



Eller

Financial Matters

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE NEWSLETTER

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ON THE COVER

Andrew Allsup '20 BSBA (Finance) and
Camilla (Stevenson) Allsup

'20 BSBA (Finance)

A Message from the Department of Finance Head



Greetings from the Finance Department!

It was a successful year for the department, in terms of student job placements and faculty research. This spring we held our 12th Finance Graduate Breakfast for our graduating seniors and their families. Our keynote speaker was Natalie Fernandez Lee, president of Meridian Wealth Management. We also had three special guests—Dan Fapp, Chris Campisano, managing director at Atessa Capital, and Paul Mayfield. The breakfast is a time to honor our graduating seniors, and I am always amazed at their many accomplishments.

Highlights

Demand for our students continues to be strong—89 percent of finance graduates have accepted a full-time job or graduate school offer as of graduation. A special thank you to our many alumni who continue to help the next generation of Eller finance students succeed. Leading companies hiring Eller Finance interns and graduates include, among others: Charles Schwab, Wells Fargo, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Siemens, Altria, Deloitte, Fidelity, Honeywell, and JP Morgan.

For the fourth year in a row, we provided Allsup Engagement Awards to finance undergraduate majors to assist students with summer internship expenses, totaling \$153,000 across 56 students. We awarded 14 Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam scholarships and seven Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) exam scholarships to graduate and undergraduate finance students. Overall, we awarded more than \$182,000 in 77 scholarships to finance undergraduate and master's students.

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We continue to increase students' exposure to industry through events, partnerships, and experiential learning:

- In September, we hosted a Finance Speaker Event with Eller Alumnus, president and CEO of Spirit Airlines Ted Christie '92 BSBA (Finance). There were 180 attendees, and the event included a student lunch with Ted and other local professionals, a fireside chat moderated by Alice Bonaimé and Aazam Virani, and a networking reception. This event was made possible by a donation from the Tyler Family in honor of David Laskin '21 BSBA (Finance).
- In November, an Eller Finance team—Arin Dahl '25, Ben Taylor '24, Ryder Rhoads '26 and Oliver Stoner-German '26—made it to the 2023 McGill International Portfolio Challenge Semi-Finals. Arin Dahl received the Best Speaker Award at the event.
- In November, the Commercial Real Estate Club (CREC) traveled to Dallas to visit seven different real estate firms including CBRE, Hines, Weitzman, Blue Ridge Industrial, Marcus and Millichap, Mill Creek, and Falcon Development. The students had many opportunities to grow their real estate education and expand their industry network. The trip was made possible by a donation from University of Arizona alumnus Darren Schackman. Students in the CREC also had the opportunity in November to tour commercial and residential assets owned by Diamond Ventures including one of the biggest master planned communities in Tucson—The Rocking K. A special thanks to David Goldstein, CEO of Diamond Ventures and Andy Ballmann, investment and finance manager, who arranged and guided the tour.
- In December, the in-person finals event of the 2023 Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge was hosted on-campus in Tucson. An Eller Finance team—Ashley Shi '25, Tess Patton '26 and Spencer Angell '25—placed first in the team portion, and Prarthana Magon '24 placed 12th individually. Thanks to David Brown and Nicole Deere for organizing this event!
- In January, 113 young women participated in the 10th Annual Women in Finance Brunch with featured speaker Erica Richardson '20 BSBA (Finance and Business Management). Special thanks to Eleanor Daniel '24 and Sasha Sood '26 for heading up this event. This event was made possible by a donation from University of Arizona alumna Alison Levine.
- In January, the department worked with the Undergraduate Department to organize and host a Wealth Management Study Tour to Los Angeles for 10 finance students. Students visited top Wealth and Asset Management firms in the Los Angeles area including Oppenheimer & Co, Goldman Sachs Private Wealth Management, City National Bank, Blacklines Financial, and Oaktree Capital. After visiting the firms, students attended an alumni mixer hosted by Walt Zipperman, head of the Eller College National Board of Advisors. This trip was made possible by a donation from Eller alumnus Gary Chiate.

- In February, 28 Finance students from the Investments Club traveled to New York City to visit alumni at 20 firms over three days and hosted an alumni reception in Manhattan. Their goal was to learn more about the industry and make connections with alumni to help toward their goal of working on Wall Street.
- In March, a team of four finance students, including Prarthana Magon—the Finance Department's Outstanding Senior—Leopold Bond, David Wassef, and Abby Zacharias placed second out of 64 finalist teams at this year's National Investment Banking Competition & Conference. They placed first among undergraduate teams.
- In March, as part of the 2024 Spring Break Study Tour to Chicago, 18 Eller students visited with eight companies and were able to network with alumni and senior leaders at each site visit. Students had a great time learning about different career paths and various industries.
- In April, we held the eighth annual Meritage Homes Real Estate Challenge. The competition consisted of five student teams researching and reporting on a current real estate issue and presenting their findings to a panel of industry professionals from Meritage, DSW Commercial, Sharpe & Associates, Picor/CW, Iridius Capital, Diamond Ventures, CXT Realty, and HSL Properties. A special thank you to Steve Hilton and Meritage Homes for sponsoring this event.

Pages three and four give just a few examples of how our award-winning faculty's cutting-edge research extends the state of knowledge in finance.

Finally, I'd like to give a heartfelt thank you to our donors. These donations not only provide faculty support and student scholarships, but they also fund many of our student engagement and experiential learning opportunities. If you were ever a beneficiary of these donations, please consider giving back to the department so we can not just continue, but grow these opportunities.

Please reach out to me if you have comments, want to get involved, or give back.

Kathleen Kahle



Department Head
Ann Griffin Endowed Chair in Finance
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Department News

Finance faculty continue a tradition of excellence in teaching and research.

David Brown, associate professor of finance and Brian and Clara Franke Endowed Chair in Finance, received the Eller College Student's Choice Award as well as the Dean's Impact Award. **Brown** was also named a Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP). **Scott Cederburg**, associate professor of finance and Thomas C. Moses Endowed Professor in Finance, won the best paper award at the Michigan State MSUFCU Conference on Financial Institutions and Investments for *Beyond the Status Quo: A Critical Assessment of Lifecycle Investment Advice* with Aizhan Anarkulova, '23 PhD, and Michael O'Doherty (University of Missouri). **Matthew Haertzen**, senior lecturer in finance, was recognized with the Online MBA's Most Influential Professor Award. **Kathy Kahle**, finance department head and Ann Griffin Endowed Chair in Finance, received the University of Arizona Foundation's Eugene G. Sander Faculty Fundraising Award alongside dean of the Eller College of Management and Halle Chair in Leadership, **Karthik Kannan**.

Principal Lecturer, **Aamir Khan** received multiple awards including Executive MBA's Most Valuable Professor and Favorite Finance Courses award as well as the Undergraduate Outstanding Finance Faculty award. **Sandy Klasa**, Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor and professor of finance won the Best Associate Editor award at the *Journal of Corporate Finance* for 2023. **Jason Sandvik**, assistant professor of finance, received the Finance Department's Scrivner Teaching Award and was introduced as a "rising star" in corporate governance at the Indiana University's Public Lecture Series on Corporate Governance. **Richard Sias**, professor of finance and Tyler Family Endowed Chair in Finance was selected as McCombs Distinguished PhD Alumnus of 2023-24.

