



Eller

Financial Matters

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 22 | SUMMER 2025



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 13th Finance Graduate Breakfast for our graduating seniors and their families. Our keynote speaker was Chris Campisano from Attesa Capital. We also had five special guests: Ashlyn Tucker and Richard Mudinger from RHM Investment Management, Dan Fapp from L.E. Peabody & Associates, Bob Griffin and Craig Barker from UA Foundation. 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, Deloitte, Fidelity, Honeywell, and JP Morgan.

For the fifth year in a row, we provided Allsup Engagement Awards to finance undergraduate majors to assist students

“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.”

with summer internship expenses, totaling \$150,000 across 50 students. We awarded six Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam scholarships and four 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.

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

- In Fall 2024, the Eller Department of Finance partnered with the CFA Institute to offer students the CFA Institute Investment Foundations® Certificate course free of charge. This self-paced, online program comprises six comprehensive courses, covering topics such as industry structure, investment instruments, and ethical considerations. The program requires approximately 60-90 hours to complete, culminating in a 100-question final assessment. Upon successful completion, participants earn a digital badge and certificate, enhancing their professional credentials. This initiative provided over 100 undergraduate and graduate students with a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of the global investment industry and advance their careers.
- In Fall 2024, the Eller Investment Club Fund launched with \$110,000, giving students hands-on experience in portfolio management. Under the leadership of Faculty Advisor Anne Anderson and Student Fund President Leopold Bond ’25 (Finance and Law), teams of students analyzed stocks, pitched investment ideas, and voted on trades. By semester’s end, \$55,477 (50.43 percent) had been invested, with returns of 6.89 percent, outperforming the 6.10 percent benchmark. The fund not only provides real-world investing experience but also fosters mentorship and skill development. With full fund deployment targeted for Spring 2025, students will present their results in an end-of-year showcase.
- In November, ten finance students journeyed to Mexico City as part of the FIN 415 Corporate Strategy in International Finance course. Their mission was to present stock valuations to Volaris and gain deeper insight into the workings of this prominent Mexican airline. They explored key financial and business hubs throughout the city and immersed themselves in the native language, enriching their cultural and professional perspectives. This transformative trip was made possible by a generous donation from Brian and Clara Franke.
- In December, the in-person finals event of the 2024 Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge was hosted in Las

Vegas. An Eller team—Ben Ge ’26 (Accounting and MIS), Desirae Hoaglin ’26 (Business Economics and MIS), and Jack Weber ’26 (Finance) - placed second in the team portion. Finance students Jack Weber and Spencer Angell ’25 (Finance) performed exceptionally, securing sixth and 10th place, respectively, in the individual rankings. Thanks to David Brown for organizing this event!

- In December, nearly 100 young women participated in the 11th Annual Women in Finance Brunch with featured speaker Jewel Brundrett ’19 (Finance and Entrepreneurship). Special thanks to Sasha Sood ’26 (Finance) and Peyton Cloutier ’26 (Finance) for heading up this event. This event was made possible by Alison Levine, Marla Carmona and Larissa Goldman.
- In January, the department worked with the Undergraduate Department to organize and host a Wealth Management Study Tour to Los Angeles for 16 finance students. Students visited top Wealth and Asset Management firms in the Los Angeles area including Oppenheimer & Co, City National Bank, Blacklines Financial, Capital Group and 49 Financial. This trip was made possible by a donation from Eller alumnus Gary Chiate.
- In January, 28 Finance students from the Investments Club traveled to New York City to visit alumni at 12 firms over three days and hosted an alumni reception at Mr. Purple. Their goal was to learn more about the industry and make connections with alumni to help toward their goal of working on Wall Street. This year, more than 40 alumni contributed to a Crowdfund, which reduced the cost of the trip for students by over half.
- In February, a group of Eller Finance students attended the CFA Society Tucson for the 17th Annual Forecast Dinner. The evening featured a lively investment and economic discussion. Esteemed experts David Lyon and John West led the conversation. With 85 attendees, including a strong contingent of Eller students, this event not only sparked enriching dialogue, but it also played a vital role in funding our MSF luncheons and CFA exam scholarships.
- 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.

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the new Online Master of Science in Finance (MSF) program, which welcomed its inaugural cohort of 12 students from six different states this fall. This marks an exciting milestone as we expand access to our highly regarded MSF program and provide working professionals with the flexibility to advance their education.

At the same time, we introduced a new online Real Estate Valuation Graduate Certificate, which has already enrolled six students. This certificate was designed to meet the growing demand for specialized education in real estate finance and valuation, equipping professionals with critical industry skills in a fully online format.

The development of these new online programs and courses has also led to a significant achievement for our department. For the first time ever, the Department of Finance has been ranked #14 overall (tied) and #10 among public institutions (tied) in the 2025 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings for Best Online Finance MBA Programs. This recognition reflects our commitment to delivering high-quality, innovative, and accessible finance education.

The Department also successfully negotiated an extension of our free Wall Street Journal subscription for the next three years. Thanks to a generous donation from Brian Crawford of Millennium Private Wealth, students now have free digital access to Barron’s and MarketWatch, providing even more top-tier financial news and market insights.

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 stepped down as department head at the end of June, after four years in the position. I’d like to give a heartfelt thank you to the donors and alumni who supported both me and the department during this time. Alice Bonaimé has taken over as department head, and I have no doubt will do an excellent job of growing and improving the student experience.

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
kkahle@arizona.edu

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Message from the Department Head
- 4 Department News
- 5 Benefactors
- 6 Department Highlights
 - Investment Club Student Fund
 - Mexico City Trip
 - Women in Finance Brunch
 - Investments Club New York City Trip
 - Los Angeles Wealth Management Trip
 - Finance Graduation Breakfast
 - CFA Society Dinner
- 10 Alumni Awards & Spotlights
- 12 Student News
 - 2024 Meritage Homes Case Competition
 - Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge
- 13 Cover Story: Fostering Mental Wellbeing in High-Stress Finance Careers
- 14 Student Spotlight
- 15 Student Success Stories
- 16 Meet our Students
- 18 Senior Awards Winners

DEPARTMENT NEWS



Andrea Rossi

Andrea Rossi, associate professor of finance and Sheafe/Neill/Estes Fellow in Finance, and **Jason Sandvik**, associate professor of finance, earned tenure this year, recognizing their contributions to research and teaching.



