

Faculty



Connections

Faculty Connections Newsletter from the Student Life Division
Fall Quarter 2008

In This Issue

Reminder! Advising & Registration

Marc Falkoff Visits DU

Mental Health Concerns @ DU

Myths About Grading @ DU

Partners in Learning

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: Michael Monahan

Don't Cancel That Class!

Career Center Presentations

Career and Internship Fair

Referring a Student for Counseling

Health and Counseling Center Update

Advising to Promote Diversity in Study Abroad

Calendar of Events

For each of the Student Life Faculty Connections Newsletters, the editors spotlight a DU professor who excels at teaching as well as personifying the mission of the Student Life Division.



Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Michael Monahan

Department of Biological Sciences

and Mount Evans

Field Station Director

Natural Sciences & Mathematics

Dr. Monahan and his Fall 2007 FSEM class

by Jessica Velasco

After getting feedback from several students about how "cool" and "awesome" Michael Monahan is, we decided to make him our Fall 2008 Spotlight. As a faculty member for the past 32 years, not only has Michael spent a significant amount of time in the classroom, but he has also spent countless hours with students outside the classroom, facilitating ecology trips to exotic locations, including multiple trips to Baja and to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands and one or more trips to Belize, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. These trips not only introduce students to the ecology and the environment of the locations, but also to the culture of those countries as well. In general, he really enjoys getting students in the field and regularly participates in field trips with his two NATS courses, Ecology for a New Millennium and the Origin and Evolution of Life.

In addition to his role as a Senior Lecturer, Michael is also the Director of the Mount Evans Field Station, which gives him even more opportunities to work with students outside of the classroom and to also work with various departments and student organizations in the Division of Student Life and the Athletics Department, who use the station for retreats and events. He also takes the opportunity to interact with prospective students and parents through the various programs sponsored by the DU Office of Admissions.

The University of Denver and its students are lucky to have a faculty member who is so dedicated to his field and the engaging of students in and out of the classroom.



REMINDER! Advising & Registration for Fall Quarter 2008

Academic Advising Week

October 27th - October 31st

Registration Week

November 3rd - November 7th

Call the **Faculty Hotline**
(okay, the *really really* warmline)
for advising questions and issues at
303.871.2455

Please also visit the
Faculty Resources Web site at
http://www.du.edu/studentlife/advising/faculty_resources.html

MARC FALKOFF

* * *

GUANTANAMO LECTURES

Tuesday, October 21, 2008



MARC FALKOFF is an assistant professor at Northern Illinois University, College of Law, and an attorney for seventeen Guantanamo prisoners.

**DON'T CANCEL
THAT CLASS!**

Don't Cancel That Class!

Faculty Members
and Instructors:
If you must miss a
class due to a

professional obligation or illness, "Don't Cancel That Class!"

His edited collection, *Poems from Guantanamo*, gathers twenty-two poems by detainees along with essays by Flagg Miller and Ariel Dorfman that represent a collective struggle, which began in 2004 for Falkoff and other pro bono attorneys, to "hear directly from the detainees themselves about their time in America's notorious prison camp."

* * *

Guantanamo, Poetry, and the Rule of Law

10:00-11:50, University of Denver,
Sturm Hall, Room 133

Professor Falkoff will discuss the history of his legal representation for the detainees and the genesis of *Poems from Guantanamo*, placing individual poems within biographical, legal, and political contexts.

Guantanamo and Habeas Corpus After the Military Commissions Act

5:00-6:45, College of Law, Room 255

Professor Falkoff will review the Supreme Court cases that inform the present moment of Guantanamo litigation, addressing specifically the crux of habeas corpus within an Executive-detention context.

* * *

These events are free and open to the public, and are sponsored by the First-Year Seminar Program and the Sturm College of Law. For more information, contact W. Scott Howard, showard@du.edu, and Tamara Kuennen, tkuennen@law.du.edu.

For more information about Professor Falkoff's work, please visit:

Poems from Guantanamo (University of Iowa Press, 2007),
<http://www.uiopress.uiowa.edu/books/2007-fall/falpoefro.html>;

and

Amnesty International Magazine, (Fall, 2007),

http://www.amnestyusa.org/Fall_2007/Poems_from_Guantanamo/page.do?id=1361004&n1=2&n2=19&n3=1448.

