Reforming education from preschool to college

While the term “P–20” may be cryptic to some, for education insiders, it’s a wholesale rethinking of the educational system. P–20 initiatives are designed to link the three levels of education—preschool, K–12 and postsecondary—so as to better prepare students for futures in a knowledge-based, global economy. (The number of years generally needed to attain a postsecondary degree is 20.)

“P–20 is a concept,” explains Janet Lopez, the University of Colorado Denver’s new director for P–20 education initiatives, “that refers to the re-alignment of systems—early childhood education, K–12 and higher education. These three entities exist in silos and historically haven’t seen their work as connected. These systems have to work with one another and form a pipeline.”

Here’s the dilemma: When low-income students can’t afford preschool, and high school diplomas don’t necessarily result in college readiness, some students get stuck in the pipeline and wash out.

Connecting across the continuum. Most states, including Colorado, have formed P–16 and P–20 councils to connect education across the continuum. Comprised of people from all levels of education, plus government, business and community representatives, these councils have varying levels of power and budgets. In Colorado the P–20 Education Council has helped validate landmark pieces of legislation to provide preschool and full-day kindergarten for low-income students as well as new curriculum standards and assessments for students in preschool through the first year of college.

“These are so many unanswered questions,” Lopez says. “Because of the multiple aspects of involvement (in P–20 work) on this campus,
Professor Paul Teske, UC Denver’s director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education-Denver in the School of Public Affairs. “The new UCD signature program in P–20 education will allow us to leverage resources for better interdisciplinary research and to move that research into practice.”

Recognizing the wealth of research, outreach and student-access programs currently in existence, UC Denver has identified P–20 education as a signature area—an interdisciplinary locus of energy and resources that can make a difference in the community’s and Colorado’s future.

**Report cards for schools**

“It seems crazy that until recently people didn’t recognize this [the P–20] connection,” says Dean and

we can become a go-to institution to help understand these issues and model best practices.”

Already UC Denver has distinguished itself on the state’s P–20 scene in countless ways. In March, for example, Teske’s Center for Education Policy Analysis completed a comprehensive “Report Card for Colorado’s P–20 Education System,” a study that shows for every 100 ninth graders, 75 graduate from high school, 43 go straight to college but only 13 will graduate with any sort of postsecondary degree. The report also lists recommendations such as increasing access to high-quality preschools—an issue that the state is now addressing.

**Shoring up the sciences**

Science, technology, engineering and math—the so-called STEM subjects and a key P–20 issue—are an educational hot button nationwide and are of particular interest to Gov. Bill Ritter given that today half of the state’s high-tech jobs go to people who move here from out of state.

The Center for Education Policy Analysis weighed in on the state’s STEM-worthiness in two reports: “Learning about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics: Assessing the State of STEM Education in Colorado” and “Engineering the Future: Career and Technical Education for Today’s Students.” It turns out that while Colorado is well positioned in STEM areas in relation to the rest of the country, much work needs to be done to bolster achievement and passion in these subject areas.

On the practical front, UC Denver is helping Colorado teachers improve their content knowledge in the STEM areas. The Rocky Mountain Middle School Math and Science Partnership (RM-MSMSP) is a $12.5 million National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded project that offers intensive summer classes in math and science along with follow-up sessions during the academic year to help teachers apply their new knowledge in the classroom. RM-MSMSP also offers nonresidential math and science camps to middle and high school students.

STEMapalooza, a math and science extravaganza hosted in October by the university’s Center for Applied Science and Mathematics for Innovation and Competitiveness, is a public program designed to showcase STEM subjects and careers in fun ways to parents, kids, teachers, employers and policy makers.

Another $2.9 million NSF grant is funding eight graduate students in science and math, called GK–12 fellows, to help middle school teachers in Englewood and Jefferson counties with labs and curriculum development. In turn, the classroom teachers will mentor and help prepare the GK–12 fellows for their future careers.

Lopez, who served as deputy director of the governor’s P–20 Education Council, sees her role as part educational—keeping campus P–20 participants up-to-date on colleagues’ activities—and part entrepreneurial—promoting new partnerships internally and across sectors.

In a perfect P–20 world, Lopez says, a lot more students would graduate from high school and get some form of postsecondary training or higher education. The achievement gap for low-income students would close and, “students, regardless of race, gender or income, would end up with the same choices and opportunities when they finish high school.”
Alum takes landscape architecture skills into the wild

After working diligently to earn a degree, the last thing most new graduates want is to work with a bunch of baboons. But for Jeremy Boik, MLA '08, that's exactly what he wanted.

Between his studies and working as a teaching assistant, Boik was spending a great deal of time in the classroom. George Pond, senior instructor at the College of Architecture and Planning and vice president for planning and capital projects at the Denver Zoo, offered Boik an opportunity to broaden his education.

Taking Pond up on his offer, Boik began an internship with the Denver Zoo in May 2007. Soon after, he was presented with a challenging project. The polar bears needed an enrichment device—something that would both stimulate their natural behaviors and encourage them to explore the western portion of their exhibit, which was not being utilized. Boik was up for the challenge.

Working closely with animal behaviorists and animal staff, Boik began the design process. After brainstorming a few ideas, including a sandbox installation, the team decided on a shipwreck. Boik researched ship designs and crafted his own after the CGS Karluk—an actual ship that crashed in arctic waters. Planners incorporated a wealth of enrichment devices for the bears into the ship's design, including balls, ropes and tubes for hiding snacks.

