



students gain access to the diverse research of their peers and bring together the multi-disciplinary groups to engage, encourage and create collaborative research and writing.

Grace Chiou, a PhD student in the DU/Iliff School of Theology joint doctoral program, joined a writing group last summer. Members included doctoral and master's students in subject areas from communications to economics. The group continued to meet throughout the year.

"What most impressed me with the opportunity to participate in this writing group was the objective of having a publishable piece by the end of our writing retreat," said Chiou. "I've found interdisciplinary work more engaging and a way for me to build my critical thinking."

Graduate student writing groups offer a space for students to freely explain and express their research interests to audiences outside of their programs. As the largest and most diverse academic unit on campus, AHSS supports the integration and collaboration of research. [Contact us](#) for more information.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Alum Paves Way for Early Childhood Development

Ninety percent of human brain development occurs by age five. Children's vocabulary at age three is strongly correlated with their literacy skills in third grade, as well as future academic and life success. Yet programs to support early childhood development are underfunded relative to other state initiatives in Colorado. Jennifer Stedron (psychology, PhD '04) is doing something about it.



Stedron, who received her PhD in child clinical psychology with a specialty in developmental cognitive neuroscience, has led major statewide policy initiatives to advance early childhood in Colorado, including the grant application process that secured \$45 million in funding for Colorado from the federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge.

"Multi-year studies tell us that investing in early childhood generates many benefits – better learning outcomes, decreased crime and incarceration rates, reduced healthcare and social welfare costs and so much more," said Stedron. "A big part of my job is to serve as a translator. I try to make abstract research about child development and its effect on society understandable and actionable for decision makers." [Read more...](#)

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Professor Maps Ancient Burial Sites Using Radar Technology

Anthropology Professor Lawrence Conyers knows just how challenging and rewarding field research can be. He has crisscrossed the globe - from El Salvador to Australia - exploring and mapping ancient burial sites using ground-penetrating radar (GPR)



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technology.

Conyers' next project will take him back to the rugged Australian outback, where he will assist the Mapoon Aboriginal Community in identifying graves within ancient burial mounds. He has already successfully assisted the community in locating ancestral gravesites elsewhere that were threatened by mining activity.

"I was able to very accurately map graves that were European, and also others that were pre-contact traditional aboriginal burials," said Conyers. "The Aborigines were really excited, too, as I had a very good method that could identify their ancestors' graves without having to dig them up," he said. [Read More...](#)

*[Photo: Conyers, left, with an Aborigine elder, sitting on the grave of one of the elder's relatives who was buried in a European fashion]*

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Student Awarded AHSS Internship Grant to Conduct Research in Uganda

Jessica Davidson is no stranger to challenging new experiences. The political science and public policy student has worked with a United States Senator, taught English to children in South Africa and recently was elected Student Body Vice President for DU. This summer, thanks to an AHSS internship grant, Davidson will be conducting research for the Global Livingston Institute in Uganda.



Davidson first became passionate about African studies, and about the HIV/AIDS issue in particular, after she completed a study abroad program in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, in her junior year. She taught English to children, some of whom were HIV positive, which made a profound impact on her worldview.

"The relationships I built at the Sinethemba Children's Home were life-altering, and many of the kids I worked with there were HIV positive," she said. "They were sick constantly, and sometimes tutoring was spent holding and comforting them when they were too sick to work, so I got a very close look at how significantly HIV can impact someone." [Read More...](#)

## FEATURED EVENTS

### OPEN-AIR CONCERT: July 5 & July 19, 7:00 p.m. – Fifth Annual Carillon Summer Recital Series

Join us for a carillon concert at the Williams Carillon at the Ritchie Center, featuring DU Carillonneur Carol Jickling Lens (July 5), and Carillonneur Philippe Beullens, Belgium (July 19). The best listening place to enjoy the free concert is in the courtyard at the south end of the [Ritchie Center](#), which is located on the SW corner of Buchtel Blvd. and University Blvd. A carillon is a set of chromatically tuned stationary bells, usually hung in a tower and played from a keyboard. For updates, call the Lamont Concert Line weekly recorded message at (303) 871-6412.

### EXHIBIT: through July 26, 2015 – Pictorial Maps of the 20th Century

The 1920s ushered in a new style of cartography that almost caricatures traditional maps. Known as "pictorial maps," they integrated narrative, geography

and a sense of humor in a way that was both useful and visually striking. This exhibition is part of a joint program entitled "Mapping in the Early 20th Century" by the Rocky Mountain Map Society, the Denver Public Library and the University of Denver. Held in the [Anderson Academic Commons](#).

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