



DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS | UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

## SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

### School of Accountancy News June 2011

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#### Annual School of Accountancy Student Banquet

The first Friday in May is always an exciting time in the School of Accountancy. This year was no different as we held our annual SoA Spring Banquet at the Columbine Country Club. The evening began as students were recognized at the Student Awards Ceremony for their accomplishments during the academic year. Among many others, awards were given for outstanding GPAs, Leadership, Teaching Assistants and undergraduate and graduate student awards.

After the awards ceremony, students were given the opportunity to network and mingle with firm members and School of Accountancy Faculty and Staff. We would like to thank the firms that were involved with the event this year and would like to recognize our fantastic sponsors: Ernst & Young, KPMG, Deloitte, PWC, ACM, EKS&H, Grant Thornton, GHP Horwath and RSM McGladery. Thank you for your ongoing support of the School and it's programs.

During dinner three special awards were given to the Alumni of the Year (Lester D. Pedicord), the Young Alumni of the Year (Jenny Scholz) and the Student of the Year (Katrina Schuler). We thank them for their service and dedication to the school and hope that you can learn a bit about them in their biographies below.

#### Alumni of the Year

Lester D. Pedicord graduated from the University of Denver with BSBA and MBA degrees in accounting in 1953 and 1957, respectively. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956 in Japan as the Korean conflict was winding down. His first exposure to public accounting was in his sophomore year when he worked for a local firm on a part-time basis. He opened his office as a sole practitioner in 1963 and gradually grew the firm through the next 25 years. In 1988, he founded Pedicord Investment Company, which managed investments for 12 to 14 families. Today he continues to be a "wealth manager" for a minimum number of clients and children. Les was president of the Colorado Society of CPAs (1977-79) and is a life member of the Denver Estate Planning

Council. He is a charter member and past president of the University Hills Rotary Club and a past president and member of the Denver County Club. Les is an avid horseman, having ridden and shown horses at the National Western for more than 30 years. He joined the Roundup Riders of the Rockies in 1975 and has made 34 straight rides. He attended DU financed by a four-year scholarship, playing and lettering three years with the baseball team. Wayne Shroyer, who played baseball at Manual High School, was his most important mentor, supporter and friend. Les was a member of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity while at DU. Les continues an active relationship with the University and with the School of Accountancy as an annual contributor, as well as having named the School as the beneficiary of his retirement plan. Les is married to Jean Shannon Kettering Pedicord and they happily share 6 children and 16 grandchildren.

### **Young Alumni of the Year**

Jenny Scholz graduated in 2003 from the University of Denver with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Masters of Accountancy. She is an Audit Senior Manager in KPMG's Denver Financial Services practice where she has worked with a variety of clients in the Assurance area through her career, focusing primarily on construction, engineering, real estate, and investment companies. She has experience providing audit and business advisory services to private and foreign-issuer clients, including financial statement audits, acquisitions, and financial statement conversion to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Jenny is a national instructor at KPMG and is currently involved in the development of a construction and engineering training for associates. Jenny is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants. Jenny continues to stay connected to the University of Denver primarily through on-campus recruiting; however, she also has spoken to the professional orientation classes, lead an accounting salon, helped with faculty candidate breakfasts, and performed exit interviews. She serves as the Chairperson of the Trustee's committee at her church and is in the hand bell choir (which she's done since 3rd grade). Jenny is a Colorado native who enjoys spending time with her husband, Justin, and her family and friends. Jenny also enjoys playing volleyball, biking, hiking, and just about anything outdoors.

### **Student of the Year**

Katrina Schuler was chosen as the Student of the Year. She has served as the Beta Alpha Psi president this academic year and has led with determination and enthusiasm. Katrina's hometown is Littleton, CO. After graduation she will be working at Ernst and Young and eventually would like to move into private equity. She would also love to teach at DU someday. Katrina enjoys running, hiking and reading.

When nominations were being submitted for the new Student of the Year award, Katrina's name was mentioned numerous times. She has touched everyone in the School of Accountancy and we are proud to have her as one of our graduates.

