Ready, set, brand!
New name is first step in branding strategy

In the 18 months since Chancellor M. Roy Wilson took the helm, exciting things have been happening behind the scenes at the university. When CU-Denver and the Health Sciences Center merged in 2004, a temporary name, the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, was chosen until a new one could be decided. On October 29, the Board of Regents approved a permanent name: University of Colorado Denver.

Over the course of eight months and through the help of a consulting firm, Swanson Russell and Associates, the university community researched and discussed its options. A variety of name combinations were considered and tested including: University of Colorado at Denver/Aurora, University of Colorado Metro Denver, University of Colorado Denver & Health Sciences, University of Colorado Denver and the existing name of University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. Research, surveys, focus groups and open forums with various audiences helped Chancellor M. Roy Wilson shape his decision.

"This is a starting point for our work toward gaining the recognition we deserve as the state's premier research institution, a national leader in health care and health care research, and a major contributor to the intellectual and creative life of all the communities we touch," says Wilson. "I'm committed to seeing this recognition become a reality." From a marketing standpoint, it's great to build on something that already has some recognition," says Steve Krizman, associate vice chancellor of Integrated University Communications. "Thirty percent of the community already recognizes the name University of Colorado Denver."

Before the new name was even finalized, the university hired Monigle Associates, a corporate identity and brand management firm, to create a new look and logo, which will be rolled out January 2008.

A coordinated brand strategy will help us focus our message and tell our stories in a clear, cohesive manner. "Our success stories enhance our reputation, and thus attract top-notch students, faculty and investments in our programs and buildings," says Krizman. "When you talk to the people who study here, teach here and care about this university, there's one common theme: We are one of the best-kept secrets in higher education."

Editor's note: For more information about the naming process, including survey results, visit www.ucdhsc.edu/chancellor/naming.htm.
How do you define a problem? **Rich Gonzales**, MPA 1995, asks his staff. “How you define it may determine how you resolve it.” As head of the state’s Department of Personnel and Administration, Gonzales routinely taps knowledge he gained while earning his MPA at the School of Public Affairs.

Gonzales is just one of those SPA alumni who hold key policymaking jobs in state departments or work at think tanks that influence policy decisions via research and white papers. More than a dozen others work for the City of Denver, and a number of SPA faculty advise the city on matters ranging from public finance to environmental health.

Collectively, these members of the SPA family wield influence over Colorado’s political and policy agenda. At least six SPA alumni hold office in the general assembly, where the “theoretical” world of academia would seem most liable to get bruised by the bare knuckles of real life. But even in the scratch-n-claw tussles that take place at the state capitol, the practices and concepts instilled by an SPA education are sturdy enough to prevail.

“The program helped me link the theoretical to the practical and day-to-day, and this link has helped me think issues through effectively,” says **Rep. Paul Weissman**, MPA 2006, a Democrat from District 12 (Boulder).

“My course work gave me practical tools,” agrees Republican **Sen. Mike Kopp**, MPA student, who represents Senate District 12 (Jefferson County). “That’s the real strength of the program. It’s contextualized, practical instruction.”

“I feel I use my [SPA] degree all the time,” adds **Sen. John Morse**, MPA 1996, a Democrat from District 11 (El Paso County). “I’ve had a lot of what they call ‘real-world’ experience. I’ve been a police chief; I’ve been the CEO of a nonprofit. But my SPA training has been more valuable than anything in terms of my ability to function as a legislator and to make good legislation.”

Making legislation is something SPA alumni aren’t shy to do. During the 2007 legislative session, SPA degree-holders sponsored an average of 15 bills each, more than twice as many as the typical legislator. Their bills covered issues ranging from environmental quality to eminent domain to veterans’ affairs. At least two of the bills grew directly out of research legislators did while completing their public affairs degrees.

“My advanced seminar was on the business personal property tax,” says **Rep. Joe Rice**, MPA 2006, “and a lot of the research I did for that class resulted in a bill this year.” Rice, a Democrat from District 38 (Littleton), found that Colorado’s exemption for this tax ranked among the lowest in the nation, hurting small-business owners. Rice’s bill, HB 1325, was a response to that problem and passed the House in late April by a 63-0 vote.

Kopp says he is working on a piece of water legislation inspired in part by the Environmental Law and Policy course he took at SPA with Lloyd Burton. “That class was phenomenally helpful to me,” he says. “Dr. Burton led us through a lengthy and detailed review of water policy. That laid the groundwork for me to be conversant as a policymaker—more conversant than others.”

Kopp also got valuable instruction in his public finance course: “I took the course from Ron Kirk the same year that Referendum C was on the ballot,” says Kopp. “We must have spent nine or 10 hours of class time dissecting the TABOR
Did you know... When the School of Public Health begins accepting students in fall 2008, UC Denver will have 13 schools and colleges on two campuses.

Amendment and Referendum C. That course had immediate practical value. I went into my campaign well-equipped to discuss those issues, and I was even better equipped to understand budgetary tradeoffs when I became a lawmaker. In fact, we just went through the Long bill [i.e., the 2007-08 budget], and I had a really good framework for discussing it, based on my public finance class."

