DEAR ALUMNI,

A year ago in this space I wrote about the search for a new chancellor for the CU Denver campus. I’m happy to report that in January I will be passing the baton to Dorothy Horrell, PhD, a veteran higher-education leader in Colorado who has the insight and experience to build on CU Denver’s already considerable success.

Dr. Horrell has deep roots in our community, having served as president of both Red Rocks Community College and of the Colorado Community Colleges System, and president and CEO of the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation. She was on the Colorado State University Board of Governors and holds bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate degrees from CSU (but we don’t hold that against her!).

You may recall that until last fall, one chancellor oversaw both CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. I am confident that under the focused leadership of one chancellor, CU Denver will thrive, enhancing its delivery of a high-quality urban education where students learn with purpose.

In this issue of CU on the Horizon, you’ll read about some of the ways your fellow alumni are achieving and contributing to society—in careers ranging from health care to theater, teaching and architecture. I’m inspired by the impact CU Denver graduates are having on their communities, their professions, our nation and our world.

Here’s to an even brighter future!

Best,

Jerry Wartgow
Interim Chancellor

BUSINESS

Alumni find their niche in the business of healthcare

GLASS CEILINGS have not been a problem for two alumni of the University of Colorado Denver Business School’s health administration program: JENNIFER ALDERFER as president and CEO of North Suburban Medical Center in Thornton, Colo., and NATALIE D. LAMBERTON as COO of Jackson North Medical Center in Miami.

Alderfer, MBA and MS Health Administration ’99, often found herself in the hospital as a child with asthma, but under the care of a female pediatrician named Linda Warren, she loved being there. “It was like a very small community where I could order from the café, I had a TV in my own room, and I left feeling so much better,” Alderfer says. She hasn’t forgotten the experience, which still informs her work at North Suburban Medical Center. “People come here in a vulnerable state and don’t want to be here,” she says. “I feel a connection to them and a responsibility to care for them in a compassionate manner.”

Alderfer, 40, was inspired by Dr. Warren to enroll in a pre-med program at Kansas State University, but also took time to explore the reality of patient care as a certified nurse aide, working nights in hospital and care center settings and as a unit clerk at an outpatient dialysis clinic. The business side seemed a better fit than direct patient care, so with bachelor’s degrees in biology and a minor in Spanish, she enrolled in the Business School’s health administration program in 1998.

In addition to coursework that bolstered her business skills, Alderfer made a valuable connection when former HealthOne CEO Jeff Dorsey came to address her “Profiles in Health Care” class. In 1999, she interviewed for a residency with HCA, HealthOne’s parent company, and has been with them for nearly 16 years at hospitals in Kansas and Colorado.

As CEO at North Suburban, Alderfer is responsible for efficiently running the 157-bed hospital, while also assessing the needs of metro Denver’s fast-growing northern communities. To that end, she brought in a neurosurgical practice and is working on a Level II trauma designation for North Suburban’s busy ER, all while stressing the commitment to compassionate patient care. “Eighty percent of our inpatients come through the ER and were not expecting to be here,” she says. “They are in pain, not themselves, have dementia or may be facing matters of life and death.”

In addition to her professional talents—attention to detail, good organizational skills and the ability to look conceptually at the bigger picture—Alderfer is happy to have learned about balance from Sylvia...
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*These affinity partnerships benefit Alumni Association programs and scholarships, including CU on the Horizon.

BUSINESS OF HEALTHCARE from page 1

Young, a senior executive at HCA who models the way to combine dynamic leadership with a busy home life. At North Suburban, Alderfer has built a core group of senior executives and department leaders who help each other maintain balance. “I have a great team,” she says, “so I’m always able to plug in and be an active participant in my three children’s lives.”

Lamberton, MBA Health Administration ’05, lived in a small town and became an EMT so she could join the town’s volunteer ambulance team. “It was the best way to learn the ins and outs and guts of a hospital,” she says of the experience that laid the groundwork for what promises to be a long, successful career in healthcare administration.

Lamberton got her first CEO job when she was just 29, heading a 25-bed hospital in a rural Colorado town of 1,000. Now 38, she serves as COO of Jackson North Medical Center, a 385-bed acute care facility in Miami, with plans to keep learning and growing in a complex industry that is constantly changing.

