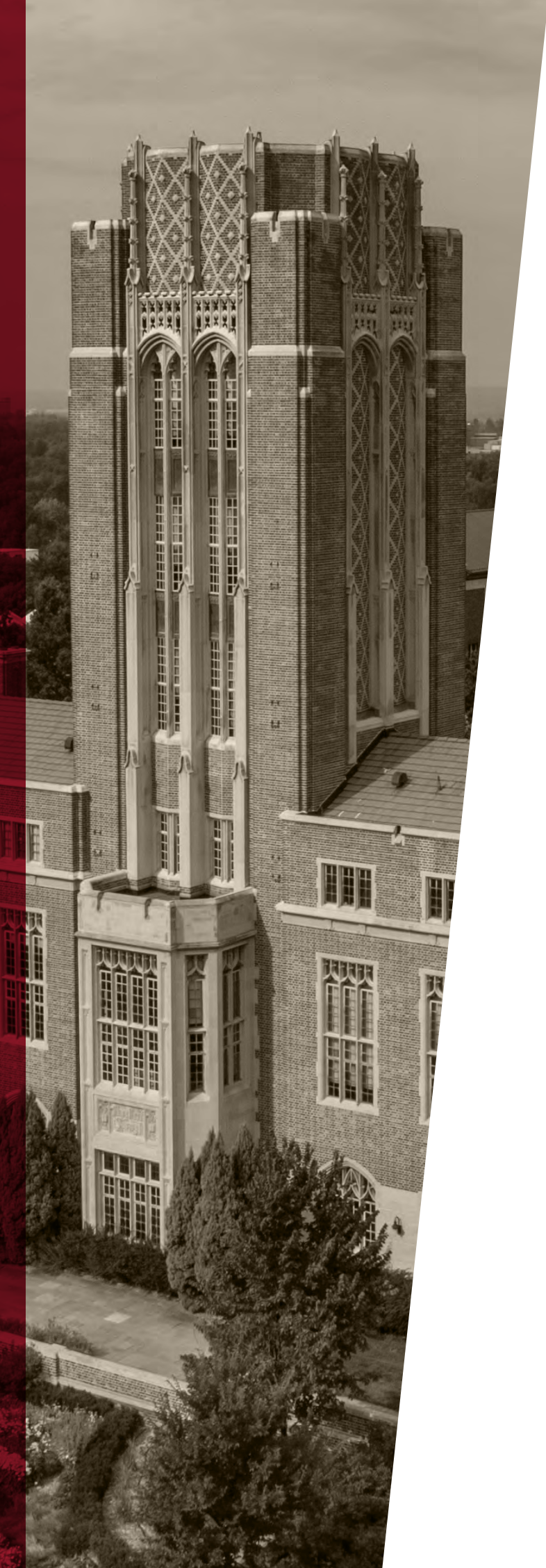




To reach
for the
summit is
human...
despite odds,
we ascend
to staggering
heights.

THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
REPORT OF PHILANTHROPY | 2019-2020





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*On the cover: an archival photo of
DU students mountaineering.*

A Word from the Chancellor



Among the University of Denver's greatest traits are our strength and resilience. For more than 156 years, we have overcome many obstacles to the benefit of our students and all DU does for the public good. While the past year presented significant challenges, it also revealed our strong foundation—a foundation philanthropy has helped build over decades and generations.

Because of the generosity of our friends and alumni, our students receive scholarships, which create countless opportunities to engage more fully in their educational experiences. Through philanthropy, faculty have greater opportunities to innovate, research and teach. Through philanthropy, our donors invest in crucial programs like community partnerships for mental health, new buildings that foster connection, and so much more. And, this year, we saw the ways philanthropic investment in our

programs empowers us to adapt to meet the changing needs of our community in times of crisis. In this report, we are delighted to share with you these stories of impact—stories made possible by your philanthropy.

For all the ways you connect with the University of Denver, supporting our students' educational experiences and the knowledge creation at the core of that education, I thank you. It is with the deepest appreciation that I acknowledge your vital role as our partner, most especially in times of challenge.

I hope you enjoy this report, and may our partnership only grow in the years to come.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Haefner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jg H', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chancellor

Building Community through DU

Students, alumni, community members—each has a unique connection to the University of Denver, and each tells their own story of resilience built through involvement with DU. Our students thrive and prepare for meaningful lives and careers through the opportunities afforded by scholarships. Our alumni invest and connect with DU, both in Denver and throughout the world. And individuals in Denver, in rural Colorado, and beyond find resources to improve their lives through our University’s research, programs and outreach.

In giving to scholarships, supporting community partnerships and more, our friends and alumni help to build a strong foundation that promotes resilience within all who connect to DU. Gifts of all sizes help to advance the programs and initiatives that build resilience in our students and community. We recognize the impact of each gift, no matter the size, as well as the significant difference made by those who give to the University each year. Individuals who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more are included in our Crimson & Gold Society, which honors the difference that their consistent generosity makes in the way that we teach, research and prepare students for lives and careers of impact.

Spotlight on Scholarships

Because I have a scholarship, I can give 100 percent to law school. The scholarship means freedom to focus and really go ‘all in’ on my studies. I have a wife and child at home, and as such, my family life keeps me occupied. The scholarship has allowed me to simply not worry about financing the law school side of my life. Because of the scholarship, I can ‘buckle in’ and get to work!



MATTHEW GROSSI (JD '20)



Students gather to tackle major societal issues at a DU Grand Challenges Community Table event.



Engaging Students in Solving Grand Challenges

The DU Grand Challenges demonstrates the heart of the University’s commitment to advance the public good. Spearheaded by the Center of Community Engagement to advance Scholarship and Learning and the Collaboration for the Public Good Working Group, the work of DU Grand Challenges focuses on three action areas: improving daily living, increasing economic opportunity, and advancing deliberation and action for the public good.

