Where you’re going depends on where you’ve been.
The Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management & International Studies was founded by brothers Leonard and Ronald Lauder in 1983 in honor of their father, Joseph H. Lauder. The Lauder Institute is a pioneering joint degree program for aspiring global business leaders. Lauder students earn a Wharton School MBA plus an MA in International Studies from the University of Pennsylvania.* We combine a top-ranked business degree with intercultural leadership skills, interdisciplinary coursework, language studies, and research — providing a foundation for our graduates to excel in careers around the world throughout their professional lives.

The mission of the Lauder Institute is to develop outstanding business leaders who look globally, engage locally, and act responsibly to have powerful impact in the world.

**Responsible Impact**
Acting with insight, integrity, compassion, and courage to responsibly change the world for the better.

**Local Depth**
Recognizing and appreciating the uniqueness of different cultures, communities, and countries, and learning to work and live successfully within them.

**Global Breadth**
Understanding and respecting diverse people and perspectives, and building connections between different cultures, communities, and countries.

**Strong Community**
Nurturing a supportive community on campus and worldwide, with a shared global mindset, close bonds, and lifelong friendships.

**Professional Foundations**
Developing leading-edge knowledge and essential skills for exciting, fulfilling, and successful careers.

*At Lauder, students can also earn a JD/MA joint degree in 3 years from the Penn Carey Law School and Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences.
The Lauder Institute Class of 2022

AFRICA

Francophone
Xiaoyu Feng
Zachary Hickey
Peter J. Hucal
Andrew Lee
Felipe Milla Santos
Azline Nelson

General
Saphir Esmail
Tiffany Monthe-Siewe
Satoshi Ozawa
Camila Rachmanis
Mohamed (Simo) Senhaji Rhazi
Wendy Yu

EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Japanese
Yaillett Fernandez
Joseph (Joe) Shan

Korean
Mark Choi
Ranny Choi
Sung Hoon Kim

Mandarin Chinese
Jing Chai
Yu (Vicky) Chen
Helen Chen
Wai Cheng
Nicole Linderman
Alec MacKenzie
Cory McOmber
Keegan Ken Ng
Allison Rose
Christina Wang
Breanne White
Aimee Xu

EUROPE

French
Caroline Dickey
Rukmini Mahurkar
Kristen Meredith
Melissa Blaine Tovin

German
Thomas O’Duden

Russian
Besmir Dishnica
Dylan Margolin
Mike Ravitsky

Spanish
Serene Darwish
Kristian Miller
Daisy Rincon

GLOBAL

Lillian Angela Daou
Nanthini Kumararajan
Alice Lepique Juliano
Michal Lubas
Daniel Miao
Alon Naor
Linh Nguyen
Nicolay Nielsen
Thibault Terrien
Khaing Zin Thet
Emily Ruizhe Zhang

SOUTH ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Arabic
Jim Gianakopoulos
Joseph (Joe) M. Mourad

Hindi
Sagar Chopra
Gaurav Gidwani
Mansukh Singh

LATIN AMERICA

Portuguese
Clark Brown, Jr.
Salvador Carbó
Adriana Castillo Fischer
Carla Domènech Canals
Juliana Escobar Peña
Isabella C. Espinel Marcano
Florence Falk
Juan Pablo Fernandez Nadurille
Juan Ghio
Carolina Gonzalez
Ike Okonkwo
Patrick W. Prommel

Spanish
Matthew Berland
Beatriz Dzialoschinsky
William (Will) Fischer
Shane Sangwoo Han
Annie Heinrich
Ian Hosang
Zack Hubbard
Jack Kleinman
Meagan Murphy
Melvin Pina
Natasha Vaz
MATTHEW BERLAND

Raised by an Argentinian mother and American father, Matt learned to appreciate his Hispanic roots from an early age. His early years were spent learning Spanish and Argentine culture from his mother and maternal grandfather, while his father shared his love for Chicago sports and American politics with Matt. Matt was born in New York City and raised in Waccabuc, a hamlet 45 minutes north of New York City. Matt continued developing his Spanish, taking language classes throughout high school and college. Matt still visits his mother's side of the family in Argentina once a year.

Matt decided to attend Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA after attending the University’s Diversity Life Weekend in the spring of his Senior year of high school. Matt earned his bachelor’s degree cum laude in Finance with a concentration in Financial Analysis. While at Lehigh, Matt participated in many clubs, serving as President of the Club Soccer team and Treasurer of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity.

After graduating in 2017, Matt moved back to New York City to begin his finance career as an investment analyst at Gramercy, a dedicated Emerging Markets investment manager focused primarily on fixed income. During his time at Gramercy, Matt covered a variety of names on the public side, from investment grade to distressed credits. Matt also worked with the private credit team as an analyst on a variety of deals totaling over $300 million. Matt’s coverage included companies throughout Latin America, the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. At Gramercy, Matt was able to get a first-hand view of the power that direct lending can have on SME’s and in turn the impact that these companies can have on the regions they serve.

At Wharton/Lauder, Matt looks forward to building on the skills he developed at Gramercy, especially the importance of marrying the connections between business, culture and language when making investment decisions. Matt hopes to combine his cultural background, work experience and time at Wharton/Lauder to become a difference maker in Latin America through investments in ESG friendly companies.

In his spare time, Matt enjoys playing golf, watching sports and playing with his English Bulldog, Bo. He looks forward to joining the Wharton club soccer team and exploring Philadelphia.
Clark was born and raised in Cherry Hill, New Jersey; a Philadelphia suburb not far from the University of Pennsylvania campus. From a young age, Clark had a deep fascination with all things international, and would spend hours poring over atlases and globes. Growing up in a diverse community, he developed a passion for foreign languages – beginning to learn Spanish as a child, and later taking Mandarin Chinese classes at a local university.

Seeking to develop his international relations and business knowledge, Clark began his studies at the George Washington University in Washington, DC as a Presidential Academic Scholar. Throughout the course of his undergraduate career, Clark served as a University Student Justice, a Resident Advisor for over 100 freshman students, and a member of the Delta Sigma Pi professional business fraternity. Additionally, he supplemented his academics and extracurriculars with study abroad experiences in Barcelona, Spain and Pingtung, Taiwan, as well as a summer internship with the US Department of State at the American Institute in Taiwan's Kaohsiung branch covering public policy issues such as human trafficking.

Upon graduating cum laude with a B.B.A. in International Business, Clark began his career in HSBC Bank USA's competitive retail banking rotational program. His work took him through various roles throughout the US northeast, including: marketing, the retail branch network, and a placement as a bilingual English / Spanish associate in the Premier client contact center's International desk. After completing the program, Clark secured a full-time role within the commercial bank's Global Trade and Receivables Finance team, beginning as an analyst in the Business Development team, and then transitioning to a Client Service role, managing letter of credit transactions for a portfolio of thirty multinational clients. Looking for a new challenge and an opportunity to deepen his understanding of Latin America, Clark later moved to HSBC Mexico's Mexico City offices as a local hire, working in Spanish as a Global Trade Business Development Manager covering supply chain needs for large, locally-based Mexican corporations.

During his time at Wharton / Lauder, Clark will build on his people skills acquired over eight years of business development experience with new analytical and technical skills in preparation for a strategy role focused on LATAM. Clark is fluent in Spanish, and has knowledge of Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese. He has traveled to over 30 countries, and in his spare time enjoys cooking, running, and weightlifting.

