



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
School of Accountancy

School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | June 2019



Director's Update

The SoA is celebrating many accomplishments this month. Congratulations to the class of 2019! We wish you much success in your career and life beyond DU. We encourage you to stay connected and we would love to see you involved back on campus. If you would like information on programs such as the Alumni Engagement Council or SoA mentoring program, please contact our alumni relations coordinator, [Kristen Dimig](#).

Thanks to those who were able to attend the Spring Banquet where we honored Alumnus of the Year Krishen Mehta and Young Alumnus of the Year Andrew Rosenthaler. Additional photos from the event are on our [Facebook page](#).



During Mehta's comments to the audience, he explained that Normal Cousins, the speaker at his graduation ceremony in 1972, imparted four guiding principles. Mehta reminds himself daily of Cousins' advice as it set his moral compass over the past 47 years:

1. *Realize the precariousness and preciousness of human life.*
2. *Never deny an outstretched hand.*
3. *Man's ingenuity lies in doing that which has never been done before.*
4. *We never know enough to be pessimistic.*



After four decades at the School of Accountancy, Professor John Tripp, PhD, CPA will retire this spring, leaving a lasting legacy. To commemorate his retirement a small group of very generous alumni established the Dr. John Tripp Endowed Scholarship Fund. Last month, alumni, family members, friends and colleagues gathered for a festive retirement celebration in Tripp's honor.



Congratulations to Assistant Professor of the Practice Suzette Loving, CPA, CISA on winning the Daniels Award for Excellence for Faculty (pictured above, center, with Assistant Director & Teaching Professor KED Davisson, CPA and Associate Professor Ryan Casey, PhD, CPA). We are so proud of all your hard work and are lucky to have you in the SoA!



Last month at a Beta Alpha Psi meeting, the Alumni Engagement Council's Student Engagement Committee hosted a fun and fascinating panel discussion on data analytics with representation from big four audit (**Seth Sauer, MS 2018**),

analytics and robotics development (Gage Crispe, BSAcc, MAcc 2016), and government (Robert Persichitte), facilitated by Lauren Bell (BSAcc, MAcc 2014). Each of the panelists brought a unique perspective on current uses of data analytics, how an accounting background fits into interpretation and presentation of data and the future of analytics in accounting.

We appreciate how much our alumni contributed last month and are looking forward to spring Commencement.

Best,



Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

Upcoming Events



SoA Alumni Happy Hour *Class Reunion for those who graduated 2012-2019*

June 26 | 5-8 p.m.
Tuscan Patio | Joy Burns Center
\$15 per person (guests welcome)

[Learn More & Register today](#)

Brought to you by the Alumni Engagement Council



SAVE THE DATE *SoA Welcome Back Reception*

September 8 | 5-7 p.m.
Marcus Commons | DCB



SAVE THE DATE

Beta Alpha Psi Kickball Tournament

Alumni: Choose to play and compete or simply network and eat!

September 27 | 11:30 a.m. -2 p.m.
Location TBD

Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumnus Ruslan Garrey (BSAcc 2012)



Ruslan Garrey's family moved to Colorado from Russia when he was 6 and they settled in Boulder and Loveland. He spent a lot of time in club swimming as he grew up, and eventually was the captain of the Loveland High School swim team. "I spent my summers working outdoors at the Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps, building and repairing trails, and camping in Rocky Mountain National Park," he said. "I also spent a few hours each Sunday

volunteering at a Siberian husky rescue—one of the dogs I started out fostering is still living with me in Germany!"

As a teenager, Garrey assumed he would go into STEM because his parents were both chemists. He completed a business-oriented summer program at a university during high school where he met representatives from public accounting. "I instantly liked their energy—I felt they were the sort of people I would want to work with. I was also intrigued by how many different doors accounting opened. From then on, I knew I wanted to go to DU because it was clearly the best program in the area," he said.

When asked about highlights from his time at DU, Garrey explains, "More than anything, I enjoyed how the program challenged us. Going through the core together forged everyone into a collective where we all knew each other well and were sure we could rely on one another in and out of the classroom. The abilities we learned, both technical and soft skills (like concise writing and presentation ability), are a testament to the program's excellence." Outside of the rigors of class, spending evenings at Jordan's decompressing was an important catalyst in building bonds with Garrey's cohort.



Garrey began his career after DU at a green-energy tech startup in downtown Denver. "The atmosphere was very informal—the type of place you can play foosball with the president at lunch," Garrey said. "After attaining the position of controller, he realized that there was not a lot of opportunity to grow once he was working directly for the founder.

It was then that Garrey learned about the Air Force Medical Service Corps (MSC). "The opportunities for growth, leadership and travel all played into my decision to commission as an officer in the Air Force," Garrey said. "MSC officers rotate through various administrative functions in military hospitals, and the diverse jobs they may fill intrigued Garrey—everything from finance to logistics, facility management, coordinating aeromedical evacuation, contingency/wartime planning, IT and patient administration. "After completing officer training school, I worked in resource management and

finance in the hospital at Travis Air Force Base outside of San Francisco,” he said.