With a new grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, DU Grand Challenges has been able to set its sights even higher, aiming to engage 750 students in at least one academic or co-curricular activity in the next two academic years. Of those students, 250 will become DU Grand Challenges Scholars and will participate in faculty-mentored pathways connecting their various learning experiences through the program and preparing them for public problem-solving.

In response to COVID-19, DU Grand Challenges adjusted to provide a robust array of offerings to support students, faculty, staff,

“The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations are pleased to support the expansion of the Grand Challenges initiative. Through this important program, DU students are solving real-world problems while experiencing high-impact and transformative learning.”

**MICHAEL J. MURRAY, PRESIDENT,
THE ARTHUR VINING DAVIS FOUNDATIONS**

While other universities have been involved in similar initiatives, DU Grand Challenges has uniquely approached this charge to allow for students, faculty and community members to collaborate at all stages of the projects. Twelve research projects gave a platform to 30 undergraduate students, faculty members and partner organizations to make change that reflected local realities and challenges faced by these communities. DU Grand Challenges also piloted several large-scale events, such as A Community Table and Forums, to increase the opportunity for participation.

and community members as they continue this meaningful work. A Community Table was offered in a virtual platform, and more resources are being built to aid in facilitating conversations around the three action areas. While the method of delivery has changed, DU Grand Challenges recognizes the importance of this work and strives to provide students, faculty and community members with the tools needed to continue being change makers.

Arthur Vining Davis Foundations are a part of Spire Society and Crimson & Gold Society

Pioneer Venture Group Benefits Students and Community

The Pioneer Venture Group is a new initiative that gives students from across the University experience in operating a venture capital investment fund. It is wholly run by students and has an advisory board composed of faculty and community business leaders.

The initiative arose from a partnership between Project X-ITE, now known as Entrepreneurship@DU, and the Venture Law Society, with funding from the Burwell family, and gives educational, practical, and networking experiences to students focusing on entrepreneurship, venture investing, and general business practices. The goal of this student-run project is to provide students with the practical experience of running a venture fund while benefiting the community. Within the University, it will create meaningful relationships and interdisciplinary experiences. Throughout the Denver community, the Pioneer Venture Group will be a platform for supporting entrepreneurial opportunities, thus strengthening our city’s spirit of innovation and problem-solving.

40

The 2019-2020 Pioneer Venture Group was made up of a team of 10 graduate students. The team reviewed 40 companies from the Rocky Mountain Region for investment within their first year.



Dean Smith-Acuña and the Trustees of PIVOT Foundation at the 2019 launch of Flight to Luxury

PIVOT Foundation Supports Mental Health in Schools

Traditional mental health services in public schools are easily overwhelmed by abundant need and complex cases, and intervention can positively impact the trajectory of young lives affected by trauma.

During the 2019-20 academic year, PIVOT Foundation partnered with the DU Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP) to address this challenge by developing a pilot program within the Girls Athletic Leadership Schools (GALS) network in Colorado. Through the program, a licensed psychologist and GSPP faculty member, along with two graduate students, worked closely with GALS leadership to support and enhance available mental health offerings. GSPP students provided direct services to the GALS community and addressed a broad range of needs, including conflict resolution, crisis intervention, mindfulness and sexual health.

The pilot program year was an incredible success, with 148 inquiries for service, 312 individual sessions, 12 robust psychological assessments, and 1,080 hours of support to GALS students, families and community. The program has been renewed for the 2020-21 academic year and hopes to further expand services, enabling positive change in young lives and the Colorado community.

 PIVOT Foundation is a member of the Spire Society.

Morgridge College of Education Partners with Rural School Districts to Improve Health and Wellness

Just like their urban counterparts, school districts in rural Colorado confront plenty of daunting health and wellness challenges — everything from hungry children to stress from economic instability.

For all their assets (think close-knit communities where everyone knows everyone’s name), rural districts often are hampered by tiny staffs, minimal support and scant access to resources.

The Center for Rural School Health & Education (CRSHE) at the Morgridge College of Education aims to help change that. Bolstered by two recent grants totaling \$5.1 million from the Colorado Health Foundation, the CRSHE will spend the next two years equipping 27 rural school districts facing high poverty rates with the support, evidence-based resources and professional development essential to fostering student health and wellness.

The largest of the awards, the \$4.9 million Make It Happen grant, aims to increase healthy eating and physical activity among students and school staff living in poverty. The second funds what is known as the Resiliency Project, an effort to promote youth mental health and resiliency. Together, the grants tackle problems that undermine student learning

and achievement, not to mention school performance.

“The big problem that we’re trying to address is the length of time it takes for rural schools to learn about and implement the latest best practices known to support students’ health. There are some really big inequities among rural youth compared to urban,” says Dr. Elaine Belansky, director of the CRSHE and a research associate professor at the Morgridge College. “We know, for example, that suicide and depression rates are higher among rural kids, and we know that obesity levels are higher. And there’s also indication that some educational outcomes aren’t as good for rural students.”

This is true even though rural districts operate with some advantages that aren’t necessarily characteristic of their city counterparts. “People in rural communities care about each other in ways that often outperform what we see in urban areas,” Belansky explains. “Adults know most children in their community and vice versa. There is a culture of taking care of each other and pooling resources so that they stretch farther.”

Among other things, the new funds are being used to pay school district wellness coordinators to oversee implementing health and wellness plans, staffing wellness initiatives, selecting health education curricula, purchasing equipment for physical activity, and increasing healthy eating through kitchen improvements.



