



DANIELS COLLEGE OF BUSINESS | UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

SCHOOL OF ACCOUNTANCY

School of Accountancy October 2011

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Advisory Board Spotlight: Gordon Yale

Gordon Yale considers himself incredibly lucky. Not only was his first class in financial accounting taught by Jerry Kesselman, his first financial fraud investigation was a collaboration with the School of Accountancy faculty icon who was also a well-regarded accounting and audit expert.

“Jerry was not only engaging, he taught complex accounting issues with amazing clarity. He didn’t want his students to simply apply principles, he wanted us to understand the history and context, question the logic and consider the ramifications. He taught accounting, but more importantly, he taught skepticism and critical thought.”



For Yale, who received his Masters of Accountancy from the University of Denver in 1977, the experience was something of a revelation. As a former investigative newspaper reporter, he had plenty of skepticism, but few of the tools for serious financial analysis. "DU was the perfect education for me," he said.

For the last 20 years, Yale has concentrated largely on securities and financial reporting fraud. His forensic career spans the savings and loan crisis of the late 1980's, Enron, about which he has written, and the more recent financial meltdown. He has consulted or testified about the failures of Bear Stearns and Countrywide, has worked on Madoff-related matters and three Ponzi schemes that bilked investors out of billions of dollars.

Yale has served on the Board of Advisors since 1994 and taught a forensic accounting class at the School from 2004 to 2009. A graduate of the University of Colorado with a BA in history, he worked for newspapers in Denver, Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Louisville, Kentucky and free-lanced in Vietnam and Cambodia. Foreign culture remains a central interest. He and his wife Jennifer have traveled Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and Central and South America.

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Recent Happenings in the School of Accountancy

A Note From the Director, Sharon Lassar

We welcomed the fall quarter on September 12th with 3 new faculty members on board. Keith Sellers and Lorenzo Patelli were introduced in the May newsletter. Our third addition is Professor Jane Morton. Jane earned her PhD in accounting at the University of Arizona and has taught at University of Illinois, Suffolk University and Merrimack College where she earned tenure before deciding to return to her native Colorado.

We welcomed 49 new Master of Accounting candidates this fall and 25 of our 4th year students were admitted to the dual degree program. Total enrollment in all our accountancy degree programs is about 270, an increase of 40 over last year.

Recruiting season began with eagerness by students and employers. Over 100 students attended "Meet the Firms" where 19 companies were represented. This was the first of many events Beta Alpha Psi has planned for the year. Learn more about [BAP](#).

The School's alumni are also busy making plans. A School of Accountancy Alumni Affinity Council (SOAAAC) is currently forming. Its first activity will be a December 1 wine tasting on campus to celebrate 100 years of women in accounting with connections to DU. Did you know we graduated our first woman accountant in 1911? She and many who followed her went on to become leaders in the field. If you are interested in joining the SOAAAC steering committee, [please let us know!](#)

This academic year is going to be a great one. I hope to see many of you on campus for activities and networking.

2nd Annual School of Accountancy Debate: Does Wall Street Really Run the World?

The School of Accountancy and Colorado National Bank worked together to sponsor the 2nd Annual School of Accountancy Debate on Thursday, September 22, 2011. David Zisser, a prominent Denver defense attorney and Lynn Turner, a former chief accountant of the SEC, debated the merits of Dodd Frank, the failure of the Department of Justice and the SEC to go after banks and their executives, the SEC's apparent capitulation on Goldman Sachs and Angelo Mozilo

settlements, as well as the lobbying efforts over final regulations arising from Dodd Frank. The wide-ranging discussion delved into the implications of the successful effort against Elizabeth Warren as well as the recent Supreme Court decision in the Janus Group matter over responsibility for full and fair disclosure.

We'd like to thank the Mentoring and Networking Committee of the School of Accountancy Advisory Board for helping to coordinate the debate. We look forward to holding this annual event to engage students, alumni and friends from the community.

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Student Corner



Beta Alpha Psi Receives Superior Status

The Alpha Zeta chapter of Beta Alpha Psi (BAP) achieved superior status. We'd like to congratulate Katrina Schuler (immediate past president), John Tripp (Faculty Advisor) and the rest of the leadership team for a job well done.

