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Equipping yourself with an MBA from the Wharton School or a JD from the Law School, combined with an MA in International Studies from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Arts & Sciences, is smart business.

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- Joint MBA/MA and JD/MA
- Regional expertise through the customized language and culture programs
- The study of global business, intercultural management, and the impact of geopolitics on business practices in the new global program
- Two-month, in-country immersion programs
- Supportive global community of students, alumni, faculty, and corporate leaders
- Dedicated Lauder faculty

During the course of the 24-month program, students learn about business, culture, language, history, politics, and art.
The Lauder Institute Class of 2019

AFRICA PROGRAM
• Francophone
  Medora Brown
  Gracian Kamgang
  Killian Marie
  Isidro Pascual Orero
  Matheus de Carvalho Proença
  Sadio Wade

EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM
• Chinese
  Louis Gilbert
  Taejae Ha
  Julia Madden
  Aisha Price
  Rahul Rastogi
  Benjamin Roth
  Hyejin Ryu
  Henry Tang
  Ran Tao
  Zed Teo Zi-Ming
  Carmen To
  Shawn Xu
  Sijia Yu
• Japanese
  Shunsuke Aonuma
  Jiayi Li
  Michael Rosenzweig
  Vishal Soam
  Rachel Winograd
• Korean
  Ellen Hahm
  Amy Kim

EUROPE PROGRAM
• French
  Alexandra Frugone
  Robert Lee
  Lily Rogath
  Alexandra Salzman
  Judith Ternes
  Diogo Augusto Voigt Gernhardt
• German
  Katelyn Halldorson
  Vanessa Hering
• Russian
  Boris Alergant
  Morgan Dowd
  Kenneth Martinez

GLOBAL PROGRAM
  Michal Benedykinski
  Miguel Cebrian
  Karl Chan
  Dorcy Chen
  Annabell Hillenbrand
  Vivien Kocsis
  Rafael Iversson Krausz
  Sayoko Kumamaru
  Huy Le
  Olivier Ken Marcel Pedoussaut
  Nicole Reichert

LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM
• Portuguese
  Juan Botero
  Inés Bultó Riera
  Alice Cruz
  Júlio Erdos
  Carlos Fernandez Gomez
  John Martin Long
  Alejandro Navarro Lopez
  Federico Navas
  Daniel Panebianco
  Néstor Hugo Solari
  Pablo Tempone
  Jasper Tilmann
  Raley White
• Spanish
  Jessica Beckhart
  Victoria Cacicedo
  Harry DiFrancesco
  Matthew Doup
  Oscar Ivanissevich
  Bryan Lee
  Jake McKenzie
  Camilo Rico Restrepo
  Andrea Raisa Rivera
  Jandro Riveron
  Benjamin Salcetti
  Jack Winstead

SOUTH ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA PROGRAM
• Hindi
  Kartik Das
  Vedica Kant
  Kanishk Raghuvanshi
BORIS ALERGANT

Boris was born in New York City and raised in a Russian-speaking community with strong ties to Eastern Europe. Even though he attended primary school in the U.S., his personal growth was influenced by his ethnic connections to Russia and Ukraine. His multicultural upbringing fostered his ability to connect and empathize with different cultures.

Wanting to explore other cultures and to develop a robust skillset that he could transfer across borders, Boris pursued an undergraduate dual degree in Finance and Economics at Fordham University, concentrating in International Business. During his time in college, he enrolled in a semester-long student exchange program in Spain, where he studied the crash of the solar market in that country. This experience piqued his interest in the energy space.

After graduation, Boris spent his finance career focused on the energy sector, working at three global banks, including the world’s largest energy lender. During his banking career, he worked on pivotal multibillion dollar transactions in the Offshore Oil & Gas and Renewable Power space through the boom and bust cycle for oil. These experiences allowed him to see firsthand the effect of geopolitics on business fundamentals.

In his free time, Boris plays chess competitively. He is a United States Chess Federation (USCF) ranked player and has been playing in tournaments since he was six years old. He also enjoys practicing yoga, playing soccer, and tasting exotic cuisines.

At Wharton/Lauder, Boris plans to examine closely the relationships between Russia, Ukraine, and Western Europe, in hopes of one day leading the charge to modernize the energy infrastructure in Eastern Europe.
SHUNSUKE AONUMA

Shun was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and moved to his parent’s home country of Japan a year later. After three years in Tokyo, he returned to Hawaii for his education.

Shun attended Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, where he saw snow for the first time. When not buried in mechanical engineering textbooks, he kept busy by co-chairing the Hokupa’a Hawaii Club and captaining the varsity golf team.

After graduating from Dartmouth, Shun joined the equities trading desk at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Tokyo, covering both English- and Japanese-speaking clients. For most of his five years there, he was on the electronic trading desk that developed, improved, and sold the algorithmic-trading product. He played a key role in improving BofAML’s electronic trading rankings in multiple categories, including top ranks by a leading Wall Street survey group in Client Service, Sales and Marketing Support, and Algorithm Customizations.

Wanting to develop an even deeper understanding of successful businesses and the financial markets, Shun transitioned to institutional equity sales, with a focus on Japan, at Macquarie Capital in Boston. In this role, he learned the advantages and disadvantages of both Japanese and American corporate cultures and how they affect business performance. He introduced new accounts and optimized servicing across all of the firm’s Boston-based accounts, boosting market share by 50 percent and revenue by 41 percent. He also restarted the summer internship program in Boston.

Shun enjoys being active in his community. In 2014, he raised $8,000 by traversing 100 kilometers in the Oxfam Trailwalker, an event that aims to combat global poverty. During his two years at Macquarie, he raised $7,000 annually for America SCORES Boston, promoting healthy lifestyles to inner-city youth through soccer and poetry. He is currently on the Alumni Association Board of Directors for his high school alma mater, 'Iolani School, and is the first director residing outside Hawaii on the board that serves 11,000 alumni.

At Wharton/Lauder, Shun plans to expand his knowledge of international business and acquire the skills needed to build a global product. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf, reading, and exercising.

Lauder Focus: East Asia and Japanese
Jessica was born in Mexico City to a Mexican father and an American mother. She was raised in Mexico and Venezuela in a multicultural and bilingual household and exposed to a global perspective through her peers at the British International School in Mexico City. Eager to broaden her exposure, she learned French and elementary German and Arabic. Each language added a layer to her understanding of the world and fueled her passion to explore as many cultures as she could.

At Wellesley College, Jessica immersed herself in Economics to deepen her understanding of Latin America's socioeconomic climate. While exploring her Latin American roots, she found ties between Mexican and Arabic cultures and pursued a minor in Middle Eastern Studies. She was selected to participate in an intensive immersion to study the culture, society, and economy of Morocco, where she practiced her limited Arabic.

After graduation, Jessica continued to explore an array of cultures and global markets through the entirely different lens of fashion. She began her career at Avon, a company with major operations in Mexico and Brazil, whose social focus — the empowerment of women — resonated deeply within her. As a member of the company’s supply-chain team, she learned to navigate the challenges of delivering mass production, low costs, and margin protection to support these women in the field.

Two years later, Jessica joined the Kate Spade E-commerce Buying team to help build an aspirational brand. She helped turn around the Footwear business, driving double-digit growth through a shift in investment strategies. Fascinated by the opportunities in e-commerce, she later joined Jet.com to help build its fashion team and to infuse tech into retail. She is passionate about the potential for e-commerce to revolutionize how companies invest in technology and react to global market trends. She hopes to use e-commerce as a platform to give Latin American merchants the ability to access a market for their products.

At Wharton/Lauder, Jessica plans to promote cross-cultural understanding and to impact economic development in Latin America positively through e-commerce and trade. When not re-imagining conduits to global trade and commerce, she is an avid social media consultant and curates and disseminates social media content for retail and entertainment companies. She enjoys historical novels, exploring and capturing new places through her camera lens, and secretly loves country music.
Michal was born and raised in Poland. He attended the first International Baccalaureate high school in Eastern Europe, where he developed his keen interest in global affairs and cross-cultural communication.

Michal graduated from Yale University with honors in History and International Studies. There he cultivated his passion for promoting intercultural understanding as an executive board member of the Yale International Relations Association, raising awareness and fostering debate about international relations by organizing Model UN conferences, speaker events, and community outreach programs. He was also co-captain of the Polo Club, working with coaches and teammates to restore one of the oldest U.S. collegiate teams.

After graduation, Michal was selected as a Yale Fox International Fellow, splitting his time between Free University of Berlin and Moscow State University. His postgraduate research explored Germany’s energy security strategy toward Russia. Examining both countries’ complex regulations, politics, and corporate interests that shape energy strategy drove his decision to pursue a career in infrastructure finance.

To develop his skillset as an international investor and to obtain the necessary cross-border M&A execution experience, Michal moved to London to join ING, a leading European financing bank. He worked on many landmark M&A transactions in the utilities, transport, and infrastructure space across Central and Eastern Europe. A native speaker of Polish, he also speaks fluent Russian and German.

Michal next joined Evercore as the first full-time junior hire on the newly formed transportation M&A advisory team. Evercore was just establishing a local European presence and, in just over two years, Michal helped build the sector coverage, including support and origination of the firm’s first-ever European buy-side engagement.

Michal then joined EISER Infrastructure, where he led work on a new fund concept for a CEE infrastructure investment platform and liaised with potential investors across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Most recently, he focused on the sale of the firm’s Western European portfolio to 3i Group, the first-of-its-kind infrastructure private equity fund sale in Europe.

At Wharton/Lauder, Michal plans to grow as an investment professional by expanding his network and understanding of the latest global trends. He is passionate about Eastern Europe’s energy security and eventually plans to focus on transitioning the region toward a more sustainable energy future. Beyond his professional interests, he loves polo, triathlons, scuba diving, and exploring the world.
Juan Manuel was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. After graduating from high school, he moved to Washington, DC, where he pursued degrees in Philosophy and Economics at American University.

During college, Juan Manuel sought to expand his international perspectives by studying abroad at the London School of Economics and the Chinese University of Hong Kong and by volunteering as a middle school teacher in the Fujian province of China. He also was involved in a number of extracurricular activities, becoming an active contributor to *Pharmakon*, Johns Hopkins' philosophy journal, and *The Eagle*, American University's political newspaper. In addition, he took time to intern at the Brookings Institution, a think tank, where he studied the effects of the 2008 economic crisis on developing nations, and to work at the World Justice Project, an NGO, where he helped build the Rule of Law Index, a measure of adherence to the rule of law in over 90 countries.

After graduating magna cum laude, Juan Manuel returned to Colombia to join Bancolombia's Investment Bank, the largest in the Andean Region and Central America. He participated in eight successful M&A, leverage buyouts, and project finance deals valued at over $1.2 billion in the power generation and transmission, oil & gas, and port sectors.

Juan Manuel next joined Darby Private Equity, a U.S.-based private equity firm with over 20 years of emerging markets experience. There, he managed a $650 million private equity portfolio, including a tugboat company with operations in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico; the largest crude oil pipeline in Colombia; a 25,000 barrels/day oil shipping contract; and the largest power company in the Dominican Republic. He also led negotiations for a +40% IRR exit deal, supported the analysis for the construction of a 100 mega-watt wind farm, and outlined the drilling schedule for three mature natural gas fields in Mexico.

At Wharton/Lauder, Juan Manuel plans to focus on the political, social, and economic frictions that limit value generation in cross-border deals and business operations within Latin America.

In his spare time, Juan Manuel is passionate about boxing, motocross, alpinism, philosophy, and politics.
MEDORA BROWN

Medora’s career has spanned the worlds of social enterprise, communications, strategic consulting, and government in the U.S., Asia, and Africa. Born and raised in Washington, DC, she attended the National Cathedral School for Girls and spent her high-school summers interning with the Aspen Institute’s Aspen Strategy Group policy program. She also spent a summer working with a Cairo-based nonprofit, helping Cairene garbage collectors improve their quality of life in Cairo’s slums.

At Vanderbilt University, Medora studied Political Science and French. She spent her junior year abroad at Sciences Po Paris and the Vanderbilt in France center in Aix-en-Provence. During her senior year, for her political science honors thesis she examined international efforts to combat Somali piracy as a case study to better understand modes of international cooperation for securing the global maritime commons.

At Vanderbilt, Medora was supervising copy editor of the school’s student newspaper, an active participant in Alternative Spring Break and the Vanderbuddies tutoring program, and a member of the Vanderbilt University Fencing Club. She spent her college summers interning at the Center for a New American Security in Washington.

After graduation, Medora worked as a contractor at the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, first coordinating communications for the U.S. host year of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and then supporting the normalization of relations with Burma/Myanmar.

Upon completing her contract at the State Department, Medora was on the founding team of The Asia Group LLC, a strategic business advisory firm fostering transpacific expansion for both U.S. and Asian companies. After a year setting up the business, including growing the team from 4 to 15 and establishing offices in Washington, DC, and Singapore, Medora joined Global Gateway Advisors, a Brooklyn-based communications consulting firm.

Medora lived in Nairobi, Kenya, for several years, leading international communications at Sanergy Limited, a social enterprise with a sustainable model for providing hygienic sanitation solutions in urban slums. There, she managed an all-Kenyan team in cultivating international media coverage of Sanergy and developing original content to articulate Sanergy’s vision, strategy, and operations to external and internal audiences.

Medora developed her passion for international cultures at a young age. She has traveled extensively on five continents, loves learning new languages, appreciates new global literature, and especially enjoys exploring new places on foot.
Inés was born in Barcelona, Spain. When she was three years old, her parents decided to send her to a French school. Being exposed to another language and to people of different nationalities at such a young age quickly made her aware of the benefits of growing up in a multicultural environment, and she developed the ability to integrate cross-cultural experiences into her personal growth.

Inés attended ESADE Business School, where she majored in Business Administration. During this time, she was involved in many different activities. Most notably, she joined the Junior Enterprise network, a movement aimed at developing the entrepreneurial and leadership skills of higher-education students, while offering consulting services to SMEs, most of which are unable to afford regular consulting firms.

As a result of her work in leading the local Junior Enterprise and organizing the first two offerings of a highly innovative international event, Inés was elected Secretary General of JADE, the European Confederation of Junior Enterprises, representing over 20,000 students across 14 countries. This position enabled her to take a gap year, move to Brussels, and become part of an international team formed by ten people from seven different countries.

Following her gap year, Inés travelled across Brazil for a month and then completed her studies with an exchange semester at Wharton, where she continued to develop her cross-cultural sensitivity.

After graduation, Inés joined Beragua, a small boutique consulting firm specializing in retail. This position enabled her to travel across Eastern Europe and to advise both private equity firms and leading companies in the retail sector.

Inés spent the last three years at Bain & Company in Madrid, Spain, where she had the opportunity to work with high-profile international companies and be exposed to a broad set of management issues.

At Wharton/Lauder, Inés plans to gain a stronger understanding of Latin American economics and business practices and to advance her Portuguese skills to a native level.

In her spare time, Inés enjoys running, dancing, reading, watching classic movies, and travelling.

INÉS BULTÓ RIERA

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Portuguese
Victoria Cacicedo

Victoria was born in Miami, Florida, to a Cuban family that escaped communist Cuba in 1961 to seek political asylum. As a part of Miami’s vibrant Cuban-American exile community, she first learned Spanish before learning English in school. Her parents proudly passed down their Cuban heritage, but learning about different cultures also became an integral part of Victoria’s upbringing. She cherished her family’s annual educational excursions, visiting new and exotic countries. Her experiences led her to study French and participate in two study-abroad programs — in England, France, and Spain — while in high school.

After graduation, Victoria pursued an undergraduate degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering at the University of Florida (UF) on a full merit scholarship. She was an active member of the student body, taking leadership roles in the student government and Florida Blue Key. She also served as a campus tour guide and founded the Association of Cuban Student Engineers.

Building on her love for discovering new cultures and broadening her perspectives, Victoria used her engineering background to pursue interests in different sectors. As an undergraduate, she interned at Florida Power and Light, GE, Shands Healthcare, UF's Particle Engineering Research Center, Goldman Sachs, and the U.S. Navy. She graduated with honors and was inducted into UF's Hall of Fame.

Victoria returned to Goldman Sachs in New York after graduation. She spent four years there specializing in margin lending on a cross-asset sales and trading desk that served sophisticated individuals, family offices, and institutional investors. She left the firm to launch Startupbootcamp FinTech New York, part of a global network of industry-sponsored startup accelerators. She led the program’s fintech startup scouting, diligencing 420+ startups and connecting with entrepreneurs in 40+ countries. After building a portfolio of ten early-stage startups, she established and nurtured the program’s ecosystem of angel networks, venture capital firms, private equity firms, and corporate strategy groups at major financial institutions. During that time, she also spent a month in Mumbai, India, working to stretch the accelerator’s global reach and support the local team as it launched its fintech program in the region.

