



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2018

Director's Update

The SOA is celebrating many accomplishments this month. Congratulations to the class of 2018! We wish you much success in your career and life beyond DU. You are always welcome on campus and we encourage you to stay connected and involved with us. If you would like more information on programs such as the Alumni Engagement Council or LEAD mentorship program, please contact our Alumni Relations Coordinator, [Kristen Dimig](#). Thanks to those who were able to attend the Spring Banquet where we honored Alumna of the Year Mary-Margaret Henke (pictured, at right) and Young Alumnus of the Year Andrew Rosenthaler. Additional photos from the event are on our [Facebook page](#).



Graduating this year, Amanda Lea Kendall and Taylor Murphy, (pictured at left), were honored at The Pioneer Awards Ceremony. Taylor won the Margery Reed Service Award for his



outstanding commitment to Daniels programs. Amanda was one of ten DU students who were awarded the prestigious Pioneer Award and was chosen for her exemplary dedication and contributions to, and on behalf of, the University. Amanda was also nominated for the Outstanding Senior Award.

Congratulations also to SOA student Taylor Blagg, who received a scholarship awarded by the Colorado chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. We are thrilled to see our amazing students recognized!

IN THIS ISSUE

[Director's Update](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Get to Know Your Network](#)

[Faculty Updates](#)

[On the Lighter Side](#)

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

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!

Professor Hugh Grove, DBA, CPA will retire this June. He joined the College after receiving his doctorate from the University of Southern California in 1975. Previously, Grove served as a visiting professor for the University of Colorado and Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, and as assistant professor for California State Polytechnic University. During his career, he and his co-authors published countless papers, making a significant impact on the accounting field. In addition to updates on his publications, Grove contributes to each alumni newsletter by way of the humor section. Not to worry, he has supplied content to last the next several years. In retirement, Grove, pictured at right with his wife Nancy, and SOA Director Sharon Lassar, will continue his work at local hospitals as part of a certified pet therapy team with his dog, Bearje. We wish Hugh and Nancy all the best in retirement!



Best,

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Upcoming Events

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.



Save the Date

7th Annual School of Accountancy

WELCOME BACK RECEPTION & KED & Professor Tripp's birthday

Sunday, September 9, 2018



September 9, 2018 | 5 - 7 p.m. | Marcus Commons

Join returning students, faculty and SOA alumni for heavy hors d'oeuvres and a hosted bar. Event registration will begin in August. Don't miss out!

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumnus Michael Villegas (BSACC 2008, MT 2009)

Michael Villegas was born in Denver, but moved to the old west town of El Paso, Texas, when he was a toddler. Looking back, he is especially fond of his childhood summers. "I remember being outside from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., either riding bikes with my friends, playing baseball or tennis or going to the swimming pool to beat the summer heat, which was consistently over 105 degrees." Spending so much time in the pool paid off. Villegas went on to be a member of DU's Division I Swim Team.



While still in high school, Villegas took an accounting class and it just clicked. "The T Accounts made sense to me." When he received his acceptance letter to DU, he knew that he wanted to attend the business school, but was debating between a finance or accounting degree. Villegas explains, "In the end, I saw the light. I figured that if I wanted to work in business, accounting was the best route." He remembers something that Professor Honodel once said: "An accountant can do marketing but a marketer cannot do accounting."

Villegas describes the comradery of the SOA as the highlight of the program. "I met two of my best friends in the SOA, one was the best man and the other was a groomsman at my wedding." Villegas lists studying abroad in Madrid and living in the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity house as additional highlights of his college experience.



Currently, Villegas is a Vice President in the Tax Services Group at Partners Group, a private equity firm headquartered in Zug, Switzerland (the U.S. headquarters are located in Denver). "I work on the investment tax side, where I lead the tax due diligence and structuring efforts evaluation of potential investments." Prior to Partners Group, Villegas worked at Great West Financial

where he led the Tax Planning and Audit team. He began his career at EKS&H LLLP, in their international tax group.

"The education I received from the SOA has greatly benefited my career. Most importantly, the SOA taught me to be resourceful and creative. Aside from the debits

and credits, I believe the SOA taught me to be strategic. Especially in today's environment where automation and robotics are ever increasing, accountants need to be more strategic in their day to day and ensure they are bringing value to the table.”

Villegas loves to spend time with his wife, Kate, and their daughter, Annabel, who will turn two this summer. Additionally, he enjoys playing golf, working in the garden, going on bike rides, and has recently gotten into cooking. Villegas is an active member of the School of Accountancy Alumni Engagement Council.

Job Opportunities and Professional Development

HireDenver Alumni Only Career Fair

HIREDENVER 2018 offers job seekers the ultimate opportunity of finding their next career. Whether you're looking for a new career in accounting, consulting, education, engineering, finance, healthcare, government or nonprofit, investment banking, marketing, media, sales or technology, you will find a myriad of opportunities at the fair.

Thursday, June 14, 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. [RSVP today!](#)

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

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Faculty Updates

Assistant Professor Erin Nickell, PhD, CPA was awarded a grant from DU's Faculty Research Fund to support a project she is researching with co-author Assistant Professor Tyler Williams of Bentley University titled "Star Quality: An Examination of a Potential Rating System for Individual Audit Partner Quality and the Related Impact to Investor Decision Making." Following the recent PCAOB requirement stating that the engagement partner on public company audits be publicly identified, Nickell and Williams plan to consider the implications if data surrounding audit partner characteristics, such as their knowledge, expertise, association with restatements, etc., were aggregated into a Yelp-like rating system and made available to investors.

Assistant Professor Adam Greiner, PhD, CPA attended the 2018 AAA Western Region meeting in Vancouver, Washington on April 13-14. He served as a discussant on two research papers: "The Effect of Real Earnings Management on the Persistence and Informativeness of Earnings," and "Are Fair Value Options Created Equal? A Study of SFAS 159 and Earnings Volatility."

Assistant Professor Philipp Schaberl, PhD, along with Reiman School of Finance's Professor Jack Strauss and Assistant Professor Andrew Detzel's paper entitled "Expected vs. Ex-Post Returns in the Cross-Section of Industry Returns" has been accepted for publication in *Financial Management*.

Assistant Professor of the Practice Tom Hall, CPA was quoted in an article about the importance of accounting students developing communication skills in the March 2018 edition of the AICPA newsletter. Read the entire article [here](#).

[\[Return to top\]](#)

On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

A RETIREE'S TRIP TO COSTCO

Yesterday, I was at Costco buying a large bag of Purina dog chow for my loyal pet, Necco, the Wonder Dog, who weighs 191 pounds. I was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog.

What did she think-- I had an elephant?

Because I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog. I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is to load your jacket pockets with Purina nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story).

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food had poisoned me. I told her no. I stopped to pee on a fire hydrant and a car hit me.

I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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

To manage your email preferences, [click here](#)