

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends and Alumni,

Among the many activities in the College of Education, we consider our diversity initiative as one of the most vital. We are committed to ensuring that our students, faculty, and staff have an inclusive learning community in which to learn, study, work, teach, and research. We fully embrace our responsibility for preparing our students to work successfully in the multicultural and diverse environments they will face upon graduation.

During a recent speech at the Fifth Annual Diversity Summit at the University of Denver, I spoke of Charles Darwin. When most of us think of Darwin and his theory of evolution, we think of "survival of the fittest." However, Darwin's writings were actually laced with kinder, gentler images of the forces of evolution. To express his ideas, Darwin often referred to the image of the bank of a river—a tangled bank bursting with a profusion of flora and fauna, all interacting to form an ecosystem.

As the quote to the left of this letter demonstrates, Darwin was intrigued not by the ways in which organisms competed with one another, but by the ways in which they evolved in relationship to one another. He carefully observed how organisms adapt and change and take advantage of micro niches within a broader environment, how they cooperate to create the tangled bank.

I believe this metaphor of a tangled bank captures the beauty and dynamic nature of a diverse organization. The metaphor also embodies the idea that it is diversity that gives organizations added strength and resiliency. Just as it is the diversity and interrelatedness of life forms on the tangled bank that give the river's edge the strength to guide and shape the current, our diversity strengthens us as a College and a University so that we can guide and shape the future of education in an ever-changing environment.

In the pages of this newsletter, you will learn about the ways our community values individual and group differences. You will learn about some of the recent changes to our curricula through course improvements and additions, enhanced by faculty and staff who have both diverse backgrounds and expertise in creating diverse environments. You will also read about the development of the College of Education's Diversity Plan, which is designed to "bridge the gap between the stated goals (of the College) and the many challenges to diversity and excellence."

The College's efforts are guided by the University's mission and, more specifically, the Chancellor's statement on diversity. Chancellor Coombe writes, "We believe that one mark of a leading university is its commitment to diversity and the concomitant practice of recognizing and valuing the rich experiences and world views of individuals and groups." He, too, understands the value of diversity. (See bottom of this page for links to the College of Ed's and the University's missions and diversity statements online.)

In 2004-05, the College of Education was recognized by DU's Center for Multicultural Excellence for our diversity initiatives. We are tremendously proud of this recognition. It has served to inspire us to continue to strive for excellence in our diversity initiatives with as much energy and enthusiasm as we strive for excellence in our academic programs.

We in the College of Education recognize that we need our diversity in order to be resilient and flexible in the face of accelerating social, economic, and political change. We understand that we must be a tangled bank, working together to prepare our students for an interconnected, global and multicultural future. I hope that, as an alum and a friend of the College, you will be proud of the very real progress your College has made toward realizing our commitment to diversity.

Sincerely,

Ginger Maloney
Virginia "Ginger" Maloney
Dean, College of Education

College of Education Mission & Vision statements: <http://www.du.edu/education/mission.html>

College of Education's Diversity Plan: <http://www.du.edu/education/recentarticles/recentarticles.htm#diversity>

University of Denver's Mission Statement: <http://www.du.edu/upac/vm.html>

Chancellor's Diversity Statement: <http://www.du.edu/chancellor/diversity-statement.html>

It is interesting to contemplate a tangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth, and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent upon each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us.

- Charles Darwin



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ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!

Complete this form and return to the College of Education, Alumni Office, 2450 S. Vine Street, Denver, CO 80208, or email to COEalumni@du.edu.

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The College of Education relies on the private gifts of alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations to offer its students an outstanding educational experience. Gifts to the College support scholarships, faculty research and travel, facility improvements and maintenance, program development, and state-of-the art equipment and technology. There are many ways to give to the College of Education. Please contact us to learn more at 303-871-2509. Thanks you for your support of the College of Education.

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
THE POWER OF LEARNING

SPRING 2006

The Diversity Initiative

Here are just a few examples of the many ways that the College of Education's diversity initiative is being implemented:

College of Education's Diversity Committee

The Diversity Committee, made up of faculty and staff, was established this past year to develop a plan for enhancing diversity within the College and ensuring that we are preparing all of our students to work in diverse environments. The College recently approved the first part of the Diversity Plan, which defines diversity as "A commitment to understanding the ways in which individuals and groups vary in terms of values, beliefs, and/or behavioral norms. It is a process of valuing individual and group differences by promoting non-prejudicial attitudes and inclusive actions in a safe and affirming environment." The plan is designed to link the stated goals of the Chancellor's Diversity Statement, the College of Education's mission, and the work of the Diversity Committee.

(See <http://www.du.edu/education/recentarticles/recentarticles.htm#diversity> for full details.)

