Academy Award dream:
Former College of Arts & Media student shares Oscar for “Frozen”

IN 2013, JEFF GIPSON watched the Academy Awards and thought to himself, “Wouldn’t it be great to work on a film that actually won one of those awards?”

By the following March Gipson was posing for photographs with the Oscar for Animated Feature Film won by Walt Disney Animation Studios for “Frozen.” It was the first film that Gipson, a former student in the College of Arts & Media 3D Graphics and Digital Animation program, worked on since he had arrived at Disney 12 months ago. But even though success came quickly for him, the long and winding journey to his current position could make a good plot for, well, a Disney animated feature film.

“YOU HAVE TO TRUST YOUR GUT”

Gipson credits two professors for helping him make a transition from studying architecture to studying digital animation. He first spoke with FRED ANDREAS, assistant professor in the College of Architecture and Planning. “He told me, ‘You have to trust your gut,’” Gipson said. “‘You have to do what will make you happy.’”

Gipson then consulted with HOWARD COOK, MFA, director and assistant professor in the Digital Animation Center in the College of Arts & Media. “Howard is awesome,” Gipson said.

FROM TRINIDAD, COLORADO TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

The son of a gunsmith father and musician mother, Gipson started as an aspiring artist and avid bicycle motocross (BMX) freestyle rider in Trinidad, Colorado. He picked up two associate degrees at Trinidad State Junior College, one in civil engineering technology and one in science. Then, he headed north to CU-Boulder, where he completed a bachelor’s degree in environmental design in 2008.

Gipson’s interest in architecture started in Trinidad, where, as a high school student, he combined his love of art with his interest in skateboarding and BMX to design and build a skateboard park. In 2008, with an architecture degree under his belt, he moved to San Diego for a three-year stint with a company that designed and built skateboard parks around the world.

FROM ARCHITECTURE TO DIGITAL ANIMATION

By 2011, Gipson decided that he wanted to own his own company. He returned to CU, this time in Denver, as a student in Colorado’s only graduate architecture program. It was not long before he realized he had made a mistake.
Brazilian scholars get kick out of CU Denver

While the World Cup was drawing global attention in Brazil this summer, in Denver dozens of Brazilian students were focused on a different prize: enhancing their education.

As many as 60 standout Brazilian students enrolled at CU Denver this summer and fall through the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program. The South American influx comes courtesy of the Brazilian government’s larger effort to grant 100,000 scholarships to the country’s best students to experience American life and critical reflection, cultural diversity, participation in programs—which are in abundance at CU Denver.

The high-quality English as a Second Language (ESL) Academy, coupled with the diversity of our student body, factored into Brazil’s decision to include CU Denver. “The ESL Academy fosters respect for cultural diversity, participation in American life and critical reflection,” said Marcel Bolintiam, acting director of the academy.

Like CU Denver students, the South Americans already have end goals in mind: where they want to be, what they want to do. “They’re probably one of the most motivated groups of students I’ve ever taught,” Bolintiam said.

Information about the program can be found at www.iie.org/Programs/Brazil-Scientific-Mobility/About.

Study shows links between city design and health

In a rare study of how street network design affects public health, researchers at CU Denver and the University of Connecticut have concluded that older, more compact cities promote more walking and biking and are generally healthier than many newer communities.

“Previously we had found that people drive less and walk more in more compact cities with more intersections per square mile,” said study co-author Wesley Marshall, assistant professor of engineering in CU Denver’s College of Engineering and Applied Science. “Now we’ve been able to link these city design qualities to better health.”

The results showed that increased intersection density was significantly linked to reduction in obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. The more intersections, the lower the disease rates.

“Over the course of the 20th century, we did a great job of engineering utilitarian active transportation out of our daily lives,” said Marshall. “While they were well-intentioned design decisions, they effectively forced people to make an effort to seek out exercise, and we are now seeing the health implications of these designs.”

“While it is possible to lead an active, healthy lifestyle in most any type of neighborhood, our findings suggest that people living in more compact cities do tend to have better health outcomes,” said Marshall. “This research is one more in a long line that demonstrates the myriad advantages of fostering walkable places.”

Did you know... The College of Arts & Media’s music business program at CU Denver was named as one of Billboard Magazine’s “11 best in the country.”

He reassured me that if I worked at it, I could be successful in animation. I wouldn’t have switched if he had not been so supportive.

In digital animation, Gipson found his true love. “The labs and facilities at CU Denver are top notch,” Gipson said. “The environment is supportive. You are constantly encouraged.”