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Portuguese
Salvador grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. From a very young age, he knew he could not remain indifferent to the injustice and inequality in Argentina. During his senior year of high school, Salvador and a group of friends voluntarily built a school for an impoverished community in one of the poorest provinces of Argentina. Today, with their support, the school is thriving; it has all the required supplies and goods needed to support the youth of the community, and even offers a scholarship to graduating students to pursue higher education. Salvador is committed to expanding his capacity to have a positive impact in the social and economic development of his community.

Salvador graduated from the Universidad Catolica Argentina as an Industrial Engineer. There, he cultivated his passion for math and embarked on an adventure to understand the world. Salvador also spent two semesters abroad at the Georgia Institute of Technology, in Atlanta, Georgia. He was invited to live at the International House with forty other international students who shared his passion for cross-cultural exchange and understanding. This experience established lasting friendship and companionship to this day.

After college, Salvador joined Fenix Partners (FP), an investment bank focused on attracting investors to Latin America. His passion for finance and economic analysis of developing countries allowed him to lead and develop projects in energy, utilities, financial institutions, retail, and agriculture industries. At FP, he participated in numerous landmark M&A transactions, such as the joint-venture between Schlumberger Production Management and YPF, Argentina’s largest integrated energy company. He and his team helped invest $450M to form one of the first large-scale projects aimed at the development of the Vaca Muerta Formation, the host rock for major deposits of shale oil and shale gas. In addition, Salvador assisted the managers of Seeds Energy Group in securing a PPA and raising debt and capital to develop a biogas power generation plant; its goal, intended to help Argentina achieve its target of supplying 25% of the power matrix from renewable energy sources by 2025.

As someone who will work tirelessly to contribute to the economic, political and social development of Latin America, Salvador hopes that at Wharton and Lauder, he will further his understanding of Latin America’s rich history, cultures, and business practice through practical experience.
Before college, she spent a semester of cultural immersion in Florence, Italy learning the Italian language and exploring her interests in art and architecture. She discovered a profound passion and curiosity for cities that stemmed from the stark contrast between her upbringing in Guatemala and her short-lived experience of living in a European city.

Loyal to her passions, Adriana attended the University of Virginia to study Urban and Environmental Planning with a minor in Art History. She then completed a postbacca-laureate certificate in business and moved to Miami, Florida to work in a boutique real estate investment firm, as well as develop an early-stage tech platform for HOAs to sell delinquent receivables.

Wanting to have a greater and more direct impact on cities, Adriana moved back to Guatemala City to work as an urban planner for the local government. During this time, Adriana got to explore the most marginalized areas of her home city, and became invested in tackling issues related to informal sectors and waste mismanagement through the development of plans, public policy, and personal initiatives.

Committed to enacting further change, Adriana became a member of Guatemala’s national association of urban planners—the largest of its kind in Central America—and served as the first female Vice President for the 2019-2020 term. In this capacity, Adriana gained experience leading larger groups of experienced professionals, and developed an impact project on an informal community.

At Wharton/Lauder, Adriana wants to acquire the business and regional knowledge needed to maximize her efforts of bettering living conditions in Latin America, particularly in the areas of Real Estate and Sustainability. Additionally, she plans to develop her leadership and management skills to become a competitive and successful businesswoman.

Besides exploring neighborhoods and cities, Adriana enjoys chasing after conceptual & modern art at museums and galleries, watching sports — particularly soccer and baseball, analyzing classic and critically acclaimed films, and growing her cacti collection (62 species and counting!).

ADRIANA CASTILLO FISCHER

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Portuguese
Jing was born in Lanzhou, China. She lived there for three years before moving with her parents to Beijing. At the age of six, Jing relocated with her family to Ann Arbor, Michigan. Growing up in Ann Arbor, Jing was exposed to diverse communities. While learning how to navigate the complexity of Asian American identity while living in the Midwest, Jing became interested in exploring different cultures and cultivating a more nuanced understanding of global social and political dynamics.

To further her interest, Jing studied Sociology and Political Science at the University of Chicago, graduating with honors in 2016. At UChicago, Jing served as a Board Member on the Multicultural Student Advisory Board to address and resolve issues impacting multicultural students on campus. She also led the Chicago Debate Society as its President for 2 years, organizing and training the team to compete at weekly debate tournaments as part of the American Parliamentary Debate Association circuit.

After graduation, Jing joined the Chicago office of Boston Consulting Group as an Associate to expand the communication and problem-solving skills she developed at UChicago while building new skills and exposure to diverse business challenges.

At BCG, Jing developed an interest in public sector work in international settings. As a result, Jing completed a Social Impact Secondment at the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in the United Kingdom. At WWF, Jing collaborated with colleagues from around the world to forward a strategic initiative aimed at securing commitments from governments to preserve biodiversity in 2020. Her work at WWF culminated in organizing a dinner at Davos attended by Al Gore.

Jing is looking forward to building her knowledge of global political and cultural dynamics, with a focus on East Asia. In particular, she is interested in enhancing her previous knowledge of China with additional perspectives from the Lauder program. This knowledge combined with the Wharton curriculum will enable her to bring a nuanced point of view to future work with businesses in a globalizing world.
A proud Angeleo and Chinese-American, Helen grew up in Los Angeles as a second-generation American. In an Asian household and the melting pot of Los Angeles, she was raised in a multicultural community that exposed her to diverse people and cuisine.

While at the University of Southern California, Helen majored in business and discovered her excitement for new cultures and travel. Helen hosted international students on campus so she could learn new perspectives while sharing her own in Los Angeles. On experiential learning trips to learn about business operations in Asia, Helen visited businesses and manufacturers in Taiwan, China, and Hong Kong to learn about international supply chains.

Helen's career has been focused on operations in the area of consumer products. She began her career at Logitech, the Swiss consumer electronics company, and worked with international B2B customers. She then worked at The Honest Company, a US-based natural consumer product company, and managed vendors and inventory. These experiences gave her the foundation to learn the end-to-end supply chain from suppliers to customers and prepared her for her most recent opportunity at Snap Inc.

Helen joined the Snap team to scale the business operations for Spectacles, Snap’s first hardware product. Challenged by the growing pains of a company expanding into hardware, she implemented supply chain processes and managed the new partnerships with manufacturers and warehouses globally. Over her time at Snap, she oversaw launches of new sales channels (ecommerce, retailers, and pop-up shops) in over 12 countries.

Interested in leading market expansions for consumer companies in the future, Helen wants to better understand how brands thoughtfully expand into new markets. At Wharton/Lauder, she hopes to enhance her knowledge in global economies and businesses, as well as develop her leadership and communication skills for different cultural settings. She is a heritage Mandarin Chinese speaker and pursuing her Lauder concentration in East and Southeast Asia.

In her spare time, she enjoys trying new workout classes, spending time in nature, and most recently, writing for her stand-up comedy bits. She is looking forward to checking out new studios and hiking trails in the Philadelphia area and learning from her Wharton and Lauder peers.
Vicky was born and raised in Qingdao, a medium-sized city located on the east coast of China. Known for its Tsingtao beer, the city’s pleasant weather and open harbor have also led to thriving tourism and bustling international trade. It was in this environment that Vicky became keen on exploring different cultures and facilitating intercultural understanding.

Upon graduating from a local high school, Vicky left China to attend Cornell University’s leading engineering program to major in Operations Research & Information Engineering and minor in Business. She graduated summa cum laude, made a number of Dean’s Lists, and was among the first candidates to be certified by the Engineering Leadership Program. While on campus, Vicky was an active volunteer, and later President, of the Translator-Interpreter Program, and she also served as a project manager of Social Business Consulting (SBC). The SBC experience convinced Vicky that she could leverage her analytical abilities to create profound business impact and prompted her to intern at Roland Berger Strategy Consultants.

