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Fighting homelessness in Denver
Crisis simulation gives students hands-on experience
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Dear Friends,

In the last issue of the University of Denver Magazine, you read about our new strategic vision, DU IMPACT 2025. Phrases like “The genius is in the doing” and “Bring us the world changers and world makers” make for exciting prose—but they also are serious reflections of how we see our role in making the world a better place.

For example, as you’ll read in this issue (page 28), students across the University—in different groups and with different faculty members—recognized the serious problem of homelessness. And they did something about it: Law students studied and publicized the financial and human costs of laws related to homelessness, while business students helped launch a nonprofit thrift store to create jobs for those in need.

Real-world experiences provide incredible learning opportunities for our students—which is why our faculty members are finding more and more ways to partner with communities and organizations throughout the Denver region. This public scholarship identifies and addresses community needs—and it also blurs the line between the theoretical and the practical.

As Denver’s premier research university, we have both the knowledge and the “do it” mentality to address problems and seize opportunities that will change the world for the better. And when we collaborate with thought leaders and community members from throughout the region, we can help tackle the grand challenges of the Rocky Mountain West—challenges such as water quality, land use, hunger and affordable housing.

And with an increasingly global scope, we have the opportunity to amplify our impact around the world.

When two DU professors realized that students’ future professions will require them to help people in dire need, they dreamed up an international crisis simulation. You can read about this partnership between the Graduate School of Professional Psychology and the Josef Korbel School of International Studies starting on page 24.

As we realize DU IMPACT 2025, we are strengthening our commitment to the public good. We seek to partner with neighbors and others to establish a “DU District” that will become a destination neighborhood and encourage Denver residents to spend more time on and near campus. In June, we brought the nonprofit Urban Land Institute to campus to make recommendations on creating this kind of sustainable, thriving community (see story, page 9)—and this fall we will begin to test the feasibility of their recommendations.

We have several programs designed to serve veterans, including a Veterans Advocacy Program in law and the Sturm Specialty in Military Psychology at our Graduate School of Professional Psychology. And we have developed programs to better support and attract veteran students at DU.

And in a sign of blurring the lines between campus and community, all summer long, campus was abuzz with children of all ages attending the various summer camps hosted at DU—an energizing reminder of the future generations who will live and learn at DU and go on to change the world, just as our alumni always have done.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Chopp, Chancellor
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Cover photo courtesy of Jess Kornacki
TASTE OF DU - SAVE THE DATE
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Freshmen from Denver’s George Washington High School came to campus in August for a day of activities. DU’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning sponsored the event as part of its partnership with George Washington through the Public Achievement program. Public Achievement sends teams of undergraduate and graduate students to the school each week to introduce the high-schoolers to concepts of social justice and community organizing.

Visit du.edu/ccesl for more information.
A space for innovation

New headquarters for engineering school puts emphasis on collaboration
By Greg Glasgow • Photo by Wayne Armstrong

After more than two years of construction, the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science has a striking new home on the south side of campus.

The five-floor, 130,000-square-foot facility is modeled in part after modern coworking spaces that foster chance meetings between entrepreneurs in related fields. The building, which features $1 million in new equipment, is a cornerstone of a new science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative at the University to prepare graduates for business and entrepreneurship.

“Buildings matter in the life of a university. In this day and age, we kind of forget that,” says JB Holston, dean of the school. “They really are part of how you become a platform for a broader range of constituents. They’re invaluable from a marketing point of view, and they center the conversation around the topics they represent in a way that you can’t do if you don’t have a physical place.”

The new building also provides facilities for the engineering school’s growing focus on entrepreneurship and collaboration. A first-floor “maker space”—an area where students and faculty can collaborate informally or as part of their coursework—features a variety of machines that can be used to make rapid prototypes, including laser cutters, 3-D printers and electronics workstations. “If you were an innovator and you wanted to create the next Fitbit, in theory, all the stuff you need to make the prototype will be sitting in the maker space,” Holston says.

The building’s open design provides vastly expanded research and instructional spaces, flexible classrooms, community areas and a café that provides a further potential collaboration point for students and faculty from multiple
programs. Large meeting areas will allow for a variety of STEM-related events and speakers that weren’t possible under the school’s previous multibuilding setup.

The top floor of the new building is home to the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging, a separately funded, cross-disciplinary enterprise that supports research and scholarship on aging and aging-related conditions. The institute also will provide research and other opportunities for faculty and students at the Ritchie School, as well as other schools across campus.

“Because so much of the innovation that occurs in the aging field is related to engineering, we are especially happy to be housed in this amazing new building,” says Lotta Granholm, the institute’s executive director. “We are excited to develop interdisciplinary research teams providing new solutions to problems related to aging.”

The building is made possible by donations totaling more than $41 million, including a gift valued at $27 million from Chancellor Emeritus Daniel Ritchie and additional funds from Betty Knoebel, widow of Denver food-service pioneer Ferdinand “Fritz” Knoebel, and the late Bill Petersen (BSEE ’69), an alumnus of DU’s engineering program. It joins the Anna and John J. Sie International Relations Complex, which opened in May, as one of two high-profile buildings to open on campus this year (see story, page 27).

Matthew Gordon, chair of the mechanical materials engineering department, says the new building will finally give the engineering and computer science program a home equivalent to campus buildings that house programs like business, education and social work.

“I always knew we had a good program; we’ve got great people; we’re doing a great job, but it hurt us that we didn’t look the same as the rest of campus,” Gordon says. “Now it really looks like we are part of the DU family.”

LAND-USE GROUP MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DU CAMPUS AND NEIGHBORHOOD

By Greg Glasgow

Twenty years from now, the streets and neighborhoods in and around the University of Denver are going to look dramatically different.

In an effort to help lead the change, the University has commissioned the Washington-based Urban Land Institute (ULI) to explore ways DU can improve its physical space and better engage with the Denver community.

“It’s important to think about this, because the area around DU is going to change, whether we like it or not,” says David Greenberg, DU’s vice chancellor for institutional partnerships. “This is a very hot market, and there’s going to be development in the future. The question is, does DU just want to watch the development that happens, or does DU want to have a say in how to make it as good as it can be?”

A 10-person ULI committee spent a week in Denver in June, conducting site visits and interviewing stakeholders about the best ways for DU to become more welcoming to the Denver community, to increase mobility and alternative transportation use on and around campus, and to improve its physical spaces to better recruit and serve students, faculty and staff.

The committee presented its preliminary findings at a June 17 meeting, offering initial recommendations on a variety of possible projects, including:

• Moving the DU light rail station closer to the corner of Buchtel and South University boulevards
• Updating the Driscoll Student Center
• Working with private developers to create housing for undergraduate and graduate students
• Providing incentives that encourage faculty and staff to live near campus
• Improving retail and restaurant offerings in the DU area

Many of the ULI recommendations echo proposals in the DU IMPACT 2025 strategic plan unveiled earlier this year. That plan includes sections on student and faculty/staff housing; it also calls for the creation of a vibrant business district around campus.

“It was gratifying that so many of the Urban Land Institute recommendations were right in line with the proposals in DU IMPACT 2025,” Chancellor Rebecca Chopp said after the ULI presentation.

“The panel has confirmed that we are on the right track—and has given us many suggestions about ways to bring those elements of the strategic plan to life.”
The University of Denver Board of Trustees has appointed a Divestment Task Force to explore the question of fossil fuel divestment, as advocated by a student group called Divest DU. DU community members may attend hearings as observers or read full reports online.

The University of Denver women’s lacrosse team will move to the Big East Conference for competition in the 2017 season. The women’s lacrosse team will be the second Denver team to move to the Big East, following the men’s lacrosse team, which joined in 2014. The women’s team will compete against members Butler, Cincinnati, Connecticut, Florida, Georgetown, Marquette, Temple, Vanderbilt and Villanova. The Pioneers are leaving the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, which they joined in 2004.

The University of Denver entered into a partnership with Sweden’s Lund University (LU) that allows students to study for three years in Denver before studying abroad in Sweden for two years. The collaboration initially is available to students in the Department of Biological Sciences and in Gender and Women’s Studies. Participating students will study for their first three years as undergraduates at DU. For their fourth year, they will study at LU under DU’s Cherrington Global Scholars study-abroad program. Upon successful completion of their fourth year, they will receive a bachelor’s degree from DU and enroll at LU for a fifth year to pursue a one-year master’s degree.

