LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Alum uses personal triumph and his education to make change in South Sudan

SUDAN’S DECADES-LONG, BLOODY CIVIL WAR that claimed 2.5 million lives and displaced more than 4 million people shattered the childhood of DANIEL MAJOK GAI, BA psychology ’10. But today, working to rebuild schools, dormitories and libraries in South Sudan, Gai hopes to shape a much different childhood for Africans in the world’s newest nation.

Gai is the Sudan program director for Denver-based nonprofit Project Education Sudan (PES), one of the few nonprofits working on educational infrastructure, girls’ empowerment and teacher training in the war-torn region.

As part of his mission, Gai works to get sponsors for girls desperate to go to school for the first time. South Sudan has the lowest rate of female attendance in the world. Only about 10 percent of girls ages 7-14 go to school, and of this group, less than 1 percent graduate from high school.

Seeing the devastation in places like his native village of Pagook, where PES is now building a school, Gai insists that education is the only way to avert future conflicts. “I was born in war. I grew up in war. I now say, ‘Enough is enough.’ My heart wants to help the people there, and what they desperately need is an education.”

During the decades of war, many illiterate and uneducated people trained the younger generations to fight and raid their neighbors to solve disputes or resolve all types of issues, Gai says. “That’s the main reason why small matters are fueled without finding the root cause of them.”

Gai came to Colorado as a 20-year-old refugee in 2001 and learned English while holding down two jobs. At CU Denver, he won the 2010 Rosa Parks Diversity Student Award and worked as a student advocate at the Educational Opportunity Program. His background in psychology helps him to understand the differences between the communities in which he’s now working, Gai says. “Some communities have never been able to share one thing before, but now they’re
New dean hired for School of Education & Human Development

The School of Education & Human Development will welcome REBECCA KANTOR as its new dean in January 2012. Kantor is currently the director of the School of Teaching and Learning at Ohio State University and brings to the position a career in higher education focused in the areas of early childhood, elementary and middle childhood education.

CU Foundation announces Creating Futures campaign

In April, the University of Colorado Foundation announced the Creating Futures fundraising campaign. The goal is to raise $1.5 billion in private funds to support scholarships, faculty and program enhancements, privately funded research and facilities. So far, nearly $1 billion has been raised.

One of CU Denver’s recent gifts includes a $1.88 million grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to support the bachelor of arts/bachelor of science-doctor of medicine program, an eight-year curriculum track that begins with undergraduate studies at CU Denver and culminates at the CU School of Medicine on the Anschutz Medical Campus. This grant, payable over three years, will enable exceptional Colorado high school students from rural and economically under-resourced backgrounds to pursue this rigorous program.

2,100 students graduate from CU Denver this spring

Graduates, their families and friends gathered with faculty and other university leaders and guests on the Auraria Field Saturday, May 14 to celebrate commencement. Among the graduates this year were 847 students earning bachelor’s degrees, 444 master’s degrees and six who completed doctorate degrees, as well as 18 specialists in education. Notably, another 22 graduating students from the International College of Beijing program participated.

Alum wins Business Plan Competition

The makers of a high-tech, carbon fiber electric guitar won first place in the 10th annual Business Plan Competition, sponsored by the CU Denver Business School’s Bard Center for Entrepreneurship. “I’m elated to bring this new technology to Denver,” said JOSH JACOBSON, MBA ’09, CEO of Viktorian Guitars, which won $10,000 for its first place showing.

Microscopy Learning Systems, which hopes to improve the teaching of microscope-based subjects, took second place with $5,000. RoomCycle, a business that aims to provide bicycle fleets to hotels, came in third, winning $2,500. Both of these finalists are also CU Denver graduates.

The Business Plan Competition is designed for early-stage companies that have received no Angel or Venture funding and that have generated little or no revenue to date. The competition provides these ventures with an opportunity to test their ideas and receive meaningful feedback from a panel of judges and provides exposure to an audience of business leaders.

Professor wins Colorado Book Award

English Professor NICKY BEER’s first book, The Diminishing House, won the 2011 Colorado Book Award for poetry. The Colorado Book Awards is an annual program that honors the best books with Colorado writers as primary contributors. This award joins a large and esteemed group of recognitions that Beer has received for her writing.

New online community coming soon

Stay tuned this fall as we roll out a new, more robust online community for our alumni. The new system is easier to use and will provide alumni with access to all the CU Denver Alumni Association has to offer. Alumni will also be able to claim their CU Denver lifetime e-mail address. E-mail ucdalumni@ucdenver.edu for more information.

Change in South Sudan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

collaborating in their development for the future of their children.”

After fleeing Sudan as a 6-year-old, Gai joined tens of thousands of other young boys who escaped on foot and crossed hundreds of miles. He spent 14 years in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, and received his high school certificate in a refugee camp in Kakuma, Kenya, where he learned under a tree without pens or paper.

At PES, Gai says, “My education from CU has given me many skills and the knowledge to work in South Sudan. I have the knowledge to comprehend and handle situations professionally for the betterment of the communities.”

