variety of composers from different disciplines—jazz and otherwise—to write music inspired by whoever their creative muse was,” Seifert says. “There are pieces by jazz pianist Vijay Iyer and the great jazz guitarist Bill Frisell, as well as [pieces by] young composers who live in this interesting world between art rock and alternative classical music.”

Other adventurous music on the schedule includes the return of Brooklyn-bred So Percussion—this time with vocalist Shara Worden—on Feb. 6, and composer/performers Gabriel Kahane and Timothy Andres on April 2 and 3.

“Gabriel and Timothy are returning to us, this time with a show together in the recital hall,” Seifert says. “The design of the show is kind of like a mix tape, if you will. It combines classical pieces—Schubert, Schumann, Bach—with Charles Ives songs, Benjamin Britten settings of folk songs and pieces that Gabe and Timothy have written for each other to perform. The idea is to explore the singer-songwriter and the presentation of art song in a much more vernacular way than the kind of rarified way that art song sometimes gets presented. It’s really an evening of song very personally presented by two very engaging young singer-songwriter-composers.”

Bringing a bit of international flavor to the Newman Center is the globalFEST On the Road: “Creole Carnival”
on March 29. Born from an annual global music showcase in New York City, the inaugural tour is a “mini-festival” featuring Haitian singer Emeline Michel, Rio samba masters Casuarina, and Jamaica’s one-stringed guitar virtuoso, Brushy One-String.

Also on the venue’s musical schedule are singer Michael Feinstein’s “The Great American Songbook” (Oct. 22); a cappella ensemble Anonymous 4, performing songs from the American Civil War (Nov. 14); the Boston Brass and Brass All-Stars Big Band’s “Christmas Bells are Swingin’!” (Dec. 2); the Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars Concert Series, featuring four singers from the Met’s Lindemann Young Artist Development program (March 5); guitarists Julian Lage and Chris Eldridge (April 21); and jazz pianist Billy Childs’ “Map to the Treasure: Reimagining Laura Nyro,” featuring singers Dianne Reeves, Becca Stevens and Alicia Olatuja (May 5).

Single tickets for the 2015–16 Newman Center Presents season go on sale July 13; visit newmantix.com for tickets and information.

**Newman Center Presents**

2015–16 season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Performers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Twyla Tharp Dance</td>
<td>September 24–25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vertigo Dance Company</td>
<td>October 17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Feinstein</td>
<td>October 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous 4</td>
<td>November 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston Brass and Brass All-Stars Big Band: “Christmas Bells are Swingin’!”</td>
<td>December 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn Rider</td>
<td>January 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyle Abraham/Abraham. In.Motion Dance</td>
<td>January 20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>So Percussion with Shara Worden, vocals</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Taylor Dance</td>
<td>February 20–21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metropolitan Opera Rising Stars Concert Series</td>
<td>March 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>globalFEST On the Road: “Creole Carnival”</td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabriel Kahane and Timothy Andres</td>
<td>April 2–3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Lage and Chris Eldridge, guitarists</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Childs: “Map to the Treasure: Reimagining Laura Nyro,” featuring Dianne Reeves, Becca Stevens and Alicia Olatuja</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Haitian singer Emeline Michel appears as part of the globalFEST “Creole Carnival” on March 29, 2016.
The Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver is giving first-year students a crash course in entrepreneurship, requiring them to split into teams to design a mobile app—and then giving them the chance to present their final product to a panel of potential investors.

In Gateway to Business, a Daniels core class for first-year students, business fundamentals are taught as students go through the process of designing, testing and marketing a mobile phone or tablet application. All Gateway to Business students create a business plan and revenue models for their app, and then present them in class for a grade.

Students who want even higher stakes join an open call to enter the Madden App Challenge. Open to all Gateway to Business students, the competition pits teams against one another to determine who created and presented the best app.

“The opportunity is to not only get your app vetted by angel investors and other people, but you get this experience that you normally wouldn’t get until you’re MBA level, which is presenting in front of high-net-worth individuals and talking about your business ideas,” says lecturer Michael Myers, who teaches the course. “But not really in a ‘Shark Tank,’ shredding kind of way. Nobody cries here.”

Concepts are judged by a panel of seven faculty advisors, who choose the top five groups to send to the final round. The finalists present their concepts to two panels: a group comprised of entrepreneurs and business executives from a range of fields including software, health care and the oil and gas business; and a group of 12- to 18-year-olds, who better represent the target audience for the apps.

“They introduce all the concepts of business through the app,” says first-year accounting major Rachel Gustafson, a member of the team that won the fall quarter’s Madden Challenge. “It really helps you figure out how business works. You’re learning through doing stuff yourself.”

The competition began in 2012, when John Madden Jr., a local commercial real estate developer, donated $125,000 to fund the competition for five years. The money is used to provide a cash prize to the winners and to help fund marketing and development of the challenge’s top-finishing apps.
The fall quarter’s winning app, designed by Gustafson and fellow first-year students Chance Morelock and Stormer Santana, is PitchMe, a group transaction app that lets roommates or other groups of people transfer money to one another, collectively pay bills and keep track of who owes what.

“I got my first taste of what being an entrepreneur is. It has become an addictive hobby for me now,” Morelock says. “The experience from the Madden Challenge has led me to explore so many different things, businesswise. It was a great introduction to entrepreneurship.”

Other apps submitted in the fall competition included Tags, a program that allows users to assemble hashtags from multiple social media sites into one central location, and NerdNest, an app that aggregates content for “fan girls” of popular-culture movements such as Harry Potter or the Avengers. Another app was designed for victims of domestic abuse, who at the touch of a button can identify their location and notify friends of their situation.

The challenge is beginning to pick up steam. There were 550 students in the class in the fall, and 35 teams chose to attend the fall’s open call. Participants from the winter quarter will have the opportunity to attend the next open call for the Madden App Challenge at the end of spring quarter.

“About 20 percent of our students are not business majors; they just want to come try the course,” says Stephen Haag, a clinical professor in the Daniels College.

As the challenge continues to grow, Myers sees bigger things in the competition’s future.

“I think the Madden Challenge will turn into a competition for everyone in the school,” he says. “It won’t be just freshmen who will take the class. You may not have to take the [Gateway to Business] class to participate, and your business might have nothing to do with a mobile application.

“The whole class really is, ‘Think about your career, and think about the opportunities that you have with an entrepreneurial mindset.’ If you can do that, you will be a happier person. Because everything is changing. It’s cliché, but it’s the truth. And the change is very fast. If you can get used to that now, your career is going to be easier.”

Transforming Passion into Purpose

DU’s personalized education ignited the intellectual passions of Christine and Clayton Powers. Their experiences at the University led to rich careers in marketing and public service. Recognizing that financial support made their own educations possible, the couple partnered with our gift planning experts to fund an endowed scholarship with a gift of appreciated stock. They want to ensure that all DU students of today and tomorrow have access to the customized education that they enjoyed. Their investment will impact students’ lives for years to come.
NOURISHING INTEREST

Alumna pursues passion for food justice with Denver nonprofit

By Tamara Chapman
During her sophomore year at the University of Denver, Nyabwewe Itaagi embarked on a lifestyle experiment that would launch her on a soul-sustaining, nutrient-dense journey.

“I decided to become vegan—just to see the health effects, if I would feel better, more energized,” says Itaagi, who double majored in international studies and French and who graduated in June 2014.

The effort required of vegans—the careful shopping, the detailed planning and even the budgeting—got her to thinking. How did the inhabitants of food deserts find, not to mention afford, fresh vegetables and other healthy options? How did someone with a fixed or low income contend with costly dietary requirements?

With those and other questions in mind, Itaagi took DU classes and pursued extracurricular activities that helped her dive deep into the topic and some of its sister issues. Along the way, she discovered the concept of food justice. The term means different things to different people, but one prominent food nonprofit describes it this way: “Communities exercising their right to grow, sell, and eat healthy food . . . [grown] with care for the well-being of the land, workers and animals.”

The more Itaagi learned about food justice, the more impassioned she became. “Something just connected with me really strongly: This is something I love,” she says.

Today, she is harnessing her passion for food justice as a local engagement associate with Hunger Free Colorado, which describes itself as the state’s leading anti-hunger organization. As part of her job, Itaagi stages community education events and conducts ongoing research, helping the organization identify Denver neighborhoods with a high concentration of low-income seniors who might need food assistance. It’s a population, she notes, that too often gets overlooked.

“Everyone wants to help kids, which is wonderful, but there is this whole other population that needs help,” she says.

For Itaagi, a graduate of Pomona High School in Arvada, Colo., DU had longstanding allure. Her mother, a Sturm College of Law graduate and an immigration attorney, made a point of bringing the young Itaagi to campus for visits.

“I started thinking about college in seventh grade,” she recalls. She was sold on the DU experience once she learned about its distinctive Cherrington Global Scholars study abroad program, which has earned the University a No. 1 ranking in the nation in terms of undergraduate participation in study abroad.

“I always have had a global mindset,” Itaagi says. No wonder, then, that, like nearly 70 percent of DU undergraduates, Itaagi took advantage of the Cherrington opportunity, choosing to study in French-speaking Senegal. Via Minnesota Studies in International Development, a program affiliated with the University of Minnesota, she took classes at the West African Research Center in the capital city of Dakar. She also lived for a few weeks in a small agricultural village. That experience only enhanced her interest in food justice.

