

## Journalism Studies Student Covers the Aurora Theater Shooting Trial by Connor W. Davis, senior journalism studies major



The ongoing legal trial for James Holmes' mass shooting inside an Aurora, CO, movie theater is top news across the nation and is being covered from many different angles. One angle is being provided by Claire Sisun, fourth year journalism studies major, who has been reporting from the courtroom since the beginning of the trial.

Sisun was an intern for the *Aurora Sentinel* newspaper from February through April 2015, during which time she reported on the trial's jury selection.

Through this internship, she learned the ropes of reporting in the courtroom, which sparked an interest in courtroom coverage. The department of media, film and journalism studies requires journalism students to secure at least one internship before graduating to get hands-on, field experience.

"I had never done anything related to court before," said Sisun. "I thought I wanted to be a food writer or blogger. Now, it's really interesting to me and I wouldn't want to stop doing it."

After Sisun's time at the *Sentinel*, she secured an internship with Denver-based news source 9NEWS, where she continues to report primarily on the theater shooting trial. Since she was a child, it has been Sisun's dream to work in broadcast journalism. She sees how her time at DU, internship work at the *Sentinel* and the life-altering assignment to report on a major news event created visibility for her and led to more opportunities.

"I'm just excited to be young and to have a future in journalism," said Sisun. "Now I can see that there are jobs in the field and that I can do this. DU was great at providing me with connections and opportunities to get these internships. The managing editor at the *Sentinel* saw that I went to DU and immediately told me that DU students are great."

From her dreams as a child to her interest in food writing to her budding career in the courtroom, Sisun says the main thing she's learned is to remain open to new opportunities.

"Go for everything. I applied for an internship at *Eater* and some other food-related [opportunities] that I didn't get, and then I applied for the *Sentinel* on a whim and got it. So don't limit yourself, because you never know what can happen."