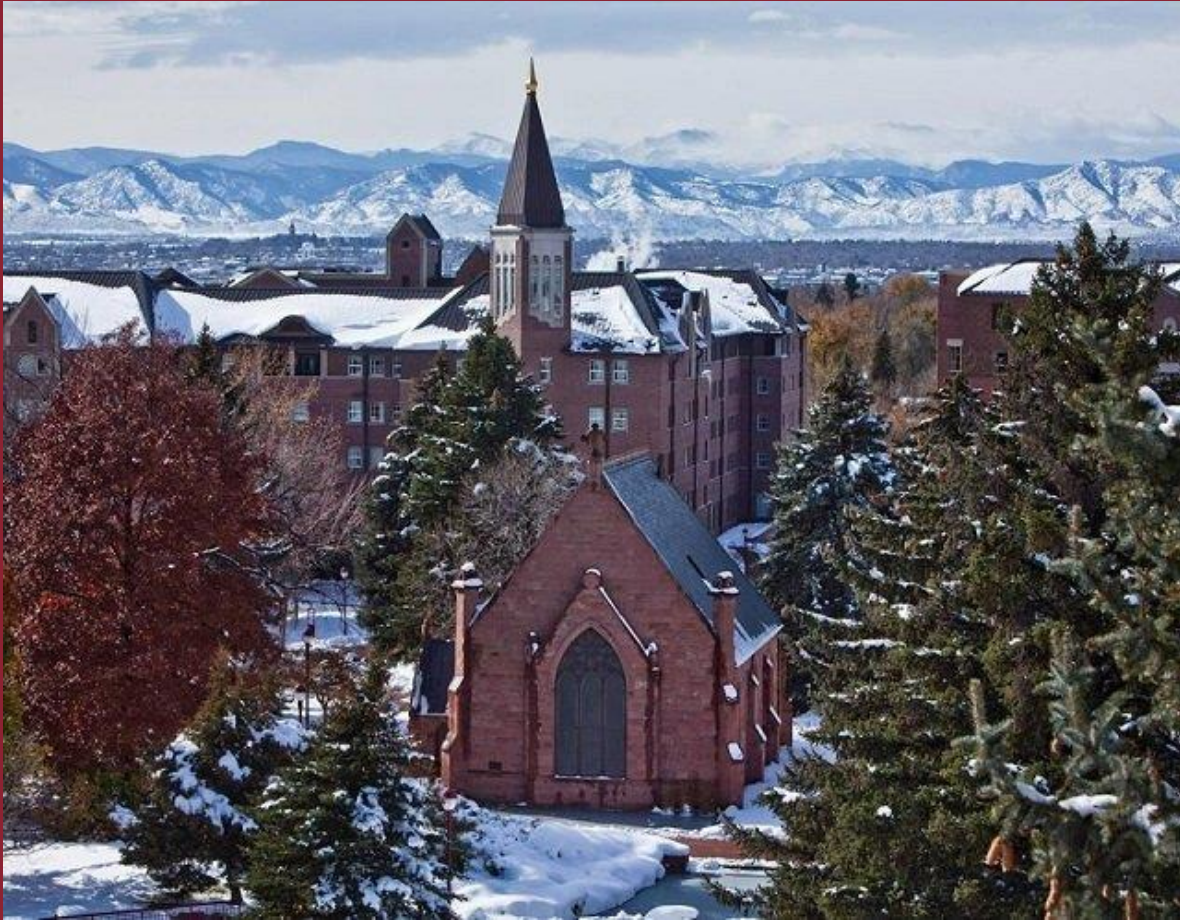




UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
School of Accountancy

School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | December 2020



Director's Update

I am grateful to the SoA community—students, staff and faculty—for their flexibility in adapting to new course modalities. The faculty has responded with innovation and an unwavering focus on our students' academic experience. Please take a moment to read the [School of Accountancy annual alumni update](#), which highlights the many successes of the past year.

As we enter the holiday season, I am thankful for you--the dedicated SoA alumni community. From the SoA family to yours, we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

All the best,



Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

Give

Opportunities for Engagement



Calling all mentors!

Mentors work one-on-one with current accounting students as they complete the Core, apply for jobs and figure out what accounting, the CPA and the "real world" are all about. This year the program will take place virtually. Mentor from anywhere in the world!

APPLY TO BE A MENTOR TODAY

Application Deadline: Jan. 11

The commitment for this program is late January - June 2021. The information in your application helps us to best match you with an accounting student.

Please contact [Tara Crampton](#) with any questions.