In January 2008, after six months of careful planning, the $23,000 structure was installed in the polar bear habitat. The two-part shipwreck, constructed of steel and all-natural woods and finishes, covers 50 feet of the exhibit. The blueprints came to life, as did the polar bears.

"So far, since the shipwreck was installed, not only have we seen more of some behaviors such as foraging for food, digging and manipulating objects, we have also seen more variety of behaviors, including vocalizing and a bouncing behavior that we usually only see them do on ice or with favorite toys," says Emily Insalaco, Denver Zoo manager of behavior programs.

The project was no doubt a huge success for Boik, but even more significant was the experience itself. "As an intern I had to work with a budget and I was able to take the project from start to finish—from the design process to bidding it out to actually seeing it built," says Boik. "I was able to see how things worked in the real world."

Boik defines a “real” job quite differently than most. Hired by the Denver Zoo as a design coordinator following graduation, he continues to create new solutions for animal habitats. His current projects include redeveloping a nocturnal exhibit for aye ayes (i.e. Madagascan primates), shade structures for multiple habitats and pre-construction preparations for the new Asian Tropics exhibit.

"There's something different every day," says Boik. "It's a great work environment."
Daniel Rees (above) and former graduate student Kevin Schnepel showed that violent incidents rise in communities after games when the home team unexpectedly wins or loses.

Daniel Rees is fascinated by the mystery of human behavior—but his approach begins with the numbers. An associate professor of economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences since 1993, he has co-authored a study he believes goes beyond anecdote and offers statistical evidence for aggressive behavior among college football fans.

The study specifically investigates acts of vandalism, disorderly conduct, assaults and drinking-related crimes that occur in towns that host Division I-A college football games. Evidence shows that, compared with non-game or away-game days, violent incidents happen more frequently when teams host games in their hometown communities. In particular, Rees says the greatest rise in aggression follows games that result in an upset.

“It didn’t matter whether the home team won when they weren’t supposed to, or lost one they were expected to win,” he says.

The findings rely on crime data reported by law enforcement agencies that hold jurisdiction over Division I-A college football communities to a National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Currently only 26 of 119 Division I-A teams are housed in communities where law enforcement agencies report to the NIBRS.

Rees’ former graduate student and co-author, Kevin Schnepel, MA ’08, methodically researched and gathered crime statistics from every game played by the pertinent football teams from 2000 to 2005.

The data show the influence of alcohol consumption on crime. Division I-A football stadiums ban the sale of alcohol but more numerous reports of alcohol-related crimes on game day suggests that drinking still occurs.

While the college football games and crime study references two psychology-based theories for behavior—the social learning theory and the frustration-aggression hypothesis—Rees says neither adequately explains their findings.

The upside of Rees’ statistical findings is that it challenges current theories of behavior. “On the other hand, no one quite knows what to do with this,” he says. “The study offers a statistics-driven explanation for behavior but doesn’t approach the problem in a way other social scientists might.”

Rees doesn’t recognize any immediate public policy implications as a result of the study, though he suggests it informs Division I-A football communities of what should be expected on game day. It has even raised eyebrows in the media. Colorado Matters, a state public radio program, has interviewed both authors, and the study was mentioned in the New York Times’ Freakonomics blog.

Despite its unusual position in the world of social sciences, the study will be published in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Sports Economics.

Ashley Paggen knows the value of experience. A premed senior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, she’s interned with the Arapahoe County Coroner’s office for the past year, an opportunity typically reserved for medical students completing their residency.

“The Arapahoe County Coroner’s office requested that I write a letter stating why they should let me be an intern,” says Paggen. “I had to convince them that I was more than just curious.”

In fall 2007, she interned as a forensic autopsy technician. This fall, she is interning as a histology technician, a position Paggen sees as a natural progression from her previous experiences.

“I thought that there would be no better way to complete my intern experience than by processing decedent’s tissues and looking for microscopic clues that tell the story of their death,” she says.

These internships have made her future plans much clearer. “I feel I have seen the process of a decedent come full circle, from visiting the scene of death and taking custody of the body to performing the autopsy, collecting and microscopically viewing tissues, deciding the cause of death and releasing the body to the mortuary,” Paggen says. She’s also observed expert testimony by a forensic pathologist for the prosecution of a murderer.

“I have been elbow deep inside the human body—this real-life experience is much different than the one I received in anatomy lab classes with formaldehyde-filled cadavers.”
Business: Business School’s new GEM program trains grads for Colorado’s future

Corporations spend millions annually training their current employees, but a few forward-thinking companies in Colorado are investing in their future employees through one of the Business School’s new initiative programs in global energy management (GEM). This investment goes far beyond offering internships for students. These energy executives volunteered time and resources to bring industry knowledge into the curriculum so that students can be trained for their future careers from the first class they take.

Executives from the top energy and energy-related organizations in the region—names like National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Venoco, Inc. and Forest Oil—sit on GEM’s board of advisors and have helped design courses such as Renewable and Alternative Energy; Energy Asset Management; Land Management and Energy Contracts; and Environmental, Regulatory, Legal and Political Environments in the Energy Industry.

“The global energy management program is a master’s degree program for those who wish to make the energy industry their lifelong career—those who want to rise to the very top of energy companies or want to start their own energy company,” says John Turner, director of the GEM program.

Graduates of the program will be educated and trained in all areas of energy management including conventional, nonconventional, alternative and renewable energies. The program’s first class will begin in January 2009.

