



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



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2016

## Director's Update

**Welcome to 2016!** We've hit the ground running at the School of Accountancy, starting with our annual alumni mixer in January, sponsored by our Alumni Engagement Council (AEC). The mixer brought together the School's faculty and alumni for a night celebrating connections and community. The AEC is also sponsoring four financial planning workshops. The first two provided insights on the basics of saving, spending, and investing. The two remaining workshops will focus on real estate investing (Apr. 28) and the financial implications of HR-related decisions (May 19). Don't miss the opportunity for some free financial advice! See [the events section](#) for more information.

The accounting Core continues to attract top students, with nearly 50 enrolled in ACTG 3016 (the first Core course) this quarter. This is the second quarter Dr. Adam Greiner has taught the course and we are thrilled to see how well the students respond to his leadership.

Our mentor program is continuing to provide meaningful insights and connections for our students. We currently have nearly 30 mentor/mentee matches meeting once per quarter to discuss careers, industries, passions and challenges. If you are interested in being a mentor in upcoming programs, please contact [Jodye.WhiteSELL@du.edu](mailto:Jodye.WhiteSELL@du.edu).

We are testing a new newsletter format that we hope will make the information you need even easier to access. Please send any comments or feedback to [Jodye.WhiteSELL@du.edu](mailto:Jodye.WhiteSELL@du.edu) so that we can continue to improve our communications.

From all of your friends at the School of Accountancy, we hope you had a wonderful New Year and look forward to connecting with you in 2016!

Best,

*Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy*

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## Upcoming Events

### **Battle on Blake: DU v. CC Hockey Game at Coors Field**

For the first time in Colorado history, Coors Field will play host to an OUTDOOR hockey match-up between the University of Denver and arch-rival Colorado College this February.

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## HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?

Promotions, marriages, new babies, major moves, job changes? Let us know! We'll share the news with your alumni family in the Alumni Notes section of our next newsletter. Contact [Jodye.WhiteSELL@du.edu](mailto:Jodye.WhiteSELL@du.edu) with any updates.

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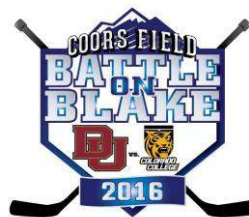
## UPDATE CONTACT INFO

If you have a new email address, recently moved, changed employment, got married, or have any other information to update, please do so [here](#). Our alumni are our greatest assets so please keep us updated!

Note: The club-level alumni reception is sold out. Regular tickets are available at the link below.

When: Saturday, February 20, 2016  
4:30 pm - Gates Open  
6:30 pm - Game Time

Where: Coors Field - 2001 Blake Street, Denver, CO 80205  
[Buy your tickets here](#)



### Spring Financial Planning Workshops

Maximize your personal finances by attending one or more of our financial planning workshops. Let financial experts advance your financial literacy and help you make responsible decisions for your future. All workshops run 6-8 pm and will be held in the Daniels College of Business (room TBD).

April 28, 2016 - Get Your Foot in the Door: Investing in Real Estate

May 18, 2016 - Using Your (Human) Resources: Financial Implications of HR Decisions

[Register here](#)

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## Get to Know Your Network

### Meet Alumna Grace Kittle (BSACC '11)

Grace Kittle has always loved Colorado. Growing up, she traveled from her home in Dallas, TX to Estes Park for a summer camp called Cheley Colorado Camps. Through a month of hiking, riding horses, and playing in the mountains, Grace fell in love with the beauty of Colorado and the mountains. When it came time to choose where to go to school, DU was a natural choice.

Grace initially planned to earn a hospitality management degree at DU, but a few weeks into her first accounting course, she quickly changed her mind. "Jackie Eschenlohr was my teacher," she says, "and she told us that if we could get the hang of accounting, we should try being an accounting major



because we would always have a job, in any economy. This was in the fall of 2008, right when the big financial crash was happening. The idea of not having to worry about finding a job was like music to my ears." Grace put her energy and focus into that first accounting class and about halfway into the course, everything started clicking and she grew to love financial accounting. While she found the accounting courses challenging, she enjoyed the small class size and faculty commitment: "The most valuable thing I found at DU was the amount of face time we had with the faculty. I feel really lucky to have been able to have real, in-depth conversations with all of my professors as well as form relationships with the other students in my classes. I had 15 people in my Accounting Core classes, which is almost unheard of in a larger university. I love knowing that I can run into an old professor and they remember me or I can call Dr. Lassar for a favor and she will take care of me. It's really amazing knowing I have this support system/family to fall back on – it's something really special about the DU community."

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## ABOUT US

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 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.





