Chancellor M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS, hit the Mile High City at a fast pace when he joined the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center (UCDHSC) in July, and he hasn’t stopped since. A grueling schedule of meetings and a long to-do list haven’t dampened his enthusiasm for the task ahead. “What I see as a result of consolidation is the making of a great university,” he declares. “My goal is to build upon existing areas of distinction and to raise the bar for excellence overall.”

Wilson recognizes that great universities have extremely strong undergraduate programs. He encourages the initiatives the university is undertaking in strengthening the first-year and undergraduate experiences. This university plays a critical role in the development and well-being of the state and its citizens, he believes. With a core business of education and health, the university can lead the way for the state and region.

Education initiatives

The economic well-being of the state is dependent on the education of its citizens. Wilson acknowledges the Colorado paradox—a state with a highly educated workforce but a dismal rate of high school graduation and support for the K–12 endeavor. “The fact is that the demographics are changing,” he says. “It will become a greater challenge to educate our children to foster economic growth in the state.”

One of Wilson’s first challenges is working with the UCDHSC community to identify and articulate the university’s vision and mission. The process includes an effort that will focus the university’s initiatives...
Public Affairs: Sustainability and security
Gary Hart brings new context to Wirth Chair

In 1987, Tim Wirth succeeded Gary Hart as a U.S. senator from Colorado. This year, Hart followed his colleague, in a way, by accepting a two-year appointment as scholar-in-residence, Wirth Chair for Environmental and Community Development Policy, at the Graduate School of Public Affairs.

The funded position honors Wirth’s considerable environmental and sustainable development achievements in Congress, in the State Department and now as president of the United Nations Foundation. Over the years, the Wirth Chair has helped governments, businesses, nonprofit groups and community organizations form sustainable-development partnerships that carefully balance economic, environmental and expanded social welfare objectives and strategies.

Known for leading the dialogue on political and historical issues, Hart offers insight into national and international security concerns that will enhance the influence of the Wirth Chair.

A prolific author, lecturer, teacher, scholar and attorney, Hart has spent 25 years in public service. The two-term U.S. senator and presidential candidate is known for his work in international law, business and his expertise on security policy and issues.

Hart currently is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the National Academy of Sciences task force on science and security. He previously co-chaired the U.S. Commission on National Security for the 21st Century, which predicted a major terrorist attack in the United States more than a year before 9/11. He holds graduate law and divinity degrees from Yale and resumed his own academic studies at Oxford University just five years ago, earning the British equivalent of a PhD in politics in 2001.

Hart’s recent book, The Shield and the Cloak: The Security of the Commons, offers clues to his vision for the Wirth Chair. He believes that in the new century, the country needs to think about security more comprehensively than it has in the past—redefining the nature of security to include not just secure borders and the war on terrorism, but the security of energy, environment, community and livelihood as well.

“The narrow definition of security is the prevention of physical harm by creating a protective shield. The broader definition of security includes the opportunity for a stable livelihood, the chance to be productive, the comfort of community in a healthy environment and confidence in the integrity of government.”

For the next two years, former Sen. Gary Hart will be teaching and lending his expertise to the Graduate School of Public Affairs.

Did you know... The Graduate School of Public Affairs is expanding its offerings. An undergraduate degree program in criminal justice will be offered on the Colorado Springs campus in spring 2007. The school anticipates a fall 2007 start date for the bachelor’s program on the downtown campus, pending approval by the Board of Regents.

National disasters take many forms—from Katrina, to wildfires to dirty bombs. GSPA stands ready to teach students about security in broad terms that will prepare them for multiple challenges.

Photo Courtesy of Karri Greer Photography
Gates Gift Supports Stem Cell Research

Since consolidation of the downtown campus with the Health Sciences Center, our collective impact and prestige have strengthened our ability to attract significant gifts and research funding, which are essential components in our operating budget.

A $6 million commitment by the Charles C. and June S. Gates Family Fund trustees to the School of Medicine will ensure cutting-edge research that could lead to cures for debilitating diseases. The funding establishes the Charles C. Gates Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology Program on the Fitzsimons campus.

With $2.5 million designated for an endowed chair and $1.75 million for specialized laboratory equipment, an additional $1.75 million creates a challenge grant to fund portions of up to seven discipline-specific programs.

The school's first Charles C. Gates Chair in Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Biology is Dennis Roop, PhD, professor and director of the Center for Cutaneous Molecular Biology at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. He has been funded through the National Institutes of Health since 1989 and brings five NIH grants with him to UCDHSC totaling $3.8 million.

Chancellor sets agenda for education, health

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As Wilson sees it, the development of the Fitzsimons campus and the accompanying research and partnership with the Fitzsimons Redevelopment Authority provide a similar investment in Colorado's health. “Our work will create clinical therapies, procedures and technologies that translate to better health,” he says.

A recent economic impact study of the contributions of the Health Sciences Center indicates that the center generates $1.72 billion in goods and services annually in Colorado. For every $1 the state appropriates to the health enterprise, $30 is returned in total economic activity. And faculty, staff and medical students complete more than 725,000 outpatient office visits, contributing substantially to the state's health care. A similar study on the impact of the downtown campus is under way.

Wilson looks to California as a model for understanding the impact of research on health and economic development. Voters there recently passed a $3 billion bond measure to invest in stem cell research. Wilson believes the proposition passed because citizens are convinced “the future of the state is dependent on better health for its population. Investing money in stem cell research translates to cures and better health, and that in turn translates to a thriving economy.”

“Citizens believe the future of the state is dependent on better health for its population. Investing money in stem cell research translates to cures and better health, and that in turn translates to a thriving economy.”

Wilson one-on-one

Taking up the mantle of chancellor Wilson has meant significant change in Wilson's life. It represents the first time he has not been heavily involved in clinical work. He will get his license to practice medicine in Colorado, but he admits it is unlikely he'll log clinic hours.