After graduation in 2016 Vicky moved to New York to join the Strategy & Operations arm of Deloitte Consulting. As a Business Analyst, she focused on providing analytically-driven recommendations to clients in the retail and consumer product space, notably delivering a channel mix optimization plan to an iconic American fashion brand as part of a 5-year North American strategy. When promoted to Consultant in 2018, Vicky joined the Strategy & Analytics group and specialized in corporate & business unit strategy, profitable growth path, and scenario planning. She has contributed to multiple strategy white papers published by Deloitte and helped partners lead analysts and communities to pursue market opportunities.

At Wharton/Lauder, Vicky will focus on US-Sino relations and international business. She hopes that greater commercial, societal, and environmental synergies will be achieved with better understanding and ventures from both sides. She speaks Mandarin (native), English (fluent), and German (basic), and is a co-author of a best-selling book in China. Vicky is also a site leader at GallopNYC, a therapeutic horsemanship program where she has volunteered since 2013.

YU (VICKY) CHEN

Lauder Focus: East & Southeast Asia and Mandarin
Wai Cheng

Wai (pronounced “way”, as in no way) moved to Chinatown, New York City from Hong Kong when he was a year old. Growing up with a large extended family and classmates of all backgrounds, Wai developed a community-oriented mindset and became comfortable with diversity. Finding joy in volunteering in high school, Wai decided service would be an integral part of his future.

Wai studied International Relations at Tufts University and immersed himself in its focus on global service and community. His international highlights include studying abroad in Hangzhou, China, and helping former child soldiers with ChildVoice International in Uganda. He also found his faith and became a leader at the Christian Fellowship. In addition, Wai launched a milk tea brand to fundraise for Chinese orphans, and lost numerous intramural basketball games.

Following graduation, Wai joined Teach For China (TFC), a startup non-profit. While teaching 500 students, Wai led efforts to define TFC’s mission, and represented TFC at the 2013 Teach For All Conference in India. He helped form partnerships with government officials in a new province, Baoshan, and fostered friendships between foreign and Chinese fellows through karaoke, mahjong tournaments and food. Most importantly, Wai realized that transforming education meant applying interdisciplinary disciplines like sociology, politics and business.

In 2014, Wai expanded his skillset by joining AIC Education, a company that pioneered ethical approaches towards US college admissions counseling in China. Rising to Assistant Manager of Shanghai Office in 2016, Wai expanded an office of three people to fifteen employees and had a record sales conversion rate of 80% in June and July 2018. Promoted to National Academic Director later in 2018, Wai managed twenty employees, led recruitment of US employees, partnered with the Marketing team to lead national strategy, and led CSR projects with AIC’s rural China hope school. At the end of his six years at AIC, Wai had experienced how business can benefit employees, clients and even society.

At Wharton/Lauder, Wai hopes to approach business from an interdisciplinary international angle, to understand how business can empower and create a sense of purpose, especially as the world becomes increasingly interconnected and innovates. He is also looking forward to challenging his assumptions and preconceptions as he learns from peers and teachers during the Wharton/Lauder experience. On a personal level, he looks forward to improving his Chinese and understanding China on a deeper level.
Mark was born and raised in New York, NY. He was exposed to a multicultural environment from a young age as his father grew up in Korea and his mother in Singapore before emigrating to the United States. Through family trips to Singapore and Korea, Mark learned a great deal about his Asian heritage and developed a passion for the region's languages and culture.

As an undergraduate student at Columbia University, Mark elected to study Mandarin Chinese in addition to majoring in Economics. He spent several summers in China – as a language exchange student in Beijing in 2011, a research scholar at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute in 2012, and as an intern at the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai in 2013. Desiring to serve his country upon graduation, Mark applied for appointment as an Officer in the United States Navy in 2014. While awaiting orders to attend Officer Candidate School, Mark worked at NBCUniversal in the data analytics team within the News Group until 2015.

After graduating from Officer Candidate School, he was assigned to the guided missile cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59) in 2016 and deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the US military campaign against the Islamic State. During the deployment, he was handpicked to serve as the liaison officer to the Indian Navy onboard INS Shivalik during a trilateral exercise with US, Indian, and Japanese maritime forces.

Upon completion of his first tour, Mark was assigned to USS Milius (DDG 69) in Yokosuka, Japan as the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer in 2018. He partook in several multilateral missions with maritime assets from allied nations to enforce UN mandated sanctions on North Korea by documenting illicit ship-to-ship transfer of crude oil. During his tenure onboard USS Milius, Mark won the Bloodhound Award for excellence in Anti-Submarine Warfare in 2019 and was a runner-up in 2018, ranking his team number 1 among 50 qualified ships in the Pacific Fleet.

Through the Lauder program, Mark hopes to use his insights into security and geopolitics in East Asia as a foundation to learn more about business in the region. In his spare time, Mark enjoys self-reflection through meditation and green tea, as well as hiking. Upon graduation, Mark hopes to incorporate his Naval experience with his studies in international business to help companies grow their business in Asia's emerging markets and ultimately achieve greater economic parity in the region.
Ranny was born and raised in New York City to Korean immigrant parents. Growing up in a traditional Korean household while being exposed to many different cultures represented in New York, he developed an interest in intercultural learning at a young age.

Ranny received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Military Academy and commissioned as an Engineer Officer in the United States Army. Upon completion of engineering training and Ranger School, Ranny was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division in Fort Drum, NY and served as a route clearance platoon leader.

Following his successful completion of his first assignment, Ranny was selected for a broadening assignment to 1st Special Forces Group in Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA and deployed to Afghanistan. During his deployment, he advised senior Afghan officers on streamlining project management and procurement processes while managing a team of soldiers responsible for designing, planning, and resourcing infrastructure for the establishment and reopening of several major logistical distribution hubs and combat outposts throughout Afghanistan.

Upon his return, Ranny was assigned to Camp Humphreys, South Korea to serve on the 8th Army staff where he served as a project manager for internally executed construction projects.

During his free time, Ranny enjoys skydiving, hiking, snowboarding, and lifting weights. At Wharton/Lauder he plans to develop a deeper understanding of the geopolitics on the Korean Peninsula and how business can one day assist in relieving the political, economic, and social frictions in the region.

RANNY CHOI

Lauder Focus: East & Southeast Asia and Korean
Sagar was born in Southern California to Indian immigrant parents. While spending his elementary school summer breaks visiting family in Northern India, Sagar became fascinated with the region's ancient history, eclectic traditions, diverse languages, and vibrant landscapes. From a young age, Sagar was also inspired by his parents — small business owners and compassionate leaders — to develop an interest in management and entrepreneurship.

Sagar graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. During his undergraduate years, he led Bruin Bhangra, a collegiate dance team that competes in bhangra competitions nationally and organizes one of the largest competitions in North America. Sagar also organized events within UCLA's entrepreneurship ecosystem and witnessed the Silicon Beach startup scene expand rapidly.

After graduating, Sagar joined FocalPoint Partners as an investment banking analyst, where he developed strong technical skills and deepened his knowledge across sector groups. As a result of FocalPoint's lean deal teams, Sagar worked closely with entrepreneurial clients through each transaction process. He found joy in collaborating with early-stage companies, specifically understanding their operational and expansion strategies across markets. This fascination with global products, passion for technology, and interest in entrepreneurship led Sagar to his next role on the Strategic Operations team at Uber.