In May, the University launched news.du.edu, a daily-news website that includes regular stories on student life, research and scholarship, and the DU campus and surrounding community. The site also offers weekly polls, DU-created videos, and commentary on breaking world news from DU experts.

Spring Commencement took place on June 3 for graduate students and June 4 for undergraduates. Both ceremonies were in Magness Arena. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright delivered the undergraduate address; Albright is the daughter of Josef Korbel, the former professor for whom the international studies school was renamed in 2008. Alumna Susana Cordova (BA ’88), acting superintendent of Denver Public Schools, was the featured speaker at the graduate ceremony.

In July, the University of Denver entered into a partnership with Sweden’s Lund University (LU) that allows students to study for three years in Denver before studying abroad in Sweden for two years. The collaboration initially is available to students in the Department of Biological Sciences and in Gender and Women’s Studies. Participating students will study for their first three years as undergraduates at DU. For their fourth year, they will study at LU under DU’s Cherrington Global Scholars study-abroad program. Upon successful completion of their fourth year, they will receive a bachelor’s degree from DU and enroll at LU for a fifth year to pursue a one-year master’s degree.
The Graduate School of Social Work will launch an online master of social work (MSW) program in January 2016. Students will take all of their courses online while completing supervised internships at agencies and organizations in their own communities. Initial cohorts of MSW students will specialize in mental health and trauma; additional concentrations may be added as the program grows over time.

Learn more at du.edu/socialwork/onlinemsw

The International Council on Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Education’s 2016 McCool Breakthrough Award was presented in July to the Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management in the Daniels College of Business. The award is given annually to an individual or organization that has made a significant breakthrough or introduced a unique approach to teaching, learning or operations. The Knoebel School was recognized for its Managing Human Capital in Hospitality course, in which business students train and counsel refugees looking for jobs in the hospitality industry. Students learn how to hire and manage employees, while refugees learn the culinary skills they need to work in restaurants and hotels.

Learn more at ritchieschool.du.edu

Schuyler van Engelenburg, assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, in June received a Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Award from the Boettcher Foundation. The award will support research on Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Syndrome, an immune system disorder caused by defects in white blood cells. As a Boettcher Investigator, van Engelenburg will focus specifically on improving the viral vectors—tools used by molecular biologists to introduce genetic material into cells—that are used to deliver corrective genes to immune cells.

An April 19 Cybersecurity Summit hosted by DU and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs connected roughly 250 attendees from academia, government and business. It was the first “Meeting of the Minds” event put on by Project X-ITE, a new cross-disciplinary initiative at DU to combine the worlds of innovation, technology and entrepreneurship.

The day included several speakers, including DU Chancellor Rebecca Chopp, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper, Colorado CEOs and a handful of cybersecurity professionals from Israel who traveled to Denver for the event. DU’s Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science recently launched a one-year master’s degree in the field.

Learn more at ritchieschool.du.edu

Renell Wynn, former vice president for communications and marketing at George Mason University, is the University of Denver’s new vice chancellor for communications and marketing. She started her position Aug. 15. At George Mason, Wynn served as principal advisor to the president on matters related to communications strategies and marketing initiatives. She brings to DU more than a decade of higher-education experience, including work in development communications at The College of William and Mary, as well as nonprofit and public-sector public relations experience.

Learn more at ritchieschool.du.edu
Gwen Chanzit, director of the museum-studies program in DU’s School of Art and Art History and curator of modern and contemporary art at the Denver Art Museum, made history in June with “Women of Abstract Expressionism,” the first museum exhibit to focus on the female artists of the postwar art movement.

Chanzit oversaw the creation of the show, which features 51 paintings by 12 artists, including Lee Krasner, Helen Frankenthaler, Mary Abbott, Grace Hartigan and Elaine de Kooning. The exhibition, which closes Sept. 25, travels to North Carolina’s Mint Museum in October and to the Palm Springs Art Museum in February.

Chanzit says the seeds for the show were sown in 2008, when she saw an exhibit in New York that centered around the critics of abstract expressionism.

“It was mostly the usual suspects, but there was an area that mentioned some of the people we don’t know very well—and it made me think,” Chanzit says. “I have a PhD in art history, I know a lot about this time period, and these were names I hadn’t heard. It really bothered me. On the plane ride home, I began to realize that though there were some men I didn’t know—particularly men of color—there were many women I didn’t know. I thought, ‘Wouldn’t that make an interesting exhibition?’ I got home and I started researching, and I discovered that no major museum exhibition had ever been mounted on women of abstract expressionism.”

When her work on the show began in earnest in 2012, Chanzit enlisted the help of two alumnae of DU’s museum studies program: Jesse Laird Ortega (MA ’13), who served as project assistant; and Renee Miller (MA ’11), Chanzit’s full-time curatorial assistant in modern and contemporary art.

Ortega conducted research, communicated with private collectors and other museums to secure loans, hunted down photos documenting the artists’ lives and worked extensively on many aspects of the exhibit catalog, including a chronology of more than 40
artists whose work spanned the years 1945–60. A part-time, contract employee when she was hired as project assistant, Ortega now has her MA in hand and is a full-time curatorial assistant in the DAM’s New World department.

“The strong connection between the DAM and DU is invaluable to DU’s museum-studies students,” Ortega says. “The ability to work in your field of interest while attending classes helps you learn how to balance work and school. Professor Chanzit also introduces students to every department [at the museum], so they can gauge where they fit best in the museum environment. The program gives students a leg up in the museum job market, which can be very competitive.”

Miller, meanwhile, “had a hand in everything,” Chanzit says. “Our curatorial assistants do the kind of professional work that curators do in smaller institutions, so she’s been a great help. She has really picked up a lot of the responsibilities for this exhibition working with me. She did all of the image rights for the catalog—that was a big thing.”

Miller says that working on “Women of Abstract Expressionism” was incredibly rewarding—and a lot of fun.

“Professor Chanzit was a year into researching this show when I started interning at the DAM in 2009,” she says. “There was always a buzz in the department, with interns, including myself, researching artists and compiling artist files. I feel lucky to have been a part of this project so early in its development.”

“Women of Abstract Expressionism” has been a hit with critics and the public—so much so that Chanzit hopes this area of collecting becomes another niche for which the DAM is known. During the organization of the show, the museum acquired eight new paintings and three promised gifts from women abstract expressionist painters.

“Exhibitions are ephemeral; they’re here for a short time and then they’re gone,” Chanzit says. “I felt it was important to leave a legacy of this exhibition. I hope in years to come, people will visit the Denver Art Museum to see paintings by women of abstract expressionism. We’re making a commitment to this material.”
Thanks to summer research grants from DU, 50 undergraduate students were able to spend the last three months pursuing their academic passions.

“I don’t think this research project would have been possible without that grant,” says Kristen Kennedy, a sociology and international studies major who spent the summer studying the role of women in secular and atheist communities. “It takes a big burden off.”

DU’s Undergraduate Research Center awards the summer grants every year—up to $3,500 each for students seeking to complete independent projects in collaboration with their peers and University faculty. Research topics this summer came from a wide range of disciplines, including biology, engineering, psychology, sociology and art, and they covered a diverse range of subjects—from “Collective Governance of Public Goods in Malawi” to “Effects of Maternal Stress Before and After the Birth of a Child on Child Health and Behavior Outcomes.”

For their related projects, biology majors and premed students Melissa Jackels and Kendra Reilly worked in DU’s Human Dynamics Lab, comparing healthy knees to knee implants in order to improve the design of the latter. Working with Erin Mannen, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, the two used a biplane fluoroscopy system to track patients as they moved through a range of knee-flexibility exercises. They later analyzed the data to make recommendations for ways that current implants can be improved.

“It’s just enhanced my drive to be in medicine,” Jackels says of the project. “Getting to work with the patients and getting to work with these systems and the data processing, it’s shown me how much I love it and want to keep doing it.”