Next, Garrey was stationed in Altus Oklahoma, a training base for transport and refueling aircraft. At the clinic, he was thrust into the role of commanding the resource management section, along with the readiness/training section, as a fairly new lieutenant. “This was a big learning and growing point for me, both in terms of leadership, as well as scope. For the first time, I was not only dealing with finances and human resources, but now I was overseeing the planning and execution of exercises, as well as leading the clinic’s deployment operations,” Garrey said. “Supervising over a dozen military and civilian personnel and a multimillion-dollar budget was a heavy load to get used to only a couple years out of DU, but I managed to grow into it.”

Garrey’s next assignment was in South Korea at Kunsan Air Base. “Wearing chemical protective gear and body armor, weapons training and loading stretchers onto helicopters is not typically what one expects to do when they enter the accounting career field, but that is just where I found myself,” he said. In this assignment, he was again in charge of readiness, but in South Korea this meant readiness for not just aircraft emergencies, but also sudden war. “Every two months we would spend a week exercising with 12-hour shifts in heavy gear, repelling attacks and making sure the jets could be recovered to do their mission.” Several months into the assignment, Garrey’s squadron experienced a sudden reorganization, and he was also put in charge of the CFO and CIO functions. “Again, this pushed my limits, but the long hours made me grow. I was the medical representative in the base’s emergency operations center, leading the response to simulated threats like North Korean special operations forces incursions and missile attacks, along with real-world emergencies like a downed aircraft, a fatal rollover, a deadly hydrazine spill, heatwaves with dozens of casualties, power outages and waterline breaks.”

During this time, Garrey was also the medical controller in an international exercise, where he oversaw the medical operations supporting 25,000 U.S., South Korean and NATO troops preparing for wartime procedures, tabulating the casualties of war and ensuring the allies had the resources to care for them. “At the closing ceremonies, Korean General Park Chan Ju singled me out as one of the American soldiers to receive a special gift—his coin and a watch—all in the pomp and circumstance of a military band and parade.”



Currently, Garrey is the CIO of the medical facility at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany. He leads the IT and HR functions of the hospital as the Department of Defense implements several major modernization efforts, which has been both challenging and exciting. “Though this is another surprising shift in my career, I am thankful that being an MSC has allowed me to gain such a breadth of professional experiences,” Garrey said. “I had the chance to work on international engagements with Albania and Chile (where I got to put to use the Spanish minor I earned at DU) and gain a better understanding of how our international partners operate. It also gave me the chance to attend the top MBA program in Germany on the weekends, which was a great way to network internationally.”

Garrey credits mentors Dr. Lassar, KED and Professor Honodel for making the biggest impact on him. “The first two always had time to talk with me one on one and give me career guidance and make sure that I was on the right track for what I wanted to do. Professor Honodel really pushed me and I initially struggled in his class, but after spending time with him, I feel like the type of work I can produce and pressure I can take is owed in large part to him. I did not realize until after I graduated that he was an Air Force retiree, but in retrospect it made perfect sense that meshed so well. The School of Accountancy benefited Garrey’s career by providing a solid accounting foundation, he said. “Understanding how money flows is important in every job—whether I was in the public sector, working as a CIO or making sure that a clinic has the right equipment to execute the wartime or contingency response mission. There is a surprising amount of carryover between balancing ledgers and balancing casualty triage counts, and coordinating office function and coordinating emergency response between firefighters, medics and security forces.”



Outside of his career, Garrey loves to read and write, and took as many literature/creative writing classes as he could at DU. While stationed in Oklahoma, he started a writers' workshop in the town, and participated in the writers' community in Oklahoma City. "I've been published in a few journals, and I hope that now that I'm done with my MBA, I'll be able to be more active in my writing and have more time to trail-run through the German forests with my wife and my dogs!"

Recently, Garrey was selected as a medical readiness plans fellow at U.S. Air Forces Europe headquarters in Ramstein, Germany, with a follow-on assignment as a readiness planner at the same location. He is very excited to be staying in Germany, working in an operational role that will allow him to be the medic at table when war plans are designed for the European theater, and to ensure that medical forces are ready to respond to any contingency in terms of training and resources. "Long term, I may either stay in the Air Force until retirement, or look to the World Health Organization or the Foreign Service to leverage my financial knowhow and knowledge of sustaining medical operations in contingencies."

Job Opportunities and Professional Development

The Daniels College of Business invites applications for a full-time assistant teaching professor in the School of Accountancy starting September 1, 2019. More information and application instructions are available [here](#).

The Office of Alumni Career and Professional Development is proud to partner with **HireDenver 2019**, an Alumni and Graduate Student Career Fair offering job seekers the ultimate opportunity to find their next career. Learn more and register [here](#)!

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

Faculty Updates

Congratulations to Associate Professor Anthony Holder, PhD, CPA who recently learned that his paper was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Business Finance & Accounting*. Forthcoming: Chichernea, Doina C., Anthony D. Holder, and Alex Petkevich. "Decomposing the accrual premium: The evidence from two markets?"

Assistant Professor Adam Greiner, PhD, CPA was elected the 2019-20 secretary and treasurer for the Financial Accounting Reporting section of the American Accounting Association.

HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?

Promotions, marriages, new babies, major moves, job changes or awards? Let us know! We'll share the news with your alumni family in the alumni notes section of the newsletter.

Email kristen.dimig@du.edu with any updates.



UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a new email address, recently moved, changed employment, got married or have other information to update, please do so [here](#).

On the Lighter Side - Humor from the Grove



[View in browser](#)



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

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