“It was so cool to see people who had a connection to the food that they eat,” she says.

Her interest in food justice was further reinforced by a class on the international politics of food and by an internship with the GrowHaus, a nonprofit indoor farm, marketplace and educational center serving Denver’s Elyria-Swansea neighborhood, where many residents struggle to afford and access healthy food. There, she taught a summer class about food justice to area high school students, covering everything from nutrition and gardening to the role food plays in building healthy communities.

Through the University’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, Itaagi also participated in Public Achievement, a program that allowed her to teach a course on community organizing to South High School sophomores. “Almost half of them,” she says, “were immigrants or refugees,” hailing from such countries as Russia, Thailand, Ethiopia and Sudan. As relative newcomers to Denver, many of them were new to the idea that they could play a role in improving their communities, starting with the community at South High.

“A lot of them underestimated the impact that they could have,” she says. “Once they became more familiar with the process of community organizing, slowly they began to think critically about how they could take action.”

At Hunger Free Colorado, Itaagi is learning more about just how challenging taking action can be. Because the organization focuses, in large part, on policy, she has seen firsthand how even the best ideas and programs—school nutrition initiatives, for example—face challenges and occasional backlash. “There are constantly items that are coming up for reauthorization—and there’s always some kind of pushback,” Itaagi says.

With a future in community engagement in mind, Itaagi is headed to Chicago in the fall, where she will enroll in a graduate program in sustainable urban development at DePaul University. The program uses Chicago as a lab for an examination of the many ways in which development affects different communities.

“I love Denver,” Itaagi says, “but I am also wanting to learn more about other cities as well.”
Chancellor Emeritus Dan Ritchie leads the crop of 2015 Founders Day honorees

The 2015 Founders Day Gala in March celebrated the accomplishments of notable alumni, donors, faculty, staff and students. The John Evans Award—the University’s highest honor—this year went to Chancellor Emeritus Dan Ritchie, who transformed the University during his time at the helm.

DU was struggling financially when Ritchie arrived in 1989, but during his 16-year chancellorship he oversaw a $274 million fundraising campaign that spurred numerous capital improvements on campus, including new buildings for student living, business, science, law and music education, as well as a performing arts center and an athletics and recreation center.

Ritchie stepped down as chancellor in 2005 and later became CEO of the Denver Center for the Performing Arts; in December 2014 he was named to the board of the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority, which oversees the 150-acre Fitzsimons Innovation Campus, north of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora, Colo.

As part of the March 5 gala, Chancellor Rebecca Chopp conducted an on-stage “fireside chat” with Ritchie, discussing his time at DU, his thoughts on leadership and his role in the University’s 2002 move to Division I athletics.

Chancellor Chopp: I can’t imagine what it was like—and I’ve been at a number of colleges and schools as president and chancellor—to come into a situation where you really had to tackle everything at once. I know there were a lot of projects you had to do [when you started as chancellor], but what I’m curious about were the relationships you had to cultivate. What were the key relationships for you to get everything going?

Dan Ritchie: If you looked at the balance sheets or the income statements or the buildings, it was pretty scary, but what you couldn’t see was the faculty and their commitment to students. That, historically, is what DU has been all about, back to the very beginning. There are lots of wonderful stories about the faculty’s commitment. So what we had to do was build the relationships and the confidence in each other that we could do this. Because there was, understandably, a lot of skepticism and history there—recent history that made people doubtful about this “cowboy chancellor,” that he could do it, but we did it together, and you see the result.

Chopp: Many leaders who would have taken on what you took on would have just wanted to survive. But you and the faculty and the board made the choice for quality. The buildings themselves—everywhere I look, you went for incredible quality. I could name any building, but just take the Newman Center.
The acoustics, the foundations, every aspect of that building is phenomenal, and that’s magnified all over campus. How did you decide to not just survive or go for sea level? You went for the very best.

Ritchie: The first thing is that just surviving is no fun. If you’re going to do these things, you need to enjoy it. But really what happened was we decided to tackle a strategic plan. At that time, in academia, nobody thought strategic plans were a good idea; it was a business import that they didn’t like or appreciate. But we finally agreed to do it, and it took us two and a half years. In the beginning, we discussed what we wanted to be and how we wanted to be: Did we want to be a Chevrolet or a Pontiac or a Cadillac or a Rolls Royce? We started out thinking we would be a Pontiac, but before the two and a half years was over, we decided we could be a Rolls Royce.

Chopp: I’ve had a little fun this year because DU has been ranked No. 1 in the country for study abroad. So I’ve kind of had fun calling my East Coast friends at Harvard and Yale and Swarthmore and saying, “Sorry. When are you going to catch up?” You really were visionary. You must have understood that the education of today had to be about creating world leaders. That was a tremendous vision. And it cost a lot of money to create the Cherrington Global Scholars program. How did you see that?

Ritchie: How I really got into it was a bicycle trip. I spent the summer of 1952 in Europe, and it changed my life and my views of many things, and that persuaded me that it was a life-changing thing. I think the students who come back are different than the students were when they went, and almost all of them would tell you that. So while that was one of the things I really believed in, honestly, it was the faculty who did it superbly. Ved Nanda, who is here tonight, led this thing with faculty, and you can’t imagine what it took to do that—building relationships with close to 100 universities, being sure that the courses worked together, that they met our standards.

Chopp: One of the other big changes is that you actually took the school to Division I athletics. Not too many chancellors invest in taking schools to D-I athletics, and I know athletics is important for you.

Ritchie: I really believe in the idea of the student-athlete. I think it’s a way to learn self-discipline, to learn teamwork, to learn how to think in challenging times. There are just so many wonderful benefits to it, and I believe that physical health helps mental health as well. I really feel strongly about this, and again it’s our folks who took this and really [ran with it]. There were two women in particular who have really done this. There was Dianne Murphy, who was our first female athletics director, who’s now at Columbia University and has been for 10 years, and then [athletics director] Peg Bradley-Doppes, whom I saw tonight. These two women have really taken us from a not-very-good Division II to the best Division I non-football school in the country.

Chopp: You have been such a leader in your corporate career—at DU, at DCPA, at Fitzsimons—you just continue to lead. And I think leadership is really important. My experience of our students is I can see them as future leaders. How do you define leadership, and what’s been so important for you about leadership?

Ritchie: I really believe that the two most important things are first to be trustworthy—you can be counted on to keep a secret, to do what you promise, in short, to be ethical—that you don’t compromise. The second thing is to put the organization, the mission and your colleagues ahead of yourself, not just most of the time but all of the time, no matter what. There are going to be times where you’re tested, but you’ve got to do it.
Bill Stolfus (BSBA ’56, MBA ’64) credits his wife, Ann Richardson Stolfus (BA ’56), for reconnecting him with the University of Denver. And he credits the University of Denver for reconnecting him with Ann.

It was at his 40th reunion in 1996 that he bumped into Ann Richardson, whom he had met, and dated, back in 1952 when they both were in the DU marching band.

“We both played saxophone,” he recalls. “But I switched to the downtown campus and we went our separate ways. We reconnected in the year of our 40th reunion.”

In 2000, Ann received DU’s Randolph P. McDonough Award for Service to Alumni, given to an individual who has served DU alumni in a noteworthy and significant fashion. It’s only fitting that it’s the same award Bill received this year at the annual Founders Day Gala.

The two started dating after the reunion and married in 2002. And together they became strong advocates for the University.

“Ever since we reconnected, we’ve been very involved in the University—becoming more involved with the Lamont Society, the University Library Association, DU ART, the alumni relations department,” Bill Stolfus says. “From time to time, we serve on other committees.”

Most notably, in 2008 the pair helped form PALs (Pioneer Alumni Legends), an alumni affinity group for those who graduated from DU 50 or more years ago.

Stolfus helps organize the annual PALs Summer Soiree at the Cherry Hills Country Club, an annual luncheon prior to a Lamont School of Music matinee performance and an annual evening out at a DU athletics event, as well as lifelong learning opportunities such as the annual Pioneer Symposium and the Divisions of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences’ faculty lecture series.

Stolfus is vocal about encouraging alumni to participate and give back to DU: “For alumni who have lost touch with the University, I would want them to know what a friendly place it is, what a fantastic campus there is today, and what fun it is to connect with alums.”

At an early age, Barbara Barnes Grogan learned the importance of giving back.

“My first role model was my dad. He was a CEO in St. Louis, and he was deeply involved in his church and in his community,” she recalls. “He served on several corporate boards. He was a role model. He did not proselytize it; he just lived it.”

That dedication rubbed off on Grogan, who for years has been an advocate of childhood education, working on educational public policy at a national level as a trustee for the Committee for Economic Development and at the state level as co-chair of Colorado’s Early Childhood Leadership Commission and a member of Colorado’s Education Leadership Council. She also is involved in many nonprofits, including Volunteers of America, and was named the Colorado Nonprofit Association’s 2012 Philanthropist of the Year.

So it’s no surprise Grogan is this year’s recipient of the University’s Community Service Award, given for continuous involvement in community activities or charitable causes.

“It’s about giving back,” Grogan says. “We’ve been really blessed, and I think we have a responsibility to give back. Dan Ritchie continues to be my role model. I watch him, and I’m in awe of all that he does for this community.”