One of Jacob Pearlstein’s photos of glaciers in Iceland.
Jackels and Reilly have submitted an abstract for the Orthopaedic Research Society conference next spring; if their research is accepted, they will travel to California to present on the project. The two also will be part of DU’s annual Undergraduate Research & Scholarship Symposium at the end of the 2016–17 academic year.

“It’s really cool to see the whole process from beginning to end and really understand how we get the data that we get,” Reilly says. “It’s really opened my eyes to the possibility of being able to practice medicine while also working on research.”

Art major Jacob Pearlstein was one of several students who used their grants to conduct research abroad. He and fellow art student Kevin Shanken traveled to Iceland to photograph glaciers.

“I wanted to travel, but I wanted this travel to be meaningful. I wanted to accomplish something,” Pearlstein says of his initial project proposal. Fans of the documentary “Chasing Ice,” which details an expedition to track climate change through the photographic documentation of glaciers, Pearlstein and Shanken looked for a way to contribute to the cause.

“Kevin and I realized that the Extreme Ice Survey lacked in the art department,” Pearlstein says. “They did take photos of glaciers and glacial ice, but for the most part, they failed to convey the power and uniqueness of ice, focusing on documentation instead. We wanted to show the power, beauty and importance of ice with our photographs.”

In June, the two ventured to Iceland, where they captured powerful images of shrinking glaciers. Their next step is to find a place in Denver to show their work, “to engage people with this subject matter and hopefully get people to care enough to do something about it,” Pearlstein says. “I plan to contact some galleries and other potential venues once I have finalized more of my images.”

Nancy Lorenzon, director of the Undergraduate Research Center, considers projects like these an essential aspect of undergraduate education.

“Research is an important experiential component that can take what students learn in the classroom, in labs and in course work, and actually apply it. It’s really important for critical-thinking skills, problem solving and writing,” Lorenzon says. “We are extremely lucky to have an undergraduate research center that is well-funded and to have the support of the administration.”
After Joshua Oakley finished his service as a captain in the U.S. Army in 2015, he headed straight for the University of Denver.

“A natural transition for a lot of military officers is to get an MBA, so Daniels was a great option,” says Oakley, who served three tours of duty in Iraq and is now an MBA candidate at the University’s Daniels College of Business. “When I was transitioning out of the military and was looking at programs, the DU MBA seemed like a perfect fit.”

Oakley is part of Right Foot Forward, a new program offered through Veterans Services at DU. It pairs student veterans with business people in industries in which they’re interested. Students and mentors meet regularly to discuss career options and network with other professionals.

“My mentor is also a veteran and has given me his insider perspective on transition from the military, as well as numerous contacts,” Oakley says.

Oakley is one of about 300 veterans currently enrolled at DU, says Damon Vine, Veterans Services coordinator. “We’re definitely seeing a resurgence in support for our veterans here,” Vine says. “We want to create stronger peer-to-peer groups. Support for veterans is really taking off. DU can be proud of fostering that.”

DU added three more veteran-related programs last year, thanks to donations from the Sturm Family Foundation. At DU’s Sturm College of Law, the Veterans Advocacy Program provides advice and services to assist with the myriad legal issues many veterans face. And the University’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) has launched a mental health clinic for serving those who have served

DU extends welcome mat for veterans

By Doug McPherson • Photo by Wayne Armstrong

MBA student Joshua Oakley is part of a program that pairs student veterans with business mentors.
current military members, veterans and their families, as well as the Sturm Specialty in Military Psychology, an education track that will help create more knowledgeable and skilled mental health care providers for veterans.

Donald Sturm (LLB ’58), founder of the Sturm Family Foundation, says there are countless stories of traditional service providers who aren’t meeting the needs of military veterans and active members with serious physical, mental and legal needs. “Our family was interested in helping these individuals, their families and the University of Denver’s faculty and students by providing necessary and beneficial services to veterans,” Sturm says.

The law school’s Veterans Advocacy Program, which also received funding from the Colorado Bar Foundation, allows DU law students to work with attorneys pro bono to help veterans with their legal needs, including disability compensation claims and discharge upgrades.

Director Ann Vessels says the program has 41 active cases (two cases have been resolved, netting clients nearly $675,000) and is giving students invaluable experience in a growing legal niche.

“We’re enormously proud of the work we have been able to do to date and look forward to helping many more veterans,” Vessels says.

At GSPP, the Sturm Center tailors mental health services specifically to military needs, at the same time giving students hands-on experience working with a military population. The Sturm Specialty in Military Psychology education track will train students to assist veterans with their mental health care. Katy Barrs, director of the Sturm Center, says the curriculum will include courses on military culture and families, readjustment, treatment, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, reintegration into the community and community resources.

“I look forward to contributing to future generations of psychologists who will be better prepared and trained to assist the men and women who have served our country,” Barrs says.

Learn more at du.edu/veterans
The success of University of Denver Athletics over the last decade is thanks in large part to the leadership of Peg Bradley-Doppes, vice chancellor for athletics, recreation and Ritchie Center operations since 2006. Bradley-Doppes—who before coming to DU held director-level positions at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and the University of Michigan—guided the Pioneers to their fourth-straight Learfield Sports DI-AAA Directors’ Cup in July 2016. The award is given each year to the top NCAA Division I non-football school.

In a conversation held shortly after DU received the award, Bradley-Doppes looked back at her time at DU to date—and provided some insight into what is to come for the Pioneers.

**Q:** How did you get into athletics administration?

**A:** I was a Title IX baby. I was blessed with athletic ability and was able to play college sports at a high level. When I was done playing, I was fortunate in that Miami University [of Ohio] offered me their head volleyball and head softball coaching jobs. I was just 22, and I didn’t know what I didn’t know. All I could do was mimic the best behavior of the other coaches and their coaching styles. When I went to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, I asked [Hall of Fame] coach Dean Smith if I could watch his practices. This was my classroom, and I transferred this knowledge to my own coaching. When I became athletics director at Michigan, I took that approach when working with coaches. They are the experts. I just want to know how to help.

**Q:** What are the challenges for women in athletics administration?

**A:** If you are in a leadership position, you have an obligation to form positive relationships with others and to make a positive difference. Most people do not know, nor do they care, who the athletics director is. All that matters is that I do my job. I can remember when I was at the University of Michigan and they asked me to be the women’s athletics director. I was the only woman at most meetings, and that could be overwhelming at times, especially when looking at all the talent in the room. I could tell that people were sensitive to my gender, but I made them...
comfortable with me by making athletics success the thing that was focused on. It is not that I want others to overlook my gender, but I think that anyone who wants to be competitive has to find ways to connect with others and find ways to establish a common ground.

**Q:** You have made many key hires at DU, including, recently, lacrosse coach Bill Tierney, hockey coach Jim Montgomery and new men’s basketball coach Rodney Billups. What is the secret to finding a good coach?

**A:** I feel like I’ve always been able to effectively assess talent, but I am picky about getting someone I feel would be a great addition to the DU family. With the men’s lacrosse position, we were nearing the end of the process, and I still felt like I needed to make a call or two. I wanted to call Bill Tierney at Princeton. He’d had a great career, but like all of our coaches, there was drive and an emphasis on relationships. I told Bill, “You can stay at Princeton and win a few more national championships, or you could spend the rest of your career at the University of Denver growing the sport you love.” I did the same thing with Jim Montgomery. There are a lot of great college coaches, but we cannot be complacent so we broke the mold. We don’t settle. It’s a different style and energy, but it’s paying off huge dividends.

**Q:** How does athletics help further the environment of excellence at DU as a whole?

**A:** Sports are certainly an important part of the University’s fabric. In my mind, they are not the most important part, but they are often the most visible. As our athletics programs have become more and more competitive, the visibility of the University of Denver as an academic institution has increased, nationally and internationally. The DU brand is hot right now, and a lot of that has to do with the appeal of things like lacrosse on the East Coast, our foothold with conferences on the West Coast, and gymnastics now in the Big 12. People here are working hard to get our brand out there and to enhance the University’s reputation, but so much credit needs to be given to the University of Denver as a whole for living up to its brand once people get on campus.