Jason Sandvik

Alice Bonaimé, professor of finance and Philip Rhoads Endowed Professor in Finance, and **Scott Cederburg**, professor of finance and Thomas C. Moses Endowed Professor in Finance, were both promoted to full professor.

Agency Cost of Free Cash Flow, Capital Allocation, and Payouts, a paper by Professor of Finance and Ann Griffin Endowed Chair in Finance **Kathy Kahle** and co-authored with Harry DeAngelo and Doug Skinner was accepted for publication at the *Journal of Financial Economics*. Kathy's paper *Reconciling the Evidence on Board Diversity Mandates* with Dan Greene, JiHoon Hwang, and Vince Intintoli has been accepted at the *Journal of Corporate Finance*.



Alice Bonaimé

Associate Professor of Finance **Jason Sandvik's** paper *CEO Pay Ratio Disclosures and Changes in Employee Pay Satisfaction* was accepted for publication at *Management Science*. It is joint work with Mary Ellen Carter (Boston College), Lisa LaViers (Tulane), and Da Xu (Tsinghua).



Scott Cederburg

Dominated ETFs, a paper by Associate Professor of Finance and Brian and Clara Franke Endowed Chair in Finance **David Brown**, Professor of Finance and Thomas C. Moses Endowed Professor in Finance **Scott Cederburg**, was accepted at *Critical Finance Review*.



Kathy Kahle

Assistant Professor of Finance **Andrea Rossi's** paper *The Performance of Hedge Fund Performance Fees* was accepted at the *Review of Corporate Finance Studies*. The paper is with Itzhak Ben-David and Justin Birru.

Matt Haertzen, senior lecturer in finance, was voted the "Most Valuable Professor" by Eller Online MBA students as well as the "Most Inspirational Professor" by the MBA Class of 2024.



David Brown

Professor of Finance and Tyler Family Endowed Chair in Finance **Rick Sias's** paper *Assessment of the Link Between Life Purpose and Health* with Harry Turtle (Colorado State University) was accepted at the *Journal of Public Health*. In addition, Rick was voted "Best Finance Professor" by Eller undergraduate students.



Matt Haertzen



Rick Sias

Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Finance **Sandy Klasa's** paper *Regional Clusters and Product Market Outcomes During Turbulent Times* with Hernan Ortiz-Molina (University of British Columbia) and Matthew Serfling (University of Tennessee) has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*.

Assistant Professor of Finance **Jason Sandvik's** paper *Should Human Capital Development Programs be Mandatory or Voluntary? Evidence from a Field Experiment on Mentorship*



Sandy Klasa

with Richard Saouma (Michigan State University), Nathan Seegert (University of Utah), and Christopher Stanton (Harvard), was accepted at *Management Science*.

Lecturer in Finance, **Daniel Kinnear**, was nominated as the new President of the Tucson CFA Society.

Sara Easterwood will join the Finance Department as an assistant professor of finance and will teach both undergraduate and graduate courses.



Daniel Kinnear

Benefactors

Alfonso Aceves	Alex Fiandaca	Grayson Largman	Melissa Rose
Nick Aleman	Thomas W. Flynn	Joey LeDuc	Cole Sanuik
Jessica and Mark Allsup	Luke Gallagher	Ryan Lountzis	Gregory Schuck
Alexandra Andrino	Paul and Cassandra Hazen	Juliet Mackay	Donald L. Seeley
Marie A. Archibald	Jason and Colleen Hernandez	Prarthana Magon	Graham Sheffer
Michael H. Arko and Nichole Arko	Colleen Imanol Herrera	Rashaan Malik	Arvind Singh and Cynthia Fielding-Singh
Vinnie and Lalita Badinehal	Steve and Suzanne Hilton	Kate Martin	Todd Torabi
Chad and Dena Becker	Osaso Ighodaro	Paul and Susan Mayfield	Kerry and Charles Tyler
Dylan Becker	Vince and Oilien Intintoli	Robert McCollister	Troy Ventre
Bonnie Betz	Nusrum Iqbal	Meritage Cares	Nikola and Marija Vojvodic
Brian Boyd	Kyle Jacobsen	Daniella Minassian	Mandy Wang
Christopher Burns	Alyssa Janakus	Fabio Mire	Joshua Wearmouth
Marla Carmona	Jordan Janoff	Dotty Moses	Jeff Welter
Gary and Peggy Chiate	Shrikant Jategaonkar	Richard Mundinger	Thomas and Mary Williams
Brian and Liza Crawford	Stuart and Sue-Anne Kasdin	Jaysen Mutha	Tom and Mary Wilson
Hunter Curtis	Narges Kazerounian	Cody D. Myers	Brad and Linda Wolk
Bernard Dillard	Davidson Kempner	Alex Novotny	Abby Zacharias
Dan and Christine Fapp	David Kornberg	Martin Quintanar	Jane Zhao
Jordan Feuer	Alison Levine and Patrick M. Kern	Patrick Reilly	
		Jessie Roberts	

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Investment Club Student Fund

In Fall 2024, the Investment Club Student Fund launched with \$110,000 to invest across the S&P 500's 11 sectors, giving undergraduates hands-on experience in stock selection, pitching and evaluation. Faculty Advisor, Anne Anderson and Student Fund President, Leopold Bond selected 13 sector heads along with teams of sector analysts—four students per sector—to manage investments.

“Starting the Investments Club Portfolio with the support of Eller faculty and the University of Arizona Foundation has been incredibly rewarding. Watching 44 students come together weekly to manage the portfolio and gain hands-on investing experience has been impressive. Their hard work has delivered outsized returns compared to our benchmark, while also providing valuable access to investing for many younger students”

– Leo Bond, student fund president



After determining how much of the portfolio would be allocated to each sector, the team met weekly to review stock pitches and vote on investments, and by the end of the academic year, all funds were invested with investments in 55 individual securities and the remainder of the funds invested in 7 of the sector ETFs. As of May 2, the portfolio outperformed the benchmark by 2.42 percent with 25 of 55 stocks posting positive YTD returns.

Beyond gaining experience understanding portfolio performance metrics and how the individual stock selections influenced performance, the experience proved invaluable educationally. Students sharpened their skills in evaluating investments, preparing pitch decks, presenting ideas, and gained a deeper understanding of what market externalities influence overall portfolio performance—skills that will serve them well as they launch careers in finance.

