Wilson Takes Charge

M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS, became chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center July 1. He leaves a three-year post as president of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, which provides health care and health educational needs to more than 2.5 million West Texas residents through campuses in Amarillo, El Paso, Lubbock and the Permian Basin.

Wilson has an international reputation and holds several national appointments, including elected member of the Institutes of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Ophthalmological Society, and the Glaucoma Society of the International Congress of Ophthalmology. His major scientific contributions have bridged the fields of epidemiology and ophthalmology.

Wilson’s medical degree comes from Harvard Medical School, and his master of science in epidemiology is from the UCLA School of Public Health. He performed both his ophthalmology residency and glaucoma fellowship at Harvard’s Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary. In 1998, Wilson was appointed dean of the School of Medicine at Creighton University, and served as dean and vice president for health sciences from 1999–2003. He was professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute of UCLA and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Last fall, the downtown Denver campus embarked on a journey to create a more undergraduate-friendly campus and foster collaborations among faculty. Historically a commuter campus with primarily nontraditional students in graduate programs, the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center sees building its undergraduate class as essential to growth. The endeavor to enhance the undergraduate program includes a multidisciplinary grant competition to encourage faculty and staff collaboration across campuses to benefit undergraduate education. The Center for Faculty Development awarded seven grants, including one to Randall Tagg, physics professor at the downtown campus, and Arlen Meyers, MD, Department of Otolaryngology at 9th and Colorado, to develop biomedical instrumentation and to expand the biomedical labs to the downtown campus. “The emphasis has been and will continue to be on exposing undergraduates to challenges in biomedical engineering,” Tagg says. One of the funded undergraduate research projects involves creating an instrument to inject light into the edge of thin layers of epithelial tissue. Meyers, who specializes in ear, nose and throat ailments, explains that a current method of oral cancer detection involves a physical exam—simply looking in the mouth and feeling areas of concern. “The problem is that there are abnormalities you can’t see, and it is difficult to differentiate premalignant from malignant without a biopsy,” Meyers says.
Forget swimming with the dolphins or bizarre biomedical treatments. There is a science-based way to help children with autism, and it is found at the School of Education & Human Development at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center.

Created in 1981 by School of Education and Human Development (SEHD) professor Phil Strain, the LEAP preschool Model is designed for young children with autism. It’s one of only eight intervention programs nationwide recognized by the National Academy of Science.

LEAP, Learning Experiences: an Alternative Program for preschoolers and parents, helps children with autism integrate successfully in home, classroom and community settings. It has been funded since its beginning by the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs.

LEAP model teaches those skills in an intensive setting.

Parents and peers simply don’t know how to relate to a child with autism. They need to learn skills to develop that relationship. Strain’s LEAP model teaches those skills in an intensive setting.

“The key things we know about early intervention for kids with autism,” Strain says, are

1. A lack of social relatedness, particularly with peers and also with adult family members.
2. Difficulty with communication, with the use of language or lack of language.
3. Unusual interest in things in the environment. (A typical 3-year-old will play with many toys. A child with autism may play with only one 12 hours a day.)
4. Repetitive behaviors, sometimes referred to as self-stimulatory behavior. A child may rock back and forth, flick fingers in front of the face, spin objects or pick lint out of the carpet for long periods of time.

In fact, the LEAP model strategy of facilitating peer relationships can produce positive effects from the first day the techniques are introduced.

“Social skills are unlike other skills,” Strain observes. “You can’t learn to tango by yourself. You can’t become socially skillful by yourself. Exposure to others who are socially competent is vital.”

The long-term effect of the LEAP model is encouraging. Strain reports two months of developmental gain for each month enrolled in the program.

The key component to success is sustainability. “That’s why we spend so much time and effort working with parents to give them skills,” Strain says. “Not just in parenting but in teaching their kids, learning how to work with professionals, being an advocate. After they’ve been through the program, we hear reports about parents who work to get their kids with the best possible teacher and are extremely vigilant about their children’s continued development.”

Autism is a condition increasingly acknowledged and supported.

There is an “incredible” acceleration of incidence of autism over the past two decades, Strain says.

When he began his work in the late 1970s, the rate of occurrence was 4 in 10,000. In 2004, the Centers for Disease Control issued a national health alert, citing data that indicated a rate of one per 265 live births. “That’s phenomenal,” Strain says. A partial explanation for the increase might be an improved diagnostic process. More medical professionals are trained to identify developmental disabilities in general.

Last year, Colorado passed legislation, now making its way through an administrative process, allocating up to $23,000 a year for two years for services beyond that provided in schools.

What difference does the LEAP program make in a family’s life? Strain recalls a father’s comment that captures the amount and degree of behavior change that is possible if children are enrolled early enough in a science-based program.

