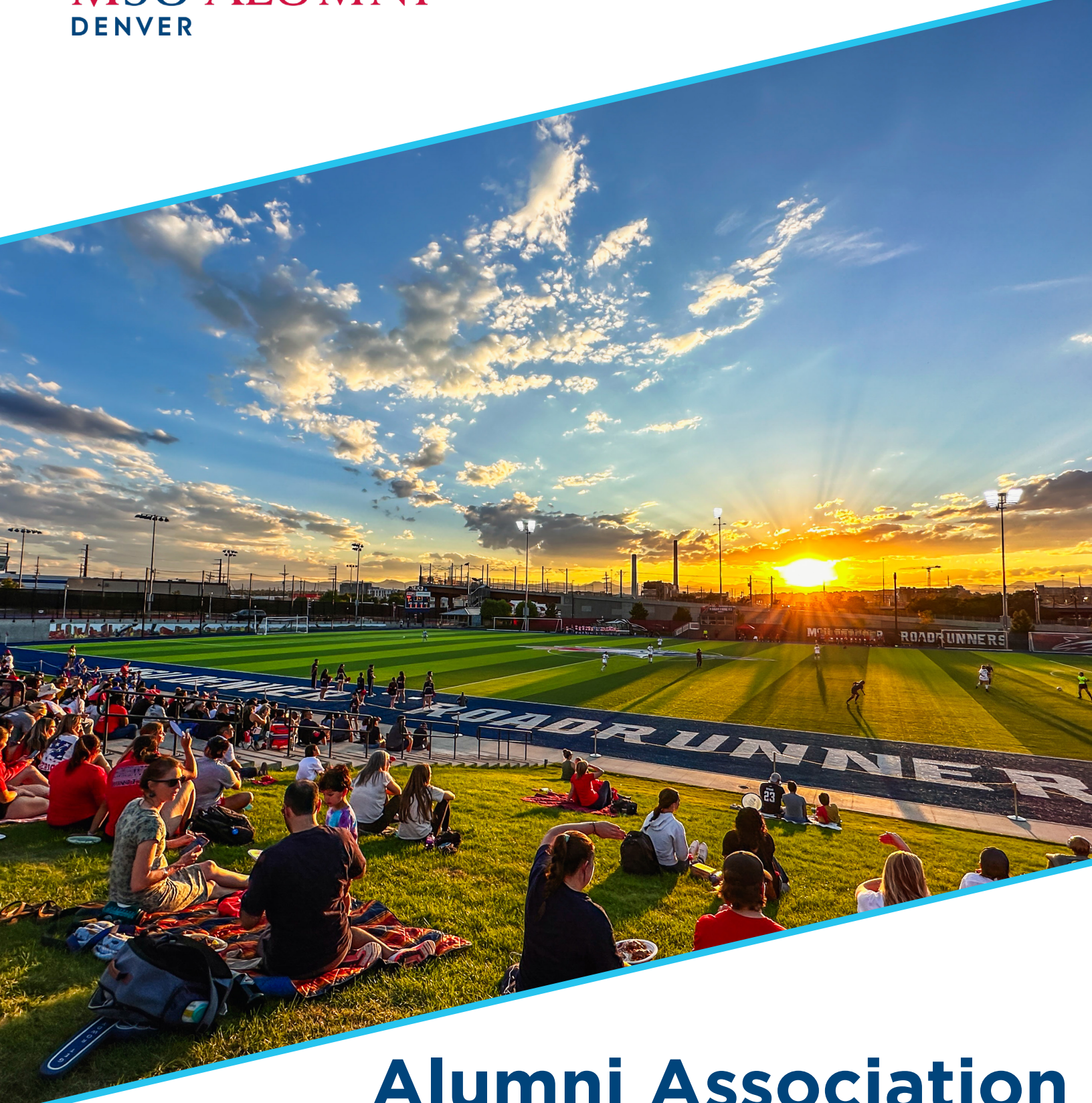




MSUSM ALUMNI
DENVER



Alumni Association **2024-25 Annual Report**



Letter from the President

Dear Roadrunner Alumni,

This past year has been a remarkable one for the MSU Denver Alumni Association. Together, we set a record with 15,365 engaged alumni—14% of all MSU Denver alumni—demonstrating the passion, commitment, and pride of our Roadrunner community. In a time when higher education faces profound challenges, shifts in enrollment, questions of value, and increasing financial pressure, your engagement demonstrates the power of alumni voices in ensuring that MSU Denver thrives for generations to come.