At Wharton/Lauder, Victoria plans to learn how to fuel innovation across markets, cultures, and borders that are personally significant to her. She hopes to launch and scale new ventures and eventually invest in companies targeting problems in Cuba and other Latin American countries.

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Spanish
Miguel Cebrian was born in Madrid, Spain. At age 18, he helped his older brothers found the retail company El Ganso. His initial participation was limited to helping as the first assistant in the first store while studying E-3 Law and Business at ICADE. He represented the school at the Harvard World Model United Nations in 2008 and 2009. He double-majored in Law and Finance and Business Administration and became a member of the Madrid Bar Association. After graduation, he joined Goldman Sachs.

During his last four and a half years at Goldman Sachs, Miguel enjoyed a number of non-traditional transitions. He began as a member of the Sovereign and Economic Risk group, focusing on the firm’s country-risk exposure. He produced country-risk memos for several capital committees for transaction approvals and senior management's country visits and negotiations in EMEA. In 2013 he became the secretary of the Sovereign Risk Committee, the body in charge of country credits and market-risk limits across the firm.

From assessing macro and geopolitical risk, Miguel transitioned to the Credit Risk and Advisory Department to evaluate fundamental credit analysis of industrial corporates, focusing on restructuring hedging portfolios of airlines following oil-market turbulence. A year later, he was promoted to Senior Associate and transitioned to the Restructuring and Capital Solutions team, within Leverage Finance in the Investment Banking division. In this capacity, he led a four-person team and, supported by the Liability Management, Capital Markets, and the Madrid and South Africa regional offices, worked on approximately GBP 2 billion out-of-court recapitalizations in multi-party negotiations.

Miguel's path at Goldman Sachs moved him closer to strategic, capital allocation, and management issues. Concurrently, he has maintained close ties with the family business, as El Ganso has expanded to 90 stores with nearly 700 employees.

Miguel is passionate about social-impact initiatives, spending significant time on these activities in Spain and in Bangladesh with Grameen Bank, the microcredit lending institution founded by Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. In recent years, Miguel has also participated in crowdfunding events. He is very interested in microcredits, venture capital, and direct lending platforms.

Miguel is a CFA charter holder and speaks Spanish, English, and French. In his spare time, he enjoys team sports such as soccer and tennis as well as endurance activities. He has completed four full marathons.
Born and raised in Hong Kong, Karl has long been fascinated by the differences between Eastern traditions and Western values there and how the city adroitly integrates the best aspects of both. Witnessing the handover of Hong Kong’s sovereignty from the U.K. to China in 1997 deepened his curiosity about the unique political systems, economic development models, and social values across countries. To explore these distinctions firsthand, he experienced a variety of cultures during his undergraduate studies at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Through exchange studies, pro-bono consulting projects, and volunteer trips, he spent significant amounts of time in China, the U.K., the U.S., and Kenya.

Driven to develop his perspective on global business expansion and transnational management across industries, after graduation Karl joined Monitor Deloitte, a multinational management consultancy. There, he worked on multiple strategic and operational assignments across Asia, which included advising one of the largest Chinese state-owned enterprises on infrastructure acquisitions in Southeast Asia under China’s unprecedented Belt-and-Road Initiative, supporting the largest Korean automotive brand to establish branding and market-entry strategies in China for its premium brands, and developing supply-chain and cost-cutting strategies for the China operation of the biggest fast-food chain in the world.

To make an impact outside business and concurrent with his fulltime position as a management consultant, Karl cofounded Maklweta.org, an NGO in Kenya, with Dr. Erick Komolo, a renowned Kenyan legal scholar. This organization provides educational opportunities to teenage Kenyan girls from humble financial backgrounds. To date, it has built a secondary school for girls and supported more than 2,000 girls through scholarships, loans, mentorships, and free textbooks. To further scale up Maklweta.org, the founders have also formed partnerships with universities in Hong Kong and Kenya and expanded the organization’s leadership with 10 new board members representing eight nationalities.

Building on his experiences in international business and philanthropy, Karl aspires to establish his own business venture in sustainable energy and contribute to increasing global efforts to halt the degradation of the environment. To realize this long-term vision, he plans to sharpen his business acumen at Wharton while expanding his understanding of the world at Lauder. As a part of the Global Program, he plans to identify how to optimize his personal experiences and skillsets to tackle these issues.
Dorcy was born in the heartland of China in a burgeoning tier-2 city. Immigration and the pursuit of opportunities have sent her across 6 countries and 16 schools to date. She moved to Singapore for elementary school and later to Canada for her secondary education, living in a variety of neighborhoods of different demographic and socioeconomic compositions. This migrant upbringing broadened her horizons geographically, culturally, and socioeconomically.

Dorcy studied at the University of Pennsylvania, where she pursued an interdisciplinary degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics to further her understanding of the world through a variety of perspectives. She augmented this education with work and study-abroad opportunities, including a summer in Cordoba, Argentina, to study Spanish, and a semester abroad at Sciences Po in Paris for an immersion in French and European political thought.

After graduation, Dorcy joined A.T. Kearney as a consultant, where she helped global consumer goods and retail companies improve operations, develop market strategies, and assess innovations. She worked on a wide range of issues, including channel and store portfolio optimization, speed-to-market improvements, sales lift and inventory optimization, supply-chain network redesign, marketing effectiveness, and model–design operations. She has also been involved in market and channel strategies across multiple geographies, including the U.S., Canada, the U.K., China, Japan, France, Germany, and several countries in South America.

Dorcy’s most recent work centered on innovation and technology. She led the design of an omnichannel supply chain and planning solution for a global beauty company. This built on her previous experience in big data analytics and omnichannel sales and planning. During her time at Wharton/Lauder, she plans to deepen her understanding of and expand her involvement in the areas of technology and innovation. In addition, she plans to better understand the financing elements involved in large-scale technology and turn-around transformations.

Dorcy is deeply engaged in community and civic life. At Penn, she was co-captain of the varsity cheerleading squad, a features staff writer for the *Daily Pennsylvanian*, a member of the International Affairs Association, and a tutor at several West Philadelphia high schools. She also worked on the 2012 presidential campaign and was an active volunteer for the 2016 campaign. In addition, she has led pro bono consulting initiatives for local nonprofits, spearheaded global relief efforts for A. T. Kearney, and co-authored white papers on corporate social responsibility.

Lauder Focus: Global Program
Alice was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to an American mother and a Brazilian father. When she was young, her family moved to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she spoke Portuguese at home and visited Brazil annually. Her bicultural heritage engendered her passions for languages, travel, and exploring foreign cultures.

Alice attended the University of North Carolina Wilmington and double-majored in Finance and Spanish. She was actively involved in all aspects of campus life as a Student Ambassador, a member of the Chi Omega sorority, and a volunteer with a local Latino nonprofit. She broadened her perspectives on world affairs through study-abroad programs in Costa Rica, where she immersed herself in advanced Spanish language classes, and the Universidad de Veritas in Valencia, Spain, where she took finance courses in Spanish. She currently sits on the board of her alma mater’s finance program. In addition, she interned with the U.S. Department of State Economic Section at the American Embassy in Canberra, Australia.

Alice was recruited by Vanguard during her senior year of college. Her first position was in sales. A year later, she was promoted to her first leadership role, where she was responsible for a 10-person team in the company’s retirement center. When she left Vanguard five years later, she was Manager of its High Net Worth Client Division. In this capacity, she oversaw 50 leaders/investment professionals located across the U.S. This experience provided her with a unique exposure to the corporate world and enabled her to learn from both her colleagues and her clients. Concurrently, she completed her Series 7, Series 63, and Series 24 licenses and obtained the Certified Financial Planner Designation™. As part of her deep commitment to the advancement of underrepresented groups in the classroom and in the workplace, she co-founded Vanguard’s HOLA initiative and served as the company’s Hispanic talent attraction lead.

At Wharton/Lauder, Alice plans to direct her corporate foundation in asset management internationally, toward her ultimate goal of expanding financial literacy and access in Latin America. She seeks to acquire a stronger understanding of Latin American economics and business practices and to perfect her Portuguese language skills.

In her spare time, Alice enjoys Capoeira (Brazilian dance/martial art), yoga, and travel. She has visited 20+ foreign countries to date and is looking forward to seeing many more.
Kartik was born in Dubai, two days after the Middle East was plunged into the turbulent Gulf War. When he was three, his family returned to India, a country where major structural reforms had catapulted it to the cusp of economic transformation.

Kartik's family moved frequently, as his father launched India's first nationwide mobile services. Thus, Kartik spent his middle-school years in Bengaluru and Mumbai. At the Bombay International School, he was chosen Head Boy and best all-rounder for his athletic and elocution performances. He graduated as the school's topper in academics. He then moved with his family to Malaysia, graduating in IB. He also won awards for his theater performances and actively participated in the Model United Nations Program.

Growing up in a multilingual home where English was primary, Kartik also learned to speak Hindi, Marathi, and Odia. He enjoys reading, singing, and playing the piano. His love for music led to a singing stint in an a capella group in college.

At Warwick University, in the U.K., Kartik developed a strong foundation in technology with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He followed it up with an M.Phil. in Development Economics at the University of Cambridge, with a particular emphasis on emerging economies. At both universities, he played badminton and cricket at the inter-university level. In addition, he was elected student body leader.

Kartik interned at Goldman Sachs Singapore and then began his full-time career with Booz & Co., spanning North Africa, the Middle East, the Levant, and Southeast Asia. He experienced diverse business perspectives and challenges while working on critical projects in marketing strategy, operational and process restructuring, and organizational transformation across leading corporations and central government organizations.

Kartik then joined Invest India, an agency incorporated under the aegis of Prime Minister Modi’s “Make in India” campaign to attract investment into India as a global manufacturing destination. This enabled him to make high-level presentations to international organizations, including government agencies, to engage with bureaucrats, to suggest policy refinements, and to lead project teams.

In the future, Kartik hopes to take active leadership roles in private or government organizations engaged in setting policy or undertaking strategic initiatives toward the growth of developing nations, startups, entrepreneurships, and companies whose services will create a positive impact on society at large.
Born and raised in San Francisco, California, Harry attended an international bilingual school from an early age. Immersed in a diverse city and among different cultures at school, he learned the value of seeking out a variety of perspectives, opinions, and experiences, which has served him well in his career as an entrepreneur. This also motivated him to attend Wharton/Lauder.

Harry attended Cornell University, where he earned a degree in Analytic Philosophy, magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. A lifelong athlete, he walked onto the varsity crew team, earning a spot in Cornell’s 400 Club, and subsequently spent time as an instructor for Cornell Outdoor Education. Wanting to explore a new part of the world and learn a new language, he spent his junior year abroad in Argentina, where he taught himself Spanish, immersed himself in porteño culture, and volunteered to teach English and soccer to low-income students in Buenos Aires. His time in Argentina and at Cornell solidified his desire to solve problems across cultures and geographies.

After graduation, Harry joined Teach for America (TFA) as a Corps Member in a primarily Hispanic neighborhood in Denver, Colorado. His experiences brought him face-to-face with the structural challenges facing public schools and led him to design and co-found the Denver School of Innovation and Sustainable Design. As co-founder and Director of Data and Technology, he was involved in almost every aspect of creating and operating the school. He led the recruitment of low-income students, fundraising from national foundations, and the creation and implementation of a technology platform that used a data-driven approach to personalize student learning.

After three and a half years of innovating in public education and wanting to expand beyond the field, Harry moved back to his Bay Area roots and joined Mixpanel, a data analytics startup. A self-taught coder, he helped build out product offerings and partnered with product managers and engineers at large corporations to implement the company’s products programmatically.

Harry spends much of his spare time outdoors. Whether competing in ultramarathons, hiking in the backcountry, or summiting high-altitude peaks, he loves to push himself while enjoying some of the more remote parts of the world. His other interests include wildlife photography, fly-fishing, and keeping up with the latest in technology.
Matt was born and raised in western Massachusetts. The product of two immigration stories, Matt developed an early curiosity about his Dutch-Indonesian (paternal) and Russian-Jewish (maternal) heritage, which evolved into a broader desire to understand other cultures. His affinity for impersonation led to his love of foreign languages, a passion recognized by a high school Spanish teacher who volunteered to tutor Matt for a summer, challenging him beyond the standard language curriculum.

Matt’s love of languages and foreign cultures led him to double-major in International Relations and Latin American Studies at Brown University, where he participated in a Sustainable Community Development Project in the Dominican Republic, worked as a volunteer English instructor for Spanish-speaking immigrants in the Providence community, and served as business manager for The Brown Journal of World Affairs.

After graduation, Matt spent two years as a Business Development Associate at a financial data startup in New York before moving to Santiago, Chile, to join the nonprofit Endeavor as a Princeton in Latin America Fellow. There, he analyzed the scalability and competitive positioning of a wide array of local entrepreneurial ventures and helped link entrepreneurs with the appropriate strategic resources.

Following his year in Chile, Matt returned to New York to work as a Junior Investment Analyst at a newly launched global equity long/short fund, where he also spearheaded due diligence on early-stage opportunities in Cuba and supported the firm’s marketing and investor relations functions.

Eager to combine his experiences across entrepreneurship and investing with his passion for international development, Matt later joined the impact-investing firm Acumen in New York as a Senior Associate. There he was responsible for establishing new partnerships to help the organization execute its mission of supporting early-stage social enterprises serving the global poor. He also assisted with the launch of Acumen’s first commercial fund focused on Latin America.

Matt is a founding member and vice president of the Princeton in Latin America Advisory Council and a steering committee member of the Young Professionals of the Americas. He is a competitive tennis player and an avid runner.

At Wharton/Lauder, Matt plans to refocus on his Spanish and develop a deeper, more nuanced understanding of the Latin American business ecosystem. Ultimately, he plans to leverage his experiences at Lauder toward a career focused on venture capital in emerging markets.
Morgan was born in Vermont and grew up in Annapolis, Maryland. Growing up amid exchange students from abroad, she developed a fascination with foreign cultures at a young age.

Morgan earned her bachelor's degree from Georgetown University, with a double major in Russian and Business Management and a certificate in Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies. She spent part of her time in Russia — first teaching English on the outskirts of Novosibirsk and later studying at St. Petersburg State University. She also earned a graduate certificate in International Development from Johns Hopkins Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

Through these academic programs, Morgan developed a keen interest in the approaches multinational organizations use to adapt proven strategies to new foreign markets and a strong belief in the private sector's capacity to achieve sustainable and scalable impact while acting in its own strategic interests. After graduation, she explored this interest professionally across several industries and roles. She first advised a shipping and logistics company seeking to expand its presence in Russia and Eurasia on regional marketing and communications strategies. She then worked at the international law firm Steptoe & Johnson on litigation and international regulation and compliance matters, including strategic responses to economic sanctions and trade regulations.

Immediately prior to entering Wharton/Lauder, Morgan worked at the Center for International Private Enterprise, an international development nonprofit affiliated with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She was involved with regional development projects in Eurasia and South Asia before being selected to help launch the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation, a groundbreaking initiative designed to help developing countries meet their obligations under the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement through public-private partnerships. In the course of establishing this $70 million project, she performed a number of roles, including authoring many of the foundational project design templates; assessing and making recommendations regarding potential pilot countries; supporting project scoping and development efforts in Colombia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar; and serving as the in-country team lead on corporate engagement. For the last two years, she also served as a board member and officer of the Washington Foreign Law Society.

At Wharton/Lauder, Morgan plans to improve her Russian language skills and strengthen her knowledge of international business and strategy. She loves travelling and is always seeking new cultural experiences and cuisines. As a spectator, she enjoys theater, ballet, and stand-up comedy.
Júlio was born in Porto Alegre, Brazil. As a child, he moved with his family between the U.S. and Brazil. The time he spent during his formative years in these different countries and cultures broadened his understanding of the world and profoundly shaped his interests and goals.

Júlio attended the University of Pennsylvania to pursue these interests, ultimately earning degrees in International Relations and Mechanical Engineering. During this time, he explored his curiosity about the world at large by participating in Penn Engineers Without Borders in Latin America and studying abroad in Seville, Spain. He was active on campus, serving as president of the Delta Phi fraternity.

After graduation, Júlio joined Bain & Company in New York City as a management consultant. There he worked on cases that included growth strategy, supply-chain optimization, and supplier strategy, in industries that ranged from healthcare materials to foodservice, metals, and digital video. Bain afforded Júlio countless opportunities to learn from a wide variety of experiences and from talented and diverse coworkers.

To pursue his lifelong passion for international development, Júlio next joined TechnoServe, a nonprofit focused on developing business solutions to poverty. As a member of the Strategic Initiatives team, he built corporate partnerships to benefit poor coffee farmers in Latin America. This work took him to Guatemala, Honduras, and Brazil, where he helped to implement projects designed to improve the lives and incomes of smallholder coffee growers.

