The inventor

Engineering alum George Saliba holds over 130 patents

If you have a bank account and use email, you've likely benefited from the work of GEORGE SALIBA, a 1981 graduate of CU Denver's College of Engineering and Applied Science. He is credited with inventing Digital Linear Tape technology, which enables data storage in what we now call “the cloud.”

Saliba holds 85 U.S.-issued patents and more than 50 European Union and Japan patents.

“I have an inquisitive mind,” said the native of Lebanon. Saliba immigrated to the United States 42 years ago and now lives in Boulder. “I always ask the question, why do we always have to do it this way? and then try and think of a better solution.”

A TECHNOLOGY NATIVE

When Saliba was a boy in Lebanon, his family members thought his inquisitive mind would suit him well as a doctor when he grew up. But when he won a full scholarship to engineering school, he took the opportunity and hasn’t looked back.

He came to Colorado to further his engineering studies at the University of Colorado, earning a bachelor’s degree from CU Boulder in 1974 and a master’s degree from CU Denver in 1981. He went on to hold several senior engineering management positions at Storage Technology Corporation, Digital Equipment Corporation in Massachusetts and Quantum Corporation, and he is currently the president and CEO of Saliba Technologies.

“When I started in the field, the computer was in its infancy,” said Saliba, who remembers that the first disk drive he worked on was the size of a refrigerator, held just five megabytes of data and sold for more than $40,000. “Technology has come a long way, and being at the forefront of that explosion is very rewarding.”

A GLOBAL LEADER

Throughout his career, Saliba commuted around the globe, leading engineering teams in the United States, China, Korea and Japan. He remembers scribbling ideas for new inventions on paper scraps in foreign hotel rooms and napkins on trans-Pacific flights. Some of his most important inventions were written on United Airlines napkins.

Saliba received many awards for his work. He was the inventor of the year at multiple companies and received a lifetime achievement award at Quantum Corporation. However, he gives much of the credit for his success to the people on the various engineering teams he led.

“I wasn’t the only one who transformed these inventions into successful products,” he said. “Having a team that can work together, where everyone respects and trusts each other, is the key to success.”

A LOYAL ALUM

Saliba believes in giving back where he was the beneficiary. “I didn’t make it where I am by myself,” he said. “A lot of people helped me, especially at CU.”

Among his mentors, he remembers CU Denver professors MARVIN ANDERSON, BURTON SMITH and so many others who helped him along the way.

Today, Saliba is a seven-year member of CU Denver's CEAS Engineering Leadership Council. He also served for 10 years on the industrial advisory board for the CU Boulder College of Engineering and Applied Science.

His two sons seem to have inherited his loyalty to the university. Both of them earned bachelor’s degrees from CU, although the family lived in Massachusetts at the time. “It’s a testament that CU is a good school,” Saliba said.

DEAR ALUMNI,

My first year as chancellor of CU Denver has been busy, filled with many meaningful conversations with people who care deeply about this place—our alumni chief among them.

The progress that’s occurred since we became a stand-alone institution in 1973—including the growth of the Auraria Campus, our joining with the Anschutz Medical Campus in 2004 and our more recent physical additions of the Business School, the Student Commons and the development of the CU Denver neighborhood—are all milestones that mark the maturing of CU Denver.

As we enter the next phase in our history, we’re developing priorities and plans for CU Denver to fully embrace its role as Colorado’s only public urban research university. We aim to be one of the city’s top assets by our 50th anniversary in 2023. We look to a time when civic leaders say, “CU Denver is our knowledge partner, helping address our community’s most pressing issues”; when employers say, “We hire CU Denver grads because they’re the most prepared”; and when our graduates say, “CU Denver was key to realizing my dreams.” Of course many say this already; we’re planning to make it the norm.

This issue of CU on the Horizon profiles several alumni who are realizing their dreams in fields ranging from education and medicine to music and architecture. The impact our graduates are having on their communities, their professions and our world is truly inspiring.

Here’s to an even brighter future!

Dorothy Horrell, PhD
Chancellor
“It’s a young university, so we play a critical part in constructing what it means to be a CU Denver student.”

—William Mundo 2016 Senior, Leadville, Colorado

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University of Colorado Denver
Three generations inspire passion for diabetes research

WHEN OTHER TEENAGERS in his class were chowing down in the cafeteria, WILLIAM HOLLAND was in the science classroom trying to figure out how cells take up glucose. He found his calling at an early age, while watching three generations, including his mother, suffer gravely from diabetes.

A self-described nerd, Holland “was always fixing toasters and driven to see how things work.” Now an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Touchstone Diabetes Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Holland is exploring how different types of lipids interact with insulin. His focus is on the types of fat, specifically sphingolipids, that build up from dietary intake of saturated fats and inflammation. Holland first studied these lipids as an undergraduate researcher at the University of Colorado Denver.

