President Barack Obama outlines plan to alleviate student debt

BEFORE INTRODUCING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES at the Auraria Event Center in October 2011, University of Colorado Denver senior Mahala Greer stood in front of the American flag, before a packed house, and talked about both the value and cost of education.

"In my college career, I have borrowed nearly $30,000 in federal loans, and I know I'm not the only one in this room," she told the standing-room-only crowd. "I'm in a situation like so many other students, where I am solely responsible for my education and all my expenses, and I have been since I left high school."

Greer, a Spanish major, plans to pursue a career in bilingual elementary education, starting with a two-year stint working for Teach for America, the national program that places new graduates in underserved urban and rural schools.

"When I think about my chosen career path, all I can do is sigh," she said, "and accept the fact that I cannot and will not sacrifice my passion to help lessen social inequality through education just so I can make a higher salary."

Her introduction provided the perfect segue to President Obama's speech, which outlined his plan to simplify student loans and reduce the percentage of discretionary income graduates have to pay toward debt each year.

The president reiterated his commitment to reducing student debt in his January 24, 2012 State of the Union address, which Greer attended as a guest of First Lady Michelle Obama. He also called on more public funding for higher education and for colleges to do their part to control costs.

Greer also got to tour the White House and meet other invited guests, including astronaut Mark Kelly, the husband of former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in 2011. She said watching the State of the Union in person was "surreal" and that she'll "remember the passion and excitement."

"I thought it was an amazing speech overall," she said. "I thought it was a call to action for everybody to really make government work again, and that the government needs to be more representative of the common American."

In the brief time since I assumed the role of interim chancellor in April, it's become clear to me that CU Denver is a very special place to many people throughout Colorado and around the country. It's also rapidly emerging as an important source of solutions to some of our most pressing problems.

Whether we're partnering with a Chinese university to improve engineering practice or developing a more efficient and sustainable system of agriculture, CU Denver is addressing the evolving challenges of our increasingly interconnected world.

No wonder, then, that our campus attracts so many national figures, from President Obama to Michael Moore, whose visits you can read about in this issue of CU on the Horizon.

In addition, you can read about how our alumni are helping fulfill CU Denver's mission to create, discover and apply knowledge to improve the health and well-being of Colorado and the world. From promoting Colorado businesses through an entrepreneurial T-shirt company to designing innovative ways to speed the psychotherapy process for veterans, our alumni are using the skills they learned here to effect change.

In so many ways, our alumni are partners in CU Denver's accomplishments and impact. Thank you for the work you do in your community, and please do keep us apprised of your experiences and achievements. Your insight serves as encouragement and inspiration to thousands of others.

Best,

Don Elliman
Interim Chancellor
Horizon Highlights

Faculty members receive Distinguished Professor designation

Two University of Colorado Denver faculty members have been recognized as Distinguished Professors, the highest faculty honor at the university. Distinguished Professors are leaders in their fields who are recognized for their outstanding contributions in teaching, research, distinguished scholarship or creative work, and service to the profession, university and community.

CU President Bruce D. Benson reviewed nominations and, with a unanimous recommendation from a committee of Distinguished Professors, forwarded the candidates to the Board of Regents.

Honorees are:

WAYNE CASCIO, Ph.D., professor of management at the Business School. Cascio has been teaching for 30 years at the Business School and holds the Robert H. Reynolds Chair in Global Leadership. He is considered a leading expert on organizational downsizing. He has won numerous honors, including the highest award in his field, the Michael R. Losey Human Resource Research Award.

PETER DELEON, Ph.D., professor of public policy in the School of Public Affairs. Considered a national and international leader in public policy analytics, deLeon has been a major figure in shaping South Korea’s current public policy. His work has greatly contributed to the School of Public Affairs’ rise in national recognition. Both professors were honored by the University of Colorado Board of Regents at its September meeting. Sixty-five Distinguished Professors have been chosen since the program’s inception in 1977.

University’s NVTI Celebrates New Contract and 25 Years

In September 2011, the University of Colorado Denver’s National Learning Center (NLC) was notified of its successful bid to continue operating the National Veterans’ Training Institute (NVTI), the only national training facility for military veteran job specialists. The five-year, $12 million contract from the U.S. Department of Labor, Veterans’ Employment and Training Service enables NVTI to continue to train service providers who work with veterans in employment offices nationwide, as well as military personnel in transition sites worldwide. Bob Tolsma, the assistant vice chancellor for academic technology and extended learning, oversees the NLC and said that the award is the largest federal contract at CU Denver’s downtown campus.

CU Denver and the NLC have held the contract since the program’s inception. To date, more than 50,000 direct service providers have been trained by the institute. NVTI is nationally recognized as the preeminent training facility for specialized employment topics as they relate to veterans and military staff. NVTI Director VAUNE SHELBOURN says, “We are proud of the work that is done each year to make this contract successful and to serve those who have served or are serving this country.”

Controversial activist visits CU Denver

An audience of nearly 500 filled the Tivoli Turnhalle in November for an hourlong talk by Michael Moore. His Denver appearance — part of a national tour to promote his new book, Here Comes Trouble: Stories from My Life — was co-sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver and the Community College of Denver.