Instead choose from a variety of educational programs provided by the Student Life Division. Each interactive program focuses on topics to help students succeed at DU!

This program is geared to educate students about the challenges they face in the college environment and beyond. In addition, it allows you, the faculty member or instructor, an opportunity to miss a class while still providing education to your students about the campus.

Go to the Faculty Resources web page at http://www.du.edu/studentlife/advising/do_not_cancel.htm for more information on this program and who to contact to schedule a session. The following topics are currently being offer for the 2008-2009 academic year:

- Alcohol and Other Drugs
- Code of Student Conduct
- Conflict Resolution
- Decision Making Skills
- Ethics
- First-Year Student Transitions
- Healthy Body Image
- Honor Code
- Nutrition
- Sexual Health and STDs
- Stress Management
- ...and more to come!

Please feel free to contact Kristin Olson (kolson1@du.edu or x1-4504) with any questions or suggested topic ideas. Thanks!



Mental Health Concerns @ DU

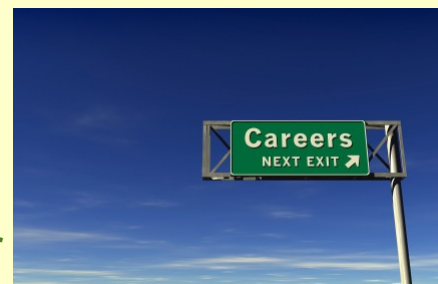
by Terri Lucero Osborn, Ph.D.
Director of Counseling Services

Did You Know?

- Suicide is the 2nd Leading cause of death among college students
- Approximately 1,100 college students complete suicide each year at a rate of 7.5 deaths per 100,000 students
- A sense of hopelessness is one of the key risk factors for suicide attempts/completions
- 55% of DU students reported feeling hopeless at some time in the last school year
- 40% of DU students reported feeling so depressed it was difficult to function at some point during the last school year
- A DU student completed suicide in November, 2007
- Multiple DU students have attempted suicide or other forms of self-harm, resulting in more than 10 hospitalizations since January of this year alone
- Nationwide, college and university counseling center directors are reporting an increase in the scope and severity of mental



Career Center Presentations for Your Class!



Consider a brief presentation in your class regarding the services of the Career Center. A great concern of students relates to decisions on majors and career direction. The Career Center provides career counseling, career assessments and other resources to assist your students in making these decisions. Additionally we help students in writing resumes and cover letters, getting internships, job search strategies and practice in interviewing skills.

If one of my colleagues or I could be of assistance in a brief presentation of our services, a longer overview, or workshop, please contact me through email at pokeefe@du.edu or call 303.871.4292. We could also substitute a presentation if you are going to be gone. Please provide three weeks or longer notice if possible.

Thank you,

Pat O'Keefe
Assistant Director, Career Center

health issues among college students each year

What does all this have to do with You?

As a DU faculty member, YOU play a vital role in helping to identify the early warning signs of suicide and other mental health issues and you can help your students obtain the help they need BEFORE they experience a mental health crisis. While at least 10% of the DU student population accesses the counseling services available at the DU Health and Counseling Center each year, we know that - based on the statistics provided above - there are many students who are in great need of our services but are not getting the mental health assistance they need.

QPR: A Suicide Risk Reduction Program

Here at DU there have been 1-3 completed suicides in our community each year over the past several years. Because deaths by suicide and non-fatal suicide attempts have a direct, profound, costly and emotionally damaging impact on the entire community, it is our goal to reduce this number to 0 for many years to come. We hope to accomplish this by raising awareness of mental health issues on the DU campus and implementing the QPR model on our campus. QPR stands for Question, Persuade and Refer and it is an intervention taken when suicide warning signs are recognized in someone known to the QPR-trained person.

The primary goal of QPR training is to empower every member of our community to recognize, assist, and refer to appropriate services those suicidal community members with whom they come into contact. We know that 80% of individuals who complete suicide are NOT in mental health treatment at the time of their deaths. This means that it is imperative for those members of the DU community who are in frequent contact with at-risk individuals to know how to recognize the warning signs of suicide, how to talk to someone who appears to be at risk, and how to get that person the help they need. Please help us save a life. Make plans to attend an upcoming QPR training now. "Hope begins with you."

