SEEKING GRACE
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A new exhibit highlights black women throughout DU’s history

Cover photo courtesy of DU Archives
There is a marked distinction between two questions our society asks its students: “What do you want to do?” and “What do you want to do with your life?” The first interrogates the student’s professional aspirations. The second asks the student to consider their vocation, their gifts, the questions they want to answer and the ways they feel called to serve the world. Writer and theologian Frederick Buechner describes a calling as “the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” I believe that when students have a true vocation, they are better able to pursue lives and work of deeper meaning and make a positive impact on society.

By providing a holistic student experience that emphasizes community engagement, ethical leadership and a commitment to the public good, the University of Denver supports students’ exploration and discovery of vocation. DU students engage in hands-on learning. They study abroad and experience other cultures and ways of living. They are involved in entrepreneurial programming and compete in a Division I sports program that emphasizes both athletic and academic performance. DU students learn the vital communication and leadership skills needed to work on diverse teams, and they partner with organizations in the Denver region to help solve some of the world’s most pressing challenges.

When a DU student graduates and starts a community-serving, sustainable company that advances the public good, I know this institution has served them well. When they serve as ethical leaders in the community, treating all with respect and dignity, promoting and pursuing meaningful diversity and making choices that don’t do harm, but create lasting good, I know this institution has served them well. When our students lend their voices and ideas to the world, actively participating in the process of democracy, I know, without a doubt, we are serving them well.

In short, DU students leave this campus with more than a degree. Yes, our graduates have cultivated a range of skills, knowledge and experiences to pursue successful careers. But they also know how to innovate, be agile, ask and answer complex questions and contribute to society. These are skills students want, and these are the skills employers are asking for. This is education in the 21st century.

The accomplishments of the DU community, from our students and faculty to our alumni, staff and partners, are proof that when given the opportunity to answer the more difficult questions—“What do I want to do with my life?” and “How will I serve the world?”—what we can accomplish, for ourselves, for others, for democracy and society, is nothing short of astounding.
I was impressed with Greg Glasgow’s article “Two Lives Meet on Opposite Sides of a Century” (winter 2019). As a clinical psychologist, I know how difficult it is to recover from a drug addiction—and then to do something remarkable with one’s life afterward is absolutely unique. Roddy MacInnes’ ability to connect with a prior generation through photographs requires a sensitivity to the importance of our collective humanity few people are able to appreciate. I know. I have been a serious amateur photographer since I was photo editor of my high school yearbook in 1954. Knowing that those surviving fires and hurricanes look for their photos first when returning to the wreckage of their homes, I made a decision to put as many family photos on my bedroom wall as I could. It seemed a shame to tuck these precious photos away in a scrapbook, rarely to be seen.

My years at the University of Denver were the best ones of my life. I didn’t even have to apply to the doctoral program. Dean Laurine Fitzgerald hired me as her assistant after I visited the University on a whim while vacationing in Denver one summer. As a grad student, I spent hours shooting the breeze with Professor John Horn, who was proud of the fact that he cut his own hair. I will be forever grateful to him for helping me secure a two-year USPHS research fellowship.

Nov. 22, 1963, the day I passed my orals and handed in my dissertation, is a day I will never forget.

Ralph Welsh (PhD ’64) Redding, Connecticut

Visual history

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The north side of the William T. Driscoll Student Center was torn down in January as part of the Denver Advantage Campus Framework plan that in the short term will bring three new buildings to campus. Replacing Driscoll North will be a Community Commons that will house spaces for classes, programming, studying and collaborative opportunities, as well as a central dining hall.

Learn more about the Denver Advantage Campus Framework plan at du.edu/denver-advantage/spring2019
With two performances to overflow audiences at the prestigious Monterey Jazz Festival—and standing ovations from each—the Lamont Jazz Orchestra (LJO) gave notice to the music world in September that DU is home to some of the finest college jazz musicians on the planet.

Made up of 17 undergraduate and graduate students from DU’s Lamont School of Music and directed by multiple Grammy nominee and Lamont faculty member Steve Wiest, the band won an invitation to perform at the festival with a first-place finish at the Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival in March 2018. Wiest called the invitation analogous to a college football team being invited to play in the Super Bowl.

In its 60-year history, the Monterey Jazz Festival has become a top musical destination. The 61st festival presented more than 500 artists performing nonstop on eight stages for three nights and two days. It featured performances by jazz superstars Dianne Reeves, Norah Jones, Wynton Marsalis, Jon Batiste and many others.

“The Monterey Jazz Festival is one of the biggest and most prestigious events in music. To perform there is to walk among giants,” Wiest said. “The LJO walked right into Monterey and played at an extremely high level, gaining accolades from other students, the national media and high-level jazz artists alike. I simply couldn’t be more proud of their professional demeanor, their musicianship and how they represented DU on the world stage. The future of jazz is in good hands indeed.”
BY THE NUMBERS

Soccer star Andre Shinyashiki

The most decorated student-athlete in team history, striker Andre Shinyashiki, of Sao Paulo, Brazil, joined the Colorado Rapids in January. In his senior offseason, Shinyashiki won the 2018 Senior CLASS Award, was named the United Soccer Coaches’ Scholar Athlete of the Year and earned MAC Hermann Trophy finalist honors. Below are Shinyashiki’s career stats at DU and beyond.

TOTAL APPEARANCES
83

TOTAL STARTS
67

CAREER GOALS
51

CAREER GAME-WINNING GOALS
18

CAREER ASSISTS
15

HIGHEST POINTS-PER-GAME RANKING
#1

PICK POSITION IN 2019 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER SUPERDRAFT
5

ATHLETICS

FC Bayern partnership brings new international opportunities

In October, DU announced a partnership with German soccer powerhouse FC Bayern Munich to engage on various cultural, academic and athletic ventures. The alliance may grow to include cultural exchanges, research collaborations, educational opportunities, and the sharing of coaching and leadership philosophies, methodologies and techniques.

The alliance may include other benefits as well, including the potential for access and use of sport facilities, and collaboration on research programs specifically related to sports psychology, medicine and nutrition.

“We are dedicated to delivering the highest level of education, and by partnering with FC Bayern, we will be delivering a global soccer program too,” says Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. “As an educational institution, we will be able to support the club in their research initiatives as well as offer their staff excellent educational opportunities in the U.S.”
LEADERSHIP

New Korbel dean announced

Frederick “Fritz” Mayer will take over as dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies on July 1. Mayer comes to the University of Denver from Duke University, where he has served most recently as associate dean in the Terry Sanford School of Public Policy. His previous positions at Duke include director of the Center for Political Leadership, Innovation and Service; director of the Duke Policy Bridge and director of the Program on Global Policy and Governance.

Mayer’s areas of expertise include the role of narrative in global environmental politics, global value chains for public policy and governance, the politics of climate change legislation, and energy and trade policy. In addition to his academic leadership, Mayer served as senior international trade and foreign policy advisor to former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley from 1992 to 1993 and as a policy analyst at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Mayer earned his master’s in public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government and his PhD in public policy from Harvard.

RESEARCH

$7 million grant will create STEM opportunities for kids with disabilities

DU’s Morgridge College of Education, in collaboration with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), has been awarded a $7 million grant focused on advancing STEM in early childhood, including ways to increase access and participation for young children with disabilities. Doug Clements and Julie Sarama, co-directors of the University’s Marsico Institute, will be co-principal investigators on the grant aimed at launching the Center for the Advancement of Early STEM Education (CAESE).