Learn more at denverpioneers.com

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JOIN US. VISIT GIVE.DU.EDU
An alum-founded nonprofit envisions a healthier future for Denver’s Westwood neighborhood

by Greg Glasgow

The road to transformation for one of Denver’s poorest neighborhoods began half a world away: in Nicaragua, where a 2006 service-learning project inspired two University of Denver students—economics major Eric Kornacki (BA ’09) and criminology major Joseph Teipel (BA ’07)—to fight poverty at home.

“Joseph and I went down to Nicaragua for three weeks on this service-learning project over winter break, and we both were impacted by the poverty we saw,” Kornacki says. “During the trip, we started to have a conversation about what it would look like if, postgraduation, we came back and started doing work around that issue. A lot of ideas came out of that, then we had to come back and finish school, and those ideas were tabled for a bit. But then, after graduation, we said, ‘Hey, let’s actually try to do this now, while we’re young. Let’s start a nonprofit and figure it out.’”

That nonprofit, Re:Vision (formerly Re:Vision International), started in 2007 with a global mission, but it took on a local focus when Kornacki and Teipel learned of the extreme poverty in Westwood, a neighborhood with one of Denver’s highest childhood obesity rates.
and an average annual household income of $27,000–$34,000—a little more than half of Denver’s median. When the pair discovered that limited access to fresh, healthy food was one of the area’s biggest problems (67 percent of the community is at risk for obesity and diet-related illnesses), they developed their signature Re:Farm program, which works with Westwood residents to build backyard gardens and community urban farms.

Re:Vision started the gardening program in 2009, teaching seven families to plant and harvest their own fruits and vegetables and prepare healthy, nutritious meals. Fueled by a $1.2 million grant from the Colorado Health Foundation, the numbers quickly grew: In 2013 the organization worked with 200 families; last year the number increased to nearly 400.

“It’s a good idea. You get to watch what you grow, you get to eat what you grow, and it’s not full of pesticides and all that junk,” Westwood resident Tommy Escamilla told Denver news station CBS4 in its story on the nonprofit.

Re:Vision also hires and trains local women as “promotoras” to help set up and manage the community gardens and to promote healthy living in Westwood. A recent $744,000 grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment will allow Re:Vision to train the promotoras as community health workers and patient navigators who can perform basic health screenings in people’s homes, leveraging the trust and relationships they build through the gardening program.

“I’ve always been impressed with Eric and Joseph,” says Michael Miera, who works with Westwood as a community development representative at the Denver Office of Economic Development. “Seven or eight years ago, I started to understand the importance of urban agriculture and healthy-food access to low-income individuals. Of course, Re:Vision is all about that. They are on the radar screen of a lot of local foundations, and we are working closely with a lot of those foundations to see how we can move their mission along.”

Re:Vision has big plans not only for its own future but for the future of Westwood: In 2014 the nonprofit received a $1.2 million grant from Denver’s Office of Economic Development to purchase a two-acre property on Morrison Road near Alameda Avenue. Staffers are working with community members to transform the space—which once was
filled with junked-out warehouses and abandoned storage containers—into a multipurpose community center with a focus on community wealth and health. Kornacki anticipates a community-owned international food hall, akin to Denver hotspots Avanti and the Source, along with an outdoor community market, a for-profit greenhouse, and shared office and tech-training spaces for Westwood residents.

Also in the works are a business incubator and a community-owned co-op grocery store that will employ Westwood residents and purchase surplus produce from the Re:Farm gardens. With the first stirrings of gentrification in the neighborhood, the nonprofit is looking for grants to form a community land trust in order to keep Westwood residents in their homes. “It’s a mechanism for the community to decide how to slow or how to handle development pressure,” Kornacki says.

Re:Vision also is helping to administer a $1 million grant from the Colorado Health Foundation’s Healthy Places Initiative for built-environment improvements—sidewalks, streets, etc.—to increase healthful lifestyles and living in Westwood.

“When we started working here, there was very little attention on this side of town, and that’s been the case for 30 or 40 years,” says Teipel, who, like Kornacki, now lives in Westwood. “And not solely due to our work, but as a result of a lot of things that helped build momentum, all of a sudden Westwood is one of the Colorado Health Foundation’s top three communities in the state to invest this money in. We finally feel like, ‘Wow, we’re turning the tide here.’”

In addition to the Colorado Health Foundation and Office of Economic Development grants, Re:Vision has received funding from the National Convergence Partnership, which gave the group $80,000 to explore gardening as a violence-prevention strategy for youth, and from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which awarded Re:Vision a $300,000 Community Food Project Grant. In 2013, the organization received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Boulder, Colo., based nonprofit Slow Money, which supports local food enterprises and organic farms.

“These are two young, committed individuals who really believe in what they’re doing,” Miera says of Kornacki and Teipel. “They’re tenacious, and they work hard. Re:Vision is making a difference in the lives of people and the neighborhood.”

For their part, Kornacki and Teipel are quick to give the University of Denver credit for the opportunity that inspired them to start the organization.

“My experience at DU absolutely shaped my life in a way that had I not gone there, this organization wouldn’t exist,” Kornacki says. “I think what DU offers its students, which impacted me tremendously, is that ability to study abroad. There are some very forward-thinking and challenging service-learning programs that really immerse you in issues of poverty and global justice—things that, for me, expanded my worldview in a way that no longer did I see myself and my own self-interest isolated from what takes place in the rest of the world. I really felt called and compelled to go out and do something about it.”
LESSONS IN CRISIS

Annual simulation gives students hands-on experience leading humanitarian efforts

By Doug McPherson
Primary photography by Wayne Armstrong
On the University of Denver campus, Memorial Day weekend 2016 was anything but a holiday.

The peace was broken that Sunday morning when a man—distraught and angry—started yelling that his daughter was lost.

Witness to his grief were roughly 40 people standing in four loosely formed groups near the Anna and John J. Sie International Relations Complex, home to DU’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies. Some were sitting. Many had sleeping bags. Most were visibly disturbed, even distraught.

But they weren’t. They were pretending. In fact, some of those gathered were actors, playing lost children, abused women and tired, hungry displaced persons—all the victims of a humanitarian crisis within the borders of their homeland.

Others played different roles. They were Red Cross workers, government officials and representatives of nongovernmental organizations—problem solvers one and all. While the victims were played by volunteer actors, the problem solvers were played by DU graduate students in international relations, psychology and social work. As they adopted their assigned roles, they learned what it’s like to stay cool, calm and effective in the midst of a humanitarian crisis.

Everyone in the area that day—actors, students and others—were part of the Korbel School’s International Humanitarian Crisis Simulation. The annual exercise is the brainchild of two DU professors who thought it would be ideal training for students whose future professions may put them face to face with humans in dire need.

“It’s an opportunity for students to see how what they learn in theory in the classroom plays out in the field,” says Chen Reis, director of the Humanitarian Assistance Program at the Korbel School and one of the simulation’s co-creators and organizers. “We can’t send our students out into war zones, for obvious reasons. Nor is it really appropriate to do so while they’re being trained. But we can give them a sense of what their world will be like when they begin their professional lives.”

The simulation offers an experience that can’t be had elsewhere in North America, integrating humanitarian generalists and international disaster psychology specialists in one exercise, says co-creator and organizer Courtney Welton-Mitchell, an adjunct faculty member at the Korbel School. Other simulations sponsored by academic institutions typically focus on medical triage. This one concentrates exclusively on protection and psychosocial services.

“When I came here in 2011, I thought a simulation would be good for the students, and at about the same time, Courtney was thinking the same thing,” Reis says. The two were a perfect pair to parent such a production: Reis had taken part in developing simulations at the World Health Organization; and Welton-Mitchell has two decades of experience in domestic and international human services.

The inaugural humanitarian crisis simulation—a one-day event—took place in May 2012 on the lawn outside the Ammi Hyde Building. In that scenario, displaced people were seeking safety from fabricated civil unrest. Each year’s simulation is loosely based on events in Chad during the mid-2000s, when thousands of citizens became endangered from violence, but each year Reis and Welton-Mitchell add details based on feedback and research to create a more realistic, ripped-from-the-headlines feel. Over the years they’ve added an extra day, along with faster-changing and more dangerous scenarios, such as cholera alerts, contaminated water supplies and cultural misunderstandings.

