



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

Alumni Newsletter - September 2014

## Get to Know Your Network: Tim Messenger (BSAC, MAcc 2006)



Tim Messenger grew up in Loveland, CO with his older brother Tyler. They were raised by great parents, Rosalie and Tyler Messenger, who taught them the importance of education. During his childhood, Tyler enjoyed playing all sports but became competitive with golf during high school. The family focus on education really paid off when Tim graduated as the Valedictorian.

Despite growing up in Colorado, Tim didn't realize DU existed until his senior year of high school when his guidance counselor suggested he look into it. When deciding on potential schools, he had already wanted to major in accounting so he sought out top accounting programs and applied to schools like the University of Illinois and NYU. Abby Summers worked hard to recruit Tim to DU while a nearly full-ride scholarship sealed the deal. He was pleasantly

surprised as he received a scholarship for having pre-selected his major.

While at DU, the professors took notice of Tim's passion for the material. Each of the professors proved to be a source of strength in the classroom and even after Tim graduated. He said, "Keeping in touch with the professors as I started my career was invaluable."

After graduating from the School of Accountancy with a 3/2 MAcc, Tim applied and interviewed for the FASB postgraduate internship but, unfortunately, wasn't offered a position. He didn't intend to become an auditor so he spent some time across campus and received his Master of Taxation. He worked for Deloitte in Boston and then moved to Washington DC specializing in international taxation.

### In This Issue

[Get to Know Your Network: Tim Messenger](#)

[Student Corner](#)  
Guest  
Speakers/Volunteers

Beta Alpha Psi Success

[Recent Happenings](#)  
Colorado Accounting  
Research Symposium

Meetings, Presentations  
and Publications

[Employment](#)  
[Opportunities](#)

[Public Service](#)  
[Announcement](#)

[Class Notes](#)

### Upcoming Events

#### - SoA Events -

[Welcome Back Reception and KEDs Birthday Celebration - Sunday, September 7, 2014 - 5-7 p.m.](#)

#### - Daniels Events -

Please [visit here](#) to view

During his five years with Deloitte in international taxation, he received plenty of opportunities to teach, understand and apply tax law. He teamed up with professionals from around the globe implementing tax, accounting, business and legal changes to businesses. The complexity of implementing the interpretation of the tax law into a business was thrilling and Tim was continually surrounded by colleagues who would leave him in awe of their technical knowledge.

In 2012 Tim left public accounting in pursuit of a performance career in stand-up comedy. He started writing jokes and performing in college and continued to do so through his tenure at Deloitte. Although he stays up-to-date reading Tax Notes Today and maintaining his CPA and CPE, he now is traveling full-time and performing across the country. Tim says, "There is no safety net in comedy,



but complete creative freedom is quite a luxury. Stand-up is the hardest thing I've attempted in my life. I could have stayed in public accounting, but with comedy, the uncertainty exists and accomplishments are all your own. Plus making people laugh is fun; it's a drug." Tim has lived in six different cities (Minneapolis, DC, NYC, Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles) for a month at a time. He was performing every night along with networking with clubs and meeting comics from all over. "Hopefully by the end of the tour, I'll have more club work, more friends."

When Tim isn't writing jokes or performing, he enjoys biking. He recently built his own fixed gear complete with a Gate belt drive system. The future looks bright for this alumnus of ours. He plans to perform for the next six months and advance his comedy career. He's not ruling out the option of a returning to the tax world again since he "gets antsy when he's not discussing code."

You can check out [Tim's website](#) for upcoming performances. He'll be in Denver this month!

[\[return to top\]](#)

---

## Student Corner

### SoA Guest Speakers and Volunteers

The spring quarter was marked by an incredible number of guest speakers visiting our accounting classes. Students had the opportunity to listen to inspiring professionals from a wide variety of industries. In particular, three classes regularly exposed students to the experience of high-caliber speakers.

Dr. Sharon Lassar and Robert Troccoli, former KPMG partner, co-taught the Accounting Communications course offered to students in the third quarter of the accounting core. Rachel Barrett and Dan Cooper from EY shared their suggestions to deliver effective oral presentations. Cory Vann, Drew Johnson, Kathleen Gold, Christopher Fettig, Nicole Woellert, Andrew Nelson, John Regier, and Joe Teynor from Deloitte took turns presenting auditing cases to the class followed by personal work on the case by the

more upcoming events

---

## 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 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.

students. The speakers then returned to class, watched students present their answers to the case and evaluated their work.



The Founder and CEO of the Institute for Truth in Accounting, Shelia A. Weinberg, presented an insightful analysis of the "off-the-balance-sheet" liabilities of State and Federal governments to our Not-for-Profit accounting class during spring quarter 2014. Her depth of knowledge and vivid statistics impressed both students and faculty. Her reflections on testimony to Federal and State governments underscored her contributions to the profession. She serves also on the Board of Advisors and was able to combine a classroom presentation with the Board meeting.