This father was devastated that his child didn’t use words to communicate, wasn’t affectionate or responsive to his parents and didn’t give positive feedback to them. After gaining the skills the program teaches, the father said, simply, “Thank you for giving our son back to us.”
Every Kid Is Special

Elizabeth Kozleski wanted to find ways to “engage children in our work.” An art contest seemed like the perfect way to do that. Kozleski, director of the National Institute for Urban School Improvement, and institute staff judged 100 entries from NIUSI’s nine urban school system partners around the country. NIUSI calls these districts synergy sites for their leadership role in developing inclusive schools that respond to the needs of all children, including those with intellectual, physical, and emotional disabilities. Clark County (Las Vegas), Chicago, Denver, the District of Columbia, Hacienda La Puente (Los Angeles), Memphis, Madison, Miami, and New York City with NIUSI’s support continue to develop and support great urban schools that build strong communities for all learners.

Viviana Cervantes-Lopez, a fourth-grader from Harrington Elementary in Denver, won the grand prize for her drawing of an inclusive school. Her drawing, titled “Every Kid is Special,” illustrated one of several themes that were the basis of the contest: What Does an Inclusive School Look Like? Learning Together, Diversity in My School and My Community and My School. Her drawing, one of 100 entries, depicts children of different races and abilities. Viviana understands disabilities; her mother has multiple sclerosis and her brother is in a wheelchair.

Viviana won a trip to Washington, D.C., with her father and told the audience at the synergy site meeting that she knows “what it is like to feel left out because you are different.”

“Art is full of the voices of children,” Kozleski says. “We need to listen to children as a touchstone for making change.”

For more about the National Institute for Urban School Improvement, visit www.urbanschools.org.

Public Affairs: Buechner Retires

John C. Buechner, PhD, retired from the Graduate School of Public Affairs faculty in April after six years of service. His specialties included leadership, professional ethics, politics, the policy process and administration.

“John Buechner laid the foundation to establish the College of Arts & Media and hired me while he completed his chancellorship,” says Provost Mark Heckler. “He was the chief advocate for the creation of the King Center and continued to take great interest in the campus during his presidency and after his return to the faculty. John clearly was a positive force in developing the University of Colorado at Denver into a world-class institution.”

Buechner has more than 45 years of service to the university. Prior to teaching at GSPA, he served as president of the University of Colorado System from November 1995 to May 2000, after first holding the position of chancellor of the Denver campus from 1988 to 1995.

Buechner’s relationship to governance has been considerably more than academic. While a professor at CU-Boulder, he served on the Boulder City Council (1967–1976), as mayor of Boulder (1970–1971), and as a member of the Colorado House of Representatives (1972–1974). His professional honors include election to the National Academy of Public Administration in 1998. Additionally, he has participated in numerous community and civic organizations over the years.

He received his BA from the College of Wooster, in Wooster, Ohio, then earned an MPA and PhD from the University of Michigan. Buechner has authored and co-authored four books, as well as numerous monographs and articles on topics relating to leadership, public administration and politics.

For Buechner, higher education will always be a priority. “I want to continue to be available to GSPA students—past, present and future—if I can assist them in their academic and career development.”

“It’s difficult to say goodbye to someone who has served his community, his state, the university, and this graduate program so meaningfully and energetically,” said GSPA Dean Kathleen Beatty. “John is beloved in our community, and we shall miss him terribly.”

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- A second detection method takes a swab of abnormal tissue and looks for deviated cell growth under the microscope. "Unfortunately, this takes time, is costly and results in a lot of false positives," Meyers explains. "Optical detection techniques are cheaper, faster, easier to use and more accurate." - Students include undergraduates, nondegree premeds, master's and medical students in their research rotations. Other research projects involve creating optical lenses from soft gels so their shapes and focal lengths can be controlled externally and using nanotechnology to help determine the sources of cells involved in thickening arteries due to pulmonary hypertension. “In a one-year time frame, we expect to complete at least five of the projects,” Tagg notes. “All are well under way, with the apparatus built and preliminary data being recorded.” - The projects are part of a sustainable prototype that will enable the program to secure external grants and revenue for the future.
The widespread and complete devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina created a vast need for expertise in all aspects of rebuilding. Four professors and 28 graduate students made an important impact in fulfilling this need.

“It was difficult for us to narrow down the area in New Orleans to focus our work,” says Associate Professor Austin Allen. “However, there appeared to be a number of activities unfolding in an area known as the Lower Ninth Ward, so that’s where we decided to turn our attention.”

The Lower Ninth Ward, a neighborhood confronted with many difficulties before the hurricane, experienced some of the most devastating damage. “Although the Lower Ninth was poverty stricken, it had high home ownership and a tremendous sense of community,” adds Allen, “and most of its flooding was more a result of the breach of the levees than Katrina, so there were hydrological issues for the students to consider.”

