Literary Devices
Creative writers learn to ‘fail better’ in DU’s acclaimed PhD program

Plus: Meet this year's Distinguished Alumni / Farewell to the provost
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Nearly four years ago, I began my first day as DU’s chancellor. I was drawn to the University of Denver because I admired two cultural cornerstones that make this community exceptional: close relationships between faculty and students, and a commitment to a holistic student experience.

That first year, as we began to define the University’s strategy (what would become DU IMPACT 2025), I spent a lot of time thinking about DU’s incredible legacy and how we could strengthen this student-centered institution. Central to that process was reinforcing our strengths. When Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Gregg Kvistad and I met with the Undergraduate Student Government, we didn’t ask what at DU needed fixing. Instead, we asked, “What should absolutely not change?”

They agreed that mentorships, partnerships, relationships and friendships among students and their educators—and also with their coaches and members of the staff across all units—are essential.

Just as I was beginning my inaugural year, students of the Class of 2018 were starting their own first year at DU. Now, many of those same students are experiencing another pivotal transition: life after Commencement. In some ways, that transition can feel more disorienting than the one from high school to college—or from young professional to graduate student.

As students leave this campus to make their mark on the world, proficiency in a specialized concentration is not enough. They must know how to be leaders and how to lead ethically. They must know how to collaborate with diverse groups, solve difficult problems, motivate themselves and be flexible. And it’s absolutely essential they have finely honed interpersonal and communication skills.

For the last four years, this is where I and so many on this campus have focused our attention; it’s how we’re building on our strengths. We are helping to prepare our students for a future of continuous change—a future where professionals must have the skills and knowledge to serve a broader purpose than growing immutable industry.

DU students aren’t thrust into the job market; they’re mentored into it. DU’s Career and Professional Development staff strive to engage with each student to ensure communitywide post-graduation success. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence provides a wealth of programming, from academic advising to opportunities and support for students from traditionally underrepresented populations.

Partnerships with businesses, nonprofits and alumni give our students access to leaders in Denver and beyond.

Our Division I athletics programs, as well as our popular recreational sports programs, teach teamwork and success—with an emphasis on classroom achievement.

And the Denver Advantage projects breaking ground right now—all three of which are part of the campus framework plan—were conceived on the principle of serving not just a singular academic need, but serving the whole student as well as the entire DU community. A new Community Commons will serve as a meeting space for students, faculty and staff; a first-year residence hall will foster engagement and belonging; and our new Pioneer Career Achievement Center will support the career aspirations of students and alumni.

In these and so many ways, DU is keeping up and thinking ahead. The students who were on campus on my first day in 2014, the students here today, and the students who will be here four years from now are our future leaders, educators, innovators, business owners, presidents, changemakers, artists and thinkers. We’re investing not just in their success in our classrooms, labs or playing fields—we’re helping them build lives of purpose and meaning.
As a first-year student in fall 2014, Morgan Smith arrived on campus at the same time Chancellor Rebecca Chopp began her inaugural year at the helm of DU. Over the next four years, as he participated in a wide array of DU programs and served as president of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG), Smith got to know Chopp well. Here are some of his thoughts about working with the University’s leadership team to enhance the student experience.

Chancellor Chopp’s vision is so clear about where DU is going to go, and she’s very insistent on moving us in that direction. I have been awestruck by her thoughtful leadership and commitment to students each and every time I have met with her. Even though sometimes I’ve felt intimidated by her wit and wisdom, she handles herself with a grace that makes sure everyone feels included and heard. She is truly a transformative leader.

Students from my year will always remember Chancellor Chopp running around in a golf cart during the Imagine DU process. Just seeing the chancellor of our university running around in a golf cart, handing out things, talking to the students—those were really exciting times. I remember seeing the first draft of IMPACT 2025 released. And then eventually the final draft. I remember thinking, ‘Oh, this is super cool.’ It was a bold vision for the future of our university. I saw the objectives, the strategy, each individual point that would transform the University of Denver in the years to come.

I was particularly drawn to the idea of Rocky Mountain Grand Challenges. I read that whole idea, and I remember being extremely excited. At the time, I was the president of a student think tank on campus (Roosevelt @ DU), and I got a meeting with Chancellor Chopp. We talked about Rocky Mountain Grand Challenges, but it was in that space where we didn’t know what we were going to do. After all, there are a lot of moving parts in a big strategic plan.

This last year, however, it finally came to fruition. I remember the first discussion I had with Anne DePrince [director of DU’s Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning] about DU Grand Challenges and how USG could get involved. It has been incredibly fulfilling to see it launch. This is the culmination of an idea I’ve always wanted to see on this campus, and at the spring launch event, A Community Table, our university got over 700 people to participate.

I’ve been privileged in my role as president of USG to see some of the intricate workings of the University and the high-level thought that trickles down to the day-to-day—for students, for staff, for faculty. There’s a real commitment to each one of DU IMPACT 2025’s transformative directions: from Chancellor Chopp, from the provost, from the working clusters that are implementing the plan and from the staff that are actually carrying it out.

I can only imagine, in seven years’ time, what our university will actually be.
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On April 2, DU recognized the sovereign political status of the Northern Cheyenne, Northern Arapaho, Southern Cheyenne and Southern Arapaho nations. Their tribal flags were raised in a ceremony on the Driscoll Bridge and will be displayed on campus alongside the flags of the United States, the state of Colorado and the University of Denver. Representatives from each of the tribes joined Chancellor Rebecca Chopp, Provost Gregg Kvistad and members of the DU community at the ceremony. The event was organized by Billy Stratton, associate professor of English and special advisor on Native American partnerships and programs.
ATHLETICS
Assistant coach Carle promoted to head hockey position

The Pioneers kept it in the family when it came time to choose a new hockey coach. In May, assistant coach and alumnus David Carle (BSBA ’12) was promoted to head coach of the men’s hockey team. Carle, the ninth head coach in the history of the program, replaced Jim Montgomery, who was named head coach of the NHL’s Dallas Stars on May 4.

“David earned this opportunity,” said Karlton Creech, vice chancellor for athletics, recreation and Ritchie Center operations. “During the process, we received overwhelming positive support for David, both internally and externally. His impeccable ethical reputation, intelligence, work ethic and strong relationship skills were the consistent themes in our evaluation. We look forward to many years of continued excellence in the hockey program under David’s leadership.”

Carle, 28, becomes the youngest active head coach in NCAA Division I college hockey. The Anchorage, Alaska, native—younger brother of NHL player and DU alumnus Matt Carle—served the previous four-and-a-half seasons as an assistant coach with the Pioneers, following a season-and-a-half as an assistant coach with the Green Bay Gamblers of the United States Hockey League. Prior to joining the Gamblers, Carle—initially recruited as a player—served four seasons as a student assistant coach with the Pioneers after being diagnosed with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, the primary disease of the myocardium muscle of the heart, which forced him to retire from his playing career.

“I am honored to be named the head coach of this historic program,” Carle said. “Having gone to school here, I am very proud to represent our great institution as its next head hockey coach. We will continue, as we always have, to strive for excellence both on and off the ice.”

PHILANTHROPY
$5 million gift establishes new leadership academy

During Alumni Weekend in May, DU announced a $5 million gift from Joe and Sharon Saunders to establish the Saunders Leadership Academy. It is one of the largest endowed gifts in support of scholarships to the University in its history.

The initiative includes traditional financial aid support, personal and pre-professional leadership and growth training, and structured mentorship and internship opportunities.

“I believe that my experiences at the University of Denver greatly contributed to my successes both in my personal and my business life,” says Saunders (BSBA ’67, MBA ’68), one of this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award winners (see story on page 24). “My wife and I are pleased and excited to partner with the University of Denver to open this door and offer young motivated students this wonderful opportunity to receive the leadership training and experience they need to build their future careers.”

