

expressions

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

WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!

September 2015

AHSS Welcomes Incoming New Students This Fall



The University's incoming class of undergraduate students represents one of the most competitive pools of applicants in our history, with nearly 20,000 prospective students applying for an incoming class of just over 1,400 spots. This week AHSS welcomes more than 450 students who have pre-declared an AHSS major.

These incoming students are attending a week-long orientation program called [Discoveries Week](#) during which they register for classes, meet their new

roommates, tour the campus and nearby Denver metropolis and more.

When classes start, they'll all take a First-Year Seminar (FSEM) course of their choice. With nearly 90 FSEMs available, students can take courses from U.S. immigration to the psychology of video games to the history of global hip hop. [Read more...](#)

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We want to hear from you!
[Contact Us](#) with your good news

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meet the AHSS Student Leaders

The 2015-2016 members of the AHSS Student Advisory Council (AHSS SAC) are already hard at work developing programming for their classmates for the year ahead. Members of the incoming leadership council, elected in spring 2015, are:

- President: Kristen Powell, sociology
- VP of Alumni Relations: Chris Bach, political science and public policy
- VP of Finance: Summer Shearer, emergent digital practices
- VP of Communication and Social Media: Gabrielle Healy, anthropology
- VP of Programming and Events: Maggie Sweeney, journalism and political science

“AHSS SAC is a great way to enrich the academic atmosphere here at DU,” said Kristen Powell, a senior who was re-elected by her peers to serve a second year as 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.” [Read more...](#)

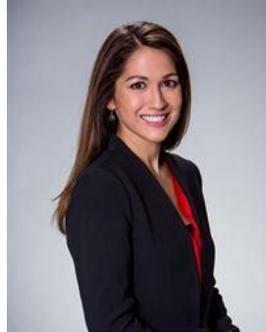
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Alumna Finds Success as Beijing Journalist

Neela Eyunni ('08), author, news anchor and television host, is an international triple threat. As a journalism studies major at DU, she gained critical experience in preparation for her career today.

Eyunni's first journalism class at DU, news writing and reporting, sparked her interest in writing. Her role as news editor for the *DU Clarion* student newspaper fueled her passion for journalism. “It's cool as a student to see your byline, write your own stuff and pitch your own ideas,” said Eyunni.

In 2006, she studied abroad in China as a part of the Cherrington Global Scholars program. When she decided to return to China after graduation, she thought it would be for a short adventure, rather than to launch a successful international career. She is currently a news anchor in Beijing, China, for China Central Television (CCTV News International). [Read more...](#)



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Professor's Research Takes Him to Six “Promised Lands”

Imagine a Jewish homeland outside of the Middle East—in a place like Kenya, Tasmania or even New York. Adam Rovner did just that as he researched expeditions from early 20th century “Territorialism,” a Jewish political movement to create a homeland for persecuted Jews, for his new book, *In the Shadow of Zion: Promised Lands Before Israel*.

Rovner's research took him to upstate New York, Kenya, Madagascar, Angola, Tasmania and Suriname. *In the Shadow of Zion* delves into the true stories of these six “promised lands” for a Jewish national home that never came to fruition.

“Instead of focusing on the one success—the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948—my book details the failures to forge a territorial entity for the Jewish people beyond the borders of the biblical land of Israel,” said Rovner, associate professor of English and Jewish literature.

Rovner was first drawn to the stories of the writers and dreamers who pursued the Territorialist cause while working on his dissertation in 2002. [Read More...](#)

[photo: Rovner on a research trip to Angola]



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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Scholarship Opens Doors to First-Year Student

Earlier this year, Marie Spence was an exemplary high school student and captain of her varsity volleyball team, but a University of Denver education seemed out of reach. Today, Spence is excitedly preparing for her first year at DU, thanks in part to a Susie Ross Berry Scholarship for first-year students enrolled in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.



"Berry Scholars" are chosen by the dean on the basis of academic merit, academic interest in a broad liberal arts education and demonstrable need for substantial financial assistance. The dean has also made support of first-generation students and students of color a priority in this and other AHSS scholarships.

"This scholarship made me realize that DU was an affordable option for me, and opened my eyes to how possible it is to pursue my passions," said Spence, who pre-declared a major in psychology.

Having grown up in Lafayette, CO, Spence was well aware of the DU community. [Read More...](#)

FEATURED EVENTS

THEATRE: September 25, 2015, 7:30-9:30 p.m. – Columbinus, Staged Reading

This play was sparked by the April 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO. A merging of fact and fiction, the play examines adolescent culture via the events surrounding the shootings. Held in the [Newman Center for the Performing Arts](#) Flexible Theatre, room 160. Free.

FACULTY LECTURE: October 1, 2015, 4:00 p.m. – The Resurgence of Abortion Politics and What it Says About Contemporary American Politics

Why is abortion politics once again the regular subject of news coverage? The forums where it takes place, the players that wage the fights, and, in some ways, the stakes are different from the last time abortion garnered as much public attention, according to Joshua Wilson, associate professor of political science. Recognizing and understanding these changes helps us to not only better understand the evolution and possible future of abortion politics and policy, but also it gives insight into larger political changes that effect American politics beyond this one issue. [Register here](#). This lecture will be held in the [Anderson Academic Commons](#) Special Events room.

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