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The Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies

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

As a pioneer in intercultural management education with international studies, language and cross-cultural proficiencies, the Lauder Institute offers students:

- Joint-degree Master of Arts in International Studies
- 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-region 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 economics, culture, language, history, politics, and more.

The Lauder Institute Class of 2020

AFRICA PROGRAM:



Francophone

Aaron Cohen
Regina Lee
Anneka Nelson
Astrid Rademeyer
Julia Stock
Leticia Viedma Navarro

EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA PROGRAM:



Chinese

Emelyn Chew
Brendan Crowley
Lu Jiang
Timothy John
Tammie Huimin Koh
Cindy Li
Dayu Li
Liya Mo
Runqi Song
Joanna Zheng



Japanese

Clifford Cohn
Yue "Ariel" Wu



Korean

Jane Bang
Mary Lim

EUROPE PROGRAM:



French

Danielle Cerepnalkovic
Jessica Daly
Raphael Mattei da Silva
Shawn Yavari



German

Ron Kerbs
Joanna Brooks Klostermeyer
Marcos Vilar



Russian

Daniyar Alimbayev
Elnur Aliyev
Nicole Carter
Kyu Seob Kim
Yuliya Zarnitsyna

GLOBAL PROGRAM:



Sulaiman Al Beayeyz
Lena Bochukova
Christina Chang
Maria de Lera
Danilo D. Faria
Ayano Ioroi
Axel Ariel Mange
Caio Bartilotti
Sylvie Shi
Bakary Traore
Hui "Virginia" Zhang

LATIN AMERICAN PROGRAM:



Portuguese

Julian Berridi
Eduardo de Haro
Andres Isaza Valencia
Marianela Leguiza
Franco Martínez Levis
Pedro Raies
Monica Ramirez de Arellano
Catriel Sabatini
Cyrus Shahabi
Thomas Wright



Spanish

Bruno B. Byrro
Beatriz Kinguti
Sergio Giral
Jacob Kim
Hannah Lewis
Guilherme Oshiro
Thiago de Almeida Rocha
Girish Sankar
Michael Schuster*
Tyler Wigington
Alexa Woods

SOUTH ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA PROGRAM:



Arabic

James Juchau
Anil Lakehal-Ayat
Michael Sayar
Meroua Zouai*



Hindi

Geet Bawa
Ravi Patel
Raghav Suri
Sagar Vaidya

*JD/MA Program



SULAIMAN AL BEAYEYZ

Sulaiman was born and raised in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since the age of fourteen, he studied abroad in Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The experience of interacting with people from all over the world, since an early age, cultivated a passion towards immersing himself in different cultures and ultimately drove him to pursue his education abroad focusing on global business studies.

At the University of North Texas, Sulaiman majored in Accounting and International Business. Studying abroad in the States was an eye-opening and an enriching international experience as it also gave him a unique opportunity to explore other cultures, primarily in Latin America, that were diametrically different to the culture he grew up in. Travelling to Latin America extensively by volunteering with a community restoration project in a small Ecuadorian village, studying international management in Costa Rica with a focus on sustainable practices, and by working in the Chilean financial sector have all expanded his cultural horizon. On the back of his experience in Latin America, Sulaiman developed his undergraduate thesis on the role of mergers and acquisitions in helping Latin American organizations acquire tacit assets from organizations in developed economies.

Sulaiman developed a deep interest in international business, drawing him to work with the mergers and acquisitions advisory team at PwC in Riyadh. While the nature of the transactions Sulaiman worked on were cross border, he often finds himself working on sell-side deals pitching to international investors to invest in Saudi Arabia during a historical economic transformation amidst the significant drop in oil prices. He also worked on privatization mandates, part of a vision to enhance the inflow of international investments into the Kingdom, on major government owned assets. Having experienced Middle Eastern economies, both in the \$120 and \$40 oil barrel states, Sulaiman became acquainted with the fluctuating investment climate in the region.

At Wharton/Lauder, Sulaiman seeks to better understand world affairs and its interchanges with cross border investments. He is also particularly interested in the Middle Eastern sociopolitical landscape, which plays a major role in shaping the investment climate in the region.

Beyond his professional interests, Sulaiman is an amateur sailor who frequently participates in the PwC Global Regatta. His interest in sailing also allowed him to explore far edges of the world, previously inaccessible to him, most notably, the fjords of Greenland.





ELNUR ALIYEV

Elnur was born and raised in Azerbaijan, a former Soviet country at the crossroads of Eastern and Western cultures. At the age of 12, he won a scholarship to a Turkish boarding school in his town, where he studied Turkish and English. While participating in a Turkish language competition in Istanbul, he fell in love with the city and decided to return for his university education.

The quality of education in Turkey and the cultural dynamism of Istanbul propelled Elnur to study Banking at Marmara University, one of the largest universities in Turkey. While living in a dormitory with local students from every corner of Turkey, he immersed himself in the country's diverse and ancient culture. Elnur also spent an exchange semester in Vienna, Austria, solving business cases with students from all over Europe and learning to appreciate the role culture plays in influencing business practices.

In his senior year, Elnur decided to discover the former Soviet region. He volunteered in a project organized by AIESEC (the largest student-run organization in the world) in Donetsk, Ukraine and taught English to school children in public schools. During the project, Elnur observed that the vast majority of the challenges in Azerbaijani business environment existed in Ukraine as well. These challenges, nonetheless, came with significant potential for investors who knew how to navigate through them; this is when he began to consider starting his own investment fund in the future.

After graduation, Elnur decided to explore the role of policymaking in economic development and interned at the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. There Elnur worked on policy proposals and negotiations for a framework that would determine Europe's policies on renewable energy and climate change.

After his internship, Elnur returned to Azerbaijan to work in the audit department of EY, where he gained extensive experience in financial reporting across a number of industries. Realizing he wanted a job with more visible impact, Elnur transitioned to investment management at the Private Equity (PE) desk of his country's sovereign wealth fund, the State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOFAZ). During his time at SOFAZ, he led its first buy-out fund investment and contributed to the initiation of its in-house PE program. He observed how PE firms added value to companies and helped them grow.

At Wharton/Lauder, Elnur plans to improve his Russian language skills and explore the ways financial consulting can help businesses in emerging economies. In his free time, Elnur enjoys swimming, CrossFit, and playing/watching basketball and football.





JANE BANG

Born in Seoul, Jane spent her early childhood in Korea before moving to the US. Through her experiences of immigrating and growing up with an entrepreneur parent, she was exposed to international and business topics at an early age. In particular, she became interested in learning about business in the context of international issues such as economic development.

To explore this interest, she studied Economics and Global Affairs at Yale University, with a focus on international development. During her summers, she interned at Endeavor and UNICEF Korea, researched social entrepreneurship in Kenya, and participated in volunteer trips to Peru. These experiences opened her eyes to different ways that business and innovation can contribute to economic development.

Upon graduation, Jane joined Bain & Company in Boston as a management consultant. During her four years at Bain, she worked with clients across a broad set of industries, including impact investing, retail, and private equity, on issues ranging from fundraising to growth strategy. These projects broadened and deepened her understanding of the business world, its challenges and its solutions. In addition, she continued to explore her interest in international development, spending six months interning at the World Bank Group in the Trade & Competitiveness global practice. At the Bank, she focused on the development of entrepreneurship and climate technology in developing countries.

At Lauder/Wharton, Jane looks forward to widening her global perspective, learning about the East and Southeast Asia region, and developing her proficiency in the Korean language. In her free time, Jane looks forward to doing some of her favorite hobbies: travelling, trying new restaurants, taking photos, and playing and listening to music.





CAIO BARTILOTTI

Caio was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. Growing up, he had the opportunity to travel abroad quite a few times and to live with a host family in France, which fostered his interest in foreign cultures and languages – and his curiosity to experience life in other regions of the world.

Caio graduated with honors from the Polytechnic School of the University of São Paulo, in Brazil, where he pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering. While completing his undergraduate studies, Caio received a scholarship from the Brazilian Ministry of Education to participate in a dual-degree international exchange program. As a college junior, Caio moved to Paris and enrolled at Ecole Centrale Paris, in France, where he pursued a Master of Science degree in Engineering. At the same time, Caio volunteered with La Maison des Sciences, actively helping to improve the teaching of science in public French primary schools.

Prior to graduation, Caio worked in the Equity Research department of UBS Investment Bank in Brazil, covering Latin America oil and gas and utilities stocks, and later in the proprietary trading desk of Itaú BBA, a leading investment bank in Brazil. After graduation, Caio joined The Boston Consulting Group in São Paulo, where he advised oil and gas and telecommunication companies in major transformational programs.

Two years later, Caio joined a BCG global mobility program and temporarily transferred to BCG Chicago, where he worked with leading industrial goods companies in strategy-related topics. A year and a half later, Caio took part in a long BCG assignment in Europe to support the post-merger integration of a Chinese-European conglomerate, and found himself constantly traveling between Geneva, Amsterdam and Paris. Upon his return to BCG São Paulo, Caio became an active member of the Industrial Goods and Primary Investors & Private Equity practices.

At Wharton/Lauder, Caio plans to strengthen his ability to guide teams in fast-changing and innovative environments while gaining a deeper understanding of the intricacies of the global economy, as he prepares for his future career in an increasingly complex and interconnected business environment.

In his spare time, Caio enjoys cooking, playing the acoustic and electric guitars and reading. He is also passionate about travelling and a kite surfing enthusiast. Caio is fluent in Portuguese, French and English, and has studied other languages, including Italian and Spanish.





GEET BAWA

Geet was born in Punjab, India where she spent her early years. At the age of 8, her parents moved back to Kuwait to resume employment after the effects of the Gulf Invasion had stabilized. Spending the formative years of her life as an expat in the middle east, exposed her to multiple socioeconomic nuances embedded within traditional Western, Arabic and Indian values.

After completing high school in Kuwait, Geet moved to Toronto, yet another immigrant centric city to study Finance and Economics at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. Upon graduation Geet worked as a management consultant at Accenture and focused on process improvements across the Energy and Financial Services sectors. Geet then transitioned to an internal strategy role at Royal Sun Alliance, a multinational British Insurer for the next two and a half years where she steered three major claims process redesign projects and eventually managed the profitability of a \$200M portfolio of small businesses.

During her time in Toronto, Geet mentored immigrant students from economically disadvantaged background at Volunteer Pathways and sat on the loan committee at Access Capital, a nonprofit micro fund for low income residents.

In 2017, Geet relocated to a small village community of 9000 people in rural Nicaragua for a yearlong assignment with a local NGO to gain grassroots experience in micro finance. During her time in Nicaragua, Geet priced flexible micro loan contracts and worked alongside beneficiaries to initiate sustainable livelihoods through cattle rearing, cacao farming and bread baking. Geet designed and headed the formation of a bulk purchasing cooperative for over 40 beneficiaries across three villages to improve profitability and access for rural businesses. Her time on the field humbled her with a solid understanding of the operational and financial challenges that dilute multiplying effect of social impact.

Having lived in four countries of varied advancement, Geet is inquisitive to use her time at Wharton/Lauder to explore how government policies, capital markets and cultural practices influence economic progress for the society at large within the Indian Sub-Continent.

Geet is fluent in Hindi and English and speaks conversational Spanish. Geet has formal education as a chocolatier and enjoys collecting feedback to her chocolate experiments outside her professional interests. She is an avid traveler and a strategy board game enthusiast.





JULIAN BERRIDI

Julian was born in the countryside of Argentina to a Brazilian mother and an Argentinean father. He was raised in a bilingual family and attended elementary school in Argentina and high school in Brazil. This multicultural upbringing ignited his passion for new cultures and languages and fueled later on his desire to pursue an international career.

Julian attended Fundacao Getulio Vargas in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he majored in finance. During university, Julian joined Itau BBA's investment banking department as a junior analyst, where he gained exposure to a wide spectrum of investment banking products, working mainly in M&A and ECM transactions in Brazil. Upon graduation, Julian was promoted to begin the investment banking operations of Itau BBA in Chile, where he focused on covering financial institutions in Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Chile.

In order to deepen his understanding of financial institutions in Latin America, Julian transitioned to Banco de Credito e Inversiones (Bci), where he joined a team leading the inorganic expansion of the bank in Latin America and in the United States. At Bci, he participated in landmark M&A transactions such as the acquisition of Walmart's financial services division in Chile, doubling the bank's market share in the local credit card industry, and the acquisition of Totalbank in Florida, which consolidated Bci as the largest Chilean bank with operations in the United States.

Julian is a native speaker of Spanish and Portuguese and fluent in English. At Wharton / Lauder, he plans to expand his understanding of how different business practices unfold in Latin America, especially in the financial services sector.

In his spare time, Julian enjoys rock climbing, skiing and surfing. He also enjoys bringing people together to play board and video games.





LENA BOCHUKOVA

Lena was born in Bulgaria and lived there until the age of ten, when she moved to Chicago with her parents. As she acclimated to life in the US and learned English, she discovered her passion for learning new languages and exploring different cultures. Furthermore, experiencing firsthand the contrast between the Bulgarian and American economies, she developed a lifelong interest in international development.

Lena graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College with a degree in Government and Statistics. During college, she pursued her interest in economic development by writing a senior thesis on strategies to reduce brain drain in developing countries. She broadened her perspectives on world affairs by conducting thesis research in Bulgaria and Romania, as well as by taking advanced level Spanish language classes and attending a summer study abroad immersion in Barcelona, Spain.

After graduation, Lena spent three years at Bain & Company as a management consultant, working on a range of projects in chemicals, telecommunications, agriculture, and financial services. She pursued her interest in exploring global cultures by working on projects in China and the Netherlands. While at Bain, Lena also held multiple leadership positions within Inspire, a volunteer organization of that provides pro bono consulting services to non-profits.

Lena's most recent work centered on international development and entrepreneurship. She joined Endeavor, a global nonprofit focused on promoting economic development by mentoring and accelerating high-impact entrepreneurs around the world. She worked in Madrid, creating a five-year financial sustainability plan for Endeavor's Spain office and developing an international expansion strategy for Goiko Grill, a Spanish casual dining chain founded by an Endeavor Entrepreneur.

At Wharton/Lauder, Lena plans to gain a stronger understanding of the global business environment, focusing on how entrepreneurship and economic policy can be leveraged to fuel economic growth in developing nations.

In her spare time, Lena enjoys hiking, volunteering, going on architecture tours, and trying out different exercise classes.





BRUNO B. BYRRO

Bruno was born in São Paulo, Brazil, to a Brazilian father and an Argentinian mother. He was raised in a bilingual and entrepreneurial household, quickly developing a passion for learning and a sense of cultural identity not only with Brazil, but with the whole of Latin American.

Bruno attended the University of São Paulo (USP), where he earned a Bachelor of Sciences in Economics. During this time, he was involved in several extracurricular activities, such as leading USP's Negotiation Team for international competitions, creating a consulting start-up with his peers, but most notably, he joined the Junior Enterprise network, a network of hundreds of student-led companies, offering consulting services to SMEs in order to develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills in higher-education students.

In this network, Bruno was elected President of his university's Junior Enterprise, leading an 80-people team in developing over 30 consulting and events projects. For his work, he was later selected to lead the collaboration efforts between the Brazilian and European networks of Junior Enterprises, relocating to Brussels and helping to enlarge and develop the network of over 20,000 students in more than 15 countries.

