

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2018

Director's Update

Please join us in welcoming Nathan "Nate" Waddoups, PhD, to the School of Accountancy faculty. Waddoups comes to the University after successfully defending his dissertation, "Altering Time: The Effect of Feedback Frequency on Employee Behavior," this past spring at the University of South Carolina (USC). While in his doctoral program, Waddoups taught Introductory Managerial Accounting to undergraduate students, which earned him the University of South Carolina's Outstanding Doctoral Student Teaching Award in 2015. Prior to his time at USC, Waddoups worked at Ernst & Young in their audit department and then in the technology sector where he gained hands-on experience with data analytics. Waddoups' work focuses on managerial accounting, economics, judgment and decision making, and how



management impacts employee behavior. He has a special interest in how performance feedback influences employees' work strategies. His research has been presented at various conferences and he is hoping to have several new publications this year, including his paper, "The Effect of Performance Feedback on Healthy Competition in the Workplace" (co-authored with USC doctoral candidate Paul Black, and USC faculty members Andrew Newman and Bryan Stikeleather). Apart from accounting, Waddoups enjoys hiking, paddle-boarding, college sports, and spending time with his wife Kimberlie and their four budding accountants.



Thank you to Assistant Professor Adam Greiner, PhD, CPA, and students Rachel Gustafson, Zach Fryer and Matthew Meyer for representing our Alpha Zeta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in August. Together the students presented, "Best Practices: How to Keep Members Active" at the conference.

The School of Accountancy is 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 interested in serving on the panel, please contact Kristen at kristen.dimig@du.edu.

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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 with any updates.

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

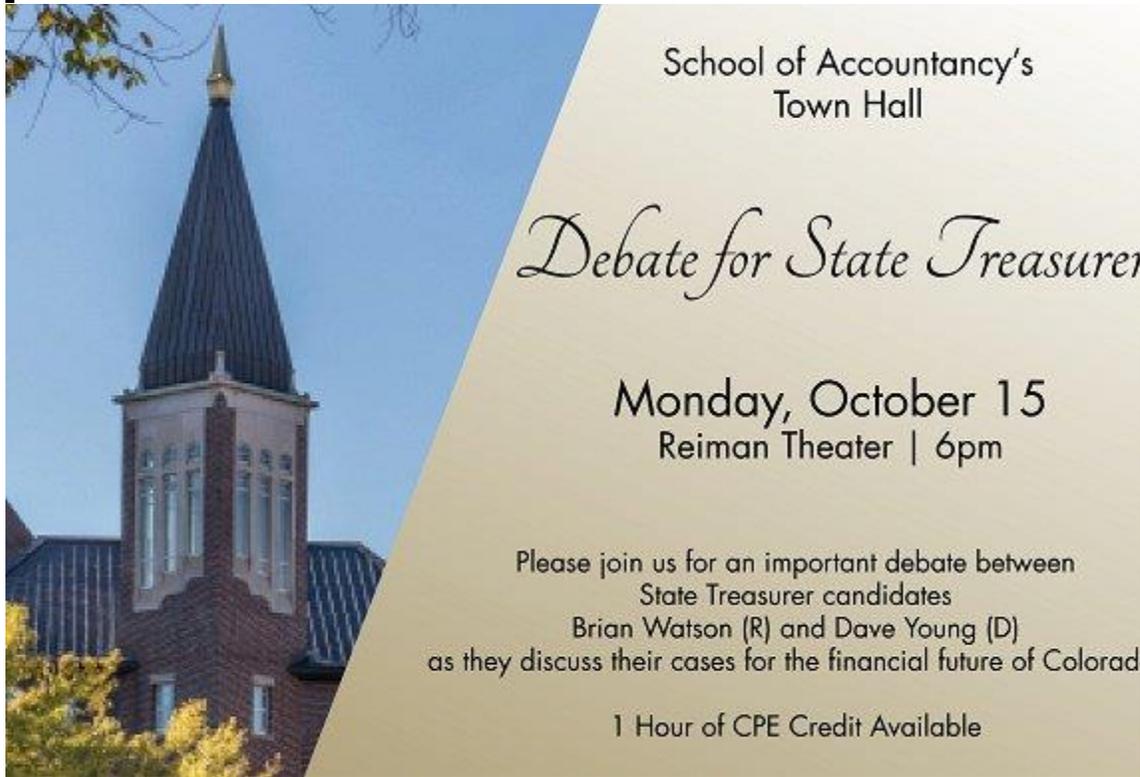
Best,

Sharon Lassar

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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Upcoming Events



School of Accountancy's
Town Hall

Debate for State Treasurer

Monday, October 15
Reiman Theater | 6pm

Please join us for an important debate between
State Treasurer candidates
Brian Watson (R) and Dave Young (D)
as they discuss their cases for the financial future of Colorado

1 Hour of CPE Credit Available

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 2018 Town Hall: *Debate for State Treasurer* will be moderated by Denver Auditor Tim O'Brien. Following the debate, please join us for a networking reception. This event is sponsored by Truth in Accounting.

