WHO GETS TO THRIVE?

Issues of sustainability and diversity go hand in hand. Faculty and students are working on solutions.

Plus / A look back at 150 years of DU athletics / Celebrating Dan Ritchie and Joy Burns
Football was discontinued in 1961, but that was hardly the end of DU athletics. Check out our timeline of 150 years of Pioneer sports on page 34.
WHO GETS TO THRIVE?
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By Greg Glasgow

TRUE PIONEERS
Celebrating Dan Ritchie and Joy Burns.
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A PIONEER LEGACY
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Outgoing Provost Gregg Kvistad looks back on more than 30 years at DU

COMING IN THE SUMMER ISSUE
FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Our commitment to the planet

By Chancellor Rebecca Chopp

I grew up in rural Kansas, surrounded by farmland and farmers. Every day, I bore witness to our planet’s astounding ability to sustain us. When I rode on the tractor next to my grandfather, he would instill in me the need to respect and honor the earth.

Later, in college, I took a class called Can Man Care for Earth? taught by agriculture environmentalist Wes Jackson. Around that time, multinational agri-businesses had started buying up local farms. Jackson’s class posed challenging questions—questions that directly affected the community in which I was raised and others like it. That class showed me how sustainability, environmentalism and conservation are linked to issues of justice, health and responsibility.

Over the last decade, countless students from across the globe have risen to the challenge and shown unwavering commitment to sustainability. They know the future of our planet rests on their shoulders, and their energy and devotion are nothing short of inspirational.

At the University of Denver, students and faculty have come together across disciplines—from engineering to geography and art—to engage in research and teaching around sustainability. They work to create smarter, cleaner cities and campuses where we use less, reduce waste and help safeguard the health of our planet for future generations.

In our comprehensive strategic plan, DU IMPACT 2025, sustainability and inclusion are common threads woven through every program, every unit and every goal because we believe sustainable living is better living.

In the last decade, we have reduced DU’s carbon footprint by more than 30 percent. We are working alongside Colorado State University to establish partnerships that will help both of our campuses procure 100 percent of our electricity from renewable sources—contributing meaningfully to a healthier planet and potentially creating significant future cost savings.

We have also partnered with the city of Denver for a mobility study to improve light rail, shore up bike-friendly infrastructure and explore other eco-friendly transport options. These efforts can reduce traffic, promote wellness, provide savings to commuters and potentially free up space on campus through reduced need for parking. The benefits of sustainable practices are compounded, again and again.

I have a beautiful view of campus from my office window. Just beyond DU’s buildings, looming large, are the Rocky Mountains—a sight I never tire of, and one that seems, somehow, new each day. For me, this image is a daily reminder that we are never independent from our environment, and its health and longevity are our own.

At the University of Denver, we are laying the foundation for a future in which we can all prosper and thrive. In our mission to serve generation after generation, sustainability—financial, structural and environmental—is essential. And every year, our students, staff and faculty tackle complex sustainability issues with undefeatable focus. Witnessing this work gives me great hope for our future.
Letters

First-gen dynamics
As an alum of both the University of Arizona (double major in the colleges of agriculture and education) and DU (Daniels College of Business), I especially enjoyed the Q&A with Judy Marquez Kiyama in the winter 2018 issue.

I suspect that I, along with many DU alums, knew early on that we would go to college and started preparing for it very early. However, the first-generation college students didn’t have that advantage, even though they had high GPAs and SATs. The programs that DU and U of A provide to these “first” students help ensure success. I think that this is so critical, as it is not just who we accept, but who we graduate. These programs help ensure that these exceptional students without the “traditional” background excel and graduate.

Congratulations to you for sharing what DU, through Judy Marquez Kiyama, is doing.
Pamela Turbeville (MBA ’83)
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Streetcar memories
Regarding “An online journey through Denver’s streetcar days” in the winter 2018 issue: As a younger growing up in South Denver, I would ride the streetcar from East Evans and Steele all the way to the Republic Building on 17th Street in downtown Denver and back for dental and eye appointments. Safety was not an issue in the late 1940s. I remember my father, uncle and aunt talking about DU as Tramway Tech and CSU as “Barnyard” Tech when they were students in the 1920s. My uncle was a conductor on the South Broadway line when he was a student.

Paul Duncan, MD
Albuquerque, N.M.

A matter of perspective
I was fascinated by “Turning the tables on classroom dynamics,” Greg Glasgow’s article in the winter issue of the University of Denver Magazine in which he bemoaned the plight of underrepresented students having to read an assignment authored by “yet another dead white dude.” Has Greg considered the members of this group might include Ken Kesey, Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, F. Scott Fitzgerald, et al? Has he also considered the elimination of English literature from our culture to enhance the comfort levels of these students and somehow make them feel welcomed?

I am compelled to remind you, in your pursuit of whiteout at DU, that there are a lot of older white alumni who as yet don’t view their cultural pursuits as pejorative to anyone, and who will soon be joining all the aforementioned authors in death. Many will be leaving sizable estates behind that DU might possibly find otherwise attractive.

Tom Kirby (BA ’70)
Duluth, Ga.

A stunner
Any way viewed, the winter 2018 issue of the magazine is stunning. And as always, the publication informs, enlightens and inspires.

Stefan Kruszelnyczkyj (BS ’86)
Lakewood, Colo.

Wintertime fun
While I enjoy getting the magazine, it’s unusual that an article jogs my memory. [The winter 2018 issue] did—two jogs, in fact. I was a freshman in the business school in 1959 and a tuba player in the band, with a token tuition scholarship. Ronald Hensen’s letter about the football team’s demise reminded me of the last two years on the field. I preferred the field band more than the concert season, so when football was dropped, I left the band. And the photo of Winter Carnival on page 35 caused me to recall having been involved in the first one in 1961 or ’62. My buddy Frank Johnson and I even made a few appearances on the local afternoon TV talk shows to publicize the event. It was a fun time, although comparatively small in the beginning.

Joel Stanford (BSBA ’63)
Bonney Lake, Wash.

We heard from several readers about the 1978 Winter Carnival photo that ran in our winter 2018 issue. The group mind identified the skiers pictured as (L-R) Pam Wolfe, Greg Platt, Dwight Gibson, Scott Adams, Rob Faurot and Rob Von Hess. Thanks to Scott Adams (BSBA ’80), Mark Smith (BSBA ’79), Joanne Rose Layshock (BS ’81) and the other Pioneers who wrote in!
SHARE IT WITH YOUR FELLOW PIONEERS.
Post your favorite memories and pictures from recent Alumni Weekend 2018 events. Couldn’t make it to campus? Check out the hashtag on social media to get in on the action.

#DUAW18
CAMPUS update

Wayne Armstrong

Author and activist Cornel West came to the Newman Center for the Performing Arts on Jan. 11 for an onstage conversation with Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. Followed by a Q&A with audience members, the hourlong discussion covered a wide range of topics, from jazz and politics to racism and the role of higher education.

“Your voice is like your fingerprint: There’s only one like you,” said West, professor of the practice of public philosophy at Harvard University. “You have to have the courage to think critically, courage to love truth and goodness and beauty, courage to stand over and against the crowd.”
LEADERSHIP
Former RIT provost takes top academic position at DU

Jeremy Haefner, formerly of the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York, was hired as DU’s new provost and executive vice chancellor in January. He will take over for outgoing provost Gregg Kvistad on July 15.

As provost, Haefner will oversee all of DU’s academic units. He is tasked with making it easier for faculty members to pursue their research and teaching objectives, especially with respect to innovative, cross-disciplinary and cross-unit work.

Haefner has served as a leader in higher education for nearly three decades. At RIT, he served for the past 10 years as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Haefner developed and helped implement RIT’s academic direction to ensure the success and effectiveness of its academic colleges, graduate studies and institutes, as well as three global campuses (RIT Dubai, Croatia and Kosovo). Under his watch, RIT was reclassified as a doctoral research university and achieved a top 100 national university ranking.

Before RIT, he spent nearly two decades at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs. There, he held various leadership positions, including stints as associate vice chancellor for research and innovation and dean of the graduate school, a position he held concurrently with the position of dean of engineering and applied science.