Moore shot to fame in 1989 with his documentary Roger and Me about the plight of auto workers in his hometown of Flint, Mich. He galvanized himself as a left-leaning provocateur with the 2002 documentary Bowling for Columbine, a commentary on America’s gun culture springboarding off the tragic events at the Littleton, Colo. high school in April 1999. Moore said he’s long been troubled by the image that day of a solitary man who, after standing behind the police tape for an hour, broke through and ran toward the school before being tackled by police. He noted that in America today, as evidenced by the current Occupy Wall Street movement, there’s less willingness to stand on the sidelines.

“I don’t think people are as willing to stand behind the line and do as we’re told anymore,” the filmmaker commented to a supportive crowd.

Moore also touched on themes prevalent in his films: health care, tax rates for U.S. corporations, and the inaction of government. He closed to loud applause, saying, “Democracy is not a spectator sport. It’s a participatory event. It doesn’t work if you’re on the bench. Everybody off the bench! That’s the only way we’re going to win.”

Vested in Education

The Alumni Association and Chancellor’s Office recognized 94 students as Academic Athletes at a reception on Oct. 14 in the Lawrence Street Center’s Terrace Room. These hardworking undergraduates maintained a 4.0 GPA for two semesters while carrying 12 credits or more each semester. Awardees were presented with a fleece vest and received tuition credits based on the number of years they have qualified. Academic Athletes who maintained this designation received a pin for subsequent years. Since the inception of the program in 1994, 925 students have earned the honor.
Gloria Schoch at home in both cultures

GLORIA SCHOC, MPA ‘08, loves to dance, and thank goodness. Her work requires her to glide elegantly from the private sector to the nonprofit world and back, influencing legislation in several states and building communities along the way.

Schoch is director of public affairs for First Data Corp., a global leader in payment solutions for businesses. In that capacity she works as a lobbyist, helping write legislation and teaching policymakers about how First Data works. She also helps develop public/private sector partnerships to strengthen communities.

“It’s an opportunity to align our business objectives with community needs,” she says. The company provides incentives for employees to volunteer and seeks partnerships with nonprofits doing good things in their communities.

“We grow when businesses and communities grow, so it makes sense to be a good corporate citizen. It’s a win-win.”

Schoch went to work for First Data Corp. in 2005 while she was working on her MPA. One of her instructors in the School of Public Affairs (SPA), MARIO HERNANDEZ, worked at Western Union, a First Data subsidiary at the time. He encouraged Schoch to apply for an opening for manager of community relations.

“In Gloria, I saw a person with great enthusiasm and a positive outlook who was eager to learn,” says Hernandez. “She was very interested in improving her skills and getting more knowledge that she could use in her work.”

Schoch, who is fluent in Spanish, developed partnerships between First Data, communities, and the federal, state and municipal governments in Mexico to encourage economic development and job creation there.

The Latin American connection is a natural for her, as is her commitment to community development. Her parents met when her father was serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia. Schoch says after the Peace Corps, her father remained involved in community development activities across the country and abroad. As an immigrant to the United States, Schoch’s mother always felt a responsibility to give back to her community.

Schoch pursued the nonprofit concentration while at SPA. For her capstone, she did a needs assessment for the City and County of Denver on the Denver Coalition for Integration, making recommendations on ways to improve its performance in providing educational opportunities to immigrant and refugee families.

She was director of public relations at the Museo de las Americas when she began her MPA and says she always assumed she’d remain in the nonprofit sector. But, to her surprise, “the School of Public Affairs opened the door for a career in the private sector.”

Among Schoch’s first tasks was to build the First Data Foundation.

“My nonprofit concentration was invaluable to me,” Schoch says. “We were building a global foundation from the bottom up.”

Employee volunteers at First Data teach at schools, helping the next generation become skilled entrepreneurs and financially literate members of the community.

“Ultimately our employees are our number one resource, and we want them to be proud of their employer,” Schoch says. “A significant indicator of employee morale is how well a company gives back to the community.”

Her work developing public policy for the financial industry is considerably more complex.

“I work closely with the compliance department, the legal team and the folks who manage products and services,” she says. “I think we’ve done a very good job of building bridges between the company and policymakers so we can communicate what we do and they can make informed decisions on issues affecting our business,” she says. “It takes lots of meetings, lots of patience.”

Schoch travels to eight or 10 states each year during legislative sessions, helping draft legislation and educating policymakers about the financial services industry.

Despite all her work travel, Schoch still loves to travel for fun. She studied anthropology as an undergraduate at the University of Colorado Boulder. “I’ve always been fascinated by different cultures and environments,” she says. Last fall she spent a month traveling to Brussels, Warsaw, Ankara, Istanbul, Sofia and Berlin as an American Fellow through the German Marshall Fund of the United States. And her family has made many visits to South America over the years.

Last year, 160 of her mother’s relatives gathered for a family reunion near Bogotá. They rented a hotel in town to accommodate the large group for the four-day celebration and hired live bands to perform each night. “We danced salsa and merengue until dawn,” she says. “I love to dance.”

Gloria Schoch, MPA ‘08, director of public affairs for First Data Corp.
Counseling and healing soldiers and their families

BRIAN DUNCAN, MA counseling ’02, founder and CEO of Warrior Support Center and A Family Harbor counseling offices in Colorado Springs, is a pioneering force in the counseling world. He and his team of licensed social workers, counselors and psychologists have reshaped the idea of what counseling facilities can be for military personnel and their families.