One of the most exciting steps forward this year was the public launch of the Roadrunners Rise Campaign, a historic effort to strengthen our university's future. As part of this campaign, we've set an ambitious goal of engaging 60,000 alumni. This isn't about numbers alone, it's about creating a network of alumni who are present, supportive, and invested in MSU Denver's mission. Participation can be simple: say yes to attending an event, mentoring a student, or volunteering at commencement. Each "yes" adds momentum to the movement we are building together.

We are also honored to mark a significant moment in our history: the 60th anniversary of MSU Denver. For six decades, Roadrunners have shaped industries, communities, and lives. This year's celebration is not only about honoring our past but also about building the future we envision, one where alumni remain at the heart of MSU Denver's story.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary community. Your voice matters, your presence matters, and your support matters. Together, we rise.

With gratitude and pride,

Amber Mozet '06

President, MSU Denver Alumni Association Board of Directors



2024-2025 Alumni Association Board of Directors

Alejandra Colmenero	2015	Hospitality, Tourism & Events
Justin Darnall	2019	Individualized Degree Program
Amy Dieterich	2015	Finance
Devon Drew	2014	Behavioral Sciences
Leon Duran	2015 & 2022	Criminal Justice; Master of Business Administration
Sarena Espinoza	2018	Sport Management
Adama Evans	2008	Anthropology
Jameer Fitch	2020 & 2023	Individualized Degree Program; Master of Business Administration
Ally Garcia Ph.D.	2011 & 2014	Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences; Masters of Teaching
Peter Giusti	1988	Aviation
Brad Kaplan	1982	Accounting
Travis Luther	2008	Behavioral Sciences
Amber Mozet	2006	Psychology
Rebecca Reid	2018	Communications Studies
Joe Rice	1989	History
Peter Sola	2015	Finance
Alyssa Svalberg	2018	Sport Management
Elisa Varela	2010	Speech Communications
Kayla Wright Jackson	2017 & 2019	Human Performance and Sport; Master of Health Administration

2024-2025 Alumni Association Staff

Brandi Rideout, Executive Director of Alumni Association
Heather Holzbauer-Schweitzer, Executive Assistant to the Alumni Association
Jane Karger '24, Associate Director of Alumni Engagement
Diana Ibarra '13, Assistant Director of Alumni Engagement
Jesse Drewes '22, Alumni Engagement Coordinator



Total Alumni 114,617

Total Living Alumni 110,825

Male Living Alumni 47,730

43%

Female Living Alumni 63,080

57%

Non-Binary Living Alumni 3

Unknown Gender Living Alumni 9

Total Alumni Living in Colorado

85,729

77%

Total Alumni Living in Denver Metro

72,638

65%

Total Alumni Living Outside Colorado

25,096

23%

Living Alumni Veterans 4,613

Living First-Generation Alumni 27,819

Living Alumni Athletes 1,892

Top 5

States outside
of Colorado

California 2,677

Texas 2,615

Florida 2,010

Arizona 1,646

Washington 1,238

Top 3 Countries outside of U.S.

**Japan
26**

**Canada
25**

**United Kingdom
18**

Top 5 Majors

**Criminal Justice
& Criminology**

Psychology

Accounting

Management

Biology

Alumni By Age

18-29

10,670

10%

30-39

25,135

23%

40-49

23,578

21%

50-59

18,661

17%

60-69

16,902

15%

70+

15,864

14%

2024-2025 Alumni Engagement by the Numbers

The Alumni Association saw a record number of engaged alumni in 2024-2025 with **15,365** unique alumni connecting with the University in some way. Thank you for your continued support and involvement!

