



DANIELS
 COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
 UNIVERSITY of DENVER
 SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

Alumni Newsletter - Summer Edition 2014

Colorado Society of CPAs Honors Three School of Accountancy Alumni



From Left: Sharon Lassar (SoA Director), Mary-Margaret Henke, Jennifer Scholz, Jessica Seidlitz and Sheila Balzer (SoA Alumna and COCPA Chair)

The School of Accountancy was thrilled to celebrate with three of our female alumni as they were honored by the Colorado Society of CPAs on May 22nd at the 2014 Women to Watch event. All three of our alumni were honored in the Emerging Leaders category as they have demonstrated leadership and have made significant contributions to the profession and their communities, while still on the path to the highest levels of advancement.

Mary-Margaret Henke, Senior VP, General Auditor of the Western Union Company in Englewood, CO and Chair of the School of Accountancy Advisory Board was nominated because of her impressive engagement and enthusiasm. She leads a team of forty internal audit professionals worldwide and has developed and implemented many

In This Issue

Colorado Society of CPAs Honors Three SoA Alumni

Student Corner

- 100% Pass Rate on CVA Exam
- Valuation Challenge Winners!
- MACC Student Wins Award

Recent Happenings in the School of Accountancy

- FASB Presentation
- Accepted Paper
- Dr. John White Retires

Class Notes

Upcoming Events

- SoA Events -

- Daniels Events -

Daniels Connects Denver - Alumni Networking Night

June 12
 6-8 PM
 Wynkoop Brewing Company

challenging and complex initiatives. Mary-Margaret demonstrates daily how to successfully balance important pursuits and be an inspiring role model for her colleagues, her family and her community.

Jennifer (Jenny) Scholz, Controller for Hansel Phelps Construction Company in Greeley, CO, was recognized for her ability to foster development of people through training, collaboration and team building. In her time at Hansel Phelps, Jenny has done an exceptional job helping to implement financial system modifications in order to provide a more efficient way of doing business.

Jessica Seidlitz is the Managing Director, Assistant Treasurer at Charles Schwab Investment Management in Englewood, CO. She has worked in and out of industry and has thrived in both environments. Jessica was nominated for her success in her career as well as her volunteer efforts in the community. She served as the Chair for the School of Accountancy Alumni Engagement Council at DU for three years and is currently serving as a member of the SoA Advisory Board on the Alumni Relations Committee. She has been recognized as the Young Alumnus of the Year in 2012 by the School of Accountancy for her service with Beta Alpha Psi mentoring program. Jessica takes to heart the importance of leading by example and giving back.

These three women are among many of our alumni who give it their all at work, in the community and in their homes. We applaud them all for their wonderful accomplishments and thank them for their ongoing support of the School of Accountancy.

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

Student Corner

100% Pass Rate On CVA Exam

On Sunday, June 1, over 20 students in Dr. Keith Seller's and Lari Masten's Valuing a Business class took a comprehensive five-hour exam as part of becoming Certified Valuation Analysts (CVA). While there are additional requirements that are still in process, 100% of the students passed the exam - a major accomplishment and a big step toward certification. The certification process was added to the Valuing a Business course this quarter for the first time and, while handling the extra work proved to be a challenge at times for the students, becoming certified will be a career-enhancing bonus. Earning a CVA will enable the students to perform business valuation services, a process that both of the course instructors have done a professional level. The CVA licensing process is overseen by the National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts. We are proud of our students and look forward to how this course will develop in future quarters.

Winners of the 2014 BVR/SPU Valuation Challenge

In April, five School of Accountancy students researched, prepared and recorded a thirty-minute video presentation for the 2014 BVR/SPU Valuation Challenge with the guidance of Dr. Keith Sellers. The video was submitted to a team of judges who sorted through submissions from across the country and chose six teams to compete in a live competition in Seattle, WA.

\$15

[Info and RSVP](#)

Please [visit here](#) to view 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.

Our team, consisting of Masters of Accountancy students Paul Diegnau, Suyun Gu, Daniel O'Laughlin, Jordyn Michaud and Ryan Stine, was one of the six finalists. On May 9, 2014, they competed in front of a panel of judges in Seattle where they were awarded first place in the nation. These students not only demonstrated academic and technical ability, but also an admirable dedication to their craft extending beyond the classroom. We are honored to have them as part of our program and are proud of their accomplishments.

Learn more about the competition [here](#).

MACC Student Wins Award

Current MACC student, Leah Turner, was honored at the end of April at the Spring Daniels Convocation for writing an outstanding paper on ethics. Leah was awarded with the Gairald H. and Berenice L. Garrett Ethics of Business Award. Ms. Helen Garrett has endowed a fund in memory of her parents to support an annual award of \$1,000.00 to a graduate student writing the best paper on (or relating to) the topic of business ethics, corporate responsibility or sustainability. Congrats to Leah!

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

Recent Happenings



Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Presentation

On Thursday, May 22nd, SoA 2013 graduate and FASB Postgraduate Technical Assistant, Danika Tibbetts, came back to campus to present an overview of the Financial Accounting Standards Board and an update on the Disclosure Framework Project. There were 115 students, alumni and guests in attendance as Danika discussed the FASB, its mission, structure and the standards-setting process. She also discussed the FASB Disclosure Framework Project which is intended to improve the effectiveness of financial statement disclosures by enabling reporting organizations to more clearly identify and communicate information that is most important to users of organizations' financial statements, without eliminating useful information. We

continue to be proud of Danika and her accomplishments and look forward to watching her succeed in the future.

Meetings, Presentations and Publications

After three years of work by Dr. Jim Sorensen along with Raef Lawson (Chair), Edward Blocher, Peter Brewer, Gary Cokins, David Stout, Gary Sundem, Susan Wolcott and Marc Wouters, their framework paper is being published in *Issues in Accounting Education (IAE)* as the lead article. The title is "Focusing Accounting Curricula on Students' Long-Run Careers: Recommendations for an Integrated Competency-Based Framework for Accounting Education."

To read the abstract or full text [click here](#).

Goodbye Dr. John White



In May, the School of Accountancy said goodbye to Dr. John White who has been a clinical professor of accountancy since 2000. John plans to stay busy during retirement by writing a few papers and spending time with his wife Virginia, their children and grandchildren. We are grateful for the great addition that he's been to the school and look forward to hearing from John and his "adventures in retirement."

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

Class Notes

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

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