During their first trip in March, the landscape architecture students led a three-day charrette—a process of listening and listing the things people like most about their community—asking residents to respond to the question, “How can we live here?”

“We had a nice turn out of community members, elected officials and neighborhood organizations,” says Allen. “It was a wonderful affirmation that people could come back and could have discussions on how to rebuild.”

The community meeting gave students the feedback they needed to get started, but they spent additional hours talking with residents to develop ideas and designs for community reclamation. The students divided into three workgroups, each group being responsible for a cross section of the neighborhood. They sorted the myriad of the Ninth Ward’s problems into four general categories—contacting displaced residents, providing temporary housing, creating centralized locations for information sharing and exchange, and developing plans for the immediate and long-term future.

Back in Denver, students identified 65 immediate design projects that could be implemented in the Ninth Ward. The fleshing out of these plans occurred during a two-semester design course, after which 12 students returned to New Orleans in May to present their rebuilding solutions to several community homeowners’ associations. The projects presented ranged from creating future evacuation plans, to improving drainage potentials, to implementing adaptive zoning codes, and to memorializing the loss and pain left by Katrina. The associations will incorporate the students’ plans into their own plans for revitalizing the area.

According to Allen, landscape architecture students will continue to work with residents in the Lower Ninth Ward for at least another year. For many, this work has changed their lives…

“‘For me, personally, the biggest impact has been the ability to see design as a process of social building,’” says Robin Rooney, a landscape architecture student. “It has, in a very profound way, opened my eyes to the people who will use the places I design.”

Rooney projects that she will work with the Lower Ninth Ward until she graduates in May 2007. “This experience will be one that directs my professional work,” she says. “I would love to spend my time and energy designing spaces that change people’s lives by either returning something to them that has been lost, or creating something new that improves an aspect of their daily lives.

“Katrina is a grand example of devastation,” she continues, “but there are examples of devastation everywhere on many scales. I would like to focus my energy in these places, and being involved in the New Orleans studio helped me to define this goal.”

FROM THE TOP: Landscape architecture students survey areas of the Lower Ninth Ward during their March trip; students met with residents and community leaders to exchange information and discuss rebuilding strategies; through the semester, students in design seminars worked out solutions to problems in the North Ward.
CSI-CU: Sanders Creates a Case for Forensic “Voiceprints”

Popular crime scene investigation shows are rife with forensics experts in various disciplines, but none of them, yet, in music. Rich Sanders, professor and chair of the Department of Music and Industry Studies, is making a name for himself around Denver and the country as an expert in audio forensic technology.

Sanders’ audio forensics class became part of the recording arts curriculum in 2002, when the 34-hour master of science in recording arts program was first established. “In just four years, the class has seen increased interest,” Sanders recalls, noting that a recent class had nine students enrolled. That is a phenomenal number, given there were only 15 students registered in the entire master’s program when he started.

Sanders relies on his background in engineering, music recording and composition to guide his students through the introductory course. He also relies on years of experience conducting investigative research and providing expert testimony on such notorious criminal cases as the JonBenet Ramsey murder, the Oklahoma City bombing, the Kobe Bryant rape case, and the Columbine High School tragedy.

This year, two students enrolled in the master’s program are helping Sanders research an entirely new way of using audio forensics to solve crimes. “I’m pursuing ways to further improve the technology used to identify criminals and people in general by classifying the speaking voice as fingerprints are quantified into numbers,” Sanders explains. “These unique “voiceprints” can be used to identify criminals.

Sanders’ audio forensics class is still young, the work being done by Sanders and his students has brought the College of Arts & Media program into the spotlight. Recently Sanders joined forces with the Denver Center for the Performing Arts’ National Center for Voice and Speech and relocated to the historic Tramway Building near the Auraria campus.

A Colorado Institute of Technology grant helped fund some of the high tech equipment needed for the discipline. Other grants received by Sanders will seed the National Center for Audio/Video Forensics, which Sanders hopes to mold into a clearinghouse to track research, establish standards and serve as a national crime-solving resource.
Mandrell Culls for Qualified Graduates

Ruth Mandrell, former Alumni Association president, remembers a time when the Colorado Department of Transportation’s focus was limited to the design and construction of highways…and snow plowing. That’s when the organization was known as the Colorado Division of Highways, some 15 years ago. Until her retirement in May 2006, her job as human resources manager at CDOT was to recruit and retain employees for the transportation giant.

“I looked for the best and the brightest in the job market,” Mandrell says. She also looked to the future, much like Civil Engineering Professor Lynn Johnson continues to do in his CDOT work for future job opportunities.