Following his time in Europe, Bruno did internships in a top management headhunting firm and a Venture Capital fund in Brazil, deepening his knowledge into the Brazilian talent pool and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Upon graduation, Bruno joined McKinsey's São Paulo office, with special focus on McKinsey's Digital practice, where helped large Brazilian corporations solve complex business issues in the realms of strategy, technology, user experience and digital transformations. Two years later, he was invited to join Credits, a leading fintech in Brazil, as a Senior Product Manager, aiming to democratize access to credit to the Brazilian population.

In Wharton/Lauder, Bruno intends to bring together and develop his international experience and his knowledge on technology and entrepreneurship, in order to help foster the Latin American entrepreneurial ecosystem





NICOLE CARTER

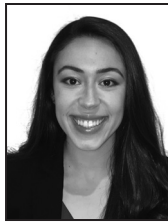
Nicole was born in New York City to a Barbadian father and American mother. While growing up in Saint Louis, Missouri in a multi-cultural household, frequent visits to her family in Barbados, New York, and Israel gave her an early awareness and appreciation for different cultural and social backgrounds. This appreciation expanded her interest in international affairs and studying foreign languages.

Nicole pursued her bachelor's degree at Harvard University, where she majored in Political Science. While at Harvard, Nicole studied Russian at the Nevsky Institute of Language and Culture and lived with a host family in Saint Petersburg. Nicole also studied at the University of Havana in Cuba, where she focused on Spanish and Sociology, and spent a summer working in agribusiness and sustainability at EARTH University in Guacimo, Costa Rica. Nicole later studied abroad at the Higher School of Economics - National Research University in Moscow, where she studied International Affairs and Russian. For her honors senior thesis, Nicole focused on migration in Russia, completing field research in Russia while working at a migration and refugee assistance organization in Moscow.

After graduation, Nicole joined the Obama Administration, working in economic policy, at the National Economic Council at the White House, where she supported initiatives such as the Detroit bailout initiative and the Affordable Care Act. Nicole later transitioned to the United Nations in New York, where she worked at the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Peace and Security Cluster. While at UNOPS, Nicole worked as a Consultant in UN Peacekeeping Operations, and provided business development, policy research, and operational support to projects in Africa and the Middle East.

Nicole loves to travel, including visiting her family in Barbados, where her family runs and owns a bakery. Nicole also enjoys visiting her extended family in Germany, which has expanded her interest in European affairs. At Wharton/Lauder, Nicole plans to strengthen her Russian and Spanish language skills, while expanding her knowledge in international management, investment, and strategy.





DANIELLE CEREPNALKOVIC

Danielle was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, where she attended an international school, studying both French and Spanish and completing the International Baccalaureate diploma. The multicultural city and international education made Danielle want to travel and learn more about the world from a young age.

Danielle graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Science in Economics and a minor in French. She was a Benjamin Franklin Scholar, which allowed her to compliment her business education with a more liberal arts focus. Passionate about advancing women in the workplace, Danielle wrote her honor's thesis on the differences in confidence between men and women during the job application process.

After graduation, Danielle joined BCG, where she focused primarily on projects in the Consumer and Retail industries. She led key projects for clients such as implementing a new procurement process for a national restaurant chain, optimizing distribution routes for a national retailer, defining a contract renewal strategy for a large telecom player, and defining a digital investment strategy for a large aerospace and defense player.

Building on data analytics experience from her time at Penn, Danielle quickly became involved in the big data practice at BCG. She has led trainings across North America and Europe for BCG's analytics tools, helping consultants learn to incorporate advanced analytics into their case work. She hopes to explore this interest further during her time at Wharton.

Danielle was selected as one of 50 participants in the Associate Abroad program at BCG and spent the last year based out of the Paris office. During this time, she worked on a variety of strategic projects for multinational companies based in Europe.

This international experience has strengthened Danielle's interest in learning about how social, political and cultural norms affect business practices in different parts of the world, especially the impact on female leaders and entrepreneurs. Danielle hopes to gain a more intimate understanding of the European region during her graduate studies at Wharton/Lauder.





CHRISTINA CHANG

Christina was raised in Lima, Peru in a Taiwanese family, and spent part of her childhood in the United States and Taiwan as well. Living in different countries during her formative years allowed her to gain a broad cultural understanding and helped solidify her language skills. Her multicultural upbringing also enabled her to better connect with those from different cultures, shape her global identity, and fuel her curiosity to continue exploring new cultures.

At the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Christina studied Political Science, Cultural Geography and French. During her junior year, she spent a quarter at Science Po Bordeaux immersing herself in French culture learning more about European and French politics, and a semester at the UCLA Center for American Politics and Public Policy in Washington, DC, where she interned for the National Defense University and the Department of Commerce.

Upon graduation, Christina moved to Miami to work for McKinsey & Co, focusing on strategy consulting for Latin American banks. She worked closely with over fifteen banks across the region providing them with strategic opportunities and best practices for improvement. Here, she thrived by exporting successfully implemented practices from one country to another and recognized the potential it has at a global scale.

Afterward, Christina moved to San Francisco to join the Risk Strategy team at Visa. She continued promoting practice-sharing across regions, leading various projects that allowed her to collaborate with teammates from around the world and work in cities including Dubai, Singapore, London and Sao Paulo. Working on these international projects strengthened her resolve to continue learning about valuable perspectives anywhere they may be found.

Christina is also a dedicated member of her community. While in San Francisco, Christina served as the VP of Community Service for the UCLA Bay Area Alumni Network and she also volunteered as an interpreter for Kids In Need of Defense (KIND), an organization that provides legal aid to children who are refugees or are seeking asylum.

In her free time, Christina enjoys reading any biography she can get her hands on, practicing her language skills, travelling the world and venturing out for new cultural experiences.

At Wharton/Lauder, Christina plans to leverage her global experience and passion for practice-sharing to help develop innovative solutions to address challenges in emerging regions of the world.





EMELYN CHEW

Emelyn was born and raised in Singapore. Growing up in a multi-cultural city, Emelyn learned Cantonese and Hokkien from her grandparents, donned the traditional Sarong Kebaya on Racial Harmony Day and ate Biryani with her hands at recess. These experiences honed her appreciation for cultural diversity and led her to leave home an early age to attend Phillips Academy in the United States. There, she broadened her understanding of the world's fastest growing economies by studying Spanish and Mandarin, and also completed summer immersions in China and Italy.

Attending college in the wake of the financial crisis, Emelyn was inspired to design her own interdisciplinary major at New York University's Gallatin School of Individualized study, where she studied the intersection of Finance and Sociology and wrote her senior thesis on The Promises and Pitfalls of Debt. These academic interests led to her first role at J.P. Morgan's Investment Bank. There, she advised private and public-sector institutions on fixed income deals, including an inaugural \$1bn transaction that transferred mortgage credit risk from Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) to the private markets.

Her role at J.P. Morgan allowed her to discover the transformative effect of global capital markets, but also revealed that the gains from the economic recovery were unequally distributed. This prompted Emelyn to embark on a fellowship at the international microfinance non-profit Kiva, where she helped launch an innovative 0% interest rate loan product which provided financing for small business owners who lacked access to credit.

Deeply moved by the stories of entrepreneurs at Kiva, Emelyn later joined Funding Circle, a fintech marketplace lender for small business loans, where she held roles on the Capital Markets and Analytics teams. While at Funding Circle, Emelyn worked in both San Francisco and London, executing cross-border transactions and leveraging data science to support strategic growth projects in pricing optimization and sales operations.

Outside of work, Emelyn likes drinking coffee, learning new languages and improving her culinary skills. Most recently, she served as a Culinary Captain at the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture, where she cooked alongside renowned chefs in farm-to-table culinary demonstrations at the Ferry Building Farmer's Market in San Francisco.

At Wharton/Lauder, Emelyn hopes to better understand the history, cultures and business practices of her home region, South East Asia, and also explore how innovations in finance and technology can be leveraged to address the challenges that emerging markets face.





AARON COHEN

Aaron was born and raised in New York City in the neighborhood of Roosevelt Island. A uniquely international community designed to foster economic diversity, Roosevelt Island provided the foundation for Aaron's passion for international economic development, business, and impact. The son of Australian and Israeli parents, Aaron was particularly inspired by African diplomats and development workers who served as his earliest role models.

Aaron developed a passion for African development and business at Pennsylvania State University, in the classroom and through volunteer work in Burundi. After graduating with a BA in Political Science in 2008, Aaron chose to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal for three years, in order to learn about African development and culture through an immersive experience. In Senegal, Aaron lived and worked in a rural village for 2 years, working with farmers to build fences, wells and irrigation systems with USAID-funding and learning multiple local languages (Mandinka, Wolof). In his third year, Aaron served in a leadership position as a coordinator for agricultural programs.

After his service in Senegal, Aaron sought to further inform his understanding of the future of African economic development through another immersive experience: by spending two years in Chongqing, China. As a business development lead for a Chinese state-owned equipment manufacturer, Aaron was responsible for establishing new business and joint ventures with Western firms. By living and working in China, Aaron gained insights into China's economic development history and its relevant applications in Africa, in addition to learning the Chinese language and Chinese business, politics, and culture.

After his experiences abroad, in 2013, Aaron returned to the United States and founded a technology startup providing software development and project management services to American companies. Most recently, Aaron consulted for numerous companies and organizations, including the World Bank Group, on development and business in Africa, before joining the United Nations in New York. As a Development Expert at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Aaron worked with Permanent Representatives and other officials as a policy expert and advocate for African industry in the formation of UN development policy.

Ceaselessly passionate about Africa's economic potential, at Wharton/Lauder, Aaron intends to expand on and apply his experiences to the growth of multinationals in Africa and frontier markets. In his spare time, Aaron enjoys playing guitar and exploring food and culture in ways that mirror his immersive experiences in Africa and in China – often leading treks to restaurants and ethnic enclaves with friends. Aaron also enjoys running and biking and has completed a century ride.





CLIFFORD COHN

American born and raised, Clifford spent nearly 5 years in Tokyo working at Rakuten, Japan's premiere ecommerce company, and Google Japan. Most recently, he spent 14 months in Sydney, also with Google. Clifford worked in myriad capacities at both companies, gaining expertise in quantitative analysis, strategic planning, and business/market development.

Clifford was born in Chicago and attended Vanderbilt University. Inspired by his Japanese-American mother's ancestry, he majored in Economics with minors in Financial Economics and Japanese Language & Culture. Clifford was also active with Vanderbilt Hillel, leading international Alternative Spring Break service trips to South America, deepening his connection to his paternal heritage.

Clifford held leadership positions in Vanderbilt's Microfinance Club, Vanderbilt's Programming Board, the Rugby Football Club, and his fraternity. Post-graduation, he booked a one-way ticket to Japan, and after interning at Central Japan Railways, began intensive language study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama. After improving his Japanese to a professional level, Clifford was recruited by Rakuten. Drawn to Rakuten's mission to empower Japanese merchants through its eBay-style marketplace, Clifford executed projects improving customer loyalty. He also worked with engineering teams to plan, implement, and measure product launches for Rakuten's flagship Android and iOS ecommerce apps.

Clifford joined Google Japan in 2014 as part of a Global Business Intelligence team, working with senior leadership within the Global Partnerships organization. The multi-faceted role covered market insights, product analysis, and sales strategy and operations. Clifford analyzed market opportunities to forecast performance, allocate resources, and inform product teams. He also spearheaded the development of business intelligence infrastructure and other tools that were implemented into Google's global ecosystem.

Clifford's performance in Tokyo prompted the Country Manager of Australia and New Zealand to request that he be relocated to Sydney to lead a struggling business unit. Clifford created a turnaround strategy for the Australia and New Zealand mobile monetization business, and accelerated traction by mobilizing sales teams and empowering individuals to execute on the plan—ultimately returning the regional apps business to growth after years of decline.

Rakuten provided Clifford with a strong foundation in web-analytics, project management, and data querying and visualization; Google taught Clifford the meaning of scale, ways to approach building global products, and how to motivate sales teams. At Wharton/Lauder, Clifford seeks to hone his leadership skills, further expand his knowledge of international product and operations strategy, and explore opportunities for cross-border investment and collaboration.





BRENDAN CROWLEY

Brendan was born in Iowa and raised in rural Ohio, a product of the American Midwest. His interest in international opportunities began in high school while studying Spanish, traveling abroad with his family, and participating in a medical mission trip during which he helped fit out an orphanage in Santa Rosa, Honduras. Brendan graduated from Ohio Northern University where he received a degree in English and a teaching license as well as played on the men's soccer team for four years, captaining the team for two years.

After graduation, Brendan joined one of the earliest Chinese companies operating in the United States, Cermax Corporation, an international education company operating a preparatory school for Chinese students accepted to the University of Massachusetts. Interacting with students and coworkers from China piqued Brendan's interest in Chinese language and culture. He set about learning Mandarin Chinese and moved to a role in the business operations of the school, serving as a conduit between the Chinese parent company and the U.S. business. In that role, Brendan formalized the school's operations, led business development efforts in the U.S., and participated on the deal team receiving acquisition offers from U.S.- and China-based private equity firms. As a result of strong performance, Brendan was selected for a short-term internship at an affiliated Chinese investment bank in Shanghai.

The internship confirmed his desire to live and work abroad and, having attained proficiency in Mandarin Chinese, Brendan joined Naked Group, a rapidly growing Shanghai hospitality company to work on their eco-tourism and co-working businesses. As head of Operations for the Naked Hub co-working business, he managed the rapid rollout of five locations across Shanghai, eventually leading to an acquisition by the global industry leader, WeWork.

In Brendan's final role before Wharton/Lauder, he consulted on the localization of a Fortune 10 company's global smart mobility program for the China market, contributing to the successful launch of a mobile phone application to hundreds of thousands of Chinese customers. Working for Chinese and U.S. companies in rapid growth environments instilled a desire to develop top-tier management skills that will enable Brendan to grow international businesses and teams in the future.

At Wharton/Lauder, Brendan looks forward to adding a formal foundation to his self-taught language and business skillset. In his spare time, he enjoys entrepreneurship, reading (U.S. - China relations, business, and the new space industry), supporting education reform and following Liverpool Football Club.





JESSICA DALY

Jessica was born in Paris, France to an American father and an Italian mother raised in Lebanon. Moving to London at a young age, she was raised in family who placed a strong emphasis on multiculturalism and languages. She grew up playing tennis and this developed her love of sports.

Jessica attended the University of Cambridge where she read Modern and Medieval Languages with a focus on French and Spanish. In her first two years, she pursued her passion for football by undertaking internships with the English Football Association, working on the inaugural season of the Women's Super League. Wanting to broaden her horizons she also did a year abroad, working in Buenos Aires, Argentina and returning to Paris.

The latter experience, working within the global advertising agency Publicis on the Nissan account, gave her the opportunity to lead on marketing projects and gain close mentors. As a result, when she graduated from Cambridge in 2014, she was asked to return to this team to manage Nissan's recently announced sponsorship of the UEFA Champions League. She was responsible for the implementation of the project in regional business units across Europe as well as in Japan.

Seeking to gain a wider understanding of the sports and sponsorship industry, she moved to Arsenal Football Club in London to work on a multitude of international partnerships. These ranged from a bank in Indonesia to a start-up renewable energy company in England. There she was responsible for creating and implementing these brands' sponsorship strategy. She also worked on ad-hoc projects, leading on a variety of sponsor and Club events like a pre-season match in France where her language skills were put to good use.

While at Arsenal, Jessica volunteered with Double Club, a language programme run by Arsenal's Community team speaking to young adults about the benefits of languages. She was also part of a local charity, Solidarity Sports, and headed up their organising committee for their anniversary event.

