



UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
School of Accountancy



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2017

Director's Update

We hit the ground running at the School of Accountancy, starting with the annual Winter 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. A hearty thank you to Amber Freed, Calvin Isaak (pictured, right), Jenny Scholz, Nick Machol, Dr. Kelsey Dworkis, Professor Jacqueline Eschenlohr, and Professor Kathleen Davison (KED) for presenting at the mixer last month. Their engaging stories of their time at DU, life and career were enjoyed by all. If you would like more information on the Alumni Engagement Council, please contact [Kristen Dimig](#).



Last quarter, Dr. Ryan Casey developed and led a successful initial offering of International Accounting Topics - Paris and London. This course was designed for students to study international accounting from both academic and practical perspectives. The course consisted of two components: pre-departure classes designed to provide the students with knowledge of issues experienced in a global economy and a ten-day international travel experience which included experiential learning exercises, group discussions and presentations, and seven visits to international companies and CPA firms. Casey plans to offer a similar course during the Fall 2017 quarter.



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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 kristen.dimig@du.edu with any updates.

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!

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 2017!

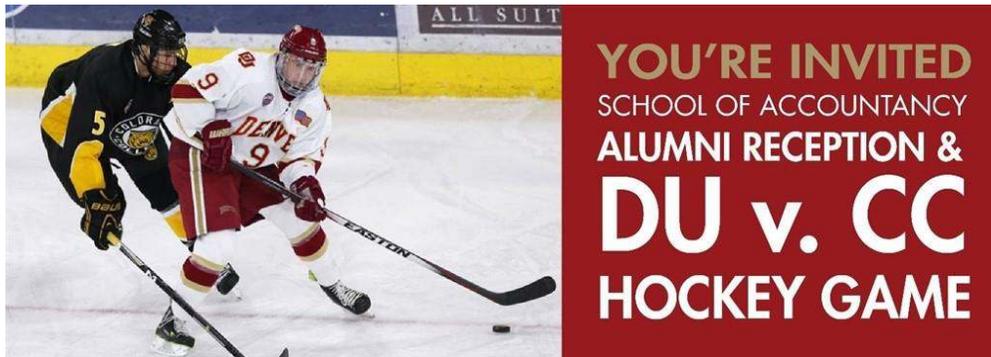
Best,



Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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Upcoming Events



SOA Alumni Reception and DU v. CC Hockey Game
Friday, February 10, 2017 | 6:30 p.m.
Ritchie Center | Boryla Room

There are still a few tickets left for the School of Accountancy Alumni Reception and DU v. CC Hockey Game. Catch up with other alums and cheer on the Pioneers from the double attack side of the stadium. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

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Get to Know Your Network

Meet Alumnus Donald "Donny" Stroh (BSACC, '93)

Donny was born and raised in Short Hills, NJ, a small suburban town about 15 miles outside of New York City. His mother is from England and his father was from New York. Donny feels fortunate to have had a solid upbringing that included his mother working at the elementary school that he attended. "She was the school librarian so I was able to see her



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.



quite often, but it was a challenge for her to raise a son that did not share a librarian's fondness of reading!" Donny and his older brother, Robert, continued a family tradition by attending the same preparatory school that their father attended in New York. The brothers also both attended DU. Robert Stroh (BSBA, 1997) currently owns and runs The Hideaway restaurant in Castle Rock, CO. Be sure to check it out and tell him Donny sent you!

As a young Pioneer at DU in the early 1990's, Donny was required to take the core curriculum courses across all disciplines, but he knew from the start that he wanted to study business. "I learned from my father that I needed to earn a degree that could get me a job when I graduated from college. He taught me that this was my chance, and that after school I needed to make a living and be on my own." Job prospects in the early 1990's were not strong, and being a fan of finance and order, accounting seemed to be a good fit for Donny. "Marketing would have been fun, but to be honest, I was worried about job stability."



Donny credits Dr. Frakes with assisting and influencing his studies. "I was fortunate enough to have her as a professor early on in my studies and continued to stay in touch, take other classes with her and even become friends with her son through my years at DU." Donny remembers that Dr. Frakes stressed there is more to accounting than the Big Eight or Six or Four. "She spoke of the wide and varied opportunities that one could find with an accounting degree in the world – something I took to heart as I started

a business with a friend after graduation. It was a hard decision, but one I will never regret."

Donny describes his accounting classmates as a small, close group who banded together to survive. "I enjoyed getting to know a lot of different people during those classes: greek, non-greek, athletes, everything." Beyond the School of Accountancy, Donny enjoyed participating in DU events: orientation, SOAR, Geneva Glen, hockey games and Winter Carnival. "What I have loved most about having a degree from DU is that the school has improved and flourished since I graduated." Donny jokes, "Not sure I would get in these days!" DU continues to improve in rankings and reviews. "The new buildings, facilities, and increased class offerings are amazing. I wish we had a lot of that when I was there, but still look back on my experience with fondness."

