



**OPENING
EVERY DOOR
TOGETHER**

**PHILANTHROPY 2018
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER**



A WORD FROM CHANCELLOR CHOPP

Dear Friends:

Innovation and collaboration are some of the greatest hallmarks of the University of Denver. Constantly aspiring to reach beyond what we know, together we create the knowledge and practical applications that transform our community and society. We collaborate across disciplines to develop meaningful solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing our communities. We educate our students in their fields of passion, opening the doors to boundless possibilities and giving them opportunities and experiences that pave the way for impactful, fulfilling careers.

We do not do this alone. It is in dreaming together, planning together and acting together that we create this reality at the University of Denver. Together we open the doors to all that our exciting future will hold. This collaboration, this innovation, this passion for creating an impact — all are fueled by your involvement and your generosity.

Together this year we reached higher than ever before, making a remarkable difference for our students and our community. Alumni, parents, students and friends gave with passion and with an eye toward making a transformational impact in the areas at DU that hold the most meaning to them. This was particularly evident on One Day for DU, our annual day of giving, when 2,900 individuals gave to more than 200 meaningful crowdfunding causes that impact DU students and the wider community.

On the pages that follow, you will see a snapshot of the impact that is emerging from the involvement of our alumni and friends. I hope you enjoy these stories and what they represent — the power of philanthropy to open doors. Thank you for joining us in creating this exciting future for the University of Denver.

Sincerely,

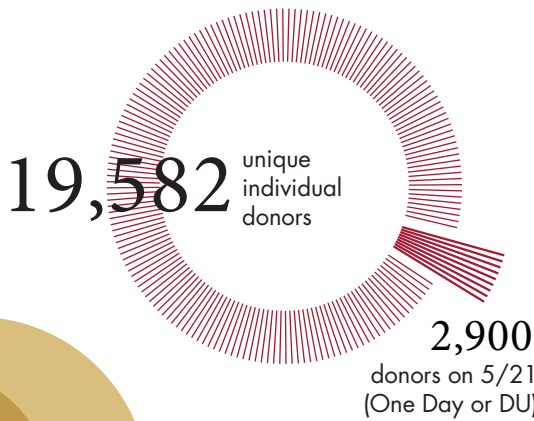
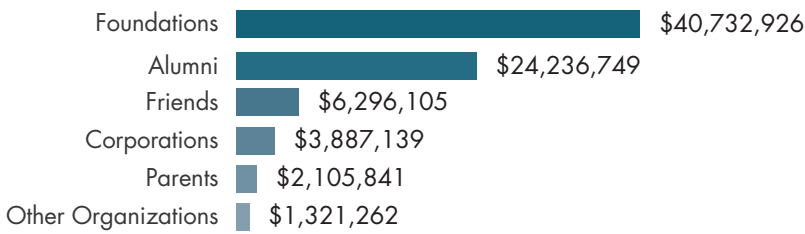
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca Chopp". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Rebecca Chopp
Chancellor

2018 AT A GLANCE

In 2018, the University of Denver community came together like never before in support of our students, the knowledge they are helping to create at DU and the ways in which it will change our world. That generosity, alongside collaborations across campus and throughout our community, enables the University of Denver to connect academic excellence with practical impact for our students, our community and our world.

Gift Source



Gift Size

Gifts over \$10M totaled \$17,500,000

Gifts \$1M to \$10M totaled \$28,936,691

Gifts \$50K to \$1M totaled \$21,571,546

Gifts \$10K to \$50K totaled \$3,638,469

Gifts under \$10K totaled \$6,933,316

\$78,580,022



DOORS OF IMPACT

INNOVATION THAT FUELS THE FUTURE



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TURNING A DIAGNOSIS INTO DIALOGUE AND DISTINCTION

Emily Spencer is as grateful to DU as the University is to Emily Spencer.

“I don’t have the words to express my gratitude,” Spencer said of the faculty members—and especially Shelly Smith-Acuña, dean of DU’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP)—who supported her when her son, a student at the time, experienced an all-too-common mental health crisis while on campus.

“There had to be [...] more freedom for students to speak up when they or their friends are struggling.”

Because the outward signs of mental illness include impulsive behavior, trouble focusing and poor decision-making, faculty, staff and peers often assume a student has a behavioral problem rather than a health issue that needs treatment.

“The good news was that my son did need to go to the hospital, and he did get the help he needed,” Spencer said. “But through the experience, we all learned that certain University policies needed to be changed. There had to be more education for the adults on campus, better communication between departments and more freedom for students to speak up when they or their friends are struggling.”

So Spencer, who had been supporting the Colorado Women’s College at DU for more than a decade, committed herself to finding solutions. She learned as much as she could about mental health on college campuses. Having sold her business, she was free to apply her

skills as a successful entrepreneur and compassionate community builder. She met with anyone who would listen.

“The timing was right,” Spencer said. “Chancellor Rebecca Chopp had come on board, and people were more open to having these kinds of conversations. And then I found Shelly.”

Fast-forward three years and a six-figure gift later from Spencer, and GSPP is ready to launch what likely is the only doctoral-level Substance Use Disorder Specialty in the country. Spencer, who has chaired GSPP’s Board of Advisors for the past year, has made an additional major commitment for scholarships to students enrolled in the specialty. And a new full-time faculty member, Jennifer Tippet (PsyD ’13), has been hired to lead the program.

“It’s really tricky to tease out mental health from substance abuse,” said Tippet, who has worked at the individual and community-health levels, from hospitals and prisons to high-end residential rehab centers. She is trained to apply all evidence-based interventions, such as harm reduction, smart recovery and mindfulness, and she will utilize what she knows in her work with students and in building partnerships with other entities across campus and in the community.

And, for the Specialty, every course Tippet creates will be new. She said, “The vision is so wide. The need is so great. We’re really excited about this.”

CREATING A LEGACY OF GREATER GLOBAL INSIGHTS

As politics and public policy become more polarized and complex, the generosity of Helen Crossley (MA '47) means more than ever to the University of Denver, and to the world beyond.

Crossley established the Center for Public Opinion Research in 2012 with a \$1 million gift. Before she died in 2016, she saw the Center field a series of influential polls and hit its stride as a teaching institute.

This year, thanks to Crossley's estate gift, the Crossley Center awarded its first scholarships, which are dedicated to supporting students who will carry on the Crossley family's legacy of studying public opinion. Along with George Gallup and Elmo Roper, Helen's father, Archibald, was one of the founders of the field. He died in 1985.

The Crossley Center scholarships were also supported, in part, through DU's ASCEND scholarship matching program.

"Understanding public opinion is more important now than at any time since the Vietnam war," said Floyd Ciruli, the Center's director. "How we deal with immigration, formulate foreign policy, predict election outcomes, prepare for the impact of millennials—how we view democracy—can all be informed by public opinion data."

He said it's critical that graduate students in the Josef Korbel School of International Studies combine their deep exploration of politics and foreign policy with learning to read data and drawing conclusions.

In addition to reviewing polls and other data, Crossley scholars now have a wealth of other source material to inspire their love of the discipline, thanks to Crossley's niece, Sally Piccini.

"How we deal with immigration, formulate foreign policy, predict election outcomes, prepare for the impact of millennials—how we view democracy—can all be informed by public opinion data."

Piccini has given the University many cartons full of publications, notes and artifacts related to Crossley's career, which, Piccini said, "took off after she earned her master's degree at DU." Graduate students are currently cataloging the materials for inclusion in the Crossley Center's special collections.

"Helen really did care about the importance of things that have historical value," said Piccini, who described her aunt as a professional woman who traveled the world, coordinating surveys in many countries of Europe, Asia and Latin America for the U.S. Information Agency.

"She saved every issue of Public Opinion Quarterly since its inception in 1937, and she kept the original materials from a 1949 Denver community survey, which was groundbreaking in the public opinion world, because it measured the truthfulness of respondents' answers to questions of fact."

"It's not the Rosetta Stone," Piccini said. "But there's some really interesting stuff that forms the basis of an archive for the Crossley Center. And it's a chance for Helen's father to be recognized anew."