But as much as Gai is a recognized leader, he’s also still a young man who was torn from his family. He savors the simple, priceless time with his father and other family members he’s not seen for 25 years. “It’s so awesome to be home… I never thought this moment would come…to stay and eat together with my relatives… I thank God for protecting me during the war and allowing me to be part of this changing period in South Sudan.”
At 37, STEVE KATSAROS HAS QUIETLY TAKEN it upon himself to light the night in countries throughout the world, one bulb at a time. Starting with the solar-powered light bulb he designed in January 2010, he has made it his business to address the lack of electricity in countries throughout the world. And while it’s a noble goal, his company is poised to make a profit. That makes him and his company, Nokero, models of social entrepreneurship, the concept that merges smart business practices with the good will of humanitarianism.

“We have a huge following that is passionate about our pursuit, and it’s much easier than trying to make and sell something that doesn’t contribute to our quality of life.”

KATSAROS, Bard Center for Entrepreneurship Certificate ’99, didn’t set out to save the world. For as long as he can remember, he has invented things. He enrolled at the Bard Center to learn more about the business end of product design, and in 2003, he developed a motorized bicycle wheel. Revopower, his company, won first place in that year’s Business Plan Competition.

“At first I just thought it would be cool, but then I understood that one of the steps for a society to advance itself was to move people and goods around,” he said. “When you’re only relying on your feet or a bicycle, there is a huge gap between that and what you could do if you had a cycle or a car.” Bringing it to market was harder than he thought; five years and several million dollars later he pulled the plug. But while working as a patent agent in 2009, Katsaros had another spark of inspiration as he drove past a road crew lit with bulbs hanging from extension cords. He wondered how it would look if the bulbs were solar powered, and in January 2010, he sketched one and filed a patent four days later. “Most people spend years on something like this,” he says, but because he had been through it before, he was able to hit the market with the world’s first solar-powered bulb on June 10. Six days later he was on CNN.

“It has been an amazing ride,” says Tom Boyd, Nokero’s marketing director. “Steve is a brilliant designer with an amazing capacity to see what will make people’s lives better.”

Nokero N100 bulbs contain their own solar cells and rechargeable batteries that power four LED lights, and sell for $15 ($6 in bulk). With the charge from one day in the sun, they run for two to four hours, providing a clean replacement for smoky kerosene lamps used throughout the world. Within two months after their launch, bulbs had been sold in 30 countries and shipped to test markets in Liberia, Pakistan, Haiti and Nicaragua. Superstar soccer player Didier Drogba from Ivory Coast has since endorsed them for use in Africa. Based on feedback from the test markets, Katsaros improved the design and in November 2010 launched the N200 that can last up to 8 hours on a single charge when switched to a “low” setting.

Although also suited for back-country adventures and power outages, his bulb was perfect for the 1.6 billion worldwide with no access to electricity. “We didn’t set up the company to go after this market. I didn’t know anything about energy poverty, but as I looked for a market for the product, I realized it was a huge need,” Katsaros says.

In June 2011, Nokero went to the Aid and International Development Forum in Washington, D.C., to introduce four new solar-powered products: phone and AA battery chargers; a device that provides backup power for individual light sockets when the power grid goes down; and a rechargeable flashlight that attaches to the window with a suction cup.

A fifth product—Business in a Box—is designed for individual salesmen in developing countries, with 144 N200 solar light bulbs and everything a vendor needs to start selling. Donors can buy them like microloans ($999 per box) for enterprising people who can buy more inventory with proceeds from their first sales. Nokero has already partnered with Project C.U.R.E., which includes one bulb in each of its home health care kits for young families in developing countries, and Katsaros would like to get bulbs into the hands of every Peace Corps volunteer who leaves the country.

As keynote speaker at this year’s Bard Center competition, Katsaros told the audience what he has learned during the past year.

“Move forward as fast as you can; don’t wait until you have it all planned out.”

The accidental rock star

SICK OF THE CROWDED FLUTE SECTION at Columbine High School, JEANIE RoCEAKING) SCHRODER, BS music '92, tucked her flute into its case and, on the advice of a friend, picked up the tuba, thinking “how hard could it be?”

It was love at first belch.

Interested in a music career, Schroder knew that a few months of high-school band hardly qualified for admission to a conservatory, so she looked into the University of Colorado Denver's recording arts program, which nonetheless required an audition. With only eight months of playing under her spit valves, Schroder bleated her heart out for tuba professor Bill Clark. “It’s not like I was any good,” she says. “But he encouraged me to apply as long as I wasn’t interested in performance.”

Today, Schroder is interested in performance. A member of the Denver-based breakout band DeVotchKa, famous for performing and writing (with composer Mychael Danna) the soundtrack to the 2006 film Little Miss Sunshine, Schroder spends months on the road with three bandmates, her sousaphone and upright bass.

“I ended up in rock and roll by accident,” she says.

By her junior year in college Schroder was playing in the university Dixieland band called the Claim Jumper. Unlike many of her fellow students—garage-band veterans, who had taught themselves to play by ear—Schroder could read music. Having started on the piano and the flute, her challenge was to learn to play off book so she could swing New Orleans-style.

