Dear CU Denver Alumni,

I am pleased to be writing to you for the first time in CU on the Horizon. It is my honor to have joined the University of Colorado Denver as chancellor in January. Among the most meaningful conversations I have had since my arrival are with current students and our alumni. It is my belief that a university is ultimately defined by the quality of its students and its graduates—and by the things that each of you goes on to achieve. In the case of CU Denver, our over 80,000 alums are making a positive difference throughout Colorado and beyond in positions of leadership and service in the business, nonprofit and government sectors.

My ultimate goal is to help CU Denver move to an even higher level of impact and success. For the last three months, I have been engaged in what I’ve called the Reach Out and Listen Tour to hear ideas and input regarding the future of our university. In two dozen meetings and numerous one-on-one conversations, I’ve met with more than 1,000 CU Denver students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and donors. People also provided input through an online questionnaire, social media and a webcast. All told, we received some 5,000 suggestions, which we are currently sorting through. Over the next several months, I will be working with faculty, staff and students to use the feedback to set priorities and form action plans that will make CU Denver an even better place to work, learn and discover.

Meanwhile, your alumni association is focused on providing you with even more opportunities to stay connected to your alma mater. As you’ll see on page 3, the association’s efforts also began by listening—through an alumni survey conducted late in 2015. Our thanks to all of you who responded; your input will help us better meet your needs and bring even greater meaning and relevance to the education you received here.

The future is bright for CU Denver. Know that you are a valued part of a community that is working every day to transform this great university into an even greater one.

With best wishes,

Dorothy A. Horrell, PhD
Chancellor

ARTS AND SCIENCES

Researcher discovers rare raptor tracks—and signs of courtship

Evidence of sickle claws and mating habits are firsts

Two significant discoveries by University of Colorado Denver Associate Professor Emeritus Martin Lockley offer evidence of dinosaurs and their mating habits.

Dinosaur Ridge, one of the world’s most famous fossil repositories, is once again proving its importance as a source of significant dinosaur track discoveries. This time it has revealed evidence of prehistoric raptors with sickle claws reminiscent of those popularized in countless Hollywood films.

A recent study by Lockley and his team reports evidence of two-toed tracks not previously known at Dinosaur Ridge. The tracks were made by Cretaceous carnivorous dinosaurs like Velociraptor, Utahraptor and relatives popularly known as raptors.

The study, published in the journal Cretaceous Research, not only identifies the first discovery of this track type at the well-known research site, it is also the first report of two-toed tracks in Colorado and only the second ever in North America.

“These two-toed tracks are very rare,” says Lockley, who recently worked with Chinese researcher Lida Xing to document the global distribution of this type of track. “There are only about 16 reports worldwide.”

Before Lockley’s discovery at Dinosaur Ridge, the only convincing reports of this track type came from the Moab area of eastern Utah in rocks about 112 million years old. Lockley has worked with the Bureau of Land

Dinosaurs engaged in sexual display activity. Artwork by Lida Xing and Yujiang Han.

continued on page 3
CU Denver@CUDenver
February 26, 2016
He’s been on Last Comic Standing, but he’s also a #CUDenver student. http://bit.ly/21IKBj5
#LearnWithPurpose

CU Denver@CUDenver
January 31, 2016

University of Colorado Denver
April 6, 2016
CRISPR Comes to Undergraduate Biology Lab. http://tinyurl.com/ju4sj9g

The CRISPR technique allows scientists to easily alter DNA. It could be used to end AIDS, reverse cancer or literally stop world hunger—and our undergraduates are doing it. Think of CRISPR as very sharp “molecular scissors” that allow researchers to target and precisely edit the genome of any cell in any organism.

University of Colorado Denver
March 24, 2016
Public Affairs Programs Among Best in the Nation. https://t.co/7IPXZWMLEG

Congratulations are in order for the CU Denver School of Public Affairs! Find out where they’ve been ranked by U.S. News and World Report.

University of Colorado Denver
March 10, 2016
Students from the College of Arts & Media are getting their hands dirty in a good way. http://bit.ly/1SjbEm3

University of Colorado Denver
April 13, 2016
Gorgeous.