QPR TRAINING: Please email Terri Lucero Osborn, Ph.D., Director of Counseling Services, at terri.osborn@hcc.du.edu or call 303-871-4304 for information on the next QPR training class.

MORE INFORMATION: For more information about the medical and counseling services available to DU students at the Health and Counseling Center, please check out our website at www.du.edu/health.



Myths About Grading @ DU

MYTH: Never Attend (NA) should be entered as the final grade if a student stopped attending class after the second week

TRUTH: Never Attend (NA) should be entered as the final grade only when a student has never attended the course.

MYTH: Never Recorded (NR) or no grade reported is helpful to students to allow them more time to get their work done.



2008 Fall Career and Internship Fair

Where do I go from here?

2008 Fall Career and Internship Fair

Wednesday, October 29
Driscoll Ballroom, 3-6 p.m.

Sponsored by the DU Career Center - www.du.edu/career

Referring a Student for Counseling



As a faculty member, you may be the first person to recognize students who would benefit from referral to Counseling Services at the Health and Counseling Center (HCC). As you know, students may turn to anyone they perceive as knowledgeable, caring and trustworthy during times of need, and faculty fit the bill perfectly! Although situational factors such as class size or structure may affect the type of interactions you have with students, here are some suggestions on how you can establish rapport with students in need and understand their concerns:

- Talk with the student in private.
- Listen carefully. Repeat back to the student the essence of what he/she told you.
- Express concern. Be specific about your observations and reasons for concern.
- Respect the student's values and beliefs. Avoid criticizing or sounding judgmental.

Students will appreciate your interest, concern, and willingness to listen. In addition, if the situation warrants, you have also begun to establish the trust and rapport necessary in making an effective referral to the HCC. There are a number of situations in which a referral to Counseling Services would be beneficial and you are likely to encounter a number of students each quarter who may benefit from meeting with a counselor at the HCC. Our website has additional information on signs and symptoms to look for in students as well as frequently asked questions about when and how to refer a student to counseling.

www.du.edu/duhealth/counseling/index.html
(Click on **Faculty/Staff Resources**)



Health and Counseling Center Update

One year ago the Health and Counseling Center joined the Student Life Division at DU. This has given us the opportunity to sit at the table regularly with leaders of other departments such as Housing and Residential Education,

TRUTH: Students may not realize they do not have a grade recorded until their graduation evaluation, and then would need to accept a grade assignment of **F** or find the instructor to try to complete the course. It is always better to assign a grade.

MYTH: Incompletes may be given without a student's knowledge.

TRUTH: Incompletes should only be given when the student has completed the majority of the work and is unable to finish the final assignment due to extenuating circumstances. Additionally, faculty and students should work together to develop a timeline to complete the course before the incomplete is assigned. Arrangements for an incomplete must be negotiated by the student and the instructor prior to the end of the quarter.

Partners in Learning

Partners in Learning is a part of the Student Life Division and works to enhance the intellectual climate on campus through expanded co-curricular programming and learning opportunities. PIL sponsors and co-sponsors many programs on campus every quarter, hoping to get students and faculty well connected outside of the classroom setting. Please take a look at upcoming events that are going on (below) and consider how you may be able to get involved!

Karen Bensen

Director, Partners in Learning

Driscoll Student Center North, #202A

(Phone) 303.871.36

(Email) karen.bensen@du.edu

(Website) <http://www.du.edu/partnersinlearning/index.html>

Student Life Division



The Student Life Division is a partner in student learning. With students, faculty & staff, the Division creates a dynamic environment that encourages love of learning, ethical & caring behavior & respect for difference. In all our programs and services, we seek to serve the public good.



Our Commitment To Diversity

We believe that every person matters.

We respect and embrace the uniqueness of identities, gifts, perspectives, histories and life experiences of all members of our community.

We are committed to creating an empowering accessible, and equitable environment for a plurality of voices by:

- Building relationships through kind words and actions

First and Second Year Experience, Gender Violence Education and Support Services, University Disability Services, and the University Chaplain. Coordination and collaboration with these departments has already proven to enhance and broaden the services we provide at the Health and Counseling Center. We are able to better identify campus trends and student needs as we develop health programs and initiatives, and also in the continuing reassessment of services provided at the Health and Counseling Center.