“My education helped me understand the ebbs and flows of policy debate. Maybe the most important thing I learned is that there usually is no one right answer.”

“That class [public finance] has been the most useful to me,” agrees Weissman, who served in the legislature before entering the MPA program. “It helped me to take a different look at it,” he says, “looking at how actions we take might drive up costs in the short term, or shift costs.”

Coloradans might have sneered at the suggestion that a graduate degree and a research focus could lead to better governance. But voters have lately discovered that do-it-yourself governing has pitfalls and costs of its own; accordingly, policymaking expertise may be making a comeback.

“You get these 30-second vignettes from lobbyists,” says Morse. “I can ferret out the honest-to-god policy analysis from the emotion. My education helped me understand the ebbs and flows of policy debate. Maybe the most important thing I learned is that there usually is no one right answer.”

Kopp says he often finds himself invoking lessons from SPA course work in change management and negotiation. “Both of those classes were based on a similar premise: Rather than move things forward on an adversarial basis, how do you find a shared interest and work toward that?”

Similar objectives motivate Gonzales, one of many SPA graduates applying his education in a nonlegislative government capacity. He took the reins of the Department of Personnel and Administration in January, assuming oversight of 60,000 state employees and a range of state activities that includes land ownership, accounting, insurance, facilities management and fleet maintenance. His department’s policy decisions have far reaching consequences that literally affect every department, program and employee in the state.

Gonzales bought a wealth of real-world administrative experience to his new position, including seven years as Denver’s police chief and five years as the head of Mile High United Way. Those experiences all helped prepare him for his current job, although he still relies heavily on his SPA classroom experience.

“Linda and Peter DeLeon have had a big influence on my thinking,” Gonzales says. “In their classes, they introduced far reaching content about the social and ethical responsibilities that fall upon government and the people who run it. Sometimes we get caught up in the moment, and we lose sight of the fact that our jobs [as state employees] are to take care of people.”

Jon Reitan, MPA 1998, is the Department of Agriculture’s chief financial officer. Reitan also worked as a staff budget analyst in various agencies after getting his degree. Today, with nearly a decade of real-world experience to draw upon, he still keeps a couple of his grad-school textbooks within arm’s reach.

Of course, there’s only so much you can learn from a textbook; SPA alumni would be the first to admit it. But they’d also tell you an academic background can lead to better public policy and better government. And in Colorado, it’s doing just that.

“We’re all trying to figure out how to make life better for people,” says Gonzales. “You stand the best chance of doing that if you have a balance of theory, practical knowledge and reality.”

For his part, Miech is active in curriculum and program development, teaming up with nationally recognized educators and researchers seeking to advance Colorado’s health through education.

After seven years at the renowned Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Miech knows first-hand the impact this new school will have on the state.

“It will satisfy the substantial demand for classes and training in public health… a larger public health workforce will, in turn, allow better public health infrastructure in the state,” says Miech. He concedes, "currently there is no accredited school of public health in the region, and people who want training at a school of public health must look out of state." The absence of a school thus affects professionals seeking public health training, including such necessary areas as bioterrorism, infectious diseases and global health.

Moreover, Miech recognizes the need to offer current students expanded access to training and research that would be made possible through a school.

Miech’s department is home to the university’s PhD program in health and behavioral sciences. According to Miech, the program trains students in “social science theory and innovative research methods to address emerging issues in health.” Yet his students are missing out on interactions with faculty who specialize in other areas of health. Developing a relationship with the new school will open doctoral students to courses and faculty expertise available at the School of Public Health and, by extension, CU and UNC.

“It will allow our doctoral students to work with a wider range of experts in public health, and thereby allow them a wider range of research interests to pursue,” says Miech.

Although health and behavioral sciences will remain downtown, Miech looks forward to developing additional programs in concert with the new school.

Building on the model of synergy, Miech symbolizes what the collaborative school means for the university. He, like the other players, has expertise to offer and gain. When the goal is a healthier state, it is hard to imagine picking a better team.
Engineering and Applied Science:
Virtually amazing—Solving problems with animation

Choi sees endless possibilities for his virtual studies, and he finds others do as well. Yet, he says, “I am open to new endeavors and I often wait for other people to present their problems to me.”

That’s exactly what Victoria Pelak did. Pelak is an associate professor of neurology and ophthalmology on the Anschutz Medical Campus. She’s been researching early detection techniques for Alzheimer Disease, or AD. She believes that early-AD patients experience visual perception problems long before any other signals reveal the disease.

However, typical two-dimensional experiments did not allow Pelak to test her patients’ motion perception. She and Mark Dubin, professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology on the CU-Boulder campus, were collaborating when they determined that they needed a software/computer expert to create the environment they sought.

Enter Choi.

The nice thing about Choi is that he wouldn’t stop until we made this work, Pelak says. “This wasn’t his project; it was ours. But he wasn’t willing to give up.”

Fundamentally, Choi believes that doctors and artists should not be restricted by a lack of tools and technology.

“I’m inspired by both the health care and the entertainment industries,” Choi confesses. “On the one hand, I like to simulate real things so we can experiment in more effective and controlled ways, removing the risk and cost associated with some tests,” he says.