At Uber, Sagar grew three business lines, including rideshare, micromobility (JUMP), and food delivery (Uber Eats). He was selected for Uber's “Nomad” program, which allows high-performing employees to gain international exposure through short-term assignments. As a Nomad, Sagar led the Regulatory Operations team in the Philippines — historically one of Uber's most complex regulatory environments — and ensured a seamless and compliant driver onboarding process. He then transitioned to Peru to focus on strategic product initiatives.

Wanting to be in an entrepreneurial environment, Sagar then transitioned to JUMP's newborn Expansion team as a Launcher and operationalized new markets, bringing them to life. Over the course of 18 months, Sagar launched six markets across the U.S. and Europe, including Los Angeles, Paris, and Brussels. After JUMP, Sagar transitioned to the Uber Eats team in Japan, where he led the country's demand growth strategy through restaurant partnerships.

In Sagar's spare time, you can find him dabbling in street photography and learning about the world through books, podcasts, and people. At Wharton/Lauder, Sagar looks forward to exploring social entrepreneurship, gaining a better understanding of global businesses and cultures, and building lifelong friendships.
Lillian was born in West Virginia, USA and was raised in Beirut Lebanon where she went to a French school, then to an American University. Throughout her upbringing, Lillian was able to harness cross-cultural experiences through the numerous exchange programs. Representing Lebanon in 3 summer camps with Children International Summer Villages (CISV) in Hungary, Portugal and Lebanon among 50 other nationalities, has nurtured her passion in exploring other cultures. From a young age, Lillian decided to learn from an international stage; she took summer courses at the Cambridge University in England and expanded her linguistic skills by attending Intensive Spanish summer courses in Barcelona, Spain.

Lillian's interest in solving complex matters drove her to pursue an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering at the American University of Beirut. There, she held many leadership positions in the Toastmasters International club where she conducted numerous public speaking trainings and competitions, locally and abroad, that helped her nourish her confidence and build her intercultural-communication skills. Her interest in cultures and meeting people from different backgrounds drove her to participate in Semester at Sea (SAS), a multi-country semester abroad. With SAS, Lillian spent spring 2017, with 600 other students from across the globe sailing around 11 countries in a span of 4 months. She was able to have an in-depth educational experience by taking global studies courses on the ship and applying her learnings during her in-port visits. Her experiences with SAS expanded her horizons and ingrained in her a global citizenship mindset.

Coming back from SAS, Lillian moved to Dubai to pursue her career in Management consulting with the Boston Consulting Group. Assisting GCC governments and specifically Saudi Arabia, Lillian worked on creating national plans to transform the quality of life in terms of promoting peace, gender parity, youth employment, and educational attainment in the Middle East. In parallel, Lillian decided to share her transformative travel lessons with SAS by authoring the book, “You’ve Changed”, where she argued for the importance of cultural exchange to transform people into socially conscious global citizens, committed to one another.

As someone who has been inherently shaped by the belief, “come see what the world has to teach you”, Lillian intends to promote opportunities for young people to experience the world beyond their immediate communities. By expanding her knowledge through hands-on learning in the Global Program, Lillian aims to explore the opportunities that will allow her to attain her goal of enabling youth to be exposed to other cultures.
Serene was born and raised in the Chicago area. As an involved member of the populous Palestinian community there, she grew up speaking Arabic alongside English. As her extended family was spread across the US, UAE, and Jordan, Serene spent many summer and winter breaks abroad in the SAMENA region. During these stints, she developed a deep appreciation for cross-cultural experience and language.

Serene went on to study Economics, Statistics and Spanish at Northwestern University. She had been learning Spanish since junior high, having elected Spanish as her third language for its intriguing overlap of vocabulary with Arabic and for its wide reach. She studied abroad in Spain, focusing her coursework there in modern European history and economy. Back in Evanston, she produced “Continental Drift,” a student-run radio show broadcast across Chicago that features alternative music from regions across the world, and contributed as a lead undergraduate research assistant and Arabic translator to prepare for “We Crossed a Bridge and it Trembled” (Wendy Pearlman). During one especially memorable summer, Serene returned to Amman, Jordan to work for Save the Children-Jordan on refugee health service campaigns, in the same city where her family once arrived as refugees.

Upon graduating from Northwestern in 2015, Serene joined Accenture. After spending some time building consulting acumen across industries, Serene specialized in servicing financial organizations, specifically multi-national corporate & investment banks. She managed and partnered with teams to digitally transform how the banks form, manage, and meaningfully grow their client relationships in the US, Europe, and elsewhere. Highly valued by her clients, Serene played key business development roles in progressing a few new opportunities ($5-10MM range) as well.

Serene enjoys uplifting others, particularly by way of mentorship. She created, developed and led programs for Accenture new joiners interested in financial services, successfully securing spots for several in the financial services group. Outside of Accenture, she guided high-performing high school youth in Palestine, Jordan, and Syria in their pursuit of US/Canada college admission, even helping one student obtain a full-tuition scholarship from a private university in upstate New York.

Serene hopes to spend her time at Wharton and Lauder increasing her Spanish fluency and deepening her understanding of the global economic environments she will operate in as a business leader.

Serene enjoys spending time with family & friends and connecting with people through food, music, books, travel and the outdoors.

SERENE DARWISH

Lauder Focus: Europe and Spanish
A native Texan, Caroline was born and raised in the small city of Abilene. Born with an adventurous spirit and eager to breakout of her west Texas bubble, she made the decision to attend boarding school at Deerfield Academy. Courses like Asian Civilizations, French Literature, and Eastern Philosophy opened her eyes to the thrill of global studies, and interactions with classmates from all over the country and all over the world sparked her love of learning new cultures.

Keen to continue pursuing international studies, Caroline chose to study International Business at The University of Texas at Austin with a focus on French language and minor in MIS. To feed her creative side, she later added a second degree in Advertising. Caroline spent her sophomore spring and summer in Paris studying at ESCP Europe, and before starting work full-time, she spent the summer taking courses at HEC outside of Paris.

Following graduation, Caroline joined the Revenue Management department at American Airlines in Dallas/Fort Worth. Her five years at American were comprised of mainly pricing strategy roles, including a two-year expat stint in London based at British Airways headquarters. In London, Caroline worked on a multi-airline joint business team in a multicultural work environment with colleagues from all over the world. She credits this remarkable experience and its unique challenges for ultimately leading her to seek a globally focused MBA program.

Throughout her career at AA, Caroline worked on a variety of projects such as the launch of long-haul basic economy in Europe and South America, the introduction of Premium Economy pricing strategy, and customer segmentation analysis on low-cost carrier markets. In her final role at AA, she led a team of analysts responsible for South American pricing strategies, working closely with country sales managers and other external regional partners.

With extensive experience on the commercial side of a complex industry in her back pocket, Caroline is looking to pivot her career towards the intersection of business and creativity. Her strong interest in human-centered design has led to curiosity in the fields of innovation, product management, and brand management, all of which she plans to explore further at Wharton.

Outside of work and school, Caroline is an avid skier, snowboarder, and soccer player. Her other interests include art, photography, and design, but most of all, travel. She has visited 46 countries so far and hopes to reach 50 before Wharton/Lauder graduation.
Besmir was born and raised in Tirana, Albania. He grew up during a time of significant political and economical changes in the country. With the fall of one of the harshest Communist regimes, Besmir’s father started a business and transformed it from a small stand to a wholesale company. As a result, at a very young age, Besmir developed a great passion and acumen for business. While in high school, he was helping with sales and accounting and was going on business trips to Istanbul with his father.

After high school, Besmir served on a volunteer mission in central Russia for two years. He learned to love the Russian people and their culture. During the two years, he was assigned to multiple leadership roles, including supervising a group of over 50 volunteers. After his volunteer mission, Besmir traveled to Hong Kong and China in search of a better supplier for the family business. He successfully transformed the supply chain of the business, dramatically lowering purchasing costs.

