Dr. Damien Thompson, Associate Professor of Sociology, Regis College

“One of the responsibilities of a professor is to meet students where they are and find ways to inspire them,” says Dr. Damien Thompson. For five years as an associate professor of sociology in Regis College, he has been doing just that.

Thompson received his undergraduate degree in sociology from Elon University and his Ph.D. in anthropology from American University. He applied to Regis because he was intrigued by the prospect of working at a small, Jesuit, liberal arts college.

Regis is a communal environment, according to Thompson, which pushes students, faculty, and staff to ask the question, ‘how ought I to live?’ Thompson answers that question himself by leading a conscientious life. He is extremely active in the Denver community. He is on the board for Green Leaf Denver, an organization that helps young people develop leadership skills and personal power through urban agriculture. Thompson also works with the Grow Haus, an indoor, urban farm committed to food justice. In September, he was asked by Mayor Michael Hancock to be a part of a task force for the Denver Seeds initiative.

At Regis, Thompson values the relationships he builds with students. “Most of us work here because of the students. So I try really hard to cultivate good relationships by being myself and letting them know that they can be themselves around me,” Thompson says. He believes this comfort level correlates to student success.

Thompson also believes strongly in helping students grow. “For me, it’s not about the grades. That’s really not what I’m interested in from an educational standpoint. It’s really about their growth as individuals.”

Nurturing students; nurturing justice. That is how Damien Thompson is making an impact on Regis University and the world.