“This work is critical to all children and, in particular, children with disabilities. From the first years of life, all children enjoy and benefit from learning STEM, and we have learned a lot about how to support their learning,” Clements says. “However, we know less about how to support children with disabilities, and STEM is just as important and enjoyable for them. This center will bring together a superb team, with experts in STEM and teaching children with disabilities, who will fill this gap with research and development. This work will have national importance.”

In partnership with UNC’s Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG), the new center will increase the body of knowledge of current evidence-based practices for early STEM learning, including early computer science learning for children with disabilities. The five-year, $7.25 million award is funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs.

“We are delighted to have Doug Clements and Julie Sarama from the University of Denver to collaborate with us on this center,” says FPG’s Chih-Ing Lim, co-director of CAESE. “Doug and Julie are internationally renowned early math and STEM experts, and we are really thrilled to have the opportunity to work together with them to ensure children with disabilities can participate and benefit from high-quality STEM teaching and learning in their homes and across their communities.”

For more information, visit morgridge.du.edu/DA/spring2019
**BOOKS**

**Great reading from the DU community**

*By Tamara Chapman*

**A treasure trove for ‘map maniacs’**

In “*A History of America in 100 Maps*” (University of Chicago Press and British Library Press, 2018), history professor Susan Schulten takes readers on a journey that runs from the 15th century to the digital age. But even with its sequential presentation of material, Schulten explains, “the point of the book is not to cover American history, but to showcase what maps can do for history—the way they can unearth new dynamics and narratives.”

The volume draws on maps from the British Library, as well as from collections on this side of the Atlantic. Some of the inclusions tell familiar stories: how the world appeared to Columbus, for example, and which colonies belonged to Britain and which to France.

“I also wanted really unexpected maps,” Schulten says. “I wanted to upend expectations about what a map is and tell stories that haven’t been told.”

Among those unexpected offerings are a 1721 map painted on deerskin by Native Americans seeking to negotiate trade with South Carolina and an 1818 rendition of the country, crafted by a schoolgirl, that offers insight into the education of American women.

As Schulten sees it, “Maps offer a pretty rich way to get into the past.”

**Getting real about the plastic problem**

In “*Peak Plastic: The Rise or Fall of Our Synthetic World*” (Praeger, 2018), Jack Buffington of the Daniels College of Business takes on our mounting plastics problem: Don’t eliminate the omnipresent material, he advises. Instead, innovate.

Buffington, who also is responsible for warehousing and fulfillment for MillerCoors, considers the supply chain an ideal spot for “disruptive innovation”—for moving beyond what he calls “the failed policies of the past.” He offers specific ideas that can be implemented before it’s too late.

Too late? That may sound dire, but Buffington believes we’re headed toward a planetary crisis, as plastic piles up in landfills, chokes waterways and pollutes our oceans.

“The plastics crisis is careening toward a tipping point from which there will be no return,” Buffington argues. “There are real health and environmental consequences to the overuse of plastic.”

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**Yanks mobilize for humanitarian relief**

Not long after Jeffrey Miller (BA ’75) graduated from DU, his grandparents died, leaving him journals and letters recounting their experiences in World War I, particularly his grandfather’s time as a delegate with the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB). Since then, Miller has been fascinated by the CRB’s role in saving millions from starvation.

That role takes center stage in his latest book, “*WWI Crusaders*” (Milbrown Press, 2018). The popular history ranges from the war’s 1914 beginning to the CRB’s 1917 departure from Belgium, just as the U.S. military entered the fray.
With “Ghost Of” (Omnidawn, 2018), her debut collection of poems, Diana Khoi Nguyen found herself blinking in the literary limelight.

In September, just months after her book’s publication date, Nguyen learned that “Ghost Of” had been longlisted for a National Book Award. A few weeks later, the collection had advanced to the five-book shortlist, giving it a healthy chance at capturing one of the highest honors any book, much less a first book, can receive.

And although the book didn’t claim a prize at the November awards ceremony, Nguyen, a PhD student in DU’s creative writing program and a teaching assistant professor at the Daniels College of Business, remains “totally grateful” for the experience.

“I still don’t really understand,” she says. “There are moments when I’ll be walking the dog, and I just go, ‘What?’ I’m just totally baffled. … How did this happen?”

As it turns out, it happened in the usual way. In each of the categories—fiction, nonfiction, translated literature, young people’s literature and poetry—contenders are selected by a five-judge panel from submissions made...
by publishers. Over the summer preceding the awards ceremony, judges read all of the books in their category—in poetry, it’s typically about 150 volumes. They then compile the long- and shortlists. Hours before the awards dinner, they meet to determine the winners.

Nguyen’s nomination came draped in bittersweet emotions. “Ghost Of” is, after all, a meditation on tragedy—her brother Oliver’s 2014 suicide. Nguyen composed the work to come to terms with the loss. “I didn’t want it to be a retraumatizing experience for me, but a bridge, a way to begin to honor and think about him and to think about our past,” she says.

Until a class taught by Selah Saterstrom, director of DU’s creative writing PhD program, Nguyen had postponed wrestling with Oliver’s departure. “One assignment was to write a radical eulogy,” she recalls. “I had been really avoiding my brother’s stuff. [But then, as part of the course assignment, I] built a cardboard coffin and laid in it every day for like 10 minutes. It was very meditative. I wanted to retrace his steps in death.”

The poems came together in 2016, in the weeks after classes were over. “I only write for 15 days in the summer and 15 days in December,” Nguyen says. “It’s really crazy. But I don’t write outside of those times. When I’m teaching, or when I’m a student. I’m 100 percent a student, and I’m 100 percent a teacher. I can’t split my brain. I can’t do it.”

Between those 30 sunrises and sunsets, Nguyen aimed to write a publishable poem a day. She experimented with form and hovered over photos that signaled a looming crisis. Two years before Oliver’s suicide, she recalls, he rose in the middle of the night and gathered every family picture in the house. Then, with an X-Acto knife, he sliced himself out of each image.

“It was like a careful rage,” Nguyen recalls. “He didn’t smash anything. But he put them all back. We never talked about those pictures. My parents never took them down. They hung all the way up to his death. They hung even after his death.”

Nguyen contends with the emotional weight of those photos by incorporating them into a series of “Triptych” poems scattered throughout the collection. In each, a defaced photo serves as the lead element, showing the family flanking a conspicuously empty space. The other two elements embed text within and around a silhouette of the departed Oliver, thus filling him in and pointing to his absence.

Innovations and experimentations like these have earned praise from critics, who, like Saterstrom, credit Nguyen with an exploration of loss that captures its intangibility.

“Diana’s work,” Saterstrom says, “is able to locate the invisible pulse that animates the mystery of loss and recovery.”
As a GIS specialist with South Metro Fire and Rescue in Denver, Heather Hoelting uses geographic information systems (GIS) every day. Using technology to overlay maps with other types of data, she is able to track changing addresses and borders, the locations of fire hydrants and water mains, traffic patterns that are likely to cause delays in emergency response, and even how to access specific holes on a golf course in case of a tee-box disaster.

“GIS is so diverse in what it can do, from government applications or how health care uses GIS for mapping outbreaks and things like that,” she says. “Multiple different disciplines use GIS, and it just so happens that I found the emergency management side of things. The data I work with is used by dispatching and the firefighters and paramedics in their mobile units so they know where they are and how to get to the emergency.”

When it came time to enhance her geographic information skills, as well as her job prospects, Hoelting turned to the GIS master’s program in DU’s Department of Geography and the Environment. Operated in partnership with University College, DU’s continuing-education arm, the program allows students to take classes online or on campus. Propelled by ever-improving technology, as well as a growing number of workplace applications, the popularity of GIS classes is at an all-time high, says Mike Keables, chairman of the geography department.