At Wharton/Lauder, Jessica looks forward to further developing her language skills as well as gaining a wider business experience. In her spare time, Jessica enjoys travelling, reading, the theatre and spending time with family and friends.





EDUARDO DE HARO

Born and raised in Mexico City, Eduardo attended middle school in the US and spent his high school summers abroad studying French. These experiences enabled Eduardo to cultivate an intellectual curiosity for new cultures.

Eduardo pursued a bachelor's degree in Finance at Tec de Monterrey, where he co-founded its Finance Student Association and secured an internship at Enlace, a Wall Street brokerage firm. During his time in college, Eduardo also sought to foster a global mindset and enrolled in a yearlong study abroad program at University of Westminster in London. Eduardo focused on Economic Development and Urban Sociology, which sparked his interest in cross-cultural practices across developing economies.

Throughout his last year in college, Eduardo worked in investment banking in Mexico City, where he obtained a core skillset in M&A advisory services. Subsequently, Eduardo was looking to enter the private equity industry and work at a global, multicultural firm. Upon graduation, Eduardo moved to Dubai to join The Abraaj Group, a leading emerging markets private equity firm, where he was part of a two-year analyst program with rotations across different functions and geographies. After being stationed in Singapore and Dubai, Eduardo returned to Mexico City, where he was hired as a full-time analyst and promoted to associate soon after. During his time in the LatAm team, Eduardo had the opportunity to participate on multiple transactions, mostly in consumer-facing industries across Mexico and Central America. Working on the ground in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and LatAm allowed Eduardo to grasp some of the intricacies of investing in growth markets and witness the impact that private capital has on them.

At Wharton/Lauder, Eduardo plans to learn more about how business practices and local traditions are intertwined in different cultures across the globe, with a focus on Latin America. He is also interested in learning more about the region's largest market, Brazil, and how this economy can be further integrated to the region, thus developing a Pan-Latin American expertise.

In his spare time, Eduardo enjoys playing tennis, mountaineering and exploring new countries. He also participates on the board of an NGO that promotes values-based education to underprivileged children.





MARIA DE LERA

María was born in Madrid, Spain, and moved to New York with her family when she was 14. From an early age, she followed her passions for dance, Taekwondo, skiing and traveling.

María attended the Georgetown University McDonough School of Business, double majoring in Finance and International Business with a minor in French. At Georgetown, she was able to combine a business undergrad education with her interest in international affairs through classes in the School of Foreign Service. María worked in the Georgetown University Alumni & Student Federal Credit Union (GUASFCU), the largest completely student-run financial institution in the world, was the president of the Georgetown Taekwondo Club and led the Board of the Georgetown Admissions Ambassador Program. She studied abroad in Hong Kong and discovered the great differences between the western and eastern business worlds.

During University, María spent a summer interning at the Banco Santander Paris team and 2 summers interning at Credit Suisse (CS). After a sophomore rotational scholarship program in the CS Latin America Investment Banking and Fixed Income Emerging Markets Research Teams, she returned for her junior internship in the Latin America Investment Banking Team. Knowing she would work across countries, cultures and languages later in her career, she decided to follow her passion for technology in her full time job.

After graduation, María joined the Credit Suisse Technology Investment Banking Team in San Francisco. There, she worked in both M&A and equity transactions for technology clients of all verticals, including internet, software, clean tech, communications and semiconductors. She found special joy when working with the executives of early stage companies, applying her technical background to their operational, strategic and product initiatives. This led her to her next role in the Operations Strategy Team at Lyft.

At Lyft, María worked with the Exec Team as the incubator of the company, working from the origination and pitching of new business plans to the cross-functional launches of such programs. María spent most of her time in the self-driving platform (two launched pilots), Express Drive (Lyft's rental program), the company's Strategic Planning Process and new segments such as Car Seat Mode and International.

María is joining the Global Track at Lauder and is excited to continue learning about the fascinating intersection between Business and Government Relations across the world. After Wharton/Lauder, she dreams of bringing her learnings from Wall Street and Silicon Valley to Europe and transforming legacy industries through mission-driven technology, be it as a VC investor or an operator.





SERGIO GIRALT

A proud Texan and the son of Venezuelan and Cuban immigrants, Sergio was born and raised in Houston with a unique bicultural experience. Throughout his life, Sergio has strived to cultivate his Latin American heritage. He spent summers in Venezuela, has led Boy Scout trips to Ecuador, and has climbed to Machu Pichu in Peru. These experiences shape Sergio's drive to explore and understand the cultural and economic diversity of Latin America and the exciting opportunities for his career.

Sergio graduated from Trinity University, where he earned a Masters in Accounting. A Certified Public Accountant in the state of Texas, Sergio spent his early professional years working for Deloitte & Touche in their audit practice. In this role, he led audit engagements of public and private companies in the Oil & Gas industry. Sergio leveraged this experience and industry expertise to earn a transfer to Deloitte M&A Advisory practice. As a consultant, he performed financial due diligence for Deloitte's clients within the energy and resources industry. Within Deloitte's M&A practice, Sergio expanded beyond his industry focus to gain experience in cross-border transactions.

Passionate about his community, Sergio has always sought opportunities to serve. As an Eagle Scout, he mentors young scouts as they advance in rank. Within the Houston community, Sergio was named an Emerging Leader Fellow by the Greater Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. In this capacity, he has assisted the Chamber of Commerce in its mission, representing the interests of Hispanic owned businesses in Houston.

Sergio is an avid adventurer. He has visited more than 30 countries and most recently climbed to Everest Base Camp. While at Wharton, Sergio hopes to be a Venture Fellow and lead treks to Antarctica and Patagonia.

At Wharton/Lauder, Sergio intends to further hone his financial analytical skills while immersing himself in the history & culture of his region of concentration, Latin America. Sergio also intends to use the Lauder experience to improve his Spanish fluency. Beyond his time at Wharton, Sergio's ultimate goal is to actively invest in opportunities in Latin America within energy and real estate.





AYANO IOROI

Ayano was born in Japan and named after her great-uncle, an ethnomusicologist, who traveled to far-flung places and introduced world music to Japan. As a child, her family invited Southeast Asian postgraduate students to home. With the outside world coming into her home, she became curious about the worlds beyond Japan. Influenced by the work of her family members who were philanthropic doctors, by the time she was in 5th grade, she had a vague dream to work as a UN officer, to travel around the world and contribute to the local societies.

She decided to study abroad in California during high school when she won an AYUSA scholarship and later studied International Affairs at the George Washington University. Hoping to become a UN officer, she specialized in Africa and Global Public Health. However, her path shifted course when she interned as a certified cataract examiner in Ghana. Seeing the rising vibrant energy of local people developing all kinds of new businesses in a growing market made her feel enthused with boundless potential. Local people seemed to be asking less for aid and more for opportunity. This convinced her to pursue a career in business rather than in international development.

Motivated to promote Japanese business in Africa and other emerging markets, she joined PwC Japan and established a new solution team from scratch as a second-year associate. She helped corporate firms and funds invest in emerging markets, working in five countries across Africa and LATAM. During that time, Ayano was seconded to the Embassy of Japan in post-war Angola for a year to originate projects between local governments and Japanese companies.

As her entrepreneurial credentials were recognized at PwC, she was appointed to accelerate the Brazil Desk and take on new cross-border projects between Japan and Brazil. While working in Brazil, she discovered untapped business opportunities; therefore, decided to work at PwC Brazil to help Japanese companies with M&A and Strategy, working there for three years. Ayano was involved in multiple sell and buy-side cross-border M&A deals. Prior to Wharton, Ayano helped launch the Impact Investment Advisory Team in PwC Japan and assisted a Japanese fund establish its first emerging market impact investment fund.

At Wharton/Lauder, Ayano, a Fulbright Scholar, plans to get involved in impact investing and startups in East Africa. In her spare time, she enjoys practicing kickboxing, dancing samba, and exploring street food around the globe. She speaks English, Japanese, Portuguese, and Portofiol.





ANDRES ISAZA VALENCIA

Andres was born in Bogota, Colombia, where he lived until he graduated from high school. As a teenager, he competed as an international tennis player, representing his country in various tournaments. Thanks to this, he had the chance to explore the continent while traveling around for competitions. His passion for tennis led him to decide on going to college in the U.S., as he saw it as the best place to get a great education while also continuing to play the sport he loves.

Andres decided to attend Dartmouth College, where he played in the Men's Tennis Varsity team and pursued degrees in Mathematics and Economics. While in Hanover, NH, he worked on international trade and social impact through the Economics department and the Paganucci Fellowship in the Tuck School of Business. These experiences, together with his time at the private equity firm Altamont Capital, helped Andres discover his passion for business.

Encouraged by his time in the business world, Andres joined Bain & Company's Boston office as a management consultant. There he worked with high-profile clients in retail, healthcare, and other industries, but spent the majority of his time advising private equity funds on various investments. After 3 years of working between the Boston and New York offices, Andres moved back home to Bogota, Colombia, to help Bain establish its presence in a new country. As the first employee in the new office, he was involved in building new client relationships, selecting the team for Bain Bogota, and setting up the physical space.

At Wharton/Lauder, Andres plans to build on his leadership and general management skills, all the while advancing his understanding of the Latin American economy and business environment. In his spare time, Andres enjoys playing soccer, reading, and traveling around the world.





LU JIANG

Lu was born in Nanjing, China and immigrated with her family to a small town in Indiana when she was three years old where she spent her childhood running through cornfields. After spending a year of middle school studying in China, Lu moved with her family to settle in Toronto, Canada.

While attending the University of Waterloo, Lu helped raise several million dollars in seed financing for two startups and oversaw the financial and daily operations of a company that was ultimately sold to Oracle in 2012. After graduating, she joined Greenhill, a mergers and acquisitions (M&A) focused investment bank, focused on cross-border transactions between the US and Canada. She later joined Barclays' investment banking arm in New York where she advised power developers, power producers, and utilities companies in North America, the UK, India, China and Southeast Asia. In addition to overseeing the completion of several M&A transactions, she also played a key role in advising Azure Power, the largest independent solar power company in India, to raise capital to support future growth. She worked with investors in over 15 countries including China, Germany, France, and Singapore to raise ~\$400MM and list Azure Power on the New York Stock Exchange. After a year with Barclays, she was promoted to Associate and led the firm's diversity recruiting efforts.

Seeking to pursue her direct investing interests, she later joined Carlyle in New York in a newly raised \$3.6BN industry- and geography-agnostic private equity fund where she was of the first employees. While at Carlyle, she communicated regularly with their largest Asian and Chinese investors, managed diligence work streams across 33 countries, raised financing in several currencies from banks in the US, Europe, and Asia, and often conducted meetings with live translation headsets to reflect the diverse backgrounds of executives, stakeholders, and consultants. Over her two years at Carlyle, she deployed nearly \$1BN of equity to acquire and invest in US and international businesses worth over \$3BN.

At Wharton/Lauder, Lu plans to deepen her understanding of the East and Southeast Asian investing landscape and explore private equity opportunities in the region.





TIMOTHY JOHN

Timothy is a global citizen in every sense of the word. He was born in Canada, spent his early childhood in Kenya, grew up in Singapore, and later lived and worked in Hong Kong and New York. He is of mixed parentage: his mother is Chinese and his father and Indian. Suffice to say, the world has left its indelible footprint on Timothy's life and likewise, his values and aspirations have been keenly attuned to the evolving dynamics of today's world.

An athlete at heart, sports was and still is a pillar in Timothy's life. Learning to swim at the tender age of two, Timothy was introduced early to the world of competitive swimming where he represented Singapore as a junior athlete through his schooling years. His passion expanded to the collegiate then national level in the sport of waterpolo where he was drafted by the Singapore National Team, donning national colors at international tournaments including The World Championships, The Commonwealth Games, and The Asian Games.

Timothy also served as a Captain in the Singapore Army, where he focused on complex operational tactics, small-unit leadership and combat survival skills. Looking back, he is grateful for the valuable lessons that were imparted to him in the pool and the military – not just a strong appreciation for tenacity and discipline, but also the importance of respect and humility.

Graduating from Singapore Management University with a bachelor of business management with Honors in Finance, Timothy was recruited by J.P. Morgan in Singapore where he spent five years working as an investment banker. A desire for more international experience then led Timothy to accept a job at Goldman Sachs in New York, where he also worked as an investment banker in the firm's global headquarters. Most recently, Timothy worked as a Long/Short Equity Analyst in the Industrials team at Balyasny Asset Management.

In his spare time, Timothy enjoys mentoring children and actively volunteers with Project Coast2Coast, a charitable organization that he co-founded and focuses on improving the lives of underprivileged youth across Asia. Additionally, Timothy also works with several friends to sponsor an orphanage in Myanmar.

Timothy's life has taken him around the world and he believes his future is no different. Thus, at Wharton/Lauder, Timothy plans to refine his leadership skills, broaden his global perspectives, and deepen his language skills in Mandarin Chinese – a critical skillset ternary for the future he envisions.





JAMES JUCHAU

James was born in Columbus, Ohio. Despite not leaving the US until he was almost 20, he developed a deep interest in history and international affairs at a young age.

After a semester at Brigham Young University, James went on a two-year mission for the LDS church in France, Switzerland, and Luxembourg, where he gained advanced proficiency in French and a deep appreciation for French culture. After his mission, and inspired by experiences with Arab and Muslim immigrants in France, James began taking Arabic courses at BYU. This led to a summer internship for a rural NGO and an intensive Arabic language study abroad in Jordan and a summer in Morocco on a Critical Language Scholarship. He was also publisher of the BYU Political Review and worked on AidData, a research project building databases of projects to promote transparency and research on international aid. He double-majored in Economics and Arabic Language, graduating in 2013.

After graduating from BYU, James worked for the Operations division of Goldman Sachs in Salt Lake City as an analyst focused on prime brokerage and margin lending. During his time at Goldman, James developed expertise in capital markets and securities lending. He also took several online Python courses in his spare time, which sparked an enduring interest in coding.

Seeking a front office role, James was hired at State Street Global Markets as a market and collateral risk analyst for SSGM's securities lending division. James continued to develop his financial acumen, passing the first two levels of the CFA and developing financial models to track the market risk of clients in SSGM's agency and principal lending businesses. He also put his newfound coding skills to use, building a collateral optimization tool, implementing financial models into Python, and automating most of his team's daily processes. During this time, James kept up on his Arabic skills by participating in Natakallam, a non-profit which pairs Syrian refugees with Arabic language learners.

At Wharton/Lauder, James plans to continue to pursue his interest in the Arabic language, build out his leadership and management skills, and develop greater knowledge of investing and banking in emerging markets.

In his spare time, James enjoys running, reading sci-fi, backpacking and hiking, and traveling with his wife.





RON KERBS

Ron was born in Haifa, Israel to a family of German/Austrian origins. When he was 15, after not being able to communicate with his Austrian cousins, Ron decided to study German, which started his passion and journey to study German culture and language. During childhood, and thanks to being born to parents involved in international business, Ron was lucky to be exposed to and visit various regions including North America, Europe, India and China.

Ron pursued an Information Systems Engineering B.Sc. at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. He was active at the students' union as a class representative, faculty's student union chairperson, member of the Israeli student leadership program and an organizer at the annual Haifa student festival, attended by thousands.

After graduating in 2011, Ron backpacked for two months in Central America and joined the Israeli defense forces (IDF). He began as an information systems analyst and was then sent to officers' course, graduating with honors and was promoted to team leader. Ron received a distinctive officer award from the IDF's HR general for his contribution. Later, Ron was stationed at the Central Intelligence Unit (Israeli equivalent to NSA) as a team leader. Ron's team was awarded by the Unit's commander for a flagship innovative project.