FROM TRAINEE TO TEACHER

While studying digital animation, Gipson snared several highly competitive internships at both Pixar Animation Studios—creator of blockbusters such as “Toy Story,” “Finding Nemo” and “Monsters, Inc.”—and Laika, an animation studio in Portland, Oregon. In fall 2012, he headed to Ohio State University to teach digital animation, but his true ambition was to make films. “I decided to float my resume, just for the heck of it,” he said. Gipson still remembers opening the email from Disney telling him he had been accepted into their trainee program.

“I thought, ‘Oh my gosh, am I reading this right? Is this happening?’

Today, Gipson is no longer a trainee. In fact, he is supervising and mentoring new trainees at the studio. “We move and place lights in a 3-D scene,” he said. “We focus your eye, highlight the animation and make the final image. And we do it with computers.”

Students in the CU Denver Digital Animation Center sometimes send him their demo reels. “I give them feedback,” Gipson said, “because so many people helped me by giving me feedback along the way.”

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Gipson credits two professors for helping him make a transition from studying architecture to studying digital animation...
Fred Andreas and Howard Cook.
Glass in class

“#ifiHadGlass, I COULD SEE if it would make me a better teacher.”

With those words, ROBERT “BUD” TALBOT III, PHD, joined thousands of other Twitter and Google+ users making their case for participating in Google’s Glass Explorer program.

Aimed at people who want to try out Google’s wearable computer, the invitation to purchase Google Glass arrived by social media campaign last year. Early Project Glass recipients skewed heavily to celebrities (Newt Gingrich, Neil Patrick Harris) and users with a significant number of social media followers.

Talbot, an assistant professor of science education in the School of Education & Human Development (SEHD), had always embraced the use of technology in the classroom, ever since he started using interactive whiteboards and computer simulations as a high school physics teacher in the late 1990s. But Google Glass was in a league of its own, and Talbot was neither a Twitterati nor a member of the glitterati.

“I never thought anything would come of my application,” he said.

So when the email inviting him to receive Glass arrived in December, Talbot was both surprised and delighted.

“First I thought, ‘Oh cool!’” he said. “Then I thought, ‘$1,500! No way is this going to happen.’”

But it did happen. Working with Brad Hinson, SEHD director of technology, teaching and learning, Talbot crafted a research plan for using Glass in the classroom. The two men combined resources from their respective research accounts to pay for Glass.

Talbot is also working with a developer to create Glassware (software for Glass) that teachers can use for taking attendance and documenting students’ work.

Talbot is not required to provide feedback to Google on his experience and research with Glass, but he has launched a Google+ page posting some research data and general thoughts about using the wearable computer. While he admits interest in using technology in the classroom, he does not have a preconceived opinion about the usefulness of Glass in class.

“Millions are being spent on putting iPads in students’ hands, but do they really contribute to student learning?” he asked. “Wearable computers are the next phase, but do we want to jump on the bandwagon? We’re doing this research with a skeptical lens, not a fanboy lens.”

Talbot laughs when he hears that. “Yes, my wife also says [Glass] fits my image as a geek,” he said.

When Talbot teaches, Glass records class discussions—every action, every word spoken—all from his point of view. What he sees and hears, Glass sees and hears—and saves.

Talbot hopes his research will answer these questions about Glass in class:

To what degree is the use of Google Glass feasible in the university classroom environment?

Is classroom audio and video recorded from the teacher’s point of view more informative than recordings from a camera positioned at the back of the room?

How can wearable technology help teachers provide rich feedback on student work and procedures?

How do students perceive the use and value of wearable technology in their classroom?

Talbot is already seeing the potential of Glass when providing feedback on students’ work. Now, instead of sending notes, a teacher can send a personal audio message with accompanying video made while looking over their work, complete with inflection that reinforces the feedback.

RESEARCH WITH A SKEPTICAL LENS, NOT A FANBOY LENS

Today, Talbot sports charcoal gray Glass as he teaches his students. “It becomes him,” said senior Rachel van Scoy.

“Millions are being spent on putting iPads in students’ hands, but do they really contribute to student learning?” he asked. “Wearable computers are the next phase, but do we want to jump on the bandwagon? We’re doing this research with a skeptical lens, not a fanboy lens.”

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STUDENT AND COLLEAGUE REVIEWS ESTABLISHED A POINT OF COMFORT

Anytime a teacher introduces new instructional tools into the classroom, there is a period of adjustment. The chalkboard, which arrived in American classrooms from Europe in 1801, might have seemed revolutionary at the time. The first computers in classrooms were often considered a distraction.