Wilson has not, however, given up participating in research projects, including a population-based study in Greece. He is an internationally renowned glaucoma specialist.

And what does the chancellor do to relieve stress? He cycles and has found Colorado to be an excellent place to ride. In the summer, he averages 150-200 miles a week. A typical weekend route takes him from his Cherry Creek home to Golden, up Lookout Mountain, down to Morrison and (time permitting) up to Evergreen and home again (about 80 miles). On weekdays, he pares it down to a quick 20-mile jaunt in the early mornings.

Wilson's wife, Suzanne Arkle Wilson, is president of Zann & Associates Inc., a management consulting firm specializing in business growth solutions through two complementary services: strategic market development, and diversity and inclusion solutions. Wilson’s two children—14-year-old son Yoshio and 10-year-old daughter Presley—live in Houston and enjoy visiting their dad frequently, especially now that he lives in prime ski country.

Three UCDHSC faculty earn Fulbrights

The Fulbright awards are synonymous with excellence in scholarship and community service. Three outstanding UCDHSC Fulbright winners are currently overseas making their awards realty.

Anthropology/Health and Behavioral Sciences

Professor Steve Koester is teaching qualitative research methods at the Hanoi School of Public Health in Hanoi, Vietnam, and collaborating with faculty and students on health-related research projects. “My HIV/hepatitis research has involved identifying drug injection practices that put people at risk of disease transmission and then identifying how contextual factors, or what some researchers call the ‘risk environment,’ affect risk taking or its avoidance,” says Koester.

Associate Professor David Tracer is at Ben-Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel. His recent work focuses on a fundamental axiom of economic theory that expects organisms to act in their own self-interests, amassing resources for their own benefit. “I expect to use novel methods derived from experimental economics to test whether pairs of individuals, when given the choice of engaging in a range of actions that have real monetary payoffs, behave selfishly or are more ‘pro-social’ than expected from standard economic models,” says Tracer.

College of Arts & Media

Assistant Professor Judith Coe is being hosted by the University of Limerick in the Irish World Music Centre and is also traveling around Ireland. “My project is about alternative expressions in Irish music and those traditions inform and transform other genres, including the creative work of emerging pop musicians and singer-songwriters, electronic and experimental musicians, and classical/crossover genres.”

Coe’s lectures last summer on sean-nós in Boston resulted in her appointment as a visiting scholar to the Irish Music Archives at Boston University before leaving for Ireland.
n Linda Alston’s kindergarten class at Fairview Elementary in Denver, Anthony Tran and Jack Morales (names changed to protect privacy) adopt a Shakespearean way of honoring their families. “Shall I compare my mom to the moon? My mom is nicer and more glowing.” “Shall I compare my little brother Elijah to the rain? He is solter and more wet.”

At Grant Ranch School in Littleton, Colo., Jennifer Wilson’s 8-year-olds read through the newspaper, discuss current issues and then decide on a community project for the year. Should they raise money to buy blankets for the homeless or plant trees to combat global warming?

Despite their vastly different approaches to teaching distinct age groups in disparate environments, these two educators have a lot in common. Both are graduates of the School of Education & Human Development’s Language, Literacy and Culture program, and both received major national teaching awards in 2006.

Alston received the nation’s first Kinder Excellence in Teaching award—at $100,000, the largest unrestricted amount ever given to a K–12 teacher. The award recognizes an outstanding public school teacher in a low-income community. It is sponsored by philanthropists Nancy and Rich Kinder of Houston and administered by the KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) Foundation. The award amount makes a statement about the salary level that excellent teachers deserve.

The Walt Disney Co. named Wilson the Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year. Of 75,000 nominations and 10,000 applicants, she was given one of 44 Disney Teacher Awards in April. In August, she was chosen from that group as the Outstanding Elementary Teacher of the Year. In addition to $25,000 and a trip to Disneyland for the ceremony, Wilson and her principal were flown to Walt Disney World Resort in October for a six-day professional development institute.

“We are committed to helping teachers become reflective practitioners, helping them look at their teaching practices through the lens of the cultural and linguistic diversity of our society,” says Associate Professor Sally Nathensen-Mejia of the LLC program. “We see classrooms as opportunities to create rich environments full of authentic, diverse oral and written language experiences that incorporate and expand on the backgrounds of Colorado’s students.”

Alston credits one class, Teachers as Readers and Writers, with stimulating her enthusiasm for teaching. “I started to see my ability and divine calling to teach. The class set the tone and stage for the rest of the program and was a powerful experience,” she says. Another class “helped me examine myself and my approach to Montessori education.” The teacher showed her what she was bringing to her classroom. “She gave me permission to pull the best practices from everything I’ve studied to form my own eclectic style of teaching,” she explains.

“One of the most powerful lessons I learned was the knowledge of my authentic self as the teacher,” says Alston, who earned her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction in 1994. “I learned to be reflective of myself as a learner.”

About the time Wilson began considering graduate school, her first attempt to achieve national board certification had failed. Her peers helped her reflect on her teaching and challenged her to pursue her master’s. The LLC program put her on the right track.

“The biggest benefit I received from the program was the realization that I needed to keep learning. The scholar-practitioner term really came to life for me,” she recalls.

Wilson finished her master’s in curriculum and instruction in 2000, one year after achieving national certification. “It isn’t about jumping through hoops; it’s about getting better,” she says.

Toward the end of school, Alston’s students produce a play called It Takes a Village, which improves vocabulary, self-expression, and speaking and listening skills. During production, students create a mural of their own homes, their village, for the backdrop. One student, who spoke little English, brightened when he saw the mural. “His whole face transformed,” Alston recalls. “The mural brought him out. He wanted to paint and started using the words that he knew, when he wouldn’t talk before. I wouldn’t have known how to teach him without observing him—without that exposure to the arts. My observation of him, and of any child, drives their differentiated instruction.”