“The program is being driven by the career options in GIS, which is being driven by society’s need to have access to this kind of data,” Keables says, adding that the Department of Labor has identified GIS as one
of the three hottest science career fields, along with nanotechnology and biotechnology.

“It used to be if you wanted to know the kinds of things we can do now, you’d pull out three or four different maps and spread them out over a table and they wouldn’t be the same scale and they’d be [from] different dates,” he says. “Now, everything is spatially located, so you’re looking at the same thing at the same time in the same place. Up until recently, we haven’t been able to do that. The more people use it and realize what they can do with it, there’s a growing need for people who are able to do it.”

Simply put, GIS is a framework for gathering and analyzing data that combines spatial locations with other types of information. Its applications can be as simple as the app on your cell phone that overlays a highway map with real-time traffic information, or as complex as a series of maps that show how population growth affects grass and tree growth in a specific area over time.

Tracking the relationship between population and vegetation is a specialty of associate geography professor Rebecca Powell, one of the DU faculty members who works with GIS master’s students. She is a contributor on several interdisciplinary projects that investigate ecosystem change in a variety of regions worldwide, including the Amazon floodplain, East African savannas and North American forests. She says advances in technology have expanded the possibilities of GIS for researchers, as well as for students.

“When I started grad school, Google Earth did not exist,” she says. “We had relatively coarse spatial-resolution imagery, meaning you couldn’t see things like houses or streets very clearly in the data. I worked on the Amazon rainforest for my PhD, and there was very little high-resolution spatial imagery available. Today, I can give my students an image anywhere in the world, and they can learn about that place by zooming there on Google Earth. The technology has changed a ton.”

Learn more about DU’s GIS program at du.edu/nsm/departments/geography/DA/spring2019
Bridging gaps for young women

By Greg Glasgow • Photo by Anthony Camera (BA ’91, MA ’92)

For young women, growing up all too often means retreating into silence as male classmates seize the spotlight. For more than 20 years, Denver nonprofit Building Bridges—founded by two alumni of DU’s Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW)—has been helping young women from Denver Public Schools find their voices and develop leadership skills.

Some of Denver’s brightest young female leaders attribute their empowerment to the Building Bridges curriculum, which begins with a two-week summer intensive in the mountains and continues throughout the school year with monthly small group meetings and projects that teach participants how to make change at the personal and community levels.

“Over the summer, it’s this really special bubble that they create: ‘These are my best friends forever and I’m a changed person and I have all these skills now.’ Then they go back to their families and their communities, and they find that it’s really hard to put transformation into practice,” says executive director Megan Devenport, herself a 2012 GSSW grad. “So the school-year component happens in smaller groups. Students come together once a month to hold each other accountable, practice their skills and then dig into some deeper issues. Our curriculum is structured to be really responsive to what they’re interested in and passionate about and support them in identifying an issue area and creating a change project over the last half of the year. They move from this personal and interpersonal growth into community change-making and leadership.”

Last year, for example, one Building Bridges participant started a STEM club for girls at her high school, while another created an educational piece around environmental justice and the ways in which environmental degradation disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color.

Once participants finish the program, Devenport says, they go on to engage in higher levels of civic and community leadership. Many Building Bridges alumni return to the program to work as facilitators and help with recruitment.

“One of the things that keeps me inspired about my job is that, to a person, they all point to Building Bridges as being a really key part of who they are today,” Devenport says. “We have adults in their late 30s who say that they are still applying the tools they learned during their time at Building Bridges in their workplaces or in their relationships within their family.”

Devenport’s commitment to working with youth runs deep: After receiving a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Illinois in 2004, she worked first at a residential treatment facility for adolescent girls, then as a counselor for teenagers involved in the juvenile justice system. As a graduate social work student, she interned in the youth development program at Mi Casa, a Denver nonprofit that aims to advance the economic success of families with limited opportunities.

Prior to becoming executive director at Building Bridges—a post she assumed in fall 2016—Devenport worked at Denver Shared Spaces, which helps nonprofits find ways to share working space in the name of collaboration and efficiency. But she missed working with youth, and the transformations she is able to cultivate by doing so.

“Our young people are just looking for opportunities to connect and to be authentic and to have someone see them for who they are—as leaders and as influencers in our community—and to put them in a position to really embrace and use their voice.” Devenport says. “Once given that opportunity, the things that these young people are doing are just incredible.”

For more information visit buildingbridgesshift.org

A few of her favorite things:

FAVORITE NEIGHBORHOOD HANGOUT
Alamo Drafthouse, Sloan’s Lake

FAVORITE BREWERY
Strange Craft, 13th Avenue and Zuni Street

For more information visit buildingbridgesshift.org
FAVORITE NATURE TRAIL
Lakewood Gulch Trail

FAVORITE DENVER RESTAURANT
Rioja, Larimer Square

FAVORITE MOUNTAIN GETAWAY
Winter Park
“Seeing is believing.” Coming from a scientist, that might sound tired or clichéd. But for Schuyler van Engelenburg, that idea is the North Star. What he learns about HIV through his hand-built microscope’s viewfinder is the “ultimate proof,” confirming some things scientists thought they knew about the virus and uncovering new potential avenues for treating it.

“Take the finest human hair—the tip of an eyelash. That’s maybe 80 microns. This is 800 times smaller than that. But we can see it. We can image this stuff. And that’s the amazing thing,” he says.

That’s the scale on which van Engelenburg, an assistant professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, must work as he peers deep into the inner mechanisms of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Bolstered by a $1.76 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), van Engelenburg’s research is focused on imaging HIV to create an exhaustive roadmap of the virus’ functions.
His work could well aid in drug and vaccine development.

If a single HIV particle is the setting for van Engelenburg’s research story, the two main characters are the molecules “Gag” and “Envelope.” Understanding and disrupting the clandestine meeting of these two molecules, van Engelenburg says, may be a crucial tool in stopping the virus’ spread.

“Gag is the structural molecule for the virus. It binds and packages the genome, which is the blueprint to pass on to the next cell,” he explains. “The other core component is Envelope. You can think of Envelope as being like a virus’ key to enter into the next cell … so it’s ferrying the genome to the next susceptible cell.” Without this meeting of Gag and Envelope, HIV cannot spread from one cell to the next.

But why that is and how to prevent that meeting are questions that remain unsolved. “It’s basically like a whodunit murder mystery: who, what, when, where, how and why,” van Engelenburg says. “With the tools we have developed, we are able to track single molecules of Envelope, and we are able to image single virus assembly sites on the surface of infected cells. With this ability to interrogate what we call the spatiotemporal dynamics, essentially the ‘when’ and the ‘where,’ we are now quantitatively describing how and when Envelope and Gag find each other.”

In doing so, van Engelenburg plans to develop a set of rules that illuminate the functions of even the tiniest segments of the virus. “We are now going back in and mutating the virus by just taking out little pieces of the region where we think these two proteins might be interacting and asking whether this prevents Envelope and Gag from finding each other,” he says.

To make headway on the problem, van Engelenburg has developed his own microscopes, capable of taking on highly specific functions tailored to his research. “A fundamental theme of my laboratory is that we start with a biological question, and then we develop the technology to answer it,” he says. “My philosophy for science has always been that I want to be able to measure things that no one else can measure.”

Although van Engelenburg’s research doesn’t specifically aim to develop a cure for HIV, it could demystify especially tricky aspects of the virus and of similar viruses. Once drug makers understand the specifics of the Envelope–Gag partnership, Engelenburg explains, they could target that interaction and stop the virus before it can devastate.

