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SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | MAY 2017

Director's Update

The School of Accountancy is excited to announce that our graduate program will be the first in the nation to offer the AICPA's Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF) exam as part of a university course. ACTG 4520, Forensic Accounting and Auditing, will be taught by Dr. Eirn Nickell and Professor Ethan Rojhani, a DU alumnus and managing director with Grant Thornton on Tuesday and Thursday from 7:50 - 10 p.m., from June 19 to August 17. The CFF credential was specifically designed for accounting professionals who would like to specialize in financial forensics, one of the fastest growing specialty areas in accounting. The course will provide our students with the knowledge and skills to pursue exciting new career opportunities and further distinguish them as top candidates for recruitment. If you'd like to come back to campus for the course, there are still seats available.

Two teams received awards at the BAP Regional Conference on April 7 and 8 in Denver. The Community Outreach team placed 3rd and the Leadership Development team placed 2nd. Congratulations to our Accounting Core II students for their success! Many thanks to our President, Amanda Kendall, and VP of Programming, Max Schneck, for presenting an information session on Chapter Operations. As a reward for our competitors, their faculty advisor, Dr. Adam Greiner, treated the teams to lunch in downtown Denver.



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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!



On Thursday, April 20, 2017 two School of Accountancy students were awarded scholarships at the annual meeting of the Denver chapter of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA). Students across Colorado were invited to participate in this annual scholarship competition. Marissa Nennig won 3rd place for her essay and Ari Parrilla won 1st place for her video submission (pictured, at left). Submissions require either a brief essay or video on a topic in IT Governance, IT Assurance, IT Security or IT Risk Management – topics that are thoroughly covered in the MACC course ACTG 4575 AIS Risk, Control and Audit. Congratulations Ari and Marissa!

Congratulations are also in order for students Courtney Smith and Clive Greenberg for receiving scholarships of \$3,300 each from the Colorado Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and to Clive and Danielle Keen for receiving scholarships from the Institute of Management Accountants. We are proud of our outstanding students for pursuing and winning well-deserved scholarship awards.

The SoA has a new team member! Please join me in welcoming our Program Coordinator, Alix Saunders. Alix will be taking over Jodye Whitesell's responsibilities and will manage all Special Events and Student Programs going forward. Alix holds a BA and MA from the University of Denver and has experience in marketing, higher education, communications, and event planning. We are thrilled to welcome her to our School of Accountancy family and look forward to introducing her to you the next time you're on campus.

Best,

Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for One Day for DU

One Day for DU is on May 24, 2017! It's the one day when DU asks the entire community to come together and show their support by making a gift.

Check out daniels.du.edu/events for future events.

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Get to Know Your Network

The Alumni Relations Committee from the School of Accountancy Advisory Board is pleased to announce the recipients of the Alumnus and Young Alumnus of the Year

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.



awards. The awards were given at the SOA Spring Banquet held on April 28, 2017. Congratulations to our 2017 Alumnus of the Year Dr. James Sorensen and Young Alumnus of the Year Shivani Mohan!

Meet Alumnus of the Year Dr. James Sorensen, PhD, CPA, CGMA (BSBA, 1960; MBA, 1962)

Dr. Sorensen received his PhD from The Ohio State University in 1965 and his BSBA and MBA from the University of Denver in 1960 and 1962. He began his rich and productive career at the University of Denver in 1965 as Assistant Professor of Accounting, being promoted to Associate Professor of Accounting in 1969. He is currently a Professor of Accountancy in the School of Accountancy, Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver, a position he has held since 1972. He teaches currently Not-for-Profit Accounting and Advanced Management Accounting in the School of Accountancy and Strategic Cost Management in the MBA and EMBA programs.