“The Dixieland band challenged me in so many different ways,” she says. “I had to learn to improvise and play by ear and play without music. We played styles of music I’d never heard. There was this huge learning curve at UCD, not just learning about recording, but also trying to play and learn these new skills.”

The story of her introduction to DeVotchKa, by now, has acquired elements of both reality and myth. Founded by songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Nick Urata, a New Yorker who came to Denver by way of Chicago in the late '90s, DeVotchKa began parlaying its tuneful ethno pop goulash at local gigs and apocryphally “discovered” Schroder on the street booming the “Oompa Loompa” song on her tuba.

The band invited her to play. Given a CD to learn their music, she was transfixed. “It was almost like magic,” she says. “It’s like I found the music I wanted to play. When I heard that first disc, I listened to it nonstop; I felt like it spoke to me, like I would never be up performing and wishing I was somewhere else.”

Other players came and went but by 2000, DeVotchKa had solidified its lineup: Urata, the lead singer, who also plays theremin, guitar, bouzouki, piano and trumpet; Tom Hagerman on violin, accordion and piano; Schroder, who sings and plays sousaphone, double bass and, occasionally, flute; and Shawn King on drums and trumpet.

Alternatively lush and spare, their music is a mournful, referential pastiche of Eastern European folk, mariachi, tango and other ethnic influences with a dash of circus thrown in. Borrowing themes and sounds from history, media and all corners of the world, DeVotchKa created a post-modern soul music that resonates with audiences—including large ones—who get the band’s polyglot American sensibility.

Before the band ever toured Europe or opened for gypsy punk band Gogol Bordello, though, they paid their share of dues. When DeVotchKa began touring, they had one cell phone between the four of them, celebrated when they could afford to sleep in a hotel—and not the van—and played for neo-burlesque acts, including Dita von Teese, ex-wife to Marilyn Manson.

March 1 marked the release of their fifth studio album, 100 Other Lovers, a milestone that has the band performing throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and eventually Europe.

Meanwhile, in the interstices between trips, Schroder is teaching herself to play the guitarrón, the large Mexican guitar featured in mariachi bands. After all, how hard could it be?
Buechner Institute heeds ambitious agenda for forums, research, leadership

THE BUECHNER INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNANCE (BIG), the applied public policy arm of the School of Public Affairs, has taken flight in its first year with research projects, civic-engagement forums, leadership development programs and vital facilitation and community organizing programs.

“We’ve had some early successes,” says Associate Professor BRIAN GERBER, executive director of BIG.

Among the institute’s achievements were two research projects completed last winter.

“Changing the Way Colorado Votes,” a report commissioned by the Colorado secretary of state, analyzed the costs as well as the advantages and disadvantages of mail ballots. The research was a key element of the debate in the legislature on measures to expand all-mail balloting to more elections across the state. “Colorado’s Fiscal Future: We’ll Get What We Pay For,” offered important data and analysis to Coloradans about health policy issues in the state. It is a great example of how the university can provide a valuable service to the community.”

The long-standing leadership development programs—the Denver Community Leadership Forum and the Rocky Mountain Program—are going strong, Gerber says, and the recently created certified public manager program provides professional development and training to local government.

The final component of BIG involves a range of technical assistance, from facilitation to coordinating complex collaborations.

“The Buechner Institute is rapidly becoming a vital element of the School of Public Affairs,” Gerber says.

“We’re making the knowledge and expertise of the faculty accessible to the community so people can utilize it to improve decision making and public management.”

A formal collaboration was negotiated last winter between BIG and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, and discussions are under way with the Colorado Municipal League, the National Civic League, the National Association of Regional Councils and other organizations to provide research, evaluation and analysis.

“By university standards, I’d say we made significant steps in short order,” says Gerber.

He envisions BIG becoming a well-recognized resource for the policymaking community, providing objective, timely information, evaluation and analysis; a relied-upon organization that convenes people in the community to debate issues vital to the state and the nation; a go-to place for practical training and service for public officials and community organizations; and a valued partner in the complex process of creating and implementing effective public policy.

As fiscal pressures increase on higher education across Colorado and the nation, programs such as the Buechner Institute become vitally important.

“We’re providing as much community outreach as we can to help people become aware of the valuable resource the School of Public Affairs is to Colorado,” says Gerber. “The Buechner Institute is a nice vehicle for that message.”

EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

New research collaborative aims to help English-language learners

The School of Education & Human Development (SEHD) and Denver Public Schools (DPS) are demonstrating the power of academic teamwork through a formal University of Colorado Denver-DPS research collaborative now completing its first year.

The first joint research project of the collaborative was designed to find schoolwide practices supporting the achievement of English-language learners (ELL). A group of 13 SEHD faculty and three DPS researchers, including SEHD alumna SUSANA CORDOVA, MA administrative supervision and curriculum development ’00, used mixed methods to identify and study schools that were having exceptional success serving these students. Cordova, chief academic officer at Denver Public Schools, believes that this research work shows great promise for meaningful changes.

“Because of the nature of the relationships within the group, there is increased emphasis on really using the research to inform future decisions that will impact teaching and learning in our classrooms. We also are committed to continually revisiting the research, using it as a touchstone as we work on future case studies and initiatives,” says Cordova.

