

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2018

## Director's Update

We hit the ground running at the School of Accountancy, starting with the annual Winter Mixer in January, sponsored by our Alumni Engagement Council (AEC). The mixer brought together the School's alumni and faculty for a night celebrating connections and community. A sincere thank you to Brad McQueen, Jim Kimsey, Alicia Gelinas, Sharla Carlson (pictured, right), Julie Mensing, Professor Hugh Grove, DBA, CPA and Associate Professor Tony Holder, PhD, CPA for presenting at the mixer last month. Their engaging stories of their time at DU, life and career were enjoyed by all. If you would like more information on the AEC, please contact [Kristen Dimig](#).



## IN THIS ISSUE

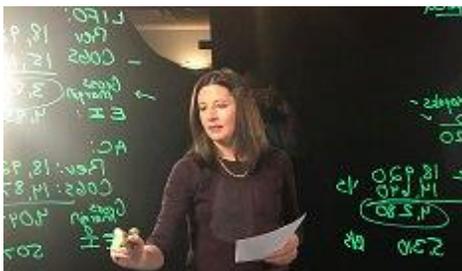
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## HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?

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

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!



Last month, Assistant Professor of the Practice Suzette Loving, CPA (pictured, left), traveled to the filming studios of 2U to record video content for a 10 week course in Financial Accounting for MBA students. This is part of the newly launched online MBA@Denver program. Students will take this course, most commonly, in their second quarter of the program. The first offering of this course will be in the Spring

quarter taught by Loving and SOA Teaching Associate Professor and Assistant Director Kathleen Davison, CPA. MBA students will also take ACTG 4660 Strategic Cost Management later in the program. This course is being created by Assistant Professor Kelsey Dworkis, PhD, CPA.

Our LEAD mentorship program continues to provide meaningful insights and connections for our students. The Winter cohort kicked off last month with 20 student protégés and 19 mentors. The next LEAD cohort will begin in the fall. If you are

interested in volunteering as a mentor, please keep an eye out for the announcement this summer or contact [kristen.dimig@du.edu](mailto:kristen.dimig@du.edu).

Best,



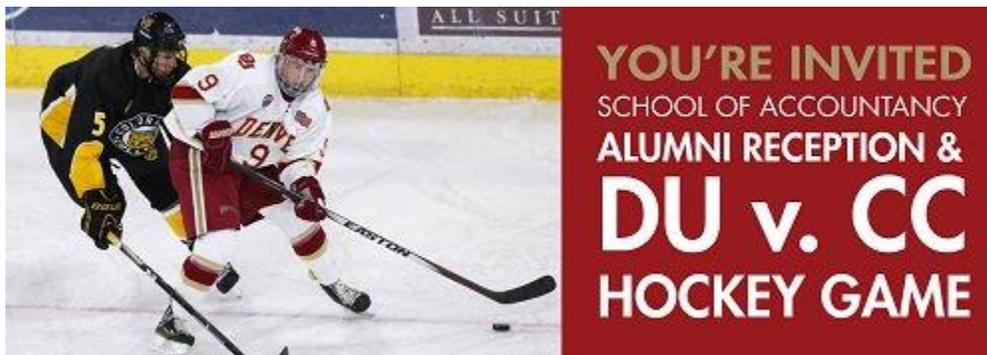
Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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## Upcoming Events

**School of Accountancy Alumni Reception and DU v. CC Hockey Game**  
**Saturday, February 17, 2018**  
**Reception: 6 p.m. | DU Ritchie Center, Studio D**  
**Hockey Game: 7:05 p.m. | Section 15**



Don't miss out on the DU v. CC alumni hockey reception and game! Catch up with fellow alums for a fun, casual dinner reception and cheer on your National Champion Pioneers as we take on our rivals from the double-attack side of the stadium. This event is expected to sell out, so [register today!](#)

**DU Young Professionals: Taxes A-Z**  
**February 28, 2018**  
**6:30 – 8 p.m. | Driscoll Student Center Gallery**



Tax reform was a big story in 2017 and raised abundant questions. What does this mean for you? Does it impact your 2017 return? How does it impact tax planning? Join DU Young Professionals and get comfortable with taxes. **Sharon Lassar, PhD, John J. Gilbert Professor and Director of the School of Accountancy**, and SOA

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## 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 knowledge needed to thrive in today's business world.



alumnus **Rich Byczkowski (BS 1978, MT 1991)** will share their expertise regarding:

- Overview of individual taxation for this filing season
- What has changed with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
- Overview of how businesses are taxed under the new laws
- Planning strategies and ways to shelter income from taxation

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how taxes and tax reform impact you. [Register here!](#)

**Women's Professional Alliance: Juggling Work and Family**  
**February 6, 2018 | 6:30 - 8p.m.**

Do you struggle balancing being an awesome mother and an amazing professional? If so, you aren't alone! Hear from DU alumna Gretchen Gagel (MBA '93), author of "8 Steps to Being a Great Working Mom" and learn tips to manage parenthood and a career. If you are a stay-at-home parent considering a return to the workforce, we can help you, too. Alumna Mia Elizardi (MA '08), DU's Performance and Career Development Consultant, will share best practices for re-entering the workforce, discussing your time out of the workforce in professional terms, and understanding how to better serve both your roles as parent and professional. Register [today!](#)

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

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## **Get to Know Your Network**

**Meet Alumnus Dustin Palmer (MBA 2009)**

Dustin Palmer is part of a shrinking percentage of the population who can call themselves Colorado natives. Born in Denver, he moved with his family to Portland, Oregon for a few years, but found his way back to Colorado at age 11. Palmer grew up in Greenwood Village and enjoyed all the outdoor activities that Colorado has to offer. The University of Denver is a family tradition for Palmer; both his mother and sister received degrees from DU.