The program offers a unique, hybrid approach that allows students to work full-time and complete the degree in 18 months. Students and professors spend four days in Denver at the start of each three-month term and then continue their studies online through video conferencing, presentations, online discussions, video lectures, podcasts, DVD downloads and more.

“I don’t see another program like this anywhere else that combines speed with virtual learning and very quickly gets you a pipeline of talent to go after,” says Chris Lewis, group vice president, human resources/public affairs/facilities, DCP Midstream, LP.

What’s the rush? According to a 2006 report in the Oil & Gas Journal, 40 to 50 percent of upper management in energy companies are eligible to retire in the next five years, which will create a serious knowledge and experience gap in the industry.

“Investments in assets are incredibly important to a company as capital-intensive as EnCana,” says Don McClure, vice president finance/business services. “We want to invest wisely and see the return in well-prepared, confident employees. By playing a role in designing the GEM program, we hope to hire many highly qualified graduates, as well as increase the knowledge of our current employees.”

“The global energy management program allows us to help fill an urgent need for energy company leadership as this generation of executives retires,” says UC Denver Chancellor M. Roy Wilson. “This is just the type of work at which UC Denver excels—combining world-class education for our students with real-world solutions for our local and global communities.”

Editor’s note: Other industry initiatives at the Business School include sustainability and sports and entertainment management.
Architecture: Constructing a dream: The first not-for-profit women's college in Saudi Arabia

Forty years ago, Zuhair Fayez came to the College of Architecture and Planning (CAP) to begin a lifelong educational journey. Today, his quest has resulted in an innovative partnership between CAP and Dar Al-Hekma College, the first not-for-profit women's college in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to create an architecture degree program that will meet U.S. accreditation standards.

“My university experience was instrumental to my success,” Fayez explains. “Besides receiving a quality education, I developed friendships with colleagues that have lasted throughout my career.” After graduating with a master’s degree from UC Denver and continuing his doctoral studies in the United States, Fayez practiced professionally in Colorado. Returning to Saudi Arabia, he built the largest architecture and engineering firm in the Middle East, Zuhair Fayez Partnership.

Having a strong belief in the power of education, Fayez created an annual scholarship fund for CAP students and generously gave more than $1 million to the college. “If you believe in a road, a program, a university—you can set an example,” he explains.

In spring 2008, Fayez revisited UC Denver to be honored as a visionary educator and to sign a memorandum of understanding that secured the partnership between CAP and Dar Al-Hekma College. Fayez, CAP Dean Mark Gelernter and faculty at the two colleges are collaborating to develop the program. CAP faculty traveled to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in fall 2008 to initiate the process.

“This is a groundbreaking initiative,” says Fayez. Saudi Arabia is experiencing rapid growth and the need for architects is increasing. “The wealth of any nation is in its human resources,” he continues. Dar Al-Hekma currently offers degree programs in business, interior design, creative arts and health and human development. The new program will prepare women to become architects within the workforce.

“The world has become a small global village,” Fayez says. Technology now links ideas at the speed of satellites, allowing for unprecedented creative ventures between the two colleges. Powerful new digital visualization applications can precisely model and specify three-dimensional constructions of buildings and landscapes in virtual space and time. Rapid prototyping systems linked to fabricating machines can test design concepts and create translations of design to actual built environments. Using these practices, students at Dar Al-Hekma and UC Denver will be equipped to design the future of their generations.

Architecture students from Colorado and Saudi Arabia have discovered that they share remarkably similar goals of sustainable design and historic preservation. Both countries deal with semi-arid desert climates and rapid growth. Planners and designers must address issues of urban sprawl, population growth, water usage and protection of fragile eco-systems.

Student/faculty projects between CAP and Dar Al-Hekma College will serve communities in both regions. Examples include an exchange in which students from each college design housing for underserved populations in the partnering country. In the process, students will learn about the traditions, design and culture of another society.

“To be competitive as a university, you have to reach out,” says Fayez. “Leadership here is reaching out.”

“Saudi Arabia’s focus on higher education is opening doors to new educational possibilities, and this kind of global partnership allows for unprecedented collaborations for our programs, students, faculty and researchers,” says UC Denver Chancellor M. Roy Wilson. “Collaborations like this one build bridges for cultural understanding and growth.

In fall 2008, Zuhair Fayez—already serving on the Board of Advisors for the College of Architecture and Planning—was elected to the CU Foundation Board of Trustees. In April 2009, the university will formally honor Fayez and other patrons of higher education at the annual Chancellor’s Dinner.
Before iPods, YouTube and the widespread presence of digital photography, the College of Arts & Media (CAM) saw the potential for art, technology and commerce to become big business.

Structurally, the college came together in 1989 when the UC Denver College of Music merged with the university’s fine arts and theatre programs to become the School of the Arts under the auspices of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Recognizing the nontraditional nature of its students, the school spun itself off in 1998.

“To focus a college exclusively on the intersections of art, technology and commerce was revolutionary at the time it was conceived,” says Valparaiso University President Mark Heckler, CAM’s founding dean. “And while many other schools have branched into both technology and commerce, UC Denver is still one of the few focused on the intersection of all three rather than treating each element [art, technology, commerce] as individual and discrete disciplines.”

