A Dreamer gives back
Visit the cat cafe
DU alum shoots for the stars

Good Work
Inside DU research that is supporting families, helping seniors and creating a safer world

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Cover illustration by Sally Vitsky
FROM THE CHANCELLOR

DU research brings value to students, faculty, community

By Chancellor Rebecca Chopp

There are two unique aspects to research, scholarship and creative expression at the University of Denver. First, our faculty are focused on students using research to learn skills and thinking for the 21st century. Students are always part of the conversation when faculty members discuss their work in labs and in the field, their innovations across schools, and their collaborations with partners in communities around the world.

Second, much of this research is on-the-ground, innovative work that addresses real-world problems. This is remarkable for a high-research-activity university like DU. If the 21st century is about problem solving and innovation—and if higher education needs to teach students to work in teams to solve problems and encourage innovation—we are well poised.

I’ve come to see this phenomenon as representative of DU’s DNA. And it’s why our strategic plan, DU IMPACT 2025, promotes exactly this kind of practice-based research and scholarship. With so many professional schools, and with such a strong signature of student, faculty and staff engagement in Denver and beyond, it might not be surprising that DU faculty members are focused on solving current-day problems. But inside and outside our professional schools, our faculty members are serving the public good in real and tangible ways through their scholarship.

The areas of focus showcased in this issue—aging, family health, and peace and stability—represent just some of the ways our faculty, as well as the students they so often include in their work, are making a difference through their research.

To be clear, we also have many faculty members engaged in what is often called “basic research”—the immediate application of which is not always clear. For example, a chemist developing novel approaches to complex molecular architectures is working on a relatively esoteric problem of generating these synthetic compounds in a few experimentally simple steps. Right now, this basic research is purely academic, but it may pave the way for the pharmaceutical industry to develop personalized medicine, or it may lead to new “smart” materials.

Such researchers—along with faculty who create art and knowledge—are expanding human knowledge and understanding by making discoveries that may have untold implications down the line.

In an era of skepticism about higher education and its value to society, the problem-based research and teaching so prevalent at DU may be one of the most compelling arguments for the value we add to communities near and far.

From redefining professions in law, business, education, social work and professional psychology to working hand-in-hand with Coloradans, Peruvians and Ugandans alike, our faculty are leaders in understanding problems in our society and creating knowledge to fix those problems.

Our Center for Civic Engagement and Service Learning has long promoted community-embedded research, as have programs in our Graduate School of Professional Psychology, Sturm College of Law and others. Today, we are engaged in three similarly named projects aimed at various forms of “grand challenges.” Our Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science is implementing the Grand Challenges Scholars Program, endorsed by the National Academy of Engineering, while the Graduate School of Social Work is playing a key role in the Grand Challenges for Social Work initiative led by the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare.

This year, we are also launching the DU Grand Challenges program—stemming directly from DU IMPACT 2025. With input from students, faculty, staff and community members, we are identifying core challenges facing Colorado and the rest of the world that no one person or discipline can address by itself. We will focus the resources of the DU community around those challenges in collaboration with community members and organizations. (Visit du.edu/ccesl/grand-challenges to learn more)

I hope you will join me in taking great pride in the contributions our faculty members and their students are making in addressing society’s most pressing and vexing problems.
**Letters**

**Kudos and kudos**

I just got done reading the Spring 2017 issue and felt compelled to write in to congratulate my former professor Susan Schulten and the hockey team on their recent accomplishments.

Schulten taught my favorite course—War and the American Presidency—while I was at DU. In the course, we learned about Lincoln, Wilson, FDR and Johnson. I still recite facts I learned in that class, and I couldn’t be happier to hear about Professor Schulten’s continued success. I only wish her the best!

As for the hockey team (those slouches!), I had the pleasure of covering them while working as the sports editor of the Clarion from 2009–11. Those teams were very talented but ultimately couldn’t do what [that] team did at the Frozen Four in Chicago—bring home a national championship to the Mile High City! It was amazing to watch the entire tournament, and to see the Pioneers continue to develop throughout the season under the tutelage of head coach Jim Montgomery. I only wish that I had gotten the opportunity to sit down and interview him while I was on campus. He seems like a great leader who will bring sustained success—and hopefully more championship banners—to Magness Arena.

**Steve Coulter (BA ’13)**

Ridgefield, Conn.

**Remembering graduation**

The DU magazine [Summer 2017] asked what we remember most about our Commencement day. I had our first child, John, four months before Commencement, so it was exciting to have him there, along with my husband and relatives from Omaha.

**Amy Gregg Sage (MSS ’95)**

Highlands Ranch, Colo.

**Join the discussion!**

Send your letters to the editor: du-magazine@du.edu

**TL;DR: Interesting facts from the fall issue**

The first cat cafe in the U.S., modeled after cafes in Asia, opened in Oakland, Calif., in 2014 (profile of alumna Sana Hamelin, owner of the Denver Cat Company, page 14).

The telescope in DU’s Chamberlin Observatory is from 1894, and the observatory itself is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Parting Shot, page 42).

**Often considered America’s first bestseller, Mary Rowlandson’s “The Soveraignty [sic] and Goodness of God,” first published in 1682, describes Rowlandson’s 11-week captivity at the hands of a Native raiding party during the three-year conflict known as King Philip’s War (story on DU’s growing collection of early American and Western frontier captivity narratives, page 16).**

**More than 18,000 applicants vied to be selected for NASA’s 2017 astronaut candidate program (profile of alumnus Robb Kulin, one of 12 people to make the cut, page 12).**

**Among their many contributions to campus, donors Ralph and Trish Nagel helped to create the Innovation Lab in the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and the C-Cubed studios of the Emergent Digital Practices program at the Shwayder Art Building (story on the Nagels and their support for Denver lawyer Edgar Barraza, page 28).**
Peter Laz, a professor in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, works with high school campers from the DU Summer Engineering Day Camp on July 11. The camp brought 25 high school students from across Colorado and out of state to campus for five days to study engineering topics in classes led by DU faculty members and undergraduate and graduate students.
LEADERSHIP
Board welcomes four new members

Four new members were elected to the Board of Trustees on July 1. They are:

Deborah DeHaas, a DU parent who currently serves as vice chair of Deloitte LLP in Chicago

Mark Falcone, founder of Denver-based real estate development and investment firm Continuum Partners

Gregory Moore, former editor in chief of the Denver Post

Raymond Robinson (BSBA ’70, MBA ’71), chairman of Citizens Trust Bank and corporate director for American Airlines

IMPACT
DU institute joins effort to address key issues facing Colorado

DU’s Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise will help solve some of Colorado’s most pressing problems as part of the Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab (CEAL), a government-research partnership that launched in June. The lab will call on DU researchers to conduct long-term studies of public policies, as well as real-time data analysis.