Donny considers himself a rare accounting graduate, in that he did not take the common 'Big Four' route. He was not a 4.0 student, but "I worked my tail off with the other students to get through some classes and earn my degree." After graduation, he and a friend started a business in Atlanta, GA. They ran it for a year



before selling it to a competitor. Donny then got a call from a friend about an accounting job in San Francisco. He was offered the job as a Property Accountant for Trammell Crow, a real estate management company, and lived in San Francisco for

the next 20 or so years. He was promoted up through various roles and switched companies, finally becoming Manager of Corporate Finance for a real estate branch of Deutsch Bank (RREEF). "I enjoyed that job, but did realize at that point that some people attach an unfair stigma to people who do not have their CPA license or Big Four experience." He decided, with the support of his wife, to take the leap to PwC in order to gain experience, obtain his CPA, and prove that he was capable of performing in that environment. "I truly enjoyed my time in the Real Estate group of PwC." Donny passed the CPA exam and made Manager, checking off two of his goals. "It was a great experience to work with clients after having been on their side. Donny's previous experiences proved invaluable and provided a bridge to his clients. "They were very used to young accountants fresh from college coming to their office but not always truly understanding the day-to-day operations of a business, from closing out a month end to getting checks cut and sending out weekly reports." One of his favorite such clients to work with during his time at PwC was Mammoth Mountain Ski Area.



Donny recounts another major change when he resigned from PwC in December, 2009. His son was born in January, 2009 and with Donny's hectic, busy season-style work schedule and his wife's demanding real estate investment job which included much travel, they made the decision for Donny to stay home with their son. "It was a bit out of the social norm 7 or 8 years ago to be a stay at home dad, but I think that role is

expanding and becoming more socially acceptable." Donny still runs into people who cast doubt over their decision and judge him in his role, but it rolls right off him. "I tell them that I get to spend every day with my son, and I have not found too many people who say that they wish they spent less time with their kids when they are old and retired." He cherishes this time with his son and they are a fortunate family to have one parent at home. "I understand that not all families are able to, or make this decision, but it works for us. I tell people that I am Chief Family Officer (CFO) as I handle all aspects of our family life from laundry and dinner, to taxes, cars, and investments."

Donny and his family moved to London in July of 2015 for his wife's job and will likely be there for three or four years. Living abroad has been a great experience for the entire family. They have been able to travel to numerous places, including Portugal, Istanbul, Morocco, Venice and even enjoy skiing in Lech, Austria. "We have the opportunity to expose our son to so many different cultures and experiences." Donny's father passed away in 2013, and his mother now lives in the English countryside. "It is a perk that we are near my mother and get to spend time with her, aunts, uncles, cousins, and all of their kids!"



Donny has become very involved with his son's school. "I work on the Parents Association (yes, Treasurer) and also manage the Father's Football club which allows a lot of us old guys to still play some soccer on weekends." He also enjoys researching and planning the family's travel and is looking forward to a ski trip in February! As for the future, Donny is looking forward to the next adventure. "I have learned to never say never in this life."

Alumni Notes

Congratulations to **James C. Tanner (BSACC, 1972; MT, 1976, pictured at right)** on the recent publishing of his book "*Tax Reform with the 20/20 Tax: The Quest for a Fair and Rational Tax System*".



Jenny Scholz (BSACC, MACC, 2003) was promoted to Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Hensel Phelps Construction Co. Congratulations, Jenny!

Job Opportunities

Mi Casa Resource Center is currently seeking a recent graduate to fill the position of Senior Lending Consultant. For more information, please see the [job posting](#).

WESTAF, the Western States Arts Federation, is accepting applications for a full-time Finance Associate. Please see the [job posting](#) for more information.

ONEPOINT Franchise Accounting Experts is currently seeking a Chief Operating Officer to partner with the owners of the Company in crafting, implementing and scaling the Company's growth strategy. Please see the [website](#) for contact information.

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Faculty Updates

Dr. Kelsey Dworkis and Dr. Lorenzo Patelli coauthored a paper titled “*Behavioral Responses to Multiple Performance Measures: Does Personality Matter?*” which was accepted to the Management Accounting Section Midyear Meeting of the American Accounting Association. Dworkis presented this paper at the conference held in San Juan, Puerto Rico January 5-7, 2017.

Dr. Kelsey Dworkis, Dr. Adam Greiner, and Dr. Lisa Victoravich coauthored a paper titled “*Weakened Reporting: The Effects of Bonus Compensation, Clawback Regime, and Narcissism on Whistleblowing*” which was accepted to the Management Accounting Section Midyear Meeting of the American Accounting Association. Dworkis presented this paper at the conference held in San Juan, Puerto Rico January 5-7, 2017.

Professor Hugh Grove, Dr. Adam Greiner, and Dr. Mac Clouse coauthored a paper titled “*Risk Assessment Perspectives for Forensic Accountants and Auditors Based on Some International Evidence*” which will be published in the Journal of Forensic & Investigative Accounting, Volume 9: Issue 1, January – June, 2017.

Dr. Lorenzo Patelli and Dr. Kelsey Dworkis coauthored a paper titled, “*Do Personality Traits Influence Individual Performance Under Balanced Incentive Systems? An Experimental Investigation Using Amazon Mechanical Turk.*” Patelli presented the paper at the Tenth Conference on New Directions in Management Accounting in Brussels, Belgium on December 16, 2017.

Dr. Lorenzo Patelli, along with Margaret Christ from the University of Georgia, served as speakers on January 7, 2017, for a session titled “*Learning by Integrating Research in your Classroom*” at the Teaching Symposium of Management Accounting, American Accounting Association.

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On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

F in Exams: Awesomely Wrong Test Answers

Q: Which civilization established the first known use of democracy?

A: The Ancient Geeks

Q: Explain the dangers of life as a cowboy in the Old American West.

A: High risk of being shot by Clint Eastwood

Q: What does “self-regulation” mean in the context of the media industry?

A: Deciding not to watch a whole series in one go on Netflix.

Q: Write the longest sentence you can, using appropriate punctuation.

A: 50 years to life.

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