Now casting Bertolt Brecht’s The Caucasian Chalk Circle, Associate Professor Laura Cuetara is using the production as an example of how the college’s different elements can come together. Chalk Circle takes place during a period of unrest in Soviet Georgia, not unlike Georgia’s current problems with neighboring Russia. For this production, Cuetara plans to use contemporary CNN coverage of Russia invading Georgia, and she wants to simulcast live video feeds of the performance as a backdrop for the live action.

“When you have a studio that has room for live performance, camera work and projection,” she says, “then these things can be part of the vocabulary students can be conversant in.”

In addition to providing professional, interdisciplinary preparation in the arts and art technology, CAM also promotes the notion that a professional art career is not only possible, but expected. “Our students are gritty, urban and committed,” explains CAM Dean David Dynak. “They are pushed from the beginning of their careers to see that they can have careers in the arts. Given the explosion of innovative technology, the culture industry will continue to expand, and it’s careers in that industry that are so exciting.”

Longtime faculty member and administrator Frank Jermance sees CAM as perfectly positioned to educate a creative work force for the media and entertainment industry. “This is a $1.5 trillion industry,” he says.

“It’s bigger than pharmaceuticals and automotive combined.”

It’s not surprising then that CAM is one of the fastest growing colleges at UC Denver and has nurtured some remarkable talent.

The Grammy-nominated band Devotchka, which developed much of the soundtrack for the film Little Miss Sunshine, counts tuba player Jeanie (McMeeking) Schroder, BS music ’92, among its members. Graduate Derek Vanderhorst, BS music ’96, was the Foley editor for the Coen Brothers’ film No Country for Old Men and is the sound editor for the new X-Files film. Isaac Slade, BS music ’05, is the lead singer, songwriter and pianist for the Grammy-nominated group The Fray, and Andy Guerrero, BS music ’07, is the lead guitarist for the Flobots. Photographer/artist Gwen Laine, BA communication and theatre ’94, BA fine arts ’00, was selected by Black and White Magazine in 2006 as one of the 15 hottest young photographers in the country.

Of course, 10 years is a blip in the life of an educational institution, and there are many initiatives waiting in the wings—most notably upcoming graduate programs in film, music composition for new media and visual culture to join the college’s existing graduate program in the recording arts. CAM is also establishing the new National Center for Media Forensics and moving into medical applications for the arts.

“There are people who are wary of technology and what it’s doing to the art industry,” Dynak says. “We feel the opposite. We embrace it and work to define its future.”
Project aims to take action on climate change

The cacophony over climate change has only intensified in the nearly two years since the Presidential Climate Action Project began its research into an effective, science-based agenda for the next president.

Rising fuel prices and accumulating evidence of the effects of climate change have unleashed a torrent of clashing opinions about the direction for national energy policy in the next decade. Through it all the Presidential Climate Action Project has continued to assemble data, weigh options and develop policies to move the economy toward greater energy efficiency, alternative energy development and drastically reduced greenhouse-gas emissions.

The nonpartisan project is part of the Wirth Chair in the School of Public Affairs and is preparing to release its “Presidential Climate Action Plan” in time for the transition team to consider its proposals for action in the first 100 days of the new administration.

“It is meant to be an action plan,” says former Senator Gary Hart, who holds the Wirth Chair and serves on the organization's advisory committee. “The key word here is not 'presidential' but 'action.'”

Executive Director Bill Becker has been writing periodic climate action briefs since spring 2008 on climate and energy issues. These commentaries are sent to advisors of the presidential candidates as well as to a long list of people working on climate change around the country. Prior to the election, representatives of the project met with Sen. Barack Obama and advisors to Sen. John McCain.

In July, the project sponsored a briefing on national security and climate change in Washington, D.C., for representatives of both campaigns. Among the experts assembled were Rosina Bierbaum, dean of the School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Michigan; Paul Epstein of the Harvard Center for Health and the Global Environment; Amy Fraenkel, director of the North American office for the United Nations Environment Programme; Vice Admiral Richard Truly, former administrator of NASA and former director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory; Hart; Becker; and others.

The briefing sparked a lively exchange among policy advisors to McCain and Obama, and had participants from both campaigns furiously scribbling notes during the presentations.

The “Presidential Climate Action Plan” is available online at www.climateactionproject.com/plan.php. Its objective is to outline a list of executive orders, legislative initiatives and policy directives to help the nation meet the goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions 30 percent by 2020 and 90 percent by 2050.

Ray Anderson, founder and chairman of the board of Interface Inc., and chair of the advisory committee, has said that setting the 90-percent-reduction target was a critical moment in the evolution of the Presidential Climate Action Project. “That was a very important step to take. At one time, we talked about setting a goal of 60 percent, but in the real world, 60 percent is not going to do it,” Anderson says.

The Center for Energy and Environmental Security at the University of Colorado Law School has produced a handbook to assist in developing policy proposals. “The Boundaries of Executive Authority: Using Executive Orders to Implement Federal Climate Change Policy” outlines the history of federal environmental policy initiatives dating to the 1920s and identifies what actions are authorized by the Constitution and federal statutes. It has been the basis for policy directives conceived by the project team.

In addition to the agenda, the Presidential Climate Action Project has assembled a list of experts in climate change science and policy to advise the next president and be considered for appointments in his administration.

How the plan will be greeted by the next president is anybody's guess. But David Orr, Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies at Oberlin College, who conceived of the Presidential Climate Action Project in 2006, serves on the project's advisory committee and raised the first donation to the $2.2 million project, believes it is a critically important effort to confront the greatest challenge of our generation.