“Child television gave her a glimpse of two pursuits that inspired her early years. The Olympics motivated her to join a track team, and at age 5 her parents helped her find one. At 6, she announced plans to become a pediatric neurosurgeon, an idea planted by watching Johns Hopkins surgeon Ben Carson successfully separate a set of conjoined twins.

She enrolled as a pre-med student at the University of New Mexico and ran on a full-ride track and field scholarship for the school’s Division I team. Exhausted by five years of training, studying and teaching, she reassessed her appetite for the rigors of medical school and was delighted to discover CU Denver’s health administration program.

“Oh my gosh,” she remembers thinking, “somebody has to run the business side of healthcare.” The progressive coursework was immediately applicable, Lamberton says, providing her with marketing, finance and healthcare basics she still draws upon.

Just as important is the network she formed with her classmates and Professor ERROL BIGGS, who directs the health administration programs. “We bounce things off one another,” she says, “We are able to gain additional perspectives through our various experiences.”
Way Ahead of the Curve: U.S. Secretary of Education praises teacher-preparation programs

Panelists included Tania Hogan, a CU Denver SEHD alumna; U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; Linda Abeyta, a CU Denver student finishing the Student Teacher Residency program; and Tom Boasberg, superintendent of Denver Public Schools.

Arne Duncan says the University of Colorado Denver’s School of Education & Human Development is “way ahead of the curve” in giving student teachers real-world classroom time and support—essential components to attracting and retaining the excellent educators the nation needs.

Duncan visited CU Denver as part of an SEHD town hall discussion on “Partnerships & Pathways for Preparing Teachers” on June 9. He was joined by panelists Linda Abeyta, a CU Denver SEHD student finishing the Student Teacher Residency program in Denver Public Schools (DPS); Tania Hogan, BA Psychology, ’98 MA Curriculum and Instruction, ’01, a CU Denver SEHD alumna who is the Language, Literacy and Cultural Studies facilitator and teacher leader at Greenlee Elementary in DPS; and Tom Boasberg, DPS superintendent.

About 145 educators from across Colorado attended, including district officials, foundation leaders and Teach for America representatives. The panel discussion was followed by roundtable discussions on a host of education issues, including STEM preparation, special education and digital learners.

SEHD Dean Rebecca Kantor says the field of teacher preparation is in flux as educators face the urgent challenge of delivering the highest-quality education possible to an increasingly diverse student population. “Learning and therefore teaching also changes and will continue to change as our culture changes,” Kantor says. “This has been and continues to be our commitment here at CU Denver—to be responsive and engaged always in continuous improvement and transformation.”

SEHD’s Student Teacher Residency program as well as its NxtGEN program, a first-of-its-kind undergraduate four-year residency developed in partnership with DPS, received praise from Duncan and other panelists for providing just what the nation’s education system needs: mentorship, support and early exposure to teaching in real-world classrooms. Both programs leverage a partnership with DPS to advance teacher training, offer support systems and try new academic approaches—such as teachers making home visits to students—that strengthen education in the 21st century.

Although CU Denver didn’t have these programs when she was a student 16 years ago, Hogan says SEHD was still ahead in teacher preparation. “They’re always thinking of ways to change the program. Looking at where it is now, they’ve made a lot of changes,” she says. “Now, with this teacher residency, they just keep changing the program to benefit what is happening in education.”

Hogan notes that if it weren’t for the post-graduation support she received from her CU Denver professors, as well as guidance from DPS colleagues and leadership in her school, “I wouldn’t have kept going.”

For too long, Boasberg says, student teaching has been a “catch-as-catch-can” proposition. He says educators should look to preparation programs of other knowledge-based professions for guidance. In health care, for example, it’s unthinkable to throw a new professional into the job without first being trained in a mentor/cohort group for a period of time.

“There needs to be such a profound increase of clinical opportunities for our teachers,” Boasberg says. “That’s going to require much stronger partnerships and willingness and training from districts, charters and employers who are willing to invest in aspiring teachers and in their training development.”

The U.S. Department of Education is “thrilled to invest” in the innovative partnerships taking place in Denver, Duncan says. “We believe in your vision, we believe in your leadership, and we believe in your willingness to try stuff that is so important but hasn’t been done before. … The challenge is the vast majority of young teachers today in the country tell us they are not prepared to enter the classroom, and that is heartbreaking. It’s not fair to them, and it’s not fair to the children.”