University of Colorado Denver
April 14, 2016

It’s not every day that CU Denver hosts a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. It is an even greater rarity for the university to host three.

University of Colorado Denver
January 12, 2016

Congratulations to the School of Education & Human Development, rated as one of the top 40 programs in the nation for their online graduate education programs!

University of Colorado Denver
December 31, 2015
Whew, what a great year for CU Denver—and you captured a lot of the special moments on Instagram. Here are our favorite Instagram photos of 2015. You can follow us at http://instagram.com/cudenver and be sure to tag your campus photos with #CUDenver!

Alumni help
CU Denver plan future alumni engagement

Last fall, alumni had an opportunity to help Chancellor Horrell and CU Denver administrators understand what you want and need from the university. An alumni survey was emailed to 42,687 alumni, and 1,389 of you responded (3.3 percent). Your responses were evaluated by Marts & Lundy, a national philanthropic consulting firm, and interviews were held with more than 45 faculty, students, staff and alumni.

“Just as students learn with purpose at CU Denver, alumni have told us they want to connect with the university purposefully,” says ANDREA WAGNER, vice chancellor for the Office of Advancement. “The consultants’ report and alumni feedback will be key to planning for the future.”

Alumni were asked about their educational experience at CU Denver, along with questions about how connected they feel and how satisfied they are with communication tools and alumni programming. Marts & Lundy was asked to evaluate alumni relations programming, communications, events and recognition programs, as well as benchmark staffing and structure against peer institutions.

Results of the alumni survey and the comprehensive assessment and plan from Marts & Lundy are available online at www.ucdenver.edu/alumni for all alumni to review.

Things you may not know about CU Denver

CU DENVER STUDENTS ARE AWARDED 600 INTERNSHIPS EACH YEAR

Our students have interned with GE, Xcel Energy, the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Colorado Rapids, Zillow, U.S. Embassy in Kazakhstan, Denver Art Museum and Denver International Airport’s latest art installation, to name just a few of the amazing experiential learning opportunities that let students Learn with Purpose.

THE UNIVERSITY HAS ITS OWN RECORD LABEL

What better way to learn about the music industry than to experience it firsthand? Since the College of Arts & Media’s CAM Records label was created in 1996, the label has cut records for students and independent artists from throughout Colorado. Some notable artists include The Fray, My Body Sings Electric and You Me & Apollo.
Management to document the site, concluding that the raptor tracks represent the first trackway, or trail, of such dinosaur tracks ever found in North America.

Although Lockley and his colleagues have spent decades studying hundreds of sites in tracked layers throughout Colorado, they have never found evidence of raptor tracks. The reason, Lockley says, is that the recently discovered tracks were found in a different, older layer of rock dating back 105 million years.

“A few million years is a long time in evolution and plenty of time for changes in the ancient environment and ecosystem,” Lockley says. “The discovery of these raptor tracks demonstrates the substantial changes in the Cretaceous landscapes in North America over time.”

DINOSAURS MAY HAVE BEEN THE ORIGINAL LOVEBIRDS

Lockley’s research also revealed evidence that dinosaurs engaged in mating behavior similar to modern birds, leaving the fossil evidence behind in 100-million-year-old rocks.

Lockley led an international research team that discovered large, ancient “scrapes” in the prehistoric Dakota Sandstone of western Colorado. They’re thought to be from activity similar to a behavior among modern birds known as nest scrape display or scrape ceremonies, where males show off their ability to provide by excavating pseudo-nests for potential mates.

“These are the first sites with evidence of dinosaur mating display rituals ever discovered, and the first physical evidence of courtship behavior,” Lockley says. “These huge scrape displays fill a missing gap in our understanding of dinosaur behavior.”

The study was published in the journal *Scientific Reports* in January 2015. Lockley, a world-renowned expert on dinosaur footprints, found evidence of more than 50 dinosaur scrapes, some as large as bathtubs, in an area where tracks of carnivorous and herbivorous dinosaurs have also been confirmed. The display arenas, also called leks, were found in two national conservation areas on property permitted by the Bureau of Land Management near Delta, Colorado.