After two years at TechnoServe, Júlio seized the opportunity to become part of the startup Signpost, which produces SaaS marketing software to help local businesses such as fitness studios, home contractors, and salons attract and retain customers. His role spanned strategic analysis, day-to-day operations, and serving as the product manager for a team of five software developers focused on internal tools.

Júlio's international outlook and intellectual curiosity brought him to Wharton/Lauder. There, he plans to expand his knowledge of Latin American culture, politics, and economy in order to deepen his connection with his native country and prepare himself for new career pathways there in the future.
Carlos was born and raised in Madrid, Spain. Having spent part of his childhood in the World Heritage city of Toledo, he understood, through its history, the importance of cultural diversity as a driver of development. He also experienced living abroad at a young age, spending several months in the U.K. and Germany.

Carlos pursued a double degree in Business Administration and Law at Universidad Pontificia de Comillas — ICADE in Madrid. During this time, he lived in North Wales in the U.K. and worked in New York and Los Angeles in the U.S. He was selected from among 1,600 candidates to take part in Deloitte's Global Internship Program. After completing this program in the London area, he joined the firm as an Analyst in the Mergers & Acquisitions division, working with an internationally diverse team of professionals from the London and Madrid offices.

Seeking longer-term involvement in the management of companies, Carlos decided to explore the private equity industry at Gala Capital, a Spanish investment group with a representative investor base from Latin America and several projects in the region. There, he developed a strong interest in countries such as Mexico, Peru, and Brazil and recognized the importance of enhancing the economic and cultural relationships between these nations and Spain.

Carlos is also involved in entrepreneurship education in emerging countries, promoting the social-impact initiative ThinKids Project that provides children with the tools to become young entrepreneurs and solve the problems that affect their communities. Recently, after building a presence in Spain, Nepal, Pakistan, and Peru, ThinKids introduced its entrepreneurship education program to over 160 children from four Filipino schools on the island of Camiguin, while building a strong relationship with the Philippines Department of Education.

These international experiences have helped Carlos broaden his horizons as he learns to adapt quickly to new settings and new languages. At Wharton/Lauder, he plans to gain a deeper understanding of Latin American business practices and acquire the skills to continue implementing entrepreneurship education projects in communities around the world.

In his spare time, Carlos participates in ICADE's entrepreneurship association StartComillas, where he supports students’ startup projects. He enjoys the countryside and has surfed and scuba-dived on five continents.
Alexandra was born and raised in New York City. Growing up in a family of avid travellers, she was always passionate about art and foreign cultures. Her childhood fascination with ancient Egypt evolved into a broader appreciation for art that has influenced her approach to cultural studies.

During high school, Alexandra spent a year at a boarding school in Nantes, France, an experience that sparked her enthusiasm for studying foreign cultures through immersion and language. During a gap year before college, she spent three months in India volunteering at the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Center and three months in Rwanda researching post-genocide political and economic development. Living in local communities, she developed a fascination about the impact of culture and religion on business and social policy.

Alexandra graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree from Boston College, where she majored in Political Science and minored in Art History. Concentrating on the impact of the oil economy on regional power dynamics and international policy in the Middle East, she conducted independent research projects in the UAE, Lebanon, Israel, and the West Bank and spent a summer studying at the American University of Kuwait. She also spent a semester studying at La Sapienza in Rome and earned a diploma in Art and Its Markets from Sotheby's Institute of Art in London.

After graduation, Alexandra worked in Venice at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection before returning to New York to join Sotheby's Auction House as a valuations analyst. There, she assessed over $5 billion of art. Pivoting to pursue her broader interest in international business and entrepreneurship, she became a founding member of luxury brand Pamela Dutton, setting up and managing the company’s international supply chain in Vietnam and the Philippines before joining the Boston Consulting Group in New York.

These international experiences instilled in Alexandra a strong belief in the value of multiculturalism in business and policymaking. At Wharton/Lauder, she plans to build on her management skills and cultural knowledge to work internationally with entrepreneurs.

Fluent in Italian and French, Alexandra has travelled to more than 35 countries across four continents. In her spare time, she indulges her passions for art, design, and architecture — seizing every opportunity to visit museums, galleries, and art fairs around the globe — while working toward her goal of visiting 100 countries.
Louis was born and raised in New York City. Growing up, he attended a Hebrew-English dual-curriculum school and developed proficiency in Hebrew at a young age.

Louis enrolled at Yale University, shortly after the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. Those Olympics — and China’s ascendance to the global stage — kindled his ever-growing fascination with China. He began studying Mandarin Chinese as a freshman at Yale and was fortunate to be awarded two Light Fellowships that provided full scholarships for intensive summer language immersion programs in Beijing and Harbin, China. He received a departmental award from Yale for his economics senior thesis on health insurance in rural China and was subsequently invited to the Chinese University of Hong Kong for a two-week workshop analyzing data on migrant laborers in mainland China. While at Yale, he developed an interest in international development while working with Professor Dean Karlan to cofound a student branch of the nonprofit Innovations for Poverty Action.

After graduation, Louis moved to Beijing to work as a development economics research assistant for Yale Professor Nancy Qian. His research covered numerous topics, including village-level democratic elections, air-pollution-statistics reporting in Chinese cities, and childhood malnutrition in rural China. One of the highlights of his time abroad was a field research trip to rural Qinghai Province, where he interviewed residents to better understand their receptiveness to a government-run malnutrition alleviation program. While in China, Louis continued to improve his Mandarin Chinese, both in the classroom and as an active participant in the Beijing pickup basketball scene. He traveled extensively throughout China, Vietnam, and Thailand.

Louis returned to New York as an economic consultant at Cornerstone Research, a firm specializing in providing economic and statistical analysis for expert testimony in financial litigation. He worked on a wide variety of cases across many different practice areas. Some of his favorite projects included assessing the financial impact of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill, analyzing damages resulting from a breach of a pharmaceutical marketing agreement, and determining the economic consequences of a product liability issue for an international automobile manufacturer.

At Wharton/Lauder, Louis plans to learn more about China and expand his expertise to East Asia more broadly. He aims to combine his enthusiasm for China with his background in consulting.
Taejae was born and raised in Seoul, Korea. His exposure to and interest in different cultures began during primary school, when he spent two summer vacations at YMCA youth camps in rural New Jersey. At age 13, he moved to England, where he lived for nine years while completing both his secondary school and university education.

Taejae attended the University of Oxford, where he completed a master's degree in Mathematics. During this time, he developed a passion for travelling and immersing himself in new cultural experiences, taking advantage of the holidays between school terms to travel to neighboring countries in Europe and Asia. He spent one of his most productive summers in Beijing, where he began to learn Chinese and acquired a deep appreciation for the Chinese language and culture. These enriching multicultural adventures inspired him to share his experiences with others who had little access to such opportunities. He volunteered to teach English to children in an impoverished Cambodian village and participated in an English-language education project to empower North Korean refugees in Seoul.

After graduation, Taejae returned to Korea, where he embarked on a consulting career with Bain & Company. He first spent most of his time working on cross-border projects to develop overseas expansion strategies for Korean corporations, including an assessment of a petrochemical plant in Iraq and an evaluation of the motorcycle battery market in Southeast Asia. He then spent six months in Bain’s London office, where he joined the Private Equity Group and worked on due diligences of companies in industries ranging from online travel to credit cards.

After Wharton/Lauder, Taejae plans to find ways to combine his professional background in strategy and private equity consulting with his personal passion for travel — optimally, to work or invest in the travel and hospitality industry.

In addition to being an avid traveller, Taejae has enjoyed skiing for more than 20 years, is an amateur squash player, and enjoys good food and wine in the company of friends.
ELLEN HAHM

Born in North Carolina and raised in Korea, Ellen spent her formative years attending an international school in Seoul before moving back to the U.S. to earn her degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics at the University of Pennsylvania, where she developed a deep interest in interdisciplinary studies. She was also active in Penn's music community and volunteered in West Philadelphia as a mentor through the Penn Music Mentoring Program, participated in Penn Chamber, and won the Hilda Nietzsche Piano Concerto Competition during her senior year. During the summers, she attended the Aspen Music Festival and had internships at Johnson & Johnson Hong Kong and Seoul.

After graduation, Ellen worked at MBI, a private consumer-product marketing firm in Norwalk, Connecticut. There, she was involved in every step of the marketing process, taking a product from development to procurement to execution. She then joined the Global Digital Marketing team at Clinique, where she focused on developing digital marketing strategies, CRM, and marketing analytics. As part of the global team, she was responsible for working with each of her counterparts around the world to ensure that all digital programs were strategic for the brand while being locally relevant to each affiliate. In addition, she was actively involved at the Union League Club and The Bowery Mission in New York.

At Wharton/Lauder, Ellen plans to focus on the East Asia region and develop a better understanding of how organizations operate in different cultures and industries.

Ellen enjoys classical music, practicing yoga, running half marathons, and playing golf.
Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Kate grew up moving around the Midwest and East Coast of the U.S. At age 15, she decided to pursue an opportunity to spend the rest of her high school years at a boarding school in Alexandria, Virginia. She joined a diverse and international student body and enjoyed a two-month summer exchange program in Paris. This experience propelled her to achieve proficiency in French by the end of her high school studies and earned her the school's top award for the language. It also expanded her horizons and ignited her desire to develop a deeper understanding of other cultures.

At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kate double majored in Economics and International Studies, with a specific focus on Europe and environmental sustainability. She continued to study French and began learning German to enrich her regional focus. In addition, she served as a leader of both the undergraduate Net Impact chapter and the Economics Club, in addition to being selected a member of the UNC Honor Court.

After graduation, Kate moved to New York City to join Bain & Company as an Associate Consultant. There she focused primarily on consumer products and private equity. After a year and a half, she took a leave of absence to pursue an internship at eGym GmbH in Munich, Germany. These five months helped build her passion for health and fitness and provided an immersive learning environment to improve her language. She returned to New York and continued with Bain in a Consultant position for another half year before opting to transfer to Copenhagen, Denmark, to gain further experience working in a foreign country and culture. In addition to time spent living abroad, Kate is passionate about traveling and has thus experienced many other cultures across Europe, North America, South America, and Asia.

Katelyn’s studies and personal experiences across the globe have exposed her to the deep interconnectedness of the world’s diverse economies, cultures, and people and have inspired her to pursue a career that spans the globe. In particular, she plans to address the uniquely global challenge of climate change, for which Wharton/Lauder will prepare her well.
Born and raised in Canada, Vanessa grew up under familial German cultural influences. She spent most of her youth surrounded by nature in rural northern Canada and welcomed the opportunity to start exploring the world during her teenage years through international academic exchange programs.

In order to broaden her horizons and gain a global perspective, Vanessa completed an undergraduate honors degree in International Business Administration at York University’s Schulich School of Business. There, she specialized in the German language, double-majored in Strategy and Finance (with distinction), and completed both a work placement and an academic exchange in Germany. In her spare time, she led the Debate Team and competed in several half marathons. Her interest in financial stability was sparked during the international components of her studies, when she lived in Frankfurt during the European debt crisis and worked at a risk-management boutique advising institutional investors.

After graduation, Vanessa joined Oliver Wyman as a Management Consultant within the Financial Services practice group, serving clients such as banks and institutional investors, including private equity firms, hedge funds, and sovereign wealth funds internationally. During this time, she travelled extensively across three continents for international engagements in countries as diverse as Switzerland and Saudi Arabia.

At Wharton/Lauder, Vanessa plans to gain a stronger academic foundation on topics related to international financial stability. This includes exploring — through the Lauder curriculum and experiential learning opportunities — the cultural and political factors that inhibit integration, regulatory adoption, and consistent, effective risk management practices at financial institutions globally. In particular, she hopes to better understand the EU’s move toward a formally integrated banking union, a project her former employer, Oliver Wyman, advised on.

In addition to her academic and career pursuits, Vanessa enjoys travelling, performing and viewing amateur theatrical productions, long-distance running, and all aspects of nature ranging from hiking to advocating for an environmentally sustainable vegan diet.

Lauder Focus: Europe and German
Annabell was born and raised in Germany. She chose to attend a high school for modern languages, where she studied French, English, and Spanish and participated in student exchanges with partner schools in Paris and Miskolc, Hungary. Keen on exploring different cultures, she decided to spend an exchange year in Cochabamba, Bolivia, through AFS Intercultural Programs. She lived with a Bolivian host family, completed eleventh grade at a state-run high school, and experienced living in a foreign culture during a period of political instability. She remains active with AFS Intercultural Programs in a variety of capacities — from representing her German regional association as vice chairperson to teaching exchange students and other volunteers about intercultural learning, among other topics.

Annabell earned a bachelor of science degree in physics at Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg, Germany, and a master of science degree in biophysics at Humboldt-University Berlin, Germany. While completing her graduate thesis at the Alfred Wegener Institute, a Helmholtz center for polar and marine research, she worked at the Institute's laboratories at Helgoland in the German bight. Concurrently, she attended the interdisciplinary leadership program at the Bayerische Elite Akademie, where she gained experience in the fields of business and international politics. She collaborated with a group of alumni there to develop and run the countrywide student competition “Generation-D,” where she enjoyed working in the highly dynamic and engaging environment of social and ecologically sustainable businesses.

After graduation and several industry and consulting internships — at LEONI in China, BCG in Germany, and Schickler management consulting in Germany/Macedonia — Annabell joined Bain & Company. There, she worked primarily with multinational clients in the healthcare/med-tech and financial services areas. As part of this highly diverse and international environment, she participated in a six-month secondment in Chicago, working for a client in the pharmaceuticals industry.

In her spare time Annabell is passionate about travelling and exploring other countries and cultures. She also enjoys exploring the undersea world through scuba diving.

At Wharton/Lauder, Annabell plans to prepare for her future career in the globalized and highly interrelated world.
Oscar was born to Peruvian parents in Geneva, Switzerland, and spent much of his early years in the francophone region. At age 10, he moved with his family to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where developing markets, especially in Latin America, first piqued his interest.

Oscar earned his degree in Economics at the University of Notre Dame. During that time, he spent a year studying abroad in Australia and discovered firsthand the polarized and unique societies of the developing Oriental world.

After graduation, Oscar moved to New York City, where he worked as a foreign exchange derivatives broker, focused primarily on the Mexican market. After three years on Wall Street, he moved to Lima, Peru, where he believed he could have a greater impact on economic development. There he joined Credicorp Capital, a lead investment bank of the Andean Region, and advised companies across diverse sectors to tap into capital markets to finance local and regional operations and expansions.

During this period, Oscar also co-founded an NGO with the purpose of mitigating the deficit in blood donations in Peru through partnerships with the private and public sectors. To date, this organization has collected over a thousand blood donations and helped educate the population about this national problem.

Following his studies at Wharton/Lauder, Oscar plans to continue to be an integral player in Latin America and to contribute to the region’s development and growth. In his spare time, he likes to read, compete in soccer and tennis, surf, and participate in extreme adventures such as sky diving, shark-cage diving, motorcycle riding, among others. He is fluent in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.
Gracian was born in Cameroon. He grew up between Yaoundé, the capital, Douala, and Batié, his parents’ village, where yearly family gatherings included more than 100 aunts, uncles, and cousins from various professional and social backgrounds. That was the first of his experiences with diverse communities, confirming the maxim that “it takes a village to raise a child.”

Inspired by his father and an uncle, both technicians, Gracian developed a curiosity about solving problems such as fixing broken radios and phones or keeping his grandmother’s crops from failing.

At age 17, Gracian moved to France to prepare for the engineering schools’ competition exams. As the youngest in his classes, he enjoyed learning from his classmates’ experiences and very different cultures. He entered Mines ParisTech, one of the top three engineering schools in the country, as the only student of color and one of the youngest.

Through school trips and projects in Mexico, Italy, Spain, and Hungary, Gracian developed his interest in supply-chain management and immersed himself in even more cultures. In England, he helped a Coca-Cola bottling plant improve its maintenance practices. He also studied manufacturing flexibility in Olsztyn, Poland, and Laem Chabang, Thailand, for Michelin. In addition, he headed the organization of the school’s recruiting fair, which involved 150 companies and 5,000 visitors, and founded, with a Senegalese friend, an association to promote development initiatives in Africa.

After graduation, from consultant to manager, Gracian worked for three top management consulting firms and led projects for more than 15 companies in various industries — for example, improving operations for a cheese manufacturer, sizing inventory for a cosmetics company, and designing operations processes for a $1 billion aerospace and defense firm. These assignments involved enriching travels and strong interactions with various entities and peers in countries such as Switzerland, the U.S., China, the UAE, India, and Brazil.