As a “bench-to-bedside” scientist—one whose research is focused on making discoveries in the lab directly applicable to patients—Holland’s primary interest is in Type 2 diabetes, which is affecting more children now than ever. Type 2 diabetes is caused by insulin resistance, so understanding the types of fats that prevent insulin from working is a crucial step to ultimately finding a cure for the condition.

Sphingolipids can compromise the health of insulin-producing beta cells, a prime focus of Holland’s other work in Type 1 diabetes.

After earning a master’s degree in biology at CU Denver in 2002 and a master’s degree in biochemistry from Colorado State University in 2004, Holland earned a doctorate in biochemistry from the University of Utah in 2007. Along the way, he was a visiting research fellow at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Sydney, Australia, and completed postdoctoral training at the Touchstone Diabetes Center at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where he works today.

Holland’s journey from being a kid who liked to fix things to a graduate research assistant at CU Denver offered opportunities to work in a lab, for which Holland is grateful. He acknowledges that faculty were as focused on engaging students in research as they were on their own work. “Students were a priority for faculty,” he said.

“Not very many undergrads get to do research like I was able to do at CU Denver.”

Describing the dedication of faculty during his time at CU Denver, Holland said, “You are their focus in life.” He credits several faculty members with guiding him along his journey.

MARY COUSSONS-READ, at the time an assistant professor of psychology at CU Denver, introduced Holland to BRAD STITH, professor in the biology department, who became one of the mentors Holland credits for guiding him. “Brad allowed me my start in science,” Holland said. Stith was on Holland’s master’s thesis committee, along with DAVID ALBECK, associate professor of psychology.

That faculty attitude toward students is mirrored in Holland’s attitude toward the assistants and technicians working alongside him in the Holland Lab at the Touchstone Diabetes Center. Despite numerous high-impact publications, large grants and lectures, what Holland is most proud of, he said, are the students in his lab. “They’re a good crew.”

Before pursuing graduate studies, Holland double-majored in biology and psychology at CU Denver. Though seemingly unrelated, there is a component of psychology in the pursuit of the chemistry of diabetes. “A lot of the same biochemical abnormalities that cause diabetes are the same abnormalities that drive people to overeat,” he said.

Holland had options along his educational path. He could have pursued a medical degree or a combined medical and doctoral degree. “I don’t want to practice medicine. I want to change it.”

His maternal great-grandfather lost both legs to diabetes; his mother died of heart disease as a result of the disease. That’s what drove Holland to become the passionate researcher he is. “I never had the false hope that I could do something for my mother,” Holland said, “but I do have hope I can do something for my grandchildren.”
Design Build students construct cabins on Colorado Outward Bound School campus

ON A SUNNY MID-MAY afternoon, the whisper of pines outside this small mining town gets interrupted by the bwaap! bwaap! bwaap! of a nail gun and the whir! whir! whirrrrr! of a circular saw. This is the sound of music to outdoor guides who spend a few months or even most of the year living at the Colorado Outward Bound School (COBS) headquarters near Leadville—elevation 10,200 feet.

The forested hillside, previously dotted with a smattering of tent pads, has transformed into a community of 21 comfortable and weather-resistant cabins. The functional-yet-elegant village is the creation of College of Architecture and Planning (CAP) students.

For the past two springs, CAP Design Build students have employed ingenuity, craftsmanship and hard labor to construct clusters of cozy and space-efficient cabins for COBS, a nonprofit outdoor leadership school for youth. Collaborative onsite meetings with COBS officials kicked off each campaign. The projects then shifted into a design phase in CAP classrooms and finished with on-the-ground teams building cabins over a period of several months.

Students constructed the group of 14 micro-cabins—designed for summer and fall use—last year, followed by seven fully appointed structures this year. The latest dwellings are fully insulated, employ flat rooftops (the better to capture snowfall for added insulation) and offer spacious interior and exterior living quarters.

“It’s been amazing, it’s been immersive, it’s been intense,” TYLER WHALEY said. He is among the 28 master’s students in the Design Build studio class who spent the semester designing and building the seven new cabins. During Maymester, the students work on the cabins full time and live on site—either camping, residing in one of the units built last year or living in the dormitory for COBS students.

The fact that two CAP instructors on this year’s project are Design Build alumni—WILL KONING, March ’12, and J.D. SIGNOM, March ’12—speaks to the program’s enduring power.

Signom, who spent 15 years as a COBS instructor, and COBS executive director Peter O’Neil started talking about the cabins four or five years ago. Aware of the strong reputation of the program, O’Neil hired the CAP students and was so pleased with the 2015 outcome that he signed the students on to expand the village this year.