“This year we added more emphasis on the importance of partnering with local organizations,” Welton-Mitchell says, explaining that while the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees exists to protect and support refugees, there is no similar agency mandate for internally displaced people. This makes partnering all the more important, she says.

Students also got media training, learning how to deal with reporters seeking confirmation of rumors. And they learned how to tap new technologies, such as mobile apps, to address problems and craft proposals.

Welton-Mitchell says the simulation helps students better understand humanitarianism in a truer context and apply what they’ve learned in the classroom. “Most students find the experience challenging but also rewarding,” she says.
“Many feel more confident they can use the skills they learned.”

Hali Nurnberg (MA ’16), who graduated in June with a master’s degree in international disaster psychology, played an emergency mental-health coordinator who assessed the psychosocial needs of the internally displaced individuals in this year’s simulation.

“One woman we talked to told us that her village had been destroyed, her husband had been murdered, her child had been kidnapped, and that she was suicidal,” Nurnberg says. “We were able to connect her to a social support to keep her safe.”

Later in the simulation, Nurnberg and other students in her group wrote a proposal—based on their interactions with the displaced people—to fund the building of two schools and to support existing schools by training teachers. The schools would serve as community centers with after-school programs and safe spaces for women to gather.

“[The simulation] is built on my understanding of how my field interacts with those in other fields,” Nurnberg says. “I’ve always been a proponent of experiential learning—typically, experience stays with us longer than readings or lectures. There’s a big difference between reading about concepts and actually using them in the field. And you don’t learn how to work in a team of people, each with a different expertise, through theories and concepts.”

Damola Ladipo, an MA student in international development at the Korbel School, brought his experience in disaster behavioral health technical assistance to the exercise. He played a United Nations humanitarian affairs coordinator.

“The pressure the simulation puts on you physically and mentally propels you to succeed, not just for yourself, but for your team, and for the beneficiaries you’re trying to offer humanitarian assistance to,” Ladipo says.

Another student, Nikki Bernabe, who is studying sustainable development and global practice at DU’s Graduate School of Social Work, played a gender-based violence specialist at the 2016 event. She says the simulation helped her learn how to use her skills and prepared her for an internship where she will help plan an international disaster and risk conference.

“It was an incredible opportunity. International humanitarian work affects many people, and it can be detrimental if it’s done poorly,” Bernabe says. “The simulation was a great way to put our skills to the test at a lower risk. I’m grateful I was part of it.”

Another major chapter in the history of DU’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies was written in May 2016 with the completion of the Anna and John J. Sie International Relations Complex. The structure, which took 18 months to finish, joins the existing Ben Cherrington Hall and Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy with a new 46,000-square-foot, five-story building. The new construction and renovations were funded by a $17 million gift from the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation.

University Architect Mark Rodgers and architectural firm Anderson Mason Dale collaborated on the design of the new building, which features tech-equipped classrooms and meeting facilities, including a top-floor events room with stunning 360-degree views; a “simulation room” inspired by the White House’s famed Situation Room; and new homes for Korbel School institutes such as the Latin America Center, the Center for Middle East Studies and the Center for China-U.S. Cooperation.

“This entire Sie Complex is going to allow us to do things we could never do before,” says Christopher Hill, dean of the Korbel School. “We have our centers that are properly housed with office space; we have new seminar rooms; we have new spaces now for students that our students in the past could only dream of. We’re a first-rate program, and now I think we have first-rate facilities.”

—Greg Glasgow
 DU students and faculty find innovative ways to combat homelessness

By Nelson Harvey | Photography by Wayne Armstrong

Every morning—winter, spring, summer and fall—scores of people wake up under tarps on the sidewalks outside of the Denver Rescue Mission. Later each day, hundreds line up for a meal outside of Denver’s Salvation Army. And on a typical night, 40 young people fill the beds at the Urban Peak youth shelter in south Denver. If the center had more beds, those would be filled as well.

That’s a snapshot of Denver’s homeless problem—a problem that has persisted for a number of reasons, among them low-wage jobs that make it tough to rise out of poverty, a heated real estate market that discourages construction of affordable housing, and the enduring epidemics of mental illness and substance abuse.

Still, plenty of people in Denver remain dedicated to solving the problem. And DU—in keeping with its dedication to the public good—has sponsored numerous efforts to help address the issue. In the last year alone:

• Students at the Sturm College of Law released an in-depth report on the financial and human costs of laws that criminalize homelessness in Colorado.

• MBA students at the Daniels College of Business helped launch a nonprofit thrift store that will help fund programs at Urban Peak, create jobs for homeless youth and provide affordable clothing to people in need.

• Professors at the Graduate School of Social Work gave cameras to homeless youth and helped them document their lives to increase their sense of social cohesion.

Following is a closer look at those innovative projects.
THE CRIMINAL COST

What if Colorado cities spent huge amounts of money ticketing, prosecuting and jailing homeless people for petty crimes like loitering, trespassing and camping, instead of putting those funds toward building adequate housing for all? Suspecting that was the case, a group of students at DU’s Sturm College of Law set out in 2015 to study the problem.

The team released its report, “Too High a Price: What Criminalizing Homelessness Costs Colorado,” in February 2016. It reveals that Colorado’s 76 largest cities combined have more than 350 anti-homeless ordinances on the books. Under these laws, homeless people are cited far more frequently than the general population: Fort Collins authorities issue two citations per year for every homeless person in the city, for instance, while 30 percent of all citations issued in Grand Junction are for offenses related to homelessness. Boulder cites its homeless population under its camping ban more than any other city—at a rate of two citations for every homeless citizen.

All that enforcement is expensive: Between 2010 and 2014, Denver alone spent more than $3.2 million enforcing five laws that ban things like camping and trespassing. The human cost is likely to be even greater.

“Giving people tickets that can’t be paid creates warrants for their arrest, which lands them in jail,” says Nantiya Ruan, a professor at Sturm who supervised the production of the report. “Those people then have a criminal record that they often have to put on their housing and employment applications, which makes it less likely that those applications will be accepted. This criminalization continues the cycle of poverty.”

A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE THAT LIFTS ALL BOATS

Work, for many people, is a basic way of finding meaning and belonging in life. Yet many homeless people struggle to hold down jobs, thwarted by their lack of a stable living situation or problems with mental health or substance abuse.

In early 2016, a thrift store opened in Denver’s Chaffee Park neighborhood that will help combat the problem by employing homeless youth, providing free or affordable clothing through a voucher program, and generating revenue that helps support Urban Peak.

The store, Peak Thrift, is the product of a long-running collaboration between Urban Peak and the Executive MBA (EMBA) program at DU’s Daniels College of Business. Beginning in 2012, a number of enrollees in the EMBA program—an 18-month, part-time curriculum for mid-to senior-level professionals seeking to strengthen their business skills—helped Urban Peak conceive the idea of a social enterprise business that would earn money for the organization. They tested ideas from a screen-printing shop to a food truck before finally deciding on a thrift store. Two EMBA students in particular, Andy Taylor (MBA ’14) and Jim Hayes (MBA ’14), incorporated the thrift store idea into four of their business classes between 2013 and 2014, conducting a marketing feasibility study, writing a three-year business plan and providing Urban Peak with a range of other startup help, all as part of class projects.

Taylor and Hayes met monthly with the Urban Peak board of directors for 15 of the 18 months they spent at Daniels. Just before graduation, they passed the task of finding a location for the thrift store to the next class of Daniels EMBA students.

Peak Thrift opened in Chaffee Park in January 2016.

“We’ve recently hired on three young adults who were previously living in shelters or on the street,” says
Peak Thrift general manager Kathryn Westphal. “Having an employer that’s supportive of the hurdles they are trying to overcome is very important. We are a bit more accommodating than the typical employer might be.”

**FINDING A VOICE**

Housing and employment figures provide a basic picture of homelessness and poverty in Colorado, but there’s a deeper toll not recorded in official statistics: the emotional and psychological cost of living without a stable home. The problem is particularly acute for homeless teenagers, who must navigate the tumultuous changes of adolescence while learning to survive on the streets. Growing up homeless can produce a sense of profound isolation, one that Kim Bender and Anamika Barman-Adhikari, professors in DU’s Graduate School of Social Work, found a creative way to address last fall.