Grogan, who attended DU in the early 1980s, also remains close to the University by serving on the Daniels Executive Advisory Board.

She says she owes a lot to her alma mater, as her studies in the MBA program helped her become founder and CEO of Western Industrial Contractors Inc., a position she held for 22 years.

Despite her business success, Grogan says charitable and community work is her ultimate passion.

“I’ve always been deeply involved in charitable work and the community,” she says. “It’s really been natural for me; it’s where my soul is fed. It’s the real work; it’s my real purpose on this Earth, and it gives me great joy.”
James Griesemer remembers a much different University of Denver than the one we know today.

“I came to DU when the University was struggling, quite seriously, with financial problems and other issues,” says the professor and dean emeritus, whose first post at DU was chief financial officer under Chancellor Dan Ritchie. “My involvement was to focus on the financial dimensions while Dan looked at the broader issues.”

Griesemer helped lead the financial turnaround of the University in the early 1990s, which is one of the reasons he received the 2015 Distinguished Service to the University Award.

“The great part of the story is the rebirth, the literal renaissance, of the University of Denver,” he says. “I think so many of us who got to play a part in that are just grateful for the opportunity.”

But perhaps even more rewarding for him, he says, was his role in the rise of the Daniels College of Business, where he served as dean from 1994–2004.

During his tenure, the college increased its enrollment by 70 percent, quintupled its endowment, constructed a new state-of-the-art building, saw a major expansion in degree programs and gained a national reputation for excellence. Among Griesemer’s proudest moments for the school were its new focus on ethics and entrepreneurship as well as the “determination to build programs and curricula that were relevant and gave students the tools that they needed.”

“To see the outstanding faculty move that institution into the national ranks of great business schools—I think that’s as rewarding as anything can be,” he says.

Griesemer still keeps close University ties: He currently serves as director of the University’s Strategic Issues Program, where he leads a nonpartisan panel of experts and civic leaders who study complex issues in depth for a year and then deliver findings to government and industry leaders. In 2015 the panel will tackle legislative accountability.

“There’s this enormous sense of commitment to the well-being of the institution and to the value of providing quality to our students,” he says. “There’s a deep-set value that pervades the University. Not every place is that way.”

Even after graduating from DU’s Sturm College of Law in 2009, Jason Crow has not stopped his quest for learning.

“I think education is not a short period of time where you graduate and leave and do other things. Education is something that lasts a lifetime,” says the recipient of the Ammi Hyde Award for Recent Graduate Achievement. “I consider myself a lifelong student. I’m always learning, always trying to become a better person, a better lawyer, a better parent, a better spouse.”

Crow still is involved in education firsthand, too, as an adjunct professor and alumni council member at the Sturm College.

His eagerness to learn and thrive has served him well as an attorney at Denver law firm Holland & Hart. Crow was named one of Denver’s 40 Under Forty by the Denver Business Journal in 2013 and a Colorado Super Lawyers Rising Star in 2013 and 2014.

He credits DU for his seamless transition from student to lawyer.

“I think what DU does best, and what has led to some of my success since graduating, is really understanding that the classroom isn’t separate from the work world,” Crow says. “To really educate people the right way, they need to get real-life practical experience and blend that with classroom learning. And DU did that really well.”

Crow’s success extends beyond the courtroom. Before entering law, he served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and he received the Bronze Star in 2003. He continues to serve the country as an advisor to state and federal officials on national security, military and veterans’ issues, and he mentors young veterans transitioning from military to civilian life. He received the Outstanding Service Award and the Catalyst for Change Award from the United Veterans Committee of Colorado in 2011 and 2012, respectively.

“You have to remind yourself that everything you do has an impact on people,” Crow says. “And you have to ask yourself if what you’re doing is the right thing to do. It’s a lesson that stays with me today.”
PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD JAMES LENTZ

For James Lentz (BA ’77, MBA ’78), success and core values go hand in hand. It’s a lesson he’s been learning—and following—from his childhood to his years at the University of Denver to his corporate career at Toyota North America.

“The structure of my values started [when I was] growing up in a small town in a suburb of Chicago,” says Lentz, this year’s recipient of the Professional Achievement Award. “My dad was a salesman; I understood what hard work was about. Growing up playing on football teams and hockey teams and baseball teams, I understood what teamwork was. And that continued when I went to the University of Denver.”

Focusing on values, especially teamwork, has paid off for Lentz professionally: He worked his way up at Toyota for years, eventually landing as chief executive officer of Toyota North America, overseeing all of Toyota’s North American affiliate companies.

“It’s about how important teamwork is to business today, how important it is that people respect each other, how important that people are trying to get better, how people challenge themselves.”

OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD LESLIE ROSSMAN

With two degrees, a host of activities and some corporate experience under her belt, Leslie Rossman (’15) had decided she was going to focus solely on her studies when she enrolled at the University of Denver.

“I was very, very hesitant, when I came to DU, to get involved,” says the doctoral candidate in rhetoric and communication ethics. “In my previous universities I was extremely involved on campus. I came here a bit older and said, ‘I’m here for school and school only.’ That lasted a couple of weeks.”

And it’s a good thing, too. Rossman’s involvement in DU’s graduate community—notably as president of the Graduate Student Government (GSG)—has helped break down silos between the University’s undergraduate and graduate communities. It also has earned her the inaugural Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

Already in her tenure as GSG president, Rossman has implemented a campuswide inclusive excellence mission; advocated for constructing an inclusive space within student organizations and the campus community; and helped create the Graduate Research and Performance Summit, an annual event that spotlights research by graduate students. She also has worked hard to ensure that graduate students feel like part of the campus community, building a team of student leaders who create programs for other graduate students to come together at social gatherings and sporting events.

“The positive reaction and willingness of graduate students to get involved shows that grad students very much want to be a part of this campus,” Rossman says.

Rossman also is focusing on what she originally came to DU to do—her research interests include rhetorical mediations of labor and globalization, rhetoric and political economy, and the effects of neoliberalism in the workplace.

“I’m absolutely indebted to the faculty in the communications studies department for really cultivating this mentorship with me, to have my research be more successful than I ever imagined,” she says.
Richard Maez (’15) was determined to go down a different path when he arrived at the University of Denver.

“In high school I wasn’t super involved, and I didn’t want to do the same thing coming into DU,” he explains.

Maez, who is the first person in his family to attend college, may have outdone himself in his goal: The senior history and Spanish major is a member of the University’s Pioneer Leadership Program; external co-president of the DU Programming Board; coordinator of the Excelling Leaders Institute at the Center for Multicultural Excellence; and a fellow in the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Undergraduate Fellowship Program.

His work extends outside the University, too. Maez is involved with the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership Program of Colorado, serving as chair of the four-day leadership seminar held every June for more than 200 Colorado high school sophomores.

It’s no wonder Maez is the recipient of the inaugural Founders Day Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award.

Maez, who is minoring in leadership, also is a dual-degree student in the Morgridge College of Education, where he plans to complete a master’s program in curriculum and instruction in the spring of 2016.

Among his most notable experiences at DU have been studying abroad in Spain, which he says changed his perspective on life, and helping plan the 2012 on-campus presidential debate between President Barack Obama and GOP contender Mitt Romney.

It hasn’t always been an easy journey, though. When his father died during his freshman year, Maez almost dropped out to help his mother and siblings, who live just 15 minutes west of campus.

But with the support of the DU community, Maez stayed—and thrived.

“My friends said I couldn’t [leave school]—because that was giving up, and that wouldn’t make my dad proud. So I came back stronger than ever,” he says. “It became about making my dad proud and enjoying my college experience, because my dad and mom didn’t have that experience.”

97% of DU graduates have a job or are in graduate school within six months of graduation. Cheyenne Michaels explored her passions for theatre and marketing while at DU. After graduating in 2014, she transformed her passions into purpose through an apprenticeship in brand positioning at the Studio Theatre in Washington, D.C. In her role at Studio, she combines her love of theatre and marketing to help create life-changing theatre experiences for others.
Whether they are pursuing graduate or undergraduate degrees, University of Denver students have a wealth of opportunities to explore the world through international learning.

According to the Institute of International Education’s 2014 Open Doors Report, DU ranks No. 1 in the nation among national doctoral and research institutions in the percentage of undergraduate students who participate in study-abroad programs. Thanks in large part to the University’s Cherrington Global Scholars program, DU in 2012–13 sent 71.7 percent of its undergraduates abroad, ahead of schools such as Yale, Stanford, Notre Dame and Dartmouth.

Graduate students, meanwhile, travel abroad in a variety of programs, from law students who travel to China for mock trial competitions to MBA candidates who work with managers from Deutsche Bank to set up microfinance in rural villages around the world.

On the following pages you will see the types of research projects and cultural experiences that DU students undertake when studying abroad, and you’ll travel to Kenya with a group of students from the Graduate School of Social Work, who ventured there in November to see firsthand the social and environmental issues facing the country—everything from rising urbanization and persistent poverty to the massive slaughter of elephants for the ivory trade.
Global Connections

For University of Denver students, international learning means more than just having fun in another country. It means an opportunity to do meaningful research, immerse oneself in another culture and even lay the groundwork for life after DU. Here is a look at how five students spent their time abroad.