\$908,231

Donated to MSU Denver by alumni

Attended an event	2,308
Volunteered	337
Participated in a program, club or group	1,959
Accessed career services	1,212
Made a philanthropic donation	2,571

Age	Total
0-20	4
21-29	3,431
31-39	3,996
41-49	3,230
51-59	1,905
61-69	1,329
71+	1,365

Ethnicity	Total	% of Engaged Alums
American Indian/Alaska Native	88	1%
Asian-Pacific	297	2%
Black/African-American	711	5%
Hispanic/Latinx	1,491	10%
White/Caucasian	6,035	39%

Location	Total	% of Engaged Alums
Living in Colorado	12,609	82%
Living outside of Colorado	3,207	18%
Top states outside of Colorado: Texas, California, Florida		

Gender	Total	% of Engaged Alums
Male	6,539	43%
Female	8,711	57%

Graduate Status	Total	% of Engaged Alums
Veteran	879	6%
First-generation college student	4,573	30%



Alumni author Andre Gonzalez and wife at the annual Roadrunners Authors Book Fair in January 2025.

2024-25 Alumni Events



We hope to see you at an event soon! Scan this QR code to access the current alumni event schedule.

Total alumni events: **96**

Total alumni attendees: **2,308**

Total in-person events: **86**

Total virtual events: **9**

Total hybrid events: **1**



Homecoming 2024

Over **667** alumni participated in at least one of the **16** events during Homecoming 2024. Featured events included: Women of MSU Denver Networking Reception, College of Letters, Arts & Sciences Reception, College of Health and Human Sciences Reception, Tailgate Party, Roadrunners 5k, Alumni Awards Luncheon and Roadrunners Athletics Hall of Fame Banquet.



Alumni Art Exhibit at the CVA - May 2025

Every five years the Center for Visual Art hosts an alumni art exhibit. This year we featured pieced from **25** different alums. We hosted a reception at the CVA to celebrate the artists and promote their work.



Graduation Parties

240 graduating Roadrunners and their friends and families attended the Alumni Association's graduation parties in December and May. These parties are a celebration of our graduates and an official welcome to the Alumni Association!



Alumni Weekends - January and April 2025

275 Alumni joined us for Winter and Spring alumni weekends. Alumni weekends are hosted with Roadrunners Athletics and feature home basketball, softball and baseball games, campus tours, socials and scholarship giveaways.