In 2009, Duncan had the idea to create a calming, welcoming, efficiently run mental health center specifically designed to provide the best possible care for troops, veterans, spouses and their children. “Soldiers and their families are courageous by nature and willing to work hard to overcome barriers in life,” said Duncan. “I believe they need an environment to heal that is far different from the average community mental health clinic. They need the support of therapists who understand military life and stresses in great detail.” Duncan’s wife encouraged him to take a risk and follow his passion. They sold their house and used the proceeds to start Warrior Support Center, which opened its doors with a staff of three counselors.

The center filled a need for Fort Carson military personnel coming off post needing extra support, who felt comfortable confronting their stresses in an off-base setting. In its first two years, the center expanded from three to 19 therapists, with 1,000 patient visits and 90 new patients per month. “Now we’re at 27 therapists,” said Duncan. “Soldiers come to us to get better, and their spouses and children need support as well. Many of our clients come back from war and want to learn how to become better parents. Other families are dealing with deployment anxieties, post-traumatic stress disorder or substance abuse issues. We keep expanding and improving our services to meet their needs: individual counseling, couples counseling, family counseling, post-traumatic stress disorder support, substance abuse treatment, anger and commitment therapies, outpatient and inpatient capabilities, parenting support groups, play therapy, learning help for children, yoga to help heal post-traumatic stress disorder … the list goes on. We provide very professional attention quickly, efficiently and with multiple providers under the same roof.”

In 2011, the family care unit of Warrior Support Center spun off as a nonprofit called A Family Harbor. If you enter the office of A Family Harbor, you will probably be greeted by Rosie, the pet therapy dog. A local animal shelter adoptee, Rosie is now officially ranked as a lieutenant colonel in the Army. She trained at Fort Carson and was deployed to re-engage wounded soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most recently, Rosie’s military service involved helping to close out the 4th Infantry Division of Fort Carson in Iraq. Soldiers say that Rosie’s presence in the war zone helped put the world together and was often much more beneficial than any type of medication. “Rosie helps our patients ground themselves by demanding normalcy, walks, affection and life. For someone who is lost in bad experiences, she is pure joy.”

Throughout the growth and big changes in his centers, Duncan remains nimble, adaptable and enthusiastic. “It’s amazing to witness our clients’ lives change through therapy,” he said. “You can see wonderful results in the waiting rooms. By bringing the right people together, lives that were visibly in chaos are measurably changed for the better.”

For more information, please visit www.warriorsupportcenter.com or www.afamilyharbor.org.

Duncan credits his counseling success in part to two individuals he met while at CU Denver. DR. TRACY TODD supervised his counseling internship, providing superb insight into client care, insurance company paperwork and collecting and analyzing patient outcomes. His most poignant memory is from his last day of the counseling practicum in the Student and Community Counseling Center. “Professor DIANE ESTRADA gave me an assignment on my very last day of class because I had a reaction to a very difficult family situation. Even to the last moment, Professor Estrada was actively engaged with me and my professional identity. Her message to me was clear: Learning and growing never stops. That lesson has stuck with me.”
Diners, drive-ins and T-shirts

*ANDREA BURNS, MBA ’09,* didn’t get an MBA to become a purveyor of T-shirts. But after writing a business plan in her Social Entrepreneurship class for a company that would feature Colorado landmarks and lounges, the temptation to actualize the concept was just too great.

“We live in T-shirts,” Burns explains of the decision she and her husband, Todd Culter, made to start LoyalTee.

“We love great graphics, and it bothered me that Old Navy sold shirts with imaginary places on them, and people wear them as if they’re real. It occurred to us that there’s something wrong about that.”

Bouncing around the idea of a locally focused, boosterish T-shirt company (similar to companies such as Chicago’s Retro Rags Collection and Destee-Nation Shirt Company out of Seattle), the couple and their friends brainstormed a host of ideas for shirts in minutes.

“Think about all the amazing places in your community you could be promoting on your own body instead of a fake corporation, which just has a good design.”

Combining aspects of the buy local movement, environmental sustainability and a passion for graphic tees, Burns and her husband launched LoyalTee in 2010 with their first shirt, honoring the Tivoli building on the Auraria Campus.

Featuring a historic label for Tivoli Beer, the shirt is designed and printed locally using water-based ink on an American Apparel blank tee and comes with a retro (and mailable) postcard hangtag with information about the Tivoli’s past.

Burns, who serves as community relations manager for the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, initially sought the advanced business degree to augment her knowledge of public relations with a foundation in technical business and emphases in marketing and sustainability. “I wanted to be able to have those conversations,” she says, “and sit at the table with people who have that expertise. I didn’t go to business school to start a business, but to learn. I never would have had the courage to start a business, and wasn’t even interested in doing that.”

Since the debut of the Tivoli shirt, they’ve added tees for beloved locales such as the Stadium Inn, Mile High Stadium (the original), Bonnie Brae Tavern, Johnson’s Corner, the Moose Jaw in Frisco and a vintage-looking Colorado flag shirt, among others.