The way programs like CU Denver are developing education leaders and getting teachers into the classroom early “has to be the norm, not the exception,” Duncan adds. Teacher preparation programs also need to embed technology as a teaching and learning tool as well as vigilantly measure whether the teachers they produce are effective in their careers.

Lack of support, not low salaries, is the main reason teachers leave the profession, Duncan says. He stresses that recruitment and retention of talented and committed young teachers is critical because about a million out of the three million public-school educators nationally are expected to retire in the next several years. “Our ability to attract and retain … great talent over the next four, five, six years is going to shape public education in our nation for the next 30 [years]. It really is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.”
From addict to magistrate:
Albert Zweig’s past brings compassion to court

ALBERT ZWEIG, AMPA ’03, has been on both sides of the bench in Denver’s drug court. The first time he was a defendant, charged with a Class 3 felony and addicted to heroin. Later he became a public defender, representing addicts and drug abusers. Now he’s a drug court magistrate, helping people get clean just as Judge William Meyer helped him in the 1990s when the drug court was a cutting-edge concept.

“It’s the hardest job I’ve ever had,” says Zweig. “I thought it would be easier than being a public defender. As a PD you advocate for one side and someone else makes the decisions. But I find that being the decision-maker is much harder. I want to make the right decisions but things aren’t nearly as clear as I thought they would be.”

The trouble with addiction, he says, is that it’s different with each person. Factors such as personality, the type of drug, and economic and social circumstances require an approach to recovery that addresses the unique facets of each individual.

Zweig says in many ways he was fortunate. “My family was supportive. I had an undergraduate degree. Deep down I knew I had something to live for ... I had a lot going for me that many addicts do not.”

By the time he found himself before Judge Meyer, however, he was desperate and suicidal.

Looking back, Zweig says his addiction began in high school with alcohol. Then he went to Lewis and Clark College in Portland to study art history and continued his addiction there.

Through high school and college, drugs and alcohol didn’t cause him many problems, he says. “They were just something I loved to do.”

At the end of his undergraduate years, he tried heroin once. “I loved it,” he says. “It felt great. I had a great time that evening and I had no hangover the next day. I thought, ‘What a great drug. How can people be against this?’”

He moved to Ecuador after graduation where he had access to “very cheap, very pure cocaine” from Colombia, Peru and Bolivia. “It never occurred to me at that time that I was an addict. I was functioning, and I could go periods of time without drugs and be fine.”

Upon his return from Ecuador, Zweig moved to San Francisco to become a writer. He worked a series of temporary jobs to pay the bills, but became increasingly depressed and soon found heroin there.

He bounced from city to city, entering various inpatient treatment programs. He finally returned to Denver but, having alienated his family and most of his friends, he found himself homeless and consumed by his addiction.

After he was arrested for heroin possession, unemployed and homeless, he basically gave up. Contemplating suicide, he approached his parents and told them that he wanted them to know that if anything ever happened to him, his addiction had not been their fault.

“My mother saw right through it,” he says. “She got so angry. She forced me to see things I had been blind to. She forced me to feel things I knew intellectually, and feeling that pain made a huge difference in my life.”

He decided to accept the District Attorney’s offer of drug court probation and participation in a drug treatment program. Drug court was also supportive of medically assisted treatment in the form of daily visits to a methadone clinic where he received opiate replacement therapy and intensive addiction counseling.

It took more than three years on methadone and the support of his family, friends and drug counselors, but Zweig came out of his addiction and started to put his life back together.

He graduated from law school at the University of Denver in 2002, then completed his MPA in CU’s accelerated program a year later. He took a job as a private investigator and eventually went to work in the public defender’s office.

In March 2013, he was named a magistrate in Denver’s drug court.

“My past is a huge strength here,” Zweig says. “I understand what these people are going through. I remember very well wanting desperately not to do this drug, but not being able to stop. Drug addiction is a very scary thing.”

“There’s a profound blindness that comes along with addiction,” he says. “[Addicts] are so wrapped up in themselves that they hurt the people around them, even their kids, but are too self-absorbed to perceive the effect they are having on those close to them.”

For Zweig, there is enormous satisfaction in finding a way to help them climb out of that abyss.