Spotlight on Scholarships



ASHLEY HAZEL (BSBA '20),
HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT

My scholarship has helped me to shift more of my focus on academics. I have been able to enjoy my final year and be more present at the University of Denver because of donors' willingness to provide funding for my education. I have had the opportunity to further explore my passion for hospitality and understand new facets of the industry that I may not have considered before. Donors' generosity allows me to enter my career with a smaller financial burden, giving me the opportunity to follow my passions.

One Student's Passion Becomes His DU Legacy



Jacob Del Hierro

Jacob Del Hierro was always looking out for others. Whether it was encouraging fellow students to pursue their business ideas, sitting on the DU Diversity Committee, or participating in the Volunteers in Partnership program and Excelling Leaders

Institute, Jacob had a passion for serving others, especially those less fortunate than him. A new endowed fund that bears his name will continue that legacy for generations of future students.

Jacob died tragically in April 2020 of an accidental overdose. His father, Chris Del Hierro (MAS '11), his great-uncle Joey, and many others came together in the wake of Jacob's passing to create a fund at DU that would honor him and benefit the types of students and organizations that meant the most to him.

"We saw a huge outpouring of support from the community—a lot of microdonations that are a testament to what Jacob left in the world," said Del Hierro. "The funds from this scholarship will go to

students from underrepresented backgrounds, helping them with books, transportation, or whatever they need to thrive at DU."

More than 200 donations averaging \$250 each boosted the fund to the endowed level within six weeks of its establishment, meaning the fund will benefit DU students in perpetuity. Four of Jacob's friends – Maya Bhowmik, Josue Rodriguez, Sedak Puri, and Victoria Kaufman – played a significant role in the swift creation of the fund, alongside numerous DU staff members.

Chris Del Hierro and his family hope that the Jacob Del Hierro Memorial Endowed Fund will help provide motivation and resources for students, as well as a reminder of the importance of mental health. "Everyone has struggles, but no one should have to endure that challenge alone. Reach out when you need help, and know that help is available," he said.

DU Latinx Alumni Affinity Scholarship Provides Community and Opportunity



Aron Rodriguez (MAcc '20, BA '19, BS '19) was the first in his family to go to college. When he came to the University of Denver as a first-year student, however, he found that he was at a disadvantage in learning to navigate such a complex environment. Through the DU Latinx Alumni Affinity (DULAA) and the scholarship they offered, he found financial support and a community that walked alongside him. Now a graduate with three degrees in accounting and political science from DU, he mentors undergraduate students so they have the support they need in their own journeys.



ARON RODRIGUEZ
(MACC '20, BA '19, BS '19)

“I loved all my donors and am so grateful for them,” said Rodriguez. “People who give to the DULAA Scholarship are giving to something that will directly touch students’ lives. This is support that they really need. You’re giving students the opportunity to truly focus on school and have that college experience that everyone hopes to have.”



HASIB NASIRULLAH (MBA '21),
GLOBAL BUSINESS & CORPORATE
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Spotlight on Scholarships

Having a scholarship has allowed me to focus on my studies and develop myself personally and professionally without having to worry about or stress over loans. Given the difficult employment environment that may come with the coronavirus fallout, the importance of this privilege cannot be overstated. I can take risks at improving myself and choose a career path that is right for me without having to focus on salary as the main driver.



Providing Food Security for the DU Community

College students are a particularly vulnerable population when it comes to food insecurity, or the lack of reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food. The DU Food Pantry seeks to address this need by providing no-cost access to healthy food for all members of the DU community. Last year, more than 3,100 pounds of food was given away to individuals in need, and much of the Food Pantry’s support came through DU Night at Zoo Lights registrations and alumni donations.



In the past year:

\$26,776

dollars were raised

1,131

donors gave

\$15

average gift size



384

gifts came through the call center



634 **196**

alumni friends

155 **82**

parents students



63

faculty & staff



3,100

pounds of food distributed



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF DU

The strength that our alumni and community members are building at the University of Denver – through visionary endowed gifts and planned gifts that create faculty funds, timeless facilities, scholarships and more – will bolster the knowledge and experiences that are central to a DU education for many years to come. Their generosity creates a solid foundation for the University's future, providing stability and resilience so we can devote resources for our students' success and design a future that will enable them to lead. Those who give in this way are enacting a shared vision with the University: creating opportunities that will advance research and teaching in fields that they love, paving the way for more students to attend DU, building and preserving the iconic physical structures of our campus, and so much more.

With deep gratitude, we acknowledge the enduring commitment of the donors and alumni who join us in establishing the foundation of opportunity and resilience for the students of today and of generations to come. Our giving societies recognize the significant impact that these gifts have on our students and on the University itself. Through the Spire Society, a lifetime giving society for those with cumulative giving of \$100,000 or more, we celebrate donors' tremendous generosity that is transforming DU by supporting today's education and research to create tomorrow's world. Through the Pioneer Legacy Society, we recognize those who have included DU in deferred giving arrangements, supporting the future of the University of Denver.

A Partnership and a Legacy

Michael Pulman, PhD, and Eric Lindstrom, MD, wanted to make an impact on the study of human sexuality in ways not possible in decades past. Now, through a \$3 million gift, they are making that difference at the University of Denver.

With their gift, the couple is creating a new interdisciplinary chair through an endowment in the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences to focus on human sexuality, and in particular, the cultural impact of homosexual individuals. As Pulman and Lindstrom say, many contributions by homosexual individuals throughout history have, until recently, gone unrecognized.

“This gift is important not only academically, it also helps us advance the cultural environment at DU as our community engages more and more intentionally in conversations around gender and sexuality, as well other issues of identity.

Our conversations are enriched when we can view the experiences of ourselves and others through the lenses of history and science and other subjects.

This gift will have a lasting impact on DU.”