The Library and Information Sciences and the Denver Public Library Partnership

During the summer quarter of 2005, Dr. Sylvia Hall-Ellis and seven Library and Information Sciences (LIS) students worked with the local group of the Metropolitan Organization for People (MOP) on an issue of grave concern: budget cuts to many Denver libraries, particularly in low-income areas. LIS students gathered and analyzed data. They visited every Denver Public Library (DPL) facility, 22 in all, interviewing patrons, employees, and other key stakeholders. Their analysis revealed that DPL branches located in low-income neighborhoods with lower performing schools had suffered the most cuts in hours and services. MOP representatives submitted the report to Mayor Hickenlooper and his Task Force on Future Library Funding. As a result, the Mayor committed to finding funds to keep the Central Denver Public Library open seven days per week and to keep library branches in low-income areas open more hours per week.

Grant to Develop an Early Childhood Leadership Program

The Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation awarded nearly \$100,000 for a collaborative project with the College of Education and the Clayton Early Childhood Resource Institute. The Institute, founded in 2000 by the Clayton Foundation, offers comprehensive, sustained, and integrated support to early childhood programs across Colorado. Research clearly demonstrates the link between strong leadership in early care and education systems and positive outcomes for children. The planning grant will be used to design an innovative early childhood leadership certificate and advanced degree program that promotes quality in the early care and education system in Colorado. Graduates will be prepared to develop high quality programs that promote optimum outcomes for all children and families, especially those at risk of failure due to socio-economic and language barriers.

New Multicultural Concentration in the Higher Education Program

The Higher Education program recently launched a unique Masters of Arts in Higher Education, with a concentration in Leadership and Organizational Change. The program has been especially designed for diverse individuals working in or seeking to understand postsecondary education in a changing multicultural and global society. Designed for experienced professionals interested in enhancing their careers, the program develops analytical, communication, multicultural competence, and leadership skills-essential for success in higher education or other learning organizations.

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ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

The Diversity Initiative, from page 1

The Boettcher Teacher Program

Urban schools see rapid turnover of new teachers in part because of crowded classrooms, low pay, and the personal challenges often faced by their students. The College has partnered with the Boettcher Foundation, the Public Education & Business Coalition, the Rocky Mountain School of Expeditionary Learning, and the Adams 12 Five Star and Mapleton school districts in order to prepare high-quality teachers to work in an urban setting. With nearly \$5 million in funding committed by the Boettcher Foundation, the program provides full scholarships to Boettcher Fellows to pursue a master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in urban education. The scholarship is contingent upon the fellows' continuing to teach for three years in a high-need school. To help their students achieve, fellows are taught to use engaging teaching methods and create alternative classroom learning environments. Twenty fellows annually are expected to enroll by 2006-07.

The College's Close relationship with the Denver Public Schools

The Ritchie Program for School Leaders. The Ritchie Program was designed in partnership with the Denver Public Schools (DPS). It is focused on recruiting and preparing a diverse pool of talented and committed educators to serve as principals in the most challenging schools in DPS. Over 50 percent of our students in this program are from US minority backgrounds.

Courage To Teach. The College is involved in an ongoing cooperative relationship with DPS to provide a series of professional development retreats for teachers. Retreats are held on a quarterly basis in the foothills above Jamestown, Colorado. Courage To Teach is a nationally recognized, professional development experience for teachers and administrators focusing on teacher formation and renewal.

High School for Homeless Teens. The Academy of Urban Learning, a high school targeting homeless youth, is a DPS charter school. Students enrolled there do not fit in at "normal" high schools in part because they face challenges uncommon for this age. For example, significant personal responsibilities leave little time for students to complete traditional homework assignments. The Academy was founded by Urban Peak, an agency that provides counseling, transportation and substance abuse programs for area youth, and the Jared Polis Foundation, a local foundation dedicated to assisting children. Through a University of Denver public good grant, College of Education graduate students helped the Academy with recruitment and curriculum development.

Diversity Grants

Congratulations! The Curriculum Diversity Grant Committee funded the following proposals from the College of Education:

Maria Riva, PhD, Associate Professor, Counseling Psychology Program
"Enhancing Awareness, Sensitivity, and Knowledge of Multicultural Group Counseling to Two Group Counseling Theory Courses" \$2,875.00

Maria Salazar, PhD, Clinical Assistant Professor, Curriculum & Instruction Program
"Latina/os in American Society" \$1,400.00

The University of Denver Office for Multicultural Faculty Recruitment and Retention has awarded a research grant to:

Frank A. Tuitt, EdD, Assistant Professor, Higher Education Program
"Next Generation: Preparing our Future Scholars of Color Project" \$3,000.00

Ed Admin News

We are pleased to announce that **Carolyn Mears'** PhD '05 dissertation won AERA's Qualitative Research SIG dissertation of the year award! These awards are quite competitive and it's great to have a University of Denver recipient.

African-American Alumni Association

The mission of the African-American Alumni Association is to increase, retain and improve the quality of life for African American students at the University; examine the quality of life of African American students at the University of Denver, develop programs that will enhance the quality of life for African American students while on the campus of the University, provide an opportunity for African American Alumni to remain connected to the University; and create a connection that attracts, retains, and supports African American students at the University of Denver. For more information contact Lamont Sellers 303-871-7659 or email at lsellers@du.edu.