“I always saw HIV as being a grand challenge,” van Engelenburg says. “It’s persisted for so long, and we are usually so good at stopping these things. ... I really strongly believe that if we can understand how assembly occurs, we can potentially find an Achilles’ heel of sorts to jam up this very intricate process.”
Alpine Club’s era of exploration
By Lorne Fultonberg

The little cabin no longer stands near Loveland Pass, but Robert Margolis’ college memories still live there. They are the nights when Margolis (BSBA ’84) and his buddies from the Alpine Club would unstack a pile of mattresses and flop across the floor, relaxing in a high-elevation oasis after a perfect day of skiing, hiking or rafting.

Brea Galvin (BS ’04) wasn’t there—she wasn’t even born—but she knows the stories. Michelle Connacher (BA ’18) has heard them too. Three students from three different decades, who, when asked about their time in the Alpine Club, provide strikingly similar answers.

The camaraderie, the adventure, the friendships. A highlight of their tenures at DU.

“It’s just so valuable to so many kids,” says Connacher, a former club president. “Even after 90 years, it’s still rooted deeply in the undergrad. It’s pretty rad.”

“Rad” is probably not the word students would have used in 1928, when they created what was then called the Pioneer Ski Club. The sentiment, however, was undoubtedly the same. For the past 90 years, the great outdoors has called to DU students, and year after year they have answered.

The oldest student organization on campus, the Alpine Club is also DU’s largest. Each year about 200–400 members feed their need for adventure, whether it’s on the ski slopes, hiking, biking, climbing, rafting, camping, snowmobiling or even dogsledding.

Up to eight times a quarter, the club traverses the state and the Rocky Mountain region on trips that cater to all ability levels—usually at an uncommonly affordable price.

“And you’ll be able to do them with a group of people you might not meet in any other place,” says Johnny Youngs, a senior accounting major and current president of the Alpine Club. “I think it’s so popular because it really is all about the people.”

The people Galvin met in the Alpine Club still play leading roles in her life. One is a godmother to her young son, who has playdates with another former officer’s children when they rendezvous in Wyoming.

At the same time, Galvin says, there is a strong connection to the nature lovers she has never met: those who were in the club before her, and those who have come since.

“It makes me proud to know that it’s still going,” she says. “The history of the club provides you with a feeling that people were doing this much earlier than we were and had to do things in much different ways.”

Thanks to the club’s detailed records and archives, it’s easy to chart the changes over the years. No longer, for example, does the club run highline ropes between the two jutting towers of Sturm Hall. Equipment has evolved with the outdoor industry.

But though the times have changed, the club’s mission has remained the same, as has its impact on those who join.

“It helped me grow as an individual and as a person,” Galvin says.

Adds Connacher, a recent grad who is pursuing a career in the outdoor industry: “It gave me a full new sense of purpose. It was probably the most valuable experience I came out of DU with.”

For the club’s current president, maintaining that excitement is the most important part.

“We’re trying to keep the flame alive,” Youngs says. “In an age of technology, in an age of changing preferences, the principle of going out into nature, preserving it, being an advocate for it and also trying to enjoy it during our time in school has most definitely been upheld.”

Watch a video on the Alpine Club at news.du.edu/DA/spring2019
Members of the Alpine Club get their ski legs at Loveland Ski Area in January.
LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS

Founders Gala honorees make their mark on DU

By Greg Glasgow • Photo by Wayne Armstrong

From left: John Sie, Anna Sie and John Madden Jr.
Marking DU’s 155th anniversary and celebrating the impact of philanthropy and leadership, the March 1 Founders Gala honored three individuals who are creating an enduring legacy at the University of Denver.

Anna and John J. Sie have transformed DU and donated more than $23 million to the University over the last 15 years. And local real estate developer John Madden Jr. has given the School of Art and Art History $10 million through artworks from his personal collection, in addition to funding entrepreneurship programs at the Daniels College of Business.

The gift of diplomacy
Anna & John J. Sie

Anna Sie is from Italy and John J. Sie is from China, so it’s no wonder that international relations is a passion for the Denver couple. Their gifts helped to create the Sie Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy and the five-story Anna and John J. Sie International Relations Complex, a state-of-the-art building that houses the Josef Korbel School of International Studies.

“The Sies’ support has been vital to the Korbel School,” says Ambassador Christopher Hill, chief advisor to the chancellor for global engagement and former Korbel dean. “The new building gives us a home befitting the important work we do, and programs such as the Sie Chéou-Kang Center and the Sie fellows only improve our reputation around the world.”

The Sie Chéou-Kang Center, designed to educate a new generation of international security specialists, was named after John’s father, who served as ambassador to the Vatican and was a renowned, educator, author and playwright who spent much of his adult life forging relationships in Europe on China’s behalf.

“He did a lot in trying to create bridges between China and the European nations, and I thought the Korbel School was a perfect place to honor him and his legacy—to create diplomacy rather than an arms race,” says John Sie, a lifetime emeritus member of DU’s Board of Trustees. “It was important in international relations to create that mutual understanding between countries.”

To further share their native cultures with the University community, the Sies also endowed two chairs at DU. The Anna Maglione-Sie Chair in Italian Language and Literature at the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences provides faculty and students with funding to study in Italy and brings a visiting scholar to the DU campus each year. As pioneers in the cable TV industry, John and Anna also endowed the Ron Rizzuto Chair for Excellence in International Executive Education at the Daniels College of Business, which supports the school’s Chinese Executive Media Management Program and equips Chinese mid-career executives and government officials with the business skills needed to ensure a more successful future for China’s media industry.

The gift of art
John Madden Jr.

John Madden Jr. started developing office buildings in the south Denver suburb of Greenwood Village in the 1970s, around the same time he and his late wife started traveling to Europe to collect art.

Get the longtime Denver real estate developer talking, and it’s clear which pursuit brings him more joy. His eyes light up as he tells stories of finding art treasures in the back alleys of Florence, getting to know British sculptor Henry Moore, and hanging out with his friend, artist “Bob” Rauschenberg, on Florida’s Captiva Island.

Madden eventually built Greenwood Plaza into one of the country’s premiere office park communities. His interest in business lives on at DU’s Daniels College of Business, where Madden’s generosity supports such entrepreneurial efforts as the Madden Challenge and the associated Compass Project, which engages local high school students in the business development contest.

Madden’s aesthetic sense prevented Greenwood Plaza from becoming just another maze of glass and steel. Large sculptures from his collection dot the complex, and his onsite Madden Museum of Art features works by the likes of Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock, along with pieces by 19th-century Italian legends.

In 2016, with the vision that the fruits of his collecting could be of benefit to art students, Madden donated 120 artworks to DU. Valued at $10 million, the Madden Collection at the University of Denver includes work by pioneering Western painters, American masters, contemporary artists and European legends.

The addition to DU’s existing art collections “totally changes things,” says Nicole Parks, DU’s program director at the Madden Museum. It creates new possibilities for exhibitions, curatorial training, publications, research and cross-disciplinary collaborations—all involving students from the art school and across campus. Beginning in spring quarter 2019, graduate students—funded by a $2.5 million gift from Madden—will become regulars at the museum as they learn how to curate exhibits and care for artwork. Undergraduate art students, meanwhile, will work as museum attendants, welcoming visitors and answering questions about the collection.

For Madden’s part, the DU gift offers a way to further his mission of sharing his collection with as many art lovers as possible.

