MAY/JUNE 2017

COMMENCEMENT 2017

Celebrate with Our Graduates!

This year 454 undergraduate and 135 graduate students will receive their DU diplomas from the divisions of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Join fellow AHSS alumni, faculty and students for a celebratory breakfast on Saturday, June 10, at 7:30 a.m. to honor our newest AHSS alumni. RSVP to this free breakfast. Read more about commencement.

“At commencement we celebrate the accomplishments of students who have completed degrees. We wish them well as they progress to the next phase of life, a meaningful time for all of us who have accompanied them on their intellectual journey at DU,” said Dean Danny McIntosh.

SENIORS PRESENT FINAL PROJECTS

Senior Projects Cap Off DU Education

It’s the final quarter for our graduating seniors, and many have capstone projects on their minds. The capstone tops off a hard-earned education for many AHSS students. These students pull together what they’ve learned in the past four years into a final project and then present it to their professors and peers. The projects demonstrate the critical skills they’ve learned, and show that the students have gone above and beyond the basics and have taken their education to the next level.

“Students are proud of what they do and talk about the capstone as a foundational educational experience,” said Ingrid Tague, associate dean. “It’s often what they appreciate most about their DU education.”

Capstone projects are required in three AHSS majors—theatre, history and film—and are optional in most other majors. This spring, theatre students will direct one-act plays during Senior Capstone Cycle 2 (May 3-7) and Cycle 3 (May 24-28); film students will present their final projects in the InShort: DU Film/Video Showcase on June 8; and history students will present their honors theses at the Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium on May
10. All are open to the public.

**NEWS BRIEFS**

- Though the percentage of married adults in the United States is decreasing, married couples still pay the majority of the nation's income taxes. Scott Stanley, research professor of psychology and co-director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies, offered a few explanations for the disparity in an article for *Deseret News*.


- Trent Steidley, assistant professor of sociology and criminology, was a featured expert for *WalletHub’s* investigation of states that are most dependent on the gun industry.

- Candi CdeBaca (BA ’16, sociology) was interviewed for this story in *The Denver Post* on the controversial widening of Interstate 70 through northeast Denver.

- Linda Rockwood (BA ’72, economics) was named to the *Denver Business Journal’s* top 40 Women in Energy list.

- Brett Stringer (BA ’01, communication) has been named the principal at Roaring Fork High School in Carbondale, CO. Read the story in the *Post Independent*.

**JOURNALISM GRAD IS THE VOICE OF THE DENVER BRONCOS**

Alum’s Childhood Dream Comes True

For most Coloradans, autumn Sundays are synonymous with one thing — Denver Broncos football. DU alumnus Conor McGahey (BA ’07, communication), who in 2016 year became the public-address announcer at Broncos home games, has a unique perspective on the blue-and-orange mania that overtakes Denver each weekend.

In the booth for all of the Broncos’ home games, McGahey announces the results of each play — from yardage gained to the players involved to the famous “IN-COM-PLETE” chant that gets the crowd going. While McGahey’s announcement of each play sounds effortless, it actually involves a lot of work. He keeps track of the action with the help of a spotter. They work as a team — McGahey observes the offense, while his spotter focuses on the defense and the yardage.

“With all the factors involved, usually between the two of us we can get the action announced pretty easily,” he says. “All of these different gears are working together, and hopefully it comes out OK.” [Read more...](#)

**PROFESSOR IMPLEMENTS COMMUNITY-ENGAGED LEARNING**

Research Project Stirs Emotions in Both Students and Clients

When Elizabeth Sperber set out to teach her Political Inquiry class last quarter, she never thought she would be sitting in a room full of students and former felons with tears in their eyes.

“I decided to take a different approach to this class by using community-engaged teaching
to work with a local nonprofit on an issue-based research project. I wanted to help my students become informed consumers of social science research and to help them build their own research skills, while contributing to the greater good,” said the assistant professor of political science.

Sperber had received training through DU’s Center for Community Engagement & Service Learning (CCESL), where she learned how to implement community-engaged learning and scholarship in the classroom. Through CCESL, she connected with Hassan Latif, executive director of the Second Chance Center (SCC). Like most of the staff at SCC, Latif was formerly incarcerated, and had developed a “ground-up” model of service delivery enabling formerly incarcerated men and women to reintegrate into their communities. Sperber set the wheels in motion to collaborate with SCC on a mixed-methods research project to help them evaluate the significance of their work in a more holistic way.

Read More...

PSYCHOLOGY INFLUENCES GRAD’S ARTWORK

For recent graduate Quinn Goodrich, her artwork reflects her life journey. Goodrich creates art to express her thoughts, feelings and experiences. Now with dual degrees in studio art and psychology, Goodrich hopes to inspire others to turn to artwork as a tool of self-expression.

“Art is so important to my mental health, and I think it is an underutilized tool in the process of treating mental illness. By creating art, I hope to show others its importance and vitality to expressing the human experience,” said Goodrich, who plans to pursue a Master’s degree in art therapy.

Goodrich’s most recent work is inspired by her time studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa.

“I fell in love with Cape Town and all of its wonderfully diverse people,” said the Nebraska native. “I totally freed myself from trying to be still present in my life in the U.S., and I really created a unique and honest life of my own in Cape Town. This experience was life changing, to say the least.”

Read More...

GET INVOLVED

THEATRE PERFORMANCE: throughout May — Senior Capstone, Cycles 2 & 3
Come and watch the seniors of the theatre department direct one-act plays for their senior capstones. The students will be using the theatrical skills, techniques, perspectives, and styles learned in the program. All productions are presented in the JMAC Studios and tickets are required. For information regarding dates, times, and tickets click on Cycle 2 or Cycle 3.

LECTURE: May 8, 5:30-8:00 p.m. — AHSS Alumni Reception and Livingston Lecture
One of the most important factors associated with life happiness, professional success, child well being and healthy aging is being in a healthy, happy relationship and marriage. In this lecture, Psychology Professor Howard Markman will examine current trends in relationships and marriage, from hooking up to living together to marriage and divorce rates. He will show examples, using video of real happy and unhappy couples from over 35 years of research, which reveal the predictors of relationship success, problems and divorce.

Register here.

ALUMNI NEEDED TO JUDGE SYMPOSIUM
The 2017 Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Symposium will take place on May 10, and this year, alumni are invited to volunteer and help judge student projects. Click here for more information or to sign up. Those who volunteer will receive parking directions and materials in a confirmation email after May 1.

ONE DAY FOR DU, May 24!
The DU community is asked to come together and show your support by making a gift on One Day for DU, May 24, 2017. With each gift, a pinwheel will be planted on Carnegie Green to represent the power of philanthropy. Through the generosity of One Day for DU, the University will be able to accelerate opportunities in scholarships, campus life,
academic programs, and emerging opportunities University wide. Read more about special projects proposed by Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences.

CONCERT: June 1, 7:30 p.m. — Lamont Symphony Orchestra, Chorale and Choirs
The Lamont concert season climaxes with the Lamont Symphony Orchestra, the Lamont Chorale and Choirs performing Felix Mendelssohn’s profound and evocative Die erste Walpurgisnacht. The concert is in the Newman Center Gates Concert Hall. Learn more here.

VIEW MORE AHSS EVENTS ONLINE

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GIVE TODAY

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