The Health and Counseling Center is composed of four departments: Administration, Counseling Services, Medical Services, and Health Promotion. There are five psychologists, one psychiatrist, and eight psychology trainees within Counseling Services, while Medical Services includes two physicians, two physician assistants, two nurse practitioners, two registered nurses, four medical assistants, two part time gynecologists and a part-time dermatologist. The Health Promotion department is responsible for promoting healthy behaviors and lifestyles to DU students through evidence-based campaigns, events, and activities.

Sam E. Alexander, M.D.

Executive Director, Health and Counseling Center

Advising to Promote Diversity in Study Abroad



DU is well known nationally and internationally for its great study abroad and Cherrington Global Scholars programs. This is an important reason why many students chose to attend DU.

However, for other students attending DU, study abroad may not factor in as an integral part of their education. Or, if study abroad is recognized as an opportunity, it may be perceived as an unattainable goal. Traditionally, populations underrepresented in education abroad are students of color, LGBT, non-traditional/commuter, financially disadvantaged, physical or learning challenged, concerned about religious affiliation, athletes, engineering and science majors. Real, as well as perceived barriers do exist for many of these students. Trying to identify and discuss these potential barriers, when possible, is a challenge we must undertake early on.

Some of the main barriers that students may face about study abroad are:

Finances-

- Study abroad seems like an expensive commitment.
- I am using the maximum amount of financial aid.
- Study abroad will cost me lost wages that my family and I are counting on. Study abroad will delay my graduation.

Lack of information/awareness & family constraints-

- Examining how our actions individually and institutionally affect members of our community
- Confronting those who speak or act insensitively while inviting challenges to our bias, assumptions, and positions of privilege
- Taking the time and the risk to build genuine connections with others with whom we do not typically interact
- Promoting the achievement and support of a diverse student body, staff and faculty team

- About the benefits, logistical and relationship to academic program.
- First generation college students place their energy into attending college, and thinking about study abroad does not come naturally or have priority.
- Child care (for those who are parents)

Fears-

- About discrimination abroad because of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or religion affiliation
- I have never been out of the state; how can I think about going out of the country?
- I have never been on a plane before; I think that I would be afraid to fly. I don't want to leave my family or friends.
- I won't fit in.
- Study abroad is for other people; it is too exotic for me.
- Safety/health concerns.

Early understanding about options is key to incorporating study abroad into their academic plan. Some question and suggestions to incorporate in your advising:

- Do you know about the study abroad/Cherrington Global scholars program and how it works?
- Do you understand the value of study abroad and the benefits for your professional marketability?
- What barriers may inhibit your participation?
- Are there any concerns about going abroad based on your race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religious affiliation?
- Do you think study abroad will delay your graduation?
- Do you perceive that studying abroad is very expensive?
- Do you know that, for the most part, financial aid can be applied toward study abroad? Also, there are a number of study abroad scholarship sources students can access in addition to DU's Cherrington.
- If possible, reference leaders or historically significant people who reflect a diversity of backgrounds and who have studied abroad. This will go far to combat the objection that "there's no one like me."
- Suggest that the presence of underrepresented groups will enhance the learning experience of the white students in a program, and, an opportunity to share with host country nationals the multicultural make-up of the U.S.

Available Resources:

- The study abroad staff will be happy to visit with you and your group and do a brief presentation; or we can arrange for a group presentation at the International House.
- If some students have particular concerns and are not able to express them before the large group, try to talk to them individually. In addition, we will be more than happy to meet with the student to offer guidance.
- Let them know that the study abroad office can arrange for them to get in contact with past study abroad participants who can offer advice and perspectives.

- Tell your student that it is never too early to start exploring their option. The Study Abroad Office hold daily Study Abroad 101 sessions during the academic year, and World on Wednesdays (WoW) sessions, once-a-week focused session, held at 6 pm in Nelson Hall, which covers country specific topics, as well as topics on students of color and LGBTIQ communities go abroad. Also, refer them to the study abroad website <http://www.du.edu/intl/abroad/about.html>

As you interact and build relationships with your students, you will be influential in helping to identify issues, interests and barriers they may have. Your guidance will help identify (as much as possible) limitations that may prevent some students from accessing all possible resources offered by DU.