Last year’s 14-cabin project for Colorado Outward Bound won an AIA Colorado Honor Award and the 2016 Architizer A+Award, a prestigious global competition, in the Extra Small Housing category.

Now COBS is planning to work with CAP’s Design Build students on a base-camp improvement project in Moab, Utah, next year. “They’re a good organization,” Signom said. “The partnership has been good for both of us.”

“These projects are very much focused on the sites, and you learn about every single aspect (of a design-build project),” said student ANDREW BAUR. “It’s really cool just being able to live up here while we build the cabins and getting to know the site.”

A team of four student workers is devoted to each cabin. Each unit has about 200 square feet of interior space and about 100 square feet of wooden deck. Three cabins are built to house two people, and four are single occupancy.

Baur and teammate AMANDA GONZALES work on a double-occupancy cabin on the edge of the village. It is built so smartly into the hillside that the entryway extends directly into the slope, while the exterior deck space is elevated about seven feet off the ground.

During a post-occupancy evaluation of the 14 seasonal cabins built last year, CAP students learned that many of the COBS staff members are introverts who value personal time and space. “After they’d be out guiding with a bunch of people, the employees wanted to come back and have their own quiet, private space,” Gonzales said.

She enjoyed seeing the detailed drawings done in class come to life in the field. “You get to touch it, feel it and get an understanding of how it is in real life,” Gonzales said. “I’ve never built anything in my life other than the small models we’ve done at school, so it’s really cool to do this.”
Five Questions for deputy assistant secretary Spiros Protopsaltis

WITH ESCALATING COLLEGE TUITION and ever-growing student loan debt, the cost of higher education and its return on investment is on everyone’s—and parent’s—mind. This year’s election has shown that Washington is paying attention to college access. New policies and proposals are addressing Americans’ concerns, and nowhere is that more apparent than in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD) in the Department of Education.

SPIROS PROTOPSALTIS, PhD ’08, deputy assistant secretary for higher education and student financial aid, is on the front lines of those discussions. The School of Public Affairs alum joined OPEPD in March 2015. His appointment came out of work with Colorado’s Bell Policy Institute and Congressman Jared Polis’ office, and as a top aide to Democrats on the Senate education committee. While serving as a Senate aide, Protopsaltis contributed to an investigation of for-profit colleges that received widespread media attention when it was released in 2012.

This fall, Protopsaltis shared with CU On the Horizon the work his office is doing, and how it will impact college access for all.

Describe your role and responsibilities as deputy assistant secretary for higher education and student financial aid.

My office is basically a “policy shop” that reports directly to Secretary of Education John King and serves as his principal adviser on policy development, performance measurement and evaluation, and budget processes and proposals. A key OPEPD responsibility is the policy management process that reaches across several offices and units to ensure that policy is aligned, integrated, implemented and communicated with one voice.

What do you hope to achieve in this role? What are you proud of that you’ve accomplished?

My primary objective has been to contribute to the efforts to improve college access, affordability and completion, especially for students from low-income families, and to help make progress in closing the postsecondary achievement gap.

I am especially pleased that the maximum Pell Grant increased by more than $1,000, and that we implemented new and critical student aid rules to protect students and taxpayers and hold institutions accountable for poor student outcomes. I am also particularly proud of my participation in formulating and advancing several key policy initiatives, such as the president’s signature tuition-free universal access proposal, America’s College Promise.

The data continues to show that students with baccalaureate degrees make more over the course of a lifetime. But with escalating tuition costs and less public funding for higher education, have we created a system that’s becoming unsustainable?

Higher education is one of the clearest paths to the middle class. At a time when jobs can go anywhere in the world, skills and education will determine success for individuals and for nations. Yet far too many students do not go to college, or never complete their degree.

Fear about cost and debt stops millions of students from even pursuing and finishing the education they need. The need is urgent to rein in the cost of college, to create more tuition-free and zero-debt pathways and to reverse the shocking slide in state support for higher education, which is the primary driver behind escalating tuition.

But cost and debt are just one part of the problem. The other major part is that we need to tackle poor student outcomes in higher education. Significant reforms at the institutional, state and federal levels are needed to improve system-wide performance and make college an equalizer of opportunity.

What are the biggest challenges America’s colleges and universities face?

With almost 5,000 degree-granting institutions participating in the federal student aid programs, the higher education landscape is very diverse. Its different sectors (public, nonprofit, and for-profit) and types (four-year, two-year, and less-than-two-year) face unique challenges and opportunities. However, rising costs, growing student debt, shifting student demographics, new technologies and calls for greater transparency and accountability, including student outcomes, are cross-cutting trends that make “business as usual” in higher education neither sustainable nor desirable.

