



DANIELS
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
UNIVERSITY of DENVER
SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

Alumni Newsletter - December 2013

Get to Know Your Network: Jessica Seilitz (BSAC, MAcc 2001)

Life at the University of Denver



Jessica Seidlitz graduated from DU in 2001 after completing the 3-2 program. She actually “stumbled” into accounting. "When I came to DU, I was an undecided business major. I had NO idea what I wanted to major in. I lived on the Pioneer Leadership Program floor in the dorms and one of my floor-mates (fellow SOA alum Mark Sterrett) and I found out that we had every single class together fall quarter of freshman year. We continued that practice throughout all of college. I remember when trying to decide what classes to take Sophomore year and I “defaulted” to scheduling the same

classes that Mark did - because it was easy! I found myself in an accounting class and realized that I liked it and it made sense to me. Later that year I declared accounting as my major."

Professional Life After College

While at DU, Jessica was involved in many campus activities including Pioneer Leadership Program, Gamma Phi Beta, the Honors Program and Beta Alpha Psi, among others. "I loved my time at DU – the incredible friends I made, the caring teachers, the small class sizes... In my last year at PwC, I was the campus recruiter for the Denver and Salt Lake City Offices and in that role, I spent a lot of time on many college campuses and it is during this time I learned how special the DU experience is."

Jessica spent the winter in an audit internship with PwC and started full-time the fall of 2001. She specialized in the financial services practice focusing on mutual fund clients. She felt that public accounting, and specifically PwC, was a great place for her to start her career. "I left PwC and started as a Compliance Manager with



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Upcoming Events

Daniels College of Business Snowball

SoA Alumni receive tickets for 1/2 Price!!!

Tuesday, December 10
6-9 PM

Cable Center

[Register](#)

Please [visit here](#) to view more upcoming events

About the SoA

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

ICON Advisers, a boutique asset manager who ran the ICON Funds. I quickly moved into the accounting/operations group at ICON starting as the Mutual Fund Controller and ultimately Vice President of Fund Accounting and Administration of the adviser and left as the Treasurer/Principal Financial Officer of the ICON Funds. I made a jump in June 2013 to become the Managing Director of Fund Accounting for Charles Schwab Investment Management where I am responsible for the oversight of our fund accounting operations and the accounting policies of our mutual funds and ETFs. This has been a great move for me and I really like my job. I have also been very active with various industry groups. I just recently finished a four year term on the AICPA Investment Company Expert Panel. Additionally, I have been quite involved with the Investment Company Institute, an industry group."

Personal Life

"The best thing that happened to me at PwC was meeting my husband, Rick (yes, we are both accountants and no, we don't talk about GAAP at home!). We have two wonderful kids – Austin who is 4.5 years old and Ella who is 16 months old. I love being a working mom – although I miss them during the day, I really enjoy my job and I have found a great balance and truly appreciate every moment I am with my kids."



Jessica is a self-proclaimed wine-loving, foodie. She and Rick love to travel and spend time with friends. They love being outside and enjoy all that Colorado has to offer. Jessica and Rick enjoy their season tickets to DU Hockey where they enjoy spending time with fellow SOA alumni Julie Mensing.

Being Involved at DU

"I acknowledge that one of the keys to my professional success has been the influence of mentors. Because of the importance in my career, I have tried to pay it forward. I have been quite involved in the various mentorship programs at DU and have really enjoyed it. Additionally, I have been the Chair of the School of Accountancy Alumni Engagement Council – a group whose goal is to engage SOA alumni. I recently was appointed to the Advisory Board of the School of Accountancy. In addition to my involvement in the School of

Accountancy, I have also been an active alumni with Gamma Phi Beta."

"I loved my time at DU. Some of my best friends today are from DU – and specifically, the School of Accountancy. I learned what was necessary to become successful post-college. As we chant each week at the DU Hockey games....GO DU!!"

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Recent Happenings

Building Bridges Across Cultures: How to Thrive in the U.S. Business Environment

On November 10, 2013, the School of Accountancy hosted a panel discussion for international students called "Building Bridges Across Cultures: How to



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.

Thrive in the U.S. Business Environment." The panel was moderated by Executive in Residence Robert C. Troccoli and SOA alumna and board member Ksenia Popke and featured eight recent international alumni from the School - Steven Li, Ruby Kamm, Jacky Song, Joaquim Resende, Serena Ran Sun, Heather Zhou, Leping Lou and Leo Jiang. After the alumni discussed issues like breaching the communication barrier, navigating the recruiting process and taking advantage of DU's resources as a joint panel, attendees were able to engage one-on-one with them in a networking hour. The students eagerly approached the panelists with more detailed questions and were able to personalize what the panel mentioned through these in-depth discussions.