Besmir graduated with a B.S. in Finance from Brigham Young University. He worked for KPMG in the Economic and Valuation Services group where he performed valuation-related work of many privately-held companies. Seeking a more entrepreneurial experience, Besmir joined Greener Equity, a small financial services firm. Very soon, he was promoted to Manager, having just a little over 3 years of experience. Besmir was the Swiss knife in the office. He could manage almost any type of consulting projects that the firm offered. Also, he led many initiatives such as: developed office analytics to manage staff performance, built training curriculum, and automated processes. He has advised hundreds of founders, investors, and CEOs of many venture-backed companies on business valuation matters. His contribution was significant in helping his company go through a merger and then an acquisition by a larger company.

Besmir is also the founder and president of Orlette, an e-commerce company that sells watches primarily in Albania. From this experience, he has learned how to leverage social media to build an online business.

In his free time, Besmir likes to catch up on new technologies, but he also likes to go on bike rides with his family, watch football & soccer, and play chess. Besmir speaks four language Albanian, English, Russian, and Italian.
Carla was born and raised in a little village near Barcelona, Spain. When she was young, she took family road trips around Europe with her family’s motorhome. This sparked her curiosity to explore the world and immerse herself in other cultures.

Carla attended Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), where she graduated with degrees in Mathematics and in Industrial Technologies Engineering that she studied simultaneously through the excellence center CFIS. She was extremely active in college and was the president of the Events Committee. As an undergrad, she also wanted to understand better the realities in developing countries which resulted in a 1-month volunteering immersion in Ndu, Cameroon.

After graduating, Carla started a consulting career in Oliver Wyman’s Madrid office. Since starting, she has worked for clients in 5+ industries and countries. Among other projects, she worked on: the digital transformation for a Portuguese retailer; the HR strategy definition for a Chilean telecom operator; a comparison of the digitalization levels of 10+ Latin American telecom operators and their subsequent strategy definition; the pricing strategy of an innovative leisure activity in Madrid; commercial due diligence to support acquisitions in Greece and the UK. All these various experiences allowed Carla to gain a much deeper understanding of business and assess how the cultural and socio-economic differences of each country influence businesses.

Outside of client work, Carla has been promoting inclusion by being active in the Recruiting team where she focused her efforts on achieving gender parity and attracting more non-typical profiles. She has also organized the annual charity event and looked for pro-bono and externship opportunities through the Social Impact Committee.

At Wharton/Lauder, in addition to achieving fluency in Portuguese, she looks forward to further understanding the current challenges in Latin America and look for opportunities to contribute to the regional development through sustainable and innovative technologies.

In her spare time, Carla enjoys outdoor activities such as trekking, skiing, and diving. She also plays basketball and soccer. She is fluent in Catalan, Spanish, English and has some knowledge of German.
Beatriz was born in Brazil, but grew up moving between Mexico and Chile, eventually going back to her home country. She attended Insper University, where she pursued a Bachelor in Business and Administration. At Insper, she was active on campus in various roles, serving as class president for 3 terms, consultant for the school’s junior enterprise, and member of the entrepreneurship league.

While still in college, Beatriz started working at Nubank, a digital credit card operator with over 20MM customers. As a Business Analyst, Beatriz understood the impact of financial empowerment to improve people’s lives, especially in Latin America, where much of the population doesn’t rely on the formal banking system.

Eager to increase her regional footprint and impact, Beatriz joined McKinsey. She focused on the financial sector, helping clients across Latin America rethink their digital strategy - from launching a digital insurance company in Argentina to digitizing all the processes of a major bank in Brazil.

Her passion for empowering people was ignited once again as Beatriz saw a lack of female representation in the senior roles in Latin America. She decided to get involved in Women Initiatives at McKinsey, focusing her efforts on external activities, such as the launch of a Region Wide Diversity Matters Research.

Before joining Wharton/Lauder, Beatriz spent a year working for SoftBank, specializing in helping portfolio companies from a people’s perspective. She helped portfolio companies hire executive leadership, as well as scale up in countries across Latin America and Europe. Her work led to hiring over 2000 people in 6 months.

In her spare time, Beatriz likes to cook, discover new cultures and celebrate carnaval.
JULIANA ESCOBAR PEÑA

Juliana was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, but is a caleña at heart. Growing up, she frequently traveled to her mother’s hometown, Cali, Colombia, to partake in mile-long parades of colorful, ornate floats animated by orchestras and children, and adults skillfully moving their feet to salsa music.

Fueled by an immense desire to explore a new language and culture, Juliana moved to the picturesque town of Montpellier, France, where she lived for six months at the age of 18.

Juliana graduated with Highest Honors from The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in International Relations and Global Studies. After graduation, she joined Deloitte Consulting in Houston, Texas, where she gained experience in organizational change management, innovation, and strategy consulting for Fortune 500 companies across diverse industries. After two years with the firm, Juliana moved to New York City and eventually transitioned to the Clinton Foundation.

At the Clinton Foundation, Juliana joined a team of social business builders who seek to bring entrepreneurial solutions to global poverty. Juliana built and managed relationships with 30+ global partners, including multinational corporations, governments, and impact investors. She also developed memoranda resulting in equity investments of $1.7m from leading impact investors in agribusinesses in Colombia and El Salvador.

After nearly three years with the Foundation, a LinkedIn recruiter presented Juliana with the opportunity to combine her passion for technology and the social impact sector. At LinkedIn, Juliana empowered 80+ nonprofit organizations through digital transformation. She led the team’s first-ever external partnerships initiative, proactively partnering with senior leaders from diverse nonprofits around the world to help them develop digital fundraising strategies.

Juliana is a native speaker of Spanish and fluent in English. She also speaks French and Italian. Juliana is energized to join a community of international doers and change-makers at Wharton/Lauder. She aims to actively learn from her peers, faculty, and staff to become a global leader at the intersection of technology and social impact.

In her spare time, Juliana enjoys live music, salsa dancing, vinyasa yoga, and exploring. She has visited more than 30 countries.
Saphir Esmail

Saphir was born and raised in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo to a multicultural Congolese and Indian family. He attended an international French school until the age of eight when he and his family moved to Atlanta, Georgia for about four years. At the age of twelve, he moved back to Kinshasa and attended an American international school, where he would go on to complete his secondary education. Growing up, he also spent many summers visiting family and friends in Europe. Moving back and forth between these different environments molded him into the global citizen that he is today.

To further his education, Saphir attended Temple University in Philadelphia, PA, where he majored in Finance and minored in Management Information Systems. While at Temple, he was extremely active in various capacities and organizations across campus. Most notably, he was the Director of Marketing of the International Business Association, Vice-President of Internal Affairs of the College Council of Presidents, an orientation leader, and the school’s official DJ. Passionate about solving big problems, Saphir competed in and won two case competitions hosted by Deloitte and the Target Corporation during his junior and senior years, respectively.

After graduation, Saphir joined Deloitte’s consulting practice aligned with the firm’s strategy and analytics offering. He has worked on a multitude of projects over the years including implementing an enterprise data management tool for a Canadian multinational bank, designing and operationalizing a program governance operating model for a regional insurance company, and most recently, helping a government agency design and develop a conversational artificial intelligent chatbot. Saphir is also the Chief Operating Officer of Bright Future Pens, an education startup focused on increasing the study hours of children living in power-deprived areas by providing an alternative light source, starting with an integrated LED pen.

