

A Word from the Chancellor



Through visionary philanthropy, the University of Denver has provided generations of students with an exceptional education and, by doing so, helped build a better world. Everything we have accomplished together—our impactful research, athletic achievements, influential institutes and initiatives and, of course, our exceptional student experience—has been made possible by individuals and families who deeply believe in our grandest aspirations.

It is with tremendous pride and gratitude that I say 2019 was the most successful fundraising and engagement year in DU's history:

- Through over \$86.5 million in support, we are further strengthening our strategic priorities.
- We connected with more than 31,000 alumni, friends and families here in Denver, near our regional offices, and around the world.
- 70 percent of our undergraduates and 44 percent of our graduates are using our robust career and professional development resources to build their futures.
- 2,400 students personally donated to DU—a powerful acknowledgment of this institution's value and impact on their own lives.
- And on this year's 1Day4DU, 4,300 members of the DU community gave to projects and causes across campus—many of which meaningfully serve the public good.

And our momentum doesn't stop there. Earlier in the year, through a monumental gift, we established the Scrivner Institute of Public Policy. Through this institute, DU, its students and faculty, will make long-lasting contributions to society, develop the next generation of leaders, and solve pervasive, global challenges.

For the past few months, we have excitedly witnessed the construction of three new buildings on campus, the first step of the Denver Advantage Campus Framework Plan. The Burwell Center for Career Achievement, the new Community Commons, and the Dimond Family Residential Village all use cutting-edge design to reimagine the power of our spaces, encouraging connection and belonging at DU like never before. Each will offer unique opportunities to learn, dine, congregate and ultimately create stronger community—an outcome desperately needed in our world today.

The future asks a lot of us—and it most certainly asks a lot of today's students. To continue to prepare tomorrow's leaders, thinkers, and change-makers, we must rise boldly to the challenge. We must continually evolve, pursue ideals guided by our values, attract top talent, increase access for a diverse and dynamic student body, and provide opportunities and experiences designed to strengthen every dimension of our students' lives and careers. We must connect deeply within our state and region while maintaining a global perspective. We must conduct transformative research and, as always, stay true to our unwavering commitment to serving the public good.

The story of 2019 is the story of DU's entire history: through collaboration, engagement, enthusiasm, grit, and innovation, we can meet our most ambitious goals. We are defining and modeling a global, engaged research university fueled by creative expression and focused on international impact. Our students, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, parents and friends play a vital role in keeping the University of Denver in a state of forward progress.

In the following pages of this report, you will see a sampling of the many ways that philanthropy—your philanthropy—is building DU's future. I am deeply grateful for your partnership.

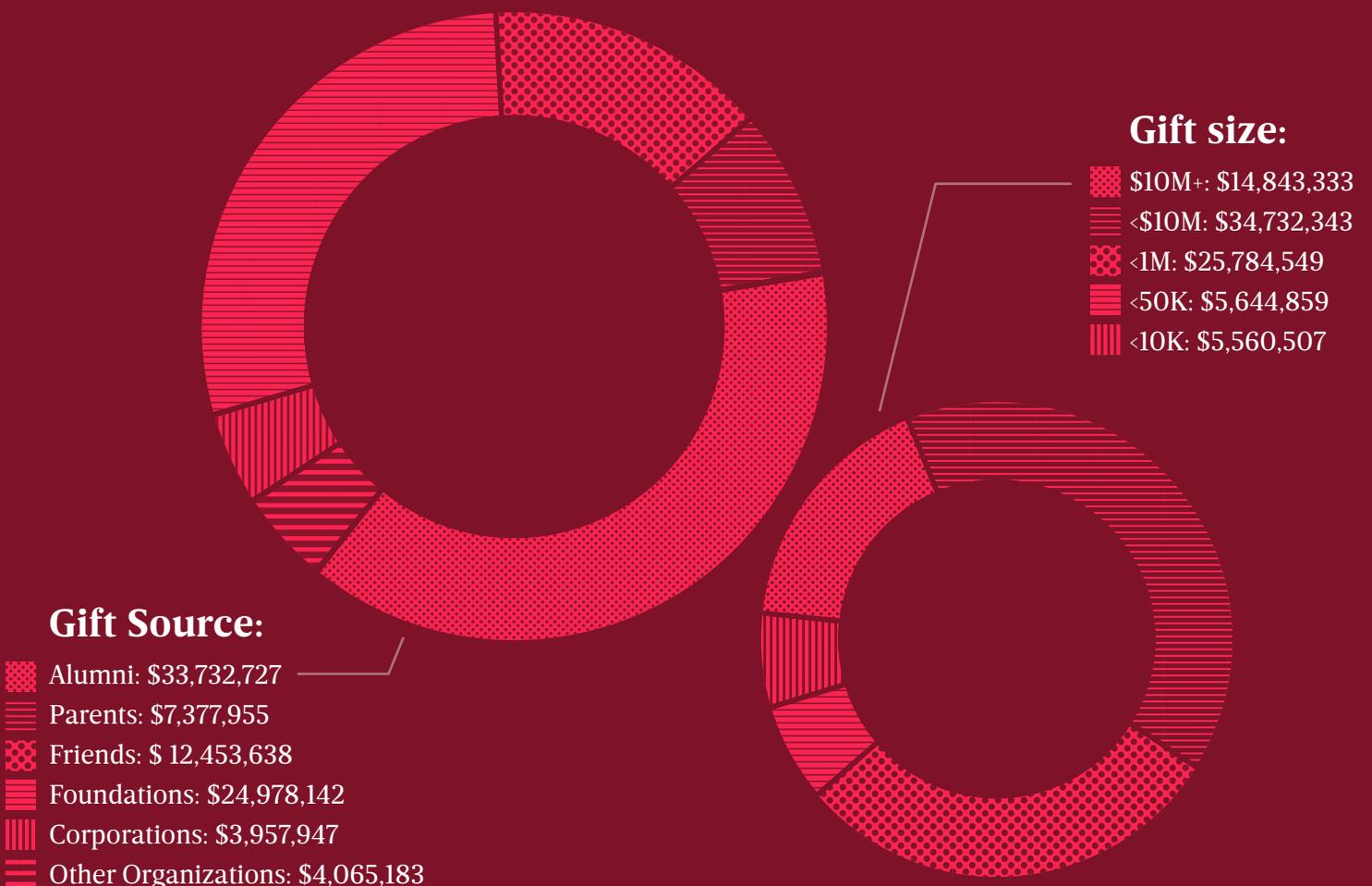
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Haefner', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeremy Haefner
Chancellor

In 2019, 21,355 individual donors made gifts totaling \$86,565,592 in support of DU, helping create 44 endowments and 31 scholarship funds - impacting countless lives.

\$86.6M





FOR KNOWLEDGE CREATION

Innovation in the institutes
and programs of DU is creating
knowledge that strengthens the
impact of a DU education – for
our students and our world.

Changing the World Through Public Policy

Doug (JD '77) and Mary Scrivner have long considered DU home – from their student days and wedding at Evans Memorial Chapel to their decades of volunteering and investing in the university's future. So as they considered the future of this great university and the strategic resources that would propel our faculty and students to make a significant difference in the world, they chose to support interdisciplinary public policy solutions.



Mary and Doug Scrivner at the announcement of their \$14 million gift.

The Scrivners' \$14 million gift in support of public policy will lay critical groundwork for creating and growing leadership in collaborative, innovative solutions to some of the largest societal issues and challenges of the day. To honor their transformational support, DU named the Scrivner Institute of Public Policy in their honor. Their generosity in establishing the Scrivner Institute represents a visionary leap forward in connecting academic excellence across disciplines with practical expertise to solve the greatest issues facing our society. Doug and Mary are also pledging an additional \$1 million to support

program and initiatives that advance our mission. These generous gifts are part of a \$16.2 million commitment from the Scrivners in support of DU's upcoming comprehensive campaign.

The Scrivner Institute of Public Policy will continue DU's longstanding practice of infusing ethics and leadership into curriculum. It will combine an academic research focus with practitioner experience and contribution, and it will incorporate data sciences and analytics to broaden the ways in which public policy issues are studied and addressed.