Dr. Hugh Grove's case course provided students with the privilege of many guest speakers. Craig Moseley, a financial analyst who worked for MiniScribe spoke on detecting fraudulent financial reporting and applying Bill Daniels' ethics guidelines. Steve Coburn, former CFO of Teletech and F5 Networks, discussed taking a company public and dealing with Wall Street on quarterly conference calls. Darin Good, an investment banker with Headwaters Investment Bank, and Eric Miller, a private equity partner with Kodiak Partners, discussed the sell-side and buy-side of M&A transactions, respectively. The class also heard from Gordon Yale, a forensic accountant with Yale and Associates, who presented to students the practice of forensic accounting.

Dr. Lorenzo Patelli's case course also had a number of guest speakers. Peter Derschang of Brakes Plus offered his experience as CFO of a family business. Chris Blackett, CFO of IcelanticSkis, talked about the role of accounting in supporting a growing small business. Todd Hyatt, Executive Vice President and CFO of IHS, not only discussed how managerial accounting supports the company's strategy, but also how financial information is used to evaluate performance of divisions. Other speakers include Danny Parkinson and Michael Fleschner, Associate and Senior Analyst of St. Charles Capital (now, KPMG) who offered a great presentation on bank valuations. Besides giving a structured presentation during the class time, Ken desGarenes, CFO of Zayo Group, spent an extra hour talking to students. Paul Regan, Vice President of Finance and Business Operations for Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, shared his experience of working on defense projects and government contracts.

Christian Mezger, CFO of Ciber, discussed how to set transfer prices throughout a growing multinational company. Dr. Patelli also arranged a video conference with Peter Christensen, Vice President, BHC Regulatory Controllers, and Isaac Ewaleifoh, Associate, IMD Product Control, of the Salt Lake City office of Goldman Sachs. Finally, Leslie Karnauskas and Kathy Rinkel from the Institute of Management Accountants presented the opportunities of professional development offered by the institute, including the CMA exam.



**Beta Alpha Psi Annual Meeting Success**

*Top Row: (from left) Robert Galvan; Ryan Stine, President; Rodney Castillo; Shayan Wu, VP of Reporting*

*Bottom Row: (from left) Michaela Diamond, VP of Programming; Alicia Poore, Competitions Coordinator; Mackenzi Steinert, VP of Treasury; Mariah Bloom, 2013-14 President*

On August 6-9, eight members of DU's Alpha Zeta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi travelled to Atlanta, GA for the annual Beta Alpha Psi national meeting. While there, a team of three students competed in the Best Practices competition and won first place in the Collaboration category! These students, Robert Galvan, Rodney Castillo and Michaela Diamond, won first place in the regional competition in Salt Lake City this past April, a win that qualified them for the national competition. In Atlanta, they were one of ten teams competing in the Collaboration category, all of which had won first place in their regional competitions. The team was overseen by Ryan Stine, 2013-14 Competition Coordinator and current President of Beta Alpha Psi's Alpha Zeta chapter. Ryan also presented at the national meeting alongside 2013-14 President Mariah Bloom on how the officer team works to keep their chapter active throughout the year. Incoming Beta Alpha Psi officers Mackenzi Steinert (VP of Treasury), Shayan Wu (VP of Reporting) and Alicia Poore (Competitions Coordinator) also attended the meeting to support the competition team and learn more about Beta Alpha Psi and their officer roles within it.

The faculty and staff of the School of Accountancy are so proud of our students for their success in Atlanta and look forward to what the new officer team will accomplish in the coming months!

[\[return to top\]](#)



---

## Recent Happenings

### **First Colorado Accounting Research Symposium (CARS)**

The School of Accountancy hosted the first Colorado Accounting Research Symposium (CARS) on Friday, August 22nd. SoA Assistant Professor, Philipp Schaberl, organized the event. We had 34 scholars from Colorado, Wyoming and Texas attend the event to see faculty from Daniels, Colorado State, CU Boulder, CU Denver, and CU Colorado Springs present and discuss their research. Assistant Professor Adam Greiner presented his paper *Consequences of Real Earnings Management and Weak Corporate Governance: Evidence from Cash*

Holdings. The SoA is looking forward to hosting this event again in 2015.

### **Meetings, Presentations and Publications**

Dr. Philipp Schaberl presented the paper "Reporting Location and the Value Relevance of Accounting Information: The Case of Other Comprehensive Income" which is co-authored with Lisa Victoravich at the Annual Congress of the European Accounting Association in Tallinn, Estonia (May 21st to May 24th).