“I really think that access to the arts is crucial for young people,” Madden says. “I’ve tried to include fine art in my commercial real estate projects, and our Fiddler’s Green campus was the original home of the Museum of Outdoor Arts. I always look to how these projects can benefit young people and students, and I’m convinced that the University of Denver can carry these interests forward on multiple fronts.”
IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Alumnus Mark Shaker puts community first at Stanley Marketplace

By Greg Glasgow
Photography by Wayne Armstrong
A reading from the Stanifesto:

This is no ordinary marketplace. We are a community of like-minded businesses and people who believe in doing things differently: sustainably, thoughtfully, creatively, with way more than the bottom line in mind. We have grand ambitions and we are guided by mighty beliefs.


All of this and more is on tap at Stanley Marketplace, part of the metro area’s lively food-hall scene, which includes a growing number of destinations: the Source, Avanti Food & Beverage, Zeppelin Station and Denver Central Market, to name just the most prominent.

But Stanley—located in a former aviation manufacturing facility in Aurora—runs a bit differently than its big-city brethren. Founded by DU alumnus Mark Shaker (MBA ’11), this marketplace wasn’t built for hipsters, or foodies, or coffee snobs—it was envisioned as a true community gathering place where all are welcome. It has its share of well-regarded Denver restaurants, including outposts of Comida, the Denver Biscuit Company and Rosenberg’s Bagels, and it has Annette—an eatery nominated for two James Beard Awards and named by Bon Appetit as one of the 50 best new restaurants in America. But it also boasts a nail salon, a kids’ gymnastics studio, a karate school, a dentist’s office, a healthy slate of cultural activities, and two acres dedicated to urban farming.

“We spent a lot of time thinking about how to drive people here for as many reasons as possible,” Shaker says. “If you have a thousand-square-foot spot, you can either have an office with 10 people working out of it, or you can do a kickboxing studio where they do six classes a day with 16 people each—that’s 100 people touching this place. Very rarely do you come in for one thing and not do something else. You figure out what works for your neighborhood and your community.”

Stanley is bordered on two sides by Denver’s Stapleton neighborhood and on the other two by northwest Aurora, so Shaker knew his concept had a wide demographic to serve. During construction, he took a different route to work each day to get some perspective on how the building could welcome its neighbors. And he made it a priority to get to know as many residents in the surrounding area as he could.

“These are drastically different communities that historically have not engaged with each other,” he says. “How do you bridge something between those that works for all four sides? It was really just getting to know people and asking questions: How can this project be valuable to you? What’s important to you? The more you investigate, things sort of come to the top.”

A store is a place people go to buy things. Stanley Marketplace is where people go to live: to eat, drink, work, play, learn, grow, gather, and explore, to see friends and make new ones.
Stanley isn’t an ordinary collection of businesses, but then Shaker isn’t an ordinary businessman. A social worker with a background in nonprofits—including Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Gang Camps serving kids with serious illnesses—he came to the executive MBA (EMBA) program at DU’s Daniels College of Business in 2009 with an eye toward helping other nonprofits succeed. As part of a social capital project in the EMBA program, Shaker and three other classmates adopted the Worldwide Fistula Fund (WFF), an organization that works with women in Africa to prevent the childbirth-related tissue damage.

The leader of the organization “had a million dollars in donations but no idea how to run an organization. No website,” Shaker says. “It was a perfect project for us. We built a website, we put operational procedures and protocols in there—we basically built an organization for them.”

Nine months later, after the WFF asked him to take over as CEO, Shaker made his first trip to Niger. The group wanted to build a surgical center to address the fistula problem, but Shaker soon learned it wouldn’t be as simple as that. It was his first lesson in working with communities to address their real needs.

“I went back to the board and said, ‘We have to stop thinking about building a hospital. We have to understand how to get things done in this complicated environment,’” he says. “Niger is the poorest country in the world; we’re in one of the poorest areas of Niger, and there are so many complicated elements there. I said, ‘Let’s start fresh. Let’s talk about how we make this work collaboratively.’ We met with tribal chiefs, with missionary folks, with government officials. At first the project was just going to be a surgical center, and by the time we were done with our planning it became this really robust prevention program. We developed a social reintegration program where we built these hostels for women to stay after surgery and develop entrepreneurial skills so they can go back and earn a living on their own.”

We believe in making connections: between neighborhoods and generations and strangers and friends. And we do that by taking down fences and building bridges, figuratively and literally.

Shaker stayed on with WFF for five years, then returned to Denver and began planning his next move. He teamed with fellow EMBA alumna Megan Van Wald (who also was involved with the WFF project) and another neighbor, Lorin Ting, to build a beer hall where he and his neighbors in the Stapleton neighborhood could go to socialize over a pint or two. The group
started searching for sites but came up empty-handed. When the city of Aurora heard they were having trouble finding a location, officials took them to the old Stanley Aviation building, a 140,000-square-foot site near Johnson and Wales University and the Anschutz Medical Campus.

“Our first reaction was, ‘This will be the biggest beer hall in the history of mankind,’” Shaker says with a laugh. “But then we started getting random interest from businesses, saying, ‘Hey, I heard you were looking at Stanley. If you get it, can I have 5,000 square feet to do a yoga studio? Three-thousand square feet to do a restaurant?’ We stepped back and looked at our original concept of a neighborhood gathering spot and thought, ‘What if we put a bunch of them together and make it a community of neighborhood spots?’

The plan fit perfectly with Aurora’s urban-renewal efforts, and the project was soon under way, despite a few funding hiccups. “Nobody thought it made sense,” Shaker says. “It had environmental issues, we were in a ZIP code that didn’t make sense for what we were trying to do, there was no anchor—no Target, no Costco—and there were access problems. We would eventually go into banks and say, ‘Here are the five things you’re going to hate about our project. Let’s talk about them right now. We’d lead with it and explain what we were doing and mitigate each of them.’

The funding eventually came—$35 million in total—and planning and construction began in 2014. Shaker had plenty of input from the DU community—several of the businesses in the complex are owned by alumni, and a handful of Daniels faculty members offered their expertise as well. “Some of [the faculty members] thought we were crazy, but they would come and walk the site with us and tell us what to do, what not to do. It was a real sense of community,” Shaker says. “This wouldn’t have happened without DU. It’s not an indirect connection. I’m really grateful for it.”

When it opened in 2016, Stanley had 50 independent local businesses on board, lured by the location and the strong lineup of operators, as well as by Shaker’s unique vision for the place. Early in the planning process he commissioned the Stanifesto, a bold statement about what Stanley was and what it stood for: sustainability, creativity, collaboration, community. “The Stanifesto is our North Star,” Shaker says. “And our business owners believe in that, legitimately. They believe in being part of something special. We would make [potential...
Stanley business owners read it before we walked through the property. It’s attached to the lease. We want to be clear and transparent. When you walk in the front entryway, it’s there on the wall. That’s our accountability.”

The result is a marketplace with special appeal both for customers—who increasingly come from all over the city to hang out at Stanley—and for businesses, whose proprietors appreciate the synergy created when a variety of retailers share the same space and the same mentality.

“From a business-owner perspective, it’s great,” says alumnus Andre Janusz (MBA ‘05), owner of Logan House Coffee in Stanley. “We have great destinations like Annette, Rosenberg’s, the Biscuit Company—there are a lot of draws to the market, and that makes it really great for us. We can focus on coffee and focus on the things that we’re good at, and people who are coming to brunch at Denver Biscuit and are waiting for a table can come over and experience us and have a latte with us. I didn’t necessarily have to draw them in on my own. The market has its own momentum.”