Courtney Yalen
Morocco

The senior international studies major visited Morocco in fall 2014 to take part in a special International Studies Abroad program on multiculturalism and human rights. She now works as an ISA campus representative at DU.

“I learn from being immersed in a culture and religion,” says Yalen, who has applied for summer 2015 internships in Morocco. “I learned from this trip that I want to work in development, and I need to be right where the action is. I can’t be working on development in Morocco from an office in Denver.”

Jaser Alsharhan
Rwanda

The junior political science major went to Rwanda last fall through the School for International Training (SIT) Study Abroad Program. In addition to taking classes on postgenocide peace building and restoration, he hired a translator to assist him with his own research project on the Rwandan tribunals that seek justice for genocide victims. Alsharhan brought some of what he learned to DU, where he works with a restorative justice program within the Division of Student Conduct.

“Down the road I want to go to law school,” he says. “I’d rather go into environmental law or international law, because both of them support communities and both of them support longevity in terms of health. Either one of those fields I would definitely consider pursuing, because those types of law affect disparate communities like the ones I worked with in Rwanda.”
NICOLAS SARAI
SWITZERLAND

The junior biochemistry major participated in a selective research program called EuroScholars, which took him to Zurich, Switzerland, last fall to conduct scientific research alongside Swiss scientists. Sarai was part of a team studying the effects of anti-inflammatory inhibitors in rheumatoid arthritis.

“I’m planning to go to either medical school to pursue a medical degree, with the intent of working with patients and doing research, or maybe I’ll get a PhD. I haven’t fully decided yet,” he says. “But either way, it will be a huge boon to my career having this research experience behind me. I was working with not just Swiss researchers, but also researchers from the Czech Republic, Hungary and most of the main countries in Europe. It was a very multicultural experience, and it allowed me to get a feel for science in a number of countries in Europe.”

MELISSA WILLS
TANZANIA

The junior international studies major studied in Tanzania last fall through the School for International Training (SIT) Study Abroad program. A Montana native, Wills was drawn to the program’s focus on wildlife conservation and political ecology. For her independent study project, she examined population growth and family planning in Tanzania.

“I’ve always been passionate about women’s issues, and when I took a bunch of international studies courses on population, I became more interested in that,” says Wills, who wants to pursue a career in environmental management. “When I went to Tanzania and realized how big the population is and how much it is growing—it is supposed to get up into the millions and the country cannot support it at all—I said, ‘Well, what’s being done about this?’ I see it as a worldwide problem of population growth and how family planning plays a role in it; it’s definitely something I want to pursue.”

CHELSEY WARREN
THAILAND

The senior environmental science major went to Thailand in fall 2013 to study international sustainable development. She liked the country so much that she applied for—and received—a DU undergraduate research grant to return to Thailand in winter 2015 to work on her thesis project about captive elephant populations and conservation efforts.

“The second time I went, it was really empowering to go there by myself and not be part of a program—just being on my own and finding my own way to the project,” she says. “I was told that my Thai language skills were such that if I lived there for a year, I would become fluent, so I would really love to work in some capacity in Thailand for at least a year, and I would love to do conservation work abroad.”
Stephanie Johnson will never forget, and perhaps never get over, that one baby hippo—forlorn, distraught, panicked and newly orphaned.

Johnson (MSW ’14) encountered it on Day 5 of a two-week trip to Kenya in fall 2014. She and 19 other University of Denver graduate students in a conservation social work class were riding along with a team from the African Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), which was summoned to investigate the plight of the motherless toddler.

And there he was. Mired in mud and too frightened to move from the side of his dead parent, presumably a victim of drought and climate change.

“I will never forget that baby hippo just nudging his mom. This hippo was in such distress. All it wanted was for his mom to get up and show him what to do,” Johnson recalls. The sight of the agitated animal left Johnson—along with her classmates—troubled and heartbroken.

“Even though it was just one hippo, in the scheme of things, nonetheless it was one life that was affected by human behavior,” Johnson says.

In Kenya, students discover how the lives of humans and animals intersect

By Tamara Chapman

Animal instincts

The question of human impact on the lives of animals—and the ramifications of that impact on human well-being—lies at the heart of Social Work in Kenya: Context, Empowerment and Sustainability. The course is offered annually by DU’s Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW) as part of its concentration in sustainable development and global practice. The concentration brings to the human-centric world of social work a host of topics generally considered the domain of environmental scientists: biodiversity, habitat loss, endangered wildlife and human overpopulation.

Why are social workers plunging into this territory? Philip Tedeschi and Sarah Bexell, who co-taught the class, explain it this way: Human health, welfare and well-being are optimized
when the environment is respected, when water and air are clean, when native flora and fauna are healthy enough to play their role in nature’s intricate plan.

As Tedeschi and Bexell see it, the fauna are an especially important part of the equation. Both are affiliated with GSSW’s innovative Institute for Human-Animal Connection—he serves as the institute’s executive director; she manages its humane education and anti-cruelty program. Over the years, the institute has partnered with the ANAW on humane education programs.

In a country such as Kenya, known for its exotic wildlife, the rich mix of elephants, lions, giraffes, rhinos and wildebeests lures tourists. And tourism brings economic opportunities and jobs to a country that desperately needs both, Tedeschi notes. Remove the animals and the opportunities diminish. Stark as that equation is, it doesn’t factor into account the equally devastating toll on the country’s ecosystem and its culture.

“If [the wildlife] goes away, what does it mean for the people living in Kenya? What does it mean for their cultural heritage?” asks Courtney Brown, a second-year master’s of social work student.

For Johnson, the stakes are high enough that all of us, and not just the people of Kenya, need to understand the impact of our behaviors—from the purchase of an ivory trinket in, say, San Francisco’s Chinatown to the generation of greenhouse gases in a Beijing traffic jam to the expansion of a suburb into Colorado’s high plains.

After all, she says, “If all the animals cease to exist, so eventually will humans.”
Searching for insight

While classroom presentations and assigned readings gave students an overview of the myriad challenges facing Kenya, it took the trip to the East African country to reveal their full scope and scale.

To fill in the big picture, students visited national parks and urban slums, tribal cultural centers and sanctuaries for rescued animals. They learned about the devastating effects of the ivory trade on elephants and the demand for bush meat on zebras and antelopes.

They also spent a day planting trees and seeing for themselves how reforestation efforts reduce poverty by supporting the economy and how they support biodiversity by offering shelter for butterflies and birds. On another day, they combed the bush to remove wire snares, thus saving unsuspecting animals from torturous deaths. They visited Lake Naivasha to see firsthand the effects of an emerging cut-flower industry on the area’s human and animal populations. And they joined a veterinary team on an excursion into the wild to treat a zebra severely injured by a snare.

Along the way, they raised questions, challenged their assumptions and searched—if not for answers and solutions—for insight.

Early in the trip, Tedeschi and Bexell took the students to the section of Nairobi known as Kibera, Africa’s largest slum.

With a population of between 500,000 or 1 million people, depending on how its borders are defined, Kibera is growing rapidly, thanks in large part, Tedeschi says, to a rural environment degraded by drought and desperate poverty.

“Now it has become its own urban environment. It’s a city within a city,” he says, adding that Nairobi has refused to provide even the most basic services, such as sewage infrastructure, electricity and schooling.

For social workers, Kibera presents a textbook study in the problems associated with extreme poverty.

One outpost of hope and progress is the Kibera Girls Soccer Academy, with which Tedeschi has worked for the last seven years. The school aims not just to educate its 130 individual students, but to empower their communities.

“The [population] can be permanently damaged without the protective and resiliency factors offered through education,” Tedeschi says. “Education may be the only method for changing deep poverty. This is a key strategy for reducing risks and increasing resilience.”

In their time at the academy, the GSSW students talked to the girls about the benefits of education and took time to ask them about their goals.
“That’s not a question most girls in Kibera have anyone asking them,” Tedeschi explains. “Deep poverty and significant barriers face these girls every day. One of the challenges is that they do not have experiences and relationships, especially with other educated women, outside of Kibera.”

GSSW students also accompanied the girls on home visits, meeting their families and seeing their challenges firsthand: disease and violence; open sewage in the streets; makeshift dwellings crowded together; homes without running water; streets without lights.

Brown was struck by how these conditions affected not just health but also safety. For example, with no plumbing in their homes, the girls were forced to use pay toilets. “It’s dangerous to go find a pay toilet at night—especially for young women,” Brown says.

Despite these conditions, she notes, the girls were deeply invested in their corner of the world. “The girls there don’t actually want to leave Kibera. They want to make it better. Despite all of the ideas we might have about what it is to live in a slum, there really is a sense of community there,” she says.

The poaching problem
Not far from Nairobi, at an elephant orphanage operated by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, the students observed another vulnerable population that is struggling to adapt—via human intervention—to harsh realities.

“At the orphanage,” Brown notes, “humans are countering, or attempting to counter, the effects of what humans have already done.”

Because of marketplace demand for ivory for trinkets and jewelry, the African elephant population has been under assault by poachers. According to conservation groups, as many as 35,000 elephants are lost each year, primarily to poaching. That’s one every 15 minutes, and if the killing continues at this pace, the African elephant could be extinct in just 10 years.