Alice Bonaimé, associate professor of finance and Philip Rhoads Endowed Professor in Finance, was cited in a *Bloomberg Law* article on the Novo Nordisk-Catalent merger. **Brown** was mentioned in the *Wall Street Journal* in an article about the World Excel Championship. **Cederburg's** work with O'Doherty and Anarkulova, '23 PhD, which found that a mix of half domestic and half international equities performed better than the typical diversified portfolio of bonds and stocks, received national recognition. The paper was covered by *Bloomberg*, *BNN Bloomberg*, *Business Insider*, *The Economist*, *Fortune*, and *MarketWatch*. **Cederburg** was also interviewed by Yahoo Finance Live and was a guest on the Rational Reminder podcast. **Brown** and **Cederburg's** joint work with O'Doherty, which recommended using a mix of Roth and traditional 401(k) accounts, was cited in the *Wall Street Journal*. **Kahle's** research with René M. Stulz (The Ohio State University) was mentioned in *Morningstar's MarketWatch* article discussing the Russell 2000 index and S&P 500 index, and how we're shifting towards a "winner take all" economy.

Assistant Professor of Finance and Sheafe/Neill/Estes Fellow in Finance **Andrea Rossi's** paper *Ratings-Driven Demand and Systematic Price Fluctuations* with Itzhak Ben-David (The Ohio State University), Jiacui Li (University of Utah) and Yang Song (University of Washington) was discussed in the *Wall Street Journal's* article on how a change in Morningstar's ratings is related to why momentum investing has struggled. **Sandvik** and his coauthors, Jasmijn Bol (Tulane University) and Lisa LaViers (Tulane University), had a short article titled *The Trouble with Your Innovation Contests* published in the MIT Sloan Management Review. **Sandvik's** paper with Lisa LaViers (Tulane University), Mary Ellen Carter (Boston College) and Da Xu (Tsinghua University) was cited by the *New York Times*



David Brown



Scott Cederburg



Matthew Haertzen



Kathy Kahle



Karthik Kannan



Aamir Khan



Sandy Klasa



Jason Sandvik



Richard Sias



Alice Bonaimé

in an article about the effect of executive pay disclosure on worker satisfaction.

Bonaimé and Emma Wang '20 PhD had their paper *Mergers, Product Prices, and Innovation: Evidence from the Pharmaceutical Industry* accepted at the *Journal of Finance*. Additionally, **Bonaimé's** paper *Voluntary Disclosures Regarding Open Market Repurchase Programs* (coauthored with Leonce Barger, William Docimo, Mei Feng, and Shawn Thomas) has been accepted for publication at *Contemporary Accounting Research*. Lecturer in Finance, **Balint Horvath's** paper *Eliminating the Tax Shield through Allowance for Corporate Equity: Cross-border Credit Supply Effects*, with Sonny Biswas (University of Bristol) and Wei Zhai (Central University of Finance and Economics) is forthcoming in the *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*. **Horvath's** paper with Asli Demirgüç-Kunt (World Bank) and Harry Huizinga (Tilburg University), *Regulatory Arbitrage and Cross-Border Syndicated Loans*, was accepted at the *Journal of International Economics*. Additionally, their paper *Which firms benefit from corporate QE during the COVID-19 crisis? The case of the ECB's Pandemic Emergency Purchase Program*, was accepted in the *Journal of International Money and Finance*.

Assistant Professor of Finance, **Mihai Ion's** paper *The Use of Asset Growth in Empirical Asset Pricing Models*, with Michael Cooper (University of Utah) and Huseyin Gulen (Purdue University) is now forthcoming at *Journal of Financial Economics*. **Ion's** paper *Credit Cycles, Expectations, and Corporate Investment* with Huseyin Gulen (Purdue University), Candace Jens (Syracuse University) and Stefano Rossi (Bocconi University) has been accepted for publication at the *Review of Financial Studies*. Additionally, **Ion's** paper *Using Equity Market Reactions to Infer Exposure to Trade Liberalization* with Andrew Greenland (North Carolina State University), John Lopresti (College of William and Mary), and Peter Schott (Yale University) was accepted for publication at the *Journal of International Economics*. **Rossi's** article on private equity fund size has been published as a book chapter in *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Private Equity*.

Rossi's paper *Discontinued Positive Feedback Trading and the Decline of Return Predictability* with Itzhak Ben-David (The Ohio State University), Jiacui Li (University of Utah) and Yang Song (University of Washington), has been accepted for publication in *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*. **Rossi's** paper with Spencer Coutts (University of Southern California) and Andrei Goncalves (The Ohio State University), *Unsmoothing Returns of Illiquid Funds*, was accepted at *The Review of Financial Studies*.

Sandvik's paper *Employee Responses to CEO Activism*, with Anya Mkrtchyan (UMass-Amherst) and Da Xu (Tsinghua University) was accepted by the *Journal of Accounting & Economics*. Senior Lecturer in Finance, **Hilmi Songur's** paper *Increases in Volatility of Returns After a Stock Split Have Mostly Vanished: A Reappraisal of Ohlson and Penman 1985* with Jason Heavilin (Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi) was accepted at *Critical Finance Review*. **Jaffe Greenwald**, '24 PhD, had his job market paper *Anomalies, Roll's Critique, and Proxy Error* selected as a semi-finalist for one of the five best paper awards at the FMA's. **Yi Zhou**, finance PhD student, had her job market *Anomalies and Cash Flows*, accepted to the AFA Annual Meeting.

Khan was promoted to principal lecturer. **Cederburg** was named to the Project Overview Group for the Society of Actuaries Research Institute project on "A New Life-Cycle Fund Model under Human Capital and Longevity Risk." **Anne Anderson** will be returning to the Finance Department as a senior lecturer in finance and will be teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses. **Page Dunn-Albertie** joined the Finance Department as the new business manager. **Anita Rico** joined the Finance Department as the new administrative support assistant.



Andrea Rossi



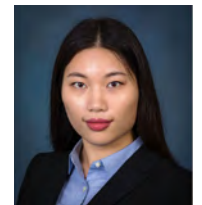
Balint Horvath



Mihai Ion



Hilmi Songur



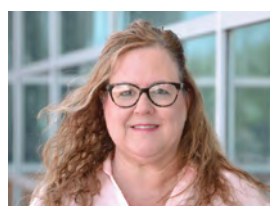
Yi Zhou



Jaffe Greenwald



Anne Anderson



Page Dunn-Albertie



Anita Rico

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Department Highlights

Executive Speaker Event - Ted Christie

In September, students, faculty and industry professionals attended the Finance Department's Executive Speaker Event. The event included a lunch, Q&A with **Ted Christie** '92 BSBA (Finance), CEO of Spirit Airlines, moderated by **Alice Bonaimé** and **Aazam Virani** and networking reception with professionals from Meridian Wealth Management, Diamond Ventures, RMH Investments, L.E. Peabody and Alliance Bank of Arizona.