At Wharton/Lauder, Gracian plans to build on his leadership and general management skills while improving his business and social-impact acumen as he prepares to undertake future initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond.

Gracian is fluent in Batié. In his spare time he enjoys singing, dancing hip hop or makossa, meditating, and sharing ideas for new initiatives in the area of elementary education.

GRACIAN KAMGANG

Lauder Focus: Africa and French
VEDICA KANT

Vedica was born and raised in India. She enjoyed a peripatetic childhood due to her father’s civil-service career, attending eight schools in five cities over 12 years. She lived primarily in the southern state of Kerala and the nation’s capital, New Delhi. This upbringing made her inherently curious about new places and different cultures and was reflected through her education, professional life, and extracurricular activities.

Vedica attended Singapore Management University, where she studied Economics and Political Science. Her studies and travels during this time piqued her interest in how historical and cultural legacies shape the self-perceptions of modern nation-states and impact their politics and economics. Keen to further her education while learning more about a new region, she attended the University of Oxford, where she pursued an M.Phil. in Modern Middle Eastern Studies, with a primary focus on Turkey. This program entailed intense academic engagement with the country, including grueling language training. After completing her degree, Vedica moved to Istanbul to handle business development for an international government-outsourcing firm that wanted to expand its operations in Turkey.

Later, Vedica moved to London to join the risk management firm Control Risks’ political risk department. There, she was responsible for helping companies build sturdy risk-management processes to plan for and mitigate against political and regulatory risks in emerging markets. After several years she moved to the New Delhi office, where she was responsible for growing the company’s compliance and regulatory risk-consulting services in South Asia.

Vedica enjoys reading, conducting research, and writing across a wide range of subjects, especially history and politics. She is the author of If I Die Here, Who Will Remember Me? India and the First World War, which examines the role Indian soldiers played in WWI, how the war shaped them, and the impact it had on the country’s burgeoning nationalist movement.
Amy was born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, where her father advised U.S. military forces on international legal matters. Growing up in a traditional Korean home while attending an American school on a U.S. military base fostered her cultural awareness as well as her interest in the East Asian political economy.

After high school, Amy moved to California to attend UC Berkeley, where she earned a degree in Business Administration from the Haas School of Business. She served in the student government and assisted in creating a public-service fund that enabled students to secure funding for community-service projects. In addition, she was the only undergraduate on the staff for the 2010 Berkeley-Stanford Cleantech Conference. She also held the senior-most position among 80 students in the UC Berkeley Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps, leading participants in physical fitness, discipline, and leadership training.

Amy decided to follow her father and older brother into military service, earning her commission as a U.S. Navy Surface Warfare Officer immediately after graduation. She served on two warships based in Japan, leading nearly 125 sailors in training, maintenance, and operations in the Western Pacific for U.S. Department of Defense missions promoting regional security and economic stability. On a daily basis, she led a navigation team in ship movement while conducting flight operations and tactical maneuvers with ally ships. Her work contributed to humanitarian aid and disaster relief following the 2011 Fukushima earthquake and tsunami in northern Japan and 2013’s Typhoon Haiyan in the central Philippines. She next moved to Naples, Italy, to join a four-star admiral’s staff, coordinating U.S. Navy exercises, operations, and training with African militaries. She designed strategy and framework for increased law enforcement capabilities in the Gulf of Guinea in addition to strategizing the utilization of $3 million in U.S. State Department funds for delivering capacity-building training to Central Africa. She also collaborated with international and interagency partners, leveraging their competencies and assets toward capacity enhancement and regional cooperation among African navies.

In her spare time, Amy enjoys travel, photography, running, skiing, and snowboarding. She looks forward to her transition from the military to Wharton/Lauder, where she plans to obtain a comprehensive understanding of East and Southeast Asia and develop the ability to harness the power of business to solve societal issues and energy challenges among emerging economies.

AMY KIM

AUDER Focus: Southeast Asia and Korean
Vivien was born in Miskolc, Hungary, and from an early age demonstrated an interest in foreign cultures. At age 12 she wanted to become a diplomat. During high school, she spent a semester abroad in Italy, living with an Italian host family, attending a local high school, and learning Italian.

Vivien earned her B.Sc. in International Economics and Management at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy, with a semester abroad at UNSW in Sydney. While in Australia, she fell in love with nature and environmental protection and volunteered at Myall Lakes National Park. For her M.Sc. studies, she attended ESADE Business School in Barcelona, Spain, where she learned Spanish, her fourth foreign and fifth overall language after Hungarian, English, Italian, and German.

After graduation Vivien joined Rocket Internet, a Berlin-based, high-speed online startup incubator with 75 different business models across 110 countries and 6 continents. She spent two years in Southeast Asia working as a Regional Head for Rocket Internet’s Lazada, which was eventually sold to the Alibaba Group for $1 billion. She then moved to Latin America to work for Rocket Internet’s Linio and Hellofood (successful exit to Just Eat Group), first as Regional Vice-President and eventually as Chief of Staff. During her time there, she worked in over 10 countries and implemented expansion and growth strategies in more than 15 countries.

Leveraging her global experience and her love of nature, Vivien worked as a United Nations volunteer on a reforestation project supported by the UNEP, WWF, and Discovery Network and eventually became an International Advisor. During Wharton/Lauder, she hopes to serve as a Venture Fellow to lead an expedition and provide volunteer services to an area in need.

In her spare time, Vivien enjoys jogging, reading, photography, and travelling. She plans to run the New York City Marathon while at Penn. She choose Lauder’s Global Program in order to take a step back, connect the dots, and examine the world as a whole to achieve a general view of global interactions.

Lauder Focus: Global Program
Rafael was born in São Paulo, Brazil. His lifelong thirst for learning led him to paths that intersected with other countries and cultures. Some would say that his family’s background — with relatives in different countries — first inspired his choices. In addition, when leading sailing teams, he trained in countries that had larger and more active fleets than those in Brazil. When he had the opportunity, he participated in competitions in Canada and Ecuador (or hosted foreign teams in Brazil).

Academically, Rafael followed the same path. He graduated with honors in Business Administration from Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV-EAESP, Brazil), where most of his electives focused on sustainability and entrepreneurship. Curious to learn about others’ cultures and histories through their people, arts, and achievements, he participated in case competitions in the U.S. and the Netherlands, a cultural education program at the Sorbonne in France, an academic exchange at HEC Paris, a study trip in China, a coordination project to transform educational methods at FGV-EAESP, and the Global Climate Coalition Workshop that preceded the Rio+20.

Prior to graduation, Rafael worked at the private equity firm Angra Partners on a team focused on infrastructure services investments, supporting market research for new opportunities, and monitoring portfolio companies and communication with quota holders. After graduation, he joined McKinsey & Company, where he advised clients in major restructuring projects in Brazil and New Zealand. At the same time, he also volunteered with Ashoka, actively helping to set up innovative programs for the social sector.

Two years later, Rafael was invited to join the São Paulo State Finance Office, advising the newly appointed Secretary on special/strategic projects. There he guided the team in fostering a new work dynamic, especially when handling the restructuring of the advisory areas, leading consulting projects, aligning communication for major meetings, and supporting negotiations with unions.

At Wharton/Lauder, Rafael plans to expand his skillset to engage with technology funds/companies and cleantech in a global context while sharing experiences, talent, and technologies to foster development in emerging markets. He wants to empower leaders and organizations to collectively think, test, and implement with more innovative solutions, leveraging knowledge and solutions well beyond the limits of their regions and countries.
Sayoko was born in Tokyo, Japan, and raised in an entrepreneurial family that inspired her to pursue an international education. She attended an international school in Japan with classmates from around the globe and learned at an early age to see the world as a borderless place as she gained invaluable exposure to other cultures.

Sayoko grew up in a bilingual household, speaking English and Japanese. She chose to expand her cultural education at Philips Academy, where she studied Mandarin to help broaden her understanding of China’s vast transformations and fast-growing economy. She built on her global background by pursuing a holistic undergraduate education at Boston College, majoring in Finance and minoring in Chinese. She spent summers attending an intensive language program in Beijing, honing her financial-market knowledge at Bloomberg LP, and advising Japanese conglomerates at J.P. Morgan Tokyo in its investment banking division. Her internships and education helped her solidify her interest in empowering younger generations through personal finance and investment education and led her to start a local chapter of Smart Woman Securities, a nonprofit organization that promotes financial literacy for women.

After graduation, Sayoko moved to London, returning to Bloomberg full time to help foreign investment banks prepare for and adjust to Europe's increasingly restrictive business and regulatory environment. She then transitioned to Sales & Trading by moving to New York City to work for Mizuho Securities in Japanese Equity Sales. This position gave her a new perspective for assessing her home country as a relative investment target. She developed fundamental equity analysis skills while guiding her colleagues and clients through the cultural and professional idiosyncrasies of Japanese businesses.

At Wharton/Lauder, Sayoko plans to acquire a deeper understanding of the geopolitical, structural, and economic forces that distinguish stagnant and growing countries. She aims to apply these findings to her experiences and help companies achieve international success by evolving and adapting their global growth strategies.
Huy was born and raised in Nha Trang, a small city in Central Vietnam. After high school, he lived in Ho Chi Minh City for two years before moving to Singapore for his undergraduate studies. The vibrancy and multicultural aspects of these locales provided ample cross-cultural experiences and inspired his interest in exploring different cultures.

Wanting an education that provided both analytical rigor and an Asian business context, Huy pursued a Bachelor's in Business Administration at the National University of Singapore (NUS), majoring in Finance and minoring in Economics, with substantial coursework in Mathematics & Statistics. He became active in community engagement by assuming various leadership positions in student-run organizations, including AIESEC, the Red Cross, and NUS Residential Life. Motivated to put his knowledge and skills to the test while learning from his peers from other universities, he participated in various business-case competitions and, most notably, led his case team in winning the NUS-DBS Business Case Competition in 2012.

After graduation, Huy joined the Corporate Strategy and M&A team at Cargill, a global agribusiness and food-supply-chain conglomerate. There, he had the opportunity to have a direct impact on shaping the company’s footprint in the Asian Pacific region, alongside senior business leaders and colleagues from diverse backgrounds. For example, his recommended market-entry strategy for Cargill’s poultry business has already become its two strategic investments in the Philippines and Indonesia. Motivated by the social mission, Huy left Cargill to join Developing World Markets (DWM), where he worked with the Private Equity Managing Director covering East & South East Asia in managing the existing investment portfolio and underwriting new investments in inclusive finance in the region. Most notably, he guided the firm in executing its investment in a leading microfinance institution in Sri Lanka. Outside work, he led the Agriculture Committee in expanding the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce, a young trade association, in Singapore.

Huy is a native speaker of Vietnamese, speaks fluent English, and recently began to study Mandarin Chinese and French. He also enjoys practicing martial arts and has attained a black belt in taekwondo. At Wharton/ Lauder, he plans to develop a deeper understanding of the global political landscape and the world’s many diverse cultures.
BRYAN LEE

Bryan was born in Seoul, Korea. At age six, he and his family moved to Falls Church, Virginia, where he was strongly influenced by the multiculturalism of the D.C. area. Interacting with peers from every corner of the world and gaining exposure to the region’s rich mosaic of embassies and museums launched his lifelong fascination with other cultures.

Seeking to challenge himself in an unfamiliar environment, Bryan moved to the other side of the country to pursue his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He majored in Business Administration and Economics, steering his education toward global topics through courses such as International Consulting for SMEs and Development Economics. Outside the classroom, he led a unique collaboration between Berkeley students and a Nicaraguan agricultural microenterprise run by at-risk youth. This formative experience fostered his interest in both mission-driven businesses and Latin America.

After graduation, Bryan joined Wells Fargo Securities’ Leveraged Finance team in San Francisco as an Investment Banking Analyst. There, he was involved in structuring nearly 30 debt financings that supported transformative transactions for clients in the consumer products, hospitality, technology, and industrials sectors.

Following completion of his analyst program, Bryan moved to Bhutan to work for Mountain Hazelnuts (MH), a for-profit social venture that seeks to deliver financial, socioeconomic, and environmental returns by partnering with smallholder farmers to cultivate 10 million trees to produce export-quality hazelnuts. As Bhutan’s first 100% foreign investment company and largest private-sector employer, MH set an unprecedented path for the small Himalayan kingdom. Bryan served in a managerial capacity, overseeing finance, operations, and employee development. Most notably, he helped secure a landmark joint investment in MH from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Asian Development Bank (ADB), a deal that was later named ADB’s Best Corporate Finance Transaction of 2015 and featured on IFC’s home page.

At Wharton/Lauder Bryan plans to further his knowledge of and passion for frontier–market, mission-driven entrepreneurship and is particularly interested in exploring this topic within a Latin American context. In his spare time, he is an avid diver, hiker, painter, and history buff.
Rob was born and raised in Toronto, Canada. From an early age, he was exposed to different cultures through his father’s Chinese heritage and his family’s training in karate. After earning his black belt, Rob traveled with his parents to Japan for a multi-city training expedition. Later, after attaining the title of Sensei, he taught karate at summer camps and women’s self-defense workshops. These early experiences imbued him with a curiosity for deeper cultural understanding.

Rob earned his bachelor’s at Queen’s University, completing a joint Chemical Engineering and Chemistry program. During that time, he chaired the first-year engineering orientation week. In addition, he was recognized for his work as the student assembly speaker and chief electoral officer in a year of tumultuous student politics. These experiences sparked his interest in leadership and management, and encouraged his pivot toward business.

After graduation, Rob spent the summer in Paris studying French. He then joined the Boston Consulting Group in Toronto, where he completed mainly consumer insight and corporate development projects in both Canada and the U.S. He spent roughly two years in Montréal with a variety of Québécois clients, which enabled him to further improve his proficiency in French.

Rob’s interest in international experiences prompted him to take on a new role in Singapore. He joined Verifone, a fintech payments company, leading Asia-Pacific strategy including M&A, growth planning, and country strategy. In this capacity, he developed an appreciation for the operational challenges of running a business while reporting to the regional president and sitting on the APAC leadership team. In addition, he began to understand the complexity of managing diverse geographies while travelling to and supporting more than a dozen markets.

In his spare time, Rob enjoys athletics, especially when combined with community fundraising. To that end, he completed a 620-kilometer charity bike ride for low-income youth that raised $10,000, led fundraising spin classes in Singapore, and, most recently, participated in a charity boxing event. To prepare for the boxing match and gala, Rob was drawn back to his childhood interest in martial arts, and he underwent a three-month training program while raising $4,000 for a Cambodian nonprofit hospital.

Rob’s interest in leadership, multinational management, and the French language led him to Wharton/Lauder. After graduation, he plans to take on a more operational role that will give him responsibility for implementation. He also plans to continue working and travelling abroad, especially in France and Francophone countries.

ROBERT LEE

Lauder Focus: Europe and French
Jiayi was born and raised in Shanghai, China. During high school, she participated in the Model United Nations (MUN), leading her school's team in debates in the U.S., Switzerland, and Israel, among other countries.

Jiayi holds a Bachelor's of Economics in International Finance from Fudan University, where she double-majored in national and governmental affairs while pursuing her passion for social issues. Self-taught in Japanese, she spent her fourth year at the University of Tokyo, studying East Asian history, literature, and arts. The following year, she returned to Shanghai and interned at McKinsey & Company on financial group-related projects.

After graduation, Jiayi joined Boston Consulting Group in Tokyo to continue her exploration of Japan. During the next two years, she devoted her time to the technology and health-care industries, working on organization reconstruction and new business expansion. Her work paved the way for the overseas roll-out of multiple Japanese brands. Later, she became a core member for the Principal Investors & Private Equity practice area and helped foreign investors acquire Asian target companies.

Jiayi was one of the founding members at BCG Tokyo's digital ventures project to incubate startups within large corporations. Her work enabled one consumer-goods company to establish a multimedia venture on SNS marketing and public education. As she took a step closer to the startup ecosystem, she initiated her own venture, which offers digital marketing consultation to Airbnb owners.

In her spare time, Jiayi enjoys travelling, skiing, and jazz dancing. In addition, she enjoys making milk tea for family and friends. She also maintains an active role in Junior Achievement in Shanghai, where she volunteered to teach business lessons to elementary school students.

At Wharton/Lauder, Jiayi plans to focus on building on her global citizenship and learning more about entrepreneurship and investment in technology in the pan-Asian region.
Marty was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. He first developed his passion for Latin America through his Spanish language courses at Marist School and his periodic volunteer work in Nicaragua.

Marty earned his bachelor's degree at Boston College, where he double-majored in Finance and Spanish at the Carroll School of Management, graduating magna cum laude. He was also a Gabelli Presidential Scholar, which provided both a full-tuition scholarship and financial support for study abroad each summer to develop his language skills. During this time, he was a four-year varsity athlete on the swim/dive team and broke the one-meter and three-meter school diving records. In addition, in his senior year, he was named Boston College Scholar Athlete of the Year, competed at the NCAA Division 1 Regional Championship, and was awarded a post-graduate scholarship by the ACC Conference.