During his service, Ron also completed an M.Sc. in Information Management Engineering at the Technion and gained a profound understanding of managing under pressure, planning complex IT systems and analyzing big data.

In the Army, Ron met people from a variety of backgrounds and religions and understood the power of education in changing people's lives. In his second year, he founded a volunteer teaching program preparing Israeli teenagers for high-school final exams and increasing students' motivation for their compulsory army service. In 2014 Ron co-founded AnyOncCan, a 40-volunteer nonprofit organization creating solutions to encourage reading and math literacy among children in Africa, as a part of Google's XPRIZE Global Learning competition.

Ron did not extend his army contract since his dream was to become an entrepreneur, and was discharged as a captain. In December 2017, he moved to Berlin to work three months as an intern at Capnamic, a leading early-stage VC. He was responsible for deal sourcing and due-diligence, gaining a better understating of the European startup scene.

Ron's hobbies include traveling, running, cross-fit and basketball. He is looking forward to attending 76ers NBA games, while living in Philadelphia.





JACOB KIM

Jacob moved to Seoul, South Korea shortly after being born in Ann Arbor, Michigan during his father's doctoral studies at the University of Michigan. Twelve years later, he returned to his birthplace to attend middle and high school, at which his early friendships with Hispanic ESL classmates inspired him to learn Spanish and travel to rural Mexico for volunteer service, as well as explore Latin American languages and cultures more extensively during college.

At Princeton University, Jacob earned a degree in Economics with Honors and Certificates in Finance and Political Economy. He also took additional Spanish and Portuguese classes, participated in an environmental research trip to the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, and completed a summer internship in Santiago, Chile with Endeavor, an international NGO that catalyzes high-impact entrepreneurship and sustainable growth in emerging markets. These experiences and his junior thesis on sovereign indebtedness and income inequalities in developing countries gave rise to his deep interest in economic development.

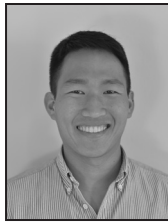
After graduation, Jacob joined HSBC's research department in New York, where he had interned before his senior year. Advancing to the Assistant Vice President title in under four years, he covered the stocks and bonds of Latin American corporations, as well as the US Treasury and corporate bond markets. Concurrently, he obtained Series 7 and 63 licenses and became a CFA charterholder in addition to continuing to train in Latin dances and winning numerous awards at ballroom dance competitions in the pre-champion category.

Wanting to apply his professional and academic experiences to help expand economic opportunities for the disadvantaged populations in Latin America and promote economic growth, Jacob relocated to Managua, Nicaragua in the summer of 2017 to work at a nonprofit impact investment fund. As a Princeton in Latin America Fellow, he helped finance social enterprises by assessing the financial strength and social alignment of potential investments and by leading due diligence trips on a microfinance institution in Bogotá, Colombia and a women's health clinic in Toluca, Mexico.

Jacob is an avid traveler who has visited 41 countries to date. In his spare time, he likes to practice dancing, lift weights, visit museums, discover new restaurants, and go out to salsa and bachata clubs.

At Wharton/Lauder, Jacob plans to deepen his understanding of the Latin American region and its economy in order to become an expert and a leader in the Latin American impact investing and economic development field.





KYU SEOB KIM

Kyu was born in Suwon, South Korea. He went to Korea Science Academy in Busan, South Korea, graduated as valedictorian, and received the highest honor award from the Minister of Science and Technology of Korea. Wanting to broaden his perspective and experience, Kyu decided to apply for schools in the U.S. and enrolled at Cornell.

At Cornell, Kyu entered the dual degree program pursuing B.A. in Mathematics and B.S. in Electrical Engineering. Kyu researched with Prof. Wagner at the Electrical Engineering department and TA'ed his classes including a graduate level class on information theory. Kyu also regularly competed in math competitions including Freshman Math Prize (first place), Rochester Undergraduate Olympiad Exam, and Putnam.

After graduation in 2011, Kyu went to MIT to pursue a PhD in EECS under Prof. Modiano. His research focused on improving the quality of service in unreliable wireless networks. Although he was deeply invested in research, it was also theoretical and lacked immediate real-life application. Feeling an urge to work on more practical problems, Kyu left academia after his master's degree.

After MIT, Kyu joined BitSight Technologies, a Cambridge-based small startup, whose mission focused on improving the visibility of cyber-security and challenging corporations to improve their practices. Using his network knowledge, he collected new data feeds and analyzed them to check if customers were introducing cybersecurity risks into their business practices. After a year, Kyu moved to Palo Alto to join a new team of seven engineers working on better approaches to cybersecurity, and helped grow Area 1 Security to over 50 employees. Expanding a team to build something new and novel, he developed a passion for all aspects of the business which sparked his application to Wharton/Lauder, where he will focus on entrepreneurship and leadership.

Kyu is fluent in Korean, his mother tongue. One of his mentors in High School came to teach in Busan from Novosibirsk, which cultivated an interest in the Russian culture, language, and region. Kyu took three years of Russian at Cornell, interned at Siemens in Moscow, and looks forward to returning. He believes that the Russian-speaking region has great potential due to the wide range of natural resources and many talented scientists, mathematicians, and engineers. At Wharton/Lauder, Kyu wants to increase his understanding of the post-soviet states, their societies and economies.





BEATRIZ KINGUTI

Beatriz was born in São Paulo, Brazil, where she lived most of her life. Her father's heritage is half Japanese and half native Brazilian, and her mother's is half Portuguese and half Spanish. Coming from a multicultural country and background, from a very early age Beatriz was encouraged by her family to explore other cultures. During high school, she engaged in several short-term exchange programs in places such as Barcelona, Andover, London, and Boston.

After high school, she started studying business at Insper Instituto de Ensino e Pesquisa in Brazil. During her time there, she was a professor's assistant for Operations Research, engaged in the Students in Free Enterprise organization, and played in the soccer team. Most importantly, she took part in a semester long exchange program to Singapore, when she visited more than ten countries in Asia. Visiting Asia was an eye-opening experience for it was the first time she witnessed non-Western cultures. After her exchange, she became even more passionate and curious about other countries around the world.

Soon after she graduated, she joined A.T. Kearney largely for its global cooperation. As a consultant, she worked in three countries, participated on engagements with teams from the US, Germany, and South Africa, and led Latin America's coverage of A.T. Kearney's Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), working alongside consultants from 15 countries. Most recently, she started focusing her work on the Consumer & Retail, which is her passion. In these industries, she has worked on a variety of topics: logistics, category management, pricing, negotiation, and loyalty, among other. At the firm, she also engaged in the social impact group, managed pro-bono engagements, and led the diversity initiative.

At Wharton/Lauder, Beatriz plans to perfect her Spanish and gain a deeper understanding of the business dynamics and informal economy in Latin America. She ultimately envisions to scale Consumer & Retail business models that gain critical mass and reach the often-neglected underprivileged part of the population in the region.

In her spare time, Beatriz enjoys trying new restaurants, traveling to new places, and going scuba diving. She has been to 30+ countries and has gone scuba diving in 5+ countries. She is also very close to her family and friends, and she loves hosting events at her house for them.





JOANNA BROOKS KLOSTERMEYER

Joanna was born and raised in New York City. Growing up in New York and traveling internationally with her family, she has been passionate about international cultures and art from a young age.

During high school, Joanna organized her own study abroad in Gunzenhausen, Germany, her grandfather's rural hometown, as she wanted to learn German and research her family history. She returned to Gunzenhausen each summer thereafter to continue learning German and to continue engaging with the community. During this time, she developed a passion for international cultural exchange and dialogue.

Joanna then attended Dartmouth College where she studied Art History and German Studies and took part in a Language Study Abroad program in Berlin. After graduating from Dartmouth in 2009, Joanna was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and a subsequent James B. Reynolds Scholarship to study Art History and Jewish Studies at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität in Munich, Germany. She then joined the American Jewish Committee's Berlin Office as a Schonfeld Fellow.

Upon returning to the United States, Joanna worked as a Grants Manager at Bloomberg Philanthropies and most recently worked as a project manager at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Museum, Inc.

In her free time, Joanna enjoys visiting museums, traveling, yoga, and trying new restaurants and cuisines.





TAMMIE HUIMIN KOH

Tammie grew up in Singapore, where she had the opportunity to interact with people from vastly different cultures since a young age. In addition to her native English, she is also fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese. Her multi-lingual ability and multi-cultural exposure have enabled her to form lasting connections in both her professional and personal interactions.

Tammie earned her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) at the National University of Singapore and graduated with Honors. During college, Tammie led bi-annual trips to developing countries like Indonesia, where she mobilized different resources to provide basic medical screening and healthcare supplies to over 200 locals.

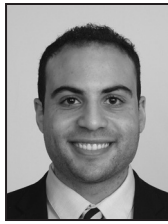
After graduation, Tammie forged a career as a litigation attorney at two of Singapore's most prestigious "Big Four" law firms, where she was responsible for devising litigation strategies and data analysis. In addition, Tammie managed project teams in many high-profile domestic and international litigation proceedings and cross-border arbitration matters, including a US\$40m dispute concerning the Hamad International Airport in Qatar. Tammie's clients were primarily international corporations in the construction, hospitality and pharmaceutical industries.

After four years, Tammie transitioned to a Washington, DC based non-profit organization in order to pursue her passion for assisting low-wage migrant workers. As the Head of the Singapore office at Justice Without Borders, Tammie conceptualized and implemented support networks for exploited migrant workers and victims of human trafficking. She established connections between these workers, governmental organizations, law firms and other non-profit organizations, which enabled many exploited workers in Southeast Asia to obtain just compensation. Tammie also spearheaded a regional initiative to equip veteran migrant workers with the skills to become volunteer caseworkers themselves, thereby creating a lasting positive impact on the Asian migrant worker community.

At Wharton/Lauder, Tammie is most excited about acquiring new perspectives from her diverse group of classmates through classroom discussions, immersive travels and deep social interactions. Tammie's goal during her time at Wharton/Lauder is also to gain a richer understanding of how social and economic policies financially impact businesses.

In her spare time, Tammie enjoys traveling to new destinations and collecting new experiences. She has travelled to 33 countries and hopes to add to this list during her time at Wharton/Lauder. She is also passionate about Italian wines and has ambitions to one day own a vineyard in Tuscany, Italy.





ANIL LAKEHAL-AYAT

Anil was born in Rochester, New York, and was raised by two Algerian parents in a tri-lingual household. As a result, he grew up speaking both Arabic and French. His parents wanted him to be closely connected to his Algerian heritage, so they sent him to Algeria every summer from a very young age. This gave him an intimate understanding of the Arab world and connected him to the wider global community.

Anil pursued an undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan with a major in History and dual minors in Latin and Classics. He graduated from Michigan's Honors College with an award-winning Honor's thesis concentrated on the topic of North African political history. In addition, he was an athlete with the Wolverines. He captained the University of Michigan Fencing Team for two years. He also qualified for the Algerian National Fencing Team during his junior year of college and competed in international competitions that included the 2011 World Championships and the 2012 Olympic Qualifiers. He was ranked 96th in the world for fencing during his senior year.

After graduating in 2013, Anil joined Goldman Sachs' asset management arm (GSAM) working in their operations department. He eventually moved to a front office role in asset management with Manning and Napier. During his time there, he was heavily involved in portfolio management and equity research. Anil was eventually promoted to work in an international fund within the company due to his understanding of global dynamics. This experience gave him exposure to investing in a number of companies from both developed and developing countries in various industries.

Anil continued to compete with the Algerian national team while working full-time. He qualified for the team each year by placing 3rd or higher in the Algerian National Championships, which allowed him to participate in numerous international tournaments. His sustained competitiveness on the international stage was evident through strong results, which included a 25th place finish at the 2017 Amsterdam World Cup.

Anil's background fostered a keen interest in the global community and the world of finance. At Wharton/Lauder, Anil hopes to further develop these interests by improving his Arabic language skills and enhancing his knowledge of finance.

In his spare time, Anil enjoys reading, playing soccer, teaching fencing, and traveling.





REGINA LEE

Regina was born of two worlds. The world in which Regina was raised was Taipei, Taiwan in the 1990's, while Regina's father's world was mainland China, where he worked and Regina often visited. This dual perspective of crisscrossing developed and developing worlds led to Regina's passion in exploring and experiencing different countries, especially the underdeveloped regions. Over the last 10 years, Regina has worked, studied and traveled across 55 countries on four continents.

Regina attended National Taiwan University, where she first majored in Geography and later in Economics, graduating as the recipient of Presidential Award for Academic Excellence (Top 5%). She also pursued exchange student programs in Paris, France, with École Polytechnique, University Pierre and Marie Curie (Paris VI, Sorbonne) and Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM), focusing on Geology Engineering. The French-only education Regina received in France helped her succeed during the internship in LVMH Paris, where she received a full-time return offer. Between 2008 and 2011, Regina developed interest and expertise in business and finance as a PE business development and research intern in the Hong Kong based private equity fund, Primus Financial Holdings.

Later, Regina decided to be at where the biggest changes and challenges were and switched gears to explore developing markets. She practiced agribusiness private equity investment and portfolio management in Brazil (HFI International) and Indonesia (Asiabeeff), and worked with the UN-affiliated Save Poor Children in Asia Organization in Cambodia as well as GK Enchanted Farm in the Philippines. In 2014, Regina joined Bain & Company Shanghai, where she worked on due diligence with Bain PE Group to evaluate business models in China and on turnaround/growth/market entry strategies for primarily technology, agribusiness, and consumer goods companies.

Bringing what she learnt from China, in January 2017 Regina requested to transfer to Bain Lagos, Nigeria, where she helped grow the less than one year-old office and began collaborating with the Nigerian government to implement a US\$800 million presidential edict to build six Special Economic Zones/ Industrial Parks and diversify the country's oil-dependent economy. When running the Project Management Office (PMO), Regina engaged the public and private sector leaders (Nigerian Acting President Yemi Osinbajo and Chairman & CEO of the Dangote Group Mr. Aliko Dangote), Afreximbank and China EXIM Bank.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Regina was a part-time producer for the 2014 Heineken FIFA World Cup online commercial and for music videos with renowned Taiwanese singer Xin. Regina also enjoys wakeboarding, sailing and traveling.





MARIANELA LEGUIZA

Marianela was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Growing up in a multi-ethnic environment sparked her passion for languages and cultures since a young age. She is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and English; speaks conversational French; and studied Latin and Greek for many years.

Marianela graduated from University of Buenos Aires as a Chemical Engineer. There she cultivated her passion for helping others as a teacher assistant in the Chemistry department. She volunteered to coach first-year students in their first contact with the subject.

During college, she won a full merit-based scholarship for an exchange program with the *Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Rouen* in France. There she joined Total, one of the major Oil and Gas companies in the world. In this period, she saved the company over \$3M by developing and implementing a management software to standardize maintenance-works costs.

After graduation, Marianela returned to Argentina to join Procter and Gamble. As a Process Engineer, she developed her passion for operations and manufacturing processes. She improved the productivity of the factory by reducing losses and implementing process control strategy. She also nurtured her passion for new cultures by traveling to China, USA, Brazil and Mexico while leading a \$5MM project to change the water system of the factory.

She then moved to Brazil to expand her knowledge about Latin America and Portuguese. She joined McKinsey & Company on operations-related projects as an Implementations Consultant. She led transformations in Chile, Brazil and Argentina, working with clients in Agribusiness, Assembly lines, Airlines and Consumer Goods. Leading client's teams and advising executives helped Marianela to develop her communication skills to adapt to different audiences and cultures.