When poachers kill mature elephants, they leave any babies to fend for themselves. By the time they are rescued and delivered to an orphanage, the babies are weak, dehydrated and inconsolable from having witnessed the slaughter of their mothers. In fact, a significant number die from grief. What’s more, many have experienced the additional horror of an attack by predators. On the morning of the GSSW visit, Johnson says, a new orphan had just arrived, its tail bloodied by a ravenous hyena.

Once at the orphanage, Johnson explains, the babies are paired with a keeper. (The number of orphans is high enough that the orphanage has become a significant employer of Kenyans.) Each keeper gets to know his charge intimately, staying with it through the night, rising every three hours for bottle feedings and comfort sessions. Without their mothers, the babies will often whimper and cry in the dark.

“[The keepers] are just very connected with these little guys,” Johnson says, noting that this relationship embodies the positive side of the human impact on animals. Without these keepers, the orphans would not survive.

But that the orphans need keepers to begin with raises her ire. Yes, it’s great that humans are saving these babies, she says, “But why are they there? Why are we having to set up these orphanages in the first place?”

The easy answer begs the next question. If human activity—namely poaching—is the problem, what can be done to stop it?

In posing this question, Johnson says, the students found no easy answers or solutions. The conventional wisdom holds that poachers poach because they can’t find jobs and need to feed their families. In truth, many of them poach because the ivory trade brings in far more money than the available jobs ever could.

That means that the solution cannot be reduced to job creation. It means that the problem has to be addressed at the marketplace, where consumers, wittingly or unwittingly, demand a product responsible for so much devastation.
Now what?

Throughout their Kenyan visit, the students assembled periodically to process their experiences, emotions and impressions.

At the heart of their discussions, one question came up again and again. For a social worker, which is more important: helping impoverished humans or suffering animals?

“As a human you do have priorities,” Brown explains. “If I was in a situation where I had to save a dog or a small child, of course I am going to save the child.”

But add context, and the issue becomes stickier. “If you choose to work in the realm of animal welfare as a social worker, does that mean you are overvaluing animals over human beings?” Brown asks. And must the issues be forever framed in “either/or” terms? Either animals or human beings? Is it possible to help both? And might the future of both depend on a dramatic shift in thinking?

Back in Denver, Johnson logged her concluding thoughts—and formulated her next steps—in the field journal she started during the trip:

I can't help but go on a trip like this and come home a different person. … So the question I keep asking myself is, now what?

I keep thinking of all those baby elephants who have been traumatized solely by human hands and deeds, who did nothing to deserve the suffering they've endured and will quite possibly live a life of fear and hypervigilance as they're preyed upon so we can make trinkets.

My plan is not to focus on what's NOT being done, and to focus on what I can do, any small contribution I can make in the name of animal welfare, social justice, environmental well-being and human rights.
Pioneer women’s field hockey players compete in a match held on Oct. 1, 1976. Field hockey was discontinued as a varsity sport at DU in 1983, but a current club team participates in the Colorado Field Hockey League and is open to male and female students.
1957

**Anthony Giuliano (BA ’57, MA ’61)** of Westminster, Colo., worked for 33 years as a teacher, counselor and program coordinator assisting in the development and implementation of several education programs in his local school district. Anthony also is a charter member and officer in Fish of Westminster, a community volunteer program that assists the needy. He is retired and has taken on a second career in the sale of collectible items.

1964

**G.D. “Corky” Christman (BSBA ’64)** of Billings, Mont., is an advocate for Cape Mak-A-Dream, a free camp for kids, young adults and other adults who are affected by cancer. He serves as a volunteer fundraiser through Certified Residential Specialists (CRS) and the Childhood Cancer Committee. Corky was named the CRS volunteer of the year in 2009.

**Glory Weisberg (BA ’64)** of Englewood, Colo., was part of a three-person team from Denver-area newspaper The Villager to take home a Best Photo Essay award from the Colorado Press Association for the paper’s coverage of the Denver Debutante Ball.

1966

**Jeff Danziger (BA ’66)** of Burlington, Vt., hosted a talk, film screening and Q&A at the Helen Day Art Center as part of the center’s “Unrest: Art, Activism & Revolution” exhibit. Jeff is a political cartoonist whose work has been published in The New Yorker, the Wall Street Journal, Forbes and more. The film, “Cartoonists: Foot Soldiers of Democracy,” features Danziger and 11 other cartoonists from around the world.

1969

**Edward Stein (BFA ’69)** of Denver has started a new web-based comic called Sleeper Ave. (sleeperave.com). Edward previously worked as a cartoonist for the Rocky Mountain News and recently had a nationally syndicated comic with Universal Uclick.

**John Wren (BA ’69, MBA ’80)** authored “Daring Mighty Things: The Simplest Way to Start Your First (or Next) New Business,” a guide to starting and growing businesses. He is applying what he’s learned about startups to his new venture, WrenCollege, org, a network of neighborhood learning groups.

1974

**David Schwartz (BA ’74)** of Verona, Wis., was named one of the top 100 trial lawyers in Wisconsin for 2014 by the National Trial Lawyers Association. David also was named one of the top 100 in 2013.

**Carol Thomas (BA ’74)** of Black Mountain, N.C., joined Goosmann Rose Colvard & Cramer as firm administrator. She has more than 25 years of experience working in legal administration and marketing.

**Rebecca Watson (BA ’74, MA ’75, JD ’78)** of Morrison, Colo., was selected to the Denver Business Journal’s “Who’s Who in Energy” list, as well as to the inaugural class of “Top Women in Energy.” Rebecca works at the Denver law firm Welborn Sullivan Meck and Tooley, where she counsels energy, oil and gas, renewable and mining companies on environmental regulatory compliance.

1975

**Jeffrey Miller (BA ’75)** of Denver authored “Behind the Lines” (Milbrown Press, 2014), a nonfiction book about World War I. The book follows a group of delegates from the Commission for Relief in Belgium who team up with others to fight the German occupation.

**Joan Van der Grift (BA ’75)** of Palm Beach, Fla., was named a 2015 Woman of Distinction by Palm Beach Atlantic University. Joan is president of the board of the Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League and also is active in the Ryan Licht Sang Bipolar Foundation.

1977

**H. Patrick Dee (BSA ’77)** of Albuquerque, N.M., is managing director of the Private Client Group for U.S. Bank. Patrick acts as managing director for the region, overseeing trust and investment portfolios. Previously, Patrick was a community relations executive at U.S. Bank.

**James Goldsmith (BSBA ’77)** of Shaker Heights, Ohio, was named to the 2015 list of Best Lawyers in America, one of the most highly regarded referral publications in the legal profession. More than 50,000 top attorneys cast their votes in the exhaustive peer review process.

**Thomas Sherman (BA ’77)** of New York received the distinguished Five Star Wealth Manager award from Westchester Magazine for the fifth consecutive year. The award is given to individuals who satisfy 10 objective eligibility and evaluation criteria.

1978

**David Townshend (BSBA ’78)** of Arlington, Va., retired in September 2014 after nearly 38 years at Marriott International.

**Peter Zwack (BA ’78)** of Newport, R.I., has retired as a brigadier general in the U.S. Army.

1979

**Jane Grogan (BA ’79)** of Centennial, Colo., has worked with the Service Employees International Union–United Healthcare Workers West & Joint Employer, on environmental...
Education Fund for more than eight years. After serving as a career counselor, she was promoted to program coordinator in 2013.

Nebil Zarif (BSBA ’79) of Los Angeles owns Summerland Winery in California.

1980

Andy Daly (EMBA ’80) was presented with the University of Denver Legacy Award at the annual Mountain & Western Slope Real Estate Summit in Beaver Creek, Colo., on Oct. 10, 2014. Andy has dedicated his career to the skiing industry and has led efforts to expand and improve several Colorado resorts, including Aspen, Copper Mountain, Eldora and Vail. Andy was inducted into the Colorado Ski Hall of Fame in 2009. He is founder and chairman of Gore Peaks Investments and is mayor of the town of Vail, where he resides with his wife, Lucinda.

John DeVore (MBA ’80, PhD ’90) of Mesa, Ariz., recently published two books: “Sitting in the Flames: Uncovering Fearlessness to Help Others” (Xilbris, 2014), a study in uncovering peace of mind following two years of combat in the Vietnam War; and “Golfer’s Palette: Preparing for Peak Performance” (Xilbris, 2015), a book that teaches golfers how to unleash the artist within.

Samuel Duran (MA ’80) of Cincinnati, Ohio, was selected for inclusion in Best Lawyers in America 2015 for his work in commercial litigation and workers compensation law. Samuel has been recognized as one of the Best Lawyers in America each year since 2006.

1981

David Fender (MBA ’81) of Silver Spring, Md., joined Ginnie Mae in April 2014 as senior vice president and chief financial officer. David worked for 30 years in Asia as a corporate executive, including roles as chief financial officer, president and chief executive officer with multinational corporations such as Nestle, Ford, Fidelity, Chanel, Amway and British American Tobacco. Most recently, David started a successful energy company delivering contaminated water storage technology to Fukushima, Japan. He has completed 10 full marathons, including the New York City Marathon, each in less than four hours and has climbed Mount Fuji.

