



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
School of Accountancy



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2017

## Director's Update

In August, the School of Accountancy hosted the fourth annual Colorado Accounting Research Symposium (CARS) which brings together accounting professionals from schools along the Front Range (including Wyoming) to share their research and connect with their colleagues. CARS



was started in 2014 by SOA Assistant Professor Philipp Schaberl, PhD, CPA. Since its inception, CARS has hosted over 100 scholars at the University of Denver. Schaberl created CARS with the intention of making this conference a place that could garner feedback on papers, establish connections and potentially form partnerships that could lead to collaboration on future research. This year, Victoria Dickinson, PhD from The University of Mississippi served as the guest lecturer and presented "Leaders vs Laggards: Operating and Market Performance Using a New Measure Based on Life Cycle." Additionally, new SOA faculty member Anthony Holder, PhD, CPA presented his paper "Is Audit Quality Associated with Big Data Risk?" This outstanding program is impactful because it is intended for faculty and showcases the prominent research that is being conducted in the Front Range. The School of Accountancy was thrilled to host another successful symposium and looks forward to the exciting research that will be presented next year at CARS.

Best,

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

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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!

## Upcoming Events



**SOA Town Hall, October 9, 2017**  
***"It's All about All of Us: The Rise of Global Narcissism in the Work Place"***  
**6 - 8 p.m. | Reiman Theater, Margery Reed Hall**  
**1 HOUR CPE CREDIT AVAILABLE**

Our featured speaker is Kelsey Kay Dworkis, PhD, CPA, School of Accountancy Assistant Professor, whose research interests include the effects of narcissism on business decisions and outcomes. [Register today!](#)

**"Navigating Emotions at the Workplace"**  
**A Two-Hour Workshop with Julia Zhu Meade, Career and Leadership Coach**  
**November 7, 2017 | 6 - 8 PM | Buffet Dinner**  
**2 HOURS CPE CREDIT AVAILABLE**

Whether we are aware of it or not, our emotions determine how we show up at work and what results we produce in our interactions with colleagues and clients. Often the ability to navigate the emotional range can make or break one's career. This workshop is designed to help you recognize some common emotions in yourself and others, as well as the narratives behind them. You will also walk away with some practical tools to shift out of negative emotions into positive and life-serving emotions. This workshop is brought to you by the School of Accountancy Alumni Engagement Council. Please [register today!](#)

**School of Accountancy Alumni Reception and DU v. CC Hockey Game**  
**Friday, December 8, 2017**  
**Reception: 6 p.m. | DU Ritchie Center, North Concourse**



It's time to register for our fall DU v. CC alumni hockey reception! Revisit your alma mater, catch up with other alums and cheer on the Pioneers as we take on our rivals. This event is expected to sell out, so [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

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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.



## Meet Alumnus James "Jim" Tripp (BS, MACC 2009; MT 2010)

Jim Tripp is a Colorado native and grew up with his two brothers, Johnny and Joe, in unincorporated Arapahoe County, now Centennial. He generally just tells people he is from Denver. Growing up in Colorado, Tripp was able to take advantage of the mountains, spending many Saturdays skiing in the winters, and weekends hiking in the summers. One of Tripp's proudest accomplishments of his youth was becoming an Eagle Scout. When Tripp was 16 years old, he was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, an event that would change his outlook on life as well as his journey through it.



The University of Denver has always been a big part of Tripp's life. His father is Professor John Tripp, PhD, CPA, who introduced many SOA alumni to the wonderful world of tax. Tripp's earliest memory of DU is going to cheer on DU Hockey at the old fieldhouse. He began his own journey at DU across Illiff Avenue at Olin Hall where he earned a BS in molecular biology.