Housed at the Barton Institute and funded by a $4.5 million grant from the Houston-based Laura and John Arnold Foundation, CEAL will work with the governor’s office and other state officials to evaluate public policies, design improvements to existing programs, and pilot new interventions intended to benefit Colorado residents.

SPORTS
Bradley-Doppes to retire in 2018

Peg Bradley-Doppes, who has served as DU’s vice chancellor for athletics, recreation and Ritchie Center operations since 2006, announced this summer that she plans to retire June 30, 2018. She will continue in her role until then, but will shift her focus to high-end fundraising, coaching endowments and raising money for capital projects.

Alumnus and longtime DU administrator Ron Grahame (BA ’73) is the University’s new day-to-day athletic director. DU will begin a search for a new vice chancellor this fall to replace Bradley-Doppes following her retirement.

Four trustees are leaving the board: Joseph Saunders (BSBA ’67, MBA ’68), Clara Villarosa, Joy Burns and Scott Reiman (BSBA ’87). Burns and Reiman were elected honorary life trustees in recognition of their contributions to the University.

Denise O’Leary succeeds Doug Scrivner as board chair.
When the 1,400-plus members of DU’s Class of 2021 arrived on campus in early September, they shared at least one thing in common: J.D. Vance’s “Hillbilly Elegy.”

The bestselling memoir, which chronicles what the author calls “a family and culture in crisis,” is the 2017–18 selection for One Book One DU, a common reading program that asks first-year students to explore a single text and examine the many ways it is viewed by others.

“This is a program for students to reflect on who they are and what they are about to do in this transition,” says Jennifer Karas, associate provost for academic programs. “[It’s about] how do you make new community? How do you become a member of an intellectual community?”

Now in its second year, One Book One DU sends incoming first-year students a book to read over the summer. They are also called on to respond to a prompt. For Vance’s account of his troubled upbringing in Appalachia, the prompt aimed to stoke empathy: “Think of a person whose story has left a deep impression on you. Tell their story.”

Responses—a written essay perhaps, or a performance piece or visual production—were routed to orientation leaders and faculty members teaching first-year seminars, where responses were used to enrich discussions.

“Hillbilly Elegy” offered fodder for explorations of everything from the culture of poverty to the opioid crisis and the economic devastation of rural and small-town America. To keep the conversation going, Karas plans to schedule a series of faculty panels touching on some of the book’s themes—perhaps an economist will examine the question of social mobility, while a sociologist will speak to culture and identity and a geographer will address the book’s environmental landscape.

With One Book One DU, the University joins a host of institutions that begin building community well before students move into residence halls. “So many institutions have a common reading program. It’s fun. It’s a way to engage people over the summer,” Karas explains, noting that each institution has its own take on the program. Some choose a book by a famous alum; others plunge students into the classics. Washington University, for example, asked the Class of 2021 to read Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein,” which turns 200 in 2018. Students at Texas State University, meanwhile, read Bryan Stevenson’s “Just Mercy,” a lawyer’s account of representing a client on death row.

DU’s twist on the program—with its coordinated prompt and months’ worth of programming—grows out of the DU IMPACT 2025 strategic plan, which calls for enhancing the holistic learning experience and building an inclusive community.

In a letter on the opening page of a special version of the book printed for DU, Chancellor Rebecca Chopp set the tone for the discussions to come. “As you read ‘Hillbilly Elegy,’” she wrote, “I hope you will begin to think about how your environments and experiences shaped you—and how you can learn from your colleagues’ backgrounds and experiences. … We will learn from each other. That’s the adventure of education.”
AWARDS
Law professors receive Fulbrights

César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández and Robin Walker Sterling, professors at the Sturm College of Law, have received Fulbright Awards for the 2017–18 academic year.

Hernández (above), an assistant professor, will begin his research in Slovenia in the spring of 2018, examining immigration imprisonment. “Specifically, I will be performing a comparative study of immigration imprisonment in Slovenia and the United States,” he explains. While the United States confines upward of half a million people annually due to migration-related violations, Slovenia has traditionally taken a different path. However, Slovenia has been impacted by large-scale migration in recent years and in response, Slovenian authorities have increasingly relied on confinement.

Sterling (right), an associate professor, will conduct her research at the University of Ghana School of Law in Legon, Ghana. She will examine how recent advancements in our understanding of adolescent brain development have affected the juvenile justice systems in Ghana and the United States. “I am keenly interested in how acknowledgments of the limitations of youth brain development are manifested both in legislative policies and in courtroom practice,” she says.

Sterling also will teach a course based on her research findings. “The course will aim to help law students understand the implications and limitations of these exciting findings; imagine ways to raise these findings in workaday juvenile proceedings like bail and sentencing arguments; and craft arguments and motions that inject these findings into the proceedings in a way that capitalizes on the juvenile system’s potential as a place for restorative and rehabilitative justice,” she says.

RESEARCH
New center examines American political system

DU’s Center on American Politics, which launched in July, is designed to facilitate scholarship on American politics from across disciplines around campus and to promote dialogue on current political issues. Discussions will include students, faculty, staff and the greater Denver community.

Director Seth Masket, chair of the political science department, will be joined during the center’s inaugural year by faculty affiliates Leanne ten Brinke, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, and Juan Carlos Lopez, assistant professor in the Department of Economics.

Over the coming academic year, Masket’s research will focus on interpreting the results of the 2016 election and their significance for future elections. Ten Brinke will investigate the relationship between social inequality and acceptance of Machiavellian leadership styles, while Lopez will focus on examining economic inequality and its impact on the availability of social services, with a particular emphasis on Rust Belt cities. The center also will host a variety of panels and events during upcoming election seasons.
A new crop of first-year students arrived on campus in September, and they are on track to be the most diverse group in DU’s history. Early numbers show:

just over

1,500

STUDENTS

make up the new first-year class

from

49

U.S. STATES

68%

come from states outside Colorado

19%

(first-generation students (16% last year)

23.9%

of the new class are domestic students of color

from

36

COUNTRIES

compared to 18 last year

the class includes

7 BOETTCHER SCHOLARS

+ 17 DANIELS FUND SCHOLARS
“Star Trek” had Kirk, Picard and Spock. Now NASA has Robb Kulin (BS ’04), a University of Denver alumnus who is one of 12 out of more than 18,000 applicants to be selected for the 2017 astronaut candidate program.

While his future missions may include seeking out new life and new civilizations, for now, Kulin will remain grounded as he completes two years of training in Houston.

During that time, he’ll travel to various centers across the U.S. and around the world to prepare for the challenges ahead and to become familiar with international partners. Kulin will undergo survival and medical training, spacewalk training, jet training and more.