RALPH L. SMITH FOUNDATION FUNDS BREAKTHROUGH ALS RESEARCH AT DU

Since baseball legend Lou Gehrig was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in 1939, the outlook for those with the disease has not changed dramatically. But thanks to research funding from the Ralph L. Smith Foundation, tremendous advances have been made at DU in just the past year. Biology professor Dan Linseman—along with three research students he couldn't otherwise afford—have been able to complete one breakthrough study and begin another.

"It's hugely important to be able to have students working with me," Linseman said.

In the first project, Linseman and his team have identified and tested a nutraceutical compound, protocatechuic acid (PCA), that is extracted from purple berries such as blackberries and bilberries. They found that PCA improves muscle strength and increases survival of mice with ALS.

His students are completing a paper describing the benefits of PCA, which they hope will be the first evidence that the compound is effective for treatment of ALS. Their research could lead to possible future clinical trial of PCA in ALS patients.

Linseman's second study—also funded in part by the Ralph L. Smith Foundation—aims to identify a blood biomarker that will allow doctors to diagnose ALS much sooner, and therefore begin treatment earlier than is currently possible. This research could extend and enhance the quality of life of patients.

"Watching a family member battle ALS or any other neurological disease makes you feel incredibly helpless," said Suzanne Douthat Birkans, a manager of the family's foundation, which is named

after her great-grandfather. Birkans' father, Edward Marsh Douthat III, died of ALS in 2007, and since then, the foundation has been supporting ALS research and awareness, among other causes.

"What Dan and his students are discovering will not only impact science but also will have a direct impact on the quality of life for ALS patients," said Birkans. "His passion for his work, and for improving the patients' journeys, makes it a simple choice to continue to support him."

The Ralph L. Smith Foundation's gifts to DU came about after Birkans, who lives in Denver, met Linseman at the Rocky Mountain ALS Association in Denver, where both served on the board.

Linseman has been at DU since 2006, initially under a joint appointment with the Veterans Administration, and as a full-time professor of biology in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics since 2015. He now enjoys significant new resources associated with the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging, where his lab is located.

Especially with the support of the Ralph L. Smith Foundation, Linseman is optimistic that his work will make a real difference. "One of my main goals in science is to make an impact on ALS patients," he said. "We get tired of just saving mice. We want to move beyond that."



Since baseball legend Lou Gehrig was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in 1939, the outlook of the disease has not changed dramatically...

LATEST HARBOR LIGHTS GIFT WILL HELP MAKE DISASTER RELIEF SUSTAINABLE



can be used to train people in threatened regions—especially those where disasters are likely to recur.

“The gift will allow us to help communities prepare, psychologically, for a disaster, and also to help professionals in communities better address the mental health aspects of the aftermath,” said Fox. “And most importantly, we will be able to apply the modules to a variety of places and situations, domestically and abroad.”

In the classroom, IDP graduate students learn the clinical psychological skills of master’s-level mental health professionals, as well as an array of specific strategies for working in the field of trauma and disaster. Thanks to prior gifts from the Harbor Lights Foundation, they receive training not only domestically but also in an eight-week international field placement between the first and second years of the program. This summer, students are in Peru, Chile, Sri Lanka, Kathmandu, Malawi, Liberia, Nepal and Cambodia.

Jessi Lee (MA '18) worked last summer in Serbia, where she supported programming for refugees and asylum seekers, in addition to supporting mental health workers who had been on the ground there for far longer.

“We are people who care a lot, so we tend to overextend ourselves,” said Lee, who worked in Africa for a year after earning a bachelor’s degree in public health from the University of Rochester. “Knowing that, we have to ask: How can we maximize impact in a sustainable way?”

Fox is hopeful that the latest gift from the Harbor Lights Foundation will do just that.

When a natural disaster strikes, or a country is ravaged by war, mental health professionals arrive after the pandemonium clears. By then, trauma will have set in—for the people whose lives and homes have been disrupted or destroyed, and also for the professionals who wish they could do more to help.

“When a disaster happens, there are several points during which people may be helpful,” said Professor Judith Fox, director of the University of Denver’s Master’s Program in International Disaster Psychology (IDP) in the Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP). “Some assist with humanitarian aid through a response organization like the Red Cross. Other important efforts involve training people and communities up for disasters, preparing them to know what to do and assisting them to recover in the aftermath.”

That is what the Harbor Lights Foundation aims to address with its latest gift of \$250,000 to GSPP. This support will allow students and faculty to develop expertise in online consulting and building workshop modules that



ART FOR MORE THAN ART'S SAKE: MADDEN FAMILY GIFT

In much the same way a university builds courses or programs around the needs of its students, John Madden Jr. develops commercial properties and business parks around particular pieces of art. Now his vast art collection is at the core of his support for the University of Denver.

In 2016, Madden donated 120 artworks valued at \$10 million to DU, creating the Madden Collection at the University of Denver and doubling the monetary value of the University's art assets. Since then, Madden and the University have worked together to integrate the collection with teaching, research and scholarship programs for students and faculty as well as the Denver community.

Gifts in 2018 from Madden and the Madden Family Foundation have supported the first cohort of Madden Fellows at the Madden Collection, as well as Art and Art History scholarships and the future hiring of a full-time museum director.

The impact of Madden's generosity has been immediate—especially on Kierra Aiello (BA '17), who earned a five-year BA in Art History and Music (cello performance) and an MA in Art

History with a Museum Studies concentration. Aiello has worked as a Madden Museum Fellow since the summer of 2016.

"I love getting to work directly with a small collection that somebody cares about," said Aiello. "With Mr. Madden, it's clear that he cares deeply about every object and every

artist, so to be the one who does the research, handles the objects and writes the proposals is a wonderful experience."

Over the past two years, Aiello has created museum-quality files on the artists, researched the provenance of the works and assessed the condition of the paintings and outdoor sculptures, all of which are now located on the ground floor of the Palazzo Verdi building, 6363 South Fiddlers Green Circle. She also gives tours of the collection, while working part-time at the Denver Art

Museum's gift shop and as an on-call gallery maintenance professional. The more Aiello learns, the more she loves her career path, which was inspired by DU courses such as Museum Methods. "Until then, I had no idea how many careers existed within the museum field."

That's exactly Madden's goal—to inspire students and faculty with the collection and to share his love of the works with the DU and Denver community.

Soon, the Madden Collection will be featured in a variety of courses at DU. The Theatre Department plans to study landscapes as a reference point for set design. Painting classes will study techniques in the works. And beginning next fall, University College will pilot a few courses at Greenwood Village, including an in-depth study of the Madden Art Collection.

"Any day of the week, someone can take the light rail to the museum," Aiello said. "And once they get there, we have an amazing collection and great information to share."



Madden Art Collection Gallery Opening, 2016





RECRUITING A TEAM OF DONORS TO PAY HOMAGE TO LACROSSE'S GREATEST LEGEND

From the moment Lacrosse Head Coach Bill Tierney arrived at DU from Princeton University, it was clear he would be a huge success.

The same was not so true for Brandon Johnson (BS '98, MS '02), whose grades at Denver's East High School failed to show his potential. "Going to DU was an aspirational dream—potentially outside my grasp," Johnson said. "But I believed DU was the opportunity I needed to prove myself."

So he promised the dean of admission he would earn straight As. And he vowed to walk on to the lacrosse team. "Keeping my promise was incredibly motivating to me," Johnson said. "I was starting from scratch. And I was ready this time."

Now Johnson, who followed through on his promise and earned three As and an A-minus during his first quarter, eventually graduating magna cum laude with a 3.92 GPA, is leading a team effort to endow the head coaching position in Tierney's name. Having played for DU when the University was preparing to transition up from Division II, he said, "We used to dream about the team becoming a Division I powerhouse, and now it is. Without a top-tier coach, you're never going to get there—much less stay there."

In his nine seasons at DU, Tierney has led the team five times to the NCAA Final Four. In his 33 years of coaching, including 21 seasons at Princeton, Tierney has seen seven NCAA Championships and nine NCAA Final appearances. In 2002, he was inducted into the Lacrosse Hall of Fame, and, in 2016, the playing field at the new US Lacrosse national headquarters in

engaged and passionate alumni who are leading this effort with some amazing gifts. This leadership will inspire others to join the campaign to honor Coach Tierney and endow the Men's Lacrosse head coaching position with the resources it needs to compete for the National Championship year in and year out."