“We have found an academic leader who listens with great care, collaborates to solve problems and create new possibilities, and shares our passion to serve and build the public good,” says Chancellor Rebecca Chopp.

Haefner holds a PhD in mathematics from the University of Wisconsin and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Iowa.

ACCESS
DU strengthens its commitment to community college students

Beginning in fall 2018, DU will launch its new Pathways Scholarship program, awarding up to $7,500 in additional need-meeting financial aid grants to eligible students transferring from the Community College of Aurora or the Community College of Denver. A new DU program called Guided Pathways will help students understand how their community college courses will transfer to DU.

“This is a true partnership that can be a model for two- and four-year institutions working together in the future,” says Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. “With these new programs, we want to ensure a seamless academic and financial transition for students moving from a two-year institution to our four-year campus.”

DU continues to improve its offerings for transfer students. The 2016–17 academic year saw the creation of the new Transfer Living Community, which includes programming and housing options specially designed to benefit transfer students.
Two current student-athletes and three DU alumni represented their respective countries—as well as the crimson and gold—at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Former Pioneer men’s skier Leif Kristian Nestvold-Haugen led Team Norway to a bronze medal in the debut of the Alpine Skiing Team Event, which features 16 teams of four athletes (two men and two women) arranged in a bracket-style, single-elimination format. A skier from each of the two competing nations raced down the course in a series of head-to-head slalom races. Nestvold-Haugen, making his third appearance on the Olympic stage, won all four of his matchups; he also finished 13th in the slalom and eighth in the giant slalom.

“It definitely helped me as a player, my confidence, and knowing how I can play at this level,” Haugen says. “I’m just trying to keep this going, and I feel good as a player. I’m coming out of [Pyeongchang] with confidence, and I’m just trying to bring that back to Denver.”

The other current student-athlete competing in the games was sophomore Andrea Komsic, who was named to the 2018 Croatian ski team. Komsic also competed in the Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in 2014.

Junior finance major Troy Terry, meanwhile, became DU’s first current student-athlete to skate in the Olympics for Team USA in hockey. The standout Pioneers hockey player, who also was a 2018 Hobey Baker Award nominee, is from Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Though the U.S. team was eliminated in the quarterfinals with a 3-2 loss to the Czech Republic, Terry says the experience still was a highlight of his young career.

“This definitely helped me as a player, my confidence, and knowing how I can play at this level,” Terry told AP hockey writer Stephen Whyno. “I’m just trying to keep this going, and I feel good as a player. I’m coming out of [Pyeongchang] with confidence, and I’m just trying to bring that back to Denver.”

The marketing major finished 31st in the women’s slalom and 32nd in the giant slalom.

“It’s not a lot of people get the opportunity to compete with all the best athletes in the world, and I’m beyond grateful that I got this chance,” Komsic said before the 2018 games. “I worked really hard my entire life to get to the highest level of competition, and being named to the national Olympic team is the best reward I could get.”

Joining Nestvold-Haugen, Komsic and Terry in South Korea were two other DU alumni: Team Canada skiers Erik Read and Trevor Philp.

Philp, who made his second appearance in the Olympics for Team Canada, finished 18th in the giant slalom, while Read—who made his Olympic debut in South Korea—finished 29th in the slalom and 11th in the giant slalom.
Karlton Creech, former athletic director at the University of Maine, was hired in February as DU’s new vice chancellor for athletics, recreation and Ritchie Center operations. He assumed his new position on May 1.

Creech, who replaces outgoing vice chancellor Peg Bradley-Doppes (see story, page 39), has spent more than two decades in sports administration, building a reputation for leading exceptional athletics programs. At DU, he oversees 17 Division I teams and a recreation program that engages more than 60 percent of the student body. That includes intramural sports, club sports and the Coors Fitness Center.

“I am eager to continue the tradition of athletic and academic excellence that has been established at the University of Denver,” Creech said in February. “Athletics is personal. My wife, Staci, went to school on an athletics scholarship, so I know the importance of our student-athletes excelling in the classroom and the community.”

Before Maine, Creech spent a decade at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he coordinated an $88 million expansion of the football stadium and ultimately served as senior associate director of athletics. He is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics and served on the American East Conference’s executive committee.

“Karlton, with his focus on students and celebrating achievement, is a perfect fit for our diverse, ambitious and innovative community,” says Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. “Known as a bridge-builder on and off campus, Karlton will help us all achieve our dreams and aspirations.”

The University of Denver has been recognized as one of the top volunteer-producing universities by the Peace Corps. Since its inception in 1961, the volunteer program run by the U.S. government has seen nearly 220,000 volunteers serve in more than 140 countries.

DU ranks No. 5 among graduate schools on the agency’s 2018 list of top volunteer-producing colleges and universities. Fourteen Pioneers currently volunteer worldwide. DU has ranked among the top five graduate schools for Peace Corps participation for five of the past six years, and 691 alumni have traveled abroad to serve as volunteers for the Peace Corps.

“Peace Corps service is a profound expression of the idealism and civic engagement that colleges and universities across the country inspire in their alumni,” says Sheila Crowley, acting Peace Corps director. “As Peace Corps volunteers, recent college and university graduates foster capacity and self-reliance at the grassroots level, making an impact in communities around the world. When they return to the United States, they have new, highly sought-after skills and an enterprising spirit that further leverages their education and strengthens their communities back home.”
Motherhood & monsters

During the longest days of the remarkable “Year Without a Summer,” triggered by extreme climate abnormalities, the 18-year-old Mary Shelley famously dreamed up a new genre of literature and a lab experiment gone horribly wrong.

Two years later, in 1818, Shelley’s remarkable “Frankenstein” was published to mixed reviews and respectable sales. Lit lovers celebrate the book’s 200th anniversary this year, and to mark the occasion, DU English professor Rachel Feder unveils “Harvester of Hearts,” due out in August from Northwestern University Press. The book examines, among other topics, the many ways in which Shelley’s thoughts about motherhood informed her writing. (Over the course of her life with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Shelley gave birth to four children, only one of whom survived into adulthood.)

Feder draws on her own experience of carrying a child to delve into Shelley’s creative yield. “Teaching the novel very late in my pregnancy, rereading it and then sitting in front of the class while my son kicked and punched inside me, something undeniable crystalized,” she says. “I had a new experience of an old interpretation of ‘Frankenstein,’ and that seemed like a fruitful spot from which to begin writing.”

Border crossings

In “Contraband Corridor” (Stanford University Press, 2017), Rebecca Berke Galemba of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies takes readers to the Mexico-Guatemala border to delve into the many ways that smuggling shapes and is shaped by trade, security measures and day-to-day life.

Plagued by persistent poverty, the region is characterized by an economy that is both sustained and undermined by illegal and informal smuggling of everything from basic commodities to banned substances. Without smuggling, Galemba maintains, borderland peasants would be hard-pressed to make a living. But with it, longstanding inequalities persist and much-needed reform is stymied.

As one reviewer noted, “Galemba’s landmark book helps readers understand a region where smuggling is conceived as free trade and borders are not walls that divide but pathways for encounters.”

News junkies with different habits

In “Young People and the Future of News” (Cambridge University Press, 2017), DU professor Lynn Schofield Clark, of the media, film and journalism studies department, joins co-author Regina Marchi to examine the evolving media habits of the under-20 set.

It may come as no surprise that young people are not the biggest supporters of legacy news outlets. Instead, they rely on social networks and social media for their headlines, quick takes and deep dives. But thanks to a concept known as “connective journalism,” young people aren’t just consuming news. They’re sharing—not to mention commenting upon—articles, videos, interviews and memes, often in the interests of inspiring civic participation and creating emotional engagement.

The book, which relies on a decade’s worth of fieldwork in a handful of major urban areas, offers encouraging insight to anyone inclined to view young people as apathetic or disengaged. The fact is, the book argues, young people may not read a daily newspaper or tune in for a nightly broadcast, but they are engaged in their own ways. That’s valuable insight for traditional news organizations and good news for custodians of democracy.
In The Psychology of Humor, an advanced seminar for undergraduate students taught by Aimee Reichmann-Decker (MA ’04, PhD ’06), humor is both a laughing matter and a topic for serious study.

