



University College Alumni Network Fall 2008 Newsletter



Leadership Notes

-- Susan Anderson, President UCAN
Advisory Board

It's amazing how quickly fall has come. If you are like me, then you wonder where the lazy days of summer have gone. Actually I never really experience *lazy* days. My days are often filled with interesting interactions with other DU Alumni.

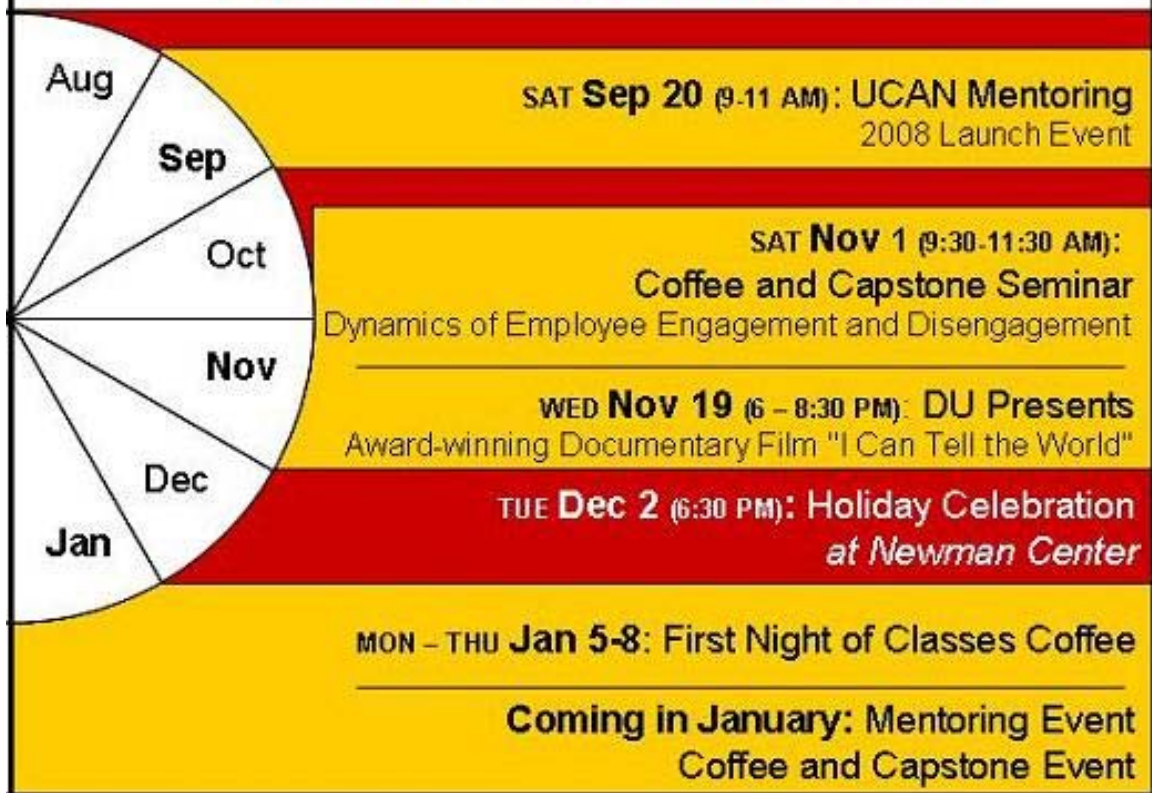
We members of the UCAN Board have a most

interesting group! We are what you might call a **Starfish** organization. You will know what I mean if you have read *The Starfish and the Spider: the Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations*, by Ori Brafman and Rod A. Beckstrom. A starfish organization is a bit of a leaderless organization, a decentralized network that has some amazing qualities. We inspire, coordinate and regenerate! We rely on the

power of peer relationships. These starfish qualities are the same qualities that so many people seem to require in the fast paced and ever changing career paths of today! Part of our aim in all the projects and activities that the UCAN Board has offered is to develop and strengthen peer relationships. So take a look at this year's upcoming activities and join us as we help you to develop your starfish qualities.