Marty spent his college summers exploring a wide range of topics across Latin America. He completed internships at a Nicaraguan micro-finance firm, an Argentinian tech startup, and a Brazilian NGO in São Paulo. He graduated with a broad understanding of the complexity of the region and fluency in its two principal languages, Portuguese and Spanish. His senior thesis examined the need to redefine the political relationship between Brazil and the United States.

After graduation, Marty joined Deloitte Consulting in its Strategy and Operations practice. Over four years he ran global workshops, managed international work streams and teams, and coordinated directly with Fortune 500 senior leadership. During his final Deloitte project, he guided a Dutch pharmaceutical organization that will oversee all third-party distributions in developing markets. He also led pro bono consulting engagements in underserved communities, both locally and globally.

Marty also founded his own real estate firm, Martin Oak Properties, which manages three properties on Airbnb. He plans to build on this experience with a Real Estate major at Wharton, using the company as a platform for developing smarter, more sustainable cities.

Marty’s core values are trust, hospitality, and respect, and he thrives in high-energy environments that require adaptation and quick study. He respects thoughtful conversation as an Airbnb host, former Couchsurfer, and aspiring polyglot (English, Portuguese, Spanish, and French); and he plans to build his global perspective through peer conversations, immersive travels, and study at Wharton/Lauder.
Julia was born in Newton, Massachusetts, and raised in a small suburb of Boston. Irish and Armenian by heritage, she grew up in a quintessentially American milieu. When she began studying French in sixth grade, she discovered her love for learning languages and her curiosity for foreign cultures. Her first introduction to China was during her sophomore year of high school, when her family hosted an exchange student from Hangzhou. That experience showed her just how different Chinese and American people are and fueled her desire to bridge the gap between the two cultures.

Before undertaking formal Chinese language study during her undergraduate studies at Middlebury College, Julia completed a gap year in Sevilla, Spain. Though she began the year without having studied Spanish before, she achieved fluency in the language within ten months by building close relationships with her host family and immersing herself in as many cultural experiences as possible.

At Middlebury, Julia pursued an International Studies degree with focuses in Political Science and East Asia, which included intensive Mandarin study. During her junior year, she spent the summer at Middlebury’s Chinese Language School, followed by five months abroad in Kunming, China. Because both programs required a language pledge, she spent these six months speaking only Chinese.

After graduation, Julia joined State Street Corporation, where she held two roles: first as a rotational Analyst in the Capital Markets division and then as a Product Manager on the Innovation Ventures team, where she researched and implemented new analytics products for institutional investors. While at the firm, she managed the launch of an alternative data set for quant investors that resulted from a joint venture between State Street and an Israeli fintech company.

After completing Wharton/Lauder, Julia plans to use her interest in other cultures to build a career in international business.
Killian Marie

Killian was born in Paris, France. He enjoyed his first cross-cultural experience at age three, when his parents moved to the U.S. for four years.

Killian attended EPF École d’Ingénieurs in Paris, where he majored in Aerospace Engineering. For two years, he led the French chapter of Euroavia, the first European Association for Aerospace students, in which he developed new exchange programs with 39 universities across 19 European countries. Organization-wide, he oversaw professional development and created more than 30 career opportunities in leading aerospace companies. In addition, he was one of two students from a class of 200 to complete a double master's program with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, based in Florida. He took this opportunity to learn to fly and enjoyed several international flights as a co-pilot.

After graduation, Killian joined Dassault Falcon Jet, one of the world's leading private-jet manufacturers. Based in New York City, he supervised the operation of a fleet of 170 private jets owned by operators located in Asia and the Americas. He collaborated with international teams across multiple functions, developed and led multi-million-dollar programs, and presented them to clients at seminars around the world. He also developed ancillary services for a fleet of 1,350 aircraft and led price-negotiation discussions with aircraft parts suppliers.

During this time, Killian joined Reach the World, a nonprofit organization that helps underprivileged elementary school students follow world travellers by means of a digital platform. After several months of working on a fundraising project, he became chair of the Young Professionals Board and developed with over 20 board members a business strategy to engage corporate partnerships and increase the number of schools involved in the program. He also joined the Young Professionals Leadership Council of BoardAssist, a group of New York nonprofit organization chairpersons, to increase social impact.

Killian is an international Couchsurfer, having visited more than 25 countries to date. He enjoys wild skiing, soccer, and rugby, and is passionate about contemporary art and photography.

At Wharton/Lauder, Killian plans to build on his global citizenship and develop solutions to address emerging-market challenges.

Lauder Focus: Africa and French
Kenneth was born and raised in a diverse community in the San Francisco Bay Area. In his professional life, he has worked in international affairs and policy, journalism, and as a management consultant.

Kenneth was first drawn to Russia as a student of its literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where he graduated summa cum laude. He then entered Stanford University to study the institutions, governance, and political economy of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and the former Soviet Union. After earning his M.A., he interned at a foreign policy think tank in Washington, D.C., before moving to the Siberian city of Tyumen to spend a year teaching English and political science at a local university as part of the Fulbright program. He remained in Tyumen to film a 10-episode television program exploring cultural differences between Russia and the U.S., and then moved to Russia’s capital as a journalist for the Moscow Times. He later transitioned to New York City to work as a management consultant before returning to Stanford to work on the Stanford U.S.-Russia Forum (SURF), a collaborative research and track II initiative under former U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.

As director of SURF, Kenneth worked to advocate for constructive dialogue between Russia and the U.S., using the program as a platform to engage leaders in both countries. He also led a research delegation to Moscow with the former director of the Los Alamos National Lab and organized a research initiative for the United Nations’ Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. For this project, he recruited researchers from China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Pakistan, and the U.S. to collaborate on research presented to a ministerial session in Vienna, Austria, for foreign ministers and officials from more than 80 countries. He also served as chairman of the Young Professionals Advisory Committee for Open World, an agency in Congress that has brought more than 25,000 leaders from Russia and the former Soviet Union since 1999 to engage with the U.S. government and nonprofit sector.

At Wharton/Lauder, Kenneth plans to explore innovative models for promoting diplomatic engagement and is interested in researching mechanisms of influence between business and government. He is also interested in leadership, strategic management, and corporate/nonprofit governance.
JAKE McKENZIE

Jake grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Germantown Friends School, where he ran track and was a member of the winning 2008 Penn Relays distance medley relay team.

Jake then attended Yale University, where he double-majored in Economics and International Studies and continued to compete in Cross Country and Track & Field at the Division I level. While at Yale, he developed an interest in international business during a summer internship with a casino operator in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He also traveled to Kyrgyzstan to write a case study on a microfinance bank as part of his senior thesis in International Studies.

After graduation, Jake worked as a consultant at the Mind Company, a healthcare-focused consulting firm based in Buenos Aires. There, he helped multinational medical device and pharmaceutical companies develop market-entry strategies for new products. He also helped to build business cases for new products through extensive primary research with potential customers.

Two years later, Jake returned to Philadelphia to join the Boston Consulting Group, where he focused on operational efficiency projects for clients in the healthcare and retail sectors. He helped to drive various high-impact initiatives to increase back-office productivity, improve front-store operational execution, identify procurement savings, and optimize organizational design.

At Wharton/Lauder, Jake plans to focus on the operational challenges small and medium-sized businesses face in Latin America, in particular in the healthcare and consumer sectors. He intends to major in Multinational Management and work with small businesses in the Philadelphia area. After graduation, he plans to return to BCG and eventually pursue entrepreneurial opportunities in Latin America.

In his spare time, Jake enjoys running and discovering new restaurants. He also enjoys reading, playing soccer, skiing, and volunteering at Philadelphia-area community organizations.
Alejandro was born in Madrid, Spain, and began to learn English at an early age. During high school, he spent his summer holidays in international schools in Ireland and southern England and began developing his love for other languages and cultures. He also spent his first summer in college backpacking across Europe.

Alejandro attended the Colegio Universitario de Estudios Financieros (CUNEF) in Madrid, graduating with a bachelor’s in Business Management and Administration and a second bachelor’s in Law. After college, he undertook an internship at the London office of the Iberian law firm Gómez-Acebo & Pombo, following which he joined the firm’s Banking and Capital Markets department in Madrid. During this period, he focused on advising clients on financing real estate and renewable-energy projects. One transaction involved assisting a major institutional client with a project to build a wind farm off the coast of Brazil. This project introduced him to Brazil’s thriving economy. As a result, he developed a strong interest in the country and began learning Portuguese.

During that time, Alejandro also collaborated with the education program of the charitable association Pueblos Unidos, by helping teenagers from disadvantaged neighborhoods in Madrid with their high school studies.

Ready to further his international experience, Alejandro transferred to Gómez-Acebo & Pombo’s London office, where he specialized in advising global clients on distressed debt transactions and cross-border acquisitions. He coordinated the acquisition of a multinational engineering company with a strong presence in Latin America by a California-based private equity firm. Participating in this transaction increased his passion for the business and social development of Latin America.

A year later, he returned to Gómez-Acebo & Pombo’s Madrid office, and later joined his family’s business, a company invested in managing real estate assets in Spain. In addition to analyzing investment proposals, he contributed to the exploration of new business opportunities by studying the disrupting effect of crowdfunding platforms in the Spanish real estate market.

At Wharton/Lauder, Alejandro plans to immerse himself in Latin America, furthering his Portuguese skills and expanding his global awareness. In his spare time, he is passionate about filmmaking and loves football and running.
Federico was born in Hong Kong to Argentine parents while they were living in China. After five years in Beijing, he moved with his family to Lucerne, Switzerland, where he lived for three years. His family then relocated to Hong Kong, where they lived for another three years before moving to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Federico completed secondary school in Buenos Aires and went on to study Industrial Engineering at Instituto Tecnologico de Buenos Aires. After graduation, he joined LXG Capital, a boutique investment bank focused on mid-cap M&A deals. He spent his first five months in the Buenos Aires office before being transferred to the bank's headquarters in Lima, Peru. During his time with the bank, he participated in over ten (and eventually led several) M&A cross-border transactions throughout Latin America and across a number of different industries.

At Wharton/Lauder, Federico plans to gain a better understanding of international business, learn Portuguese, and develop his entrepreneurial skills.

Federico speaks Spanish and English and has a working knowledge of French. In his spare time, he enjoys playing soccer and polo and working as an amateur car mechanic.
DANIEL PANEBIANCO

Daniel was born and raised in Cali, Colombia, to immigrant parents — his father is Italian and his mother is half Mexican and half American. He also lived in Miami, Florida, for four years and spent most of his summers travelling around the world with his family. The roots of his diverse background and upbringing run deep in his identity and his curiosity about the world.

After being admitted to Tufts University, Daniel felt compelled to defer his admission to follow two of his passions: piano and language. At the Institut Jacques-Dalcroze in Geneva, Switzerland, he completed a two-semester professional music diploma and learned French. This yearlong cultural, linguistic, and musical immersion further cemented his drive to understand other cultures and develop a global perspective.

During his time at Tufts, Daniel complemented his civil-engineering coursework with multidisciplinary classes. These included Western Political Thought, Economics, and the intersection of Art, Politics, and Culture, as well as Italian, French, and Arabic. He was president of the Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, where he dramatically increased the organization’s involvement with the school’s community by co-organizing events such as an Engineering Ethics Panel with deans, professors, and students. After graduation, he deferred his job search to enroll in the Istituto Dante Alighieri in Milan, Italy, where he spent three months advancing his Italian skills and connecting with an important part of his heritage.

Pursuing his goal of having a tangible and positive effect on communities, Daniel has been an integral part of projects ranging from the General Electric Hudson River Environmental Cleanup to the construction of a residential high-rise in midtown Manhattan. Through these many projects, he has honed his skills as a leader who can work with diverse and multidisciplinary teams to solve complex problems.

Daniel’s global background — he holds Colombian, American, and Italian passports — and worldview drew him to Wharton/Lauder to focus on his home region of Latin America. He plans to expand his understanding of the region’s diverse set of economic models, development strategies, and cultures, with the goal of having a positive impact on the region.
Isidro was born and raised in Sevilla, Spain. He became interested in foreign languages at an early age, thanks in part to his parents, who enrolled him in a German-speaking elementary school. By the time he finished high school, he spoke fluent English and German and some French. During this time, he also played piano and tennis.

At age 18, Isidro moved to Madrid to study Civil Engineering at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. In preparation for a double-degree program at Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées, he completed a summer internship in Rouen with a French industrial company. He then moved to Paris for two years to complete his program. During this time, he also studied Chinese out of curiosity and found a great passion for international travel that led him to backpack through Southeast Asia and Australia. He has visited 40 countries to date and hopes to increase this number significantly during his time at Wharton/Lauder. He also completed internships in the international development sector in Germany, in the construction industry as an assistant project manager in the renovation of the Zoo de Paris, and in finance as an analyst for the Energy Project Finance team of a French global bank. In addition, he held various leadership roles at his student residence in Madrid, where he organized a number of soccer and paddle tournaments and social events.

After graduation, Isidro became a management consultant at A.T. Kearney in Madrid, where he spent two and a half years working on projects for the Infrastructure, Energy, Retail, and Private Equity practices in the firm’s Spanish, German, French and Portuguese offices. He especially enjoyed leveraging his background in civil engineering in ATK’s infrastructure practice and joining a project to design and launch the first modern supermarket chain in Ethiopia, which initiated his interest in Africa.

Isidro recently joined an NGO that supports education in Ethiopia and spent a summer leading a volunteer program to teach English to children in Meki, a rural Ethiopian village. At Wharton/Lauder, he plans to explore tech and entrepreneurship.
OLIVIER KEN MARCEL PEDOUSSAUT

Olivier is half French and half Japanese and was born and raised in Japan. Up through high school, he received a French education there and travelled every summer to visit his grandparents in France and to experience other parts of Europe. These travels taught him about diversity and led to his interest in global studies and international management issues.

Olivier attended a French high school in Japan, where he majored in science and mathematics. He enjoyed problem solving and data-oriented research. He studied with both Japanese and French faculty who had different approaches to teaching. He learned from them the key to understanding diversity, in particular the European flexible culture and the Japanese diligent, dedicated, and detail-oriented culture. These experiences enabled him to work efficiently with Japanese colleagues and clients in his most recent position. He moved to France and England, both to attend undergraduate school in preparation for entering the Grand Ecoles for engineers and to expand his global exposure. He then attended a Japanese university, where he majored in Mechanical Engineering. He also participated in a Formula SAE Racing Club, where he was the aerodynamic division leader. He managed the team to be Champion of the Japanese Competition in 2008, where 80 universities competed to manufacture the fastest and most environmentally friendly racing car.

After graduation, Olivier joined Morgan Stanley MUFG Securities. He wanted to work in a global dynamic firm and felt that learning the basics of finance would be a good first step in that direction. He worked with colleagues who represented 30 different nationalities and managed a number of business-environment improvement projects that involved stakeholders from several regions. In August 2016, he received the Q2 S.T.A.R. (Service, Teamwork, Accountability, and Responsiveness) award, recognizing his accomplishments in challenging the status quo in one of his projects. He is currently interested in resolving larger issues that have an impact on the world of international business.

In his spare time, Olivier enjoys outdoor activities and sports. In particular, he is a soccer aficionado and practices futsal, which is five-a-side soccer. Eight years ago, he established a futsal club in Japan, which now has more than 80 members.
Aisha is a hapa (Hawaiian for “mixed”) woman, born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. As the daughter of a Taiwanese mother and a Caucasian father growing up in this rich, multi-ethnic culture, her personal identity has been intertwined with trying to understand and bridge East and West with the spirit of aloha.

Aisha thrives on the adrenaline rush of outdoor adventure and competition. When not hiking and enjoying the ocean, she often rushes from the pool to the soccer fields. She played water polo and soccer as a four-year, dual-sport, varsity athlete at Harvard. There, she concentrated in East Asian Studies with an emphasis on Mandarin Chinese. Her secondary concentration was in Social Anthropology, to understand the intersection of people and cultures.

After graduation, Aisha began her career in management consulting with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Los Angeles. As a consultant in Financial Services, she was responsible for delivering a digitized imaging and financing approval platform for all Honda and Acura dealerships nationwide. While there, she discovered the multifaceted opportunities available to employees in a global corporate consulting firm. Two years later, she was ready for a new consulting experience and returned to Hawaii to join and build a startup consulting firm within a parent company that focused on health care and technology. Her responsibilities and accountability within a smaller team enabled her to develop new skills and exposed her to new challenges.