Mandrell credits her 18-year career at CDOT to her CU-Denver degree in organizational psychology, which prepared her to do exactly the kind of competitive work she mastered at CDOT. “I really couldn’t have been better prepared.”

“...while we look for recent business and public administration graduates to fill positions, we recruit heavily from the College of Engineering and Applied Science.”

Mandrell counted on job candidates with degrees from the downtown Denver campus to be just as prepared as she was. “We participate in all the campus job fairs,” notes Mandrell, “and while we looked for recent business and public administration graduates to fill positions, we recruited heavily from the College of Engineering and Applied Science.”

With Johnson and his students looking for ways to help CDOT fulfill its environmental assessment needs, no doubt there will be plenty of graduates from the GIS program turning to CDOT for future job opportunities.

Did you know... The University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center employs more than 12,200 Coloradans, making it one of the top metro area employers.

Engineering: Professor Hangs Ten on the Digital Wave

When Lynn Johnson, professor of water resources and geographic information systems (GIS) in the College of Engineering and Applied Science, mapped river basins as a PhD candidate at Cornell University in the late 1970s, GIS was called interactive computer graphics and very few people had any idea what it was. Today, students enrolled in Johnson’s master’s of engineering program recognize GIS as an umbrella term that incorporates technologies including computer mapping, remote sensing, spatial databases and computerized measurements and modeling. “Internet mapping and linked models of all kinds are hot topics these days,” says Johnson.

Johnson’s program is equally hot. Because GIS is a growth industry, his challenge is accommodating a field of study that, in some ways, has a life of its own. “We’re trying to keep pace, but we’re being confronted with a tidal wave of growth and interest at the same time.” Johnson calls it “hanging ten on the digital wave.”

Putting CU on the CDOT Map

Johnson has already introduced the state of Colorado to the potential of GIS technologies. “I demonstrated a small project to the Colorado Department of Transportation several years ago,” says Johnson, “which showed that GIS mapping could be used to assess the environmental impact of transportation systems. That demonstration has served as a springboard to more recent research with CDOT.”

One of Johnson’s research projects assesses the cumulative effects of CDOT’s work on the environment. By mapping past and present land-use change and developing models to forecast land-use change in the future, CDOT will be able to predict the impact their projects will have on the environment. The CDOT research involves interdisciplinary collaborations across campus involving the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (John Wyckoff, environmental science) and College of Architecture and Planning (Brian Muller, planning) and a number of other faculty.

Riding the GIS Groundswell

Johnson may have his toes on the nose of his digital surfboard, but the Western Interstate Consortium for Higher Education (WICHE) is keeping an eye on Johnson and his students. WICHE, an educational nonprofit comprised of 15 western-member states that works to assure access and excellence in higher education for all citizens of the West, recently nominated the master’s in GIS as a Program of Distinction.

Now gaining some recognition, Johnson hopes to ride this digital wave and make UCDHSC a top-10 institution in the study of GIS applications nationwide. “My goal,” says Johnson, “is to work with my colleagues to form a campus-wide GIS center that will support the interdisciplinary use of GIS technologies in our classrooms and throughout the Denver metro community.”
Cunningham Named Fulbright Distinguished Chair

Lawrence F. Cunningham, the Joseph and Martha Davis Term Professor of Marketing, has been awarded a distinguished chair in the 2006/2007 Fulbright Program. Cunningham will spend three months at Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, in either fall 2006 or spring 2007, continuing his research and lecturing on international services marketing issues in newly emerging markets such as China and Eastern Europe.

Distinguished chairs in the Fulbright Program are considered the most prestigious Fulbright awards. In 2005/2006, there were 58 Fulbright awards in business disciplines with distinguished chairs constituting six awards or about 10 percent of the total business awards. Distinguished chairs are typically awarded to established scholars with internationally recognized research records.

Sueann Ambron, dean of the Business School, notes “Professor Cunningham’s naming as a Distinguished Research Professor and Fellow in 2004 at a leading European business school constitutes an important recognition of the international impact of his work in services marketing and international marketing.” The addition of a distinguished chair in the Fulbright Program suggests “his international colleagues and constituencies highly value his research and overall contributions. His work continues to evolve and significantly affects his discipline at the highest international levels.”

Ambron adds, “This is an important recognition for Professor Cunningham but, more important, constitutes the first Fulbright awarded to the Business School on the Denver campus since its origins in the 1970s and establishment as a separate business school in 1985.”

“A distinguished chair in the Fulbright Program reflects the continuing high quality of our faculty research program.”

Cunningham is grateful for the encouragement and support of Joe and Marty Davis and the support and encouragement of Ambron and Jean Claude Bosch, associate dean and dean of faculty. He notes, “Such awards are the result of an evolving research program, a supportive research culture and the opportunity to work with highly talented co-authors.”