This new fossil evidence supports theories about the nature of dinosaur mating displays and the evolutionary driver known as sexual selection. Since prehistoric times, males looking for mates have driven off weaker rivals. Females, meanwhile, have chosen the most impressive male performers as consorts.

Similar sexual selection behaviors are common in mammals and birds. But until now, scientists could only speculate about dinosaur mating behavior, assuming it might be similar to that of dinosaurs’ modern relatives, birds.

“The scrape evidence has significant implications,” Lockley says. “This is physical evidence of prehistoric foreplay that is very similar to birds today. Modern birds using scrape ceremony courtship usually do so near their final nesting sites. So the fossil scrape evidence offers a tantalizing clue that dinosaurs in heat may have gathered here millions of years ago to breed and then nest nearby.”

Lockley and his team were unable to remove the scrape marks from the gigantic slabs of rock without damaging them. Instead, they created 3-D images of the scrapes using a technique of layering photographs called photogrammetry. They also made rubber molds and fiberglass copies of the scrapes that are being stored at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.
Campaign rhetoric ‘impacts people’s mental health’

Counseling professor says stress running high in marginalized communities

A WALL ALONG the U.S.-Mexican border. Calls to deport anyone not here legally. Comments that besmirch Mexicans and other immigrants.

Such statements and generalizations have made headlines in recent years, and have even found their way into the political discourse of the presidential campaign. The drumbeat is resulting in growing anxiety among people in underrepresented and marginalized communities, says DIANE ESTRADA, PhD, associate professor of counseling in the School of Education & Human Development.

In addition to her teaching and research at CU Denver, Estrada is a therapist for families and couples. About 40 percent of her clientele is Spanish-speaking only. “A lot of what we’re seeing in the mental health field are the stress factors impacting people’s mental health,” Estrada says. “I hear stories about how everyday interactions in the family are impacted by the fear of, ‘Will my partner come home tonight?’ or ‘Will a traffic stop mean they get deported this time?’”

Many of the families she counsels have already seen an undocumented family member deported, and the charged rhetoric of the presidential campaign only increases their stress. Estrada says. “There’s this notion of already feeling this marginalization: ‘We’re in fear, struggling to create a sense of belonging and fitting in, and now we see this strong rhetoric making headlines on a daily basis,’” she says. “They can’t help but think, ‘What does this mean? Does the person sitting next to me in class feel this way? Does my co-worker feel this way?’”

‘HEALTHY PARANOIA’

This “healthy paranoia” isn’t unwarranted, Estrada says, noting the persecution and even violence suffered by underrepresented populations throughout U.S. history. “It’s a constant fear,” she says, and children in particular become the victims of separation anxiety.

Estrada says her counseling practice and personal experience inform her research. Her main research interests are diversity and social justice issues in clinical supervision, counseling/therapy and institutional climate.

Estrada worked with CARLOS HIPOLITO-DELGADO, PhD, associate professor of counseling, and graduate assistant MARINA GARCIA on a qualitative research project looking at the “lived experiences of counseling students of color” on our campus. The pilot study results prompted members of the American Counseling Association to ask Estrada to do a similar study on a national level. Another of her studies is looking at the ways in which diversity factors are taken into consideration in clinical supervision conversations.

Estrada is also working on a research project with Counseling Program colleagues ROBERT ALLAN, PhD, SHRUTI POULSEN, PhD, and graduate assistant LATREASE LOVE that looks at supervisor and supervisee perceptions of addressing ethnic, gender and sexual-orientation issues in clinical supervision. Pilot study results were shared at last year’s American Family Therapy Academy Conference, and the study has been expanded to assess perceptions of these conversations across all CU counseling centers.

POLARIZED POLITICS

Estrada recalls her own struggles to be taken seriously. She says that despite being an A student at the University of Florida, she encountered a professor who was surprised by her desire to pursue a doctoral degree. Another eye-opening incident came during a gay pride parade. “The first time I faced the KKK was at this parade where I was supporting some of my friends,” she says. “Seeing that hatred in person was life-changing.”

