

## School of Accountancy Alumni Newsletter | Summer 2022



### Director's Update

It felt good to finish out a whole year of in-person classes with our traditional celebrations.

The annual awards ceremony and banquet celebrated accomplishments on May 13. Jim Kimsey, pictured to the right, gave the keynote address and was recognized as the 2022 alumnus of the year. Jim (BSBA 1980) served as CEO of four different publicly traded companies throughout his career. He spoke about ways accounting helped him succeed. He now owns a truly fun and



growing business - Bubbles Liquor World in Castle Rock.

Jim Kimsey, BSBA 1980  
Owner, Bubbles Liquor World  
Alumnus of the Year

The following students were recognized at the awards ceremony that preceded the banquet:

- Kirby Berke, Special Service Award
- Sourob Bhattacharya, Outstanding MAcc Student
- Lena Cords, Mary Farley, Patrick Carpenter and Marcus Yetter, Student Leader Award
- Kelly Decker and Taylor Leever, Perseverance Award
- Timi Durojaiye, Outstanding Research Assistant
- Jorgi Muscariello, Outstanding Dual Degree Student
- Elizabeth Poskey, Helen Garrett Best Graduate Ethics Paper Award
- Natalee Rodriguez and Lesley Wong, Outstanding Teaching Assistant
- Noah Simon, Federation of Schools of Accountancy National Award
- Natalie Vaughan and Haley Kultgen, Scholar Leader Award
- Karla Zamora, COCPA Gold Key Award

We are also proud to announce that Natalie Vaughan was selected to the prestigious Post Graduate Technical Assistant program at FASB beginning July 1. Emily Huff won a scholarship from PCAOB for \$10,000. Emily is interning in Dublin, Ireland with KPMG this summer. Gordon Friedman, incoming MAcc student, has been awarded the AICPA John L. Carey Scholarship award.

Congratulations!

Best regards,



Dr. Sharon Lassar, Director, School of Accountancy

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## SoA Alumni Spotlight

**Philip Lithopoulos Class of 2009**



Philip was good at accounting. His mother, also a University of Denver graduate, encouraged Philip and his brother to look at DU even though he had already spent time studying economics, literature, philosophy, biology and mathematics at a California university. He finally applied and later enrolled at the University of Denver's School of Accountancy hoping to be able to benefit from a beautiful campus and possibly fit in some snowboarding.

***"I use my accounting education in more subtle ways. What has been obvious is how those skills in accounting and business management set me apart and allow me a great deal of mobility." -Philip Lithopoulos***

Philip Lithopoulos' career started like many accounting students with a summer internship at Deering Banjo Company. After graduating from DU in 2009, Lithopoulos worked at Janus Capital followed by a property management company. All of these experiences exposed him to different business owners and he realized he had the ability to do what they were doing. For several years now, Lithopoulos has been working in the cannabis industry, from cultivation to inventory management and more.

Lithopoulos told us that he truly feels like a degree from the University of Denver's School of Accountancy is impressive. He believes it was that name on his resume that helped him get several jobs over the years.

Currently living in Salida, Colorado, Lithopoulos is happiest when he can ski, hike, hunt or fish. He plays the banjo and still gets an employee discount from that long ago summer internship. In a town full of musicians, he's happy to play music with other people and live out his dream that carried him from California to Colorado.

***"At the School of Accountancy I gained the skills and confidence to think critically and evaluate evidence. No matter which way that evaluation***

*led me I have always been confident in the path I landed on because I found it of my own accord." -Philip Lithopoulos*

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## Alumni in the News

Tim Messenger (BSAC, MAcc 2006) was awarded the Bill Ezzell Scholarship from the AICPA. Tim is pursuing a Ph.D. in Accounting at the Lundquist College of Business at the University of Oregon.

Sonia Crosby-Attipoe (BSAC, MACC 2016) Tax Transformation & Technology Manager, KPMG

Sonia Crosby-Attipoe is a tax technology professional continually pursuing excellence in her service, work and professional development. She provides national training, curriculum development and designs innovative technology solutions for partnership tax compliance engagements. She was the Young Alumnus of the Year for the University of Denver's School of Accountancy for 2022.



*Sonia Crosby-Attipoe spoke to a group of accounting students about her career path migrating from a tax compliance role in KPMG's Denver office into a national tax technology team member that supports tax professionals across the firm. Sonia continues to serve DU by consulting with faculty on curriculum.*

## People Updates

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that Professor James E. Sorensen (BSBA 1960, MBA 1962) died recently.