“The odds are long against us,” he says. “We've got to fight like hell to change them.”
Engineering and Applied Science: The wind of change?
Affordable power is gusting all over the world.

How do you provide cheap, sustainable power to developing countries without burdening them with systems too complex and costly to maintain?

The answer, says Mark Pitterle, is blowin' in the wind.

“Wind is the cheapest renewable energy source in the world right now as far as electricity is concerned,” says Pitterle, a PhD candidate in the College of Engineering and Applied Science Department of Civil Engineering.

At age 30, Pitterle not only studies sustainable engineering, he lives it—he resides in a solar-powered teepee, cooks using a wood stove and grows much of his own food. Inspired by a windmill-making workshop he took five years ago with Hugh Piggott, the Scottish pioneer of small-scale, do-it-yourself wind turbines, Pitterle has since become a dedicated advocate for low-tech, locally-made wind systems. He’s crafted three prototypes in pursuit of the ideal design, helped to establish a small windmill test site at the CU Mountain Research Station near Nederland, Colo., and is working with UC Denver faculty members, Fernando Mancilla-David and Anu Ramaswami, to export the idea of affordable wind technology around the globe.

“It’s basically empowering the individuals in these communities to implement their own change,” says Pitterle, who taught people in Gujarat, India, how to build and maintain their own windmill in 2005. The windmill cost $2,000 and “it’s still providing power for 40 homes,” he says. “If they know how to build a windmill, they know how to fix it, and if they want to expand the system they can.”

Also in 2005, Pitterle joined fellow students in the Participatory Learning and Creativity for Educational Sustainability (PLACES) program for a windmill design contest in Washington, D.C. The goal was to demonstrate that $10,000 or $15,000 was not necessary to build a small windmill. Instead, they offered low-tech designs, including one crafted with wooden blades and powered with recycled car parts that could be crafted for only a few thousand dollars.

Their work won them the prestigious People Prosperity and the Planet (P3) award and a $75,000 grant to further explore windmill prototypes for developing countries.

Since then, “Mark has been the rock of the project,” says Ramaswami, an environmental engineering professor who served as lead faculty on the India and Sri Lanka wind projects.

Last year Pitterle joined forces with Mancilla-David, an electrical engineering assistant professor who specializes in alternative energy and power electronics and is devising ways to most efficiently convert the wildly fluctuating currents of wind into a usable form of energy.

In October 2008, the two began testing a newer windmill design, which they hope will provide 30 percent more power than previous designs. And in 2009, the two plan to travel to Sri Lanka to help local monks complete construction of a wind-and-solar-powered electrical system at the Butterfly Project, a Buddhist-run boarding school and community center for 100 children orphaned in the 2004 tsunami.

Mancilla-David, who visited the orphanage in August, says the current power system is completely unreliable. Once the new hybrid system is in place, it should provide the children with the power they need at a lower cost and without the environmental consequences of grid power.

“Once you pay the capital costs, it’s free. It doesn’t contribute to global warming. And it’s renewable energy,” says Mancilla-David.

But the system also represents a huge opportunity—the chance to introduce a different area of the world to wind energy.

“If you want to change the mentality of mankind, you have to work with children and build these things where they can see them,” says Mancilla-David. “You have to show them that the future is renewable energy.”
T he 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. 13, 2009. For a copy of the nomination form, call the alumni office at 303-556-2549 or visit our online community, www.cudenver.onlinecommunity.com.

Sue Miller is 74 years old with beautiful white hair and sparkling eyes. She is also a student in the School of Education and Human Development working toward a master's degree in counseling and psychology. However, the obvious differences that set her apart from her fellow students are just the beginning of how nontraditional Miller truly is.

At the age of 13, while living in Oklahoma City, Miller began modeling. She was 5'7", which was tall for a woman at that time. Television had just come into its own, so local stores were vying for her to showcase their clothes.

Fast-forward 20 years and Miller was married, a mother of three and modeling in Denver when disaster struck. She was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was 1971—at a time when people thought cancer might be contagious and no one said the word “breast.”

“I lost my job. I lost my friends. I was so angry,” Miller recalls. “Everything I loved that was just mine, I lost.”

After a double mastectomy, Miller felt certain that her modeling career was over. Then, in 1976, she was in a shop that sold prosthetics, and the owner suggested that she develop and model in a fashion show with other breast cancer survivors. “I walked out and slammed the door so hard that I broke the glass,” Miller says. “I went to my car and cried. But then, I walked back into the shop, paid for the glass and said that I wanted to do it.”

With four other women, Miller launched a fashion show to raise awareness about breast cancer. The themes were, “Breast cancer is not catching” and “Women with mastectomies are beautiful.” Over the next 25 years, that fashion show, the Day of Caring for Breast Cancer Awareness, expanded to an audience of 1,500 and outgrew every venue that the organizers could afford. In 2006, Miller decided that the show had achieved everything she wanted it to, and she let Cure Magazine, a cancer-focused publication based in Dallas, take over the concept.

That same year, Miller’s book, “I’m Tougher Than I Look,” was released.

With those two accomplishments behind her, Miller was rapidly on to her next mission: helping cancer patients, survivors and families cope with their experiences. “At the Day of Caring events, I would sit and talk with families, and I was sort of a counselor,” she says. “I met a 35-year-old woman with breast cancer who had three kids, and I tried to talk to her. I later learned that she had killed herself. I realized that I didn’t have enough education to understand what she faced. I didn’t know how to help.”

