



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
School of Accountancy

School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | April 2019



Director's Update

The School of Accountancy continually partners with alumni and accounting professionals to develop curricula that prepares students for life after graduation. An article in the March 2019 issue of *Strategic Finance* highlights CMA exam results as one way of assessing this alignment. The University of Denver is highlighted with one of the top CMA exam pass rates in the Western region (based on 2016 and 2017 results).



On March 18, four public accounting professionals provided over five hours of their time to act as clients in Professor Suzette Loving's end of quarter audit case, Fast Freddy's IT Audit Challenge. Ten student teams participated in the course this winter quarter. The teams spend three weeks planning, executing and summarizing the results of this mock IT audit. The culmination involves delivering the "bad results" to our very real clients who have many challenging questions for our student teams. Even just a few minutes of tough Q&A resonates much stronger in a student's experience than a classroom lecture about answering client questions. We owe tremendous thanks to this year's team of Fast Freddy clients: Matt Randolph, Ernst & Young (BSAcc, MAcc 1999), Tim Raff, Deloitte (BSAcc, MAcc 2015), Hilary Stavrakas, Deloitte and Paul Hepperla, KPMG. Thank you for taking time from your busy lives to enhance our student experience!



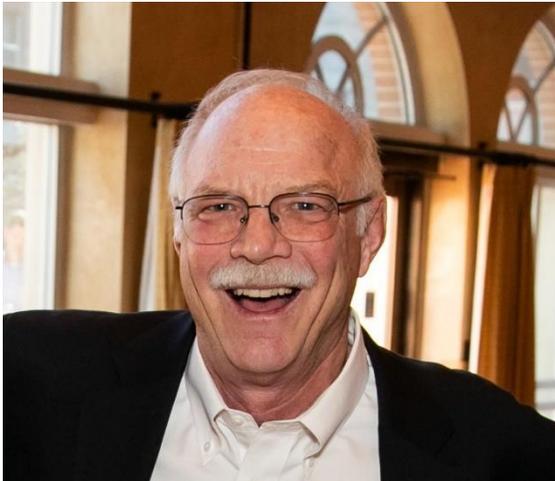
Congratulations to SoA student Johnny Youngs (pictured, left with Associate Professor Lorenzo Patelli) for receiving the Financial Executives International (FEI) Scholarship. Youngs is one of only four students in Colorado to receive this selective award. We are so proud of this accomplishment!

The SoA hosted our [second alumni hockey reception](#) of the year last month and it was wonderful to see so many of you. Thank you for a fun evening!

Best,

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

Upcoming Events



Honoring Professor John Tripp

Save the date for a retirement celebration where we will toast to the long and successful career of Dr. John Tripp.

May 19, 2019 | 6 p.m.

Tuscan Ballroom | University of Denver

Formal Invitation and registration to follow

Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumna Molly Weiss (BSAcc, MAcc 2013)



Molly Weiss is the youngest of four kids and all were raised in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She is the only one not to return to the mountain town. “I like being in Denver, paving my own way and making a name for myself here. I do miss easy access to the mountains and all that champagne powder!” Her siblings have made sure to keep her updated on the ski conditions, especially this year! Weiss is a true Colorado girl and loves everything outdoors. “In the winters you’ll find me hitting the slopes and in the summers you can find me hiking, camping and as of recently, fly fishing. I spend as much time as I can with my golden retriever, Charlie. He enjoys all the outdoor things as well.”

Weiss completed an internship for a CPA firm in high school. Originally the internship was a way for Weiss to get outside the confines of campus, but she soon learned how much she enjoyed accounting. Her interest was furthered by the accounting intro classes at DU. “I not only enjoyed the subject matter, but really enjoyed the people I found myself surrounded by. The accounting majors seemed much more focused and driven in the subject and the professors all seemed more invested in the students.”

When asked about what she enjoyed most about getting her degree from the School of Accountancy, Weiss emphasized the people. “Within DU’s SoA I found a large community of people invested in what they were doing. Professors truly cared about the success of their students and it showed, students were invested in the subject matter, and everyone worked together for a better outcome. I made some great friends in the program who I am still close to today.”



Weiss credits the SoA for teaching her the importance of hard work, the value of her integrity and how crucial it is for a fulfilling career, and the fine art of creating and maintaining a professional network. “You never know where life will take you, but as long as you stay true to yourself, work hard and put yourself out there, you will find success.”

The career path that Weiss has chosen has been a bit unconventional. She started in public accounting like the majority of her classmates, but quickly into her accounting career she was introduced to recruiting. Her background in accounting, genuine affinity for people and ability to connect with just about anyone led her into accounting and finance recruiting. Weiss explains, “I worked in recruiting for three years until I found myself longing for Excel spreadsheets (believe it or not!).” Most recently, Weiss moved into an operational accounting role for a recruiting firm. Here she’s been able to use her knowledge of the industry, accounting network and her accounting background to add value to the company. “I love getting to use my accounting background in a new light, working more operationally to move the company forward.”

Outside of work, Weiss has always been an avid traveler, an interest that was intensified by DU’s study abroad program. “Today I have traveled to six of the seven continents to include 25 countries.” Her travels have given her the opportunity to experience some amazing adventures: gorilla trekking in Rwanda, rafting the Nile in Uganda, completing the largest bridge climb in Australia, skydiving in Switzerland, a four-day trek to Machu Picchu, scuba diving with sharks in Belize, and much more!