Even though the Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, Estrada says, members of this community still fight for equal rights at work, in housing and health care. “I see a lot of reactions” in the nation’s political environment, she says. “I don’t see a lot of ‘Let’s have a conversation (about various topics).’” Estrada notes that the polarized landscape is dominated by vocal people who represent roughly 20 percent of the electorate who hold extreme views.

In February, Estrada was elected president of the Association of Multicultural Counseling and Development. She has been a faculty member in the Counseling program since 2003; from 1999 to 2001 she served as director of the CU Denver Student and Community Counseling Center.

Estrada was born in San Francisco to a family that hails from Guatemala. She spent several years of her childhood living in Guatemala, and every other year she teaches at Universidad del Valle in Guatemala City.

The majority of her therapy clientele identifies as marginalized—either socio-economically or sexually. So the current shifts in the political climate hit these groups hard, borne out in worries about their own welfare and their families.

“Any time our sense of safety is threatened, our anxiety goes up,” Estrada says. “And that affects our development as human beings.”
Mechanical engineering students win by advancing in the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition

In January, the team traveled to Texas A&M University for the SpaceX Hyperloop Pod Competition Design Weekend, where they competed with—and were chosen from—more than 100 teams from around the world to advance in the Hyperloop competition. Many team members say the event has been the highlight of the project and their college education.

“[Design Weekend was] the defining moment in my engineering career so far—really being able to work on something that's completely new,” says Lacy, HyperLynx’s team captain.

“Seeing Elon Musk and transportation secretary Anthony Foxx was exciting, but being chosen as one of the initial teams to go to the competition was a huge achievement for such a small school,” says Kemp.

MARC INGBER, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, is proud of all the team has achieved.

“Team HyperLynx has been incredibly innovative, motivated and technically sound,” says Ingher. “They chose to pursue this project because of its challenge, complexity and social relevancy. To have a team of this quality doing so well at the national level certainly is a bright reflection on the college and the university.”

When designing the pod, the students had to be mindful of systems developed by SpaceX to help “drive” the system. The pod is initially accelerated within the SpaceX tube by a SpaceX propulsion device. It will then cruise along the test track until the student-designed active control system applies an electric hydraulic braking system, which applies force to the brake rotors. The pod also will have a built-in sensor to record and monitor all sensor inputs to ensure pod safety and to record pod performance.

The team presented their final design on May 6 at the mechanical engineering senior design event. And while five team members will graduate later this summer to California for the final competition—a run on SpaceX’s Hyperloop track. The dates of the final competition are yet to be determined; it is tentatively scheduled for late August.

Follow the team at www.denverhyperlynx.com, www.facebook.com/cudenverhyperloop or on Twitter @TeamHyperLynx.

NOTE: Team HyperLynx would like to acknowledge three student volunteers who also contributed to the project: JEFF STANEK and AARON ZAPILER (mechanical engineering) and SEAN YU (electrical engineering).
Leaders are learners: Alum makes an impact on the future of Denver

Christopher Herndon, Council president, Council District 8 representative

DENVER CITY COUNCILMAN
CHRISTOPHER HERNDON
knows that being a leader means being a learner, which is why he enrolled at CU Denver. Herndon earned his Bachelor of Science in systems engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1999 and received his master's in management from Webster University in 2003. After moving to Denver he earned his Lean Six Sigma certification from the University of Villanova. His latest achievement is a master's in public administration (MPA) from CU Denver's School of Public Affairs, which he began in 2011 after being elected to office.

“I believe it is important to continue to get any type of education that you can, because that just makes you a better leader,” Herndon says. “After getting elected in 2011 I thought it would be a great opportunity to go back to school. I thought a master's in public administration would be very fitting, given that I had just taken on a new role in public service.”

CU Denver's MPA program was ideal for Herndon, as it allowed him to connect with working adults—helping him to be an effective council member while completing his degree. Herndon also offered praise to CU Denver for its ability to work with veterans.

“I appreciate any university that recognizes and supports veterans as we try to further our education,” Herndon says.