When asked what it took to maintain their superior status, Katrina Schuler replied, "The Alpha Zeta chapter was able to attain superior status again this past school year because of the great officer team and all of our members. At the beginning of our terms, the officers all sat down and we talked about what we wanted to accomplish in the upcoming years and how we planned to accomplish it. By accomplishing our individual goals, we were also in a great position to achieve superior chapter status. But, we also couldn't have met any of our goals without our members. Through our members active involvement and great attitudes they helped our chapter achieve superior status."

Lewis Scholarship

Harry and Margareta Lewis established a merit-based scholarship in the 1980s for declared accounting majors at DU in honor of Wayne Shroyer. Their underlying belief in the value of hard work, personal integrity and strong academic performance comprise the criteria on which students are awarded the Lewis Scholarships.

The family continues to believe that education, particularly at the undergraduate and graduate levels, is critical to launch the careers, and lives, of bright, hard working people who are likely to succeed at whatever they choose to do with their lives. They believe that an investment in education pays significant returns to both individual recipients as well as the communities where they live and work. Their wish is that each of the Lewis Scholars live up to their full potential and that when they succeed at what they set out to do, they help someone else - even by giving back to this ever-growing fund.

The School of Accountancy continues to be thankful for the generous donations received that help with the cost of education for our students. We invite you to get to know the current Lewis Scholars. We think you'll find that they are living up to the expectations of the Lewis Family, the School of Accountancy and the Daniels College of Business.

Meet the Lewis Scholars:

Troy Anderson

I am from Scottsdale, Arizona and I'll be starting my final year at DU in the accounting department.

The Lewis Scholarship has given me the opportunity to pursue a career in public accounting that I otherwise would not have been able to achieve. After graduation I plan to get my masters in accounting and then work for a big 4 firm. My hobbies include playing sports and I'm actually the captain of the varsity golf team at DU.

Keola Apio

I am from Aurora, CO and have lived here all of my life. This scholarship means the world to me and allows me to further my education at this prestigious school and continue to learn from the best



professors there are out there. One day I would love to work for a public accounting firm and DU has been instrumental in teaching me the curriculum and skills that are necessary for success in an accounting career. I am forever grateful to the Lewis family for this scholarship and appreciate the support they have given me to remain at DU and receive a first-class accounting education. After graduation I intend to use the knowledge and experiences I have gained to attempt to work in the tax service line at a public accounting firm while also working towards my CPA certification. As for hobbies, I love to figure skate, which is the reason I was drawn to DU in the first place and I got lucky that they had an amazing accounting program.

Baxter Cochennet

I am from Durango, CO, and love everything about that place. I can't get enough of the outdoors, and

love to hike, fly fish, bike, float the river, and pretty much whatever else you can do under the sun. When inside, though, I do enjoy learning and have become particularly keen on Accounting. The extreme generosity of the Lewis family has allowed me to pursue a Graduate degree in Accountancy on top of my Undergraduate degree, and for that I am incredibly thankful. I can honestly say that without their contribution to my education, I would not be in the fortunate position that I am today.



Currently I am on track to start working full time for KPMG in 2012. This has been a goal of mine since learning about public accounting, and I feel blessed to **have achieved** finally achieved it. I would like to thank the Lewis family for having such a positive impact on my life.

Kelsey Gore



My name is Kelsey Gore and I am a senior and am starting my dual-degree Masters of Accountancy program this fall. I came to the University of Denver as a freshman from Madison, Wisconsin, and fell in love with the school and the city. This year, I am the President of the DU Dance Team and Vice President of Chapter Operations for Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity on campus. I am also heavily involved with Beta Alpha Psi and DU's Mortar Board. The Lewis Scholarship was a great surprise and will help my family with this year's tuition immensely. In upcoming months, I want to become an intern at a public accounting firm, and later, a full-time staff member. I also plan on taking my CPA exam after graduation. With the help of the Lewis family, I am able to see my future become a reality.

