PROFESSORS WHO’VE CHANGED OUR LIVES

Stories of Memorable Professors

We’re collecting stories from students and alums who have been strongly affected by the work and dedication of an AHSS professor. Is there someone you’d like to recognize as being an inspiration throughout your education and career? We’re interested in stories about both personal and professional influences of your most memorable and important AHSS professors.

Here’s an example from an AHSS alum. Of course, your story will be different, and that’s what we’re looking for!

"After performing in the 25th Anniversary Les Miserables Broadway national tour, I finally made my Broadway debut with the revival of Les Miserables on Broadway in March of 2014. I recently performed on the 2014 Tony Awards with the company as well - I feel that I owe a lot of my success to my voice teacher, Cathy Kasch and Ken Cox for pushing me to be my very best!” — Rachel Rincione, Lamont class of 2005, voice

Tell us your story!

FIRST-YEAR SEMINARS

Preparing Students for Successful College Work

In 1915, the New York Yankees sold for $460,000. If we adjust for inflation since 1915, this would be equivalent to around $10,000,000 today. In 1998, the Yankees sold for $873,800,000. Why the increase?

This intriguing question will be answered by Dan Zuchegno, lecturer in the department of economics, during his fall FSEM entitled “Sports Today: The Economics of America’s Pastimes.” FSEM’s, or First-Year Seminars, provide an in-depth academic experience for
first-year students that is rigorous and engaging. Faculty members select course topics based on their expertise and enthusiasm, such as Zuchegno’s course, which will look at the business of professional and college sports in America today. Students engage with faculty in the exploration of these topics, and develop the kinds of academic skills that prepare them for successful college work, including writing, critical reading and thinking, discussion and debate.

MEET YOUR AHSS STUDENT LEADERS

Students Vote for New SAC Officers

The 2014-2015 members of the AHSS Student Advisory Council (AHSS SAC) are already hard at work developing programming for their classmates for the year ahead. Nearly 300 AHSS undergraduate students voted for the incoming leadership council:

- President: Kristen Powell, junior, sociology
- VP of Alumni Relations: Neda Kikhia, junior, religious studies
- Co-VP of Finance: Charlotte “Carter” Brash, junior, socio-legal studies
- Co-VP of Finance: Zachary Sanfillipo, sophomore, political science
- VP of Communication and Social Media: Gabrielle Healy, Junior, anthropology
- VP of Programming and Events: Hannah Szabo, Junior, French and international studies

“AHSS SAC is a great way to enrich the academic atmosphere here at DU,” said Kristen Powell, AHSS SAC president. “This leadership group represents a variety of the programs within AHSS and focuses on learning beyond class time through guest lectures, interest-based programming and extracurricular opportunities. Our goal is to be strong liaisons between students and faculty with the intent of developing programming that increases student opportunity and enriches student experience.”

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumna Pursues Documentary Filmmaking Career

Kiley Kraskouskas (BA ’00, sociology and political science) fell in love with Colorado as a young teen on a ski trip, came to DU to pursue a degree in Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM), and ended up in a career as a documentary filmmaker. Today, she is the producer behind The Last Song Before the War, a documentary about the most celebrated music festival on the African continent, the Festival in the Desert.

Kraskouskas switched from HRTM to political science after taking a two-trimester class entitled Democracy, taught by professors in political science and sociology. It wasn’t until her junior year when she decided to add sociology as a second major.

How did this all lead to filmmaking?

“Looking back, I realize that some of the films used in the classroom sparked my early interest in documentary filmmaking,” she said. She recalls watching Eyes on the Prize in a political science class, as well as Michael Moore’s Roger and Me in a sociology class. “Films that brought to life the issues and topics we were learning about really synthesized the material and once I was in graduate school, I realized that I wanted to be making
sociological films.”

(Photo: Kraskouskas, second from left, with film crew on location in Mali)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Former Governor Brings Policy to Life in the Classroom

After serving three successful terms as Colorado’s Governor, Richard Lamm could have pursued a variety of professional paths. His decision to join the faculty at the University of Denver and to serve as co-director of the Institute for Public Policy Studies (IPPS) was from the heart.

Other than spending time with his grandchildren, the thing that Lamm enjoys the most is teaching. “I love teaching students and I love the life of the mind,” he said.

Lamm brings his wealth of experience as a prominent and sometimes controversial political figure and his analytical approach to the classroom. He began teaching at the University of Denver in 1969 and, with the exception of his 12 years as Governor, has been here ever since. His passion for teaching is evident in his classes and the way that he interacts and mentors young students. When asked what his favorite aspect of teaching is, he responded “the bright young minds of our future generation of leaders.”

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

PhD Student Teaches Creative Writing at Women’s Prison

Being a graduate student consuming. Between students find time for Brandi Homan, PhD such student. “Brandi is an exemplary associate professor and program. “She does so spearheads and directs a writing program in her current and former DU creative writing to Correctional Facility.

“We believe it’s important to give back to the community that supports us,” said Homan. “Teaching creative writing at DWCF is one of the most invigorating and rewarding experiences I’ve had in a writing workshop setting.”

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
Lamont Double Major Competes and Wins in International Competitions

Josiah Hamill, a double major in violin and organ performance at the Lamont School of Music, was recently a finalist and winner in competitions on both instruments. Hamill, a rising junior, was one of six finalists invited to perform in Syracuse, NY, at the international Arthur Poister Scholarship Competition in Organ Playing. Just two weeks prior, he performed Pyotr Tchaikovsky’s violin concerto with the Arapahoe Philharmonic in suburban Denver as the winner of their Collegiate Concerto Competition.

Due to the time constraints required for practicing, a double major is quite rare at Lamont, especially on such unrelated instruments as violin and organ. Yet Hamill also won Honorable Mention in the Lamont Solo Honors Competition with the same violin concerto this February.

Despite stiff competition in the Arapahoe Philharmonic’s contest, “I wasn’t nervous,” Hamill said. “Playing the whole concerto through for the audition was the most fun I’ve ever had, except when I played the concerto again with the orchestra,” he added. Hamill admitted that the other competitors had more experience, but he knew that “musicality is my strength, and the Tchaikovsky is the opportunity to demonstrate that.”

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