



UNIVERSITY of  
DENVER

DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
School of Accountancy



SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY | ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 2016

## Director's Update

Our Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) Alpha Zeta Chapter had a successful summer. Twelve BAPers and their faculty advisor Dr. Adam Greiner attended the 2016



BAP Annual Meeting in Baltimore, MD August 4-6 (pictured, at right). We congratulate our Chapter for winning a KPMG Gold Challenge Competition award (a nice plaque and \$2,500). We are also very proud of dual-degree student Kane Spillar, who participated in Project Run With It – an exclusive community service project that consults to develop solutions to a business problem within a local non-profit organization. Kane and his team consisting of two students from other universities won first place in their project, earning \$1,000 for our Chapter. Dr. Greiner also volunteered as moderator for two sessions entitled, “Building a Sense of Community,” and “What to Expect on the New 2017 CPA Exam.” Thank you BAPers for representing DU so well.

We are thrilled to invite our dedicated alumni to another opportunity to mentor our outstanding students during the 2016/17 academic year. Apply today to become a mentor in the Daniels College of Business School of Accountancy's LEAD Program (formerly Mentor Match), brought to you by Daniel's Career Services and your Alumni Engagement Council. Mentors work one-on-one with current undergraduate accounting students throughout their first year in the program (junior/senior level) as they complete the Core, apply for jobs, and figure out what accounting, the CPA, and the "real world" is all about. The Kick-Off Event will be on Wednesday, October 5th

## IN THIS ISSUE

[Director's Update](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Get to Know Your Network](#)

[Faculty Updates](#)

[On the Lighter Side](#)

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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](mailto:Kristen.Dimig@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

The School of Accountancy is one of the nation's oldest and most esteemed accounting programs,

from 6-7:30 PM. [Apply today!](#) The application deadline is September 13, 2016. Please contact [Kristen Dimig](#) with any questions.

Best,



Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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

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## Upcoming Events

### Welcome Back Reception and KED's Birthday Celebration, September 11, 2016

Please join the School of Accountancy in Marcus Commons, 5-7 PM to celebrate another school year and KED's birthday. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres and hosted bar. Please [RSVP today!](#)

### An Evening with DU Hockey Coach Jim Montgomery, September 27, 2016

Join the Daniels Alumni Board for an evening with DU Ice Hockey Head Coach Jim Montgomery. Click for [additional information and registration.](#)



### Save the Date: 2016 SoA Town Hall, October 24, 2016

Mark your calendars! Our featured speaker is William D. Cohan, best selling author of numerous titles including *Money and Power: How Goldman Sachs Came to Rule the World*, *House of Cards*, *The Last Tycoons* and *The Price of Silence*. [Read his full bio here](#) and keep an eye out for an invitation later this month.

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

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## Get to Know Your Network

### Meet Alumnus Ben Hrouda (BSACC, MACC '01)

Ben Hrouda has the distinct honor of being a 4th generation Colorado native. He and his family still live in the same Denver neighborhood where his grandparents resided. Coincidentally, the family who purchased his grandparents' house continue to live in that home and teach at Ben's children's elementary school. Ben's family



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.



history is special and very important to him. Passing on that historical knowledge and legacy to his children is essential.

Like most college freshman, Ben was not sure what he wanted to study when he started at DU. "All I knew was that I wanted to go to college, but had no idea what I wanted to do, the options, or what they all meant." He was good at basic math and enjoyed analytical thinking so Ben's freshman advisor suggested an accounting course. That course made total sense and the idea of majoring in accounting just clicked. "I also felt like if I was paying for my degree, I wanted the best education possible. And the School of Accountancy was the best education possible (ie, hardest)." Ben was always up for a good challenge. "Ultimately, I knew that I needed a degree that I could use in the future, and an accounting degree can be used for anything."

Ben describes the SOA as an extension of his family. His parents divorced when he was seven and he really did not have much of a father figure in his youth. Ben's mom was a single mother raising four children without a college degree. "The best thing that ever happened to me was becoming an accounting major and part of the School of Accountancy at DU." Ben describes his professor, Dr. John Bazley, as the most influential person in his life. "He is the man I admire and aspire to be someday." Ultimately, the best and most lasting reward of Ben's college career has been the lifelong friendships that he forged and continues to share. He describes the biggest highlight of



his time at DU as the camaraderie he had with his class; especially the competition to earn the highest score on Bazley's exams. "There are not enough ways to describe how the SOA has influenced my life and career in all ways possible." Ben explains that the most rewarding aspect of his professional life is working with a lot of different people and understanding that when people come together for a common goal, good things happen. "I have been fortunate to have opportunities presented at times that I did not expect. Although they have not been expected, it has been important to grasp the opportunities, as scary or nervous as it might be at the time." Ben recently pursued an entrepreneurial dream by launching Mercury Real Estate Partners (MREP). MREP is a privately held real estate investment company with a focus on creating significant net worth by sourcing and managing a balance of value add and stabilized real estate assets across multiple geographic areas and property types. Together these type of assets create a stable, and long-term capital structure for investors. MREP also assists other real estate organizations realize efficiencies in their operational processes driven

primarily through existing IT systems. MREP uses a holistically integrated system and process approach. This reduces manual processes and results in a higher degree of confidence with information.