Establishments, such as Stella’s Coffeehaus on South Pearl Street, that agree to work with LoyalTee receive 10 percent of T-shirt sales, approval of the design and the opportunity to sell T-shirts without having to produce them. Similar proceeds from T-shirts where the featured entity no longer exists, such as the upcoming Ski Train shirt, will benefit a nonprofit organization. The Tivoli Restoration Fund at Auraria, for example, received the largesse from the Tivoli shirt.

LoyalTee fields T-shirt suggestions on its website. By far the biggest request? Casa Bonita. Burns says they’re working on it.

LoyalTee shirts are sold at a smattering of brick-and-mortar locations and on the company website, loyalteeshirts.com.

Building bridges with China

BY FALL 2012, as many as 50 seniors from the Northeast Forestry University (NEFU) in Harbin, China could be enrolled in CU Denver’s Department of Civil Engineering, where they will spend their final year taking design courses while earning a bachelor’s degree from NEFU. They may also stay an extra year to earn master’s degrees in a program called 3+1+1. Educators responsible for forging the partnership hope this will be the first of many as CU Denver pursues a goal of increasing international student enrollment from 6 to 10 percent.

Students from China are an obvious untapped market, says Department Chair KEVIN RENS, but also a natural fit. “Chinese education is strong in basic sciences, but not as strong in applied sciences such as designing a bridge or a building,” he explained. “At CU Denver, we are strong in applied sciences. We hope to develop a marriage between the two to capitalize on those strengths.”

Rens describes Harbin as a big city so far north that parts of it are north of Russia, with extreme winters and Russian cultural influences. While CU Denver students may not relish the idea of a similar exchange, he said, “We are trying to establish a three-week intensive course for our students.” Also under discussion is a joint senior design project, with students in both countries working together and visiting each other’s campuses.

“This will greatly enhance the experience for both our students and the Chinese students,” said Marc Ingber, dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science. “We expect this agreement will lead to additional educational exchanges and research collaborations.”

...we hope our education of engineering specialists will further our international partnerships, open doors to collaborative research and funding, and establish the college as a leader in sustained internationalization.”

The bond with NEFU came about naturally. CU Denver Assistant Professor CHENGYU LI graduated from NEFU, which has 28,000 students, and since 2005 has gone back to teach summer seminars, twice taking Rens with him.

“We have two PhD students [from NEFU], and a very good relationship,” Li said.

The College of Engineering and Applied Science is in a position to help economies throughout the world with problems such as infrastructure, energy and sustainability, said CAROLYN NORTH, assistant vice chancellor of International Affairs. “Especially at the graduate level, we hope our education of engineering specialists will further our international partnerships, open doors to collaborative research and funding, and establish the college as a leader in sustained internationalization.”
University of Colorado Denver professor and biologist **GREG CRONIN** is working to popularize aquaponics, a breakthrough sustainable-agricultural system that produces food in small areas without soil, pesticides or pollution.

As the associate professor recently told a group of middle school students on a field trip to CU Denver, “Air is free and readily available, water is cheap and readily available, but food is expensive.”

He believes aquaponics, which combines aquaculture (raising fish and seafood in tanks) with hydroponics (cultivating plants in water), can provide a more sustainable food source than what is typically available.

Cronin was inspired by a workshop at the Urban Farm in Stapleton, Colo., led by aquaponics creator Will Allen, whose work landed him among Time magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2010. Cronin witnessed how aquaponics takes nutrient-rich water from fish tanks and pumps it through hydroponic systems to grow vegetables. Healthy edible plants grow above, and the fish below can be eaten too.

Trained as an aquatic ecologist, Cronin knew that most water pollution comes from agricultural runoff. So he was intrigued by Allen’s workshop, which offered a unique way to grow crops without damaging ecosystems.

Cronin travelled to the University of the Virgin Islands in St. Croix, where modern aquaponics was founded, for the International Aquaponics Workshop. Following that trip, Cronin stopped in Haiti to work on agricultural and ecosystem projects while providing humanitarian assistance.

“I was surprised at what large amounts of food can be grown in a small amount of space,” Cronin said. “The lab grew 50,000 pounds of fish and a quarter million pounds of vegetables per acre, per year.”

Aquaponics requires a water supply, piping, fish food and a pump with an energy source. In other words, it can be built with local supplies and assembled within a small area.

“I’ve heard of people using old hot tubs,” said Cronin.

Traditional agricultural practices require much more space, which can lead to the destruction of wildlife habitat. Land that is farmed using traditional practices can degrade through desertification, and the runoff often carries pesticides into aquatic ecosystems.

According to Cronin, aquaponics is more sustainable, more efficient and doesn’t even require soil for crops. “It’s a win-win environmentally,” he said. “It doesn’t release any pollution into the environment.”

In addition, a wide range of plants can be grown in an aquaponics system, including basil, beans, tomatoes and greens.

“Any food you can grow hydroponically, you can grow aquaponically,” said Cronin.

He has been trying to raise funds to bring aquaponics to developing nations, where he believes it can have a tremendous impact. He acknowledged that it can be expensive, but believes the economic effects, including job creation, could easily offset the cost.