Latino Alumni Association

The Latino Alumni Association (LAA) at the University of Denver works toward to achieving excellence through diversity by supporting the educational mission of the University of Denver and addressing the needs of both the DU and greater Denver Latino community. For information contact: Fernando Guzman (303) 871-7660 or email at fguzman@du.edu.

DU Career Center <http://www.du.edu/career/careerlinks/diversity.html>

Whether you are just beginning your career journey, or find yourself at a career crossroads, the DU Career Center is here to help. Many services are available to DU alumni; fees apply to individuals who graduated a year or more ago. Services include links to employers, DU Careers Online, The DU Alumni Career Network, Individual Career Counseling and Testing, Career Events, Career Resource Library, and Credentialing Service. Visit the website for more resources!

WetFeet

The University of Denver has partnered with WetFeet, the nation's leading provider of online career information and research to benefit our alumni. WetFeet provides information on companies, careers, and industries that DU alumni can use throughout their careers to make smarter career decisions. WetFeet also offers DU alumni expert advice, newsletters, salary benchmarking tools, and real people profiles on careers ranging from account management to social work. Alumni can download WetFeet's award-winning Insider Guides at half-price. A username and password is required to download guides and can be obtained by contacting the Office of Alumni Relations at 800-871-3822 or alumni@du.edu.

LIS NEWS

Our own **Don Dickinson**, MLIS '06, authored the Academic Library Impact Study that can be found at http://www.lrs.org/documents/academic/ALIS_final.pdf

GLIM! Join us at the Alumni Reception during the annual ALA conference in New Orleans. The event will be held Sunday, June 25th, Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5:30 – 7:30pm.



Alex Marino

Alex Marino Elected to City Council

Alex Marino, MA '95, was recently elected to the City Council of Linwood, New Jersey. Marino is director of operations at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey's Carnegie Library Center in Atlantic City. He was one of three nominees to fill the empty seat. Marino's wife, Bonnie, and three young children stood with him as he was sworn in. Superior Court Judge Daryl Todd, Marino's father-in-law, administered the oath of office.

Marino has been a member of the town's Environmental Commission and is on the boards of the Atlantic County Historical Society and the Atlantic City Historical Museum. He's working on a doctorate in education.

Leah Persky Joins Curriculum and Instruction

The COE is pleased to welcome **Leah Persky**, our new Program Assistant in Curriculum and Instruction. We are very excited to have Leah join our team. As a DU graduate with an MA in International Studies, she brings knowledge and experience as a student and as a staff member working in the Office of Graduate Admissions. Leah has also worked for the Human Rights Commission of Belize and Denver Sister Cities International.



Leah Persky



Jodi Smith

Jodi Smith Welcomed as Admissions Coordinator

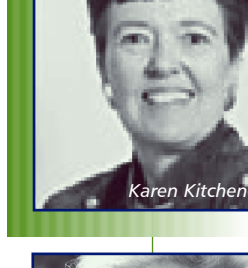
The COE is pleased to welcome **Jodi Smith**, Admissions Coordinator for the Office of Admission and Enrollment Services. Jodi received her BA from the University of Northern Colorado in Journalism/Mass Communications with an emphasis in Public Relations. Professionally she comes from a background in undergraduate admissions, corporate public relations, and office management. Philanthropically, she currently serves as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) and volunteers for the American Cancer Society and the Boulder Hospice.



Sheila Gannon

GOOD NEWS: Higher Education Alumnus Sheila Gannon, '99, MA, HED

Sheila Gannon, who was pregnant when she was diagnosed with leukemia, is alive thanks to a unique transplant of umbilical cord blood from two different donors. It was the first time such a procedure had been performed in Colorado. "There were some times where the odds were stacked against us," Sheila Gannon, a leukemia survivor said. Gannon gave birth to her son Sawyer 2 weeks early so she could start chemotherapy.



Karen Kitchener

Karen Kitchener Retires

Karen Kitchener recently retired from her position as professor of Counseling Psychology after 28 years of teaching at DU. Undoubtedly, Karen's teaching, writing and research have touched many of your lives and influenced a number of careers and we are taking this opportunity to honor the many contributions she has made to the program, the University, and the profession. In appreciation for Karen's many years of service, the College is establishing a scholarship fund for Counseling Psychology students in Karen's name. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please send a check made out to the University of Denver, College of Education, 2450 S. Vine St., Denver, CO 80208, attention Dr. Maria Riva.



Edith King

New Book by Edith King

Edith King's new book is titled *Meeting the Challenges of Teaching in an Era of Terrorism*, published by Thomson Publishers, 2006. ISBN# 0-7583889-46

Against the backdrop of omnipresent terror and the threats of world-shattering warfare, it is vital that schools and teachers work with pupils towards tolerance, social justice, and conflict resolution. This book, *Meeting the Challenges of Teaching in an Era of Terrorism*, offers a worldview for educating children growing up in the climate of worldwide terrorism and uncertainty.

The book is for experienced teachers, teachers in pre-service training, administrators, counselors and social workers and will enable them to be more effective in their work with children and their families. For more in-depth information on this research, the chapter organization of the book, or special features please email Dr. King at eking@du.edu.