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

## MOMENTUM SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

August 2015

### DU Sets \$45M Scholarship Matching Challenge

Nearly all DU undergraduates receive some form of financial aid. Nearly two-thirds of students who receive financial aid do not have their financial need fully met. On average, that gap is \$6,500 per year.

The University aims to eliminate the need gap so that we can attract and retain the brightest students. Through the Momentum Scholarship Challenge, DU is matching private philanthropy with its own resources to endow \$45 million in new scholarship funding for undergraduate and graduate students by 2018.

“Scholarships have a far-reaching impact on students’ lives,” said Dean Danny McIntosh, who is a DU alumnus (BA '87, psychology). “I know this firsthand. I was able to attend DU only because of a scholarship, and I can honestly say it changed my life. These scholarships can remove the question of college affordability for today’s students.”

The University’s ongoing strategic planning process, [Imagine DU](#), is addressing both the urgent and future needs of the University. The Momentum Scholarship Challenge emerged from the first phase of the strategic planning process, which was focused on identifying immediate actions that the University could take to improve the student experience.

[Contact us](#) for more information about the Momentum Scholarship Challenge.



## PUBLISHING INSTITUTE

### DU’s Publishing Institute Kicks Off 40th Year

In recent years, the once-stately book trade has reeled from one dramatic change to another – from the rise of powerful online retailers to the emergence of digital books and the downsizing of venerated publishing

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houses.

But one thing hasn't changed. Hundreds of impassioned book lovers want to be part of the action.

Enter the Denver Publishing Institute, which turns 40 this year. Every summer, it runs a four-week program on the University of Denver campus, immersing about 95 students from all over the country in the nuts and bolts of publishing.

"We open their eyes to everything that goes into making a book," says the institute's director, Jill Smith (MBA '07). Smith, who joined the institute in 2003, took over the directorship in early 2015, succeeding Joyce Meskis, founder of Denver's much-beloved Tattered Cover Bookstore. (Meskis announced in March that she was retiring and selling the store.)

One of three intensive publishing programs in the country – and the only one outside New York – the DPI was the brainchild of the late Frederick Praeger, founder of Boulder-based Westview Press. He worked with Maurice Mitchell, DU's chancellor at the time, to make the New York-centric world of North American publishing accessible to people outside the Big Apple. [Read more...](#)

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Music Alum Uses Performance Skills in the Courtroom

Property disputes. Theft. Child Abuse. Murder. These are the types of trials Judge Elizabeth Weishaupl (BM, vocal performance, '85; BA, history, '86; JD '89) oversees from the bench in her Arapahoe County Justice Center courtroom, where she has served as a judge for the 18th Judicial District since 2008.

In April, Weishaupl hosted DU undergraduate students in her courtroom. The students – whose majors range from computer science to political science to psychology – got to sit in the jury box while the judge shared her unusual career path with them and offered novel advice about pursuing a legal career.

"I've been told by a handful of adults not to go to law school, but meeting Judge Weishaupl made me excited about pursuing a law degree," said Alex Songer, a senior political science and geography major who attended the courthouse tour. "Hearing her say she never regretted the decision to become a lawyer and a judge was encouraging. I could tell that as an alum, she genuinely cares about fostering communication between DU undergraduates and professionals in the world of law." [Read more...](#)



## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

### Professor Studies Impact of Mountain Films on Post-World War I Germany

You won't find a Weimar mountain film in theatres this fall. The once popular German films haven't been on the silver screen in 80 years. Yet they once bolstered the psyche of a defeated nation. Wilfried Wilms, associate professor of German, studies the impact of defeat in World War I and the development of mountain films in Germany.

"No other country produced mountain films. They are a peculiarly



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German phenomenon in the aftermath of World War I,” Wilms said of the films primarily made during the years of Weimar Germany (1919-1933), the time following the signing of the constitution for the postwar republic in the town of Weimar in South Eastern Germany.

“Mountain films, and those dealing with arctic exploration, are centered on a remarkably coherent set of themes – exploration and triumph, survival and perseverance, loss and defeat – all notions that determined the front experience of the modern soldier fighting the First World War,” said Wilms. “The hugely popular films projected health, virility and masculinity at a time when the German nation was experiencing defeat and humiliation.” [Read More...](#)

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Journalism Student Covers the Aurora Theater Shooting Trial

The ongoing legal trial for James Holmes’ mass shooting inside an Aurora, CO, movie theater is top news across the nation and is being covered from many different angles. One angle is being provided by Claire Sisun, fourth year journalism studies major, who has been reporting from the courtroom since the beginning of the trial.



Sisun was an intern for the *Aurora Sentinel* newspaper from February through April 2015, during which time she reported on the trial’s jury selection. Through this internship, she learned the ropes of reporting in the courtroom, which sparked an interest in courtroom coverage. The department of media, film and journalism studies requires journalism students to secure at least one internship before graduating to get hands-on, field experience.

“I had never done anything related to court before,” said Sisun. “I thought I wanted to be a food writer or blogger. Now, it’s really interesting to me and I wouldn’t want to stop doing it.”

After Sisun’s time at the *Sentinel*, she secured an internship with Denver-based news source 9NEWS, where she continues to report primarily on the theater shooting trial. [Read More...](#)

## FEATURED EVENTS

### OPEN-AIR CONCERT: August 2 & 16, 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 Carillonneur John Gouwens, Culver Academies, Indiana (Aug 2); and Carillonneur David Hunsberger, Berkeley, CA, (Aug 16). 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.

### OPENING RECEPTION: August 27, 5:00-7:00 p.m. – Recent Gifts to the University Art Collections

The Vicki Myhren Gallery continues to celebrate the donors of art to the University Art Collections. Through their generosity, the collections have grown rapidly, now numbering over 3300 catalogued artworks. Join us for a reception to kick off the [Recent Gifts to the University Art Collections Exhibition](#), being held August 27 - September 27, 2015.

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