“As a first-year student, my experience with the portfolio has been unparalleled. Working directly on investments has sparked my interest in a career in investing, and I hope to continue with the club as I pursue that path.”
– Andrew Rogers, sector analyst

“Transforming the analysis of an ever-changing business landscape into comprehensive, data-driven investment theses is what makes investing so intellectually engaging. Leading a team of talented underclassmen through the Investments Club portfolio has been extremely rewarding, as I’ve witnessed their efforts grow exponentially while deepening my own skills. I’m very grateful for the University of Arizona Foundation’s support, which has made this impactful learning experience possible.”
– Spencer Angell, sector head

“Over the years, many graduating seniors have praised the hands-on experience of our student-managed investment portfolio in the Applied Portfolio Management course. I wanted to extend that opportunity to younger students in the Investments Club and advanced MSF students. Thanks to additional funding from the University of Arizona Foundation, our students continue to excel at managing these assets.”
– Daniel Kinnear, lecturer in Finance



Mexico City Trip

In November, ten finance students embarked on an immersive journey to Mexico City as part of the FIN 415 Corporate Strategy in International Finance course. Their mission was twofold: to present their meticulously prepared stock valuations to Volaris—a prominent Mexican airline—and to gain firsthand insight into the airline industry.

Under the guidance of David Brown and Vanessa Kramer, and with collaborative support from both the Finance and Undergraduate Departments, the students spent two months diligently researching and preparing for their presentation. During the trip, they visited key financial and business hubs, including Reforma, Zócalo, and Santa Fe, and experienced the rich culture and dynamic metropolitan lifestyle of Mexico City. Despite their extensive preparations, they continued to uncover new insights into Volaris’s innovative ticket pricing and revenue recognition strategies during a presentation by the airline’s team. This unique, life-changing



experience was made possible by a generous donation from Brian and Clara Franke, allowing students to travel abroad without the burden of high costs. More than just an academic exercise, the trip provided a rare opportunity for these future finance leaders to engage with international business practices and immerse themselves in a new language and culture—experiences that will undoubtedly shape their global perspectives and professional futures.

Eller Finance is proud to support such transformative opportunities that not only enrich our students’ educational journeys but also empower them to represent the University of Arizona on the global stage.



Women in Finance Brunch

The 11th Annual Women in Finance Brunch was held in December, bringing together nearly 100 finance students for a morning of mentorship and networking. The event connected first-year and sophomore students with junior and senior finance student mentors, providing a platform for meaningful discussions about career paths and industry challenges.

This year’s brunch featured a keynote address from Jewel Brundrett, who shared insights from her career journey and the importance of adaptability in the finance industry. The event was coordinated by Sasha Sood and Peyton Cloutier, with support from student mentors.



2025 Student Mentors: Jessica Antonietti, Ani Georgian, Skylar Ulvedal, Kendall Dale, Addison Porch, Jacque Quesada, Lexi Flader, Katie Jancaric, Kylie Thomas and Ashley O’Bryan.

The brunch was made possible by the generous support of Alison Levine, Marla Carmona, and Larissa Goldman, who continue to champion the advancement of women in finance.



Investments Club New York City Trip

In January, 28 Finance students from the Investments Club traveled to New York City to visit alumni at 12 firms over three days and attend an alumni reception at Mr. Purple. Their goal was to deepen their industry knowledge and forge valuable connections to help pave their way to Wall Street. This year, over 40 alumni contributed to a crowdfund that cut the trip costs for students by more than half. This trip provided firsthand exposure to the finance industry in one of its global hubs and underscored the strong support network that Eller students enjoy.



Los Angeles Wealth Management Trip

In January, the department collaborated with the Undergraduate Department to organize a Wealth Management Study Tour for 16 students. During the trip, students visited top firms in the Los Angeles area, including Oppenheimer & Co., City National Bank, Blacklines Financial, Capital Group, and 49 Financial. This invaluable experience provided students with firsthand exposure to wealth and asset management practices and helped them build connections with industry professionals. The tour was made possible by a generous donation from Eller alumnus Gary Chiate, BSBA (Business Administration and Economics).



Finance Graduation Breakfast

On May 15, the Finance Department gathered to celebrate the achievements of the undergraduate finance class of 2025 at the annual Finance Graduation Breakfast. This year's keynote speaker was Chris Campisano, who shared insights and advice from his tenured career in the Financial Services Industry. During the event, the Finance Department recognized two faculty members. David Zynda was honored with the Finance Department Scrivner Teaching Award, recognizing his outstanding contributions to student learning. In addition, David Kinnear was the winner of the Hope Award for excellence in Teaching and Service.

Spencer Angell was named the 2025 Outstanding Senior, Addison Porch was awarded Outstanding Impact to the Department, and Fielding-Singh Awards were presented to Cole Clifford, Lawson Lundstedt, Diego Garcia-Jimenez, Leopold Bond and Matthew McMinimy.



A special thank you to Arvind Singh and Cynthia Fielding-Singh for their continued generosity in supporting student excellence through the Fielding-Singh Awards, which have been a cornerstone of recognition in the department for more than 15 years.



CFA Society Dinner

On February 25, students, faculty, and industry professionals attended the CFA Society Tucson for the 17th Annual Forecast Dinner. The event included an insightful investment and economic discussion with engaging topics in the

commodity and commercial real estate sectors. Daniel Kinnear moderated the discussion with David Lyon from J.P. Morgan and John West from Flatrock Wealth Partners. The Finance Department is grateful for the continued support and engagement from the Tucson CFA Society including their generous funding of our MSF Orientation luncheons and CFA exam scholarships.



ALUMNI AWARDS AND SPOTLIGHTS

Alumni Award: Brian Franke '85 BSBA

At the 2024 Alumni Awards Breakfast, the Eller Finance Department proudly recognized **Brian Franke** with the **2024 Sidney S. Woods Alumni Service Award** for his unwavering support and remarkable contributions.

Brian earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Arizona in 1985. Since 2004, Brian has been a principal of Indigo Partners LLC, a private equity fund focused on air transportation. In 2020, Brian and his wife Clara established The Brian and Clara Franke Endowed Chair in Finance, which supports an actively-teaching faculty member in the Department of Finance who is cultivating an innovative and dynamic work environment. The chair also enhances the student experience through additional funding for class curriculum, travel awards and much more.

Brian also served on the University of Arizona's National Leadership Council from 2010-2016 and on the UA Foundation Board of Trustees in 2021. "Brian and Clara Franke are tremendous champions for education," said John-Paul Roczniak, president and CEO, University of Arizona Foundation. "I have the privilege of working with Brian in his role as a member of the foundation board, as well as an investment committee member."