Outside her professional responsibilities, Marianela was a volunteer in Engineering without Borders in Argentina and Brazil. She led volunteers in big construction projects such as a rainwater-harvesting system for an isolated community in the north of Argentina. She is passionate for advancing women in business, which led her to propose and implement McKinsey first award "Women in Ops" to attract Latin American women with an operations profile. In her spare time, Marianela loves to dance, bike ride, and travel.

Following her studies at Wharton/Lauder, Marianela wants to contribute to Latin America's development and growth. She is particularly interested in innovation in operations and how best to overcome barriers and bring advanced practices to Latin America.





HANNAH LEWIS

Hannah Lewis was born and raised in Austin, Texas. Surrounded by Latino influences from a young age, she spent her childhood taking Spanish classes, admiring her mother's Día de los Muertos art collection, and hearing stories of her father's time volunteering in Paraguay. This inspired Hannah to spend a summer when she was sixteen living in rural Nicaragua. While there, she was struck by the warmth and generosity of Nicaraguans as well as the richness of their culture and the intricacies of the Spanish language.

Inspired by her time in Nicaragua, Hannah majored in Latin American Studies at Wesleyan University, studying socio-economic policies focused on poverty alleviation in the region. In addition to her leadership in WesESL (a club that pairs students with custodial workers to teach them English as a Second Language), Hannah was also on the Latin American Studies Majors Committee, actively participated in activities at the Patricelli Center for Social Entrepreneurship, and did an internship focused on gender lens investing at Criterion Institute. Throughout college, Hannah spent her summers supervising community development and youth leadership projects in rural communities in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Panama.

After graduating in 2013, Hannah spent a year in Lima, Peru through Princeton in Latin America directing community development, leadership, and education programs for an NGO in a low-income, squatter community. After her time in Peru, she did nonprofit consulting in Boston, developing five-year strategic plans for mission-driven organizations. Hannah's experience with international development and nonprofits left her frustrated with the lack of sustainability, scalability, and accountability in the sector. She decided to pivot her focus to leveraging capital markets to improve the lives of marginalized populations. After completing a graduate-level certification in impact investing and social enterprise at Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Hannah has spent the past two years running investment readiness programs for US-based, early-stage cleantech startups at Village Capital.

Hannah is fluent in Spanish, a language she has studied since she was young and refined through college courses and during the combined total of two years she has spent living, working, and studying in Latin America.

Hannah intends to return her professional focus to emerging markets and the Latin American region through her studies at Wharton/Lauder. She looks forward to gaining a deeper understanding of business, investment, and economic topics in the region, while also maintaining a cultural, historic, and political lens.





CINDY LI

Cindy was born in Wuhan, China. Her mother and father – a translator and journalist who both majored in English literature – taught her about the beauty of language and sparked in her a keen interest in learning about foreign cultures.

At the age of 8, Cindy moved to Toronto, Canada with her family. While she struggled initially to find a cultural fit in her new home, she learned to embrace the ambidextrous nature of her background – rooted in her Chinese heritage and connected to her Canadian upbringing.

To further her understanding of cultural identity and to expand her horizons, Cindy completed an honours bachelor's degree in International Business Administration at York University's Schulich School of Business. During her undergraduate studies, she specialized in French and Mandarin, and completed an exchange semester at EDHEC Business School in Lille, France. Driven by her belief that everyone has the right to a quality education, Cindy led a team of volunteers to raise money for education development projects in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. She also served as a pro-bono consultant for charities in the Greater Toronto Area, focusing on education and youth development.

After graduating in 2014, Cindy joined Deloitte Consulting's Strategy and Operations practice, specializing in Public Sector Transformation. There, she worked with senior leaders at all levels of government to build effective public service programs and improve how they are delivered to citizens. Her experiences working across the justice, education, and social finance sectors shaped her long-term career goal of working in economic development.

In pursuit of more international opportunities, Cindy joined the Ontario Ministry of International Trade as a Policy Advisor, where she supported the development of Ontario's trade strategies to advance the province's economic interests around the globe. During her time there, she focused on the Asia-Pacific region. Cindy led the development of Ontario's China Strategy and analyzed the province's economic interests in a potential Canada-China Free Trade Agreement.

In her free time, Cindy is an avid traveler, having visited over 30 countries to date. She enjoys boxing, dragon-boat racing, and is always looking for good coffee, great food, and even better conversations.

Cindy's upbringing, education, and professional experiences have shaped her as a global citizen and an aspiring international business leader. At Wharton/Lauder, Cindy plans on furthering her skillsets in economic diplomacy, including the language skills and cross-cultural competencies to conduct business and drive sustainable economic growth in East Asia.





DAYU LI

Dayu was born in Dalian, China. When he was a toddler, his parents moved to Zimbabwe to start a clothing business. At a young age, from teaching his Zimbabwean friends Mandarin to cooking sadza for his Chinese family, he was a passionate Chinese-African intercultural agent.

Raised in Zimbabwe during its economic turmoil of the early 2000s, Dayu experienced frequent power outages, often exceeding 12 hours a day. This energy crisis, combined with Zimbabwe's chronic hyperinflation, plagued his family with day-to-day worries about financial hardship and safety. In pursuit of a better life, he learned to be opportunistic and take calculated risks. This attitude awarded him a scholarship at the University of Miami in Florida, where he studied accounting and finance, and a position at Citi in Manhattan upon graduation in 2011.

At Citi, Dayu evaluated internal M&A and organic growth initiatives for the Global Markets division. Besides working in Manhattan, he was sent to Toronto for one year, where he performed due diligence to support the \$425M divestiture of Citi Alternative Investment Services to SS&C. Despite having a solid career, he was not feeling fulfilled and wanted to make a greater social impact.

In March 2016, he left New York and started Genesis Energy Development (GED), a renewable energy company in Lusaka, Zambia, where four out of five people live off-the-grid. His first breakthrough was negotiating a partnership with Thebe, a \$1.5B real estate private equity firm, chaired by the former finance minister of Zambia. This enabled GED to assemble a team of ten individuals with diverse professional backgrounds and become the go-to residential rooftop solar company for Thebe's 'off-grid' housing developments.

In early 2017, after recognizing utility-scale solar as a significant business growth opportunity, Dayu embarked on a month-long research trip across China to investigate the solar/storage micro-grid technologies. Within four months, he developed supplier and contractor relationships in China, recruited a lead engineer, and validated the strategic and financial rationale of the utility-scale solar model. With this solution, GED persuaded Thebe to enter a joint venture agreement and started developing Project Green Nkwashi, the first solar-powered town in Zambia, aiming to provide affordable electricity to 60,000+ residents by 2025.

While at Wharton/Lauder, Dayu hopes to bring together his entrepreneurship experience, finance background and MBA/MA education and network to further explore cross-cultural entrepreneurship and investment opportunities. He enjoys morning workouts, cooking for his friends, and peaty scotch tasting events.





MARY LIM

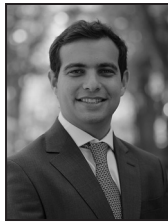
Mary was born in Seoul, South Korea and moved to the United States when she was three to be the first of her extended family to settle in the US. Moving frequently between the Southwest and Midwest throughout her childhood taught her how to adapt quickly and root more closely to her cultural identity as a Korean-American. Additionally, regularly visiting her relatives back in South Korea sparked a desire to be closer to her homeland and take advantage of a dual-culture upbringing to travel further and explore new countries.

Mary settled in Washington, DC to pursue an undergraduate degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and live in a culturally rich community. She majored in Science, Technology & International Affairs with a concentration in Energy & Environment because she loved exploring the multifaceted impacts of sustainability and renewable energy on international relations, economic development, and social justice. During her junior year, she studied development & globalization in Northeast Thailand. She developed leadership skills and broadened her multicultural experiences through an immersive program that focused on grassroots social justice movements and environmental issues. Her undergraduate experience was further enriched by her leadership in cultural and social justice groups, including Club Filipino, Flip Dis Funk Dat, and Truth & Human Rights in North Korea (THINK).

After graduation, Mary worked as a management consultant in KPMG's Power & Utilities practice to further understand the US energy industry. Being part of a large firm gave her first-time exposure to the corporate world and diverse projects, ranging from large-scale IT transformations to executive strategy planning. Over the next five years, she traveled all over the United States to help major utility clients adapt to a changing industry landscape. With exposure in both the corporate and non-profit sector, she decided to pursue an MBA degree in order to complement her liberal arts education, refine technical skills gained throughout her consulting career, and pivot towards the renewable energy industry. Through the Wharton-Lauder program, she hopes to reconnect with her heritage more intimately, deepen insights gained through her travels and leverage experiences with her Wharton and Lauder classmates to understand and solve developmental challenges in East and Southeast Asia.

Mary is fluent in Korean and Spanish and enjoys learning new languages before traveling to new countries. Her other hobbies include learning hip-hop choreography, creating natural skincare products, fostering rescue dogs, reading science fiction novels and cooking.





AXEL ARIEL MANGE

Axel was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, descending from a Jewish-German family. At age five, he moved with his family to Mexico and attended primary school. When Axel entered high school, his family moved to Germany. These strong cultural differences awakened his interest in exploring cultural diversity.

When Axel was 15 years old, he moved to Brazil due to family reasons. He faced the challenge of entering undergraduate school at age 16 without knowledge of Portuguese and had to make up an academic gap to enter University, since college in Germany starts two years later. Nevertheless, he managed to attain the fourth best position in the entrance exam of the most prestigious University in southern Brazil.

Axel studied Economics at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, where he focused his research on financial markets. In addition, he was co-founder of the Junior Enterprise at the school, with an emphasis on financial and social advisory for underprivileged societies in Porto Alegre. Axel graduated in Economics in first place of his class, earning an award from the Council of Economists.

After graduation, Axel joined Itaú BBA, where he gained diverse experiences from several departments. Eventually he became corporate banker, advising large family companies and multinational enterprises in the complex framework of the Brazilian market.

Due to his childhood and teenage experiences, Axel is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese and German; he also possesses an intermediate proficiency of French. As he entered financial markets in Latin America, he deepened his knowledge in finance (among several other subjects) and earned his CFA charter in 2016.

Axel's global upbringing has shaped who he is and has served as the catalyst for his pursuit of graduate studies at Wharton/Lauder. He aims to learn new ways of boosting international business decisions in multinational environments. He looks forward to broadening his knowledge in other areas to multiply his takeaways in Latin America.





FRANCO MARTÍNEZ LEVIS

Franco grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. After high school, he pursued a degree in Economics at Torcuato Di Tella University. There he discovered his passion for solving complex problems and developed an interest in consulting during a semester he spent at University of Toronto as an exchange student.

After graduation, Franco worked as a consultant at The Mind Company, a boutique consulting firm based in Buenos Aires. There he helped multinational medical device and pharmaceutical companies develop market-entry strategies for new products and worked with international PE firms to assess acquisition opportunities in Latin America, with a focus in the Brazilian market.

One year later, Franco joined McKinsey & Company's office in Buenos Aires, where he focused on Digital and Operations engagements for clients in the telecommunications, banking, and insurance industries. The topics of these engagements included designing digital strategy, improving digital user experience, optimizing processes at branches and call centers and monitoring company-wide IT transformations. His experience in McKinsey allowed him to get a much deeper understanding of the business landscape in the region, having worked in Chile, Perú, and Brazil, in addition to his work in Argentina.

After spending two years at McKinsey, Franco wanted to try something new and expand his horizons before pursuing his MBA/MA. Being committed to contributing to the development of his country in a critical stage of political and economic change, he spent one year working at Argentina's National Government, focusing in the management of social strategic initiatives led by the Chief of Staff. In this position, he led the operation of a program in charge of coordinating efforts among multiple agencies to foster the inclusion of citizens that up to now didn't have access to the State. In just one year, this program reached more than 1.5M people, including the provision of 400k identity documents, 500k medical visits and vaccines, and many other services across all the provinces of the country.

At Wharton/Lauder, Franco plans to focus on getting a deeper understanding of the challenges of the LATAM region, and on the identification of business opportunities that can potentially transform the reality of the region. After graduation, he plans to return to McKinsey and eventually pursue entrepreneurial opportunities.

In his spare time, Franco enjoys running and playing soccer. He also is an avid fan of River Plate, the best soccer team in Argentina (and the world).





RAPHAEL MATTEI DA SILVA

Raphael was born and raised in Curitiba, a city in the South of Brazil, in a family of Italian origin. His interest on foreign cultures was sparked at an early age both by his family ties with Italy and by studying English and Spanish, which built in him an excitement and fascination in learning about other cultures.

While studying Production Engineering at the University of São Paulo, among other endeavours, Raphael joined his school's international office, whose goal was to integrate international students to Brazilian academic environment. Through the years he spent in the organization, he met many people from all around the world, which further developed his passion for international matters, meeting and developing relationships with people from other cultures. This passion led him to pursue exchange experiences in China, in France and ultimately to earn a joint Master degree in Management Engineering, with focus in economics and finance, at Politecnico di Milano, in Italy. There, besides the personal, cultural and academic development, Raphael could also spend 2 years connecting with an important part of his heritage.

After graduation, Raphael returned to Brazil and joined Bain & Company, to explore his desire for making an impact and working with problem solving in business at an international environment. There, Raphael worked for almost 5 years, from Intern to Consultant in almost 20 different projects ranging from fashion retail, to social impact, private equity and mining. Working mostly with strategy, due diligence and performance improvement, almost all of those projects were focused in South America, in several different locations, from the Atacama Desert, to the middle of the Brazilian Amazonian rainforest.

At Wharton/Lauder, Raphael plans to broaden his knowledge of business, politics and culture of Europe, as he seeks to transition from South America to Europe. He is fluent in Portuguese, English, Spanish and Italian and conversational in French. His hobbies include travelling, reading (especially about military and economic history), running and dining out with friends.





LIYA MO

Liya was born in Nanjing, China and spent her early years living across Singapore, Thailand and China, before moving to Vancouver, Washington at the age of eight. Her childhood experiences stimulated her passion for learning about diverse cultures.

Liya completed her undergraduate degree in Business Administration at Washington University in St. Louis where she graduated magna cum laude. While at WashU, she spent a semester in London, where she continued to broaden her knowledge of different cultures while traveling across Europe.

After two internships at Goldman Sachs, Liya joined Deloitte Consulting's Strategy & Operations practice out of Chicago to pursue her passion in international development. At Deloitte, she focused on global location strategy. She has helped domestic clients establish new operations in Philippines and Mexico, as well as helped Chinese clients establish new operations in the US.

With an interest in the social impact of corporate investments, Liya spearheaded an initiative to quantify the socio-economic impacts of corporate investments on local communities. To pursue this topic even more, Liya spent half a year in Yangon, Myanmar working with Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business, to advise the government on the business impacts of social instability with the Rohingya crisis.

In her free time, she dedicates herself to education, food, and travel. Liya is the President of the LEARN Charter School Associate Board, an organization that dedicates itself to providing quality education for underserved children. Her other interests include traveling around the world with friends, and trying out new restaurants. In fact, she was the social media blogger for Caviar Chicago, a food delivery app.

While at Wharton/Lauder, Liya hopes to improve her Mandarin language skills, and gain a deeper understanding of global economic and business practices.





ANNEKA NELSON

Anneka grew up in Davis, California and attended Bowdoin College in Maine, where she double-majored in History and French. During college, Anneka ran track and cross-country, performed improvisational comedy, and spent a semester studying and practicing her French in Grenoble, France.