For Wilson, too, success is measured by her students’ success—“kids you feel you’ve given extra to and it paid off. You see them come in struggling and go out soaring,” she says. “Once they have the self-esteem, the sky is the limit.”

Editor’s Note: Changes by the Colorado Department of Education recently led the School of Education & Human Development to split the LLC program into the Literacy, Language and Culturally Responsive Teaching program and the Linguistically Diverse Education program. For information, call 303-556-2717.
Architecture: Playground designs invigorate students, communities

For Lois Brink, associate professor of landscape architecture, child’s play is serious business. In the early 1990s, Brink began a case study on creating a multifaceted outdoor space for schoolchildren and the community.

Working collaboratively with parents, neighbors, local businesses, other faculty and students, Brink transformed the playground at Bromwell Elementary School into a neighborhood focal point and dynamic learning environment to engage children in physical education, academics and socialization.

“It took six years to plan and create the playground at Bromwell,” notes Brink. “Craig Cook, CEO of Denver Public Schools at the time, saw the value of what we were doing and asked us to do a similar installation at Garden Place Academy in Globeville.”

With that, a public-private partnership was formed to construct Brink’s multipurpose playgrounds—known as Learning Landscapes—in 16 of Denver’s traditionally underserved areas designated as “focus neighborhoods.”

Since the inception of the program, the partnership’s main objective has been to strengthen Denver’s elementary schools and their surrounding neighborhoods by replacing time-dated, pea-gravel playfields and asphalt game courts with new play and learning spaces, multiuse recreation areas and community gathering places.

Did You Know...

An anonymous donor has given $2.5 million to endow the Children, Youth and Environments Center for Research and Design at the College of Architecture and Planning.

Although we’ve been replacing nearly seven playgrounds each year, every project has been unique,” Brink says. “We strive to fuse the elementary school and the surrounding community together by designing school grounds to suit the cultural influence of the neighborhood and developmental needs of schoolchildren.”

Standard in each playground is a communal gathering place and gateway that welcomes children and the community. Other elements—such as cultivated and habitat gardens, art projects by local artists, math and science walks, geographic features, amphitheaters and performance stages—are considered in conjunction with any particular academic focus the school may have.

“We strive to fuse the elementary school and the surrounding community together...”

In the 16 weeks Brink’s architectural students have to formulate a project, they work in the design studio to develop a master plan and draft design-development drawings. At the same time, they work with the school and its neighbors to determine which playground elements are most desirable.

“Community engagement is important because each neighborhood will assume some responsibility for sustaining the playground after it is built,” Brink says. “Major improvements, such as irrigation, mowing, and care of the asphalt and large play equipment, are assumed by the school district, while the members of the community and the school are asked to assist with maintaining the nontraditional aspects of the learning landscape, which are the art pieces and the gardens.”

Although Brink has received numerous awards for her initiative—including one from the American Institute of Architects, as Teacher of the Year—a primary focus of her work is determining the benefits of Learning Landscapes projects to students who use them. This is driven by Brink’s numerous research projects to correlate outdoor learning environments with improved student achievement. For example, Brink has received two grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. One is helping to determine if a community garden at school improves a child’s eating habits. The other is funding a comparative study of the different levels of playground activity between schools with Learning Landscapes and those without. A third grant from Caring for Colorado is investigating the best way to incorporate playground equipment into a physical education program.

While Brink is hopeful about acquiring additional grants to fund the incorporation of the Learning Landscapes into a new curriculum for teachers, her ultimate goal is to acquire enough research data to correlate the use of Learning Landscapes with improved test scores.

Of course, the opportunity to instill a sense of social and environmental responsibility into her master’s-level design students is an additional benefit. “It’s getting students in the design disciplines to understand that humanity is a big piece of design,” Brink says. “It’s important to connect to how people live.”

UCDHS landscape architecture students have 16 weeks to design a Learning Landscape, which involves working with the school and the community to determine which playground elements best fit their needs.
Film stages renovation of Elitch Theatre


The celebrity cavalcade was, in part, what intrigued David Liban, assistant professor in the College of Arts and Media, to produce a documentary about the $14.2 million renovation of the historic venue. That and the fact that the theater seemed to hold a special place in the hearts of many Denverites.

Opened in 1891, the Elitch Theatre has a storied history as America's oldest summer stock theater, complete with rumors of ghosts and a listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Many local residents had their first experience with live theater at Elitch's, working in the box office or dreaming of stardom beneath its proscenium.

Today, the building stands amid a "new urbanism" development that has transformed the former amusement park into a mixed-use neighborhood of single-family homes, senior residences, apartments, stores and the renovated Carousel Pavilion, home of the old Elitch's carousel. Operating under the aegis of the Center for American Theatre at Historic Elitch Gardens, the renovated space will serve as a year-round venue and education center that presents plays, concerts and lectures.

To document the Elitch renaissance, Liban offered a two-semester class, "The Elitch Theatre Documentary Project," which has attracted students interested in documentary filmmaking.

“This is the first piece I can say I'm part of,” says film production major Rene Vargas, who has shot many of the film's interviews. “Watching David formulate his (interview) questions … his process is amazing. Watching him work has been a great way to get started.”

Photography student Clinton T. Sander has shot hundreds of still images of the building's interior and exterior, which will be included in the film and, he hopes, serve as the basis of a gallery exhibition. He continues to shoot the site weekly from the same spot to create a time-lapse log of the building's progress.

Liban and his student filmmakers discovered that old buildings come packed with trivia. Sander reported that construction workers have had to contend with the turret's hundreds of pounds of pigeon waste. Ryan Walker, another student filmmaker, marvels that the theater continues to stand without a foundation. The team has even enlisted the help of the Rocky Mountain Paranormal Society to assess the building's ghost potential—apparently quite high.

Liban's goal is to complete a 30- or 60-minute film for television and festival distribution. He's seeking outside funding for travel expenses if he lands interviews with such Elitch alumni as Patty Duke or Robert Redford. He anticipates that the entire film will cost $50,000.