Outside her consulting work, Aisha continued to learn more about the Asia Pacific region. She established an aloha shirt business, AIKAN, testing her languages skills to partner with Chinese manufacturers. AIKAN’s shirts uniquely illustrate the true beauty of Hawaii and reflect her love for the local culture, values, and environment. Aisha was also a fellow at an Asia-Pacific diplomacy think tank, Pacific Forum CSIS, which enabled her to attend international security, trade, and economic conferences in China and Malaysia. By engaging in business relationships overseas and through her studies at the think tank, she learned and experienced how personal relationships and mutually beneficial economic alliances can de-escalate highly politicized differences and create common ground for good. At Wharton/Lauder, she plans to learn more about how multinational businesses can facilitate peace and prosperity across regions.

AISHA PRICE

Lauder Focus: East Asia and Mandarin Chinese
Matheus was born in Porto Alegre, in southern Brazil. Early on, he moved with his family to São Paulo, where his father established a construction business. After the business failed several years later, his family moved to a very different life in the Brazilian countryside. For the first time, Matheus experienced the problems faced by low-income families there, especially when he moved from private schools to poorly run public schools. This nurtured his lifelong will to achieve and succeed.

Matheus attended the Computer Engineering program at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS, Brazil), primarily because of his enthusiasm for solving complex problems. During his second year, he led a team of 12 students to the Robotics World Cup, where he discovered his passion for management. That passion drove him to the École Centrale Marseille in France, where he was accepted based on his academic excellence. The program there enabled him to develop his leadership and management skills while helping him realize that his skills and preferences were more aligned with business than with engineering.

After graduation, Matheus returned to Brazil and joined McKinsey & Company at the São Paulo office, where he worked for just over two years. He led transformations in Angola, Peru, and Brazil, working with clients in Healthcare, Infrastructure, Telecom, Consumer Goods, and Financial Institutions in areas such as Growth Strategy, Operations, and Risk. McKinsey was Matheus’s first contact with business management, and the experience further developed his leadership skills and made him much more aware of the importance of emotional intelligence in an international environment.

Matheus then joined the Advent International Portfolio Support Team, where he worked closely with the management team of a portfolio company to establish pricing management, from strategy to daily operations. His experiences there showed him another aspect of business management. Working daily within a company brought him greater insight about leading with direct leadership and ownership over daily decisions.

At Wharton/Lauder, Matheus plans to further develop his leadership skills and his business knowledge. He thus expects to continue generating impact by leveraging his understanding of intercultural settings to create innovative solutions in emerging markets.
KANISHK RAGHUVANSHI

Kanishk was born in a small town in eastern India. His parents worked for the Tata Group of Industries, and he spent his childhood living in a number of cities across India until his parents immigrated to Toronto, Canada. Attending new schools and meeting new people comprised his early years. In addition, growing up in two culturally distinct countries was instrumental in his personal growth and sowed the seeds of his interest in exploring and learning from different cultures.

After completing his undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Waterloo, Kanishk backpacked across Europe and South Asia to further experience the diversity integral to these regions. He then returned to Toronto to work for Deloitte Consulting, with a strong focus on the Supply Chain. Because of the nature of the industry, he interacted with clients with operations all over the globe. These multicultural firms with global client bases and his extensive travel experiences led him to a leadership role in optimizing more than $1 billion in inventory for a client based in Stockholm, Sweden. As a result, he relocated to Sweden while collaborating with personnel across Europe. The Inventory and Logistics strategy and its implementation provided the opportunity for a similar role with a German logistics firm that was part of the Deutsche Bahn Group of Companies. There, Kanishk specialized in developing Logistics strategies to serve customers with a broad supplier base in China and India. The experience of working with people from different cultures and regions has been very instrumental in his professional growth.

Outside work, Kanishk has been involved with Covenant House Toronto, an organization that provides shelter to homeless youth in the city, and assisted new immigrants in building their CVs for job applications. His upbringing, combined with his experiences in working with people from different cultures and regions, led him to Wharton/Lauder.

Kanishk is fluent in Hindi and plans to deepen his understanding of the language while at Lauder. With India increasing its presence in the manufacturing sector, he wants to increase his familiarity with and knowledge of the region's society and economy, with the goal of eventually establishing a career that helps him foster closer relationships with businesses in India.
Rahul grew up in a large Indian family in the northeastern part of the U.S., where exposure to multiple cultures played an important role in his upbringing. His passion for technology and innovation led him to pursue an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering at Cornell University. While there, he held leadership positions on an off-road race-car design team, was active in autonomous robotics competitions, and served as a teaching assistant for a core engineering design class.

After graduation, Rahul joined GE Energy’s rotational leadership program, the Edison Engineering Development Program, during which he also completed a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. With exposure to a variety of energy systems— including steam, gas, nuclear, and wind power— over a period of three years, he developed not only technical depth and rigor, but also an intimate understanding of the product-development lifecycle and manufacturing operations.

Rahul subsequently left GE Energy to travel, live, and work abroad, including teaching English and calculus in Shenzhen, China, a growing innovation hub in Asia. Through this opportunity, he was also able to delve into the startup world, help launch a technology company, and practice manufacturing physical products with real factories. Feeling that a one-year hiatus was not enough, he remained in China for two more years, learning more about the country’s culture and developing his command of the Chinese language.

In addition to working on startup projects, Rahul obtained an analytical consulting position with the Nielsen Company, where he consulted for multinational clients such as Procter & Gamble. He produced all the analytical studies for the Pampers account in the Greater China region, helping the brand improve its marketing strategies through marketing-mix models, pricing and promotion studies, and other customized studies focused on the evolving Chinese e-commerce landscape.

Unexpected circumstances brought Rahul back to the U.S., where he joined Amazon in a product role within the HR Technology umbrella. Leading a small team, he prioritized new design requests for the company’s high-volume hiring platform and implemented new processes to maximize high-quality development.

At Wharton/Lauder, Rahul plans to gain a deeper understanding of business and, in particular, technology innovation in the East Asia region.
Nicole Reichert

Nicole is originally from Feliz, a small town of 13,000 in the south of Brazil, but grew up in São Paulo. When she was 14 years old, her family moved to Belgium, which prompted her to learn both English and French. Through her immersion at the International School of Brussels, she had to familiarize herself with the distinct religious, political, and social views of her peers, who came from 64 different nations. Her international experiences led to her fascination with cultural diversity and her pursuit of opportunities that pushed her beyond her comfort zone.

Moving from Brazil to Belgium sparked Nicole’s interest in the differences between the developed and developing world, ultimately leading to her passion for economics. Seeking a new cultural experience, she moved to the U.S. and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Chicago. Within the school’s intellectually stimulating environment, she honed her technical and interpersonal skills both in and outside the classroom. She held leadership positions in the Brazilian Student Association, Women in Business, and Smart Women Securities. Discovering an interest in finance, she participated in two summer internships at Goldman Sachs in New York.

After graduation, Nicole joined Goldman Sachs’ Securities Division as an analyst in Emerging Markets Local Sales, a cross-asset team that communicated primarily in Spanish and covered clients located in Latin American countries (excluding Brazil). Her exposure to this broad range of countries enabled her to learn firsthand how cultural differences affect the way business is conducted. She developed relationships with sovereign and institutional clients in countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Chile, and Peru. Given the team’s cross-asset focus, she expanded her execution and product expertise across various asset classes, including foreign exchange, interest-rate derivatives, and bonds. In her spare time, she was also involved in other aspects of the Goldman Sachs community, including recruiting efforts. In addition, she was the captain of a soccer team and mentored a high school student.

Nicole is passionate about soccer, travelling internationally, and dancing. She speaks fluent Portuguese, Spanish, and English and conversational French. At Wharton/Lauder, she plans to broaden her cross-cultural perspectives and develop a unique skillset to thrive in a future leadership role that entails constant communication and collaboration across different cultures.
Camilo was born in Bogotá, Colombia, and grew up in Europe and the U.S. after the instability of Colombia’s armed conflict forced his family to relocate. Being raised in these contrasting contexts laid the foundation for his passion for international affairs. While his parents assured that the rich Colombian culture remained vibrant in their home, he was exposed to a cross-cultural environment from a young age, which inevitably ignited curiosity in his worldview.

To this end, Camilo studied International Studies, with a concentration in Economics, at Boston College. He also studied abroad for a year in Strasbourg, France, and earned a bachelor’s degree in European Management from the Université de Strasbourg. During this time, he was involved in the Office of the High Council of the Reintegration of Colombia—the government entity responsible for Colombia’s Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) program for FARC and paramilitary rebels — and at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia. As he spent time aiding in the rebels’ reintegration into society, he began to consider how to bring about change in this region and concluded that sustainable job creation could be a starting point.

Camilo began his career at L.E.K. Consulting, working in the Boston, London, and Paris offices. He worked with a variety of global clients, from researching the avocado market in Mexico, Peru, and Chile for a Japanese client to understanding the market and pricing strategy for an oncology drug in sub-Saharan Africa. He led and was part of international teams, which gave him a strong understanding of global business environments. He transitioned his career and joined SFW Capital Partners, a private equity firm outside New York City that focuses on investing in analytical tools and related services. During this time, he closed two deals, including a $212 million investment in Gerson Lehrman Group and a successful sell-side deal.

At Wharton/Lauder, Camilo plans to study and experience the current business dynamics of Latin America and tailor his business skills to the region’s needs as he pivots his career toward his goal of fostering job creation through investment.

In his spare time, Camilo enjoys soccer and playing the piano and is venturing into the art of brewing beer.

CAMILO RICO RESTREPO

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Andrea was born in Cochabamba, Bolivia, and immigrated with her family to Miami, Florida, when she was seven years old. Following her aspiration to be the first in her family, she graduated from Harvard University with a degree in Government and Economics. She became passionate about international development and global health after witnessing the consequences of poverty and water scarcity in Bolivia.

At Harvard, Andrea co-founded the nonprofit Refresh Bolivia to help increase access to clean water and sanitation in Cochabamba. She also volunteered in four other Latin American countries. Her experiences included increasing access to health services and contraception in the Dominican Republic, defending the rights of children with HIV in Chile, mentoring children living in favelas in Brazil, and leading a simulated Organization of American States (OAS) committee in Ecuador to teach Latin American students about international issues affecting the region. Her global experiences set the foundation for her future work in international development and strengthened her commitment to working as a public leader focusing on health outcomes to reduce poverty in Bolivia.

While at Harvard, Andrea interned in the Public Sector and Infrastructure Group at Goldman Sachs to support governments and not-for-profit clients in raising funds by conducting debt analyses and comparing clients’ portfolios to industry metrics. The following year, she worked at the World Bank, where she evaluated the outcomes of public programs and contributed to the composition of the macroeconomics chapter of the Economic Growth Study (a report for the Bolivian government). After graduation, she joined the Boston Consulting Group, where she acquired experience in structuring complex problems, resolving implementation obstacles, and managing different stakeholders in a variety of industries.

At Wharton/Lauder, Andrea plans to augment her growing skills with a comprehensive understanding of the political affairs, languages, and historical and economic background of Latin America. She has native proficiency in Spanish and intermediate proficiency in Portuguese. She is eager to learn about new cultures and explore more of the world, having already visited 25 countries to date.
Jandro was born in Colon, Cuba, a small city in the center of the island. At the age of eight, he immigrated with his family to the U.S. and settled in Houston, Texas. He always had a natural tendency for problem-solving and an innate curiosity about how the world works, both of which eventually led him to pursue a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Southern California. During this time, he discovered a passion for examining the world’s greatest problems while helping to provide for humanity’s most essential needs.

After graduation, instead of pursuing traditional entry-level engineering jobs, Jandro joined Halliburton Energy Services as a Field Engineer. Shortly thereafter, he was leading 20-member crews of workers in executing newly developed production-enhancement techniques throughout the southern U.S. for a large number of oil and gas companies. As the primary on-site point of contact, he was responsible for all logistics, job-design changes, customer interactions, and the safety of the crew and third-party personnel.

Jandro later joined Halliburton’s Global Flex Team, a group tasked with executing high-profile international jobs involving unconventional technologies in remote locations with limited local support. During this time, he worked in over a dozen countries on five continents to deploy completion and well-construction tools and equipment. He learned to navigate the unique challenges that come with working in a foreign country and to overcome the cultural and linguistic obstacles he faced while managing overseas employees. This position enabled him to explore his passion for working in international settings at the forefront of new technologies that provide vital resources to consumers all over the world.

In his spare time, Jandro volunteers with Financial Mentors of America, a nonprofit that provides personal financial education for high school students in Texas. He served as the Dallas-area operations leader prior to joining Wharton/Lauder, and currently maintains his role as a member of the Board. He enjoys studying history, playing basketball, and, more recently, training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.
Lily was born in New York City and raised in Greenwich, Connecticut. She was exposed to international cultures and languages from a young age, thanks to travels and experiences related to her family’s fine art business.

Lily’s exposure to the arts and entrepreneurship at home inspired her to pursue academic and professional paths that facilitated practical and business experiences abroad. At the University of Pennsylvania she completed her undergraduate degree in Classical Languages (Latin) and minored in the History of Art. After studying Latin and Ancient Greek, she decided to study French to become fluent in a spoken language. She studied in Rome and Athens and at Middlebury College’s French School. She graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa and was awarded the Rose Undergraduate Research Award for her thesis about the tomb of a Roman painter in Gallo-Roman France.

After graduation, Lily moved to Paris, where she taught English in the French public school system as a member of TAPIF, the French government’s English assistantship program. She received her Master’s in History of Art at the Sorbonne (Paris 1) while completing internships at Sotheby’s (Contemporary Art Department), Gagosian Gallery, and Cahiers d’Art. Her thesis focused on the growing importance of art fairs to the international art market and subsequent changes to the traditional business model of art galleries.

Lily’s professional endeavors took a new turn when she moved to London to co-found and launch a startup called Imbibery London Cold-Pressed Juice. She set up a website to sell juice-cleanse packages directly to consumers and executed business-to-business contracts for wholesaling and catering purposes. It was a true “juice-to-nuts” experience, during which she did everything from building out a juice-production facility compliant with the Food Standards Agency code to hiring to managing basic cash flow and accounting, not to mention developing juice/smoothie recipes and branding. She remains an advisor to the company.

At Wharton/Lauder, Lily plans to strengthen her marketing and management skills to seek out new entrepreneurial ventures, both independently and within major companies. She also plans to become involved in the digital and e-commerce strategy for her family’s fine art business in the U.S. and abroad.

In her spare time, Lily enjoys visiting art galleries and museums, travelling to international art fairs, trying new foods and beverages, and learning about the latest developments in health and wellness.
Michael was born in a small town in Pennsylvania. He was always an avid reader with wide-ranging tastes. This, combined with his family’s passion for politics and history, instilled his interest in other cultures at an early age.

Michael pursued an undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University, graduating with honors. There, he was an active member of his fraternity, where he held various leadership positions. He also volunteered with two education-focused programs, Story Pals and the Johns Hopkins Tutorial Project. Seeking new learning opportunities abroad, he spent a summer working on a vineyard in Northern Italy and a semester studying in Nagoya, Japan. Learning to speak, read, and write in a non-native tongue transformed how he interpreted and defined his surroundings. These experiences reinforced the value of foreign-language study.

After graduation, Michael moved to Japan to pursue his passions — Japanese language and international business. He enrolled in two language schools and dedicated himself to learning 15 new words each day. Just over a year later, he passed the highest level of the Japanese Language Proficiency Exam.

Equipped with his language skills, Michael joined Ernst & Young Transaction Advisory Services in Tokyo, where he mainly assisted Japanese clients with cross-border acquisitions. His more significant projects included providing a U.S. health-care company with divestiture support in Japan and delivering due diligence and negotiation support to a Japanese telecommunications company during the acquisition of a data-center operator. These professional experiences conveyed the value of making the effort to understand a country different from one's own.

At Wharton/Lauder, Michael plans to broaden his knowledge of international business; expand his understanding of East Asian economic, political, and cultural issues; and polish his Japanese language skills.

In his spare time, Michael enjoys travelling, reading, and engaging in a variety of outdoor activities.
Ben is originally from the mountain town of Ketchum, Idaho. He developed an interest in international affairs and environmental conservation at a young age. During high school, he lived in Paris and Tokyo for brief periods, which left him determined to develop a deeper understanding of different languages and cultures.

At Yale, Ben majored in Political Science with a focus on East Asian political philosophy and environmental issues. His Portuguese and Chinese studies included summer immersion programs at Middlebury College and in Brazil. He received the Richard U. Light Fellowship and spent an academic year studying Chinese at the renowned Inter-University Program (IUP) at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He served as publisher of the Yale Globalist, a student-run international-affairs magazine, and competed in alpine racing and ski-cross for the Yale ski team.