Anneka spent the first four years of her career managing marketing and business development for Barran Liebman, a boutique employment and labor law firm in Portland, Oregon. In 2016, with an eye toward transitioning her career into global social impact, she accepted a fellowship with Kiva, the international microfinance NGO. The four-month fellowship took Anneka to Thies, Senegal, where she worked with two of Kiva's microfinance institution partners to improve their operations and abilities to fund loans to Senegalese borrowers. While conducting an audit of Kiva clients, Anneka traveled across the country on shared transport, learning about rural Senegal and developing a passion for working in the region.

Following the fellowship, Anneka accepted a position with Oolu, a Dakar-based startup financing solar home kits to off-grid villages in West Africa. As Head of Operations, Anneka helped scale Oolu from one region of Senegal to all fourteen, with accompanying client growth of 600% in a little over a year. Working entirely in French, she piloted and implemented many changes to Oolu's sales and after-sales service models to support company operations at scale.

Anneka's time in Senegal reinforced her drive to build a career using social business to support development in Africa, particularly West Africa. She also experienced the value of living and working in cultures different from her own, and of learning from a truly international community. These experiences drew her to Wharton/Lauder, and she hopes to use her time in the program to round out her knowledge of the African continent, while building the skills to support social impact startups even more effectively.

In her spare time, Anneka enjoys hiking, playing soccer, training for the occasional marathon, reading, and playing almost any game.





GUILHERME OSHIRO

Guilherme was born and raised in São José dos Campos, a city in the state of São Paulo. A mix between Japanese and Portuguese ancestors, he was a judoka and Math Olympiads competitor since his childhood, having participated in state and national competitions.

During his high school, Guilherme participated in the Lion's Youth Exchange Program and went to Japan, living for over a month with two host families. This first experience abroad triggered his desire for international ventures – a passion he still maintains today. After high school, Guilherme attended the Military Institute of Engineering (IME), an Army school in Rio de Janeiro, where he majored in Electrical Engineering. In his fourth year, he was awarded a study abroad scholarship and was admitted for a semester abroad at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he took courses in computer architecture. Throughout his studies, he underwent a four-year military training as a cadet and served his last year as a First Lieutenant in the Brazilian Army.

After five years of service, he left the Army to pursue a career in management consultancy. In 2015, he joined the Boston Consulting Group in the Rio de Janeiro office as an Associate. At BCG, he focused on strategic projects for banks, insurers, government funds, ministries and private equity firms. Since his first days in the company, he expressed clear intentions of pursuing an international career and seized the opportunity twice. After his first year, he was staffed for nine months between Dubai and Riyadh in public sector projects, tackling barriers to increase women participation in the workforce and contributing to generate a 280M USD/year impact through a subsidy portfolio redesign. Then, after returning to Brazil, he went abroad again: this time to Santiago, where he lived for seven months working in a project to optimize the maintenance program for a pulp company.

At Wharton/Lauder, Guilherme looks forward to excelling his Spanish and deepening his knowledge about the Latin American context. He is keen on understanding how the different colonization models and welfare policies shaped the culture, politics and economics of Latin American countries.

Guilherme enjoys motor racing, playing soccer, traveling and is a photography enthusiast. During his free time, he watches Formula 1, plans his next trips, hits the gym, reads about investment strategies and roams around with his camera. He speaks Portuguese, English and Spanish.





ASTRID RADEMEYER

Astrid was born in New York and grew up between London, New York, and Hong Kong. Raised by a Zimbabwean father and a Belgian mother, she attended French schools, and was constantly switching between French and English at home. With a multicultural background, the more she sees of the world, the more excited she is to further explore it. She is passionate about travel, immersing herself in and understanding different cultures, with the hope of making an enduring impact in her communities.

Over the years, Astrid has pursued her interest in different cultures through language. She started by studying Latin, Ancient Greek and Spanish at the lycées she attended, and continued Spanish as well as German at Middlebury College. Desiring to fully immerse herself, as well as improve her Spanish, she spent many summers volunteering in Latin America as well as studied in Bolivia, working alongside a coffee cooperative. She went on to write her thesis “Lo que significa beber una taza de café: el mantenimiento y la creación de nuevas tradiciones” based off of primary research collected on-site, studying the effects of globalisation in the development of a community in a low-income country.

Astrid’s professional and personal aspiration is to empower people through business in emerging markets. After graduating with highest honours, she joined the Peace Corps in Madagascar. There she formed a nutrition-focused bakery with a women’s cooperative. She performed re-search, conducted trainings, recruited specialist advisors, hired and negotiated with contractors, wrote a grant to acquire funding, and managed a team of female farmers turned business-owners. Her experience at the bakery left her hungry to learn how to create a business with a larger impact.

After the Peace Corps, she moved to the Bay Area to work in a tech startup, eager to see how the values of innovation and challenging norms could be applied to social enterprise. There she learned how to analyze markets, engage target audiences, and build teams to process to achieve the company’s goals.

An outdoor enthusiast, Astrid enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and scuba diving in her spare time. She lives for music, volunteering at concerts, playing the piano, singing, and constantly exploring new music.





PEDRO RAIES

Pedro was born in Philadelphia to Argentinian parents. He was raised in Pergamino, a small agricultural city near Rosario, Argentina. In the middle of Argentina's countryside, Pedro witnessed the immense wealth of natural resources the country has, and has ever since been trying to understand what Argentina needs to finally unlock its potential. This puzzle is the backbone of Pedro's career.

Pedro attended Universidad del Centro de Estudios Macroeconómicos de Argentina (UCEMA), in Buenos Aires, where he graduated with the highest grades of his class, and was invited to deliver the graduation speech. At UCEMA, he also funded the Management Consulting Club of the university and organized the first case competition and networking event between Universities in Buenos Aires.

After college, Pedro joined McKinsey & Company's Buenos Aires office, where he helped banks, mining companies and sport organizations improve their operations, optimize their supply chain, set their performance management systems up, and improve their stakeholder's relationships, in different countries of Latin America. In his many engagements, he had the chance of working with people from many different countries, including Peru, China, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Canada, Spain, Mexico and the USA. These experiences allowed him to understand how the different cultural factors shape people's decisions and working methodology. In addition to his work as a consultant, he has also been involved in employee recruitment, acting as speaker in events and serving as coach for candidates interviewing.

Outside of work, during the last two years, Pedro helped Libertate, an Ashoka sponsored NGO which deals with the placement of women with disabilities into the workforce. In Philadelphia, he hopes to study this topic to be able to leverage learnings in different settings and have a greater impact when he returns to Buenos Aires.

At Lauder/Wharton, Pedro plans to understand how different countries' cultures, politics, histories, institutions and traditions, shape business relationships between nations, especially within Latin America. He also aims to perfect his Portuguese language skills.





THIAGO DE ALMEIDA ROCHA

Thiago was born in the countryside in the south of Brazil. During his youth, Thiago moved to several cities in different regions of Brazil, including a two-year period in military housing in the middle of the Amazon rainforest. The exposure to several backgrounds since a very young age nurtured Thiago's passion for exploring new cultures and languages. Thiago currently speaks English, Portuguese, Spanish and conversational French.

Thiago received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina. At university, Thiago participated in an exchange program in France where he extended his knowledge in logistics, working for Renault's supply chain department. During university, Thiago also put in action his passion for social impact supporting his family at their non-profit daycare for underprivileged children.

After graduation, Thiago joined Whirlpool to work in the new business development department. At Whirlpool, Thiago supported M&A projects and led green field opportunities of growth. Thiago was responsible for identifying new business opportunities, building business cases, and implementing approved projects. Most notably, Thiago led Whirlpool's entrance into the large refrigeration market in Brazil; he structured national wide distribution network and assumed a sales role, leading the business to achieve 5% of market share within the first year with 20% EBIT.

While working at Whirlpool, Thiago also applied his entrepreneurial skills to develop Listen, a technology startup that used an Android app to turn ordinary smartphones into low-cost hearing aid devices. At Listen, Thiago was responsible for the business perspective – he developed the business model and structured the launch strategy that led the startup to win the biggest competition for early stage startups in Brazil, acquiring 3,000 users in two months and receiving formal proposal of an investment of \$100k USD from a Brazilian venture capital.

After his experience at Listen, Thiago decided to broaden his knowledge on the social impact sector and joined a nonprofit organization focused on nature conservancy in Brazil. At Boticário, Thiago undertook the development of long-term strategic planning with the board of trustees, and used his entrepreneurial experience to define the organizational strategy to invest in social-impact startups.

Thiago's hobbies include producing craft beer and playing basketball. At Wharton/Lauder, Thiago wants to further his knowledge and skillset to engage with technology companies and venture capital funds in a global context.





GIRISH SANKAR

Girish was born and raised in Silver Spring, Maryland by immigrant parents. His family hails from Chennai, India and he is a native speaker of Tamil. His mother came to the United States due to her work for the World Bank, and helped him take a strong interest in international affairs from an early age.

He graduated from the University of Maryland with a dual-degree in Finance & Economics, as a Banneker-Key Scholar. Furthering his global interest, he did an exchange in Spain at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

After graduation, Girish joined McKinsey & Company's New York office to get a broad exposure to business strategy. He found a few mentors there who helped him focus much of his time on projects in the technology and healthcare sectors. To understand how businesses operated differently abroad, he took a project rebuilding the supply chain of an agricultural cooperative during an office loan to McKinsey Sydney. He also worked on a restructuring for a South American telco and realized the impact he could have in an emerging market.

Due to these projects, Girish wanted to get a perspective on how technology was transforming markets overseas, and hone his investing skills. Therefore, he joined the London office of Advent International and worked in the tech, media, and telecom team. He managed a portfolio company based in the Netherlands, and was seconded to the French office to be a part of Advent's largest ever European acquisition of Morpho, a Paris-based security business.

Before attending Wharton/Lauder, Girish spent a few months at Clutter, a Sequoia-backed startup building logistics technology, in order to understand further how a technology company expands its footprint and sustainably invests in sales and marketing.

Due to the help of mentorship in his life, he took a keen interest in it as a professional. He founded a program at his university to connect students with job opportunities on Wall Street. On an extended trip to Chennai, he worked with the Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development to assist farmers in implementing proper sanitation and planting techniques for rice. In London, he helped Mentors4u to deliver lectures on private equity at the London School of Economics and King's College.

You can find Girish poking around on Spotify for the latest in hip hop, trying to regain lost greatness on a basketball court, or searching his city for a good plate of tacos.





MICHAEL SAYAR

Michael was born in Beirut, Lebanon, but early on moved with his family to the United Arab Emirates to escape his country's long running civil war. In the UAE, he spent elementary school with children from over 25 different nationalities, and grew up speaking three languages—English, French, and Arabic. This early cross-cultural exposure proved to be an integral part of his upbringing and nurtured his keen interest in exploring different cultures; he has now backpacked through more than 40 countries across five continents.

After the civil war ended, Michael moved back to an economically and politically unstable Lebanon. He instantly developed a desire to change the state of his country, a passion that never left him. By the time he was 16, he was leading his own political party, “Tayar El Sayar”, and on April 14th, 2005, the day 30% of Lebanon's population marched on Beirut to protest the Syrian occupation of Lebanon, he led 56 of his party members on a four-hour march to the capital. The Lebanese won their independence, but living standards continued to be poor, and Michael learned that politics might not be the most efficient or effective way to create change; he decided to study business at the American University of Beirut.

As soon as he graduated he was recruited by Johnson & Johnson as the first Graduate Leadership Trainee for the Middle East and North African region, relocating back to the UAE to their MENA hub. Seven years on, he has spent his career in one of the most international cities on the planet, led large and diverse teams in both sales and marketing roles across the CPG and Pharmaceuticals industries, and managed the global powerhouse's biggest brand across 76 countries throughout Africa, the Middle East, Turkey & Pakistan.

During and after his time at Wharton/Lauder, Michael would like to work with innovative companies that continuously challenge the status quo to improve lives – particularly those that need leadership in cracking the global market. With his leadership capabilities, his experience at the world's biggest healthcare company, his tenacity and passion, and his experience in the Lauder program, he hopes to be the key that unlocks the Africa, Middle East and South Asia regions to companies trying to bring badly needed products and services to those markets.





MICHAEL SCHUSTER

Michael was born and raised in Gulf Breeze, Florida, a small beach town in the Florida Panhandle. His first international experiences occurred in Australia and Italy around the age of 10, stimulating an interest in other cultures and languages early in life.

Michael attended Florida State University, where he double-majored in accounting and finance and was named a Deloitte Accounting Scholar. Through his coursework, he discovered an interest in corporate law that he still pursues today. Although he was involved in a variety of on-campus activities, he devoted most of his time to skydiving, where he became the skydiving club president, a USPA licensed skydiving coach, and a parachute packer. He also augmented his studies by working as a congressional intern in Florida's 1st district and as a developer in integrative web design for a small business.

His international interests were solidified when he began studying at the Universidad de Belgrano in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Witnessing things such as the nationalization of Repsol YPF by the Kirchner government, he developed an insatiable desire to learn about new cultures, and by extension, new languages.

Upon returning to the United States and finishing his undergraduate degree, he began working in the assurance practice at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in Houston, Texas, conducting financial statements audits primarily for oil and gas companies. His international interests lingered, however, and he planned to move abroad again. The fruit of his job search took him to Madrid, Spain. While working there, he further refined his Spanish and was awarded the C2 diploma by the Instituto Cervantes, Spain's highest level of fluency. He also traveled extensively, visiting more than 150 cities in three years (including an expedition to summit Mount Kilimanjaro).

After achieving fluency in Spanish, he chose to continue his studies and get a Master's Degree in Foreign Trade from the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. His master's work focused on the internationalization of app companies, specifically in their ability to facilitate foreign-language learning.

He is now pursuing the JD/MA with hopes of practicing international transactional law in conjunction with Spain and Latin America. While he maintains ties with Spain by returning monthly, he is hoping that Lauder will provide him the cultural foundation necessary for effective international practice in the Latin American region.

In his free time, Michael enjoys learning Portuguese, running half and full marathons, and drumming.





CYRUS SHAHABI

Cyrus was born in Paris, France to Iranian parents. He attended an international school where he pursued a French baccalaureate specialized in economics and mathematics. While at school, Cyrus was an avid debater, competing in over 10 debating conferences across 4 countries.

After high school, Cyrus left France to attend Yale University, where he double majored in Economics and Latin American studies. Throughout his studies, he developed a keen interest in Latin America, learned both Spanish and Portuguese, and studied abroad in Brazil. After riding a horse for the first time his freshman year, Cyrus heavily committed to the Yale polo team, helped raised funds to bring a previously inactive club back on the collegiate circuit and was captain of the men's team.

After graduation, Cyrus pursued his interest in Latin America and moved to Argentina to work for The Mind Company, an Argentine management consultancy firm, specialized in assessing European and US clients in market entries. While at TMC, he worked with pharmaceutical and private equity clients for market expansion engagements in South America and Asia.

Cyrus then joined McKinsey as a Business Analyst on the Latin American team to shift his focus on local businesses. He spent over a year working on operational transformation mining projects, living in high altitude remote mine camps in Argentina and Chile. These engagements enabled two mines at the brink of shutting down to recover, thus saving thousands of jobs for the local community.

Convinced that sustainable progress and impact is possible only through both private and public-sector initiatives, after two years at McKinsey Cyrus took a six month leave to work for the governor of the province of Buenos Aires, which represents forty percent of the country's population. During this externship, he led a team of six in developing, alongside the Ministry of Security, a comprehensive reform plan for the province's public security.