Cunningham has pioneered graduate courses in marketing in emerging markets, customer relationship management and analyzing market opportunities.

In addition to his Fulbright, Cunningham has recently visited highly ranked business schools at Peking University, Shanghai Jiao Tao and Fudan University. He was invited to make research presentations at these business schools from his research streams in cross-cultural services marketing. The presentations explored the possibility of joint research and activities with Chinese colleagues. These discussions offered contacts and insights into conducting consumer research on services in the Chinese environment, Cunningham explains. He also held discussions with Institute of International Education personnel and U.S. Commercial Service to track higher education trends in China, explore research topics and attend briefings on developments in services in the Chinese economy.

Professor Cunningham poses with Chinese marketing faculty in front of the Guanghua School of Management at Peking University.

Did you know... Upon consolidation, the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center became the most diverse doctoral-granting university in the state with 20.5 percent minority students.

Business School Celebrates Success

The Business School 2006 Celebration of Success May 17 marked the 10th anniversary of the event, which raises scholarship support for Business School students and fellowships for outstanding faculty. Business School Dean Sueann Ambron welcomed approximately 600 guests at Denver’s Hyatt Regency, and thanked them for support that “makes a huge difference in a lot of students’ lives.”

“We’re proud of this Business School that understands business and gives students a taste of the real thing,” said CU President Hank Brown.

John Malone
Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper was on hand to introduce the evening’s featured speaker Liberty Media Chairman John Malone. The mayor likened the Business School’s work in “transporting lives” to Liberty Media’s “transporting information” and the business of the event sponsor, Frontier Airlines, in “transporting people.”

Malone, who holds degrees from Yale and Johns Hopkins, has had a long career in telecommunications. He began his comments by tracing his early career at Bell Labs and work that eventually lead him to the former Telecommunications, Inc. (TCI) headquartered in Denver. Over the years, he has been involved in many business dealings including mergers and acquisitions. Malone says his philosophy is “it’s not a good deal unless the other guy walks away feeling good about it.”

Frontier Airlines CEO Jeff Potter, who served as chair of the event, noted that the proceeds will fund 70 scholarships.
Alumni Award Recipients

Alumni Appreciation Award

Marianne Fearn’s life has been a command performance. She has taught with such legendary actors as Uta Hagen and Herbert Berghoff, at HB Studios in New York City and has directed plays ranging from Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet to Steve Martin’s Picasso at the Lapine Agile. As an artist, Fearn could perform almost anywhere; however, she decided instead to share her dream with others. As director of the Silverton Theatre and Summer Youth Program since 1989, Fearn has taught and entertained the Silverton and surrounding communities, and has mentored University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center students each summer, connecting them with children, families, artists, educators and other local leaders. Fearn, a graduate of the Boulder campus, helps students become mentors to local kids, many of whom come from difficult home environments.

Alumni Leadership Award

Carol A. Wilson, a long-time voice of reason for public schools and their role in creating a democratic citizenry, recently retired as executive director of the Colorado Partnership for Educational Renewal (CoPER), an organization she helped found. UCDHSC has been a member of CoPER since its inception 17 years ago. In that time, Wilson has been an impassioned voice for teacher education as the state made massive changes in program requirements. She has been a strong and articulate voice for preserving the fundamental function of public schools—to prepare well-educated citizens for democracy.

Alumni Mack Easton Award

The Business School is able to educate and graduate the best business students not only because of its caliber of faculty, but also through important collaborations with the business community. Ted Schaefer, a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC, is a central figure in these collaborations, donating time and resources to the Business School’s Center for Information Technology Innovation (CITI). In 2005, Schaefer assisted with the launch of an information technology master of science degree. That same year, he established the PricewaterhouseCoopers Term Professorship, with more than $15,000 given to retain high-quality faculty. In 2003, he contributed to the Business School’s book, Business Driven Information Technology: Answers to 100 Critical Questions for Every Manager. A 1987 alumnus of downtown Denver, Schaefer’s dedication to his alma mater has never wavered, nor has his passion for the business community, the Business School or CITI.

Alumni Legislative Award, 2006

When it comes to doing what’s right, Sen. Ken Gordon walks the line or—in the case of successfully passing Referendum C—the state. Recognizing that Referenda C and D were critical to higher education, Gordon visited communities across the state. Gordon, who represents District 35 encompassing Denver and Arapahoe counties, was first elected to the Colorado Senate in 2000 and has been majority leader of the Senate for the past two years. Prior to that, he served in the House of Representatives for eight years and was minority leader for two years. For the past two years, Gordon has sponsored Student Legislative Education Day at the state capitol, promoting civic education among high school students. Since 1982, he also has been a non-tenure track faculty member at the downtown campus, teaching courses in political science.