A DESIRE TO SERVE
Herndon's reason for running for Denver City Council was simple: He wanted to serve. A seven-year military veteran, whose tenure includes deployments in Kosovo and Iraq, Herndon moved to Denver in summer 2006 after being honorably discharged. He chose to live in Denver after accepting a position with United Airlines, which gave him the choice of being based in a city near one of five airline hubs.

Along with his new position, Herndon immersed himself in activities throughout the city, joining his registered neighborhood organization, teaching financial literacy courses, becoming involved at his church and volunteering to tutor Montbello High School students. It was while connecting with his community that Herndon made a personal discovery.

“I realized I missed public service,” Herndon says. “I wanted to find a way to serve again. In 2009 when I heard Councilman (Michael) Hancock was running for mayor, I thought about it and decided I wanted to run for office.”

During Herndon's campaign in 2011, he set out to introduce himself to his future constituents. Rather than champion a particular cause, he just let people know who he was and that he wanted to serve.

“People needed to know I understood leadership and I understood service, which my time in the private sector and military have given me,” Herndon says.

Since his election to city council, Herndon has advocated for business creation in Denver and founded Northeast Denver Leadership Week, a weeklong program that connects high school students from diverse backgrounds with business and community leaders. In addition, Herndon is serving his second term as council president, acting as city council’s voice to the administration and working with Mayor Hancock to make sure he is aware of the council’s concerns. Even with the increased responsibility, he maintains that first and foremost, he wants to serve.

“When I go to registered neighborhood organization meetings, I always try to say that, ‘You are the reason I am here. You are my priority. You are the reason my team and I get up in the morning.’ I don’t like to call myself a politician or an elected official. I’m a public servant.”
Soaring with the Eagles

CU Denver alum is in the business of helping U.S. rugby teams score at the Olympics

THE UNITED STATES is the reigning Olympic gold medal holder in rugby, having captured consecutive golds in 1920 and 1924, the last time any form of rugby was an Olympic sport.

That's all about to change as rugby teams from all over the world—including the Eagles, both U.S. men’s and women’s teams—travel to Rio de Janeiro this August to compete in the Games of the XXXI Olympiad.

And with them in spirit will be JUSTINE BAUDER, MBA Sports and Entertainment Management ’13, sponsorship manager for USA Rugby, who is currently working with sponsors behind the scenes, anxious to leverage the limelight from the upcoming games.

“It's really an exciting time,” says Bauder, who at this point doesn't think she'll be traveling to Brazil for the Olympics. “There's a lot of interest in how people can jump on that Olympic bandwagon and be part of it.”

Bauder wasn’t looking for a career in sports when she started at Ohio University 10 years ago. More of a fan and weekend warrior than a serious athlete (Bauder participated in volleyball and track in high school and played college intramurals), she selected accounting and management information systems majors based on an affinity for Accounting 101 and professorial input. But by her senior year, Bauder was disenchanted. Having taken part in an IT-related internship, she realized that she couldn’t spend her days hunched over spreadsheets.

So she asked herself, “What am I really passionate about?”

The answer: Sports.

To test her idea, she began collecting internships and sports-related experiences like baseball cards, first as a marketing and promotions intern in the Ohio University athletics department and then in an events management gig at Ohio State.

To buy some time while she figured out her next play, Bauder took a job as a technical recruiter for Broksource, keeping her hand in sports by coaching a teen girls’ volleyball team.

Knowing that she also wanted to relocate to Colorado, Bauder began looking at graduate business programs along the Front Range with sports concentrations. The Professional MBA at CU Denver not only offered a specialization in sports and entertainment management, it also included the option of a thematic travel class, London Calling: Global Sports and Entertainment.

She was sold. “This was a fresh start for me,” she explains. “The MBA is a widely accepted degree in a variety of industries, plus the sport specialization offered the perfect combo of the two and there was an opportunity to conduct internships.”

