



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
School of Accountancy



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2018

## Director's Update

The NCAA recently announced that former University of Denver men's soccer captains **Sam Hamilton (BSAcc, MAcc 2017)** and **Alex Underwood**, a current SoA dual-degree student scheduled to graduate this fall, have been selected as two of 58 fall sport recipients of the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship. Hamilton and Underwood are the 16th and 17th NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipients at the University of Denver in the last decade. Mattie White, chair of the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee explained, "These scholarships are reserved for student-athletes with distinguished college careers highlighted by outstanding achievements in academics, athletics, community service and leadership."



Alex Underwood has also been named the [2018 Summit League Men's Scholar-Athlete of the Year](#). The Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award is the most prestigious accolade The Summit League bestows each year.

The School of Accountancy is still seeking panelists for ACTG 2200 on October 17, 18 and 19 to expose introductory business students to how an accounting major prepares one to work outside of accounting, and is a great choice for those who have not yet decided what aspect of business they plan to pursue. If you are available to serve on the panel, please [register today](#).

Best,

*Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy*

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## Upcoming Events

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## HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?

Promotions, marriages, new babies, major moves, job changes? Let us know! We'll share the news with your alumni family in the Alumni Notes section of our next newsletter. Contact [kristen.dimig@du.edu](mailto:kristen.dimig@du.edu) with any updates.

## UPDATE CONTACT INFO

## Debate for State Treasurer



**Monday, Oct. 15, 2018**  
**6- 8 p.m.**  
**Reiman Theater | Margery Reed Hall**

**RSVP today!**

Please join us for an important debate between State Treasurer candidates Brian Watson (R) and Dave Young (D). Denver Auditor Timothy O'Brien, CPA, will serve as debate moderator. A light buffet dinner will follow the debate.

This event is sponsored by Truth in Accounting.



If you have a new email address, recently moved, changed employment, got married, or have any other information to update, please do so [here](#). Our alumni are our greatest assets so please keep us updated!

### ABOUT US

The School of Accountancy is one of the nation's oldest and most esteemed accounting programs, combining state-of-the-art learning with the personal touch of a small, motivated community to help our students get ahead. Our mission, as a part of a great private university dedicated to the public good, is to foster enlightened practice, professional achievement, knowledge creation and a commitment to the community. Our School's students, faculty and alumni work together to ensure that this mission is achieved by producing high quality, meaningful work that advances the field of accounting. As a result, our graduates are armed with the practical skills and



### THE DEBT FIXER

**RSVP today!**

**Monday, Oct. 29, 2018 | 4 - 5:45 p.m.**

## Sie Complex | 5th Floor Bring your laptop or tablet

As the U.S. approaches \$22 TRILLION in national debt, we must all know more about how to bring the national debt to more sustainable levels. Join the Committee for Responsible Federal Budget in an interactive exercise with THE DEBT FIXER.

Check out [daniels.du.edu/events](https://daniels.du.edu/events) for additional events.

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## Get to Know Your Network

### Meet Alumnus Bruce Gray (BSAcc 1984)

Gray grew up in various Southern California locations while his father was employed in the aerospace industry. By the time he had graduated from high school, he had already lived in six different houses. When Gray was six years old, he asked his parents for a piano. They weren't convinced he'd stick with it, so they got him a guitar instead. After two years of guitar



lessons, he asked again about the piano. "They admitted I had stuck with the guitar, so they got me a second-hand piano." He spent hours playing. After participating in the Centennial Towers Talent show and accompanying several acts during his freshman year at DU, Gray earned the nickname "Piano Man." Gray has been married to his wife, Marcia, for 33 years and they have adult three sons – Robert, Matthew and Andrew.

Gray's decision to major in accounting occurred during his junior year of high school. He had moved and switched high schools to one that had a higher number of credit hours required for graduation, so he had a couple of classes to make up. Because he was late registering, there were not a lot of choices, so he ended up in an Accounting class. "I found it interesting and actually worked ahead of the class and completed the text early." My accounting teacher set me up on independent study that continued through my senior year where I worked through a second text and did some special projects." As Gray was going through the process of deciding where to apply for school, he and his father attended a DU recruiting event in Los Angeles. "We learned about the attention being given to the business school at DU and I decided to apply as my first choice." Gray received early admittance and was encouraged to apply for a scholarship through the School of Accountancy. "I received an amount that covered a nice percentage of my first year tuition, so it was a pretty easy choice."