“I usually choose topics I don't know much about,” Liban says. “Even for me, it's all about learning.” And then telling the story.
Engineering and Applied Science: Engineering professor builds sustainable PLaCES

Working closely with students in UCDHSC's Department of Civil Engineering, Associate Professor Anu Ramaswami is researching solutions to many of today's emerging environmental problems.

In less than a decade, Ramaswami has been instrumental in moving her curricula beyond the traditional study of civil engineering—planning, constructing and maintaining fixed structures—to one in which students also consider ways to improve or sustain the land, air or water in which those structures are built.

“In the first five years on campus, much of my curricula was based on traditional environmental engineering,” she says. “We looked at emerging technologies, contaminants and bioremediation.”

Soon Ramaswami's desire to make the world more livable led her and her colleagues to develop a new interdisciplinary graduate program in urban sustainable infrastructure engineering. The program, begun with a grant of more than $500,000 from the U.S. Department of Education, provides graduate assistantships in areas of national need (GAANN) to full-time PhD candidates. Ramaswami also initiated a departmental program track in hazardous waste and environmental management.

By getting students to look at alternatives, she says, they “are able to better understand the importance of environmental stewardship.”

To cement their understanding, Ramaswami takes them outside the classroom to participate in a variety of community-based experiential projects. “We're evaluating and developing infrastructures of the future,” she explains.

One project, in partnership with the City and County of Denver, has Ramaswami and her students engaged in a study of ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from local urban communities. The work is tied to Greenprint Denver, a comprehensive plan to provide a strong environmental legacy for the city by protecting and enhancing its relationship with energy and the environment.

“We're conducting a greenhouse gas inventory—counting all the energy we're using in Denver—and creating an action plan that will provide guidance to local decision makers on how we can be more energy efficient and use more renewable energy while maintaining healthy neighborhoods. It's called urban sustainability.”

In a combined research project with UCDHSC's School of Medicine, Ramaswami is examining another element of urban infrastructure—transit-oriented development. “By studying the health effects of different modes of transportation, we hope to derive some conclusions and recommendations for how cities can be better organized to sustain the environment and the people inhabiting it.”

When not working with students on sustainable environments in large urban environments, Ramaswami is focused on finding solutions to environmental problems in rural and developing world communities. To this end, she organized a student group named Participatory Learning and Creativity Education for Sustainability (PLaCES).

PLaCES regularly participates in the Environmental Protection Agency's National People, Prosperity and the Planet (P³) Student Design Competition for Sustainability. The challenge enables interdisciplinary student teams to compete for grants that will allow them to develop their design projects during the academic year. The PLaCES team won three sustainability awards in 2005, when students beat 54 competing teams to take the national prize for their project, titled “Rural Renewable Energy.”

The winning project was for the design of a wind generator the team installed in a village in India. “This project was not engineered for an urban infrastructure,” Ramaswami says. “The village has a very small population, but students had to attend numerous community meetings in order to determine that wind and solar energy were the best way for villagers to minimize their costs and use of electricity.”

PLaCES has put up one wind generator in an Indian village, and the group is in the process of installing a “wind-troller system” for use by a Sri Lankan hospital being built for 100 children orphaned by the 2004 tsunami.

As if teaching, researching, helping developing countries and saving the earth were not enough, Ramaswami is busy engineering ways to make UCDHSC more sustainable. She is collaborating with other schools and colleges on the downtown campus to create a new multidisciplinary curriculum aimed at creating balance between earth and its inhabitants.

Good luck!
The Richard H. and Pamela S. Bard Center for Entrepreneurship at the Business School is offering students the freedom and incentive to cultivate their own entrepreneurial genius. The center has kept good on its promise to educate and support the best and brightest entrepreneurs in the region through graduate-level instruction, incubation of fledgling companies and its annual business plan competition.

**Did you know...** The Business School recently passed accreditation review by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Fewer than one-third of U.S. business schools meet these rigorous standards. Although the Business School at CU-Denver had been accredited with AACSB for years, this is the first time the school has been reviewed since consolidation with the Health Sciences Center.

Steve Katsaros won the Bard Center’s Business Plan Competition in 2003 for the “Wheel”—a patented technology incorporating an engine and gear train in the front wheel of a bicycle.

With annual support of more than $25,000 in cash prizes and $40,000 in in-kind awards, the competition has helped four businesses in start-up or promotional phases in four years.

In 2006, the Bard Center expanded the business plan competition to involve graduate students from across the Front Range. Alumni of that competition are already making a difference in the lives of Coloradans.

**Pounding the pavement**

Since winning the 2003 event, Steve Katsaros has taken RevoPower™ on the road to promote the “Wheel,” a new patented technology incorporating the engine and gear train in the front wheel of a bicycle. “It can be installed on most existing bicycles around the world—simply replace your existing wheel,” Katsaros explains.

Samples of the wheel were unveiled to a large number of bicycle retailers and distributors at the InterBike trade show. “These retailers instantaneously connected with the product and the opportunity,” Katsaros says. “Several hundred committed to take delivery of initial stock for the 2007 bicycle season in North America.”

**A booming success**

In 2004, Jung Park impressed judges with MetroBoom, an upscale style salon for men, providing a wide range of services and products in hair care, grooming and fashion. “We promote the lifestyle of a gentleman, a man who takes pride in his physical appearance along with his manners and etiquette,” Park explains.

In its first year, MetroBoom served more than 500 clients and employed more than 12 people. “In the original plan, I projected 5 percent of the total sales to be generated from retail clothing,” Park says. “As of September 2006, we reached 55 percent of total sales from retail clothing and accessories. This is a validating indicator that the concept of a one-stop shopping experience for all styling needs has been accepted by the market and our target audience.”