Talbot tries to take the novelty out of Google Glass by freely offering a test-drive to anyone who expresses interest. His students pass Glass around before class starts, tapping the side of the frame to take pictures, record video or change the information on a tiny monitor that floats above the right eye. By the time he starts teaching a class, it seems like Glass is part of the program. “He establishes a point of comfort with [Glass],” van Scoy said.

All students involved in the classes where Talbot is using Glass signed a consent form agreeing to participate in the research. An early survey of the students indicates that they do not find Glass to be a distraction in the class.

As for his colleagues, Talbot said most of them remain cautiously positive. “They say, That’s really cool, but I would never use that in the classroom,” Talbot said.

Talbot’s research may change their minds.
Business School brings together leaders to highlight mid-sized business sector

LIKE THE MIDDLE CHILD in a family, mid-sized businesses are the often-overlooked sector of the economy. But middle market businesses—companies with annual revenues of $10 million to $1 billion—are the main driver of the U.S. economy and will produce about 60 percent of all new jobs this year.

The Jake Jabs Center for Entrepreneurship at the CU Denver Business School shone light on this important sector at the September panel discussion “The Voice of the Middle Market.”

Business School Dean SUEANN AMBROH noted, “These days, as many of you know, Denver is a red-hot startup place. These companies, when they’re successful, will join this middle market group, and that is very much a positive.”

U.S. Representative Jared Polis delivered opening remarks. Polis’s 2nd District includes Boulder and Fort Collins, which join Denver among the hottest cities in the nation for business startups. The panel included Tony Stewart, executive director of the National Center for the Middle Market; Gary LaBranche, president and CEO of ACG Global; and James Kaufman, managing member of Mogul Advisors.

The Jake Jabs Center is leading the way in the region by providing guidance and support for startups, including those destined to become part of the middle market. In fact, the Center was established to foster economic development. One of its programs, the Startup Incubator, is focused on early-stage Colorado companies that successfully compete in the Center’s Business Plan Competition and meet certain other criteria for successful incubation.

To support the sector at the national level, Polis formed the Congressional Caucus for Middle Market Growth, which aims to give mid-sized businesses a voice in the public sphere and in Washington, D.C.

“Too often middle market companies simply don’t have the same kind of resources that big businesses have, nor the attention that is associated with small businesses,” Polis said. “So they have heretofore lacked a real strong and cohesive voice to shape policies of interest that benefit the entire community.”

To provide a detailed portrait of the sector, Stewart shared data collected from the National Center for the Middle Market. “The middle market represents 3 percent of all companies nationwide, but one-third of GDP and $10 trillion in annual revenue,” he said. “If it was an economy on its own, it would be bigger than Germany.”

He said the sector’s 6.6 percent revenue growth in the past 12 months and 3.2 percent employment growth are double the pace of the rest of the U.S. economy. “The revenue growth is nearly double that of the S&P 500, so if you want to see organic growth you look for it in the middle market.”

In the western United States, mid-sized companies have seen 7.2 percent revenue growth and 3.3 percent employment gains in the past 12 months. In Polis’s district, the sector accounts for 221 companies employing 80,000 people.

The panelists noted that middle market businesses tend to be customer-centric, conservative financially and less globally oriented than larger firms. About 85 percent of the companies are privately held.

LaBranche said the middle market grows jobs faster than any other sector but needs to ramp up awareness of its power. “It’s often easy to overlook, but the middle market has not approached Congress and the regulatory agencies with a singular focus,” he said. “If you’re not at the table, you’re what’s for lunch.”

The middle market discussion underscored the mission of the Jake Jabs Center and highlighted the Business School’s influence in supporting the state’s fertile startup scene.

“We have a business community that is absolutely firing on all cylinders,” Dean Ambron said. “What makes us relevant as a business school is our engagement with the business community. We have about 300 companies involved directly with the Business School, but what’s unusual and distinctive about us is we have industry-specific programs in the fastest growing industries in the Rocky Mountain West.”

Indeed, a scan of the school’s “Industry Programs” webpage reveals specialized programs focusing on global energy management, health administration, information technology innovation, integrating business practices and sustainability, risk management and insurance, sports and entertainment management—not to mention the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities.

“There are so many positive things going on. It’s not just one little thing—it’s happening all over the Business School,” Ambron said.

To stay current with the market, the Business School thinks about how companies are reinventing themselves. This self-evaluation process is one both the school and businesses must engage in on nearly a daily basis—because otherwise neither will remain relevant.