At Wharton/Lauder, Cyrus wants to gain a holistic perspective of the cultural and financial ties between Latin America and the global economy to eventually connect opportunities from the region with capital and know-how from around the world. This goal led him to found CADEA, an annual conference which provides Argentine entrepreneurs with key skills and a support network to promote the development of local ventures.

Cyrus is fluent in Farsi, French, English and Spanish and conversational in Portuguese. His hobbies include playing soccer, discovering new foods, traveling and reading.





SYLVIE SHI

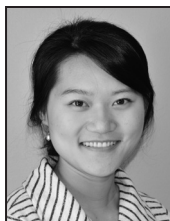
Sylvie was born in Wuhan, China and grew up in Toronto, Canada. She has since lived in over 5 countries across 4 continents and traveled to over 30 countries. She's fascinated by new places, cultures and people. Through various school exchanges, work opportunities and personal travels, she has expanded her network across the globe and is grateful for the unique global perspective she has gained from her experience abroad.

Sylvie spent most of her career in finance, particularly in investment banking and private equity / venture capital. She graduated from Schulich School of Business at York University in Toronto, Canada. Sylvie started her career at Ernst & Young where she obtained her CA, CPA designation. She then moved to New York to work in investment banking at Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) and covered a wide range of industries include financial institutions, consumer retails and real estate. In 2016, Sylvie joined a private equity firm called BlackIvy Group in Washington, D.C., where she was working on investing in early stage companies in Africa, particularly in Ghana and Tanzania. Sylvie relocated to Accra, Ghana in 2017 and lived there for the past year where she managed local investments on the ground and worked closely with portfolio companies in an operational capacity.

In Ghana, Sylvie was actively involved in community work where she worked closely with local incubators to provide free financial trainings for African entrepreneurs. In addition, Sylvie advised a number of startups in Ghana and continued to serve on the advisory board of Makolahub – an e-commerce startup in Ghana. Prior to her community work in Ghana, Sylvie was the Director of Communications at Young Canadians in Finance (YCIF) New York Chapter where she organized and led numerous club events, activities and initiatives to help Canadian professionals transition and network in the U.S.

Sylvie was a visual arts major prior to college and she still spends a large portion of her spare time painting and drawing. She also enjoys an active lifestyle and loves to scuba dive, ski, jog and hike. She is excited to meet likeminded individuals at Lauder!





RUNQI SONG

Born in Hunan, China, Runqi was named by her uncle. The characters he picked have a metaphoric meaning, which is to nourish the world with water. This focus of giving to others and having an impact has always resonated deeply with Runqi, though she felt that her name—and its pronunciation—was a bit lost in translation when she first moved to the United States at the age of nine.

Runqi received her B.S. in Applied Math from Yale. Two experiences in college were particularly formative. The first was a summer internship in Istanbul. Runqi worked in the credit risk department of Yapi Kredi, one of Turkey's largest banks, and developed a deep appreciation for intercultural exchange. The second was the J.P. Morgan Fellows Program with Yale's School of Management. Runqi researched mobile payment developments for a visiting Chinese executive, and through discussions with industry leaders and Chinese businessmen, she became increasingly curious about the depth of economic challenges and opportunities in Asia.

After graduating, Runqi pursued her interest in business and began her career at Credit Suisse New York in investment banking. She covered the industrials sector, specializing in Aerospace and Defense. Over the two years, she supported numerous equity and debt financings as well as M&A transactions. After banking, Runqi joined the corporate finance team at Alexion Pharmaceuticals, a biotech company focused on bringing life-changing therapies to patients with rare diseases. At Alexion, she worked closely with executive leadership on strategic long-range planning, helped secure pricing and reimbursement in new markets, and oversaw the finances of various R&D programs. Although her professional experiences have provided opportunities to work with international teams, Runqi is excited to return to her roots and further her understanding of East and Southeast Asia through the Lauder program.

In her spare time, Runqi enjoys hiking, traveling, and managing her personal finances. Runqi has volunteered with WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms) and would love to participate again.





RAGHAV SURI

Raghav was born and raised in New Delhi. Growing up, he travelled extensively across India, where languages, dialects, food and culture change every 100 miles. This developed a keen interest in him to explore diverse cultures. His interactions with international clients of his family's business further whetted this interest. Raghav studied German as an additional language in high school, besides being fluent in English, Hindi and Punjabi.

At Delhi Public School, Raghav was awarded a gold medal for academic excellence for six consecutive years. His curiosity to learn about foreign cultures and be part of a diverse student body prompted him to join Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore after high school. At NTU, Raghav majored in Electrical and Electronics Engineering with a minor in Business. He was a President Research Scholar and undertook research on self-learning methodologies in financial analysis and risk management. Outside the classroom, Raghav held leadership positions in various student clubs and was the Vice Chairperson of IET GreenTECH, an annual event organized at NTU to promote green energy technologies.

After graduation, Raghav joined DBS Bank Singapore in its Graduate Associate Program, which fast tracks high potential leaders within DBS. The program exposed Raghav to various departments of the bank which helped him develop a strong foundation in finance. It also provided him an opportunity to work with technology teams where he contributed towards the development of various banking systems. Raghav then joined the corporate and investment banking team at DBS with a focus on outbound banking and capital market requirements of Indian corporates. This team, of four members, provided Raghav an entrepreneurial work environment with a steep learning curve. Raghav worked on a wide spectrum of deals covering leveraged finance, debt capital markets, loan syndication and working capital financing. He dealt closely with large Indian conglomerates and private equity players. His role gradually expanded from being the 'analytical warhorse' of the team to identifying business opportunities and developing new client relationships.

Raghav has volunteered with a charitable trust in India that focuses on improving medical conditions in backward villages and initiated an adult literacy program there at the grass-root level. At Wharton/Lauder, Raghav hopes to further build on his foundation in finance and develop relevant skills in investing so as to add value to private equity players and focus on impact investing initiatives in the Indian subcontinent.





BAKARY TRAORE

Born to a Senegalese mother and Malian father, Bakary had to learn to navigate his parent's cultures from a very young age. While Senegal and Mali are neighboring countries with shared history, their respective cultures remain very distinct. As such, Bakary had to learn both Wolof and Bambara to converse with all members of his extended family.

In hindsight, these early experiences had a material impact on Bakary's later life endeavors. As a third culture kid, he was already trilingual by age six, with the addition of French, Senegal's official language. Admiring how his American cousins spoke, Bakary took on English soon after, and successfully read his first book in English (*Harry Potter & The Order of Phoenix*) by age 14. This love for foreign languages would eventually lead him to learn, to varied degrees of success, German, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese.

After obtaining his baccalaureate in Senegal, Bakary moved to Philadelphia to attend the local Community College, where he took his first business classes before transferring to Northeastern University where he graduated with a degree in finance.

Subsequently, Bakary decided to forgo his Optional Practical Training (OPT) in the U.S. to take on an analyst role at Puji Capital, a Shanghai-based investment banking boutique specializing in cross-borders transactions. This move was motivated by his desire to learn about emerging economies and East-Asian cultures, which he had come to admire during his stay in Boston. In Shanghai, Bakary worked on several private placement mandates on behalf of U.S. movie studios aiming to create both English and Chinese content.

After a year in China, Bakary moved to London to pursue a MSc in Economics at Imperial College, before settling in Lagos, Nigeria as a private equity professional for African Capital Alliance. In Lagos, Bakary worked extensively on the regional expansion efforts of the firm, culminating in ACA's first investment outside of Nigeria: Petra Trust, the leading pension fund in Ghana. Parallely, Bakary sought to gain experiences in other industries, and to date, has evaluated investment opportunities in Real Estate, TMT, FMCG in the West-African region.

At Wharton/Lauder, Bakary intends on building on his experiences in Dakar, Philadelphia, Boston, Shanghai, London, and Lagos, to further deepen his understanding of the economic and cultural interconnections globalization creates and how to best make use of them. In his spare time, Bakary enjoys reading spy novels, learning about history and meeting people from foreign lands.





SAGAR VAIDYA

Sagar was born and raised in the tier-2 city of Pune, India. At the age of 14, he moved on a Singapore Government scholarship to pursue high school at Raffles Institution in Singapore. Adapting to this new environment at an impressionable age and interacting with classmates from ten countries deepened his cultural awareness.

Receiving a fully-funded scholarship from the Association of Banks in Singapore, Sagar graduated from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore, with a First-Class Honours in Accountancy and Finance. Sagar's interest in banking and risk management was piqued when he joined the University's Risk Management Society as a researcher, publishing articles about interest-rate and property-market risks in Singapore. He spent his summers exploring financial services, with internship stints at OCBC Bank and voice brokerage ICAP.

While at university, Sagar sought to expand his international perspective and put to use his accountancy knowledge by serving as Finance Director in the NTU United Asian Debating Championships - the largest debating tournament in Asia, with over 600 participants from 20 countries. Seeking to fully explore the regional Southeast-Asian culture, Sagar learnt the Malay and Indonesian languages. He also volunteered with the Red Cross in numerous first-aid assignments across Singapore.

After graduating, Sagar joined PwC Singapore as an Associate in the Financial Risk practice. Here, he helped numerous European, Japanese, U.S. and Southeast-Asian banks improve their credit risk practices and navigate increasing financial regulation. Through this work, he built quantitative and statistical models which predicted loan losses for client banks, and provided recommendations on improving their lending practices. His research on interpreting a new regulation (IFRS 9), which banks globally struggled with, contributed to PwC becoming industry leaders in addressing this complex regulation.

After two years with PwC Singapore, Sagar was sent on a 1-year stint to PwC Malaysia to set up their Financial Risk Management practice. Here, he advised three large Malaysian banks about their credit risk practices, and helped recruit and coach a team of nine consultants. Sagar also obtained membership of the Institute of Singapore Chartered Accountants as a qualified public accountant.

Wanting to give back to the community, Sagar joined Aidha, a Singapore NGO focusing on providing financial literacy and empowerment to foreign domestic workers. At Aidha, Sagar helped 15 Indonesian, Filipino and Bangladeshi women set up small-scale businesses in their home countries.

In his free time, Sagar enjoys long-distance driving, reading legal thrillers, and playing badminton.





LETICIA VIEDMA NAVARRO

Leticia was born in Alicante, Spain, where she attended the European School alongside classmates from all across Europe and learned English, French, German and Portuguese proficiently. Leticia participated in summer exchanges in France and Germany, staying with local host families, and spent one semester as an exchange student in Munich. These experiences and her multicultural upbringing shaped her as a world-citizen for life.

Leticia enrolled in ESADE Law School (Barcelona), where she studied law and specialized in corporate matters, graduating second of her class. During her time at university, Leticia was selected to participate in international moot court competitions and was a member of the university debating team. She was also one of the two students chosen for the most demanding exchange program at the University of Pennsylvania.

While at ESADE, Leticia interned at the Madrid Commercial Office in Brazil and was one of the two Spanish law students selected countrywide to participate in the Clifford Chance Summer Vacation Scheme in London.

Following graduation, Leticia joined Latham & Watkins in Madrid, a top-tier international law firm, where she advised clients on global M&A and capital markets transactions.

After three years practicing law in Spain, Leticia decided to pursue her interest for private equity and venture capital and moved to Luxembourg to join the European Investment Fund, a European Union institution in charge of strengthening the European investment landscape and promoting access to finance for small and medium-sized companies. At the European Investment Fund, Leticia was part of the business development and fundraising team, structuring and negotiating investment agreements with global counterparts.

Throughout her career, Leticia has always engaged in volunteering activities. For instance, in 2012 she spent two months in Guatemala advising indigenous women in family and criminal court proceedings. Likewise, in 2016 she participated in a charity rally in Morocco and drove a 4WD through the desert to give out school material to children in forgotten villages.

At Wharton/Lauder Leticia hopes to develop her knowledge of private equity and venture capital through an international prism and reach a deeper understanding of the globalizing business world. She is particularly interested in exploring investment opportunities and trends in Africa.

In her free time, Leticia enjoys travelling, cooking and yoga and she has been taking flamenco lessons for many years.





MARCOS VILAR

Marcos was born in Valencia, Spain. Being his father is a businessperson passionate about language learning and traveling, Marcos inherited this passion and at the age of 18, he had traveled to more than 30 countries on four continents. His interest in discovering new cultures and ways of seeing the world took him to live two years in Germany (as a part of a 5-year double degree in International Management and Business Administration in Germany and Spain).

Since the very beginning of his work experience, Marcos tried to find a common point between his love for business and international experiences. First, he was put in charge of developing the German market for a frozen food products company, and later he worked as an Export Area Manager in charge of sales in six countries in a ceramic tiles company (traveling 50% of the time).

Having already gained experience in marketing and sales, Marcos wanted to develop stronger financial skills to complement his understanding of business. Therefore, he worked in audit at Deloitte until he was offered the opportunity to join the financial advisory department where he took part in the diverse financial projects including valuations, business review, due diligence, business modeling, forensic services, M&A, and refinancing. After Deloitte, looking to develop strategic thinking and personal management skills, Marcos joined his family business, working and learning directly from the General Manager.

Marcos understood the importance of leadership and hard work training as a competitive tennis player for four years (5 hours a day, every day of the week) and later became a competitive tennis coach for young players (12-13 years old). He also learned the importance of teamwork as the captain of an indoor soccer team at school, winning the regional championship. During his work experience, he has been able to develop all key values, finding a common place for his love of sport, people and business.

In addition to speaking Spanish and English, Marcos is also fluent in German and Catalanian. He believes that language learning is critical to better understanding the world, and therefore plans to learn more languages in the future.

Marcos' international experiences have made him the person he is now and the Wharton/Lauder Program, with a focus on German, is the best path to develop the managerial skills that he needs to keep developing his passion for business, people and new cultures.





TYLER WIGINGTON

Tyler was born and raised in Dallas, Texas. His global interests began at an early age when his dad pulled him out of a week of seventh grade classes for a Rotary International service trip to Nicaragua. Seeing extreme poverty firsthand, in a location just a few hours away from home, planted the seed for his continued passion for social impact, particularly in Central America. Around the same time, Tyler began studying Spanish in school, aided by his mom's fluency and the substantial Latin American influences in Texas. In high school, he spent a summer in Sevilla, Spain taking Spanish classes and also participated in a Rotary Youth Exchange to Galapagar, Spain, a town outside of Madrid.

Looking to broaden his global perspective and gain a solid foundation in business, Tyler began his undergraduate studies at Texas A&M University, where he majored in Finance and minored in Spanish, European Union Business, and International Business. He lived in Madrid for a semester, taking coursework at Universidad Antonio de Nebrija and completing his Spanish minor. Tyler also spent a summer in China and a winter in India, taking coursework related to Chinese and Indian business respectively and engaging in discussion with C-suite executives at leading companies across different industries. His continued passion for social impact led him to rural Ghana, where he developed a sustainable clean water solution over a summer with Operation Crossroads Africa, and to Panama, where he led other students in delivering pro-bono consulting services to rural communities.

After graduation, Tyler began his career at Deloitte Consulting, where he focused predominantly on mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures in the technology industry. In this capacity, he frequently stepped in as the middleman between business and technology stakeholders. He spent significant time in Ireland, leading the cutover for the EMEA region for the largest divestiture in technology history. In addition to his M&A experience, Tyler also furthered his interest in technology innovation through a fellowship with Deloitte's Chief Technology Officer. In that role, he was responsible for launching an emerging technology offering focused on developing firm talent, increasing marketplace presence, and growing the firm's intellectual property portfolio. While at Deloitte, Tyler continued pursuing his strong interest in sustainable social impact by leading the firm's pro-bono consulting efforts in Central America, with a focus on Panama and Nicaragua.