The team hopes that this research will ultimately influence and impact the instruction that goes on at CU Denver—for new and seasoned teachers as well as school administrators—on how language and literacy are best taught and learned. The research will also feed into school district support systems for DPS students.

Analyses of multiple case studies revealed that exemplary English-language acquisition schools shared a coherent approach to data use, instruction and professional development. For them, language development was integral to their students’ learning, not something to be fixed prior to learning. Currently in DPS, more than 28,000 students are in the process of developing the English-language skills needed to succeed in school.

The research collaborative continues to work on English-language acquisition issues, building on the initial study by looking at classroom practices, family engagement, school leadership and approaches to assessment.

“One of the things that makes this collaborative such a success is that everyone on the team is committed to the same social justice work embodied in the School of Education’s core values,” says Cordova. “Enthusiasm and passion run deep in our meetings. We are all extremely dedicated to helping our ELL students succeed.”
WHEN GLOBAL ARCHITECTURAL FIRM GENSLER strategized a new approach to nurturing burgeoning talent and expanding offices across the globe, the company’s search led to JUN XIA, MArch and MUD ’89. Considered one of the firm’s most successful hires, Xia joined Gensler’s Denver office in 1991 and immediately set to work helping with award-winning designs for a regional airport. He was appointed principal of Gensler in 1999 and became design director for the Shanghai office in 2004.

Xia and his team won an international competition to design Shanghai Tower, which will stand more than 2,000 feet high to be the tallest building in China and the second tallest in the world. The world’s highest unenclosed observation deck is planned for its upper floors. The 128-story Shanghai Tower will be double-skinned—a double-glass wall system that improves insulation without reducing light. Further features in support of sustainable design include a series of windmills at the top that will generate energy for the building, as well as rainwater collection facilities.

Mechanical systems, common spaces and basic services will be located on every dozen floors for occupants’ convenience.

Born and raised in Shanghai, Xia earned his undergraduate degree at Tongji University, Shanghai, China, and his master’s at CU Denver. Coming to school in America is a big step for any international student, and Xia can’t say enough good things about his experience.

“From my studies at CAP/CU Denver, I learned that the school has a passion for helping international students—I was very warmly accepted,” says Xia. “When I first called my graduate advisor, I had never spoken English on the phone before, and had to write down everything I was going to say. When you first come here as a ‘foreign’ student, you really have to transform yourself. And you can. Through language classes and study programs, I was able to adapt, learn and graduate within a year.”

Xia’s appreciation for his education at CU Denver and his strong interest in helping today’s students have led to building a new international internship program with Gensler Shanghai, Tongji University and CU Denver. Classes start in summer and fall 2011.

“This architecture practice and study program will be one of the most important chapters for each school,” says Xia. “The internship gives students from both countries an experience of a different culture and of different ways of thinking.

“It teaches them to be adaptive and creative based on an expanded knowledge of an area’s culture, history and people. That’s what globalization is all about.”

Through the seven-month internship, CU Denver students enrolled in graduate programs in architecture, planning, landscape architecture or urban design will be able to explore varied approaches to design, technology and management in their respective discipline through the Gensler Shanghai office. Students from Tongji University will learn and practice in the Gensler Denver office. Each student will prepare presentations detailing his/her educational experience abroad and share the findings with colleagues and communities back home.

Graduates of the program are well-prepared to enter today’s competitive global market.

Xia explains, “In doing business on a global scale, you can serve the clients well as well as learn and develop new forms of design. In China and India, for example, you can see lots of American heritage represented and an American way of doing things. Cultures and countries can inspire each others’ designs as they evolve naturally through interactions on a global level. A healthy back-and-forth trend can occur.”

In advising students who are thinking about a global professional education, Xia advises:

1) students must have a strong inner desire to learn about not only design, but also about life—how other people think, live and work;
2) students should learn to be good communicators; it’s fundamental to being a team player, and today’s architecture world is based on collaboration.

To learn more about the cooperative program between CU Denver, Tongji University and Gensler, contact Christopher Nims, director of internship and mentor programs, 303-352-3998, Christopher.Nims@ucdenver.edu, or Yuk Lee, associate dean of academic affairs, 303-556-4232, Yuk.Lee@ucdenver.edu.
Cleaning up the world one PhD at a time

**SOME OF THE EFFECTS ARE COMMUNITY FOCUSED**. like potentially improving Hyderabad, India’s food and water quality.

Other impacts of the National Science Foundation’s $3.2 million Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) grant, which created the University of Colorado Denver’s interdisciplinary graduate program in sustainable urban infrastructure in 2007, are more far-reaching: like the establishment of a center with the potential to help cities all over the world become cleaner, healthier and, ultimately, more sustainable.

**Housed in the College of Engineering and Applied Science and affiliated with the School of Public Affairs**, the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems (CSIS) has become the umbrella entity under which the IGERT program operates and where students can prepare themselves to become fluent in the interdisciplinary language and practices necessary to address complex problems such as climate change.

The big ideas to emerge from the center and the work of its 25 IGERT PhD students are practical ones: After years of faculty and student research, the center has developed a “trans-boundary infrastructure supply chain” greenhouse-gas emissions footprint, which provides a template for assessing emissions and energy consumption in urban areas.