The Scrivners' commitment will endow the current public policy program at DU by providing funding for an endowed chair, professorships, fellowships, scholarships and programmatic priorities. It will enable the Institute to attract, retain and grow top teaching and research talent and ensure an exceptional, wide-ranging student experience that

prepares DU graduates for rewarding careers and engaged citizenship.

"The University of Denver has long been an important part of Mary's and my life, from meeting and marrying here to serving on the Board of Trustees and in numerous other ways," said Doug Scrivner. "We recognize that this university has a unique interdisciplinary excellence and an ability and opportunity to affect real change in some of the most crucial arenas of our society. We are thrilled to emphasize our legacy here at DU through the Scrivner Institute, knowing that the knowledge created here, combined with an exceptional student experience, will impact our world in countless ways for the years to come."

The Scrivners' visionary gift reflects their long-standing love of the University of Denver. Doug and Mary married in Evans Memorial Chapel on his graduation day from law school. Doug has served the university in a number of leadership capacities over the years, including serving on the university's Board of Trustees for many years and chairing the Board from 2014 to 2018. During his tenure as Board Chair, he worked closely with Chancellor Emerita Rebecca Chopp to pursue and begin implementing the university's strategic plan, DU IMPACT 2025. Doug has been a champion of transforming the student experience and better connecting our campus community to the city of Denver and Colorado.

"Doug's service to the university, particularly as Chair of the Board of Trustees, is a source of inspiration to many," said Chancellor Jeremy Haefner. "Through this gift, he and Mary are demonstrating a remarkable commitment to the university's vision of designing an education that meets the issues of the day with smart, informed solutions." >

W.M. Keck Foundation Grant Advances Quantum Computing at DU

Thanks to a highly prestigious \$1 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation in support of an inter-university research project, the University of Denver and Colorado School of Mines are building a new path toward quantum computing.

The work of Mark Siemens, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at DU, and Mark Lusk, professor in the Department of Physics at Colorado School of Mines, explores the possibility of using a laser beam as the medium for quantum science.

“This new connection is really exciting for us,” Siemens said. “It could launch a new age of accessibility for quantum science and, ultimately, computing. Imagine doing quantum measurements and calculations with a glorified laser pointer!”

Emerging quantum technologies rely on creating, preserving and manipulating very delicate states of quantum matter. Unfortunately, these states only exist at ultra-cold temperatures, a substantial impediment for widespread technological application.

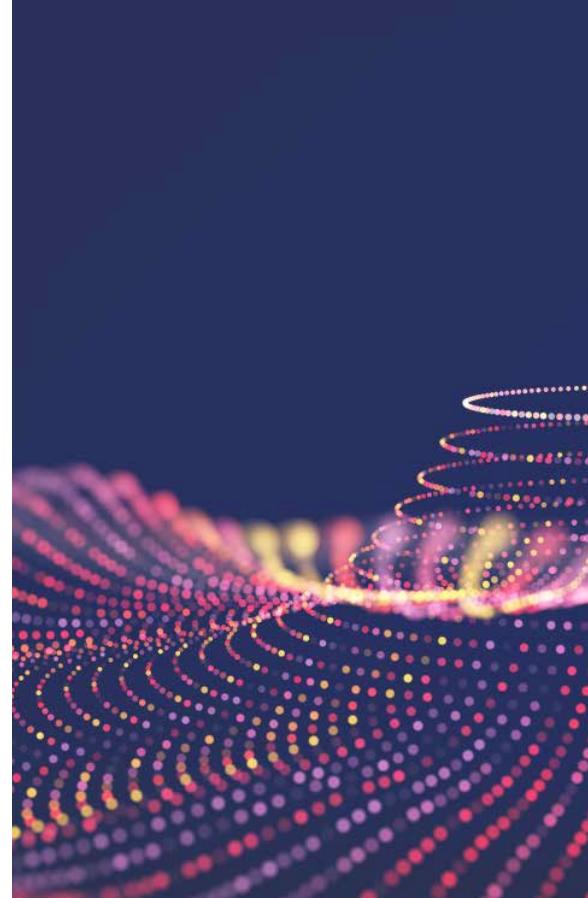
Siemens and Lusk realized, though, that they could leverage the advanced state of laser technology to make similar optical architectures that are robust even at room temperature. Their idea is to engineer very small structures right into the laser beam that behave like the exotic particles currently being considered for use in quantum computing.

“Light with such detailed architecture has a complicated fluid-like behavior reminiscent of many small whirlpools interacting on the surface of a pond,” Lusk said. “We’re calling this topological fluids of light (TFL) because the laser whirlpools are topologically stable, a key property for the storage and manipulation of information.”

Their investigation seeks to determine and control the fundamental working properties of TFL to explore room-temperature quantum sciences using laser light.

Jasmine Andersen, a condensed matter physics graduate student at DU, credits this project with deepening her understanding of a successful academic research process. “I saw the evolution of the material, including lots of progression in both our understanding of the science and how to effectively communicate that,” said Andersen. “Knowing what it takes and what it looks like to be successful in this aspect of academic research will have a lasting impact throughout my career. I am grateful for what I have learned in this process and look forward to working on this research for the remainder of my Ph.D.”

The project is a result of a collaboration between physicists at the two Denver metro institutions, creating a sound environment for rigorous scientific exploration. Siemens is an experimental physicist whose laser lab at DU will be doing the precise manipulation and propagation of designer laser beams (including the optical whirlpools needed to generate



TFL), while Lusk is a quantum field theorist who will focus on the fundamental properties of TFL.

“We at the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics are extremely proud of our faculty and their interdisciplinary collaborative research,” said Andrei Kutateladze, dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. “With this generous award from the Keck Foundation, Prof. Siemens and his collaborator at Colorado School of Mines, Prof. Lusk, will undoubtedly move science and technology forward and have major impact on one of the most pressing areas of quantum information science. This partnership between two of the region’s great universities is a new norm; it elevates both schools and the visibility of fundamental sciences programs at DU and Mines.”

“Innovation and collaboration lie at the heart of the DU experience,” said Chancellor Jeremy Haefner. “This grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation recognizes our collaborative work around complex topics with real-world impact. At the University of Denver, we are proud to create knowledge that will solve some of society’s greatest issues.” >

Students participate in restoration and maintenance of the Madden art collection, donated to DU in 2015.



Elevating Faculty Innovation

DU's College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (CAHSS) is reimagining liberal and creative arts education. In the John Madden Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts, faculty members find an academic venture capital firm that is investing in faculty-driven projects that develop innovative, new approaches to scholarship, teaching, creative work and community engagement.

Named in honor of local real estate developer and philanthropist John Madden, Jr., in recognition of his \$5 million gift, the Madden Center strengthens the connection between the liberal arts and innovation. It advances faculty innovation by providing critical funding and resources for research and programs, such as the recent cross-discipline DU Prison Arts Initiative.

The Madden Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts identifies and supports passionate, entrepreneurial faculty members who have already invested their own time and energy to begin a promising early-stage project whose scope is limited by existing resources of time, funding and program development expertise.

The Madden Center supports projects that are:

- Multidisciplinary, connecting faculty and students across DU regardless of their degree program or academic home.
- Transformational, changing the way students learn and faculty conduct research and creative activity.
- Committed to developing Keystone Experiences, opportunities

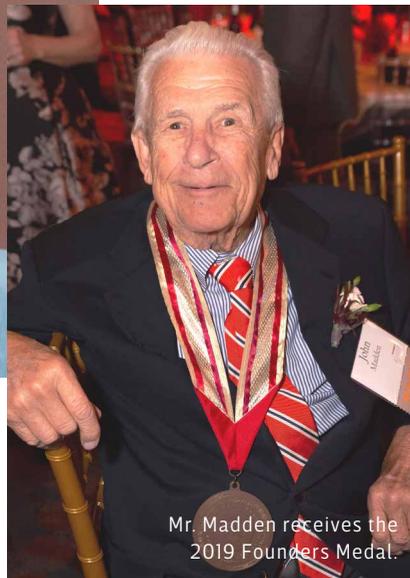
for a large number of CAHSS students to engage in immersive experiential education.

- Focused on problem-based learning, a student-centered pedagogy in which students learn by solving open-ended, real-world problems.
- Committed to creating community partnerships, including supporting course proposals and scholarship/creative work that are community engaged.

