



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | MARCH 2016

## Director's Update

We've been fortunate this quarter to feature some wonderful guest speakers in our classes. In January, SoA alum Robert Swieringa (MBA '65, pictured at left) spoke in Dr. Adam Greiner's Accounting Fundamentals Course. Bob, pictured at left, served on the Financial Accounting Standards Board from 1986-1996, was previously a faculty member at Stanford and Yale, and later became Dean at Cornell University (1997-2007). His class visit provided our students with insights on the FASB, including its role as an independent organization with extensive due process, their development of accounting standards and talent, and the utilization of their body of work. Thanks to Bob, our students have a greater understanding of this important organization and the opportunities it presents. Over the past three years, we've had four students selected to serve as Postgraduate Technical Assistants at the FASB (Danika Tibbetts, Alexis Tanoue,



Andrew McClaskey, and Mallory Bennett) and one of our students, Rachel Meek, is scheduled for final round interviews this month.

In February, SoA alum Josh Tanzer (BSAC '83, pictured at right) guest lectured for Dr. Philipp Schaberl's Intermediate Accounting course. Josh's lecture, titled "Accounting Information as the Basis for Price Discovery" gave students a unique perspective on the application of accounting concepts. Josh is currently the Managing Director and Head of Houlihan Lokey's Private Growth Equity Capital and has years of experience in the private equity sector, previously holding leadership positions at Morgan Keegan Technology Group, Lazard Freres & Co, and Credit Suisse First Boston's Technology Group.



If you're interested in guest lecturing in one of our courses, please contact me at [slassar@du.edu](mailto:slassar@du.edu). We love having our alumni involved in expanding our students' understanding of the dynamic accounting opportunities available.



Thank you to all of our alumni who attended the Battle on Blake DU v. CC Hockey Game and Alumni Reception last month! It was exciting to watch our team take the ice for the first ever hockey game at Coors Field. Go Pioneers!

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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!

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## ABOUT US

Best,



Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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## Upcoming Events

### 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](#)

### 2016 Elevate Ethics: Ethical Leadership in American Business

Join Daniels for an engaging discussion on ethical standards, guidelines, and their meaning in today's business environment. Enterprise Ethics will feature Deborah DeHaas, Vice Chairman of Deloitte; Gary Burandt, Executive Director of ICOM; and Robert Swieringa, alum of the SoA and Independent Director on the Board of General Electric Company.

April 12, 2016, 5-9pm

Margery Reed Hall 113, Reiman Theater

[More Information Here](#)

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## Get to Know Your Network

### Meet Alumna Rebecca Kelley (BSACC '05)

For Rebecca Kelley, giving back has been a part of her life since childhood. A native of Grand Junction, CO, Rebecca grew up making annual trips to a small fishing village in Mexico for vacation. She and her family became very close with some of the families there and recognized a strong need for support in their community. "My dad started a charity that provided small gift bags with a stuffed toy and candy for Christmas," Rebecca says. "We would go into local area schools and have the students decorate the paper sacks, then we would wrap the gifts and deliver them at Christmas time." Today, Rebecca regularly gives back to our DU community, among others, through service on our Alumni Engagement Council and her role as the Chair of our Mentorship Program.

In high school, Rebecca toured a number of schools in Colorado and fell in love with the University of Denver, specifically the beautiful campus and the Daniels College of Business. She knew she wanted to become a Pioneer and a year or so later, she started classes here as a declared accounting major. Throughout the program, Rebecca enjoyed her time with classmates and Core-mates and the unique camaraderie they developed as a group. She says, "I feel that my education prepared me to not only be a great accountant, understanding the foundation of accounting principles and code, but it also prepared me to work well in teams, conduct myself

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.



professionally, and embrace the challenges of public accounting.”

While at DU, Rebecca had the opportunity to



travel to India for an interterm course – her first trip across the Pacific.

While there, she was exposed to incredible geography, landmarks, food, and culture, and her passion for travel grew. In the years since, she has traveled to the UK, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Iceland, Costa Rica, and Peru and



now plans an international trip with either her sister or husband (or both) every year, something she looks forward to after busy season.

After graduating in 2005, Rebecca started her career at EKS&H, a firm she has been with for over 10 years now. She currently works as a Senior Manager on their Accounting Solutions team, which specializes in outsourced accounting, controller oversight, and process and system improvements. “It’s been an incredible experience to work in our consulting service area, watch it grow, and continue to build my professional experience,” she says. “I’ve most enjoyed the variety of clients, industries, and projects, the incredible team I work with, and the lasting and continuing relationships I’ve developed with my clients.”



Rebecca met her husband through a fellow classmate at DU and they have been together for 11 years now. Now three years into their marriage, Rebecca and Daniel, are expecting their first child, a little girl, on April 15, 2016. “When we found out our due date, we had to laugh,” she says. “I remark that it’s reflective of my commitment to my career and profession.”

Rebecca looks forward to focusing on her family, getting back into traveling, and continue focusing on

her career goal of becoming a partner at EKS&H. We are grateful to have her on our Alumni Engagement Council and can’t wait to see how her career continues to develop.

### Alumni Notes

**Leah Goldsher (BSACC, MACC '13)** recently spent a month in Bali, Indonesia, where she completed a 200-hour yoga teacher training certification. In addition to

starting a new job in February with FTI Consulting in their Transaction Advisory Services group, Leah is also teaching yoga part-time in Chicago.

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## Faculty Updates

### Awards, Presentations and Publications

Dr. Jim Sorensen recently finished development of a Management Accounting Software Search Engine tool, [now available for use on our website here](#). The tool allows users to enter a variety of specifications and receive a list of available software that meets their needs. The site is free-of-charge and offers objective information about available current management accounting software. Thank you to the Institute of Management Accountants for their financial support in the creation of this website.

Dr. Ryan Casey was honored at the fourth annual Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work Faculty Recognition Dinner on February 8, 2016 along with Dr. Hugh Grove (as mentioned in February's edition). 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. Casey's article "Do Compustat Financial Statement Data Articulate?" was included in the inaugural issue of the new FARS Journal of Financial Reporting.

Dr. Rick Leaman published the following articles with Stephen Sewalk fro the Burns School of Real Estate and Construction Management: "Stairs, Railing and Fencing for Commercial Construction" and "Tax Equity Financing of Alternative Energy."

Prof. Kathleen Davisson and Dr. Sharon Lassar both moderated panels at the Annual Accounting Programs Leadership Group Meeting in Savannah, GA on February 12-13. Davisson led a discussion about recruiting MACC students and Lassar led a discussion about the costs and benefits of separate accounting accreditation.

Lassar was an invited participant in an Accreditation Summit with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the AICPA, and representatives from several regional and national accrediting bodies in Washington, D.C. on January 29th. The Summit discussed issues State Boards of Accountancy face when evaluating the education records of CPA candidates.

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## On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

### Impact of Global Recessions:

The recession has hit everybody really hard. My neighbor got a pre-declined credit card in the mail, CEO's are now playing miniature golf, McDonald's is selling the 1/4 ounce, and a picture is now only worth 200 words.

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