Despite being incredibly busy with his career, Brian has stayed true to his roots and has consistently returned to the University of Arizona to support the university and our students.



Alumni Spotlight: Stuart Kasdin '90 BSBA (Finance)

Stuart Kasdin '90 BSBA (Finance), has been recognized for his innovative strategies, deep market insights and a steadfast commitment to excellence. He currently serves as the Managing Director at BTIG.



At BTIG, he leads a dynamic team and plays a critical role in steering the firm through complex market environments. His ability to navigate challenging financial landscapes and foster strong client relationships has earned him a reputation as a trusted industry leader.

Stuart's journey from his days at Eller to his current role is a testament to the value of a rigorous finance education and the power of hard work and perseverance. He has given back in spades. As one of the key individuals behind the development of what eventually became the Wall Street Scholars Program, Stuart has been actively involved in the program from the very beginning—working with Eller faculty and staff (especially Jeff Welter) to create opportunities for Eller graduates. At the time, Eller students had, effectively, no pathway to positions with top Wall Street firms. Along with a small group of alumni, Stuart started a mentoring program—helping the top students navigate the Wall Street hiring process. He serves as an inspiration to current students, illustrating how the skills and knowledge acquired at Eller can pave the way to success on Wall Street and beyond.

Congratulations to Stuart on his continued success. His achievements underscore the lasting impact of an Eller education and the bright future awaiting our graduates.

Celebrating a Decade of Success: Ten Years of the Eller Wall Street Scholars Program

In 2015, Eller College of Management launched the Wall Street Scholars Program (WSSP) with a simple yet ambitious goal: to empower finance undergraduates with the skills, networks and opportunities to succeed on Wall Street. Now, as we mark the program's 10th anniversary in 2025, we celebrate a decade of transformative experiences and outstanding achievements.

Over the past 10 years, WSSP has consistently placed Eller's finance students in some of Wall Street's most coveted internships and full-time positions. By offering rigorous training, mentorship, and alumni connections, the program has helped shape the careers of countless alumni who now excel in leading roles across investment banking, asset management, and corporate finance.

The success of the Wall Street Scholars Program is a testament to Eller's commitment to experiential learning. Participants have benefited from hands-on projects, interactive workshops and direct engagement with industry professionals. The program's robust curriculum not only builds technical acumen but also fosters a culture of resilience, collaboration and innovation—qualities that are essential for thriving in high-pressure financial environments.

Over the years, WSSP has evolved to meet the changing dynamics of the finance industry, incorporating feedback from alumni and industry partners to continuously refine its offerings. As a result, the program has become a cornerstone of Eller's undergraduate experience, empowering students to pursue their dreams and make significant contributions to the world of finance.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated faculty, supportive staff, and, most importantly, the alumni who have helped make the Wall Street Scholars Program a resounding success. Their passion and commitment continue to inspire new generations of finance leaders.

Here's to 10 years of excellence—and to many more years of preparing Eller's students for a bright future on Wall Street.



Alumni Spotlight: Shreya Shastri '22 MSF

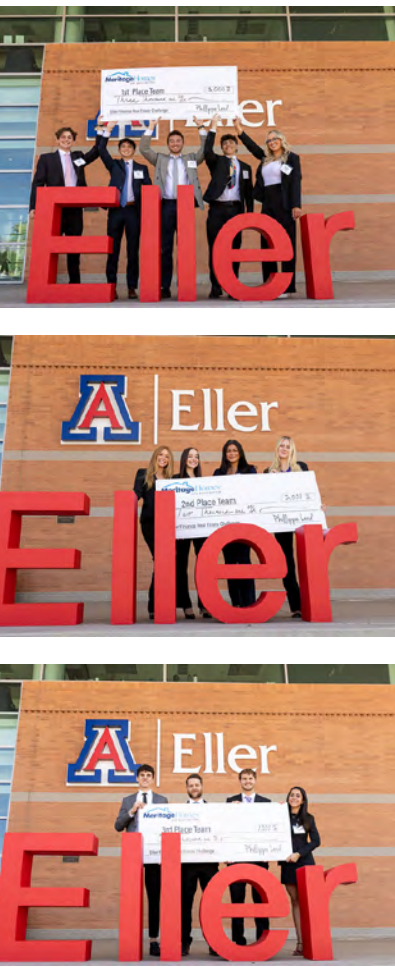
Since graduating from Eller in 2022 with a Master's in Finance, Shreya Shastri has quickly advanced in her career, now serving as assistant vice president at Citi in the Credit Risk department. Her role involves overseeing complex risk management projects and helping guide the bank's financial strategy—work for which she feels well-prepared thanks to her time at Eller.

Shreya chose Eller for its rigorous curriculum, hands-on learning opportunities, and strong alumni network. While a student, she also served as events management director for the Graduate and Professional Student Council, where she built leadership and community-building skills that continue to serve her today. She credits the balance of academic rigor and real-world application with helping her transition smoothly into the demands of the financial industry.

As an international student, securing a role with visa sponsorship was a significant challenge, but one she met with strategic networking, persistence, and support from Eller's career services and alumni. "Eller's resume workshops, interview prep, and alumni connections were invaluable in helping me navigate the job market," she shares.

Now, Shreya looks ahead to a future in finance leadership and mentorship. "I want my career to be about more than just personal success—I want to help others grow too."

STUDENT NEWS



2025 Meritage Homes Case Competition

The 2025 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, Integrity Building Corporation, McGuire Center for Entrepreneurship, ZFI Holdings, DSW Commercial, CBRE Inc, Iridius Capital, Larsen Baker LLC, Picor, and Brookfield.

First place was awarded to the team of **Ben Sternschuss, Colby Gackle, Cole Hover, Skyler Ulvedal, and Sota Irla**. Second place was awarded to **Bianca DeVitis, Janet Warren, Mariella Chavez, and Nicole Wathen**. Third place was awarded to **Ani Georgian, Filip Sarnowicz, Luke Jackson, and Tim Brandenburg**. Fourth place was awarded to **Alexa Garcia, Harry Surgent, Josh Bissenden, and Willow Wong**. Fifth place was awarded to **Andru Mayhall, Ben Baron, Evan Punches, Matthew Carr, and Mitch Springer**.