Upcoming Events at a Glance



Alumni Events

UCAN Mentoring Launch

When: Saturday, September 20, 2008
from 9-11AM

Where: University Hall, room 306

What: Learn about the philosophy behind the concept of mentoring and gather tips to ensure the success of the relationship. Meet your protégée. A continental breakfast will be served.

Cost: FREE – and you will receive a parking pass after you register

RSVP: to Linnea Hauser –
lhauser@du.edu or 303-871-7482

The University College Alumni Network (UCAN) is pleased to launch the 2008-2009 Mentoring Program. The program's success is dependent upon successful alumni (like you) serving as mentors to current students. We encourage you to participate!

What is the Mentoring Program?

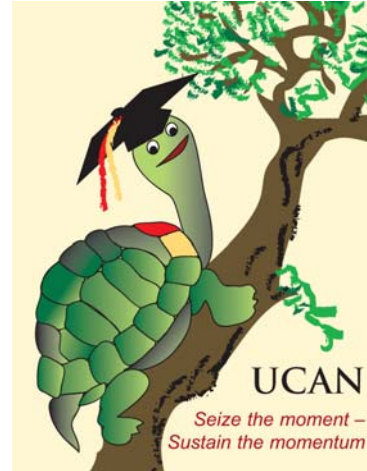
The Mentoring Program matches undergraduate University College students with alumni who can help guide them toward meeting their academic and career goals. Each mentoring relationship is unique in time commitment and activity, and is defined by the goals and needs of the protégé.

The UCAN Mentoring Program serves as a resource to:

- Pair up mentors and protégés
- Help the teams establish expectations and goals within the mentoring relationship
- Create a community forum for mentors to share experiences, develop

mentoring skills, and gain new insights about their own career development

Mentors are still needed - Please fill out and return the attached application by September 17!! ([Click here](#) to download a form)



Coffee and Capstone: Dynamics of Employee Engagement and Disengagement

Presented by Carol Nadlonek, ORL 2007

Moderated by Laura Belsten, UCOL instructor

When: Saturday, November 1 from 9:30 - 11:30 AM

Where: Ben Cherrington Hall, Cyber Café

Cost: FREE - you will receive a parking pass via e-mail prior to the event

RSVP: [Click Here](#)

- > What exactly is employee engagement?
- > Why should you as an employee or manager really care?
- > How does creating a culture of engagement contribute to a company's bottom-line results?

If you or your company have pondered these questions and want to learn more about employee engagement, join us for this stimulating presentation and discussion while enjoying a cup of coffee and Danish.

Carol is a performance consultant at Qwest Communications, who has spent the last several years using the Gallup Q12 survey as a tool to drive employee engagement and create a more productive and profitable work environment. Carol's capstone examines the manager's and the employee's roles and responsibilities to fully connect and maintain personal engagement with the individual's work through job content, relationships, personal needs and desires. Her research explores the history of early behavior theories and leaders to present day research on employee engagement from a business perspective.

UCOL instructor Laura Belsten will lead a discussion following the presentation.



DU *presents...*

Colorado Premier of the Award-winning Documentary Film "I Can Tell the World"

When: Wednesday, November 19 - 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Wine Cellar & Tuscan Ballroom - School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM)

Cost: \$12 per person includes parking pass, hors d'oeuvre reception & cash bar
Parking permit will be provided prior to the event

Registration: [Click here](#)

The award-winning 2008 documentary, "I Can Tell the World", written and co-directed by UCOL alumna Coleen Hubbard, MA 2007, follows an interracial choir committed to the preservation and performance of African American spirituals. As these diverse men and women share their stories of transformation, the film demonstrates how the experience of shared song can help heal a nation still wounded by racism.