How do you see American colleges and universities stepping up to those challenges? What changes do you see going forward in the higher-education landscape?

There are best practices and successful innovations taking place across campuses nationwide to enroll and graduate more low-income students, improve quality and outcomes, close achievement gaps, control costs and overall to provide a quality education at a reasonable price. Unfortunately, oftentimes proven strategies and promising practices are not identified and replicated among institutions, which is an area where more attention and investment is needed. Overall, higher education could benefit significantly from more research and evidence on what works.

New data about institutional value will help inform the choices made by students and families. By accessing clear, reliable data, more Americans are empowered to rate colleges based on what matters most to them; to highlight colleges that are serving students of all backgrounds well; and to focus on making a quality, affordable education within reach. This will lead to better student choices and more institutional improvements.
WHAT WILL OUR CAMPUS look like in 2025? The Office of Institutional Planning has been working hard on just that question. They have hired SmithGroupJJR to draft the first-ever comprehensive master plan created specifically for CU Denver, to be completed in March 2017. It builds on the idea of creating a distinct “neighborhood” for CU Denver on the northwest side of the Auraria Campus.

In the past, campus planning was integrated into wider Auraria Higher Education Center planning efforts. Today, the planning office is working to brand the CU Denver neighborhood by defining its heart and edges, extending the city’s urban character onto campus, and integrating campus green space into the downtown areas it borders.

The new Student Commons Building was the first structure on the Auraria Campus devoted solely to CU Denver students. That building has created campuswide excitement and bolstered CU Denver’s identity as a leading urban research university. But there’s a lot more in store.

TIVOLI QUAD PARK

One way of blurring the edges between city and campus, urban environment and green space is the new Tivoli Quad Park. This swath of green framed by sweeping patios and arcing walkways redefines how students will enter the campus and access the city. Walnut Street is now open to 12th Street, which runs behind the Student Commons Building. Eleventh Street has been newly extended from Larimer Street to Auraria Parkway. On 11th, students will find a convenient RTD bus stop. The quad’s open design offers easy access from the Tivoli and buildings on the west side of campus to the CU Denver Wellness Center, scheduled to open in 2018 (details below).

Other features of Tivoli Quad Park include an amphitheater just outside Tivoli Turnhalle, a tiered deck that can be used for receptions or hanging out, generous brick walkways and open space to accommodate student events, and natural areas for recreational activities. A new beer garden will sit just outside Tivoli’s east doors, offering a pleasant place to enjoy a beer or have some lunch.

CU President Bruce Benson (not pictured), CU Denver Chancellor Dorothy Horrell and Executive Director of the Wellness Center Amber Long were among the dignitaries present at the groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 22, 2016. The celebration included free food, music, giveaways, a climbing wall and other fitness activities.

NORTH CLASSROOM BUILDING

The next improvement to the CU Denver campus is happening right at the heart of the institutional neighborhood. North Classroom is one of CU Denver’s most highly used buildings, but it has not seen any significant updates for close to three decades.

The $33 million initiative, which is already underway, includes renovating 32 classrooms that account for nearly one-third of the classroom space on campus. The Departments of Physics, Psychology, and Geography and Environmental Sciences all make their home in the North Classroom Building. These three science departments did not enjoy the benefits of the new Auraria Science Building, but with the North Classroom renovations, they’ll see updates to four main aspects of the building: classrooms, departmental offices, common areas and mechanical improvements. Renovations include everything from layout to lighting to audiovisual and technology upgrades.

What will students notice most? “The new classrooms will be an enormous improvement over the current classroom conditions,” said Cary Weatherford, associate director
for institutional planning. Although the renovation is disruptive, he said, it will be well worth the wait.

RNL Design, which worked on the renovation of the Business School, has been hired as the design firm for this project. The project is scheduled to be complete by the beginning of 2018. In addition, the Office of Institutional Planning is hoping to partner with the Auraria Higher Education Center on its campus-wide energy performance project, which involves improvements to buildings throughout the campus and is designed to reduce utility costs and resource consumption, said Weatherford.

STUDENT WELLNESS CENTER

The Student Wellness Center is the next building slated to open in the CU Denver neighborhood.

This 85,000-square-foot building will be replete with a three-story climbing wall, swimming pool, fitness rooms, bicycle repair shop, student kitchen and lounges. It was designed to address the six dimensions of wellness: social, physical, emotional, spiritual, financial and creative. As AMBER LONG, the new executive director of the wellness center, summarized, it will be “a space to discover our best selves every day.”

