LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Alumni Achievement Awards: Recognizing the Success of AHSS Alumni

Don’t miss it! We are accepting nominations for the second annual Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Achievement Awards. But nominations will only be accepted through next Monday, February 3.

“These awards have become an exciting new tradition at DU in recognizing the personal, professional and community service accomplishments of our liberal arts alumni,” said Ian Mohr, AHSS advisory board member (BA ’93, English). “There are 26,000 AHSS alumni around the world, and we make up an impressive group!”

Please nominate yourself or an AHSS alumus/alumna for the following four awards:
* Young AHSS Alumni Achievement Award
* Community Engagement Award
* AHSS Alumni Service to DU Award
* Lifetime AHSS Alumni Achievement Award

Applicants will be notified by March 14. Awards will be given at the AHSS Alumni Reception and Livingston Lecture on Monday, May 5 on campus.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alum is Innovator in Sustainability Practices and Commerce
Stephen A. Katz (BA ’80, philosophy and history) came to the Rocky Mountain West for the skiing, stayed for the education he received at DU and left as a passionate advocate for sustainability. As a student, he was a member of the Denver University Environmental Awareness Group (DUEAG, now called the University of Denver Environmental Team), and participated in Earthday X: A Colloquium of Scholars, a gathering of international environmental thinkers at DU.

Katz cites these activities as pivotal to his decision to pursue an environmental career. His passion for sustainability led him to practice environmental law and later to launch his company, Unwrapped, Inc., which is one of the first companies to bring reusable packaging into everyday commerce (the act of making a package well once and using it repeatedly). Read more...

**FACULTY SPOTLIGHT**

**Political Science Professor Examines Human Rights Claims in EU Courts**

The European Union (EU) has long focused primarily on economic integration. But political scientist Lisa Conant’s latest research examines a recent policy expansion of the EU: as the EU enlarges to include the post-communist democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, its focus has grown to include human rights protection.

Conant’s latest publication explains that individuals residing in newer democracies, which historically have had inadequate human rights protection and ineffective rule law, are now flooding the European Court of Human Rights (ECHRI) with claims. This influx of human rights claims has been dubbed the 'stampede for justice.'

“I’m broadly interested in how Europeans deploy European-wide courts to pursue the goals of the European Convention on Human Rights that would not be possible under national law,” said Conant, associate professor of political science. Read More...

**GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

**Lamont Mezzo-soprano to Portray Donna Elvira in Mozart’s Don Giovanni**

Jovahnna Anderson, a graduate voice student at the Lamont School of Music, will sing the complex role of Donna Elvira in the Lamont Opera Theatre production of Don Giovanni, Mozart’s masterpiece of lust, revenge, and humor, on April 17-20 at the Newman Center for the Performing Arts.

“This is the most dramatic role I’ve ever played,” said Anderson. “Elvira’s so dynamic and I get to express a lot of different emotions at one time: anger, and then composure, but I’m madly in love with Don Giovanni still!”

In her first scene in the opera, Donna Elvira sings of her anger toward her lover who abandoned her. Don Giovanni hears her crying and swoops in to begin wooing her, only to realize she is in fact singing about him! Giovanni makes a smooth getaway, leaving his servant to tell Elvira that he is not worth pursuing. To illustrate his point, he shows her a tome containing the names of all the women Giovanni has slept with throughout Europe. Elvira then adds herself to the list of characters who have sworn revenge on Don Giovanni. Read More...
STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

DU Student Makes Case at Colorado Supreme Court for Adequate Education Funding

Taylor Lobato is making headlines in and out of class. She received the “Student of the Year” award from the department of media, film and journalism studies and is enrolled in a dual degree program for which she’ll attain bachelor’s degrees in strategic communication and public policy, and a master’s degree in public policy. Outside of class, she is the named plaintiff in the Colorado Supreme Court case Lobato vs. State of Colorado. The lawsuit challenges the adequacy of public education funding in Colorado.

As a plaintiff, Lobato and her legal team are seeking a declaration by the court that the current system of school finance established and maintained by the state legislature is not thorough and uniform, thus violating the Colorado Constitution and the substantive rights of local students.

“Right now, there are other children out there who don’t have people to help them attain a proper education. They need the state to do that because that’s what the state has guaranteed,” said Lobato. Read More...

FEATURED EVENTS

MUSEUM EXHIBIT: through Feb. 21, 2014, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. — Living with the Memory, Rwanda Twenty Years On
In 1994, an estimated 800,000 Rwandans were killed in a 100-day rampage. This new exhibit at the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology shows how survivors and witnesses are living with the memory. Visit the exhibit in Sturm Hall, room 102. For more information or for persons needing special accommodations, call 303-871-2688.

The Institute for Public Policy Studies partners with German Marshall Fund to host this panel discussion on the values, demographics, economic circumstances and perceptions between rural and urban areas and the public policies encompassed in this conversation. The event is free and open to the public. It will be held in the Community Room in Craig Hall. Register here.

THEATRE: Feb. 12-15, 7:30 p.m.; Feb 16, 2 p.m. — Big Love
Join us for this epic story of three sisters who seek refuge in Italy to avoid marrying their intended husbands. Love and hate mingle in this comedic and tragic rollercoaster ride of love and relationships. Performances will be held in the White Box Theatre in JMAC Studios. Tickets are $10. Seating is limited. Call 303-871-7720 or order online.

FACULTY LECTURE: Feb. 13, 2014, 4:00-6:00 p.m. — The Comic Imagination in African Literature and Cinema
Delve into the poetics of laughter in African literature and cinema, specifically the straight-to-DVD Nigerian film industry known as Nollywood. Presented by Maik Nwosu, associate professor of English. This lecture will be held in the special events room, Anderson Academic Commons.

150th EXHIBIT: through Dec 31, 2014 — “Tradition and Legacy” Exhibit
Enjoy this short video on the Sesquicentennial exhibit held in Anderson Academic Commons, then stop by to see it for yourself!