



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
School of Accountancy

School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | May 2020



Director's Update

The Alumni Relations Committee from the School of Accountancy Advisory Board is pleased to announce the recipients of the Alumnus of the Year, Young Alumna of the Year and Outstanding Pioneer of the Year awards. These awards are typically given at the SoA Spring Banquet, but with social distancing restrictions currently in place, we will present the awards at the annual Winter Mixer in January. Please join me in congratulating Dan Whittemore, Megan Lewczyk and Amber Freed, our 2020 award winners!

All the best,

Sharon Lassar

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

Upcoming Events



SAVE THE DATE *SoA Fall Reception*

Visit with fellow alums and connect with faculty and incoming and returning students. It's an SoA tradition to kick off the fall quarter!

Sept. 13 | 5-7 p.m.

Get to Know Your Network



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

The Alumnus of the Year Award recognizes exceptional achievements in career, public service and/or volunteer activities that bring honor to the School of Accountancy and/or the University of Denver.

Dan Whittemore, CPA
BSBA 1963, JD 1972

Dan Whittemore grew up in the Denver area, attending Cherry Creek Schools, Graceland University in Iowa, the University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology. He and his wife, Beth, have four children and 18 grandchildren. His educational background is accounting, law and theology. Dan has attended classes from 20 universities and colleges. His favorite Colorado pastime was successfully climbing Colorado's fourteeners--all 54 of them.

His career led him to several significant employment opportunities. He was a partner with Leslie E. Whittemore & Co, CPAs, a local Colorado accounting firm, the Colorado state controller under Gov. Dick Lamm, a controller of Chicago Public Schools, the vice chancellor for Business and Administration for the 10 Maricopa Community Colleges in Phoenix, Arizona, and finance vice president for the Colorado State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education. Whittemore also taught accounting, law and ethics

for Scottsdale Community College and Metropolitan State University of Denver. He currently is an ecumenical and interfaith minister for the Community of Christ in Independence, Missouri.

While Colorado state controller, Whittemore served as president of the National Association of State Controllers. The National Governors' Association awarded him the Annual Award for Distinguished Service to State Government in 1979, as one of two national recipients.

He served on many boards for universities, several Colorado state boards, religious organizations, several homeowners boards and the American Humane Association. He also served a short time on the Colorado Claims Commission, before Colorado waived the legal right of sovereignty immunity for legal civil damages.

Whittemore served as Chairman for the Colorado Higher Education Accounting Standards Committee and the Colorado State Deferred Compensation Board. His other Colorado leadership responsibilities included: State Employees and Officers Insurance Board; Governor's Governmental Accounting Advisory Board for Local Government; the Colorado Historic Railroad Commission; and the Colorado Claims Commission. His Higher Education organization responsibilities include being president of the National Council of Community College Business Officers, president of the Arizona Council of Community College Business Officers and on the editorial board for the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Whittemore is an ordained clergy and served professionally in California and Missouri and on a lay basis in Colorado, Missouri and Arizona, extending 60 years. He chaired the Investment Committee for his religious organization with a \$250 million portfolio.

His current passion is helping Native Americans realize justice. He and his wife, Beth, co-facilitate the non-credit course Legal Rights of Indians and Tribes for the University of Denver's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute program for seniors. They support many Indigenous Peoples' organizations in Arizona, Colorado and Massachusetts. At DU, they helped finance endowed scholarship programs for Native Americans.

Whittemore's University of Denver activities include chairing the Pioneer Alumni Legends program for alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago; participating in University library events, athletic events, faculty and staff community events, DU's Founders Day planning committee, Lamont School of Music programs; and facilitating a course for OLLI.



YOUNG ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

The Young Alumna of the Year Award recognizes exceptional achievements in career, public service and/or volunteer activities that bring honor to the School of Accountancy and/or the University of Denver.

**Megan Lewczyk, CPA, CMA
BSBA, MAcc 2011
Owner, Megan D Lewczyk, CPA,
LLC**

Megan (Schoenbauer) Lewczyk is a CPA, location-independent entrepreneur and lifelong learner. She started her career at KPMG in the IT attestation department in Denver. Before that, she attended the University of Denver and graduated summa cum laude with her undergraduate degree in general business and her master's degree in accountancy.

In December 2012, she decided to take the leap and pursue her passion for helping create the next generation of CPAs. Lewczyk loves tackling projects that aim to reinvigorate and spark innovation in the accounting profession, through both meaningful instructional design and advancing technology's role in accounting now and in the future. Over the last eight years, she has specialized in technical accounting content development for her clients, including ghostwriting.

Lewczyk was appointed in May 2017 as the chief operating officer at Yaeger CPA Review after joining the company in 2015, and she performed duties as a fractional COO and consultant. In this role, she modernized the Yaeger CPA Review organization's business processes, SEO, digital marketing, automation and IT systems. She also assisted with day-to-day operations and translating strategic goals into reality. She stepped down from Yaeger CPA Review in November 2019.

In December 2019, Lewczyk joined forces with Beech Valley Solutions. This tech-enabled staffing firm connects top-tier freelance CPAs, finance and IT professionals to firms that are struggling to find the right talent to support their most complex engagements. As a consultant, she primarily assists with brand development and marketing.

She has served as an adjunct accounting instructor for several online universities since 2015. Lewczyk has been featured on several podcasts in the past year, including the "Cloud Accounting Podcast" and the "Sage Advice Podcast." She was a regular contributor for the accounting blog "Going Concern" from 2016 to 2018 and published more than 80 blog posts.

A project near to her heart, Lewczyk co-founded an online CPA and military spouse community of almost 50 members, where she serves as a mentor and assists with the unique challenges that stem from being a military spouse while continuing to work as an accounting professional (e.g., frequent moves, licensure reciprocity issues).