The idea for a holistic-oriented facility began with several students riding home from a retreat in 2012. A feasibility study followed in 2014, with student-government leaders supporting the project. The Board of Regents approved the CU Denver Student Wellness Center in spring 2015, shortly after the student vote that drew a record-setting 20 percent turnout and a landslide 61 percent to 39 percent victory.

CU President BRUCE BENSON noted at the groundbreaking that this building will be the ninth CU Denver-serving building constructed or remodeled during his term as president. He praised the strong leadership of Chancellor DOROTHY HORRELL, as well as JERRY WARTGOW and DON ELLIMAN, chancellors who immediately preceded her, for driving CU Denver’s momentum forward. “This is the direction we’ve got to go with this campus,” Benson said, “and now we’ve got our own neighborhood here.”

That discrete area within the Auraria Campus gives students “a sense that they’re proud of where they go to school... They’re proud to be in the city—they like the vibrant urban core,” said Chief Planning Officer MICHAEL DEL GIUDICE. Completing the Student Commons Building was the first step. With these new additions, CU Denver students will have an even larger and more vibrant campus footprint to call their own.

Did you know... CU Denver’s top five undergraduate majors are biology, music, fine arts, pre-engineering and psychology.
Education, hamburgers and the American dream

How Burger King and higher education helped one grad have it her way

MARY DE LA ROSA'S backstory reads like a screenplay:

Father escapes the Soviet Union to settle in Germany and meets future wife in a ballroom dancing class. Sponsored by a Philadelphia family, the couple immigrates to the United States in 1948 with only a Leica camera and $2 each in their possession.

Through dint of hard work and an unalloyed belief in education, the family thrives, raising two daughters in Southern California.

De la Rosa, the oldest by 11 years, matriculates at UCLA and meets her future husband at a St. Patrick's Day party, a chance encounter that would result in two children and a family business that today helps support more than 100 people.

Cue: The America dream.

Many years, college degrees and seven Burger King stores later, Mary is sitting in a restaurant in Denver's Cherry Creek talking about hamburgers and the importance of education.

“For my parents, this was the land of opportunity,” she said. “You go to school and work hard. Education is everything.”

De la Rosa, MBA '85, would get her bachelor's in history from UCLA and her teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach. Her husband, Carlos De la Rosa, has a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern California, an MBA from UCLA and a law degree from DU—diplomas that hang on the wall next to his certificate from “Whopper College.”

“We needed all these degrees to sell hamburgers,” Mary joked.

When Carlos took a job with a management consulting company in Boston, the couple moved east and Mary, who had been teaching fifth grade in inner-city Los Angeles, started substituting.

In 1976 the company transferred Carlos to Denver and Mary took a job teaching first grade in Adams County District 30. A year later the district furloughed all of its first-year teachers, and Mary, anxious about the mortgage payments on their new house, accepted a job selling midrange computer systems for IBM.

When her husband's company wanted him to return to Boston, the De la Rosas decided to stay in the Mile High City. Having worked on the development of the Colfax Avenue strip center across from the Auraria Campus, Carlos knew the center was seeking a fast-food restaurant as an anchor tenant.

Mary was dubious but game. “We were young,” she said. “We thought, what's the worst that could happen? That we'd have to get jobs again.”

Mortgaging their house and partnering with Carlos’ best friend, they opened their first Burger King in 1980. With three colleges across the street and tens of thousands of students descending on campus every day, sales soared. Over time their company, Jardel Enterprises, would build six more stores.

After the De la Rosas' son was born and their first Burger King was up and running, Mary decided to fulfill a long-held ambition to earn her MBA. Given that she had some life experience behind her, she liked the more mature students she encountered at CU Denver.

“Through my training at IBM, I had a strong background in information systems and marketing,” she said, “but I felt like I needed to learn about finance and accounting and all those things I hadn't been exposed to. With an MBA you get a little bit of everything.”

De la Rosa loaded up on classes with internationally renowned human resources expert WAYNE CASCO, who currently holds CU Denver's Robert H. Reynolds Chair in Global Leadership—knowledge she was able to immediately translate into their growing business. “I wrote our employee handbook based on what he taught me,” she said. “I also set up all of the employee benefit programs and a profit-sharing plan.”

She cites former organizational behavior Professor LEONARD CHUSMIR as an influence for helping her grapple with how to nurture a healthy corporate culture at their company. From retired General Electric executive MICHAEL HAYES' case study course, she remembers learning outstanding problem-solving skills. But more than anything, she treasures the friendships she developed as a graduate student that continue to this day.

The De la Rosas have since sold three of their Burger Kings, including the Colfax store across from the Auraria Campus. Their restaurants are among the top performing Burger Kings in Colorado.