Saunders Scholars will represent diverse backgrounds and experiences, come from across the country, and enhance the fabric and culture of the University, says Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. “One of our top priorities is to increase access to our distinctive, innovative educational experience with scholarships and financial aid,” she says. “This new programmatic cohort of students will be complemented by cross-University support—a network of students, faculty and staff who can nurture, mentor and support our students throughout their journey.”
Some 47 years after their publication, the yellowing pages of an archived Clarion show their age with every crinkling turn. But the smile on the face of the sexagenarian flipping through them looks like it came fresh off the morning presses.

“We were so proud of this,” says Steve Lang (BA ’72), then-managing editor of DU’s student-run newspaper. He stops. “One of my big regrets,” he says, motioning down at a page. “The dots under that z are too big!”

The other people in the room laugh. They get it like few do.

As the University celebrated “Real News Day” in April, former editors and alumni of the Clarion gathered in the basement of the Anderson Academic Commons to celebrate a project that will preserve their meticulously crafted creations for generations to come.

Soon, students, faculty and the greater community will have a free digital subscription to every back issue of the Clarion, thanks to efforts by Archives & Special Collections at University Libraries. The department has made it its mission to scan each page the 123-year-old paper has ever printed. Simply click to the library’s special collections page, and step back in time.

Users can glance over front-page headlines from 1923, when all it took was 1,100 students “thronging the campus” to “test the capacity of Denver U.” They can see ads for a $17 lift ticket during Copper Mountain’s 1983–84 ski season. They can follow the escalating tensions of 1970, as hundreds of students camped out in a “Woodstock West” commune to protest the Vietnam War.

Professors utilize the old black-and-white prints to add color to their courses—whether in writing or sociology. The fragile pages teach lessons in observational research and primary source analysis.

The DU archivists started by scanning newspapers from critical and often-studied time periods, such as the world wars. To make the project possible, a crowdfunding campaign has raised money to pay for the student employees tasked with scanning the pages one by one.

The process itself has been tedious, but Nancy Clark, library community relations coordinator, says the excitement has been contagious.

“You don’t find many projects like that, that speak to current and past students,” she says, watching the former editors beam over their old work. “You could have these same conversations with the Clarion staff about how much the Clarion means to them and the experience. It’s just a defining piece of their DU experience.”
RESEARCH
University lecturer shares insights on marijuana law

Sam Kamin, the Vicente Sederberg Professor of Marijuana Law and Policy at the Sturm College of Law, delivered the 2018 University Lecture on April 24. The annual event showcases the groundbreaking work of faculty members.

In the late 2000s, Kamin embarked on a path no one else had walked before in thinking through the legal issues associated with marijuana policy. His work earned him a spot on Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper’s Task Force on the Implementation of Amendment 64. Voters approved the amendment, which provided for the commercial sale of marijuana to the general public, in 2012. Now, more than four years after the amendment went into effect, Kamin is taking a look back, as the future of the industry seems to be running on two divergent tracks.

“When I started looking at this, there were a handful of states with medical marijuana and no states had recreational,” he says. “Now there are nine states that have recreational and there are 29 states that have medical. You have the former speaker of the house on the board of a medical marijuana company. The next big question is what happens at the federal level, and that’s an issue that seems to be changing from day to day.”

Kamin’s expertise in marijuana law and policy grew out of an issue he thought about often during his time teaching and researching in the areas of criminal and constitutional law. “I was interested in the division of responsibility between the state and the federal governments, so when Colorado started changing marijuana laws to make them more friendly, that seemed like an interesting place to look at those issues,” he says.

Kamin says DU has supported his efforts and research from the beginning. That support was demonstrated when he was named the University Lecturer, one of the highest honors the University bestows on faculty members. “There were a lot of schools that were a little skittish about taking this seriously and offering classes in it and research support for it,” Kamin says. “It has really put us at the center of this important area of law and policy.”

SPORTS
A championship season for men’s and women’s lacrosse

For the first time since 2014, both the women’s and men’s lacrosse teams went to the NCAA Tournament in the same season.

The men’s team defeated seventh-seeded Notre Dame in the first round on May 13 but came up short against Albany in the quarterfinals. It was a similar story with the women’s team, which advanced after beating High Point in the first round on May 11 but lost to Maryland in round two.

“It is really hard to get selected to the NCAA Tournament, and I am really proud of the team for being able to bounce back throughout the season,” Liza Kelly, head coach of the women’s team, said before the game against High Point. “We’ve had a couple of tough losses early on against some really good programs, and they didn’t give up. They kept improving, and I am really happy to see and hear them celebrate and that this team gets to continue to play.”

Later in May, men’s lacrosse faceoff specialist Trevor Baptiste (pictured) earned United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association First Team All-America honors for the fourth consecutive season. Baptiste is the sixth player in the history of the award—which dates back to 1922—to earn first-team status in all four years of his college career. Baptiste also was named the Lt. j.g. Donald MacLaughlin, Jr. Award winner as the most outstanding midfielder in college lacrosse.
BOOKS
Great reading from the DU community
By Tamara Chapman

Role Playing With the First First Ladies
From the very beginning, the job came with no description—but plenty of demands.

It was up to the first first ladies—Martha, Abigail and Dolley—to define the new role of presidential Mrs. in a way befitting a fledgling nation sour on royalty and sweet on the common touch.

How these pioneering women did so is the subject of a new book by historian Jeanne Abrams, professor with University Libraries and DU’s Center for Judaic Studies. In “First Ladies of the Republic: Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison, and the Creation of an Iconic American Role” (New York University Press, 2018), Abrams reminds readers that though the presidents’ spouses couldn’t vote, they were nonetheless subjected to relentless scrutiny from voters and the political opposition, who monitored everything from wardrobe choices to furniture selection.

The book is already a hit with critics. As Library Journal noted, “Abrams provides a much-needed new approach to understanding the significance of the position that Martha Washington (1731–1802), Abigail Adams (1744–1818), and Madison once occupied. [She] gives life to Martha, Abigail, and Dolley, illuminating the importance of their position to American history.”

The founding first ladies are no strangers to Abrams, who introduced readers to their aches, pains and fortitude in the award-winning “Revolutionary Medicine: The Founding Fathers and Mothers in Sickness and in Health” (NYU Press, 2013). In fact, Abrams’ reputation for producing outstanding histories about the nation’s early years earned her an invitation to speak at a March event at the National Archives in Washington—which she calls “a dream venue for a historian/archivist.”

Making the Case for Incoherence
Some years after the 2008 financial crisis, economists and other experts came to the conclusion that the resulting market turmoil and debt emergency, however devastating for individual states and citizens, had little effect on global financial governance and developmental finance.

Not so fast, argues Ilene Grabel, professor of international finance at DU’s Josef Korbel School of International Studies. In “When Things Don’t Fall Apart: Global Financial Governance and Developmental Finance in an Age of Productive Incoherence” (MIT Press, 2017), Grabel holds that the global crisis triggered a host of ad-hoc responses that are just now playing out in emerging and developing economies.

And that may well be a good thing, Grabel contends, suggesting that the inconsistent responses and resulting incoherence are actually productive. After all, they allow for a level of experimentation in the design of institutions and policies that could foster financial resilience.

Grabel’s take is getting notice from the business press and from the field’s leading thinkers. Dani Rodrik, a noted economist and professor at Harvard Kennedy School, credits Grabel with reminding him that “it is the cracks in the consensus, the local heresies, and the small departures and innovations that matter and lead us in an altogether novel direction. Inconsistency, ambiguity, and incoherence are useful and productive—they are a feature, not a bug.”

