DU RECEIVES $10M GIFT OF ARTWORKS

1870 Bierstadt Painting among 120 Objects Added to University Art Collection

Mr. John Madden, developer of the Fiddler’s Green campus in Greenwood Village, CO., donated a collection of 120 artworks valued at $10 million to the University of Denver.

The new “Madden Collection at the University of Denver” includes artworks by artists ranging from pioneering Western painters Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran to American masters Thomas Hart Benton and Robert Rauschenberg to contemporary Chinese-born American painter Hung Liu.

The collection doubles the monetary value of the University Art Collection’s existing art assets, which now number more than 3,400 artworks. Through this transformational gift, the University expands its role as a regional leader in a new model for the museum profession—accessible collections. The University is committed to increasing the display of its collections while using them as an active educational resource for all DU students.

“The impact of this gift and our relationship with Mr. Madden is enormous,” said Chancellor Rebecca Chopp. “He has assembled an important and broad-ranging collection, and we’re particularly honored that he has entrusted us with the care of a legacy that benefits our students and the wider community.” Read more...

Photo: [2016.1.4] Thomas Hart Benton, Missouri Spring, 1938, oil on board, The Madden Collection at the University of Denver.

ALUMNI RECEPTION AND LIVINGSTON LECTURE

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Opera: Apr 14-17
Spirituals Concert: Apr 7
French Play: May 6-7

Full Event Calendar

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In the News
You’re invited!

Monday, May 2, 2016
Davis Auditorium, Sturm Hall
2000 E. Asbury Avenue

5:30 p.m. — AHSS alumni reception
6:45 p.m. — Presentation of the annual AHSS Alumni Achievement Awards
7:00 p.m. — Lecture “How the Bible Became a Book: The Rise of Scripture in Judaism and Christianity,” presented by Associate Professor Alison Schofield

Free! Registration is required.

Return to campus this spring to join us for the free AHSS alumni reception and John C. Livingston Lecture. Connect with AHSS alumni, faculty and students during the reception (complimentary hors d’oeuvres and open bar). Then hear from Alison Schofield, associate professor of religious studies, about her internationally groundbreaking work to translate the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Sacred texts stand at the center of most Western religions, and the Bible is the earliest example of these canonized scriptures. While most people are familiar with the Bible in its book form, the Bible took centuries to develop into the artifact recognized today.

Schofield will describe some of the dynamic history of the various texts that eventually made it into a best-selling collection of scripture. Why were some books included and others not? Are there ‘lost’ scriptures and how would we know? At the lecture you’ll explore what the Dead Sea Scrolls and other ancient sources can tell us about the origin and early history of the Bible as sacred book. Learn more and register.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Anthropology Alum Digs Deep as an International Geophysicist and Seismic Interpreter

Tiffany Tchakirides (MA ’02, anthropology) digs deeply into her work. Literally, and digitally.

She works at Shell, one of the world’s leading oil and gas companies, as an exploration and geophysics workflow advisor. She was previously a seismic processing geophysicist for Shell’s deepwater exploration imaging team in the Gulf of Mexico and a geophysicist and seismic interpreter for the Latin America team.

Tchakirides, who also holds a PhD in geophysics from Cornell University, came to DU for her master’s degree to study ground-penetrating radar (GPR) under Professor Larry Conyers. GPR is a highly specialized technology that enables users to avoid potentially harmful excavation by instead digitally viewing the land beneath the earth’s surface.

“I wanted to understand the subsurface of archaeological sites in a more holistic and less invasive way than by traditional archaeological excavations alone. When I first learned of GPR, I knew immediately that I had found the integrated research path I desired. I chose to attend DU to work with Professor Conyers, who literally ‘wrote the book’ on using GPR in archaeology,” she said. Read more...
**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

Professor Explores Time and Movement in American Literature

Few English professors weave dance and other performance arts into a course syllabus, but Tayana Hardin enjoys integrating American literature with performance studies in her classes and scholarly work.

Hardin specializes in 19th and 20th century African American literature, gender studies and performance studies. In spring 2015, she taught an advanced seminar (ASEM) course that melded all three disciplines. The course was designed on the premise that bodies—our own and others—acquire meanings that vary across time and context. Philosophical discussions were balanced with in-class activities such as dance, acting and other performance practices.

“It was—hands down—the most challenging class I’ve ever designed as a sole instructor,” said Hardin, who joined DU as an assistant professor of English in 2013. “But the depth of student engagement, curiosity and enthusiasm also made it the most rewarding.”

According to Hardin, the class was the culmination of years of research and writing, which is often centered on her preoccupation with time. Her current book project looks at the way notions of past, present and future co-exist in black cultural forms. Read More...

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

Emergent Digital Practices Student Finds Inspiration in Illness

In April 2009, Denver native Sarah Richter woke up one morning and her world was turned upside down. After experiencing bouts of severe vertigo, triple vision and fatigue for months, doctors diagnosed Richter with Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

“Getting MS was a catalyst,” said Richter, a graduate student in the emergent digital practices (EDP) program which brings together art, design, media, culture and technology studies in a hands-on collaborative environment.

“The experience of seeing and perceiving the world so differently drastically changed my sensory awareness. It offered me insights into the possibilities and limitations of our senses, and provided me with an opportunity to examine my life and purpose in a more meaningful way.”

Prior to her MS diagnosis, Richter was working in commercial arts. While the job proved to be interesting, Richter felt that she wasn’t living an authentic life that she so craved. That’s when her friend, a mentor and DU alumnus, suggested the EDP program at DU. After sitting in on a class taught by Professor Laleh Mehran, Richter knew she had found her calling. Read More...

**FEATURED EVENTS**

SPIRITUALS CONCERT: April 7, 7 p.m. — *Walk Together Children*

The Spirituals Project, a nonprofit in residence at DU that will formally join the Lamont School of Music this summer, presents the Spirituals Project Choir in a performance of *Walk*
Together Children, which features soloist singers from Lamont. The performance will occur at the United Methodist Church. Tickets are available online and at the door; $15, $10 for seniors and students.

**OPERA:** April 14-16, 7:30 p.m.; April 17, 2:30 p.m. — Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*
The Lamont School of Music invites you to a rendition of Mozart’s opera, *Così fan tutte* (translating to “Women are like that” in English). Mozart’s sophisticated and witty comedy tells the story of two disguised young soldiers who cause romantic complications when they decide to test their fiancées’ faithfulness. Performances will be held in the Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available at the Newman Center Box Office.

**FACULTY LECTURE:** May 5, 4:00-6:00 p.m. — *Fifty Years in Five: The Legacy of National Development in Brazil’s Postwar Era*
Why has Brazil increasingly been seen as an emergent economy and society in recent years? At this lecture, Rafael Ioris, assistant professor of history, will explain how the past five decades will likely influence the next five years. By looking back at one of the country’s most promising times — in the first decades after World War II — Ioris will shed some light on the country’s growing potential and continued challenges today. This lecture will be held in the Anderson Academic Commons Special Events Room, 290. Register online.

**PERFORMANCE:** May 6-7, 7:30 p.m. — *Louise, She’s Crazy* and *Move the Sky*
Binational (French/American) author Leslie Kaplan and actresses Élise Vigier and Frédérique Loliée continue their lively collaboration around the theatre as they stop in Denver during their international tour of Kaplan’s popular plays, *Louise, She’s Crazy* and *Move the Sky*. Scenes will be played in French and in English, with supertitles inserted by video. This free performance is hosted by the department of Languages and Literatures. It will be held in the Reiman Theatre, Marjery Reed Building. Register online or call 303-871-2662.