



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
School of Accountancy

# School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | November 2019



## Director's Update



Last month, the School of Accountancy hosted the ninth-annual Town Hall to discuss Denver's appeal as a business hub. The event was sponsored by [Truth in Accounting](#), whose founder and CEO is Sheila Weinberg (BS 1979). Students, alumni and community members gathered for a panel discussion among four financial executives from companies that recently moved their headquarters or major operations to the Denver metro area. Those panelists included Kent Clark, senior vice president, brokerage product services at Charles Schwab; Rick Seidlitz, vice president and corporate controller for Arrow; Scott Roe, vice president and chief financial officer of VF Corporation; and Randy Lynch, senior vice president, finance, treasurer and corporate development at Maxar. J.J. Ament, CEO of the Metro Denver Economic Development Corporation, moderated the panel. The executives discussed reasons for moving their companies and staff to Denver. [Read more about the Town Hall.](#)



Please join me in welcoming Mary Haynes (pictured, left). Mary is the School of Accountancy's new administrative assistant. She holds a BA in English and psychology from the University of Denver and is currently pursuing her MAcc at the Daniels College of Business. We are thrilled that she has joined our staff and look forward to introducing you to her next time you're on campus.

The SoA hosted the COCPA Fall Faculty Symposium in October. Faculty from major universities and community colleges across Colorado attended the event. **Assistant Professor of the Practice Tom Hall, CPA, CFA; Associate Professor Keith Sellers, PhD, CPA, ABV, CVA; Associate Professor Kevin**

O'Brien, JD, LL.M.; Teaching Professor & Assistant Director Kathleen (KED) Davisson, CPA and Associate Professor Adam Greiner, PhD, CPA delivered presentations. Mary Medley, COCPA CEO, gave a professional issues update, and an employer panel featuring representatives from Deloitte, Eide Bailly, Xero and City and County of Denver moderated by Associate Professor of the Practice Suzette Loving, CPA, CISA ended the day.



This newsletter features several opportunities to engage with the SoA alumni community. Please see the announcements below and email [kristen.dimig@du.edu](mailto:kristen.dimig@du.edu) with any questions.

Best,

*Sharon Lassar*

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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## Upcoming Events

presented by:  
THE SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES



## Should I stay or should I go?

Please join the Alumni Engagement Council for a panel discussion featuring SoA alumni who will discuss the merits of staying in public accounting versus going to other pursuits. Breakfast will be served.

### Panelists:

Sunny Su, tax accountant, RubinBrown LLP

Sara Bohnen, assurance senior manager, EY

Ingrid Stiver, senior manager, Health Research Institute, PwC

Joshua Schulz, senior manager of accounting, Denver International Airport

Kyle Reppert, director of client relationships & business development, Experis

Shivani Mohan, Life Line Financial Group, will serve as moderator.

### 1 HOUR CPE AVAILABLE

*(Personal Development - Non-technical)*

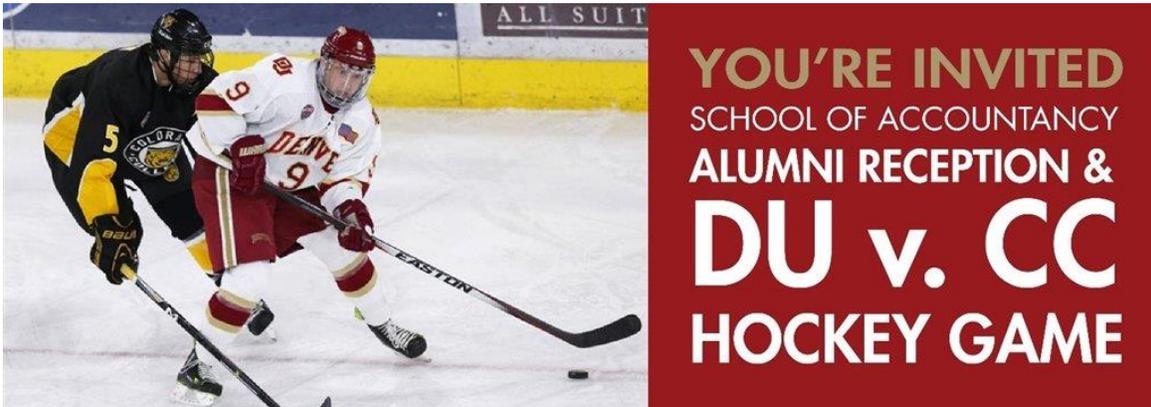
Friday, Nov. 8, 2019

7:30 - 9 a.m.

Schneider Boardroom | Daniels College of Business

This event is complimentary for SoA alumni, but registration is required.

**RSVP**



You're invited to the School of Accountancy Alumni Reception and the DU v. CC hockey game. Revisit your alma mater, catch up with other alumni and cheer on the Pioneers as we take on our rivals. Tickets go fast, so make sure to sign up early!

**Friday, Dec. 13, 2019**

**SoA Reception**

**6 p.m. | Studio D | Ritchie Center**

Pre-game meal and drink ticket will be provided

**DU v. CC Game**

**7 p.m. | Ritchie Center**

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of J2T Recruiting, a donation of \$10 per ticket will be made to the Wayne Shroyer Memorial Endowed Fund supporting scholarships for SoA students.

