



## *Great Grants and Initiatives*

**Grantor:** Daniels Fund

**Grantee or Initiative:** University of Denver Athletes

**Amount:** \$                    **Period of Grant Award:** 2005-2006

Bill Daniels saw athletics as a way to teach discipline and teamwork. He believed that national and international competitions developed sportsmanship, confidence and leadership. To foster the development of these characteristics in youth, Bill directed the Daniels Fund to support youth participation in national and international sports.

Competition, sportsmanship, discipline, and teamwork are values that Bill Daniels sought to instill in youth. The University of Denver's skiers embody these values and with the support of the Daniels Fund, these student athletes continue to learn, grow, compete and win, honoring Bill Daniels' legacy.

Last winter five University of Denver athletes traveled to Innsbruck, Austria to compete in the 2005 Winter World University Games. The skiers collected two Gold medals, one Silver medal and another four top-ten finishes. Aside from providing DU skiers with international experience, this trip generated press coverage and contributed to the prestige and recruiting opportunities for the DU program. Additionally, Kurt Smitz, Director of the skiing program, feels that the increases in experience and teamwork resulting from their European trip directly affected their championship bid. The Daniels Fund grant that enabled University of Denver skiers to travel to the 2005 Winter World University Games also aided skiers competing in the 2006 US Cross Country and Alpine Skiing Championships. The US Skiing Championships are international competitions hosting some of the World's top skiers.