Recognizing the Success of AHSS Alumni

We are accepting nominations for the annual Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Achievement Awards.

“Our alumni make a difference in local, national and global communities. They are an impressive group, and it’s a pleasure to recognize their achievements through the alumni awards program,” said Dean Danny McIntosh.

Please nominate yourself or an AHSS alumnus/alumna for the following awards:
Recent Alumni Achievement Award
Community Engagement Award
Alumni Service to AHSS Award
Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominations will be accepted until February 6, 2017. Applicants will be notified by March 10. Awards will be given at the AHSS Alumni Reception and Livingston Lecture on May 8, 2017, on campus.

[Photo: Maria Guajardo, recipient of the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award with Dean McIntosh]

A few recent achievements of our faculty and alums:

- The Denver Post reported on a new mural currently being painted at the 38th street underpass in the RiNo district. The project is intended to further the art district’s unique sense of place. Christina Kreps, associate professor of anthropology, provides some context for the way murals contribute to community identity.
- Billy J. Stratton, associate professor of English, has been named Special Advisor on Native American Community Partnerships and Programs by Chancellor Rebecca Chopp.
Derigan Silver, associate professor in the department of media, film and journalism studies, was interviewed on NPR’s All Things Considered regarding media law and fake news.

Ellie Schafer (BA ’90, mass communication), special assistant to President Barack Obama and director of the White House Visitor’s Office, was named a Champion in the White House in OUT magazine’s 100 most influential people/groups of 2016.

Lisa Martin (BA ’11, studio art) was featured on Denver’s 9News for accomplishing her goal to paint the view from the summit of each of Colorado’s 14-thousand foot peaks.

John Seydel (BA ’15, political science), was named director of the office of sustainability for the city of Atlanta.

ALUMNUS LEADS IN HIGHER ED
Alumnus Works on Behalf of Thousands of Students at Texas Tech

Texas Tech University in Lubbock has roughly 36,000 students, and nearly 30,000 are undergraduate students. As TTU’s associate vice provost for undergraduate education, Dr. Patrick Hughes (PhD ’01, communication studies) is focused on ensuring TTU students have a rewarding and meaningful college experience.

Hughes has been a highly productive scholar in the communication studies department at TTU ever since he began teaching there in 2000; he has secured $1.3 million in funded research during his tenure. In 2011 he accepted a campus-wide administrative role to focus on TTU’s undergraduate students.

His latest co-edited book, Perspectives in Interdisciplinary and Integrative Studies, is a compilation of essays about higher education best practices. The book is a resource for college administrators across the country who are responsible for academic assessment, degree program development and the promotion of an integrative campus culture. In fact, administrators at DU have read his book. Read more...

DIRECTOR OF THE SPIRITUALS PROJECT
New Lamont Professor Forges Connections

M. Roger Holland, II, Lamont’s new teaching assistant professor in ethnomusicology and director of The Spirituals Project (now housed at Lamont), brings an unusual breadth of experience to Denver after his varied and exciting career in New York City. “Who I am is a person at the intersection of music and theology,” said Holland.

With degrees in both of these disciplines from prestigious institutions (Westminster Choir College, Manhattan School of Music and Union Theological Seminary) and extensive experience in both fields, Holland is uniquely qualified to teach students about American musical traditions and to lead the community volunteers of The Spirituals Project choir.

Holland considers himself lucky to have come from a musical family. His mother, a classical singer, began teaching him piano lessons at the age of nine. A few years later, his second piano teacher drafted him to sing in their church children’s choir. When he heard the adult gospel choir at the church, Holland immediately fell in love. “I wanted to learn everything about it,” he said. Read More...

LIFTING UP UNDERPRIVILEGED YOUTH
Student Uses Soccer to Instill Community Values

This past year, Jimmy Hessler organized soccer camps in Jackson, Wyoming that gave over thirty children, ages 8-14, from low income families the opportunity to participate in athletics. The experience has inspired him to introduce the program to the Denver community and beyond.

Hessler, a second-year sociology student, grew up outside of Boston, Massachusetts. He and his family moved to Jackson when he was in seventh grade. There he met Miguel Cortes,
who had immigrated to the United States with his family at age eight, and who helped him come up with the idea of soccer camps.

“Through him, I gained an understanding of the struggles of many immigrant families to get involved in their local communities,” said Hessler. “I also saw from him and my personal experience that there are a great number of kids in Jackson who are passionate about ‘fútbol’ but do not have much opportunity to play the game.” Read More...

UPCOMING EVENTS

LAMONT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: January 15, 3:00 p.m. — Conductors & Musicians Workshop
The Lamont Symphony Orchestra, culminating the Conductors and Musicians Workshop will perform the Overture to Die Fledermaus, Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor with pianist Stephanie Cheng, and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 7. Free ticket required and reserved seats are available. The concert will be presented in the Gates Concert Hall of the Newman Center for the Preforming Arts. More information here.

FACULTY LECTURE: February 2, 4:00 p.m. — Symbolic Interpretations: Intersections of Science, Politics and Religion
Laleh Mehran, professor of emergent digital practices, constructs elaborate artworks focused on intersections between politics, religions and science. Learn how these considerations influence her artwork to be as veiled as it is explicit, as personal as it is political and as critical as it is tolerant. Presented in the Special Events Room of Anderson Academic Commons. There is a reception preceding the lecture. Register here.

THEATRE: February 23-25, March 1-4, 7:30 p.m.; March 5, 2 p.m. — Pericles
Once upon a time, there was a young man who had everything, lost it and went on an amazing search. Shakespeare’s spellbinding tale of adventure and romance, heartbreak and separation, loss and resurrection, leads us to unexpected magic, discovery and joy. This performance will be held in the Byron Theatre in the Newman Center for Performing Arts. Ticket information.

FACULTY LECTURE: March 2, 4:00 p.m. — What Might Adam Smith Think About the Globalization Debate?
The trade-related aspect of globalization remains controversial as stakeholders in different countries incessantly debate on the distribution of gains and the implications for growth from trade liberalization. Thanks to what Paul Krugman has dubbed the Economist’s Creed, the economics profession is overwhelmingly pro-globalization. This talk by economics professor Peter Ho takes us back to what Adam Smith had written about foreign trade, which on the one hand helps trace the origin of the Creed, but on the other hand shows elements that serve as reminders as to why the globalization skeptics have good reason to voice caution. This lecture will be held in the Anderson Academic Commons Special Events room. Register here.

VIEW MORE AHSS EVENTS ONLINE

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