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



Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge

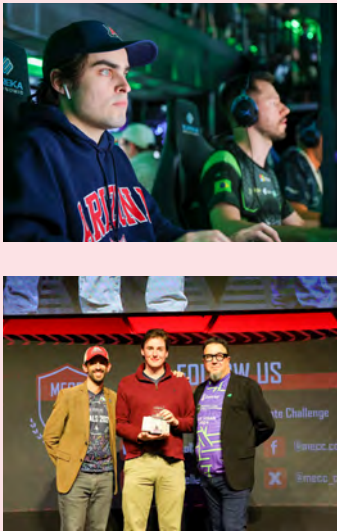
In December 2024, an Eller team featuring Ben Ge, Desirae Hoaglin, and Jack Weber competed in the in-person finals of the 2024 Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge in Las Vegas, securing an impressive second-place finish in the team portion.

Additionally, finance students Jack Weber and Spencer Angell delivered standout performances in the individual competition, placing sixth and tenth, respectively.

On April 5, 15 students traveled to Flagstaff to compete in the Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge Regional Competition. In the overall competition, Jackson Weber finished first, Ben Ge finished second and Desirae Hoaglin finished third, sweeping the podium for the University of Arizona.

In addition, Finance students finished in the top three places across many of the individual events. Sowadhana Sim finished third in the Junior Varsity Data Challenge. Jackson Weber (first) and Ben Ge (third) placed in the Varsity Formatting Challenge while Ben Ge (first), Leo Bond (second), and Desirae Hoaglin (third) placed in the Varsity Speed Challenge. In the Varsity Visual Challenge, Jackson Weber finished first, Ben Ge was second, and Desirae Hoaglin came in third place. Jackson Weber (first), Desirae Hoaglin (second), and Luke Bonaime (third) placed in the Varsity Data Challenge.

Thank you to David Brown for organizing this event and supporting Eller students in showcasing their financial modeling and analytical skills on a national stage.



COVER STORY

FOSTERING MENTAL WELLBEING IN *HIGH-STRESS* FINANCE CAREERS

In partnership with the Drew R. Miller (DRM) Foundation, the Finance Department was proud to host an all-day event dedicated to addressing a critical topic that resonates deeply with the Eller finance community: mental health in high-stress industries.

In March, eight Eller finance alumni visited campus and joined nearly 100 Eller students for the event titled **“It’s time to talk: Mental Wellness for Future Finance Professionals”**.

The event led with a powerful message from the parents of Drew Miller, a young finance professional who took his own life. Cathy and Andy Miller shared the painful story of losing their son and explained that they created the DRM Foundation to help prepare aspiring finance professionals to manage the mental health challenges of high-stress careers by destigmatizing mental health issues.

Next, Alumnus Stuart Kasdin led a discussion around mental health from a managing director’s perspective. “Having spent 30 years of ups and downs in the industry, I feel it’s extremely important to talk openly with students and young professionals about maintaining a quality of life in this competitive field”, he said.

Breakout sessions with alumni and faculty tackled a range of real-world issues: gender-specific mental health challenges, the pressure of internships, the shock of your first year on the job, and finding the right career path. Each session emphasized practical advice and created an open space for dialogue.

Osaso Ighodaro ’21 flew from New York to participate in the event. “Mental health was something I really struggled with during my investment banking analyst program. Even after four years at the U of A where I worked multiple jobs and held several leadership positions on campus—it was a huge adjustment to come into this level of intensity. I wanted to

make sure students had an opportunity to ask questions and hear directly from the source, so they have a little bit of a better idea of what they’re getting into and how their peers handled stress, anxiety, long hours, etc.”

Finally, finance lecturer Daniel Kinnear gave an inspirational talk on how he navigated the loss of a loved one. Kinnear has been an advocate for raising mental health awareness on campus since he lost a family member to suicide.

Students were hesitant going into the event, not knowing what to expect. “Going into it, I thought

we were going to hear a lot of statistics about the importance of mental health”, said first-year student, Andrew Rogers. “But it felt more personal to hear stories from alumni who work in high-stress finance jobs. The most beneficial aspect for me was hearing solutions on how to manage and relieve stress.”

“I was blown away by the positive feedback from students after the event. I knew this was an important topic, but I wasn’t sure how students would respond. The event confirmed that students and alumni are eager to have these conversations,” said Jeff Welter, director of academic affairs for the finance department and director of the Wall Street Scholars Program.

Given the overwhelmingly positive reception, the department plans to make this an annual event—building community across students, alumni, and faculty, and taking real steps to support mental health in the finance field.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Reyna Atwell '25 MSF/MBA

When Reyna Atwell '25 MSF/MBA, received a letter from the Eller College of Management offering her a fully-funded graduate school opportunity, she thought it might be a scam. Now that she has graduated with both an MBA and a Master of Science in Finance, that unexpected letter has proven to be a pivotal moment in her journey from commercial pilot to business professional.

"I called to inquire about the program and it all checked out," Atwell recalls. "I figured I'd apply and the worst that could happen was that I didn't get in." That decision marked the beginning of a transformative educational experience that has equipped her with a diverse set of skills spanning both the technical and interpersonal realms of business.



Reyna Atwell

Atwell's path to Eller was anything but conventional. After completing her undergraduate studies in Psychology and Italian Studies at the University of Arizona in 2020, she pursued her passion for aviation in Texas, earning multiple pilot certifications and eventually working as a Second-in-Command on a Citation Excel Jet for medevac operations. Her role involved flying transplant organs across the U.S. for life-saving operations, an experience she describes as "tremendously rewarding."

At Eller, Atwell has distinguished herself as a leader among her peers, having served as the president of the Full-Time MBA Student Association and currently representing graduate students on various committees.

"Eller has equipped me with numerous hard and soft skills that will be transferable to just about any professional career."

Her involvement in the Eller community extends beyond leadership roles—she has worked as a graduate assistant across multiple departments, gaining valuable experience working with faculty and administration.

Her dual degree journey hasn't been without its challenges. Coming from a background that wasn't focused on numbers, Atwell found herself tested by the rigorous finance coursework. "Numbers and math have never been my strong suit," she says. "But if you can say you're ahead of where you started, that's a great feat in itself that should be celebrated."

That perseverance paid off. Through Eller's graduate professional development team, Atwell secured an internship with Bank of America's Global Operations Summer Development Program, which led to a full-time offer upon graduation.