—CHANCELLOR JEREMY HAEFNER

“We believe our investment in DU will provide the platform for studying artists and others, living and dead, whose sexuality has been central to their driving force and their path to achievement for the betterment of humanity,” the couple says.

The two have enjoyed long-standing and meaningful connections to DU: Pulman was a professor of history at DU from 1971 to 1991—an experience he counts among the greatest in his life—and Lindstrom has a three-year association with the Lamont School of Music through his avocation as a jazz musician.

Pulman and Lindstrom are members of the Spire Society and the Pioneer Legacy Society.



Dr. Pulman (left) and Dr. Lindstrom

Private Property and the Public Good

Despite the long-standing importance of private property rights in American law, considerable encroachments have occurred in recent decades as governmental bodies have increasingly sought to deploy their eminent domain power to take property from individuals for a variety of so-called “public” uses.

The Sturm College of Law is hoping to address this issue. Thanks to a generous \$2 million gift from Neil and



Jan Laitos and Neil Ray

Susan Ray, the college will establish the Joe T. Juhan Endowed Professorship in Property Rights and Policy (recognizing an outstanding faculty member in the Sturm College of Law with expertise in the fields of private property and natural resources law) and the Edward Nelson Juhan Natural Resources Program Fund (supporting visits by leading scholars, organizational leaders and governmental officials to teach and lecture on high-profile issues in these fields).

The Rays’ gift reflects a longstanding familial connection to DU and an interest in the work of Jan Laitos, the John A. Carver, Jr. Chair at the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law.

The Rays are members of the Spire Society, Crimson & Gold Society and Law Leadership Circle.



Creating Opportunities for DU Veterans

A phone call would change the lives of students for generations to come. James C. “Jim” Warren (BSBA ‘62), a fourth-generation Coloradan, called to let DU know that he and his wife, Georgia, had committed a \$1 million legacy gift to DU in support of veterans. They want to ensure that veteran students like Jim would have the resources they need for a successful college experience.

Not your typical student, Warren applied to DU after serving two years in the Marine Reserves and almost four years in the Army. He began his studies at DU in 1958 at the downtown Business School campus, using the GI Bill as part of his funding. According to Warren, “I always knew I wanted to give back to DU because my education is what led to my success. By letting DU know about our intentions, we’ve been able to plan for an endowment that reflects our wishes and meets the needs of veteran students.”

The Warrens believe in lifetime investments. When asked what excites them most about the legacy they will leave at DU, they agreed: “Veteran students will be drawn to DU because they will recognize it as a place that values them and honors the sacrifice they made.”

Each student who benefits from the James C. and Georgia R. Warren Endowed Scholarship Fund for Veterans will carry forward their legacy, leaving an enduring mark of the values and generosity they have instilled through their commitment.

The Warrens are members of the Spire Society, Crimson & Gold Society and Law Leadership Circle.



John DeBlasio speaking at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

Advancing International Excellence at the Josef Korbel School

From a chance airplane conversation in 2011 with a former staff member of the Josef Korbel School, retired Army Lieutenant John DeBlasio reached out to the then-dean of the school, Ambassador Christopher Hill, to discuss the establishment and eventual funding of a new Center for Middle East Studies.

Supported by DeBlasio's multi-year leadership funding, the Center for Middle East Studies was launched in 2012 under the direction of Professor Nader Hashemi. Each year since, the

Center has tackled issues of social, political and religious importance through robust programming, publications, international student travel and internships, and thoughtful roundtable discussions with members of our community.

Since his introduction to the University of Denver, DeBlasio has become increasingly engaged as a member of Korbel's Social Science Foundation and other activities at the school. In June 2020, he pledged support through his GPD Charitable Trust and DT Institute to help launch and operate the new Institute for Comparative and Regional Studies (ICRS) at the Korbel School. The ICRS oversees and coordinates Korbel's regional centers, including the Center for Middle East Studies, as they work cooperatively to deliver cutting-edge research, public programming and

student opportunities to further the understanding of the diverse and complex systems across the globe.

DeBlasio is a member of the Spire Society and the Crimson & Gold Society.



Investing in the Future of Accounting

Wade Loo (BSAC '80), chair of the Daniels College of Business Executive Advisory Board, is helping to clear the path for diverse students to pursue their dreams in the field of accountancy. In 2012, Wade and his wife, Chisato, generously established the Wade Loo Endowed Scholarship for accounting students at Daniels.

Since its inception, six students have benefited from their generosity.

Seeking to increase the impact of their fund, Wade recently notified DU that he and Chisato are including the University in their estate plans. Wade is leaving a legacy by ensuring that his scholarship will help students who show academic excellence and financial need. He enjoys meeting with scholarship recipients, offering advice and hearing about their experiences. The scholarship not only impacts the lives of students who receive the award; it also benefits the accounting profession as a whole by making the field accessible to individuals with broad experiences.

“I strongly believe the support, core values and technical skills DU provided helped me achieve an amazing and fulfilling 30-year career at KPMG,” said Wade. “I hope through establishing a scholarship I can provide others with the same opportunity for success in an endeavor they are passionate about.”

The Loos are members of the Spire Society, Pioneer Legacy Society, Crimson & Gold Society and Daniels Dean's Circle.

“I am a mom of two young kids who lost my job during the COVID-19 pandemic. I always wanted to pursue a graduate degree, and the loss of my career seemed like a better reason than any to finally go back to school. I also knew that I would not be able to afford such a goal for myself in a time of such deep financial insecurity. The scholarship awards have made realizing this dream of graduate school possible, and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to use this experience to pave a new and fantastic career for myself and my family.”