We appreciate the efforts of our alumni, friends, faculty and our students for another fantastic year and great Spring Banquet.

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## **Recent School of Accountancy Awards, Ratings and Recognitions**

### **Awards**

At a recent Daniels College of Business Convocations ceremony two School of Accountancy professors were honored. Dr. Jim Sorensen was the faculty recipient of the Daniels Award for Excellence. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the Daniels Community in terms of teaching, research and service. Dr. Lisa Victoravich received the Scholarship of Discovery Award

which recognizes outstanding discovery. Victoravich has had many scholarly contributions over that past three years. Congratulations to Dr. Sorensen and Dr. Victoravich for their many achievements.

### **Ratings**

*Bloomberg Businessweek* surveyed more than 85,000 students at more than 100 top B-schools and asked them to rate their program's performance in 14 academic disciplines ranging from ethics to sustainability. Scores were then calculated for each of the ranked schools in each specialty. The Daniels College of Business ranked No. 2 in the U.S. in ethics; No. 15 in accounting.

"What is most significant about this ranking is that it reflects student satisfaction regarding their Daniels experience," said Daniels Dean Christine Riordan. "Our students' high regard for the Daniels ethics, accounting, international business, sustainability and financial management programs demonstrate their critical importance to future business leaders. These rankings also reflect our strategic work and focus on ethics, sustainability, and globalization."

### **Recognitions**

Dr. John Tripp was recently recognized as one of the University's Exceptional Educators and Scholars. Tripp, a John J. Gilbert Endowed Professor in the School of Accountancy delights in the enthusiasm his students bring to their studies and to the world outside the classroom. "There are a lot of excellent students in this school who are looking for ways to make a contribution to the community," says Tripp, "all I've done is to provide them with a structure to flourish."

Dr. Tripp advises Beta Alpha Psi, coaches the Deloitte Tax Case Team and advises DU's student Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

"We have a shared value in this school to help students become young professionals who give back," Tripp Says. "These [endowed professorship] funds have provided a resource for me to reward them for their commitment of time and energy to all of the extra things that they do."

We appreciate John for his commitment to the students. He spends many extra hours coaching, advising and mentoring these students who will never forget his efforts.

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## **Upcoming School, College and DU Events**

### **SoA Faculty Showcase Salons:**

June 8th  
IFRS/Convergence  
Featuring Dr. Joyce Frakes

June 16th  
Estimating Financing Needs in Comprehensive Budgeting  
Featuring Dr. Jim Sorensen

To register for these salons, please contact Jill Whelan at [jwhelan@du.edu](mailto:jwhelan@du.edu)

### **DU on the Road**

Tuesday, June 7 - New York

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### Connect with Us on Facebook and LinkedIn

Stay connected by joining Daniels on [Facebook](#) or [Daniels at DU, School of Accountancy Alumni Group](#) on LinkedIn.

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### Alumni and Friend News

**Dawn Ksepka (BSAcc, MAcc 2002)** is in the process of transitioning from E&Y to HealthEast. She has accepted the Corporate Controller position at HealthEast Care System, a multi-hospital health care system in the Twin Cities area. She is very excited about this new opportunity!

**Anthony Schwaairy (BSAcc, MBA 2005)** and his wife Jennifer welcomed their first child into the world on April 22, 2011. They named her Scarlett Anne Schwaairy. May a good night's rest be in their future soon.

If you would like to have a news note included in the next edition of the School of Accountancy News, please send it to Jill Whelan at [jwhelan@du.edu](mailto:jwhelan@du.edu).

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### Contact Information Request

The School of Accountancy is always updating alumni contact information so we can stay in touch. If you know of other alumni who are not currently getting the School of Accountancy Newsletter, please invite them to send in their email address so we can stay connected. Please send any updated address, work or email information to Jill Whelan at [jwhelan@du.edu](mailto:jwhelan@du.edu). Also, if you have any news that would be of interest to your classmates, please let us know!

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