Eller faculty members have also played a big role in Atwell's career development—

particularly Marisa Michaels, whose Business Communications course helped her overcome public speaking anxiety, and Mariam Hawatmeh, the Full-Time MBA program director, for creating a supportive and transparent learning environment.

"Eller has equipped me with numerous hard and soft skills that will be transferable to just about any professional career," Atwell reflects. Her advice to incoming students emphasizes the importance of exploring diverse interests and building meaningful connections. "Try things that you'll enjoy learning about," she suggests, noting that her own "unconventional" mix of studies has served her well.

Looking ahead, Atwell plans to pursue a certification in Project Management while maintaining her connection to aviation by continuing to build flight time. She hasn't ruled out continuing her higher-education path either, demonstrating the lifelong learning mindset that Eller has helped cultivate.

Atwell's journey stands as a testament to the transformative power of business education and the opportunities that can arise from being open to unexpected opportunities.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Shea Saferite '24 BSBA (Finance) '25 MSF PASSED CFA LEVEL 1, SPRING 2025

"I decided to pursue the CFA Charter because I wanted to bolster my career in security analysis and deepen my passion for investment research. The CFA Charter felt like the perfect step to further my expertise and open up new career opportunities.

In preparing for the CFA exam, I adopted a structured study routine. I took detailed notes while going through the material and focused first on the Ethics



Shea Saferite

chapter—given its significant weight on the exam—before proceeding sequentially through the other chapters. I made sure to finish by reviewing Ethics again to ensure I had mastered that critical area.

One of the most helpful components of my preparation was the Eller MSF course FIN 516—Financial Statement Analysis. This course provided me with invaluable insights and practical knowledge that directly supported my exam studies.

For fellow Eller MSF students considering the CFA exams, I would say: much of what we learn in our courses overlaps with the CFA curriculum. If you do well in your classes and focus on understanding the underlying concepts, you'll find that studying for the exam becomes much quicker and easier.

Looking ahead, I plan to pursue a career in asset management after graduation. I'm excited about the future and grateful for the strong foundation Eller Finance has provided me in bridging academic learning with professional ambitions."

Nicholas Tapia '23 BA (Economics) '25 MSF SELECTED AS THE ELLER GRADUATE CONVOCATION STUDENT SPEAKER, SPRING 2025

At this year's MSF Convocation, Nicholas took the stage as the student speaker—an honor that reflects not only his academic success, but also the strength, heart and leadership he brought to his time at Eller.

Nicholas's journey to that podium was shaped by determination, cultural pride and personal growth. A transfer student from community college, he originally applied to Eller as an undergraduate and wasn't accepted into professional admissions. That early setback could have closed a door—but instead, it opened a new one.

"I pursued a BA in Economics and started seriously thinking about graduate school," he shared. "The MSF program became a natural next step, especially after seeing the drive of graduate students around me. Their commitment made an advanced degree feel not just attainable—but expected."

Nicholas's identity as Akimel O'odham, Nakota, and Mexican deeply shaped his perspective throughout the program. "I was raised with a deep sense of community, resilience, and responsibility—values that have guided me every step of the way," he said. "In finance, I carry those values with me. I think about impact, empathy, and building sustainable systems—not just profitable ones."

During his speech at Convocation, Nicholas spoke candidly about the personal challenges that marked his journey—most

notably, the loss of his brother. "After he passed, I wasn't sure I could handle the demands of graduate school while carrying that kind of grief," he said. "But he was also one of the biggest reasons I started this journey. I wanted to be someone he could be proud of. Carrying his memory gave every late night and moment of doubt a deeper purpose."

His speech was a reflection of the spirit he brought to the program: honest, grounded, and driven by more than just metrics. It was also a celebration of the community that helped him thrive.

"Eller became a home away from home," Nicholas said. "From winning a case competition before the program even started, to landing my first internship, to finding a place to heal after personal loss—every experience helped me grow. My peers, professors and mentors made this journey possible."

As he enters the next chapter of his career in finance, Nicholas carries with him a sharpened skillset, a deep well of empathy, and the confidence to lead with authenticity. His message to fellow students: "Give yourself your flowers. Celebrate the small wins. Show up as your full self—because your story is your strength."



Nicholas Tapia

MEET OUR STUDENTS



Austin Sobotka

Austin Sobotka '22 MSF, '27 PhD (Finance)

Before enrolling in Eller’s Finance PhD program, Austin spent nearly a decade honing his rock-climbing skills, eventually reaching a high level of proficiency. “Unfortunately,” he jokes, “PhD programs are good at making your life look pretty boring (even if rewarding).” In reality, his journey has been anything but dull.

Having spent time chasing goshawks on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Austin once aspired to be the next Steve Irwin. These days, his passion centers on researching financial markets—an interest he hopes to continue after earning his doctorate. “I want to do exactly what I’m doing now, but get paid a lot more for it,” he says with a laugh.

A major highlight of Austin’s time at Eller so far has been passing his PhD comprehensive exams. “Passing comps trumps just about any other academic achievement,” he admits. During his master’s degree, he also enjoyed the Portfolio Management class, where students actively manage a live, million-dollar investment portfolio.

When asked about why finance research matters, Austin points to the importance of proper capital allocation. “Efficient businesses lead to innovation and better social outcomes,” he explains. He credits Eller’s supportive faculty for helping him grow as a scholar and encourages prospective students to take initiative. “If you apply yourself fully, the professors here will help you reach whatever dream career you’re aiming for,” he says.

Once he graduates in 2027, Austin plans to move wherever the right opportunity takes him—ideally somewhere he can keep researching financial markets while enjoying the outdoors whenever he finds a break from academic life.

FIVE FUN FACTS:

1. I’ve climbed the Regular Northwest face of Half Dome, in Yosemite (it took us 20 hours of continuous climbing).
2. I spent about two years not wearing shoes (for fun).
3. I worked as a bartender for about five years prior to grad school and during undergrad.
4. I’ve built a motorcycle.
5. Both of my parents were competitive bodybuilders.

“If you apply yourself fully, the professors here will help you reach whatever dream career you’re aiming for.”

Sam LaMont '26 MSF

For Sam LaMont, the road to finance wasn’t a straight line. Originally earning a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arizona, he saw engineering as a “flexible” technical foundation that could open doors to other fields. But finance was always in the back of his mind.

His sophomore year, Sam attended an Eller workshop where he connected with Jeff Welter. That conversation changed everything. Jeff advised him to stick with engineering but explore finance post-graduation. Taking that advice to heart, Sam landed an internship at Raytheon, then spent two years in engineering before deciding to pivot. He applied for finance roles and eventually found himself in strategy and analytics at Carvana, where he has spent the last four years.