Jon Kaiser

My name is Jon Kaiser. I grew up in Lakewood, Colorado and am second generation University of Denver Accounting student. In my free time, I like to take advantage of living in Colorado by doing any and all outdoor activities from hiking to hunting to four wheeling. I am huge car guy and have even competed in a few competitive autocross events in the past. I am also involved in several clubs and activities on campus, including Beta Alpha Psi where I am an elected officer for the coming year. Without the financial help of the Lewis Scholarship, I would be too busy struggling to make tuition payments to enjoy any of these hobbies. It is because of this scholarship that I have been able to be involved on campus, maintain a high level of academic performance and still have

time for hobbies without constantly worrying about the cost of my education. Because of my academic success and community involvement, I was also able to secure an internship at KPMG this summer. I was lucky to be offered a full time position with the firm when I graduate in 2013 and I have accepted this offer. It is thanks to scholarships such as the Lewis scholarship that I have been able to fully embrace my time at DU and accomplish so much.

Marina Mungova

My name is Marina Mungova and I was born in Sofia, Bulgaria. At age sixteen I moved with my family to the Denver metro area where I attended high school. Ever since then my dream has been



to attend a challenging college where I can grow personally and professionally. I was the kid that attended all college fairs and talked to every counselor. I did very well academically and on the SATs, however, the big question was if I will be able to afford the dream college I have been accepted to. Thanks to the Lewis Scholarship I was able to not only receive a bachelor degree from University of Denver but continue on to grad school. I cannot express my deep gratitude to the Lewis Foundation and the dream it helped me achieve. Thanks to the outstanding education I have received, I was able to secure a full time audit position with PricewaterhouseCoopers in the Fort Lauderdale, FL office after graduation. In my free time I like to be outdoors and participate in different activities from skiing and snorkeling to yoga.

Natalie Steverson

I'm from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. After graduation I am planning to start full time with KPMG as an Audit Associate in Denver. On campus, I am President of Beta Alpha Psi and an active member and former Director of Finance for my sorority Alpha Phi. I also volunteer as an Assistant Adviser for the Future Business Leaders of America at Englewood High School. In my free time I enjoy quilting, swimming and spending time with friends. The Lewis Scholarship has helped me more than most people would realize. I grew up in a single mother household and when I went to college, I knew that I would be going on loans and scholarships. Being a Lewis Scholar has allowed me to take out fewer loans and only work one job while in school. Most importantly, this scholarship has allowed me to continue my education for another year to get my Master of Accountancy and reach the 150 credit hours necessary to become a CPA. I am extremely grateful for the Lewis Scholarship and to the Lewis family for giving me these opportunities both within the School of Accountancy and for my future.



Sammy White



I am a Colorado native from Lakewood, Colorado. I enjoy spending time with my family, playing volleyball, camping and hiking, snowboarding, doing yoga, wakeboarding, and shopping. The Lewis Scholarship has allowed me to continue attending DU. Without the help from the Lewis family, I would not have been able to continue pursuing my Bachelor and Master's in Accounting at DU with the rise in tuition. They have helped take the burden of payment off my shoulders and have allowed me to focus on school and my academics. After graduation, I intend to work for a Big 4 accounting firm and see where that takes me. I don't know if I will stay in public accounting or transfer into private, but I want to begin in public to see where it takes me.

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Upcoming SoA, Daniels and DU Events

Voices of Experience

Sally Jewell, CEO of REI

Monday, October 17th

[DU Homecoming Weekend](#)

[Celebrate 100 Years of Women in Accounting at DU](#)

Thursday, December 1st, 5 PM

\$50 Per Guest

The School of Accountancy will hold a wine tasting and silent auction to toast 100 years of graduating women in accounting. Come celebrate with us in the wine cellar at the Joy Burns Center.

Please [visit here](#) to view more upcoming events.

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Alumni and Friend News



Lowell F. Duffner (BSAC 1946) was recently announced as the recipient of the 2011 Montana Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) George D. Anderson Distinguished Service Award. The award is given annually to members of the MSCPA whose contribution to the accounting profession and involvement in community, charitable and civic activities merit the Society's outstanding recognition.

In accepting the award, Lowell spoke of the importance of integrity, honesty and stewardship. "To be honored by my fellow CPAs and to be included among the outstanding and distinguished former recipients is incredible. We have so many opportunities to do good. Whatever you give comes back many fold."

Congratulations to Lowell for receiving such a distinguished award.

Mary Schmidlin (MAcc 2003) was recently promoted to Audit Senior Manager with Deloitte.

John Regier (MAcc 2009) was recently promoted to Audit Senior with Deloitte.

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.

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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. Also, if you have any news that would be of interest to your classmates, please let us know!

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