She has had the honor of being selected as a 20 under 40 Superstars/Influencers Who Are Helping to Advance the Accounting Profession by CPA Practice Advisor each year from 2017 to 2019.

She currently lives in Kailua, Hawaii, with her husband, Jonathan, and their dog, Liberty. Last and most importantly, she's pleased to announce that she and her husband are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their first child in mid-May 2020.



OUTSTANDING PIONEER OF THE YEAR

The Outstanding Pioneer of the Year Award recognizes innovation, teamwork, passion and integrity through their involvement, and who has produced an identifiably profound effect on their community through their work and leadership.

Amber Freed
BSAcc, MAcc 2004
CEO & Founder of SLC6A1 Connect

Amber Freed has utilized her holistic education from the University of Denver to save the lives of children diagnosed with a rare neurological disease.

Mark and Amber Freed welcomed twins named Maxwell and Riley in March 2017. At just four months old, it was apparent Maxwell was not progressing like his twin sister Riley. Maxwell was diagnosed with a neurological disease so rare that it did not have a name, just a genetic location--SLC6A1. There

was no treatment available and his prognosis was poor. Freed left her career as an equity analyst at Janus Henderson and decided to cure SLC6A1 herself.

Freed founded a nonprofit named SLC6A1 Connect in 2018 and currently serves as the foundation's chief executive officer. She has partnered with the University of Texas Southwestern to develop a gene therapy that will treat every child with this disease and is quite close to beginning a clinical trial. She has been featured in the "Huffington Post," "MIT Technology Review," and "Bloomberg" and featured in the best-selling book, "Shortcut to Prosperity."

Freed graduated with a master's in accountancy in 2004. Prior to founding SLC6A1 Connect, she served in a variety of equity and financial analysis roles, most recently in consumer equity research with Janus Henderson Investors. Prior to joining Janus Henderson, Freed was a vice president with Stout, Risius & Ross, focusing on private company and personal valuations. Freed has also served in roles with RK Capital Management, Dividend Capital Trust and KPMG LLP. Her most favorite title in the world remains wife and mother.

For more information on SLC6A1 Connect, please visit www.MilestonesForMaxwell.org.

Alumni Notes



Congratulations to **Mallory (Blanchard) Schmitz (BSAcc, MAcc 2014)** who was recently promoted to investor relations senior manager at VF Corporation.

Professional Development

Bright!Tax is seeking a CPA to support the preparation of U.S. tax returns for Americans living overseas. This is a remote/virtual position with significant potential for growth. For more information, please see the [posting](#).

Be sure to check out [STAY CONNECTED](#), a new website launch by DU that offers a wide array of virtual programming. This includes career advice, webinars with DU faculty and other experts addressing mental and physical

health and wellness topics, programming for children and parents, and much more. The site also offers ways to connect with career resources offered by the Career & Professional Development team.

Please see du.edu/pioneercareers for job opportunities.

HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?

The SoA has always tried to keep alumni connected to the University and each other. Connection is important, now more than ever! In that spirit, we'll continue to share alumni stories, news and class notes.

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 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](#).

Faculty and Staff Updates



It is with sadness that we share news of the passing of [Debbie Schoenhals](#). Debbie was the administrative assistant at the School of Accountancy in the mid 1980s to 1990s. She had a great impact on all of the accounting students who came through the office and she received the Pioneer Award for outstanding employee service during her time at the SoA. Our hearts go out to Debbie's family and friends and all those in our community whose lives were touched by her presence.

Corporate Governance: An International Review (CGIR) has published a virtual issue, **“Corporate Governance during Crises,”** pulling together six relevant manuscripts published in CGIR during the last decade. The editors in chief have selected the article, “Corporate Governance and Performance in the Wake of the Financial Crisis: Evidence from US Commercial Banks,” published in 2011 and co-authored by Professor Emeritus Hugh Grove; Associate Professor Lorenzo Patelli, PhD; Professor Lisa M. Victoravich, PhD, CPA; and Associate Professor Pisun (Tracy) Xu. The study looks at the impact of corporate governance to bank performance in 236 public U.S. commercial banks in the lead up to the 2007-08 financial crisis. Findings show that governance factors explain bank financial performance better than loan quality indicators, and report a strong impact for certain governance elements such as CEO duality, incentive pay, board size and director age.

On the Lighter Side - Humor from the Grove

Dr. Feelgood's Advice for Living (Especially During Social Distancing)

Q: Doctor, I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it. Don't waste it on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up the heart does not make you live longer. It's like saying you extend the life of a car by driving faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap!

Q: Should I reduce my alcohol intake?

A: No, not at all. Wine is made from fruit and brandy from distilled wine, which means they take water out of fruit so you get even more goodness that way, and beer is made of grain. Bottoms up!

Q: How can I calculate my body/fat ratio?

A: Well, if you have a body and you have fat, your ratio is one to one. If you have two bodies, your ratio is two to one, etc.

Q: What are some of the advantages of participating in a regular exercise program?

A: Can't think of a single one, sorry. My philosophy is: No Pain...good!

Q: Are fried foods bad for you?

A: LISTEN! Foods are fried these days in vegetable oil. In fact, they are permeated by it. How could getting more vegetables be bad for you?!?

Q: Will sit-ups help prevent me from getting a little soft around the middle?

A: Definitely not! When you exercise muscle, it gets bigger. You should only be doing sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

Q: Is chocolate bad for me?

A: Are you crazy?!? HELLO! Cocoa bean! Another vegetable! It is the best feel-good food around.

Q: Is swimming good for your figure?

A: If swimming is good for your figure, explain whales to me.

Q: Is getting in shape important for my lifestyle?

A: Hey! Round is a shape!

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