At Wharton, Saphir plans to focus on entrepreneurship, both the investing and scaling of early-stage companies in emerging markets, specifically Sub-Saharan Africa. At Lauder, he hopes to gain a deep understanding of the various entrepreneurship ecosystems across Africa and what socio-economic, cultural, and political factors have led to their successes or hindered their growth.

In his spare time, Saphir loves to play and watch soccer, invest in the stock market, and travel. Saphir speaks French and Lingala fluently and has some knowledge of Mandarin, Spanish, and Swahili.
Isabella C. Espinel Marcano

Isabella was born in Caracas, Venezuela and moved to South Florida when she was 6 years old. Growing up in the suburbs of Miami she was surrounded by peers from a variety of Latin American backgrounds and developed an appreciation for cultural exchanges. From a young age, she was fascinated by travel and languages in large part due to her time at a French School and her grandfather's lengthy career as a diplomat.

Isabella attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology double majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences, specializing in Systems Neuroscience and Management Science with a focus in Business Analytics and Operations Research.

Throughout undergrad her interest in data, tech, and business led Isabella to take up various opportunities to share her knowledge across the world by serving as an instructor for a variety of STEM courses taught to High School Students in Scotland, Israel and Brazil. Additionally she pursued research and technical internships in Barcelona, Cape Town and Mexico City.

Upon graduation Isabella began working at the Boston Consulting Group where she worked across a variety of industries from retail to government, consistently focusing on projects that work to incorporate technology and data to enable innovation. She also spent several months as a secondee at the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) bringing her private-sector experience to social non-profits. While at the SPLC she became fiercely passionate about combining the private sector with social-justice initiatives in order to use business as a tool for long-term social change.

Isabella has consistently been an active member of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts within BCG serving as a BOS Office Undergraduate Recruiting Representative as well as being a founding member of the Racial Equity Taskforce.

At Wharton/Lauder Isabella hopes to deepen her experience in sustainable, socially-conscious businesses, with a focus on start-ups and tech disruptors. She hopes to be able to create, support, and encourage growth in Latin America by building socially impactful business in these emerging economies.

In her free time Isabella enjoys reading, running/exercising, and being outdoors. She has run several half-marathons and hopes to eventually run half-marathons across the world!
FLORENCIA FALK

Florencia was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. From an early age, Florencia was exposed to a multi-cultural environment given her diverse family origins: one side of her family is German and the other, Spanish. Wanting to nurture her connection with both worlds, she became involved in after-school German classes, and joined Conjunto Pelayo, a Spanish Dancing Group, where she has been performing Spanish pieces for more than 20 years.

Florencia attended Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires and graduated with honors in Industrial Engineering, at the top of her class. In an effort to prepare for an international career, Florencia spent a semester in Paris, as part of an exchange program at ESCP Europe. During this time, she took Master in Management courses, while immersed in an international community. This allowed her to understand the importance of managing cultural differences in multicultural environments.

Upon graduation, Florencia joined Hermes Management Consulting, a boutique firm in Buenos Aires, where she conducted strategic projects mainly for the healthcare industry, but also in apparel and tourism, and in the private and public sectors.

While at Hermes, Florencia became increasingly interested in how technology could help her clients solve complex problems, especially with regard to health-related issues. She was awarded a merit-based scholarship to travel to Israel to learn about the “start-up” nation, its innovative ecosystem, and how Israeli culture has impacted its entrepreneurial success.

Eager to combine her interest in innovation and her passion for consulting, Florencia transitioned to Mastercard Advisors and focused her consulting projects on the payments industry, a rapidly changing sector where technology plays a key role. At Advisors, Florencia led projects about eCommerce expenditures, the behavioral segmentation of card portfolios using data analytics, and the improvement of value propositions for traditional financial institutions, acquirers and fintechs, in Argentina, Chile, Colombia and Brazil. Her work in Brazil has allowed her to leverage her previous knowledge of Portuguese and to improve her language skills.

Working in different LatAm markets, Florencia became curious about the history, culture and economy of the entire region, and the impact on business relations. At Wharton/ Lauder, in addition to gaining fluency in Portuguese, Florencia plans to expand her knowledge about Latin America, specifically its challenges and opportunities to do business, and to deepen her understanding of diverse cultural perspectives and political systems.

In her spare time, Florencia enjoys training new members in her dancing group and playing soccer with friends.

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Portuguese
XIAOYU FENG

Xiaoyu was born in Shijiazhuang, a northern Chinese city an hour away from the capital city Beijing. Having visited 32 countries so far, Xiaoyu had his first international trip at 11, when he accompanied his mother on a short-term work exchange in Singapore. The immersive experience in a multicultural and diverse society motivated him to continue to explore different cultures around the world.

Hoping to further improve his language skills and broaden his horizons, Xiaoyu pursued a Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature at Beijing Foreign Studies University. During the period, Xiaoyu co-founded the English Debate and Public Speaking Club and the Club of Interpreters and Translators, where he led a group of students and won the first-of-its-kind translation contract from the Ministry of Finance on China's membership application to the United Nations Green Climate Fund. Xiaoyu also received an internship at the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand on environmental protection policy. These experiences later on informed his decision to pursue a global career.

Upon graduation in 2015, Xiaoyu joined China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure), China's official export credit agency that insures against political and commercial risks for Chinese export receivables, infrastructure loans and equity investments overseas. Xiaoyu spent his first three and half years as a regional desk officer on Asia and former Soviet countries, where he led Sinosure's cover on Kazakhstan's largest-ever refinery upgrade, acted as Sinosure's chief interpreter throughout Iraq's $10bln post-war reconstruction borrowing negotiations, and helped Sinosure extend billions of dollars of insurance quota to sovereign borrowers in the region. Hoping to expand his professional exposure, in December 2018 Xiaoyu became Sinosure's Regional Representative in Johannesburg, South Africa. From the ground office he covered Sinosure's portfolio management, business development and sovereign debt restructuring in 26 African countries. Xiaoyu is a CFA charter holder and has passed all 6 core modules of the CPA China curriculum.

In his spare time, Xiaoyu enjoys traveling, exploring new restaurants, swimming and scuba diving.

Xiaoyu is a native speaker of Chinese (Mandarin) and is fluent in English. At Wharton/Lauder, he hopes to further improve his French language skills and understanding of African economies and societies.
Juan Pablo Fernandez Nadurille

Juan Pablo was born and raised in Mexico City. At the age of sixteen, he went on a voyage to the Arctic with youth from around the world in order to learn firsthand about the effects of climate change. This experience laid the basis for his belief about the importance of having a strong international community in order to address pressing global issues. Later on, he obtained a scholarship to attend the United World College in Costa Rica, where he completed his IB Diploma together with students from highly diverse backgrounds and more than seventy different nationalities.

Before deciding where to attend college, Juan Pablo took a gap year during which he travelled for six months around Europe, visiting museums and appreciating different cultures. Back in Mexico, he completed a six-month internship at MercadoLibre, Latin America's largest e-commerce site, where he worked alongside various NGOs on issues related to corporate social responsibility and the environment.

Juan Pablo then moved to Poughkeepsie, New York, where he pursued his undergraduate degree at Vassar College, eventually graduating with a major in Political Science and a minor in Economics. During junior year, his curiosity to discover new cultures led him to study abroad at the University of Cape Town, in South Africa. While in college, he was selected as a representative of Mexico for the G20 Youth Summit in Russia, and attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. This experience exposed him to political and business leaders cooperating on a multinational stage, and allowed him to imagine innovative solutions for various world challenges.