Humor, after all, can be fun, inclusive, gentle and therapeutic. But it also can be uncomfortable, divisive, cruel and destructive. It can communicate affection or contempt, membership or outsider status. It can rouse a belly laugh one day and fall flat the next.

Whatever its intent or impact, Reichmann-Decker explains, humor makes us human, and its many uses and facets tell us a lot about who we are and how we make sense of life.

A teaching professor in the Department of Psychology, Reichmann-Decker comes to the topic of humor as an expert in affective, social and cognitive psychology. After teaching first-year seminars on trauma psychology and advanced seminars examining mental illness through memoirs—“both very heavy topics for students,” she says—she was ready to lighten up.

“I wanted to teach a course that focused on positive psychology in motion,” she explains, adding that she created the seminar roughly five years ago to delve into how humor is used to manage emotions and stress. When it comes to coping strategies, she points out, humans turn to humor again and again, whether they’re confronting depression, sexual abuse or other traumas.

In the classroom, Reichmann-Decker expects students to traffic in humor as well as study it. “In teaching this course, I have students do four different presentations that are essentially mini stand-up routines,” Reichmann-Decker explains, noting that she kicks off the laughfest with her own bit, directing some of her jokes at undergraduates.

Throughout the next weeks, students—who typically come from different disciplines and walks of life—explore the boundaries of humor. Can you joke about disabilities? The Holocaust? Illness? How is humor “encrypted” for in-the-know audiences, and how can it be used to reinforce or undermine social structures and relationships?

“Essentially, what I tell students is, “Think about somebody who has a terrific sense of humor. What makes a terrific sense of humor? Why do you think so?”” she says, noting that humans bond over humor. “We end up enjoying people who have a similar sense of humor to us. This is one of those [social] cues. Someone who laughs at your jokes, you tend to like them better. Conversely though, humor and laughter can help keep the dominance structure in place. It’s also important in hierarchies. Who laughs more? Who is allowed to tell jokes, to be funny?”

Two years ago, word of Reichmann-Decker’s course reached One Day University, an adult-education program that bundles lectures by leading professors into five or six hours of programming. In any given year, One Day U stages 80 to 100 events in more than 45 locations across the country. With a Denver gig on the schedule, the organization invited Reichmann-Decker to wrap up the day with a presentation drawn from her seminar. The class was so successful that she was invited to restage her talk for a New York audience.

Not only did her adult learners revel in the topic, they also gave Reichmann-Decker plenty to ponder. How does a sense of humor change over the lifespan? How do different generations respond to different types of humor?

Back on campus, Reichmann-Decker looks forward to the next time she teaches the seminar and puts humor under the microscope.

“It’s the most fun I have that I get paid for,” she says. “We really become a tight-knit group, very supportive of one another. And we laugh every day.”
In spring of 1981, the 76-year-old Vance Kirkland lay dying in a Denver hospital. Knowing his days were dwindling, the city’s most famous modern artist wanted nothing more than to paint.

Enter his longtime friend Hugh Grant. “I set up his hospital room as a studio,” Grant recalls, noting that the artist would repeatedly ask for more brushes, paints and colors. Grant would deliver more yellow, more blue, but particularly more cadmium scarlet. Always more scarlet.

Kirkland completed that painting, a pulsating installment in his famous dot series, and then moved to still another canvas, which he was diligently confronting when his productive life came to an end.

Art lovers can see Kirkland’s final works, as well as paintings from his major creative periods, at the new Kirkland Museum of Fine & Decorative Art, which opened in March in Denver’s Golden Triangle Creative District. With its sunshiny yellow exterior, the 38,500-square-foot building sits just steps away from the Clyfford Still Museum and the Denver Art Museum.

For Kirkland fans like Grant, the Golden Triangle location puts the artist right where he belongs: at the center of a vibrant museum scene oozing cultural cachet. And Kirkland’s name promises to burnish that cachet—after all, aficionados from all over the world admire his surrealistic watercolors and mind-blowing abstractions of nebulae and galaxies. In Denver, meanwhile, he is remembered for founding DU’s School of Art and Art History in 1929.

But no one remembers him as well as Grant. As the museum’s director, he serves as the keeper of Kirkland lore. His parents were the artist’s good friends, and Grant grew up in Kirkland’s milieu, learning about art and artful living. Upon Kirkland’s death, he inherited most of the artist’s estate—a legacy he converted into the original Kirkland Museum, located at the artist’s studio in Capitol Hill. Over the years, Grant built the museum’s collection and dreamed of acquiring additional space for showcasing its art.

Grant shared that dream with Merle Catherine Chambers, the donor behind DU’s Chambers Center for the Advancement of Women. Chambers, too, thought the collection needed more room and suggested relocating to the Golden Triangle, an idea Grant initially dismissed, assuming it meant abandoning Kirkland’s quirky workspace. “We can’t move down there,” Grant told her. “I won’t leave the studio.” Chambers’ response? “Pick it up and move it.”

Which, with support from the Merle Chambers Fund, is exactly what they did. The studio move took place in fall 2016, when the structure was hoisted from its Pearl Street perch and transported down East 13th Avenue. The building was then positioned at the north end of the new site, where it offers insight into how Kirkland approached the blank canvas.

The museum provides more than a retrospective of Kirkland’s work. It also displays international decorative art and works by 700 Colorado and regional artists, among them DU’s own Maynard Tischler, a longtime faculty member known for his ceramics. (The facility has countless DU connections; four of its staff members are alumni.)

At DU, Grant says, Kirkland was known for transforming a small art department offering non-credit classes into a school staffed by professionals. Among those pros were a number of women, whose hiring stirred considerable controversy. In fact, when news broke that Kirkland planned to bring on a female instructor, he was chastised for giving a man’s job to a woman. As Grant remembers, “He said, ‘To hell with it. I’ll hire her.’”

For Grant, the new museum pays tribute not just to Kirkland’s career, but to his support of Colorado’s creative community. What would Kirkland think of the facility? Grant can’t be sure, but, he says, “I think he’d be pleased that we are showing so many of the Colorado artists he championed.”

Learn more: kirklandmuseum.org
Looking to live off the grid in style? How about a solar-powered house with energy-efficient appliances; a rooftop deck; countertops made from recycled materials; a water system that recycles shower water; fiber-optic cable that brings natural light into a windowless bathroom; and movable walls that slide to decrease the size of the bedroom and create a larger central room when it’s time to party?

It’s a house that may well be the future of construction, and it was conceived and built last summer by DU students working in partnership with students from the University of California-Berkeley. The collaborative effort was part of the 2017 Solar Decathlon, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy. The biannual contest challenges student teams from around the world to design and build full-sized, energy-efficient solar-powered houses. The dwellings are then judged on 10 criteria, including architecture, engineering, innovation, health and comfort, water and energy use, and market potential.

“It’s really inspiring to see so many young people be part of something like that and care for the environment and take a stand for what they believe in,” says DU senior Kassandra Ty, part of the DU-Berkeley team that brought the blueprints to life. Eleven student teams from around the world competed in the event, which was judged in October. The DU-Berkeley team placed third overall. The Swiss team, which consisted of students from four Swiss universities, won the competition.

“We had a relatively small team, so each of us was able to touch every aspect of the home, which made the process even more special,” says Ty, a senior property development major. “Winning third place was confirmation of our dedication and passion for the project.”

The majority of the roughly two dozen students who made up the DU portion of the team were from the Franklin L. Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management, part of the Daniels College of Business.

“Being able to take our knowledge from the classroom and come out and actually build something feasible and physical, I think that’s where we actually connect the dots,” says Jack Ross, a Burns School graduate student who worked on the project. “It’s one thing to read it in a book, but to actually apply it on a job site that’s a school-sponsored project, it really takes the learning experience to the next level.”

Construction of the 800-square-foot house started in June in a parking lot on the DU campus. However, the design of the home started two years earlier at UC Berkeley, where a team of students was accepted into the competition in 2015. That group worked with other students, faculty and professionals on the structure’s concept, but the school lacked the construction expertise to make the design a reality.