When asked about future plans, Weiss explains that career wise, she hopes to continue down the path of operations and aspires to be a COO or operational CFO. “I like looking at the structure of organizations, thinking more strategically and seeing where we can add value.”



Personally, Weiss loves Colorado and see herself never leaving. She and her long-term boyfriend, Mark, are drawn to the mountains and smaller communities. “I do suspect we will migrate further away from the chaos of Denver proper, but Colorado is home to both of us. All and all, I’m looking forward to this adventure called life. If there is one thing I’ve learned since I left DU, it is that nothing can be planned so you better have fun and enjoy the journey.”

Weiss is a dedicated member of the Alumni Engagement Council and chairs the Alumni Relations sub-committee.

Alumni Notes



Amber Freed (BSAcc, MAcc 2014) spent time in audit at KPMG and most recently served as an equity analyst at Janus Capital. Freed is the proud mother of adorable two year-old twins named Maxwell and Riley. At an early age, mother's intuition signaled something was very wrong when Maxwell began missing developmental milestones. Every parent's worst nightmare came true last summer when Maxwell was diagnosed with a rare neurological disease called SLC6A1. The disease is too rare for a formal name and is only known by its genetic location. The disease causes a movement disorder, inability to speak, and the onset of a debilitating form of epilepsy along with regression around three and a half years of age. A cure exists in a scientific laboratory at the University of Texas and Freed is leading the effort to raise \$1,000,000 to begin treating patients. The money must be raised in the next year or the therapy will be tabled due to lack of funding and Maxwell will suffer irreversible damage to his neurological system. This treatment would not only give Maxwell a chance at life but it will also drastically improve treatment options for autism, epilepsy and a host of psychiatric conditions. More can be learned through recent articles in [5280 Magazine](#) and [9News](#). Donations can be made at [Milestones for Maxwell](#).

Congratulations to Derek Christensen (BSAcc, MAcc 2017)! He was married in November 2018 and he and his wife will be relocating to Wisconsin in the fall as Christensen recently accepted an offer to attend the PhD program at the University of Wisconsin.





John J. Gilbert Endowed Professor and Director, Sharon Lassar, PhD, CPA is honored to serve alongside School of Accountancy alumni on the Colorado Society of CPAs Board and Educational Foundation. Beginning May 1, Ben Hrouda, CPA, CGMA (BSAcc, MAcc 2001) will serve as COCPA Board Chair and Lassar will serve as COCPA Vice Chair/Chair Elect. Ingrid Stiver, CPA (BSAcc, MAcc 2009) will serve a three-year term as a COCPA Educational Foundation Trustee. Hrouda is a Managing Partner at Flywheel Capital and AICPA Leadership Academy graduate. Stiver is a senior manager at PwC's Health Research Institute.

Job Opportunities and Professional Development

AMP Robotics is searching for a SoA alum with 1-4 years of experience to fill an Accounting Manager role. More information can be found in [Pioneer Careers](#). Job Posting: 27001701326130.

Crowe LLP is searching for a SoA alum with five years of experience to fill an Audit Manager position. More information can be found in [Pioneer Careers](#). Job Posting: 27001701289264.

The Office of Alumni Career and Professional Development is proud to offer virtual executive coaching for alumni 0-5 or 10-15 years into their careers. Join one of the six-person, six-week, one-hour/week Coaching Tracks at rates significantly below what top executive coaches typically charge. Each cohort will accelerate your career and success. Learn more and register [here!](#)

Please see du.edu/pioneercareers for additional job opportunities.

Faculty Updates

Associate Professor Keith Sellers, CPA, ABV, CVA published his paper “An Empirical Analysis of Market Approach Data (and Some Lessons Learned)” in the November/December 2018 issue of *The Value Examiner*. The article empirically explores statistical issues that crop up in virtually any business valuation utilizing a market approach and demonstrates various methodologies to address these issues.

Last month, Assistant Professor Nathan Waddoups published a [blog article](#) about his research on comparison feedback.

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.

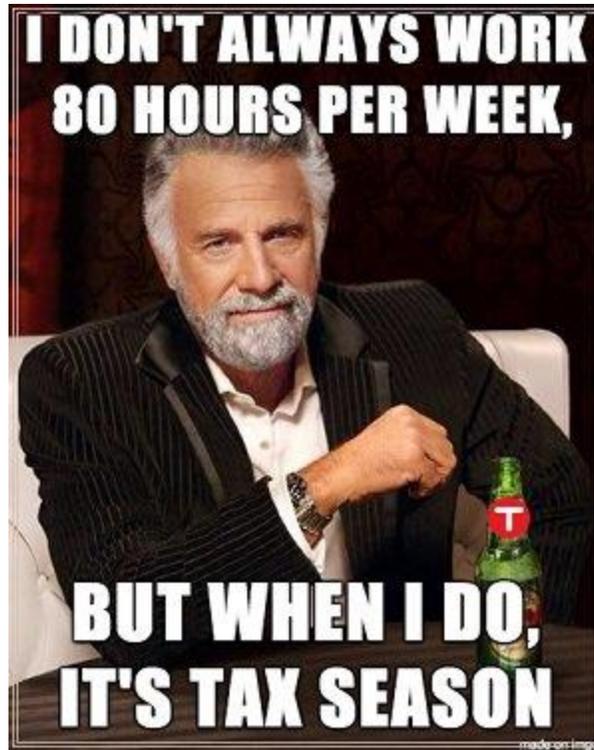
Email kristen.dimig@du.edu with any updates.



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](#).

On the Lighter Side - Humor from the Grove



[View in browser](#)



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