Kulin’s career path to becoming an astronaut didn’t stem from a childhood love for sci-fi shows, comic books or backyard science experiments. Rather, it came from his longtime interest in exploration, which was sparked further while he was studying mechanical engineering at DU’s Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science.

“I actually wasn’t interested in space as a child, but my eyes were opened up to the possibility of a career in space while doing a report on the loss of the space shuttle Columbia while I was at DU,” Kulin says. “I have always had a strong interest in exploration, and although [it was] an extremely awful event, it opened up my eyes to space as the next great frontier for exploration.”

Being an astronaut is difficult and takes special skills. But going through the application process is no walk in the park either—or on the moon, for that matter.

Initially, Kulin says, astronaut applicants submit a résumé and general application form. Thousands of these are then vetted by NASA astronauts and support staff. The pool is eventually narrowed to 120; that group is brought in for three days of basic medical reviews and interviews.

That done, the group is whittled to 50 finalists for an unknown number of positions. Those finalists come in for a week of intensive interviews, including medical, psychological and skill set evaluations.

“The interviews are an extremely rewarding process where you are fortunate enough to meet and stay with astronaut hopefuls being interviewed that week,” says Kulin, who also went through the process in 2013, when only 6,000 applicants were vying for the opportunity. “You tend to make friendships that can last for many years.”

Kulin believes mankind will experience a multiplanetary existence within this century, but he also stresses the importance of improving life on Earth. And since the first flight to space for recent candidate classes won’t happen for five to 10 years, he has plenty of time to contribute. In the meantime, Kulin says he’d be “psyched” to go wherever NASA sends him.

“I think it’s important for mankind to push boundaries and explore. Exploration is naturally coursing through our veins, and I think the two biggest physical frontiers at this point are deep-sea exploration and space exploration,” says Kulin, who spent nearly seven years at SpaceX before going to NASA. He worked as structural designer and analyst on the Falcon 9 v1.1 rocket, developed operations for upcoming space launch vehicles like the Falcon Heavy, and worked in the launch department helping to improve Falcon 9 processing operations at the launch site.

“Exploration also continually pushes humanity to learn, adapt and improve—and with our increased perspective on the fragility of planet Earth, it is important we start pushing beyond,” he continues. “I figured that even if I never fly in space, I would like to be part of making space exploration possible.”
Three years after launching the Denver Cat Company, Sana Hamelin (JD ’12) still has all nine of her “crazy cat lady” lives.

That’s no small feat. After all, opening the Mile High City’s first and only cat cafe—where customers can nab a java fix while hobnobbing with resident felines—was an exercise in entrepreneurial derring-do.

The idea for the venture was born of a sense that Hamelin, then working at a prominent law firm, needed to pursue her passion for helping animals. “How do you make a living loving cats? I never thought there was a way to work with animal rescue that wasn’t heartbreaking—until I heard about cat cafes,” Hamelin recalls. The first such undertaking in the U.S., modeled loosely after cafes in Taiwan and Japan, opened in Oakland, Calif., in October 2014. The Oakland location differed from its overseas counterparts by making its cats eligible for adoption, a feature that characterizes Hamelin’s establishment, which launched less than two months after its California cousin.

Since then, cat cafes have caught on all over the country. They offer folks in need of a feline fix a chance to unwind with a sedentary, lap-loving senior or to play pounce with a manic kitten. Some cafes—including Hamelin’s—even offer cat-centric yoga sessions and art classes, where the stars of the show may or may not sit still for a still life.

But most important, by partnering with rescue organizations, cat cafes have placed thousands of bewhiskered quadrupeds in “furever” homes. As of summer 2017, the Denver Cat Company had catalyzed the adoption of more than 350 animals, all chipped, vaccinated and spayed or neutered. (One charmer, Otto, trekked home with Hamelin herself.)

“Cats that are sitting in the shelter for a year are getting adopted here within two weeks,” Hamelin says, attributing this success to the allure of the cat cafe concept. “I think it caught Americans’ imaginations on fire. [Denver Cat Company] was kind of on the cutting edge of a trend.”

Cobbling together her hybrid enterprise—a for-profit company with a philanthropic purpose—was made easier by her law education, Hamelin says. All those hours of Socratic thinking taught her that “you can figure this out. If it is figureout-able, you can do it.” And it was a lot to figure out. Take the zoning code, written, as Hamelin explains, “to conform to businesses that already exist.” What’s more, building owners and leasing agents were wary of working with an enterprise that defied categorization—neither traditional coffee shop, pet store nor animal shelter. She finally found a landlord willing to give her space on trendy Tennyson Street in northwest Denver.

City officials, meanwhile, greeted her proposal with incredulity. A cat what? They didn’t know how to regulate a beverage-dispensing business that shared square footage with a critter who might cough up a hairball at any minute. Should her business adhere to regulations governing a coffee shop or an animal shelter? Fortunately, Hamelin explains, the city was willing to collaborate, working through the health and safety challenges one by one.

A native of Pakistan, Hamelin credits her law degree with giving her a reputable credential that made the business community and officialdom take notice. “I realized that nobody took me seriously until I mentioned I was a lawyer. [Otherwise], it was a harebrained idea from a brown girl,” she says.

Harebrained? Hamelin doesn’t entirely discount the notion. After all, she says, “I am a total crazy cat lady.”

By Tamara Chapman
A NARRATIVE
OF THE
CAPTIVITY, SUFFERINGS AND REMOVES
OF
Mrs. Mary Rowlandson,

Who was taken Prisoner by the INDIANS with several others,
and treated in the most barbarous and cruel Manner by those
vile Savages: With many other remarkable Events during her
Travels.

Written by her own Hand, for her private Use, and now made
public at the earnest Desire of some Friends, and for the Be-

BOSTON:

Printed and Sold at John Boylston’s Printing-Office, next Door
to the Three Daws in Marlborough-Street. 1772.
Whether he’s teaching a survey of American postmodernism, a course on Southern Gothic fiction or a seminar on Native American literature, Billy J. Stratton, an associate professor of English, encourages students to get face-to-face with the text. Not a digitized epub or PDF, but a typeset book nestled between two covers.

“I stress the importance of the physical book,” he says. That’s because the physical book has stories of its own to tell.

With those revelations in mind, Stratton has been working with DU’s University Libraries to acquire a collection of early American and Western frontier captivity narratives. Many of these accounts, typically crafted by settlers captured in battle by Native peoples, were popular on both sides of the Atlantic. They were read not just for their what-happened-next allure, but for their depictions of a culture deemed savage and alien.

“These are extremely important books in American literary history,” Stratton says, adding that they have done much to shape the public’s image of Native peoples to this day.