And meet industry luminaries across the pond. Bauder took the London Calling class in May 2012, just a few weeks before the London Summer Olympic Games. London, she says, was in the thick of preparations for the international event. Every year the class is offered during Maymester—CU Denver’s three-week summer series of intensive classes—and taught by Director of Sports and Entertainment Management Wendy Guild, exposing students to how the business of sports and entertainment is conducted in the U.K.

During their two-week tour, the class met with C-level industry executives, toured the Olympic site, the O2 Arena and other venues, and took in a concert as well as soccer and rugby games.

“We got to experience sport in another country,” she says, “which was really exciting.”

Bauder’s MBA experience also afforded her the chance to take part in three sports-industry internships, which she credits as key to her success in securing a position in the field. At Kroenke Sports & Entertainment she secured a position as an event operations intern. At the Colorado Rapids she garnered experience in corporate sponsorships for the first time, which enabled her to nail down a third internship with USA Rugby, also working in sponsorships. By September, she had been hired full time.

Little did she know when she saw her first rugby match in Twickenham that a year later she would be working in Boulder, Colo., for the U.S. governing body for the sport.

“The only time I had ever seen rugby was through London Calling,” she says. “I had no idea what was going on.”

In the three years that she’s worked for USA Rugby, Bauder has become a deep and abiding fan, a side effect of becoming part of a small but zealous community. “Everyone is so passionate,” she says.

Rugby, in fact, is the second most popular team sport in the world behind soccer, but has yet to experience rampant popularity in the United States. Since Bauder has been involved with the sport, she’s seen crowds double and triple at major matches. And with the Olympics just months away, that means even more exposure for the sport.

“Rugby has components of American football that Americans love,” she says, “but has more of a flow like soccer. It’s non-stop action. Once you understand what's going on, it’s really enjoyable.”
 cu denver alumna finds success with music publisher lyric house

jessica cole, bs music business ’09, loves doing research, but you won’t find her confined to a lab or library. instead, the cu denver alumna works with her computer and a tv, tracking musical trends in ads, film trailers and television shows. she’s looking for opportunities to place artists and their music wherever she can.

“We like to keep our finger on the pulse of what’s hot,” cole says about lyric house, the music publishing company she founded a few years after earning her bachelor’s degree from cu denver’s college of arts & media.
musicians trust music publishers to promote songs for ads, tv series and movies. cole spends about 10 hours a day researching, publishing and placing music in the media.

representing more than 120 artists across the globe, lyric house has placed songs in bud light ads, on cbs’s ‘ncis,’ on mtv’s teen comedy “awkward” and in the movie trailer for “paul blart: mall cop 2.”

as a business owner, cole is always working, but she doesn’t mind the hours or the workload. in fact, she loves them—but not as much as she loves the music itself.

humble beginnings

after she graduated in 2009, cole spent three years writing songs in nashville. she returned to denver to be closer to home and her cu denver cohort. after she created a songwriting association and song catalog, cole realized that she had actually created a business. lyric house was born.

it wasn’t long before it became a full-fledged music publishing company. cole’s first placement, a boulder rock ensemble’s song on the tv show “grill vs. grill,” quickly earned her more placements with that series and others.

“It was so organic,” says cole. “I didn’t have a mentor or a business model to guide me; so lyric house led itself. I realized very quickly that it could blossom into something bigger.”

now lyric house collaborates with music supervisors—professionals who select songs from a music publisher’s catalog for media placement—to promote the artists it represents.

after two years, cole moved the company to los angeles—a major music industry hub—but she opted to keep a satellite office in denver so she can check in on the colorado music scene.

a music success story

since relocating, cole says that lyric house has seen a dramatic increase in placements and clientele. “we are located in one of the major meccas of the music industry, and we have access to more resources than we would from a distance.”

cole says that syncing—or using smartphone apps to identify music—has revolutionized the way that media consumers discover new music, including lyric house artists.

when a song plays in a movie, show or ad, it takes only one click to identify the title, artist and album. most syncing apps also include itunes and amazon.com buttons so users can download songs directly to their phones.

for example, many users first heard dark pop artist roniiit’s single “runaway” in the trailer for the 2015 thriller “the loft.” this pairing is particularly special to cole because in addition to being represented by lyric house, roniiit alkayam, bs music ’11, is a fellow cu denver alumna.