Sparks, Maryland, was dedicated as William G. Tierney Field, in honor of his legendary career.

According to Johnson, who now serves as a trustee for DU as well as the founder and principal of Johnson Financial Group in Denver, it will take \$1 million to endow the head coaching position. With about half of the money raised so far, he has a clear strategy—and the motivation—for delivering a second time on his promise to DU.

"With all the building on campus, our incredible Chancellor, and our visionary strategic plan, the University as a whole—including the lacrosse program—has the chance to rise to a new level," he said. "We have a core group of really



DENNIS LAW EXPLORES ARTISTIC NEW INSTITUTE WITH \$20 MILLION GIFT

As a child in Hong Kong, Dennis Law dreamed of becoming a doctor by watching Ben Casey on American television.



Loretta and Dennis Law

Meanwhile, his parents, Joseph and Loretta Law, became wildly successful in manufacturing plastics, including Star Wars action figures for the Kenner Products toy company. They triumphed over politics and defended workers' rights while setting a philanthropic example for their four sons. Dennis

and his three brothers all earned medical degrees from the University of Pennsylvania, became doctors and have been generous to their communities.

But, as the \$20 million gift to the University of Denver from the Dennis K. Law Foundation and Loretta Law shows, this is no ordinary story of perseverance and success.

"The Law family's generosity inspires our community to imagine on an international scale," said Chancellor Rebecca Chopp, who traveled to China last year to experience Dennis Law's vision to create an entirely new body of digital and performance content that appeals to cultures of the East and the West. "They bring the world to our campus, so we may learn from one another, exchange ideas and create strong, cross-cultural bonds."

Dennis Law's gift established the Joseph and Loretta Law Institute of Arts and Technology, which officially launched in February by hosting the first Denver International Electronic Music Festival. Held at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts, it was the first of many initiatives

fusing arts and technology, exploring multicultural artistic frontiers and bringing new art and performance experiences to the region.

"With this gift, I am so pleased to honor my parents," said Law. "The Institute is a bridge to advancing all causes that are educational and enriching, not only for the University of Denver but also for the people of Denver and Colorado."

In 2001, Law retired his successful cardiology practice in Denver to concentrate more fully on theatrical expression and bridging cultural divides. Since then, he has created and produced several large-scale productions he describes as Chinese action musicals.

"Terracotta Warriors," "Tang Concubines" and "Monkey King" all played the Buell Theatre in Denver, and they have been performed nearly a thousand times across North America and China.

In addition to the annual music festival, the Law Institute will provide innovative art, multicultural and technological experiences and activities intended to expand artistic horizons.



The first Denver International Electronic Music Festival



STEPHEN AND JONATHAN VINNIK: HONORING THEIR FATHER AND MOTHER



When Stephen and Jonathan Vinnik wanted to expand the impact of the Dr. Irwin E. Vinnik Endowed Memorial Fellowship Fund at DU, they knew just what to do.

“There were two things,” said Stephen, the elder brother. “We wanted to promote the memory of our parents, whose legacy is deep in the Jewish communities of Denver and Colorado. And we also wanted to give people a feeling for the creativity that exists in Israeli and Jewish culture and traditions.”

And so, a few years after their mother, Sandra, died in 2014, the sons expanded their family’s endowment beyond its successful work over the years as a travel fellowship to supporting a new Dr. Irwin E. and Sandra Vinnik Evening of Jewish Culture. The inaugural event, held in February 2018, featured a talk with Israeli filmmaker Avi Nesher and a screening of “Past Life,” in connection with Denver’s annual Jewish Film Festival.

“It’s very rewarding to continue to work with the Vinnik family to expand their parents’ legacy of Jewish learning and intercultural bridge-building,” said Sarah Pessin, professor of Philosophy and Judaic Studies and director of DU’s Center for Judaic Studies, which administers the award. “By providing more opportunities to learn about Jewish culture, the new program is a strong fit with our commitment to diversity and inclusion at DU, as well as the Center for Judaic Studies and Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.”

Younger brother Jonathan said, “Both of our parents were so public in their support—they volunteered, they attended events, they were very well respected. We want to give an event to the community that grows and attracts many, many people. More people will benefit, and every single event will be fascinating!”

GIFT OFFERS NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY TO DU WOMEN IN TECH



It’s hard to find a couple more committed to entrepreneurship, education and philanthropy than Brad Feld and Amy Batchelor. They are authors, activists and investors—and they plan to give away 100 percent of their wealth during their lifetimes.

Though neither attended the University of Denver, the couple’s Anchor Point Foundation has made two generous gifts to DU.

Thanks to their latest gift, made in 2018, about 10 female Computer Science majors will be able to attend the 2018 Grace Hopper Celebration this fall in Houston—the largest annual gathering of women technologists in the world.

“Too few founding CEOs are female,”

said Feld. “Claiming to be gender-blind or race-blind abdicates responsibility. Diverse teams are better for business, and Amy and I can make a big difference in the world by supporting women and minorities at the college level.”

“Too few founding CEOs are female. Claiming to be gender-blind or race-blind abdicates responsibility. Diverse teams are better for business, and Amy and I can make a big difference in the world by supporting women and minorities at the college level.”

Feld, a co-founder of Foundry Group in Boulder, has been an early-stage investor and entrepreneur since 1987. He also is a supporter of Techstars, a Boulder-based tech accelerator that focuses on improving diversity among entrepreneurs. He chairs the National Center for Women in Information

Technology, and he has written several books on entrepreneurship. Batchelor, too, is a writer, community leader and role model for women in technology. As co-founder and partner in Social Venture Partners Boulder County, she brings good business practice to nonprofits that support good causes.

“We are so fortunate to have captured Brad and Amy’s attention,” said Scott Leutenegger, professor and chair of the Computer Science Department at DU. “Their generosity squarely satisfies a core component of DU IMPACT 2025: supporting the inclusion of women and underrepresented students in the sciences. It also gives a great boost to Project XITE, where we are cultivating our most entrepreneurial thinkers, through experiential programming and great collaborative events.”

Anchor Point’s gift also supports the Chancellor’s Global Innovation Fund, as well as Pioneering Summer, Project XITE’s 10-week on-campus accelerator for student-led ventures.





FOR SAMANTHA HUNT, DU ART GRANT REVEALED A MERMAID'S ORIGIN

“Funding like DU ART is the reason I was able to attend such a prestigious university—twice!” said Samantha Hunt (BFA ’15), who holds a BFA in Pre-Art Conservation and is now a candidate for her MA in Art History and Museum Studies.

As an undergraduate, Hunt received a DU ART grant to travel to Copenhagen to study the origins of a wooden mermaid sculpture that she discovered while interning for a private conservator in Denver.

“I saw it in the lab and asked about it,” she said. “It was very colorful and beautifully carved, with iridescent paint on the tail. This is what really caught my attention. We wanted to know where it came from.”

Before her trip, Hunt conducted a complete start-to-finish treatment on the polychrome carved wood sculpture, which included cleaning, consolidating flaking paint, and filling and reconstructing losses. Damage to the mermaid’s tail indicated it had likely been sawed off from a larger setting, so Hunt emailed nautical museums in the United States and abroad. She learned all she could so her time in Copenhagen would be well spent.

Back at DU, she shared her findings: the mermaid dated to the Pre-Raphaelite era and likely originated from a carousel or other amusement-type sculptural setting.

Catherine Chauvin, director of the School of Art and Art History, said, “Students learn so much when they can experience the vision of a collector, interview a curator or visit the location where a piece of art was created. Unfamiliar language, or even weather, informs our research. It’s detective work, or treasure hunting. And it’s critical.”

DU ART is a volunteer organization, established in 1993 to support the School of Art and Art History. Through the program, undergraduate and graduate students can apply for up to \$1,500 in grants for travel, lodging and conference registration. There are more applications than the fund can presently support.

In 2016, alumnus Art Karstaedt (JD ’75) jump-started a \$50,000 DU ART fundraising campaign with a \$10,000 gift. Over the past two years, One Day for DU has raised almost \$6,000 toward the DU ART campaign goal.



DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY

SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS
PROVIDE CAREER PREPARATION EXPERIENCE



FIRST SAUNDERS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SCHOLARS ARRIVED THIS FALL

Joseph (Hon. PhD '09, MBA '68, BSBA '67) and Sharon Saunders know firsthand how much difference it can make for a struggling student to be relieved of financial pressure. More than a decade ago, during a Teach for America assignment in an underprivileged school district in New York, their daughter encountered two young students. Joe and Sharon, impressed by the boys, quietly stepped in. They watched the boys take that opportunity to thrive as they graduated from high school and college and went on to change the trajectory of their lives.

“Education is the way to equality,” Joe said at Alumni Weekend in May, when Chancellor Rebecca Chopp announced the transformative \$5 million gift from the Saunders Family Charitable Foundation. DU’s new Saunders Leadership Academy—serving promising students burdened by significant financial need—will be the most expansive, cross-University leadership program in DU’s history.

“I believe in my heart and soul that every kid in this country should have equal opportunity as it relates to education,” he said. “What we’re doing with the

University is a drop in the ocean, but it’s a positive one, and I’m hoping more people might be motivated to do the same or similar.”

The first five Saunders Scholars arrived on campus in fall 2018, and within five years, there will be a total of 20 scholars on campus at all times. Saunders’ hope is that the students will form a tight-knit cohort while also impacting the DU community with their insights and resilience.

“This gift will make a difference for the lives of those students,” said Chopp. “This will make a difference for DU.”

This Saunders gift, though not the family’s first, is among the largest scholarship commitment in DU’s history. Saunders Scholars will benefit from financial aid, as well as internship and career support, outdoor education experiences



and cultural exposure—all designed to build confidence and social capital. Many, but not all, Saunders Scholars are expected to be the first in their families to attend college.

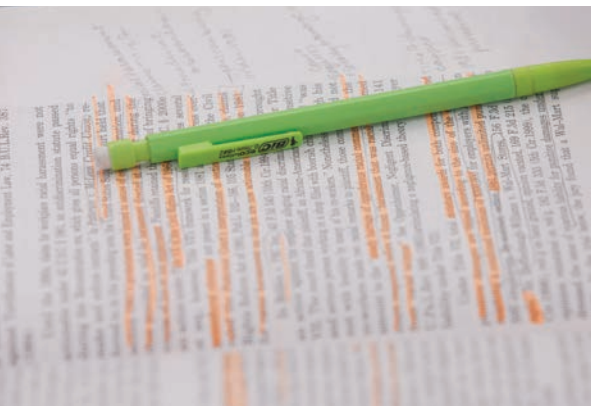
Since retiring as chairman of Visa, Inc., in 2013, Saunders is “reinvigorated” with a new career. He owns and operates a restaurant in Maui, and he is chairman and general partner in Green Visor Capital, a firm that invests in innovative and socially responsible “fintech” companies. He continues to express his love of DU through his generosity.

“I am very passionate about this place,” he said. “I got a great education here, and the notion of giving—of paying forward so that other individuals can succeed—is just the most satisfying thing in the world.”





EASING THE BURDEN OF THE BAR



On commencement day, Sturm College of Law (SCOL) graduates have a lot to celebrate.

Long hours of studying and worrying about exams aren't behind the new JDs, however, when they receive their diplomas. A big test, perhaps the biggest yet, lies before them: the bar examination.

For many students, preparing for the bar is their first full-time job after graduation. Students are encouraged to take a bar preparation class and set aside 50 to 60 hours per week for eight to 10 weeks to prepare for the exam. Unfortunately, this full-time job is not only unpaid; there also are hefty fees associated with preparing for and taking the exam. Add to that the student loan debt many graduates face, and the months post-graduation can be a very stressful time.

Hoping to ease the financial burden of taking the bar, members of the SCOL Student Bar Association (SBA) created the SBA Quasi Endowed Scholarship to help students who face financial barriers to preparing for and taking the bar.

While the scholarship was initially seeded with unspent SCOL student activity fees, the 2017-2018 SBA decided it made sense to try to grow the fund through the already successful annual philanthropic event, One Day for DU.

Partnering with One Day for DU organizers, the SBA raised close to \$9,000 from 75 donors in 24 hours. In all, 74 of those 75 donors were SCOL alums—

donors who could relate to the stress new law grads face.

With the interest generated from the SBA Quasi Endowed Scholarship, the SBA hopes to award three graduating students scholarships in 2019. The scholarships will be awarded based on need.

Christopher Newman, a SCOL graduate who serves as SCOL assistant director of Student Affairs, SBA advisor and bar success coach, noted that while the \$700-\$1,000 scholarships may seem like a nominal amount compared to what students have paid in tuition, he hopes it will help “relieve the sting of bar exam expenses” for students in need.

Newman said the SBA hopes that as the endowed fund grows, so will the number of graduating students they'll be able to help with bar expenses. The SBA's remarkable success in working toward its vision dovetails with the goals of SCOL.

Dean Bruce Smith said, “If we are to continue to attract outstanding students—irrespective of their financial circumstances—we need to tackle the high costs of legal education and professional licensure. This innovative program does just that, in a manner that testifies to the initiative of our students and to the strength of our community.”

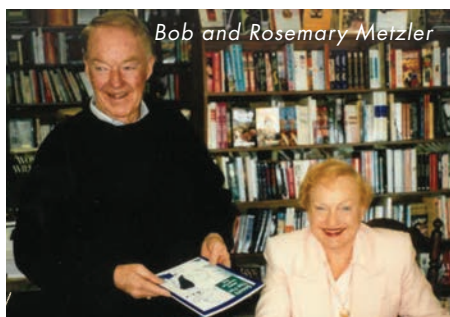
BOB METZLER: THINKING GLOBALLY AND ACTING LOCALLY FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

For nearly 100 years, Robert Metzler (BA '52, MA '55) has been experiencing, practicing and preaching the benefits of “personalized learning.” Now, with a planned gift of \$2 million from his estate and \$750,000 from his sister’s estate, he has established the Metzler Family Scholarship Fund—the largest in the history of the Morgridge School of Education—to ease the financial pressure for generations of teachers and school leaders who believe as he does.

Matching funds from DU’s Momentum Scholarship program ensured that Metzler’s scholarships could be awarded immediately, and that he could meet some of the people who are shaping the future of public education, and of DU itself.

Metzler’s first teaching job was in a one-room school—long before teachers were required to earn four-year degrees and pass certifications. He saw how much impact a well-trained teacher could have on individual learners. He saw the folly in forcing synchronous learning.

“Not everybody in a fourth-grade classroom was at the same stage,” he said, “and yet, they were all learning about Columbus discovering America. So we formed teaching teams, to focus by subject matter.”



By 1963, Metzler, a fifth-generation Coloradan, was at a career crossroads.

He had been a student teacher during high school and, thanks to financial aid, earned his undergraduate degree at DU. He also had served as a school principal and as the elected superintendent for Douglas County schools. All the while, he was responsible for the cattle on his family’s ranches near Castle Rock.

“I thought if I was going to advance in the field of education, I would need to go out and see other districts and gain experience,” he said. And yet, he turned down a prestigious leadership post in California, choosing instead to serve his home state as superintendent of schools for Clear Creek County, a position he held until 1974.

“Public schools were being highly critiqued nationally as not meeting the needs of the country, and the Clear Creek Board of Education wanted more innovation and improvement of its schools. I decided that if I could build from scratch the ideas I liked, in rural Colorado, that would be more impactful to the field of education than going somewhere that was already more advanced.”

So Metzler relocated to Idaho Springs, just 60 miles northwest of Castle Rock. He organized a citizens committee, talked to the communities and held a public vote. Before long, the community

had a very different kind of high school. “It had flexible setups. Students worked in teams that suited their learning styles and abilities. And we recorded the lectures, so students could listen in a lab more than once, to assimilate what they learned.”

Metzler’s work attracted attention from the Ford Foundation. “We gave tours of the building and shared our program with people from foreign countries who came to see what we were doing.” Metzler served on the National Board for Rural Education. With a team from Columbia University, he shared his ideas at the 1964 World’s Fair in the pavilion sponsored by AT&T.

“We were living proof,” he said. “If it could be done here, it could be done elsewhere in the world.”

Following his work in Clear Creek, Metzler joined the administration of Colorado Mountain College, where he developed new concepts for lifelong learning and

distant delivery of learning opportunity for students in rural Colorado. After eight years there, he continued his professional career internationally.

