

2018-19 IMPACT REPORT



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES



Letter from the Dean



Year after year, we see the true impact and testament of our work through the accomplishments and successes of our students and alumni.

I continue to be amazed by what our students achieve while here on campus and beyond as alumni. Some of our students have taken their coursework into the community to empower women in the workplace, while others, like Zach Thanasilangkul, used a research grant to better understand actionable steps toward lifting marginalized communities out of oppression and poverty.

We support our students as they explore, take risks and tackle local and global issues; and we see them go on to make meaningful contributions to their communities as alumni and carry forward DU's commitment to the public good.

In the last year, we have seen how transformational our work can be when we give our faculty the necessary resources to dream big. Thanks to \$250,000 in funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we invested in five innovative faculty-led startup initiatives; these will serve the community, unleash creativity and improve the student experience.

With a generous \$5 million commitment from John Madden, Jr. to support the John Madden Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts, we look forward to investing even more into our faculty innovations to create immersive, high-impact experiences for our students.

Thanks to this funding and the support of our community, we have been able to provide student scholarship funding, enhance our programming and uphold our commitment to our students. We know that they will have a positive impact on the world around them because they already have.

Daniel McIntosh, PhD
Dean, College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Dean	2
National Media Highlights	3
Our Students	4
Faculty Research	4—5
Strategic Initiatives	6—7
The Arts.....	8—9
Featured Alumni.....	10
Get in Touch	11



liberalarts.du.edu
303.871.4449

CONNECT WITH US

 /du.cahss

 ducahss

 /school/university-of-denver-liberal-arts

NATIONAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS


“

OVERALL, IT WAS
HELPFUL TO HAVE
ALL THE MAIN
CANDIDATES ON THE
SAME STAGE AND
TO HAVE WINNOWNED
THE FIELD DOWN
SUBSTANTIALLY.”



Seth Masket, professor of political science and director of the Center on American Politics, weighed in on the Democratic presidential debate on September 12, 2019 for *POLITICO Magazine*.

“The [19th] amendment’s passage capped a long struggle with striking geographical patterns, shown by a series of maps that marked the movement’s progress.”



Susan Schulten, professor of history, uses maps to illustrate “The Crooked Path to Women’s Suffrage” in *The New York Times*.

“

NOT ONLY ARE WE ENGAGED IN WORKSHOPS
AND WORKING TOGETHER TO EMPOWER FAMILIES,
WE’RE ALSO ENGAGED IN RESEARCH AND IN
UNDERSTANDING WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE
WORKSHOPS ALONGSIDE PARENTS.”



Erin Willer, associate professor of communication studies, shares her story with *WOUB Public Radio* and how it shaped The Scraps of the Heart Project, offering creative arts workshops for families coping with baby loss and infertility.

Media Mentions & Publications

289
NATIONAL

27
INTERNATIONAL

188
LOCAL

52
DU

556
TOTAL
MEDIA MENTIONS

OUR STUDENTS

OVER 90%

of students broaden their education and experience another culture by studying abroad.

87.4%

of class of 2018 undergraduate students were employed, continuing their education or pursuing service activities six months after graduation.

OVER 60%

of students reported that they completed an internship or participated in research.

STUDENT OUTREACH EMPOWERS WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE



This spring, Lindsey Feitz, director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program, taught "Putting Feminism to Work," a course that examines contemporary issues facing women and other minority groups in the workplace, like the pay gap, unpaid leave, racial discrimination and sexual harassment.

Students apply these concepts to their own career pursuits, conducting research on the field they plan to enter in as a way to gain insight into opportunities and challenges they'll face after college.

"Community outreach is essential for spreading awareness among our fellow college women about the issues facing women in the workplace," said Elizabeth Hamilton, a gender and women's studies and religious studies student.

CLASS SPOTLIGHT: DRUGS & SOCIETY WITH LISA PASKO



"This class was one of the few times throughout my entire undergraduate career that I've ever recommended a course reading to so many peers and friends. *Chasing the Scream* by Johann Hari was an excellent and captivating reading, and the course overall gave me new perspective on how society and drugs function hand in hand," said Luke Ho, a senior majoring in socio-legal studies and criminology.

FACULTY RESEARCH



FACULTY RESEARCH REVEALS ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF PAID FAMILY LEAVE

Paula Cole, a teaching associate professor in the Department of Economics, and Nancy Reichman, a professor in the Department of Sociology and Criminology and research director at the Colorado Women's College, collaborated with Jennifer Greenfield, an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Social Work, to research providing a sustainable model for paid family leave in Colorado.

"The model we've created according to the specifics in the FMLI Act works like any insurance policy," Cole said. "Everyone who is eligible for coverage ... would contribute the same percentage of their payroll."