“Aquaponics is a way for people to grow food locally,” he said, “a way for them to become more food-independent.”
ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING

Mile-high master builder

WHEN DAVID TRYBA, ENVD ’77, March ’81, returned to Colorado in 1988 after a stint at the high-profile architectural firm Beyer Blinder Belle in New York City, his home state was mired in recession. Though there was precious little work for architects at the time, he rightly suspected that his chances to take risks and put his stamp on the built landscape were better in the unlettered West, where hard work and merit counted more than who you knew at prep school.

What he didn’t know was that he “came to make a city.”

Those words, taken from the famous Thomas Hornsby Ferril poem “Elegant Dust,” grace the side of the LEED Gold-certified Wellington E. Webb Municipal Building complex, just steps away from the newly finished History Colorado Center, both designed by Tryba Architects.

Today, it’s almost impossible to find a corner of the city without an edifice touched by his company. From the Webb complex, which marries a midcentury modern-era office building with a new atrium, wing and 12-story curvilinear office tower near Civic Center Park; to the sparkling high-rise at 1900 16th Street in the Central Platte Valley; to Cherry Creek’s Clayton Lane, 9.5 acres of infill development that includes the JW Marriott Hotel, Janus headquarters, parking, Orvis, Crate and Barrel and a private pedestrian mall, Tryba’s work is helping to define the look of 21st-century Denver.

Much of that work is about context. Or, as Tryba puts it, “Architecture is about capturing the natural and human energy of a place and transforming that into something uplifting and positive.”

A case in point is the recently completed History Colorado Center at 12th and Broadway, which opened its doors at the end of April. Occupying a bustling street corner, the building’s floor-to-ceiling glass entrance looks out onto busy Broadway, where history could already be in the making. As a striking set piece in Denver’s Golden Triangle Museum District and Civic Center Cultural Complex, the center nods to its neighbors, the roofline echoing the mountains and Daniel Libeskind’s winged building at the Denver Art Museum. And, in a state enviable rich in natural beauty, the center’s building materials—from the winter-prairie-grass-colored exterior to the beetle-kill pine ceiling inside—identify this as a uniquely Colorado place.

The $110 million center is part of a project that involved the demolition of the iconic wedge-shaped building that once housed the Colorado History Museum at 13th Avenue and Broadway, where the new Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Complex now stands, and the relocation of the museum’s assets, History Colorado staff, the State Historical Fund, and the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to the new structure.

That Tryba Architects secured this commission is hardly surprising. A Colorado native, Tryba grew up in the shadow of Pikes Peak during the heady postwar years, when El Paso County was suffused with optimism as the U.S. Air Force Academy took shape to the north of Colorado Springs. He remembers as a kid being transfixed by the soaring Cadet Chapel, designed by Walter A. Netsch Jr., its 17 spires visible from miles away. Tryba points to a series of repeating horizontal fins on the history center building, a motif influenced by the graphic, modernist lines of Netsch’s chapel.

“There is this optimism or lack of cynicism here that allows people to achieve at the highest levels with no barriers of culture, history or society,” he says. “Colorado is really all about merit, how hard you work, how well you listen and your ability to do things for others.”

He got his first break in Denver from Regis Jesuit High School, where he designed the clean, handsome campus located in Aurora. After that, the only work available in Denver’s soft economy involved older buildings. Because of his experience doing historic preservation at Beyer Blinder Belle, he became the go-to resource for repurposing buildings such as Lower Downtown’s Morey Mercantile buildings, built in the 1880s, which now houses the Tattered Cover Book Store, residential lofts and other retail. He led the restoration of the Denver Tramway building, a National Historic Landmark, which involved working within Colorado Historical Society and National Park Service restrictions to transform the tired eight-story building into Hotel Teatro, a regular on “best hotels’ lists and the home of two Kevin Taylor restaurants. And, in collaboration with Hartman-Cox Architects, he revived the building at 16th and Market streets, a bombed-out wreck that’s been transformed into retail and office space and luxury condominiums.

As he weighs in on the finishing touches at the History Colorado Center—a group of designers and fabricators are debating the height and material of the benches that will rim the center’s lobby (Colorado Douglas fir or beetle-kill pine)—he says watching a building like this come to fruition is like being a parent. “You see these exciting things happen; you have these aspirations,” he explains, “and you’re working as team over a lot of years. It’s almost always the case, and it’s certainly true in this case, that the process and input makes for a better product. That’s why we like working in cities.”

Did you know... the University of Colorado alumni associations have scheduled an event at the History Colorado Center on July 26. See the back panel of this newsletter for details!
Alumni score big with Ilio

**MARK HISKEY**, BA Music and Media '85, always knew he wanted a career in the music business, but he had no idea it would intersect with some of the nation's top musicians and composers.

Hiskey came to CU Denver from Missouri for the mountains and the music business curriculum, and in the process met his wife, **SHELLY WILLIAMS**, BA Music and Media '86. “That was an added bonus,” he said with a laugh. She was a vocalist who focused on the business of music. He had been playing piano since childhood, yet knew that he didn't have the discipline to pursue a career in performance. Together they formed a record company called ELEVOX, making two vinyl albums before running out of money. But in ROY PRITTS computer music class, Hiskey discovered a way to compose without using traditional instruments.