“I love this job,” he says. “I finally feel like I’m where I belong.”
STEM Club mentoring program teaches students more than engineering

STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT

of Mechanical Engineering have a record of success in competing at the Shell Eco-marathon Americas, including two first-place wins in the hydrogen fuel cell prototype division. Now, for the second year in a row, engineering students—under the guidance of two faculty and as part of the CU Denver Community STEM Clubs—are mentoring students involved with Wheat Ridge High School (WRHS) STEM/Engineering in the planning, design and construction of two hydrogen-powered vehicles to compete in the 2016 Shell Eco-marathon Americas.

“We currently have 41 students working on the two vehicles,” says Charles (Chuck) Sprague, STEM/Engineering advisor at WRHS. “The goals for WRHS STEM/Engineering are actually very simple. We decided that we wanted to offer an ‘out of the box’ approach for students to learn engineering and engineering techniques. This idea especially came to light last year with the offer to work with CU Denver and create a team to compete in the Shell Eco-marathon.”

The WRHS students are developing vehicles to compete in both categories of the Shell Eco-marathon: a hydrogen-powered prototype vehicle and a hydrogen-powered urban concept vehicle. The difference between the two categories, according to the Shell Eco-marathon website, is that the prototype is focused on maximizing fuel efficiency while the urban concept category focuses on more roadworthy fuel-efficient vehicles. This is the first year WRHS and CU Denver have participated in the urban concept category. The WRHS students will spend an estimated 300 hours creating the vehicles.

The project is supported in part by an Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) grant from the National Science Foundation, which was awarded to the CU Denver Community STEM Clubs. Associate professor of mechanical engineering RONALD RORRER is a co-principal investigator on the grant.

The IUSE program promotes diversity among the STEM fields and requires two undergraduates and one graduate student to participate in each project. Mechanical engineering seniors LAURA MARSHALA and SUSAN WARUININGE, along with a graduate student studying anatomy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, are the CU Denver mentors for the Shell project, and none of them have experience with building cars. These CU Denver students are challenged to use their skills and knowledge acquired thus far to guide the WRHS students while gaining valuable experience to help them be successful in their careers.

“I want the students to experience the learning process that’s involved with these types of projects,” says Marshala. “I get to use the concepts I’ve learned to help them think critically. We answer their questions with questions and make them figure out a solution instead of telling them what to do.” She adds, “I’m gaining experience with mentoring and networking. The technology is relevant to the career I want to pursue, and never having worked on cars before, I’m learning a lot about that, too.”

According to Sprague, the emphasis for the WRHS students is twofold and parallels much of what the CU Denver students experience in their Senior Design capstone course. “On the engineering side, we are teaching the students how to work together as a team and toward a common goal,” he says. “Students will learn to understand the link between design and manufacturing and how they fit together. Once all the parts are manufactured, they then have to assemble, troubleshoot and test the vehicle.”

He also works with the students on the business side of engineering. They’re required to develop presentations, dress professionally, make professional contacts and present their ideas to industry as they seek funding—the students need to raise about $36,000 to fund the project.

For Sprague, the benefits of this partnership extend well beyond the physical projects.

“Having CU Denver students working side by side with the students at Wheat Ridge gives them an additional voice in many areas that they wouldn’t otherwise get,” he says. “The students are in a college career that the high school students are considering, so they can ask questions. Also, we have seven ladies in our STEM/Engineering Shell program, and it is wonderful for them to meet other young women who are on their path in engineering.”

As vice president of the CU Denver Society of Women Engineers chapter, Marshala echoes this sentiment and hopes she and Waruininge can inspire confidence in the high school students, especially the young women.

“I want to encourage young girls to pursue engineering if that’s what they’re passionate about,” she says. “I don’t want them to be intimidated. I was intimidated … I knew nothing about engineering, and there was so much math. But it’s not all about the math. It’s design and has artistic aspects, too. I want them to see there’s so much more to becoming an engineer.”

If she has her way, the partnership between CU Denver and WRHS will make a lasting impact on both groups of students. Sprague feels the same way.

“I couldn’t ask for a better partnership than the one we have with CU Denver,” says Sprague. “It allows my students to work with well-respected professors, instructors and top-notch engineering students who have a very broad and deep knowledge base.”
ON MARCH 8, 2015, the University of Colorado Denver Alumni Association celebrated the silver anniversary of the Rock Bottom Ruckus, a fundraising event that supports student scholarships. Like many years in the past, the event and silent auction raised spirits as well as money.

“The Rock Bottom Brewery is packed with 200 plus people. Everyone is excited about networking and bidding on auction items,” says DIANE MESSAMORE, BA Math ’73, past president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. “And we feel great knowing that we’re helping students fund their education.”