He is also working on techniques to advance animation, which could be used by Disney’s Pixar Animation Studios or by any other industry that relies on animation. “If a movie director’s goal is to make animation realistic, I can help make the cloth move realistically and make skin appear lifelike.”

Choi uses the movie “The Incredibles” to describe how his work can make animation more realistic. “In that movie, all the characters wore Spandex and their muscles looked like bubbles. That’s not anatomically correct, and, from that point of view, it’s not realistic enough.”

Min-Hyung Choi, associate professor of computer science, uses simulation to create more effective and controlled experiments.

Did you know...

The University of Colorado Denver is the premier research university in the state with $100 million more in sponsored research than any other Colorado institution.

Su sets college’s five-year goals

The College of Engineering and Applied Science is a vibrant learning environment, yet many current students list accessibility and affordability as primary reasons they attend. “We should aim higher than that,” Dean Renjeng Su explains as he describes the five goals on which the college will focus its energy and resources over the next five years. New goals will encompass teaching, programs, additional space, industrial partnering and global outreach.

“Efforts are underway to transform the College of Engineering into one known for the quality of its education,” he continues, “as well as for the success of our alumni.”

This past spring, Su accepted a five-year reappointment as dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, and his leadership and vision are behind this new charge.

“I am delighted that Ren Su has accepted this reappointment,” said Mary Gearhart, civil engineering alumna and chair of the Engineering Leadership Council. “Ren is an invaluable resource, and we are fortunate to be able to rely on his extraordinary vision for the college.” Su, also professor of electrical engineering, has served the college as dean since July 2002.

From 2007 to 2012, the College of Engineering and Applied Science will focus its initiatives on these five goals:

- Advancing program quality to the level that the majority of engineering students cite it as the primary reason for attending the college.
- Adding space of 30,000 square feet for laboratories, classrooms and offices.
- Expanding faculty, students and research programs in the area of Infrastructure for Sustainability, and admitting students for a new graduate program in biomedical engineering.
- Building up capability as a service center to industry, including incubating startup companies.
- Developing specific international relationships in both teaching and research.

These goals support the college’s mission: The College of Engineering and Applied Science provides the community an affordable, accessible education, with an innovative industry-centered curriculum that produces a creative, productive graduate who solves real-world problems.
He’s come face to face with mountain lions, evaded menacing snakes and dangled out of helicopters to film for National Geographic’s Mission programs and the PBS Wild Chronicles series. But despite a demanding schedule of writing, producing, shooting and editing video as well as globe trotting, Assistant Professor Hans Rosenwinkel manages to stay engaged as a teacher—a quality his students deeply appreciate.

“He has the ability to balance his life, doing what he loves as a professional in the field,” says senior film student Britannie Brown, “but the beautiful part is that he gives a huge heart to his students. He shows a great deal of care for each student’s project and is never too busy to help.” Even with an impressive portfolio and credentials, she says Rosenwinkel “is as humble as they come.”

“I want students to have big ideas, grand plans. But I also know they have to pay the bills,” says Rosenwinkel, who started in commercial and corporate video production. He earned an MFA at the prestigious American Film Institute, and while in California developed his career as a writer, producer, director, videographer, editor and digital media artist working for a company that produced all forms of nationally broadcast television. He now runs his own independent production company, Evolution Media.

One of his undergraduate teachers at Montana State University, “inspired me to want to do big things,” he recalls.

If “big things” include filming for National Geographic, Rosenwinkel has succeeded. Now, in addition to regular work on their Mission programs, he has edited three pieces on the impact of climate change on the Boreal Forest in Canada, scheduled to air in 2008, and completed a film about revamp-
Business: Regier gives new meaning to upwardly mobile

Business and marketing consultant Jason Regier is not only a motivated professional, he’s an unstoppable force.

Within the short span of a decade that launched in 1996, Regier earned a bachelor’s and two master’s degrees, entered the corporate world, became president of a fiercely competitive rugby team, won gold medals in international sporting events in Brazil and New Zealand, starred in and co-produced an award-winning movie, was featured in a book and still managed to find time to volunteer with a therapeutic program at the university’s Anschutz Medical Campus.

Regier’s accomplishments are made all the more inspiring by the fact that at the beginning of this journey, he suffered spinal cord injury and has since functioned full-time from a wheelchair.

The road to success has been uphill, but focus, determination and the support of friends and family have fueled Regier’s momentum. Right after the auto accident that caused his injury in 1996, Regier spent 3 ½ months in rehabilitation at Denver’s Craig Hospital. He was paralyzed from the neck down for the first several months. “It was a struggle—it took me a year to be able to push my wheelchair any reasonable distance and to gradually build up my endurance.”

In Richard Holicky’s book entitled Roll Models: People Who Live Successfully Following Spinal Cord Injury, Regier describes spinal cord injury as a crash course in life. Leaving rehab, his first goals were to learn independence and find passion in life. During this time, he re-evaluated his life’s direction and decided he needed more education to fully use his abilities. “I had always enjoyed athletics,” explains Regier, “But I didn’t know how much I’d like business.” Regier completed an MBA in business and an MS in marketing from the Business School at UC Denver in 2004.