*This event was made possible by a donation from the **Tyler Family** in honor of **David Laskin** '21 BSBA (Finance).*

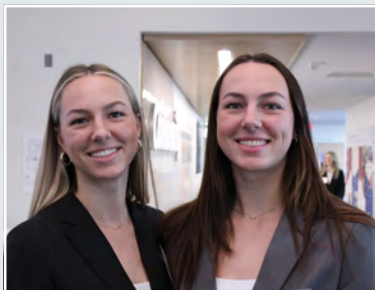


Women in Finance Brunch

The 10th annual Women in Finance Brunch was hosted on January 27, connecting 100 first-year and sophomore students with junior and senior finance student mentors. The event included table talks, a message from event sponsor, Alison Levine '87 BA (Communication), and a fireside chat with **Erica Richardson**, '20 BSBA (Finance and Business Management). This year's event was coordinated by **Eleanor Daniel** '24 BSBA (Accounting) and **Sasha Sood** '26 BSBA (Finance).

2024 Student Mentors: **Cecelia Coburn**, **Celeste Mesa**, **Julia Rogan**, **Kelly Hernandez**, **Madison Ortmeier**, **Megan Salisbury**, **Prarthana Magon**, **Prarthanaa Singhal**, and **Viviana Riemann**.

*This event was made possible by a donation from **Alison Levine** '87 BA (Communication).*



Finance Graduation Breakfast

On May 9, the Finance Department had the chance to celebrate the accomplishments of the undergraduate finance class of 2024. This year's speaker was **Natalie Fernandez Lee**, president of Meridian Wealth Management. Fernandez Lee was recognized as one of Forbes Best-In-State Women Advisors and Best-In-State Wealth Advisors, and a recipient of Tucson's 40 Under 40 Award, BizTucson's 22 Rising Stars to Watch and Tucson's Next Generation of Leaders. **Jason Sandvik**, assistant professor of finance, was presented with the Finance Department Scrivner Teaching Award, recognizing his excellence in teaching. **Prarthana Magon** received the 2024 Outstanding Senior Award and **Cecelia Coburn, Sam Swift, Ben Taylor, David Wassef, and Abby Zacharias** received Fielding-Singh Awards.

*Thank you to **Arvind Singh** and **Cynthia Fielding-Singh** for providing the department with an opportunity to recognize outstanding students with the Fielding-Singh Awards. Arvind and Cynthia have supported the department for more than 15 years.*



Investments Club NYC Trip

In February, 28 Finance students from the Eller Investments Club traveled to New York City to visit alumni at 20 firms over three days and attended an alumni reception in Manhattan.



Mateo Alcorn '22 hosts students on the Citibank trading floor.



Fabio Mire '16 hosts students at Apollo Group.

LA Wealth Management Trip

In January, finance students had the chance to travel to Los Angeles to visit various wealth management firms including Oppenheimer & Co, Goldman Sachs Private Wealth Management, City National Bank, Blacklines Financial and Oaktree Capital.



Kelsey Wilson '14 hosts students at Blacklines Financial, which he founded in 2023.

Students also attended an alumni mixer hosted by **Walt Zipperman '69** BSBA (Marketing). The trip was organized by **Stephanie Allen**, who joined Eller in 2023 as a Career Coach for finance undergraduate students. Prior to starting at Eller, Stephanie worked at Blackrock in San Francisco.

*This trip was made possible by a donation from **Gary Chiate** BSBA (Business Administration and Economics).*



Ryan Brown '08 and Lauren Tolin '19 host students at Goldman Sachs.

Dallas Real Estate Trip

In November, members of the Commercial Real Estate Club traveled to Dallas, visiting multiple firms including CBRE, Hines, Weitzman, Blue Ridge Industrial, Marcus and Millichap, Mill Creek and Falcon Development.

*This trip was made possible by a donation from **Darren Schackman '93** BS (Regional Development).*



CREC Real Estate Tour - Rocking K

On November 28, a group of students from the Commercial Real Estate Club had the opportunity to tour commercial and residential assets owned by Diamond Ventures, including one of the biggest master-planned communities in Tucson, The Rocking K.

*Thank you to **David Goldstein '79** MBA and **Andy Ballmann '23** MBA of Diamond Ventures for arranging and guiding this tour.*



David Goldstein, Kathy Kahle, and Andy Ballmann with members of the Commercial Real Estate Club.

Alumni Awards

Steve Hilton '83 BSBA (Finance)

2023 SIDNEY S. WOODS ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Steve Hilton earned his bachelor's degree in finance and accounting from the University of Arizona in 1983. Two years later, in 1985, Steve co-founded Monterey Homes, which became a publicly traded company in 1996 and was renamed Meritage Homes Corporation in 1997. Steve acted as CEO of Meritage Homes until his retirement in 2021 and is now Executive Chairman of the Board.

Hilton and Meritage Homes started sponsoring the annual Meritage Homes Case Competition 10 years ago. This case competition provides undergraduate students in FIN 460, Real Estate Finance and Investment, with the opportunity to research and analyze a current real estate issue and present it to a panel of industry professionals. Hilton's generosity has provided hundreds of finance students with practical experience in real estate research and analysis, setting them up for success in their future careers.

Hilton is a long-standing supporter of the department. In addition to sponsoring the Meritage Homes Case Competition, he has been an individual donor for nearly a decade and served as the Keynote Speaker at the third annual Graduation Breakfast in 2015. Hilton's contributions to Eller and the Department of Finance were recognized in October at the Alumni Awards Breakfast, where he received the 2023 Sidney S. Woods Alumni Service Award.



Steve Hilton with Aamir Khan, Kathy Kahle and the first place team at the 2023 Meritage Homes Case Competition.



Fabio Mire with Jeff Welter, David Wassef '24 BSBA (Finance),
Brianna Amireh '23 BSBA (Finance), '24 MSF and
Cecelia Coburn '24 BSBA (Finance)

Fabio Mire '16 BSBA (Finance)

2023 WILDCAT CAREER CHAMPION AWARD

Fabio Mire graduated from the Eller College of Management in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Finance. While at Eller, he received the Finance Department's Fielding-Singh award, UA Freeman Medal Award, and Eller's Outstanding Collegiate Scholar of the Year award. After graduating, Mire moved to New York City and worked for Bank of America as an Investment Banking Analyst. He currently works at Apollo Global Management as a Principal on their Infrastructure Private Equity team.

Mire was very active in Eller during his undergraduate career, holding multiple leadership positions including president of the Eller Leadership Board, president of the Financial Management Association and was a founder of the Wall Street Scholars Program. Since its inception in 2015, the Wall Street Scholars Program has consistently placed Finance undergraduate students in some of Wall Street's most desirable internships and full-time positions.

Mire has been an avid supporter of the Finance department, giving his first gift just two years after graduating. Since graduating, Mire has continued to support Eller students, never turning down the opportunity to meet with members of the Investments Club on their annual Wall Street trip. Mire's contributions to the Wall Street Scholars Program and support for Eller students' careers were recognized with the 2023 Wildcat Career Champion Award.