Even after the project moved to the Mile High City and construction began, some of the Berkeley students who worked on the design came to Denver to help move the eco-friendly house to the next phase.

After four months of construction on campus—where the house was built and completely furnished—the structure was disassembled and moved to the competition site near Denver International Airport. After the competition, the home was donated to Habitat for Humanity, which is preparing it for a Denver family in need. Three other homes also will remain in Denver and will go to families in need.

Sam Durkin, a student project manager from UC Berkeley who flew to Denver to take part in the decathlon, says he is excited that a Denver family gets to live in the third-place solar decathlon home. “We didn’t want to see it go to waste,” he says. “It did awesome here, but now it has a future. It’s going to be someone’s real home, and that’s special.”
Trash talking at DU home games

By Greg Glasgow

Among the environmentally aware students who help staff DU’s Center for Sustainability is senior Selene McConachy, a double-major in journalism and psychology with minors in Chinese and sustainability. McConachy manages the center’s zero-waste sports program, which works to divert waste at home hockey, lacrosse, gymnastics, basketball and soccer games, ensuring that recyclable and compostable items are diverted from landfills.

Q: How is the zero-waste sports effort going?
A: It’s going great. We used to be just zero-waste hockey, but now we’ve branched out, and it’s going pretty successfully. We’ve maintained on hockey, and we’re just trying to bring that awareness to the audiences at all the other games.

Q: Is it truly zero waste?
A: Not yet, but almost. True zero waste is 90 percent, and we’re at 82 percent for hockey, so we’re getting quite close with that. The other ones vary. Soccer is close to 90 percent. Lacrosse needs a little help, but we’re working on it.

Q: What goes into that number, and what goes into that effort?
A: At the very beginning of the game, we set out the bins in strategic places so that when people throw things out, they know where to put them. During the game, we sort them, and then at the end of the game we weigh them. Every single bin that you see at a game is weighed, and then we compile those numbers and see how much waste came from which areas. For hockey, we see how much waste came from the concourse, how much waste came from the Gold Club and different areas like that.

Q: Are people pretty receptive to the effort and taking the extra time to sort their trash?
A: Previously, when we were just doing hockey, people were usually pretty enthusiastic and wanted to get things right. We’re not goalie-ing for hockey anymore; we’re starting with lacrosse; and they generally seem enthusiastic. They’re willing to follow our directions, but sometimes they try to sneak past us if they don’t want to deal with us.

Q: Simple question, but what’s the reason behind the campaign? Why make the games zero waste?
A: I don’t think people realize how much waste is produced from these games. It’s hundreds of pounds every single night because there are so many people. If it all ends up in the landfill, it’s just repeating the cycle. We’re trying to intervene with where all this waste goes in the end. And ideally it would be great if we could train other people—not only students, but parents, alums—to bring recycling and composting into their own lives as well.

Q: Where did your interest in and passion for sustainability come from?
A: I have to admit that when I started university, I never thought I’d care about trash. It sort of happened. I’ve always been interested in the environment and the impact that we have, and I’ve tried to be sustainable, but it really launched when I was a part of the Environmental Sustainability Living and Learning Community [a program that puts first-year students with similar interests on the same residential floor and engages them in related programming]. They had a lot of great programs and field trips, and I learned so much about it. It’s always been a subject I’ve been interested in and wanted to learn more about. It has a really important impact, especially in this day and age, with the onset of climate change, and I wanted to see if I could make a difference.
Students show off their moves at the Founders Formal on March 1. Part of the 2018 Founders Celebration, the dance at the Cable Center drew more than 200 students to groove to the old-school funk and R&B sounds of the Isaac Points Jakarta Band.

Shake it!

photo by Wayne Armstrong
Issues of sustainability and diversity go hand in hand. Faculty and students are working on solutions.

By Greg Glasgow

In Flint, Mich., a 2014 shift in how the city’s drinking water was sourced resulted in lead contamination that affected more than 100,000 residents, including children and infants. The city, long known for its economic devastation, is more than 50 percent African-American.

Two years later, on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in the Dakotas, thousands came out to protest a proposed oil pipeline, claiming that its completion would endanger the area’s water supply while encroaching on sacred Native American land.

And today in Denver, a crumbling elevated stretch of Interstate 70—built decades ago through the middle of a low-income neighborhood that is home to many of the city’s Hispanic and black residents—is slated for major reconstruction. The I-70 viaduct will be replaced with a section of interstate located 30 to 40 feet below ground. The project will displace more than 50 households, and while CDOT was required to demonstrate that health-based air quality standards will not be exceeded as a result of the project, area residents remain concerned about possible increases in air and noise pollution and exposure to industrial toxins during the construction process.

See a pattern there? Sustainability experts and scholars of social justice certainly do. They argue that, thanks to historic inequities and ongoing economic realities, minority populations too often find themselves suffering the brunt of environmental problems and disasters.
“Where do we site landfills? Where do we site power plants? We usually site them in areas that are [home to] poor communities or communities of color, and those communities are then disproportionately affected by sustainability issues,” says DU sustainability coordinator Chad King. “They’re seeing not only air-quality and water-quality issues, but decreased life expectancy and lower quality of life.”

DU took an in-depth look at the issue in January, giving its annual two-day Diversity Summit a sustainability spin. Workshop sessions included such topics as “Leveraging Tangible Community Organizing Tools to Address Inequity” and “Climate Justice Discussions and Practices,” and the opening address was delivered by Dorceta Taylor, director of diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Michigan. Author of “Toxic Communities: Environmental Racism, Industrial Pollution, and Residential Mobility” (NYU Press, 2014), Taylor also is the university’s James E. Crowfoot Collegiate Professor of Environmental Justice.

“More and more people are making the connection between diversity, equity, justice and sustainability,” Taylor says. “If we think about cities—Denver, Detroit, Chicago—those places cannot really be sustainable in the long haul if we don’t understand and incorporate issues of equity and diversity in how we make decisions about things like who gets clean water and who doesn’t; who has fresh air; how we plan cities.”

As questions about sustainability and diversity loom ever larger, the research and initiatives that address the problem are gaining currency, locally, nationally and even internationally. And the University of Denver, King says, is in the perfect location and has the perfect mix of academic specialties to lead the way.

“We’re a landlocked urban institute; we’re not our land-grant neighbor up north that has farms and thousands of acres spread across the state,” King says. “We’re situated in a growing, gentrifying city that’s expanding so fast it can hardly keep up with itself, in a place that’s very resource-limited, and now becoming space-limited too. I think as a university, we have a great opportunity to frame most of our work through this lens.”

CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY

When it comes to solutions, DU is putting boots on the ground.

A focus on social enterprise at the new Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise, for example, has two graduate student fellows working on business outcomes at the nonprofit Groundwork Denver, which partners with low-income communities to improve the physical environment and promote health and well-being.

The two are helping Groundwork Denver improve the business model for its greenhouse, located in north Denver’s Chafee Park neighborhood, so that the sale of fresh produce can improve the health of
neighborhood residents while generating enough profit to sustain the organization’s other initiatives.

“That area is adjacent to several low-income communities, and it’s also a food desert. There are a number of fast-food restaurants but very few grocery stores and places where people can access healthy food,” says Barton Institute fellow Spencer Rockwell, who is pursuing dual degrees in public policy and economics. “Providing access to fresh produce has a tremendous impact for disadvantaged communities. One of our great opportunities is helping [Groundwork] figure out how to serve that community in a way that’s financially sustainable.”

In the geography department, meanwhile, professor Andrew Goetz is using the I-70 relocation controversy as a teaching opportunity for his transportation class, bringing students to the proposed construction site and asking them to research and recommend on various aspects of the project, from traffic flow to potential environmental impact.

“This case has it all,” he says. “It’s a great teaching case. But it’s a very real issue for the people who live there.”

Looking at the issue through a global lens is the Josef Korbel School for International Studies and its Frederick S. Pardee Center for International Futures, a hub of long-term forecasting and global trend analysis. There, DU researchers work with the UN Development Programme to help countries think more strategically about their sustainable development goals and how they relate to policy planning.