With a grant from the University’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning (CCESL), the professors created what Bender calls “a photo voice intervention,” providing homeless youth with cameras and photography training so they could document and share their own lives. Bender and Barman-Adhikari then surveyed the kids over the course of three months to test whether the practice increased their sense of belonging and social cohesion. (It did.) The researchers recruited a group of young people from the Urban Peak youth shelter, gave them tablets and hired a professional photographer to teach them basic photo skills. They then dispatched the youths to produce photos and captions on themes of their choosing, which the group met weekly to discuss.

Bender was surprised by the level of symbolism and sophistication in the young people’s photographs. She had expected them to focus on their need for concrete things like housing and jobs, but their photos often conveyed deeper emotional needs.

“Theyir basic needs did come through, but they were seen through a lens of higher-order needs, like, ‘I need a purpose,’ or ‘I need society to believe that I have value,’” Bender says. “The photos became much more symbolic and abstract than I expected.”

A photo made by Gwen Stacy, a 21-year-old transgender woman from Mississippi who lived at the Urban Peak shelter during the project, is a case in point. Her image depicts a plastic chair in a room at the shelter, framed by two metal bunk beds and backlit by white light from the room’s single window.

“I’m the chair, and I’m in the room, and I feel alone,” reads Stacy’s caption. “I’m by myself and no one understands me. The chair is dilapidated, and it’s been worn, and that’s how I feel. But at the same time I’m still the chair that’s able to stand whenever the weight drags me down.”

Stacy, who entered the foster care system at age 6, says the photo symbolizes her ability to stand strong and endure life’s difficulties. There have been many: Her father beat her, she says, for expressing her transgender identity as a child. She struggled with cocaine and alcohol abuse as a young teenager, and was once kicked out of a foster home for dressing in women’s clothing.

“I got my voice out there, and now people know how I feel about being homeless,” Stacy says. “I went through some dark times, but I still made it out.”

Kim Bender spoke about the homeless youth photo intervention at the DU Founders Forum in March; watch the video of her presentation at magazine.du.edu

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*Kim Bender* spoke about the homeless youth photo intervention at the DU Founders Forum in March; watch the video of her presentation at magazine.du.edu
N E W M A N C E N T E R
PRESENTS

2016-2017 SEASON

2016

MOMIX
THU | SEP 29 | 7:30 PM
FRI | SEP 30 | 7:30 PM

Capitol Steps
THU | OCT 6 | 7:30 PM

Los Angeles Guitar Quartet
THU | OCT 20 | 7:30 PM

Bridgman | Packer Dance
SAT | NOV 19 | 7:30 PM

Cecile McLorin Salvant & The Aaron Diehl Trio
WED | NOV 30 | 7:30 PM

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center
MON | DEC 12 | 7:30 PM

2017

Roomful of Teeth
WED | JAN 18 | 7:30 PM

Edgar Meyer and Christian McBride
THU | JAN 26 | 7:30 PM

Kodo
TUE | FEB 14 | 7:30 PM
WED | FEB 15 | 7:30 PM

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet
SAT | FEB 25 | 7:30 PM
SUN | FEB 26 | 2:00 PM

DakhaBrakha
THU | MAR 9 | 7:30 PM

yMusic
THU | MAR 23 | 7:30 PM

Black Grace
WED | APR 5 | 7:30 PM

“Nude Music” Featuring Musica Nuda from Italy and Hákon Kornstad from Norway
THU | APR 27 | 7:30 PM

Branford Marsalis Quartet
with special guest Kurt Elling
SAT | MAY 13 | 7:30 PM

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DU students watch the results come in during a party at the Cable Center on election night in 2008. Do you recognize anyone in this photo, or do you have election-related memories from your time at DU? Let us know!

Email us at du-magazine@du.edu
1955
John Yee (BA ’55) of Denver received a medal from the central government of the People’s Republic of China, Department of Military Affairs. John received the medal for his service as a translator with the Flying Tigers—a group of pilots from the U.S. Army Air Corps, Navy and Marine Corps that defended China against Japanese forces—during World War II. John came to Denver toward the end of the war to teach at the high school and college levels. He founded the sister-city relationship between Denver and Kunming, China, and he has received numerous recognitions and honors for his work in the Denver community.

1963
Marlow Ediger (EDD ’63) of North Newton, Kan., has had manuscripts accepted for publication in the Journal of Reading and Literacy, Reading Improvement and College Student Journal. Marlow still writes for publication daily at age 88, having co-authored 29 teacher education textbooks for Discovery Publishing House.

1970
Mary Lou Egan (BFA ’70) of Denver is writing a history of the city’s Globeville neighborhood. Mary Lou’s article “German Russians in Globeville” appeared in the summer 2016 issue of Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans From Russia.

1973
Art Riddle (BA ’73) was appointed mayor of New Castle, Colo., in 2015. Art has served on the town council since 2006 and was mayor pro tempore from 2012–14. He also has served on the Garfield Energy Advisory Board since 2009. Art and his wife, Mari, have been married for more than 29 years and have two sons, Graham and Jeremiah.

1977
Perry Goorman (JD ’77) of Scottsdale, Ariz., was elected secretary of the Scottsdale Bar Association for 2016–17. Perry previously served as the group’s treasurer.

1978
Gary Lachman (JD ’78) of Boynton Beach, Fla., has joined Greenspoon Marder in the firm’s West Palm Beach office. Formerly a shareholder of Lachman Simayli & Aykut of Istanbul, Turkey, and a former official with the U.S. Department of State, Gary brings 20 years of experience as an international corporate and real estate lawyer to the firm.

1979
William “Bill” James (MBA ’79) of Denver is president of James Real Estate Services. Bill has served on the board of directors of the Regional Transportation District since 2008. In 2015, Bill was elected to chair the board of directors of Transportation Solutions, a transportation-management association that enhances mobility in the southeast Denver/Glendale area.

1980
Clara Haignere (MA ’80, PhD ’83) of Lawrenceville, N.J., and Rex William (Bill) Potter were married on Sept. 13, 2015, at the Mountain Lake House in Princeton, N.J. Clara is an associate professor of public health at Temple University, where she has worked for more than 20 years, and Bill is a partner in the Princeton law firm Potter & Dickson, where he has practiced environmental, land use and renewable energy law for more than 20 years.

1982
Michele DeBiaanse (BA ’82) of Maynard, Mass., will receive a PhD in nutrition and metabolism from the Boston University School of Medicine in September 2016.

1983
Michael Boyd (MBA ’83) of Wheat Ridge, Colo., is captain and head coach of the Phantom Dragons dragon boat team. He is the first paddler from Colorado to try out for and be selected to race on a world-championship-level dragon-boat team.

1984
Linda Hamburger (BA ’84) of Pompano Beach, Fla., was honored by the Association for Women in Communications for her achievements in public relations and advocacy through her role as founder of the South Florida Public Relations Network.

Timothy Houghton (PhD ’84) of Glen Arm, Md., presented poems from his book “The Internal Distance” on June 7, 2016, at the Museo Casa di Dante in Florence, Italy.

Sheryl Radman (BA ’84, MSW ’97) of Richardson, Texas, is owner of Senior Living Simplified, a company that offers professional support services to recent widows, single adults living alone, those providing care for a loved one from a distance, or caregivers to adults who need support.

Tell Us Your News!

DID YOU get married? get a new job? receive an award? publish a book?

SEND YOUR CLASS NOTE TO du-magazine@du.edu
Stuart Zall (BA ’84) founded the Zall Co., a Denver-based retail commercial real estate firm.

1986
Dave Johnstone (MBA ’86) of Englewood, Colo., is chief investment officer at McWhinney Management Co.

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

1988
Kathi Vosevich (PhD ’88) is associate provost at Shorter University in Rome, Ga. She also serves as dean of the school’s College of Arts and Sciences and leads its institutional effectiveness and honors programs.