Cover Story: Allsup Family

Allsup Engagement Award

In 2021, the Allsup Family Charitable Foundation established a new scholarship aimed at making a lasting impact on the lives of undergraduate finance students at the Eller College of Management. The Allsup Engagement Award targets current finance majors who require financial support to pursue summer internships and other career-enhancing experiences. This initiative has already assisted 205 students—with 98 percent of Allsup Scholars having full-time jobs upon graduation—and shows no signs of stopping.

The idea for the scholarship originated with Andrew Allsup '20 BSBA (Finance) and Camilla (Stevenson) Allsup '20 BSBA (Finance), who are now married. Reflecting on their experiences at Eller, they recognized the critical role that internships and work experiences played in shaping their careers. “We realized that our career interests were directly influenced by the internships we had during our time at Eller,” Camilla explains. “Without financial aid and scholarships, I wouldn’t have been able to pursue my degree or graduate from Eller.”

The couple observed that many students missed out on valuable internship opportunities due to financial constraints. Andrew highlights this issue, stating, “It’s not a lack of opportunities but financial constraints that prevent students from gaining real-world experience.” The scholarships distributed in the summer of 2021 addressed various needs, such as renting a car for commuting, covering relocation costs, and purchasing tech equipment for virtual internships.

Jessica Allsup, Andrew’s mother and director of the Allsup Family Charitable Foundation, expresses the foundation’s initial hopes for the scholarship: “We aim to remove obstacles for hardworking, ambitious students, which will benefit both the students and the Eller College in the long run.”

Andrew and Camilla hoped the scholarship would address a significant gap in the attainability of summer internships. They recognized that traditional financial aid often doesn’t cover costs beyond tuition, making it difficult for students to afford expenses like airfare, housing deposits, or the loss of summer wages. The Allsup Engagement Award provides crucial support for these students, narrowing the opportunity gap.

The couple has maintained contact with some scholarship recipients, who have shared stories of the award’s impact. The scholarship has covered expenses such as transportation, rent, work-appropriate clothing and airfare. Recipients often express how the scholarship has enabled them to present their best selves to potential employers. The Allsup family values these ongoing connections and takes an active interest in the students’ continued successes.

An unexpected outcome of the scholarship has been its influence on recipients’ desire to give back. Many students have been inspired by the scholarship’s origin story and have come to understand that they don’t need to wait until they’re older to be charitable. “It is rewarding to know that the scholarship helps students achieve their professional goals,” says Camilla. “But it is infinitely more fulfilling to know that it has played a part in fostering future philanthropic activity.”



Andrew Allsup '20 BSBA (Finance) and Camilla (Stevenson) Allsup '20 BSBA (Finance)

Looking ahead, the Allsup family plans to continue their support, with a focus on increasing the visibility of Eller finance students in competitive fields such as Investment Banking, Private Equity and Asset Management. They are committed to a long-term partnership with the Eller Professional Development Center (PDC) to ensure the scholarship adapts to the evolving needs of students.

Through the Allsup Engagement Award, the Allsup family is not only providing financial support but also paving the way for future generations of Eller students to achieve their dreams and give back to their communities.

Alumni Spotlight

Kelsey Walcott '21 BSBA '22 MSF

As a Tucson native, Kelsey Walcott '21 BSBA '22 MSF, knew right away that the Eller College of Management was her first—and only—choice for college. “I never applied to other schools, and I had nothing but amazing experiences with Eller,” she says. “The environment and the faculty are completely top-notch. I loved my undergraduate online program. I made friends that I am still good friends with. It was an incredible experience all the way through.”

During her time as an undergraduate, Walcott helped create a mentorship program to foster more connections within the Eller online community. “I think when people are doing online school, there is a misconception that they don’t want to engage and make friends,” says Walcott. “That was not the case for me and many other online students. It just takes more effort to create a community. Having someone who could relate to what I was going through and could give me tips, and be a sounding board was great for me, and I was hoping to give others the space to have that opportunity if they wanted to engage in that way.”

Kelsey was an active Eller student and added a lot of value to her undergraduate and graduate programs. “While I was in the online undergraduate program, Matt Haertzen encouraged me to participate in both the CFA Research Challenge and the Applied Portfolio Management class even though I wasn’t technically a finance student,” she says. “While this felt extremely intimidating at the time, these experiences were significant building blocks in the foundation of my finance career.” Walcott was also a teaching assistant to David Brown in his FIN 360L class while she was pursuing her master’s in finance degree. “Students tend to think that class is challenging, but when they get to the workplace, they realize how incredibly essential financial modeling skills are,” she says. “Participating in the Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge (MECC) was also a great experience in teaching yourself how to think creatively with financial models.”



Kelsey Walcott '21 BSBA '22 MSF

“No one outworks a Walcott.”

After graduating from the Eller Master of Science in Finance program, Walcott entered the Finance Analyst Rotational Program at Google in Austin, Texas. After rotating across various teams, she began a permanent role as a financial

analyst on the Executive Reporting team within Corporate Financial Planning and Analysis.

Through hard work and perseverance, Walcott found her own way to her current position at Google. “I applied on LinkedIn. I didn’t have any contacts there,” she says. “This is another thing I like to stress because so many people believe you can’t get anywhere without networking, and I like to think that I am proof that networking is not everything. I applied to Google, got the interview, and got the job, and it’s because of the quality experience on my resume through Eller—the CFA Research Challenge, MECC and coursework.”

Walcott was one of six analysts in her Google rotational program to win an “Innovation Award”, given to those who solved complex business problems through automation and technology in their rotations. In March 2024, the six winners had the opportunity to share their projects with a panel of senior Finance leaders as part of a Pitch Competition, and Kelsey won first place. “I attribute the win to the fact that my eyes light up every time I’m given the opportunity to speak about the automated attribution model I built while rotating on the Treasury Team,”

she says. “In this project I leveraged SQL, Looker, and good old-fashioned mathematics to automatically quantify the impact of balance, rate, and FX factors on changes in interest income - especially useful amidst a very interesting (no pun intended) rate environment! I was a personal trainer five years ago. If I can go from that to presenting to Finance VPs at Google, then anyone can do anything.”

When asked what her plans for the future are, Walcott stressed that she wants to continue on the path she’s on and continue to learn as much as she can. Walcott is relocating to the San Francisco Bay Area to continue to work at Google. “I know that Eller has prepared me for this,” she says. It goes back to learning and how to enjoy being challenged. Eller helped me realize my potential. During my first day of the MSF program, I thought, ‘There is no way I can do this’. I had just come off a five-year break from school, where I was a personal trainer and gym manager. Even though it was only a 16-month program, I learned through that process (and being believed in) that I could do much more than I originally thought. That gave me the confidence, so I’m going to go for it.”

The best way to summarize Walcott can be stated in a direct quote from her father, “No one outworks a Walcott.”