As Rodrik wrote in the foreword to Grabel’s book, “It happens only rarely and is all the more pleasurable because of it. You pick up a manuscript that fundamentally changes the way you look at certain things. This is one such book.”

Home, Home on the Homestead
For alumna and bestselling writer Sandra Dallas (BA ’60), Western history is a never-ending source of material. Her latest work of fiction for middle-grade students takes readers back to 1910, when 12-year-old Belle Martin moves with her six siblings and mother to the Colorado prairie to join her father on a homestead.

In “Hardscrabble” (Sleeping Bear Press, 2018), the Martin family faces test after test: crops destroyed by hail, mounting debts and illness. In this portrait of a family confronting challenges, Dallas emphasizes the value of education, the kindness of communities, the power of hope and the resilience of homesteaders.

She also emphasizes authenticity. “I try to make my characters true to the time,” Dallas told the University of Denver Magazine in 2009. In other words, readers should not expect 21st-century characters in 19th- and 20th-century settings.

“Hardscrabble” marks Dallas’ third work penned for a middle-grade audience. In her earlier works, she has captured daily life in the World War II internment camps created for Japanese Americans and depicted the westward trek by wagon train of families seeking a better life in a new home.
Kendra Whitlock Ingram became executive director of DU’s Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts in November 2016, after serving as vice president of programming and education for Omaha Performing Arts. A big part of Ingram’s job is overseeing Newman Center Presents, the venue’s annual slate of touring artists that this year includes such big names as Kathleen Battle, Pat Metheny, Dianne Reeves, Camille A. Brown and Michelle Dorrance.

Q: Why did you decide to come to DU? What stood out to you about this opportunity?
A: I was initially struck by the strategic plan [DU IMPACT 2025], which I had read online. I wasn’t as familiar with the university presenter world, but when I read DU’s strategic plan, I thought, “Wow. The commitment to community engagement, serving the public good, inclusive excellence—that’s been in my wheelhouse for my entire career.” To see an organization embracing these values and this culture was a real driver for me and made me want to be a part of that community.

Q: Are you looking to improve the visibility of the venue and the programming?
A: We still have opportunity to increase the Newman Center’s visibility. We have major plans to engage in more arts education and community-engagement work over the next few years. Next year, the Newman Center will launch a music education program called Musical Explorers, developed by our colleagues at Carnegie Hall. Carnegie Hall was always known as a premier venue—everyone strives to get on that stage—but the organization wanted to broaden their reach in the community. Through the Musical Explorers program, Carnegie Hall has done an amazing job reaching into all five boroughs, and that’s the kind of impact we want the Newman Center to have in Denver moving forward.

Q: Why is it important to do that community outreach?
A: Community engagement is not only part of our mission at the Newman Center, but it is also a strategic direction of the University of Denver. Serving the public good is part of the DU mission. Reaching out beyond our campus and making sure that we’re connecting with the entire metro area will help us to expand our audiences and also reach people who may not have regular access to the performing arts. This is important from an arts access perspective and also helps the Newman Center continue to grow its audiences.

Q: You put your first Newman Center Presents season together in just a few months; what was the best thing about that first year?
A: Some of the programming that would have been considered a little “outside of the box” in the past was really deeply embraced by audiences. Performances by Black Violin and a chamber music concert featuring the music from the video game “Final Fantasy” were nearly sold out. For the “Final Fantasy” concert, I asked the audience, “How many of you are here for the first time?” and nearly the entire audience raised their hand. It was a thrill to have so many new audience members in the venue.

Q: The 2018–19 Newman Center Presents season includes some pretty big names, particularly in dance and jazz. What was your process in putting that together?
A: Dance and jazz are two major programming concentrations for Newman Center Presents, so that’s typically where we begin in the programming process. We’ve had strong support from our audiences for both of those areas—so much so that we have developed two new subscription packages this year specifically for jazz and dance. When it comes to programming, we also consider our venue size and which artists make sense from that perspective. The artist booking process is always a giant puzzle with many pieces.

Q: For tickets and more information visit newmancenterpresents.com
### Newman Center Presents
#### 2018-19 CALENDAR

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<th>NOVEMBER</th>
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<td><strong>15:</strong> Kathleen Battle: Underground Railroad (&lt;NAME&gt; Opera House in downtown Denver)</td>
<td><strong>19-23:</strong> Potted Potter</td>
<td><strong>4:</strong> Camille A. Brown &amp; Dancers</td>
<td><strong>17:</strong> Pat Metheny, with &lt;NAME&gt;, &lt;NAME&gt;</td>
<td><strong>6:</strong> Dianne Reeves: Christmas Time Is Here</td>
<td><strong>13:</strong> Nat Geo Live: &lt;NAME&gt; (Exploring Mars)</td>
<td><strong>18:</strong> A Canadian Brass Christmas</td>
<td><strong>12:</strong> The Miracle of Indoor Plumbing: An Evening With &lt;NAME&gt;</td>
<td><strong>23:</strong> Nat Geo Live: &lt;NAME&gt; (Point of No Return)</td>
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<td><strong>16:</strong> Turtle Island Quartet with &lt;NAME&gt;</td>
<td><strong>4:</strong> The Okee Dokee Brothers</td>
<td><strong>10-11:</strong> Aspen Santa Fe Ballet: An Evening With Joyce Yang</td>
<td><strong>19:</strong> National Geographic Live: Steve Winter</td>
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<td><strong>7:</strong> &lt;NAME&gt;</td>
<td><strong>22:</strong> Destination Freedom: Black Radio Days</td>
<td><strong>14:</strong> Blind Boys of Alabama</td>
<td><strong>3:</strong> Nat Geo Live: Steve Winter (On the Trail of Big Cats)</td>
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<td><strong>20:</strong> Jazz Ambassadors: America’s Big Band</td>
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<td><strong>14:</strong> B — The Underwater Bubble Show</td>
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| **38:** Photos courtesy of Newman Center Presents

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**Kathleen Battle**

**Sept. 15, 2018**

**Okee Dokee Brothers**

**Nov. 4, 2018**

**Dianne Reeves**

**Dec. 6, 2018**

**Dorrance Dance**

**April 4, 2019**

**Bang on a Can**

**April 12, 2019**

**Vijay Iyer**

**May 9, 2019**

newmancenterpresents.com
Even at the University of Denver, where the priorities of every athletics team include a focus on academics and community service, men’s soccer stands out.

Consistently ranked among the NCAA Division I teams with the highest cumulative GPA, the squad also has a commitment to service that finds its members—when they aren’t on the field or in the classroom—volunteering on campus and in the community. Among the organizations they support are Children’s Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House and Team Impact, a national nonprofit that connects college sports teams with kids facing medical challenges.

Former soccer players fondly remember being cheered on from the sidelines by Ben Brewer, a courageous young cancer patient who “signed” with the team at age 13, or going to Children’s to make paper airplanes with young patients, bringing smiles in an environment where they often are in short supply.

“When you do something outside of yourself, you feel like you have a higher purpose,” says Sam Hamilton, a former Pioneer who now plays for the Colorado Rapids. “Now that I’m removed from the [DU] program, I understand what it did for me back then. Now, when I go do stuff in the community, [I realize that] it’s a way to separate yourself from work and realize there’s more to life.”

That’s music to the ears of soccer head coach Jamie Franks, who knows that most of the young men who come through his program won’t end up playing professionally. His No. 1 goal, he says, is to turn out leaders who know their strengths and how to drive themselves to succeed.