1990
Jody Jackman (BSBA ’90) of Henderson, Nev., is a senior account executive at Ellucian, which provides software solutions for higher education. Jody, who in 2015 was named the company’s top salesperson for the third year in a row, serves higher education clients in the western United States.

1991
Susan Eilertsen (MSW ’91) of Colorado Springs, Colo., is staff development manager at the El Paso County Department of Human Services. Susan has been employed at the agency for more than 28 years and has served in a number of different positions over that time period.

1992
Arjun Murti (BSBA ’92) of Summit, N.J., joined Warburg Pincus LLC, a private equity firm, where he serves as an advisor to the energy group.

PROFILE
FILMMAKER
Neela Eyunni
(BA ’08)

She already was a successful news anchor for Beijing’s China Central Television, but journalism major Neela Eyunni (BA ’08) found herself heading in another career direction after a 2015 vacation to the Philippines. Her encounters with companies offering tourists the chance to swim with whale sharks left her feeling uneasy, and her journalistic instincts took over.

“What I wasn’t aware of, going into it, was that [the sharks] were being fed,” she says. “After being a tourist and seeing what was happening, I was really interested in learning more about that and how it was impacting the sharks.”

Eyunni returned with a film crew two months later to begin work on what would become “On the Brink: Uncharted Waters,” a documentary film that takes an in-depth look at the booming whale shark tourism industry in the Philippines and its potential threat to marine life.

“When we did the production, we got a lot of those answers to our questions,” says Eyunni, who left her job in Beijing in December and returned to the U.S. to work full time on marketing the film.

“The sharks are being conditioned to follow boats, which puts them more at risk to poachers, they are getting injured by boat propellers; and it is actually impeding their migration, which is affecting everything from their nutrition and food to their reproductive behavior.”

The documentary had its U.S. premiere in March at the San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival, where it was awarded the 2016 Conservation Award. In October, it will be featured at the Kuala Lumpur Eco Film Festival and will air on the National Geographic Philippines cable channel.

“We are using this documentary not just for entertainment purposes, but as a driving force to change legislation regarding whale shark interactions, as well as legislation for interacting with turtles, dolphins and whales,” says Eyunni, who worked closely with Marine Wildlife Watch of the Philippines on the film. “It sets stricter guidelines, which is good for the country, good for the locals and ultimately good for marine life.”

—Greg Glasgow
onthebrinkdocumentary.com
Jessica Giraldo-Rice (BSBA ’93) of Scottsdale, Ariz., is director of meeting and incentive sales for Playa Hotels & Resorts, a private hotel investment company that owns 13 all-inclusive resorts in Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

Brian Rosenbaum (BA ’94) of Phoenix is general manager and vice president of operations for the Phoenix market office of homebuilder NexMetro. Brian previously held senior-level positions at Lennar Homes and Vermillion Partners.

Karen Ballek (PhD ’97) of Colorado Springs, Colo., coauthored ”We Are One Family,” a book that highlights stories of ethnic Poles who immigrated to Sheridan County, Wyo., between 1890 and 1920.

Diego Hunt (JD ’97) was appointed by Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper to the position of district court judge for Gilpin and Jefferson counties. Diego previously was director of the community justice unit at the Denver district attorney’s office before entering private practice at Holland & Hart LLP.

Steve Shotsberg (BSBA ’97) of Philipsburg, Mont., is director of operations at the Ranch at Rock Creek, the world’s only Forbes Travel Guide five-star guest ranch.

Patricia Aaron (MFA ’98) of Denver will exhibit new paintings at Denver’s Space Gallery from Oct. 6–Nov. 12, 2016. The new work, “On Ice,” is based on the month Patricia spent as an artist in residence in Reykjavik, Iceland. Patricia also has work in the “Colorado Women in Abstraction” show at the Metropolitan State University of Denver Center for Visual Arts, which closes in October 2016.

Greg Luttrell (BSBA ’99) of Denver is director of insurance at TeleTech, a global business-process outsourcing company that provides analytics-driven and technology-enabled customer engagement management solutions.

Kyle Brennan (JD ’01) of Salt Lake City recently became athletic director for the University of Utah. Kyle previously served as deputy athletic director at the school.

Sherrill Kaplan (MBA ’01) of Boston has been promoted to vice president of digital marketing and innovation for Dunkin’ Donuts. During Sherrill’s time with Dunkin’ Donuts, she has helped develop the company’s mobile app and on-the-go-ordering initiative.
In Memoriam

1940s
Clara Weaver (BA ‘40), Wilmington, N.C., 7-4-16
Kenneth Anderson (BA ‘47), Port Charlotte, Fla., 3-31-16

1950s
Vince Boryla (BS ‘50), Englewood, Colo., 3-27-16
John Ebling (BS ‘50), Portland, Ore., 6-16-16
Norma White (BA ‘51), Chattanooga, Tenn., 4-8-16
Jack Wheaton (BM ‘53), Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. 1-25-16
Alvin “Paul” Wegeman (BA ‘55, MA ‘56), Colorado Springs, Colo., 5-30-15

1960s
Morris Cole (JD ‘60), Denver, 5-18-16
Roberta Long (BA ‘65, MSW ‘68), Denver, 4-10-16
Carol Fay Crumbaker (BA ‘68), Billings, Mont., 6-23-16
Howard Gelt (JD ‘69), Denver, 7-7-16

1970s
John Switzer (BA ‘70), Centennial, Colo., 3-25-16

1980s
Beth Garcia (JD ‘80), Manassa, Colo., 3-3-16

2000s
Regan Rozier (MBA, JD ‘03), Wilmington, N.C., 5-23-16

Faculty & Staff
David Day, former dean of engineering, Denver, 5-5-16
James Platt, professor emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences, Denver, 6-28-16
Donald Stedman, professor emeritus in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Portland, Ore., 4-16-16
Cynthia Kuhn (PhD ’01) of Highlands Ranch, Colo., has written an academic mystery, “The Semester of Our Discontent.” The book is the first in a proposed series starring Lila Maclean, an English professor and amateur sleuth. Cynthia teaches literature, writing and film at Metropolitan State University of Denver and is president of the Colorado chapter of Sisters in Crime, a group of writers, readers, booksellers, librarians, bloggers and others with an appreciation for the mystery genre.

Chad Nordhagen (MBA ’01) of Parker, Colo., recently started a marketing consulting company, Gloves Off Marketing LLC.

2002
Maritza Dominguez Braswell (BA ’02) of Denver was named one of the 2016 Top Women Lawyers by Law Week Colorado. Maritza, a founding partner at Rollin Braswell Fisher LLC, was selected for the award because of her professional accomplishments and her commitment to philanthropy.

2003
Mia Troy (BA ’03) of Burlington, Vt., owns Oh my DOG, a dog day-care, boarding and training facility. Mia recently was invited by the Burlington Free Press newspaper to lead a workshop on social media best practices for business owners.

2004
Colleen Carney (MBA ’04) of Boston is vice president of non-real-estate investments at investment management firm Carney Family LLC.

2005
Brad Goodman (BSBA ’05) of Chicago is middle office at William Blair & Co., a global investment-banking and wealth-management firm.

Chad O’Farrell (BSBA ’05) of Chicago is director of business development for VayStays, a vacation rental company.

Sam Estenson made his mark at DU, serving as president of Undergraduate Student Government, helping coordinate the 2012 presidential debate on campus and traveling to six countries on a Partners in Scholarship research grant. Estenson (BA ’13) also designed his own major at DU—intercultural globalization and foreign languages, which combined his interest in Spanish, German and Japanese languages with communications, economics, international studies and geography.

After graduation, Estenson’s unique course of study led him to Germany, where he took part in a 12-month U.S. State Department fellowship to study and work in international management, e-commerce and global leadership consulting. His next step? Going to work for Google, where he started in December 2015 as an operations coordinator on a global team that manages the company’s hiring systems and processes.

“Google now is incredibly international, and the team I run deals with how we find, interview, evaluate and onboard talent globally,” he says. “We have three hubs—San Francisco, where I’m located, Singapore and Dublin—and I’m constantly communicating with everyone there. My team is very passionate about the work we do because we see firsthand the experience of being offered the job at Google. We witness the cover letters going out, we witness the calls being made, and there’s so much excitement when you can tell a candidate, ‘Congratulations, you’ve been offered a job at Google.”