After graduation, Juan Pablo moved back to Mexico City and worked briefly in the public sector for the Federal Government, both at the Social Development and Finance Ministries, before eventually joining the Central Bank of Mexico. There he has helped manage the investment of the country’s $180 billion dollar portfolio of international reserves as a trader and investor for the Fixed Income division, producing research on world economic trends and generating higher returns through different investment management strategies.

Convinced that a more interconnected world is beneficial for the human spirit, Juan Pablo hopes to use his time at Lauder to connect and travel as much as he can. Fluent in English and Spanish, he is looking forward to learning more about Portuguese and Brazilian culture. He enjoys reading random Wikipedia articles, watching YouTube videos, dancing salsa, and trying out new experiences.

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Portuguese
Yailett was born in Cuba and moved to Miami when she was thirteen. Miami was familiar yet different, and Yailett thrived through the culture clash. To her, leaving Cuba meant the freedom to explore cultures different than her own and meet people from all over the world. Within five years of moving to the US, Yailett learned English, graduated as the valedictorian of her high school class, and was admitted to Harvard College.

As an undergraduate, Yailett concentrated in History with a Secondary Field in the Study of Religion, learned Latin, and wrote for the News Board of the student newspaper. She earned a Master of Divinity in East Asian Religions from the Harvard Divinity School, where she focused on Japanese History and Religion. During her graduate program, she started learning Japanese and studied abroad in Japan for two summers.

Education opened a world of opportunities for Yailett, and she believes that it can change the world. After college, she sought to pay it forward and worked with high school students as a public-school teacher in Miami-Dade County and as a residential advisor and assistant dean for the Harvard Summer School. After graduate school, Yailett worked in student services and accessibility as well as in alumni affairs and development at Harvard. In her last role, she managed relationships with donors and prospects to advance the fundraising goals of the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies (DRCLAS), leading and contributing to strategy conversations regarding fundraising, donor engagement, and stewardship.

During her first summer in Japan, Yailett and her cohort at the University of Tokyo's Summer Innovation Program traveled to the Tohoku area and to towns devastated by the tsunami and earthquake that triggered a nuclear accident in 2011. Learning about innovation and business in Japan, with a focus on disaster prevention and recovery, is among the most meaningful experiences of her life. This was the first time Yailett saw business and innovation serving to catalyze change and make a positive impact for the world. It is the spark that drew her to Wharton and Lauder, where she hopes to polish the skills she needs to envision and implement solutions that revolutionize and improve our world.

At Lauder, Yailett is excited to make life-long friendships, to continue to develop her Japanese skills, and to study East Asia more broadly. She loves cooking, baking, and dancing salsa. She also likes traveling and enjoys watching movies, particularly foreign films and Japanese dramas.
WILLIAM (WILL) MURPHY FISCHER

Will was born and raised in New Jersey to an internationally focused family; travelling frequently, Will, his twin, and another younger brother are collectively fluent in Spanish, Japanese, and Chinese, respectively. A multi-sport athlete through high school, he was captain of his wrestling team and a state placer in pole vault. Growing up on the Jersey Shore, Will was a nationally competitive sailor who competed in regattas all over the United States as well as overseas, participating in London’s Thames Sailing Barge Match, the second oldest sailing race in the world.

Will attended Wake Forest University graduating cum laude while majoring in Economics and minoring in Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise. During his time at college, he participated in a variety of campus jobs and internships: campus promoter for Zipcar and Bloomberg, intern for Mission Peak Capital, and summer analyst for Rabobank. He was an active member of his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon, serving as both the vice president of finance and a member of the standards board.

After graduation, Will moved to Atlanta, Georgia where he worked as an investment banking analyst in Regions Bank’s Restaurant and Fitness Group. In this role he helped manage and grow a $2+ billion portfolio of corporate loans to restaurants and gyms in support of mergers and acquisitions, new unit growth, and private equity buyouts.

While in Atlanta, Will volunteered with local non-profits. As a Big Brother in Big Brothers Big Sisters, Will mentored an 8 year old boy from a local neighborhood. Volunteering as a budget coach for Habitat for Humanity, Will assisted new homeowners in structuring a personal budget and avoiding financial pitfalls. Additionally, he volunteered with the Sheperd Center Junior Committee which raises funds to cover spinal injury rehab.

Seeking a new challenge and looking to give back on a grander scale, Will joined the Peace Corps as a business advisor and served in Corozal, Colombia. In this role he taught entrepreneurship and financial education classes to Colombian high school students and farmer associations while advising entrepreneurs and small business owners. His time in Colombia was unfortunately cut short due to COVID but he hopes to return as soon as possible.

At Lauder, Will looks to deepen his understanding of Latin American economies and culture and prepare himself for a career in social impact in emerging markets. In his spare time he likes to stay active: racing in half-marathons, playing tennis and golf, and surfing.

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Spanish
Juan was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He was exposed in his childhood to a variety of diverse cultures, languages and backgrounds, completing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme during high school. This motivated his interests in global cultures, especially in Latin America.

He pursued studies in Economics at the Universidad Católica Argentina, motivated by the complex macroeconomic crises he witnessed within his home country and in the region. During his time in college, he interned for Capgemini and OSRAM, where he discovered his passion for corporate finance and capital markets. He also co-founded an NGO committed to provide elementary and high school-equivalent education to adults. This permitted Juan to broaden his perspectives on social impact initiatives, as well as on the importance of contributing to the development of the less-resourced Latin American communities.

After graduation, he joined CRISIL, an S&P Global company that provides research and credit ratings for different financial institutions, as an equity analyst. There, he specialized in drafting sell-side valuation reports and models for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch research team that was focused on the enterprise software industry, helping them to cover over 10 software stocks. He later moved to J.P. Morgan, where he worked as an Associate leading the Marketing Middle Office team that supported all of the fixed income and currencies trading desks throughout the Latin America region. Finally, he joined Delta Asset Management, one of the largest Argentinean mutual funds, as an equity analyst. There, he assisted the senior portfolio manager of the fund in trading, valuating and picking stocks that operated across every industry and country in the region. During this time, Juan also became a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) charterholder.

At Wharton/Lauder, Juan is interested in expanding his knowledge and interest in Latin America, focusing on understanding the diverse culture and history the region, and how to capitalize on this to effectively lead businesses with a regional scope.

Juan is fluent in English and Spanish, and also has some knowledge of Portuguese. In his spare time, he loves running, playing soccer, meditating, playing the guitar, and traveling.
Jim was born in Indianapolis, Indiana but grew up in Austin, Texas. He attended The University of Texas at Austin where he double majored in Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. As part of his undergraduate degree, Jim participated in the Arabic Flagship Program, a subprogram of a broader government initiative to graduate students with professional proficiency in critical languages. Within this program, Jim studied Arabic for two years domestically before beginning his capstone year abroad in Meknes, Morocco.

While in Meknes, Jim lived with a host family, enrolled in classes at the local university, interned as a journalist, and traveled the country extensively. He explored the Mediterranean and Atlantic coasts, hiked the Atlas Mountains, camped in the Sahara Desert, surfed Taghazout, and achieved a personal best in the Marrakech Marathon. At program end, Jim not only graduated with professional proficiency in Arabic, but departed Morocco with lifelong friends as well as a deep appreciation for and understanding of Moroccan and broader Arab culture.

After graduation, Jim returned to Austin and joined Indeed.com's International Product team where he supported the company’s Middle East presence. He managed all eight sites within the region, launched sites in Egypt and Morocco, led Arabic localization and product initiatives, and improved Indeed's Arabic search engine capabilities.