Professor Sorensen has earned numerous awards throughout his career including: Fellow of the Decision Sciences Institute, 1975; multiple teaching and research awards during the 70's, 80's and 90's; University Scholar/Teacher Award, University of Denver, 1981; John J. Gilbert Endowed Professorship, School of Accountancy, Daniels College of Business 2000 and 2011; MBA Core Diamond Award, Daniels College of Business, 2000, 2001, and 2002; Bulloch Award for Innovations in Management Accounting, American Accounting Association and Institute of Management Accountants, 2004; Evelyn and Jay G. Piccinati Endowed Professorship for Teaching Excellence, Daniels College of Business, 2004; Scholarship of Teaching Award, Daniels College of Business, 2012; and Outstanding Service Award, Daniels College of Business, 2014. Most recently, he was the recipient of the Daniels College of Business Pedagogy and Learning Award in recognition of his contributions to the professional literature.

Dr. Sorensen has published more than 125 articles, books/chapters, technical reports and cases. He has served as the Editor of Decision Sciences and on the editorial board of several prominent journals.

It is a joy to be in the presence of Dr. Sorensen. He is kind, driven and has a love for teaching. His distinctive teaching style is instrumental in equipping students with the tools and mindset necessary for post-graduation success. While teaching students about accounting, he has taught his colleagues what it means to be an outstanding and dedicated professor. It is a pleasure to know and associate with Jim.

Meet Young Alumnus of the Year Shivani Mohan, CPA (BSACC, 2008)

Shivani Mohan, CPA, is a Colorado native who completed her Bachelors of Science in Accountancy at DU in 2008. After five and a half years as an auditor in public accounting, she transitioned into the exciting world of tax accounting.

Shivani is currently employed at Hanson & Co. CPAs in Denver. Her hobbies include volunteering, traveling, meeting new people, rooting on her alma mater, and spending time with friends and family. The School of Accountancy is extremely proud of Shivani and her many accomplishments.



Alumni Notes

Nate Pearson (BSAC, 2011, MACC, 2012) recently accepted a position at Lagunitas Brewing Company where he leads a financial planning team. This new role fulfills Nate's dream of working in the craft beer space. Congratulations, Nate!

Please join us in congratulating **Ingrid Stiver (BSACC, MACC, 2009)**. She was recently promoted to Senior Finance Project Manager at Denver Health Medical Plan, Inc.

Xiaoyan (Cheyenne) Xu (MACC, 2012, MSF, 2015) was recently promoted to Associate Director at SRS Acquion LLC. Congratulations on the promotion, Cheyenne!

Ruby Kamm (MACC, 2013) was recently promoted to Senior Audit Associate at KPMG, specializing in financial services and alternative investment industries. Congratulations, Ruby!

Job Opportunities

Alliance for Sustainable Colorado is seeking a Financial Controller. For more information, please see the [posting](#).

Oceanside Ten is seeking an Accountant in Denver with 1-4 years of experience. Please see the [posting](#) for more information.

MG Stover is seeking a fund accountant to join their team. The desired candidate will have a bachelors degree or masters degree in accounting. The intention to earn a CPA is a plus. For more information, please see the [posting](#).

Please see du.edu/pioneercareers for additional job opportunities.

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Faculty Updates

Professor John Tripp (MA, 1975; MT 1976) and his son, **Jim Tripp (BS, MACC, 2009; MT, 2010)**, flew to Chicago to watch the DU Hockey Team clinch another National Championship. Dr. Tripp reports, "Attending the 2017 Frozen Four National Championship Hockey Tournament with Jim was a bucket list trip for me. I have been watching DU Hockey for more than 45 years and this was the first National Championship Tournament that I have attended in person. The results of the weekend were amazing. We watched (cheering very loudly) DU win its eighth National Championship; Will Butcher receive the Hobey Baker Award on the Navy Pier; Tanner Jaillet receive the Mike Richter Award at Kitty O'Sheas Irish Pub, Jarid Lukosevicius score a hat



trick and receive the National Tournament MVP award; and celebrated with the team all along the way, including the amazing victory celebration at the team hotel. It was a fun and awesome father and son escapade that I will never forget!"