“We are thrilled that Mr. Madden committed to support a signature project in our Keystone Strategic Plan,” said Daniel McIntosh, dean of the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences. “His generosity provides the long-term financial support needed to amplify the tremendous work of the Center, our faculty and our students, providing a model for higher education innovation.”



“It is impossible to overstate the significance of Mr. Madden’s transformational gift... this gift will change the way faculty and students work, learn and create.”



Mr. Madden receives the 2019 Founders Medal.

“It is impossible to overstate the significance of Mr. Madden’s transformational gift to the Center,” said Derigan Silver, faculty director of the Madden Center. “This gift will change the way faculty and students work, learn and create at the University of Denver and will support hundreds of faculty projects over the lifetime of the Center.”

John W. Madden, Jr. is a pioneer of commercial development in the Denver area and founder of the John Madden Company. Under his leadership, the John Madden Company developed more than 600 acres of land to turn Greenwood Village into a nationally acclaimed area in which to work, live and play. The company’s award-winning developments are instantly recognizable for their use of outdoor art – a direct result

of John Madden’s own passion for supporting the arts.

Mr. Madden donated his personal art collection, valued at \$10 million, to the University of Denver in 2015, and that transformational partnership continues with his current gift in support of liberal and creative arts. The university presented Mr. Madden with the Founders Medal in 2019 in recognition of his transformational leadership and engaged philanthropy. >

A New Locker Room for DU Hockey

If the eight national championships, two Hobey Baker award winners, nearly 50 All-Americans and 14 Olympians were not enough to attract the country's best hockey recruits, the University of Denver hockey team has a new incentive. The Pioneers recently moved into the new Miller Hockey Complex, a state-of-the-art locker room that can compete with any other hockey program in the country.

At 4,464 square feet, the complex is double the size of the old locker room. The project took four years to complete, cost \$2.5 million and was entirely funded by more than 150 former players and supporters of the program.

The complex is named after University of Denver trustee John A. Miller (MBA'76, BSBA'75), his wife, Sandy (BA'76), and their family. Both John and Sandy graduated from DU and have been longtime supporters of the university and the hockey program.

The complex consists of three locker rooms: a coaches' locker room, a dry locker room for student-athletes to store personal items and change into workout clothes, and the primary locker room where the team goes when coming off the ice.

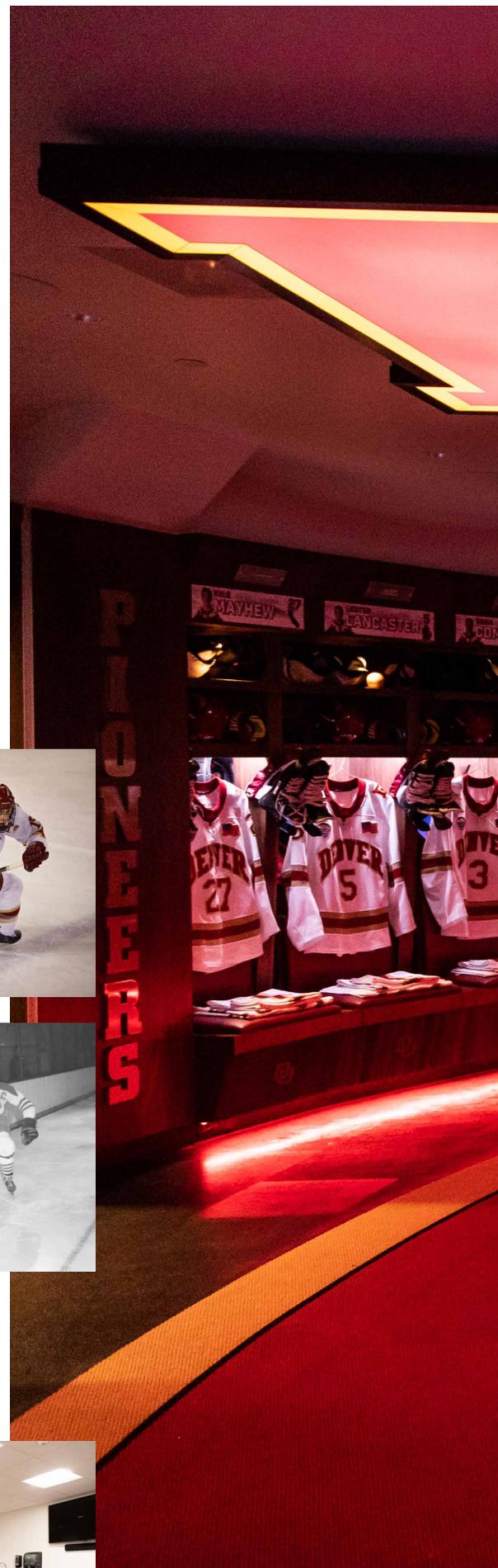
There's also a lounge area where student-athletes can relax before and after a game or practice and where they can eat pre- and post-game meals.

Since hockey is a sport full of bumps and bruises, the complex includes its own training room with a cold tub and hot tub for recovery.

Throughout the locker room, the walls are covered with homages to former teams and players. Tribute is paid to previous national championships, to the All-Americans and to those who have won a team award. The walls are also covered in different phrases that have been made popular over time. One of the more popular ones is "Trust the Proccess" from the 2017 national championship season. It's a nod to a speech delivered by then assistant head coach David Carle, who delivered his remarks beautifully but misspelled the word "process" on the board. >



Right: the new primary locker room. Below: training room complete with cold tub and hot tub.





Advancing Civil Liberties and Civil Rights

The University of Denver and the Arnold & Porter Foundation have long shared a commitment to civil liberties and civil rights work – a commitment that is making a significant difference in the training of future leaders in this vital area.

The Arnold & Porter Foundation's recent gift to the university creates two new endowed scholarships at the Sturm College of Law to support outstanding students with a demonstrated commitment to civil liberties and civil rights. The gift also supports a strategic litigation fund designed to advance the nationally recognized work of the law school's Civil Rights Clinic, part of its No. 8-ranked clinical program.

The Abe Krash Access to Justice Endowed Scholarship Fund, seeded with a \$250,000 gift from the Foundation, will endow – in perpetuity – scholarships for students with a demonstrated interest in civil rights and access to justice. The fund honors the contributions of Abe Krash, currently of counsel to the firm of Arnold & Porter, who formed part of the firm's legal team that represented Clarence Gideon in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963), which guaranteed the right to counsel in criminal matters.

The Arnold & Porter Civil Rights Endowed Scholarship Fund, seeded with a second \$250,000 gift, will endow scholarships for students with a demonstrated commitment to public interest law and prisoners' rights.

An additional contribution of \$187,000 will advance the work of the Civil Rights Clinic, with a particular focus on litigation and advocacy on behalf of incarcerated individuals – an area of law in which the clinic has achieved a well-earned national reputation.

"Throughout its distinguished history, Arnold & Porter has been a national leader in advancing justice for the underserved," observed Sturm College of Law Dean Bruce Smith. "So, too, has the University of Denver. We launched the American clinical legal education movement in 1904 and have been a leader in clinical education ever since. Arnold & Porter and the University of Denver share a significant and enduring commitment to the public good, and we are tremendously grateful to the Arnold & Porter Foundation for its vision and generosity."

"We are pleased to support the important work of the Civil Rights Clinic at Denver Law and those students dedicated to devoting their careers to advancing the cause of civil rights and civil liberties," said Richard M. Alexander, chair of Arnold & Porter and the Arnold & Porter Foundation. "Our firm has a long-standing commitment to public service, and our Denver office, opened in 1980, has played a vital role in advancing these pro bono efforts."

"Arnold & Porter's remarkable commitment recognizes the critical contributions of the Civil Rights Clinic in protecting the constitutional rights of people who are incarcerated, including access to medical and mental health care, the free exercise of religion, outdoor exercise and the conditions of solitary confinement," said Laura Rovner, director of the Civil Rights Clinic and professor at the Sturm College of Law. "This momentous gift will help us to impart the legal doctrine, skills and professional values necessary to forge the next generation of civil rights lawyers." >



Abe Krash at the gift announcement. Part of the gift funds a scholarship in his honor.