[RSVP today!](#)

knowledge needed to thrive in today's business world.



All Call for Kickball!

Join the School of Accountancy for the annual Beta Alpha Psi Kickball Tournament. Choose to play and compete, or simply network and eat!

Friday, September 28, 2018

11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Campus Green, outside of Sturm Hall | University of Denver

[RSVP today](#)



Calling all mentors! Become an SoA alumni mentor.

Apply today to be a mentor in the School of Accountancy's Mentoring Program. Mentors work one-on-one with current undergraduate accounting students throughout their first year in the program as they complete the Core, apply for jobs, and figure out what accounting, the CPA, and the "real world" is all about. Please email [Kristen Dimig](mailto:Kristen.Dimig) for more information.

Check out daniels.du.edu/events for additional events.

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Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumnus Kane Spillar (BSACC, MACC 2018)

Kane Spillar is one of the School of Accountancy's most recent graduates and we welcome him to a vast and talented network of alumni.

Spillar was born in Seattle and lived there for about ten years until his family relocated to Texas. As a high school student in Austin, Spillar played the clarinet in the school's music program. He also played basketball and was a member of the local Boy Scout troop, earning his Eagle Scout award during his senior year.

Being a direct admit to Daniels College of Business when he began his college career, Spillar knew that he wanted to earn a degree in business but had no idea what his major would be. "In my sophomore year, I met with one of my advisors who said I had to make a choice between accounting and finance, because the deadline for the accounting program was approaching. At the time, I really did not like the finance class I was taking so I said 'what the heck, let's give accounting a try.' Three years and two degrees later, I am still happy with the choice!"



Spillar was impressed with the level of professionalism and quality of the SoA. He explains, "I always felt that there was something special about the SoA. Everyone involved contributed positively to the atmosphere. The professors were top notch, the students were of the highest caliber and the curriculum was challenging and engaging." Aside from the practical information presented in the program, Spillar appreciates that soft skills such as public speaking and presentation skills were emphasized and practiced.



These skills are being put to good work as Spillar began his career in audit at KPMG last month. "I am excited to start my professional career with a great firm here in the Denver area." Prior to this position, Spillar had the opportunity to work in a couple of internships while at DU. "I worked for KPMG during a winter busy season. Although the hours were long and the workload heavy at times, I loved the group of people I was working with and the material we were working on." He also had the opportunity to have an internship in public finance. "I worked on several debt issuances and was able to see a very different side of the business world."

Outside of work, Spillar loves the outdoors. He enjoys skiing, camping, fishing, hiking and biking. When not in the mountains, Spillar can be found playing volleyball and basketball. "The name of the game is staying active!"

As for the future, Spillar plans on bike tours and travel. "I would love to go to Japan and Argentina (not in the same trip)! Beyond that, I hope to have the opportunity to work

abroad."

Alumni Notes

Congratulations to **Danika Greiner, CPA (BSACC, MACC 2013)**, **Kristin Holthus, CPA (MACC, 2004)** and **Leslie Schaus, CPA (BBA 1985, MT 1992)**. Last month, the COCPA, in collaboration with the AICPA, honored the 2018 Women to Watch. Greiner, Manager in Accounting Advisory Services at KPMG LLP, and Holthus, Director of Finance and Operations at ACM LLP, were both honored with the Women to Watch Emerging Leader award. Schaus, Director at Stratagem, was honored with the Women to Watch Leader of Note award. **School of Accountancy Director and John J. Gilbert Professor Sharon Lassar, PhD, CPA**, was also awarded with the Women to Watch Leader of Note award and is pictured, at right, with all award winners. Lassar was nominated by Sheila Balzer, CPA (BSACC, MACC 1996). In her letter of nomination, Balzer writes, "[Lassar is] dedicated to and passionate about her work with and for accounting educators and students." Congratulations to all Women to Watch award winners! Interestingly, of the five women who were honored, four have connections to the School of Accountancy.