Quantifying energy use in a city, for example, isn’t as simple as adding up how much gas people put into their cars or the watts used per household. Rather it involves a systems approach, which quantifies not just gas guzzling but also how much energy is used to transport that gas and build the highways on which people drive.

“You can’t measure a city’s environmental friendliness only by what happens in the city boundary,” explains **ANU RAMASWAMI**, director of CSIS and the IGERT program. “Not all of the infrastructures that serve cities will exist in that boundary; electricity transmissions come from 150 miles away, on average.”

To help municipalities make decisions, the center has also developed what Ramaswami calls, carbon stabilization wedges, which show cities’ infrastructure sector and cross-sector opportunities—where they can achieve the biggest carbon and energy saving wins.

“It allows you to see that there is no one action that will get you there,” Ramaswami says of the wedges, but that it takes multiple strategies and many players to mitigate emissions.

Because change doesn’t happen without actors, a third focus of the center involves the human element, where research is being conducted to approach questions such as: Why do some people, businesses and cities choose a cleaner path? Working with **CHRIS WEIBLE** from the School of Public Affairs, IGERT PhD trainee **ANDY PATTISON** is studying learning among policy actors who are shaping the city’s climate and energy action plans in Colorado. Another IGERT trainee, **SABA SIDDIKI**, whose dissertation examines the factors governing regulatory compliance in aquaculture (or fish-farming) communities, will be the next IGERT PhD student to graduate. She will take her experiences from IGERT to the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, where she is slated to start working as an assistant professor in 2012.

The IGERT grant has helped CU Denver develop an interdisciplinary graduate certificate in sustainable urban infrastructure and as support 25 PhD students in a variety of disciplines and helped them become versed in systems thinking and communicating across their fields of study.

“Wherever each of us goes,” recent IGERT graduate **LESLIE MILLER**, PhD civil engineering systems ’11, says about her interdisciplinary training, “we can talk to people in other areas. I won’t just be working with engineers on water systems. I can talk with people who are in planning and making policies and, hopefully, we can find better solutions.”

After defending her dissertation in May, which looked at the costs and benefits of wastewater treatment on an urban farm in Hyderabad, India, Miller became the first IGERT student to receive her hood. Her research, which showed clear environmental, energy, health and cost tradeoffs, could eventually help Indian stakeholders make more informed water and agricultural policy decisions.

**ANDREW DUVALL**, who is in the final throes of his research on how people are using Denver bicycle sharing, says that the connections he’s developed in the IGERT program have helped land him a place on the Denver Community Leadership Forum in Public Affairs and helped expose his work to city officials who make infrastructure and bike planning decisions.

“I work on a daily basis with people in all four of the IGERT disciplines and it’s been crucial to the success I’ve been able to enjoy,” he says. “Understanding policy and how policy is developed has been the most beneficial for my project.”

“Studying sustainability from an interdisciplinary perspective is not just a privilege that students in the IGERT program have, it is necessary,” Siddiki says. “The sustainability challenges we face today require interdisciplinary approaches.”

So, what’s next for CSIS? Ramaswami is optimistic that with a few more grants like IGERT, the center and its students—with partnerships and funding opportunities proliferating worldwide—can expand their role in helping cities all over the world better understand themselves and find ways to move toward healthier, more sustainable futures.

“The goal is to change cities in a participatory way,” Ramaswami says. “The goal is to see how much academia can contribute to sustainability in the world.”

Editor’s Note: The Center for Sustainable Infrastructure Systems is always looking for partners to further its work. Interested readers should contact Program Manager Zeljko Spiric, zeljko.spiric@ucdenver.edu or 303-556-6086.
In appreciation of FirstBank’s scholarship donation (FirstBank’s Ruchi Shah pictured second from right), Amy Chen, David Glover and Isidro Ochoa were designated as the Alumni FirstBank Scholarship recipients for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Rich Pettis, Public Relations Officer for the Public Service Credit Union (center), cheers on Nicole Wilson and Naomi Hoover as the Alumni Public Service Credit Union Scholarship recipients.

Alumni Liberty Mutual Scholarship recipients Stephen Falsetto, Henriette Uwimpaye and Xee Xiong thank Liberty Mutual’s Kim Cohen (second from right) for their donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

Representing each school and college at CU Denver, Kyle Morin, Emily Josephs, Christopher Gemperline, Mary Domenico, Luis Sandoval and Cory Vanas were awarded the Alumni Graduate Scholarship (Sandra Loi not pictured).

Alumni volunteers spent last year raising money for the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Their hard work paid off by awarding scholarships to CU Denver students at a reception held on August 27.

Left to right, seated: Phoebe Coleman, BA 3D animation ’09; Olimpia Marroquin, BA communication ’05; Cathy Kalelo, BS accounting ’92; Shameka McBoat, BS biology ’06; Rock Bottom sales and banquet manager Paige Cosmas, BS Marketing ’10.

Middle row: alumni and event coordinator Elizabeth Rocco, UCCS campus BS marketing ’05; Kimberly Straith, BS finance ’00; Gloria Thomas, BA communications ’00; Christine Landry, MPA ’04; interim alumni director Genia Larson; Angela Martinez.