“The way [businesses] do it today is probably not going to be good enough for how they’ll do it tomorrow,” Ambron said. “Denver is at the right time and the right place to make amazing things happen, and we happen to have an amazing collection of faculty and students and alumni—what is the limit?”

“Think big and make amazing things happen,” Ambron concluded.
Inundated: Disasters keep Jo Donlin busy at Division of Insurance

First came the fires, then the floods and finally the health insurance exchange. For Jo Donlin, MPA ’96, director of external affairs for the Colorado Division of Insurance, it’s been a whirlwind couple of years. “Our mission is consumer protection,” Donlin says. “We want to make sure that the insurance carriers and their licensed agents follow all state laws and regulations, and that the companies remain solvent so they can pay the claims. We also help answer consumer questions and investigate their complaints to ensure they receive the benefits for which they pay.”

So when the fires and floods occurred, the workload grew exponentially. Then the health exchange launched on October 1, and the workload exploded. Donlin says the agency actually has been working on implementation of the Affordable Care Act for three years. “We regulate the whole health insurance market,” she says, “not just the plans sold in our state exchange, Connect for Health Colorado.” The agency approves all the plans being sold, their benefit structures and premium rates, and has started an outreach effort to help educate consumers about the changes.

“We want them to make better decisions and be better prepared when they need insurance the most,” Donlin says. One of the big challenges with the Affordable Care Act is to teach people who have never had health insurance how to use it. “We’re saying to people, ‘We can help you figure it out,’” she says. “We can also help you if your carrier doesn’t meet your expectations.”

We recover millions of dollars for consumers each year.”

The division is collaborating with several high-profile organizations to get the word out. It is working with the 9Health Fair, among other groups, to deliver its message to as large an audience as possible.

In addition to managing public outreach, Donlin is the agency’s main contact with the Colorado Legislature. She develops and coordinates legislative initiatives and does policy research and analysis.

Donlin says she “caught the legislative bug” when she was at Colorado College as an undergraduate. She worked as an intern for the chairman of the Joint Appropriations Committee of the Wyoming Legislature and loved the work. “Boy, did it shape my future.”

After graduation, she suffered a spinal cord injury and went home to recover. In 1993, she enrolled in the MPA program at the School of Public Affairs. “I really enjoyed my classes in ethics and the policy process,” she says. In 2008, she was hired for her current job at the Division of Insurance.

Donlin, who has been a quadriplegic and used a motorized wheelchair since her injury in 1990, says it “gives me a different lens through which I view the world.” For one thing, she says she understands the importance of having access to health insurance. “At 19, 20, 21, you think you’re invincible. I know I did. But I had health insurance, and thank goodness I did.”

Donlin says her injury has created plenty of challenges along the way, but it also has given her a heightened awareness of the importance of community service. “I really do think that giving back to the people who have helped me so much is important.”

Donlin is a member of the School of Public Affairs Advisory Board and is active in her church’s health and wellness ministry. She also has served on the board of Craig Hospital and continues to volunteer in various capacities. “A lot of people in my physical condition don’t have the opportunities I’ve had. I’ve worked extremely hard to make things happen, and I’m thrilled I’ve been able to do it,” she says. “I’m really blessed.”
ON A CRISP AFTERNOON in early September, Nan Anderson sat at a table fashioned out of a large slab of sandstone in the yard between two buildings that house the architectural firm she founded in 1990. Near the heart of downtown Golden, the two buildings, which are the physical home of what is now Anderson Hallas Architects, also represent the philosophic yin and yang of the firm's ideology.

The yard where Anderson, MArch '84, sits with a visitor is bordered by a thriving vegetable garden and is adjacent to a rehabilitated home that was turned into offices for the firm. The members of the young firm determined they would do the restoration themselves — and it was a useful learning experience. What did they learn? "Architects are really not very good at being contractors," Anderson said with a laugh.

But what Anderson may lack in skills with a hammer and level she more than makes up for with her passion for adapting and preserving some of the country's most striking historic buildings. In fact, this year she was elevated to the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) prestigious College of Fellows in recognition of her contributions to the field, based in large part on her design and historic preservation work.

Anderson's buildings can be seen all over the country, but her contributions to the board of Colorado Preservation, Inc. (CPI) especially got the attention of AIA. In her role as a board member and president, Anderson used her passion for saving and preserving Colorado's historic buildings to propel CPI to establish the Endangered Places Program and its associated Saving Places Conference. They are modeled after the National Trust for Historic Preservation's programs and its annual list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. Today the Saving Places Conference is the second largest preservation conference in the nation.