“Our biggest resource here is our people,” he says. “Too many coaches these days are just looking at the
athletic side of it. If you use the holistic approach and hold them accountable on the field, in the community and in the classroom, you’re going to develop much more well-rounded people.”

Franks’ whole-person approach has paid off for a legion of former DU players, including recent departure Alex Underwood, who is interning at Deloitte while finishing a concurrent bachelor’s and master’s degree program in accounting at DU.

“There’s a statistic that only 2 percent of NCAA athletes go pro in sports, and the other 98 percent have to go pro in something else,” he says.

“I wanted to go to a place that I felt would not only grow me as a soccer player and maybe prepare me for that opportunity, but also grow me as a person to prepare me for life after soccer. I definitely feel like DU did that through putting a heavy emphasis on making an impact in the community and in forming good relationships with people who have different stories from you. I got to learn a lot from those individuals.”

In May, the soccer team’s focus on schoolwork and service netted it its fourth Gold Vest Award in the last five years. The honor is given annually to an outstanding Pioneers team for excellence in community service, academics, spirit, leadership and athletic performance. It’s recognition that in all of DU athletics—not just soccer—what happens off the field is just as important as what happens on.

“The coaching staff places a pretty high emphasis on being more than just a soccer player and taking advantage of the opportunities that we were given,” Underwood says. “It’s been pretty rewarding to get to use my platform as a student-athlete to be able to make a difference in the community. It’s been fun.”
Since coming to the University of Denver more than three decades ago, Gregg Kvistad has taught classes, conducted research, chaired committees and filled myriad leadership roles: as chair of the political science department, as dean of the Divisions of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and, since 2006, as provost. For the last four years, he also has served as executive vice chancellor.

In June, Kvistad concluded his 12-year run in DU’s top academic post. He expects to allot some time in the coming months to reflecting on his journey—from first-generation college student negotiating the groves of higher education to chief academic officer at an institution on the move. At DU alone, his career has spanned a remarkable transformation in the University’s financial health and academic personality. And as Chancellor Rebecca Chopp notes, he has played a significant role in fostering changes that have enriched the student experience.

“Gregg has always understood the value of an engaged faculty and the role it plays in helping students—and the University—learn and develop,” Chopp says. “His emotional intelligence and authenticity have garnered him respect across campus. And as the architect of our budget and the steward of a rigorous academic culture, Gregg has maintained our core focus on students.”

Kvistad leaves the provost’s post with a record of attending to faculty concerns. Since he assumed the job in 2006, the University has increased its faculty by more than 247 new full-time positions. He also has hired all of the University’s current deans.

“Much of academic leadership is about empowering the faculty [and] encouraging them and their extraordinary capacities—academic and intellectual—to lead the University forward,” he says. “That’s what I’ve tried to do in every one of [my] positions.”

Only one academic experience remains on his “try that” list: “I’ve never had a sabbatical in my life,” he says. “It sounds slightly terrifying.”

After several months of sabbatical, Kvistad will move to an office in the engineering and computer science building, and, along with several academic pursuits, he will help prepare for DU’s forthcoming comprehensive fundraising campaign.
Behind the hum of the 3-D printers, obscured by students and their computer monitors, sits Austin Armstrong's little herb garden.

Alongside the parsley and rosemary, technology sprouts. Tiny sensors monitor the temperature, soil moisture and humidity. With the data they collect, Armstrong and co-founder Isaiah Silva think their company, Automata, can help cannabis growers identify inefficiencies and increase their yield.

It's not a homework assignment or a class project. Rather, it's a passion project born at the Innovation Floor Maker Space in DU's new engineering building. There, Armstrong found the tools and connections to bring an idea to life.

“I think I’d have a radically different life right now if this place wasn't here,” says Armstrong, who studies chemistry and computer science. “If you’re in here doing something, it's because you want to make something. Creativity and energy are definitely contagious.”

Since the engineering building opened in fall 2016, the Innovation Floor has become the feature attraction: a playground of trial and error, open to all, where users are free to fail as they build out their ideas. There are 3-D printers, stations for building electronics, and collaborative work areas. A newly opened woodshop in the nearby Metallurgy Building has only expanded the possibilities. The only prerequisites for use are training and desire.

“Everybody is a maker at heart,” says Michael Caston, executive director of the Innovation Floor. “Everybody likes to create and add value. That’s the core of what this space is about: being able to improve things and make the world a better place.”

For inspiration, the space hosts a weekly Maker Club, where all are welcome to come and create, regardless of their background.

“It really comes down to the community aspect,” says Jacob Goldman, the club’s co-president. “We’re all beginners to some degree. We understand what it means to be uncomfortable with this stuff.”
Faculty member Bonnie Clark is becoming more comfortable. The anthropology professor now incorporates the Maker Space into her courses. “With the revolution in 3-D scanning, we’re able to collect this amazing information about objects and places that would have been very difficult to do before,” she says.

Last spring, students used 3-D printers and scanners to replicate ancient artifacts. The models provided a unique opportunity to handle items typically seen only in photographs. “They’re not going to get to use a 150-year-old headrest; it’s at the British Museum,” Clark says. “With replica objects, you get to have this immediate embodied experience. It’s things you can’t [normally] do because the objects are rare or ancient or fragile.”

Other disciplines are getting creative too. The theater department, for example, creates set pieces in the woodshop. Biochemistry classes print 3-D models of the proteins they study. A professor in the art school found a way to reproduce alchemy stones that accompany a book that’s no longer in print.

For Heather Tobin, a staff member in DU’s Office of Teaching and Learning, the capabilities of the emerging technology are stunning. But more impressive to her is the change in culture the space brings with it. “There’s a maker movement of people being able to come together on projects in a cross-disciplinary fashion,” Tobin says. “We learn more from each other than we do by ourselves.”

Tobin is working with faculty members to develop new teaching strategies that incorporate the Maker Space and its culture into curricula. She can already see cross-campus barriers breaking down.

“Anyone in the community has access to it and is overtly invited,” she says. “There are so many things [the space] is already doing to improve education. I think it’s just going to keep getting better.”
COMMENCEMENT

Taking flight

By Lorne Fultonberg
This was not what Julia Farrell had envisioned for the summer before senior year. She was supposed to be spending those few months nurturing and accelerating her startup, not stuck in an office. But when her business partner left suddenly for another team, a last-minute telecommunications internship offered an immediate option.

Feeling like a failure, she looked out the window at the airplanes taking off and landing at nearby Centennial Airport. She wanted to fly, too.

“The more I thought about it, the more I thought, ‘This sounds like a perfect Julia thing,’” says Farrell, who graduated in June. Flying had science, math, technology, excitement. After “four years of trying a million things” in college, Farrell saw the opportunity to take off and spread her wings. She signed up for flying lessons.

A year later, Farrell collected her hard-earned double degree in math and computer science, topped with a minor in physics. Her head, however, is still in the clouds. Pursuing her pilot’s license, she says, is the product of an invaluable yet unpredictable college experience.

The studious high school student from North Carolina came to Denver thinking she would major in physics and work in a lab. Her career took a turn when she got a taste of computer science and realized she had a knack for it. Hesitantly, she changed her major.

Her accomplishments in the field over the next few years proved the decision wise. The ArtSpark app she co-created to promote local artists and galleries began to make money and took second place in the University’s Madden Challenge.

But her greatest achievement may be her work as co-creator of Boobi Butter—a breast salve that encourages women to perform cancer-detecting self-exams—and an accompanying app known as Norma. The products won first place in a women’s startup competition in Denver and earned third place in the international finals in Paris.

“I’m pretty proud of the way I’ve been able to dive into projects and just see what happens,” Farrell says. “Some of them fail, and you probably learn more from your failures than your successes.”