Top row: Mark Vappi, BS computer science and engineering ’92; Mariya Bobo, BS management ’05; Dan Bush, MURP/MUD & MPA ’07; Oliver Keating, BFA degree in process; James Villarreal, MBA ’04; Gedeon LaFarge, MArch ’90; event coordinator Zach Strober and Colleen Fanning, BA art history ’96.

The Alumni Association awarded 34 undergraduate and 7 graduate scholarships thanks to the generosity of the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery on the 16th Street Mall.
EVERY YEAR the University of Colorado Denver Alumni Association is fortunate to have the support of many corporations and individuals.

Our special thanks to the ROCK BOTTOM RESTAURANT & BREWERY (Downtown Denver) for their continued, generous support.

Our thanks are extended to the following for their financial support in 2010–11:

**Donors**

**$10,000 AND ABOVE**
- Bank of America
- FirstBank
- Liberty Mutual/Collegiate Insurance Resources
- Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, Downtown Denver

**$5,000 - $9,999**
- Public Service Credit Union

**$1,000 - $4,999**
- Jack Gilbraith and Barbara Ganong
- Hatton Point
- Mark Vappi
- Weitz Company

**$500 - $999**
- Tom and Claire Brown
- Dave and Vicky Henry
- Cathy Kaledo
- Georgia Lesh-Laurie
- Janalee McDonald
- Ken and Diane Messamore
- John and Mary Williams

**$100 - $499**
- Douglas Abraham
- Aurora Public Schools
- Paul and Polly Bartlett
- Robert and Mariya Bobo
- Jean Burr
- Daniel Bush
- Jeff Calderone
- Patrick Cameron
- Tom and Heather Chikoore
- Michael Cintron
- Ronald and Denise Cook
- Ronald Cook, Jr.
- CU Foundation
- Michael DeSanctis
- Susan Dreisbach
- Douglas Dykes
- Rex and Jessica Emery
- Fred Fowler and Marilyn Mattson
- Nancy French
- Komal Goyal
- Dennis Graser
- Jim and Louise Gunderson
- Daniel Howard and Jennifer Lichtenfels
- Kim and Tina Huber
- Paul Hudgens
- Rob and Marie Hueston
- Mike and Ani Hulse
- Kevin and Susie Jacobs
- Al and Bobbi Knott
- Elana Kopelevich
- Gedeon LaFarge and Eleanor Harrison
- Christine Landry
- Susan Lewis
- Victor and Olimpia Marroquin
- Jim Matheson and Mary Lou Golden
- Shamedka McBoat
- Julie Mullin
- Samantha Ortiz Schriver
- Elaine Osborn
- Jung and Alexis Park
- Jeff Parker
- Paul and Vicky Parungo
- Mercedes Peebles
- Nora Ponce
- Randy and Jennifer Richmond
- John Stipech
- Marilyn Trust
- James and Ramona Villarreal
- Don and Karen White
- Scott Zumbahlen

**UP TO $99**
- Al and Ginger Bonin
- Nancy Chrisbaum
- Jennifer Constable
- John and Anne Dale
- Catherine Freeland
- Joy French
- Health + Wellness, LLC (Lori Schlotzhauer)
- Michael Johnston
- Mary Ellen Lewis
- Jeffery Miller
- William Moore
- Betty Neale
- Matt Rahill
- Yian Shen
- Kimberly Straith
- Gloria Thomas

**SILENT AUCTION DONORS**
- Lora and Jean Adams
- Advanced Laser & Skincare Clinic
- Altitude Authentics
- Aramark Corporation
- Balistreri Vineyards
- Botanica Wellness
- Cherry Creek Wellness Center
- CU Athletics
- Ryan Anthony Davis
- Denver Art Museum
- Trisha Dreiling
- Elite Pools, LLC
- Flirt Salon
- Four Seasons Hotel
- Fruition Restaurant
- Betsy Gill
- Glo Studios
- Dennis Graser
- Kirsten Hamilton
- Vicky and Dave Henry
- Higdon’s Hair Studio
- Hotel Teatro
- Kim Hudelson
- Mike and Ani Hulse
- IBSC and the Parungo family
- JM Designs
- Junior League of Denver
- JW Marriott Denver Cherry Creek
- Olver Keating
- Kevin Taylor Restaurant Group
- Gedeon LaFarge and Eleanor Harrison
- Larimer Square
- Liberty Mutual
- Lucky Strike Lanes at Belmar
- Angeles Martinez
- McBoat Photography
- McCormick’s Fish House
- MetroBoom
- Mondo Vino
- Michael Moore
- Mouthfuls
- Network - A Coworking Spot
- Omni Interlocken Golf Club
- On Broadway Hair Studio & the Boulder Spa
- Opus Restaurant
- Park Hyatt Beaver Creek
- Valerie Pelletier
- Pure Vita
- Pure Vita
- Susan Putland
- Renaissance Hotels
- Rice Bistro and Sushi
- Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant
- Root Down Restaurant
- Salon 29
- SkyVenture Colorado
- Table Mountain Inn
- TallGrass Aveda Spa & Salon
- Tamayo Restaurant
- The Tended Thicket
- Unity Selections
- Michael Vigil
- Misty Winkler

