

From [dsaitta@du.edu](mailto:dsaitta@du.edu)

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To [trowe@du.edu](mailto:trowe@du.edu)

Cc [tfarer@du.edu](mailto:tfarer@du.edu) , [Jack Donnelly <jdonnell@du.edu>](mailto:JackDonnelly@du.edu) , [Tracy Ehlers <tehlers@du.edu>](mailto:TracyEhlers@du.edu) , [rcllemmer@du.edu](mailto:rcllemmer@du.edu) , [ckreps@du.edu](mailto:ckreps@du.edu) , [bclark@du.edu](mailto:bclark@du.edu) , [badrian@du.edu](mailto:badrian@du.edu) , [lconyers@du.edu](mailto:lconyers@du.edu) , [jadelman@du.edu](mailto:jadelman@du.edu) , [gdemarti@du.edu](mailto:gdemarti@du.edu) , [repstein@du.edu](mailto:repstein@du.edu) , [kfeste@du.edu](mailto:kfeste@du.edu) , [algilber@du.edu](mailto:algilber@du.edu) , [dgoldfis@du.edu](mailto:dgoldfis@du.edu) , [igrabel@du.edu](mailto:igrabel@du.edu) , [shamilto@du.edu](mailto:shamilto@du.edu) , [Barry Hughes <bhughes@du.edu>](mailto:BarryHughes@du.edu) , [mishay@du.edu](mailto:mishay@du.edu) , [hkhan@du.edu](mailto:hkhan@du.edu) , ["Kuhn, Randall" <kuhnr@colorado.edu>](mailto:Kuhn,Randall@colorado.edu) , ["Laetz, Tom" <laetzt@gao.gov>](mailto:Laetz,Tom@gao.gov) , [flaird@du.edu](mailto:flaird@du.edu) , [dlevine@du.edu](mailto:dlevine@du.edu) , ["Moorer, Alan" <amoorer@du.edu>](mailto:Moorer,Alan@du.edu) , ["Rhodes, Martin" <Martin.Rhodes@du.edu>](mailto:Rhodes,Martin@du.edu) , ["Roberts, Judith " <jrobert1@du.edu>](mailto:Roberts,Judith@du.edu) , ["Sanders, Peg" <Peg.Sanders@comcast.net>](mailto:Sanders,Peg@comcast.net) , [tsisk@du.edu](mailto:tsisk@du.edu) , [jszyliow@du.edu](mailto:jszyliow@du.edu) , ["Van Arsdale, Peter" <pvanarsd@du.edu>](mailto:VanArsdale,Peter@du.edu) , [pviotti@du.edu](mailto:pviotti@du.edu) , ["Zerwin, Ted" <tedzerwin@comcast.net>](mailto:Zerwin,Ted@comcast.net) , [szhao@du.edu](mailto:szhao@du.edu) , ["Archer, Kevin" <karcher@du.edu>](mailto:Archer,Kevin@du.edu) , ["Bausch, Jill" <jill.bausch@gmail.com>](mailto:Bausch,Jill@gmail.com) , ["Cole, Jim" <jcole@du.edu>](mailto:Cole,Jim@du.edu) , ["Dalton, Teri" <tdalton@du.edu>](mailto:Dalton,Teri@du.edu) , ["Dehler, Jan" <jdehlerdaycamp@aol.com>](mailto:Dehler,Jan@aol.com) , ["D'Estree, Claude" <cdestree@du.edu>](mailto:D'Estree,Claude@du.edu) , [tdestree@du.edu](mailto:tdestree@du.edu) , ["Farhangrazi, Shadi" <farhangrazi@sinainternational.com>](mailto:Farhangrazi,SinaiInternational.com) , ["Gabbay, Shaul" <sgabbay@du.edu>](mailto:Gabbay,Shaul@du.edu) , ["Holland, Lynn" <lhollan3@du.edu>](mailto:Holland,Lynn@du.edu) , ["Johnson, Sandy" <sandy\\_a\\_johnson@hotmail.com>](mailto:Johnson,Sandy@hotmail.com) , ["Khan, Tahira" <tkhan@du.edu>](mailto:Khan,Tahira@du.edu) , [kulkarnk@mscd.edu](mailto:kulkarnk@mscd.edu) , ["Larsen, Jeffrey" <larsenj@saic.com>](mailto:Larsen,Jeffrey@saic.com) , ["Moser, Greg" <gmoser@du.edu>](mailto:Moser,Greg@du.edu) , ["Prince, Rob \(princer@mscd.edu\)" <robertjprince@comcast.net>](mailto:Prince,Rob@mscd.edu) , ["Abadi, Jacob" <jacob.abadi@usafa.af.mil>](mailto:Abadi,Jacob@usafa.af.mil) , ["Beal, Thomas" <tpbeal@comcast.net>](mailto:Beal,Thomas@comcast.net) , ["Becker, John" <jobecker@du.edu>](mailto:Becker,John@du.edu) , ["Breger, Sasha" <sbreger@du.edu>](mailto:Breger,Sasha@du.edu) , ["Drohan, Thomas" <Thomas.Drohan@usafa.af.mil>](mailto:Drohan,Thomas@usafa.af.mil) , ["Gochman, Ben" <Benjamin.Gochman@du.edu>](mailto:Gochman,Ben@du.edu) , ["Goetz, Andy" <agoetz@du.edu>](mailto:Goetz,Andy@du.edu) , ["Golten, Robert" <bgolten@du.edu>](mailto:Golten,Robert@du.edu) , ["Gray, David" <dgray4@du.edu>](mailto:Gray,David@du.edu) , ["Grove, John" <dgrove@du.edu>](mailto:Grove,John@du.edu) , ["Irfan, Mohammad" <mirfan@du.edu>](mailto:Irfan,Mohammad@du.edu) , ["Jaroch, Mike" <mjaroch@du.edu>](mailto:Jaroch,Mike@du.edu) , ["Kalu, Kalechi" <kkalu@du.edu>](mailto:Kalu,Kalechi@du.edu) , ["Kazak, Amin" <akazak@du.edu>](mailto:Kazak,Amin@du.edu) , ["Kwitkowski, Sally" <skwitkow@du.edu>](mailto:Kwitkowski,Sally@du.edu) , ["Lopez, Arturo" <alopezca@du.edu>](mailto:Lopez,Arturo@du.edu) , ["McCamant, John" <jmccaman@du.edu>](mailto:McCamant,John@du.edu) , ["Meyers, Dan" <dmeyers5@du.edu>](mailto:Meyers,Dan@du.edu) , ["Napit, Krishna" <knapit@du.edu>](mailto:Napit,Krishna@du.edu) , ["Nowakowski, Arianna" <anowakow@du.edu>](mailto:Nowakowski,Arianna@du.edu) , ["Pletsch, Carl" <Carl.Pletsch@cudenver.edu>](mailto:Pletsch,Carl@cudenver.edu) , ["Rothman, Dale" <drothman@iisd.ca>](mailto:Rothman,Dale@iisd.ca) , ["Sample, Bob" <rsample@du.edu>](mailto:Sample,Bob@du.edu) , ["Savit, Kim" <ksavit@du.edu>](mailto:Savit,Kim@du.edu) , ["Smith, Mark" <Msmith@ColoradoCollege.edu>](mailto:Smith,Mark@ColoradoCollege.edu) , ["Stefes, Christoph" <Christoph.Stefes@cudenver.edu>](mailto:Stefes,Christoph@cudenver.edu) , ["Talbot, Brent" <Brent.Talbot@usafa.af.mil>](mailto:Talbot,Brent@usafa.af.mil) , ["Thomas, Steve" <sthomas@carbon.cudenver.edu>](mailto:Thomas,Steve@carbon.cudenver.edu) , ["Williams, Jill" <jwill119@du.edu>](mailto:Williams,Jill@du.edu) , ["Wilson, Matt" <matwilso@du.edu>](mailto:Wilson,Matt@du.edu) , ["Wolfe, Woj" <wmackiew@du.edu>](mailto:Wolfe,Woj@du.edu) , ["Zuchegno, Daniel" <dzuchegn@du.edu>](mailto:Zuchegno,Daniel@du.edu) , ["Adams, Jonathan" <Jonathan.Adams@du.edu>](mailto:Adams,Jonathan@du.edu) , ["Beindorff, Liz" <ebeindor@du.edu>](mailto:Beindorff,Liz@du.edu) , ["Bussard, Pamela" <pbussard@du.edu>](mailto:Bussard,Pamela@du.edu) , [ecox2@du.edu](mailto:ecox2@du.edu) , ["Dibbern, Eric" <jdibbern@du.edu>](mailto:Dibbern,Eric@du.edu) , ["Forester, Sally" <Sally.Forester@du.edu>](mailto:Forester,Sally@du.edu) , ["Gardner, Jason" <jgardne2@du.edu>](mailto:Gardner,Jason@du.edu) , ["Garrett, Banning" <Banning.Garrett@du.edu>](mailto:Garrett,Banning@du.edu) , [jeaking@du.edu](mailto:jeaking@du.edu) , [akirkeby@du.edu](mailto:akirkeby@du.edu) , [jlundin@du.edu](mailto:jlundin@du.edu) , ["Miller, Dianne" <Dianne.Miller@du.edu>](mailto:Miller,Dianne@du.edu) , ["Morton Luna, Mira" <mira.luna@du.edu>](mailto:MortonLuna,Mira@du.edu) , ["Nelson, Susan" <Susan.Nelson@du.edu>](mailto:Nelson,Susan@du.edu) ,