Try telling that to the Julia Farrell of four years ago.

“I’ve since loosened up quite a bit, actually,” she says. “I’ve relaxed a little on caring about the grades. I care a lot more about how I feel I’ve learned material. The relationships that I’ve made with friends and the clubs I’ve joined and the people I’ve met will last probably forever.”

In her four years on campus, Farrell stacked her schedule with club tennis, the alpine and climbing clubs, the Society of Physics Students and Dynamize, DU’s entrepreneurship society. As president of the Women in Computer Science Club, she worked to weld a unified cohort of females in tech.

“That’s maybe the legacy that I’m most proud of leaving here,” she says. “We’re growing a community of strong, independent, empowered women to lift each other up. I think that’s really important as women in STEM. We’re all kind of breaking this barrier together.”

In her post-DU life, Farrell will continue to work on the Norma app that turned so many heads in Paris. Her computer science skills have already captured the attention of construction companies, for which she is developing new technology. Eventually, she’d like a master’s degree.

But Farrell will not stop taxiing toward a career that combines her love for physics, math, computer science and adventure.

The aspiring helicopter rescue pilot feels ready for takeoff now that she’s learned to fall, get back up and alter her course.

“If it doesn’t feel right, don’t be scared to change something,” she says. “I worked really hard, and I tried a lot of different things. I’ve definitely found ways of succeeding.”
At the two-day Commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2018, the University of Denver’s new alumni celebrated their accomplishments and honored the family members, professors and staff members who supported their success. The University awarded 1,090 graduate degrees at the June 8 event and 1,149 undergraduate degrees the following day. In her parting words to the graduate students, Chancellor Rebecca Chopp called on them to share their skills, compassion and imagination with the world: “May you fulfill your dreams and hopes,” she said, “and may that fulfillment benefit, nourish and strengthen our world.”

photo by Wayne Armstrong
University celebrates its 2018 class of Distinguished Alumni

DU recruited an accomplished group of graduates for its 2018 Distinguished Alumni Awards: Olympic ice skater and U.S. diplomat Michelle Kwan (BA ’09), retired New Mexico Supreme Court Justice Patricio Serna (JD ’70), and Joseph Saunders (BSBA ’67, MBA ’68), former chairman and CEO of Visa.

All three were on campus in May for Alumni Weekend festivities, including on-stage conversations about their lives and accomplishments and a Gold Dinner for students and alumni.

*Story by GREG GLASGOW
Photos by WAYNE ARMSTRONG*
Michelle Kwan

The most decorated figure skater in U.S. history, Kwan boasts five world championships, nine U.S. national championships and two Olympic medals. She also has made significant contributions in diplomatic efforts, serving as the first public diplomacy envoy at the Department of State. She is now on the board of the Special Olympics.

What was your DU experience like, coming off of a professional skating career?

My time [at DU] was spent trying to discover other passions in my life. That’s hard for anybody—you identify doing one particular thing, and suddenly it’s taken away from you. But I soon realized that I wasn’t starting from nothing. I had this amazing skill set that I learned through sports. I know what it takes. I know the grit, I know the discipline. I wasn’t starting from an empty gas tank. I was full. I just needed to apply myself. Everything I knew and how I found my love and passion in sports is how I embraced other passions in my life.

Patricio Serna

Serna retired in 2012 after serving on the New Mexico Supreme Court for 12 years, including a year as chief justice. Along the way, he helped pioneer the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Hispanic National Bar Association. He is now on the board of MATCH New Mexico, which matches college student mentors with third graders to help academically at-risk students with reading and math proficiency.

What was your path to DU?

In 1967, the visionary [DU law] dean Robert Yegge applied for a Ford Foundation grant to create an intensive summer program for Hispanics at the University of Denver College of Law. This was because there were no Hispanic attorneys in the Southwest. It was a big gap. They took 21 students from New Mexico and Colorado, and 11 successfully completed the summer program and got a fellowship to DU for three years. I was one of the lucky 11, and it turns out that all 11 of us did well in law school and all passed bars in our respective states and are having wonderful careers in the legal profession. Some as judges, some as lawyers, some in government, some in the judiciary, too.

What is the best career or life advice you ever received?

My oldest sister, Isobel, was 14 when our mother died, and she was the matriarch of the family. She would tell me, “Pat, you can be whatever you want to be. Just picture yourself there. Don’t worry how you’re going to get there; always be positively focused; always be determined; and always believe in yourself.” I took that to heart, and that has been my philosophy of life. And look where it’s taken me.
When you need inspiration, where do you turn?

When I was a skater and I was in my mid-20s, I was like, “I’m world champion, Olympic medalist—what else do I need in my life?” For inspiration, I just need to turn to a little girl stepping out on the ice for the very first time. She can barely lace up her skates, but she’s getting onto the ice, so excited. When I’m in a tough spot, I often turn to the inspiration of someone who’s just starting, and how enthusiastic that person is. It really puts things in perspective.

In your career, you’ve had the opportunity to be an influencer for people. What personal qualities do you think serve that role best?

A 6- or 7-year-old little girl came up to me with her mom. I was 13 years old, doing shows on this tour all over the country, and the mom came up to me and said, “My daughter wants to be just like you.” I was shocked. I was like, “I’m 13 years old; I’m only seven years older than your daughter.” But it made me think that I could play a positive role in this little girl’s life. And it inspired me to think, “I want to be the best daughter that I can be. I want to be the best sister, the best student, the best role model, the best skater I can be.” I don’t sit back and think about it, but hopefully it’s a path that inspires people.

Joseph Saunders

CEO of Visa from 2007 to 2013, Saunders is now chairman of the board of financial wellness company Payoff and is chair and general partner at venture capital firm Green Visor Capital.

What aspects of your DU experience set you up for business success?

First was the observation that everybody in the fraternity that I was in went to graduate school. That was the first thing that kind of clicked in my brain, and I said, “There’s more to [college] than having a beer party.” It really is an opportunity to begin to define myself. Another thing that helped me a lot was going to Mexico for a quarter when I was a sophomore. All of a sudden, you’re in an environment where your teachers are teaching you something that is absolutely new to you. The history teacher at the National University of Mexico thought California and Texas ought to be part of Mexico. Whatever the truth of the matter is, what it said to me is there are different points of view, and there are different people all over the world. And if you’re going to be a part of a global economy, you’re going to have to appreciate that.

What personal qualities do you feel make an effective leader?

You need to recognize other people. You need to work with people to get things done. There is nothing that is extraordinarily successful that is successful because of one person. I can’t tell you the number of times I’ve seen people be afraid to hire somebody who may be as good or better than them because they’re afraid of losing their job. That means that progress just stops. It comes to a halt. That is a signal of failure.

What advice would you give to DU students graduating in 2018?

Try to get involved in something that you like. You will be happier in the long run doing something that excites you, whether or not that means you’ll be the CEO of VISA or something entirely different. What isn’t OK anymore is to just do things. To go to class and get a degree and not think about it. Luck will only take you so far.
Creative writers learn to ‘fail better’ in DU’s acclaimed PhD program

by Tamara Chapman
An Army veteran and a child of the hardscrabble rust belt, Samuel Clare Knights (PhD ’14) came to the University of Denver’s top-ranked doctoral program in creative writing seeking what might be called a safe space.

No, not the kind of “safe space” associated with likeminded thinking. Rather, Knights says, he wanted space to push and blur boundaries, a space to put the avant-garde writer Samuel Beckett’s famous words into practice: “Fail better.”

And fail he did. So much better, in fact, that after endless rewriting, rethinking and restructuring, he placed a short story with Fence, a publication dedicated to experimental literature. Extracted from his yet-to-be-published novel of the same name, “The Manual Alphabet” was drawn from his life as the hearing son of two deaf parents.