Today, Metzler is the last living member of his family. His sister, Rosemary (BA '60, MA '70), who passed away in 2017, also was a Pioneer. She spent a year

“Neither my sister nor I ever married, so we knew we had investments that wouldn’t be passed on. Because of our experience at DU, we decided we wanted to give scholarships that will be perpetual.”

teaching at the American School in Izmir, Turkey, and a summer in Sierra Leone. She taught English for 33 years in Douglas County, specializing in Shakespeare and British Literature, and she later authored a series of popular children's books. She lectured at DU.

"Neither my sister nor I ever married, so we knew we had investments that wouldn't be passed on," he said. "Because of our experience at DU, we decided we wanted to give scholarships that will be perpetual."

Metzler recently met the first two recipients of the scholarship, both of whom have lived and worked in rural locations in the United States and abroad. Lily Werthan (MA '18) recently completed a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction in Secondary English, with a focus in culturally and linguistically diverse education. In the fall, she will begin working as a seventh-grade reading teacher with DSST Public Schools. She said she aims to "help transform the education system, both to better serve students from diverse backgrounds and to bring more joy, passion and purpose into formal education." Andrew Fox is on track to complete a PhD in Education Leadership and Policy Studies in 2020.

"I was really impressed with both of them," Metzler said. "In a lot of ways, they represented what I had done."

Fox, a first-generation college student, recalled their first meeting: "I think it was the meeting of two souls. His whole life, Mr. Metzler has adhered to the principle 'Think globally, act locally.' He knows that while we all have a common purpose and need a common base of our citizenship—reading, writing, arithmetic, critical thinking—to get to that goal, we need more compassion for individual differences."

Fox, now 29, lived in Ghana, West Africa, while earning his master's degree in Public Health from Drexel University in Philadelphia. For the nonprofit A Better Chance, he worked for a year as a live-in tutor to eight academically gifted boys from rough neighborhoods in Washington, D.C, and New York. And

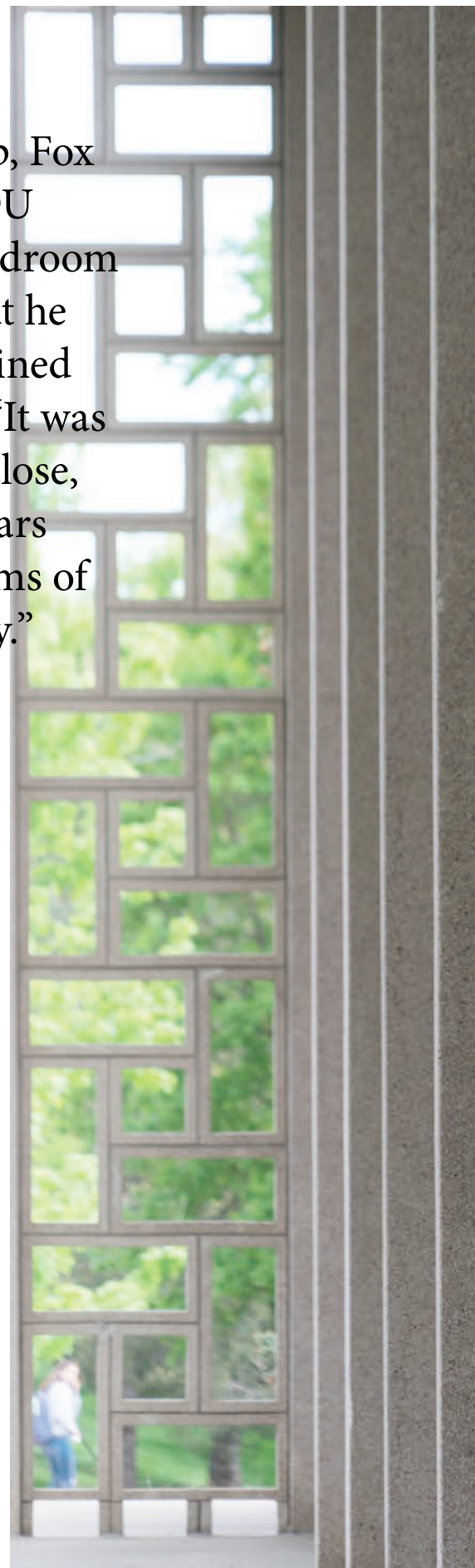
for one year between undergraduate and graduate school, he worked for City Year Philadelphia.

Fox saw up close that "looking only at test results or grades ignores the cosmos of a student's whole life." As a school leader, he aims to combine health with public education.

Growing up, Fox could see DU from his bedroom window, but he never imagined attending. "It was physically close, but light years away in terms of attainability," he said, "so I'd go over on my skateboard. I'd say to myself, 'I'll never be part of this system, so I'll grind on your concrete.' But I matured, applied and was accepted.

"If not for the Metzler scholarship, I wouldn't be here," Fox said. "What Mr. Metzler is doing will ripple out for generations and generations. It has already rippled out to me."

Growing up, Fox could see DU from his bedroom window, but he never imagined attending. "It was physically close, but light years away in terms of attainability."



INTERNSHIP INVESTMENT STRENGTHENS UNIVERSITY TIES TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Abby Leigh ('19) has plans to graduate early and attend law school. This summer, she worked at the Colorado State Public Defender's Office in Denver and at One Colorado, an LGBTQ advocacy group. "Unpaid internships are a privilege and not something everyone gets to do," she said. "The stipend from the Sturms' gift allowed me to stay in Colorado and take an internship instead of going back home and working."

A new gift from the Sturm Family Foundation enables students like Abby to pursue internships in the public and nonprofit sectors while also enhancing the work of local agencies and strengthening the University's community partnerships.

The Sturm Family Foundation's investment in internship stipends for students in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science (AHSS) puts valuable professional experience within reach of all students and allows them to integrate on-campus learning with community experience. The gift also leverages the Career & Professional Development team to support students in reflecting on how their experience informs their academic and professional paths.

Thanks to the Sturms' investment, DU is able to deepen its commitment to local agencies. "In giving to internships, the foundation's generosity will directly

impact our students as it also strengthens the work of our partner organizations throughout the city," said Chancellor Rebecca Chopp.

Maddy Gawler (BA '19, MA '20) began working on the Colorado Sierra Club Ready for 100 Campaign in 2017. She wanted to return to her Sierra Club fellowship this summer, but she did not have the money because she was studying abroad. "This internship allowed me to see the campaign I started a few years ago through to its completion."

The Sturm Foundation sees internships as an opportunity to impact both students and the agencies delivering public good throughout the city. "I know from firsthand experience the value of interning with a nonprofit, and we're excited to remove financial barriers so other students can take advantage of these opportunities," said Stephen Sturm (BA, MBA '13), co-managing director of the Sturm Family Foundation.

"I know from firsthand experience the value of interning with a nonprofit, and we're excited to remove financial barriers so other students can take advantage of these opportunities."

- Stephen Sturm





THE DOORS AN INTERNSHIP CAN OPEN

Aaron Hinds, a 2018 graduate who majored in International Studies, is spending his first post-graduation year more than 7,000 miles from Denver.

Hinds is teaching English near Hong Kong, where he said he would never be if it weren't for the generous \$2,500 Career and Professional Development Summer Internship Award he received in 2016.

The award allowed him to say “yes” to a once-in-a-lifetime internship with an international law firm in Beijing. “I come from a low socioeconomic background. Funding any experiences outside of school all fell on my shoulders. I knew that the internship could propel me to new heights, but at the same time, I still had to have a roof over my head and eat,” Hinds said. “Without the award, I wouldn't have been able to accept the internship.”

As an intern, Hinds collaborated with the firm's partners to ensure legal documents that had been translated from Mandarin to English conveyed what the partners intended. He was also tasked with going after \$2 million in funding for the development of a legal assistance application, something Hinds was able to do in less than a month.

Hinds' hands-on experience in international law solidified his decision to pursue a career in the field.

“Since high school, I've known I wanted to do something to help international communities. When I was thinking about law, there were people who told me going into law would be like selling my soul. I thought, ‘Law may come with a good salary, but will I be happy?’” Hinds said.