Steve and
Suzanne
Johnson

Engineering and Music: Passions for a Lifetime



When Steve Johnson (BSME '67) chose the University of Denver for his undergraduate education, two factors mattered most: He sought a good program in mechanical engineering and, as a first-generation college student from a low-income family in Portland, Oregon, he needed significant financial aid. He also had a minor interest in music.

Today, Johnson's formula for philanthropy is similar. While he and his wife, Suzanne, support the Denver Scholarship Foundation and other educational and environmental organizations, their recent significant estate gift to DU is split evenly between the Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science and the Lamont School of Music. Both gifts are allocated to the deans' discretionary funds. "It's a leap of faith," he acknowledged, "but I'm relying on the good will and judgment of the administration and faculty to steer the money to where it will be the most effective."

After graduating from DU, Johnson earned a master's degree in engineering from Stanford, and he went to work at the Stanford Research Institute. In Palo Alto, he met Suzanne, who was in nursing at Stanford Medical Center. In 1978, the couple moved back to Denver. Johnson worked at a medical equipment company and later co-founded Evergreen Research, a company that specializes in medical product design. Suzanne became a nationally known expert in professional development for nurses.

While engineering became Johnson's livelihood, music has remained an interest. When he arrived on

campus, he found the engineering curriculum so demanding that he set music aside—until some 30 years later when he was drawn to the sound of the classical guitar. He began attending recitals at Lamont, where, he said, "The people were very friendly, and it was a very positive environment." Before long, he became a volunteer for the Lamont Society Council, eventually serving as the group's president. He also bought a guitar and began taking lessons from Lamont students and occasionally from Jonathan Leathwood, the chair of the guitar and theory program.

"I'll always be a beginner," he said. "But that's okay. I'm content with my musical limitations." He said he loves to be around the sounds of the instrument, as well as the students and staff at Lamont. Some of his teachers are 50 years his junior.

Today, the couple are in their 70s and retired. They have no children, and their closest relatives are financially secure. So they decided to give away the majority of their wealth, some to the University of Denver, which had profound influence on Johnson. He is pleased to be able to pay back some of the generosity he received.

"In the case of engineering, the education I got at DU was foundational for my career and helped me throughout my life," Johnson said. "And music remains a refuge against the chaos of the modern world." >



FOR OUR STUDENTS

Philanthropy directly transforms the student experience at DU through scholarships, leadership opportunities and a campus designed to help students succeed.



The Proof Is in the Giving

With the rising cost of higher education gracing national headlines over the past several years, “student philanthropist” may seem like a bit of an oxymoron. That’s why the University of Denver Student Foundation’s (DUSF) achievements in student giving, especially during the 2018-2019 school year, are all the more remarkable.

DU Advancement started DUSF in 2016 with the goal of involving more students in philanthropy, both through giving and through the hands-on experience in fundraising and development.

While only about 11 percent of the undergraduate student body made a financial contribution in 2016-2017, in 2018-2019 more than 30 percent of DU undergraduates contributed to causes on campus. Students most often gave to causes such as the Student Emergency Fund, the Food Pantry, the CAPE Survivor Fund and the Health and Counseling Access Fund – four funds that DUSF has played a role in creating or promoting to the DU community.

“Often faculty, staff, parent, alumni and community donors ask, ‘What do the students need?’ When students give to a cause, they communicate to the rest of the DU community what they care about,” said Nicholas Bowlby (Ed.D ’19), Associate Director of Community Philanthropy and Activation and DUSF Student Advisor (and a DU alumnus).

“We (DUSF) talk a lot about collective impact,” Bowlby said. “A student’s \$2 donation can go a long way when it’s combined with hundreds of other

students’ \$2 and contributions from donors who are able to give higher dollar amounts.”

The Student Emergency Fund, which relies 100 percent on donations, is a great example of the power of student giving and collective impact. The Fund, which helps students with unforeseen financial hardships, has raised over \$100,000 since DUSF started fundraising for it three years ago.

Chris Florez, DUSF’s outgoing president, said DUSF’s student trustees strive to connect with their peers and listen to what they need before asking students to consider donating to a cause. “At the end of the day, students want to give to help other students,” Florez said. “DUSF tries to inspire them to give.”

If the proof is in the giving, DUSF is doing a great job of inspiring.

“My hope is that DUSF will continue to build on their momentum and that more and more students will see the value of giving back through their university,” Florez said. >



Student trustees, Zoi Johns and Isaiah Jakob, broadcast on the Magness Arena jumbotron, celebrate student donors at a DU gymnastics event.



Students volunteer at the DUSF hosted “Spread the Love” event addressing food insecurity.

Investing in Scholarships to Strengthen Colorado Communities

Bob Follett has been invested in education for more than 60 years, including serving as chairman of textbook publisher Follett, lecturing for the Denver Publishing Institute (hosted by the University of Denver) and operating his own small publishing house. As a civic leader, philanthropist and volunteer, he also has invested in the well-being of the communities he's called home, including Keystone, Colorado, where he retired.

When Follett had an opportunity to support University of Denver graduate students to benefit the Colorado mountain communities he loves, he was quick to say yes. He is funding stipends for 10 new students enrolled in the Graduate School of Social Work Western Colorado Master of Social Work (MSW) program. Recipients are local residents who commit to providing behavioral health services or working with immigrant and Spanish-speaking populations in the region.

Colorado is among the nation's fastest-growing states, and in some western Colorado counties, Latino/Hispanic residents comprise more than 25 percent of the population. There is a shortage of social workers in rural Colorado, and the need for bilingual and bicultural social workers to provide services for the growing Spanish-speaking population is particularly acute.

"Offering culturally responsive services in one's native language increases the

likelihood for success of interventions," explains Western Colorado MSW Program Director Rachel Forbes, noting that educating "locally grown" social workers is key to meeting the region's needs since they're most likely to stay in the area. "Bob Follett's generosity will go a long way toward ensuring that members of the Western Slope community—especially those that are farthest removed from the services most take for granted—will receive treatment in their time of need."

Longtime Avon, Colorado, resident and fluent Spanish speaker Alma De Lara already works as an advocate for domestic violence and sexual assault survivors, but she says a social work degree will help her to better meet the needs of those she serves. "I just want to help my own community," she says. "People are more comfortable opening up not just because I speak their language, but because I can relate culturally. It helps to build trust and relieve some of that fear."

Kaylee Peterson thought she would have to leave her hometown of Silt to attend graduate school, but the stipend has made it possible to stay

in her community and continue working with children and families while she pursues her MSW.

"There is so much need here, and it is a growing population," Peterson says. "I want to create a stronger community so as it does become bigger, it's a healthy community." >





The First Carol and Ramon Tomé Scholars to Be Named

Starting in 2019 and continuing annually, The Carol and Ramon Tomé Endowed Diversity Scholarship Fund will support underrepresented

undergraduate students who are pursuing degrees in finance, accounting or business analytics at DU.

An anonymous donor matched the Tomés' generous gift, establishing a total of \$1 million in endowed funds to support students who have historically been underrepresented in these areas of study.

Carol Tomé (MBA '81) and her husband, Ramon, have a deep commitment to helping create a pipeline of diverse, talented students in finance, accounting and business. Carol recently retired as chief financial officer and executive vice president of corporate services from Home Depot after a career there that spanned more than 20 years. Fortune magazine has recognized her three times as one of the most powerful women in business.

teams are powerful. Diverse teams make a difference. We are delighted to provide scholarship funding to support diversity at the University of Denver," Ms. Tomé said.

Dean of the Daniels College of Business Vivek Choudhury said, "The Tomés' gift helps open the door for and ensure the success of a diverse population of students in these critical areas of business. This is a very significant gift for the Daniels College of Business, and it speaks volumes about the Tomés' commitment to the university and to creating opportunity for all. We are very grateful to the Tomés for their generosity." >

“The University of Denver empowers students who want to make a difference. We know what it means to be different... Diverse teams are powerful.”