He also began playing quad rugby in 1997 and, within two years, had become president of the Denver Harlequin Wheelchair Rugby Team. The sport is described as a cross between wheelchair basketball and football. It was originally referred to as “murderball” due to the highly competitive, aggressive nature of the game. It’s played internationally by world class athletes with gladiator-like wheelchairs and an “adrenaline-rush” fervor.

Regier’s enthusiasm carried him into Team USA Wheelchair Rugby. The team will participate in the 2008 Paralympic Games. His drive also led to a starring role (as well as executive producer) for an award-winning movie, “The Goal,” released in 2006.

Regier says his MS in marketing and his MBA in business with an emphasis in entrepreneurship provided him with a solid business foundation. His education also gave him the confidence to lead his league’s promotional efforts and to investigate sponsorship opportunities. Part of his mission is to raise public awareness in America for this exciting, fast-paced sport. Wheelchair rugby events in countries such as Australia and New Zealand routinely enjoy sold-out stadiums.

New initiatives are in motion for Regier. He’s developing a pilot for a monthly wheelchair-rugby cable television/Internet show, speaking at schools and businesses and producing video. He is still active in Team USA training. With final tryouts soon, Regier is hoping for a spot on the 2008 U.S. Paralympic Rugby Team. The event will take place after the Olympics in Beijing, China.

Regier’s philosophy is summed up by his three favorite quotes: “In the face of adversity, true character shines through.” “Do what you can where you are with what you have” (paraphrasing Franklin Delano Roosevelt). “Some people find a way; others find excuses.”

To Jason Regier, the final word is: “No excuses.”
Architecture: Urban artist tags youth for u-turn

The sculpture he created for this exhibit is a case in point. Built from the shell of an old street-crossing sign that incorporated a three-dimensional version of his former tag signature, the piece represents a dynamic conversation between the landscape and the urban artist. “The street sign and the tag interact with each other,” he explains, “so you can see how graffiti can be positive and evolve into something architectural.”

Parmar, who came to the United States from Zimbabwe at the age of 10, knows firsthand the transformative power of bringing a young person’s art into the light. Had it not been for high school drafting and his involvement with Arts Street, a Colorado nonprofit that trains underserved youth in the arts and pays them to work for real clients, this 26-year-old might never have focused his own creativity.

“Arts Street opened new doors for me,” he says. “I always thought artists starve, but Arts Street broadened my horizons. I met people in the art field and got paid for my work. My work got exhibited around the city and that was very rewarding.”

Today, Parmar is on pace to complete his master of architecture degree in 2008 and is considering PhD studies. He continues to work with Arts Street, volunteering countless hours to help kids create murals and develop their own skills, encouraging them to enlarge their view of art and themselves.

“European firms,” he says, “hire graffiti artists because they understand complex forms in relation to the human landscape.” His challenge: applying this art form to something else.
Liberal Arts and Education:
National grant improves middle school teaching, learning in math, science

From U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to the local press, the message is getting out: this country needs to improve student performance in math and science to be competitive in a global marketplace. Here’s the rub: how exactly can one achieve that goal?

Faculty at the university are exploring ways to improve teaching and learning in science and math at the middle school level through a five-year federal grant. Now in its third year, the program is beginning to yield success stories and genuine excitement.

The Rocky Mountain Middle School Math and Science Partnership (RM-MSMSP) is a National Science Foundation-funded project that targets middle school teachers and students. The project links seven Denver metro school districts with faculty from the University of Colorado Denver and four other university partners. The primary goal of the project is to increase the number of highly qualified and high quality middle school teachers in math and science and provide opportunities for middle school students to learn more about math and science through after-school initiatives and specially designed summer camps.

The partnership is focused on strategies to improve math and science learning with an ultimate outcome of creating an innovative and productive workforce that is competitive in the world marketplace.

Guiding this complex undertaking are Doris Kimbrough (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, chemistry) and Carole Basile (School of Education and Human Development, teacher education).

Teaching Teachers

The RM-MSMSP strategy toward achieving the goal for teachers is a multi-pronged approach that begins with 17 two- or three-week content-focused summer institutes that include topics in the following general math and science areas: biology, geology, physics, chemistry, algebra, calculus, geometry, discrete math, math modeling, probability and statistics and history of math. Four follow-up Saturday sessions during the academic year augment the summer institutes and provide a focus on instructional practice in the classroom with an aim for added improvement.

All teacher education courses are co-taught by a representative of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the School of Education and Human Development and K-12 school districts. Courses use reform-based teaching practices and problem-based models so that teachers can understand the content from both a theoretical and practical point of view.

Of special note is the specific focus on the challenge facing teachers in classrooms to make abstract math and science concepts understood by the high percentage of English language learners who attend Colorado schools. Many young people are learning English at the same time they are learning academic concepts. They may be conversant in casual exchange, but gaining competency in the world of academic vocabulary is an added challenge. Instructors and teacher participants in the RM-MSMSP courses are learning English instruction strategies that specifically focus on these issues.