And at the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute (RMLUI), housed at the Sturm College of Law, sustainable development, undertaken with input from community stakeholders, is a perennial topic at the institute’s annual conference.

RMLUI director Susan Daggett used those conference conversations as inspiration several years ago, when she helped create the Metro Denver Nature Alliance (MDNA), an organization that focuses on large landscape conservation in an urban context. With DU as its academic partner, the alliance unites a number of area organizations—including the Nature Conservancy, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Denver Zoo, Denver Botanic Gardens, and federal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service—in efforts to make metro Denver a thriving place for both people and nature.

Students and faculty support MDNA through onsite service-learning opportunities with partner organizations. And a number of on-campus classes—from writing to geography to law—center around MDNA activities and initiatives.

“Building communities that have healthy functioning ecosystems within them and that allow access to nature tend to be healthier for people over the long term—and use fewer resources,” Daggett says.

Two DU graduate students are helping Groundwork Denver improve the business model for its greenhouse.

Photo courtesy of Groundwork Denver
POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Focusing on the human element of the problem, naturally, is DU’s Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW). The school’s sustainable development and global practice concentration teaches students to partner with communities to increase community engagement and promote healthy living. The GSSW health and wellness concentration, meanwhile, explores health disparities in local and global communities, including Mexico, Latin America and Kenya. An interdisciplinary course taught by GSSW professor Lorena Gaibor and Lynn Holland, a professor from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies, takes graduate students to Chiapas, Mexico, to visit with local communities adversely impacted by mining operations in the area.

“Too often, individuals, families and whole communities and ecosystems are displaced or destroyed by deforestation and contamination of the land and water they rely on,” Gaibor says. “Yet at the same time, we heard in Chiapas about the courageous acts of resistance by these very communities as protestors block the roads to the mines and deal with harassment and threats as a result.”

The social work school also offers a concentration in organizational leadership and policy practice, which trains social workers to empower members of marginalized communities to make their voices heard when their environment is at risk.

“Human rights is at the heart of social work,” says GSSW dean Amanda Moore McBride. “Jane Addams began the social work profession in the late 1800s. She taught immigrants, who were living in unhealthy and unsafe conditions in Chicago tenement housing, how to make their voices heard in order to change those conditions. That same work is happening today in Chiapas and right here in Denver, yet it is needed in many other communities.”

SHINING A LIGHT ON SUN VALLEY

One of the most ambitious projects aiming to improve environmental conditions for low-income communities in Denver is happening in the Sun Valley neighborhood near Mile High Stadium. There, an “eco-redistricting” project aims to remove environmental hazards and increase quality of life for an area characterized by high levels of poverty and unemployment and a large immigrant and refugee population.

Along with the University of Colorado Denver and Regis University, DU is one of the project’s academic partners. The University’s efforts are led by adjunct professor John Knott, founder and president of urban renewal firm CityCraft, and by Andrew Mueller, a professor in the Daniels College of Business’s Franklin L. Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management. Both are proponents of “regenerative development,” a concept gaining currency among planners,
architects and builders. Undertaken with plenty of input from community members, so as to avoid potential negative effects of gentrification, it’s a process that puts social and environmental concerns first and economic benefits last.

“Part of the approach is to survey all the stakeholders who are involved in your project and to use that to build a project that the community wants, rather than the old pattern that has given developers their bad name: They come into a community, they drop a project in there that they think the community wants, they are pretty sure it’s economically viable, and then they disappear,” Mueller says. “This approach surveys people, finds out what the community members are looking for, and that then drives the initial master plan of what’s going to be built.”

In Sun Valley, regenerative development is supported by a $30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Developers plan to build 750 units of city-owned affordable mixed-income housing, clean up the banks of the Platte River where it flows through Sun Valley, mitigate pollutants from a nearby oil refinery, and create a 31,000-square-foot youth hub that provides area kids a place to go after school and offers them “cradle to career” services. A planned international food market will bring more fresh produce to the area and provide a source of income to the residents who sell there.

Sun Valley has become a learning opportunity at the Burns School, which hopes eventually to develop a consultancy where students and professors advise on sustainability issues. “This is a vehicle for us to train students in a real-world atmosphere on how to do regenerative redevelopment,” Mueller says. “Through the feasibility project my students work on in Sun Valley, I show them all the phases of a development project from beginning to end, but I also teach them the regenerative redevelopment way of doing it. We spend several weeks talking about how to incorporate [community] stakeholders when you start this process: How are you going to address their concerns? What do you think their concerns are going to be?”

**A CAMPUS-INTENSIVE EFFORT**

Business, social work, law, science, international studies: Add it all up, says sustainability coordinator King, and the equation puts DU at the forefront when it comes to addressing issues of sustainability, inclusion and social justice.

“There aren’t many other private schools that have this applied backyard that allows us to dig right into [the issue],” King says. “I think we have a unique opportunity to continue to shape this as one of our focal areas and one of the things that we’re known for.”

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**DU is part of an “eco-redistricting” project in Denver’s Sun Valley neighborhood.**

*Photo: Anthony Camera*
Capping this year’s Founders Celebration, Chancellor Rebecca Chopp bestowed the 2018 Founders Medal—DU’s highest honor—on Chancellor Emeritus Dan Ritchie and Board Chair Emerita Joy Burns as part of a gala celebration on March 1.

The medal recognizes individuals and families whose leadership and philanthropy represent the pinnacle of DU’s mission and values.

Ritchie served as DU’s chancellor from 1989 to 2005, stepping up to lead the University at a time when expenses outpaced revenues and programs were being axed. Burns chaired DU’s Board of Trustees from 1990–2005 and again from 2007–09.

Ritchie presided over a fundraising campaign that allowed DU to make more than $400 million in investments in new facilities and infrastructure. Burns partnered with Ritchie during his tenure on such iconic campus structures as the Daniel L. Ritchie Center for Sports & Wellness, the Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts and the Joy Burns Center, home to the Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management.

“One of the many lessons I’ve learned from Dan and Joy is that if it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing right,” Chopp says. “Think about what that meant for Dan to take the helm at a time when the University was struggling to stay afloat. Dan and Joy together transformed DU and set it on a path toward increased prominence regionally, nationally and internationally.”

Chopp says she feels a special kinship with Burns, as both were “first women” in DU history—Chopp the first woman chancellor and Burns the first woman chair of the Board of Trustees. That position was one of many that Burns held in her long career as an influential Denver businesswoman and DU supporter. Over the years she developed and managed the Burnsley Hotel, helped found the Women’s Bank and the Women’s Foundation of Colorado, served as the first female chair of the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, and helped start the University of Denver Pioneer Sportswomen.

“Joy, to me, was path-breaking at so many points in her career,” Chopp says. “She broke new ground for women in this city—in business and elsewhere. She is a fresh thinker, and she was every bit Dan’s partner as they took DU to new heights. She’s an incredible role model for me.”
Joy Burns, who chaired DU’s Board of Trustees from 1990–2005 and again from 2007–09, is described by those who know her well as shrewd, tenacious and, most of all, humble. Here’s what some of them had to say.

“I heard early on that once Joy started putting her mind to something, nobody was going to get in the way of that being accomplished. I always had the impression that she was relentless in getting things done.”

CRAIG HARRISON (BSBA ’03), ALUMNUS AND TRUSTEE

“During my time at DU, I never made a significant decision without checking with Joy Burns.”

DAN RITCHIE CHANCELLOR EMERITUS

“If you are using that space over and over again, something as simple as not having to wait in line for the restrooms keeps you coming back. You see Joy in many surprising, influential ways on campus.”

MARK RODGERS UNIVERSITY ARCHITECT

“As to her involvement and constant commitment, Joy would say, ‘Oh, I just helped. There were lots of other people involved.’ And certainly, others were involved. But Joy’s determination, her hard work, her persistence, were pivotal in saving and revitalizing the school. But who would know? She would never tell you what she did. Because Joy has always been more focused on results than on who got the recognition. She’s a person who’s never minded digging in, shoveling hard or getting a little dirt under her fingernails. All to leave DU and our Denver community far better places.”