Now several narratives strong, the DU collection kicked off with what Stratton considers a bibliophile’s coup: the purchase of a choice 1773 edition of what has been considered America’s first bestseller: Mary Rowlandson’s “The Soveraignty [sic] and Goodness of God,” first published in 1682. The wife of a Puritan minister, Rowlandson described her 11-week captivity at the hands of a Native raiding party during the three-year conflict known as King Philip’s War. Notably, her tale does not chronicle any abuse at the hands of her captors, but it does detail her revulsion for their way of life.

The edition now in DU’s special collections is especially significant, Stratton says, because it offers evidence of how the publication was modified over time to reflect the age’s political imperatives. “It’s unique and important because it has this woodcut on the title page that depicts Rowlandson holding a gun,” Stratton explains. “Originally [in the earliest editions], she was cast as a frail flower, a woman who needed the protection of men.” In later editions, it was important to show Rowlandson’s resistance—not just to increase the heroism of her tale, but possibly to highlight the aggression of the foe.

Stratton’s fascination with the Rowlandson narrative is explored in his 2013 book “Buried in Shades of Night: Contested Voices, Indian Captivity, and the Legacy of King Philip’s War.” It breaks new ground in captivity narrative scholarship, arguing that the account, in accordance with Puritan ideology, reduced relationships between Natives and colonists to a good vs. evil dichotomy, pitting God’s chosen people against “animalistic creatures and demonic savages.” That binary portrayal, Stratton maintains, served a political end, helping the colonists justify subsequent military aggression and wholesale land grabs.

More controversially, Stratton, who earned his PhD in American Indian studies, suggests that Rowlandson may have been “doubly captive,” subjugated not just by Natives but also by the Puritan hierarchy. He makes the case that Increase Mather—known for his preeminent role in early New England history—exercised outsized influence on the manuscript. In fact, Stratton suggests, pointing to the narrative’s prose style and other social factors, Mather may even have written it.

This is the kind of detective work that an encounter with an actual book can yield. So when his students take up Rowlandson’s tale—or any captivity narrative, for that matter—Stratton hopes they will do more than skim the story’s surface. He hopes they ask probing questions about context, editorial intervention and what he calls the “ensconced privilege of the narrator’s position.”

In other words, he says, whose voices and stories are missing?
SPORTS
Undefeated since 1961

The Pioneers football team battles Air Force at the DU football stadium in this archival photo from the late 1950s. The University is celebrating 150 years of DU athletics in 2017-18, dating back to the school’s first athletics event—a baseball game against the Arapahoe Baseball Club—on Oct. 27, 1867. DU—then known as Colorado Seminary—lost. Visit denverpioneers.com and keep an eye on facebook.com/DenverPioneers for more glimpses into DU’s athletic past.

photo: DU Archives
Good
Inside DU research that is supporting families, helping seniors and creating a safer world

From engineering to psychology, biology to social work, mathematics to law, University of Denver faculty members bring in millions of dollars each year to conduct research on behalf of federal, state and local governments, as well as corporations and foundations. The money is a boon not just to faculty members, but to the undergraduate and graduate students who play a vital part in the research process.

And while DU is engaged in a wide swath of research endeavors, the University has, in recent years, become known locally, nationally and internationally for its work in three key areas:

- Family health, encompassing projects in the Graduate School of Social Work, Graduate School of Professional Psychology, Morgridge College of Education and elsewhere
- Peace and stability, spurred primarily by a number of projects under way in the Josef Korbel School of International Studies
- Aging, an area to which DU made a significant commitment in 2015 when it launched the multidisciplinary Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging

The following pages offer a glimpse into the world-changing research happening throughout campus.
A homeless, pregnant woman. A child in an abusive home. A packed classroom of anxious preschoolers. A mental health clinic with undertrained staff. DU psychology, social work and early education faculty across campus are conducting research around a variety of issues to assuage and ideally avoid these scenarios. Their systemic and inclusive approach enables and empowers people on the ground—parents, teachers, schools, mental health practitioners and others—to put into practice proactive measures that help people help themselves.

Learning Trajectories in Early Mathematics

**RESEARCHERS:** Doug Clements, Julie Sarama, Candace Joswick and Crystal Day-Hess, all of the Marsico Institute for Early Learning and Literacy in the Morgridge College of Education

**THE CHALLENGE:** Learning trajectories (LTs), the tools that guide how schools across the country plan and assess teaching math, are the basis for the nationwide Common Core mathematics exams. LTs are getting heightened attention from policy makers and curriculum developers because no research has directly evaluated the programs’ contributions to improving student achievement in early mathematics.

**THE STUDY:** Marsico Institute faculty will perform a series of randomized clinical trials to test different aspects of LTs. Graduate students will work alongside faculty members to catalog children’s reactions to the LTs, such as feelings of motivation, shame or frustration. The four-year project is funded by $3.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences.

**THE HOPE:** The experiments will determine whether LTs are better than other approaches in supporting young children’s learning outcomes so that math educators across America can best teach kids.
Reducing Fetal Exposure to Maternal Depression

**RESEARCHERS:** Elysia Poggi Davis and Pilyoung Kim of the Stress, Early Experiences and Development (SEED) Research Center in the Department of Psychology

**THE CHALLENGE:** More than 25 percent of Americans will experience a mood or anxiety disorder in their lifetimes. A mother’s history of depression and her postpartum depressive symptoms are well-known risk factors for her child’s probability of developing anxiety and depression. Emerging evidence suggests that a woman’s severe depression during pregnancy may have even bigger psychopathological and biological consequences for her unborn baby.

**THE STUDY:** The project will identify how women successfully cope with depression while they are pregnant. With $3.4 million in funding from the National Institute of Mental Health, SEED Center researchers will examine a child’s full life cycle to learn how stress becomes biologically embedded.

**THE HOPE:** Results will arm in-the-field practitioners with new methods to help families combat—or, better still, avoid entirely—the effects of high-stress scenarios. Researchers hope to identify coping techniques that can be replicated across the globe with pregnant women struggling with extreme depression, including those who are in families struggling with famine, abuse or homelessness.

The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute

**RESEARCHERS:** Carole Wilcox and Robin Leake of the Erna and Brad Butler Institute for Families in the Graduate School of Social Work

**THE CHALLENGE:** The child welfare workforce in America provides services and support to keep vulnerable children, youth and families safe, stable and healthy. But child welfare work isn’t easy. Turnover is high. Caseworkers contend with limited resources and huge caseloads as they make life-and-death decisions affecting children and families.

**THE STUDY:** Funded by $3.56 million from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services’ Administration for Children & Families, the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute project focuses on improving the professional success of America’s social workers. The five-year, DU-led project—a collaboration with five other universities—will assess how case workers are recruited, screened and selected. It also will examine how they are supervised; how they are evaluated; their job requirements, education requirements and workplace conditions; and their professional development and training opportunities.