The film follows members of The Spirituals Project Choir, which is based at DU and was founded by DU Psychology professor Arthur Jones. Among the experts presented in the film are Dr. Barbara Wilcots, Associate Dean of DU's School of Letters, Arts, and Sciences and Dr. Vincent Harding, Professor Emeritus at Iliff School of Theology. DU alumni Dee Galloway and Jeff "Maestro" Hughes also

appear in the film, completing the circle of DU connections.

Without the spirituals, there would be no gospel, blues, jazz, R&B, hip-hop or rap. And though many of us are familiar with some of the songs - Wade in the Water, Go Down Moses, This Little Light of Mine, and Oh Freedom - few of us fully understand the spirituals' deep history and complexities.

Can coming together to sing spirituals change the world for the better? "I Can Tell the World" may convince you of this amazing possibility. The screening of this 70 minute documentary will be followed by an open discussion.



Alumni Scholars – Announcing a new UCAN initiative!

Through the support of University College alumni, scholarships in the amount of \$500 each will be awarded to capstone project students in the fall, winter and spring quarters during the 2008-09 academic year.

Congratulations to the Fall 2008 University College Alumni Scholars:

- > Bobbie Jo Skibo, EPM, Moose Pass, AK
- > Pierrette (P.J.) Shields, COMM, Westminster, CO

Holiday Party: Save the date!

When: Tuesday, December 2nd - 6:30 to 9:00pm

Where: Newman Center for Performing Arts

The evening will include a music performance, food, drink, fun and frolicking. Mark your calendar now; more information to follow next month.



UCAN Civic Engagement Initiative

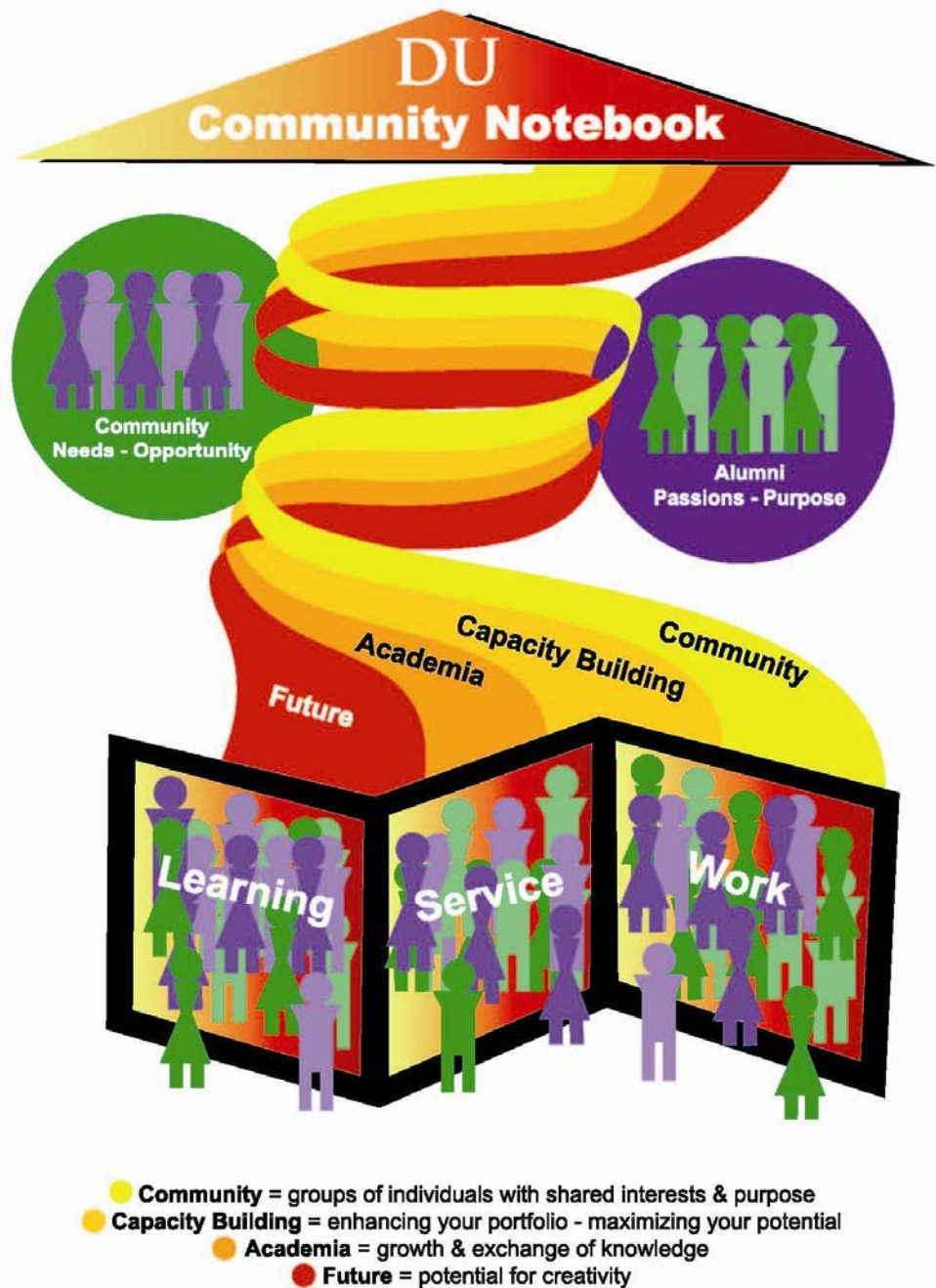
Over the past year, the University College Alumni Network (UCAN) has been developing the concept of a Civic Initiative, which links alumni passions and purposes to community needs. In the process of crystallizing the concept and making it a reality, it has grown to partner more broadly with DU and the community at large. Our work strongly supports DU's vision of being a "great public university dedicated to the public good."