“We love doing this event every year,” says Alumni Board President JOHN “JACK” KROLL, BA English and Economics ’94. “This year alone we raised $42,000 and awarded scholarships to 20 undergraduate and 7 graduate students. Since 1990, we’ve distributed 854 scholarships worth $1,353,220 to CU Denver students. That’s really something to be proud of!”

DIANE GREENLEE, MA Fine Arts and History ’93, was the owner of the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery and initiated the first Rock Bottom events. “The first scholarships were small, just $200 for books—but even that amount was appreciated by the four students who received the money.”

Today those scholarships are $2,500 for undergraduate students and $3,000 per year for graduate students, all who must apply each year.

“Every year my wife and I support the CU Denver Alumni Scholarship Fund,” says former Board Member GARY MEGGISON, BS Civil Engineering ’94. “Every dollar has made a difference to students who wouldn’t have made it through college without the

support of their fellow graduates. Over the years, we’ve been able to make a difference in a lot of Colorado lives.”

“We couldn’t do it without our sponsors: Rock Bottom Brewery Downtown Denver, Liberty Mutual, First Bank and the Public Service Credit Union,” says Messamore. “Many of these organizations have supported our scholarship program for years.”

“One of the biggest thrills in my post-college career,” says Meggison, “has been the privilege of serving on the committee that disburses scholarship funds to student applicants. What a terrific group of men and women we have coming up in the world!”

Raising a ruckus to fund scholarships for 25 years
With Gratitude

The University of Colorado Denver Alumni Association could not host its scholarship fundraiser each year without the support of many corporations and individuals. We are so grateful! Our special thanks to the Rock Bottom Restaurant and Brewery (Downtown Denver) for their continued and generous support.

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Thank you to all of the alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students and friends who have made the Rock Bottom Ruckus a success over the past 25 years!
Three College of Architecture and Planning alumni are helping to shape the future of Snowmass Village

The Base Village project represents hundreds of millions of dollars in economic development for the community, the (Roaring Fork) valley and even beyond, explains Senior Planner JIM WAHLSTROM, AICP and MURP ’86. A planner for Snowmass Village since 2000, Wahlstrom has handled all of the administrative modifications to Base Village since the project began construction in 2005. “It provides jobs for designers, construction workers, and permanent employment for people who service the development.”

A year and a half ago, the town hired Woods (she once served as the community development director for the City of Aspen) to lead the effort from the community side. Woods, who had worked on the Highlands Ski Area base redevelopment in Aspen, already had a strong working relationship with the developer’s representative.

Snowmass Acquisition Co. went back to the drawing board and, with input from the town council and the community, crafted a new plan that includes a “Snowmass Discovery” center to showcase the mammoth and mastodon bones discovered there in 2010.

The project also includes the second phase of the Viceroy Hotel, the Limelight Hotel and residence club project, luxury condominiums with some fractional units, employee housing, a community plaza with seasonal skating rink and kids’ fountains, retail space and a traffic roundabout. The amended project will add 608 much-needed units and hotel beds to the Snowmass Village lodging and housing inventory.

CHASE ANDERSON, MUD ’14, a landscape architect in private practice, joined the team in January as a planner, bringing with him planning and design expertise along with more contemporary computer skills that he’s using to model potential design ideas for Base Village and update the town’s Geographic Information System. Anderson handles much of the daily land-use caseload, collaborating with Wahlstrom and Woods who have been “tag-teaming” the land-use review of the massive initiative.

For her part, Woods is delighted to be collaborating with two other CU Denver alumni to revive the Snowmass Base Village. Woods remembers working on projects as a landscape architecture student with her husband JEFF WOODS, MArch ’86, who was studying to be an architect. She says the Snowmass Village planning team has benefitted from the interdisciplinary training they all received at CU Denver.

“The one thing I would say helps all of us as a team is the fact that we worked with students in other disciplines and that has set us up for success in our careers,” she says. “Typically schools are in silos. At CU Denver it was like a professional setting. It prepared us well to work with a variety of people in the design field.”

Anderson observes that their varied academic and professional backgrounds are a boon for Snowmass Village. “As a diversified team, we bring a comprehensive approach to town projects, which manifests in a more efficient process and improved design.”