Jason Batchelor, deputy city manager of Aurora, feels the same way about Stanley, which he points to as one of a handful of projects that are helping to transform the city’s image. “We’ve got the Anschutz campus, we’ve got [the new Gaylord Rockies hotel near DIA], we’ve got these wonderful crown jewels, and we include the Stanley Marketplace as one of those,” he says. “I think it really has helped. I think people see Aurora in a new light.”

From the beginning, Shaker aimed to make Stanley a true gathering spot and community resource. He was inspired by African marketplaces, which serve as cultural hubs as well as sites for commerce. With that lively mix in mind, the marketplace hosts art festivals, concerts, book signings, pop-up libraries and more.

“I spent five years in West Africa, and you would go to the market and you would get stuff there, but it was more [that you] were pulled there because you felt comfortable there,” says Shaker, who is now bringing his expertise to new food hall projects in Golden and on Broadway in downtown Denver. “You would see people you knew in the community, and you would get different food from different spots—I loved the feeling you had when you’re in an African market.”

We are locally inspired and community desired. We asked ourselves what would make the best marketplace in the universe. Then we asked our neighbors. And then we built it.

To meet Mark Shaker and experience Stanley Marketplace firsthand, join DU Advancement for a Pioneering Denver event at the Stanley on April 17, 2019. More information, including registration, is available at alumni.du.edu.
SEEKING GRACE

A new exhibit highlights black women throughout DU’s history

BY ALYSSA HURST
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DU ARCHIVES
In 1908, the University of Denver saw its second black female student graduate. Her name was Grace Mabel Andrews.

Andrews was born in Missouri in 1886. She had two younger siblings, Jesse and Clyde, and her father died before her 15th birthday. Sometime before 1905, her family made the long journey to Denver, where Andrews enrolled at DU to pursue a bachelor’s degree. She majored in Latin, minored in French and economics, and found community in church at Shorter AME, where she was a practicing Methodist. Andrews used her degree to become a teacher, educating students in Tulsa and Kansas City. After witnessing the devastation of Tulsa’s deadly race riot in 1921, she returned to Denver to share her experience with members of her church. According to the Colorado Statesman, all of Denver knew and loved Andrews, and her words that day in front of her congregation had many holding back tears.

Though black women have always played a meaningful role in DU’s history, their legacy has long been understated. “Seeking Grace: Early Black Alumnae at the University of Denver,” an exhibit curated by DU archivist Kate Crowe in partnership with the University’s Sistah Network and former DU professor Nicole Joseph, aims to remedy that.

In summer 2017, Crowe used her 10-week sabbatical to reconstruct the stories of every black woman who attended DU between 1900 and 1945. With the help of yearbooks, census records and one of Denver’s oldest black newspapers, the Colorado Statesman, Crowe gathered photos of 43 women and the stories of more still, in what she calls an “attempt at an exhaustive list.”

Like Grace’s, nearly every woman’s story started somewhere in the South and weaved its way across the Midwest before reaching Denver. Almost every woman, Crowe found, had been a Methodist who attended either Shorter AME or Scott Chapel. Every woman had gone on to become a teacher, and most had to leave Colorado just to find schools willing to hire black teachers.

While many questions remain about what it was actually like for these women at DU, the project made clear one undeniable fact, says Anthea Johnson Rooen, co-founder of the Sistah Network, a campus affinity group dedicated to providing academic and professional opportunities to DU’s black female graduate students. “What this exhibit does is it reminds us as women who...
identify as black that we actually have a longstanding history at the University of Denver,” Rooen says. “It reminds us to be persistent. It reminds us that changes can be made. It reminds us not to quit. It reminds us to stay focused. It reminds us that black women can make a difference.”

As the legacy of strength left by DU’s black alumnae has been illuminated, it has had a tangible impact. Patrice Greene, who follows squarely in the footsteps of the women in “Seeking Grace” through her graduate studies in DU’s Morgridge College of Education, has not only been able to leverage these stories to further her own education, but also has gained a sense of connection. Greene and fellow graduate students Elizabeth Ndika and Kahlea Hunt-Khabir were connected to the project through the Sistah Network and now serve as research assistants on the project, continuing to write the stories of black women into DU’s history.

“A lot of the time, the stories of marginalized communities—particularly black women—get pushed under the rug,” Greene says. “They need to be brought to the forefront because they are important stories that a lot of people didn’t even know existed. It gives power and validation to our experiences in higher ed.”

Through “Seeking Grace,” these stories are being told not only to the DU community, but to all of Denver. The exhibit had its initial run in spring 2018 in the Anderson Academic Commons, before being moved to Ruffatto Hall, where it’s currently on display. In February, the project went on display in Denver’s Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library in celebration of Black History Month and Women’s History Month in March.

For Terry Nelson, Blair-Caldwell’s senior special collections and community resources manager, the story of black women at DU is one that holds significance far beyond the University’s campus. “How many people in Denver knew about all of these ladies? Very few,” Nelson says. “I think we should encourage our young adults and youngsters to know this history, because some of them are going to see themselves. They are living the challenges these women lived, and they’ll know—clearly—that they can do it.”

“Seeking Grace: Early Black Alumnae at the University of Denver” is on display at the Denver Public Library’s Blair-Caldwell Branch, 2401 Welton St., through March 28. Another iteration of the exhibit is on display on the second floor of DU’s Ruffatto Hall, 1999 E. Evans Ave., through 2019.

ROBERTANN BARBEE CUTHBERT

Robertann Barbee Cuthbert was born on Oct. 21, 1889. She was a Colorado native who grew up in Central City. When Robertann was 9 years old, her father died, leaving his wife, Carrie, with eight children to care for. James, Robertann’s oldest brother, helped the family by working as a blacksmith while the rest of the children attended school.

By 1910, Robertann was busy attending school at DU, while the rest of her family continued to live in Central City. Robertann majored in Romance languages, with a minor in English, and graduated with her degree in 1911. After earning her degree, Robertann, like many of her fellow alumnae, successfully pursued a job as a teacher. In 1920, she was living in St. Louis and working as a high school teacher.

A year later, Robertann headed down the aisle to marry Stephen Cuthbert in Denver. The pair later relocated to Chicago, where Robertann remained a dedicated teacher until her death in 1934. Robertann is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, next to her husband, who died in 1951.
SAVE THE DATE(S)

ALUMNI WEEKEND
MAY 16-19, 2019

ONE DAY FOR DU
MAY 22, 2019

From a food truck rally to the Alumni Celebration, DU Vin Wine Festival, and much more - this weekend has it all. Make your plans now for the premier weekend of the year!

Be a part of the biggest 24 hour giving blitz of the year. On campus or online, you can make an impact on our community. Experience the difference one day can make.
The May 1970 invasion of Cambodia, followed by the killing of four students at Kent State University in Ohio, set off a chain reaction of protests on college and university campuses across the country. At DU, the construction of a commune dubbed “Woodstock West” followed a strike rally, a march and other protests on campus. Police tore the structure down three days later, but the spirit of the protest lasted through Commencement in June, where about 60 percent of the senior class wore either armbands with peace insignias or chose not to wear caps and gowns.

As part of the 2020 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Woodstock West—which includes a slate of campus events—we are collecting memories of the protest for a planned article. Share yours by emailing du-magazine@du.edu
**Class Notes**

**1967**

Marc Nathanson (BA ’67) and Jane Nathanson (BFA ’67) of Los Angeles were honored by the Aspen Institute Socrates Program during its annual benefit dinner in July. The Nathansons were recognized for their longtime support of the Aspen Institute and creation of the Nathanson Public Diplomacy Scholarship.