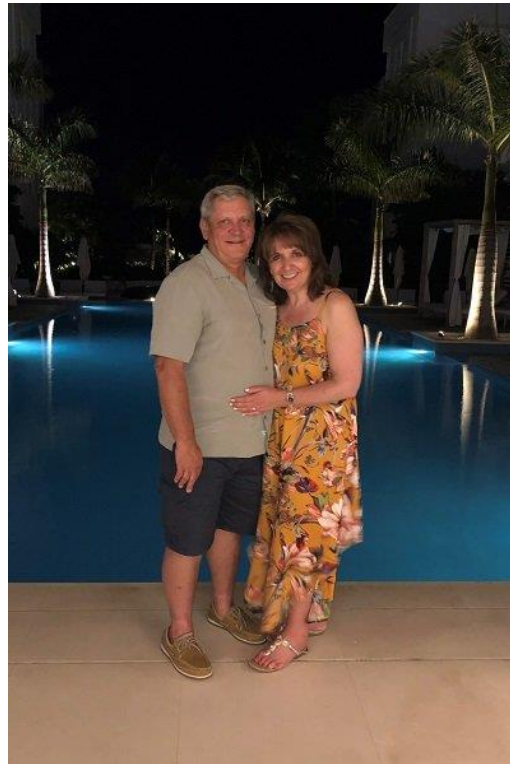
Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumna Ann Marie Milinazzo (BSAcc, MAcc 1987)

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 was a recipient of the Boettcher Scholarship. Because of the Boettcher Foundation's extraordinary commitment to Colorado, the scholarship winner had to attend a college in Colorado. I chose DU because of the outstanding reputation of the University and especially the School of Accountancy. At that time it was one of only a few universities that offered the five-year program to get a master's in accounting degree. It was the only school where I applied, so needless to say, I had a strong conviction to the University.

I became very interested in accounting in high school when I took my first accounting classes. During that time, my father asked me to convert the family business's manual accounting system to the computer. This was back in 1980 when accounting software for small businesses was just becoming available. Debits and credits have always been my friend and even to this day I get excited when I can book general journal entries for a client.



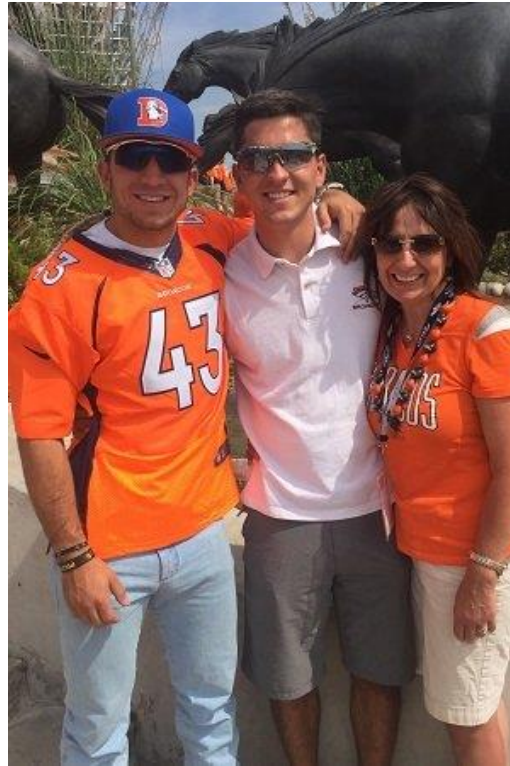
What did you enjoy most about getting your degree from the School of Accountancy? Any highlights of your college career you'd like to share?

The amazing professors in the School of Accountancy made all the difference. Professors Bazley, Tripp, Frakes, Hanberry and Kesselman, just to name a few, were at the top of their game. The knowledge they imparted in the classroom was unmatched. They truly cared about helping their students succeed, and the camaraderie they had among themselves showed through in the program. In addition, the relationship the school had with the Big 8 accounting firms allowed for some important connections for internships and jobs after graduation. The program also fostered some great networking opportunities among the students, and I am still in contact with many of them.

I was also very involved in Circle K, which is a collegiate organization sponsored by Kiwanis. I served as governor of the Rocky Mountain District while at DU, which allowed me to meet a lot of different college students throughout the state. Circle K's focus on community service and leadership development helped me round out my college experience.

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

My DU education gave me a strong foundation in the field of accounting and tax. But above all, my DU experience gave me the confidence to succeed in a competitive society. The school's focus on problem solving, creative thinking and a vision to the future provided skills that were not only useful for an accounting career, but also for someone who wanted to start her own business.