**THE HOPE:** Improving the workforce will lead to more timely investigations and lengthier caseworker visits with children and families in need of services. Decreasing caseworker turnover and increasing their proficiency means families in the U.S. will have a better chance at stability.
When it comes to research on international peace and stability—the forces that promote, sustain or threaten global order—DU is a leader among universities worldwide. In areas ranging from human trafficking to social activism to U.S.-China relations, research conducted by DU faculty helps governments, businesses and nonprofit organizations not only understand the factors that lead to conflict, but work more effectively to prevent it. Here’s a look at three projects focused on peace and stability in conflict zones around the world.

**African Futures Project**

**Researchers:** Jonathan Moyer, director of DU’s Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures, and Barry Hughes, the Pardee Center’s founder and senior scientist, along with Hanna Camp (MA ’13), Zach Donnenfeld (MA ’15), Steve Hedden (MA ’15), Alex Porter (MA ’14) and Mickey Rafa (MA ’14)

**The Challenge:** Africa is home to some of the fastest-growing economies in the world. At the same time, rates of diseases like HIV/AIDS are falling, and the number of children enrolled in school is rising. Many forces threaten to derail these positive trends, from climate change to high unemployment.

**The Study:** The African Futures Project relies on the International Futures Model, a scenario-planning tool Hughes developed in the 1970s. It incorporates data from thousands of sources across the globe to produce forecasts for 186 countries to the year 2100. African Futures analyzes how today’s political decisions could affect Africa’s future in such areas as population growth, access to fresh water, disease prevention, infrastructure and agriculture.

**The Hope:** Moyer’s goal is to build capacity within African institutions to do long-term planning, analysis and forecasting. “With a broader perspective that considers longer time horizons,” he says, “we’ll be able to make policy decisions today that have more positive future impacts.”
Inclusive Approaches to Violence Reduction, Peacebuilding, and Governance

**RESEARCHERS:** Deborah Avant, Marie Berry, Erica Chenoweth, Cullen Hendrix and Oliver Kaplan of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, and Tricia Olsen of DU’s Daniels College of Business, all affiliated faculty of the Korbel School’s Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy

**THE CHALLENGE:** When women and elderly people are excluded from protest movements, it may signal impending violent clashes with law enforcement. When negotiations between extractive industries and communities exclude affected populations, it may undermine the potential for lasting agreements. Clearly inclusivity matters, yet exactly how it matters is poorly understood.

**THE STUDY:** With a $1 million grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, researchers will share knowledge about and explore the links between inclusionary policies and decreases in violence. One team will use photos of protests from around the world to identify the percentage of women present and explore gender diversity as a predictor of political violence. Another team will study how inclusiveness affects relations between extractive industries and locals in Peru. A third group will incorporate diversity metrics into existing data sets on conflicts around the world.

**THE HOPE:** Avant hopes the research will help activists build more effective, inclusive coalitions.

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Norms and Local Dynamics in Conflict-Affected Countries

**RESEARCHERS:** Timothy Sisk, Josef Korbel School of International Studies; and Astrid Suhrke (PhD ’69), senior researcher at the Chr. Michelsen Institute in Norway

**THE CHALLENGE:** Decades after countries overcome major internal conflicts, why does violence so often erupt anew, often along lines of ethnicity, race or class? And how do partners work to address the discrimination and social exclusion that drives recurring conflict while respecting local norms, customs and values in the countries where they work?

**THE STUDY:** Through case studies in postwar societies like Nepal, South Africa and El Salvador, Sisk, Suhrke and their partners are showing how ongoing discrimination against historically marginalized groups can fuel local conflicts long after national peace agreements have been negotiated. The project is funded by $1 million from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and Norway’s Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**THE HOPE:** Sisk and Suhrke believe their research can give international organizations like the U.N. new tools to help build lasting peace. “Our work shows that the focus needs to be shifted from national level dynamics to local-level dynamics,” Sisk says.
The senior population is expected to double globally by 2050, so it’s not surprising that demand for new technologies and services to help them age well is soaring. To brace for this “silver tsunami,” DU recently launched the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging (KIHA), a multidisciplinary center that brings together engineers, scientists, social workers, lawyers, business faculty, education specialists and others to conduct age-related research. Funded in large part by a $10 million donation from Denver philanthropist Betty Knoebel, the institute distributes $250,000 in seed money for four to six pilot projects each year.

Here’s a glimpse at a few of the projects now under way.

Improving Care for Parkinson’s Patients

**RESEARCHER:** Mohammad Mahoor, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering

**THE CHALLENGE:** Roughly 60,000 people are diagnosed annually with Parkinson’s disease. Deep brain stimulation (DBS)—in which electrodes are implanted into the brain and receive electrical impulses from a generator beneath the skin—can quell symptoms. But because the frequency and amplitude of these stimuli are usually fixed and only adjusted about once a year, DBS can have its own side effects, including speech, cognitive and balance problems.

**THE STUDY:** Mahoor is working on an algorithm that uses brain-activity measurements from electrodes embedded deep inside the brain to tell the signal generator what the patient is doing, allowing it to adjust in real time. He works with patients as they have their systems installed, measuring brain signals as he asks them to click a mouse or say a few words. He then identifies patterns associated with different activities.

**THE HOPE:** Within five years, Mahoor hopes to license the algorithm to a medical device company, which could incorporate it into existing DBS hardware. The end result: “The quality of life for patients could improve dramatically,” he says.
Exploring the Concussion-Alzheimer’s Link

**RESEARCHERS:** Lotta Granholm-Bentley and Aurelie Ledreux, Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging; Bradley Davidson, DU Center for Orthopaedic Biomechanics; Kim Gorgens, Graduate School of Professional Psychology; Daniel Linseman, Department of Biological Sciences; Martin Margittai, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

**THE CHALLENGE:** U.S. athletes sustain 300,000 sport-related traumatic brain injuries—predominantly concussions—each year. Research suggests these can boost risk of cognitive problems, depression and other mental issues later in life. Studies have shown that people who play contact sports and who have had multiple concussions may have elevated levels of blood biomarkers associated with neurological trauma. Many suspect that chronically elevated levels of such compounds precipitate Alzheimer’s disease. Yet researchers don’t know precisely what goes on in the brain after a concussion, or when it is safe to return to play.

**THE STUDY:** Researchers will study hundreds of DU athletes, gathering blood samples at the beginning of their first season and collecting samples and other measurements if and when they have a concussion and at different time points afterward.

**THE HOPE:** Scientists can use the data to develop an app to help coaches better determine whether an athlete has a concussion and when it’s safe for athletes to return to play. The research also will help scientists better understand how concussions contribute to Alzheimer’s disease.