A new cycle of planning activity was kicked-off in August. The team added new members and has an added sense of urgency, targeting our public launch for later this fall. Several subcommittees continue to work on all aspects of the project: scope, branding, website, project development, and outreach to alumni and the community.

If you are a passionate DU alumnus and want to be more active in helping shape our communities, then keep an eye out for our debut announcements coming soon. If you would like to help with the final planning phase and with launching this initiative, you can also join one of our planning subcommittees. We welcome your passion, skills, and dreams. Contact Susan Anderson, a member of the UCAN Advisory Board and chair of the initiative team, for

more information:
susan@ucanprojects.net.

The diagram below represents UCAN's evolving vision for this initiative.



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Alumni Events

UCAN Welcomes the First Bachelor of Arts Completion Program Graduate to the Fold

With his wife and children looking on, Mark Lemmons walked down the aisle at the University of Denver [Commencement](#) Ceremonies June 7 to accept his diploma — a Bachelor of Arts degree in science and technology from [University College](#) — two decades after earning his high school diploma.

“It always bothered me that I was so good at school but never finished it,” Lemmons says.

After graduating from high school as salutatorian and student body president in 1988, Lemmons enrolled at DU on a scholarship with good grades and a dream to be a lawyer. He majored in political science and interned with then U.S. Sen. Tim Wirth.

Then, between his junior and senior years, a family financial tragedy stopped his college career short. His father lost his oil-company job and his investments during Denver’s energy bust. IRS penalties left his family bankrupt and Lemmons without financial aid. He was forced to drop out a year away from graduation

Bitter but determined to go on, Lemmons began building a career and a family. He married Chrissy shortly after leaving DU, and within a few years they had two children, Phillip and Hannah.

He began making ski films, the first one debuting with

DU’s Alpine Club. And he learned the video business inside and out and began moving up the ranks with Quark, specializing in technology. The future was bright, despite the nagging feeling of “unfinished business.”