After graduating with honors, Ben returned to Beijing to join The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the world’s leading environmental organization. He was tasked with developing and leading a new initiative to engage Chinese companies operating in Southeast Asia and in Latin America. He specialized in the energy sector and in agricultural commodities trade, and worked closely with partners such as the China Three Gorges Corporation, the world’s largest clean-energy company. He travelled frequently to countries such as Myanmar, Laos, Colombia, and Brazil to consult with Chinese companies and government agencies on the business value of sustainability. After three years, he was promoted to work on strategic planning at the global management level and relocated to Denver, Colorado, where he continued to travel regularly to Asia and Latin America for TNC projects.

Ben is an avid outdoor enthusiast and enjoys spending his spare time climbing up and skiing down mountains.

At Wharton/Lauder, Ben plans to deepen his understanding of regional dynamics in Asia and to further his career at the nexus of international business and the environment.
Originally from Seoul, South Korea, Krista has lived in a number of different countries, including Thailand, China, the U.S., Taiwan, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Her global experiences led to her passion about understanding the factors that impact the worldviews of people around the world, including their languages and politico-economic systems.

Krista focused on comparative politics during her undergraduate studies to deepen her understanding of global societies. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with Distinction and Honors in Political Science, with a focus on Chinese Political Economy. She actively pursued global research opportunities through the Stanford in Government (SIG) Fellowship to Taiwan and a departmental grant for independent field research at the Stanford Center at Peking University, through which she studied the impact of Chinese governmental policies on the profitability and strategy of foreign firms operating in China, especially the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). During her time at Stanford, she led the Journal of East Asian Affairs as editor-in-chief, the Model United Nations conference as director general, and the SIG Stipends Committee as director.

Through studying the business operations of SMEs in China, Krista realized her long-term career goal of advising businesses to succeed in the developing markets of Asia that had political uncertainties. To gain additional experience, she moved to Kuala Lumpur and joined the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to understand how various Southeast Asian firms operate under their unique political environments.

At BCG, Krista worked in five different countries across Southeast Asia, in industries including telecommunications, automobile, industrial goods, and consumer goods. She led key projects for clients, such as launching a one-year procurement partnership with the world's largest palm-oil player, leading an operations cost-optimization program for a telecommunications player, building a marketing function for a ground-breaking mobile application startup, and devising the turnaround strategy for an automobile manufacturer. As the first Associate invited to join the Southeast Asia training team, she led advanced analytics and Big Data tools training for other consultants.

Krista is fluent in Korean, Japanese, and Mandarin Chinese and has intermediate proficiency in Spanish. She has also studied other languages, including French, Russian, Malay, and Tagalog.

At Wharton/Lauder, Krista plans to deepen her understanding of the interaction between business and policy in East and Southeast Asia.
Benjamin was born in and raised outside Houston, Texas, to parents who both worked in finance. He began studying Spanish in kindergarten and, across his schooling, developed a passion for the language and literature.

Benjamin moved north after high school to attend Northwestern University, where he graduated with majors in Economics, Mathematics, and Spanish and completed the Kellogg Certificate Program for Undergraduates in Financial Economics. He also earned Departmental Honors in Spanish and won the Humberto E. Robles Prize for Best Honors Thesis in Spanish. During his junior year, he studied abroad at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, an experience that initiated his love of travel and desire to experience and understand other cultures.

After graduation, Benjamin joined Marakon in Chicago as a strategy consultant, working in a variety of industries and locations — including oil and gas in Canada and London, consumer goods in Mexico, and building products in the U.S. He enjoyed the rigorous financial analysis required to develop fact-based strategic advice for executives at these organizations.

Looking to build on his experience in strategy, Benjamin transitioned to Galt & Company, where he worked primarily in industrial equipment. Shortly thereafter, he volunteered to lead a wintertime project in Novosibirsk, Russia. This experience gave him the opportunity to not only lead an engagement working directly with senior executives, but also immerse himself in a new culture, cementing his passion for doing business across borders. His work at Galt also took him to England, Santiago de Chile, Istanbul, and Alexandria, Egypt.

At Wharton/Lauder, Benjamin plans to perfect his Spanish and gain a stronger understanding of how to manage the intersection of business and culture to become a global leader.

In his spare time, Benjamin is an avid cook. He also enjoys travel and attending concerts and music festivals across the globe.
Zana was born in New York to a Japanese-Chinese mother and an American father. She and her family moved to Vietnam shortly thereafter, where they spent the next ten years — a period that saw the U.S. lifting its embargo there to Vietnam joining the WTO. Watching business transform the economy and society she grew up in sparked her drive to leverage it for social impact.

Zana attended the Lycée Français in Hanoi until an English-speaking school was established. She later decided to continue her education in Singapore and then at a boarding school in Connecticut. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Brown University in International Relations with a focus on Political Economy and Development. She also pursued her passion for French culture and spent much of her junior year interning at a trilingual news station in Paris, laying the groundwork for future international professional opportunities.

After graduation, Zana returned to New York and joined Bloomingdale’s Executive Development Program, where she specialized in men’s and women’s apparel. She worked with teams of buyers and planners to analyze sales trends and select merchandise projected to maximize profit in her focal areas of business. While she enjoyed working in fashion and gained invaluable managerial and analytical skills, along with an understanding of the corporate culture, she wanted to realign her work with her studies and build on her international upbringing.

Zana left Bloomingdale’s to manage U.S.-based activity for an Indian nonprofit, The Global Education and Leadership Foundation (TGELF). She was responsible for strengthening partnerships with organizations in New York, collaborating with them to execute projects in India, and evaluating their impact. Most notably, TGELF conducted pilot programs in Indian schools to assess the viability of implementing American education innovations in India and hosted the Global Citizen festival in Mumbai as part of a movement to end extreme poverty by 2030. This event provided a platform that inspired corporates and governments to publicly commit over $6 billion toward the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals.

In her spare time, Zana is deeply involved with two other nonprofits, the Falk Foundation and the Asia Foundation, and is an active Brown alumna, co-chairing the Gift Committee for her graduating class. She is also an avid skier, tennis player, and restaurant-goer, and looks forward to exploring the food scene in Philadelphia.
VISHAL SOAM

Vishal was born and raised in New Delhi, India. After finishing high school, he was awarded a Monbusho Scholarship, offered by the Japanese government, that provides free education and a monthly stipend to selected students. This provided him with the opportunities to study at some of the best engineering universities in the world, learn a new language, and experience a different culture at an early age.

In Japan, Vishal studied the Japanese language with other foreign students at the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Wanting to experience the “Kansai” area of Japan, he decided to attend Osaka University for his Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics and Material Physics. During this time, he served as president of two international students’ organizations and worked with students from many other countries.

Vishal returned to Tokyo for his Master of Engineering at the University of Tokyo, where he was involved with another student body. He found studying and working in a demanding and international environment to be mentally stimulating and decided to join Goldman Sachs Asset Management Fund Controllers. Since then, he has worked for Goldman Sachs Corporate Accounting in London and two consulting companies in Tokyo. He has collaborated with people from five continents and more than 30 countries. These experiences have given him the skills to adjust and work effectively in a variety of professional and culturally diverse environments.

Vishal is fluent in Japanese, English, and Hindi. In his spare time, he enjoys helping foreign students learn more about Japan and career opportunities there, watching debates on television, practicing meditation, cooking, and writing movie reviews of Indian movies for himself.

At Wharton/Lauder, Vishal plans to expand his knowledge about international business management and entrepreneurship and deepen his understanding of business in Asia.
Néstor Hugo Solari

Néstor is a first-generation college student, born in Randolph, New Jersey, to Uruguayan parents. After completing high school, he moved to Uruguay with his family and attended Universidad ORT in Montevideo before returning to the U.S. to study Finance and Economics at the Pennsylvania State University.

At Penn State, Néstor was active in the Nittany Lion Fund, a student-managed investment fund with ~$7 million under management. He represented the Smeal College of Business at the Rotman International Trading Competition for three consecutive years. To help defray his tuition and expenses, he worked as a Financial Services Consultant at PNC Bank and as a Research Assistant at Smeal, among other jobs. He also interned at Goldman Sachs through the firm’s Scholarship for Excellence program, where he rotated through interest rates trading and emerging markets derivatives sales teams. In addition, he participated in the Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Career Program.

After graduation, Néstor returned to the Emerging Markets Financing team in the Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs in New York. As an Analyst, he worked on transactions worth over $6.5 billion for Latin American clients, including the first century bond issued by a Latin American sovereign. Pursuing his interest in private-sector solutions to public-sector problems, he transitioned into impact investing, where he conducted business in over 20 different emerging markets and executed 15 transactions worth over $175 million in the financial sector. This experience fueled his interest in helping to develop financial markets across Latin America.

Learning about the history of human rights abuses in Cambodia during a business trip to Phnom Penh sparked Néstor's passion for human rights. He decided to get involved and joined the board of Global Youth Connect, a nonprofit focused on human-rights education in post-conflict countries; he currently serves as chairperson. He also served on the board of the Microfinance Club of New York and has volunteered with several organizations that serve young people from underrepresented communities.

Néstor is conversational in Portuguese and fluent in Spanish, having grown up speaking the language at home. His global experiences led him to Wharton/Lauder, where he plans to better understand the diverse sociopolitical environments across Latin America while refining his Portuguese. He enjoys business biographies and trying new foods and has been a Liverpool fan since the Miracle of Istanbul.
Born in Melbourne, Australia, Henry spent his early childhood there and in Beijing, China, before moving to the U.S., where he grew up outside Washington, D.C. Learning to speak both Mandarin and English in a bilingual household, he developed an early fascination with other languages and cultures.

Beginning in primary school, Henry studied Chinese at Chinese School on the weekends while also studying French during the week. He participated in summer immersions in France and Beijing, where he also wrote for the China Daily newspaper and performed linguistics research with his grandfather. The goal of their research was to patent a Chinese shorthand system that served as a precursor to current mainstream input method editors such as Sogou.

Henry attended Stanford University, where he majored in Economics with Honors and minored in Mathematics. He also took a number of courses in advanced Mandarin, international development and finance, and Japanese manga. Through the Stanford Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society, he worked as a research associate for an international advisory firm focused on organizational ethics and governance. One of his self-initiated projects involved designing a tablet education program targeted for migrant students in Beijing.

After graduation, Henry joined Kurt Salmon’s San Francisco-based private equity and strategy consulting group, where he focused on commercial due diligence and growth strategy in the retail and consumer space. His engagements included evaluating the U.S. packaged foods market entry strategy for a Japanese conglomerate and assessing the U.S. and European growth prospects for an international provider of background audio and other in-store services.

Henry is deeply passionate about teaching and mentoring, which he has done in various capacities since high school: as an English teacher for senior citizens in China, a test prep tutor in Maryland, a cross-cultural pen pal for Chinese migrant students, the founder of a financial literacy organization and economics mentorship program at Stanford, and an organizer of Kurt Salmon pro bono consulting services for education-focused nonprofits in San Francisco.

At Wharton/Lauder, Henry plans to learn more about global innovation and social impact with a focus on the East Asian region, hone his Mandarin proficiency in a business context, and develop a richer understanding of international commerce.

In his spare time, Henry enjoys watching basketball and tennis, running, going to stand-up comedy shows, and exploring new restaurants.

Henry Zhu Tang

Lauder Focus: East Asia and Mandarin Chinese
Ran was born in Chongqing, a vibrant city in China known for its fragrant spicy cuisine. At age 10, she immigrated with her family to New York. Navigating the contrasts between Western and Eastern cultures taught her the importance of understanding and embracing diversity.

At Yale University, Ran majored in Economics and was particularly interested in behavioral economics. In addition, she sought opportunities to incorporate her Chinese heritage into her college education. She returned to China for a summer language program and a fall semester at Peking University. During her semester abroad in Beijing, she initiated an internship with Ogilvy Public Relations, where she witnessed the reputational complexities that arise from operating in a global marketplace.

Outside academics, Ran held leadership positions in class councils and organized campus-wide events. During her sophomore year, a series of conversations led her to realize that Yale's courses neglected the valuable subject of personal finance. As a result, she co-founded Smart Woman Securities at Yale to equip women with financial literacy and empower them to pursue careers in the financial services industry.

After graduation, Ran joined Cooke & Bieler, a boutique investment management firm in Philadelphia, where she gained exposure to research, marketing, and operations functions. Concurrently, she earned her Chartered Financial Analyst designation. She then moved to New York City and helped Bridges Fund Management pioneer its first impact-investing fund in the U.S. Seeking sustainability investing on a larger scale, she joined Rockefeller & Co.’s Sustainability & Impact Investing team and analyzed how environmental, social, and governance factors can improve business fundamentals and mitigate long-term risks. She also engaged with portfolio companies to encourage sustainable practices, such as gender diversity, climate and water policies, and increased transparency.

At Wharton/Lauder, Ran plans to deepen her understanding of East and Southeast Asia and explore sustainable development in China. In her spare time, she enjoys running, yoga, baking, the occasional fishing trip, and escape-the-room puzzles.
Pablo was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to a family of Italian origin. As the son of a diplomat, he grew up in Paraguay, went to high school in Switzerland, and began his professional career in Argentina. He is fluent in Spanish, French, and English; speaks conversational Portuguese and German and basic Italian; and studied Latin and Ancient Greek for many years. He developed a profound passion for different cultures and languages, which fostered his curiosity and open-mindedness.

Pablo pursued an undergraduate degree at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, majoring in Economics and minoring in Mathematics and Statistics. After graduation, he joined Itaú BBA, a Brazilian investment bank. There, he spent a year working across different divisions and gaining a deep understanding of the entire spectrum of corporate and investment banking products. The following year, he joined the Fixed Income division as an Analyst, where he had the opportunity to work with dozens of multi-industry companies in Latin America by covering Debt Capital Markets and Credit Markets products. He participated in landmark transactions that opened the Argentine financial markets after years of sovereign default, helping some of the largest companies in the country raise capital to fund their investment projects. He also spent several months at Itaú’s New York offices, reinforcing the bank’s coverage of companies in the Andean region.

Following his family’s legacy, Pablo has a great interest in politics and social issues. He participated in two political organizations in Argentina. He also volunteered with nonprofit organizations, coordinating teams of volunteers, providing consulting services and microloans to poor entrepreneurs to grow their businesses, and serving as a teacher in disadvantaged neighborhoods of Buenos Aires.

In addition to acquiring a better understanding of multinational management and global business at Wharton/Lauder, Pablo plans to expand his knowledge of Latin America and immerse himself in Brazil’s business world and culture. He aims to make an impact on the region’s economic development by helping companies and entrepreneurs thrive. He is also motivated to explore and develop value-enhancing partnerships and common strategies between the private sector, governments, and nonprofit organizations.

In his spare time, Pablo enjoys travelling, reading, and running.
Zed was born and raised in Singapore. Growing up in a multi-religious, multi-ethnic city, he developed an early appreciation for cultural diversity.

After 12 years of school and a short stint in the Singapore military, Zed left to pursue an undergraduate education at Imperial College in London. During his three years there, he made friends from all over the world and travelled extensively around Europe. He later graduated with a BSc (First Class Honors) in Physics.

Zed then returned to Singapore to pursue a Master of Public Policy degree at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. During that time, he developed a strong interest in public policy and its interactions with business and society.

After graduation, Zed embarked on a career with the Singapore public service. He served in various capacities in the Singapore Police Force and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). He began his career as an investigations officer, handling crime cases in the central part of Singapore. He later served as Commanding Officer of a neighborhood police station, responsible for the safety of 150,000 residents. He subsequently served in the Policy Development Division of MHA, where he was responsible for policies on race and religion in Singapore. His most recent position was Special Assistant to the Minister for Home Affairs. As an aide to the Minister, he had the opportunity to travel extensively and meet with government officials from around the world.

Zed currently holds the rank of Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police. He is also a member of the Singapore Administrative Service. He looks forward to returning to the Singapore public service upon graduation.

In his spare time, Zed volunteers with the Board of the YMCA of Singapore, which runs programs for people with special needs. His involvement has enabled him to meet with counterparts from YMCAs around the world.

At Wharton/Lauder, Zed plans to learn more about East and Southeast Asia and how geopolitics, policymaking, business, and society intersect in the region. As an ethnic Chinese, he also plans to deepen his understanding of Chinese language, history, and culture.
Jet was most recently a strategy consultant in Boston with Fidelity Investments’ internal management consulting group, Fidelity Consulting. She primarily supported organizational design and go-to-market strategy projects across a variety of business lines. She recently spent a year in a leadership development program, where she worked to expand access to retirement savings via public-policy and private-sector product innovation. Within that program, she focused on the future management of the American workforce, and specifically on gig economy workers.

Prior to Fidelity Consulting, Jet worked for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, CEB, and the Massachusetts State Legislature. She received her bachelor’s degree in Economics and Government from Cornell University, with a concentration on Middle Eastern studies. She spent a semester abroad in Rabat, Morocco, and a year at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Her interest in international affairs first stemmed from nightly conversations around the dinner table in Salem, Massachusetts, with her parents and younger sister, and was nurtured further by her mother’s Lebanese roots.