Miller enrolled in the School of Education and Human Development with a clear goal. “I want to open a free clinic to help people who are trying to live with illness,” she says.

Miller, who will graduate in May 2009, says that some people ask why she would tackle a new career at a time when her peers are retiring and traveling. She says, simply, “In order for my heart to be okay, I need to help people.”
2008 Alumni Scholarship Recipients

Top: Alumni Association Vice President of Administration Melisa Carpenter (first row right), Rock Bottom General Manager Steve Cominsky and Banquet Manager Dave Bolding (second row middle) pose with alumni association scholarship recipients. The association awarded 36 undergraduate and six graduate scholarships thanks to the generosity of the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery on the 16th Street Mall.

Bottom Left: Alumni Association President James Villarreal (left) and Vice President of Community Relations Yilan Shen (third from right), pose with scholarship winners and their sponsors—Yesel Alcantar with Liberty mutual and Richard Pettis (right) from Public Service Credit Union.

Bottom Right: Graduate scholarship winners pose with Alumni Association Vice President of Finance and Planning Gedeon LaFarge. From left: Amanda Jeter, College of Architecture and Planning; LaFarge; Carmella Rodriguez, School of Education and Human Development; Adam Poticha, Business School; Bruce Hines, College of Engineering and Applied Science; and Jill Carlston, School of Public Affairs.

Alumni Association board members (below) pose during a break from their board orientation and planning session July 12. Board members include:
Melisa Carpenter, MBA '03
Tom Chikoore, MBA '00
Michael Cintron.
BS marketing/finance '03
Matt Cornwell, BS finance '03
Rex Emery.
BS finance/economics '03
Erik Estrada, MPA '06
Jack Gilbraith, BA geology '82
Dennis Graser, MBA '04
Peter Hynes, MArch/MUD '03
Cathy Kaledo, BS accounting '92
Gedeon LaFarge, MArch '90
Georgia Lesh-Laurie, former chancellor
Betsy Long, MBA '08
Jim Matheson, MPA '04
Steve Moore, MBA '90
Jessica Osborne, MUD/MURP '02
Jung Park, MBA '04
Erica Ponce, MBA '05
Lindsay Prime, MBA '05
Lola Salazar, MA education '92
Arezou Seifpour, BS chemistry '04
Yilan Shen, MPA '05
James Villarreal, MBA '04
Mary Frances De Rose, BA sociology ’81, MPA ’85, recently completed the second year of the Alcuin Traineeship in Urban Education. She is also the founder and co-chair of Ready4College/Ready4Life, a program for secondary and post-secondary students from underserved urban areas. De Rose teaches at DePaul University in Chicago, where she will soon begin a seven-year term as a Moynihan Fellow in social policy and urban affairs.

Jamie Dodson, BA geography ’82, recently authored a novel, Flying Boats and Spies, a Nick Grant Adventure, and has been offered a movie deal with Black Sheep Entertainment in Hollywood.

Cody L. (Hendren) Daniels, BS accounting ’92, been accepted into the partnership in the Denver office of KPMG LLP, a U.S. audit, tax and advisory firm. Daniels, who is a CPA and a certified information systems auditor, provides IT audit and advisory services focusing in the financial services, federal government and telecommunications industries.

Mollie Mook, BA theatre ’00, earned her MFA in acting from the University of Iowa. Mook is the associate artistic director of A Theatre Group in Silverton, Colo. She is also directs at the Rocky Mountain Theatre for Kids in Boulder and is an instructor of theatre at UC Denver.

Angela Dye, MURP ’83, MLA ’84, recently took office as president of the American Society of Landscape Architects. She is also founder of A Dye Design, a landscape architectural firm in Phoenix, Ariz. She is a frequent panelist, facilitator and speaker, and a past adjunct professor at Arizona State University. She currently serves on the board of directors for two civic organizations, Valley Forward Association and Friends of the West Valley Recreation Corridor.

Alumni...

Joe Pelle, MCJ ’87, is the Boulder County sheriff, managing more than 350 employees and 200 volunteers.

Emmett Culligan, BFA sculpture and BFA creative arts ’96, is founder of Emmett Culligan Design in Denver, specializing in the integration of metal, wood, stone and glass. The design firm has worked in the REI flagship store in Denver and the Katz Collections in New York and Cannes.

Catherine Anne Seal, MS marketing ’93, has been awarded an LLM degree in elder law from the Stetson University College of Law, and is the first graduate of that program. She is the senior partner in the law firm of Kirtland & Seal LLC in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Ken Tomczak, BS music ’93, is promotions director for JACK-FM 102.3/105.3, a Denver radio station.

Todd Ziebarth, MPA and MURP ’96, a nationally recognized expert in education reform and the performance of charter schools, was appointed vice president for policy for the Denver-based National Alliance of Public Charter Schools in June. The alliance recently received $10 million in grants to expand their work.

Dawn Macy, MPA ’97, the associate director at the Center for Internships and Service-Learning at California State University, Fullerton, has oversight of Project SHINE. The recipient of the 2008 U.S. President’s Volunteer Service Award, Project SHINE is a national learning initiative that builds partnerships among community colleges, universities and community-based organizations to benefit older immigrants, refugees and college students.