—HALEY KULTGEN
(BSBA '10)
LOO SCHOLAR



Pioneers Establish William G. Tierney Head Men's Lacrosse Coach Endowment

A new endowment in the Division of Athletics and Recreation will benefit men's lacrosse for years to come. Former players, parents, alums and friends of the men's lacrosse program committed \$1.25 million toward a head coach position known as The William G. Tierney Head Men's Lacrosse Coach, named in honor of the legendary coach.

Tierney posted a 132-41 record in his first decade with the Pioneers, with longtime associate head coach Matt Brown leading the offense. During their tenure, the Pioneers qualified for the NCAA Tournament nine times, reached Championship Weekend five times and lifted the first men's lacrosse championship trophy earned by a school west of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Tierney's student-athletes have earned the program's initial nine First Team All-Americans, nine Second Team All-Americans, five Third Team All-Americans, 22 Honorable Mention selections and 16 United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association Scholar All-Americans.



Bill Tierney

“The William G. Tierney Endowment at the University of Denver represents the generosity and selflessness of so many people who care about, have played in, or been parents of those who played in our program. This endowment will directly benefit future players who will proudly wear the Pioneer uniform, as well as their coaches who dedicate their lives to those young men.”

—BILL TIERNEY

Excellence in Teaching at the Graduate School of Social Work

The critical role social workers play in society is clearer now more than ever. As Jana Edwards (MSW '78), an alumna of the Graduate School of Social Work (GSSW), says, “there is no better profession to address the struggles of the day, from the mental health needs exposed by the pandemic to the call for more assistance to law enforcement, than social work.”

It is thanks to the support of generous donors and alumni like Edwards that GSSW can commit to enhancing and expanding its clinical expertise, ensuring that our graduates are equipped to meet the ever-changing needs of society.

Edwards stepped forward to lead a robust community fundraising campaign for an elite faculty position, which would ensure that GSSW has one of the best clinical social work programs in the nation. The funds raised currently support a Clinical Master Teacher Fund, which awards an outstanding teacher whose work provides critical support to clinical education at GSSW. Fundraising for a faculty position is ongoing, with a goal of endowing a clinical chair fund. Edwards continues to champion the cause, and she and her husband, Rick Poppe, are providing significant funding for the faculty position over the next four years.

“The final element that GSSW needs to provide in its highly sought-after clinical social work program is an endowed clinical chair, who will coordinate comprehensive and cohesive clinical training, recruit the finest clinical social work faculty available and ensure the continuation of an excellent clinical social work program in perpetuity,” said Edwards. “As a licensed clinical social worker myself, I made a promise to my colleagues who are DU alums that I would see to it that this happens, and I’m going to keep that promise.”

Edwards is a member of the Spire Society and the Crimson & Gold Society.



A Legacy of Love

Barbara Jean Davis and Allan Grimm were married the summer of 1964 on DU's campus. "When we got engaged, Barbara Jean told me we had to get married in Evans Chapel," Grimm says. "She loved that place." Davis had grown up near campus and received her education degree from DU in 1958. When Evans Chapel was relocated, brick by brick, from downtown to the University Park campus in 1960, she would often watch workers as they reassembled the historic structure, and she frequently spent time there after it was complete. Years later, when Al and Barbara Jean would come back to Denver, they always made a point to stop by campus and sit in the chapel.

Supporting Students in Preparation for Medical Careers

Helping DU undergraduates on their journeys to medical careers is an enduring passion for Dewey (BS '62) and Debby (BA '65) Long, both alumni of DU, native Coloradans and recipients of Boettcher Scholarships. To advance their goal of helping future physicians, the couple established the Dewey L. and Deborah C. Long Endowment for Pre-Medical Students at DU.

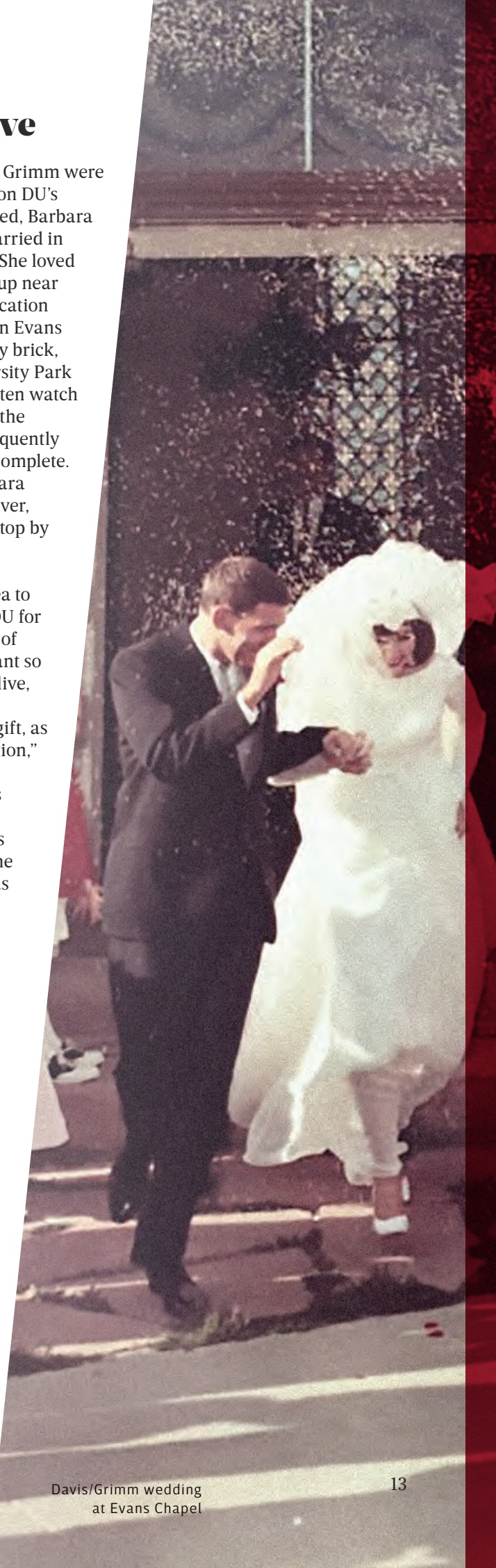
Their endowment provides funds for undergraduate research as well as support for the publication of this research in peer-reviewed scientific journals. This allows undergraduates to be co-authors, greatly enriching outstanding students' preparation for medical careers and enhancing their ability to gain admission to leading medical schools. Their generosity to DU this year has provided student research support in Dr. Robert Dore's lab.