Ken Reed (BSBA ’81) of Littleton, Colo., authored “How We Can Save Sports: A Game Plan” (Rowman & Littlefield, 2015). The book, with a foreword by Ralph Nader, was written to inform and empower sports stakeholders who care deeply about the impact of today’s sports issues on individuals and on society as a whole.

Angelo Stambules (BSBA ’81) of Leesburg, Va., joined GE Capital in June 2014 as vice president of the hotel lending group.

PIONEER JOURNEYS: 
EXPLORING OUR WORLD TOGETHER

Join fellow Pioneers, family and friends as you travel the world and discover new destinations. Your journeys will be enriched by the presence of DU faculty lecturers, who will share their knowledge and expertise on each destination and help you see the world through new eyes.

For more information or to join our priority travel list, contact us at 303-871-2701, alumni@du.edu or alumni.du.edu/pioneerjourneys
Sheikh Ahmed Bin Saeed Al Maktoum (BA ’81) is CEO and chairman of the Emirates Airline and Group, which includes dnata—the region’s leading travel services and ground-handling company—and other aviation-related entities. Under Sheikh Ahmed’s leadership, the Dubai Department of Civil Aviation underwent an organizational restructuring in April 2007, resulting in the creation of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) as the local regulatory body and Dubai Airports as the owner and operator of Dubai’s airports. Following the restructuring, Sheikh Ahmed became president of DCAA and chairman of Dubai Airports. Dubai International Airport became the largest international travel hub in the world in January 2015, surpassing London’s Heathrow Airport.

1982
Deborah Gregory (MBA ’82) of Concord, Mass., authored “Unmasking Financial Psychopaths” (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), a book that suggests that an increasing number of financiers labeled “financial psychopaths” are not truly psychopathic, but instead are byproducts of the rapidly changing personal and professional environment shaped by economic and technological developments of the 21st century.

1983
Toni Anderson (BA ’83) of Denver launched Patchup Inc., a company that manufactures and sells nutritional condiments for cats and dogs. The condiments are meant to improve the flavor and nutritional value of pet food.

Stewart Stockdale (BSBA ’83) of Darien, Conn., in July 2014 was named chief executive officer at JG Wentworth-JGWPT Holdings Inc.

1984
Brad Barkey (BSBA ’84) of Denver is a solar project manager at Northern Energy & Power LLC. Brad is a former DU soccer player.

Jim Castle (JD ’84) of Denver received the St. Thomas More Award from the Colorado Catholic Lawyers Guild. The award is given annually to an attorney who exemplifies intellect, integrity and moral courage in service to God, country and profession.

Philip McNulty (JD ’84) of Lakewood, Colo., was appointed chief judge for the 1st Judicial District (Jefferson and Gilpin counties) by Colorado Supreme Court Chief Justice Nancy Rice.

Eric Moss (BSAC ’84) of Chicago is senior vice president, deputy general counsel and chief compliance officer at Bank of Montreal.

Kevin Rhodes (MBA ’84, JD ’85) of Lakewood, Colo., published “Life Beyond Reason: A Memoir of Mania” (Smashwords, 2014). The book traces Kevin’s time of personal transformation following his departure from his law practice to engage in more creative endeavors.

John Stewart (MBA ’84) of Denver is senior vice president of Grandbridge Real Estate Capital’s Rockies region office. Before joining Grandbridge, John worked as a senior loan producer at NorthMarq Capital, Capmar Finance Inc. and Bank One.

Jennifer Davies Gance (BA ’85, MS ’92) of Highlands Ranch, Colo., joined the Inverness Hotel and Conference Center as director of human resources. Jennifer has worked in human resources for 22 years and has self-published two books: “Spark: Igniting an Interest in Health Care,” a guide for teens exploring careers in health care; and a children’s book titled “A Rocky Mountain Tale.”

John Hames (BSBA ’85) of Denver created the reality TV show “American Car Prospector” on the Velocity channel. In the show, John travels around America searching for vintage cars in need of restoration and talks to their present owners, collectors and other vintage car aficionados.

Mark Manton (BSBA ’85) is regional CFO at the New York office of Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

1986
Karen Finberg (BSBA ’86) of Washington, D.C., was promoted to vice president of franchising for TownPlace Suites & AC Hotels by Marriott.

Sarah Law (BA ’86) of Pittsburgh, Pa., had her first book published in November 2014 by Arcadia Publishing. “Pittsburgh’s Point Breeze” is a pictorial history of the Point Breeze neighborhood in Pittsburgh, with a foreword written by current Mayor Bill Peduto.

Diana Moss (MS ’86) of Boulder, Colo., is president of the American Antitrust Institute. Diana, who also is a senior staff economist at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, formerly served as the institute’s vice president.

Maria Streeby (BSBA ’86) of San Jose, Calif., was promoted to senior director of openings and transitions for Kimpton Hotels and Restaurants.

1987
Neal Massey (BSBA ’87, MBA ’88) of Lone Tree, Colo., was promoted to vice president, business and consumer insights, at Starz.

J. Tom Richards (BSBA ’87) of Telluride, Colo., is CFO of Telluride Ski and Golf Resort.

1988
Terry Hunt (MA ’88) of Twisp, Wash., was profiled on the Huffington Post as part of the site’s Featured Fifty Fine Arts series. Terry also recently had an art exhibition in Twisp, where he displayed his abstract photography. Terry’s other accomplishments include a nonprofit music organization, several documentary films and a video website based around his small town.
PROFILE
PHILANTHROPIST Robby Robb

The University of Denver’s intensified focus on science and technology makes perfect sense to Robby Robb, a DU alumnus and former engineer who was the founding chairman of the board of the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST).

Robby (BS ’60, MBA ’61) knew all about the importance of those fields long before STEM (short for science, technology, engineering and math) became a buzzword in the world of education.

“If I look at where the United States is, one of the things we are able to do is to create and develop technology and innovation,” Robb says. “Engineering, science, medical—all of these areas require the basis you will have with a STEM education.”

Last year, Robb and his wife, Barbara, did their part to help University of Denver students achieve success in the sciences: They donated almost $2 million to support STEM scholarships. The gift gives special consideration to graduates of DSST, a network of charter schools within the Denver Public Schools system that focuses on science education and aims to prepare kids from all walks of life for college.

“I’ve always had this personal mantra that I wanted to make a difference that is a difference. It’s even written on a paper inside my medicine cabinet, so I see it each morning,” says Robb, who worked for 20 years at Martin Marietta and Boeing before turning his focus to education. “I see this as a way to help others get the education and the opportunities to make a difference for themselves, their families and, in a larger sphere, the country. Because if we don’t have educated, trained people, we won’t be able to sustain our economic positions. This helps everyone.”

—Kathryn Mayer

Joanna Rowe Kaakinen (PhD ’88) of Portland, Ore., is lead editor and partial author of “Family Health Care Nursing: Theory, Practice and Research” (Prentice Hall, 2002). The book was selected as Book of the Year by the American Journal of Nursing in the category of child health.

Jon Niermann (BSBA ’88) of Los Angeles is the owner of FarWest Entertainment. He represents many clients, notably Psy, the South Korean rapper best known for his song “Gangnam Style.”

Patrick Rooney (MBA ’88) of Broomfield, Colo., authored “The Acheron Deception” (Savoir Press, 2014), a novel that follows the exploits of a software developer who teams up with a female CIA agent to track down terrorists manipulating the stock market.

Bill Russell (BA ’88) and his wife welcomed a healthy baby girl, Lucy, in December. Bill is on the advisory board at the Reiman School of Finance at DU’s Daniels College of Business.

1989
Anne David (PhD ’89) of Monument, Colo., had a section of her novel about Jonestown published in the anthology “Best New Writing 2015” (Hopewell Publications, 2014).

1990
Frank Bonanno (BSBA ’90) owns several restaurants in Denver. His Mizuna and Luca D’Italia were ranked fifth and 12th, respectively, on 5280 magazine’s 2014 list of Denver’s 25 best restaurants.

1993

1994
Steven Byers (MIM ’94) of Springfield, Va., is director of financial services at Economic Consulting Services LLC.

Mark Serratoni (BA ’94) of Denver is creative director at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Mark also leads the society’s video strategy, producing 10 to 20 films per year around awareness, education and events.

1995
Marian Camden (PsyD ’95) of Centennial, Colo., is a clinical psychologist specializing in divorce-related care. Marian received the annual President’s Award from the Metropolitan Denver Interdisciplinary Committee for outstanding contributions to her field and to Colorado families.

David Flom (BSBA ’95) of Chicago is the restaurateur behind the award-winning Chicago Cut Steakhouse and The Local Chicago. David is launching a seafood restaurant in Chicago in 2015.

1997
Anders Bjork (BSBA ’97, MS ’99) of New York joined Titan Groce Holdings as principal in May 2014. Anders is a former DU hockey player.
1998

Mary Rhinehart (EMBA ’98) was recently named chairman of Johns Manville in addition to her current roles as president and CEO. Mary is a member of the executive advisory board at DU’s Daniels College of Business.

Holly Schroeder (BSAC, MACc ’98) of Castle Rock, Colo., is a contract controller, working with small businesses to help provide leadership and coordination of company financial planning, debt financing and budget management functions, as well as coordinating efforts to ensure sales tax compliance.

2000

Imran Khan (BSBA ’00) has been named Snapchat’s first chief strategy officer. Imran will report directly to CEO Evan Spiegel.