Increased Impact

In a number of cases, 10-15 teachers have participated from one school. One case is Everitt Middle School in Jefferson County Public Schools west of Denver. This school is in an area where younger families of more diverse ethnicities, language and socioeconomic backgrounds are taking the place of older, more homogeneous families. Student progress in mathematics has been variable. To improve the situation, 14 members of the Everitt School staff—including the principal, special education teacher and librarian—participated in RM-MSMSP sponsored courses.

The principal observed that all teachers were feeling more capable and comfortable in assisting students, and their efforts became a topic of conversation among the student population. “Because several of us are taking the courses together, students are intrigued by the fact that the adults in our school are taking a class ‘for fun’ and doing homework,” noted one educator. “The modeling of life-long learning has made an impression on the relationship of being an adult and learning.”

Doris Kimbrough, Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Did you know... Impact from the RM-MSMSp grant work has resulted in three new Title II grants awarded to three school districts and the university by the Colorado Department of Education. Approximately $1.4 million goes to the three projects over the next three years.

Student Success

For middle school students, the goal is fun. One-week sessions for nonresidential campers are sponsored by RM-MSMSp in collaboration with the university’s precollegiate programs and by neighboring Metropolitan State College of Denver. Activities include exploration of the planet’s atmospheric conditions, engineering through the design of robots, crime scene investigation and forensic data studies, and global positioning systems mapping of the earth. One-week residential programs are also offered at Fort Lewis College in Durango and Colorado State University in Ft. Collins.

Topics presented in the CSU camp included physics, mechanical engineering, water resources, light and optics and biotechnology. Field trips to the CSU-CHILL National Weather Radar Facility were rated by campers as near “excellent.” The 2006 Fort Lewis summer camp sessions were uniquely structured to provide in-depth coverage of a student’s chosen topic: agroecology, astronomy or water quality. Students could focus on new information each day within their chosen area; they can also study the same subject or another in consecutive years.

In a follow-up survey, the RM-MSMSP-supported summer camps received consistently high rankings from participants, instructors and counselors, and students reported higher interest levels in math and science. Most parents report they would recommend the camps to others and would send their children again.

Growing Grants

“The effects of this NSF grant will be far-reaching,” says Basile. “The middle school years are crucial to a student’s success. It’s critical to capture kids’ interest about math and science during these years if we expect them to think about preparing for college, a possible career in math and science, or being good citizens who understand how knowledge in math and science helps them solve problems and make decisions for the next century. We are fortunate to have a grant that allows us to provide students with access to quality teachers, extracurricular programs, challenging courses, and environments that promote math and science education.”

“We are fortunate to have a grant that allows us to provide students with access to quality teachers, extracurricular programs, challenging courses, and environments that promote math and science education.”

– Carole Basile

Carole Basile, Associate Professor
School of Education and Human Development

“Students are intrigued by the fact that the adults in our school are taking a class ‘for fun’ and doing homework.”

– Everitt Middle School teacher
Dynamic students benefit from alumni scholarships

Scholars receive first award for graduate students

This fall, to the delight of five students (and many others to come), the Alumni Association announced a new scholarship program to help graduate students achieve their academic and career goals. Each dean selected one recipient for the $2,800 award, funded by private donations and fund-raising events held by Alumni Association volunteers. “The scholarship should be considered a loan to be repaid with interest to the Alumni Association by providing volunteer service upon graduation,” says Carol Heller, director of alumni relations. “Alumni volunteers and donors are excited to watch these five women excel and reach out to other aspiring graduate students.”

Marissa Robinson began her graduate studies in the School of Public Affairs after finishing her undergraduate degree in Boulder last spring. “I want to work in local government doing urban planning—ideally for the City of Denver, as I love Colorado!” says Robinson. She insists that yoga and caffeine help her overcome the challenges of balancing daily life with graduate school. Thankfully, Robinson can also rely on her scholarship. “I am completely shocked at how much I have grown and changed in the three years I have been in the program,” says Dee Morgenthaler, who has been working toward her MA in communication. She received the graduate scholarship for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is currently applying to the Educational Leadership and Innovation doctoral program in the School of Education and Human Development. Morgenthaler teaches two presentational speaking classes for the Communication Department and hopes to teach full time and continue her research in media literacy.

Christina Adolff, from the School of Ed, graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2005 with a dual degree in peace studies and international studies. “I am actually hoping to teach abroad,” Adolff says. “I would love to teach in Africa.” She spent time with AmeriCorps and the Urban Education Service Corps with Denver Public Schools before beginning work on her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction.

“I couldn’t stand my job. In an effort to change careers and earn more money, I decided to get an MBA,” explains Vanessa Vedral. She earned her first degree from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in 2001 and soon found her way to UC Denver’s Business School. The MBA program has helped her expand her network and make connections in the alternative energy industry, where she hopes to work before opening her own business.

Vedral is exceedingly thankful for the scholarship. “I really don’t know how students afford school without some kind of financial aid,” she says. Lesley Chen, award recipient for the College of Architecture and Planning, studied at both Harvard and New York universities before coming to UC Denver for graduate studies. “Once you find what you love, commit to it,” she recommends. “If you can’t decide what you really love, find something you care about deeply and figure out how to make it happen. If you start your career willing to just get by, how will you ever be motivated enough to do something extraordinary?” Chen aims to run her own practice and to come back to teach on a graduate level.