Publication in Fence was exciting enough, but even better news soon arrived by email: Congratulations! “The Manual Alphabet” has been selected for inclusion in “PEN America Best Debut Short Stories 2017,” the inaugural edition of an anthology of stellar new fiction from the world’s best literary magazines.

The honor, of course, testified to Knights’ talent and persistence. But he’s quick to credit the creative writing program with teaching him how to be “a writer in the world,” someone who works within a tradition of deep thinking, rigorous reading and courageous writing.

“The thing about this program is it taught me things about writing that I had not previously received from any of my other academic experiences,” Knights explains, noting that he came to DU with an MFA in creative writing from a well-respected program. “The things I really, truly needed were imparted to me here at DU.”
For more than 70 years, the creative writing doctoral program at DU has prepared students to accomplish what associate professor Selah Saterstrom calls “their most pressing work.” Throughout those decades, the program has been celebrated for the caliber of its faculty and for the quality and quantity of work produced. In 2012, its reputation was sealed when Poets & Writers magazine ranked it the No. 1 doctoral program in the nation.

That No. 1 ranking has stuck, thanks in part to the successes of students like Knights—not to mention Mona Awad, who, while still a student, won a 2017 Colorado Book Award for literary fiction for her debut novel, “13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl,” and Emily Culliton, whose first novel, “The Misfortune of Marion Palm,” was reviewed favorably by no less an authority than the New York Times.

Successes like these, the program’s champions agree, grow out of a special something that can’t be found anywhere else in academia. Just what is that special something? The answers, not surprisingly, range from the concrete to the abstract—but all share poetic flair.

“It is this attitude of creative work as revolutionary work—it’s where we have dreams on behalf of culture, to cultivate deep and evolved culture,” Saterstrom says.

Brian Kiteley, who served as program director until the end of the 2017–18 academic year, is just as adamant, but he is inclined to emphasize the program’s scholarly cast—its commitment to exploring literature through a critical and theoretical lens. “We are intellectually adventurous,” he says, “and we seek out students—and they seek us out as well—who are willing to read philosophy, literary theory and literature and think kind of hard about them.”

The prospect of all that evolved culture, pressing work and hard thinking clearly has its appeal. In any given year, as many as 200 writers want to be part of the action, submitting applications for no more than eight slots in the program’s two tracks, one in fiction and one in poetry.

“I came to the program … because some of the writers I most admired had been through the program or taught in the program,” says Joanna Ruocco (PhD ’12), now on the creative writing faculty at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. With her eye on works by the likes of Laird Hunt, an award-winning novelist who recently departed the DU program, Ruocco wanted to tap into a culture that sustained so much creativity. “How did they get where they are?” she asked of her idols. “How did they write those sentences?”

While writers come to the program eager to advance their artistic progress, they expect to do so by immersing themselves in the works of others, taking twice as many literary studies courses as writing workshops. And that’s a key way in which the program differs from its counterparts at other universities. As Kiteley is quick to emphasize, the PhD program is not simply an extension of an MFA in creative writing. It’s not about what Kiteley calls “the simple tactical problems of writing” or “the process of making a short story or writing a lyric poem. It’s not [solely] a studio or workshop-oriented experience. … It’s more of a literary studies-type degree.”


Want to capture emotions? Happiness, perhaps?

Well, Kiteley says, begin with some philosophers on the topic, Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice,” a Tolstoy novella and Dashiell Hammett’s “The Thin Man,” a hardboiled detective novel centered around a happily married, quick-quipping couple. “My point is that it’s hard to write about happiness,” he explains. “It’s hard to write about love. It’s hard to write about something that works. Let’s think about that.”

Thinking is, in fact, key. As Bin Ramke, an award-winning poet who has taught at DU since 1985, sees it, the program aims to erase longstanding barriers between the academic and the creative. “There has often been a kind of divide and conflict between academic programs and creative writing programs,” he explains. “I don’t know exactly how that began, but I have found over the years that that divide has lessened—practically disappeared—here. [This program] really is about both the making of your own work and [undertaking] critical work with literature.”

And that’s how student and queer poet Alicia Mountain likes it.

“This program is asking us to really be rooted in scholarship and in the existing literature,” she says. “That allows us to then do work that somehow challenges or redefines or chews up and spits back out the work that we’ve seen and read.”

Ruocco seconds that. Co-editor of the fiction journal Birkensnake, winner of the Catherine Doctorow Innovative Fiction Prize and the 2013 Pushcart Prize, she has several experimental stories and novels to her credit, not to mention...
a handful of romance tales penned under a nom de plume. Looking back on her time at DU, she considers the emphasis on rigorous reading to be the foundation for innovation. “Some of that will show up in your creative work,” she says, noting that her scholarly explorations of monstrosity, femininity and female subjectivity influenced the fabulation that characterizes some of her fiction.

None of this is to suggest that writing workshops aren’t valuable. The program has its own philosophy about this critical component of the creative writing experience. Saterstrom describes that philosophy this way: “Rather than seeing the workshop as a zone of production primarily, [this program sees] the workshop as an alchemical space where students risk experimentation on behalf of their best work. That involves creating a space where students can have a relationship with uncertainty—where they can ask questions. Rather than being focused on success and productivity, loosen up a little, loosen up structure and syntax and allow dailyness to be part of the poem.”

She’s not alone. It was in various workshops that Knights experimented with the composition that became “The Manual Alphabet,” blurring what had been a poem written when he was an undergraduate into a hybrid creation that conveys the emotions and day-to-day reality of his childhood. For Knights, drawn as a reader to works that “had no regard for identity, [or] fixed identity,” “blur” became the operative word.

“I came from a blurred language experience, where everything was sign language inside the house, and outside the house, it was the hearing world,” he recalls. To convey that experience, he needed to practice the blur.

It took a long conversation with Saterstrom to free him from shackles of his own making. “Because part of my own problem is constantly thinking about structure, every time I’d think about the structure of a project, I’d be beholden to that structure,” he remembers. “And she could tell this was getting in the way.”

None of this happened, of course, without spectacular missteps, without consigning draft after draft to the trash bin. From the poem he began with, Knights retained a few syllables. “I had the title; the title survived. And I think there was one full line from that first effort that made it: ‘The house was a dull psalm.’ That was the only line.”

And that’s what failing better looks like: The piles of discarded drafts. The close encounters with other writers, other texts. The hours spent circling an image, an idea. The pillaging of memory for context.

The email that begins: “Congratulations!”

Ramke, too, sees the DU approach as conducive to highly original work. “That sort of work—the kind of writing that is exploratory, that is interested in not responding primarily to market pressure but to intellectual and emotional pressure, is the kind of work that can most readily thrive in this kind of setting,” he says.

The workshop setting proved liberating for poet Jennifer Elise Foerster, a 2018 graduate of the program with two books in circulation. “I came to the program with a more strict sense of what a poem is supposed to be,” she recalls. “DU helped me it [is] focused on process and integrity. And that is actually quite rare in creative writing programs.”

The names on the spines

Faculty members and students in DU’s PhD creative writing program are making their mark on the literary world. They include:

Mona Awad (student) won a Colorado Book Award for literary fiction for her debut novel, “13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl.”

Emily Culliton (student) saw her first novel, “The Misfortune of Marion Palm,” hailed by the New York Times as “a witty, sneakily feminist kind of crime story.”

Jennifer Elise Foerster (student) recipient of a prestigious 2017 NEA Fellowship in Creative Writing, has published her second volume of verse, “Bright Raft in the Afterweather.”