After spending just one month at his internship, Hinds said he realized he truly did love the field.

He also loved China and is thrilled to spend the next year there—a year he hopes will help continue to deepen his international perspective.

When he returns from China, Hinds has his sights set on Harvard Law School. “The fact that DU offers scholarships to support students who want to pursue internships that could really shape their careers shows the commitment the University has to helping its students—no matter their socioeconomic background—succeed,” Hinds said.

Assistant Vice Chancellor of Career and Professional Development Heidi Perman said she expects to hear more stories like Hinds' in the future. Increasing support for internships is part of DU's strategic plan, DU IMPACT 2025.

“We're growing that support pretty rapidly, thanks to some very generous donations,” Perman said.

TOM GUYER READS OPPORTUNITY INTO DYSLEXIA

Tom Guyer (BA '88) was lucky. By fourth grade, he had outsmarted dyslexia, thanks to a combination of geographic coincidence, his private “ninja” tutor and his forward-thinking parents. Today, through his company, Winsor Learning, and a generous gift he made to DU this year—in the form of an endowed scholarship dedicated to students in the Learning Effectiveness Program (LEP)—Guyer

is able to remove the element of chance for thousands of young people who have difficulty with language. He also hopes to steer more dyslexic individuals to business leadership roles. “Dyslexia is not a ball and chain,” said Guyer. “It’s an opportunity.”

By the time Guyer was a student at DU, majoring in Fine Arts in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences division,

he was able to enjoy what researchers now consider to be the “advantages” of his condition: exceptional imagination, the power to see things differently and advanced capacity to conceptualize. He excelled in school and later joined forces with his father, who was a serial entrepreneur.

In 1997, he started Winsor Learning, a company that has provided materials and training to more than 40,000 teachers in more than 2,500 school districts. His former tutor, Arlene Sonday, a leader in the field, designs the learning materials. Guyer, as CEO, provides vision and firsthand experience.

DU’s LEP program was founded in 1982, and though Guyer didn’t experience it as a student, he has been impressed with its current state. “The central location on campus, and DU’s investment in such excellent facilities, shows that the University is serious about supporting students who need tutoring, advice, mentoring and other individualized attention,” he said.

“I wanted to give the University a pat on the back. And also, I wanted

to help some students who not only have learning differences, but maybe they have to stretch a bit financially to attend DU.”

There is an additional charge of \$1,350 per quarter for the 300 or so students who engage the services of LEP.

Guyer knows firsthand how important skill-based intervention is. When he was in about second grade, his family happened to have a lake house neighbor whose colleague had just been certified in the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading, spelling and writing to dyslexic children. Over the next two years, the tutoring Guyer received helped rewire his brain and proved that early intervention is key. It prepared him to graduate from St. Paul Academy, a college preparatory school, and eventually succeed at DU.

“I’m proud I went to DU,” said Guyer, who lives in his hometown of Minneapolis. “I’m proud of the way it operates, attracts funding and invests in the facilities and quality of education. I want to be a part of that with my ongoing support.”



kids who live in Denver public housing in achieving their academic potential and graduating from high school.

Ho will graduate from DU in 2020 with a double major in Music Performance and Voice from the Lamont School of Music and in Marketing from the Daniels College of Business. He will leave DU a better place.

“It’s my civic duty to help others,” said Ho, who as a first-year student lived in the Social Justice Living Learning Community. That’s where he came up with the idea to create a support group for first-generation students. 1GenU is now a four-year developmental program for students and their families that includes mentorship and academic and social resources. Students may choose to live together as a cohort in a DU residence hall.

Now Ho also donates his time to singing, raises money through his fraternity and is helping lead a new student philanthropy effort at DU that will create a culture of giving for the next generation.

“Randy is a very talented and motivated guy,” said Gary Howard. “To see him play hockey, stay with the passion, work year after year and go on to excel at the level he has at DU—he’s clearly exceptional.”

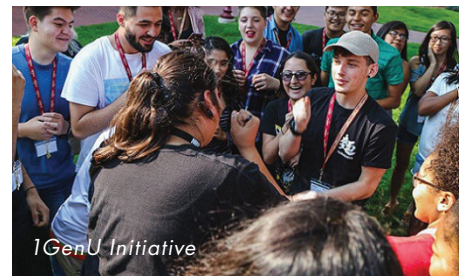
In 2001, the Howards started the Gary and Leslie Howard Family Foundation, which provides scholarships to students with financial need and academic promise who want to study business at the University of Denver or Colorado State University, Gary’s alma mater. Now, at any given time, the Howards are providing partial scholarships to about 30 college students, about a third of whom are at DU.

The Howards also created Miracles on Ice, a week-long nonprofit summer camp that introduces ice hockey skills and values to Bridge Project teens. As they watch campers develop hockey skills, a work ethic and a sense of accomplishment, they occasionally form a strong bond with a family, like

Randy’s, and their support continues over many years.

“Randy loved skating, and he loved working hard,” Howard said. “Now he’s a coach for us, and he helps in the classroom. He can relate to the kids in a way other people can’t. And he’s modest.

“For example, I bet he hasn’t told you this: On the last day of camp, when the kids suit up in full Avalanche dress and play their game on the DU rink, he skates out to the center of the ice and right there, under the Jumbotron, he belts out the national anthem. A cappella. And he does it like it’s nothing.”



Thanks to the Howards, Ho said, he has gained confidence, stayed in school, learned to play hockey, sung on stage and started a support group on campus for first-generation students.

RANDY HO: THE ULTIMATE RETURN ON SCHOLARSHIP INVESTMENT

Randy Ho is grateful to so many people and programs for the start he is having in life—but Gary and Leslie (EMBA ’03) Howard are at the very top of the list.

Thanks to the Howards, Ho said, he has gained confidence, stayed in school, learned to play hockey, sung on stage and started a support group on campus for first-generation students. 1GenU is now a full-blown University initiative that has funding and administrative support.

“I can’t thank Gary and Leslie enough,” said Ho, who hopes to tour the world one day as an opera singer. “They provide me with the chance to live my dreams.”

After attending elementary school in Denver’s Westwood Projects neighborhood, Ho gained entrance to the Denver School of the Arts because of his singing talent. He also participated in Denver’s Bridge Project, which supports

Donna Vocate (MA '77, PhD '80) grew up on a farm in Kansas. A bright student, she was encouraged by all her teachers to continue her studies. After a fortuitous family move to Denver, she earned an undergraduate degree in English Literature at the University of Colorado Boulder. "I didn't have the money to keep going," said Vocate, "so I went to work for Hertz." An employee benefit program at the company enabled her to complete her master's at the University of Denver. "It took a while," she said. "I could only leave the office for one class at a time." Vocate left Hertz, obtained her PhD and went on to have a successful career as a professor and

academic department head. Upon learning that no graduate scholarships existed in DU's Department of Communication Studies, she was inspired to support future students through the Donna & Gilbert Vocate Endowed Scholarship Fund. The University matched her legacy gift with Momentum Challenge funds that were put to immediate use. Jean Duane, the first recipient, researches the social aspects of food allergies for her PhD. "The scholarship validated my work," said Duane. "It motivates me to do the very best I can to bring this information into the world."

GRADUATE COMMUNICATIONS SCHOLARSHIP A FIRST

IMMEDIATE IMPACT OF SCHOLARSHIP FUND HELPS BOTH DONOR AND STUDENT

"I want to make a difference in my lifetime," said Kathy Spuhler (BA '70).

Specifically, Spuhler wants to make it possible for deserving young people to earn an education. That is why she established an endowed scholarship fund at DU in honor of her son, Trevor P. Vanneman, who suffered an untimely death in 2008 at the age of 32.

Spuhler made her gift of \$500,000 in 2016. When Ben Getchell, a first-year student, was named as the first recipient, she was able to get to know him. The two met for the first time at a reception on campus celebrating Trevor's life and the new scholarship fund. Since then, they have had lunch together twice near campus. Getchell's scholarship was renewed, and the two are planning to keep in touch.

Getchell came to DU after attending a Waldorf School, as the Vanneman Endowed Scholarship stipulates. Spuhler, who studied Education and Psychology at the University of

Denver, sent her son to the Denver Waldorf School through eighth grade. She believes wholeheartedly in the philosophy, which emphasizes experiential learning and creativity.