Carol Tomé

“The University of Denver empowers students who want to make a difference. We know what it means to be different. I was one of just a few female CFOs in the Fortune 500 and Ramon is a native Honduran. Diverse

Scholarship Gives Momentum, and Memory, for Lacrosse

Rus and Reena Peterson had recently moved to Denver when they learned that Bill Tierney was coaching the University of Denver lacrosse team. This was big news for them because they were avid fans of the sport, and Rus had attended Johns Hopkins during Tierney's winning tenure there as assistant lacrosse coach. The couple immediately bought tickets to the next DU game, where they were introduced to a team that would become like family to them.

They went from attending individual games to buying season tickets to becoming Gold Club members. Soon they were attending every game and knew all of the staff, coaches and players.

They especially enjoyed hanging out in the Gold Club at Peter Barton Stadium while cheering on a team that was dominating the sport they loved. Everyone at DU Lacrosse knew Reena and Rus.

"These people pull you in and they make you feel like you're part of the family," said Rus. "It's just the Pioneer way. This is what was so special to Reena. The program at DU brought her in with open arms."

Reena especially appreciated being embraced by the team because as a young girl she was adopted from India and brought to live in the United States. "So she knew what adoption was like," said Rus. "She came out here to Colorado and fell in love with the way people treated her, and it really started with the DU program."



Reena with lacrosse player Trevor Baptiste

When Rus updated his will in 2016, he wanted to do something to support lacrosse. He had initially planned to make a gift to Johns Hopkins, but Reena suggested another idea. She wanted to do something for the team that had been so welcoming to her.

"There was something about lacrosse that struck a chord with her, and she wanted to see if we could make a little bit of a difference in some students' lives over the course of years to come."

With Reena's encouragement, the couple established a significant scholarship to benefit DU Lacrosse through the Momentum Scholarship Challenge. This matching gift program, which concluded in 2018, allowed donors to make a future commitment through a bequest while seeing the impact of their gift now. The University of Denver matched 25% of the gift with its own resources, making those funds available for immediate use in benefiting students.

"When these kids finish at DU, they're not going to have a career in lacrosse waiting for them," said Rus. "They've got to rely on academics, and so I'm hoping that our gift will keep some students in school through the whole four years, or maybe it will inspire them to continue with their own contributions to the program."

The couple's favorite lacrosse player was Trevor Baptiste. At an event in late 2017, he noticed them and came over to talk. Rus snapped a photo of Trevor and Reena, which turned out to be the last picture ever taken of her. She died unexpectedly three days later. In her honor, the team dedicated the DU Lacrosse documentary "Rush for

the Gold" to Reena. She was as much a part of the team and the sport as they were.

"It tears at my heart to know that she's not here to see this," said Rus. "She would be ecstatic knowing that this money finally did get to the lacrosse program. Reena was instrumental in making us part of the Pioneer Nation. The legacy that she left behind will never be forgotten." >

Making the Dream of DU a Reality: The Rebecca Chopp Scholarship Endowment

Rebecca Chopp, the 18th chancellor of the University of Denver and DU's first female chancellor, left a legacy of impact by focusing her mission around supporting students and transforming the student experience in the 21st century.

As a collective reflection of appreciation for her leadership and commitment to students, in the spring of 2019 members of DU's Board of Trustees, academic deans and senior staff committed more than \$2 million to scholarships in honor of Chancellor Emerita Chopp, thus creating the Rebecca Chopp Scholarship Endowment.

The Rebecca Chopp Scholarship Endowment will have a lasting impact on students for decades by granting scholarships to high-achieving students, providing them the freedom and ability to pursue their educational and professional goals, regardless of socioeconomic status. Closing financial gaps through scholarship aid will mean that recipients of the Rebecca Chopp Scholarship Endowment will have the opportunity to make their dream of attending the University of Denver a reality. Rebecca Chopp was the first person in her family to attend college, and that experience has echoed throughout her career and in her passion to make a college education possible for students of all backgrounds, including first-generation students. This scholarship endowment will honor that passion as it paves the way for countless first-generation students to thrive at DU in the decades to come.

Chopp Scholars will participate in cohorts in order to maximize their DU experience through increased exposure to opportunities, resources and connections while allowing them the freedom to explore their personal and academic pursuits and pathways for success toward the futures they desire.

With a focus on creating intentional community and constructing a student-centered culture, the Rebecca Chopp Scholarship Endowment is committed to rewarding the most driven, passionate and hardworking of scholars. >



Rebecca Chopp, the 18th chancellor of the University of Denver

Projects Across DU Benefit from Record Day of Giving

Marking its fifth year in 2019, 1Day4DU is traditionally the university's largest single day of giving. Responding to the 1Day4DU campaign, DU community members from nearly every state and multiple countries gave in record numbers to projects across the campus, both online and in person.

More than 4,000 donors contributed over \$2 million to 34 crowdfunding projects and 160 other areas of the university, providing record-breaking and meaningful impact for the future of vital community programs at DU. This year's 4,000-plus donors far exceeded the goal of 3,200 and nearly tripled 1Day4DU's first year, signaling the strong support of the DU community.

The 34 crowdfunding projects featured during 1Day4DU spanned some of the university's highest priorities. Scholarships for first-generation students, Native American student support, varsity athletics, club sports, the Learning Effectiveness Program for students and Summer

Internship Awards represent a few of the initiatives that garnered support during the day.

The gifts made on 1Day4DU will have direct and immediate effects on the students involved in those and other projects, as well as on DU's community collaborations like MotherWise Colorado and the Bridge Project's Early Literacy and Writing Program, which were also highlighted during the day of giving.

Social media, telephone outreach and online giving provided opportunities for alumni and friends around the world to get activated and play a part in building the future of 1Day's projects. Alumni from as far away as New Zealand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Alaska and other places made gifts in support of the causes that held the most meaning for them. The university's trustees also played a significant role in 1Day4DU, once again getting behind the day with strong participation.

1Day4DU featured not only digital and telephone outreach to activate the DU global network but also on-campus festivities that drew more than 1,000 people to Carnegie Green for food, live music, carnival activities and the opportunity to converse with the project leaders whose programs benefited from the event.

The festivities of 1Day4DU followed the excitement of Alumni Weekend happening just a few days prior. Alumni traveled to campus to celebrate and welcome graduating students into the alumni family during Alumni Weekend, and that engagement of the DU community paved the way for record-breaking support of students on 1Day4DU. >



Chancellor Emerita Chopp (top left) and Chancellor Haefner (bottom left) at the 1Day4DU celebration.



**A record breaking 4,325
donors contributed over
\$2 million in a single day.**



DENVER ADVANTAGE

The Denver Advantage is about designing a campus to fuel the collaborations and relationships proven to help students succeed, now and throughout their lives. It grows out of our strategic plan, DU IMPACT 2025, demonstrating our commitment to educate students holistically and prepare them to lead diverse organizations and communities.

Community Commons

Built on the footprint of Driscoll Center North, the Community Commons will provide an energetic center of critical resources for students, faculty, staff and the community. It will house spaces for classes, programming, studying and collaborative opportunities. Co-location of critical support services under one roof will give students a more integrated, comprehensive and effective learning experience, making delivery of holistic support services seamless. A central dining hall featuring cuisines from our students' countries of origin will beckon the DU community to dine, socialize and find a place of belonging.

Above: architectural rendering of the Community Commons

Dimond Family Residential Village Creates an On-Campus Home for First-Year Students

The Dimond Family Residential Village, named in honor of the Dimond Family Foundation following their \$5 million investment in residential life at DU, is one of three buildings being rolled out as the first phase of the Denver Advantage Campus Framework Plan. The Residential Village will provide student housing designed to create a strong sense of belonging and community among the university's 1,500 first-year students.

Navin and Rita Dimond have been supporters of the University of Denver for many years, and the Dimond Family Residential Village represents their commitment – and that of their whole family – to creating community and meaningful experiences for our students.



Opening in fall 2020, the 130,000-square-foot residence hall will provide housing for 500 first-year students as well as a series of campus-serving programs. While DU has a two-year live-on requirement, the university is finding that more upper-level students are also wanting to live

Architectural rendering of the Dimond Family Residential Village



on campus. The Residential Village is one step in helping to create more openings for those students.

The Dimond Family Foundation represents the steadfast philanthropic pursuits of Navin and Rita Dimond, the founders of Stonebridge Companies, and their two daughters, Ashley and Sonja. The Denver-based, privately owned, innovative hotel owner, operator and developer is one of the nation's leading hospitality companies and features a portfolio of 60 hotels

across the nation under the Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt and Four Seasons brands.