Grace's education from DU has provided her with numerous work opportunities. Grace interned for ExxonMobil in 2011 and had accepted a full-time offer at the company. But before she started her full-time role, she received news that she had qualified for the National Team for the Modern Pentathlon and ExxonMobil graciously allowed her to follow her Olympic dreams. While training with the team, she was selected to work for the United States Olympic Committee to help in their accounting department. Very few athletes are able to work in jobs outside of coaching in their sport, but because of her experience with the rigorous course load at DU, Grace was able to handle the USOC accounting job while training for five sports concurrently.

Today, Grace is a professional athlete living and training at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. As a member of the National Team for the Modern Pentathlon, Grace trains in fencing, swimming, shooting, running and equestrian show jumping. Though she swam on DU's team and will always have a deep love for swimming,

Grace has grown to love fencing. "It's like high-speed chess," she says. "There is so much strategy, skill and precision involved in the sport. It has been really fun to learn and strategize – I wish I had started fencing sooner!"

While competing in the Olympics is not the typical path for accounting grads, Grace's decision to continue her athletic career has proven immensely valuable for her business career as well. As an athlete, she has traveled to numerous countries all over the world – including Taiwan, Russia, Egypt, and Brazil – and has had the opportunity to meet multiple executives of Fortune 500 companies. In her role as an athlete, she was introduced to the CFO of eBay, Inc. who offered her a position at the company working part time while she trained. For the last two and a half years, Grace has done their financial reporting while training for the upcoming Olympic Games. After the games are over this summer, Grace will return to her hometown of Dallas, TX to start work in PwC's audit practice where she is excited to start a whole new series of adventures.



We are so proud of all that Grace has accomplished and hope to see her on the international stage at the Olympic Games this August in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We'll be rooting for you Grace!



## Alumni Notes

Congratulations to **Nat Borchers (BSACC, MACC '04)**! A Defender for the Portland Timbers, Nat helped the team earn their first MLS Cup with a 2-1 victory over Columbus in December. Nat was also named the Timbers' Unsung Hero for the 2015 campaign. In his first season with the team, the center back started 31 matches, tallying an MLS-career-high-tying three goals during the regular season and finishing with a league-best 32 blocks. Borchers played an important role in Portland finishing with a league-high 13 shutouts during the regular season, while also tallying the game-winning goal in a 1-0 win against Real Salt Lake on the road on Aug. 15 at Rio Tinto Stadium in Sandy, Utah. Congratulations Nat (right, in photo)!



**Ben Quinn (MACC '09)** has recently taken on a new role as Controller at Sphero, a Boulder-based company. Congratulations Ben!



**Terry Rolecek (BSACC '82)** has recently joined Sears Holdings Corp as Chief Marketing and Marketing Analytics Officer - Financial Services. Congratulations on the new position Terry!

**Layth Taki (BSACC, MACC '97)** and his wife Sara celebrated their first son Rami's 2nd birthday this January (pictured at left). Happy birthday Rami, and congratulations Layth and Sara!

**Jenny Willard** was recently promoted to Senior Tax Associate at Crowe GHP Horwath. Congratulations Jenny!

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## Faculty Updates

### Awards, Presentations and Publications

Dr. Hugh Grove was honored at the fourth annual Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work Faculty Recognition Dinner on February 8, 2016. Sponsored by the Office of the Provost, this event recognizes the most outstanding researchers, scholars, and creative artists on the University's faculty, approximately the top 8% of the University's faculty. Dr. Grove and one other Daniels College of Business professor are the only ones to have been honored at all four of these dinners.

Dr. Grove's recent article titled "SEC Comment Letters: An Unlikely Secret Weapon for Forensic Accountants, Short Sellers, and Other Financial Statement Users," co-authored with Daniels professors Tommi Johnsen and Pei Lung, was picked up by GlobeSt, an online daily news service covering the commercial real estate industry. [Read GlobeSt's article about the publication here.](#)

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## On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

### Newspaper Headlines

*"Life is tough...It's even tougher if you're stupid." - John Wayne*  
Headline: County to pay \$250,000 to Advertise Lack of Funds  
(Did we elect these people?!)

Headline: Volunteers Search for Old Civil War Planes  
(Civil War planes? Let me know how that works out!)

Headline: Army Vehicle Disappears: An Australian Army vehicle worth \$74,000 has gone missing after being painted with camouflage.  
(Great Paint Job!)

Headline: Caskets Found as Workers Demolish Mausoleum  
(They had no idea anyone was buried there!??)

Headline: Statistics Show That Teen Pregnancy Drops Off Significantly After Age 25  
(I would have guessed after age 19...)

Headline: Federal Agents Raid Gun Shop, Find Weapons  
(What are the odds of that?)

*"The difference between genius and stupidity is---genius has its limits." - Albert Einstein*

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