After receiving his MBA from the University of Denver, Jim Sorensen received his PhD from The Ohio State University in 1965. He returned to the University of Denver to begin his career as an assistant professor of accounting and was promoted to associate professor in 1969 and full professor in 1972. Jim had a distinguished career in research and publication, an outstanding record in teaching, and an unwavering pursuit of the values of the Daniels College of Business. He retired in 2017. [Read more about his contributions.](#)



**DU Hockey team wins  
National Championship!**

**Wayne King (BSAC, MACC  
1992) is a member of the  
School of Accountancy  
Advisory Board. He is pictured  
here celebrating a win with  
other DU fans.**

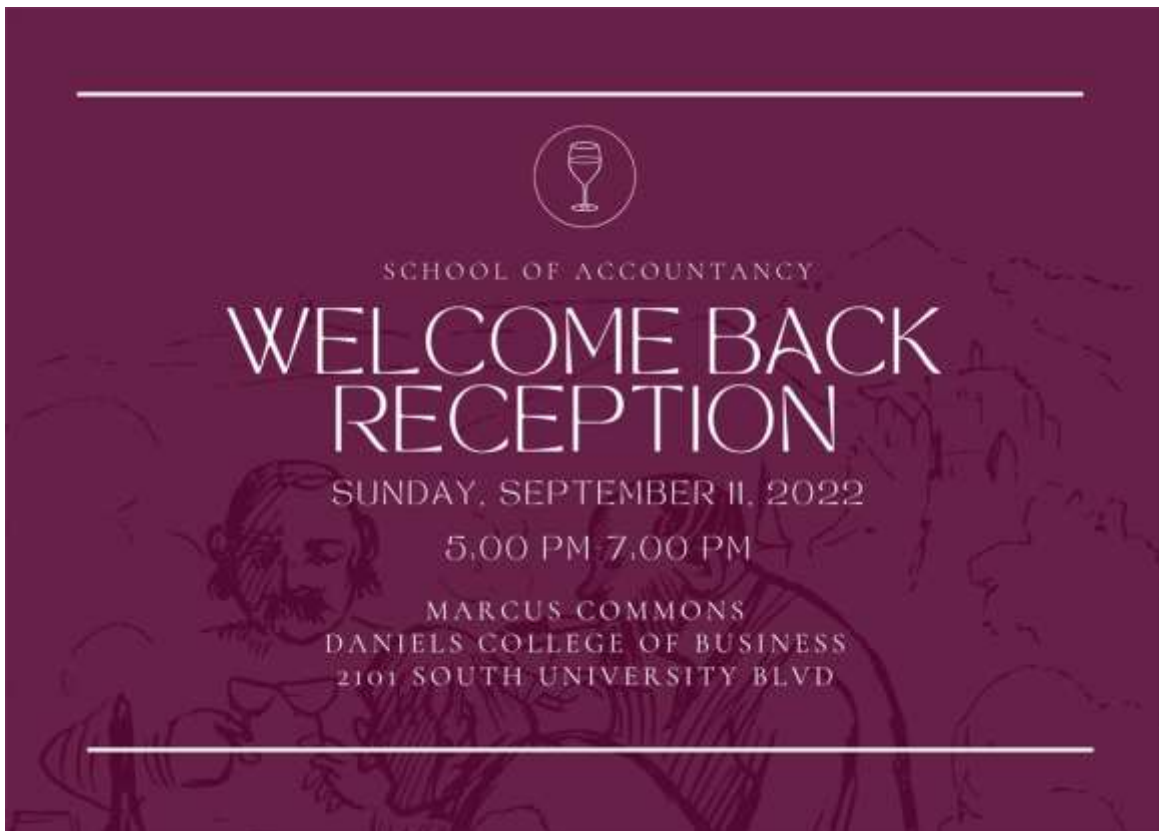
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## Faculty Feature

**Congratulations to these outstanding Accountancy Faculty!**

School of Accountancy faculty members were recognized at the annual Daniels Faculty and Staff Awards Program.

- Nate Waddoups won the Daniels Emerging Scholar Award
- Suzette Loving won the Daniels Teaching Excellence Award
- Jeff Brothers was recognized for his 10 years of service to Daniels as he moves to retired status.



### HAVE ANY EXCITING NEWS?

*The SoA has always tried to keep alumni connected to the University and each other. Connection is important, now more than ever! In that spirit, we'll continue to share alumni stories, news and class notes.*

Promotions, marriages, new babies, major moves, job changes or awards? Let us know! We'll share the news with your alumni family in the alumni notes section of the newsletter.

Email [Heidi Larson-David](mailto:Heidi.Larson-David@du.edu) with any updates.



## UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a new email address, recently moved, changed employment, got married or have other information to update, please do so [here](#).



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