Student News

2024 Meritage Homes Case Competition

The 2024 Meritage Homes Case Competition was hosted on Friday, April 12 in McClelland Hall. The five finalist teams from FIN 460 (Real Estate Finance and Investment) competed for the top prize of \$3,000. This year's judging panel was

comprised of industry professionals from Meritage Homes, CXT Realty, Diamond Ventures, DSW Commercial, HSL Properties, Iridius Capital, Picor and Sharpe & Associates.



First place was awarded to **Will Brock** '25 BSBA (Finance and Entrepreneurship), **Ryan Gutierrez** '24 BSBA (Finance), **Avery Hurley** '25 BSBA (Finance) and **Jack Marko** '24 BSBA (Finance).



Second place was awarded to **Roy Freedman** '24 BSBA (Finance), **Ceciley Johnson** '24 BSBA (Finance), **Madison Ortmeyer** '24 BSBA (Finance), **Addie Perlmutter** '24 BSBA (Finance) and **Jocelyn Tiller** '24 BSBA (Finance).



Third place was awarded to **Connor Bowers** '24 BSBA (Finance and Business Economics), **Charlie Fleury** '24 BSBA (Finance), **Vicki Ly** '24 BSBA (Finance) and **Sam Swift** '24 BSBA (Finance).

*This annual event is made possible by **Steve Hilton** '83 BSBA (Finance) and Meritage Homes.*

2024 National Investment Banking Competition

In March, four Eller Finance students traveled to Vancouver to compete in the 2024 National Investment Banking Competition. The team, comprised of **Leopold Bond** '25 BSBA (Finance and Pre-Law), **David Wassef** '24 BSBA (Finance), **Prarthana Magon** '24 BSBA (Finance and Statistics), and **Abby Zacharias** '24 BSBA (Finance) placed second overall and first among undergraduate teams. This was the fourth year that an Eller Finance team competed.



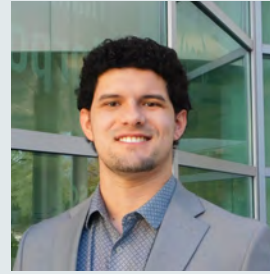
Leopold Bond, David Wassef, Prarthana Magon, and Abby Zacharias

2023 McGill International Portfolio Challenge

In November, a group of undergraduate students representing the Finance Department made it to the Semi-Finals of the 2023 McGill International Portfolio Challenge. **Arin Dahl** '25 BSBA (Finance) was awarded Best Speaker. Congratulations to **Arin Dahl**, **Ben Taylor**, **Ryder Rhoads**, and **Oliver Stoner-German**.



Arin Dahl



Ben Taylor



Ryder Rhoads

2023 Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge

In December, an Eller Finance Team comprised of **Ashley Shi** '25 BSBA (Finance), **Tess Patton** '26 BSBA (Finance) and **Spencer Angell** '25 BSBA (Finance) placed first at the 2023

Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge. **Prarthana Magon** '24 BSBA (Finance and Statistics) placed 12th in the individual portion of the competition.



Ashley Shi, Tess Patton, and Spencer Angell with David Brown



Prarthana Magon and David Brown

Student Success Stories

Connor Bugni '23 BSBA (Finance) '24 MSF

PASSED CFA LEVEL 1 AND CAIA LEVEL 1 EXAMS, SPRING 2024

1. Decision to pursue the CFA Charter & CAIA Charter:

I always figured I would go for the CFA Charter because it is considered the gold standard in investment management and the curriculum is fascinating. When I learned of the CFA Student Scholarship opportunity, I knew the time was right and it would be economically advantageous to pursue level one now. When I learned of the CAIA Student Scholarship opportunity, it seemed like a no-brainer since I was already prepping for the CFA Level 1 and there is some content overlap between the exams. Admittedly, I mostly just thought it would be a fun curriculum to work through.

2. Exam preparation:

To prepare for the CFA Level 1 exam, I began studying in mid-January, allowing myself roughly six weeks to get ready. I only used the materials provided by the CFA Institute and started with a mock assessment to determine my areas of strengths and weaknesses. From there, I focused on the topics I was weakest on, then progressed to the topics I was more comfortable with. I studied for about four hours per day, on average, at Caffè Luce with my friend and fellow CFA candidate, Brianna Amireh. My plan of attack for the CAIA partially commenced with my preparation for the CFA Level 1 exam, as

both heavily weight the Ethics topic. Beyond that, I dove into the CAIA Level 1 curriculum five days before the exam, and I just focused on reading the material. I took a mock exam two days prior to the real exam to gauge which topics I had a proficient understanding of and which I needed to focus on. From there, it was mostly just a grind to shore up my weaker topics such that they were on par with my strong areas. Whereas I studied for roughly 120 hours for the CFA, I would approximate my CAIA studies to be around 30 hours over five days. I did find the CAIA to be more challenging than the CFA.



Connor Bugni

3. Most helpful MSF course:

Financial Statement Analysis (FSA), taught by the exceptional professor, Chip Ruscher, was by far the most useful Eller MSF course as I prepared for the CFA exam. FSA is one of the largest topic areas on the exam, and arguably the most difficult for many people, so having a semester dedicated to that made later preparation more expeditious. The most helpful Eller MSF course in my CAIA preparation was Balint Horvath's Applied Risk Management, given its deep quantitative nature and focus on derivative securities. I found myself recalling a number of lectures from which I was able to draw critical knowledge as I progressed through the exam.

4. Advice to other Eller MSF students:

I would advise other Eller MSF students considering taking the CFA exams to just commit and go for it. It's economically irresponsible not to apply for the CFA Student Scholarship since you only have to pay the registration fee once, so even if you fail the first attempt, it will be magnitudes more affordable for subsequent registrations. Beyond the financial considerations, I would highly recommend getting a study buddy. It makes the experience more fun, keeps you accountable, and makes the complex topics more digestible by having someone to bounce ideas

off. To other Eller MSF students considering taking the CAIA exams, I would recommend studying for the CFA first, as there is some overlap. For students not interested in the CFA and only the CAIA, I would recommend starting with a mock exam, then prioritizing studying their weakest areas and gradually working towards topics of strength so their understanding overall is well-rounded. Additionally, having a study partner could be advantageous in so far as keeping one committed and having someone to help navigate foreign waters with.

5. Career plans after graduation:

I would love to work in the M&A space, equity research, or launch my own hedge fund after graduation.

Brianna Amireh '23 BSBA (Finance) '24 MSF

PASSED CFA LEVEL 1 EXAM, SPRING 2024

1. What made you decide to pursue the CFA Charter?

The decision to pursue the CFA Charter was driven by a combination of factors. Initially, the CFA scholarship offered by the university caught my attention, providing me with a financial incentive to apply. As I progressed through my master's classes, I realized a significant alignment between our curriculum and the topics covered in the CFA Program. This realization made pursuing the CFA Charter a strategic investment of my time and resources. Additionally, I recognized the significant value of becoming a CFA Charterholder. Membership in the CFA community is highly regarded, representing excellence and professionalism in the financial field. Ultimately, these factors made the decision to pursue the CFA Charter an obvious choice.