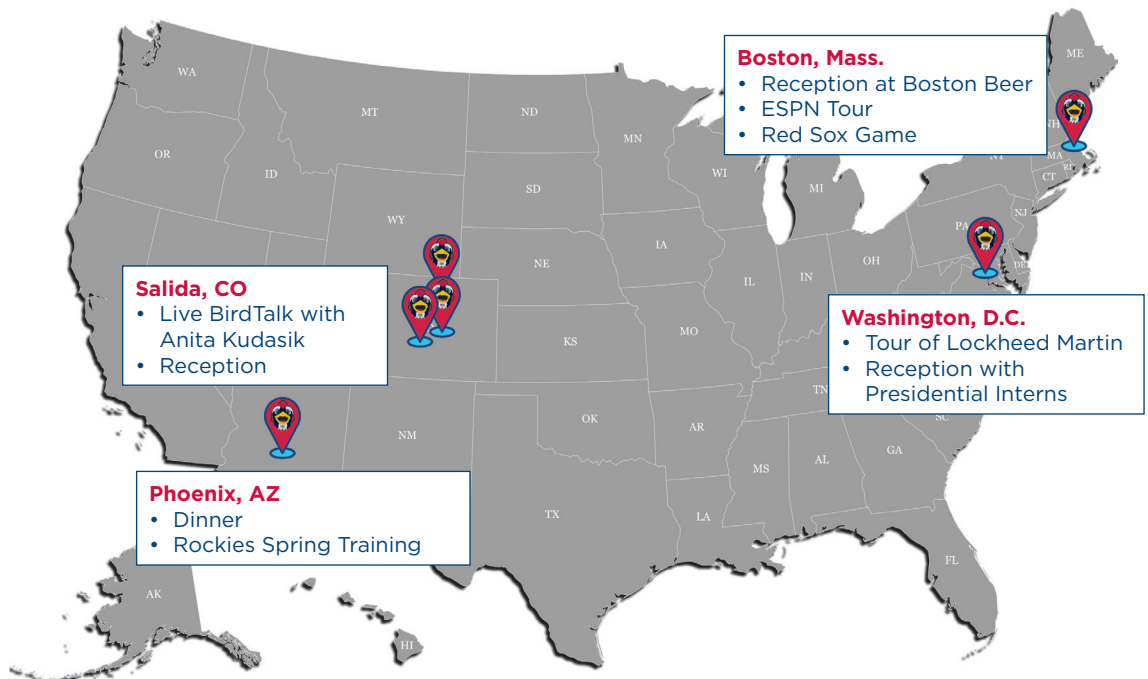


Golden Nest Club Luncheon - May 2025

Doug and Suzanne Holcombe, members of MSU Denver's first graduating class, celebrate at the Annual Golden Nest Luncheon in May 2025.

Roadrunner Roadshow

In February, the alumni relations team hit the road to celebrate the launch of the Roadrunners Rise campaign. The team visited Fort Collins, Colo.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Washington, D.C.; Salida, Colo.; and Boston, Mass. These events gave us the opportunity to bring MSU Denver to hundreds of Roadrunners nationwide.



Check out our upcoming dates!

- | | |
|------------|--|
| Feb. 2026 | - Fort Collins, Colo. |
| March 2026 | - Phoenix, Ariz. |
| April 2026 | - Colorado Springs, Colo. |
| May 2026 | - San Francisco, Los Angeles, Irvine & San Diego, Calif. |
| June 2026 | - 3 Day Roadrunner Retreat in Salida, Colo. |

2024-25 Alumni Awards

The Alumni Association recognized 14 alumni award winners at the 2024 Alumni Awards Luncheon. Congratulations to the following Roadrunners who have excelled in their profession and their community:



Stephen Lease



Alyssa Svalberg



Carlos Alcala

Distinguished Alumni of the Year: Stephen Lease '16

Alumni Philanthropists of the Year: The Nees Family (in Memoriam)

Alumni Volunteer of the Year: Alyssa Svalberg '18

Alumni Campus Employee of the Year: Carlos Alcala '19

Alumni Network of the Year: Black Alumni Network

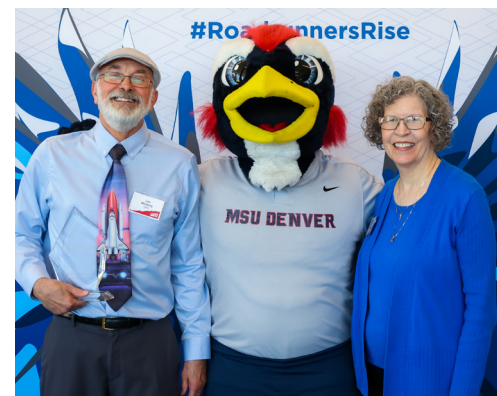
10 Under 10

Dirza Pedroza Ceballos '23
Ashley Collins '21
Nikki Gettman '20
Duane Gurule '17
Lindsey Guy '20
Deanna Hirsch '16
Bianca Machado '16
Angelica Prisciliano '20
Tana Ridgeway '20
Peter Sola '16



Lifetime Achievement Award

Lee Wimberly '75, the 2025 MSU Denver Golden Nest Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, built a remarkable 27-year career at Boeing, where he applied his philosophy and psychology studies from MSU Denver to advance projects in artificial intelligence, automation, and systems integration. Following his retirement, Wimberly became an author, publishing *Exploring the Gap Between Science and Religion*, a work that bridges scientific inquiry and spiritual understanding. He continues to explore these themes through new philosophical writings and ongoing coursework at MSU Denver, where he recently presented his developing theory, "An Observer-centric Philosophy of Science."