Now, Sam is returning to Eller to pursue his Master of Science in Finance (MSF)—a personal goal that has been years in the making. “I’ve been in finance for four years now,

and I decided it was time to get a formal education. Just because it’s always been a personal goal of mine.”

“One of my mentors at Raytheon told me he still didn’t know what he wanted to do, even at the end of his career. His advice was to remain curious and solve hard problems. That’s what I want to do after graduation—I want to solve hard problems.”

Beyond finance, Sam has a competitive streak. Whether it’s board games, multiplayer video games, golf, or pickleball, he’s always looking to improve. That drive for continuous learning also applies to his career. “One of my mentors at Raytheon told me he still didn’t know what he



Sam LaMont

wanted to do, even at the end of his career. His advice was to remain curious and solve hard problems. That’s what I want to do after graduation—I want to solve hard problems.”

Looking ahead, Sam plans to continue growing at Carvana, applying the skills he gains from Eller’s MSF program to deepen his financial expertise and advance his career. His advice to future Eller students? “If you have the time and drive to further your education, you should absolutely apply. Eller’s faculty go the extra mile to make sure students succeed.”

FIVE FUN FACTS:

1. I enjoy playing board games.
2. I grew up bowling and used to be in a bowling league.
3. I’ve always wanted to be able to bench press 225 pounds, and I hit that goal last year.
4. I like to play golf.
5. I won a League of Legends tournament at a PC café in high school.

Matthew McMinimy '25 BSBA (Finance)



Matthew McMinimy

Matthew McMinimy is a dedicated finance major with a clear vision for his future, both as a private financial consultant and as an Intelligence Officer in the Arizona Army National Guard. Recognized with the Financial Executives International (FEI) Arizona Chapter Scholarship and consistently earning a place on the Dean’s List with Distinction, Matthew’s achievements reflect his commitment to academic excellence and service.

At Eller, Matthew values the strong sense of community that makes him feel supported every step of the way. “I appreciate the community that comes with being at Eller—I never feel alone and always have help,” he shares. This supportive environment has enabled him to take full advantage of opportunities like the accelerated master’s program, where he is excited to begin his master’s studies while completing his undergraduate degree.

Reflecting on his journey, Matthew recalls his childhood dream of becoming a monster truck driver—a far cry from his current aspirations, but a testament to his evolving passions. One of his most unique early experiences was participating in his school’s Outdoor Adventure Club, which nurtured his love for hiking, snowboarding, and rock climbing. At the U of A, he experienced a significant moment of recognition on military appreciation night during a football game for his leadership as the Army ROTC’s battalion commander—a proud highlight of his collegiate career.

Matthew’s most exciting accomplishment to date has been winning the Financial Executives International—Arizona Chapter scholarship, which underscores his potential and drive. Looking ahead, he is eager to find his place in the finance industry, complete his master’s degree, and continue his valuable service with the Army National Guard. “I want to be able to make an impact in the community by helping others achieve financial independence,” he explains.

FIVE FUN FACTS:

1. I enjoy line dancing and social country swing dancing.
2. I attended Super Bowl LVII in Glendale.
3. I have personally served Gronk.
4. I have summited the tallest peak in Arizona, Mount Humphreys.
5. I am partially conversational in Spanish and am working on improving my French.

SENIOR AWARDS WINNERS



Addison Porch
Finance Department Impact Award

DEGREE: Finance

JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Morgan Stanley, U.S. Equity Sales Analyst, New York City, NY

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT OF YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER?

A defining moment in my undergraduate career was deciding to pursue finance instead of law. I first learned about sales and trading during my sophomore year, just in time for recruiting. Without fully knowing if I was making the right decision, I threw myself into the process to be in the best position possible if this was the right path for me. So far, I'm very happy with my decision and excited to start post-grad!

WHAT DO YOU VALUE OR APPRECIATE ABOUT ELLER?

What I appreciate most about Eller is the student community. Throughout my time in school, the advice and mentorship I've received have been invaluable. It has reinforced the importance of giving back, which is something I prioritized during my senior year.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A FUTURE ELLER STUDENT?

Knowing what you don't want to do is just as important as knowing what you do want to do. Explore every opportunity and build conviction in your chosen path.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EXCITING ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

My most exciting accomplishment at the University of Arizona was receiving my junior summer internship at Morgan Stanley in New York. It was incredibly rewarding to see all my hard work and dedication pay off. I always knew I wanted to move to New York after graduation and this opportunity would help lead to that.

Leopold Bond
Fielding-Singh Award

DEGREE: Finance and Law with a Minor in Business Administration

JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Oppenheimer & Co., Restructuring Investment Banking Analyst, Dallas, TX

YOUR LONG-TERM CAREER GOALS: I hope to work in corporate restructuring for my whole career. I'm particularly drawn to the intersection of Finance and Law, and how companies are constantly reinventing ways to pursue capital solutions.

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT OF YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER?

A defining moment in my undergraduate career was when I became a member of the Professional Business fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi (ASPsi). AKPsi provided me with the foundation and resources necessary to pursue my professional goals as well as introducing me to some of my best friends and mentors in college.



WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A FUTURE ELLER STUDENT?

Take advantage of every opportunity and don't underestimate the power of progress. Rome ultimately wasn't built in a day.

WHAT WAS ONE OF YOUR MOST UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WHILE AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

One of my most unique experiences was being able to compete with three of my peers in the final round at the National Investment Banking Competition in Vancouver, Canada. Our team placed second out of 510 teams and was the top undergraduate team. Being able to connect with other students pursuing the career and working together with a team of experienced seniors helped solidify my interest in the career.

Cole Clifford
Fielding-Singh Award

DEGREE: Finance

JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Roche Diagnostics Finance Rotational Development Program Pleasanton, CA

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT OF YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER?

A defining moment in my undergraduate career would have been in my second year at the U of A when Professor Kathleen Kennedy gave me an opportunity to generate analysis on the cannibalization risks of opening a second location for Habitat for Humanity's "Habi Store" in Tucson. Professor Kennedy was teaching a retail and consumer sciences class that I was taking to fulfill honors credits, and she gave me this opportunity when she found I was a Finance major, hoping this may be a great project to talk about when interviewing for internships. She was sure right. When I was interviewing for my summer internship at Roche, my interviewer really latched on to this project when they saw it on my CV, and I spent the majority of the interview talking about my analysis. From this interview, I landed my internship at Roche which created the path that has ultimately led to my full-time opportunity there after graduation.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A FUTURE ELLER STUDENT?