The business gave the De la Rosas the flexibility to work, raise their family and give back to the community. The two have hosted countless fundraisers for literacy, scholarship and athletic programs in the communities where their stores are located. Mary and Carlos have been active with the Burger King McLamore Foundation, which offers need-based scholarships to high school seniors. Mary has served on the board of the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation and is especially proud of the fundraising and advocacy work she did to implement the Reading Together program in 38 Cherry Creek elementary schools, a program that dramatically increased reading skills among participants.

With more than 35 years at Jardel Enterprises, the De la Rosas are looking to pass the baton to the next generation. Their son Mike and daughter Katie are actively involved in the family business.

So what to order? She doesn't hesitate; for her it's a Whopper Jr. and a glass of water.
The University of Colorado Denver has announced the appointment of ROHAN CHRISTIE-DAVID, PhD, as dean of its Business School. An award-winning researcher and educator, Christie-David specializes in the areas of banking, financial derivatives and market microstructure. He holds an ACIB from The Chartered Institute of Bankers (London), an MBA from Wake Forest University and a PhD in business administration (finance) from the University of South Carolina.

Dean Christie-David plans to address trends in business education such as the need for interdisciplinary skills, the emergence of big data collection and management, changing delivery platforms, globalization and ethics in business.

“The CU Denver Business School has great potential for growth and excellence. I am already very impressed by the students and faculty here,” said Christie-David. “My vision for the CU Denver Business School is that it becomes a premier urban business school. We should aspire to be recognized for our outstanding teaching and research, and also for our service to the Denver business and other local communities.”

Christie-David comes to CU Denver after more than 10 years at the University of Louisville. Most recently he served as interim dean of the College of Business there, leading it to significantly improve its rankings.

Luis Poza led the development of the new BES endorsement

As a recently immigrated high school junior in northern Virginia, Luis Poza, PhD, wrote a paper about Nathaniel Hawthorne’s use of juxtaposition in “The Scarlet Letter.” His teacher and classmates expressed surprise at his ability to produce such a well-written paper—because he’s Latino and multilingual.

As assistant professor of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (CLDE) program, Poza studies educational situations like this coupling of ethnicity and achievement, as well as larger issues of marginalization related to race, ethnicity and language. He came to CU Denver’s School of Education & Human Development (SEHD) in 2014 with the goal of developing the school’s Bilingual Education Specialist (BES) endorsement—and this fall, he can check that off his list.

The 34-credit-hour program complements the CLDE endorsement with curricula centered on supporting multilingual students across schooling environments. Poza said the program is highly needed in Denver, as the proportion of bilingual students and English learners in Denver Public Schools (DPS) grows and the majority of DPS teachers in bilingual placements lack certification as bilingual specialists.

“The BES endorsement is a very direct response to a community need,” he said. “We heard from metro-area schools that they want more bilingual educators with training around bilingual pedagogies.”

CU Denver is the only university in the Denver metro area to offer a BES certification. SEHD students in the new BES program will study various areas of pedagogy and linguistics, including second language acquisition theories, social perspectives on education and bilingual student assessment. With 10 of the required credit hours taught in Spanish, the BES program operates in partnership with CU Denver’s Department of Modern Languages.

“We want every teacher who is delivering instruction in both English and Spanish to be trained in the effective strategies that our BES endorsement supports,” Poza said. “And we want every student with Spanish as a home language to have access to that language at school.”

Instead of promoting a single “pure” Spanish, he said CU Denver’s BES program recognizes Spanish as it is currently spoken in the United States and in Colorado, incorporating local context and the authenticity of the language as it occurs in students’ lives.

“For many students, their bilingual reality involves hybrid language practices,” Poza said, citing his own family’s holiday gatherings, which he calls a “culinary and linguistic feast.” “They are living both Spanish and English all the time, and our BES program has that in mind.”

Assistant Professor Luis Poza reads to students in a Denver Public Schools classroom. The new Bilingual Education Specialist (BES) Endorsement will offer bilingual teachers new strategies to help them succeed.
Top CAM artists to watch

OLIVIA RUDEEN
OLIVIA RUDEEN, BS Music Business ’13, signed to The Song Factory, a Nashville publishing company, and is writing songs for top artists across the country. “She’s a very successful songwriter in the mold of Meghan Trainor,” Daniels said. Rudeen has excelled at the prestigious Durango Songwriters Expo; she is a three-time winner of its Write with a Hitmaker contest.

VIRETTA
The twin brothers of Viretta, student MICHAEL and ROBERT MORONI, BS ’15, are from CAM’s Music Business program, Guerrero said. “They perform rock in the vein of Queens of the Stone Age. They grind pretty hard.” Viretta also was part of a local-band compilation disc that sent proceeds to the Guerrero-founded Youth On Record nonprofit, which works to improve the graduation rates of at-risk youth in Denver Public Schools through music education.