**1971**

John Wear (BSBA ’71) recently moved back to Colorado after 46 years of working in retail and sales management in the Midwest and on the East Coast. John and his wife live in northeastern El Paso County, where they have a small horse ranch and where John makes and sells pottery. John is a Vietnam veteran and president of the 500-member USMC Vietnam Tankers Association.

**1972**

William Popp (BM ’72, MA ’74) of Loveland, Colorado, is a composer and accordionist who in September achieved third place in the professional solo artist division of the American Prize Ernst Bacon Award for the Performance of American Music competition. William began his studies on the piano at age 6 and on the accordion at age 11. He earned his doctoral degree in composition from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and for 20 years he was an arranger and composer with the U.S. Air Force Band. Many of his chamber ensemble and string orchestra works have been performed throughout the United States and Europe.

**1976**

Marc Schulman (BSBA ’76), president of Eli’s Cheesecake Company in Chicago, in September received the ACTE Champion for CTE award from the Association for Career and Technical Education. The award recognizes education leaders, business and industry executives, celebrities and thought leaders who support and champion career and technical education programs as a vital part of developing a prepared, adaptable and competitive workforce.

**1978**

Paul Rosenberg (BA ’78) of Weston, Florida, authored “Rogue Leadership: Harnessing Headwinds to Drive Performance.” Paul founded Tertia Oculus Business Synergies, a worldwide performance-improvement catalyst for change.

**1981**

Ken Reed (BSBA ’81) of Littleton, Colorado, authored “The Sports Reformers: Working to Make the World of Sports a Better Place,” a collection of short interviews with professionals working to enhance the positives and mitigate the ego- and greed-driven negatives in sports. Ken is sports policy director for League of Fans, a sports-reform project founded by Ralph Nader.

**1982**

Peter Clothier (BA ’82) was for the fourth year in a row named as one of Colorado Springs’ Top Doctors in family medicine by Colorado Springs Style Magazine. 2019 marks Peter’s 30th year in practice.

**1983**

Tammy Berberick (BS ’83, MBA ’90) of Littleton, Colorado, is CEO of Crestcom International, which focuses on developing stronger, more ethical leaders around the world through interactive and practical learning experiences. Tammy also is the author of “The Leadership Habit” (Wiley Publishing, 2017).

**1986**

Steven Betts (BSAC, MACC ’86) of Centennial, Colorado, recently started a new job as CFO of Merrick and Co.

**1990**

Damian Arguello (BSBA ’90, JD ’04) of Westminster, Colorado, is an attorney who works in the area of policyholder insurance law and often serves as an expert witness and co-counsel in insurance cases. A former insurance industry professional, Damian also is a former president of the Colorado Hispanic Bar Association and an adjunct professor of insurance law at DU’s Sturm College of Law.
Innovator
Azure Avery *(PhD ’13)*

Carbon nanotubes may be strangers to most, but for Azure Avery (PhD ’13), they hold the magic of a pink, feather-light sugar nest disappearing on a child’s tongue.

“When raw, [carbon nanotube material] is this really soft, black, sooty-looking cotton candy,” Avery says. Those aren’t technical terms, and they don’t reflect the depth of Avery’s subject-matter expertise, but they do say a lot about her approach to physics.

For Avery, the world of physics is Disneyland, and carbon nanotubes are her favorite ride. In the handful of years since she earned her PhD in physics, Avery has spent her time exploring the potential of the tiny tubes through a collaboration involving DU, Metropolitan State University, where she is an assistant professor, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).

Although she had wanted to be a physicist early on—even beginning her undergraduate studies as a physics major—unexpectedly difficult coursework soured her relationship with the discipline. Avery took up psychology instead and earned her bachelor’s degree in that subject before eventually taking a job at Xerox.

At age 30, Avery went back to school and earned her bachelor’s degree in physics, followed by a master’s. When it came time to pursue doctoral studies, she enrolled at DU, where she found a home in Barry Zink’s lab, cutting her physics teeth on the now-famous nanotubes.

“I got to learn everything,” she says. “I got to learn how to work all of the equipment; I had opportunities to go and present work at conferences, which is where your networking starts. [Zink] really gives a lot of autonomy and support and opportunities to learn. That completely formed the researcher that I am today.”

When Avery isn’t stoking the passions of young physics students in her role as assistant professor, she’s working through a continued partnership with NREL and DU to further explore the potential of carbon nanotubes. Already, Avery has seen them used to create jackets capable of using body heat to charge cell phones, and she expects soon to see a carbon nanotube envelope that can harness heat waste created from outdated appliances.

Driven by an insatiable appetite for solving pressing problems, Avery cannot get enough of her job. “I feel very, very lucky and excited to be where I am, and I love what I do,” she says. “I just love to do things and see what happens and try to figure out what’s behind what I observe.”

— Alyssa Hurst
Cliff Whitehouse (BA ‘90) of Denver owns Bernwood Design, a furniture company that specializes in reuse and recycling and uses local urban lumber and Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood. Bernwood donates items and support to Bicycle Colorado, Tibetan Village Project, local schools and more.

1994
Morris Wise (MA ‘94) of Kapaa, Hawaii, is music director of the Kauai Chorale, a community singing group.

1997
Richard Patterson (PhD ‘97) of Colorado Springs is a youth and family coach. He recently published “Making Sense of Life: A Guidebook for Teens and Parents,” which offers activities, writing prompts and list-making tools that help parents and teens work together.

1998
Scott Beckman (MEPM ‘98) of Denver in August was named director of sustainability at PCL, a group of independent construction companies across the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Australia.

2000
Colleen Reilly (MBA, MSM ‘00) is vice president of well-being services at ThrivePass, a Denver-based company that provides a platform for employers to manage well-being programs, pre-tax benefits and performance rewards.

2009
Jason Crow (JD ‘09) of Denver won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives in November, beating longtime Republican Rep. Mike Coffman in the battle for Colorado’s 6th Congressional District. Jason, a former U.S. Army Ranger, previously worked as a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney and most recently conducted independent legal investigations. He advised former President Barack Obama on military and veteran issues during Obama’s re-election campaign and co-chaired former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper’s Veterans Affairs Transition Committee.
Jeff Nickless (BSBA ’09) of Denver and his father, Dan, reopened the Campus Lounge in October. The bar in Denver’s Bonnie Brae neighborhood was previously owned by late DU hockey player Jim Wiste (BSBA ’68).

2010
Courtney Butler (JD ’10) of Denver joined Elkind Alterman Harston PC in August as senior attorney.

Henry O’Connell (BSBA ’10) and Suzanna Rogers (BA ’11) were married in October in St. Michaels, Maryland. The couple resides in Denver.

2011
Ben Deda (EMBA ’11) in September was named COO of FoodMaven, a Colorado Springs-based online marketplace and rapid logistics company that aims to reclaim revenues from lost food by selling high-quality local and oversupplied food from distributors, manufacturers and producers to restaurants and institutional buyers at about half price.

2012
Rafael Hernandez (MBA ’12) of Anahau, Texas, completed a master of science in construction administration from Columbia University and a master of science in real estate development from New York University while working full time as an FHA analyst and processor for Bellwether Enterprise Real Estate Capital.

Get connected
The University of Denver has come to you! Regional offices have opened across the United States to give DU alumni and friends more opportunities to connect with one another and with the University. Through large events and one-on-one meetings, Pioneers from San Diego to Chicago to New York City—and many places in between—are socializing and networking together. Join us, and find the ways you can connect with the University of Denver’s global network.