The Longs are members of the Spire Society and the Crimson & Gold Society.

Later in life, Davis had the idea to include a gift in their will to DU for the upkeep and maintenance of Evans Chapel, which had meant so much to her. While she was alive, they made the decision not to notify the University of their gift, as they "didn't want the recognition," Grimm says. However, after her passing, Grimm felt it was important that he notify the University of this gift, and he's glad that he did. Because of the conversations with DU, he was able to put a fund agreement in place that will establish the Barbara Jean (Davis) and Allan Grimm Endowment for Evans Chapel.

To Grimm, this gift is about honoring Davis' wish that Evans Chapel remain in good condition for years to come, so that future generations of students and alumni can create their own memories there. "She was simply the best," Grimm says. "That's all there is to say."

Grimm is a member of the Spire Society and the Pioneer Legacy Society.



Davis/Grimm wedding at Evans Chapel

Denver Advantage

A Lifetime of Learning and Impact

Dick Saunders's (BS '63) first-ever plane ride brought him to Denver from Buffalo, New York, for the start of a life that he describes as an "only in America" story.

Starting at DU in 1958 and living in Johnson McFarlane Hall, Saunders focused his studies on construction management. Ever since he was a child, he had been interested in building. He took a year off from school around the time of his junior year, spending his days working in construction. Digging ditches and laying concrete for a homebuilder—as he tells the story, getting heatstroke in summer and frostbite in winter—served as a wake-up call for him to return to his studies at DU. He finished school and served in an internship at the same time, an experience that was a formative part of his education.

That principle of collaborative learning would become central to the culture he later built in Saunders Construction — the culture that is his greatest source of

pride in the company. "Set goals and share ownership," he says. "Sharing ownership means sharing in the risk as well as the reward. That promotes honesty and fairness, and people have their noses to the grindstone even more as a result."

One of Saunders Construction's most recent projects is the Community Commons on the DU campus, built on the footprint of Driscoll North and scheduled to open in 2021. It will provide a space for the DU community to gather, collaborate, enjoy a meal together and use a variety of student services. Running the length of the building on the first floor is the Richard C. Saunders Canyon, the main artery through the Community Commons that is named in honor of Saunders' \$1.5 million gift to the project.

"Walking through the Canyon reminds me so much of those first few days when I arrived in Colorado, and that drive up to Estes Park,"

Saunders says. "I hope this space will bring that beauty to our students as well as the opportunity to gather and learn together. The days a student spends on campus are so important. I enjoyed my time at DU, and I had the joy of watching two granddaughters attend here as well. This space is for all students to enjoy, both now and in the future."

Saunders notes that Colorado and DU have everything going for them: the beauty of the place and the friendliness of the people are tremendous assets to draw students to DU. He sees the Community Commons as a center point of learning, friendships and experiences that will stay with them for a lifetime.

Saunders is a member of the Spire Society.



Dick Saunders



Exterior view of the Community Commons and entrance to the Richard C. Saunders Canyon



Rendering of the Daniel and Janet Mordecai Executive Lounge



Daniel and Janet Mordecai

Daniel and Janet Mordecai Executive Lounge Provides Space for Students and Employers

Nestled on the third floor of the new Burwell Center for Career Achievement is the Daniel and Janet Mordecai Executive Lounge. Featuring stunning views of campus and the mountains through several floor-to-ceiling windows, this gathering area will provide a co-working space for potential employers to meet with students. The important purpose of this lounge spoke to Janet as a place to honor her late husband, Daniel.

Daniel Mordecai graduated from DU in 1956 with a degree in the arts and humanities. The University of Denver recognized his potential and offered him the opportunity to pursue higher education. Daniel achieved career success later in life—in his

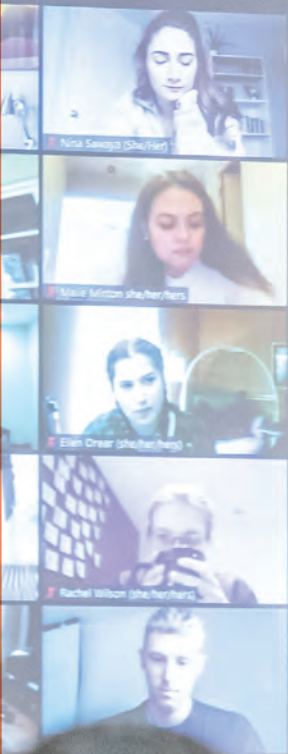
50s—when he founded the U.S. Nursing Corporation in 1989. His story reflects the importance of career networking prior to graduation, as these opportunities allow students to begin planning their careers before leaving campus. The Burwell Center will provide students with indispensable information on navigating a productive career, especially in their early years.

Mordecai is a member of the Spire Society and the Crimson & Gold Society.

