ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

January 2016

Call for Nominations

We are accepting nominations for the annual Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Alumni Achievement Awards.

“Our alumni are making a difference in local, national and global communities,” said Dean Danny McIntosh. “They are an impressive group, and it’s a pleasure to recognize their achievements through the alumni awards program.”

Please nominate yourself or an AHSS alumnus/alumna for the following awards:

- Recent Alumni Achievement Award
- Community Engagement Award
- Alumni Service to AHSS Award
- Lifetime Achievement Award

Nominations will be accepted until February 8, 2016. Applicants will be notified by March 11. Awards will be given at the AHSS Alumni Reception and Livingston Lecture on May 2, 2016, on campus.

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Psychology RESEARCH LABS

Psychology Labs Partner with Local Organizations to Serve the Community

Psychology faculty and students often work
collaboratively with communities in Denver and Colorado to do research on important public problems, ranging from addressing health disparities and early childhood development to violence and its impact.

For instance, Professor Omar Gudino and DU’s SAYF Lab have partnered with the Colorado Department of Human Services on a research study to address the significant risk of Latino children and adolescents who have unmet mental health needs relative to non-Hispanic white youths. Professor Sarah Watamura and the Child Health and Development (CHaD) Lab work with community partners to identify key questions about early childhood development and stress. And, Professor Anne DePrince and the Traumatic Stress Studies Group work with community- and criminal justice-based agencies in Denver to use research to inform local services after interpersonal crimes, such as sexual assault, domestic violence, older adult abuse and child abuse.

“We invite families and professionals in the Denver area interested in consultation, assessment, and/or therapy for children, adolescents, young adults and couples to contact our clinics. Also, community members can read more about studies inviting new participants on our website,” said Anne DePrince, psychology department chair. Read more...

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Studio Art Alumnus is Digital Advertising Forerunner

During the 1990s dot.com bubble, David Savinar (BA, studio art, ’76) got recruited to lead the creative team at an international internet advertising agency. He arrived with years of agency experience and an international client list that included Fortune 500 companies. He was on the forefront of digital advertising and got to create some of the world’s first consumer websites for brands like VISA and Molson.

But then the bubble burst, and Savinar found himself without a job.

So he followed the Silicon Valley entrepreneurial spirit and founded The Rain Agency, a Portland, OR, integrated advertising agency. His group provides advertising and promotions services to clients who have included Intel, Intuit and Nike.

“At Rain we are big idea people, and I’m not your typical branding exec. I approach our work through a creative lens because of my arts background,” said Savinar. “I only like to hire people with a very diverse background. We need creative thinkers in the world now more than ever.” Read more...

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Development of Emerging Economies Spurs Professor’s Work

Christine Ngo studies the political economics of developing countries. In 2011-2012, Ngo worked as a junior economist for the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development in Geneva. The job...
aligned with her research and put her at the center of diplomatic activity. She learned a great deal from the experience, but it was a photo exhibition in the UN’s main hall that motivates her work to this day.

“The photo exhibition featured the traumatic effects of the Arab Spring, which started the year before,” said Ngo, assistant professor of economics. “I had to walk by this hall every morning to go to work and would see these images of crying men and women in desperation every day.”

“It was a conflicting experience being in a wealthy city such as Geneva, and walking within the marvelous grandeur of the UN’s marble hall and there were images of human suffering,” she said. “I was touched deeply and frequently thought of our mission as UN employees to help the world in some small ways.”  

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Media Student Connects Muslims and non-Muslims through Multimedia Initiative

After one conversation with Katie Cook, media, film and journalism studies graduate student, you know that she is passionate – passionate about her research and passionate about people.

Cook transforms passion into purpose by connecting unlikely individuals in diverse locales and facilitating an important dialogue.

In May 2015, she was awarded an AHSS Student Research Grant. The grant allowed her to help launch the Virtual Iftar Project (VIP), which is a part of the Virtual Dinner Guest Project, an international multimedia initiative that connects Muslims and non-Muslims around the world for open discussion and creative collaboration. The project is fueled by a single premise: It’s harder to ignore, vilify or harm those with whom we have broken bread.

Throughout the summer of 2015, Cook traveled from Kosovo to the Netherlands, crossing the Serbia/Kosovo border overland, spending time in a squatter community in Slovenia and conducting more than 60 video interviews. She partnered with director and founder of Virtual Dinner Guest Project, Eric Maddox, to coordinate and produce four virtual iftar dinners between Europe and the Middle East during the holy month of Ramadan. Iftar is a religious holiday of Ramadan that is often celebrated en masse.

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FEATURED EVENTS

LECTURE: January 10, 12:30-2 p.m. — “The Hits, the Life, & the Lost Lyrics of Comedian & Song Parodist Allan Sherman”

Join the Center for Judaic Studies at the 17th Annual Livingston Lecture featuring Mark Cohen, writer, editor and journalist specializing in Jewish history, literature and culture. Cohen will share the story of the groundbreaking and hugely popular song parodist and comedian Allan Sherman, who achieved worldwide fame in 1963 with his hit “Hello Muddah, Hello Fadah.” Sherman’s unapologetic Jewish comedy heralded an explosion in American ethnic pride. A sampling of Sherman’s lost Jewish parodies of the Broadway musical will be played. Held in the Lindsay Auditorium in Sturm Hall, the lecture is free and open to the public. RSVP here, or call 303-871-3016.
FACULTY LECTURE: February 4, 4:00 p.m. — Tales of a Modern Guru: Understanding Indian Classical Dance through the Life of an Extraordinary Artist
Enjoy this lecture on Pandit Chitresh Das, one of India’s most dynamic, outspoken and captivating artists. Das, a master of North Indian classical kathak dance, moved to the United States in 1970 and over the course of 45 years profoundly influenced the course of the dance form through teaching and performance informed by delving deep into his own yogic practice. This lecture, by associate professor of ethnomusicology Sarah Morelli, will include excerpts from Morelli’s forthcoming book, Tales of a Modern Guru, as well as images, video and live performance. The lecture will be held in the Anderson Academic Commons Special Events Room. Register today.