Scan this QR code for more information about the Golden Nest Club.

2024-25 Financial Report

The MSU Denver Alumni Association remains committed to responsible financial stewardship and maximizing resources to support students and alumni programs. In FY25, the Association maintained strong fiscal health across its three primary funds—the Alumni Association Board Endowment, Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, and Alumni Association General Fund. Collectively, these funds provided critical support for student scholarships, engagement initiatives, and alumni programming. Strategic fundraising efforts, including partnerships, sponsorships, and events like the Rockies 50/50 Raffle, helped ensure continued growth and impact for the Roadrunner community.

Overview	Starting Balance	Ending Balance
Alumni Association Program Fund	\$66,105.29	\$108,363.06
Alumni Association Board Endowment	\$268,372.84	\$268,672.84
Alumni Association Scholarship Fund	\$108,181.31	\$84,246.08

Alumni Association Program Fund Summary

Beginning balance	\$66,105.29
<i>Revenue</i>	\$108,573.46
<i>Expenses</i>	(\$60,973.79)
Ending balance	\$108,363.06

Finish Line Scholarship Endowment Summary

Beginning balance	\$268,372.84
<i>Revenue</i>	\$300
<i>Expenses</i>	(\$0)
Ending balance	\$268,672.84

Finish Line Scholarship Distribution Fund Summary

Beginning balance	\$108,181.31
<i>Revenue</i>	\$14,634.34
<i>Expenses</i>	(\$38,533.69)
Ending balance	\$84,246.08



Alumni Board Finish Line Endowed Scholarship

provides support to Roadrunners who have stopped out and want to complete their degree. Scholarship awards are available to students who are readmitting to the University and are within two semesters of graduating. Click the QR code above to learn more and donate.



Three students won scholarship awards during the Homecoming soccer game halftime contest.



The Alumni Association awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to a student at Winter Alumni Weekend.

Rockies 50/50 Raffle



Click here to purchase
a raffle ticket online
(must be in the state
of Colorado)

2024 Season Summary:

In 2024, the Alumni Association completed it's sixth season as the official non-profit partner of the Colorado Rockies Foundation facilitating the 50/50 Raffle at all Rockies home games. The association is responsible for recruiting, training and scheduling volunteers to sell raffle tickets throughout the games and in exchange, the association donates a portion of the raffle profits back to MSU Denver programs, departments and scholarships. The association splits 50% of the jackpot with the Colorado Rockies Foundation.

The 2024 Raffle raised a total of \$189,661 for MSU Denver programs, clubs, and teams, with volunteers working 3,024 hours to sell tickets during the season. The largest jackpot of the season was \$60,974, with the winner taking home \$30,487.

Financial summary

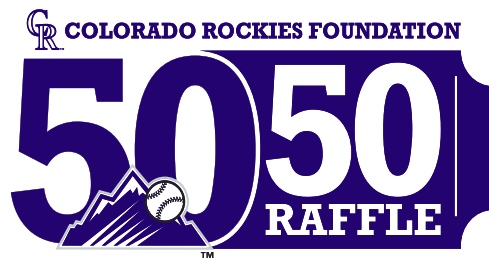
Total raised for MSU Denver: **\$189,661**

Largest single-game jackpot: **\$60,974**
(Sept. 27-29)

Largest single-game prize: **\$30,487**



Click here to learn more
about how to volunteer
with the Colorado Rockies
50/50 Raffle.



Volunteer and program highlights

Volunteers: **864** volunteers from **17** university programs, departments, and teams participated.