She said, “The Waldorf philosophy is different from what students learn at the typical public or even private school. So Waldorf graduates bring a diversity of thinking to DU, which is an important part of the University’s strategic plan.”

Getchell said, “I knew DU would push me outside of my comfort zone. And I knew I needed that.” At the Boulder Valley Waldorf School in Longmont, Colorado, there were just 16 people in his graduating class. At DU, he said, he was slow to adjust socially. He assumed he was different—more philosophical—than his peers.

“When I looked out at the rest of the world, I just assumed that people my age weren’t able to think or converse conceptually or theoretically,” he said. “But at DU, I’m learning that even though someone might not articulate the same way I do, we all are human. I try to meet people in the middle somewhere. Not every conversation needs to be an existential crisis.”

At DU, Getchell did meet students like himself. His first-year seminar was “Quantum Physics and How It Affects You Every Day.” In a required writing class with professor Sam Knights, he read “The Gastronomical Me” by MFK Fisher and “Loitering,” a collection of essays by Charles D’Ambrosio.

Getchell said, “By reading those works together, we learned that the most profound philosophical concepts can be found in the everyday minutiae, if you just know how to see them.”

Now, Getchell plans to major in Philosophy and minor in Entrepreneurship. He has a work-study position on the innovation floor of the Ritchie Center for Engineering and Computer Science, where he is learning the skills he says he will need to succeed in a world that rewards delivery on concrete promises. He is

grateful for the financial support and kindness he receives.

Spuhler, too, is seeking beauty in small things. After a varied career in arts

“I’m delighted to witness this scholarship in action and to see Trevor’s name continue on in such a meaningful way.”

education, arts administration and nonprofit consulting, and serving on boards including Denver’s Scientific and Cultural Facilities District, she travels, sees friends and helps her grandchildren. She is making her own art in a variety of media, including photography, painting and mosaics.

“Grieving the death of a child is never over,” Spuhler said. “It comes in waves. But seeing the impact of my scholarship feels really good. I’m delighted to witness this scholarship in action and to see Trevor’s name continue on in such a meaningful way.”





OPENING DOORS TOGETHER

THE IMPACT OF OUR COLLECTIVE
GENEROSITY TRANSFORMS OUR
CAMPUS AND OUR WORLD FOR
YEARS TO COME



STUDENT PHILANTHROPY SOARS

Student giving at DU is up. Way up. In the 2017-2018 academic year, student giving more than doubled over the prior year, with more than 2,100 students giving financially to programs and funds that they care about that matter to them.

Nicholas Bowlby, assistant director of Student Philanthropy, mentors a group that has played an instrumental role in growing student giving on campus: the University of Denver Student Foundation (DUSF).

After a successful peer-to-peer fundraising effort for the Student Emergency Fund during the 2016 One Day for DU demonstrated students' strong interest in supporting fellow students, DUSF kicked off in fall of that same year. The organization had two goals: to increase student giving and provide students with hands-on experience in fundraising and development.

Since its founding, members of DUSF have worked to increasingly integrate philanthropy into the campus culture. Their efforts are creating groundbreaking results, with participation levels of students in each class year more than doubling during the past year.

Harriet Pryor, a junior and director of Stewardship for DUSF, said, "DU is already asking for thousands of dollars in tuition from students. A lot of students think: Why should we give to DU? DUSF asks students to think not so much about giving back, but about paying it forward. We ask them to think about those experiences and groups that

have really made their DU experience special and consider how they might pay it forward to current and future DU students."

One of the ways in which students paid it forward this year was through the Winter Carnival Scholarship Fund, which DUSF established so that cost wouldn't be a barrier for any student who wanted to attend. When students purchased Winter Carnival tickets this year, they were asked to consider making a small donation toward someone else's ticket.

In all, 230 students donated to the fund, and all donations were matched by DUSF. The money collected provided scholarships for students to attend the 2018 Winter Carnival.

"Throughout the development world, donors want to see the personal impact of their donations on the causes they really care about," Bowlby said.

This is true amongst the DU student population, too, Bowlby said. The top 10 programs and funds to which students contributed in 2017-2018, including the Club Sports Program Fund,

the Student Emergency Fund and The Food Pantry Gift Fund, all have a direct impact on DU students.

"We want students to realize that most of us don't have much money to give, but when students give a dollar here and a dollar there, it really makes a difference. We've raised thousands of dollars this year for causes that students care about from students giving the little they did have," Pryor said.

After such a successful fundraising year,

"We want students to realize that most of us don't have much money to give, but when students give a dollar here and a dollar there, it really makes a difference. We've raised thousands of dollars this year for causes that students care about from students giving the little they did have."

Pryor said one of DUSF's goals for the 2018-2019 school year is to think of new, innovative ways to empower students to give back on their own to causes they care about. "Philanthropy isn't just about money. It's about time and energy. If we can get students to care about other causes, their friends, students in need—they start to see that there is this connectivity on campus. Students become more of a community," she said.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES

A lot can happen in 24 hours, especially if it's One Day for DU, the University's annual day of giving. On May 23, 2,900 alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and friends raised \$509,409 for over 200 meaningful causes that impact DU students and the wider community. Thousands of dollars in matching gifts and challenge grants were leveraged to maximize giving throughout the day, including a matching gift for every varsity sport and a matching gift for the Pioneer Leadership Program made possible by a group of 13 friends and alumni of the program. An increased campus presence



“One Day for DU is just one of many ways that everyone at and of DU is engaged, energetic and eager to be a part of this mission.”
– Chancellor Rebecca Chopp

engaged students with all-day events, from a pancake bar to a food donation drive to a corral of food trucks co-hosted by the DU

Programming Board. Owners of the 33 crowdfunding initiatives were on hand to talk about their projects. Pioneers from around the world learned about projects and made gifts by smartphone and through the website (du.edu/oneday). Here is a selection of stories that celebrate the impact of collective giving. Thank you for making a difference!

The Bridge Project's STEM Programs

51 DONORS

\$3,423 RAISED

Tackling real-world problems by using the engineering design process, creativity and collaboration is exactly what The Bridge Project's STEM programming is all about. Through this initiative, youth in grades K-8 located in Denver's public housing communities gain access to project-based learning through a curriculum that focuses on coding, robotics and math.

“Highlighting programs like The Bridge Project through One Day for DU allowed us to share this impactful community initiative with the broader DU community. We saw exciting success, as this year nearly 50 percent of donations to support Bridge's crowdfunding project were new donors, including students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members. The generous support received on One Day sustains our project-based activities in science, technology, engineering and math, giving youth the creative thinking tools to tackle real-world problems.”

– Amanda Moore McBride, Morris Endowed Dean and Professor, Graduate School of Social Work

The Student Emergency Fund

114 DONORS
\$7,748 RAISED

Launched by DU students, this fund helps peers stay on track for academic success by providing emergency funding to address unforeseen financial hardships and assist with essential costs not covered by other programs. The Student Emergency Fund has awarded \$14,225 to 29 undergraduate and graduate students across college disciplines.

“It has been amazing to see how much fellow students care about one another. Everyone needs help sometime in their life; I am so proud that we have the privilege of educating students that actively seek to be a part of the solution for others.” – Liliana Rodriguez, Vice Chancellor for Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence

Right Foot Forward

39 DONORS
\$3,510 RAISED

Right Foot Forward provides student veterans with professional resources and guidance to prepare them to embrace and advance their careers. The program matches student veterans with industry professionals based on their career aspirations. Upon completion of the program, each student veteran receives a custom-fitted suit from Brooks Brothers provided by the University of Denver’s Veterans Services.

“The funds raised from One Day for DU this year will pay for another three years of suits for our student veterans.”
– Damon Vine, Director, Veteran Services

REGIONAL PROGRAM ACCELERATES CONNECTION

According to a recently launched *Pioneers Build the World* (pioneers.du.edu), 142,633 University of Denver alumni reside around the globe. More than half live outside of Colorado, so the

University launched a regional program to connect Pioneers to each other and to a network of support.



Pamela Johnson (BA '79) owns the event production company Notable Enterprises and also founded the Future Color of Fashion Foundation, a nonprofit promoting multicultural talent in the fashion industry. As a student, Johnson helped to engage Black students at the university and assisted in establishing a presence in student government by serving as the Black Student Association’s (BSA) president.