Do you know alumni or community leaders with outstanding service to the university? Nominate them for one of next year’s alumni awards by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations by January 31, 2007.

Critical Questions for Every Manager. A 1987 alumnus of downtown Denver, Schaefer’s dedication to his alma mater has never wavered, nor has his passion for the business community, the Business School or CITI.

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Zara Snapp wanted to be an actress, but an aversion to Los Angeles and a political science class inspired a radical transformation—from performer to Truman Scholar.

A senior majoring in political science with a history minor, Snapp was one of 75 students chosen nationally to receive the prestigious 2005 Harry S. Truman Scholarship. The scholarship recognizes college juniors with outstanding leadership potential who want to pursue careers in public service, politics, education or the nonprofit sector. Winners receive up to $30,000 to help pay for graduate study in public service, as well as attend special institutes and workshops for leadership training and relationship building.

Snapp was born in Xalapa, Mexico, but has lived in Texas and Denver most of her life. She attended the Denver School of the Arts intending to become an actor and took classes at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. At 16, Snapp began working at Mi Casa Resource Center for Women, helping in teen pregnancy and STD prevention. Like many of her friends, she assumed that once she graduated, she would go to L.A. to take her chances in Hollywood. But when she finally visited, she realized she didn’t want to live there.

In the meantime, the Chancellor’s Scholars and Leaders Program and classes with people like Tony Robinson, an expert on urban politics and homelessness, inspired Snapp to get involved with the Denver Tent City Initiative, a movement to establish extra shelter for homeless people who can’t get into established shelters. Over time, her role at Mi Casa has expanded as well, and today she is helping to manage a Kellogg Foundation grant at the center—the Kellogg Leadership for Community Change fellowship. The fellowship encourages training and development for youth and adults to achieve social change.

Following graduation, Snapp plans to live in Mexico City, perfecting her Spanish and studying for the GRE. “The most powerful thing about being on this campus is the urban environment,” Snapp says. “We are always meeting people at different stages of their lives. To develop those relationships and hear perspectives is an incredible plus. My political science professors carry with them their experiences, and you can see how those experiences drive their passion in the classroom.”

UCDHSC Senior Wins Truman Scholarship

Bragging Rights

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Downtown Denver Campus
Campus Box 189
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the information above to alumni@ucdenver.edu
Alumni...

70s
Arthur Rubinfeld, March 1977, wrote the Wharton School Press best-seller, *Built for Growth: Expanding Your Business Around the Corner or Across the Globe*. His experience helped Starbucks grow to one of America’s top retailers. Rubinfeld is founder and CEO of AIRVISION, a Seattle-based firm that works with many name brands on their growth strategies and brand positioning.

80s
David C. Baker, BSBA 1982, is executive vice president of FirstBank Holding Co., where he has worked since graduation. He earned a graduate degree in 1989 from the Graduate School of Banking at the University of Washington in Seattle. Baker was recently named to the Business School Board of Advisors.

Valerie Gantt Cook, BS mechanical engineering 1985, is currently the test operations manager for Daimler Chrysler in Michigan. Cook is also working toward a PhD in manufacturing engineering at Lawrence Tech University.

Don Harrier, March 1986, has been named principal at Hill Glazer Architects. Harrier joined Hill Glazer, a leading hotel and resort design firm, in 2003 and is responsible for new business development, project management, marketing and human resources.

Jerry Niswonger, BSBA finance 1987, is a financial advisor for USAA Insurance in Phoenix, Ariz. He received his MBA from the University of Denver in 1989.

90s
Christine Emmert, MA humanities 1990, has released her first novel, *ISMENE (The Journey Back)*. Emmert has several published works as a playwright, poet and short fiction writer.

Sara Axelson, MPA 1995, has been named vice president for student affairs at the University of Wyoming (UW). She served as the interim vice president since last August and previously held the positions of associate vice president for enrollment management and director of admissions at UW. Axelson is currently working on a doctorate in adult learning.

Kate Goodspeed, MA curriculum and instruction 1995, was recently the co-recipient of the Jack Gore Award by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) for her work on justice and peace issues. Goodspeed currently teaches ESL to refugees and immigrants at Emily Griffith Opportunity School in Denver and is writing a memoir, *How Often Does Such Beauty Come*, about the eight years she spent in China teaching English to university-level students who would themselves become English teachers. For information, visit Goodspeed’s Web site at www.goodkate.homestead.com/home.html.

Laura Munro, MA curriculum and instruction 1996, was recently named districtwide director of special student services (including English language acquisition, special education and gifted and talented) for Aurora Public Schools.