MetroBoom has been featured in the Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News, Westword, 5280, Colorado Company, Boulder Daily Camera, Downtown Denver News, Denver Daily News and Bloom Magazine. It also was featured on ABC Channel 7 and the WB2 morning show. MetroBoom was selected as “The Best of Westword 2006: The Best Metrosexual Hangout.”

**Journey of her life**

Tiffany Espinosa’s Journey of Life Meetinghouse—a secular organization geared toward senior citizens that provides stimulating lectures and workshops, good food and a space to meet new friends—won the overall prize and the prize for nonprofit business plans in 2005.

“We work primarily with mature adults, though our organization believes in the power of community and is open to people of all religions, creeds, races, abilities, ages, genders and orientations,” Espinosa says. “Our goal is to be a 100-year organization, serving all of us over our lifetimes and the generations to come.”

Currently the Journey of Life is hosting community events around the Denver/Boulder area. “Our long-term vision is to have our own space and have daily activities available to the community,” she says.

**Entrepreneurship afoot**

Getting a step ahead of the competition, Jerry Rifkin, a CU-Boulder student and the first non-UCDHSC winner of the overall event, earned the top 2006 award with Tensegrity Prosthetics Inc., a company built to take a revolutionary
here's one more reason to dust off the treadmill: Exercise may reduce some of the devastating effects of Alzheimer’s disease.

That’s the conclusion of David Albeck, a UCDHSC associate professor of psychology, and the students working in his lab. Working with aging rats, Albeck is filling in gaps in animal literature related to how older rats respond to moderate forced exercise. While other researchers have shown that strenuous forced exercise does not improve spatial memory in elderly rats (stress apparently counterbalances the salutary effects of running), Albeck hypothesized that moderate forced treadmill walking would improve how rats perform on water-maze tests.

In one study, Albeck exercised older rats for seven weeks. The animals’ treadmills were set to a nice “older rat pace,” with exercise 15 minutes a day, five days a week and weekends off. Published in the journal Behavioral Brain Research and co-authored with three undergraduates, the study found that while the exercised rats didn’t lose weight or swim faster, their spatial learning times were shorter than those of their sedentary counterparts.

Lori Dalton, BA 2000, MA 2003, a therapist who works in youth corrections, sought work in Albeck’s lab as a way to round out her psychology education. “It’s given me an edge in my profession to understand statistics at the level I do,” she says. “And I never would have had the experience of writing a (published) paper without having worked with Dr. Albeck; it’s much more involved than you would think.”

In Albeck’s lab, says Kazuhiro Sano, BS 2004, “I learned how to construct experiments. And I acquired skills and techniques that you would never learn in class.” Sano, who is finishing his master’s in integrated science at UCDHSC, is hoping that the eight or more publications he has co-authored with Albeck will prove persuasive to admission committees should he pursue a PhD.

Albeck’s work, it turns out, is corroborating some human demographic studies that correlate exercise with reduced risk of dementia. His contributions also have been highlighted in the conference proceedings of the Society for Neuroscience, the world’s largest organization of scientists devoted to the study of the brain.

“Ultimately, this is about behavior,” he says. “It’s about learning what we can change to improve our function in old age.”

That message resonates with Albeck. “You’d think I’d exercise more.”
Did you know... The fiscal year 2006 budget for the downtown Denver campus is $150,023,400, less than 9 percent of which is funded by the state.

Thanks for the Support!

Every year the UCDHSC Downtown Denver Campus Alumni Association is fortunate to have the support of many corporations and individuals.

Our thanks to the ROCK BOTTOM RESTAURANT & BREWERY (Downtown Denver) for their continued, generous support. Our thanks are also extended to the following for their financial support in 2005–2006:

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- Stella Yu

**Superstar Students**

The Alumni Association recognized 47 students as Academic Athletes at a reception Oct. 13 at the Palm Restaurant. These hard-working undergraduates maintain a 4.0 GPA for two semesters while carrying 12 credits or more each semester. Awards were presented with a fleece vest and a pin and received tuition credits based on the number of years they have qualified. Since 1994, 542 students have earned the honor.

**Student Scholars**

The Alumni Association awarded 39 $2,000 scholarships for the 2006-2007 academic year. The scholars were honored at a reception at PF Chang’s in September. To be eligible, students must be Colorado residents, U.S. citizens, earn a minimum 3.0 GPA, carry six or more credit hours and demonstrate financial need.
Anchored to his dreams

This semester, UCDHSC senior Chuck Fryberger is balancing daily training to maintain his status as an elite rock climber, a full course load and work on his ninth feature film. He’s also composing the musical score for the movie.

His is the kind of schedule and ambition associated with youth and a passion untempered by disappointment and experience. But even for this 25-year-old wunderkind—twice featured on the cover of Climbing magazine—time has a way of becoming real toward the end of a semester.

“As a sponsored rock climber,” he says, “I need to train hours every day and sleep a lot. However, filmmaking doesn’t lend itself to sleep. I try to keep it balanced, but have been forced to compromise.” He says this in the abashed way of the quality-minded. “It’s my schoolwork that has suffered.”

A music industry studies major in the College of Arts & Media, Fryberger will graduate in December with an anticipated GPA of 3.5. He is the recipient of several university scholarships, including the Barney Scholarship, the Dean’s Fellowship and the Alumni Association Scholarship. He will finish his undergraduate work with an impressive roster of films, two compact disk recordings of his own music—Technical Tricky and Feel the Burn—and a vinyl music release called Influence. And there’s his work-in-progress, a picture called Specimen, which details the story of Cedar Wright, a traditional climber who travels to the South African Rocklands to perfect the sport of bouldering, a type of rock climbing that uses no ropes or gear.

Shot in South Africa this summer, Specimen showcases remarkable feats of climbing, while delivering the message that greatness results from the journey rather than the destination. Fryberger hopes this new documentary/fiction hybrid will help him break into mainstream filmmaking. “The moral of the film,” he says, “is enjoying the experience. So many athletes aren’t content because they are striving to be the best. And while that’s a great goal, it’s possible you won’t be the best.”