She has stayed in touch with classmates, but not with the University. “I had tunnel vision when it came to DU,” said Johnson. “And DU was not in my tunnel.” When the Midwest regional team launched in Chicago, they reached out to Johnson. She shared her vision for a BSA reunion, and now plans are under way for an event at Alumni Weekend 2020. “The door has opened,” said Johnson. “Now I’m interested in how I can be of help.”

The regional program is active in 10 cities, from Seattle and San Francisco to Boston, New York and beyond. On the front lines of this effort is a team of market activators connecting daily with alumni to hear about their interests and create opportunities for connection.

Jeremy Lynch (BSBA '12) co-led the DU alumni club in San Francisco for three years before joining the University as the market activator for the Pacific Northwest region. His previous community engagement roles at Facebook and Airbnb and his student leadership roles at ZBT fraternity and the Daniels College of Business made him a natural fit for building relationships among DU alumni in the Bay Area. “We live in a global world, but we want to

connect locally,” said Jeremy. “It’s my role to discover what DU looks like in the Bay Area, what it looks like in Seattle, and help build a community.”

In partnership with market activators, market fellows and development directors in their region, alumni are supported in trying new things. Tri Nguyen (BA '14) partnered with the regional team in New York City to host a Pride event. “The whole idea was to create an oasis and meet people you might not know,” said Nguyen. She’s now collaborating on building career support for young alumni. “The alumni office is doing so many great things,” said Nguyen. “It helps us maintain connections and meet new faces.” Together with the regional team, Pioneers are building the world and building their network.

YOUNG ALUMNI BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A group of young alumni energized a successful scholarship program through their efforts to engage students, peers and others in the DU community.

The Young Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund launched a decade ago, in part through a gift from Craig Harrison (BSBA '03), now a University of Denver trustee. Since then, the scholarship has been awarded annually to an outstanding junior or senior. The scholarship is awarded through a competitive application process with the intention of supporting the educational expenses of the student. This year, new leadership saw an opportunity to boost the scholarship’s impact.

“We want to develop a consistent community of participants that expands as students graduate and becomes a presence in the young alumni community,” said Dave Gebhardt, co-chair of the committee. “We hope it continues to be an opportunity for young alumni to give back and engage with the University.”

Gebhardt and the committee brought visibility to the scholarship by announcing the 2017 recipient, Meagan

Traver (BSBA '18), at a Pioneering Denver event. This speaker series showcases alumni entrepreneurs who are leading transformation in the city. At the event, Traver spoke about the impact of her scholarship. “I have over \$20,000 in student loan debt from my first two years of DU,” said Traver. “The scholarship has allowed me to decline any more loans.”

“It was a great moment,” said Brian J. Elizardi (BA '04, MA '06), director of alumni engagement. “So often, the distance from gift to impact can be far. This allowed everyone who attended to see the impact of their philanthropy immediately.”

To increase support for the scholarship, the committee featured it at One Day for DU, the University’s largest annual giving event. They engaged 60 supporters and raised more than \$7,000 thanks to a matching gift. The fund has grown so successfully, said Gebhardt, “we elected to give out two scholarships this fall. We wanted to show our appreciation for those who gave by giving a little bit more back.”





PARENTS JOIN TOGETHER FOR GREATER IMPACT

Parents are finding that participating in University life can be as rewarding for them as it is for their children. In the short time since the Parents Leadership Council (PLC) was founded in 2017, families have successfully advanced initiatives in 10 areas across campus and introduced DU leadership to parents across the country.

Founding co-chairs Mike and Kris Ann Gitlin helped launch the council and partnered with the University to reach out to families who were interested in being engaged philanthropically as well as intellectually.

“The Parents Leadership Council has been a great way for us to stay connected and be involved without getting too deep in the weeds or interfering with our son’s experience,” said Mike Gitlin, whose son, Wyatt, will graduate in 2020. “We get to know the University so much more than if we were just coming to visit.”

During the inaugural year, 23 families from nine states joined the council. Together, their impact amounted to more than \$1 million in support, including endowed funds for the Knoebel School of Hospitality Management, Lacrosse Scholarships and the Learning Effectiveness Program. Many families also joined together to support the Chancellor’s Innovation fund.

“Our success has a lot to do with the fact that everyone believes in what

the Chancellor is doing,” said Kris Anne Gitlin. “It has been interesting to hear her vision, and each PLC member also provides such a unique perspective because we come from many different backgrounds.”

In one meeting with the Chancellor, families shared stories of how their children were coping with stress. This, in turn, informed the Chancellor’s thoughts about wellness initiatives on campus. At the Council’s next meeting, Michael LaFarr, DU’s executive director of Health and Counseling, talked further with families and educated them on national trends in this area.

“It’s a missed opportunity not to be involved, especially at a place like DU where it feels like the University is headed in a great direction,” said Kris Anne Gitlin. “We’re excited about what’s going on here.”

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD GIFTS FUND FIRST-CLASS RECRUITING SUITE

Before the Career Services' Recruiting Suite in the Daniels College of Business opened at the start of the 2017-2018 school year, interviewing was a vastly different experience for both students and recruiters.

Career Services had to piece together space for interviews, and recruiters didn't have a home base, making it difficult for them to find space to work between student interviews. Recognizing that the College needed an interview and recruiting space reflective of the caliber of students who were interviewing and of the employers who were coming to campus to interview them, Daniels College Dean Brent Chrite shared with his Executive Advisory Board (EAB) that funding such a space was one of his top fiscal-year priorities.

The EAB generously and overwhelmingly responded to Dean Chrite's call: 100 percent of the Board's 33 members gave a gift to support the cause. Collectively, they donated close to \$200,000, an amount that nearly covered the total cost of the project.

EAB co-chair and 1980 DU graduate Wade Loo said, "The EAB is committed to all aspects of improving our students' chances of getting great jobs, and the recruiting suite is just one component of that. When we realized that there was a big need for this space, it was really a no-brainer. There was a lot of enthusiasm from the whole EAB; everyone said, 'Let's make this happen.'"

Thanks to the Board's generosity, the recruiting and interviewing experience is now much improved. Students and

recruiters enjoy six dedicated interview rooms that can accommodate in-person, phone and Skype interviews. The suite also has a spacious waiting and lounge area.

Dean Chrite said of the new space, "Support from the EAB in establishing the College's new corporate recruiting suite reflects both the generosity of this critical stakeholder group and the possibilities that result from our shared commitment to co-creating vital experiences and opportunities for our students. We are enormously indebted to the EAB for its vision and leadership associated with this initiative. We remain inspired by the support and commitment of our benefactors from across the Front Range and around the world."



Opening of the Daniels recruiting space

The Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality
Food & Beverage Wine Cellar

FOOD AND BEVERAGE PROGRAM GOES TOP SHELF

A group of alumni, parents and industry leaders collectively supported a major expansion of the Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Food and Beverage (F&B) program. Their combined gifts made possible a number of innovations that transformed existing classroom space and advanced educational opportunities for students in this high-demand field.

“These gifts have been critical to our ability to attract and educate future F&B leaders,” said David Corsun, program director. The program now features the Sauvage Family Demonstration Kitchen, the Silver Oak-Twomey Cellars Academic Wine Cellar and the newly named Cossack Foundation Guest Chef Series. A lead gift from Charles Merinoff and Breakthru Beverage underwrote many of the classroom changes as well as beverage-related travel from Napa to Napoli. “Beyond what the money can buy,” said Merinoff, “we can create experiential opportunities such as distillery tours and internships. This helps students get an edge in this very competitive marketplace and understand what it takes to be successful in our industry.”





"TOGETHER WE ARE
TRANSFORMING THE
STUDENT EXPERIENCE
AT DU, PREPARING THE
LEADERS OF TOMORROW
FOR LIVES AND CAREERS
OF IMPACT. WE ARE
DEEPLY GRATEFUL
FOR YOUR INSPIRED
GENEROSITY AND
PARTNERSHIP."

- ARMIN AFSAHI,
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ADVANCEMENT



This report is an annual publication of the University of Denver, Advancement spotlighting the impact of philanthropy at DU for the friends and generous supporters of this institution.

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