Dr. Schaberl's manuscript entitled "The Influence of Disclosure Policy on Analyst Behavior: The Case of Segment Data" was accepted for publication in Volume 30-2 of *Advances in Accounting Incorporating Advances in International Accounting* that will be published in December 2014.

Dr. Lisa Victoravich was named President-Elect of the Accounting Behavior and Organizations Section of the American Accounting Association for 2014-2015 and will therefore be President in 2015-2016.

Dr. Erin Nickell was asked to serve as the Chair for the 50th annual Deloitte Trueblood Seminar for Professors this coming year. The purpose of the seminar is to involve faculty in the development of the "Trueblood Cases" that are released by the Deloitte Foundation each year to be used in the classroom. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Trueblood Case Studies.

Dr. Adam Greiner attended the Deloitte / Federation of Schools of Accountancy Faculty Consortium in Westlake, TX, May 30-31 2014, and the PwC Accounting & Tax Symposium in Atlanta, GA, July 31-August 1, 2014. Dr. Greiner also attended the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA, August 3-6 where he presented two of his research papers entitled, "Consequences of Real Earnings Management and Weak Corporate Governance: Evidence from Cash Holdings," and "Has the Fair Value Option Resulted in Less Real Earnings Management?" At the same meeting, his co-authors also presented two collaborative studies, "Evidence of Auditor Risk Associated with Excess Cash Holdings," and "An Examination of Audit Quality Associated with New Partners of Continuing Firm Clients in the United States."

Dr. Lorenzo Patelli attended the 19th Annual Ethics Research Symposium on August 3. He also served as discussant for two papers and presented his paper "When are performance measurement system used interactively within relationships between headquarters and subsidiaries?" at the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting.

Dr. Jim Sorensen was a panelist, along with Raef A. Lawson (IMA), Ed Blocher (University of North Carolina), Jan Taylor Morris (Sam Houston State University) and Kevin Stocks (Brigham Young University) focusing on "Implementation of the Integrated Competency-Based Framework for Accounting," 2014 American Accounting Association, Annual Association Annual Meeting.



Our professors found that summer is a great time to enjoy the great outdoors. Pictured are Assistant Professors: Adam Greiner, Lorenzo Patelli, Philipp Schaberl and Ryan Casey.

Dr. Jim Sorensen was a co-author (along with David Stout and Peter Brewer) on the cover article of Strategic Finance August 2014. The article "The Future of Accounting Education: Addressing the Competency Crisis" (p. 29-37) addresses the gradual transformation of the accounting profession and raises the questions of (1) which competencies are important for success in accounting today and (2) were those competencies consciously developed as part of your accounting education? We suspect the answer the second question would often be "no."

What a fantastic summer we had in the SoA. Dr. Jim Sorensen noted, "In the AAA Annual Conference program, the University of Denver name (or faculty members) was mentioned more times than I have ever seen in any national program. Presenting a paper, participating in a panel, chairing a session, serving as a discussant on a paper included Ryan Casey (2), Adam Greiner (3), Sharon Lassar (1), Lorenzo Patelli (3), Philipp Schaberl (2), James Sorensen (1) and Lisa Victoravich (2). These numbers are a clear indication the 40% on research and publication is alive and well in the SOA! Congratulations!"

[\[return to top\]](#)

---

## Employment Opportunities

Western Union is seeking a Staff Accountant, Financial Regulatory Reporting, based at Western Union's global headquarters in Englewood, CO. For more information regarding the position, please contact [Kate Klass](#).

CoreSite is looking for a Staff Accountant with no more than 3-5 years of experience. Green grads will be considered, but experience is preferred. Please contact Amy Garner for more information and questions.

[\[return to top\]](#)

---

## Public Service Announcement

Dr. Hugh Grove has a public service announcement to share from research he has done on his new Cannabis, Dude? case. State Highway Patrols in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas are profiling Colorado cars. They say pot busts are easy when Colorado drivers roll down their windows when stopped, the police just smell the marijuana in the cars. So roll down your windows whenever you cross the Colorado state line!

[\[return to top\]](#)

---

## Class Notes

**Lowell Hare (BSBA 1972)** received the 2014 Outstanding Alumni Award of Excellence from the University of Denver, Daniels College of Business. Lowell was surprised to receive such an award, but he very much deserved the recognition for his generous support and dedication to Daniels and School of Accountancy.

**Rachelle Barrett (BSAC and MAcc 2008)** married Mickey Moulton (2010 CO School of Mines Grad) on June 7, 2014 in Castle Pines, CO.



**Margaret Henderson (MAcc 2009)** and her husband welcomed Ross Oliver Henderson to their family on May 16, 2014 at 1:04 p.m. Ross weighed 5 lbs, 14.6 oz and was 19 inches long.

[\[return to top\]](#)