JIM GRIESEMER PROFESSOR, DEAN EMERITUS AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER UNDER DAN RITCHIE
Those who know Dan Ritchie and those who worked closely with him describe him as visionary, honorable and—as with Joy Burns—humble. Here’s what some of them had to say.

Dan is a broad thinker and quick on his feet. Although there are many buildings on this campus attributed to him, he’s not driven by his own ego. And he’s the kind of person that wants to make a difference.

“Most of us dream, and then we must open our eyes, and we may hope that some small wisp of that dream may eventually come true. Then there’s Dan Ritchie. He dreamed of a great university in Denver, and many thought his dream was ambitious, [maybe] a bit delusional, but we trusted him. And over the years we became swept up in that dream as it expanded.”

MARK RODGERS
UNIVERSITY ARCHITECT

“One of the biggest things he taught me was the importance of character. In my professional career, I really try to think about that intentionally. Dan has always been so consistent in saying how important character is. That’s one thing that has inspired me, and it’s something I really hope I can teach my kids.”

CRAIG HARRISON
(BSBA ’03), ALUMNUS & TRUSTEE

“Those who know Dan Ritchie and those who worked closely with him describe him as visionary, honorable and—as with Joy Burns—humble. Here’s what some of them had to say."

CLARA VILLAROSA
FORMER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“Dan is a broad thinker and quick on his feet. Although there are many buildings on this campus attributed to him, he’s not driven by his own ego. And he’s the kind of person that wants to make a difference.”

CLARA VILLAROSA
FORMER MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“He’s the best I’ve ever seen at raising money. He was always very open and honest with why he was asking people for the money and how the money would be spent, and that’s exactly the way it was spent. That built up such a confidence. That was the big secret of how we raised so much money to build the buildings at the University.”

JOY BURNS
FORMER CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“Those who know Dan Ritchie and those who worked closely with him describe him as visionary, honorable and—as with Joy Burns—humble. Here’s what some of them had to say.”

BILL ZARANKA
PROVOST UNDER RITCHIE AND FORMER DEAN OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

“Those who know Dan Ritchie and those who worked closely with him describe him as visionary, honorable and—as with Joy Burns—humble. Here’s what some of them had to say.”

ARMIN AFSAHI
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ADVANCEMENT

“There isn’t a person Dan hasn’t touched through his leadership and tremendous kindness. We are grateful he fell in love with the University of Denver.”

ARMIN AFSAHI
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ADVANCEMENT

“The heart of the vision Dan had was the marriage of academia and student life. Everything students did at DU should contribute to learning. This required a completely new system of roles and rewards for faculty, new budget models, and support from Joy Burns and the board. No more ‘publish or perish’ for our faculty; now they would be rewarded not only for research, but also for providing the very best teaching and learning experiences. Now faculty and students would be partners in scholarship. Now the University would partner with the community and the region and the world.”

BILL ZARANKA
PROVOST UNDER RITCHIE AND FORMER DEAN OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
A PIONEER LEGACY
1867-2018

A LOOK BACK AT 150 YEARS OF DU ATHLETICS

BY LORNE FULTONBERG
The numbers speak for themselves—181 NCAA tournament appearances, 118 individual NCAA championships, 61 Olympians, more than 100 conference championships.

From humble beginnings in a dusty Denver baseball field in 1867, the DU Pioneers have risen to the top of college athletics over the past 150 years, with multiple championships to show in skiing, hockey, lacrosse, gymnastics and other sports. There’s no better barometer than the Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup—a prestigious marker of across-the-board success in athletics for non-football schools. The Pioneers have won nine of the last 10.

“The sports that maybe the big public universities in this state, if you’re asking me, have largely ignored, DU jumped in with both feet,” says Denver Post sports columnist Mark Kiszla, who has watched DU’s rise to national prominence. “They hired the right people and let them do their job, and the Pioneers have had great success as a result.”

The following pages offer a look at the key moments in the 150-year (and counting) history of DU athletics.
1946
Barbara Kidder captures collegiate individual ski championship to become the first national champion in DU history.

1947
Men’s swimming team participates in its inaugural season.

1948
Men’s skiing becomes a varsity sport under head coach Willy Schaeffler.

1949
Men’s swimming and diving team holds first home swimming meet at DU Fieldhouse Pool.

2009
Bill Tierney hired as men’s lacrosse head coach.

2004
Hockey team captures back-to-back NCAA Championships with its 4-1 victory over North Dakota.

2005
Hockey team captures its first NCAA national championship since 1969 with a 1-0 win over Maine.

2009
Women’s golf enters its first season of competition; Catherine “Sammie” Chergo named head coach.

2013
Soccer player Kristen Hamilton makes NCAA history by winning player-of-the-year honors in three different conferences.

2015
Men’s lacrosse wins its first-ever NCAA National Championship.

2016
Rodney Billups hired as 32nd head coach for men’s basketball.

2016
Gymnast Nina McGee becomes DU’s first-ever individual NCAA National Champion.
Men’s gymnastics officially recognized as a varsity sport.

1954
Men’s ski team wins first NCAA title.

1956
Murray Armstrong begins 21-year run as hockey coach.

1961
» Chancellor Chester Alter announces on Jan. 9 that the Board of Trustees has voted unanimously to discontinue football program.
» Men’s soccer becomes a varsity sport.

1950

1954

1956

1961

1996
DU announces intention to move entire athletics program to NCAA Division I level.

1992
Women’s lacrosse team participates in its first season of varsity competition.

1983
DU adds women’s soccer and volleyball.

1984
After the 1972 passage of Title IX legislation, DU sanctions first women’s varsity programs: basketball, field hockey, gymnastics, skiing and tennis. Teams compete as members of the AIAW.

2017
After winning the program’s first-ever Penrose Cup, hockey wins its eighth NCAA National Championship—and first since 2005.

2017
Jim Turgeon hired as women’s basketball head coach.

2018
Ski team captures NCAA championship for 24th time in program history.
LEAVING AN ENDURING LEGACY

Peg Bradley-Doppes, DU’s longtime vice chancellor of athletics and recreation, has spent the last half hour talking about her life. About her humble upbringing with eight siblings in Cincinnati. About her success as a scholarship athlete and Division I coach. And most of all, about her remarkable 13-year run leading the University of Denver’s athletic programs to a previously unseen pinnacle.

Of her interviewer, she has just one request. “Could you please make this more about the teams than about me?”

Bradley-Doppes will not take credit for putting Pioneer athletics at its highest of heights. At least, not on her own. “We all win together, we all lose together, we celebrate together, we mourn together,” she says. “I love the idea that great things happen with a shared vision. Here is a place where you actually can bring your whole self and your family and thrive.”

Reflecting on her career as DU’s 12th athletic director—and later vice chancellor of athletics and recreation—Bradley-Doppes resembles a proud, fiercely competitive parent raising a high achiever. She’s nurtured DU athletics and watched it grow into a Division I force to be reckoned with—not just on the ice or the ski slopes.

Since she took the reins in 2005, the Pioneers have won an astounding seven national championships, 97 conference titles, 69 coach-of-the-year honors and nine of the last 10 NCAA I-AAA Learfield Director’s Cups—awarded to the school with the greatest across-the-board success.

All that without a football team (DU dropped the sport in 1961). Instead, nationally known lacrosse, hockey, gymnastics, skiing and other programs have carried the Pioneers to the top. “I think what Peg’s been really good at is finding a niche and being the best,” says Denver Post columnist Mark Kiszla, who has covered Colorado sports for 25 years. “Don’t be second best [at football], but be the best at what you emphasize.”

Lacrosse head coach Bill Tierney, whom Bradley-Doppes hired in 2009, agrees. “She demands that everyone gives our student-athletes the absolute best experience possible,” he says. “There is no filling of Peg’s shoes. A legend has been walking in them for so long that no one else could come close.”

Yes, Bradley-Doppes is retiring. It’s time for her to leave behind the rigorous schedule of nights, weekends and holidays that comes with leading a premier institution. She wants her husband and 13-year-old son, Conor, to be her priorities now. And she knows she couldn’t live with herself if she gave anything less than 100 percent to the job.