Funded by a who’s-who of outdoor companies and media, including Cloudveil, Bouldering.com, Sickle, Black Diamond, Organic, Nicros, the Spot Gym and Urban Climber magazine, Specimen premieres Nov. 28 at the Boulder Theater. Fryberger plans to submit it to the Sundance Film Festival and other mainstream festivals to gain a broader audience.

“I would like to think my skills could be used for a purpose other than sports movies,” he says, “I would like to gravitate toward films that promote cultural understanding, that address racism and environmental problems. It’s fine to encourage people to climb rocks, but there are bigger issues to be tackled by people in the creative arts.”

For information on the film, visit www.specimenfilm.com.
CU, calculus connect Copes

He remembers the discussions in the hallway of the Tramway Building the day the space shuttle Challenger was lost. She remembers being impressed by his banter with their professor about calculus. That’s what first brought these two UCDHSC engineering students together—their calculus class.

Grady Cope and Anne Stilson-Cope don’t spend much time solving calculus problems these days, but they are busy sharing a life as husband and wife. They also share work in an office building they own, divided by their separate engineering disciplines. Corey Electrical Engineering occupies her side of the building; Reata Engineering and Machine Works occupies his.

The Copes also share a desire to give back to their profession, the College of Engineering and Applied Science and UCDHSC’s downtown campus. “CU-Denver represents a pivotal time in our lives,” says Cope, “not only from an educational standpoint, but also from a personal standpoint—since that’s where we met.”

Over the years, the Copes have been involved in numerous activities with the college, from serving on the Engineering Advisory Council to providing business owners’ perspectives on the development of the college curriculum and participating in student design reviews.

After attending several senior design reviews, Cope realized an additional opportunity for involvement: giving engineers a chance to make the parts they draw. Recently, Cope gave a student design team access to his shop floor at Reata Engineering, allowing team members to make all the parts needed to build a regenerative braking bicycle.

“I was invited to their senior presentation, and without my knowing it, the project team had videotaped the bicycle’s manufacturing process,” Cope recalls. “Their work on the project alone was very impressive, but the quality of their videotape presentation was unbelievable. The whole experience was rewarding.”

Leonard Archuleta (BS 2006) was grateful for the connection. “At the end of our preliminary presentation, Grady handed us his business card and offered to help, so we took him up on the offer,” he says. “He showed us how to do everything—mentoring us through the whole process and helping us work through problems that came up.”

Both Copes attribute the progress made by the engineering college in recent years to Dean Ren Su. “He thinks about fitting engineering into the world we live in, rather than making the world fit into an engineering product,” says Stilson-Cope.

The couple’s unwavering support for the college is extended into the greater UCDHSC community through their involvement with the CU-Denver Alumni Association, where Cope served on the board of directors for many years. Stilson-Cope has established her own connection with the board and has made many additional contributions to the university through her company.

As a professional commercial and industrial electrical designer, Stilson-Cope left her mark on UCDHSC by engineering lighting for the Auraria Campus when 14th Street was closed. Most recently, she completed the lighting design for the University Physician’s building on the Fitzsimons campus.

“We have all come a long way since we were in school,” says Cope, but as volunteers, they intend to stay close.

Alums call hay house home

Straw houses were part of the Nebraska landscape in the mid-1880s, when homesteaders, settling far from railroads, stacked bales of hay to imitate the conventional homes of the New England environment they’d left behind.

Interest in renewable resources and “green” construction has caused a revival of such houses. The 2,600-square-foot ranch house belonging to UCDHSC alumni Grady Cope and Anne Stilson-Cope is constructed from baled walls covered in plaster.

From the outside, the house looks like any other, but the “truth window”—found in the interior of straw houses to show what’s really behind the plastered walls—reveals the secret.

Straw-bale wall systems provide excellent insulation, reduce construction costs and minimize the use of lumber. A nontoxic product, they also allow a home’s walls to “breathe” and gradually transfer clean air into the living environment.

Other environmentally friendly elements of the Cope home include the ground-level foundation made of stained concrete, which provides a temperate floor throughout the seasons. Although the home has an evaporative cooling system, the Copes are quick to point out that it has never been used. “The house is naturally cool in summer and naturally warm in winter.”

Alumni Grady Cope and Anne Stilson-Cope are thrilled with their hay bale home.

Both have returned numerous volunteer hours to the university.
Call for nominations

Each year the Alumni Association honors those who are distinguished in their professions, community and society at large. This is your opportunity to nominate candidates for the Alumni Appreciation Award, the Alumni Leadership Award, the Alumni Legislative Award, the Alumni Mack Easton Award and the Alumni Recognition Award. All awards will be presented at spring commencement on May 12, 2007.

The Alumni Appreciation Award recognizes outstanding voluntary contributions and service to the downtown campus. Nominees may be from the community at large and not necessarily alumni.

The Alumni Mack Easton Award recognizes outstanding voluntary contributions and service to the downtown campus. The award is named for the late D. Mack Easton, dean of the Denver Extension Center in the early 1960s. His vision enabled the extension to become a separate campus of the University of Colorado. Nominees may be from the community at large and not necessarily alumni.

The Alumni Recognition Award goes to an alumnus/alumna who has excelled in his/her career field, as well as in community service. Alumni and former UCDHSC students who did not receive an official degree will be considered.

Please submit your nominations by Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007. For a copy of the form, call the alumni office at 303-556-2549.

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
303-831-9295
cuambassadors@cu.edu or www.csuysl.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

- Available to alumni with multiple student loans totaling more than $7,500
- Consolidate eligible federal student loans
- Upon consolidation, CollegeInvest will forgive 1 percent of the loan balance

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

MBNA Credit Card
1-800-932-2775 or 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.

Did you know... Two schools at UCDHSC can boast 100% doctoral degrees among their full-time instructional faculty: the Graduate School of Public Affairs and the School of Pharmacy. (Data as of November 1, 2005.)