The Alumni Association is committed to continuing this program long into the future to help graduate students financially: “Graduate students need scholarships at least as much as the undergraduates do,” says Chen, “because the time [they] spend in school translates into money [they] could, but will not, earn to support [their] families.”

Did you know... UCD received a prestigious $3.2 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) grant from the National Science Foundation to develop an innovative interdisciplinary graduate program on sustainable urban infrastructure. The graduate program, the first of its kind in the country, spans the College of Engineering and Applied Science, the College of Architecture and Planning, the School of Public Affairs and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
very year, the UC Denver Downtown Campus Alumni Association is fortunate to have the support of many corporations and individuals.

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- Mary Williams
Each year at commencement 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 Recognition Award, the Alumni Leadership Award, the Alumni Appreciation Award, the Alumni Mack Easton Award and the Alumni Legislative Award.

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

The **Alumni Leadership Award** recognizes the remarkable ability to create positive change in an individual or organization within the university community. Nominees may be from the community at large and not necessarily alumni.

The **Alumni Appreciation Award** recognizes contributions that bring outstanding benefits 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 Legislative Award** is presented to a legislator who has assisted the advancement of the Downtown Campus and higher education in general. Nominees may be from the community at large and not necessarily alumni.

Please submit your nominations by Friday, Feb. 15, 2008. For a copy of the form, call the alumni office at 303-556-2549 or visit [www.cudenver.edu/AlumniAwardNomination](http://www.cudenver.edu/AlumniAwardNomination).

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This fall, former alumni award recipients gathered for a luncheon and networking at the Palm Restaurant. Those who attended included,  *front left to right*  Mark Gallegos, Betty Neale, Ron Montoya, Ellen Fisher, Joe Davis, Norma Anderson and Carol Heller;  *middle*  Rich von Lahrte, Karen Niparko, John Anderson, Provost Mark Heckler, Dick Koeppe, Bob Graham, Gale Daniel and Don Ament;  *back*  Steve Leatherman, Gary Meggison, Ginny Williams, Bill Davis, Carol Barber Terkhorn and Grover Hall.

Additional honorees included:  *front*  Jim Basey, Mary Lee Beauregard, Sue Windels, Al Knott;  *back*  Stella Yu and Joan Johnson

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**Did you know...** A record number of freshmen began classes on the Downtown Campus this fall. Of the 1,102 incoming students, 142 are first-generation college students; 92 came from out of state, and 37.7% are minority students. The average high school GPA for the incoming class is 3.3. The top three majors among freshmen are biology, psychology and fine arts.
Connie N. Cornelius, MBA 1976, left corporate America in 1996 and traveled the world working as a tour manager. She developed and marketed several gourmet food and wine tours and, in 2004, earned a master of tourism from George Washington University. Cornelius, who now lives with her husband in Phoenix, Az., handles sales and product development for Open Road Tours.

Sherri Langton, BA English 1976, authored “Unsinkable,” that was published in the newly released Chicken Soup for the Soul in Menopause. This story compares Langton to a midlife Molly Brown, adrift in a sea of symptoms that signal the inevitable plunge into menopause. Langton’s profile of Michael Landon, Jr. was published in the October issue of Focus on the Family. She has been the associate editor of Bible Advocate for the past 18 years.

John Luppens, BS electrical engineering 1976, is a technical advisor for the integrated project management segment of Schlumberger Technologies. Previously, Luppens worked for Phillips Petroleum (now ConocoPhillips), but took early retirement after 23 years.

Jeffrey S. Hart, BS international business 1978, recently completed his term as national president of the 14,000-member Association of Government Accountants (AGA). He also served as chair of the AGA National Board of Directors and the organization’s National Executive Committee. Hart manages the Office of Inspector General, (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) where he is responsible for all EPA climate change and environmental stewardship performance evaluations nationwide.

Elsa Martinez Tenreiro, BA political science 1986, is an associate with Pepe J. Mendez & Associates and became president of the 8,119-member Denver Bar Association (DBA) July 1, 2007. Tenreiro received the Metro Volunteer Lawyer of the year award in 2004, was the recipient of Channel 9’s Outstanding Volunteer Award in 2004 and received the DBA Volunteer Lawyer of the Year award in 2005. She is married to Steve Theis and has two daughters: Alex, age 13, and Samantha, age 11.

Brian Graham, Executive MBA 1987, is a member of the Tampa Bay Technology Forum Foundation, which incorporates computer technology into the lives of disadvantaged children. This directly reflects the foundation’s mission which is to encourage youth to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math in order to maintain long-term global competitiveness.


Brenda Swiney, BS accounting 1986, MS accounting 1987, is director of finance for Motorola, Inc.

Neal R. Newman, MPA 1989, develops international cooperation in furthering NASA’s exploration program, which is aimed at extending human and robotic presence throughout the solar system beginning with a lunar outpost by the year 2020. Prior to this responsibility, Newman was the space attaché in the U.S. Embassy in Australia, which supported NASA’s relationship with the international community.