For events and connections near you, find us on Facebook:
Tri-State: @DUNewYorkCity
New England: @DUBoston
Chicago: @DUChicago
Twin Cities: @DU.Minneapolis.St.Paul
Bay Area: @DUNoCal
Seattle: @DUSeattle
D.C. Metro: @DU.DC.Alumni
Atlanta: @DUAtlanta
Los Angeles: @SoCalDUAAlumni
San Diego: @UniversityofDenverSanDiego

Photos courtesy of DU Advancement
It’s been nearly a year since Jamie Stanton stood at the bottom of a ski hill in Pyeongchang, South Korea, chest heaving, eyes cast toward the electronic scoreboard. He still can’t find the words to describe the feeling, realizing he had won a bronze medal at the 2018 Paralympic Games.

Far easier is talking about his graduation from the University of Denver in fall 2017 with a finance degree, and the dream job that followed as a Wall Street analyst at Citigroup.

For the first time in a long time, the sport that defined Stanton’s life is taking a back seat. His long days are spent at the liquidity and investments desk instead of on the slopes or in the gym.

“Now it’s another passion that’s taking up my time,” he says. “I like the fast-paced environment. You always have to be on top of your game. I thrive off the energy.”

New York is now providing the competitive fuel that has always driven the Detroit-area native to outperform his peers, despite the fibular hemimelia that cost a 6-month-old Stanton the lower half of his right leg. His disability always has defined him, he says—because he wanted it to.

“I think it’s something my parents taught me a lot about,” he adds. “Like, ‘OK, these are the cards I’ve been dealt, and there’s nothing I can do about it, so let’s make the most of it.’ I’m proud to be who I am and look the way I do, and I think that’s made me into the person I am today.”

A bronze medalist. A Wall Street financier. But above all, Stanton says, he is a DU alumnus. Despite his world-class accomplishments, he lists DU’s Willy Schaeffler Scholarship—named for the legendary Pioneer ski coach—as the most important thing that’s ever happened to him.

“It’s even more important today than it was several years ago,” he says. “Without that scholarship, who knows if I ever would have moved to Colorado, ever had the opportunity to work my way up to the national team and get a good education from the University of Denver, get a good job on Wall Street. There are so many ‘ifs,’ but I think that the Willy Schaeffler Scholarship was the one thing that brought everything together and allowed me to pull off everything I’ve done so far in life.”

—Lorne Fultonberg
In Memoriam

2013
Brecca Gaffney (MS ’13, PhD ’17) of St. Louis was one of five recipients of L’Oréal USA’s 2018 For Women in Science Fellowship. The program annually awards five female postdoctoral scientists grants of $60,000 each to advance their research. Brecca is a mechanical engineer and postdoctoral research fellow in the physical therapy program at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, where she uses musculoskeletal modeling to improve treatment for patients seeking rehabilitation. As part of her fellowship, Gaffney will partner with the nonprofit Mission: St. Louis by serving as a mentor for low-income female high school students in math, science and reading proficiency.

Maureen (Pacheco) Maycheco (MA ‘13) of Aurora, Colorado, helped launch “Good and Social,” a podcast featuring conversations with social and environmental innovators from across industries. Maureen is also communications director at Reach Out and Read Colorado, a nonprofit that gives young children a foundation for success by encouraging families to read aloud together.

2014
Walead Atiyeh (MBA ’14) in August joined the national rail systems team at HNTB Corp. as project manager. He is based in the firm’s Santa Ana, California, office and currently supports the Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

2015
Jill Hamilton (BA ’15) of Morehead City, North Carolina, in May earned a master’s in environmental management from Duke University, where she is policy associate at the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions. In June, Jill was selected for the prestigious Knauss Fellowship, offered through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Sea Grant program, which provides 1,200 early-career professionals one-year fellowships to work in federal government offices in Washington. She began her placement in February 2019.

2016
Samantha Reynolds (MLS ’16) in September was named executive director of North Star Ballet in Fairbanks, Alaska. Samantha previously was project manager for the Fairbanks Economic Development Corp.

Taliah Farnsworth (BA ’14) of Denver spent summer 2018 studying coral reef ecology and the conservation of marine systems along the Great Barrier Reef in Australia as part of Miami University’s Earth Expeditions global field course. Taliah, an educator and performer at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, is a graduate student in Miami University’s advanced inquiry program.

1940s
Richard Blackledge (BA ’48), Idaho Falls, Idaho, 9–21 18
Paul Laxalt (LLB ’49), McLean, Virginia, 8–16 18

1950s
Howard Brodt (BS ’50), Pueblo, Colorado, 8–10 18
Robert Seeber (BA ’53), Broomfield, Colorado, 10–4 18
Douglas Sikes (BS ’50), Centennial, Colorado, Nov 2018
Duane Riggert (MSG ’51), Middleton, Wisconsin, 8–14 18
Robert Evan Copley (BM ’52), Louisville, Colorado, 9–13 18
John Younger (BA, BS ’52), Dillon, Colorado, 6–28 18
Gunther “Jack” Schlager (BA ’55), Salina, Kansas, 8–29 18
Edgar Puryear Jr. (MA ’56), Madison, Virginia, 8–4 18
Clara Rohleder (BS ’56), Wichita, Kansas, 9–29 18

1960s
Robert (Bob) James Osmundson (BSBA ’61), Fort Collins, Colorado, 9–15 18
David Mount (BA ’63), Hanover, Indiana, 8–1 18
Katherine Young Armitage (MA ’65), Asheville, North Carolina, 11 19 18
David Schlauger (BSBA ’65), Montrose, Colorado, 10–2 18
Lynn Alston Boyd (BSBA ’66), Flint, Texas, 1 13 18
James Kelley (MA ’66, PhD ’70), Seattle, 6–1 18
William Matthews (MA ’66), Mesa, Arizona, 5–11 17

C. William (Bill) Whitlock II (JD ’67), Harbor Springs, Michigan, 8–10 18
Larry Lee Nelson (MS ’68), West Plains, Missouri, 10–4 18

1970s
Michael Sanchez (MSW ’70), Colorado Springs, 8–29 18
John Augustine (JD ’71), Springfield, Missouri, 8–6 18
Jerry Lee Nordstrom (MSW ’71), Missoula, Montana, 7 22 18
Nancy Hereford (MA ’72), Torrance, California, 8–14 18
June (Pachuta) Farris (MA ’73), Chicago, 7–27 18

1980s
Janet Norrod (MA ’81), Cheyenne, Wyoming, 10–17 18
Gwyn Green (MSW ’84), Lakewood, Colorado, 9–12 18
Joan Ludeke (PhD ’89), Albuquerque, New Mexico, 8–7 18

Faculty and staff
Theodore Crane: professor emeritus in the history department, Boulder, Colorado, 5–8 18
Luis León, religious studies professor, Denver, 10–16 18
Harold Mendelsohn, professor emeritus and former dean of social sciences, Evanston, Illinois, 2–4 19
Otis Rechard, professor emeritus of mathematics and computer science, St. Maries, Idaho, 8–2 18
Jack Rose, former baseball coach, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, 11–3 18
Looking homeward

Gifted to DU by Gerri Cohen in honor of Chancellor Emeritus Dan Ritchie, the sculpture “Dineh” was installed in December in “Dan’s Garden” outside the building housing the Daniel Felix Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science. Created by Apache artist Allan Houser and depicting two Navajo figures, the sculpture was installed facing southwest, toward the tribe’s ancestral lands.

photo by Wayne Armstrong
Sewn together

“Bound by Thread,” a display of quilts created by Frédérique “Sister Fred” Chevillot, a professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures, is on display in the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology through March 29. Among the featured pieces is this quilt made of T-shirts from past campus events.