Palmer studied Finance and Communications at Syracuse University prior to attending the Daniels College of Business. "I selected Daniels as a result of its reputation as a highly regarded graduate degree with an alumni network that spans the globe as well as a nationally ranked lacrosse program, which I was fortunate enough to join. I selected Accounting as I think it is an outstanding complement to Finance and provides you with a better understanding of businesses in their entirety."



Looking back, Palmer recalls several highlights of his time at Daniels. He thoroughly enjoyed riding his bike from Wash Park to campus, as well as the vibe around DU and the countless food options surrounding the University. Additionally, he appreciated the flexibility that was infused in the program, allowing him to play lacrosse and work part time. "I was surprised by the personal vesting in my career that the faculty at Daniels provided throughout my two years and beyond. My MBA from DU served as the catalyst for my career, opening doors that would have not been possible otherwise. The breadth and depth of knowledge I gathered during my two years is something that I continue to draw on through my professional career."

Palmer currently works for Deloitte in the Advisory practice. He has enjoyed just over eight years at the firm which has provided him with a wealth of incomparable experiences: a 16-month stint in Ireland, a portfolio of national clients, and endless learning and development opportunities. "I continue to enjoy working with our clients to discuss the mitigation and value behind risks in today's business environment.

Outside of work, "I still take advantage of the outdoor activities that make Colorado a worldly hot spot." He especially enjoys spending time with his wife who is expecting their first child, their dog, and family and friends scattered throughout Denver. Palmer is a dedicated member of the School of Accountancy Alumni Engagement Council and mentors an SOA student through the LEAD program. Looking forward, Palmer explains, "I am excited about the future of my family and look forward to continuing to live by the philosophy: 'you miss 100% of the shots you don't take.'"

## Alumni Notes

**Nick Girardi (BSACC, 2009)** was recently promoted to Senior Analyst, Investor Relations at Phillips 66. Congratulations on the new position, Nick!



## Job Opportunities

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

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## Faculty Updates

In January, 2018, **Associate Professor Ryan Casey, PhD, CPA** was awarded the *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory (AJPT)* Best Paper Award for: "Understanding and Contributing to the Enigma of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Assurance in the United States." *AJPT*: Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 97-130. The Auditing Section of the American Accounting Association established this award in 2012 to annually recognize a paper published in *AJPT* that has had a significant influence on, or the potential to significantly influence auditing research or practice. The assessment of what constitutes an outstanding contribution to auditing research is based on the following criteria: (1) a demonstrable or anticipated impact on audit research or practice, (2) the importance of the problem(s) addressed, (3) the creativity of the research and (4) the appropriateness of the theoretical development, research method, and analysis. The above picture features, from left to right, co-author Jonathan Grenier, PhD of Miami University, Jeffrey Cohen, PhD of Boston College and editor of *AJPT* and Casey.



**Assistant Professor Kelsey Kay Dworkis, PhD, CPA** was honored at the AAA Management Accounting Section Research and Case Conference luncheon last month. Dworkis' article, "It's All about All of Us: The Rise of Narcissism and Its Implications for Management Control System Research" which appeared in the *Journal of Management Research* 28(1), Spring 2016, pp. 39-55, was selected as the winner of the 2018 AAA Management Accounting Section Impact on Management Accounting Practice Award. The following testimonial from the selection panel's deliberations underlines that the article has indeed the potential for impact on business: *This is a very interesting article on a topical issue, providing a useful overview. A worthwhile awareness-raising piece for practitioners. And although one might argue that there is possibly more impact here from an HR perspective than a finance perspective, that is actually quite pertinent by itself because management accounting and control ought to operate across functional areas in organizations, combining the organizational and behavioral with the technical to establish effective management accounting and control practices.*

**Associate Professor Lisa Victoravich, PhD, CPA** has recently been notified that her paper "The Effects of Organizational Risk Appetite and Social Pressure on Aggressive Financial Reporting Behavior" was recently accepted to *Behavior Research in Accounting*. The paper was coauthored with Alisa Brink, PhD of Virginia Commonwealth University and Andrea Gouldman, PhD of Weber State University.

School of Accountancy **Associate Professor Lisa Victoravich, PhD, CPA** will serve as the Director of the Daniels Executive PhD Program in Business with the first cohort starting in Fall 2018. The program is delivered in a three-year blended format, which will allow working professionals to earn a doctorate while continuing their full-time career. The program will integrate career experience with a thorough education in quantitative analysis, qualitative analysis and mixed methods, teaching to find powerful, data-driven business insights. For more information about the program please visit: <https://daniels.du.edu/executive-phd>.

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## On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

### Just in time for Valentine's Day

Q: What do most people do on a date?

A: Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough. -- Lynnette, age 8

A: On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date. -- Martin, age 10

Q: When is it okay to kiss someone?

A: The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids. It's the thing to do. -- Howard, age 8

A: The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. -- Curt, age 7

Q: How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

A: You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. --Derrick, age 8

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