



**DANIELS**  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER  
SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

Alumni Newsletter - November 2013

## Get to Know Your Network: Keely Gohl (BSAC, MAcc 1998)

### Why the DU School of Accountancy?

When I was young, my parents drove by DU and I asked what it was. My step-dad

replied, "That's a private university and if you could get a scholarship to go there, that would be the best thing you could do." I set my mind on it back then. In high school, I had met some DU students as well and included DU on my campus visits. When I came to campus, I knew I belonged. My



parents had always urged me to pursue a professional field like engineering or accounting based on my aptitude at math. During a "Denver Days" visit to campus, I took a tour of the engineering building and decided that was not for me. After that tour, I visited a "departmental fair" and sat down at a table to talk with Dr. Bazley about accounting. That discussion sealed it for me. I knew I would major in accounting before I was even a student.

### Favorite memories of the School of Accountancy

I enjoyed the faculty – both the tenure-track folks and the adjuncts. But more than that, I loved being a GTA. I loved teaching. I still do – even though I get to do it less in my current role. I also loved all of the connections I made while I was at DU – with fellow classmates, with companies we did cases on, with firm members, etc. Those connections continue to pop up every day in ways I could never

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### Upcoming Events

**School of Accountancy Alumni Reception and DU/CC Hockey Game**  
Saturday, November 9  
Reception: 6 PM  
Game: 7 PM  
\$20 Per Person  
Includes: Game Ticket, Reception Entrance and Drink Ticket  
[Register](#)

**Daniels College of Business Snowball**  
Tuesday, December 10  
6-9 PM  
Cable Center

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

### About the SoA

The [School of](#)

imagine.

### Career Overview

During my time at DU, I was fortunate enough to have an internship for 1.5 years with Boston Chicken, Inc. In that time, I witnessed how a corporation operates in prosperity and in decline. It was a valuable experience that I feel made me better as an auditor. After I graduated, I joined KPMG and enjoyed 14 years there. I was an auditor primarily in financial services, focusing on insurance companies. However, that led me to also work with several not-for-profit entities and I started to really enjoy that sector. Once I had been promoted to senior manager, I took a long-term rotation with our national training office as a Director of the KPMG Business School focusing on industry training. That was fantastic because I had been a national instructor with the firm and honed skills that I started building as a GTA. When it became time for me to either make a permanent commitment to moving to New Jersey or return to audit to pursue a partner position, I decided it was time for me to take a new path. While I loved meeting national leaders and flying all over to design trainings, the travel was taking a toll on our kids and it was time for me to pick a path that provided more stability for them and return the favor of flexibility to my husband. I left KPMG in March 2012 to come to DU as the Director of Budget and Planning for Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. If I could urge CPAs who are looking for change to do one thing, it would be to accept positions at not-for-profits. I know the words “fund accounting” are sometimes enough to make any good CPA cringe, but we have skills and knowledge that can really help these organizations out. I’ve been able to make an impact here and am pleased that I can partner with central DU offices to help move DU forward. Plus – it’s incredible to be back in Sturm Hall (formerly GCB/BA). For some of us “more



seasoned” alumni, this was our home and it brings back great memories walking through these halls.

### Benefits of an education from the School of Accountancy

I honestly cannot think of a way it hasn't

helped. Specifically, as an auditor I was able to frequently use the lessons of my fraud class at DU. I remember the professor telling us, “some criminals are so proud of their scheme and are so prideful that they might actually tell you exactly how they are carrying out a fraud.” Truer words were never spoken. I had a CFO actually tell us exactly how it was done and was horrified to read the forensics investigation report after it was all said and done. Thankfully, we

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 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.

caught it before ever issuing a report. My time as a GTA sparked a love for teaching that drove me to be a national instructor for KPMG and do a rotation with the national learning and development center at KPMG. It still lurks under the surface and I may return to it one day. Right now, the role of wife, mom and budget officer to one of the 2 largest academic units on campus is enough. But that experience helps me every day in my conversations with the professors on how I can translate their needs and plans into dollars.

Also – I am hard pressed to name a situation in my life where a DU SOA alum hasn't popped up. Those connections are priceless.



### **Family Life**

I met my husband, Matt, here at DU. In fact, we were married in the Evans Chapel. He is the single greatest support I could have ever asked for. We have two kids who amaze us every day. Elise is 6 and Hayden is 3 and they are our 1<sup>st</sup> priority. We only have our children for a short time so I'm determined to spend as much time as I can with them.

### **When I'm not working**

We love to travel. With the kids, our travels have been more domestically centered but we can't wait until they're big enough to travel internationally. This summer we were able to take our daughter to Washington D.C. I also like to scrapbook when I get the chance.

### **Future plans**

I would love to be able to spend even more time with my family. I've also been spending more time writing (non-fiction, non-accounting). There might be more of that coming as well. But my #1 priority is ensuring that I succeed at partnering with my husband to do the best

for our kids. The key distinction for me is to be a wife and mother who also happens to have a career, not the other way around.