At Wharton/Lauder, Tyler plans to expand his Spanish language skills and explore the role of technology innovation in emerging markets. In his spare time, he enjoys exploring the craft beer scene, attending music festivals, and traveling to remote locations around the globe.





ALEXA WOODS

Alexa grew up on a farm in Southern Maryland, but through a love of reading she developed an intense curiosity for other places and cultures. It was not until she left home to attend George Washington University, however, that her world expanded beyond the pages of books.

A degree in International Affairs at GW's Elliott School gave her the chance to not only meet students from around the world, but to study as an exchange student for a year and obtain fluency in Spanish. A highlight of Alexa's time at GW was serving as a research assistant to her International Political Economy professor and performing bilingual research examining how Chinese investment in Latin America influences the autonomy of national policy leaders. She also had the opportunity to intern at the Organization of American States and was active in a professional sorority dedicated to promoting the leadership of women in Foreign Service.

After graduation, Alexa moved to the Andalusia region of Spain as an English Teacher and led classes for over 150 high school students. She offered additional assistance with Mathematics and Science courses taught in English to expand bilingual education.

Combining her interest in research with a newfound passion for teaching, Alexa returned to Washington D.C. to begin working as an analyst at CEB (acquired by Gartner in 2017) in their Information Technology practice. There, Alexa worked directly with CIOs of Fortune 500 companies to identify management challenges and deliver strategic insights and best practices.

Alexa authored guidance to clients on the emergence of digital business and built the keynote presentation materials for Gartner's largest research conference series reaching global audiences. From her interactions with senior IT executives, she has developed a keen interest in technology innovation and industry disruption. Alexa also spearheaded an annual benchmarking exercise to inform investment decisions for over 300 organizations and in 2018, after a lead role on business analytics strategy, she was promoted to research consultant.

In Alexa's spare time, she likes to experiment in the kitchen, learn new chords on her acoustic guitar, and play softball on the national mall.

At Wharton/Lauder, Alexa is excited to return to Latin America and better understand its role in the global economy. She hopes to bring an international perspective to all of her future endeavors and looks forward to learning in a truly multicultural environment.





THOMAS WRIGHT

Thomas was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Attending to an international bilingual school and travelling throughout the world during his formative years, he understands the importance of knowing the world through a combination of culture, language and history.

During high school, Thomas developed a strong sense of social awareness. He became conscious of the social gap that exists in Latin American countries. Thus, he got involved and organized summer charitable experiences in low resource neighborhoods, where he built communities to promote education.

Thomas studied industrial engineering at the Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires. Wanting to explore the world, he decided to take a leave of absence from his undergrad studies to take part in an international experience. He lived in Paris for half a year, where he studied French at Université Paris-Sorbonne. This linguistic and cultural immersion cemented his eagerness to develop a global mind.

JPMorgan has been an important part of his life. During college, he undertook an internship in Financial Controlling at JPMorgan's Buenos Aires branch, following which he joined the firm's Credit Risk Management team. During this period, he focused on covering a portfolio of more than 20 banks and broker-dealers clients and participated in various financing transactions. After more than two years, he took a step further in building his international career and moved to New York City through JPMorgan. He was the first analyst in the team ever be transferred to NYC. He worked as an Investment Banking Credit Risk analyst for the North America Financial Institutions Group.

These international experiences brought Thomas to Wharton/Lauder. He plans to open his mind even further with Lauder's broad education and make himself a more complete professional.

Thomas enjoys soccer, rugby, skiing and barbecues with friends and family.





YUE (ARIEL) WU

Yue Wu was born in Inner Mongolia, China, to a Mongolian-Chinese household. She grew up in Shanghai and attended Shanghai Foreign Languages school. At 17, with a strong interest in both travel and business, Yue decided to pursue her bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration at Cornell University.

At Cornell, she was active in various student government clubs, holding leadership roles at Cornell Hotel Society and Hospitality Students International. She was one of the 12 members of the Student Assembly Appropriations Committee, a committee that reviews budget requests for the \$3-million annual undergraduate student activity fee. Yue has a strong interest in cross-cultural experiences, and served as a Cornell Study Abroad ambassador. She was also a resident in the Language House dorm, where she learned Japanese from and taught Mandarin to other residents. The experience living in a language house, and having studied abroad, encouraged Yue to take an internship in Tokyo during the summer after her sophomore year. She worked as a consultant intern at a hospitality consulting company, where she discovered her love for the language, the country, and the consulting industry.

After graduating from Cornell in 2015, Yue moved to Japan to begin her career in Deloitte Consulting LLC Tokyo as a Business Analyst. Her main clients were major Japanese office and home appliance manufacturers, whom Yue helped with overseas market entry, long-term product strategy development, cross-border mergers acquisition and IT system integration. The combination of global mindset, multilingual capability and a multicultural background has given Yue a competitive edge in her career. Yue had already received an accelerated promotion to Consultant by the time she applied for business school.

At Lauder, Yue hopes to achieve holistic knowledge of Japanese and East Asian history and business landscape, helping her to gain an understanding of this region with a “macroscope” that supplements her individual experiences and findings. In the future, Yue wants to help Japanese businesses succeed in their overseas ventures and to be part of facilitating foreign businesses entry into the Japanese market. Yue continues to build upon her inside knowledge, develop her network, and expand her skillset towards this goal.





SHAWN YAVARI

Shawn was born in Panama City, Panama, to a Panamanian mother and Iranian father. At the age of six, his family left Panama for Puerto Rico, Belgium, and Georgia, USA. Spending part of his youth in Europe, he attended the Belgian school at the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Powers in Europe, where he learned French and developed an interest in European culture and history.

At the age of 14, Shawn discovered a passion for the environment when he chemically and biologically tested watersheds with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. Three years later, he began his studies in chemical engineering at Columbia University. There, he focused on projects and coursework related to environmental science. This included an internship at New York City's largest wastewater treatment plant and an internship with Johnson & Johnson during which he evaluated suppliers' adherence to Europe's Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive.

After graduation, Shawn moved to Southern California to join Ramboll as an environmental consultant. There, he worked on various projects around the country related to air quality, climate change, and industrial hygiene. Two years later, he moved to San Francisco to join Dyett & Bhatia as an environmental and urban planner. There, he worked on advising local government agencies around California on a wide range of environmental topics, particularly in policy writing and analyzing the environmental impacts of various policy updates.

In addition to the environment, Shawn is passionate about social responsibility and community engagement. In college, he organized the IBM MentorPlace outreach program to mentor minority fifth-grade students. He also volunteered to organize Girls Science Day, an important event held by Columbia's chemistry department to show middle school girls—many of whom were first generation Americans—that people believe in their ability to become scientists. During and after college, he taught English as a Second Language. In San Francisco, he volunteered with Refugee Transitions. He also worked with Sunday Streets San Francisco to bring the Open Streets concept to underrepresented neighborhoods with limited access to open space and recreational opportunities.

At Wharton/Lauder, Shawn plans to complement his engineering and policy knowledge with greater business and international capabilities to be able to create more sustainable infrastructure around the globe.

In his spare time, Shawn enjoys exploring new cities, meeting new people, hiking, lifting weights, reading about innovations in utilities and transportation, and reading social justice articles related to race, gender, and intersectional identities.





YULIYA ZARNITSYNA

Yuliya is a language and foreign policy nerd who turned to consulting in search of the analytical and management skills needed to promote economic opportunity, resource sustainability, and good governance around the world. She has a special interest in harnessing the commercial and human potential of countries in transition from communism and/or authoritarianism.

Her enthusiasm for global engagement is a product of a highly mobile childhood. By age ten, Yuliya had lived in three countries and spoke four languages: Ukrainian, Czech, Russian, and English. In high school and college in the U.S., she picked up Spanish and dabbled in Portuguese and German.

In 2014, Yuliya graduated summa cum laude from the University of Georgia, where she was a Foundation Fellow. During her time there, she earned majors in International Affairs, Russian, and Spanish, ran the local chapter of AIESEC, an international work exchange non-profit, and explored topics such as the Central Asian poppy trade, the impact of climate change on Russian permafrost, and genocide recognition in Eastern Europe for the Georgia Political Review.

Yuliya's career has spanned the public and private spheres, involved quantitative and qualitative analysis, and tackled challenges both domestic and international. During the 2014 Ukrainian revolution and subsequent Russian invasion of Crimea and the Donbass, Yuliya worked as a policy analyst for the U.S. Department of State and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where she wrote on Ukraine-specific topics such as the EU-backed reform agenda, oligarchic entrenchment, and parliamentary elections. Upon joining the Boston Consulting Group in 2016, she pivoted to commercial work in oil and gas, utilities, industrial goods, and retail across North America and Australia. She developed her consulting skill set in covering a range of topics from geospatial modeling and food waste reduction to B2B pricing and corporate cost rationalization.

At Wharton Lauder, Yuliya plans to marry her commercial skills and impact-oriented worldview to prepare for her long-term ambition of opening a consulting practice to serve public sector clients in Ukraine and the neighborhood.

In her free time, Yuliya enjoys traveling, hiking, ice skating, and doing yoga.





VIRGINIA (HUI) ZHANG

Born and raised in mainland China, Virginia's academic and professional experiences have spanned across Asia, Latin America, Europe and Africa in countries including Mexico, Spain, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Hong Kong SAR. From Spanish Embassy in Zimbabwe to the US\$50 billion Grand Canal project in Nicaragua, Virginia has developed deep expertise in international affairs and large-scale project investment, planning, and development.

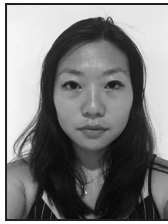
Upon graduating from a Master's degree in International Relations, concentrated in Political Economy of Development in Europe, Virginia completed internships with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and with the Spanish Foreign Ministry, in their embassy in Harare, Zimbabwe. There, despite being a Chinese national, she participated, on behalf of the Spanish government, in multilateral diplomatic meetings for political and humanitarian missions, enhancing her skills and experience in the complexities of international politics.

Afterwards, Virginia joined a Fortune 500 Chinese petroleum SOE in the Gulf of Mexico and worked on projects collaborating with PEMEX and the Mexican Government, often under crisis management situations, such as direct negotiation with PEMEX senior management regarding a fatal accident that cost the life of a Mexican national. Cross-cultural understanding and communication were critical to her successful bridging of the significant divide between the Mexican and Chinese perspectives on conflict resolution, negotiation, and cooperation.

Pursuing a dream to play a role in one of the largest announced infrastructure projects in history, Virginia chose to join the US\$50 billion Nicaragua Grand Canal Project. Stationed in Managua, she dealt extensively with governments, land owners, indigenous communities, international organizations, media groups, labor unions, and banks. Virginia exhibited excellent skills working with locals, from government ministers to laborers on site, and thus, was transferred to Engineering Department to be in charge of managing pre-construction projects. The archaeological investigation she managed discovered the first evidence of salt production in Nicaragua. Under her lead, a 40-member team of Nicaraguan universities, government ministries and NGOs carried out a reforestation project across 80 schools, with 3,000 students participating directly.

Trained in Beijing Opera, Virginia has performed in several countries, and founded the first Beijing Opera course in Mexico. She loves to play traditional musical instruments including the Chinese violin (Erhu), flute, and African mbira. Virginia is also a passionate salsa and bachata dancer, has authored a tourism article for Condé Nast Traveler China to promote Mexican tourism and Mayan culture, and translated the official Mandarin subtitles for two renowned Spanish historical TV series, *The Time in Between* and *Isabel* on China Central Television (CCTV).





JOANNA ZHENG

Joanna was born in Shanghai, China and lived there for five years before moving to the United States. During her childhood, she lived in Texas, Indiana, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Utah while maintaining close connections with her Chinese relatives through annual summer trips back to Shanghai. She also attended Chinese language school throughout most of her upbringing, supplementing her knowledge of the Shanghai dialect spoken at home with reading and writing Mandarin skills.

At Yale University, Joanna double majored in Economics and Political Science, where she was most interested in classes focusing on the impact of economic and political policies on the development of emerging economies, particularly in Asia and Africa. She was also extremely active on the college parliamentary debate circuit, finishing her senior year ranked as the 3rd best two-person team in the nation in American Parliamentary debate and as a Semifinalist at the US British Parliamentary national debate championships. These experiences helped broaden her understanding of global issues, sharpen her analytical and communication skills, and afford her the opportunity to interact with debate teams from all over the world. In addition to her competitive success, Joanna also taught English and debate to a group of middle school students in Seoul, Korea for two weeks. Her involvement as a lead teacher in the camp helped broaden her perspective and understanding of other East Asian cultures, which has been invaluable to her growth as a well-rounded global citizen.

After graduating, Joanna worked as an investment banking analyst at UBS in New York. While there, she primarily covered early-stage biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, but also worked on deals in the consumer retail, financial, and technology groups. She then transitioned to a long-only investing role at Suffolk Capital Management, where she was the sole analyst responsible for covering 50+ large-cap pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies. These work experiences helped her realize the importance of infrastructure and access to healthcare services, particularly in the developing world, an interest she hopes to continue professionally pursuing in a social impact or entrepreneurial capacity.

In her spare time, Joanna is an avid traveler, runner, climber, and writer. So far, she has been to over 45 countries and hopes to eventually complete all of the Seven Summits (the highest mountain on each continent). She is a firm believer in the value of exposure to as many people, cultures, histories, and experiences as possible, and is excited to enrich her understanding of the world at Wharton/Lauder.





MEROUA ZOUAI

Meroua was born in Algeria and moved to the United States with her family when she was a year old. She was raised in Brooklyn, New York and along with her frequent travels to North Africa and Europe, Meroua's diverse cultural experiences fostered her interest in international affairs early on.

Meroua graduated from Brooklyn College City University of New York with high honors in Political Science and Psychology. Her studies focused on analyzing different socio-biological perspectives in relation to political activity to craft a nuanced approach in understanding political mechanisms and their application to both the domestic and international legal system. In light of her deep-rooted interest in global politics, Meroua completed two thesis projects while holding various leadership positions in the school's student government and mentorship program.

Meroua's long standing and on-going preoccupation with comparative work and international law deeply informed her cross-cultural experiences. While working for a legislator in the New York State Assembly, Meroua took charge of advocacy for housing and tenants' rights in NYC. She proposed and helped draft a legislative amendment to the city's rent control laws to ensure that residents have affordable housing. In addition, Meroua took the opportunity to join the Sustainable Energy for All initiative at the United Nations HQ in New York. She worked with high-profile stakeholders to help advance the Sustainable Development Goals to improve economic opportunities for growth and global development.

In 2017, Meroua interned for Human Rights Watch (HRW), Middle East and North Africa Division where she monitored the region's human rights record where Meroua gained unparalleled exposure to the social intricacies and legal complexities that challenge today's international community. She took the lead in completing an intensive international humanitarian law project which not only identified the shortcomings in current international conventions to hold those responsible accountable for international crimes in the context of the Syrian and Libyan civil wars, but also articulated where certain laws could be invoked to protect displaced communities.

Meroua joined the University of Pennsylvania Law School in the fall of 2017 and is currently a J.D. candidate for the Class of 2020. She is also a Global Research Fellow and is on the board for the school's three global human rights pro bono projects.

As a JD/Lauder student, Meroua looks forward to her cross-regional studies and improving her language skills in Arabic. She hopes to better understand how international business and the law can be used as a specific approach and epistemology for social change.



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