Nearly 1 out of 10 Coloradans is acting as an unpaid caregiver to someone aged 50 or older, and 60 percent of those caregivers are also employed. Adopting this fiscally responsible model would establish a program that would provide important benefits to many working families across our state.

FACULTY RESEARCH



SEEDLINGS®, ROOTS® & BRANCHES® HEAL PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Like many of her colleagues who've spent their careers studying stress and health, Sarah Watamura, professor of psychology, became a go-to resource for state and local agencies that are working to build policies and understanding around the consequences of trauma and stress exposure. Despite providing trainings and keynotes at over 200 institutions, Watamura felt dissatisfied.

"With just information, I worry that people with trauma exposure can feel stigmatized and confined by their story of trauma, and I worry information alone can create an artificial perception of divide between those affected and everyone else," Watamura explained.

In addition, she and her colleagues felt increasingly frustrated with the lack of preventive care. Watamura partnered with Teva Sienicki, then CEO of Growing Home, Inc., to build Seedlings®, a 10-week

curriculum for parents that provides a platform for learning about stress and health, building capacity to move beyond trauma and working toward prevention for the next generation.

Not long after Seedlings® was launched, Watamura created Roots®, a three-day workshop for professionals who work with families carrying heavy trauma burdens. Roots® is currently being offered to Early Childhood Mental Health Consultants throughout Colorado. Watamura and colleagues at Clayton Early Learning are in development of a third tool, Branches®, which includes trauma processing and wellness dimensions for early educators.

Together, Seedlings®, Branches® and Roots® help clients move beyond trauma to a place of healing for caregivers, as well as healing and prevention for those in their care.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/SEEDcenter>



EDP FACULTY HELP CREATE MEOW WOLF RIDE AT ELITCH GARDENS

Santa Fe-based immersive art phenomenon Meow Wolf partnered with local amusement park Elitch Gardens to create a dark ride with an artistic bent. The new ride — dubbed "Kaleidoscope" — utilizes everything from a colorful neon forest to a jumbled thrift-store nightmare.

Meow Wolf recruited a half dozen Denver artists to work on the ride, including DU faculty members Laleh Mehran and Chris Coleman, of the Emergent Digital Practices Department. Mehran and Coleman created the ride's opening animations and a video for the head (vintage Radio Shack TV) of a unique body seen later in the ride.

"We see Meow Wolf as a really exciting space for artists in Denver, especially for students coming out of emergent digital practices," Mehran and Coleman said.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

KEYSTONE EXPERIENCES



Natasha Hamilton (BA '19) traveled to Scotland, where she pioneered an international expansion of the Peaceful Schools Program.

The College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences is proud to support student research and the practical application of knowledge. High-impact experiences, such as internships, build on the imperative in DU IMPACT 2025 and provide students with unique Keystone Experiences. This year we supported 25 CAHSS students as they took on internships, fellowships, research and travel.

Thanks to the Sturm Family Foundation, 11 students in CAHSS received financial support to pursue unpaid internships at nonprofits. Students from across disciplines interned with places like Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) in Kibera, Africa, creating afterschool programs for young girls and women, and The Brookings Institute, which conducts research to help improve the quality of education worldwide. Three additional Summer Internship Awards supported students working on political campaigns, mental health services and environmental conservation, while gaining valuable work experience.

Dean's Dissertation Awards provide financial support to students pursuing completion of their doctoral work. This year's six awardees, nominated by faculty in their departments from a highly competitive pool of applicants, are researching maternal mental health among Latinx families, historical racial-sexual subjugation impacting black women and more.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/supportCAHSS>

THE CENTER FOR ART COLLECTION ETHICS



Pottery credits clockwise from left: Lucy M. Lewis, Douglas Levi, Josephine Nahohao and Stella Teller.

In 2018, CAHSS launched the Center for Art Collection Ethics (ACE) to help promote the ethical stewardship of works of art, antiquities and cultural materials. At ACE, graduate students and emerging professionals in anthropology, art history, library and information science, museum studies and more can receive training on conducting provenance (ownership) research and other dimensions of ethical stewardship.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/artcollectionethics>

THE CENTER FOR JUDAIC STUDIES



Moshe Kornfeld, inaugural Postdoctoral Fellow in the American Jewish Experience

DU students have an opportunity to learn more about the American Jewish Experience thanks to a newly created postdoctoral fellowship in the Center for Judaic Studies (CJS). The inaugural fellow, Moshe Kornfeld, teaches courses and conducts research. The pilot two-year position is made possible with support from Dr. Helen Morris, a lifelong student and friend of CJS.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/judaicstudies>

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

THE JOHN MADDEN CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN THE LIBERAL AND CREATIVE ARTS

Local real estate developer and philanthropist John Madden, Jr. made a \$5 million commitment to support the Madden Center for Innovation in the Liberal and Creative Arts, which has been renamed to recognize his generosity. The Madden Center invests in cross-disciplinary collaboration and helps our faculty find new ways to challenge students.