That discovery would eventually lead to a successful business in virtual music. Hiskey and Williams, now in their late 40s, have found their niche supplying professional musicians with virtual instruments and sample files used to create film scores and recordings. Customers of their company, Ilio, have included rock star Sting, jazz greats George Duke and Herbie Hancock, hip-hopster Eminem and soundtrack composers Paul Haslinger (The Three Musketeers) and Danny Elfman (Tim Burton’s Alice in Wonderland), among others.

The Hiskeys got into the field in its infancy, almost by accident. They cut their teeth in CU studios using early Apple II systems “that were rudimentary, almost toylike by today’s standards,” said Hiskey. Within a very few years, technology had advanced considerably, bringing prices down and allowing more people to have access to audio workstations. “By 1985 they became affordable for people like me.”

After graduating, Hiskey took a job at Brown Bag Productions in Denver and spent four years there using synthesizers to make audio logos and music beds for radio and TV stations. He also composed sound bites for production companies, creating sounds he describes as “interesting ear candy” to enhance things that were happening on-screen.

After moving to Los Angeles in 1990, he used his skills to compose scores for video games, and while searching for professionally recorded violin samples, stumbled across the library of sample sounds that supported Synclavier synthesizers.

The high-end workstations had once been the gold standard for top musicians, but technological advances were eroding the company's market. “I thought, wouldn’t it be great to have those on my little cheap sampler?” Hiskey said.

Synclavier granted him a license for its library so he could reformat the samples to work on less expensive workstations, and in 1994 he and Williams started Ilio.

Within a year, other producers asked Ilio to distribute their products too, and now the company specializes in selling high-end products. They compete with four or five other major players, Hiskey said, “but as we have matured, we have found our own niches.” Williams describes their customers as famous film composers, musicians with hit records, producers, people writing music for the Internet and musicians in their home studios. The last category represents a growing audience, she said, as lone musicians can pull from entire orchestras to compose music in their second bedrooms.

“Many more people have a chance to make music the way they hear it in their heads,” she said. Adds Hiskey, “In the 1990s, people said that all this sampling would put orchestral musicians out of work, but it didn’t put an end to musicians working on film scores. Technology is just another way to create those scores. The more savvy musicians have been able to ride the change.”
Whether they were lovers of dogs, music, food or games, the University of Colorado Denver Homecoming Barbecue had something for everyone. The October 22 event at the Ninth Street Historic Park on the Auraria campus featured a dog parade with kickball, a barbecue, music by Chris Daniels and the Kings, face painting, balloon animals and other fun.

The College of Engineering and Applied Science hosted a kickball game Saturday morning as part of the Homecoming activities. Nearly 40 participants—faculty, staff and students—got in on the fun then headed over to the barbecue as a reward for all that running and kicking.

Altogether, more than 100 people turned out for the festivities, which preceded the Colorado Buffaloes vs. Oregon Ducks Homecoming game in Boulder. Shuttle buses ferried fans to the football game from Denver’s Market Street Station.

The “Real Dogs Love CU” dog games and parade drew the most participants. About 20 dogs of all sizes were entered in the costume parade, featuring pooches dressed as a bumblebee, turtle, hot dog, ladybug, leprechaun, Mr. T, Vincent van Gogh and several in university colors. Prizes were awarded to cutest dog, best school spirit, scariest dog and crowd favorites. The family-friendly dog event was sponsored by the School of Education & Human Development.

**Florie Montoya**, human resources staff and graduate student, attended with her family. They outfitted their dog Taylor, a West Highland terrier, in a CU T-shirt, hat and ribbons, which merited him the best school spirit prize. “Taylor is the cutest little CU mascot,” Montoya said.

**Joe Halter**, assistant director of student life, said the activities during Homecoming week, including Funny Field Day, were well-supported by students. He noticed that many more students are sporting University of Colorado Denver apparel on campus now that the university’s branding campaign has helped establish an identity.

“Getting the students out in an activity is huge for us,” Halter said. “That is a big emphasis: How do we create an identity here?”

**Joe Michel**, a senior at the university, enjoyed the Homecoming barbecue and concert along with several friends. “You have to start the tradition in order for it to become something,” said Michel. “It might build into something bigger next year.”
1970s

RHONDA LEMKE SANFORD, BA English ’75, MBA ’89 & MA English ’93, completed her Ph.D. in English in 1998 at the University of Colorado Boulder and has been promoted to professor of English at Fairmont State University in Fairmont, W.Va. Sanford also serves as secretary-treasurer of the International Spenser Society.

STEVEN MAFFEO, BA English ’76, is the associate library director at the Air Force Academy. He retired in 2009 as a naval reserve captain. His third book, The Perfect Wreck: ‘Old Ironside’ and HMS Java – A story of 1812 were published last summer.

SALLY PLANALP, MA Communications ’77, is the author of Communicating Emotion, which examines emotional communication from an interdisciplinary perspective. Her research focuses on interpersonal communication, emotion and health. She most recently applied her background to health care, focusing on communication at the end of life and the relationships between hospice volunteers and patients. Planalp will be teaching courses on interpersonal communication and relational communication at Kent State University.

1980s

MARIA SUTTON, BS Business ’82, is the area director for the U.S. Department of Commerce. Sutton oversees grants awarded to communities in her six-state area to assist in their economic recovery from major job losses or natural disaster. She has recently published a book, The Night Sky: A Journey from Dachau to Denver and Back, a memoir about her 43-year search for her father who disappeared shortly after her birth in war-torn Germany.