Then, in the late 1990s, as his family and career were growing, Lemmons began having trouble seeing, swallowing and standing up straight. Doctors first diagnosed multiple sclerosis, but tests later revealed Chiari malformation, a rare genetic condition in which the cerebellum extends below the skull. The ensuing surgeries and recoveries, he says, “put everything on hold,” including his desire to go back to school.

After he recovered, he became determined to finish his college career. He looked around at online and community colleges, but nothing short of a DU degree would do.

When University College announced its Bachelor of Arts Completion Program (BACP), it seemed “tailor made” for him. The credits he had previously earned at DU were accepted as electives. Lemmons says he appreciated the flexibility of online and classroom instruction, and the professional atmosphere of University College and the common learning courses that made him feel part of the University again.

University College Dean James Davis says Lemmons is the first graduate of 218 students who have enrolled in the program. BACP students are in their late 20s through their early 70s, with Lemmons’ 38 years the average. They come to the BACP to enhance their careers, to fulfill a promise to their parents or, like Lemmons, to finish something they had started and to provide a positive example for their children.

“We discovered the reasons for not completing college are myriad and painful,” says Davis. “We advise them to put the past behind them, remember why they’re here and encourage them to stay with it.”

Lemmons admits it was tough on him and his family to return to rigors of college life. But he says he learned discipline that helped him drop 30 pounds and the skills to enhance his position as chief technology officer at Thought Equity Motion, a media licensing firm. And his children, he says, learned the importance of education as they watched their father put his heart and soul into reaching a goal that had eluded him.

“It was nice to broaden my horizons,” Lemmons says. “It helped me grow into a better version of myself.”



--written by Dave Brendsel

UCAN Annual Alumni BBQ Event a Success

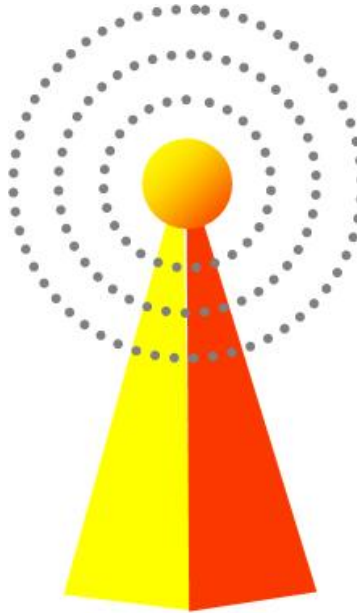
Ring the dinner bell.....it's time to round up all UCAN alumni and students!



The 6th annual UCAN barbeque took place this year on August 22nd at the Leo Block building. This important tradition began in 2003 and serves as a social mixer for UCAN students and alumni. This year, nearly every academic discipline from University College was represented in the crowd, which facilitated many interesting and dynamic discussions.

A western theme was chosen, with terrific food catered by Bennett's Barbeque. Staff and alumni dressed and decorated for the occasion with true cowboy flair! Food and drinks were plentiful as the crowd enjoyed the live music of the Altunators.

Fifty one alumni and staff attended this year's mixer. UCAN plans to host this event again next year.



New Wireless Network

The University has upgraded to a newer, more reliable and robust wireless solution. Students, faculty and staff will use the new PioneerNet and sponsored DU guests can have access using DU Wireless. To find out more, [click here](#)



Alumni Access to Penrose Library

Did you know that as a DU alumnus you can access resources in the Penrose library? You are able to check out materials or use the PEAK Library catalogue online. For more information see the links below:

- > [Borrowing and Lending](#)
- > [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Alumni wanting to use the library must first stop at the Leo Block Alumni Center, 2190 E Asbury Ave., telephone 303.871.2701, to obtain an Alumni card which serves as the library card. The card can be presented at the library and allows the borrower to check out up to 25 items with a loan period of 3 weeks.

How can alumni get access to databases from home?

Our licensing agreements with vendors who provide remote access to online database library subscriptions only include current students, faculty and staff. Alumni may use library resources in the library, but cannot access from remote locations.