A special thanks goes out to our moderators and panelists for taking the time to invest in our students and help them make the most of their education. This panel was a part of an on-going process to help extend the support offered to our international students. If you are interested in getting involved with this initiative, please contact Jodye Whitesell at jodye.whitesell@du.edu for more information. We would love to see even more participation from our alumni who have been through this process and who understand its complexities.

Presentations:

On October 25, 2013 Keith Sellers presented a national webinar titled Option Theory and the Valuation of Employee Stock Options. The webinar was hosted by the National Association for Certified Valuators and Analysts (NACVA). Dr. Adam Greiner had his study "An Examination of Audit Quality Associated with New Partners of Continuing Firm Clients in the United States"

accepted for a presentation at the upcoming AAA Audit Midyear meeting in San Antonio, TX on January 16-18, 2014. Dr. Greiner has co-authored this study with Dr. Julia Higgs of Florida Atlantic University.

Congrats to our "Accounting Core" Students:

The School of Accountancy consists of many challenging courses that help our students prove their ability and commitment to the program. Among those courses is the "accounting core" which is a yearlong, fully integrated series of courses of 11-12 credits each quarter, for a total of 35 credits. Each quarter must be completed in its entirety before the student can move on to the next quarter. Any student with an ACTG GPA below 2.5 at the end of the third quarter will not be permitted to continue in the accounting major. Both accounting and non-accounting subjects are covered in the core. The accounting material includes courses in cost and managerial accounting, financial reporting, systems, tax, auditing, and accounting research. Non-accounting material includes oral and written communications, technology, ethics, and legal issues. Classes in the core normally are completed during the junior year.

We would like to recognize the major achievement of our students who recently completed a year of the core taught by Erin Nickell, Lisa Victoravich and Jackie Eschenlohr. Another class recently completed their first quarter taught by David (Buff) Honodel, Lee Pollart and Philipp Schaberl. We are proud of our students and applaud the efforts of our fantastic educators. Keep up the hard work!

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Support the School of Accountancy

Take part in a lasting tradition

Founded in 1908, 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, our students are a step ahead of the rest. Our mission, as a part of a great private university, is to educate ethical business leaders, advance the theory and practice of business and make a positive global impact.; 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.

Make The Difference

As you may know, many of the students in the School of Accountancy couldn't be here without the support of our generous alumni and friends. Natalie Steverson (inset) was one such student. Natalie came to the University of Denver in 2007 to pursue both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the School of Accountancy. A very bright student, Natalie wasn't able to afford the cost of tuition on her own, but with the support of the Lewis Scholarship, she was able to graduate in 2012 with honors while serving as the Beta Alpha Psi President and as the director of finance for her sorority Alpha Phi. Before she graduated, Natalie accepted an offer to work as an Audit Associate at KPMG in Denver where she was able to start her career. Natalie returns to the School often, always expressing her gratitude for the solid foundation she received from her education at DU.



Throughout the School of Accountancy, students like Natalie work with faculty mentors to solve impending questions in the accounting field. As one of our alumni, your participation makes a significant impact on our future. Please consider making a gift to the School of Accountancy. Your gift – of any amount – is a vital part of providing scholarships to students like Natalie and helping the Daniels College of Business continue to attract the best and brightest to help change our world – this year and every year.

[GIVE TODAY](#)

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Class Notes

Shaun Snowden (BSAC, MAcc 2012) recently accepted a position at Oppenheimer funds as a Corporate Accountant in the Policy and Reporting division. His responsibilities involve management reporting and variance analysis, various forms of compliance reporting, involvement with the mergers and acquisitions, fair value accounting and research. Shaun says "It has been a great opportunity for me to develop a depth of knowledge into the financial services industry and was an industry I was eager to end up pursuing."

Stephanie (Sanchez) Thomsen (BSAC, MBA-Accounting 2006) married Garrett (Thompson) Thomsen (BS Finance 2005) in September 2013 in Montana where they grew up. After spending time as an auditor at SingerLewak, PwC, and most recently Grant Thornton, Stephanie took the controller position at EMP Museum in Seattle beginning in October 2013.

Restaurant Solutions, Inc., was awarded "Best Small Business To Work For in the Metro Denver Area" for

the second consecutive year this year. **Allen Harimon (BSBA, General Business 1968)** serves as the President Emeritus for the company.

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