Brian Kiteley (faculty) has three novels and two writing guides in print. His upcoming linked spy novels, “Emily’s Book” and “Jack’s Book,” each tell the same story of “love, sun, sex and the CIA” from the two characters’ perspectives.

Alicia Mountain (student) captured the 2017 Iowa Poetry Prize for works included in her newly published book, “High Ground Coward.”

Bin Ramke (faculty) is a two-time winner of the Iowa Poetry Prize. His most recent book, released in April, is “Light Wind, Light Light.”

Selah Saterstrom (faculty) is the “daring, artful voice” behind three novels and one collection of essays.
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Students from the geography department take a field trip in this picture from 1940. Do you remember field trips or off-campus coursework you did during your time at DU?

Let us know! Email du-magazine@du.edu
1971
F. Scott Jackson (JD ’71) was inducted into the California Homebuilding Foundation’s Hall of Fame in June. A shareholder and director of the law firm Jackson Tidus in Irvine, California, Scott has been a practicing attorney for more than 45 years.

1976
Nello Gonfiantini (BSBA ’76, MBA ’77) of Reno, Nevada, is on the board of directors at Diego Pellicer Worldwide, a premium marijuana brand and retail development company. Nello previously founded Home Federal Savings Bank of Nevada, which was later purchased by American Federal Savings Bank.

1977
William Bane (MSW ’77) of Lakewood, Colorado, is retired from a 48-year career in social work, including 27 years in his most recent position managing children, youth and family mental health programs at the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health. He and his wife, Jeanette Bane (JD ’79), are longtime Pioneer hockey season ticket holders and attended the team’s 2017 Frozen Four national championship victory in Chicago.

1978
Paul Commons (MBA ’78) in February was hired as chief financial officer at New York-based DropCar, a provider of app-based automotive logistics and concierge services. Paul, who has 45 years of experience working with private and public companies, most recently served as chief financial officer for Zipz, a packaging company featured on the television show “Shark Tank.”

1986
Gretchen Rosenberg (BA ’86, MBA ’89) of Denver was promoted in January to president and chief executive at Kentwood Real Estate. Gretchen joined Kentwood in 1998 as one of the founding agents of its Cherry Creek office; she will now be at the helm of a 450-person operation, managing the company’s locations in LoDo, Cherry Creek and the Denver Tech Center.

1990
Laird Goldsborough (MMS, MRCM ’90) is president of the Kansas City office of Valbridge Property Advisors, the nation’s largest independent commercial real estate valuation firm.

1991
Lori Carrell (PhD ’91) in February was appointed chancellor of the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR). Lori had served as the college’s interim chancellor since August 2017; before that, she was UMR’s vice chancellor for academic affairs and student development.

1992
W. A. Curtice (MS ’92, MSSM ’93) of Graham, Washington, retired from a career in government service in 2008. W.A. is now a digital artist and held a show at the University of Washington-Tacoma in September 2017.

1994
Matt Owens (BS ’94, MS ’99) is senior compliance analyst at Janus Henderson Investors in Denver. He resides with his wife, Joan, in Aurora.

1995
Beth Weigel (MA ’95, PhD ’04) is the new director of the Juneau-Douglas City Museum in Alaska. She previously was program coordinator at Juneau Public Libraries.

1998
Vivek Vaidya (MS ’98) of San Francisco was CTO and co-founder of the data management platform Krux Digital, which was acquired by Salesforce in 2016. He currently is senior vice president of engineering and CTO of Salesforce Marketing Cloud at Salesforce.

1999
Idelle Fisher (BFA ’99) of Denver has owned website and graphic design business Pickle-Wix for more than 15 years. She recently designed and launched a new website for author and DU alumna Sandra Dallas (BA ’60).

2000
Travis Buchanan (BA ’00) of Littleton, Colorado, is an assistant professor of theological studies at Colorado Christian University. He was selected as the outstanding faculty member for the 2017–18 school year in the school’s Biblical Studies and Theology Division.
2001

**Bryan Vines** (BA ’01), a former DU hockey player, in April was named head women’s ice hockey coach at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in New York. Bryan, who was interim head coach for the women’s team for the 2017–18 season, previously was an assistant on the RPI men’s team. He also held coaching positions at Miami University in Ohio and with the Colorado Avalanche.

2002

**Alexandra Loukas Grivas** (BSBA ’02) and her brother, **Aristithis Loukas** (BSBA ’98) work with their family at Loukas Development in Chicago. The company’s latest project, a boutique luxury apartment building, is currently under construction.

**Matt Huelskamp** (BSBA ’02, MBA ’16) was promoted in April to president of Hyder Construction in Denver. Matt served as the firm’s vice president for two years and has been with the company for 11. He is the fifth president in the company’s 72-year history.

**Erin Pheil** (MA ‘02) of Frisco, Colorado, is owner and lead strategist at Followbright Web Agency, a boutique website development and consulting agency.

2003

**Cheryl Zeeb** (MLS ’03) of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, premiered her one-woman show, “We Ain’t Mad! We Got Issues!” in June. The script, which features monologues by nine characters, began as her capstone project at DU’s University College.

On a business trip to Kuwait, alumnus **Andres La Saga** (MBA ’03), right, vice president, business development, at waterpark company Whitewater, met with fellow alum **Ghazi Al Hajeri** (BS ’00), center, assistant CEO, recreation affairs, Kuwait Touristic Enterprises Company. “Ghazi is a very dynamic Kuwaiti,” La Saga writes, “and in addition to working as a senior exec for the Kuwaiti government, he is also founder of the very successful TRAMPO trampoline studio/fitness company in the Middle East.”

**Reunions**

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Alumnus **Ned Porges** (EdD ’65) writes to say that, “Thanks to the internet, we brothers of the Iota Chapter of Phi Sigma Delta, 1960-66, have been gathering over the years. We are all in our mid- to late 70s. We have over the years met in Miami, Denver and this last February, in Phoenix. Nine of us old-timers and some of our wives got together for a few days in the Arizona sunshine. We traveled from the four corners of North America: Denver, Los Angeles, Seattle, Boston, New York City, Dallas and Phoenix. We will meet next time in Miami.”

**Reunions**

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Getting ahead in life meant getting out of the community. At least that’s what everyone told Susana Cordova when they urged her to leave her Latino Denver neighborhood behind.

An education was her chance to rise up, they said. To be more than a secretary or a factory worker like her parents. College could be her escape.

Then, as a first-generation freshman at the University of Denver, Susana Cordova (BA ’88) cracked open the blue cover of a Chicano poetry journal. As she read, she realized everyone had been wrong.

“It was a life-changing experience for me,” says Cordova, then an English major still searching for a career to pursue. “Getting educated was a way to invest in myself—my actual real identity—and give back to my community.”

Thirty years later, Cordova is giving more than ever.

As deputy superintendent at Denver Public Schools, she now leads the district that raised her. She’s spent the last three decades serving as a teacher, principal and administrator.

“I really have deep roots here,” Cordova says. “I can totally see myself in our students. I know I am where I am because of the incredible educational opportunities that I was fortunate enough to receive.”

She remembers the mentors, caring teachers and scholarships—lucky breaks, as she calls them—that allowed her to attend college. Now she works to ensure that every student in her district has the same opportunity to thrive, regardless of race, gender or culture.

From experience, she knows it’s possible.

“I never would have thought, growing up, that I would be sitting where I am,” Cordova says. “And I certainly feel that the quality of the education that I got at DU—the ability to grow my thinking skills and experience around language and culture—really positioned me in a very different way than I would have been positioned before.”