“She has put all of her time and energy into developing a successful program,” says DU gymnastics coach Melissa Kutcher-Rinehart, who also worked with Bradley-Doppes at the University of Michigan. “She’s leaving a legacy of teamwork, expectation, motivation and humility. But most importantly, she leaves a legacy of integrity and doing things the right way. She puts the right people in the right places for them to be successful.”

Indeed, a hallmark of the Bradley-Doppes administration has been her key hires. Luring Princeton legend Tierney to campus, for example, created a powerhouse lacrosse program—in 2015, DU became the first national champion west of the Mississippi River.

“Her strength and character are contagious,” Tierney says. “She has a handle on any situation with what I call ‘stern compassion.’ You know she has your back 100 percent, but you also know you never want to let her down.”

Excellence is expected on this campus, athletics staffers say. Nothing less. No compromises. The result is a competitive culture with a familial feel. (Bradley-Doppes has an open-door policy and personally inspects each athlete’s midterm grades.) There’s an emphasis on good morals and hard work. “Look at the accomplishments,” gymnastics coach Kutcher-Rinehart says. “Not just in athletic success, but in academics, fundraising, student-athlete support, sports medicine, ticketing, recreation and more.”

Because at the end of the day, Bradley-Doppes says, her job is about enhancing the University as a whole, not just one department. She’s proud to be a Pioneer, but she’s even prouder of the way 100 percent of her student-athletes and staff donate and reinvest in DU every year.

It’s a lasting legacy, but don’t ask her about the success she’s had. “It’s the success we’ve had,” she says. “I have the ability to surround myself with great talent and empower. We think it’s a privilege, not a right, to be a Pioneer. Everything’s about the team.”
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In this photo taken circa 1950, students read on the patio balcony outside the Business Administration Library at DU’s Civic Center Campus, with the City and County Building visible in the background. Do you recognize anyone in this photo, or do you remember taking classes at the downtown campus?

Let us know!
Email du-magazine@du.edu
1942
Virginia Raum Lacy (BA ’42) of San Diego retired at age 65 and took her first overseas trip in 1968. She has visited at least 58 countries since, including a 2017 riverboat trip through Belgium and Holland. Aboard the ship, she celebrated her 97th birthday with dinner at the captain’s table.

1964
Robert Voy Stark (BA ’64) of Union Dale, Pa., has exhibited in more than 140 countries through the Department of State Art in the Embassies program. He will exhibit at LewAllen Galleries in Santa Fe in 2018.

1966
Donald Peterson (BSBA ’66) of Pahrump, Nev., is chairman of the board of Nine Elms Development LLC, which aims to make market access to North America easier, faster and more affordable for small international companies. Nine Elms recently won a 2017 Las Vegas Business Press Innovation Award. Don is a retired CPA with a long career in the energy and mining industry.

1963
Marlow Ediger (EdD ’63) of North Newton, Kan., had manuscripts accepted for publication in Education, College Student Journal and Trends and Issues in the Social Studies. Marlow received the Who’s Who in the World Lifetime Achievement Award for Professional Dedication and Career Longevity in 2017.

1973
Andy Le Peau (BA ’73) of Downers Grove, Ill., authored “Mark Through Old Testament Eyes,” a book that grew out of his experiences teaching the Gospel of Mark to college students.

1974
Rick Pederson (BSBA ’74, JD ’77) of Denver was appointed in December to serve on the board of trustees at the Boettcher Foundation. Rick is partner and chair of the advisory committee at Bow River Capital Partners, a Denver-based private equity firm.

1975
Henry Root (BA ’75, JD ’82) of Santa Monica, Calif., received the 2017 Ed Rubin Award from the American Bar Association Forum. The Ed Rubin Award is the forum’s highest honor and is given to one member each year in recognition of outstanding leadership and service. Henry is a partner in the entertainment law firm Lapidus, Root & Sacharov.

1976
Jeffrey Lorberbaum (BSBA ’76) of Chattanooga, Tenn., was named to the World Floor Covering Association’s hall of fame in December. Jeffrey is chairman and chief executive officer of Mohawk Industries, one of the largest flooring manufacturers in the country with revenues of more than $1 billion.

1980
Todd Elmore (BSBA ’80) of Arlington, Mass., retired from the federal government after almost 28 years as a human resources specialist. Todd worked for the Department of Transportation’s Volpe National Transportation System Center in Cambridge, Mass., from 1990 to 2008 and for the National Park Services Northeast Region’s Servicing HR Office since 2008.
Campus memories come to life

Rosemary McGibbon, 100, visited campus in December, returning to her alma mater for the first time in at least 20 years. McGibbon, née Collett, knew the name of every old building. She could clearly recall the day she delivered flowers to Chancellor David Shaw Duncan. Not only did she remember Professor Albert Recht’s astronomy classes, but she could still see the little pieces of paper he would pull from his pocket to tell students jokes “when things lagged a little bit.”

McGibbon was determined to do the same, taking advantage of all DU had to offer—from the French Club to the Rifle Club. (“I wasn’t planning on shooting anybody,” she said with a laugh. “It was fun!”) For four years she wrote for the Clarion, editing the society section. The experience eventually converted her from an aspiring teacher into a journalism major. At football games, she cheered as a member of the Parakeets, a pep group based on personality, leadership and service.

“I just remember the wonderful education you get at DU,” she said. “It brings back so many nice memories.”

—Lorne Fultonberg

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PROFILE
MOVER & SHAKER
Stephen Rijo (MA ’15)

When Stephen Rijo came from his hometown in New Jersey to start his undergraduate education at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, his biggest adjustment had nothing to do with dorm food or the thin mountain air. It was more like, “Where are all the trains?”

“I couldn’t believe there weren’t trains [from Colorado Springs] to Denver and Boulder. I just assumed there would be,” says Rijo (MA ’15). “It hadn’t crossed my mind that there wouldn’t be trains between the biggest cities in the state.”

That started a fascination with Colorado transportation infrastructure that led Rijo first to DU, where he earned a master’s degree in geographical spatial analysis, and then to a job with the city of Denver, where he works as transportation demand management program administrator. He seeks to ease congestion and improve Denver’s environment by helping people ditch their cars in favor of other forms of transportation, including bikes, light rail, buses and carpooling.

“In the eight or nine years I’ve lived here, transportation has gone from ‘you can drive anywhere without traffic’ to there are corridors in Denver that are really congested now,” he says. “It’s fun to be working on the problems that are really visible and apparent to people.”

As a master’s student at DU, Rijo worked as an intern for RTD and for the city, researching the effects of bike lanes on nearby retail (turns out they boost sales tax revenue) and on the distance transit users travel between their homes and a light rail station (often three miles or less). The contacts he made then eventually led to a job he plans to keep for a long time.

“My message to students is that internships can be really helpful,” he says. “A year after I graduated from DU, the woman who oversaw me when I was at the city gave me a call and said, ‘Hey, I have a position that I think you’d be great for.’”

—Greg Glasgow
1981
Leesa McNeil (MSJA ’81) of Sioux City, Iowa, retired in January after working for the Third Judicial District Court of Iowa for 35 years, most of those years as district court administrator. Over the course of her career, Leesa also has worked in Baltimore and in Saginaw, Mich.

1982
Peter Clothier (BA ’82) is enjoying his 28th year of practicing family medicine at Dublin Primary Care in Colorado Springs, Colo. In 2017, he was named one of the Top Doctors in Family Medicine by Colorado Springs Style magazine for the third year in a row.

1983
Christy Webber (BA ’83) is president of Christy Webber Landscapes, one of the biggest landscaping operations in Chicago. She has $6 million worth of equipment and $20 million in payroll and employs more than 400 people. Christy provides design, construction and maintenance services for commercial, residential and government clients throughout the Chicago area.

1985
Timothy Kelly (BA ’85) is assistant secretary for career, technical and adult education in the U.S. Department of Education. Timothy previously was a state representative from the 94th district in Saginaw County, Mich., where he was chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on School Aid and the House Education Reform policy committee.