Volunteer hours: A total of **3,024** hours were contributed by volunteers.

Top fundraising groups: Club Taekwondo and the Roadrunners Athletics Cross Country/Track and Field, Softball, Baseball, Campus Recreation, and Tennis teams raised the most for their programs.

Alumni Association Hosts MSU Denver Night with the Rockies

Each year, the association hosts MSU Denver-themed nights with the Colorado Rockies, Colorado Avalanche, Denver Nuggets and Colorado Rapids. Watch our event schedule for upcoming dates!



Alumni Association Board Members and Rowdy the Roadrunner were recognized on field prior to MSU Denver Night with the Rockies in June 2025.



MSU Denver alumni were able to go down on the ice before MSU Denver night at the Avalanche.



BirdTalk – A Podcast about MSU Denver Alumni, their careers and their lives

The second season of, BirdTalk, MSU Denver's award-winning alumni podcast, continued to elevate the stories of Roadrunners making an impact across industries and communities. Season two featured 12 new interviews including conversations with the CEO of goodr Sunglasses, a Forbes 30 Under 30 honoree, and the President of the MSU Denver Alumni Association and culminated in the show's first live recording event in Salida, CO. Hosted by Jamie Hurst '21, Associate Vice President of Strategic Engagement, the podcast earned a prestigious CASE award for excellence in storytelling, recognizing its role in celebrating the accomplishments and diverse experiences of MSU Denver alumni. Since its launch, BirdTalk has reached over 9,600 downloads across its first two seasons, demonstrating the power of alumni stories to inspire and connect the Roadrunner community.



BirdTalk podcast

BIRD TALK

An MSU Denver Podcast
about Alumni Careers and Lives
hosted by Jamie Hurst '21



EPISODE 18: STEPHEN LEASE



Scan the QR code to
listen to Bird Talk or
follow wherever you
get your podcasts.



Roadrunner Alumni Networks

790 Roadrunner Alumni have joined one of our existing networks. Roadrunner Alumni Networks are groups of alumni who are drawn together based on common interests and shared experience. Interacting in-person and virtually, these communities encompass all divisions, graduating classes, regions and professions, and reflect a remarkable diversity of concerns and activities. Roadrunner Networks can be based on a variety of things including student activity involvement, professional or career affiliation, identity or geography (regional, state based, etc.). These groups offer many benefits and services to members such as:

- **Connecting and networking opportunities**
- **Professional and personal development**
- **Education and exploration**
- **Information and resource sharing**
- **A sense of community and shared values**
- **Service to the University**



Scan the QR code to learn how you can get involved with MSU Denver.

Mug Club



In Fall 2024, the MSU Denver Mug Club found a new home in the Charlie Papazian Brewing Lab, located within the School of Hospitality. This move, made in partnership with SpringHill Suites and the Brewing Operations Program, reflects our continued commitment to supporting student success. While the location has changed, our mission remains the same — every membership directly supports the MSU Denver Mug Club Scholarship, benefiting students pursuing degrees in Brewery Operations.

Over the years, your passion and support have helped us achieve incredible milestones:

- 🏆 **1,175 Mug Club Members**
- 💰 **\$52,245 raised for the Mug Club Brewery Operations Scholarship**
- 🎓 **8 scholarships awarded, totaling \$9,289**

Whether you're a Mug Club happy hour regular or a new member, your support will get us one step closer to awarding a scholarship to a student majoring in Brewery Operations.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Mug Club.



2024-25 Board of Directors on campus for the Alumni Association Annual Board Retreat

From L-R Front: Brandi Rideout, Joe Rice, Justin Darnall, Kayla Wright Jackson, Amy Dieterich, Alyssa Svalberg, Amber Mozet, Devon Drew, Leon Duran, Jameer Fitch, Heather Holzbauer-Schweitzer
From L-R Back: Sarena Espinoza, Alejandra Colmenero, Brad Kaplan



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