Interested in attending or donating to the Rock Bottom Ruckus? E-mail ucdalumni@ucdenver.edu.
Alumni…

1970s
DONALD VASICEK, BA sociology ’76, is an award-winning writer/filmmaker. He has received numerous writing awards, including “Writer’s Digest,” and his documentary film, “The Sand Creek Massacre,” won best Native American documentary film at the American Indian Film Festival. The Indie Gathering Film Festival and the Trail Dance Film Festival. Vasichek is the founder and owner of Olympus Films+, LLC, a global writing and film company, and is founder of The Zen of Writing, a blog about how to take writing to the next level.

1980s
GEORGE LOBUONO, BA history ’84, published a book about the possibility of extraterrestrial life forms and how they might think and relate to humans.

1990s
OLIVEANNE SLOTTA, MA curriculum and instruction ’91 and PhD educational leadership and innovation ’99, had an article published on small schools in the Curriculum Journal (Routledge Press). Sotta is teaching in the mathematics department at Metropolitan State College of Denver.

JEREMY GRAHAM, BA anthropology ’93 and MA anthropology ’96, was named president of the Spokane Society for International Medicine and was appointed “pro tem” to the Washington State Board of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. Graham is an attending physician at the Internal Medicine Residency Spokane, and a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine.

PAUL DRNEVICH, MS management and organization ’94, recently married Dawn Fisher in November 2010 in Madison, Wisc. They currently reside in Hoover, Ala., with their dog, Butters. Drnevich is an associate professor of strategic management at the University of Alabama.

ELIZABETH HAUSLER, MS environmental sciences ’95, is the recipient of the 2011 $100,000 Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability for her engineering accomplishments and creation of the Build Change model that establishes sustainable earthquake-resistant housing in the developing world.

MEG STEITZ, BA English ’95, is executive director of the HERA Women’s Cancer Foundation, a Denver-based national nonprofit organization with the mission to stop the loss of women from ovarian cancer by promoting health, empowerment, research and awareness. Steitz is president of the Board of Trustees for the Colorado Children’s Chorale. Prior to her appointment at HERA, she served for 14 years as director of marketing and community relations for art, humanities and social sciences at the University of Denver.

CHANTEL ASTLER, MA curriculum and instruction ’99, accepted the Presidential Award for Excellence in mathematics and science teaching. Astler was one of two teachers in Colorado to receive this honor, which included a $10,000 award from the National Science Foundation to be used at her discretion and an expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. for an awards ceremony and visits with members of congress and administration.

2000s
RALPH MAHER, MCJ ’04, was selected to represent Colorado’s law enforcement as a runner in the final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for the Special Olympics World Summer Games. Maher was one of only 100 law enforcement officers from across the globe to carry the Special Olympics message and the Flame of Hope through Greece and surrounding countries in June 2011.

JOHN LEFEBVRE, MPA ’05, is the treasurer for Weld County. In addition to representing all counties in Colorado on the Colorado Municipal Bond Supervision Advisory Board, Lefebvre is also president of the Colorado County Treasurer’s Association and chair of their legislative committee.

DAVID WALCHER, MCJ ’05, is undersheriff in Arapahoe County and is responsible for administrative operations for the department. Previously, Walcher was bureau chief of the Arapahoe County Detentions Facility after serving 22 years in the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office.

SHAHNAZ JAFFARI, MArch ’08, was awarded the 2010 “Colorado Sustainability Champion” award by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Colorado Environmental Partnership, Connected Organizations for a Responsible Economy and ColoradoBiz magazine.

Stay involved!
I’d like to join other alumni by:
☑ Selecting alumni award recipients
☑ Assisting with commencement
☑ Working on legislative issues and promoting the university as a CU Advocate
☑ Volunteering for special events
☑ Providing information about my career field to students and alumni
☑ Selecting scholarship recipients
☑ Raising funds for scholarships
☑ Calling and welcoming new students

SUBMIT TO: UCD Alumni Relations, Campus Box 189, PO. Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217-3364, E-MAIL the information above to UCDalumni@ucdenver.edu or CALL 303-315-2333

10
In memoriam

1970s
RICHARD SANDERS, MS electrical engineering ’75, died August 3, 2009.
VICKI (KOEPSEL) MAMEROW, MA education ’77, died January 1, 2011.
CLIFFORD NISHIMURA, BA fine arts ’78, died January 28, 2011.

1980s
RHEA (CHOCOL) DAVIS, BS education ’80, died November 24, 2010.
WILLIAM THORDARSON, BA mathematics ’81 and MS mathematics ’87, died December 8, 2010.
JUANITA MCDERMOTT, MS health administration ’83, died September 9, 2010.
MERLE GRIMES, MA landscape architecture ’87, died June 12, 2010.
EDWARD SCHUMM, BS information systems ’88, died February 25, 2011.
DAVID MANN, MA humanities ’89, died January 16, 2011.

