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

## TENURE AND PROMOTION

October 2015

### AHSS Celebrates Faculty Achievements

DU is getting national attention for being one of the first universities to formally create a ‘teaching professorial’ series with long-term contracts. Professors in this series are devoted almost exclusively to teaching. This series supplements the existing traditional faculty series, for which professors are responsible for a triad of responsibilities - teaching, scholarship/research/creative endeavors and service. In an effort to strengthen the student experience and support faculty whose primary responsibility is teaching, this innovative model helps DU attract and retain high quality university faculty. Voted on favorably by the faculty and approved by the Board of Trustees, it also allows teaching professors to be eligible for promotion.

[Effective September 1, 31 faculty members received promotion and tenure.](#)

Promotion reflects recognition of a faculty member’s significant achievements. For both faculty series, the process is thorough and rigorous. To receive promotion and tenure, a candidate typically devotes six years working on scholarship and creative endeavors. This work is evaluated by national and international scholars. These reviews, and other aspects of the candidate’s record, are assessed by the candidate’s department. A 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 scholarship 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 about the new professorial series at DU.](#)

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## DU HOSTS WWII HISTORICAL EXHIBITION



### ***Eradicating Hate: A Paper Trail of Nazi Practice***

The Holocaust Awareness Institute at DU's Center for Judaic Studies (CJS) is hosting a three-day, national-touring exhibit,

*Eradicating Hate: A Paper Trail of Nazi Practice*, in the Anderson Academic Commons, October 7-9, 2015. The exhibit features a collection of artifacts related to Nazi Germany and the Holocaust from the Spungen Family Foundation. Items include this envelope that Nazis made out of a Jewish Torah scroll and counterfeit money printed in the Warsaw Ghetto. Each day, the curator of the collection will be on hand to give 30-minute presentations about the exhibit. Nearly a dozen professors have already signed up to take their students to the exhibition for personalized tours with the curator.

CJS is an in-depth source of Jewish learning for the state of Colorado and aims to advance knowledge of Jewish history, thought and culture through intercultural dialogue and social action. The Holocaust Awareness Institute is a campus and community resource for coursework, teacher training, education materials and programming. It is a leading agent in the region for promoting education about the Holocaust and related ethical and social justice issues.

To learn more about this exhibit, view this [New York Times](#) review.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### **Interview with Founder of Africa's International Peace Initiatives**

Even before she claimed her PhD in human communication studies in 2007, Karambu Ringera began using her University of Denver education to help the people of her native village, Meru, and her home country, Kenya, contend with the challenges arising from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



While still a doctoral student, Ringera founded International Peace Initiatives to help families affected by the disease, and after graduating, she returned home to accelerate her efforts, helping women start jewelry-making enterprises, ensuring that children who lost a parent to the disease could go to school, and creating the Amani Home for orphaned and vulnerable children. The home – which has emerged as a model for other such endeavors – keeps children within their village, allowing them to attend their local school and maintain close relationships with extended families.

Ringera's early work was chronicled in a 2004 University of Denver Magazine article, and in spring 2010, she returned to campus to share her vision at a TEDxDU event. In May 2015, she was awarded the Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award from the Divisions of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. While in Denver to accept the award, Ringera sat down with the University of Denver Magazine to talk about her recent activities and latest projects. [The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.](#)

## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT

### AHSS IS...

[Anthropology](#)  
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[Economics](#)  
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Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences  
Sturm Hall 457  
2000 E. Asbury  
Denver, CO 80208  
Telephone: 303.871.4449  
Fax: 303.871.4436  
[ahss@du.edu](mailto:ahss@du.edu)

## Theatre Department Production at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

When the curtain descended on the DU theater department's fall 2014 run of "The Nina Variations," director Anne Penner made an unscripted remark.

"I sort of half jokingly said, 'We should take this to Edinburgh,'" Penner recalls.

Responsive to every cue, the cast and crew gave that idea an immediate green light, and so, before Penner had time for second thoughts, the troupe was making plans and raising funds to take their show on the road – to the world-famous Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Staged every August in the Scottish capital and billed as the planet's largest arts festival, the extravaganza attracts tens of thousands of people to as many as 300 different shows every day for three weeks.



On Aug. 11-15, the DU group – performing as the Three Candles Theatre Company, a name that references a scene in the play – shared its take on "The Nina Variations." The ensemble arrived in Edinburgh the day before the first of its five shows and went straight to the theater to begin assessing the stage. One night's sleep later, they put their work before an audience of international arts lovers. [Read More...](#)

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Grant Makes Student's Research Travel Accessible

Kevin Ritt studies the anthropology of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). With an offer to conduct research in the mountainous regions of Haiti for an NGO, Ritt applied for and received an AHSS Student Research Grant, which enabled him to travel and work in Haiti this past summer.

"The NGO runs a health clinic which is located in a remote area of the Haitian mountains," said Ritt, an anthropology graduate student. "I was asked to perform a needs assessment to evaluate the potential for rainwater harvesting as a daily water source for people in the region."

Ritt spent three weeks hiking to inaccessible communities. "Geography and poverty make numerous communities in the area inaccessible except by foot."



He examined how the residents acquire water, explored whether rainwater harvesting would be an appropriate technology for the region and evaluated what other water options might be beneficial to the residents. In addition, he tested two rainwater collection systems for the NGO. [Read More...](#)

*[photo taken at U.S. Customs upon reentry into the U.S.]*

## FEATURED EVENTS

### HOMECOMING: October 16-17, 2015

Join us for a new author's series at Homecoming this year called [Book Chat at the Book Stack](#). AHSS professors and alumni will read excerpts from their books, and be available for book signings. Authors include Sandra Dallas, Clark Davis, Laird Hunt, Kristen Iversen and

Bin Ramke.

**MUSICAL: November 5-8, 2015 - *Guys and Dolls***

Luck be a lady tonight! Gamblers, gangsters, showgirls and a strait-laced missionary celebrate the golden age of Broadway in Frank Loesser's brassy American musical, presented by the Lamont Opera Theatre and Lamont Symphony Orchestra. Performances will be held in the Gates Concert Hall, Newman Center for the Performing Arts. Reserved Seating \$11 - \$30 through [Newman Center Box Office](#).

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