—Lorne Fultonberg
2004

**Jennie (Acker) Harrop** (PhD ’04) of Sherwood, Oregon, recently published an open textbook titled “The Simple Math of Writing Well: Writing for the 21st Century” (Pennington ePress, 2018). Jennie is an English professor and department chair at the Portland campus of George Fox University, where she also serves as director of the institution’s Portland Writing Center.

**Chrissy Davis Jones** (MSW ’04) of Airway Heights, Washington, is acting vice president of student services at Spokane Falls Community College. In February she was named Community College Professional of the Year by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

2009

**Greg Middents** (MPS ’09) of Honolulu recently took a new job as senior assistant administrator overseeing driver’s licenses and driver’s education with the Hawaii State Judiciary.

2005

**Terrance Carroll** (JD ’05), former speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives, in April started a new job as chief legal and external affairs officer for Denver Public Schools.

2010

**Kristin Golden** (CERT ’10) is principal at Riverdale Elementary School in Thornton, Colorado. In March she was named Colorado’s Distinguished Principal of the Year. The award is given to one elementary school principal each year from the National Association of Elementary School Principals in all 50 states. Kristin was selected for Colorado and will compete among other educators for the national title later this year.

2010

**LOREN KNASTER** (MA ’10, CRTG ’10) of Denver recently was promoted to vice president at investment and advisory firm RMB Capital. Loren also volunteers with the Allied Jewish Federation of Denver and Jefferson County Mediation Services.

**MAKE THE GIFT THAT PAYS YOU BACK**

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<th>AGE</th>
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- You donate cash or appreciated stock to DU in exchange for guaranteed payments for life
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Continued on page 40
When the longest-serving Republican senator in U.S. history needs help understanding health care, Orrin Hatch (R-Utah), 84, turns to a fresh-faced kid from St. Louis who is young enough to be his grandson.

Stuart Portman (BA ’13), at just 27 years old, is the senator’s resident expert and most trusted voice on the hottest of hot-button issues: the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, among other things.

“I do as much learning as I can,” says Portman, who has worked in Hatch’s office for nearly three years. “I feel like I need to earn the title of being a Medicaid expert so people will believe what I have to say. It just means I have to work a little harder.”

Luckily, Portman knows exactly what it’s like to have a lot on his plate.

As an honors student pursuing a pre-med/political science double major, Portman served in Undergraduate Student Government, chaired the Diversity Summit and used a work-study opportunity to get hands-on experience in his field.

The broad skill set and experiences he acquired at DU, he says, have been instrumental to finding respect and that elusive bipartisanship on Capitol Hill.

“I wanted to go to a place that values a more holistic perspective on what it means to be an academic person,” he says. “Everyone brings something different to the table. You can’t succeed if everyone in the room has the same opinion as you.”

With that in mind, Portman has played a pivotal role behind the scenes, working across the aisle, crafting bills designed to improve long-term health care systems for the neediest. When Hatch retires, Portman plans to stick with health care policy, working at a local, state or national level.

“I think my passion [for health care policy] comes from these vulnerable people who are forgotten,” he says. “Someone has to be there to care.”

—Lorne Fultonberg
HOMECOMING and FAMILY WEEKEND 2018

ON 1 DAY
MAY 23, 2018

OVER 2,800 INDIVIDUALS DONATED MORE THAN $500,000 IN SUPPORT OF 32 CAUSES & 203 DESIGNATIONS

THANK YOU!
Top Talent

In March, the Denver Business Journal published its annual 40 Under 40 list, which shines a spotlight on the Mile High City’s young movers and shakers. DU, as usual, was well represented on the list, with eight alumni making the cut.

2010
Whitney Hake (MS ’10) in January joined the Denver office of real estate firm Transwestern as senior vice president-agency leasing. Before joining Transwestern, Hake spent seven years at Cushman & Wakefield, where she most recently served as director.

Richard Zelenka (JD ’10) of Centennial, Colorado, has launched Critical Path IP Law, a Denver-based law firm focused on intellectual property protection. Richard has 20 years of experience with tech innovation and business growth. His legal expertise includes drafting and prosecution of more than 100 patent applications.

2017
Kelley Dingens (BSBA ’17) is marketing director for the Colorado Real Estate Finance Group, a Denver-based finance firm offering services ranging from residential mortgages to large-scale development project financing. Kelley is responsible for all of the firm’s marketing aspects and efforts, including social media and web assets and client and consumer marketing.

Jamie Stanton (BSBA ’17) of Oakland Township, Michigan, is a two-time Paralympic skier who won a bronze medal at the 2018 Paralympic Games in South Korea. Jamie is slated to start his finance career in July, when he will go to work as an analyst on Wall Street.

Zachary Detra
(JD ’05), partner at Denver law firm Davis Graham & Stubbis

Anthony Epps
(BSBA ’06, JD ’09), partner at local law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP

Phoenix Jackson
(BSBA ’08), client-relations strategist at Denver’s 9NEWS

Adeeb Khan
(MBA ’14, JD ’09), director of corporate responsibility at TIAA

Janiece Mackey
(BA ’06), cofounder of Young Aspiring Americans for Social and Political Activism

Justin Newman
(BS ’04), owner of Advanced Orthopedics and Sports Medicine Specialists

Sarah Treadway
(MBA ’09), president and co-CEO at Stout Street Hospitality

Ashley Wald
(JD ’05), partner at Denver law firm Holland & Hart

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Tell Us Your News!
Send your class note to du-magazine@du.edu
1940s
Charlotte O’Connell (BA ’46), Sterling, Colorado, 1-26-17
Dale Harvey (BS ’47), Estes Park, Colorado, 3-14-18
Frank Palmeri (BA ’49, MA ’58), Wheat Ridge, Colorado, 3-3-18
Earl Uitendaal (BS ’49), Humboldt, Tennessee, 2-15-18

1950s
Patrick Schauer (BS ’51), San Diego, 6-25-17
Frankie (Swallow) Heiber (MSW ’57), Kirkland, Washington, 1-10-18
Robert Johnson (JD ’57, MBA ’62), Golden, Colorado, 3-25-18
Robert “Bob” Grueter (BSBA ’59, JD ’63), Emma, Colorado, 2-1-18

1960s
Raymond Youmans (EdD ’61), Hutchinson, Kansas, 1-17-18

Mary Behrens (MA ’65), Davenport, Iowa, 3-22-18
Robert Lawrence Renberg (MBA ’63), Santa Fe, New Mexico, 8-18-17
Jerry Borgman (BSBA ’68), Mesa, Arizona, 1-14-18
Jack Hogan (BSBA ’68, MSW ’97), Goodyear, Arizona, 9-19-17

1970s
John Maupin (BA ’70), Honolulu, 12-27-17

1980s
Terence Cozad (PsyD ’87), Wheaton, Illinois, 1-16-18

1990s
Elizabeth Ann Gardner (JD ’96), Lakewood, Colorado, 12-24-17

Facility & Staff
Edward Lindell, (BA ’50, MA ’56, EdD ’60), former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Northfield, Minnesota, 12-14-17
Students, faculty, staff and others gathered on May 25 to bid farewell to the William T. Driscoll Student Center, the north side of which will come down this summer to make way for a brand-new Community Commons. “Goodbye Driscoll Day” featured games, refreshments, a look back at the center’s role in student life from its opening in 1984 and a “creative destruction” session where attendees were encouraged to fling paint on the soon-to-be-demolished walls.

Check out the fall edition of the University of Denver Magazine for more information on the Community Commons and other upcoming construction projects that will transform the campus skyline.

photo: Wayne Armstrong
Among the Commencement-related ephemera in the DU archives is this program for the 1886 ceremony at First Baptist Church. The Commencement address was delivered by the Rev. Henry Buchtel, later DU’s chancellor and a one-term Colorado governor.