There is plenty of evidence of Anderson's passion. Spread out on the table in front of her are photographs of some of the projects she is most proud of. She picks up a photo, taken at sunset, of a long low building on the shore of a lake that reflects back the building's twinkling lights. It's Many Glacier Hotel in Glacier National Park, Montana. Photos of the interior reveal soaring vaulted ceilings and huge exposed beams accentuated by myriad hanging lights with a vaguely Asian feel. That's not how it looked before Anderson and her team arrived. For one thing, the great hall had been closed in by a drop ceiling.

For this project, as for most historic restoration efforts, Anderson and her team studied old photos to get a feel for what the original architects and designers intended. Photos of Many Glacier Hotel revealed the high ceilings and open feel, and something else surprising. The original lights in the great hall were paper lanterns.

This discovery is representative of challenges that are inherent in restoration work. Anderson had to find a way to re-create the feel of the original lighting. Not only did the new lights need to have the look of the originals—which meant finding materials that looked like paper—but they also had to be sustainable and able to accommodate a new generation of bulbs. Working at this level of detail means finding craftspeople and custom manufacturers who can work closely with Anderson and her team to ensure that every detail reflects the original.

"What we do is reinstate the former grandeur that gets dumbed down over the decades—but with a sustainable twist," Anderson said. Although the restoration isn't identical to the original, "the image is the same... And no one is going to be set on fire," she said in reference to the lighting. "Everything is custom down to the level of the nuts and bolts, literally."

Anderson's reference to sustainability raises the "yang" of the firm's focus, represented in the second of the buildings that house the Anderson Hallas offices. Located on the other side of the vegetable garden, it was a hotel but is now a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold-rated building, the second highest rating awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council. Although the firm directed the hotel renovation, this time they didn't try to do it themselves. However, they did use the work as an opportunity to experiment with some of the technologies they might recommend for future clients. These included a geo-exchange system for heating and cooling, a partially "green" roof, a rooftop photovoltaic system to generate electricity for the building and a pervious parking lot. In addition to the sustainable aspects of the building and its LEED rating, the result of this experiment was that "we've learned a lot about what we would never do with our clients," Anderson said.

At the end of the day it's Anderson's goal for the firm to have a balance between preservation work and developing sustainable buildings. "We shoot for an even balance because we think there are exciting challenges in both worlds," she said.

And every day Anderson has the opportunity to apply lessons she learned during her studies at CU Denver. "We had an exceptional class of people," she said. "We learned to challenge each other's assumptions and to push boundaries." The people she met and the lessons she learned during her graduate experience are never far away. Elizabeth Hallas, who is Anderson's co-principal at the firm, is also a 1998 CU Denver alum and currently serves as secretary of CPI. And Anderson met her husband, Dave, in graduate school. They graduated together, and he joined the firm in its early years. "We needed someone to be gainfully employed," she said.
Finding fossils—and fellowship—in East Africa

A STRING OF MYSTERIOUS FOOTPRINTS in a geologic layer more than 3 million years old routinely draws University of Colorado Denver students to East Africa. During their Tanzanian field school, they learn more about human origins and make unique connections with the people who still live in the cradle of humankind.

Each summer, Associate Professor CHARLES MUSIBA spends six weeks with students at Laetoli and Olduvai Gorge, two of the world’s most important fossil sites, working alongside paleoanthropology, geology and archaeology experts from Tanzania, England, Spain and the United States. Since 2006, 79 students have made the trek with Musiba.

This summer at Laetoli, CU Denver senior CHRIS SPEED spotted a long bone protruding from the bank of a dry riverbed. Heavy wet season rainfall had eroded the banks 3-million-year-old sediment, exposing the shaft of an upper arm bone and part of the humerus’s rounded head. His group returned with picks and brushes to extract the hominin fossil. It was taken to the National Museum of Tanzania with other bone fragments and teeth found by the group, but Musiba will retrieve those items on a one-year loan so his students can continue analyzing them back at CU Denver. Speed is already at work cataloging and mapping hundreds of animal prints left by antelope, guinea fowl, dik-dik, lions and even elephants. The group found them in the volcanic tuff next to the original Laetoli footprints.

Discoveries of this magnitude are not uncommon in the region. Mary and Louis Leakey gained fame for their work in Olduvai Gorge, where Louis believed humanity originated, and nearby Laetoli, where Mary found footprints preserved in volcanic ash, the earliest known record of human ancestors who walked upright. Musiba met Mary Leakey and primatologist Jane Goodall while growing up in Mwanza, just 350 miles northwest of the fossil sites, and he has spent decades seeking clues about human origins and the environmental changes that could have triggered evolutionary changes 1 to 4 million years ago.