1990s

JOHN ANDERSON, MA History ’90, is the map librarian and director of the Louisiana State University Cartographic Information Center. He provided time-critical support to rescue and recovery operations after Hurricane Katrina and continues to provide research materials to scholars who are in the country studying the disaster and organizations involved in the rebuilding efforts.

CURTIS HOWARD, MCJ ’91, has served as an assistant to three Collin County district attorneys, chief of the Misdemeanor Division and most recently as chief of the Collin County District Attorney’s Crimes Against Children Division. He has taken the post of legal advisor to the Plano Police Department. Howard is originally from Longmont, Colo.

GARY MEGGISON, BS Civil Engineering ’81 and MBA ’94, former Alumni Association board member, is senior vice president at RJM and oversees the entire Denver team. Prior, Meggison was the senior vice president at the Weitz Company.

BARBARA COOPER, MA Supervision & Curriculum ’95, assumed the role of deputy superintendent for the Huntsville, Ala. school system. Previously Cooper was the chief equity and engagement officer for Aurora Public Schools in Aurora, Colo.

ELIZABETH HAUSLER, MS Environmental Sciences ’93, is the founder and CEO of Build Change has been recognized as one of the three US Social Entrepreneurs of the Year for 2011, by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, for her organization’s innovative work and social impact. Build Change is changing practices of home building in earthquake-prone regions to engage citizens, set in place new and lasting practices, and influence the adoption of improved building codes to ensure that earthquake-resistant construction becomes a common practice.

GAIL MOEN, BS Psychology ’97, has been working as a Realtor with Home Real Estate in Colorado since 2005.

NEJEEBKHAN RAYAMMARAKAR, MA Urban Design, ’97, is one of the founders and is managing director of KGD Architecture in India.

JEANNE DESAUTELS, MSHA & MBA Health Administration ’99, is the vice president of managed care and the vice president of operations for OrthoLink Physicians Corp/United Surgical Partners Int'l, Inc. overseeing the operations of six surgery centers in the Denver Market. Desautels works on the board of the Colorado Ambulatory Surgery Center Association and resides in the Denver area with her husband and two young children.

ERIKA REYES, BA Communications ’99, has joined the Denver Human Services (DHS) communications team as its marketing and communications manager and oversees DHS’ internal communications, strategic planning, public awareness campaigns and special projects. Reyes also serves as the bilingual spokesperson for the department. She works on several boards and committees including the Circle of Latina Leadership and Hispanic Chamber’s Young Leaders Group. Reyes earned an MBA from Regis University.

2000s

CHARMAINE BRITTAINE, Ph.D. Public Administration ‘00, was recently honored with the Distinguished Services in Training award from the National Staff Development & Training Association, an affiliate of American Public Human Services Association. Currently, she is a senior associate at the Butler Institute for Families at the University of Denver.

TINA GARBIN, MA Social Science ‘01, is the director of communications at the Children’s Hospital Colorado Foundation. Prior, Garbin was director of marketing at Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains for 12 years.

DARYL HILL, BA Creative Arts, ’02, is in process of having his film, Transcendence, produced. The trailer for this film is available for viewing on YouTube.com.

MURUGAN PALANI, BS Information Systems ‘02, was named one of the Denver Business Journal’s “40 under 40.” Palani is the manager of supplier diversity at Xcel Energy.

ANNE DAVIES, MPA ’03, is director for communications and community relations for Denver Options, Inc.

SUZANNE DISCENZA, PhD Public Affairs ’04, was awarded the Marcia P. "Marcy" Crowley Service to the Section for Women in Public Administration award in March. The award was given at the American Society for Public Administration Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV and honors outstanding service to SWPA. Discenza is the associate professor and director of Park University’s Master of Healthcare Leadership Program. Currently living in Kansas, she serves on numerous boards and committees of Kansas City organizations.

LINDA THEUS-LEE, MS Social Science ‘04, is one of the recipients of the 2012 Thomas Jefferson Award. The Jefferson Award recognizes University of Colorado faculty, staff and students who demonstrate excellence in the performance of regular academic responsibilities while contributing outstanding service to the broader community. Theus-Lee is a program assistant and event coordinator for CU Denver’s Business School, and her volunteerism includes developing and implementing a reading program at the Ford Warren Library, and mentoring girls at the Gilliam Youth Services Center and the Jefferson County Correction Facility in Colorado.

HARRISON BLISS, MBA ’05, is the president of Spruce Mountain Meadery. Turning a passion for mead into a thriving business, Spruce Mountain Meadery has participated in the Castle Rock WineFest and the Manitou Springs Wine Festival.

JACK BUTLER, MENG ’05, has been elected president of the International Urban & Regional Information Systems Association for 2013.

TIFFANY JONES, MA Social Science ’06, is the owner of Denver Sexology. She facilitates intimate relationship workshops for individuals, couples and small
groups as well as offering sexual Relationship coaching. She is the author of, Our Vacation Sex: From A-Z and currently writes for Examiner.com.