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Building a Better Shoulder

**RESEARCHERS:** Kevin Shelburne, Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering; Bradley Davidson, DU Center for Orthopaedic Biomechanics and the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging

**THE CHALLENGE:** Shoulder injuries affect about 25 percent of senior women and 17 percent of senior men. These injuries can be painful and debilitating, and they frequently advance until replacement of the joint is recommended. But unlike knee and hip replacements, which have been remarkably successful, total shoulder replacements remain relatively rare.

“Being able to design a device and procedure that helps people retain their full range of motion is challenging, and many people are not satisfied with the results,” Shelburne says. “We want to know why.”

**THE STUDY:** Researchers plan to recruit senior patients who have had one of their shoulders replaced. Using motion capture and high-speed X-ray technology, they’ll measure joint and muscle movements on both shoulders as subjects perform various tasks. They will then compare the replaced side to the healthy side—and those who are satisfied with their surgery to those who aren’t.

**THE HOPE:** “We hope it will lead to information that helps companies better design implants and surgeries,” Shelburne says.
Longtime DU supporters Ralph and Trish Nagel help a Dreamer reach his dream
By Jon Stone
Ralph and Trish Nagel have long been known for their philanthropy at DU and throughout Denver. In March, they were recognized for their many contributions to the University with the Founders Medal—the University’s highest honor.

No one knows the power of the couple’s generosity more than Denver lawyer Edgar Barraza.

Barraza and his family migrated to the U.S. from Mexico when he was very young. When Barraza graduated from Denver’s West High School in 2006, he was ranked sixth in a class of more than 250 students. Even so, he faced a new set of challenges when it came time to start looking at colleges. Having participated as a freshman in DU’s Volunteers in Partnership program for high school students, he set his sights on becoming a Pioneer.

“One of the ingredients to being able to formulate your dreams and being able to follow your dreams is seeing yourself where you want to be in the future,” Barraza says. “I think the VIP program really gave me that opportunity to see myself at DU.”

Realizing that dream was a challenge, however, because Barraza was undocumented. He didn’t qualify for federal or state financial aid. Fortunately, he did qualify for the Nagel Scholarship, an annual full-ride scholarship for three international students who otherwise would not be able to afford a DU education.

“Although I was a finalist, I did not ultimately receive that scholarship through the formal process,” Barraza says. “I went back to my high school counselor’s office, and one idea we came up with was contacting Mr. Nagel himself. Mr. Nagel very quickly responded back and said, ‘Yes, we can meet,’ and after that he weighed the options and ultimately, I think, made a fair
determination in granting me that scholarship."

It was the first—but not the last—time the Nagels helped Barraza realize his dreams.

As an international studies and political science major, Barraza took advantage of the course offerings and programs at the Josef Korbel School of International Studies. All along he knew he wanted to use this background to pursue a law degree from DU’s Sturm College of Law. But once again, finding financial support was a problem. A family member in Mexico helped him fund the first year of law school by arranging a loan through a Mexican bank. For his second year, a private law firm in Denver awarded him a scholarship. For his final year, Barraza approached the Nagels for help, and they agreed to finance the rest of his law education.

He became the first undocumented student to be admitted to law school in Colorado. What’s more, he was the first formerly undocumented student—to graduate from law school and gain admission to the Colorado Bar.

“We are tremendously proud of all that Edgar has accomplished,” Ralph Nagel says. “His tenacity, persistence and dedication have certainly paid off, and we feel honored that we had the opportunity to be a part of his success.”

The international scholarship is one of many lasting effects of the Nagels’ financial support for DU. Their gifts also have made possible the Nagel Residence Hall; the Nagel Art Studios in the School of Art and Art History; the Innovation Lab in the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science; John Moye Hall, home of DU’s Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System; the C-Cubed studios of the Emergent Digital Practices program at the Shwayder Art Building; and the archival library at Hampden Center.

“We enjoy giving chances to deserving young people and to seeing them grow through their experiences,” Trish Nagel says. “Hearing from our scholars about their many successes gives us great pride and reinforces for us the impact we seek to make in our community and our world.”

Also honored at the Founders Gala in March was alumna and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (BA ’74, PhD ’81), who received DU’s International Achievement Medal for her impact on the world.

During her time on campus, Rice—now a professor of political economy at Stanford University’s Graduate School of Business—took the new Anna and John J. Sié International Relations Complex and spoke to a standing-room-only crowd of nearly 400 students, faculty, staff and friends.

Shortly after Rice’s visit to campus, the Korbel School announced a new faculty position created as a result of her recent donation. The Rice Family Endowed Professor of Practice provides practitioners from academia, government, business or nongovernment sectors the opportunity to teach at the Korbel School in a nontenured position.

“These practitioners will have achieved success in disciplines of significance to the Korbel School programs and will be eminently qualified to impart practical skills training, translating their real-life experiences to students in the classroom and mentoring many who may one day follow in their footsteps,” says Christopher Hill, dean of the Korbel School.

The first luminary to serve in the position was retired Army general and DU alumnus George Casey Jr. (MA ’80), who taught a graduate course on civil-military relations in spring quarter 2017. Casey previously served as chief of staff of the Army and as leader of the multinational force in Iraq.
This May, a new tradition was born at DU. Welcoming new graduates and old friends, highlighting DU’s academic, community and industry impact, and honoring alumni achievement through the capstone Alumni Awards, DU Alumni Weekend is the pinnacle celebration of our Pioneer spirit.

Join us again in Spring 2018.
Students experiment in an organic chemistry class in this photo from the 1961 Kynewisebok. Do you recognize anyone in this photo or have your own classroom memories to share? Let us know at du-magazine@du.edu
John Manesis (BA ’58) of Fargo, N.D., is the author of “His Good Stuff,” a collection of poems about baseball.


Edward Porges (BSBA ’65) of Seattle was awarded a doctorate in education from the University of Washington. His research dissertation is titled “Socio-Political Motivation of Travel as Experiential Education in the 18th, 19th and 20th Centuries: The Grand Tour, World’s Fairs and Birthright Israel.” Edward plans to continue researching and publishing in the area of travel and tourism.

Patricia Canseco Bruce (BFA ’74) of Pasadena, Calif., is a professional artist who was juried into the Sonoma Plein Air Art Festival in September.

Mike Greece (MA ’73) is a co-author of “Super Charge Your Brand: The Amazing Power of Books As Marketing Tools,” a guide to creating and publishing business books to enhance professional, organizational and personal success.

Sandra Arkin (MA ’73, EdD ’85) of Denver recently attended her 62nd high school reunion in Tacoma, Wash. The reunion was held at the Tacoma Yacht Club on Puget Sound. Wish of a Lifetime, a Denver-based organization primarily for seniors, sponsored Sandra’s travel from Denver so that she could see her classmates once more.