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## Recent Happenings

### **Publications:**

Dr. Erin Nickell and co-author Robin Roberts (University of Central Florida) received notification that their article titled "Organizational legitimacy, conflict, and hypocrisy: An alternative view of the role of internal auditing" is forthcoming in the journal *Critical Perspectives on Accounting*.

### **Presentations:**

On October 15th, Dr. Lorenzo Patelli was invited to give a presentation on International Financial Reporting Standards at the annual meeting of the Committee on Centrally Assessed Properties of the Western State Association of Tax Administrators.

Dr. Erin Nickell presented her paper "Dilutive Effects of Management Attitudes and Client Importance on Auditor's Fraud Risk Assessments: Are Skeptical Auditors Less Susceptible?" at the *Accounting, Behavior, and Organizations* Midyear Meeting held in San Diego, CA on October 4th.

### **Recognitions:**

Dr. Hugh Grove and Dr. Lorenzo Patelli will be honored at the upcoming University of Denver Provost Dinner on November 18th. The event recognizes the most outstanding researchers, scholars and creative artists on the University's faculty. This is an exciting achievement for them considering that only 7% of the DU faculty are recognized each year.

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## Student Corner

### **School of Accountancy Teaching Assistants**

#### **TJ Lawless**

TJ is a fifth-year MAcc student from Kansas City. He is an avid sports fan and enjoys playing intramural sports. TJ is the teaching

assistant for the introductory managerial accounting course. He has enjoyed teaching the accounting labs and helping his students better understand the basics of managerial accounting. This winter, TJ will begin sitting for the CPA exam and he will start his career with PricewaterhouseCoopers next fall.

**Aaron Merkin-Morokoff**

Aaron is a fifth year student in the dual-degree MAcc program from Las Vegas, Nevada. He plays on the University's club inline hockey team and is an avid home brewer. Aaron spent last quarter as a teaching assistant for Professor Nickell's Intermediate Accounting class. He has enjoyed getting to know the students and helping them through tough accounting issues. Aaron appreciates the opportunity to be a TA and believes that it will help



his as prepares to sit for the CPA exam. After graduation Aaron will be starting his career with McGladrey as an assurance staff member.



**Jordyn Michaud**

Jordyn is a fifth year MAcc student from Eagan, MN. She came to DU for her love of the beautiful campus, strong accounting program, and DU hockey. In the past five years, she has been involved in Greek Life, the professional accounting fraternity Beta Alpha Psi, Intramural sports, and working at a boutique called Spruce. Jordyn had wanted to be a TA, since she learned of the opportunity her first year at DU. She has had the opportunity to TA for Dr.

Lorenzo Patelli, working with MBA students, on managerial accounting. She believes being a TA will help her develop professional relationships and help her learn managerial accounting better in preparation for the CPA. After October, Jordyn will be starting her career with KPMG as an assurance associate.

**Allyson Girardi**

Ally is in her fifth year of the dual degree BSAcc/MAcc program. As a home-grown Coloradoan from Fort Collins, she enjoys all things Colorado, especially skiing and hiking. She will miss Colorado when she starts her public accounting career with Deloitte in San Francisco in fall 2014. After finishing her role as VITA Co-Director last year, she is



excited to stay involved in the School of Accountancy as a teaching assistant for introductory accounting classes for undergraduate

students. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience so far and she is grateful for this opportunity to improve her teaching and public speaking skills.



#### **Mariah Bloom**

Mariah is a fifth year student in the dual-degree MAcc program. Originally from Eagan, Minnesota, Mariah came to Colorado for a change of pace (and originally to major in International Studies) and has fallen in love with the city, the people, and all of

the activities Colorado has to offer. She loves to blog, travel, explore new restaurants, learn about wine, and to meet new people. Mariah is serving as the teaching assistant for the first quarter of the Core. She is also the President of Beta Alpha Psi. Being a teaching assistant for the Core has allowed her to connect with students just entering the School of Accountancy and has allowed her to give back in more ways than she could have anticipated. She thrives by mentoring students (both personally and academically) who are where she was less than two years ago. Mariah will start with PwC next September.

#### **Stephanie Paxton**

Stephanie began the Masters of Accountancy program, with a tax focus, in September of 2013 and plans to complete the program by August 2014. She came to University of Denver from Columbus, Ohio, where she attended Ohio State as an undergraduate. She enjoys ice skating, cooking, and watching BIG 10 football. She is a teaching assistant for the MBA financial accounting and reporting class. She appreciates the opportunity to help other students and to strengthen her understanding of financial reporting issues. Stephanie is grateful for the extra examination of financial reporting topics and hopes that the review will aid in preparing for the CPA exams.



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## **Class Notes**

Kyle Hansen (BSAC 2008, MBA 2008) and his wife are relocating to Kansas City with Deloitte. The move is due to a new acquired client

for the firm. Kyle and his wife Amy are looking forward to the move so they can be closer to their family.

Jean Coyle (BSAC, MAcc 2012) was named a tax associate with Grant Thornton.

Katey Webber (BSAC 2013) recently transferred to PWC's Silicon Valley Office to work in the Life Science and Venture Capital Market Team. She has been there for a month and loves the office and all the innovation happening in the Bay Area.

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