ONE FLEW WEST
“They do alt-pop-rock, they have great songwriting and great dynamics,” Daniels said. A pair of One Flew West band members—LINDEN JACKSON (vocals, guitar) and DAVID DISALVO (lead guitar)—study in CAM’s Music Business program. The band won the Westword Music Award for Best Folk Band in 2015 and was a finalist for KTCL’s Hometown for the Holidays contest. One Flew West has headlined top venues including the Fox Theatre, the Gothic and the Aggie in Fort Collins.

POPFILTER
Recording arts student MASON MAXWELL, BRAD GRUBER and BRIAN VU, both BS Music Business ’14, met in CAM and launched POPFILTER. The band finished in the top three of the KTCL Hometown for the Holidays contest, which got them their first live gig, and they’ve opened for national acts including Cage the Elephant and Mr. Wise.

OPTYCNERD
This electro-indie-pop-hop duo, which was a finalist in last year’s KTCL Hometown for the Holidays contest, is made up of CAM alumni CHRIS SCOTT and CHRIS KIMMEL, both BS Recording Arts ’14. Scott is an engineer at Side 3 Studios in Denver, where OptycNerd records much of its music. Kimmel also performs in the Denver-based band Funkiphino and has been a member of the CU Denver a cappella group MIX. OptycNerd is managed by LEVI WHARTON, BS Music Business ’15.

MICHIEL GHUN & EMMA MAYES
Students Ghun and EMMA MAYES (then Wallingford) both performed with CU Denver’s award-winning a cappella group, MIX. Ghun sings for Andy Rok & The Real Deal as well as Funkiphino and has an “extremely talented student who is going places,” said Guerrero.

ANDY SYDOW
ANDY SYDOW, BS Music Performance ’13, played South by Southwest in 2015 and has opened for Dick Dale, Samantha Fish, Delbert McClinton and Tinsley Ellis, among others. “He’s out there making a name for himself,” Daniels said. “His music has an Americana, blues, Southern rock kind of feel.”

DANIEL RUAH
This CAM-originated bluegrass group took top prize at the CU Denver Live! battle of the bands last semester and won a gig opening for a national artist. Lead singer ANDREA PARES is an “extremely talented student who is going places,” said Guerrero.
CAROLYNNE WHITE, MArch '06, recently joined the board of the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities. White is a Denver-based shareholder and co-chair of the real estate department at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. Her practice encompasses land use, real estate, government relations and natural resources, and she is one of only 23 LEED-accredited attorneys in Colorado.

2010s


KYLE CARTER, MPA '14, is chairman of the board of directors of the nonprofit Rocky Mountain CARES, a HIV/AIDS service organization providing prevention, education, medication and case management to the Denver community.

CURTIS A. FARRROW, CPA, MBA '13, has been promoted to manager at GBQ Consulting’s business valuation practice. Farrrow joined the firm in 2014 and has performed or contributed to more than 100 valuation engagements involving businesses, business interests and intangible assets of privately held and publicly traded companies. Farrrow is a member of the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Pennsylvania Estate Planning Council and the Risk Management Association, Philadelphia Chapter.

GORDON HAMBY, BA Communications '13, is a certified professional coach, motivational speaker and anti-bias trainer. In 2016 he began training Colorado police officers in anti-bias education, which is part of the mandatory Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) certification process. For the past couple of years, Hamby has also provided anti-bias/anti-bullying education for Front Range public school districts.

In memoriam

1970s

ALBERT LOUIS AGUAYO, PhD Education '77, died March 19, 2016
ALBERT S. CHALLENGER, BS Electrical Engineering '71, died Dec. 21, 2015
BERNADETTE CLARK, BS Education '77, died March 31, 2016
JANE STEVENSON DAY, PhD, MA Anthropology '77, died May 24, 2016
JULIAN RUSSELL DRACON, BS Marketing '73, died Aug. 7, 2015
EDGAR DEAN FOX, BS Business '72, died May 27, 2016
SALLY WALTERS HEEKERS, BA English '76, died June 30, 2016
STANLEY EDWARD JAROS, MURP '75, died March 29, 2016
LINEA ANN MCNEEL, MD, MS Health Administration '74, died June 22, 2016
STEPHEN P. MCNULTY, BS Business Information Systems '78, died April 10, 2016
THOMAS J. MONAGHAN, BS Accounting '76, died March 29, 2016
MARY S. MOTE, BA History '76, died July 25, 2016
JOSEPH FERRIS THOMAS, BA Sociology '78, died Sept. 8, 2016
JOSEPH SIDNEY WATKINS, MBA '70, died Sept. 4, 2016