Tripp decided to take advantage of DU's 3/2-4/1 program and tag on a business degree to his science degree. During his senior year, he was doing research for his senior thesis when he realized that the lab life was not for him. Finding that he enjoyed the puzzles and problem solving that accounting presented, as well as the social aspect of a career in public accounting, he turned his attention fully to Daniels. At first, Tripp thought audit was surely the path for him, but after an audit internship and the completion of the tax classes at the SOA, he realized that tax was what really resonated with him. He completed his MACC and one day later found himself in the classroom for the sixth year in a row as part of the Graduate Tax Program, where he would go on to earn an MT.



The highlights of Tripp's career at DU were the professors and the students. Tripp enjoyed each challenge he was presented and continuously sought new ones. "The professors at the SOA did not go easy on me and I appreciated and respected their approach." One of the more challenging experiences for Jim was being a student in Professor Tripp's class, which was his only option in order to graduate on time. "I was a bit nervous the first day of class, but once the gorilla in the room was addressed, it became just like any other class with any other professor." Tripp especially enjoyed his regular meetings with KED, who kept his schedule on track as he presented a unique challenge by taking both biology and accounting classes at the same time. "I'll never live down saying 'MAcc' at the hooding ceremony as opposed to following KED's instructions." Tripp

also enjoyed participating in Beta Alpha Psi, where he was the treasurer for two years in a row and is proud to say that the books were balanced at the end of his terms. VITA also provided one of his first hands on experiences in tax.

Tripp is now a state and local tax manager at Deloitte, where he has been since graduating from the Graduate Tax Program at DU. He is currently doing a rotation with Deloitte's National Multistate Tax Services group doing consulting on refund claims and restructuring with clients across the country. "I am constantly learning and developing new skills not only in tax but also in management, marketing, communication and presentation skills." He enjoys mentoring and teaching colleagues of all levels. Deloitte has given Tripp the opportunity to travel to India three times (twice for 10 weeks each) which has broadened his world view not only in business but culturally and personally. "I found that there are more opportunities available than one could ever know and that just asking a question or stepping through an open door can lead to experiences never dreamed of." Though it sounds cliché, it truly is the people that have led Tripp to stay at Deloitte all these years. "The relationships I have had the opportunity to build during my career have been so rewarding, not only from a professional perspective but also in life in general."

Outside of work, Tripp loves to golf and is an avid reader. He still hits the slopes and enjoys a good hike whether it is summiting a 14er or just around downtown Denver. Tripp can be found every Friday night at the DU hockey game cheering on the Pioneers. He



and his father traveled to Chicago this past spring for the NCAA Frozen Four and could not have been happier with the outcome, cheering so much that weekend they couldn't speak for days afterward.

Tripp is passionate about supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), having captained a team for the annual walk the past several years. His team, *Tripp towards a Cure*, has raised nearly \$30,000 for JDRF thanks to the support of his friends and colleagues which include many from the SOA. He has been invited to join the Corporate Development Committee for JDRF and has high hopes of bringing even more funds to this important research.

As for what is next for Tripp: "I don't really have plans for the future. As long as I am learning every day, am challenged on a regular basis and respect the people I work with, I'm happy."

### Alumni Notes

Congratulations to **Ben Hrouda (BSACC, MACC, 2001)** on the launch of a new investment platform! Flywheel Capital is a privately held real estate investment company with a focus on creating value by sourcing and managing value add and stabilized commercial real estate assets across multiple property types. Hrouda serves as the Managing Partner at Flywheel Capital.



### Job Opportunities

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

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### Faculty Updates

Lorenzo Patelli, PhD was invited to serve on the Editorial Board of *Advances in Management Accounting*, which publishes thought-provoking articles that advance knowledge in the management accounting discipline and are of interest to both academics and practitioners.

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## On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

Q: What does an accountant say when boarding a train?

A: Mind the GAAP.

Q: What does CPA stand for?

A: Couldn't Pass Again

Q: What is the definition of a good tax accountant?

A: Someone who has a loophole named after him.

Q: Why are accountants always so calm, composed, and methodical?

A: They have strong internal controls.

Q: There are just two rules for creating a successful accountancy business:

A: 1. Don't tell them everything you know. 2. [Redacted]

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