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# expressions

A Newsletter of the ARTS, HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES at the University of Denver

SAVE THE DATE!

April 2015

## Annual AHSS Alumni Reception and Livingston Lecture

Monday, May 11, 2015  
Davis Auditorium, Sturm Hall  
2000 E. Asbury Avenue

5:30 p.m. – AHSS alumni reception  
6:45 p.m. – Presentation of the annual AHSS Alumni Achievement Awards  
7:00 p.m. – Lecture *“One Size Doesn't Fit All: The Importance of Participatory Communication for International Health Development”* Presented by Associate Professor Renee Botta



Return to campus this spring to join us for the free AHSS alumni reception and John C. Livingston Lecture. Connect with AHSS alumni, faculty and students during the reception (complimentary hors d'oeuvres and open bar). Then hear from Renee Botta, associate professor of media, film and journalism studies, about international health development.

Playground equipment that disappears overnight. A new public toilet that no one uses. A vandalized water tank. What do these things have in common? They are well-meaning projects in the developing world that failed because project leaders from developed nations didn't include local knowledge, ideas and innovations in the planning and decision-making process. At the lecture, learn how participatory communication necessitates local involvement in identifying problems, brainstorming ideas, choosing solutions and implementing health programs. [RSVP today!](#)

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FOUNDERS DAY AWARDS

## Gala Recognizes Two AHSS Students

We are proud to recognize two AHSS students who received awards during the 2015 Founders Day Gala. Founders Day is an annual gala that celebrates the University's founding; DU turned 151 years old on March 5, 2015.

Richard Maez (BA '15, history and Spanish) was the recipient of the outstanding undergraduate student award, which recognizes a student who has served DU in a noteworthy and significant fashion. Leslie Rossman (PhD '15, communication studies) was the recipient of the outstanding graduate student award.

Maez is a [3+2 dual degree](#) student; in addition to receiving his BA degree this spring, he will also receive an MA in education in 2016. A member of the University's Pioneer Leadership Program, he is external president of the DU Programming Board and was a member of the Chancellor Search Committee that helped select new DU Chancellor Rebecca Chopp.

Rossman, president of the graduate student government, is a PhD candidate in communication studies, where her research focuses on the intersections of critical rhetoric and rhetoric of political economy. As a student leader, she helped create the Graduate Research Summit, an annual event that spotlights research by graduate students from all over campus, and developed new programming to welcome first year graduate students.

[Read more](#) about Founders Day.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Alums' Nonprofit Brings Fresh Food and Opportunities to Impoverished Denver Neighborhood

The road to transformation for one of Denver's poorest neighborhoods began half a world away – in Nicaragua, where a 2006 service-learning project inspired two University of Denver students – economics major Eric Kornacki (BA '09) and criminology major Joseph Teipel (BA '07) – to fight poverty at home.



“Joseph and I went down to Nicaragua for three weeks on this service-learning project, over winter break, and we both were impacted by the poverty we saw,” Kornacki says. “During the trip, we started to have a conversation about what would it look like if, post-graduation, we came back and started doing work around that issue. A lot of ideas came out of that, then we had to come back and finish school, and those ideas were tabled for a bit. But then, after graduation, we said, ‘hey, let’s actually try to do this now, while we’re young. Let’s start a nonprofit and figure it out.’”

As its name suggests, that nonprofit, [Re:Vision International](#), started in 2007 with a global mission, but it took on a local focus when Kornacki and Teipel learned of the extreme poverty in Westwood, a food desert that has Denver's highest rate of childhood obesity and an average annual income of \$11,000. When the pair discovered that limited access to fresh, healthy food was one of the area's biggest problems, they developed their signature Re:Farm program, which builds backyard gardens and community urban farms for Westwood residents. [Read more...](#)

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

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## Political Science Professor Receives Prestigious Fellowship

David Ciepley, associate professor of political science, has been named a Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellow by the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). The fellowship is granted to recently tenured scholars in the humanities and social sciences in the years immediately following the granting of tenure, and provides potential leaders in their fields with the resources to pursue long-term, unusually ambitious projects.