Though there is much to accomplish to ensure that the Base Village project becomes a source of pride for the community, Woods is cautiously optimistic. Staging for the second phase of construction on the Viceroy Hotel began in September; work is expected to start on phase II in the second quarter of 2016.

“You have to have a vision and goal that you’re working toward,” she explains. “With this project—and being a resident of the community for 18 years and experiencing what happened during the downturn—our goal is to get it back under construction and get it finished so we can work on other long-range projects. We need to get our Base Village done, so we don’t have this gaping hole in the heart of our community.”

For more information on the Base Village Project, go to www.tosv.com.
Romero Theater Troupe turns 10 and receives national human and civil rights award

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN a decade since political science assistant professor Jim Walsh transformed his lecture hall into a theater, bringing history to life for thousands of CU Denver students. From the classroom to the community, Walsh's vision of an all-volunteer "organic" community theater collective is celebrating its 10th year with a humbling achievement.

The Romero Troupe's rotating corps of 70–200 members, ranging in age from tweens to folks in their 90s, has been awarded the National Education Association's César Chávez Human and Civil Rights Award. The troupe was nominated for the award by the Colorado Education Association for the work it did to support last year's teacher and student protests in Jefferson County and for maintaining a mission to bring to light the dignity and resilience of marginalized people through theater.

Walsh reflected recently on celebrating 10 years with the Romero Troupe:

What is your reaction to the troupe receiving the César Chávez award?

We're thrilled! It feels great to have our work recognized nationally, particularly by the NEA. What we do is always about freedom to educate and truly teach, so to be recognized by teachers is even more rewarding.

What makes the Romero Troupe different from other theater groups or arts collectives?

Our performances are radical because they aren't watered down by any influences. We are not co-opted by anyone, no one owns us, nothing's censored, and so it's really raw, free stuff. People love that. It's convinced me that the all-volunteer model is the true model of change.

The Romeros have established their commitment to the community and to a grassroots ethic by donating all proceeds from their performances to organizations and community projects dedicated to workers' struggles, social justice, human rights, arts and culture.

Do you have plans for building an outreach program for others who want to develop an organic theater group?

It seems like every time we do something in another city, there's talk of forming a sister organization. We very much support that, [but] I've come to the place where I believe it's not necessarily replicable. What is replicable, I believe, is an artist cooperative that's all about social change and volunteerism [or] using [organic theater] in the classroom. Every educator is an organizer whether they know it or not.

Are there any stories that you have been wanting to tell but haven't yet?

There are a lot of stories out there that we haven't told. We used to have to go get them, dig them up; now the community brings them to us.

Acts of dignity are really the stories we want to tell. We don't want to tell stories that are only about abuse or mistreatment or discrimination, we want to tell the story of resistance and agency, like Alex Landau's difficult story of being severely beaten by Denver policemen [then] of dedicating his life to speaking out against police brutality.

After 10 years with the troupe, what have been some of the highlights for you personally?

I think seeing the healing and the growth in the members of the troupe has been my greatest joy.

How has your work with the troupe affected your work as an academic and a teacher?

I was asked to join the political science department largely because the department greatly values the Romero Troupe, the mission of our work and the values behind it. I teach courses about empowerment, community organizing, social movements, labor, immigration, and it's exactly related to what I do with the troupe. I'll never be that academic who publishes numerous articles in academic journals, but I'll be talking about pedagogy through theater, I'll be talking about community organizing and social change through theater. I had to let go of that traditional ideal of what an academic is and embrace the academic that I am. I'm so fortunate to be in a department that's celebrating it.

Why is it important for students to learn about social justice, civil disobedience, labor and immigrant history?

I think most students see education as a training through which you acquire skills that are going to be used in a utilitarian sense. These courses nudge students toward a different place, where they are challenged to consider the purpose of education as engaging directly in the community in meaningful ways, speaking out on human rights issues, finding one's voice and purpose.

In one sentence, sum up your last 10 years with the Romero Troupe.

When you're called, listen.
Byrd doesn’t always talk to strangers. Then again, he doesn’t always find himself sitting next to “The Walking Dead” director of photography (DP) Michael Satrazemis on a Copper Mountain ski lift. For both movies and television, DPs control everything related to film and photography—lighting, framing, filtering, correcting colors—as they balance art with technology.

Since he transferred to CU Denver to major in film and television, Byrd has constantly worked toward one goal—to become a director of photography. He started his college career near his hometown where the focus of film studies was theory and criticism. That experience only served to reinforce his desire to learn how to create and direct.