Outside her professional responsibilities, Jet was appointed to the Mayor of Boston’s SPARK Council, which promotes civic engagement for millennials. She also volunteered with a humanitarian aid agency at a Syrian refugee camp in Greece and advised a startup working on educational technology for refugee children. She loves to dance salsa and hip-hop, sail, discuss American politics, and read about the microbiome. She is also learning to play guitar and tennis.

After Wharton/Lauder, Jet plans to use her French skills to work internationally in social impact doing development consulting, impact investing, or humanitarian operations. She also plans to employ her working knowledge of Spanish and several Arabic dialects.
Jasper was born and raised in Düsseldorf, Germany, and educated in the U.K. at Worth School and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

At LSE, Jasper studied International Relations, Modern History, and Spanish. Convinced that there is no better way to understand the world than by seeing it with one's own eyes, he has travelled widely and led study trips for LSE's International Relations Club. In this capacity, he organized immersive experiences that gave nearly 100 students the opportunity to explore the politics, economics, and culture of more than 10 countries, including Turkey, Colombia, and North Korea. He also completed diplomacy- and politics-related internships in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and Berlin.

After graduation, Jasper joined GIZ, the German government's development agency, in Bogotá, Colombia, where he worked on incubating civil-society initiatives at a time when the Andean country was embarking on its peace process. His responsibilities facilitated collaborations with a wide range of social entrepreneurs, showing him that those most successful at managing and scaling social innovation often possess a strong understanding of the private sector.

Based on this insight, Jasper joined The Mind Company (TMC), an Argentina-based strategy consultancy serving pharmaceutical, medical device, and private equity clients across Latin America, the U.S., and Europe. During over three years in Buenos Aires, he worked on more than 20 engagements and led teams of up to 5 consultants in developing market-entry and expansion strategies. He also served as a mentor to junior team members and participated in TMC's recruiting efforts as a case interviewer for local and international candidates.

Wherever possible, Jasper seeks to transfer his strategy-consulting skillset to the social sector. He has mentored microentrepreneurs for TECHO, a leading Latin American nonprofit, and helped design a growth and fundraising strategy for an Argentinean Ashoka fellow. Inspired by these experiences, he recently founded Miraki, a social-impact consulting venture that provides part-time, pro bono strategy advisory to leading Argentinean social enterprises and nonprofits.

After nearly five years in Latin America's Spanish-speaking countries, Jasper seeks to expand his horizons and position himself to have a meaningful impact across the region through Lauder's Portuguese track.

Jasper is fluent in German, English, and Spanish and conversational in Portuguese. His hobbies include soccer, travel, playing the piano, and listening to jazz, classical, and Latin American music.

JASPER L. TILMANN

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Portuguese
Carmen was born in Hong Kong. Growing up, she moved frequently because of her father's career and was raised in Beijing, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. She attended international schools in each locale, which gave her exposure to and an appreciation of different cultures and experiences. At the same time, she witnessed and experienced the rapid developments in Asia and consequently developed an interest in returning to China to be part of that growth by advising both local and foreign companies in the region.

Wanting to develop a better understanding of business, Carmen attended the University of Southern California (USC), with a major in Business Administration and a minor in Musical Performance. There, she represented the Marshall School of Business in multiple case competitions in Montreal, Hong Kong, and Serbia. Meeting like-minded individuals across the globe and solving unique business challenges in various geographies further fueled her interest in international experiences as a critical part of her personal and professional growth. Based on her belief in growth through sharing experiences, she founded a student organization that sought to connect students and professionals to explore career paths and foster leadership development.

After graduation, Carmen joined the Boston Consulting Group to put her business knowledge into practice. She worked in BCG’s Los Angeles, Toronto, and New York offices to gain broad experience across financial services, TMT, and consumer products. There, she learned how to bring people together in decision-making, change, and execution. She saw the common challenges companies face, including cost optimization, digital transformation, growth strategy, and customer experience improvement.

At Wharton/Lauder, Carmen plans to expand her understanding of doing business in China, with the goal of one day using her international experiences to help Chinese companies grow effectively.

In her spare time, Carmen is passionate about music (Broadway shows and playing the piano, flute, and harp). She also enjoys opportunities to bring people together, whether playing board games, trying a new restaurant in the neighborhood, or planning the travel itinerary for an upcoming trip.
Of German ancestry, Diogo was born in the heart of the Amazon Jungle in Manaus, Brazil. At age 7, he began learning German in order to communicate with his grandparents during family gatherings. This launched his passion for other languages and cultures. Diogo currently speaks Portuguese, English, French, Spanish, German, and some Italian.

Diogo received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. During this time, among other endeavors, he led the marketing and finance area of Junior Enterprise (a nonprofit that provides consulting services to small engineering companies) and conducted multiple projects in thermodynamics and numerical simulation for companies such as Whirlpool, Bosch, and Petrobras. Upon receiving a merit-based scholarship from the Brazilian and French governments, he spent his senior year at INSA Lyon, in France, where he studied Energetics Engineering and Management of Industrial Systems. While there, he interned at Volvo, implementing a new reliability management approach at the company's plants in Sweden, France, Brazil, and the U.S.

After graduation, Diogo joined Embraco, a multinational business unit of Whirlpool Corporation. There, he developed a strong business skillset, from analytics and deal development to the execution of business plans. He also learned how to lead cross-functional teams and manage international clients, working on several innovation-related initiatives, one of which was leading the ideation and strategy definition for a new organic business unit, based on a new business model for recycling home appliances with a 10-fold ROI to date.

As a manager, he implemented a new Corporate Venture area, leading a team responsible for creating new businesses in the internet of things, food preservation, energy, refrigeration, and the circular economy. He developed an open innovation network of more than 150 partners in 12 countries to support the company’s scouting strategy, enabling Embraco to invest in and partner for the first time with disruptive startups. He and his team also led the development of a new SaaS digital platform for the company’s third-largest business unit.

Diogo is an avid traveller, having visited more than 35 countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas— including extensive time in France, Spain, and California. He enjoys reading and playing the guitar.

At Wharton/Lauder, Diogo plans to broaden his international perspectives on and awareness of different economic and political systems and explore new innovation ecosystems.
SADIO WADE

Sadio was born and raised in Dakar and draws heavily on his Senegalese roots, which promote open-mindedness, humility, and sharing. He speaks French, English, Spanish, and Wolof fluently; has lived for extended periods on three different continents; and thus has been exposed along the way to a variety of cultures.

After obtaining his baccalaureate in Senegal with the highest possible honors, Sadio was awarded a scholarship from the government of Senegal to continue his studies in Paris. Discovering the many differences between France and Senegal imbued him with a keen interest in issues regarding Africa’s growth and durable development.

After two years at Lycée Carnot preparing for the competitive exam to enter French business schools, Sadio entered ESCP Europe. There, he nurtured his business skills, specialized in finance, and completed internships at J.P. Morgan and the Royal Bank of Scotland. He also held leadership positions as treasurer and project manager for ESCP Conseil, a student-led strategy consulting company that works with diverse clients such as large corporates, local governments, and entrepreneurs. Interested in discovering yet another culture for his ESCP exchange program, he spent five months in Mexico at the Tecnológico de Monterrey.

After graduation, Sadio joined the M&A FIG team at Nomura in London. There, he advised banks, insurers, asset managers, and governments on transactions in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Some of his high-profile transactions involved the restructuring of the Greek banking sector through mergers and a series of capital increases. After his promotion to Associate, he was selected to recruit and train the graduate analyst intake. His interest in active management and value creation then pushed him to join Nekton Group, a private equity company focused on energy and infrastructure. After quickly gaining exposure both internally and externally, he was promoted to Vice President. During this time, he had the opportunity to work with portfolio companies and management teams throughout sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and Eastern Europe.

At Wharton/Lauder, Sadio plans to deepen his cultural, political, and business knowledge of Africa and its regional clusters in order to have a positive impact on the continent’s future economic growth and development.
Raley was born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, to an American father and a mother of Greek descent. His intensive Spanish studies in high school and a summer exchange in Cuernavaca, Mexico, sparked his curiosity about other cultures and languages.

Raley broadened his interests in globalization and development by majoring in International Studies and Spanish at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Selected as a National University of Singapore Scholar, he spent a summer studying Asian economic and political trends in Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. He gained a greater understanding of Latin America by spending a year at the Pontificia Católica de Valparaíso in Chile. He actively pursued leadership development by leading local chapters of AIESEC in Chile and the U.S. He graduated cum laude and received the Buckley Public Service Scholar Award.

After graduation, Raley led program operations in Chile for the Southern Cone region of AIESEC. While managing leadership development and exchange programs for the more than 1,000 members across Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, he refined his abilities to drive growth strategies in complex organizations across multiple offices. He presented regularly at leadership development conferences in Chile, Argentina, Kenya, and India.

After being selected as a Social Enterprise Fellow by Potencia Ventures, Raley moved to Bogotá, Colombia, to lead business development for the consulting organization FUNDES Latinoamérica. As the only non-Colombian there, he customized projects to improve the business practices of low-income business owners who were part of the supply chain of Fortune 500 clients. These projects included developing a milk-production association in rural Colombia and a textile supply chain in Cartagena.

Seeking entrepreneurial experience, Raley joined the startup team of a budding social enterprise focused on providing English language education to low-income residents in São Paulo, Brazil. As COO, he led the growth of the B-Corp company in reaching more than 2,000 students, 50 employees, and 7 branches, and facilitated revenue growth that doubled year on year. The Schwab Foundation named the company a finalist for the Social Enterprise of the Year in 2015.

At Wharton/Lauder, Raley plans to expand his perspectives on innovation, social enterprise, and investment in Latin America in order to contribute to the region’s development through entrepreneurship. In his spare time, he enjoys trekking and camping, travelling off the beaten path, watching foreign films, and racing in competitive orienteering.

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Spanish
Rachel was born and raised in a multicultural area of New Jersey, where she developed an appreciation for global culture and an international mindset. In addition, her study of classical voice and opera from a young age inspired her affinity for foreign languages.

Rachel graduated summa cum laude from Dartmouth College, where she studied Japanese and Economics. She was also active in the Glee Club and the Japan Society. A summer internship at the toy company Bandai, in Tokyo, solidified her interest in pursuing a career in international business.

After graduation, Rachel was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study in Japan. Combining her interests in music and cultural studies, she spent a year conducting research on the role of cultural identity in the marketing of Japanese pop music as well as undertaking intensive Japanese language studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto.

After returning to the U.S., Rachel joined the Japanese government’s trade-promotion arm in New York, where she consulted with American companies on Japan market-entry strategy.

Moving to the private sector, Rachel then joined the New York branch of Mitsui & Co., a Japanese investment and trading conglomerate. As a member of the healthcare business department, she worked on internal M&A for the healthcare services sector, including strategic planning, deal execution, and post-merger integration. She learned to navigate the traditional Japanese style of internal communications in order to execute one of the company’s first investments in the healthcare provider space.

Through her work with Japanese companies in the U.S., Rachel experienced the challenges of successfully integrating global corporate strategy in cross-cultural environments. At Wharton/Lauder, she plans to deepen her understanding of international business challenges and how to overcome them.

In her spare time, Rachel still loves to sing. While living in New York, she was a member of a Japanese choir that performs a broad repertoire, ranging from traditional Japanese folk songs to classical choral works. Unsurprisingly, she also enjoys karaoke.

RACHEL WINOGRAD

Lauder Focus: East Asia and Japanese
Raised in the greater New York area, Jack spent a number of summers teaching English in Latin America. At Syracuse University, he deepened his interest in Latin America and emerging markets, which ultimately took him to Buenos Aires, Argentina, upon graduation. There, he worked at a boutique consulting firm and immersed himself in the local culture.

Jack later joined IBM’s global banking consulting practice. In Lima, Mexico City, Singapore, and Madrid, he advised C-suite executives at multinational financial institutions. During this time, he took a sabbatical to advise edutech startups in Ghana and raise venture capital as an IBM Global Leadership Fellow. More recently, in IBM’s corporate development M&A group, he launched its inaugural venture capital fund, where he worked on minority investments in early- and late-stage software companies.

Jack has a passion for using technology to solve social challenges. Several years ago, he co-founded Progressive Programming, a not-for-profit that trains underprivileged Indian youth in coding. He is a three-time recipient of the President’s Volunteer Service Award for his leadership on issues such as digital literacy and has been invited to speak at global edutech events.

While at Wharton/Lauder, Jack plans to conduct research with Penn faculty and his Lauder peers on emerging and frontier-markets investing.

Jack speaks Spanish and Portuguese and is a Young Friend of the Hispanic Society of America, which preserves the largest collection of Iberian and Hispanic art and archives outside Spain. His hobbies include investing in rare maps, cooking, and hiking.
SHAWN XU

Shawn was born in China and raised in the Silicon Valley suburbs of California’s San Francisco Bay Area. He attended Homestead High School — the alma mater of Apple co-founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. From an early age, he was immersed in his hometown’s startup ecosystem and mentored by local entrepreneurs.

Shawn triple-majored in Global Business, Political Science, and Psychology at the University of California, San Diego. His faculty advisor there was Professor Ulrike Schaeede, a leading authority on Japanese innovation and technology. Shawn also pursued independent research on globalization at the University of Cambridge in the U.K. During his undergraduate years, he was active in the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and was elected president of the Interfraternity Council.

After graduation, Shawn joined the strategy consulting arm of Bainbridge, a boutique firm based in San Diego. There, he specialized in developing emerging-market strategy for Fortune 500 clients and managed a 20-person analyst team that operated in 42 countries. During his time at the firm, Shawn took an extended sabbatical from consulting to complete a post-baccalaureate program in General Management at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Shawn then returned to San Francisco and became laser-focused on international expansion for technology companies. He scaled Vungle, a mobile video adtech startup backed by Google Ventures, across seven markets in East and Southeast Asia. He most recently led country launches on the New Markets team at Square, a mobile fintech company founded by Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey, and introduced its products to two markets in Europe.

Throughout his career, Shawn has also volunteered with a number of social-sector initiatives. He served as Head of Growth at Bayes Impact, a Y-Combinator-backed technology nonprofit that helps governments build the social services of the future with data science. He helped raise its $1.3 million philanthropic seed round and managed its relationship with the White House. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of 180 Degrees Consulting, a global consultancy for social enterprises staffed by 5,000 undergraduates in 30+ countries.

In his spare time, Shawn is passionate about travel, having already explored 40+ countries, from Peru to North Korea. In addition, he is active in politics and is a co-founder of the Asian Pacific-Islander Caucus of the Young Democrats of America.

At Wharton/Lauder, Shawn plans to deepen his understanding of international product strategy for technology companies and explore cross-border venture capital opportunities.
Sijia was born in Wuhan, China. On her fourth birthday, she moved with her parents to Kyoto, Japan. At age seven, she was sent to live with her grandparents for a year in a small town outside Wuhan. The experiences of moving between third- and first-world countries, living apart from her parents, and having to master new languages made her an adaptable, independent, and empathetic individual who yearned to explore the world and understand different people and their cultures. After living in rural China for a year, Sijia reunited with her parents in Osaka, Japan. Less than three years later, Sijia’s family moved to Seattle, Washington.

Throughout her life, Sijia has pursued unique opportunities for self-development: She completed a National Outdoor Leadership School course in Utah on rock-climbing and kayaking as the youngest participant and spent a summer during high school volunteering at an orphanage in Ghana. She attended the University of Washington, where she was named a Mary Gates Scholar and double-majored in Classical Studies and Business Administration. During this time, she participated in study-abroad programs in Israel and Italy, working at an archaeological dig in the former and studying cultural studies and art history in the latter. Her travels throughout the Middle East and Europe deepened her desire for an international career.

After graduation, Sijia moved to New York to join the Assurance & Advisory practice at Deloitte. She specialized in the financial services banking sector, working for some of the firm’s largest banking clients, such as Morgan Stanley and Citi. She also obtained her New York State’s Certified Public Accountant license. Her cross-cultural experiences and cultural fluency enabled her to excel on her large global teams, where she quickly became the central liaison between the regional teams spread across Europe, North America, and Asia. Her relationship-building, teamwork, and decision-making skills were recognized by Deloitte’s senior partners, which helped her land a competitive secondment to the London office, where she worked on diverse international teams.

Sijia is fluent in Chinese and Japanese, which she maintained by attending Japanese school on Saturdays in Seattle. In addition, she is passionate about good food and cultural exploration. At Wharton/Lauder, she plans to continue to deepen her understanding of the world and specifically her native country, China, with the goal of one day returning to her roots and establishing her career there.
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