Ciepley's award will allow him to pursue research on his book manuscript, *Our Corporate Civilization and its Neoliberal Crisis*, at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study during the 2015-2016 academic year.



"The immediate post-tenure years are a time for emerging leaders in their field to break new ground and develop new approaches that will have lasting impact," said ACLS Director of Fellowship Programs Matthew Goldfeder. "For fellows to spend an academic year in residence at a national residential research center provides them the opportunity to reach more broadly across disciplines and expand the significance of their research for the humanities and social sciences."

Ciepley's research revises received understandings of governance in the West by recovering its corporate roots and structure. [Read More...](#)

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Theatre Student Says "Yes" to Career Success in Performing Arts Field

Nicole Campbell, a senior double majoring in theatre and gender and women's studies, credits her career success to her willingness to pursue and say "yes" to opportunities outside of her comfort zone. Campbell's tenacity and openness to trying out new ventures has enabled her to maintain continuous employment in the performing arts field since her freshman year at DU.

"The most valuable lesson I've learned during my time at DU is to say yes no matter how busy, tired, or overwhelmed I've felt. Pushing myself to say yes has led me to many opportunities that were definitely outside of my comfort zone," Campbell said. "As a theatre major, it's all about putting yourself out there and making connections."



In the four years she has spent at DU, Campbell has been cast in numerous leading roles in productions throughout the Denver area. As a freshman, she played the female lead in DU's *Urinetown: The Musical* as well as her first professional lead as Ulla in *The Producers* at the Littleton Town Hall Arts Center. Campbell is also a member of the Denver sketch comedy group, Urban Brain. Since starting at DU, she has been cast in 22 different productions, including plays, musicals, films, digital shorts and even a web series. [Read More...](#)

## FEATURED EVENTS

### FACULTY LECTURE: April 9, 2015, 4:30 p.m. – How Poverty Gets Into the Brain for Both Children and Parents

Join the department of psychology's Pilyoung Kim for a thoughtful presentation on the role that childhood poverty plays in the physiological and emotional health of children and adults. In this lecture, Kim will review and discuss the linkages between poverty, health and

the development of the brain. Kim is an associate professor and director of the Family & Child Neuroscience Lab at DU. The lab investigates how early childhood experience influences the development of the brain and emotional regulation. This lecture will be held in the [Lindsay Auditorium, Sturm Hall room 281](#).

**DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER: April 14, 2015, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. – American Dream 2.0: Creating an Economy That Works for Everyone**

Join us at this annual lecture featuring Van Jones, CNN political correspondent. At this lecture, Jones will argue that we need to build institutions that expand and unite seemingly small and disparate strategies. He will discuss how the new economy is not a revolution – it's an evolution, a long-term plan that re-imagines capitalism with intent and creates businesses with a conscious design that respects communities and the environment. Held in the Davis Auditorium in Sturm Hall. [Register here](#).

**CHOPP TALK: April 20, 21 and May 4 – The Listening and Learning Tour**

The University of Denver's new Chancellor, Rebecca S. Chopp, has packed her bag and is hitting the road to speak directly with alumni, parents and friends across the country. Next stop is San Francisco (Mon, 4/20), followed by Los Angeles (Tues, 4/21) and Minneapolis/St. Paul (Mon, 5/4). Join us for an opportunity to hear from the Chancellor and ask her questions about the future of DU. This event is free. [Click here for more information](#).

**SEMINAR: May 1, 2015, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. – Maimonides On The Ideal Life: Vita Activa Vs. Vita Contemplativa**

Former DU professor and Center for Judaic Studies (CJS) founding member, Dr. Raphael Jospe, will lead a free public Maimonides seminar. Moses Maimonides ('the Rambam', 1135-1204) is a central Jewish philosophy figure who synthesizes philosophical insights from Greek, Islamic, and Jewish sources. Dr. Jospe's seminar, *Maimonides On The Ideal Life: Vita Activa Vs. Vita Contemplativa*, examines whether it is better to lead a life of dedicated action or a life of pure contemplation. Facilitated by CJS director Dr. Sarah Pessin, the seminar highlights two internationally recognized scholars in Jewish Philosophy. Held in Sturm Hall, room 253. [Click here for more information](#).

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