2. Please briefly describe your exam study routine or approach.

My exam study routine began around six weeks before the CFA exam. I dedicated approximately four hours each day to studying with another student every morning before class. Studying together helped me maintain a consistent schedule and made the material more accessible. Additionally, through the CFA Club, we hosted speakers and received valuable tips from our professor to aid in preparing for the Level 1 exam. Overall, collaborating with another student significantly aided in my study routine and overall performance!

3. Which Eller MSF course was the most helpful in your CFA exam preparation?

My most useful Eller MSF course was Financial Statement Analysis. This course was very aligned with the CFA institute and greatly helped in my preparation with the exam. This specific topic was allocated a heavy weight of the exam, making it an extremely helpful class

4. What advice would you give to other Eller MSF students considering taking the CFA exams?

My advice to fellow Eller MSF students considering taking the CFA exams would be to simply go for it. I would advise to start studying earlier on for the exam and find another



Brianna Amireh

student or group to study with to keep you accountable and on track. Even if your first attempt is unsuccessful, the experience gained with the exam will be helpful on the following attempts.

5. What are your career plans or goals after graduation?

After graduation, I will be going to New York City to start my career as a private banking investment analyst with JPMorgan. I am incredibly excited about the opportunities ahead and eager to continue my learning journey.

Alumni Success Story

Bryanna Samuels '19 BSBA (Finance and Entrepreneurship)

Bryanna Samuels' '19 BSBA (Finance and Entrepreneurship) journey from a hardworking student to an innovative venture capital investor and entrepreneur is one filled with passion, innovation and a commitment to community empowerment. Samuels' trajectory wasn't a straight line but rather a journey marked by pivotal moments of discovery and steadfast determination.

Samuels' decision to attend the Eller College of Management was marked by a clear sense of purpose and passion for business. Her high school experiences in DECA competitions and corporate internships ignited her interest in the business world, laying a solid foundation for her college endeavors. Actively participating in extracurricular activities and clubs at Eller, such as Delta Sigma Pi and the Investments Club, further fueled her ambition to pursue a degree in finance and entrepreneurship.

Samuels' experience navigating the world of finance on Wall Street revealed a glaring gap in the market: the lack of affordable, high-quality workwear options for women—especially women of color. "Women of color often have a harder time finding clothing that matches their skin tone and fits their body shape," says Samuels. "Quality professional clothing can be expensive, and it's often difficult to find affordable high-quality options that help women exude confidence and professionalism."

"Good Rapport is not just about workwear...It is also about cultivating a sense of community for women through networking events, learning opportunities and peer support."

Recognizing this challenge, she embarked on a mission to address it by founding Good Rapport. The brand not only offers stylish and professional attire but also fosters a feeling of belonging. "Good Rapport is not just about workwear," she says. "It is also about cultivating a sense of community for women through networking events, learning opportunities and peer support."

Establishing Good Rapport presented its own set of challenges, particularly in managing time effectively alongside a full-time investment role. Drawing on the knowledge and insights gained from her Eller studies, Samuels strategically tackled these hurdles. "At Eller, I gained the knowledge to start a business as well as a deep understanding of my strengths and weaknesses," says Samuels. "Armed with this knowledge, I identified tasks I could tackle independently and areas where I needed to enlist third-party assistance. This empowered me to streamline my efforts and maximize productivity despite time constraints, ultimately propelling Good Rapport forward."

Good Rapport's mission revolves around empowering women to excel in both their personal and professional lives. The brand prioritizes affordability, quality and sustainability in its products, utilizing premium fabrics and adopting eco-friendly manufacturing practices. Transparency in pricing and inclusivity in product design and marketing are key elements of Good Rapport's philosophy.

Samuels' commitment to giving back to the community is evident in initiatives like the Eller student suit donation program. Every year, Good Rapport will gift a suit to a graduating senior who is part of the Wall Street Scholars Program. Recognizing the pivotal role of community support in her own journey, she seeks to empower students and professionals alike through Good Rapport's endeavors.

Bryanna's aspirations for the future extend beyond building Good Rapport into a successful women's brand. She envisions establishing a venture capital platform under the brand's umbrella, facilitating investments that contribute to community growth and welfare.

"The unwavering support of the Eller community has been pivotal in launching my finance career on Wall Street," says Samuels. It has also continued to provide ongoing encouragement to steadfastly pursue my aspirations."



Bryanna Samuels

Meet Our Students

Jayden Solanky '24 BSBA (Finance)

Jayden arrived at Eller with a unique background. Both of his parents were born in Zimbabwe and, as their first child, Jayden spent much of his childhood learning how things operated in the United States alongside his parents. He didn't always have the goal of becoming a Wall Street analyst. "I wanted to be a lawyer because my mom would say 'you should be a lawyer because how much you talk back and argue with me'. At the time I understood that lawyers made a good amount of money and was something I would be good at (apparently)."

Fortunately for Eller, Jayden found his way to finance. "I would highly recommend attending Eller specifically for finance. There are so many opportunities here that other schools don't have. I first came here as a finance major not even being sure if I would stick with it; however, I have no regrets."

When asked what he values about his Eller experience, he responded, "I love how Eller places a heavy emphasis on team projects to replicate what you're going to have to do in the real world working with others. Throughout all the Eller clubs I have been a part of, there is also a common theme of mentorship. I have had someone take me under their wing in most of these organizations which has played a pivotal role in my professional development."

"I love how Eller places a heavy emphasis on team projects to replicate what you're going to have to do in the real world working with others."



Jayden Solanky

Jayden has returned this generous, mentoring spirit through his leadership roles in his undergraduate student organizations. "I am the current markets director for the Investments Club. In this role, I facilitate the meetings and have

gone on the annual Investments Club NYC Trip every year since I was a freshman. Most recently, I was one of three student leaders on the trip. I will be returning next school year as the president." He was also in the Wall Street Scholars Program and described it as "One of my most unique Eller experiences. It gave me the opportunity to be surrounded by some of the most motivated individuals in Eller. The program being such a small and select group where we are all trying to accomplish the same goals was a truly special opportunity."

After earning his undergraduate degree in only three years, Jayden has some exciting plans. "I think my most exciting accomplishment was getting my J.P. Morgan internship. After graduation, I will spend my summer in New York City at J.P. Morgan's Private Bank as an asset and wealth management summer intern. Many of my

friends back home always commented that they didn't think students from the University of Arizona could work on Wall Street. While that isn't necessarily true, being able to accomplish this is still by far my most exciting accomplishment at Eller. After my internship, I will return to Eller to earn my Master of Science in Finance."

Five Fun Facts:

1. I can do a headstand.
2. I don't have a middle name.
3. I have been to more countries than states.
4. I won two golf team state championships in high school.
5. I watch every F1 race.

Ji Hoon Hwang '24 PhD (Finance)

Ji Hoon joined Eller in 2018 and had quite a few notable accomplishments during his time in the Finance PhD program. The paper he worked on with his dissertation advisor, Kathleen Kahle, (“Nonregular Employment and Payout Policy: Evidence from the Massachusetts Independent Contractor Law”) was accepted at *Management Science*. He also received the **Best Reviewer Award from the Hawaii Accounting Research Conference (HARC) 2024**. He accepted an offer to begin work as an assistant professor of finance at the University of Mississippi in August 2024.