**\$30 each**

RSVP



Exclusively serving the Denver and Boulder markets since 2000, **J2T** has collaborated with clients of all sizes to successfully create thriving and effective teams. As a Colorado-born recruiting firm specializing in accounting and finance, J2T advocates for a variety of organizations and works with exceptional individuals in the local community.

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## Snow Ball 2019

Thursday, Dec. 5  
6 - 9 p.m.

Ironworks  
25 Larimer St.  
Denver, CO 80204

\*Tickets: \$50 each

\*Recent alumni tickets are \$25 each

[Get tickets and more information](#)

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## DU Night at Zoo Lights

Saturday, Nov. 23  
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Denver Zoo  
2300 Steele St.  
Denver, CO 80205

[Get tickets and more information](#)

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# Get to Know Your Network

## Meet Alumna Ruby Kamm (MAcc 2013)



Prior to earning her Master of Accountancy, Ruby Kamm worked for a number of years in various industries, primarily in an office support role. Through that experience, she developed billing and soft skills and eventually secured a legal billing position at Skadden Arps, a large international law firm. Kamm explains, “The job was interesting and involved a lot of research and critical thinking. From there I realized that I should receive a formal accounting education and pursue a career in accounting.”

Kamm chose the School of Accountancy’s MAcc program because it allowed for students to matriculate with an undergraduate degree outside of accounting. Furthermore, she learned about the 100% job placement rate and strong relationships the SoA has with accounting firms, especially the “Big Four.”

The small classes in the MAcc program were something that Kamm especially enjoyed. “Rather than passively listening to professors lecture, we had so many opportunities to interact. It was surprising how much we learned from each other,” she said. Personal relationships were also a favorite for Kamm: “The friendships with faculty members and other students last a lifetime. I think the highlight of my career at the SoA was participating in Beta Alpha Psi community service, where we worked shoulder-to-shoulder with public accounting professionals.” This made interviewing for internships easy and comfortable since Kamm knew her interviewers and several partners through the service work.

Kamm also appreciates the critical thinking and communication skills that were integrated into the MAcc program. She learned to deliver analysis and arguments in her case studies that non-accounting tutors in the writing center could understand. She said, “The ability to communicate with clarity truly benefited me in my career in public accounting and consulting.”



After five years with KPMG as an auditor, Kamm decided to make the move to consulting, but not before she and her daughter were able to participate in “take your child to work day!” Now, she is a hedge accounting consultant at Chatham Financial, helping manage clients’ financial risk using derivative instruments. “I identified my interest in this area when I was working on several audit engagements,” she said. “When the opportunity came for me to focus all my time and energy on this skill set, I accepted immediately.” Though still training, Kamm finds the role exciting and enjoyable. “I find joy in identifying people’s concerns and utilizing knowledge and tools to address them.”

Outside of work, Kamm enjoys reading, watching movies and hiking. She also enjoys time with her family as well as music and cooking. As for the future, she intends to seek out every opportunity to learn her specialty well and provide meaningful advice to clients while building consulting skills and mastering corporate finance and banking mechanisms.

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## Alumni Notes



Congratulations to **Steven Li (MAcc 2013)** and his new wife, Beth Seidman. The pair actually had two weddings! The first took place last April in Peninsula Shanghai and the second took place at the Grand Hyatt Denver in October. We wish you the very best!

**Ingrid Stiver (BSAcc, MAcc 2009)** and Michael Stiver welcomed their first child, Forest John Stiver, on Oct. 4, 2019. Forest was a healthy 7 pounds, 15 ounces and 21.5 inches. Ingrid, Forest and Michael are all doing well and enjoying their time as a family of three (plus two pups!). Congratulations!

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### **Job Opportunities and Professional Development**

**Ibotta** is looking for a revenue accountant to work closely with accounting leadership in performing month-end close procedures and producing high-quality financial statements and analysis. More information can be found [here](#) (reference 31999903779115).

**Life Line Financial Group** is seeking an accountant for athletes and entertainers in their Denver (Cherry Creek) office. Please see the [posting](#) for more information.

Please see [du.edu/pioneercareers](https://du.edu/pioneercareers) for additional job opportunities.

### **HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?**

Promotions, marriages, new babies, major moves, job changes or awards? Let us know! We'll share the news with your alumni family in the alumni notes section of the newsletter.

Email [kristen.dimig@du.edu](mailto:kristen.dimig@du.edu) with any updates.



## UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a new email address, recently moved, changed employment, got married or have other information to update, please do so [here](#).

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## Faculty Updates



Last month, Assistant Professor Nate Waddoups, PhD and Associate Professor Lorenzo Patelli, PhD attended the Accounting Behavior and Organizations section of the American Accounting Association conference in Providence, Rhode Island, where Patelli was announced as next year's conference organizer. At the conference, Waddoups received two prestigious awards for his paper, "Feedback-Driven Time Segmenting: The Effect of Feedback Frequency on Employee Behavior." The first was the Emerging Scholar Best Paper Award, and the second was the Best Dissertation Award with his advisor Drew Newman from the University of South Carolina (pictured, left).

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## On the Lighter Side - Humor from the Grove

The nicest thing about the future is that it always starts tomorrow.

Money will buy a fine dog but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

If you don't have a sense of humor you probably don't have any sense at all.

A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.

How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

[View in browser](#)



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