Mary-Margaret Henke (BSACC 1991), Senior Vice President, General Auditor, Western Union, was interviewed by the *Institute of Internal Audit* for the article, "Women at the Top." In it, Henke shares how she climbed the professional ladder to her current position, the challenges she faced and the three things to focus on for success. [Read the full article here.](#)

Every June, PwC's Health Research Institute projects the growth of medical costs in the employer insurance market for the coming year and identifies the leading factors expected to impact the trend. This year, **Ingrid Stiver (BSACC, MACC, 2009)**, Healthcare Thought Leader at PwC's Health Research Institute, was the lead researcher on "Medical Cost Trend: Behind the Numbers 2019." [Read the full report here.](#)

Job Opportunities and Professional Development

How to Work with a Jerk

Jerks can negatively impact the entire work environment. While we may not be able to change their behavior, we can respond appropriately.

September 20 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. | Sie Center Forum | [Registration required](#)

Big Dream Gathering

As creator of the #1 Huffington Post Podcast, "DREAM. THINK. DO," Mitch Matthews walks you through the process of putting an action plan towards your dreams and achieving the experiences in life you deserve.

September 26 | 6 - 8 p.m. | Sie Complex | [Registration required](#)

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

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Faculty Updates

Director, School of Accountancy and John J. Gilbert Professor Sharon Lassar, PhD, CPA, Associate Professor Lorenzo Patelli, PhD, Associate Professor Ryan Casey PhD, CPA, Assistant Professor Adam Greiner, PhD, CPA, and Assistant Professor Erin Nickell, PhD, CPA, attended the 2018 AAA annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on August 6-8.



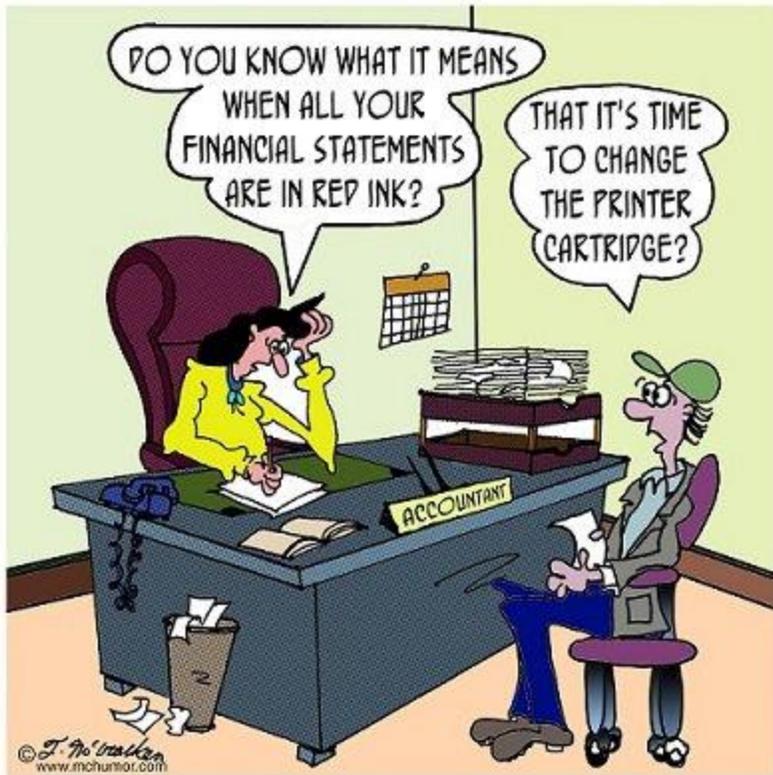
At the AAA annual meeting, **Patelli** presented his paper, "Behavioral Responses to Performance Measurement Diversity and Subjectivity in Individual Incentive Plans."

Associate Professor Lisa Victoravich, PhD, CPA, and co-authors William Buslepp and Jaren Delisle's paper, "Does Part II of the PCAOB Inspection Report Provide New Information to the Market? A Re- Examination of Prior Evidence," was accepted for publication by the *Managerial Auditing Journal*.

Over the summer, **Assistant Professor of the Practice Suzette Loving, CPA, CISA,** presented at the Accounting Information Systems AIS Educators Association conference in Denver. Her presentation was titled, "Developing a Data Analytics Mindset - A Roadmap for an Accounting Analytics Class." The AIS Educator Association (AISEA) is a non-profit organization of Accounting Information Systems professors formed in 1999.

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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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