MADDEN CENTER PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

COSA



COSA welcomed its first Contributor in Residence, Ari Melenciano (pictured), in March 2019.

The Clinic for Open-Source Arts (COSA), founded by Professor of Emergent Digital Practices Chris Coleman and funded in part by the Knight Foundation, brings together students and visiting contributors to create and sustain healthier communities in the arts and technology fields.

CASA DE PAZ



DU students created meals inspired by the home countries of the people they met at Casa de Paz.

Associate Professor of History Elizabeth Escobedo launched a service-learning class that partnered with Casa de Paz, an Aurora nonprofit that offers housing, meals, visits and transportation to immigrants recently released from immigrant detention.

PRAXIS



Praxis held the first full-dome, audio-visual performance at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Gates Planetarium.

Using the Keystone Strategic Plan as a framework, four DU professors have come together to create Praxis, which emphasizes the importance of hands-on, cross-disciplinary and public-facing creation in learning.

DU PAI



A woman incarcerated at the Denver Women's Correctional Facility spends time with her daughter.

DU's Prison Arts Initiative (PAI) entered into a new partnership with the Colorado Department of Corrections to hold family reunification workshops. This "new kind of family visit" will allow family members to interact with incarcerated individuals through crafts, theater and games.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/maddencenter>

*Save
the
Date*

"A Christmas Carol"
with DU's Prison Arts Initiative
December 12 & 13, Newman Center

THE ARTS



THE SPIRITUALS PROJECT



Director M. Roger Holland II and the Spirituals Project Choir

The Spirituals Project preserves and revitalizes the music and teachings of the sacred songs called *spirituals*, created and first sung by enslaved Africans in America in the 18th and 19th centuries. It engages in a mix of musical performance, education and research, with a frequent focus on the historical role of the spirituals tradition in fostering racial reconciliation and social justice.

LAMONT OPERA THEATRE



Guest artist Edward Parks as Michele, and Daniela Guzmán as Giorgetta in *Il Tabbaro*

When Matthew Plenk took over as director of Lamont Opera Theatre, he wanted his students to understand all aspects of a production, which is why for the 2019 production of Puccini's *Il Trittico*, he put opera students on stage and behind the scenes working on sets, lighting, costumes and more. Plenk also brought in Metropolitan Opera colleague Edward Parks — who sang the title role in the Grammy-winning *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* — to teach a master class and perform.

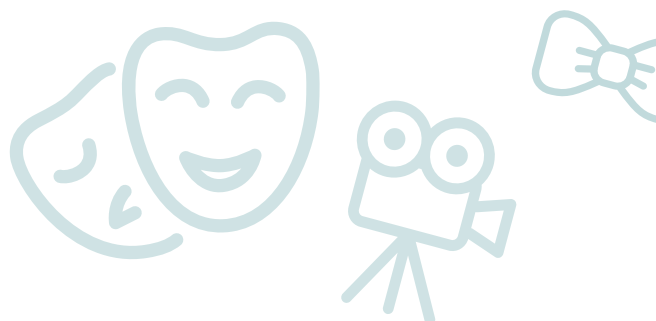


THEATRE



From the Theatre Department's 2019 performance of Moliere's *The Misanthrope*

DU Theatre gives students real-world experience across all facets of theatre-making: writing, designing, building, acting, directing, managing and producing. Performance spaces include the Black Box and White Box studio theatres in Johnson-MacFarlane Hall and the Byron Flexible Theatre in the Newman Center for the Performing Arts. The Department of Theatre produces several shows a year, including a senior capstone festival of student-directed plays. Ticket prices range from free to \$10.



THE ARTS



DU ART RESEARCH & TRAVEL AWARDS



Award recipient Blake Ballard (BA '19) studied textile crafts in New York City.

The DU Art Research & Travel Award provides art majors at DU funding to pursue artistic and professional goals around the world. A gift from Dr. Helen Davis, who at 94 is modeling how to live an artful life, helped provide an ongoing endowment for the award.

"This valuable support allows students to visit and study, first hand, objects, collections and creative situations in an intense, short-term experience," said Catherine Chauvin, 2018–19 director of the School of Art & Art History.

"Music remains a refuge
against the chaos of the
modern world."