For the past 15 years, Musiba has worked with Professor Cassian Magori of St. Francis University College of Health and Allied Sciences in Tanzania, and for the past six years he has directed CU Denver’s summer field school. At Laetoli, students spend more than eight hours a day methodically digging more than a foot underground into the volcanic tuff that blanketed the area 3.6 million years ago. The fine-ash layer is like wet cement after light rains fall, and it captured prints of animals and early hominids.

“It is the pinnacle of all sites because there is so much fossil material,” said ELICIA ABELLA, MA Biological Anthropology ‘14, who has participated for the past two summers. “There is this spirit that we’re all in this together. We’re trying to find specimens and collect as much as we can.”

While the site offers students access to research opportunities of almost incomparable anthropological richness, the field school also offers an experience that goes beyond academics. Just as critical to Musiba as the fieldwork is the opportunity to connect the students to the local communities around the field research station. His lifelong connections in Tanzania have made it possible for students to spend time in the villages of Endulen, Misigyo and Esere, with one group invited to participate in a 12-hour wedding ceremony. This year’s participants were asked to join a coming-of-age ritual for young Maasai men who were roughly their own age.

“As much as I enjoyed all of the archaeological pursuits, our interactions with the local Maasai were the most significant experiences for me,” said Speed, who left the ritual feeling honored to be invited. “The Maasai tribespeople were some of the most friendly individuals I have ever met.”
Drones 101: Course in unmanned aerial systems looks to the future

THE NEW CU Denver course Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) might, at first glance, look like Drones 101: The study of the unmanned aircraft often associated with hobbyists or international conflict. In fact, the course, a part of the Geomatics Engineering and Geographic Information Systems program in the College of Engineering and Applied Science, is an initiative to teach a new generation of scientists about applications and research opportunities afforded by unmanned aircraft.

“The university is looking to the future,” said JEFF COZART, who is teaching the course for the first time this fall. “I believe this is a skill set that a variety of people in different industries will need to know.”

THE REGULATIONS

How many people will need these skills and how they will be used remains a topic for discussion and some controversy. With an eye on safety, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prohibits routine operation of UAS over densely populated areas but does authorize limited use of UAS for important missions in the public interest.

Today, drones perform border and port surveillance by the Department of Homeland Security, help with scientific research and environmental monitoring by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, support public safety by law enforcement agencies and help state universities conduct research.

The FAA is under congressional orders to develop comprehensive regulations for drones to share the skies with commercial airliners by September 2015. “The FAA is being re-
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Aramark Sports & Entertainment
The Attic
Auraria Campus Bookstore
Balistreri Vinyards
Blunt Force Training
Bova's Italian Restaurant
Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
Capital Grille
Cheesecake Factory
Cherry Creek
Shopping Center
Colorado Avalanche
Colorado Ballet
Commgound
Golf Course
CrossFit Broadway
CU Denver
Chancellor's Office
CU President's Office
Denver Aquarium
Denver B-cycle
Denver Botanic Gardens
Denver Parks and Recreation
Denver Zoo
Dougherty's Pub
Elements
Restaurant & Bar
Elway's Cherry Creek
Enstrom Candies
File-N-Style
FirstBank
Four Seasons Hotel Denver
Frog's Leap Winery
GolfTec, Inc.
Hard Rock Café
Hexagon Investments
Scotty Hofer, MetaGolf
Learning Center
Hotel Monaco
Hyatt Regency
Convention Center
i2 Construction
Inkam Chanhivong, OHM Salon
Brian Johnson
Emilee Jones
Cathy Kaledo
Kate's Wine Bar
Kevin Taylor
Restaurant Group
Kong Company
Mary Jo Korschel
Kroenke Sports & Entertainment
April LaBosseiere, OHM Salon
Gideon LaFarge and Eleanor Harrison
Larimer Square
Mary Ellen Lewis
Little India
Lucky Strike
Denver Pavilions
Marlowe's
Martin/Martin
Consulting Engineers
Matrix Fitness and Spa
McBoat Photography
Diane Messamore
Mile High Framing
Mortenson Construction
Wendy M. Moser
Lynn Noguchi
Occasions Catering
Officescapes
Omni Interlocken Resort
Palm Restaurant
Paramount Café
Jeff Parker
Patxi's Pizza
Alon Paul for Alonica, Inc
Greg & Sandra Perkin
Kathryn Pistro
Susan Putland
Chris and Brandy Reitter
Residence Inn Denver
Rock Bottom
Restaurant & Bar
Row Fourteen
Safety, Inc.
Savory Spice Shop
Chessie Sheya
Sipping N' Painting
Sullivan's Steakhouse
Table Mountain Inn
Tables
The Tended Thicket
Toast
Keri Ungemah
Marie Ungemah
Matt and
Alejandra Urkoski
Clary Vaiana
Mario Vaiana
Viracon
Vito Pini Salon and Spa
Dennis Wack and
Manicia Ingersoll
Jessica Waggoner,
OHM Salon
The Westin Denver Downtown
Wise Moon Wellness
The Woodhouse Day Spa
Misty Winkler
Carole Wright