Meeting of the minds

Alumni... notes

Teresa Berryman, BA accounting 1981, is the vice chancellor of administration and finance at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. Berryman’s daughter is a freshman at UCDHSC’s downtown campus.

Rand L. Kannenberg, BA political science and sociology 1982, MA sociology 1984, lectured on crime and addiction in Salerno, Italy, in June 2006 and is scheduled to speak on the same topic in Honolulu in January 2007. He recently conducted training events in more than 20 states on methamphetamine and other topics related to corrections and substance abuse. Kannenberg is executive director of criminal justice addiction services in Lakewood, Colo.

M. Judy Chavez, BS business administration 1984, received the 2006 outstanding staff award from UCDHSC’s downtown campus. She is director of budgeting and resource services for the Business School. Chavez also volunteers for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, the Denver Art Museum and the Chicanos Arts and Humanitas.

Karen M. (Means) Abernathy, BS accounting 1987, earned the Certified Fraud Examiner designation from the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, which entitles her to investigate and resolve allegations of fraud and white-collar crimes. Abernathy, a CPA, is director of U.S. human resources at the Denver headquarters of RGL-Forensic Accountants & Consultants, where she manages the firm’s employees in 15 offices across the nation.

80s

Bobbi Jones Sabine, MA landscape architecture 1989, was named distinguished woman of the year by Counterpart, a businesswomen’s group. The annual award recognizes women who are role models in community service and leadership. Sabine, a registered landscape architect, is president of Aaamazon Natural Resources Consulting, LLC, and serves as an Ottawa County Parks commissioner. She is vice president of the Michigan Botanical Club, vice president of the Owashantong Islands Audubon Society and president of Counterpart. Sabine plays the fiddle and leads an Irish music group called Tiki O’Riley. She enjoys gardening and resides in Grand Haven, Mich., with her husband of 32 years, Robert Sabine.

Sandra O. Orihuela, BA individually structured 1991, graduated from the University of Colorado School of Law in 1994. She is a dual licensed U.S./Peruvian corporate attorney and is president and chief legal officer of Latin Law, LLC. Orihuela recently spearheaded the launch of www.latinlaws.com, an online legal library for 20 countries in Latin America that will include an e-commerce component in the future.

Debbie White, BS accounting 1992, was named controller for Gerald H. Phipps Inc., one of the nation’s top 400 contractors. She is a CPA and a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Construction Financial Management Association. White has taught classes at University of Northern Colorado, Colorado State University, Colorado Christian University, the Community Colleges of Denver and Aurora, and at UCDHSC’s downtown campus. She is a past board member of the Colorado Society of CPAs and of the Alumni Association.

90s

Paul Drnevich, MS management and organization 1994, recently completed his PhD in strategic management from Purdue University. Drnevich now resides in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and is an assistant professor in the management and marketing department at the Culverhouse College of Commerce and Business Administration at the University of Alabama.

Billi (Hart) Froning, BS management 1995, husband Ryan and big brother Riley welcomed Brady James Froning, born on Aug. 31, 2006. Froning is a senior anti-money-laundering operations analyst with MoneyGram International and is a former Alumni Association board member.

Gary N. Scrivner, PhD public administration 1996, MS accounting 1997, works for PanAfrican Energy in Port-Gentil as AFE and budget controller. Matsiaba is originally from Gabon in Central Africa.

Gary N. Scrivner, PhD public administration 1996, MS accounting 1997, works for PanAfrican Energy in Port-Gentil as AFE and budget controller. Matsiaba is originally from Gabon in Central Africa.

Simmons Buntin, MURP 1997, is the founding editor and publisher of Terrain.org, a nonprofit journal of the built and natural environments. In 2005, his first book of poetry, Riverfall, was published by Ireland’s Salmon Poetry. Buntin works at the University of Arizona’s Eller College of Management as a Web program manager and will pursue an MFA in creative writing (nonfiction) from UA.

Alex E. Parker, MBA and MS information systems 1998, ran the Steamboat Springs marathon in June 2006. This was his first marathon.

Ewa Jackson, MBA 1999, accepted an offer with Ernst & Young in San Francisco after graduation and worked for five years in the IT risk consulting group. Jackson is now a program manager at Hewlett Packard in Palo Alto, Calif.

Erika Reyes, BA communications 1999, oversees the Hispanic Chamber Education Foundation, which funds scholarships for Hispanic students pursuing higher education. She earned an MBA from Regis University and is also an alumna of the Circle of Latina Leadership. In her spare time, Reyes is the coordinator for a middle school mentoring program called Hermanitas, serves on the board of directors for La Raza Youth Leadership Conference and works on the downtown Denver Alumni Association’s awards committee.

Christine R. Crandall, MA early childhood education 1999, lives in Barcelona, Spain, and teaches young children at the American School of Barcelona.

Gregory A. Iwan, MURP 1999, was the Marsico Scholar in the geography department at UCDHSC, where he has been pursuing his PhD. Iwan is an adjunct professor teaching natural and environmental science, urban planning and regional geography.

Sam Mamet, MPA 1999, became executive director of the Colorado Municipal League in October 2005. Previously, Mamet was a management analyst for Clark County, Nev., where he handled legislative lobbying for that county and the Nevada Association of Counties. He has also served as a research analyst for the Local Government Commission of the Pennsylvania Legislature and a research analyst for the Governmental Research Institute of Cleveland, Ohio. In addition, Mamet has been an instructor and lecturer for UCDHSC’s Graduate School of Public Affairs.

00s

Siripran Chaikul, MBA 2002, is now working at Unilever Thai Trading Co. in Thailand.

Kimball Crangle, MURP 2003, is executive director for the Lowry Community Land Trust in Denver.