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 my tax practice in 1992 after a few years with Touche Ross after graduating from DU. I knew that at some point I wanted to get into financial planning, so in 1994 I got my securities and insurance licenses and aligned myself with H.D. Vest as my broker-dealer. They were known for helping tax professionals incorporate financial planning into our practices. After 25 years with them, we recently transitioned over to Commonwealth, which is one of the most highly rated broker-dealers in the industry. We look forward to continuing to grow Hadad-Milinazzo Financial Group and providing the guidance and strategic planning that so many clients need.

Financial planning is a challenging and rewarding profession. Every client's situation is unique, like a puzzle. It is extremely rewarding when clients are able to achieve their goals that we may have been working on for years. It is a career that allowed me to grow my business as my children grew. It allowed me the flexibility to design my schedule so that I was free to participate in their school activities and volunteer when the need arose. The tax background I received from DU along with my CPA license has allowed me to not only provide financial planning advice and wealth management, but also tax strategies, which many advisors are not allowed to do.

What do you enjoy doing? Hobbies? Interests?

My husband Dan and I enjoy spending time with family and friends. We are involved in various programs at St. Vincent De Paul church here in Denver. We like traveling to places we have never been before. Gardening and working in our yard, which is a big stress reliever for me; going to Denver Broncos football games; watching movies and the cooking channel; and taking walks are a few ways we turn our focus away from work.



What are your plans for the future?

I am extremely excited that my two sons, Christopher and Ryan, have joined me at Hadad-Milinazzo Financial Group. They both have a passion to learn the business and develop relationships with our amazing clients. My goal for the future is to continue to mentor them and help them develop their knowledge and talents. At some point I will transition the firm to them, but right now I absolutely love what I do!

Professional Development

The **National Renewable Energy Laboratory**, located in Golden, Colorado, is seeking a Tax Compliance Professional. Please see the [posting](#) for more information.

Be sure to check out [STAY CONNECTED](#), a website launched by DU that offers a wide array of virtual programming. This includes career advice, webinars with DU faculty and other experts addressing mental and physical health and wellness topics, programming for children and parents, and much more. The site also offers ways to connect with career resources offered by the Career & Professional Development team.

Please see du.edu/pioneercareers for job opportunities.

HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?

The SoA has always tried to keep alumni connected to the University and each other. Connection is important, now more than ever! In that spirit, we'll continue to share alumni stories, news and class notes.

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 mary.haynes@du.edu with any updates.



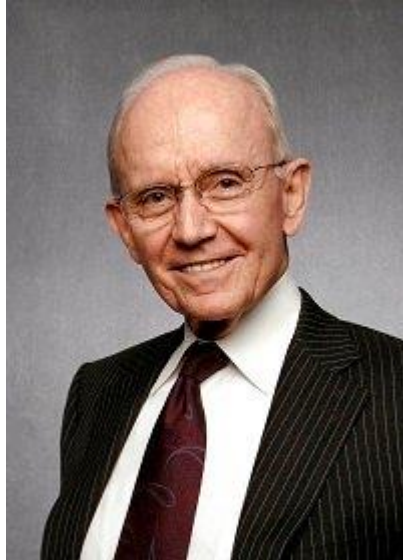
UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Faculty and Staff Updates

Last month, Associate Professor Lorenzo Patelli, PhD, was invited by The Institute of Internal Auditors, the Institute of Management Accountants and the Accounting and Finance Women's Alliance to speak at the 2020 Rocky Mountain Area Conference for Accounting and Finance Professionals. Patelli's presentation was titled, "What Challenges for Managerial Accounting Ethics in the Digital Age? Navigating ethical challenges relating to technology and data."

On Nov. 26, Patelli presented his paper, *Measurement diversity and subjectivity of performance targets: A field study of role perceptions, feedback-seeking behavior, and extrinsic satisfaction*, at the Monforma 2020 conference organized by Monash University in Australia.



Beloved SoA Professor **Jim Sorensen, PhD, CPA, CGMA**, who retired from teaching in 2017 after 52 years at the University of Denver, has been nominated by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) to the American Accounting Association Accounting Hall of Fame. Sorensen is certainly deserving of this prestigious honor, and the School of Accountancy is incredibly proud of his nomination.

Kristen Dimig, who has served the SoA as the alumni relations coordinator since March 2016, will be saying farewell at the end of 2020 as she will become a full-time student again, pursuing her dream of a career in the medical field.



“Thank you all for a wonderful five years at the School of Accountancy. The alumni community surrounding the School is truly unique and it has been an honor to be a part of it. I’m glad I got to know so many of you these past few years and will miss you as I launch into this next phase in my life. Thank you for making me feel so welcome and for making this such an incredible place to work. With an alumni-husband and kids who are avid fans of DU athletics, I will stay closely connected with the University!” - Kristen Dimig

On the Lighter Side - Humor from the Grove



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