["Peterson, Yvette" <Yvette.Peterson@du.edu>](mailto:Yvette.Peterson@du.edu) , [surivera@du.edu](mailto:surivera@du.edu) , ["Rolls, Jennifer" <jrolls@du.edu>](mailto:Rolls.Jennifer@du.edu) , ["Solomon, Pam" <Pam.Solomon@du.edu>](mailto:Pam.Solomon@du.edu) , [starbird@du.edu](mailto:starbird@du.edu) , ["Thompson, Jennifer" <jenthomp@du.edu>](mailto:jenthomp@du.edu) , ["Vilegi, Nicole" <Nicole.Vilegi@du.edu>](mailto:Nicole.Vilegi@du.edu) , [argilber@du.edu](mailto:argilber@du.edu) , [Robert Coombe <rcoombe@du.edu>](mailto:Robert.Coombe@du.edu) , [gkvistad@du.edu](mailto:gkvistad@du.edu)

Subject Dispatch From The Street

"If it wasn't for gold you wouldn't have any of this."

—paraphrase of Omar Jabara's (Newmont Mining Corp's Senior Director of Communications and Media Relations) challenge to protestors as he gestured to cell phones, digital cameras, and the modernist architecture above downtown Denver, August 30, 2007.

If Newmont's top execs are learning anything about sustainability and indigenous culture you wouldn't know it from Mr. Jabara's sidewalk comments. Thanks, Bruce Hutton, for fighting the good fight with these people. And thanks, Tom Rowe, for your leadership in the struggle against this truly ill-advised award...even as you take the hits from Mr. Jabara in today's Denver Post and from Vince (Never-Miss-An-Opportunity-To-Bash-Liberal-Faculty) Carroll in the Rocky Mountain News.

I'm proud of the four DU faculty members—three of 'em anthropologists—who showed up to stand with Carrie Dann of the Western Shoshone Nation and other indigenous people and activists. Ms. Dann is an inspiration, and well-deserving of the International Bridge Builders Counter-Award. So too was Julie Fishel, lead attorney for the Western Shoshone Defense Project. It would be nice to bring both of them to campus if we're serious about holding the follow-up symposium that Sally Hamilton proposed back in June.

Best to all,  
Dean

Dean J. Saitta  
Professor, Department of Anthropology  
President, Faculty Senate  
President, DU Chapter AAUP  
University of Denver  
Sturm Hall 146-S  
2000 East Asbury Street  
Denver, CO 80208  
Phone: 303-871-2680  
Fax: 303-871-2437  
Web: <http://portfolio.du.edu/dsaitta>