John Gendall, BS biology 1999, is currently working toward a degree at Harvard University’s Graduate School of Design. Gendall’s work specifically pertains to the history and theory of modern sacred space.

E. Joseph Barani, BA fine arts 2000, was granted signature membership by the 2006 Watercolor Society. Signature membership is awarded to artists who have qualified by juror to exhibit in three Kansas Watercolor juried watercolor competitions. Since 1992, Barani has operated BaranWorks which provides services to individuals, businesses and organizations that enhance the conservation, preservation and promotion of the arts.

Peggy Harnish, BS math 2000, received her master’s degree in adult education and distance learning from the University of Phoenix. Harnish is currently teaching math at Red Rocks Community College.

Teva J. Scheer, PhD public administration 2000, recently published the book entitled *Governor Lady: The Life and Times of Nellie Tayloe Ross*. Scheer is currently an adjunct faculty member at UCDHSC’s Graduate School of Public Affairs.

Jackie Dobrovolny, PhD educational leadership and innovation 2001, and Elizabeth (Beth) Roatch, MA information and learning technologies 2005, are both involved in a research study currently being conducted by the Mountain Plains AIDS Education & Training Center (MPAETC) in the School of Medicine at UCDHSC. Dobrovolny serves as the principal investigator; Roatch is the deputy director of MPAETC. The MPAETC Project is a qualitative research study focusing on how healthcare professionals learn and apply information presented to them during a 2.5-day clinical training program. The study examines how healthcare professionals construct their own knowledge about HIV prevention and treatment. Dobrovolny is also an independent consultant and lecturer in the SEHD. Roatch is a research instructor in the School of Medicine.

Dennis Hanneman, MS civil engineering 2001, was named the Denver-area geotechnical engineering group leader for Kleinfelder, Inc. Under Hanneman’s leadership, the group will focus on serving clients in the federal, transportation, water and energy markets along with major retail, commercial and industrial corporations.

Did you know… More than 70 percent of graduates from the downtown Denver campus stay in Colorado after graduation.
Linda Meredith, MA early childhood education 2001, is the chief operating officer of Community Partnership for Child Development/Head Start in Colorado Springs.

Cathy Bodine, PhD educational leadership and innovation 2002, is an assistant professor and section head in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and director of CU\'s Assistive Technology Partners (ATP). ATP was the topic of a recent article, "Enabling Lives through Technology," in the Denver Post. That article credited ATP with changing the lives of hundreds of people with mental and physical disabilities.

Jon Goldin-DuBois, MPA 2002, moved to Washington, D.C., to become the executive vice president of Common Cause, a nonpartisan, nonprofit advocacy organization that engages citizens to build a better democracy and hold their elected leaders accountable.

11-Month MBA alumni Scott Ford, Mark Rubenstein, and John Russell, 2003, started On-The-Block Auctions, a full-service company that has sold thousands of items on eBay and turned a profit after only two months.

Peter J. Hynes, MArch and MUD 2003, has opened Urbitecture, Inc., specializing in mixed-use and transit-oriented architecture, community planning and urban design. Hynes is chairman of the Mercado Coalition, a community-based, nonprofit organization advocating for sensible economic and sustainable development of the 10th and Osage light rail station in Denver. He also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Broadway COPshop, a nonprofit, community-operated policing storefront. Hynes recently married Bethany Walker in Ennis, Ireland.

Maggie Lopez, PhD educational leadership and innovation 2003, has been an educator for 29 years. She has been a teacher, director of K-12 gifted education, and a principal in both urban and suburban settings and is presently the assistant superintendent for learning services in Academy 20 District in Colorado Springs. Lopez is also a Milken Educator Award winner and has published several articles on leadership.

Mehran Ramazanov, MBA 2004, has returned to his native country of Azerbaijan and works as a treasury analyst at British Petroleum.

Wendy Wyman, PhD educational leadership and innovation 2004, was recently awarded the Outstanding Dissertation Award by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) at their annual conference. Her dissertation, A Sojourn Through Teacher Techno: An Outcomes Study of Two Teacher Preparation Programs, documents principals’ perceptions, teachers’ self-efficacy and the classroom practices of 42 classroom teachers. Following graduation, Wyman accepted a position as an assistant professor in the School of Education at Colorado State University.

Sandee Moore, MBA health administration 2005, is completing her residency at Health One Medical Center of Aurora. She has already created a business development plan for a new bariatrics program, managed the hospital’s Patient Care Alert System and performed a community needs assessment of the Aurora Women’s Health Fair as part of a larger Health One strategic plan.

Julia Miller Shepherd, MA in administrative leadership and policy studies 2006, principal licensure 2005, is the arts specialist for the Denver Public Schools Southeast Area Office and was recently appointed co-president of the DU Art! Board, a support group for the University of Denver’s School of Art and Art History.