ADAPTING DURING COVID-19

The University of Denver responded to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic with strength rooted in excellence and vision. Examples abound. Experts from University Libraries worked quickly with DU faculty to convert the spring quarter from in-person classes to remote instruction. Proven teaching practices found a new outlet through online classes. The University provided resources for alumni needing support in career transition, while also amplifying the work of alumni-owned businesses during a time when many had to adapt quickly to new realities. Philanthropic investment in innovative programs enabled a swift move to online delivery for the benefit of our students and the entire community. DU's resilience – demonstrated in our ability to pivot during the pandemic – is a hallmark of the University throughout our long history. Together we persist, adapt and thrive.

Throughout DU, we are forging new ways to pursue our longstanding vision of being a private university dedicated to the public good. Our deep commitment to our students, along with the partnership of like-minded alumni and donors, creates stability during times of uncertainty. This ability to meet new challenges and opportunities also paves the way for untold innovations in the years to come.





Helping Children and Families Find Ways to Thrive

Children and families are meeting many mornings – virtually – for a massive dance party. A children’s book author reads a book and leads related discussions and art lessons on Thursdays. More than 450 mental health practitioners gathered for a telehealth training. These are a few of the social support resources available during the pandemic, thanks to DU’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP), University Libraries and the philanthropists whose generosity has fueled these creative, timely programs.

The dance party and live-music singalongs bring the experts of GSPP and the Fisher Early Learning Center into the homes of hundreds of families each day. Through these interactions, families can build community and find social support. In addition, GSPP’s Caring for You and Baby (CUB) Clinic team is partnering with the Children’s Museum of Denver at Marsico Campus to offer their WePlay infant and parent play group content virtually. The CUB Clinic’s expertise allowed a nimble transition to online programming during Colorado’s stay-at-home order. Taylor Kirkpatrick (IMBA ‘04) made many of the CUB Clinic offerings a reality through a gift to GSPP, and now his generosity

is making a difference for the wider community in a time of great need.

“My goal as a strategic philanthropist is to find forward-thinking, creative, and innovative programs and leverage my support and resources on their chassis of expertise,” said Kirkpatrick.

“The CUB Clinic, DU Libraries, and similar programs have compounded my investment by creating meaningful societal impact that is socially relevant and responsive, particularly in these challenging times.”

Kirkpatrick is a member of the Spire Society, the Crimson & Gold Society and the Daniels Dean’s Circle.

An offshoot of the CUB Clinic that was also made possible by Kirkpatrick’s generosity is the CUB Lifelong Learning Event Series. This program brings children’s book authors to the University of Denver campus so children and families can participate in story time and conversations with the author and Tracy Vozar, director of the CUB Clinic, about the benefits of reading with children. During COVID-19, the CUB Lifelong Learning Series went online, letting more than 250 community members participate in a Creative Corner with children’s book author Marianne Richmond.

“The CUB Clinic’s overarching goal is to meet the needs of families in innovative ways that reduce barriers to accessing services,” said Vozar, who is also director of GSPP’s Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Specialty. “COVID-19 and social distancing create perhaps the most intense barrier we have encountered. I’m proud that our CUB Clinic team responded with compassion, creativity, and committed action, resulting in a timely response with multiple levels of service offerings – some pre-existing and many developed specific to our current circumstances.”

Visionary philanthropy at the University of Denver makes a

difference in countless ways – for our students, faculty and community. During the time of COVID-19, it also has provided the fuel for DU’s innovation and expertise to reach exponentially more people through online programming that is informed by faculty expertise and grounded in research.

DU Community Rallies Together on #1DAY4DU to Support Students

Even during a pandemic, the University of Denver community rallied together to show its support during the year’s annual day of giving, 1DAY4DU. On May 20, **2,399 donors** gave more than **\$456,000** in support of **25 critical DU programs** and initiatives. With 70% of funds directed toward student-focused initiatives, such as scholarships, internships, and campus resources, it came as no surprise that the most widely supported fund during 1DAY4DU was the **Student Assistance Fund**.

“Due to the stresses created by COVID-19, support of the Student Assistance Fund has become more important than ever; by reducing external sources of stress, the fund has allowed students to focus on their well-being,” said Kelly Schlabach, case manager for the Office of Student Outreach and Support.

83% of dollars raised were from gifts of \$100 or less

Donor Breakdown:

- Alumni—34%
- Parents—27%
- Faculty/Staff—20%
- Friends—17%
- Students—2%



The Student Assistance Fund provides a crucial source of financial support for DU students who are facing unexpected financial hardship. Created by the DU Student Foundation to address urgent needs, the fund also strives to educate the student body about the importance of giving back.

88%

of requests were successfully funded

\$1,000+

was allocated to students traveling home for family emergencies

\$4,000

supported students paying for critical medications and medical care

\$24,000+

assisted students with grocery costs, with each request averaging from

\$200 to \$400

Exploring Denver's Best Alumni-owned Spots through the Crimson & Gold Trail

In early 2020, DU introduced the Crimson & Gold Trail passport: a discount guide to the Denver metro-area businesses owned and operated by DU alumni. This not only provides visibility for alumni-owned businesses (particularly during a difficult time), but it also gives back to the next generation of students. A portion of the proceeds from the passport supports scholarships in the Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management.

When COVID-19 hit, the DU community expressed a strong desire to support local alumni-owned businesses. In response, we fast-tracked an update to the Crimson & Gold Trail website to help provide some much-needed assistance to our leaders around Denver.

“We are excited to be a part of the Crimson & Gold Trail,” says Ryan Evans, co-founder of Bruz Beers. “The partnership with DU and its fellow alums has led to an impressive list of food and drink offerings around Denver. Quality is king, and this trail is certainly that. It’s great to see a local university creating such a unique offering in town while supporting small business.”

