



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
School of Accountancy

School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | March 2020



Director's Update

Last month, the Alumni Engagement Council's student engagement committee hosted a very successful *Technology in Accounting* panel for more than 200 undergraduate business students and accounting majors. Panelists discussed how their accounting degree enabled them to pursue areas of emerging technology.



Special thanks to SoA Assistant Professor **Adam Booker, PhD**; Principal of US West Cybersecurity Risk Leader in Advisory Services at EY **Matthew Randolph (BSAcc, MAcc 1999)**; Senior Crypto Custody Specialist at Salt Lending **Sara Haveman (MAcc 2016)**; Digital Accelerator Manager at PwC **Steven Li (MAcc 2013)** for participating as panelists and to Managing Director of Risk and Financial Advisory at Deloitte **Rhonda Willert (MAcc 2005)** for moderating.

The SoA is proud to offer a mentoring program to undergraduate students. This year, 21 accounting students chose to participate in the program and work one-on-one with an alumni mentor as they navigate the CORE, apply for jobs and figure out what accounting, the CPA and the "real world" is all about.



We held a kick-off for the winter mentoring cohort at the start of the quarter where alumni mentors and student proteges met for the first time. Matches were made based on the students' career goals and interests and mentors' areas of expertise.

Best,

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

Upcoming Events



Volunteer with VITA

Beta Alpha Psi's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is seeking professional volunteers to assist with the 2020 filing season. Sessions will be held Fridays and Saturdays through April 10.

Questions? Please email vita.dubap@gmail.com

[Volunteer](#)



The University of Denver warmly welcomes you back to campus for Alumni Weekend 2020, featuring the inauguration of Chancellor Jeremy Haefner. We have events that highlight the very best of Denver and DU, from food trucks that define modern dining to renowned speakers that inspire universally.

[View the lineup and get tickets](#)

Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumna Sara Haveman (MAcc 2016)



Why did you decide to receive your degree from the School of Accountancy? Were there any particular experiences that triggered your interest in accounting or an influence in your life that led you this way?

I decided to go into accounting because of my parents. They are both immigrants from Poland, who started a construction company when they first immigrated to Canada (where I was born). At a very young age, I was exposed to the complexities of running a small business and frequently helped my mother with office and financial tasks, especially once I reached my teens. During this time, I realized that I really enjoyed the organization and financial aspect, and I knew I wanted to study business once I went to University. After completing my first accounting class, I knew that was where my interest lay, as it was in-line with what I enjoyed about helping my parents with their business.

My first job after completing my undergraduate degree led me to want to go to the University of Denver to pursue a MAcc degree. That first job was at a small accounting firm doing both audit and tax for small businesses and not-for-profits. I had been good at both subjects in school, so I figured I would enjoy doing both. I quickly realized that was not the case and that I was not a huge fan of tax in practice. However, I really enjoyed the auditing aspect of my job. I decided to apply to the School of Accountancy at DU because I wanted to focus on auditing and they had a world-class program in auditing.

with a focus on information technology - a topic that I have enjoyed since high school.



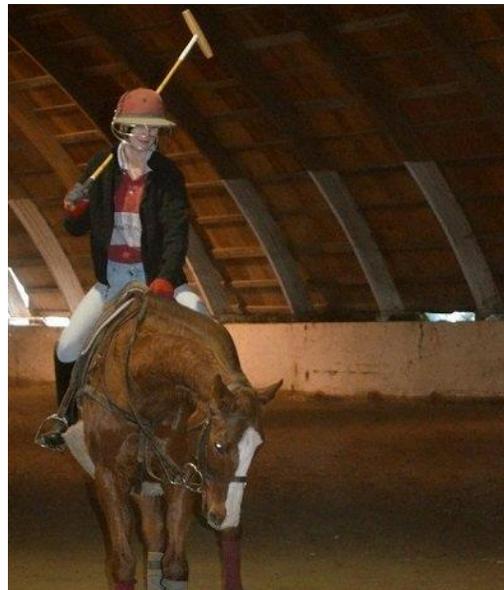
What did you enjoy most about getting your degree from the School of Accountancy? Any highlights of your college career you'd like to share?