“I examine what corporations do with their money: where they invest their cash in and whether such investments add to firm value. By ascertaining corporate behavior based on data, I shed light on what the desirable path is for a firm to manage its liquidity.”

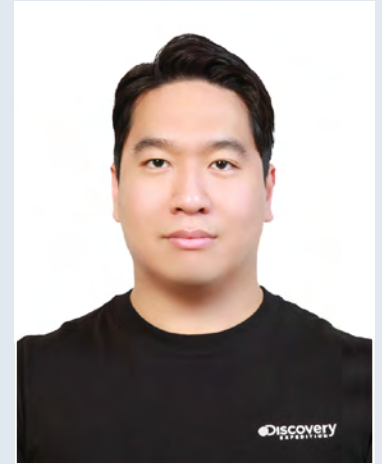
When it comes to what he appreciates about his time in Eller, Ji Hoon said, “People. Bonding with fellow Ph.D. students who are pursuing a similar career path really helps a lot. I needed all the support I could get from my surroundings to soldier on. I met some of the most interesting people in my life at Eller. Especially, I would like to give credit to Sunil Teluja who graduated from the same

“Staying current with the recent trends and techniques must be the key to success.”

program at Eller. Without his help and advice, I wouldn't have survived the program.”

“Whatever I did during my PhD years culminated in the job market. Getting an academic job must be the most exciting accomplishment. The finance PhD program offers a great career opportunity in terms of salary and autonomy.

The academic job market is getting tougher every year, but there is always a significant demand for newly minted PhD graduates. Staying current with the recent trends and techniques must be the key to success.”



Ji Hoon Hwang

Five Fun Facts:

1. I reached the 1,000 lbs. milestone in terms of squat, bench and deadlift.
2. I always wear a t-shirt saying “What?” in Korean whenever I lift. It gives me a bit of swagger to lift heavier.
3. I am a veteran, honorably discharged from the Republic of Korea Army.
4. European football is the football. UEFA Champions League is the league.
5. Instant gratification is the phantom menace in human life.



Julia Rogan

Julia Rogan '23 BSBA (Finance) '24 MS (Finance)

Julia's journey to Tucson began at a young age. “Growing up, I would visit Tucson every summer to see my extended family and I always picked up something from the bookstore when we stopped by campus.”

Growing up, she didn't plan to end up on the path she's on now. “I

wanted to be a lawyer and I once made a contract for my sister to make sure she played Barbies with me.” While it sounds like Julia would have made a great lawyer, she started her college career as a Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences major before switching to studying finance at Eller. “My most exciting accomplishment at the University of Arizona and Eller was finding a subject area and career path that I was interested in. Being able to picture myself enjoying going to work every day was really important to me and I'm grateful to have found

a field that I'm excited to join. Finance is extremely important because it plays a major role in our everyday lives. My goal is to help others make wise choices to enhance their current and future lifestyle.”

After finding her way to Eller finance, Julia was admitted to the Accelerated Masters Program (AMP). “My most unique experience was being able to take graduate-level classes as an undergrad. This gave me a glimpse into the MSF program and allowed me to connect with grad students and hear about their experiences.

“Being able to picture myself enjoying going to work every day was really important to me and I'm grateful to have found a field that I'm excited to join.”

Julia is an excellent example of how students who studied Finance during their time as an Eller undergraduate can still find value studying Finance as an Eller graduate student. “The MSF program has helped me become a more well-rounded finance professional by diving deeper into the core aspects of finance. Your education is something you will have for the rest

of your life, so if you're a student interested in continuing your education, the MSF program is a great opportunity. For current Eller students, I would suggest looking into the accelerated program because you can achieve a master's degree in two extra semesters. I'm lucky to have found a job opportunity to utilize what I've learned throughout my time at Eller."

After graduation, Julia joined Allworth Financial as an Associate Advisor at their Tucson office.

Five Fun Facts:

1. I grew up in Merrick, New York and I'm from the same town as Michael Kors, Lindsay Lohan, and Ben & Jerry.
2. I started undergrad as a Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences major.
3. I enjoy playing tennis, watching reality TV and listening to Taylor Swift.
4. My favorite food is pizza.
5. I have a passion for fashion.

Ria Sejwal '25 BSBA (Finance)

Like many students her age, Ria began her college experience in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic which made her transition from India to the U.S. very unique.

"While Eller has a large number of international students, I came to America from India when COVID was still quite prominent. This meant my parents could not come with me and help me settle into a whole new continent. From moving into my apartment, getting over the jet lag, and also experiencing Target for the first time, I think doing all of these things alone made it very unique. I learned so much, and it truly made me the person I am today."

Despite starting her undergraduate program during a challenging time in the world, Ria has excelled and already made her mark in Eller. Among her accomplishments (including becoming Bobcat #1 in the Bobcat Senior Honorary, working as the Grant and Contract Student Analyst at University of Arizona's Sponsored Projects and Services and serving as the executive chair and VP of International Affairs in the Professional Women in Business Association), she identified her role as the VP of Alumni Relations for the professional co-ed business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, as her most unique experience during her time in Eller. "It allowed me to become so much more involved with the organization and the college itself. I never imagined myself being able to talk in front of a room of more than 130 people but I can proudly say that is something I have done often in my position."

When asked about her time in Eller so far, she responded, "I truly appreciate how well Eller sets you up for success."

"I would recommend being open to all opportunities you come by because you never know the doors it will open for you!"

Whether it is through professional development or the concepts you learn in class, I know I can walk into any room confidently. This would not be possible without the

mentorship I received from my peers and the faculty here at Eller."

Her advice for anyone interested in attending Eller College and the finance undergraduate program, "Saying yes to Eller and the Finance undergraduate program has completely transformed my life. I've met mentors that I will forever stay connected with, friends who will be with me at every stage of my life, and skills that have prepared me to succeed in whatever future I choose to pursue. I would recommend being open to all opportunities you come by because you never know the doors it will open for you!"

"I think the world moves because of the finance industry. Finance is not just about stocks and bonds but also about learning how to do personal finances. The finance

major teaches life skills that are highly applicable to everyone's future."

As Ria begins her senior year this fall, she plans to pursue a wealth management or financial advisory career. She is also considering earning a PhD in Finance one day.

Five Fun Facts:

1. I used to be a state-level gymnast growing up in India.
2. I went on a Europe tour as a child.
3. I am a big fan of Formula 1 Racing.
4. I am terribly scared of reptiles (don't ask me why I came to Arizona).
5. My first hike ever was Seven Falls in Tucson, and I definitely did not know what I was signing up for. Now I love hiking.



Ria Sejwal

Students Award Winners



Abby Zacharias

FIELDING-SINGH AWARD

Degree:

Major in Finance and Minor in Spanish

Job after graduation:

Perella Weinberg Partners, Investment Banking Analyst, New York City

What do you value or appreciate about Eller College?