The next edition of the Crimson & Gold Passport will be available in early 2021, with twice as many deals as the original and additional perks. Find out more at trail.du.edu/get-passport



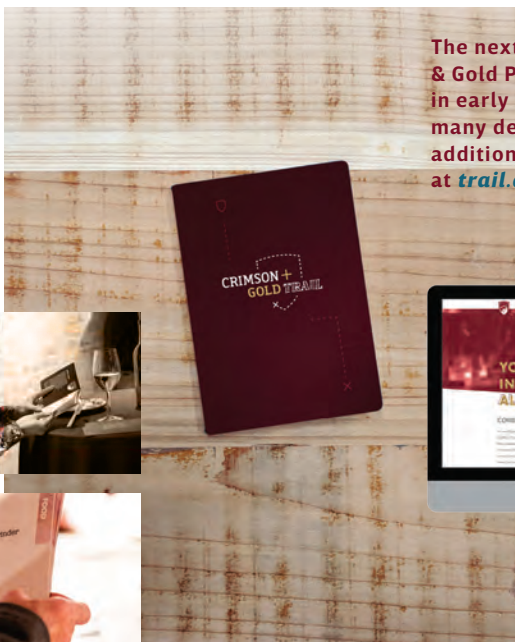
CONNECTED.DU.EDU

Stay Connected

DU faculty, staff and alumni came together to create a lineup of virtual experiences, programming and resources to support the resilience of DU community during COVID-19.

When the realities of physical distancing and the economic impact of COVID-19 took hold, the University got to work in designing timely, relevant programming to serve alumni and friends while still complying with physical distancing. Out of that process came a pivot from in-person, face-to-face to virtual experiences. Featuring DU faculty, alumni and other experts, the lineup of virtual experiences the University created included programming focused on mental and physical health and wellness, career development, children and parents, working remotely and more.

To make it easy for the community to access the programming in one place, a microsite, connected.du.edu, was launched to house all the programs, as well as other resources, such as how alumni could get in touch with the University’s Career & Professional Development team for career support. The site has also served as a gateway for supporting impacted students and for alumni business owners to connect with DU.



**AMONG THE TOPICS HIGHLIGHTED
ON STAY CONNECTED:**

- MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT
- CHILDREN AND PARENTS
- WORKING REMOTELY
- SOCIAL JUSTICE
- WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Haiti Women's Soap Project Empowers Women to Assist in COVID-19 Prevention

In some of the poorest neighborhoods in Haiti, a team of nurses trains women as hygiene educators and sellers of liquid soap, something that is considered a luxury item in Haiti. The team's ability to make and sell soap cheaply helps break down the cost barriers that often prevent people from buying it. Their work, supported philanthropically by Nursing Education Collaborative for Haiti, heightens awareness about the importance of hygiene – along with its role in reducing disease, loss of work, and loss of schooling – and peer education encourages healthy choices. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those nurses became part of the national team for COVID-19 prevention in Haiti, and they trained 649 healthcare professionals on hygiene to prevent its spread.

Renee Botta, PhD, associate professor in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, leads this team as an expert in improving health outcomes through health promotion and communication.

"Nurses are a powerful force in social change, and this team's work is having significant impact on hygiene and the prevention of COVID-19 in Haiti," said Dr. Botta.



Dr. Botta and the team developing training in January 2020

Giving at DU

FY2020 by the numbers

(Fiscal Year 2020: July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020)

\$44,067,831

total dollars raised

17,255

Total donors

- Alumni: 8,333
- Corporations: 431
- Foundations: 291
- Friends: 6,632
- Other: 434
- Parents: 1,710

**donors can fall into multiple categories*

Endowments
& Scholarships

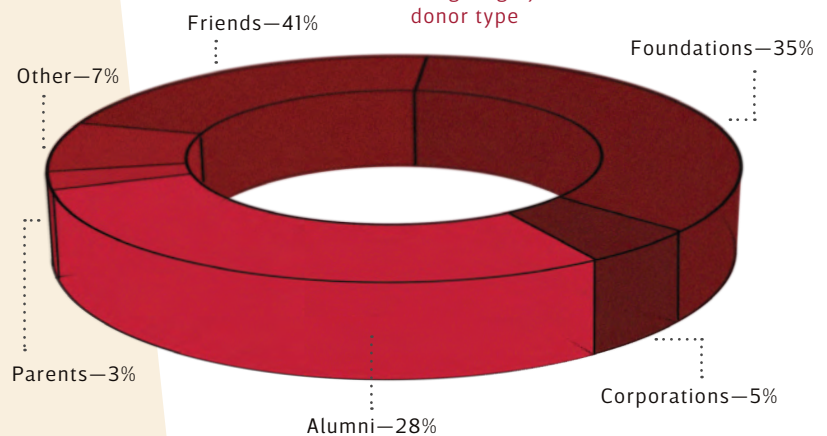
\$11,253,021

given to scholarships

45

new endowments established

Total giving by donor type



Giving Societies at the University of Denver



Annual society based on gifts of \$1,000 or more received on a calendar year basis.

1,582

Crimson & Gold Society donors



Planned giving society based on an estate commitment or other deferred gift to the University, at any level.

1,136

Pioneer Legacy Society donors



Lifetime society based on cumulative gifts totaling \$100,000 or more during a donor's lifetime.

1,265

Spire Society donors

\$38,855,572

received from society members in FY20

Donors who support the Daniels College of Business or Sturm College of Law at the Crimson & Gold Society level are welcomed into the Daniels Dean's Circle and the Law Leadership Circle, respectively.



This report is an annual publication of the University of Denver, Advancement spotlighting the impact of philanthropy at DU for the generous supporters of this institution. If you have questions or feedback, or to request a physical copy, please email donorrelations@du.edu or call 303-871-4591.

Senior Leadership

Jeremy Haefner Chancellor

Val Otten Senior Vice Chancellor for Advancement



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DENVER