Debra Faulkner, master\'s student in history, has written a historical book, Touching Tomorrow: The Emily Griffith Story, about the famous Coloradan who began the Emily Griffith Opportunity School in Denver.

IN MEMORIAM
Ronald L. Shope, MCJ 1999, died April 5, 2006 in a car accident.

Breona Taylor, BS chemistry 2005, died January 5, 2006 in a traffic accident.

Three cheers to our friends at the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery on the 16th Street Mall. The annual "Rock Bottom Ruckus" raised over $68,000 for scholarships. Board members (pictured left to right) Vicky Henry, Deborah Komisarek, Elmo Morales, Jack Gilbraith and Diane Abonen all enjoyed the silent auction before the four-course dinner.

Mutton bustin\' winner Ryan Novak shares the public eye with mother Kathe Novak (MS management 1988), the mayor of Northglenn.

DOWNTOWN DENVER CAMPUS

Alumni Association Benefits

The Alumni Association offers many free and low-cost programs to alumni. Contact the number listed for additional information or visit the Alumni Association Web site: www.cudenver.edu/alumni.

Ambassador\'s Program
cuambassadors@cu.edu or
www.cusys.edu/cuambassadors
• This voluntary group of Colorado residents advocates on behalf of CU and higher education with the Colorado General Assembly.
• All communication is via e-mail including legislative updates, notices of CU outreach events and timely messages from the CU president.

Campus Recreation
303-556-3210
www.mscd.edu/~cra
• Maintain or enhance your level of fitness through the Campus Recreation Center.
• A membership fee of $75 per semester includes full use of the recreation center.

Career Center
303-556-2250
http://careers.cudenver.edu
• Career counseling and job-search coaching
• Career exploration and transitions
• Resume assistance
• Mock interviews
• Online resume referrals and job postings
• Career library resources

Loan Consolidation Program
1-800-COLLEGE or
1-800-448-2424 (outside Colorado)
www.collegeinvest.org

CU Alumni License Plates
303-556-2549
www.cudenver.edu/alumni
• Cost includes a mandatory, minimum donation of $50 to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.
• Upon completion of an application and receipt of an approval certificate from the Alumni Association, CU plates may be purchased.
• An additional $25 county clerk fee and your standard vehicle registration fees are applicable.

Insurance Program
1-800-922-1245
http://alumniinsuranceprogram.com/cudenver
• Short-term health insurance program for graduates that bridges the gap between student health insurance and employer coverage; also for alumni with short-term needs
• Comprehensive, renewable major medical coverage
• Supplemental major medical insurance for catastrophic medical expenses
• Long-term care insurance
• Group term life insurance

MENA Credit Card
1-800-932-2775 or TTY users call
1-800-833-6262 (mention priority code QL79)
• No annual fee
• Every time you use University of Colorado at Denver Platinum Plus® Credit Card to make a purchase, you support the downtown Denver campus Alumni Scholarship Fund and other alumni programs.
• World Points Reward Program allows you to redeem points for travel, gift certificates, cash rewards or merchandise.
CU at the Denver Botanic Gardens

Rooted in Your Past; Growing Your Future

Thursday August 3, 5:30-9 p.m.
Admission and dinner are free*

Join Denver area business and community leaders, alumni, CU friends and families for dinner and an evening in the gardens.

The emcee for the evening’s alumni program is Charles “CJ” Johnson, sociology 1993. Johnson is renowned for his role as quarterback on CU’s co-national football championship team in 1990. He’s held several influential positions since graduation, such as political campaign strategist for Tom Strickland (Democratic senate candidate), business development manager for JD Edwards, and founder and CEO of @lightspeed, LLC, an Internet data center. He’s also a long-time Denver radio talk show host, in addition to serving as color analyst for CU men’s basketball and post-game host for Denver Broncos radio. CJ was recently hired as assistant athletic director for external affairs for CU Athletics and chairs the University of Colorado Black Alumni Society.

The gardens will be closed to the public for this event, so we’ll have the whole place to ourselves. Don’t miss this opportunity!

CU AT THE DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS
RSVP BY JULY 27
* Space is extremely limited.
Admission is free but reservations are required.

NAME(S):

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP:

PHONE (DAY): (EVENING):

EMAIL:

NUMBER ATTENDING:

Submit to:
UCDHSC Alumni Relations
Downtown Denver Campus
Campus Box 189
PO Box 173364
Denver, CO 80217-3364
Fax: 303-556-6545
Web: www.cudenver.edu/alumni

Hosts and sponsors:
President Hank Brown,
the University of Colorado alumni associations,
the chancellors of the three CU campuses,
TIAA-CREF, and
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