I really enjoyed the diverse range of classes I was able to take. I wanted to specialize in technology and I was given the opportunity to take classes beyond traditional accounting. I was able to take business intelligence classes and analytics classes that I was not able to experience in my undergraduate degree. These classes introduced various technological tools, such as Python and Splunk, which I use at my current job.

How has your education from the School of Accountancy benefited you in your career?

Focusing on technology throughout the MAcc program has benefited my career through implementing and understanding different technologies, especially in new innovations like blockchains and cryptocurrencies. When applying to my current position, they wanted someone who had a focus in operations and could keep themselves organized in a chaotic environment and implement controls for risk mitigation. This made the audit background a perfect fit for the role. However, to succeed in this role, there had to be an ability to understand a new and complex technology as well as work with engineers and speak their language. The introduction and tools that I used at

DU really helped with being able to bridge this gap between the financial world and the technology world for me.



Tell us about your career. What led you to your current point? What do you find enjoyable, rewarding, and/or interesting about your professional life?

I started out my career at a small accounting firm doing both audit and tax. After I left this job to complete the MAcc degree at the University of Denver, I ended up getting recruited for an audit position at Deloitte. I spent almost two years at Deloitte working primarily with clients in the financial services industry. I felt a little out of place and I had the desire to leave for a technology company after my second busy season. While job hunting, I stumbled upon my current position at SALT Lending. The position was listed as blockchain transaction processor/auditor and I must admit, it was one of the most unusual job titles postings I have ever seen. They were looking for someone with almost exactly my background - an accounting degree, CPA, big four audit experience - but they also wanted that person to have a focus on technology and innovation. I applied, interviewed, got the job, and have been there since. The position is far different than what it was when I was hired, and it's been very rewarding to be a part of that evolution.

The thing I find most rewarding in my current position is having a job that is really lined up with the goals I have as a professional. I have always wanted to have more of a technological focus in my roles, and I achieve that at my current job daily. I am also able to perform tasks at work that directly affect the operations of the company and work in tandem with other functions, which makes coming into work everyday an absolute pleasure for me.



What do you enjoy doing? Hobbies? Interests?

Oh boy, where do I even start with hobbies and interests? I enjoy scuba diving, traveling, camping, hiking, skiing, snowboarding, and motorcycle riding to begin. The one I have the biggest passion for and have been doing the longest is horseback riding. I have owned a rescue mare named Moxxi for over five years and have done a variety of different types of riding - including horse polo! On weekends and weeknights, I enjoy going to metal concerts and shamelessly play dungeons and dragons (and other tabletop games) with my friends.

What are your plans for the future?

For the future, I really want to stay in the crypto and blockchain industry. I find the work very enjoyable and I can see it getting more interesting as time goes on. I love my current job and the people that I get to work with, so I hope to continue expanding my knowledge and experience in the industry. In addition, I would like to run a small real estate company on the side. My husband and I currently own a short-term rental in the mountains in Colorado and are really enjoying managing that in our spare time. We would like to continue managing our current rental and hopefully expand to a few more. I really look forward to all the diverse experiences to come!

Alumni Notes



Congratulations to **Winston Wong (BSAcc, MAcc 2013)** and Kailie Shiba who were married in Hawaii last month. All the best to you!

Job Opportunities and Professional Development

FirstBank is currently seeking a Lead Auditor at the Lakewood, Colorado headquarters. For a detailed job description, please see the [posting](#).

J.A. Green Development LLC is seeking a controller in their Aurora, Colorado office. For more information, please see the [posting](#). Job reference #31999904100274.

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

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](#).

[View in browser](#)



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