1990s
PRISCILLA INKPEN, MS social sciences ’97, died March 21, 2009.
HERMAN ROSENSON, BA philosophy and psychology ’99, died November 27, 2010.

2000s
GREGORY BRYANT, MS engineering ’02, died January 23, 2011.
PHYLLIS BIGPOND, Denver Community Leadership Forum certificate ’04, died September 26, 2009.
KYLE BUCHHOLZ, BS management ’04, died January 21, 2011.
ELYSE YAMAUCHI, PhD educational leadership and innovation ’10, died April 21, 2011.

FRIENDS OF CU DENVER:
WILLIAM “BILL” GOODWIN, professor of educational psychology and early education, died May 26, 2011.
DAIL NEUGARTEN, professor emerita, associate professor in the School of Public Affairs and executive director of the National Leadership Institute on Aging, died June 3, 2011.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BENEFITS

CU LICENSE PLATES
303-315-2333 | www.ucdenver.edu/licenseplates
- Cost includes a mandatory $50 donation to the Alumni Scholarship Fund
- CU plates may be purchased upon completion of an application and receipt of an approval certificate from the Alumni Association
- An additional $50 county clerk fee and your standard vehicle registration fees are applicable

FINANCIAL SERVICES*
www.ucdenver.edu/downtownalumni/benefits
BANKING*
- Checking, money market accounts, CDs and IRAs
- Auto and mortgage loans and HELOC
- Home banking and bill pay
- Branches throughout the metro area

HEALTH/DENTAL*
- Short-term health insurance program for graduates that bridges the gap between student health insurance and employer coverage; also for alumni with short-term needs
- Comprehensive, renewable major medical coverage
- Supplemental major medical insurance for catastrophic medical expenses
- Long-term care insurance
- Group dental insurance

AUTO/HOME*
- Group discount on auto, home and renter’s insurance
- Rates guaranteed for 12 months
- Additional savings based on age, driving experience and auto equipment (e.g. antilock brakes)
- Round-the-clock claims service

CAMPUS RECREATION
303-556-3210 | www.ucdenver.edu/campusrec
- Enhance your level of fitness at the Campus Recreation Center for $100 per semester

UNIVERCITY KEY PROGRAM
www.ucdenver.edu/ukey
- You are invited to join the UniverCity Key program, where university partners offer special discounts and opportunities to CU Denver students, staff, faculty and alumni
- If you own or work for a company interested in partnering with the UniverCity Key program, discounts are available

ALUMNI ONLINE COMMUNITY
http://alumnilink.ucdenver.edu
- Receive periodic e-newsletters and updates from the school or college you attended
- Search for former classmates in the online directory
- Upload pictures and class notes
- Register for Alumni Association events

CU ADVOCACY PROGRAM
303.860.5622 | cuadvocates@cu.edu | www.cu.edu/cuadvocates
- Promote CU’s value and contributions around the state with elected officials, media, businesses and civic groups in Colorado and across the country
- Share your story of CU’s importance—these stories will help put a face on the university and will provide compelling evidence for state investment

CAREER CENTER
303-556-2250 | www.ucdenver.edu/careercenter
- Services are free for the first year after graduation; reduced rates thereafter
- Access to databases and job postings
- Career counseling and job search coaching
- Career exploration and transitions
- Resume assistance

*These affinity partnerships benefit Alumni Association programs and scholarships, including CU on the Horizon.
Homecoming
October 16 – 22, 2011
Join us for a host of events to celebrate the university’s Homecoming Week, which will culminate with keynote speaker Maya Angelou on Oct. 21 at the Paramount Theatre. On Oct. 22, join us for a BBQ and a chance to cheer on the CU Buffaloes with a home field advantage.

Check with your individual schools and colleges for additional events planned to welcome you home to CU Denver. Contact us at 303-315-2333 or www.ucdenver.edu/UCDalumnievents

Zoo Lights
December 3, 2011 | 4:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Denver Zoo
Come celebrate the winter holidays with your family, friends and fellow alumni! This is an exclusive event and the Denver Zoo will be closed to the general public.

Tickets are $10 per person. Registration opens in September. Contact us at 303-315-2333 or www.ucdenver.edu/UCDalumnievents

CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show
January 20, 2012 | 7:30 p.m. | National Western Complex
From barrel racing and steer roping, CU alumni will have a blast at CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show. Your $12 ticket provides access to the grounds and entrance to the rodeo. 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 with the purchase of tickets. Children must be 5-7 years old and weigh less than 55 pounds. Call the Office of Alumni Relations at 303-315-2333 by noon on January 2, 2012, to register.
Contact us at 303-315-2333 or www.ucdenver.edu/UCDalumnievents

Rock Bottom Ruckus Dinner and Auction Benefitting Scholarships
March 11, 2012 | 5:30 – 9 p.m. | Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, Corner of 16th and Curtis Streets
Spit-shine those boots, polish your spurs and join us for Denver’s finest auction. The attire may be western but the dinner is gourmet, with our friends from Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery donating their time, their vittles and every seat in the house. All proceeds benefit CU Denver scholarships.
RSVP by March 2, 2012. Contact us at 303-315-2333 or www.ucdenver.edu/UCDalumnievents