

## **Danielle's Journey from Chapel Hill to Corporate Leadership**

Danielle Hutcheson was born in Annapolis, Maryland, and describes herself as a “typical ‘70s and ‘80s kid.” Her upbringing gave her the confidence to leave home at 17 and start a new chapter at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Arriving on campus as a freshman, Danielle didn’t know a single person and was five hours from home—but she was ready for the adventure ahead.

She majored in Business Administration and graduated in 1996, earning her Master of Accounting (MAC) degree the following year in 1997.

One of Danielle’s most memorable experiences at Carolina was being part of the founding of the UNC Women’s Lacrosse Team. During her freshman year, she played on UNC’s club lacrosse team. In her sophomore and junior years, she and several teammates worked with school officials and legal advisors to advocate for the creation of a varsity women’s team. Their efforts paid off. Danielle played her senior year on UNC’s inaugural Division I Women’s Lacrosse team, coached by the legendary Jenny Levy, the 2<sup>nd</sup> winningest coach in women’s lacrosse history. Danielle treasures her three years of club play and the opportunity to compete at the D1 level.

An unexpected discovery during her time at UNC was her talent for teaching and communication. She served as a teaching assistant (TA) for Dr. Hofmann, head of the undergraduate accounting program. That experience helped her realize she had a gift for explaining complex topics clearly and logically—skills she uses every day in her professional life.

Today, Danielle serves as Vice President of the Tax Department at SPX Technologies, where she translates complex tax issues for non-tax professionals. She credits her TA experience for building her confidence as a communicator and problem solver. While she never planned to become an educator, she taught numerous courses at Deloitte after graduating and discovered a passion for helping others learn.

Danielle also met her husband during MAC orientation. They were randomly paired for an icebreaker activity on the Quad outside the Carroll building, where each had to introduce the other to the group. Danielle tried to be funny—he thought she was rude. At first, he wasn’t impressed. But six months later, his opinion changed. They began dating, and today, they are one of three MAC Class of 1997 couples who are still happily married.

After earning her MAC degree, Danielle started her career at Deloitte in Washington, D.C., where she joined seven other classmates, two of whom were her roommates. She maintained a long-distance relationship, flying back and forth between D.C. and Charlotte every weekend. After a year, she transferred to Deloitte’s Charlotte office and spent 14 years in public accounting before joining SPX Technologies, Inc. Fourteen years later, Danielle leads the company’s tax department.

Danielle speaks fondly of the instant bond she feels with fellow UNC alumni. In Washington, D.C., she occasionally met Tar Heels, but in Charlotte, UNC alumni are everywhere. She stays connected with many from her 1997 MAC class, describing them as a tight-knit group that remains in close contact to this day.

She's also active in the UNC Women's Lacrosse alumni network, where many of her former teammates are now coaches. Danielle mentors younger players, offering advice on the corporate world and serving as a professional reference for female student-athletes.

Her advice to undergraduates? Take a broad base of liberal arts classes. She believes a well-rounded education fosters strong communication and problem-solving skills—abilities that are essential in the real world and deeply rooted in her Carolina experience.

Danielle loves returning to UNC's campus, which brings her immense joy. In August 2024, her son began his own journey at Carolina. She's excited to visit him and stay involved through alumni events like Leadership Council meetings, football games, and Parents Weekend.

Danielle hopes to see the number of MAC graduates grow each year, emphasizing the increasing demand for skilled accountants. She believes her real-world experience can support the continued success of UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School and the UNC Tax Center. With her strong corporate background, she focuses on solving problems—not just analyzing them—and hopes to bring that same practical mindset to tax research and education.