Annie MacLachlan, MBA 2003, is the new director of marketing, community outreach and alumni affairs for the Graduate School of Public Affairs at UCDHSC. Before accepting the position, she was director of American Humantics at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich.
**Angela Reyes, MCJ 2003**, is a caseworker with the Arapahoe County’s adolescent intake unit and works primarily with juvenile delinquents.

**David W. German, MURP 2004**, is working as a planner in James City-County, Va., and as a staff demographer, working in both comprehensive and current planning capacities. German sat for the American Institute of Certified Planners exam in November.

**Angela White, MPA 2004**, is director of planning at La Plata Investments in Colorado Springs, Colo. She currently oversees planning of infrastructure and landscapes for residential and commercial projects in a 10,000-acre master-planned area.

**Sara D. Woody, MS health administration 2004**, is completing her tour in the business operations directorate at the Naval Health Clinic in Annapolis, Md. She will be reassigned as deputy chief information officer to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., in March 2007.

**Kylie Rogers, BS business administration 2005, MBA 11-Month 2006**, is employed as an HR project manager for a large multinational corporation based in Kuwait. Rogers is currently managing the development of a comprehensive employee induction program, as well as developing the change management component for a large upcoming systems conversion.

**Spencer Cecere, BS international business 2006**, was able to secure a part-time job in international business through the Career Service Center. Cecere is studying for the GMAT and researching different MBA programs.

**Kenneth Glenn Ligrani, BS business administration 2006**, is studying for the GMAT and will be applying to MBA programs. He won a bronze Marketing Scholar Award at the 18th annual PEAK Awards, sponsored by the Colorado American Marketing Association. Ligrani is also a Ralphie Roundup volunteer.

**Shayla Martin, MBA 2006**, works in sales in the oil and gas industry for J-W Power Co.

**Monu Mehra, MBA 2006**, is a lead manager for Kaiser Permanente IT, where she has worked more than two years. She and her husband live in San Francisco.

**Andrew Rittgers, MBA 2006**, is working as a business analyst.

**David Rogers, MCJ 2006**, is a crime analyst with the Boulder County Sheriff’s Department.

**Trish Taylor, MLA 2006**, was awarded UCDHSC’s Ecological Stewardship Award and placed second statewide in a sustainable campus design competition sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council. Taylor joined Design Concepts in 2005 as an intern and has recently been hired as a staff landscape architect to continue her work on park and school projects.

**Kevin Ward, MBA 2006**, is working in Denver for the Washington, D.C.-based Urban Institute, evaluating the viability of using DNA evidence to solve petty crimes.

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### In Memoriam

**70s**


**80s**


**90s**


**Students Katrina Bogdasarova (left) and Katherine Lester received a $2,000 Alumni-CollegeInvest Scholarship from Senior Marketing Manager Judy Ransom on Sept. 16.**

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### Shout it Out

You could grab the bullhorn and shout it out—but you might grow hoarse and break the sound ordinance.

Instead, spread your good news by sending it to **CU on the Horizon**. You’ll reach more people and preserve the peace.

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### In Memoriam

**70s**


**80s**


**Stay Involved!**

I’d like to join other alumni by:

- [ ] Selecting alumni award recipients
- [ ] Assisting with commencement
- [ ] Working on legislative issues as a CU Ambassador
- [ ] Planning and implementing CU Back on Campus and special events
- [ ] Providing information about my career field to students and alumni
- [ ] Selecting scholarship recipients
- [ ] Raising funds for scholarships
- [ ] Calling and welcoming new students
- [ ] Volunteering for university activities

Submit to:

UCDHS Alumni Relations
Downtown Denver Campus
Campus Box 189
PO. Box 173364
Denver, CO 80217-3364

or e-mail the information above to alumni@cudenver.edu
Perennial Favorites

Make sure these alumni events—always sure to please—are on your calendar this winter season.

CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show
Friday, January 19 | 7:30 p.m. | National Western Complex
Join us for an evening of barrel racing and steer roping, as alumni from all CU campuses get together for CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show. Your $10 ticket provides access to the stock show grounds and entrance to the rodeo at 7:30 p.m. Wander the stockyards for a close-up look at longhorns and buffalo, then take a seat to watch the cowboys earn their prize money. We’ll share a heary laugh over everybody’s favorite—watching the little ones hang on for dear life in the Mutton Bustin’ Contest.

Alumni may enter a relative into the lottery for the Mutton Bustin’ Contest. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 303-556-2549. Children must be 5-7 years old and weigh less than 55 pounds.

Rock Bottom Ruckus Dinner and Auction
Sunday, February 11 | 5:30 p.m.
Rock Bottom Brewery | Corner of 16th and Curtis Streets
Dust off your boots, polish up your spurs and join us for what has become Denver’s finest auction. The attire may be Western, but the dinner is gourmet, with our friends from the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery donating their time, their fixins, and every seat in the house so all proceeds benefit downtown Denver campus scholarships.

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations by February 2 for reservations at 303-556-2549. All of your donation, less $28 for dinner and libations, may be tax deductible. The University of Colorado is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Federal tax ID# 84-6000555

To submit a form, visit: www.cudenver.edu/alumni, click on the bear, and fill out the form. It’s unBeaRably easy!

Every month between now and May 31, the Alumni Association will be giving away one plush "take me home!" UC Denver bear as a "Cyber door prize." Just visit the UC Alumni Association website at www.cudenver.edu/alumni and click on the bear and fill out the form. It’s unBeaRably easy!

Bend your legislators’ ears...
Please join us for our annual...
Alumni Legislative Event
Tuesday, January 30 | 5:30 p.m.
We’d love to hear your voice. Call the alumni office at 303-556-2549 or e-mail julie.mullin@cudenver.edu for details.

Make checks payable to: UCDHSC Alumni Association

Submit to:
UCDHSC Alumni Relations
Downtown Denver Campus
Campus Box 189
P.O. Box 173364
Denver, CO 80217-3364
Fax: 303-556-6545
E-mail: alumni@cudenver.edu
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