Jeff Schwartz (BSBA ’00) of Washington, D.C., is director, fund accounting and pricing, at ICMA-RC.

2001

Kenyada Meadows (MACC, BSAC ’01) was promoted to senior manager audit and financial compliance at Maryknoll Fathers and Brother in New York.

Ryan Trigg (MS, MBA ’01) joined Fields Auto Group as CFO in February 2015.

2002

Elisabetta Basilicio (MBA ’02) received her PhD in philosophy from the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland in 2014.

Erica Behr (BSBA ’02) of Colorado Springs, Colo., married Alexander Urosevich on Aug. 30, 2014. Erica is a contracts manager for Beechcraft Latin America.

Shae Johns (MSW ’02) of Medford, Ore., is president and CEO of Southern Oregon Goodwill Industries in Medford. She has more than 14 years in social services and health care management experience.

2003

Andres Cervantes La Saga (MBA ’03) of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is director of business development for the Basra Industrial Community, an oilfield supply base in south Iraq that develops and leases secure offices, warehouses, industrial facilities and accommodations to international oil companies. Andres has lived in the Middle East since 2008 and was one of the founding members of the DU Middle East Alumni Chapter. He has worked in the Iraqi oil and gas industry since 2012, providing real estate advisory services to companies including Shell, BP, Lukoil, Bashneft, and Petronas and their service providers.

Enoch Hayase (BSBA ’03) of Denver is vice president of corporate finance at Industrial Income Trust Inc.

Ra’Ed Rajab (MBA ’03, MACC ’04) of Ramallah, Palestine, has passed the CPA exam.

Christina Von Stroh (MBA ’03) of Highlands Ranch, Colo., is director of product management for Zen Planner, a company that provides fitness and yoga studios with software solutions for membership management, scheduling and integrated payment processing, as well as automated email and website templates that allow studios to keep in touch with members. Zen Planner was on the Lead411 list of “Colorado Companies to Watch” in 2013 and was named Outside Magazine’s No. 2 Best Workplace in 2013.

Samantha Watkins (BA ’03, MA ’09) of Nashville, Tenn., is an academic counselor at Vanderbilt University.

2004

Alicia Deters (MBA, MS ’04) co-owns Denver restaurant ChoLon Bistro, which was ranked third on 5280 magazine’s 2014 list of Denver’s 25 best restaurants.

Catherine Fox (BSBA ’04, JD ’08) of Aurora, Colo., was appointed to the board of the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting awareness and early detection of ovarian cancer. Catherine is an associate attorney at Carleton Gorlin Law P.C.

Allison Friederichs (MA, PhD ’04) of Denver is associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Denver’s University College.

Adam Hawthorne (BSBA ’04) of Denver is president of Travaasa Experiential Resorts, a growing brand of wellness spas. The company’s former director of marketing and revenue, Adam is responsible for the overall performance of existing Travaasa properties, as well as any future additions to the business.

Britta Evans Miles (MS ’04) of Englewood, Colo., joined Sunflower Bank as senior vice president in summer 2014.

Trent Trujillo (BSBA ’04) of New York earned an MBA from New York University’s Stern School of Business and now works as associate director of equity research at UBS Investment Bank.

Christopher Wong (BSBA ’04) of Brooklyn, N.Y., is a presidential innovation fellow working on crowdsourcing initiatives at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Chris is a technologist and expert in intellectual property law. He previously was executive director of the Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy at New York University School of Law. Before joining NYU Law, Chris was a postgraduate fellow at the Institute for Information Law and Policy at New York Law School, as well as a visiting fellow at the Yale Law School Information Society Project and the Princeton University Center for Information Technology Policy. While at New York Law School, Chris served as the founding project manager of Peer to Patent—a historic initiative allowing the public to participate in the patent examination process—and lead researcher of the NSF-funded Open Patent Project, which explores the use of user-generated tags to improve understanding of patent information.
SCOTT LUMPKIN TO CONCLUDE 30 YEARS IN DU ADVANCEMENT

Scott Lumpkin (BS ’79, MBA ’88), vice chancellor of university advancement at the University of Denver, has announced that he will retire this summer from the University, concluding more than 30 years serving his alma mater.

His loyalty to DU is a celebration of his personal belief in the institution and in the transformative and enduring power of charitable giving. Among the highlights of his career was the successful conclusion in 2014 of ASCEND: The Campaign for the University of Denver, which raised nearly $500 million for University priorities.

Lumpkin is known locally and nationally as a trusted resource in fundraising and gift planning. Among other accomplishments, he is a founding member and past president of the Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable. Through his extraordinary efforts in the state, Lumpkin has elevated Colorado philanthropy to a level of national recognition and prestige. In 2011, the Colorado Planned Giving Roundtable presented Lumpkin with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Lumpkin is a dual-degree University of Denver alumnus and parent. He holds a bachelor of science in mathematics and an MBA, and all three of his children are proud DU graduates. He plans to devote the next chapter of his career to consulting with nonprofits in Colorado and across the U.S.

2005

Jason Dorfman (BSBA ’05) of San Francisco, Calif., is general manager of DoubleTree by Hilton San Francisco Airport North. The 210-room hotel made its debut in March 2014.

Matthew Nyberg (MS ’05, JD ’07) of Highlands Ranch, Colo., is one of five new shareholders of the law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. Matthew is an attorney in the corporate and business department.

Todd Porter (BA ’05) of New York is director of residence life at the Juilliard School in Manhattan.

Ryan Quinn (MBA, MS ’05) of Newport Beach, Calif., was promoted to director of alternative investment research at Canterbury Consulting, which was named by Forbes as the No. 1 wealth-management firm in the United States.

Michael Stratton (MS ’05) of Golden, Colo., authored “The Effective Project Manager” (ebookit.com, 2014), a guide to effectively managing oneself as well as others.

2006

John Bales (MBA, BSBA ’06) joined Kutak Rock LLP as an associate in the firm’s charter school practice.

Carolyn Dehlinger (MAS ’06) of Jacksonville, Fla., authored a textbook, “Molecular Biotechnology” (Jones and Bartlett, 2014).

Adam Miller (BSBA ’06) of Chicago was promoted to vice president at Marsh & McLennan.

Kathryn Regio (MBA ’06) is campus vice president of the Colorado Mountain College campus in Edwards, Colo. Kathryn previously was president and CEO of Lincoln College of New England.

Aileen Reilly (BSBA ’06) co-owns Denver restaurant Beast + Bottle, which was ranked 22nd on 5280 magazine’s 2014 list of Denver’s 25 best restaurants.

2007

Lucas Anderson (BSAC, MAcc ’07) of Denver is manager of financial reporting and technical accounting at UDR Inc.

Demetrios Hadgis (MS ’07) of Red Bank, N.J., is managing director at Sandler O’Neill + Partners L.P., a full-service investment banking firm and broker-dealer focused on the financial services sector. Demetrios provides the full suite of investment banking services to financial institutions and their investors.

2008

Leon Abravanel (BSBA ’08) of South Lake Tahoe, Calif., is CEO of Juggle the World (JTW), a new business that provides soccer equipment to inner-city youth. For every fair-trade soccer ball purchased from the company, one is donated to an inner-city child. JTW also provides free clinics, coaching and education courses aimed at inspiring passion in disadvantaged youth.

Jolene Collins (MA ’08) of Denver is the founder of JoJo’s Sriracha, a new business in which Jolene teamed up with Joel Peterson, founder of Ravenswood Winery in California, to use his wine in her sriracha hot sauces.

Laura Cullerton (MLIS ’08) of Denver was named Staff Member of the Year at the Colorado Association of Career College and Schools in recognition of her commitment, performance, leadership and professionalism within the classroom, campus and community. The award was presented on Oct. 24, 2014, during the group’s annual meeting.

Kyle Ewing (BSBA ’08, MBA ’09) and Ashley Ewing (JD ’13) of Denver were married in July at Dunafon Castle near Evergreen, Colo.

Nina Corcoran Newcomb (MBA ’08) of Denver is opening her second Orangetheory Fitness studio. Her first studio is in Littleton, Colo., and her second location is in Denver, just minutes away from University Park.
For an aspiring opera singer, it’s the ultimate showcase: a chance to sing on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York and get noticed by the industry’s best. Sarah Cambidge, a graduate of the University of Denver’s Lamont School of Music, was part of a select group of young singers vying for the honor earlier this year.

Cambidge made it to the semifinals of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, a program designed to discover promising young opera singers and assist in the development of their careers. She auditioned for the program Feb. 7 at DU’s Newman Center for the Performing Arts and was the sole singer from the Rocky Mountain region to move on to the semifinal round, which took place March 15 in New York.

“It was amazing, absolutely amazing,” Cambidge says of her trip to New York. “They provided us with master classes and workshops where we could talk to industry professionals and get some more ideas of where our careers are going to be headed. We got an hour of coaching with our accompanist, and mine was just fantastic. I learned so much in one hour I couldn’t believe it.”

Though she didn’t advance to the finals, Cambidge still counts the experience as one of the highlights of her professional life. It was an honor, she says, to be one of only 17 finalists from the pool of more than 1,500 who auditioned across the country.