“telling an artist that their song has been placed is so exciting,” she says. “it’s an amazing feeling.”

looking toward the future

even though cole is finding success in the music industry, she has not forgotten her roots. she even ran a summer songwriting program at cu denver in 2014. “i love cu denver,” she says. “and now the college of arts & media has a music publishing class, which will be great for students who aspire to get into the business.”

when cole graduated in 2009, she didn’t imagine that she would own her own music business, let alone one that sits near the hollywood walk of fame. now that both she and lyric house are successful, cole says that she will never stop yearning for more; she will never stop working.

“every single day, i wake up, and i’m excited to go to work,” she says. “it’s a wonderful dream that i never want to wake up from.”

jessica cole, second from left, and lyric house colleagues johnathan lupides, megan sanches and bailey van eps offer publishing services for bands, artists and songwriters.
The patented inventions transform wastes, such as paper, noxious weeds, agricultural fibers, industrial hemp and discarded forest products, into high-quality building products for a variety of applications—from full-scale structural walls, floors and roofs to furniture, skateboards and many other products. BioSIPs three-dimensional load-bearing panels and flat fiberboards are strong, lightweight and contain no petroleum. Herdt is currently working with companies to prototype additional products from the technology. One product showing great potential is a prefinished insulated interior system known as BioSIPs (bio-structural insulated panels) that turns 100 percent recycled fibers into high-strength easy-to-assemble building panels and flat multiuse construction boards. The patented inventions transform wastes, such as paper, noxious weeds, agricultural fibers, industrial hemp and discarded forest products, into high-quality building products for a variety of applications—from full-scale structural walls, floors and roofs to furniture, skateboards and many other products. BioSIPs three-dimensional load-bearing panels and flat fiberboards are strong, lightweight and contain no petroleum. Herdt is currently working with companies to prototype additional products from the technology. One product showing great potential is a prefinished insulated interior system known as BioSIPs (bio-structural insulated panels) that turns 100 percent recycled fibers into high-strength easy-to-assemble building panels and flat multiuse construction boards.

The name “BioSIPs” combines the word “bio,” meaning “living,” and “SIPs,” an industry acronym for “structural insulated panels.” Environmentally developed BioSIPs are lower-energy use, carbon-reduced options to petroleum-based building products known to harm humans and the environment. The invention is based on Herdt’s research and teaching program at CU and with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Products Laboratory (USDA FPL). She tested her initial BioSIPs invention while constructing CU’s Solar Decathlon home. It was cited as being critical to the CU team’s win in the U.S. Department of Energy international competition. Herdt was the architecture faculty lead on both of CU’s back-to-back first-place Solar Decathlon competition projects (2002 and 2005). This two-win Solar Decathlon record has not been matched by any other university in the world since the competition began more than 15 years ago.

“The BioSIPs invention actually consumes society’s waste and divert tons of trash into valuable products for sale, strong energy-efficient buildings. There’s great beauty and value in waste materials. It just takes creativity and the right processes to optimize these resources,” Herdt says. “My research and developments have always focused on studying society’s discards and returning their value by imparting new characteristics to them. In class, I teach students to consume less in all that they do, especially in what they build. BioSIPs were invented and are now patented based on these principles.”

Herdt, Schauermann and John Hunt, USDA FPL, worked together to achieve superthermal values and strengths in BioSIPs, surpassing other SIPs in areas of compressive and transverse loading. BioSIPs full-scale prototypes were tested at CU Boulder’s College of Engineering and Applied Science using American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) criteria. They were used as the construction system for the solar-powered BioSIPs Research Structure, funded through a State of Colorado Waste Diversion grant. In 2013, the U.S. Green Building Council honored Herdt’s BioSIPs inventions as Colorado’s “green product” of the year.

In 2007, Herdt invited Schauermann, then a CU Denver graduate student, to work with her in advancing BioSIPs technology. They co-founded BioSIPs Inc. as a CU spinoff company in 2008 while continuing to research and develop bio-based materials and products. As CEO, Herdt brought in other CU Denver architecture students to construct the BioSIPs Research Structure, paying them through grants and investor funding. Several of these former students are now stockholders in her company.