Claudia Giannetti
Study Abroad Advisor/Multicultural Liaison
cgiannet@du.edu or 303-871-3555

References: Council for Opportunity in Education- International Initiatives-
www.coenet.us



Calendar of Partners in Learning Events

Fall 2008

Hot Topics - "The Civil Rights Initiative" in Colorado: Is Ending Affirmative Action Programs a Move Towards Civil Rights?

Wednesday October 15

12 noon

Nagel Overflow Dining Room (take stairs down from Nagel front desk)

Grab your lunch and join Dr. Hava Gordon, Sociology Dept, for a discussion about the upcoming ballot initiative that proposes to ban preferences based on race and gender in state hiring and admission to public universities. We will discuss why this is called the "Civil Rights Initiative," the effects of similar initiatives in other states, the impetus behind such ballot initiatives over the last decade, and whether or not this initiative is really consistent with our Civil Rights legacy in the U.S.

Understanding the Colorado Affirmative Action Initiatives

Wednesday, October 15

4-6pm

Sturm 286

Melissa Hart, University of Colorado Law School

Roberto Corrada, University of Denver Sturm College of Law

Voters will be asked this November whether or not to amend the state constitution to ban affirmative action programs by state governments. Labeled, the Colorado Civil Rights Initiative (CoCRI), this initiative raises questions about how easily Colorado will be able to accept federal funds or address civil rights violations. This lecture will examine the initiative and discuss possible implications.

Sponsored by: Gender and Women's Studies

Presidential Debate on Domestic and Economic Policy

Thursday, October 15

7pm

Sidelines Pub

Join your friends and rivals to watch the Presidential debate on the Pub TVs. A debrief with DU Political Science faculty, Seth Masket and Susan Sterett, will follow the debate.

Co-sponsored by: DU Apartments, Partners in Learning

Wednesday, October 15

4-6pm

Sturm 286

D. Sunshine Hillygus, Department of Government, Harvard University

D. Sunshine Hillygus is the Frederick S. Danziger Associate Professor of Government and director of the Program on Survey Research at Harvard University. Her work examines recent and historical campaigns using a wealth of data from national surveys, experimental research, campaign advertising, archival work, and interviews with campaign practitioners. With a rigorous multi-method approach and broad theoretical perspective, she offers a timely and thorough understanding of voter decision making, candidate strategy, and the dynamics of presidential campaigns.

Sponsored by: Gender and Women's Studies

Dr. Mohamed Matin,

Assoc. Professor in Engineering and Computer Science

Friday, October 17

3-5pm

International House living room (2200 S. Josephine St.)

Dr. Matin will share his experiences emigrating to the U.S. from Bangladesh.

Co-sponsored by: I-House

Politics and the Media

Friday, October 24

3-5pm

International House

Professor Derigan Silver, Mass Comm, will lead a discussion on the role of the media during national elections.

Co-sponsored by: I-House, Partners in Learning

"Women in Politics"

Wednesday, October 29

4-6 pm

Sturm 286

Faith Winter, White House Project

The White House Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization that aims to advance women's leadership in all communities and sectors-up to the U.S. presidency-by filling the leadership pipeline with a richly diverse, critical mass of women. Faith Winter, National Field Director and former politician will discuss the barriers women face getting elected and the opportunities that exist once they take office.

Sponsored by: Gender and Women's Studies

Election Night Results

Tuesday, November 4

7pm

Cable Center (just east of Centennial Halls)

Join your friends to view the results of the 2008 Presidential Elections. Enjoy good food while watching the big (I mean really big!) screen for all the latest news as it happens and chat with our onsite pundits from DU's Political Science Dept.

Co-sponsored by: AUSA, DUPB

For more information on these and other Partners in Learning programs, please contact Karen Bensen.

Karen Bensen

Director, Partners in Learning

University of Denver

phone 303.871.3654

fax 303.871.4064



Contact:

Kate Lotz

Academic Resources Coordinator

(Email) klotz@du.edu

(Phone) 303.871.2619

Niki Latino

Assistant Director, Academic Advising

(Email) nlatino@du.edu

(Phone) 303.871.2712