“There are hundreds of different jobs and positions on the set for a series or movie,” explains ELC Assistant Director Lesley Bishop. “It was fortunate happenstance for Brock to meet a professional from ‘The Walking Dead’ whose position is exactly what he wants to be someday.”

On that ski lift two years ago, “The Walking Dead” DP gave the aspiring student his email address. “I followed up with Michael and took a chance,” says Byrd. Even though the Atlanta-based series doesn’t normally take interns outside the state of Georgia, Satrazemis wanted Byrd to intern, vouching for the Colorado native to the series’ producers.

An experienced digital filmmaker who has worked for CU Denver’s Media Production Studio and as a freelance videographer, Byrd is a self-proclaimed camera geek. That’s why shadowing the “The Walking Dead” DP and setting up the production’s video village monitors—a group of screens that display what is being filmed in real time—is a dream come true.

“I’m a visual learner,” he says. “I can get lectured to all day long, but unless I see it, I won’t learn how to do it.” With the video village, Byrd—along with the show’s producers and directors—can see exactly what the cinematographer sees in live action.

This internship isn’t the first time Byrd has been exposed to cinematography, but it is the first time that he has been able to show off his knowledge. Thanks to his CU Denver cinematography course, Byrd feels comfortable with film processes and jargon on set.

Ever heard of a neutral density (ND) filter? Byrd has. In fact, he has worked with them at CU Denver. These filters control the amount of sunlight that enters a camera’s lens, and because “The Walking Dead” often shoots outdoors, overexposure to sunlight risks color warping, an undesirable effect that ND filters fix.

“I listen a lot on set. When someone talks about an ND, I can run and grab the right one. It makes me look good,” he says with a laugh.

And looking good is important for students like Byrd who wish to work in the film and television industry—or any industry, for that matter—because internships are the new entry-level jobs.
1990s

**JOHN BRANNEY, MBA ’92**, published his fifth and sixth novels in 2015. Winds of Eden, published this spring, completes his prehistoric thriller trilogy. Shadows on the Trail. When Leaves Change Color was released in August.

**LEA ANN REITZIG, MBA ’98**, was named CEO of OpenWorld Learning (OWL) in April. She had previously served as both managing director and interim CEO. Prior to joining OWL in 2009, she worked for CenturyLink and Cognence Incorporated. Reitzig also volunteers extensively in the community with organizations such as the Junior League of Denver and the Boy Scouts.

2000s

**ROBERT HAIGHT, MPA ’07**, received a PhD in Educational Leadership, Research, and Policy from UCCS in December 2014. He is currently assistant professor of pharmacy practice at Regis University’s School of Pharmacy in Denver.

**LAUREN K. JONES, MA Counseling Psychology and Counselor Education ’08**, has been elected to serve as Western region trustee on the Board of Trustees for the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), a global nonprofit providing programs and services for youth ages 10 to 15. She is also the middle school career principal for the Colorado Community College System (CCCS). Jones recently spearheaded the CCCS CTE middle school task force, which started with 10 programs and now numbers 185 statewide.

2010s

**CHRISTINA LYNN OLIVERO, BA fine arts ’10**, produced the film “I Will Dance” which aired on Colorado Public Television CPTV12 in May. The film, set in Selma, Ala., features the local Random Acts of Theatre Company on its journey to New York City. The film was also screened at the Vail Film Festival in March and was featured in Huffington Post Arts and Culture in April. A trailer for the film is available at iwilldancemovie.com.


**WENDY RUBIN**, EdD Leadership for Education Equity ’13, was named superintendent of Colorado’s Englewood School District in June 2015. She was most recently principal of Chatfield High School and had previously worked in Jefferson County Public Schools and Aurora Public Schools in principal and assistant principal roles.

**BRIAN VOGT**, BS music industry studies ’13, received one of three 2015 Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs, Inc. at the organization’s annual convention in Louisville, Ky., in May. He was nominated by the Colorado Federation of Garden Clubs Inc. Voigt has been CEO of the Denver Botanic Gardens since April 2007. He led the gardens’ $73 million capital campaign and the subsequent buildout of its master development plan.