1988
Anna-Marie Rooney (BA ’88) of San Diego in December was hired as vice president of communications at the Scripps Research Institute, one of the world’s largest private nonprofit research organizations.

1990
Karon Szelwach Aronson (JD ’90) of Moscow, Idaho, is a visual artist who won best of show at the 2017 Latah County Fair for her watercolor “Strychnine Fire Idaho.”

Congratulations to Joy Burns and Dan Ritchie, recipients of the 2018 Founders Medal, for their enduring legacy at DU.

For more information on how to create your Pioneer legacy, visit giftplanning.du.edu or contact Jon Kraus at 303.871.4619 / jon.kraus@du.edu.
When Dayna Reggero was younger, she was a talker. The University of Denver alumna took every opportunity to put her face on TV or get her name in the newspaper as she fought to protect the environment.

Now, at age 37, she’s figured out it’s even more powerful to listen.

“We’ve got to care about our neighbors now,” Reggero says. “Nobody’s listening to their stories. That’s what they tell me: ‘You’re the first person to come here.’”

For the past four years, Reggero (MAS ‘12) has been traveling around the country, documenting real people dealing with the real effects of climate change in what she has dubbed the Climate Listening Project.

In California, she introduces viewers to worried mothers, afraid of how a natural gas leak will affect their children’s health.

In Florida, she visits a neighborhood overwhelmed by flooding from rising sea levels.

“I don’t try to convince anyone that climate change is real,” Reggero says of her films, which she shares for free online and through social media. “I just try to show the real people and their stories.”

Reggero’s love for the environment goes back as far as she can remember. She was a vegetarian at age 12. By 19, she was appearing as a spokesperson on TV with local and endangered animals. But years after attending the University of West Florida and focusing on communications, she felt unfulfilled.

Initially drawn to DU’s environmental law program, Reggero settled into a master’s program in applied science, environmental policy and management at DU’s University College.

“It really gave me the expertise and the drive to listen more, to really try to understand the science behind everything,” she says. “To understand what policies are in place and how policy works.”

Rather than stay on campus, Reggero finished her degree online, traveling with a camera to document personal stories of climate change. Her work has garnered awards from international film festivals. Partnerships with other environmental organizations, freelance work and speaking engagements have helped pay the bills.

“I’ve fallen in love with all these people who trust me with their stories,” she says. “There’s this idea that it’s not as bad as it seems out there, that the climate change impacts are coming in the future, that what we’re doing is not hurting our communities. Unfortunately, that’s not true.”

—Lorne Fultonberg
1993
Debra Crew (BA ’93) of Winston-Salem, N.C., is president and CEO of the Reynolds American tobacco company. In 2017, Debra was named by Fortune magazine as the 34th most powerful woman in business.

1994
Sara Milmoe (BA ’94) of Boulder, Colo., is retired after 14 years running an intensive outpatient drug and alcohol recovery program at Boulder Community Health. She continues to work in her private counseling practice.

1995
Angel Cortes (MA ’95) is an associate professor of history at Holy Cross College in Notre Dame, Ind. Her book “Sectarianism & Orestes Brownson in the American Religious Marketplace” was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2017.

1998
Catherine (Ullmer) Beck (BA ’98, MA ’01) is an assessment specialist for Denver Public Schools, where she manages the district’s READ Act portfolio. Before coming to Denver Public Schools, she spent 20 years in a variety of different educational roles. She is very proud to be a second-generation DU Pioneer and hopes to have a third-generation DU student when her son enters college in 2024.

Tim Heath (BA ’98) of Oakland, Calif., is a chiropractor who opened the Optimized Wellness Center in Alameda, Calif., in 2016. In October 2017, Tim provided chiropractic care to first responders and medical staff during the northern California fires.

2000
Simone Kivett (BFA ’00) of Woburn, Mass., works as an elementary school art teacher. She won the Alumni Achievement Community Engagement Award from DU’s Divisions of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences in May 2017 and was named Massachusetts Elementary Art Educator of the Year in 2017.

Nancy (Mackenzie) Nausley (BA ’00) and Tyler Nausley (BSBA ’00; JD, MBA ’04) of Sherman Oaks, Calif., welcomed daughter Lilah Sutton Nausley on May 21, 2017.

2006

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In Memoriam

2007

Demetrios Hadgis (MS ’07) and his wife, Nancy, are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, James Nicholas Hadgis, who was born Aug. 20, 2017. Demetrios, Nancy, Michael, James and their dog, Shapleigh (“Shap”), reside in Rumson, N.J.

2010

Stephanie Sherlock (BSBA ’10) of Barrie, Ont., is a former DU golfer who played on the LPGA Tour full time for three seasons beginning in 2011. She was inducted into the Barrie Sports Hall of Fame in October 2017.

2011

Emily (Betts Susanin) Kessinger (BA ’11, MBA ’12) joined the Weitz Co.’s Des Moines office as marketing and communications manager in December 2017.

2013

Bryan Baker (BSBA ’13) is a new co-owner of the Tap House Sports Bar & Grill in downtown Steamboat Springs, Colo. Bryan and his partner took over the restaurant in December 2017.

2016

Mawukle Yebuah (BSBA ’16) is co-founder of Flare & Square, a Denver-based company that creates and sells men’s bow ties and pocket squares.

1940s

Gilbert Heebner (BA ’48), Rydal, Pa., 9-23-17

1950s

Lee Nelson (BS ’50), Denver, 11-29-17
Vianes Rodriguez (BS ’55), Denver, 9-8-17
Phyllis Stevens Adams (MA ’56, EdD ’62), Thornton, Colo., 9-11-17
Robert “Bob” Davenport (LLB ’57), Broomfield, Colo., 10-14-17
Scott Clugston (JD ’58), Greeley, Colo., 9-29-17

1960s

Rena Lawson (MA ’61), Polk, Neb., 9-27-17
Nancy Redding (BS ’61), Wichita Falls, Texas, 10-23-17
Gano Evans (MBA ’63), Santa Fe, 8-18-17
Robert “Bob” Gray (BA ’66), Tustin, Calif., 8-30-17
Mary Lou Drees (BA ’67), Nevada City, Calif., 10-26-17
Jim Wiste (BSBA ’68), Denver, 1-2-18

1970s

Norman “Norm” Malbin (BA ’71), Portland, Ore., 10-1-17
Cynthia Trecker (BA ’71), Green Valley, Ariz., 1-2-18
Claudia Porter (BSBA ’75), Wheat Ridge, Colo., 10-5-17

1990s

Thomas Craig Hiatt (JD ’94), Bellevue, Wash., 2-6-17
Elizabeth Gardner (JD ’96), Pueblo, Colo., 12-24-17

2000s

Buckley Kuhn-Fricker (JD ’01), Reston, Va., 12-22-17
Richard Beck (JD ’02, LLM ’07), Superior, Colo., 9-18-17
Gabriel Tramiel (BSBA ’06), Palo Alto, Calif., 10-1-16

Faculty & Staff

Robert Hannum, professor of finance at the Daniels College of Business, January 2018
Sheila Hyatt, professor at the Sturm College of Law, Denver, 11-8-17
Jim LaVita, professor emeritus of mathematics and computer science, 10-25-17

Tell Us Your News!

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du-magazine@du.edu
DU’s winningest sports team—a coed squad at that—has another trophy under its belt. In March, the ski team captured its 24th NCAA championship after four days of competition in Steamboat Springs, Colo. Four Pioneers—Tobias Kogler, Alex Leever, Jett Seymour and 2018 Winter Olympian Andrea Komsic—earned All-America honors for their performances. Across all 17 sports, DU has won at least one national championship in each of the last five athletic seasons, a feat rivaled only by Stanford.

photo courtesy of Clarkson Creative
On display at the Chambers Center for the Advancement of Women in March in honor of Women’s History Month, Sarah Gjertson’s “Eula and Mary Murphy” is part of her “Human Imprint” series showcasing 15 women from Colorado’s past. Gjertson, an associate professor at the School of Art and Art History, created the series in 2017; it includes sculptures, photographs, a large printmaking series and an experiential work that viewers can touch.