Nancy L. Smith, PhD public administration ’97, was appointed new dean of the Beth-El School of Nursing and Health Sciences at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs in August 2008. Smith had served as associate dean and was responsible for bachelor's, master's and doctoral nursing programs, and the general operation management of the college. In 2007, she served on Gov. Bill Ritter's Taskforce on Nurse Workforce and Patient Care.

Kevin Patterson, MURP and MURP ’97, has been appointed by Mayor John Hickenlooper as manager of the Parks and Recreation Department for Denver.

Michelle Thompson, MA information/learning technology ’00, is director of leadership and professional development at Janus Capital Group of Denver. Thompson has been instrumental in implementing leader development programs. In the 2008 American Society for Training and Development BEST Awards competition, Janus received first place out of 95 organizations in seven countries.

Michelle Thompson, MA information/learning technology ’00, is director of leadership and professional development at Janus Capital Group of Denver. Thompson has been instrumental in implementing leader development programs. In the 2008 American Society for Training and Development BEST Awards competition, Janus received first place out of 95 organizations in seven countries.

Molly Anderson, BA history ’96, MPA ’97, was elected clerk and recorder of Jefferson County, Colo. Anderson also serves as the legislative co-chair of the Colorado County Clerks Association.

Deserai (Anderson-Utley) Crow, MPA ’02, completed her PhD at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences. Her dissertation focused on the impact of media and politics on Colorado water law. She will be joining the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at CU-Boulder as an assistant professor this fall.
**Did you know...** Jason Regier, MS marketing and MBA ’04 (right), and his teammates beat Australia 53-44 to earn the gold medal in wheelchair rugby during the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing, China. (Watch the match online at www.universalsports.com/.) To earn his place on the team, Regier attended three tryout camps and 15 training camps, plus played in several tournaments over the course of two years. He also plays with the Denver Harlequins Wheelchair Rugby team.

**Antonio Cicarelli**, BFA multimedia and creative arts ’03, is working in Los Angeles, Calif. as an art director for Nonformula.com. He also works as a freelance artist and has produced motion graphics for clients like Comedy Central, NFL, Warner Brothers, AMC and the Discovery Channel.

**Arminie Grigoryan**, MPA ’03, lives and works in his home country of Armenia where he is an analyst for the ARARAT Center for Strategic Research. Previously, he worked at the British Embassy in Yerevan as the press and public affairs officer.

**Kevin Jacobs**, MPA ’03, was elected to a four-year term on the Broomfield City Council in November 2007. Kevin is the assistant vice chancellor for human resources department to be awarded the Becker Foundation Fellowship. She is currently represented by Sandy Carson Gallery in Denver.

**Ty Kellewood**, MA counseling psychology/counselor education ’05, is a counselor at the Kwawackee Counseling Center in Tacoma, Wash., where he works with adults and children of the Puyallup Tribe.

**Jimmy Stofel**, BS music ’05, is a bass guitarist in The Dualistics, a local indie/alternative-rock band formed about two years ago.

**Louise Myrland**, MPA ’06, is scholarship program director for the newly formed Denver Scholarship Foundation.

**Zara Snapp**, BA political science ’06, will be joining the master’s in public policy class of 2010 at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Snapp has been awarded a Truman Scholarship and a public service fellowship. She recently participated in the Ship for World Youth Program which included visits to Japan, Singapore, Oman and India.

**In memoriam**

**70s**

- **Donald Helgoth**, MBA ’74, died Sept. 23, 2008.
- **Pamela Furr**, BA psychology ’77, died Aug. 1, 2008.
- **Eugene Long**, MBA ’77, died March 26, 2008.
- **John Cook**, MBA ’81, died March 26, 2008.
- **Margaret Norgren**, MBA ’85, died Aug. 4, 2008.
- **Helen Wilburn**, MPA ’86, died March 6, 2008.
- **Joan Murnan**, MA administration supervision curriculum development ’88, died March 26, 2008.

**80s**

- **John Cook**, MBA ’84, died June 17, 2007.
- **Brian Morris**, BS electrical engineering ’84, died July 1, 2008.
- **Margaret Norgren**, MBA ’85, died Aug. 4, 2008.
- **Helen Wilburn**, MPA ’86, died March 6, 2008.

**90s**

- **David Sueper**, BS electrical engineering ’04, died May 8, 2008.
- **Christine Hardy**, MURP and MLA ’06, died Sept. 21, 2008.
Alumni reconnect at Business School’s future home

Business School alumni and friends gathered at the alumni reconnect event on Oct. 16. (left to right) Grant Patrick, 11-month MBA ’08; Daniel Cobbina, 11-month MBA ’08; Dave Baker, BS business administration ’82; Patty Lalich, BS marketing ’86; MS international business ’98, MBA international business ’98; Dean Sueann Ambron, Shanna McKinzie, 11-month MBA ’08; and Alex Holmes, BS accounting ’97, MS information systems ’99.

More than 150 Business School alumni mingled with former classmates and members of the Board of Advisors at a social alumni event held October 16 at 1475 Lawrence Street, the school’s future home. While Reconnect—Building Connections was the theme of the evening, the venue created a buzz that commanded much of the conversation.

Following a welcome by Dean Sueann Ambron, Dave Baker, BS business administration ’82, chief operating officer of FirstBank Holding Company and member of the Business School Board of Advisors, spoke about the many things on the horizon for the school. Renderings produced by RNL Design Inc. (led by RNL Chairman and CEO Josh Gould, executive MBA ’95, another member of the Business School Board of Advisors) helped alumni and friends visualize future spaces in the new building including a new Innovation Center, the Market Café and a Knowledge Exchange.