The solar-powered BioSIPs Research Structure is made entirely from the panel and fiberboard inventions, both inside and out. The building showcases the SIPs, furniture, sliding wall, ceiling panels and signage. BioSIPs fabricated from old phone books and magazines have a concrete-like look; those from old boxes and sorted paper look more like wood.

As an architect and researcher, Herdt always tests her bio-based inventions in her own residences and projects. She’s designing her own “very small home” in Boulder using BioSIPs and her other bio-based inventions.

Herdt, Schauermann and Hunt have an additional patent pending for software that allows creation of multi-shaped BioSIPs panels and fiberboards that curve, bend and take shapes not possible with other SIPs. The patent also includes methods to enhance all grades of waste fibers for BioSIPs technology while simultaneously generating information about strengths and economics of manufacturing.

“With this patent, Julee Herdt has brought remarkable distinction to herself, her team and our college and university,” says Mark Gelernter, PhD, dean of the College of Architecture and Planning and professor of architecture. “Patents are not commonly held by architecture faculty. This is the first patent in the College of Architecture and Planning and the third for the CU Denver campus. We are so proud of Julee’s remarkable accomplishment.”
MATT BERGLES, MA History ’90, PhD Public Affairs ’06, has published a children’s book about prairie wildlife and the prairie ecosystem called “Larry Saves the Prairie.” The book is based on the true story of Kansas rancher Larry Haverfield, his refusal to poison wildlife on his land when ordered and his ultimate Kansas Supreme Court victory. Bergles is a mediator at Community Mediation Concepts in Denver.
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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, June 5, 2016 | 4 p.m.
The University of Colorado Denver Alumni Association invites you to its 27th Annual Meeting. The meeting is free and open to all CU Denver alumni. Agenda items include elections, committee reports and awards. Stick around after the meeting and enjoy an optional dinner and admission to the museum’s galleries and exhibits for only $20 per adult, $15 per child.

CU DENVER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
Tuesday, June 7, 2016 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Carnegie Endowment Conference Center
1778 Massachusetts Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036
Meet with fellow CU Denver alumni and friends for drinks and hors d’oeuvres and hear campus updates from Chancellor Dorothy Horrell. Let’s build a CU Denver community in DC! This event is free, but registration is required.
Register online at www.ucdenver.edu/alumnievents.

ALUMNI-ONLY CAREER FAIR IN DENVER
Thursday, June 16, 2016 | 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Marriott Denver Tech Center
Area colleges and universities are teaming up for the HireDenver Alumni-Only Career Fair. Employers from a variety of industries want to meet outstanding alumni to fill professional positions. Don’t miss this opportunity to meet respected national and Colorado employers in varying industries including education, investment banking, marketing, technology, media, consulting, healthcare, sales, government and nonprofits.
Registration is required, but the event is free. Please register by June 10 at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hiredenver-career-fair-2016-tickets-19333184074.

CU AT THE DENVER ZOO
Wednesday, June 29, 2016 | 6:30–9 p.m.
Denver Zoo
The Denver Zoo will open its doors exclusively for CU alumni, friends and their families for the evening. Join CU President Bruce Benson and leadership from all four campuses for dinner and an evening with the animals.
Visit www.ucdenver.edu/alumnievents to register.

CU DAY AT ELITCH GARDENS
Saturday, July 16, 2016 | 10 a.m.–10 p.m.
Elitch Gardens
Bring your family for a day of fun at Denver’s famous theme and water park, Elitch Gardens. Join CU alumni for lunch as part of the cost of admission. Check the website www.ucdenver.edu/alumnievents for additional information and to register.

A big CU thank you to alumni and friends who came out for the Rock Bottom Ranch in February, helping raise more than $36,000 for student scholarships. Pictured above (right to left): Gloria Thomas, Olimipia Marroquin, Kim Knutsen, Kimberly Straith, Patricia Mack and Shameka McBoat.