Born and raised in Vancouver, B.C., Cambidge came to DU after receiving a scholarship to study voice. A 2011 bachelor of music was followed by a master’s degree in 2013; that was followed by a job offer from the Denver School of the Arts, where Cambidge gives voice lessons and teaches master classes as the school’s guest artist in residence.

“No matter what, I’m at least in music: I’m teaching, I’m singing, I’m performing,” she says. “I wouldn’t have it any other way. I’m living my dream.”

—Greg Glasgow

Sarah Cambidge

PROFILE
VOCALIST

Wayne Armstrong

Samantha Newport (BSBA ’08) transitioned from the Park Hyatt Beaver Creek to Andaz West Hollywood this winter and is now working as the property’s event manager.


John Swieringa (EMBA ’08) of Greenwood Village, Colo., is senior vice president and chief information officer at DISH Network. He was on the Denver Business Journal’s “40 Under 40” list for 2015.

2010
Amanda Barnett (MA ’10) of Castle Rock, Colo., was named the National Association of Professional Women’s 2014 Professional Woman of the Year. Amanda works as a business development consultant at Jackson National Life.

James Pitto (BA, BSBA ’10) of Denver is the founder of Colorado Original Outdoor Products (COOP), a business that brings together small outdoor startups in Colorado to share exhibit space, marketing services and warehouse space. To date, 10 companies have joined COOP.

2011
James Cryan (MBA ’11) of Denver is a member of Leadership Denver Class of 2015, a program at the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce that develops community leaders and enhances the civic infrastructure of the Denver metro area.

Tiffany Goodyear (MS ’11) of Denver has her own dessert catering company called Yours Truly Cupcake. The business includes a walk-up ordering window and liquor-infused desserts.

Lisa Martin (BFA ’11) of Greenwood Village, Colo., is on a mission to hike and subsequently paint all 53 fourteeners in Colorado. She has completed 13 hikes and paintings so far.

Nate Pearson (BSAC ’11, MAcc ’12) joined Tesla Motors in California as a manufacturing analyst in June 2014.

2012
Zachary D’Argonne (BA ’12) of Denver is engaged to Meredith Sabin. The couple will be married in June.

Mark Landes (MBA ’12) of New York is global director of information technology at Dymax Corp.

Jeremy Lynch (BSBA ’12) of San Francisco, Calif., is part of the small and medium business community engagement team at Facebook.

Stephanie Wegmann Peterson (MA ’12) of Cannon Falls, Minn., works in public relations and cultural affairs as
part of a two-year assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Cotonou, Benin.

**John Sengelmann** (BSBA ’12) of Portland, Ore., and **Timmy Wozniak** (BSBA ’13) of Denver co-founded Fresh Jets, a company that makes unused seats on private planes available to the public at discounted prices.

**Sunny Ruofan Xiong** (MBA ’12) is resort assistant manager at Four Seasons Lana’i in Lanai City, Hawaii.

2013

**Will Foster** (BSBA ’13) of Austin, Texas, was promoted to customer advocate team lead with Signpost.

**Jake Hallauer** (MBA ’13) of Fort Collins, Colo., obtained his CCIM designation in 2013 and is now vice president of Chrisland Commercial Real Estate Inc.

**Eric Jones** (MBA ’13) of Westminster, Colo., is vice president and co-founder of TekDry, a new business specializing in the repair of water-damaged electronics.

**Kathleen Wanatowicz** (EMBA ’13) of Carbondale, Colo., welcomed a daughter, Elliana Ocean Wanatowicz, on Dec. 28.

2014

**Joanna Foss** (MA ’14) of Columbia, Mo., a graduate assistant in the University of Missouri Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and the Health Behaviors Research Lab, received the Student Diversity Award from the Association for Applied Sport Psychology, an international professional organization that promotes the field of sport and exercise psychology.

**Austin Schneider** (BSBA ’14) of New York is a blogger for the Huffington Post and digital marketing coordinator at Emergenetics International.

**Albaraa Hani Taibah** (MBA ’14) of Saudi Arabia is project manager of the teacher and leader licensing project at the Public Education Evaluation Commission.

---

Tell us about your career and personal accomplishments, awards, births, life events or whatever else is keeping you busy. Do you support a cause? Do you have any hobbies? Did you just return from a vacation? Let us know! Don’t forget to send a photo. (Include a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope if you would like your photo returned.)

Post your class note online at www.alumni.du.edu, e-mail du-magazine@du.edu, or mail your note to: Class Notes, University of Denver Magazine, 2199 S. University Blvd., Denver, CO 80208-4816.

---

Which alum worked at Martin Marietta?

The answer can be found somewhere on pages 34–42 of this issue.

Send your answer to du-magazine@du.edu or University of Denver Magazine, 2199 S. University Blvd., Denver, CO 80208-4816. Be sure to include your full name and mailing address. We’ll select a winner from the correct entries; the winning entry will win a prize.

Congratulations to **Robert Daniel** (BA ’79) for winning the winter issue’s pop quiz.
In Memoriam

1940s

Suzanne Shapiro (BA ’40), Denver, 11-1-14
Robert Allen (JD ‘48), Denver, 11-23-14
George Bowles (BS ’49), Cave Creek, Ariz., 6-1-14
Peter Prlain (BA ’49, MA ’50), Scappoose, Ore., 1-29-15

1950s

Earl Clark (attd. ’50), Littleton, Colo., 12-28-14
Marion Downs (MA ’51), Dana Point, Calif., 11-13-14
Nancy Einarson (BA ’51), Lakewood, Colo., 1-1-15
Lewis Dick (attd. ’52), Simsbury, Conn., 1-14-15
Mildred Balzer (MA ’53), Gwynedd, Pa., 11-19-14
Elizabeth Blankenship (MA ’53), Whitewater, Wis., 12-27-14
Olive Gifford (MA ’55), Gunnison, Colo., 3-8-11
Wilfred Martinez (BS ’55), Pueblo, Colo., 4-11-14

1960s

Patricia Gilmore (MSW ’61), Denver, 2-28-14
Thomas Guy (BSBA ’61, MBA ’64), Omaha, Neb., 2-5-15
Raymond Nalty (BA ’61, MBA ’76), Monroe, Wash., 11-1-14
Straud Fredregill (BS ’62), Pueblo, Colo., 5-31-14
Mary Bachenberg (MA ’64), Greeley, Colo., 1-9-15
Haskell Bingham (MA ’66), Petersburg, Va., 10-23-14

1970s

William Keating (JD ’71), Englewood, Colo., 1-1-14
Harry Poindexter (BA ’71), Kansas City, Mo., 11-19-14
Stephan Higgins (BSBA ’76), Hermosa Beach, Calif., 12-25-14

1980s

David Conner (JD ’80), Aurora, Colo., 12-2-14
Timothy Fjordbak (PsyD ’82), El Paso, Texas, 1-6-15
Lesley Loffredo (BA ’82, MSW ’87), Santa Fe, N.M., 1-2-15

2010s

Deborah Jenkins (MLS ’13), Aurora, Colo., 11-22-14
Clay Claus (attd. ’15), Douglas, Wyo., 2-3-15

Faculty and Staff

James Aten, associate professor of speech pathology, Laguna Beach, Calif., 11-9-14
Audrey Corn Smart, Graduate School of Social Work, Albuquerque, N.M., 6-29-14
Ellen Flak, Business Services, Centennial, Colo., 1-21-15
Geraldine Hasty, Office of the Dean of Students, Broomfield, Colo., 1-10-14
Joseph Hornback, Department of Chemistry, Parker, Colo., 11-10-14
Norma King, director of the English Language Center, Centennial, Colo., 12-14-14
Carol Taylor, University Technology Services, Denver, 12-23-14
Patricia Ann Vardaman, assistant to the dean at the Sturm College of Law, Denver, 8-28-14
Irmgard Vragel, registrar at the Sturm College of Law, Spring Valley, Calif., 3-13-14
Bob Yablans, senior research support specialist for UTS, Denver, 3-10-15
JOIN US ON CAMPUS THIS FALL!

Pioneer Symposium
September 25-26, 2015

Experience the joy of discovering a new idea at the annual Pioneer Symposium. With numerous lectures, panels and keynote speakers over two days, you’re sure to find something to ignite your intellectual passion.

Homecoming & Family Weekend
October 16-18, 2015

Bring the entire family for a weekend filled with traditions old and new during Homecoming & Family Weekend. Enjoy an All-Alumni Barbeque, Pioneers hockey versus the Michigan State Spartans, faculty presentations, PioneerFest, Taste of DU and so much more.

For more information, visit alumni.du.edu, call 303-871-2701 or email alumni@du.edu.
This summer, catch a game or participate in community service at chapter events such as:

- **June 7**: Beach clean-up (SAN DIEGO)
- **June 20**: Portland Timbers vs. Houston Dynamo (PORTLAND)
- **June 27**: Colorado Rockies vs. San Francisco Giants (SAN FRANCISCO)
- **July 17**: San Diego Padres vs. Colorado Rockies (SAN DIEGO)
- **August 20**: Boston Red Sox vs. Kansas City Royals (BOSTON)
- **August 29**: Atlanta Braves vs. New York Yankees (ATLANTA)
- **August 30**: Seattle Sounders vs. Portland Timbers (SEATTLE)

Find out more about chapters and events near you at alumni.du.edu/chapters and open a new chapter in your Pioneer experience!