Charmaine Murphy, MS finance 1990, and husband Todd Murphy, MBA 1990, have launched a real estate portal, MyREALTY.com, an international marketing portal for all real property types.

Sharon M. Willis, MA curriculum and instruction 1991, retired in the summer of 2007 from the Aurora Public School System after 30 years of teaching.

Judy Solano, MA curriculum and instruction 1992, is a second-term Democrat from House District 31. After spending 29 years in the classroom, she continues her education focus by chairing the House Education Committee. Solano has authored and sponsored many education-related pieces of legislation including HB 1246, alternative testing options for students who face special challenges, and HB 1062, increased opportunity for early childhood education.

Debbie White, BS accounting 1992, has been named chief financial officer for Consolidated Parts, Inc. (CP), which provides electrical solutions and products to businesses. White serves on the leadership council of the Colorado Society of CPAs and is a past member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has taught at community colleges and universities across Colorado.

Kathleen G. Flynn, BA English writing 1993, is now the manager of the corporate document control department for Frontier Airlines in Denver. After graduation, Flynn worked in technical documentation in telecommunications and has been managing writing groups since 1997. She lives in Arvada, Colo.

Asri Jantan, MS marketing 1995, is an associate professor of marketing at Savannah State University, Savannah, Ga.
Alumni Notes CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Ewa Jackson, BS international business/French 1997, MBA 1999, is a program manager at Hewlett Packard in Palo Alto, Calif. Jackson had worked at Ernst & Young in the IT risk consulting group.

Alissara Kuprasit, MS computer science 1999, is a research officer for the Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research in Pathumthani, Thailand.

Robert L. Holland, Jr., BS finance 2001, is the financial planner atJeffco Credit Union in Lakewood, Colo., after spending 26 years as a store manager with King Soopers and the Target Corporation. Holland is currently pursuing his CFP certification.

Srirapan Chaikul, MBA 2002, is working for Unilever Thai Trading Company in Thailand.

Carlos DeSantos, BS international business 2002, is the regional manager and general manager for CA, one of the world’s largest software companies. DeSantos handles a five-state territory and is responsible for an $80 million annual run.

Steve Zayaz, MS information systems 2002, works as a quality assurance engineer for Archstone-Smith.

Erin Collard, MPA 2003, is a program analyst for the EPA Office of Oceans, Wetlands and Watersheds.

Nicolle (Ingui) Davies, MPA 2003, welcomed a son, Ryder, in 2006. Davies is the communications director for the Arapahoe Library District.

Kim Knous Dolan, MPA 2003, is an associate director for the Donnell-Kay Foundation, a family foundation focused on education policy. Dolan was “loaned” to Denver Public Schools at the request of superintendent Michael Bennett, where she worked on the reopening of Manual High School.

Roselle Drahushak-Crow, MPA 2003, is a management analyst for the Department of Energy Field Office located in Golden, Colo.

Eric Johnson, MPA 2003, has been working as a city planner for the City of Phoenix Development Services Department and was recently promoted to economic development program manager in the Office of Customer Advocacy in the Development Services Department. The new office was created to provide enhanced customer assistance for people without all the resources of large developers and to create process improvements for the department.

Margaret (Huntley Skinner) Meints, BS information systems 2001, MS information systems 2003, and her husband own FitzUSA, a small business that sells Fitz polishing products and accessories. While her husband manages the sales, Meints focuses on the books, Web site, planning and marketing.

Kate (Blanchard) Shiroff, MPA 2003, welcomed a daughter in 2006. Shiroff is a legislative auditor for the state of Colorado.

Janine Halverson, MPA 2004, is the supervisory project manager for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Halverson is currently participating in HUD’s Leadership Development Program in the Office of Multifamily Housing, serving a five state area.

Joe Miklosi, MPA 2004, is the Colorado state director of the Progressive Majority and is fund-raising chair for the Denver Democrats.

Richard L. Sosa, MPA 1992, MURP 2004, is director of finance for the Denver Public Library system and also is a member of the Boulder planning board.

Melissa Davis, MPA 2005, is the volunteer coordinator for the Mile High Down Syndrome Association.

Jeff Gurley, MBA 2005, works as project manager with Janus Capital Group.

John Lefebvre, MPA 2005, is the Weld County Treasurer.

Rebecca (Becky) Long, MPA 2005, is the water caucus coordinator for the Colorado Environmental Coalition.

Meleaha Glapion, MPA 2006, is manager of Montbello’s branch of the Denver Department of Human Services and is a part-time recreational counselor for Excelsior Youth Center. Glapion also is the youngest and first female minority board member for the Colorado Safe Haven for Newborns, a nonprofit organization that educates the public about safe haven laws that protect babies from abandonment.

Monu Mehra, BS electrical engineering 1996, MBA 2006, is a lead manager in the IT department at Kaiser Permanente, where she has worked for more than two years. Mehra is married and resides in San Francisco, Calif.

Diane E. Ray, MPA 2006, deputy state auditor, and the Office of the State Auditor won a prestigious award from the National State Auditors Association (NSAA) for an audit focused on metro districts. The audit was based on research conducted by Ray during her advanced seminar project. As an award recipient, Ray provided a short presentation about the audit/project at the NSAA Annual Conference June 15, 2007. Five audits/projects received awards.