One of the building’s current tenants, Amuse in 5 Degrees, hosted the event and donated refreshments for the evening.

With the focus on alumni connections, the Business School continues to build its future in downtown Denver through events like these.
Health news

New center will focus on Down Syndrome

The Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome on the Anschutz Medical Campus will be the first to comprehensively address basic research, clinical research and clinical care all under one umbrella. The institute will be funded through a $34 million commitment, the largest ever private contribution dedicated to people with Down Syndrome, from the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation. It is named for Linda Crnic, professor of pediatrics and psychiatry and director of the Colorado Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Center, who died in a bicycle accident in 2004.

The University of Colorado Denver, the University of Colorado at Boulder and The Children’s Hospital in Aurora have committed space, personnel and overhead to the institute. World-renowned neurologist William C. Mobley, has been recruited from Stanford to serve as its executive director.

Improving management of diabetes

The widely used finger-prick method of testing glucose may soon be a thing of the past. Researchers at the Barbara Davis Center for Childhood Diabetes at UC Denver participated in a multicenter clinical diabetes study that found that patients who regularly use a continuous glucose monitoring device experienced significant improvements in blood sugar control. Researcher Rosanna Fiallo-Sharer, co-investigator in the study, noted that better control of glucose levels over the long term could translate to a lower risk of complications for people with type 1 diabetes.

New school of public health welcomes students

The new Colorado School of Public Health (CSPH) welcomed 95 new students on the first day of classes. They joined 130 returning students from public health programs who were a part of the former Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics in the School of Medicine. A collaboration between the University of Colorado Denver, Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado, CSPH will enable more students to receive public health training, speed interdisciplinary research development and provide access to training and research funds only available to accredited schools of public health. Visit http://publichealth.ucdenver.edu for more information.

Partnership signals new hope for MS patients

UC Denver has joined forces with the University of Colorado Hospital and the Rocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Center on the Anschutz Medical Campus to support research and provide a range of medical care and community services to MS patients. Directing the new Rocky Mountain MS Center is Timothy Vollmer who comes from the Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix.

UC Denver alumni day at the Downtown Aquarium

Saturday, June 27, 2009

11 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. | Downtown Aquarium
(700 Water Street in Denver)

$10 per person includes admission and picnic lunch buffet

Dive into Denver’s underwater adventure. From stingrays to Sumatran tigers, you won’t want to miss more than a million gallons of underwater tanks and interactive exhibits teeming with life.

Rock Bottom Ruckus Dinner and Auction Benefiting Scholarships

Sunday, Feb. 8, 2009 | 5:30 p.m.
Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery
(Corner of 16th and Curtis Streets)

Sip, 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.

Individual seats and corporate tables are available.

RSVP by Feb. 1, 2009

Denver Nuggets take on the LA Clippers

Saturday, April 4, 2009

7:00 p.m. | Pepsi Center

$10 per person includes admission, hot dog and drink.

Watch Chauncey Billups, Carmelo Anthony and the Denver Nuggets as they take on the LA Clippers during family night at the Pepsi Center.

Enter the drawing to have your child participate in the Home Team Fan Tunnel. We can select 25 kids (16 years or under) to high-five the Nuggets as they enter the court for warm-ups.

Annual Meeting

Late May or Early June 2009

The University of Colorado Denver Downtown Campus Alumni Association will host its annual meeting in late May or early June 2009. This is your opportunity to find out what the association has accomplished in the past year, to plan for the future, to elect officers and appoint board members. Watch the website for details, www.ucdenver.edu/alumni, or e-mail for information UCDalumni@ucdenver.edu

5-Night Western Caribbean Cruise

February 6-11, 2010

Sail Celebrity Cruise Lines with fellow alumni from Miami to Ocho Rios, Jamaica, and George Town, Grand Cayman.

Job Fairs

The UC Denver Career Center also hosts several job fairs year round. Watch for our next alumni events e-mail or visit the Downtown Campus online community for details.

Want to receive our bimonthly events e-mail? Send your name and e-mail address to UCDalumni@ucdenver.edu with a request to join.

Details of all events are available online at www.cudenver.onlinecommunity.com
CU Legislative Day at the State Capitol
Friday, January 16 | 7:30 a.m.
FREE
Join President Bruce Benson and the chancellors of the University of Colorado for breakfast outside the Supreme Court Chambers. Then interact with legislative leaders and enjoy an afternoon tour of the capitol. RSVP by Jan. 14 using the attached form or through our online community, www.cudenver.onlinecommunity.com.

CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show
Friday, January 23, 2009 | 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 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 55 pounds or less. Call the Office of Alumni Relations, 303-556-2549, before Jan. 6, 2009 to submit an entry.

RSVP by Jan. 14, 2009
Name ____________________________
Address ______________________________________________________
City/State ____________________________________________________
ZIP _______________________________________________________
Phone (Day) ____________________________
(Evening) ____________________________
E-Mail _________________________________________
Number attending ________

RSVP for Stock Show by Jan. 16, 2009
Name ____________________________
Address ______________________________________________________
City/State ____________________________________________________
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(Evening) ____________________________
E-Mail _________________________________________
Number attending ________ x $10/person = ________

Questions:
Phone: 303-556-2549
Fax: 303-556-6545
E-mail: UCDalumni@ucdenver.edu

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

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See page 15 for more events

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