In his free time, Ben enjoys all things about living in Colorado. He especially enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife and children. Ben generously offers his time and expertise to the School of Accountancy by participating in the mentorship program and serving on the SOA Advisory Board.

## Alumni Notes

### Alumni Engagement Council Survey

*"I would like opportunities to meet the new faculty socially."*

*"Provide assistance and resources to alumni seeking employment."*

These are just a few responses the Alumni Engagement Council received from their recent engagement survey. If you haven't yet taken this short [alumni survey](#), please do so today. Your responses will help the AEC determine what types of alumni events and activities you would like to see in the future. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Please [take the survey today](#).

### Global Friends Program, 2016-2017 Academic Year

Please consider this opportunity for alumni to promote cross-cultural friendship on the DU campus. This is a great way to explore the place that we like to call home, and to share Denver with an international student. For more information, [please visit the website](#).

**Allyson Girardi (BSACC, MACC '14)** will marry Will Lindsey on October 8, 2016 in Fort Collins. The wedding party is really representing the SOA well - the best man will be Nick Girardi (BSACC '09) and the maid of honor will be Mallory Blanchard (BSACC, MACC '14). Congratulations Allyson and Will!

**Andrew Rosenthaler (BSACC, MACC '09)** has recently joined the Merger & Acquisitions group at KPMG. Congratulations on the new position, Andrew!

## Job Opportunities

**Trinidad Benham Corporation** is currently seeking a Senior Financial Accountant with 5-10 years of progressive accounting experience. For more information, [please see the posting](#) on DanielsCareers.com. (15390155)

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

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## Faculty Updates

Several SOA faculty attended the American Accounting Association Annual Meeting in New York City, August 8-10. Dr. Sharon Lassar, in her role as VP of Programming for the Accounting Programs Leadership Group, organized and led a pre-conference workshop for new leaders of accounting programs. She also served as a panelist for a session titled, "The Reawakening of the School of Accountancy

Movement." Dr. Erin Nickell and Dr. Lorenzo Patelli both served as discussants at the AAA Annual Meeting and several SOA faculty held informational interviews with candidates for a tenure-track accounting professor position. Dr. Greiner joined Dr. Lassar and Dr. Victoravich for dinner one evening in NYC with two of our alumni, Mallory Bennett and Andrew McClaskey, who are currently working at the FASB in Norwalk, Connecticut. The faculty were excited to hear about their experiences and opportunities to work on standards that are shaping the accounting environment.

Dr. Lorenzo Patelli attended the 2016 Ernst & Young Academic Resource Center (EYARC) Colloquium on June 15-17 in Minneapolis. The colloquium included a discussion of new accounting standards and the state of the profession, a hands on learning session of Tableau analytics software, an overview of new EYARC curriculum, and updates of EY campus recruiting in response to a Gen Z student population. Additionally, Dr. Patelli was invited to give a presentation titled "Managing Business with Key Performance Indicators" to the Executive Exchange program of the Vail Centre. Finally, Dr. Patelli was appointed to the Planning Committee of the Teaching Symposium which is scheduled to take place in Puerto Rico, January 2017, during the annual meeting for the Management Accounting Section of the American Accounting Association.

Dr. Hugh Grove, along with Drs. Johnsen and Lung, authored "SEC Comment Letters: An Unlikely Secret Weapon for Forensic Accountants, Short Sells, and Other Financial Statement Users". This paper appeared in 2016, Volume 8, Issue 2 of *Journal of Forensic and Investigative Accounting*.

Dr. Hugh Grove and Dr. Mac Clouse co-authored the following papers, which appear in *Oil, Gas and Energy Quarterly*: "Application of Due Diligence Procedures to Two Chinese Forestry Firms' Frauds with Investment Losses of \$9.5 Billion", Volume 64, No. 4, June, 2016 and "Non-GAAP Metrics, CEO Pay and Market Cap Performance in Mining and Metals Industries: The Comeback of Non-GAAP Measures", Volume 65, No.1, September, 2016.

Drs. Grove and Clouse also co-authored the following papers, which appeared in *Corporate Ownership and Control*, Volume 13, Issue 4, Summer, 2016: "Corporate Governance and Chinese Ghost Cities" and "Strategic Risk Management for Enhanced Corporate Governance".

Finally, Dr. Grove and Dr. Clouse authored a forthcoming publication "Searching for Earnings Management Red Flags in the Metal Mining, Primary Metal, and Coal Mining Industries". This paper will appear in the Volume 65, No. 2 edition of *Oil, Gas and Energy Quarterly* in December 2016.

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

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## On the Lighter Side - Humor from Hugh Grove

### Great Truths About Growing Old:

- Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.

- Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get!
- When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- It's frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions!
- Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician!
- Wisdom comes with age but sometimes age comes alone.

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

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