(Top photo) Alumni volunteers, administration and corporate sponsors recognize this year Alumni Association scholarship recipients.
(Right column, top to bottom) Alumni Liberty Mutual, Alumni Rock Bottom, Alumni Public Service Credit Union and Alumni FirstBank scholarship recipients thank their sponsors.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? The world moves at lightning speed these days, and we’d like to keep up with you. Share your news—promotions, awards or anything you find noteworthy—and let us know where you’ve been. You may also submit Class Notes online at www.ucdenver.edu/classnotes.

MAIL TO:
CU Denver Alumni Relations
Campus Box 189, P.O. Box 173364
Denver, CO 80217-3364
EMAIL to UCDalumni@ucdenver.edu
CALL 303-315-2333

Submit your class notes online: www.ucdenver.edu/classnotes

Did you know...CU Denver’s incoming freshmen class size is 1,354, a 17% increase from last year and a 25% jump from 2010. The number of undergraduates is up 3% from 2013.

1970s

DANIEL FERRARO, March 79, was originally licensed in Colorado. After moving in 1987, he became licensed in Wisconsin where he currently resides.

JEAN MESTRES SULC, MURP ’76, resides in South Carolina, after six years in the Washington, D.C./Virginia area. After serving as chair of the Savannah River Site Citizens Advisory Board and working on the Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration, Mestres Sulc traveled to Belo Horizonte and São Paulo, Brazil in 2012 and 2013 for two church missions.

1980s

LEONARD OLJJAR, BS Accounting ’87, was promoted to deputy director for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D.C., one of two printing plants that prints the nation’s currency. Oljar served as the bureau’s chief financial officer for the past seven years.

1990s

JOHN BRANNEY, MBA ’92, published his fourth novel, “Light Hidden by Darkness,” which takes place in an alternate world that people believe exists, but no one has ever visited and returned to tell about it. Branney retired from the oil and gas industry in 2011 and began his second career as an author. Other books by Branney include, “Shadows on the Trail,” “Ghosts of the Heart” and “Saving Miguel.”

ROBERT KAY, BS Finance and International Business ’90, had a story about his quest to climb Mount Everest air on Nebraska Public Radio (NET News) this past spring.

ADAM ODERBERG, BS Biology and Ethics ’99, celebrated his second year anniversary with Tandem MTM/Geriatric & Family Medicine as an ambulatory care pharmacist/IT consultant.

VILIS OZOLS, MBA ’92, is the head women’s volleyball coach for the NCAA Division I Niagara University Purple Eagles.

2000s

MICHAEL GREVE, MBA ’08, was named director of research & insights at We Are Social, a social media agency located in New York City.

KATHY HANSEN, MPA ’03, is a champion for the Tunaweza Fund, an arm of the nonprofit One World Children’s Fund. The Tunaweza Fund works to advance disability rights in one the most remote regions of Tanzania.

2010s

SPENSER BERNARD, BS Marketing ’11, was accepted into the Peace Corps as an urban youth development volunteer. Bernard will work with at-risk youth and will develop programs to support healthy and responsible lifestyles, including HIV/AIDS awareness.

GORDON HAMBY, BA Communication ’13, has opened a motivational speaking business called Verve Coaching.

JOSH THURMONT, MPA ’11, is the metro programs manager for the National Sports Center for the Disabled. Located in Denver, he will be executing winter and summer programs, in addition to creating new partnerships.