Navin Dimond has a strong history with the University of Denver, having earned his MBA from its Franklin L. Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management in 1986.

Dimond is also an active member of the university's Board of Trustees.

"Our family continues to be inspired by the next generation of leaders and we very much appreciate the opportunity to give back to the entire University of Denver community in this way," said Navin and Rita Dimond. "Our family believes giving is much better than receiving, and one of our most important responsibilities is to support students as they pursue their education."

Involvement in the local communities that Stonebridge serves remains a core value to Dimond and his family's foundation. Dimond has a long-standing passion for and history of supporting education, also serving on the Foundation Board for Metropolitan State University of Denver and having established the Rita and Navin Dimond Hotel Management Program at Metropolitan State University of Denver in 2014. This program provides students preparing for careers in the hospitality industry with access to training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Dimond also received the Colorado "I Have a Dream" Foundation's Dream Maker Award in 2014, earning recognition for his commitment to quality education and its enduring impact on area youth. >



The Burwell Center for Career Achievement Revolutionizes Career and Alumni Programming

Adam Gross, Principal at Ayers Saint Gross, presents the campus plans to the DU community.

Within the changing landscape of higher education and career trajectories, the University of Denver is re-imagining services that are oriented toward the career needs of current students and the requirements of contemporary work.

DU has taken a bold step forward,

Architectural rendering of The Burwell Center for Career Achievement



Rod, and their three sons – Peter (BSBA '11), Blake (BSME, MBA '15) and Michael (BA '16, MBA '17) – have deep ties to DU thanks to the sons' experiences as students here.

With varied interests and choosing DU for different reasons – Peter earned his undergraduate degree at Daniels College of Business, Blake earned his undergraduate degree at the Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science as well as an MBA from Daniels, and Michael earned his undergraduate degree and MBA at Daniels – all of the sons contributed to campus life through involvement in the Kappa Sigma Fraternity. Rod was a guest speaker at Daniels, and Barbara served on parent councils in Advancement and in Campus Life throughout her sons' time at DU.

“Being involved as a parent, I was able to get to know the heart and soul of DU,” said Barbara. “I see how much DU offers the students, both in the classroom and far beyond the campus. There are so many opportunities beyond Evans and University – and that is what DU is preparing students for. With the programs that will happen in the Burwell Center, DU will become an over-the-top resource to equip students for what the world needs.”

The Burwell Center will showcase the university's commitment to sustainability and to creating spaces that serve students' needs, both now and well into the future. Among its numerous sustainability elements will be rooftop solar panels and native Colorado features in the landscape. The Burwell Center is aspiring to become the first LEED Platinum building on the DU campus and one of the first v4 LEED Platinum buildings in the state of Colorado. It will also be one of the first all-mass timber buildings in Colorado.

“The University of Denver has great physical beauty,” said Barbara. “The campus itself, the mountains nearby – we are so fortunate to spend time in this stunning environment. But the most important thing is that it works. The magic is in the programs and initiatives that happen within these buildings. And it will only get better as we create new spaces to facilitate the learning and preparation that our students and their future employers demand.”

Innovative place-based programming that complements the architecture and design will enhance the university's strong track record of student engagement in career activities – a key factor in students' satisfaction with their educational experience and their lifelong alumni connections. Over the past few years, DU's Career and Professional Development team has nearly doubled the estimated student engagement rate at other universities, reaching nearly 70 percent of undergraduate students and 40 percent of graduate students. The Burwell Center will position DU to attain the goal of engaging 90 percent of students annually and 100 percent of students by the time they graduate, solidifying the university as a national leader in the landscape of career and professional development. Following their commitment to the Burwell Center, the family expanded their support of students by establishing the Pioneer Venture Group, a venture capital investment fund that is run by students and designed to provide educational, practical and networking experiences to students focusing on entrepreneurship, venture investing and general business practices. >

thanks to a \$5 million gift from the Rodney and Barbara Burwell Family Foundation that will revolutionize the university's career achievement activities for both students and alumni. The new building that will house career and alumni programming will be named The Burwell Center for Career Achievement in honor of the Foundation's gift.

The Burwell Center will be a welcoming home for students, alumni, potential employers and everyone in the DU community as we support the global DU family in their careers and their lives of purpose.

It is a key element of the Denver Advantage Campus Framework Plan, and it will serve as the center of career development at the university. Located at the former site of the Leo Block Alumni Center, the Burwell Center will provide innovative and flexible spaces for students, alumni and employers to build connections and explore opportunities for collaboration. Alumni returning to campus will find the Burwell Center the ideal place to connect with each other, with faculty, with students – and with DU's history, which will be showcased through an interactive electronic display in the building. Barbara Burwell, her late husband,



The Burwell family at The Burwell Center for Career Achievement groundbreaking

FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

**In Denver, rural Colorado
and beyond, DU is
investing in communities
and implementing the
knowledge creation to
make a tangible difference
in people's lives.**



Preparing Refugees and Immigrants for Careers in Hospitality

For the past seven years, the Ready for American Hospitality (RAH) program has trained refugees and immigrants, preparing them for jobs in hospitality while giving DU students experience in hiring and developing human capital. The award-winning program is a partnership between DU's Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management (Fritz Knoebel) and the Ethiopian Community Development Council's African Community Center, and it just graduated its 21st refugee/immigrant class.

The program has received a transformational \$500,000 grant from The J. Willard and Alice S. Marriott Foundation. The gift was in response to a matching challenge grant made possible by a generous anonymous donor.

"Funding for RAH has fluctuated over the program's seven-year life, but the need for the program has never been greater," says Fritz Knoebel's Director, David Corsun. "These gifts ensure that we will be able to assist refugees and immigrants as they build productive new lives here in Denver. RAH is mission-critical to Fritz Knoebel and has garnered several international awards for the school, along with recognition from the U.S. Department of State. The experience our students have working with the refugee/immigrant communities uniquely prepares them for their management careers."

students build the management skills they need to be tomorrow's hospitality leaders."

RAH is a 100-hour training program designed to make the most of the active job market in Denver and respond effectively to the training needs of refugees and immigrants. The program is also instrumental in participants' integration into the Denver community.

Fritz Knoebel students enrolled in the school's course on managing human capital in hospitality are paired with RAH refugee protégés; these relationships are diverse in terms of age, race, ethnicity, class and citizenship. Over the course of several weeks, hospitality students meet with their protégés during and outside class time to complete required assignments, conduct job interview training sessions, and serve as mentors. The RAH students' relationships with DU's hospitality students expand their respective networks and worldviews as both groups learn to trust those who are very different from themselves.

"The class is very useful for the language and for work practice, and it is a good opportunity to help with

"The Marriott Foundation is proud to support this important program with an endowed fund," says Mieka Wick, executive director of the Marriott Foundation. "We are inspired by its humanitarian and practical impact. In addition to helping refugees and immigrants begin successful lives in Denver, RAH helps Fritz Knoebel

everything," says Maryi Martinez, a 2018 RAH graduate who is currently enrolled in training with Denver Public Schools. "When you come from another country, it is difficult and you don't feel like a real person of this country. After the class, you feel like you belong here."

The culminating event for RAH has its students working side-by-side with Fritz Knoebel students to produce a food and wine pairing dinner each fall, winter and spring quarter. In winter and spring, these events are collaborations across RAH, the human capital course and Fritz Knoebel's pop-up restaurant course. These winter/spring dinners are part of the school's Guest Chef Series. In winter, the dinner is called the Public Good Gala, and in spring it is the food and wine pairing dinner that is part of Fritz Knoebel's DU Vin Festival, a featured event in the university's annual Alumni Weekend.

This year, Fritz Knoebel welcomed two James Beard Award-winning chefs: Jen Jasinski, chef-owner of several of Denver's great restaurants (including Rioja, Bistro Vendôme, Euclid Hall, Stoic & Genuine, and Ulteira), and Charles Phan, chef-owner of the Slanted Door in San Francisco, and a Vietnamese refugee



himself. Jasinski was the guest chef for the Public Good Gala in February, which sold out in five days. Phan was the guest chef for the DU Vin Festival dinner in May as part of Alumni Weekend. >

Increasing Support for Underserved Children and Families Through Philanthropy

Children and families in Denver's underserved communities will soon benefit from expanded resources that range from crisis psychological support to diversity in literature and more.