**In memoriam**

1970s

**DAVID S. SIEGAL**, BS Real Estate ’71, died July 18, 2014.

**GEORGE RICHARD SCHIEL**, MS Health Administration ’72, died August 19, 2015.

**ALBERT RICHARD CHAVEZ**, BA Spanish ’74, died August 2, 2014.

**ANTHONY ANDREW GENGARO**, MURP ’76, died September 16, 2015.

**JAMES GARY FISHER**, BA Psychology ’76, died September 13, 2015.

**Marilyn R. (Johnston) Mattson**, BA Economics ’76, MBA ’93, died January 22, 2015.

**Roger Lee Mifflin**, BA History ’76, died August 17, 2015.


**Michael Brian Meyer**, BA Communication and Theatre ’78, died April 3, 2015.

**Brett Ainsley Coulter**, BS Civil Engineering ’79, died August 23, 2015.

1980s

**Joan Moore Etheridge**, MA Education ’83, died May 1, 2015.

**Susan Judith Gracey**, MArch ’83, died April 27, 2015.

**Charles Joseph O’Toole, Jr.**, BS Mechanical Engineering ’83, died June 27, 2014.


1990s

**Robert Moran Luther**, MS Health Administration ’87, died June 18, 2015.

**Matthew McCord Testa**, MArch 87, died June 8, 2015.


**Donald Kenneth Schwartz**, MA History 88, died June 11, 2015.

2000s


**Tam. L. Gold**, BS Accounting ’92, died August 1, 2015.

**Lucille Rose Scheitler**, MA Curriculum and Instruction ’92, died January 29, 2015.

**Deann M. Ball**, BS Marketing ’93, died May 27, 2015.

**C. W. Reiquam**, MD, MH Humanities ’96, died April 7, 2015.

**Bruce F. Wood**, MA Curriculum and Instruction ’96, died November 24, 2014.

**Matthew Caleb Moore**, BS Accounting ’97, died October 28, 2014.


2010s

**Lori Sue (Salisbury) Neubauer**, MCJ ’01, died April 7, 2015.

CU AT THE PARADE OF LIGHTS
Saturday, December 5, 2015 | 4 p.m.
CU Denver Business School Building, corner of 15th and Lawrence Streets
Celebrate the holiday season with fellow CU Denver alumni at the annual 9News Parade of Lights. Meet at the Business School Building, pick up your giveaway while supplies last and relax with a cup of hot chocolate. Then head to the parade route only steps away!
Cost $5 per person.
RSVP by December 1, 2015.

CU FAMILY NIGHT AT THE NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW
Friday, January 22, 2016 | 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 pro rodeo.
Alumni may enter a relative into the lottery for the Mutton Bustin’ Contest with the purchase of tickets. Children must be between 5 and 7 years old and weigh less than 55 pounds. To register call the Office of Alumni Relations, 303-315-2333, by noon on January 3, 2016.
RSVP by January 13, 2016.

ROCK BOTTOM RUCKUS DINNER AND AUCTION BENEFITING SCHOLARSHIPS
Sunday, March 6, 2016 | 5:30 p.m.
Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery, corner of 16th and Curtis Streets
Sip-shine those boots, polish up your spurs and join us for Denver’s finest auction. The attire may be western, but the dinner is gourmet. Our friends from the Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery are donating their servers, food and space, so all proceeds benefit Denver Campus 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.
Tickets start at $85 per person. Tickets available through February 26, 2016 or until the event sells out.

SAVE THE DATE: CU NUGGETS NIGHT
Saturday, April 2, 2016 | 7 p.m.
Pepsi Center
Plan now to join fellow alumni as the Denver Nuggets take on the Sacramento Kings.
Check www.ucdenver.edu/UCDalumnievents for details.

CU ALUMNI CULTURE AND CUISINE
June 11–18, 2016
Barcelona, Spain
Join CU Denver Senior Instructor E.J. Yoder, PhD, for an educational program and culinary adventure in beautiful Barcelona, Spain. Savor traditional and modern Catalonian cuisine, tour vineyards and learn about the history and culture behind regional foods and wines. Visit the Salvador Dali Museum, the largest surrealist museum in the world, and view master artwork by painters Pablo Picasso and Joan Miro, and architecture by Antoni Guadi. Combine learning with travel in this special CU program.
Reserve your place by contacting E.J. Yoder at 303-918-6549 or email ej.yoder@ucdenver.edu.

Send your class notes—promotions, awards, accomplishments—online at www.ucdenver.edu/classnotes or by email to UCDalumni@ucdenver.edu. Interested in volunteering? Call us at 303-315-2333.