I value and appreciate all of the opportunities that Eller provides to help students achieve their career goals and to network with other students and industry professionals. I had the opportunity to travel to New York and Vancouver, BC on behalf of Eller to network and compete in a case competition. Without the support of Eller I would not have had these opportunities that had positive impacts on my education and career.

Did you have any unique experiences growing up?

I attended a Bilingual elementary school where I had the opportunity to take classes in Spanish and English.

What was your most exciting accomplishment at U of A/Eller?

My most exciting accomplishment while at Eller was traveling to New York to interview for my internship. I received a lot of support in preparation for the interviews from my peers and mentors in Eller which played a very big role in my confidence going into the interview.



Ben Taylor

FIELDING-SINGH AWARD

Degree:

Major in Finance

Job after graduation:

Goldman Sachs, Private Investor Product Group Analyst, New York City

Your long-term career goals:

I would really enjoy the opportunity to start my own wind farm and possibly create a new structured product.

Tell us about a hobby or passion you have that's unrelated to school or business:

I really enjoy riding my motorcycle and seeing the unique sights around Tucson such as Gates Pass.

As a child, what did you plan to do when you grew up?

As a child, I wanted to be an inventor. I really liked creating and building new things and thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to follow a passion of mine.

What was one of your most unique experiences while at U of A/Eller?

I really enjoyed competing in the McGill International Portfolio Challenge with 3 of my Eller peers, which was especially unique to me as I had never been involved in a portfolio building competition before, and we made it quite far.

Five fun/interesting/unique facts about yourself:

1. I have dual Citizenship (England)
2. I ride a motorcycle
3. The highest cliff I have jumped is 65 feet
4. I have a cat named Ghërkin
5. I enjoy trading options



Cecelia Coburn

FIELDING-SINGH AWARD

Degree:

Major in Finance

Job after graduation:

Barclays, Equity Synthetic Sales Analyst, New York City

What was a defining moment of your undergraduate career?

The most defining moment of my undergraduate career was when I received the call that I got an offer for my internship at Barclays my sophomore year. That moment was a reflection of every minute of hard work I had put into networking and practicing for the past few months. It became very real that I was going to be able to move to my dream city and pursue my dream job.

What was one of your most unique experiences while at U of A/Eller?

One of my most unique experiences at the UA was being able to found Phi Gamma Nu, a professional development fraternity. Building an organization like a business fraternity from the ground up was a daunting, but extremely rewarding task. Through this experience, I was able to connect with PGN alumni and students across the country, work closely with amazing Eller faculty, and meet so many passionate students across all majors who shared a common goal. PGN is only in its second semester at the UA, and so far we have 50 incredible members who work every week to build their own professional brand, personal development, and give back to the Tucson community. Being able to be the founding President is something I will never forget.

Five fun/interesting/unique facts about yourself:

1. I love to paint—specifically black and white oil painting
2. It is my goal to go to every NFL football stadium
3. I was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania
(home of the show The Office)
4. I have been to over 20 live music concerts
5. My dream is to run the NYC marathon



Prarthana Magon

OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Degree:

Major in Finance and Statistics and Data Science, Minor in Business Administration

Job after graduation:

Blackstone, Investment Analyst, New York City

Tell us about a hobby or passion you have that's unrelated to school or business:

Outside of Finance, I really enjoy painting and more recently long-distance running. Painting allows me to tap into my creativity and express my thoughts, emotions, and perceptions visually. Plus, the process of creating art can be incredibly therapeutic and meditative. Long-distance running, on the other hand, is all about pushing my physical limits and connecting with my body and mind. It's not just about covering miles; it's about the journey, the perseverance, and the sense of accomplishment that comes with each run and that is why I enjoy it!

What was one of your most unique experiences while at U of A/Eller?

One of my most unique experiences at UA/Eller was being part of the Wall Street Scholars program for four years. It was an enriching journey where I had the opportunity to surround myself with highly motivated individuals who shared a common ambition for achieving big dreams. The environment fostered collaboration, innovation, and a drive to excel. Through this program, I not only gained valuable insights into the world of finance but also forged lifelong connections with like-minded peers who continue to inspire and push me to reach new heights.

Five fun/interesting/unique facts about yourself:

1. I can speak in 4 languages
2. I became fully financially independent at 17
3. I am a self taught Alla Prima Oil Painter
4. I am an international student from India
5. I used to play table tennis at the state level in high school



Sam Swift

FIELDING-SINGH AWARD

Degree: Major in Finance with Minor in Statistics and Data Science

After graduation: Attending the University of Iowa (in Iowa City) for a master's degree in Business Analytics

Your long-term career goals: I want to use valuation, film and analytics to work in player personnel for a pro football team.

Tell us about a hobby or passion you have that's unrelated to school or business:

A hobby of mine is country swing dancing. I learned how to swing dance the summer after my junior year while interning for Honeywell in Houston, Texas. There was a bar that gave free lessons every Friday, and I was able to pick up a thing or two after a few weeks.

What advice do you have for a future Eller Student?

Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone—the biggest risk is not taking one! Join the club, run for the position, & bet on yourself. Even if you don't know anyone, just show up. A great example of this is taking advantage of the opportunities to study abroad while in college! Studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain for a semester (without knowing anyone prior to going) was truly one of the best and most unique experiences I had in college.

What was your most exciting accomplishment at U of A/Eller?

I was elected the Director of Brotherhood in my professional business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi, and served for a semester. I had the opportunity to put on events both inside and outside of weekly chapter meetings.

Five fun/interesting/unique facts about yourself:

1. I play guitar
2. I played on the Arizona men's soccer team for three years
3. I've run a 4:56 mile
4. I was involved in show choir in high school
5. I've been involved with 13 different campus clubs/activities and four internships throughout my time in college



David Wassef

FIELDING-SINGH AWARD

Degree: Major in Finance

Job after graduation: Investment Banking Analyst at Moelis & Company in New York City

Your long-term career goals:

At the peak of my career, I want to advise CEO's and global business leaders on transactions as they enter the most pivotal moments in their corporate lifecycle. I aim to envelop myself in different cultures and learn the norms of various regions around the world.

Tell us about a hobby or passion you have that's unrelated to school or business:

I enjoy DJing and sampling various types of electronic dance music.

Did you have any unique experiences growing up?

Growing up with two Egyptian parents, I was exposed to middle eastern culture from a very early age. My parents made it a goal to introduce new perspectives through travel as an extension of my education. I have been fortunate enough to visit 10+ countries spanning Europe, Asia, and Africa and plan to integrate global travel as a part of my future work.

What was one of your most unique experiences while at U of A/Eller?

Through my time as an Eller student, I was fortunate enough to compete twice, once as a junior and again as a senior & team lead in the final round of the National Investment Banking Competition in Vancouver, Canada. I have been able to represent the university, meet a variety of finance professionals from global investment banks, and interact with other students entering the industry. These experiences have allowed me to witness the true nature of the job and apply my learned skills in a high-stakes setting alongside my peers.

INVEST IN FINANCE

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Your commitment to invest in the future of the Department of Finance helps us advance and grow. Contributions may be made to the Finance General Fund, Wall Street Scholars Program Fund, and the Don Seeley Fund for Excellence in Finance.