For all you do...The Alumni Association Executive Committee—President James Villareal, Vice Presidents Gedeon LaForge (left), Vicky Henry and Scott Beckley—work many of the events including the scholarship luncheon at the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery.
In Memoriam

80s  Patricia J. Harris, MARCH 1981, died July 18, 2007.

Where in the world is the UC Denver bear?

Who needs a garden gnome when the Alumni Association has something so much cuter—the UCD bear! He likes to travel too. Take him with you on your next trip and send us a picture for Alumni Notes.

Dino Discourse. This September, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Professor Martin Lockley and 50 adventurous alumni dinosaur enthusiasts traveled together through the Cretaceous, Jurassic and Pennsylvanian periods of prehistoric history. The group started at the Dinosaur Tracks Museum at St. Cajetan’s on campus, then took a bus to Dinosaur Ridge in Morrison, Colo., for a lesson about tracks and fossils on some of the best-known dinosaurs, including brontosaurus, diplodocus and stegosaurus.

Kylie Rogers, BS HR management 2005, MBA 2006, is an HR project manager for a multinational company based in Kuwait. Rogers is responsible for managing the development of a comprehensive employee induction program and developing the change management component for a large upcoming systems conversion.

Veronica Barela, MPA 2007, has served as president and CEO of the NEWSED Community Development Corporation since 1978. Barela has been an advocate for equality on the local, state and national levels. She has served on Mayor Webb and Mayor Hickenlooper’s Hispanic advisory councils, as a board member for the Center for Community Change in Washington, D.C., and was also the governor’s appointee to the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority.

Amanda Bower, MURP and MLA 2007, works on planning and design support for parks and schools for the Lafayette-based community and architecture firm, Design Concepts. She received the Award of Merit in 2007 from the American Society of Landscape Architects. Prior to this position, Bower interned at Nusser-Kopatz Urban Design Associates, the Architerra Group and the TSR Group.

Amanda Bower

Bill Heckler, BS electrical engineering 1990, his wife, Micheline, and the UC Denver bear hiked up the cataract at Cataracl Lake in the Gore Range this summer to take this picture. After graduation, Heckler spent 12 years as an electrical engineer with US West and Qwest. Heckler did some consulting before taking a job as an electrical engineer at the Phelps Dodge’s Henderson Mine. He currently works in the same capacity at the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation.

R.J. Bornhofen, MBA 1988, and wife Karen Bornhofen (1985 Boulder campus alum), winners of the recent “cyber bear” alumni Web site drawing sent a picture of themselves with the bear in Key West, Fla. The couple resides in Raleigh, N.C.

The Bornhofens also joined at least a dozen CU alumni who posed for a photo while celebrating R.J.’s youngest brother’s wedding in July.
CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show
Friday, January 18, 2008 | 7:30 p.m. | National Western Complex

From barrel racing and steer roping, CU alumni from across the Front Range will have a blast at CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show. Your $10 ticket provides access to the stock show grounds and the entrance to the rodeo. Check out buffalo and longhorns as you wander through the stockyards, then take a seat to watch cowboys compete for prizes. Don’t miss the Mutton Bustin’ Contest where future rodeo stars are made!

Alumni may enter a relative into the lottery for the Mutton Bustin’ Contest. Children must be 5-7 years old and weigh less than 55 pounds. Call the Office of Alumni Relations, 303-556-2549, before Jan. 7, 2008 for details.

RSVP by Jan. 14, 2008
Name __________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/State ________________________________
ZIP _____________________________________
Phone (Day) _____________________________
(Evening) ________________________________
E-Mail __________________________________
Number attending _____ x $10/person = ______

Rock Bottom Ruckus
Dinner and Auction
Benefiting Scholarships
Sunday, Feb. 10, 2008 | 5:30 p.m.
Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, Corner of 16th and Curtis Streets

Spit shine those boots, polish up your spurs and join us for 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 vittles and every seat in the house so all proceeds benefit Downtown Campus scholarships.

RSVP by Feb. 1, 2008
Name __________________________________
Address __________________________________
City/State ________________________________
ZIP _____________________________________
Phone (Day) _____________________________
(Evening) ________________________________
E-Mail __________________________________
☐ Cattle Barons _____ x $200/person = ______
☐ Buffalo Riders _____ x $100/person = ______
☐ Chancellor’s Posse _____ x $150/person = ______
☐ Ranch Hands _____ x $75/person = ______

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.

Register:
Register through the online community at www.cudenver.onlinecommunity.com or by mailing the form with your check to the address below

Make checks payable to:
UCD Alumni Association

Submit to:
UCD Alumni Relations
Downtown Campus
Campus Box 189
P.O. Box 173364
Denver, CO 80217-3364

Questions:
Phone: 303-556-2549
Fax: 303-556-6545
E-mail: alumni@cudenver.edu

www.cudenver.onlinecommunity.com

Don’t miss it!
From their schools and registering for alumni events, communicating with classmates, receiving e-mail newsletters, The online community is live. Join fellow alumni and get plugged in!

The University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center
Office of Alumni Relations

University of Colorado at Denver

Non profit organization