DAVID MAISEL, BFA Film '08, is currently developing his first feature-length film. His production company, Dancing Cat Productions, LLC has produced shot, and edited a number of music videos, documentaries and film shorts. He is also the author of the book, The Independent Movie Producer's Cookbook.

MARIO MONTOYA, BA Philosophy '08, is serving as the senior Spanish interpreter and unit supervisor for the General Pediatrics Unit at University of New Mexico Children's Hospital.

ANNEKA PATEL, MPA '08, has joined the Downtown Environment Department as the transportation outreach coordinator. She is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Downtown Denver Partnerships transportation outreach programs.

SHARON SHERMAN, PH.D. Educational Leadership/Innovation ‘08, provides volunteer services at the new Women's Resource Center at University of Colorado Denver.

ANNA SPENCER, MBA '10, is a founder and managing director of Denver Ski Bus, a weekend ski shuttle service from Denver and Boulder to Winter Park and Copper Mountain ski resorts. Spencer is also a co-owner of Valley Taxi, Inc. in Winter Park.

In memoriam

1970s
LARRY KUNCIS, BS Accounting '70, died September 2, 2011.
JAMIL NEHME, BS Engineering '71, died August 22, 2011.
RUFUS IKNER, BS Business '74, died July 6, 2010.
GEORGE PEASE, Master Urban Planning '74, died July 2, 2011.

1980s
WANDA [GRIM] STEPHENS, BA Economics '75, died December 6, 2011.
BARBARA DIANA, BS Physics '78, died February 1, 2012.
LEWIS NEWMAN, JR., MPA '78, died November 16, 2011.
RICARDO TRUJILLO, MS Health Administration '78, died August 14, 2010.

1990s
YU-CHUNG LI, MA Education '90, died September 23, 2011.
TODD ZINKE, BA Communication & Theatre '90, died August 25, 2011.
JOAN FUTCH, MS Health Administration '91, died March 19, 2011.
JASON MELFI, MPA '96, died October 2011.

2000s
LINDA ATTERIDG, MA Counseling '00, died March 6, 2011.
ROBERT ELLSPERMAN, BA '66 and Specialist in Education '00, died July 6, 2011.
BETH ANN ST. CYR, MA Curriculum '02, died July 7, 2011.
KATHLEEN (CALO) TARLETON, MS Health Administration '03, died November 18, 2011.
ASIF AHMED, BA Economics '04 and MS Accounting '08, died July 19, 2011.
ANDREA ROAN, BA LICN '11, died December 16, 2011.

MARY KIRCHER, MA Elementary Education '86, died August 14, 2011.
SHAWN SMITH, BM Music and Media '86, died October 15, 2011.
LOUIS DAUNORA, Public Administration '87, died May 8, 2011.
MARK MEHALKO, MPA '87, died August 28, 2011.

Submit your class note online www.ucdenver.edu/classnotes
CU Denver Alumni Association
Annual Meeting
Sunday, June 10, 2012 | 4 p.m. | Wynkoop Brewing Company

Meeting: Free and open to all alumni. Agenda: Election of officers and board members, committee reports, bylaws amendments and other business that may come before the members. Optional reception following: $15 per person. Please register by Friday, June 1.

3rd Annual All Colorado Alumni Career Fair
Tuesday, June 12, 2012 | 12–5 p.m. | Marriott Denver Tech Center

Alumni and career offices for colleges and universities across the state are joining together to host the third annual career fair for their graduates. Employers from a variety of industries will be present to meet outstanding alumni to fill professional positions requiring three plus years of experience.

Registration is required, but the event is free. Please register by Friday, June 8. Questions? Contact the Career Center at 303-556-2250 or www.ucdenver.edu/UCDalumnievents.

CU at the History Colorado Center
Thursday, July 26, 2012 | 6–8 p.m. | History Colorado Center

Enjoy a reception with fellow alumni and their families as you embark on a journey through museum exhibits in the new History Colorado Center located at 12th and Broadway.

Tickets are $12 per adult and $8 for kids ages 6 - 18. Children 5 and under are free. Please register by July 19.

CU Denver Campus Block Party
Thursday, August 23, 2012 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m. | Lawrence Street Education Corridor (between 14th & 15th Streets)

CU Denver kicks off the fall semester with a W.O.W. (Weeks of Welcome) celebration on the Lawrence Street Education Corridor between the CU Denver and new Business School Buildings. Join faculty, staff and students for the festivities with food vendors, give-a-ways and fun!

Entrance to the Block Party is free and registration is not necessary.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
OR TO REGISTER FOR AN EVENT:
www.ucdenver.edu/UCDalumnievents or
303-315-2333

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
CU Denver Alumni Association

SUBMIT TO:
CU Denver Alumni Relations
Campus Box 189
P.O. Box 173364
Denver, CO 80217-3364

QUESTIONS:
303-315-2333
Fax: 303-315-2332
UCDalumni@ucdenver.edu

SPRING 2012 WHAT’S INSIDE

President Obama introduces student loan and debt reduction plan to CU Denver community

History Colorado Center

Mile-high master builder David Tryba shows off a reality

LoyalTee’s owner makes business class project a reality

For military veterans and their families, Alumni Brain Drain Escapes consumming setbacks

President William M. Resafa introduces student loan and debt reduction plan to CU Denver community