Estenson hopes to share that excitement with some of his fellow Pioneers in the near future. In spring 2016 he reached out to DU’s new Global Networks team—which combines the offices formerly known as alumni relations and career services—to set up a video chat with current students interested in working at Google or other tech companies.

“I realized that I was helping coordinate so much of the process of how we find talent, and I had some real hands-on insight for current students and folks who are looking either for an internship or a full-time opportunity,” he says. “Maintaining a strong community, both professionally and in terms of Pioneers offering opportunities to other Pioneers—that’s how we will maintain a legacy of support as a University.”

—Greg Glasgow
Share the love. We’ll share the gold – in your name.

It takes the best and brightest to maintain our standards. Great candidates strengthen our learning environment, create a powerful Pioneer network and increase the value of your DU degree. No one is better suited to refer qualified candidates than graduates like you. Our alumni are the gold standard for excellence!

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2006

Taylor Merritt (BSBA ’06) of Broomfield, Colo., graduated with a certificate from the owner/president management program (OPM) at Harvard Business School in March 2016. Established more than 40 years ago, OPM is a rigorous nine-week executive education program held over a three-year period. Taylor is CFO of Merritt Equipment Co., a 65-year-old, family-owned business that manufactures semi-trailers for the agriculture sector and aluminum accessory products for heavy-duty trucks.

Sarah Cambidge (BM ’11, MM ’13) of Lone Tree, Colo., won $6,000 in the Denver Lyric Opera Guild’s 32nd annual competition for Colorado opera singers. Sarah spent the summer of 2016 at the San Francisco Opera’s prestigious Merola Program, which is dedicated to seeking out the finest young opera talent and helping them to develop into professional artists of the highest caliber.

2008

Julie Karavas (LLM ’08) of Lyons, Colo., is a shareholder and partner at Jung & Kranz P.C. in Boulder, Colo. The firm offers comprehensive services in civil and commercial litigation, real estate, construction, employment and business and corporate law. Julie offers estate and succession planning and probate throughout the states of Nebraska and Colorado.

Tracie Keesee (PhD ’08) of Denver was hired as head of training for the New York Police Department. Tracie previously spent 25 years in the Denver Police Department, where she oversaw research, technology and training. She has devoted her career to fostering stronger ties between the police and minority communities.

Adam Radcliffe (BS ‘08) of Chicago has formed his own real estate development company, Outpost Development LLC. Adam currently is redeveloping a 100-year-old, 29,000-square-foot building in Chicago.

2009

Erik Anderson (PhD ’09) of Lancaster, Pa., is the author of “Estranger,” a blend of essay and fiction that was published by Rescue Press in May. Erik also is the author of a book of lyric essays, “The Poetics of Trespass” (Otis Books/Seismicity Editions, 2010). He teaches creative writing at Franklin & Marshall College, where he directs the annual Emerging Writers Festival.

Dustin Palmer (MA ’09) moved to Dublin, Ireland, in October 2015 to manage the establishment and growth of Deloitte’s CFO program in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The program brings together a multidisciplinary team of Deloitte leaders and subject-matter specialists to help CFOs stay ahead in the face of growing challenges and demands.

2011

Lindsey Hethcote (BA ’11) of Eureka, Mo., has started Pachakuti Foods, a social enterprise that works directly with farmers in the Andes to source superfoods, such as quinoa, that are good for making other food products. Lindsey plans to sell the products in the U.S., bringing economic security to farmers and helping preserve biodiversity by using native varieties of the superfoods that are being threatened by extinction.

Sara Meagher (BS ’11) of Chicago is a senior associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers, where she works in capital markets and accounting advisory services.

Carson Muir (BSBA ’11) is event sales manager for Park Hyatt Chicago.

Cassie Novick (BSBA ’11) of New York is account director at ZONZA, a platform that enables global businesses to implement marketing content.

Monica Taubert Parker (BA ’11) of Billings, Mont., is corporate sales manager at the historic Northern Hotel in downtown Billings. TripAdvisor recently rated the Northern as the third-best resort hotel in Montana.

2013

Tara Cappel (BA ’13) of Dallas has started FTLO Travel, a travel company designed to help young adults see the world and experience different cultures. FTLO coordinates group trips for young professionals.

Craig Skelly (BSBA ’13) of Franklin, Mass., is an associate internal sales representative at EMC Corp., which
sells data storage, information security, virtualization, analytics, cloud computing and other products and services that enable businesses to store, manage, protect and analyze data.

**Tracey Williams** (BSBA ’13) is assistant restaurant manager at the Four Seasons Hotel and Resort in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

**2014**

**Alex Clever** (BSBA ’14) is hotel assistant manager at Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa in Beaver Creek, Colo.

**Stefanie Ungphakorn Cowan** (MA ’14) has been selected by the mayor and city council to serve on the newly formed inclusivity board for the city of Westminster, Colo.

**Bobby Edmundowicz** (MBA ’14) of Denver is director of worldwide corporate sales at Conga, which sells reporting and document creation tools for the Salesforce platform.

**Todd Lucht** (MAS ’14) of Arvada, Colo., is art director and web developer for van Schouwen Associates’ business-to-business marketing team. Todd previously was head of creative for Sounds True, a Colorado-based multimedia publisher.

**Jillian Morrison** (MSW ’14) of Lakewood, Colo., is licensed as a social worker and is accumulating post-master’s clinical work. Jillian received state certification as an addictions counselor in September 2015 and in January 2016 completed required training coursework to become independently licensed as an addiction counselor. She plans to open her own business as a psychotherapist in 2016.

**Mallory Bennett** (BS, MA ’16) of Holyoke, Colo., is taking part in the postgraduate technical assistant program at the Financial Accounting Standards Board, an organization directly responsible for accounting policy and rules for U.S. companies. Her yearlong position began in June.

**2016**

TV: *“American Idol” reigns supreme*
Movies: *“The Dark Knight” is the highest-grossing movie*
Books: Junot Diaz’s *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* wins the Pulitzer Prize
At DU: Light rail station opens at Buchtel & High

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*for the life expectancy of the beneficiary

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For a personal illustration, contact **Steve Shineman, Senior Director of Gift Planning**, at 303-871-2315 or **Steve.Shineman@du.edu**.
Parting shot

JUST ANOTHER DAY AT THE OFFICE. Latin professor Victor Castellani focuses on grading finals.

Photo by Wayne Armstrong
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER PRESENTS

HOCKEY GAMES
ENGINERGING & COMPUTER SCIENCE BUILDING OPENING
KNOEBEL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHY AGING OPENING CELEBRATION
CAMPUS TOURS
OKTOBERFEST
TASTE OF DU AT PIO-PALOOZA
BOOK CHAT

ADVENTURE AWAITS!

FIND FOOD + FAMILY FUN AT OKTOBERFEST AND TASTE OF DU AT PIO-PALOOZA
CHEER ON PIONEER HOCKEY AGAINST BOSTON UNIVERSITY
DISCOVER NEW AUTHORS AT BOOK CHAT: LAIRD HUNT, L. A. JENNINGS, CHRISTOPHER MEEKS, AMANDA REA, MIKE ROSEN
EXPLORE NEW SPACES + PLACES WITH CAMPUS TOURS AND THE GRAND OPENING OF DU’S NEW HOME FOR SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY – INCLUDING THE DANIEL FELIX RITCHIE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE AND THE KNOEBEL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHY AGING

VISIT DU.EDU/HOMECOMING TO LEARN MORE + RESERVE YOUR ALL-ACCESS PASS!
The University of Denver archives are home to a rare set of photographs by Edward Curtis, the 19th-century artist and ethnographer known as the “Shadow Catcher,” a moniker he was given by the Native Americans whose visages and culture he captured in his internationally celebrated works. Curtis collected more than 2,000 of his photographs of Native Americans and their environs in a 20-volume compendium titled “The North American Indian.” Roughly 250 of the full sets were printed, but only a handful remain intact. That includes the set at DU, which came to the University as a gift from the Boettcher Foundation in the 1930s.