Gray credits the professors with being the best part of the School of Accountancy. "They really wanted to see students succeed and were available to provide guidance and support." Other aspects of his time at DU that were especially memorable include Friday night hockey games, crazy dorm life, involvement with theater productions and being part of the band for the Crimson & Gold Show Choir (including a trip to Mexico City).

The quality of the education that Gray received prepared him to be a lifelong learner. "I quickly learned that this profession is anything but static and if you can't continue to learn, you will be left behind. I think this is attributable to the amazing faculty and the quality of the School of

knowledge needed to thrive in today's business world.



Accountancy overall.”



Following graduation, Gray started out with a Big Eight firm in the audit department but over the course of his career worked for a smaller firm, a savings & loan organization, a publicly traded software development company and a non-profit residential care facility. “This broad background and my general restlessness led me to quit my day job and start a small solo practice. I later merged and de-merged with another firm and have been in my current practice since 2011.” Gray’s small firm is based in Claremont, California with three partners. “Our practice is heavily tax related but also some accounting and general consulting services.” He notes that the best part of being in a public practice is that every day is unpredictable. “While it is sometimes challenging to keep all the plates spinning, I like the variety of things that happen in any given day. I also love the flexibility that technology affords me. I have a practice based in

California, however, spend about nine months of the year living and working in Colorado.” Gray has enjoyed his nearly 20 years of leadership in the profession, serving both on local chapter boards and state-level positions with the California Society of CPAs. “It has been an amazing opportunity to meet and learn from true experts in the profession.”

A musician at heart, Gray enjoys opportunities to use his skills on the piano whenever he gets a chance. He also likes dabbling in technology and has written a number of articles for the California CPA magazine on technology issues. “I discovered quite by accident that I enjoy teaching and taught at a local community college for 14 years before moving back to Colorado.” Gray has also been very involved in his local church, serving in numerous leadership roles in areas as diverse as music ministry, managing finances and even preaching. “I like golf as a concept. I am terrible but I keep trying.” He also enjoys hiking and being in the mountains.

Gray plans to continue his practice for the next 10-12 years, gradually working with the younger staff at his firm to transition client responsibilities to them, providing them with growth opportunities at the firm. He hopes to do some teaching in the future, as well as continue to be involved in a variety of volunteer capacities. “Finally, I look forward to enjoying the wealth of activities available here in Colorado.”

### Alumni Notes

Congratulations to **Emily Montgomery (BSAcc, MAcc 2010)** on her August 25, 2018 wedding to Sean Matthews. The pair married in Santa Barbara. We wish you and Sean all the best!

**Steve Betts (BSAcc, MAcc 1986)** recently assumed the role of CFO of Merrick & Company. Congratulations on the new job, Steve!

### Job Opportunities and Professional Development

#### Alumni Career Studio

The Alumni Career Studio is open for business! Join professional career advisors and experienced alumni volunteers in an informal environment to receive feedback on your resume, cover letter or



LinkedIn profile that you can immediately apply. Staff will be available as participants to sit and work on their materials. To learn more and register, [click here](#).

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

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## Faculty Updates

**Assistant Professor Erin Nickell, PhD, CPA**, along with co-authors Kelsey Brasel of Ball State University and Linda Parsons of University of Alabama were notified that their paper, “The Effect of Fraud Risk Assessment Frequency and Fraud Inquiry Timing on Auditors’ Skeptical Judgments and Actions,” was accepted for publication in *Accounting Horizons*. The study finds that auditors make more skeptical fraud risk assessments when they are asked to direct skepticism inwards and reevaluate their own judgments and when they perform more timely fraud inquiries of operating-level personnel within an organization.

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## On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove



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School of Accountancy | Daniels College of Business | University of Denver  
2101 S. University Blvd. Suite 355  
Denver, CO 80208  
303.871.2424

University of Denver  
2199 S. University Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80208

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