A gift from Taylor Kirkpatrick (IMBA '04), president and chief executive officer of Babson Farms Inc., will benefit multiple divisions at the University of Denver and establish a broad range of support for disadvantaged families. In reinforcing cross-campus collaborations throughout the university that advance the vision of DU IMPACT 2025, Kirkpatrick's generosity mirrors his commitment of service as he leads the board of advisors for DU's Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP). The gift strengthens connections between the university and the Denver community, leveraging campus expertise to make a difference in the lives of underserved individuals.

The families who will experience the impact of this gift are those receiving services at MotherWise Colorado, focused on the promotion of family and relationship well-being during pregnancy and into the postpartum period. MotherWise is a DU partnership with Denver Health, housed at the Rose Amond Center, that provides educational and relationship support for 300 to 500 expecting and new mothers along with their babies each year. DU's CUB Clinic — Caring

for You and Baby, an initiative of the Graduate School of Professional Psychology — recently joined forces with MotherWise to realize a vision for prevention, early intervention and access to deeper resources of psychological care for children and families who visit Rose Amond Center.

"My time at the Daniels College of Business instilled in me a profound appreciation for ethical leadership, and, to me, this extends to my practices as a philanthropist," Kirkpatrick says. "Drawing this thread throughout the tremendous academic bench strength across DU for the benefit of the entire Denver community, from books to art to engagement with mental health resources, has become an important North Star. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve others in this way." The experience of authoring a children's book, "Worthwhile," is another reason the program inspired Kirkpatrick to make this gift.

Because of Kirkpatrick's gift, nearly 100 additional families per year will be served by the CUB Clinic through an increase in the professional counselor's weekly hours. Additionally, several initiatives will begin on the DU campus as a result of Kirkpatrick's generosity.

The Caring for You and Baby (CUB) Lifelong Learning Series promotes early childhood wellness, education and literacy by bringing four children's



Know Your ABCs: Alternative Books for Children Diversity Collection

literature authors or experts with knowledge on diversity topics to campus over the course of two years. A partnership among faculty in the GSPP's Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialty and University Libraries faculty librarians, this community-facing learning series will provide a relevant, engaging and positive learning environment for children and families.

Utilizing that series as an entry point to more profound community engagement, the Know Your ABCs: Alternative Books for Children Diversity Collection will be established as a content and reference guide to the series. It provides a physical collection of books and online materials that moves beyond the mainstream infant and early childhood bestseller's lists to represent families across a spectrum of inclusion and diversity, from race to sexual orientation to gender identity and disability. Compiled by the



faculty librarians of DU's University Libraries, this cutting-edge collection will reflect the reality of our diverse community and ensure that no child feels the loneliness of not seeing themselves represented in the books they read or the movies and television shows they watch.

"With Taylor's generous gift, the University Libraries will be able to establish a world-class collection of children's and young adult literature that represents voices often not included in academic library collections," says Michael Levine-Clark, dean of University Libraries. "This collection will support research and teaching at DU but will also be accessible to children beyond the university. Combined with the speaker series, this donation will open up our collections and the Anderson Academic Commons to a broader community. I'm thrilled that the University Libraries will be able to

connect young readers with books and authors that speak about a diversity of experiences."

Finally, in support of building this artistic diversity, the School of Art and Art History will pilot an interactive summer program for children and families using age-appropriate curriculum and teaching from the series. Kirkpatrick's gift will allow for a pilot program under the direction of the director of the Vicki Myhren Gallery, working with graduate students, to support community engagement and healthy families.

The visionary generosity of Taylor Kirkpatrick is expected to have long-lasting effects for the families involved in these programs, giving them vital resources to thrive in the midst of challenging circumstances. It also will create profound impact for the university as it strengthens and deepens the ways that it leverages

research and practice to connect with the community.

"DU's mission is to be a great private university dedicated to the public good, and through its visionary strategic plan IMPACT 2025, we're building outstanding student experiences that lead to fulfilling and purposeful careers, at an institution that's a hub of community empowerment and vitality," says GSPP Dean Shelly Smith-Acuña. "Taylor's generosity buoys this sense of empowerment in that it enables DU to be responsive to community need in a way that leverages our innovative strengths. Lives will be changed as a direct result, and I know I speak for all of DU when I say that we are deeply appreciative of his visionary involvement." ➤

Amplifying the Greater Community Good



Instead of traditional party favors, Bill and Liz Hyatt gave each of their wedding guests a gift card with which to make microloans to small businesses around the world. When they decided last year that they wanted to help people closer to home, the Hyatts approached the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work with another novel idea: providing grants for students working to implement programs to thoughtfully engage community and meet community needs.

The only award of its type at the school, the Hazelle Lundquist Award provided grants for three MSW students in its first year, supporting innovative, enterprising projects that wouldn't have been possible otherwise. The award is named for Liz's late grandmother, an immigrant from Sweden who lived most of her adult life near the university.

"The Hazelle Lundquist Award offers a wonderful opportunity to support our amazing students, live our values and realize our vision of being a school of social work dedicated to equity, social justice and deep community engagement," says Assistant Dean for Students Deana Ahmad. "Awardees build on the skills they are cultivating in the classroom and bridge them into impactful projects and partnerships within the community."

Award recipient Kayln Brown, a Sustainable Development & Global Practice concentration student, proposed a project for immigrant and refugee teens and young adults at the East Colfax Youth Center in Denver. Working with center staff, Brown conducted interviews and designed and facilitated focus groups for 30

youth, who shared that education, college and career readiness were priorities, along with support for social-emotional growth. Center staff are using the information Brown gathered to retool youth programming, including creation of the center's first Youth Leadership Council.

"It is critical to work with and beside individuals and families to ensure that they are being provided with the resources and support to rebuild safe and sustainable lives," Brown says. "By creating a safe and transformative space for refugee youth, the opportunities to excel academically will further foster their leadership skills to become outstanding change-makers within their communities."

That's just the sort of transformative potential the Hyatts wanted to amplify for the greater community good. "We're blessed to be in a place where we can do this," says Bill, who works for a financial advisory firm. "If you have all your needs met and have an abundance to share, why not give some of it away and see how it transforms people's lives?" adds Liz, a realtor. "There is nothing that will make you happier." >

***"If you have all
your needs met
and have an
abundance to
share, why not
give some of it
away and see
how it transforms
people's lives?"***



DU Launches First Family Business Program in Higher Education in Colorado Region

The Bailey Program for Family Enterprise is activating a new era of teaching and research in the field of family business at the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business.

The Paul T. Bailey estate established the program through a gift of \$1 million to the university. The Bailey family, many of whom are alumni of Daniels and members of a successful multigenerational business, share a passion for education and a commitment to developing the next generation of leaders. Their commitment is creating a vital new resource for family-owned enterprises in Colorado as it builds students' knowledge, leverages cross-disciplinary expertise and strengthens the public understanding of matters crucial to family business.



“Our father, as an entrepreneur, enjoyed providing opportunities for others through building a family business, competing in the field of his endeavor, and applying free market principles,” said Todd Bailey, one of Mr. Bailey’s sons. “He would be proud to be a part of the family business program at DU knowing the positive impact the program will have for generations to come.”

The Bailey Program serves as a platform for both significant student impact and important new research. Under the leadership of newly appointed director Scott McLagan, the program researches and publishes best family practices and serves as a resource for family businesses through panels and seminars. Its academic programs are available to all DU students, and the program is increasing Daniels students’ in-depth study opportunities through a minor in Family Business Strategy for undergraduates, a certificate program for graduate students and non-degree courses for individuals currently engaged in family enterprises.

In addition, in keeping with Daniels’ significant history of welcoming high school students into courses and competitions, the program connects with high school students to enhance their understanding of free markets and family-owned enterprises. Research at the program is positioning DU as a thought leader in the field, informing students, professionals and policy makers both locally and nationally. Ultimately, the university anticipates a national network of scholars will contribute to research at the program and profoundly enhance the knowledge base in this crucial field.