While it is nearly impossible at times, when it's 1 a.m. and you're still pulling together BCOM slides for your presentation in the morning, try to be grateful for the struggle. The challenges and tribulations that I faced in the classroom in Eller have given me the tools to be a better professional at the very start of my career.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EXCITING ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

I think my most exciting accomplishment at Eller would have to be when one of the teams I was the BCOM preceptor for won Case Competition. When I was a student in BCOM, I really struggled. Team dynamics were challenging, and I struggled individually as a presenter. I was given the opportunity to return to the BCOM classroom as a preceptor and I was able to utilize the skills I had gained, through lots of painful growth, to better prepare and lead other students. Seeing these students succeed was extremely satisfying for me.



Diego Garcia-Jimenez
Fielding-Singh Award

DEGREE: Finance

JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Vista Equity Partners, Private Equity Analyst, San Francisco, CA

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT OF YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER?

The defining moment of my undergraduate career has been the accumulation of small, impactful experiences. Late nights spent in the Financial Markets Center with fellow Eller students, whether it was preparing for job interviews, doing homework, or general discourse, has crafted many valuable memories that I will cherish indefinitely.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE OR APPRECIATE ABOUT ELLER?

What I most appreciate about Eller is the community and their support. Eller is home to students from diverse backgrounds with unique life experiences, and interacting with them has broadened my perspective on how to approach challenges in ways I never thought possible. Furthermore, the community at Eller has supported me during tough academic moments and difficult job searches.

WHAT WAS ONE OF YOUR MOST UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WHILE AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

One of my most unique experiences at Eller is being the technology sector head for the Investments Club Endowment Fund. The fund was started this year, and it has been extremely enriching leading a team of three in making diligent investments. It's an experience unlike any other at the U of A / Eller that imitates the investment process of real-life hedge funds.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EXCITING ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

My most exciting accomplishment at the U of A / Eller was receiving an internship offer mid-air on a flight to New York City with the Investments Club. It was a pivotal moment in my journey as a student and having my peers next to me celebrate as I received the offer call is an unforgettable memory.



SENIOR AWARDS WINNERS



Lawson Lundstedt
Fielding-Singh Award

DEGREE: Finance with a Minor in International Business

JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Perella Weinberg Partners, Investment Banking Analyst, New York City, NY

WHAT DO YOU VALUE OR APPRECIATE ABOUT ELLER?
The most valuable aspect of the Eller College experience

is the tight-knit networking that exists within the Finance program. There is a small group of current and former students which stay in extremely close contact with one another and help each other with their professional

aspirations. This group is a great launchpad into the professional world and helped me tremendously.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A FUTURE ELLER STUDENT?

Find an interest, be specific, and get involved in the Eller community. There are many professional development opportunities within the business school that are specific to different career paths. Finding your tribe of people with similar professional aspirations will keep you informed and motivated while building your professional network.

WHAT WAS ONE OF YOUR MOST UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WHILE AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

I had the unique opportunity to join the Wall Street Scholars Program as a freshman. I am very grateful for this opportunity because I was exposed immediately to high finance and financial topics. Furthermore, I became friends with upperclassmen which helped me throughout my Eller career.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EXCITING ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

My most exciting accomplishment during my time at Eller was winning the BCOM Case Competition during my sophomore year. It felt good to be recognized and rewarded for a semester of hard work and focus with a team of students which I did not know prior to the semester.



Matthew McMinimy
Fielding-Singh Award

DEGREE: Finance with a minor in Military and Leadership Science

JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Second LT, Arizona Army National Guard

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT OF YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER?

A defining moment of my undergraduate career was being fortunate enough to be selected as the winner of the FEI Arizona award.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE OR APPRECIATE ABOUT ELLER?

I valued the community that Eller college provides. Through the cohort system, you make friends who genuinely become a community that is invested in your success.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A FUTURE ELLER STUDENT?

If you're not being challenged, you are not trying hard enough. Eller has so much to offer, and what better way to grow yourself than with challenges in a community that supports you.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EXCITING ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

My most exciting accomplishment at Eller was being awarded the Fielding/Singh award as it served as reminder that the previous four years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice was recognized, and it was truly an honor to be nominated and selected.



Spencer Angell
Outstanding Senior Award

DEGREE: Finance

JOB AFTER GRADUATION: Greenhill & Co., Investment Banking Analyst, Chicago, IL

WHAT WAS A DEFINING MOMENT OF YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER?

The Investments Club New York Trip—it was amazing to see and experience the world of “high finance” in real life. I learned a ton about the industry and am super thankful to all the alumni who hosted us.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE OR APPRECIATE ABOUT ELLER?

The community. Faculty, staff, alumni, and peers are always willing to help and mentor the undergraduates. This has made a big impact on my personal and career journey.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR A FUTURE ELLER STUDENT?

Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and get involved—join that club or program and apply for that internship. You'll be amazed by how much those small “risks” can change not only your college experience but your entire professional trajectory.

WHAT WAS ONE OF YOUR MOST UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WHILE AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

The most unique experience I had at Eller was competing in the Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge—an international Excel problem-solving competition. I am happy to say that this last winter, I had the chance to compete in finals in Las Vegas where I ended up finishing 10th in the world. Competing in a professional eSports Arena on Microsoft Excel was definitely a surreal experience. Huge shoutout to David Brown, Prarthana Magon, and Hayden Boccardo for teaching me everything I know about Excel.



WHAT WAS YOUR MOST EXCITING ACCOMPLISHMENT AT THE U OF A/ELLER?

As the Program Director of the Wall Street Scholars Program, my most exciting accomplishment has been helping guide the younger members toward getting internship offers at leading Investment Banks. Four years ago, I was trying to navigate the same opaque, notoriously difficult recruitment process myself—I was able to succeed through the help of others (Kate Martin, Kunal Shamdassani, and Nick Meyer). So, being able to turn around and help students do the same has been very exciting and rewarding.



Invest in Finance

give.uafoundation.org

Your commitment to invest in the future of the Department of Finance helps us advance and grow. Contributions may be made to the Department Discretionary Fund and the Don Seeley Fund for Excellence in Finance.