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She plans to explore avenues of scholarly publishing in Ethiopia that ensure that faculty are provided an opportunity to share their knowledge, perspectives and values and that students and colleagues have unfettered access to their collective scholarship.

Janet is dean of the Regis University Dayton Memorial Library and co-edits the Jesuit Education Journal at Regis.

Ken Reed (BSBA ’81) is sports policy director for League of Fans, a sports reform project founded by Ralph Nader to fight for the higher principles of justice, fair play, equal opportunity and civil rights in sports. Ken’s latest book is “Ego vs. Soul in Sports: Essays on Sport At Its Best and Worst.”

Michael Hightower (MA ’82) is an independent historian and biographer whose published works include a novel, two corporate histories and two books on the history of banking in Oklahoma. Michael’s current projects include “1889: The Early History of Central Oklahoma,” scheduled for publication by University of Oklahoma Press in 2018, and a biography of one of America’s most prominent explorationists. Michael lives with his wife, Judy, in Charlottesville, Va., and in Oklahoma City.

Jason Kearns (BA ’93) in June was nominated by President Trump as a commissioner of the United States International Trade Commission for the remainder of a nine-year term. Jason previously served as chief international trade counsel to the Committee on Ways and Means in the House of Representatives. Jason and his wife, Lindy Arnof Kearns, have three children.
Twenty years ago, a 12-year-old boy and his family arrived in Denver from Eritrea, full of excitement and uncertainty. Yoal Ghebremeskel (BA ‘07) recalls asking his mother why his family had to leave their home and come to this mysterious place called America. “For education, opportunity and to have a better life,” she answered.

Today, Ghebremeskel is creating a better life for boys and young men, primarily refugees and immigrants, in his new hometown of Denver.

“I have always been passionate to give back,” Ghebremeskel says. “So much has been given to me throughout my life, and I wanted to be involved in my community since my last year at DU.”

With a degree in international studies, Ghebremeskel initially wanted to work around the globe. But he soon realized he could make a difference in Denver. Four years ago, he founded Street Fraternity, a small space tucked away in a basement off East Colfax Avenue near the border of Denver and Aurora.

“Here we are very diverse,” he says. “Many different backgrounds are participants at Street Fraternity. The majority are former refugee young men that resettled here.”

About 50 boys and young men come through the doors at Street Fraternity every evening, Monday through Thursday. For many, the pathway of education is not working out. Some have dropped out or are on the verge of dropping out. Street Fraternity also provides drug and alcohol counseling and support for mental health issues. The work is done by a small number of paid staff members and volunteers.

Ghebremeskel says building relationships with these young adults not only provides a sense of belonging for them, but also cuts down on neighborhood violence and conflict.

“My one suggestion to young men of immigrant and refugee background would be keep dreaming, keep having aspirations and work on them,” he says, “and the right doors will open up for you to get you there.”

—Tamara Banks

Watch a video about Street Fraternity at news.du.edu
1995
Jamie Shulman (BSBA ’95) of Lake Oswego, Ore., is president and CEO of Northwest Bank. Jamie, who has 22 years of banking experience, previously served as Northwest Bank’s chief operating officer. Prior to that, he was president of Northwest’s Oregon division.

1996
Ronald Beaulieu (MSS ’96) of Las Vegas in March was inducted into the Francis Crowe Society, which recognizes those who have made considerable contributions to the engineering profession. Ronald has 40 years of experience on four continents in engineering, emergency preparedness and regulatory compliance. He also is the founder and CEO of the National Freshwater Foundation, a nonprofit that aims to construct the National Smart Water Grid, which will capture floodwater from the Mississippi River and transport fresh water through pipelines to the western states.

1999
Erik Mitisek (BS ’99) in August left his post as the first executive director of DU’s Project X-ITE to join Denver entrepreneur and community leader Rob Cohen as president of IMAge Analytics at IMA Financial. Eric also is a co-founder of the annual Denver Startup Week.

2000
Kim Manajek (MA ’00) is the new director of the Longmont Museum and Cultural Center in Longmont, Colo. Kim previously was associate director of exhibitions, art and interpretation for Denver Botanic Gardens.

2002
Shae (Olson) Johns (MSW ’02) is on the Goodwill Industries International board of directors and is a member of the organization’s Conference of Executives Executive Council, representing the Goodwill membership at the national level. Shae joined Goodwill in 2011 and has served as president and CEO of Southern Oregon Goodwill since November 2014.

2003
Gregory Shoss (BSEE ’03) of Littleton, Colo., is a newly appointed electrical engineer in the Denver office of S-E-A, a worldwide leader in forensic analysis, investigation and product testing. Prior to joining S-E-A, Gregory worked as a product manager, application engineer, senior power systems engineer and field service engineer for Eaton Corp.’s Electrical Group in Moon Township, Pa.

2004
Brooke Daunhauer (MSW ’04) has been named the first director of re-entry for the city of Indianapolis’ Office of Health and Public Safety. Brooke will work to connect those re-entering the community following incarceration with service providers and will promote public-private partnerships to fill gaps in services to foster successful reintegration within the community.

2005
Ashley Buderus (BSBA ’05) is CEO of Quarterly Forum, a Denver leadership organization that fosters participation in government and public policy. Formerly a director with the
Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation, Ashley also has worked at the El Pomar Foundation and the University of Denver.

**Jason Dorfman** (BSBA ’05) has been appointed general manager of the Jacquard, a new Autograph Collection hotel slated to open in early 2018 in Denver’s Cherry Creek North neighborhood. Jason most recently served as general manager of the DoubleTree by Hilton San Francisco Airport North, where he was awarded Stonebridge Companies’ highest honor, the President’s Award for General Manager of the Year.

**Kevin Friduss** (BA ’05) is promotions manager for the Chicago Cubs Radio Network and Bears Radio Network in Chicago. Kevin and his wife welcomed their first baby, daughter Lucy Charlotte, on May 9.

**2008**

**Paul Carlsen** (MPP ’08) is president of Lakeshore Technical College in Cleveland, Wisc. Paul previously was chief content officer for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

**Marika Pappas Christopher** (BSBA, IMBA ’08) of Chicago and her husband, Dean, welcomed their first child, Evangelia Philippa, in March 2017. Marika is a vice president of Liquidity Solutions at Goldman Sachs & Co.

**CYNTHIA KUHN** (PhD ’01) of Denver is an author whose debut academic mystery, “The Semester of Our Discontent” (Henery Press, 2016), won an Agatha Award for best first novel. The second book in the series, “The Art of Vanishing,” was published in February 2017. Cynthia is an English professor at Metropolitan State University of Denver and president of Sisters in Crime—Colorado.
Amanda Mountain (MPS ’15) has been busy the last two years. Not only did she become a first-time mom, but she has risen to the top of Denver’s nonprofit media world as president and CEO of Rocky Mountain Public Media, the parent company of Rocky Mountain PBS.

