AHSS Celebrates Faculty Achievements

With fall comes not only new students, but also promotions and transitions among our faculty colleagues. Effective September 1, seven faculty members received a tenure and promotion. Tenure and promotion reflects recognition of a faculty member’s significant achievements. To receive tenure and promotion, a candidate typically devotes up to six years working on research and creative endeavors. After receiving a departmental assessment of the candidate, the divisional faculty committee and dean review each candidate’s case and make recommendations to the provost. Upon the provost’s review, the candidate’s case is shared with the DU Board of Trustees, which ultimately grants or declines tenure and promotion. Decisions take into account research and creative production, teaching quality and campus service.

“These changes recognize significant achievement, dedication and contribution to the mission of our departments, divisions, university and fields. Please join me in congratulating these colleagues,” said Dean Daniel McIntosh. Read more...

2014-2015 EVENTS SERIES

Don’t Miss These Events!

What’s the real story behind South Pacific and its impact on American society post-WWII? Do we have to choose between national security and civil rights? How has Denver’s food history shaped its development and heritage? These are just a few of the stimulating topics being presented during the AHSS Faculty Lecture Series and the AHSS Salon Series.

The Faculty Lecture Series showcases the work being pioneered by Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences faculty at the University of Denver. On the second Tuesday of each month,
faculty members share their current research or present recently published works.

The Salon Series serves as a link between the Denver community and the faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. About 20 people join a DU professor in a private home in Denver to learn and exchange ideas on a topic presented by the faculty member.

Learn more about the AHSS Events Series

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Music Alum Goes Green Down Under

Herbert “Bud” Jones (BME ’65, music and education) had always been interested in a career in music, but never dreamed it would take him halfway around the world. His life’s path has led him from North Denver High School on to DU and finally to New Zealand, where he has resided for more than 45 years.

Jones is not only a musician, he is an environmental activist. He recently was awarded the Queen Elizabeth ll Queen’s Service Medal in New Zealand, presented for outstanding achievements in arboretum and wetland creation, environmental protection and wildlife conservation, as well as service to professional music performance, secondary and tertiary music education.

He and his wife, Dr. Elizabeth Jones, own Pokai Parera Farms, where Jones has created wetland wildlife habitat that includes five large lakes and 21 smaller ponds spread widely over 214 acres. All the wetland areas have adjacent complementary tree planting where he has personally planted more than 30,000 native and exotic trees specifically for birdlife, beautification and enrichment of the countryside. Read more... (Photo: Jones, left, receiving the Queen's Service Medal)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Theatre Professor Directs Two Plays at World's Largest Arts Festival

Theatre Assistant Professor Greg Ungar directed two plays by Samuel Beckett this summer at the Edinburgh, Scotland, Festival Fringe, the world’s largest arts festival. Not I is a solo work that featured fellow DU theatre professor, Anne Penner, and a set design by DU undergraduate theatre majors.

“This role requires the actress’s face and body to be completely covered by a curtain except for the mouth, which is highlighted with lipstick and a spotlight,” said Ungar. “The text is a constant stream of ideas without a break, requiring both great stamina and thoughtful, well-executed delivery in order to convey a clear meaning.”

Ungar and Penner paired Not I with another Beckett work, Rockaby, which features an actress sitting in a rocking chair while the audience hears her thoughts via a recording. Although Ungar directed both plays, he noted that the rehearsals were very collaborative. Read More..
GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

After Short Detour, Student Returns to Grad Studies

The road to graduate school seldom is a straight line, as Jenny Filipetti discovered in 2010. She was planning to apply to the emergent digital practices (EDP) program at the University of Denver when a call to work as an intern for a web publication in Milan, Italy, diverted her plans. After two years in Milan, Filipetti returned to Denver to pursue her graduate studies where she is doing research to find a space where the fragility of life and ceramics can combine with automation and robotics.

“I’ve been interested in the notion of ‘fragile robots’ for some time,” Filipetti said. “So much of the infrastructure of contemporary life is regulated by systems that are at their core extremely fragile. Biological bodies are fragile, fundamentally capable of functioning in only a very narrow range of physical conditions. The idea of ‘fragile robots’ is to upend the context in which robots are normally conceived as very stable if not indestructible, such as in military and commercial applications.”

As an undergrad, Filipetti studied computer programming and genetics in addition to studio art and semiotic theory. It was this combination of study that led to her interest in digital media. She was drawn to the EDP program at DU for its equal focus on studio practice and theory, as well as the intimate class size and hands-on, individualized approach of the department. Read More...

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Internships Offer a Pathway to Career Planning

Summer internships can set a student on a new career path, or confirm the direction they’re already going. Edrea Mendoza, senior history major, rediscovered her love of research while working as an intern at the Denver Public Library this past summer.

As a special collections intern, Mendoza updated collections of pamphlets, books and legal agreements, as well as pictures that were donated to the library from various people. She noted the condition of each picture and documented everything for organizational purposes. “I learned a lot about the different ways people took photographs in the past, and some of the collection had to go into freezer storage because they were extremely flammable!” she said.

Mendoza even wrote a blog post on the Ludlow Massacre and the racial diversity of the mining camp which was published on the library’s Western History blog. Read More...

FEATURED EVENTS

SESQUICENTENNIAL CONVERSATIONS: Oct 7 & 21, 2014 — The Centennial State and Two American Revolutions

Join us for a two-part lecture series hosted by the department of history and the office of the provost. Colorado was born from two great revolutions—the American Revolution that
was fought and won in the East, and the American Revolution in the West among Indian peoples on the Great Plains and in the Rocky Mountains. Colorado was born when those revolutions converged and collided. Register here.

FACULTY LECTURE: Oct 9, 2014, 4:30 p.m. — The Rhetoric of Captivity in the Age of Perpetual Terror
At this lecture, led by Assistant Professor Billy Stratton in the department of English, you will explore the broader implications of Stratton’s 2013 book, *Buried in Shades of Night*, concerning the motif of captivity and modern warfare. This lecture will be held in the special events room, Anderson Academic Commons.

THEATRE: Oct 30, 31, Nov 1, 7, 8 at 7:30 p.m.; Nov 9, 2:00 p.m. — The Seagull
*The Seagull* is Anton Chekhov’s masterpiece about actors, writers, love, and desire. The play, a tragicomedy, invites you to experience human beings caught in craving, getting and losing. Set in 19th century Russia, the production values access and intimacy. Purchase tickets [online](#) or by calling 303-871-7720.

OPERA: Oct 30-Nov 1, 7:30 p.m.; Nov 2, 2:30 p.m. — South Pacific
Set on a tropical island near the end of World War II, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *South Pacific* tells the romantic stories of two couples. Their chance for happiness is threatened by war and racial prejudice amidst the classic songs “Some Enchanted Evening,” “There Is Nothin’ Like a Dame” and “I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Out of My Hair.” Held in the Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Purchase tickets through the Newman Center box office.

PIONEER SYMPOSIUM/ALL-CLASS REUNION/HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND — Oct 30-Nov 1, 2014
For this sesquicentennial year, the University of Denver has gathered an expert faculty of accomplished alumni and distinguished professors to engage your mind around critical current issues and delight you with new knowledge. With numerous sessions over two days, you’re sure to find something to ignite your intellectual passion. Register here.