Additionally, Dr. Tripp says, "We want to thank Coach Montgomery (National Coach of the Year) for teaching and encouraging his players to stay with the 'Process'. We also want to thank our players for all the conditioning, hard work and energy they

put into practicing and playing this year. They made it possible for us to enjoy an incredible journey. Finally, we want to thank the DU Alumni Association for planning the pregame watch parties and the final victory celebration in the team hotel. As fans, these events made us feel welcome and appreciated. They also increased our level of enthusiasm and support for our Pioneers. Go DU!"



Awards, Honors, Presentations and Publications

At the March Institute for Enterprise Ethics roundtable, Dr. Ryan Casey moderated a discussion on "Governance in an Age of Super-Transparency". The roundtable discussion was attended by local business leaders and executives. For an overview of the topic, you may access a [podcast summary discussion](#) between Dan Sweeney, Director of the Institute for Enterprise Ethics, and Dr. Casey.

On April 6, 2017, Dr. Ryan Casey presented his paper titled "Measuring Reporting Quality: Recognition versus Disclosure" at the first annual UC Davis Accounting Research Conference.

On April 7 and 8, 2017, Dr. Lorenzo Patelli attended the American Accounting Association Western Regional annual conference in San Francisco, where he presented a research paper co-authored with Dr. Adam Greiner, titled, "Do Auditors Price Tone of Corporate Voluntary Disclosure?"

Professor Suzette Loving was elected to the board of the Denver Chapter of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA). She will serve as Secretary for the 2017-2018 year. ISACA is an international organization and the

Denver chapter maintains over 1000 members. This non-profit organization is dedicated to the continued development and enhancement of the information systems audit and control profession by providing educational and networking opportunities to its members and to the professional community-at-large.

Drs. Ryan Casey and Philipp Schaberl published their paper "A Recent Comparison of Industry Classification Schemes using Publicly Traded Firms" as the Cover story in the January/February 2017 edition of Value Examiner. In this paper, Drs. Casey and Schaberl analyze industry classification schemes in terms of their ability to classify firms into homogenous groups. Their findings will be useful for professionals needing to identify comparable firms for benchmarking and valuation purposes.

Dr. Philipp Schaberl presented two working papers at the American Accounting Association Western Region annual conference. The first paper, co-authored with Dr. Davit Adut (Seattle University) and Dr. Marc Picconi (College of William and Mary) is titled "The Good, the Bad, and the Assets: The Effect of Managerial Ability on Net Operating Assets". This paper uses a new measure of managerial ability to show that high-ability managers are less constrained by balance sheets with abnormally high net operating assets. The second paper, co-authored with Dr. Somnath Das (University of Illinois-Chicago) and Dr. Pradyot K. Sen (University of Washington-Bothell) is titled: "Analysts' Forecast Errors and Dividend Displacement". This paper uses Theil-Sen estimation to investigate whether analysts' earnings forecasts fully reflect the dividend displacement effect of past dividends on future earnings. The results suggest that analysts don't fully understand the negative impact of past dividends on future earnings.

As the Liaison for the Financial Accounting Research Section of the Western Region, Dr. Philipp Schaberl was involved in the selection of papers for the conference. Additionally, he recruited reviewers for the academic papers that were submitted to the conference. For this conference, submissions went through blind peer review by two anonymous reviewers. Philipp would like to express his gratitude to his School of Accountancy colleagues Drs. Ryan Casey, Kelsey Dworkis, Adam Greiner, and Lorenzo Patelli for kindly volunteering to review papers for this conference.

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On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

Reader's Digest Quotes

"One of my biggest fears is that I'll marry into a family that runs 5Ks on holidays."

"Being a parent dilutes your narcissism."

"I'm in the middle of my life and I just don't have enough years left to spend a large proportion of them inside an iPhone."

"Working in the hospital teaches you that there are only two kinds of people in the world: the sick and the not sick. If you are not sick, shut up and help!"

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