If anyone knows how to balance education, work and family, it’s Mountain. She served in leadership at PBS while enrolled at DU, and during her second year at the University, she relocated from Colorado Springs to Denver to take on an increased role as chief membership and marketing officer. In March, she took over as president and CEO, a role that has her overseeing day-to-day operations and leading a capital campaign to build a public media center in downtown Denver.

“To serve in the highest leadership role of any organization is a privilege. To do so at an organization like Rocky Mountain PBS is truly extraordinary,” Mountain says. “We are one of the most trusted brands in the state, and our nearly 80,000 members count on us to help better prepare the children in their lives for school and beyond. [PBS] also provides a window into the world that frequently leads to a better understanding of ourselves and our relationship with others.”

Mountain says studying organizational leadership at DU’s University College helped prepare her for her newest challenge. From building on her strengths in collaboration and negotiation to expanding her leadership abilities, Mountain says she received the tools she needed to succeed.

“My time at DU was central to my career advancement. I learned from others in my program how to seek out and integrate diverse perspectives into my leadership style,” she says. “I added new tools to my professional toolbox that expanded my business vocabulary and problem-solving skills to more effectively take on the challenges of a complex, shifting media environment. To be successful in any career, you must be able to build upon the ideas of others or to sacrifice your ideas for the greater good.”

—Jeremy Jones
2009

Aly Jabrocki (MLIS ’09) in May was named state archivist for Colorado. In this role, Aly is responsible for preserving and maintaining records from more than 4,000 depositors, including state agencies, counties, municipalities, special districts and all three branches of government. She also ensures access of these records to the general public. Her duties also include serving as chair of the Colorado Historical Records Advisory Board.

2011

Katrina Leona Marzetta (MA ’11) earned her PhD in science education from the University of Colorado Denver in July 2016. Her dissertation was titled “Changing the Climate of Beliefs: A Conceptual Model of Learning Design Elements to Promote Climate Change Literacy.” She is currently an evaluation specialist for CU Denver. Katrina and her husband, Jesse, have a 5-year-old daughter, Avalyn Leona.

2012

Eric Berkley (BSBA ’12) of Beverly Hills, Calif., teamed with his father to start the company Berkley, which specializes in designing and manufacturing retail displays and packaging in a wide range of industries. Berkley was ranked the fastest-growing company in Los Angeles in 2016 by Los Angeles Business Journal.

2014

George Arvidson (BM ’14) was cast in a summer production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber’s musical “Evita” on London’s West End. The show ran for 12 weeks at the city’s Phoenix Theatre. George has performed throughout the United Kingdom and Europe since earning his master of arts from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

2016

Naomi Forman (BA ’16) of Denver founded Rudder and Fern, an online marketplace for vegan, cruelty-free products—ranging from pieces of art to fashion to food—that promote mindful living and consideration for individuals, society and the environment.

FOCUSED ON THE VISION

Your annual donation supports tomorrow’s leaders. Through the collective power of philanthropy we advance the vision of the University, support our students, impact our communities, and enhance the public good.
In Memoriam

1940s
Elliot Martin (attd. 1944–46), New York, 5-21-17

1950s
George “Stan” Gray (BS ’52), Brush, Colo., 2-7-17
William Bach (BA ’57), North Bethesda, Md., 6-26-17
Ariene Dawson (CWC ’57), Estes Park, Colo., 5-16-17
Elaine Silburn (BSED ’57), Charlottesville, Va., 4-25-17

1960s
James Whitaker (JD ’61), North Platte, Neb., 6-7-17
Nathaniel Goldston (BS ’62), Atlanta, 7-4-17

1970s
Robert (Bob) Burgess Jr. (attd. 1973–74), Fallbrook, Calif., 5-8-17

1980s
Anthony Carter (JD ’87), Staten Island, N.Y., 5-20-17

Faculty & Staff
Wayne Littrell (BA ’65), former director of security and services, 6-20-17

Karen Lyn Burgess (BA ’67), Fort Worth, Texas, 3-23-17
Janet (Andrews) Patterson (BM ’69) Celina, Ohio, 5-10-17

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Federico “Fred” Cheever, a professor in DU’s Sturm College of Law, died of a heart attack June 10 while on a rafting trip with his family on the Green River in northwestern Colorado.

A nationally recognized expert in environmental law and wildlife law and co-director of the law school’s nationally ranked program in environmental and natural resources law, Cheever joined the University of Denver faculty in 1993. He earned his BA and MA from Stanford University and his JD from the UCLA School of Law. After graduating from law school, Cheever clerked for Harry Pregerson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He moved to Denver in 1987, first working for the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund (now Earthjustice) and later for Faegre & Benson LLP.

As the Sturm College’s associate dean for academic affairs from 2009–13, Cheever played a vital role in implementing the school’s strategic plan and in developing its experiential learning initiative. He also co-founded the University’s Sustainability Council, which promotes campus energy efficiency, environmentally sound transportation and other methods to incorporate sustainability into all aspects of University operations. In the broader community, Cheever served on many nonprofit boards, including the ABA Standing Committee on Environmental Law, the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute and Transportation Solutions. He represented environmental groups in cases under the Endangered Species Act, the National Forest Management Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Wilderness Act, among other laws.

Son of the late novelist and short story writer John Cheever, Fred Cheever co-wrote with his older brother, Benjamin Cheever, an essay for “Brothers: 26 Stories of Love and Rivalry,” a 2010 collection of essays and short fiction about male siblings.
REACH AN AUDIENCE OF 115,000

The University of Denver Magazine is now accepting advertising from businesses outside the University. Are you interested in reaching an audience of more than 115,000 fellow Pioneers?

For rates and more information, email advertising@du.edu
Star treatment

Denver astronomy buffs pay a visit to DU’s Chamberlin Observatory on one of its public nights in late June. Located a few blocks east of campus in Observatory Park, the building features an 1894 Alvan Clark-Saegmuller 20-inch refracting telescope and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was renovated inside and out during 2008 with support from History Colorado, the Observatory Park community and the Denver Astronomical Society. The Denver Astronomical Society hosts weekly and monthly events at the observatory, including a viewing of the Aug. 21 solar eclipse.

Photo by Wayne Armstrong
“Spirited: Stories of Wellbeing,” a show on display over the summer at the Museum of Anthropology in Sturm Hall, made use of ethnographic masks from the museum’s collection to engage individuals with Alzheimer’s. The show was coordinated by graduate anthropology student Lindsey Miller, who brought a group from the Alzheimer’s Association of Colorado into the gallery to view the masks and create their own artwork in response. The final exhibit showcased the masks alongside works by individuals with Alzheimer’s and their care partners.