



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
School of Accountancy

School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | November 2020



Director's Update

The Educational Foundation of COCPA Board of Trustees awarded \$2,500 scholarships to 43 juniors, seniors and graduate students for the 2020-2021 academic year - \$107,500 spread across 12 Colorado colleges and universities. Congratulations to 16 SoA students who were awarded scholarships:

Named Scholarships

Lexus Girard, Mark J. Smith Family Foundation
Majarlinka Diane Villaruel-Mariano, Otto and Betty
Butterly
Thomas Rosebaum, Plante Moran
Michael Kaufman, EY LLP

General Scholarships

Jessica Dettman
Megan King
Evan McCarthy
Tom Oexeman
Colleen Peterson

Sarah Phan, PwC LLP
Madalynne Baker, KPMG LLP
Peyton Kidwell, KPMG LLP

Anna Schnelbach
Natalie Vaughan
Even Wiemers
Andrew Young

All the best,

Sharon Lassar

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

Opportunities for Engagement



Voices of Experience

Join the Daniels community and the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce on **Wednesday, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m.** for a Voices of Experience speaker event titled, "Making Equity the Priority in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion."

[Register Now](#)



Virtual CPE Event THE NEW NEXT

Jefferson Wells USA is hosting a webinar series **Nov. 10 - 12** with industry experts as they highlight emerging topics in Finance, Accounting, Risk and Tax. Earn up to 10 complimentary CPE credits.

[Register Now](#)

Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumna Mallory (Bennett) Bell (BSAcc & 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?

My dad is a farmer, and growing up, I learned from him not only the importance of hard work, but also how critical a good business sense is in many different career paths. With that in mind, my reason for choosing accounting as my major is probably the same as many alumni; I liked math and the black and white nature of math problems, so accounting seemed like the best business major for me. I started at DU as an accounting major, and once I took my intro accounting classes, I was sold. I had originally intended to go to law school but realized while in the Accounting Core and my internship that accounting was where I wanted to be.

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?

Being a student in and alum of the SoA is pretty hard to beat. The camaraderie among my classmates and the mentoring we had from the older students, alumni and faculty are all pieces of my college experience and education that I will be forever grateful for. I also met some of my best friends in the accounting program. There was no better way to build a relationship than commiserating over how difficult the tests and projects were and celebrating after they were done. Several of us even went so far as to celebrate the end of the Accounting Core in Vegas!



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

I don't know if I can put into words how much my DU accounting education benefited me. First, had I not gone to DU I likely would not have had the opportunity to be nominated for and selected to be a Postgraduate Technical Assistant at the FASB, which led me to my current job. Second, even without the opportunity at the FASB, the SoA opened doors to and provided my classmates and me with the networking and interviewing skills needed to obtain internships and full-time offers at the Big 4 and other great firms. Finally, I use the written and oral communication skills that I learned in the Accounting Core daily. I always make sure to emphasize to students that I meet during the SoA mentoring program and at recruiting events that at the time, those Cost memos and Accounting Core presentations seem awful (who would have thought accountants write memos and present!?), but it is well worth it.



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'm a manager in KPMG's Accounting Advisory Services (AAS) group. After the FASB, I started in AAS in the Denver office and transferred to the Chicago office a year later to live in the same city as my then-boyfriend, now-husband, who I met while at the FASB. At the FASB/GASB, PTAs seem to learn that technical accounting is not for them or that they love it (and also sometimes meet their future husbands/wives). I was in the latter bucket and chose to accept an offer with KPMG AAS to continue my pursuit of technical accounting, this time from the preparer rather than standard-setting perspective. When I first started in AAS, I largely focused on assisting companies with implementing the FASB and IASB's new revenue and leasing standards but have since shifted gears to buy-side projects and most recently bankruptcies. I really enjoy researching, writing and presenting on complex accounting issues. Oddly enough, I chose accounting because it seemed black and white but enjoy it now because of the grey area. I hardly ever do math, but the pros outweigh that con. Additionally, pre-COVID-19, my job involved quite a bit of travel, including to exotic places like Tokyo and Omaha, Nebraska. Travel, while not always enjoyable, was a learning experience in and of itself (and the points were nice).

My favorite and the most rewarding part of my job is the people - whether it is working with my team and the client, interacting with and learning from others in the national practice, or having the opportunity to recruit, mentor, and train new hires. I sit on the national Deal Advisory and Strategy Peoples Council, which is focused on developing initiatives to better the employee experience. It's a nice break from client work and has been a great way to get involved with the people aspect nationally.

What do you enjoy doing? Hobbies? Interests?



I love playing sports! At DU I was on the club basketball team and played on countless intramural teams. Since graduating I have been running (10/10 recommend the lake front path in Chicago three months out of the year) and playing grass/beach volleyball. Additionally, I enjoy baking, mostly because of my insatiable sweet tooth. At the FASB, my cubemate and I had the “cookie cube” and alternated baking cookies every week. There has never been a better opportunity for me to experiment with new cookie recipes (send me a note if you ever need any recommendations)! Finally, I’m a pretty big history fanatic. I enjoy reading historical non-fiction books and visiting museums/historical sites - living on the East Coast during my year at the FASB was a dream come true. In another life I would have been a high school history teacher but instead I’m an accountant (although who doesn’t love learning about Luca Pacioli?).



What are your plans for the future?

My husband and I are getting a Doberman Pinscher puppy this month, so my immediate future plans consist of potty training and teaching the puppy that pieces of furniture are friends not food. We also had originally planned a wedding in Denver this year but had to change course due to COVID-19 and got married in a small ceremony in August at my parent's cabin in Wyoming. We look forward to our re-scheduled, large celebration next summer!

Alumni Notes



Congratulations to **Shari Riggs** (BSAcc 1995, MBA 2004). The **North Bay Business Journal** honored Riggs, chief operating officer and chief financial officer, Dickenson Peatman & Fogarty with a 2020 North Bay CFO Recognition Award. Leaders were recognized from a variety of businesses and nonprofits throughout Napa, Sonoma and Marin counties.

Professional Development

Seigneur Gustafson LLP is a business valuation and CPA firm in Lakewood, Colorado, seeking a financial analyst and mid-senior level staff accountants. 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 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](#).

Faculty and Staff Updates

Associate Professor Lorenzo Patelli, PhD organized the American Accounting Association's Accounting Behavior and Organizations (ABO) [Virtual Research Conference and Doctoral Consortium](#) that took place Oct. 2-3. More than 300 attendees discussed behavioral research in auditing, tax, financial and managerial accounting. At the conference, Patelli presented a paper titled,

“Measurement diversity and subjectivity of performance targets: A field study of goal perceptions, feedback-seeking behavior, and extrinsic satisfaction”.

Assistant Professor Kelsey Kay Dworkis, PhD, CPA; Assistant Professor Nate Waddoups, PhD and Professor Lisa Victoravich, PhD, CPA also participated in the conference. Victoravich and Waddoups presented papers and Dworkis and Waddoups each moderated a conference session.

Through the [Institute for Enterprise Ethics](#), Patelli, along with colleagues at Daniels College of Business, organized the [Ethical Leadership Forum](#) on Oct. 19-23. The forum featured speakers who presented on a variety of issues including corporate social responsibility, B Corps, and the challenges of reopening businesses and schools during the pandemic.

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

To manage which emails you receive from us, please [log in](#) to your account.

To unsubscribe from our emails, [click here](#).