ANGELA “ANGIE” VAN BROEKHUizen, BFA ’12, is a visual information specialist for the National Park Service, Biologic Resource Management Department in Fort Collins, Colo.
In memoriam

1970s
MARY ANN N. ISBERG, BFA 78, died March 27, 2014.
WILLIAM B. JOHNSON, BS Accounting ’72, died July 15, 2014.
DAVID P. KELLY, BS Education ’72, died March 7, 2014.
ANTHONY D. PICCONE, MD, BA Biology ’78, died March 20, 2014.
BILL A. SHIRLEY, MBA ’79, died August 9, 2014.
TERRY W. SNIDER, BA Biology ’76, died August 24, 2014.
DOUGLAS W. STEWART, BA Biology ’77, died August 12, 2014.
JAMES L. WOODS, BS Accounting ’78, died April 30, 2014.

1980s
LARRY E. CORNWELL, MS Electrical Engineering ’81, died May 10, 2014.
WILLIAM M. HEMPHILL, MBA ’80, died June 22, 2014.
WILLIAM F. MUDON, BA English ’80, died June 12, 2014.
FRANK L. PARKER, MPA ’82, died December 24, 2013.
JIM R. PAUL, MS Health Administration ’86, died June 19, 2014.
KATHRYN T. QUIRK, MBA ’84, died April 1, 2014.
HONG VAN NGUYEN, BS Electrical Engineering ’87, died March 28, 2014.
JAMES M. WILLIAMSON, MCJ ’84, died March 15, 2014.

1990s
LORA L. BRONKEN, BS Chemistry ’97, died August 1, 2014.
JO ANNE COBB, MA Curriculum & Instruction ’96, died December 1, 2013.
WILLIAM J. ROPER, MS Information Systems ’90, died July 7, 2014.
GREGORY W. WIGGINS, BA Economics ’95 and MA Economics ’97, died April 1, 2014.

2000s
NOEL DEVIN, MPA ’05, died April 7, 2014.
RICHARD E. GREER, MA Information & Learning Technologies ’00, died October 11, 2013.
SUSAN M. RENN, BA English Writing ’00, died May 15, 2014.
MARK A. RICKEN, Specialist in Education ’00, died April 14, 2014.
CHRISTOPHER UTZ, BS Mechanical Engineering ’96 and MS Mechanical Engineering ’09, died May 15, 2014.

2010s
ERIC M. DAWSON, BA Political Science ’13, died June 10, 2014.
LISA M. DIGAN, BA Geography ’04 and MURP ’10, died November 24, 2013.
GARRETT W. FICHTNER, BS Biology ’13, died August 2, 2014.

FACULTY
JOHN G. “JACK” WEIHaupt, Former vice chancellor of Academic Affairs and professor emeritus, died September 15, 2014.
CU AT THE BLOSSOMS OF LIGHT
December 8 | 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Denver Botanic Gardens

Embrace the holiday season with CU at Blossoms of Light! Over one million colorful lights draped in elegant designs highlight the Gardens’ winter beauty. Enjoy sparkling passages, brand new displays, a gourmet hot chocolate bar, and snacks with your fellow CU alumni and their families. Tickets are $15 for adults and $10 for children ages 3-12 (2 and under are free). The quantity is limited and can be purchased online only, so register quickly!

CU FAMILY NIGHT AT THE NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW
Friday, January 23, 2015 | 7:30 p.m.
National Western Complex

CU alumni from across the Front Range will have a blast at CU Family Night at the National Western Stock Show as they watch everything from barrel racing to steer roping. Your $17 ticket includes parking in a National Western Stock Show lot, access to the grounds and entrance to the evening’s rodeo. Check out buffalos and longhorns as you wander through the stockyards. Then take a seat to watch cowboys compete for prizes. Don’t miss the Mutton Bustin’ Contest, where future rodeo stars are made!

Alumni may enter a relative into the lottery for the Mutton Bustin’ Contest with the purchase of tickets. Children must be between five and seven years old and weigh less than 55 pounds. Email ucdalumni@ucdenver.edu or call the Office of Alumni Relations, 303-315-2333 by noon on January 5, 2015, to register.

Register by January 12, 2015

ROCK BOTTOM RUCKUS DINNER AND AUCTION BENEFITING SCHOLARSHIPS
Sunday, March 8, 2015 | 5:30 p.m.
Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, Corner of 16th and Curtis Streets

Spit-shine those boots, polish up your spurs and join us for Denver’s finest auction. The attire may be western, but the dinner is gourmet. Our friends from the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery are donating their time, their vittles and every seat in the house so all proceeds benefit CU Denver undergraduate scholarships.

All of your donation, less $35 for dinner and libations, may be tax deductible. The University of Colorado is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Federal tax ID # 84-6000555.

Register by February 27, 2015

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

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CU Denver Alumni Association

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