The first comprehensive family business program in the Colorado region, the program builds on the excellence and innovation of Daniels’ top-ranked programs, bringing greater focus to the challenges and opportunities of the field of family-operated enterprise ranging from inter-generational wealth management and governance to succession planning and long-term value creation. At least 50 percent of companies in the US are classified as family owned, and it is an especially competitive economic landscape for these entities. The Bailey Program is uniquely positioned to develop the technical and leadership capacities of the owners and operators of these critical enterprises.

The program’s work is intentionally cross-disciplinary – as is the marketplace in which these enterprises compete. Through collaboration with Project X-ITE, DU’s entrepreneurial platform at the intersection of business, law and engineering, the program contributes to a vital resource for a wide variety of family-owned enterprises. Additionally, it is supported by faculty from across Daniels’ disciplines, including the Franklin L. Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management and the Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management, where family enterprises play a significant role. There will be multiple opportunities for DU alumni and donors to support the program’s innovative and practical interdisciplinary work.

The creation of the Bailey Program for Family Enterprise will result in a new standard for research, outreach, engagement and education across the Rocky Mountain West. ➤



ECHO-DU: Transforming Rural Communities

Every day, underfunded urban school districts are in the news; and yet, the challenges facing rural schools are often even more staggering: extreme poverty, inadequate access to health care, few early-childhood and after-school programs, transportation challenges, rampant teacher and mental health counselor shortages, and outdated technology. In Colorado alone, some 130,000 children attend school in underfunded rural districts, where teachers are in need of more support.

“I see the lack of educational equity across the state as a major civil rights issue of our time,” said Karen Riley, dean of the Morgridge College of Education, which focuses heavily on serving the needs of rural children and educators. Riley is behind a new program, ECHO-DU, that can build capacity in schools and communities across the state. In 2019, seed funding from the Morgridge Family Foundation and Constellation Philanthropy helped get the program off the ground.

Riley said, “Thanks to our generous partners, we are using technology to bring systemic solutions—in real time and cost-effectively—to under-

resourced communities. The impact of ECHO-DU is profound because it allows us to engage actively with rural teachers and partner with them on an ongoing basis.”

At the heart of the ECHO™ model—which stands for Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes—is multi-point videoconferencing technology that provides a platform for sharing the latest evidence-based practices and creating a network of professionals who can help each other problem-solve challenging cases they confront in their communities. The model saw immediate success in the field of medicine, where technology enabled doctors and caregivers to collaborate across disciplines and distance. They could put emerging science into practice, benefitting even patients who were located far from world-class teaching hospitals.

The University of Denver is among the first institutions to apply the approach to support teachers, and to address the mental and social-emotional health challenges facing rural schools and communities.

Over the past year, DU built the infrastructure for ECHO-DU and

hosted its first two virtual learning communities. Future funding will scale the number of ECHOs that DU can offer on additional topics relevant to the needs of schools and the children they serve. Teachers will receive the professional development they need and build communities of support, which may help stem teacher turnover and shortages. By sharing best practices and forming lasting relationships, solutions to long-standing problems may even become clear.

So far, DU has operated two ECHOs over the past year, one for rural first-year teachers and the other for early childhood settings. Together, the two weekly programs have engaged at least 50 professionals from rural Colorado communities including Alamosa, Del Norte and Basalt. As hoped, the participants have formed lasting relationships that will benefit the children they serve. ECHO series planned to launch this fall include one focused on social-emotional skill-building for teachers and another for school mental health professionals in rural communities across the state.

“Project ECHO can change lives,” said Riley. “It perfectly aligns with

Morgridge’s values,” she said, “because it brings knowledge and systems in a usable way to communities that are beyond our physical reach. It also will help us learn from people in the field. How can we best work together to meet their needs, so all children and teachers have equal access to the tools and skills that will help them thrive?”

To fund a project like ECHO takes more than generosity. For foundations and individuals, it takes the vision and desire to disrupt the status quo, and also tremendous faith in DU and the Morgridge College of Education. Carrie Morgridge has both. She serves as vice president and chief disruptor of the Morgridge Family Foundation, which makes highly impactful gifts designed to transform communities and create opportunities for individuals. She is passionate about the role technology must play in creating effective partnerships and solutions that can scale globally.

“When Dr. Riley explained ECHO to me, my jaw dropped,” she said. “I saw the disruption right away. Our foundation only makes transformative gifts, and ECHO will be truly transformative.” The Morgridge Family Foundation also invests significantly in mindSpark Learning, which provides training and culture-building programs for teachers. Carrie Morgridge’s connection to both ECHO and mindSpark creates great synergy, in that ECHO can greatly expand the reach and impact of mindSpark’s experts on communities.

“I couldn’t be more excited,” Morgridge said. “By combining my two favorite organizations—Morgridge College of Education and mindSpark Learning—Project ECHO is the perfect connector.” >



LARRK Foundation Gift Keeps on Giving—To Children and Families Across Colorado

Every funder’s dream is to see their gift have clear impact on an urgent need. But when the vision and the gift perfectly align with an expert team, effective partners and strategic new programs, that gift will inspire additional support. It will even compel others to join the cause.

That’s what happened after the LARRK Foundation funded the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Specialty at DU’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology (GSPP), with an initial three-year commitment in 2015. In 2018, LARRK, which funds innovative and preventative education and mental health programs for at-risk families, extended its support until 2021, to ensure that the research and teaching of the IECMH Specialty can come to life with sustainable programs in the field. Even more important, the LARRK gifts have begun to catalyze other individuals and foundations to support related programs at DU.

“Incredible research around brain development and the rapid nature of growth during the perinatal through the early childhood period—

from before birth to age five—suggests that the investment in pregnancy and early childhood really pays off,” said Tracy Vozar, PhD. She was recruited to direct the Specialty, which is one of the few graduate programs in the nation that is conducting research, training practitioners, providing policy and advocacy expertise, and delivering community-based care to the perinatal-to-age-five population.

Working closely with the innovative GSPP specialties, as well as other units across campus, Vozar and her team are creating an interdisciplinary approach that connects individuals, families and communities to high-quality care across Denver and rural Colorado. The Denver-based LARRK Foundation, which is named for the five members of the Jornayvaz family (Louisa, Auna, Robert, Robert and Kaytlyn) recognized immediately that the DU model could be transformative, and, especially, that the university could help meet the need for trained practitioners at the doctoral level.

“What excites me most is that we will be creating positive psychological scaffolding for thousands of young people—for a lifetime—so they have the tools to handle the inevitable

stresses and challenges of life in a healthy way,” said Louisa Jornayvaz. “It’s no secret teens and young adults are experiencing depression and anxiety in record numbers. Through this initiative we are getting way ahead of this terrible trend! It’s about prevention!”

Vozar and her students are applying their curriculum and research to serving families through a variety of new programs, including a perinatal and IECMH-focused training clinic called Caring for You and Baby (CUB). Since the CUB Clinic opened a year ago, Vozar has trained and supervised 21 clinicians who in turn have already served more than 30 clients. Later this year, GSPP will partner with MotherWise Colorado to open a second CUB Clinic within the community at the Rose Andom Center, where they will offer a variety of services in both English and Spanish. A new We Play! Denver collaboration with the Children’s Museum of Denver is engaging caregivers and children in focused play while also helping participants build supportive relationships that continue beyond the six-week program. Soon, with funding from Constellation Philanthropy, DU will launch Parentline Colorado, a

new tele-behavioral health service for pregnant women and new parents who can’t easily seek services within the clinic, thereby broadening the reach of these services throughout Denver and across the state.

Meanwhile, Vozar’s students are excited to have their boots on the ground. One year into the program, Lauren Gross already is conducting assessments and seeing therapy clients at the CUB Clinic, as well as working with families at We Play. As Vozar’s research assistant, she is establishing the systems for recruiting focus group subjects, collecting and managing data, and assessing outcomes of the various programs. What matters most is that her research gets her into the field with families, and she is helping to create something from the ground up.

“This is the first time I’ve worked on projects where I can directly see the human benefits of my work,” said Gross, who applied to several PsyD programs before choosing DU. “The program won me over, and then Tracy was this wonderful added bonus.”



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.

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