1980s

JANICE M. ADSIT, BA Writing '83, died May 29, 2016
PETER BECKER, MArch '81, died Aug. 1, 2016
SEAN CAVANAGH, CFA, BS Finance '82, died April 6, 2016
JANET B. GANTENBEIN, BA English '80, died April 12, 2016
DAVID JAMES GRIFFI, BS Mechanical Engineering '83, died June 23, 2016
TIMOTHY GRANT HARTMAN, MA Education '85, died Oct. 16, 2014
MICHAEL JUDE HENS, BS Real Estate '88, MS Marketing '93, died Aug. 25, 2016

1990s

SUSAN W. RITCHIE, MS Health Administration '87, died Aug. 28, 2016
BERNARD F. SABLES, BS International Business '89, died Feb. 23, 2016
KAREN R. SEPHTON, BS Music and Media '83, died June 27, 2014
LINDA FAYE MOORE SMITH, MBA '86, died July 17, 2016
LEON KAY THOMAS, BS Finance '81, died Sept. 9, 2016
LINDA JO WELLBEAM, MS Accounting '81, died May 5, 2016

2000s

KENNETH WAYNE ANDERSON, BS Electrical Engineering '07, died July 8, 2016
STANLEY VERNELL BUCKLEY, JR., Specialist in Education School Psychology '02, died Aug. 5, 2016
Diane Marie Canfield, BA Sociology '01, died March 31, 2016
LAURA ELLEN CATHRAY, BA Communication '08, died Aug. 7, 2016
DAVID IRELAND GRANGER, MA Special Education '01, died June 8, 2016
PAUL ANTHONY SILLI, MA Information and Learning Technologies '09, died April 30, 2016

1980s

After co-authoring a number of peer-reviewed papers on tuberculosis bacteriology, PAMELA LINDHOLM-LEVY, MA Biology '80, published her first novel in November 2015. “Count the Mountains” is set in the late 1800s in Denver and a fictitious mining town, Rhodochrosite, Colorado. She had a reading of the book at the Tattered Cover in Denver in June.

ANDY MEAD, MPA ’85, human resources program manager for CU Boulder’s Facilities Management Department, leads the Facilities Management Mentoring Program (FMMP), a voluntary mentoring program for staff that helps them identify career opportunities, clarify career goals, foster teamwork and facilitate networking. The program led to Mead earning the 2016 Western Region International Public Management for Human Resources Agency Excellence Award. FMMP also received the 2016 HR Innovation Award from the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources.

PILAR ROBLEDO, MPA ’85, recently joined the Peace Corps Ukraine as the director for programming and training. He had previously worked for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UN Refugee Agency) for six years in Pakistan, then for the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for a year in Ukraine.

KEVIN J. SLAVIN, MS Health Administration ’86, has been elected as board secretary to the New Jersey Hospital Association. He is also president and CEO of St. Joseph’s Healthcare System in Paterson, N.J.

1990s

After 18 years in local government, LILY GRIEGO, BA Political Science and History ’98, MA History ’99, has entered politics full time as the political/outreach director for Bennet for Colorado, the campaign to reelect U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet.

2000s

BRAD MARTENS, BS Business and Information Systems ’03, has been promoted to senior vice president, broadcast engineering at Starz, where he is responsible for engineering, operations and transmission of the STARZ and STARZ ENCORE channels. Prior to joining Starz in 2008, Martens was a project engineer with Beck Associates and a senior director of engineering and operations for TCI/AT&T Broadband’s Digital Media Center.
Students Install ‘Cosmic Antenna’ to Measure Gravity Waves


Professor Awarded Fulbright Scholar Grant in Istanbul

Shruti Poulsen, a professor and researcher at the University of Colorado Denver, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach family and marriage counseling at Özyeğin University in Istanbul, Turkey. [http://bit.ly/295kjKS](http://bit.ly/295kjKS)

Professor Brings Star Wars’ BB-8 To Life

Amara Hulslander teaches interactive media in the College of Arts and Media. When she’s not in the classroom, she is introducing the world to the ways of The Force. [http://bit.ly/2aeBCqg](http://bit.ly/2aeBCqg)

Musiba Leads Effort for CU Denver Research Center in Tanzania


prefers Twitter or Instagram, Facebook or Snapchat, find CU Denver online or misses great stories like these:

CU Denver @CUDenver
September 30, 2016

CU Denver @CUDenver
July 29

CU Denver @CUDenver
June 1
New public service BA degree program introduced at @CUDenverSPA. [http://bit.ly/1TZ931Y](http://bit.ly/1TZ931Y)