



DANIELS
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

Alumni Newsletter - February 2015

Get to Know Your Network: Peter Derschang (BSAC '82, MBA '92)



Peter Derschang joined the Academic Excellence Committee of the School of Accountancy Advisory Board in the Fall of 2014. For the next three years, we look forward to relying on his diverse accounting, finance and teaching background to help us make adjustments to our accounting curriculum. We're appreciative of our alumni who give time and expertise to help in the improvement of our programs.

Moving from New York to Denver when he was just five, Peter considers himself a Colorado native. In his younger years he spent his days playing soccer, ski racing and enjoying time with neighborhood friends. Peter remembers, "while I usually scored well on tests in high school, I never really applied myself as I should have. I was always really strong in math, but didn't know what I wanted to do in the future." After one semester of college, Peter recognized that he really enjoyed the accounting course he took. The material clicked and he knew accounting would be the career for him. He enrolled at Arapahoe

Community College (ACC) and worked as the assistant manager at a sporting goods store. Peter attended the ACC for a year and a half, after which he transferred to the University of Denver. The move to DU came from the University's excellent reputation for business and accounting. Dr. Ron Kucic was one of Peter's favorite professors as he helped guide him through the school. Although Peter didn't live on campus because he was working to support himself, he has many fond memories of the professors and the feeling of family that remains in the School today.

While a student, Peter enjoyed the small class size. He remembers, "you couldn't hide and you were able to get to know all the professors well." When he came back to receive

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About the School of Accountancy

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

his MBA in 1989, all of his past undergraduate accounting professors were still at DU and they remembered him.

Receiving his degree from the University of Denver has been a benefit throughout his career. Peter remembers, "The Daniels College of Business has an excellent reputation in the community. I received my first job in public accounting because I went to DU." His education gave him all the tools he needed to be successful in the business world.



Peter has had an interesting and diverse career. After spending three years in public accounting, he moved to the defense industry with Martin Marietta where he held several positions in accounting and finance. During that time, he pursued his MBA at DU. When Martin moved east to Orlando, Peter decided to stay in Denver to become the controller of a national trade association. He recalls, "Non-profit accounting was a new challenge, but it was an interesting business." Within six months he was the CFO and spent nine years with that company. Peter moved into the financial services industry for First Data and then back to non-profit as CFO of the Cable Center. "Being at the Cable Center brought me back to the DU campus. I contacted Ron Kucic in the winter of 2006 and began conversations of instructing at the School of Accountancy. A few months later I was teaching Managerial Accounting." Peter taught for three years as an adjunct professor instructing courses in managerial accounting and financial accounting on an undergraduate level. From 2010 to 2012, Peter taught Strategic Cost Management in the Executive MBA program. In 2011, he left the Cable Center to become the CFO of Brakes Plus. He was charged with the task of creating and implementing the company's growth plan. Since that time, Brakes Plus has added 12 new stores with three more to come. Peter enjoys "taking accounting data and turning it into useful information in order for us to make better decisions or improve performance. I also enjoy teaching our store managers and regional managers more about accounting and finance so they know what they can do to improve their store's performance." Peter has a real knack for taking somewhat technical



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.

accounting and finance concepts and conveying them in a way that non-accountants can understand. He feels a real sense of accomplishment when he sees this happen.

Peter can be considered a businessman, but he also is quite the family man. He married his high school sweet heart, Kathy, 31 years ago. They have three children: Allyson (25), Megan (24) and Robbie (22). When the children were young, they spent most of their time at soccer games and cross country meets for the younger two children and other events for their oldest daughter who was a cheerleader. When he's not working now, Peter enjoys cycling, running, home projects and playing golf. A few years ago he added the hobby of flying remote controlled airplanes. "I fly almost every weekend at Cherry Creek Reservoir when the weather is good. I've always liked models and airplanes and this hobby challenges me constantly."

Peter plans to continue working and considers teaching more in a few years. "I love what I do and it all goes back to the accounting education I received at DU combined with hard work. It is a good formula for success."

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Recent Happenings

In December Lorenzo Patelli presented his paper titled "The interactive use of performance measures within relationships between headquarters and foreign subsidiaries" at the 9th Conference on New Directions in Management Accounting in Brussels Belgium. In January, Dr. Patelli also attended the annual meeting of the Management Accounting Section in Newport Beach, California.

Dr. Keith Sellers coauthored an article that was published in the December 2014 issue of *The Value Examiner*. The title of the article was "Employee Stock Options: What Valuation Analysts Should Know."

Dr. Greiner's research entitled, "The Effect of the Fair Value Option on Bank Earnings and Regulatory Capital Management: Evidence from Realized Securities Gains and Losses," has been accepted for publication in *Advances in Accounting*. He notes that this study is particularly rewarding because the idea stems from his professional experiences in corporate banking prior to his doctoral studies. Dr. Greiner served as a moderator for a research workshop concerning audit tenure and turnover at the recent AAA Auditing Midyear Meeting that was held in Miami, FL January 15-17, 2015.

The School of Accountancy would like to thank the Alumni Engagement Council for assisting in the planning and execution of the 2015 Winter Mixer held on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. The purpose of the event was to introduce our new faculty members to our alumni. Adam Greiner, Suzette Loving, Ryan Casey, Paul Harrison, Philipp Schaberl, Erin Nickell and Lorenzo Patelli were featured at the event and took 3-5 minutes to introduce themselves and some of their research. The School of Accountancy hosted a reception after the presentations which gave our alumni had the opportunity to become acquainted with our wonderful faculty. It was an engaging and uplifting evening. We'd like to thank all of the alumni who attended and we hope to hold more events of this nature in the future!

We had a wonderful kick-off event for the SoA's Alumni Engagement Council's professional mentoring program! Thank you to all of our alumni and students who attended. We are looking forward to watching these relationships grow and thrive.



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Alumni Award Nominations

The Alumni Relations Committee from the School of Accountancy Advisory Board invites you to nominate an alumnus who has had exceptional achievements in the field of accounting and in the community. The awards for Alumni of the Year and Young Alumni of the Year will be presented during the annual School of Accountancy's Spring Banquet on Friday, May 1, 2015.

- Recognition criteria for the awards are as follows:
- An alumnus of the School of Accountancy
- Demonstrated achievement of notable measure in the field of accounting
- Demonstrated leadership capability
- Demonstrated public service in their community and/or volunteer activities to the School of Accountancy, Daniels College of Business or University of Denver
- Demonstrated efforts to be a Daniels Pioneer through Ethical Practice, Thought Leadership and Global Impact
- Additionally, the Young Alumnus will have graduated within the past 10 years.

If you know of an individual who meets these criteria please forward their name, year of graduation (if known) and evidence related to the required criteria to [Jill Whelan](#). Nominations will be accepted through Friday, February 27, 2015.

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Upcoming Events

[School of Accountancy Alumni Reception and DU v CC Hockey Game](#)

Saturday, February 21, 2015

Reception: 6 PM - DU Ritchie Center, Studio D

Game: 7 PM

[DU Founders Day Gala](#)

Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum

5:30 PM Cocktail Reception

7 PM Dinner

9 PM Live Music and Dancing

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Class Notes

Emily Montgomery (BSAC, MAcc 2010) recently earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation. Emily also started a new position within Deloitte and has been appointed to be a Manager in Accounting Consultation at the National Office.

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