—Steve Johnson
(BSME '67, Lamont School
of Music donor)

THE MADDEN COLLECTION



The Madden Museum of Art houses the Madden Collection and other works belonging to DU.

Since receiving the collection from John Madden, Jr. in 2016, the University has committed to increasing the display of its collections while using them as an active educational resource for all DU students. Students from the School of Art & Art History curated the museum's latest exhibition: "IN MOTION: Selections from the University of Denver Art Collections."

VICKI MYHREN GALLERY



The March 2019 exhibition "Ghostly Traces" explored issues of memory, mortality and transience in photography.

The Vicki Myhren Gallery is the primary exhibition space for contemporary art at the University of Denver. An integral component to the educational mission of the School of Art & Art History, the gallery provides students and the Denver community the opportunity to explore visual art through engaging, interdisciplinary programming. The gallery presents rotating exhibitions featuring local, national and global artists. Exhibitions are free and open to the public.



FEATURED ALUMNI



BRANDAN BUCK

As an undergraduate history major, Brandon Buck (BA '09) was unique among his peers. The Army veteran had four years of military experience, including one year in Afghanistan, before stepping foot on campus. After graduating, Buck worked for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency as an imagery and geospatial analyst. Today, Buck is pursuing a PhD in history at George Mason, where he was named a Digital History Fellow.



MONA AWAD

During her time at DU, Mona Awad (PhD '18) penned her second novel, *Bunny*, which satirizes creative writing MFA programs. The novel received critical acclaim, was called "a work of toothsome and fanged intelligence" by *The New Yorker*, and now AMC Networks will adapt the novel into a television series with acclaimed playwright Megan Mostyn-Brown commissioned to write the pilot.



FRAZER LOCKHART

Recipient of the Alumni Service Award for CAHSS in 2018, Frazer Lockhart (BA '10) has led film projects as part of DU's Film Initiative Linking Mentors (FILM). His leadership, professionalism and personal sacrifice made this program, spearheaded by Sheila Schroeder in the Department of Media, Film & Journalism Studies, a success. Lockhart has worked for local, regional and national brands and has traveled the globe as a cinematographer.



SUMAIYA NEHLA SAIF

During her time in DU's Economics Department, Sumaiya Nehla Saif (MA '19) received the Edmund Barbour Award for Outstanding Achievement and the Satish Raichur Award for Excellence of a Graduate Student in the Study of Political Economy. Saif's dedication to her studies is apparent not only in these accomplishments, but also in her recent position as the Women in Economics Fellow through the Common Sense Policy Roundtable (CSPR), a think tank dedicated to Colorado's economy.



RACHEL JOHNSON

Rachel Johnson (BA '02) landed her first role at DU's Museum of Anthropology while studying for her degree. After rising to the role of archaeological research collections manager at Santa Fe's Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, she now serves as the first-ever collections manager at the National Buffalo Museum in North Dakota. "It's got the bones to be something very exciting," Johnson said.



CHELSEA HARRIS

Children's book author and College Readiness/Culturally Responsive Coach at Denver Public Schools, Chelsea Harris (BA '06) double-majored in political science and English at DU before receiving her MCE and principal's license. Her latest book, *The Kitchen*, celebrates African-American culture. Part of the proceeds from the book will go to the nonprofit Leaps and Bounds, which Harris runs, to support mentoring for low-income students and students of color.

GET IN TOUCH



ENGAGE

The Alumni Council includes alumni from across the nation along with an annually elected student senator and CAHSS faculty member. The Council meets throughout the year to offer experience, expertise and energy to lead and improve creative and liberal arts education. For more information about the Alumni Council or its committees, please email Erin.Dietrich@du.edu or call 303-871-3283.

CONNECT

We offer ample opportunities to connect with alumni, current students and the greater DU community. Our Dine & Dialogues program offers the chance to have mutually beneficial conversations with current students. The Pioneering Denver series connects you with local alumni and community members. Contact us to participate in these programs or learn what other opportunities fit your needs.

Learn more: Erin.Dietrich@du.edu

EXPLORE

There's always something exciting happening at the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, from large-scale events with internationally renowned speakers to intimate receptions with DU faculty, students and community members. Make lasting friendships and expand your professional network by attending our free, public events year-round.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/cahsscalendar>

GIVE

We're sustained by the generosity of our community. Your contributions allow us to support the people, programs and campus that are at the heart of what we care about most. We're thrilled to have alumni and friends who participate in our work. Your generosity ensures that we're able to continue providing an outstanding educational experience.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/supportCAHSS>

Follow us on social media!





UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL SCIENCES

2000 E. Asbury Avenue
Sturm Hall, 457
Denver, Colorado 80208-0900

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Denver, CO
Permit No. 321