Seeking to use his Arabic in support of public sector clients, Jim transitioned to Dataminr, a global real-time information discovery company, where he worked as an Arabic Domain Expert from the company's Seattle office. At Dataminr, Jim focused on open source Arabic analysis tracking breaking conflict and extremist and rebel messaging in the Middle East and North Africa. He worked to expand, develop, and maintain operational and reporting capabilities across many different sources. Additionally, he was responsible for composing white papers on critical political, economic, and military developments within the region.

Most recently, Jim relocated to Washington, DC in support of a boutique government consulting firm where he worked to evaluate emerging private sector technologies for public sector acquisition. At Wharton/Lauder, he looks forward to further exploring the relationship between global business and international politics, while continuing to develop his language, managerial, and analytical skills as part of Lauder's South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa (SAMENA) track.

In his spare time, you can find Jim reading, training for his next marathon/ultramarathon, planning his next surf trip, or spending time with family and friends.
Gaurav is of Indian descent, and was born and raised in Hong Kong among Chinese, Filipinos and British. At 16 years, he left for the UK to complete the International Baccalaureate Diploma at United World College (UWC) of the Atlantic. As he joined classmates from 80 nationalities at UWC to celebrate common humanity, it further deepened his passion for global communities. The diverse and multicultural aspects of living across Hong Kong, Britain and India has ingrained him with an ability to harness cross-cultural experiences and integrate them into his personal growth and a commitment to a global career.

Being awarded a full-ride Davis United World College scholarship, Gaurav aimed to obtain a robust education in the States. He pursued an undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, double majoring in Aerospace Engineering and Business Administration. During his college years, as a race crew member of the UofM Solar Car team and Power electrical division head, he pioneered the lightest lithium-ion battery pack to lead his team to win third place among 42 teams in the World Solar Challenge race held in Australia. He was captivated by the technical and business-side experience of making a zero emission car. During his time as an Equity Research summer intern at Morgan Stanley and a project team lead at the Michigan Engineering Consulting Club, Gaurav pursued his passion to explore multi-industries and to find creative solutions to tackle C-suite level business problems.

Upon graduation in 2015, Gaurav joined Boston Consulting group in Detroit and worked his way up from Associate to Consultant, and finally to Project Leader. Being part of a large, professional and a multicultural firm such as BCG provided Gaurav with a strong start and gave him unparalleled exposure to the corporate world, enabling him to learn both from his colleagues and clients. In his 4+ years as a management consultant at BCG, he has worked on automotive & smart mobility, agriculture, medical equipment, consumer goods, and paper & packaging industries. He has also spent significant time advising clients on various investments and M&A transactions. Gaurav has also served as an interviewer/recruiter for BCG, and co-led the Mental Wellness team at the Detroit office.

At Wharton/Lauder, Gaurav hopes to formalize his finance knowledge and leadership skills developed at BCG, enhance his ability to operate across cultural boundaries, and aspires to become a dynamic global business leader.
CAROLINA GONZALEZ

Carolina was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and is a descendant of Spanish and Italians. She has spent her whole life in Buenos Aires, but had the opportunity to go to Italy to meet her family, share their customs and tour the places where her grandparents were raised. Interested in getting to know new people and new cultures, she studied English for almost 12 years and then dabbled in French, Italian and Portuguese. This enabled her to travel around Europe and more recently to work in Brazil.

Being part of a still unequal society, Carolina witnessed lots of injustices in her professional and personal life including machismo, racism and speciesism in public and personal spaces. She dedicates her time to fighting against injustices and for equal rights, acting upon her privileged role in society. She is a committed vegan and feminist activist and an advocate for those who don’t have a voice.

Intending to pursue a robust professional career, she was the first in her family to obtain an undergraduate degree. In fact, she obtained two degrees at the public University of Buenos Aires, one in Business Administration and the second one in Information Systems. Her studies motivated her to work for a Tech Company, and led to a position in a Latin American FinTech. She had the opportunity to work for different countries, such as Mexico, Uruguay, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru and Brazil. Through this experience, Carolina grew more aware of the great challenges that Latin America is still facing in terms of technology and social inclusion. Many do not have access to formal financial systems. That is why she wants to pursue her graduate studies at Wharton/ Lauder, where she plans to gain a strong understanding of the Latin America region, its society and economy, and develop the skills to create solutions, and to continue to pursue her career goals.
Shane was born in Seoul, Korea, and moved to the United States when he was 13 years old. In the U.S., he was raised in Queens, New York, and learned to interact with various cultures at a young age from growing up in the U.S. Always curious to learn different languages, Shane studied Korean, Greek, and Japanese in high school. He, then, attended Baruch College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics with cum laude, along with double minors in Economics & Finance and Japanese. During his time at Baruch, he also studied abroad at the University of Oxford, which became his inspiration to explore the world further later on.

After graduation, Shane started to work for J.P. Morgan at its global headquarters in New York. As an Analyst in Global Rates Financing Market Risk group, he focused on Latin America developing interests in the region as he priced and risk-managed various financing trades with collateral in Latin American fixed income assets such as government and corporate bonds. More recently, he worked as a Vice President in J.P. Morgan's Public Finance Market Risk group, where he spent more than 5 years conducting several market research and independent due diligence on transactions larger than $500 million and high-risk trades in municipal debts of the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

To become more familiar with Latin America, Shane frequently traveled to the region and had conversations with locals he met during his trips to learn different perspectives of what the locals thought about the political and economic situations of the region. After volunteering in Ecuador for an NGO specializing in childhood education, United to Benefit Ecuadorian Children International (UBECI), he decided to pursue his interests in the region by taking a weekly language class after work; he achieved an advanced level of Spanish within 11 months of study.

At Wharton/Lauder, Shane hopes to take his Spanish skill to the next level in which he can conduct businesses, and looks to understand the challenges faced in developing more robust infrastructures in Latin America.

Shane enjoys meeting new people conversing in Korean, English, Japanese, and Spanish. Having explored 28 countries on 6 continents, he likes to embark on new adventures around the globe in his spare time. His other hobbies include snowboarding, scuba diving, high-altitude mountaineering, trekking, and extreme sports.
Annie was born in Houston, Texas and spent most of her childhood moving because of her father’s job in oil and gas, from West Texas, to Venezuela, to Alaska, with Houston as a landing pad between other cities. After living in Venezuela for three years in middle school, she developed a keen curiosity about other cultures and fields.

Annie pursued an undergraduate degree at Rice University, where she majored in English and took courses in Spanish and Latin American literature. During college, Annie was actively involved as a cheerleader for four years and as a research assistant for Dr. Douglas Brinkley in History. She also interned at a non-profit devoted to children's advocacy, acted as an Editor-at-Large for the Rice literary magazine, and published her own work in a few small college magazines. Compelled to continue her global education, she spent a semester studying abroad in Rome, a January term in Barcelona, and a study trip to Havana. Through travel, she was able expand her knowledge of world views and rediscover the diversity she found in childhood, and thus channel her interest in people, culture, and art.

After graduating in 2015, Annie took a role in the graduate rotational program at Willis Towers Watson (NASDAQ: WLTW), a global advisory, brokerage and solutions company, where she rotated through the Natural Resources group in Houston. Excited by the company’s global footprint and transformational merger, Annie transitioned into the Strategy & Corporate Development group in New York where she contributed to firm-wide strategy projects, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate venture capital investments for three years. Outside of work, Annie has been an active volunteer in the New York Junior League, most recently as the Vice Chair of Production for the Community Improvement Project, an annual renovation project for a local non-profit.

Annie is fluent in Spanish with a confused but distinctive Venezuelan accent. Through college courses and study abroad, she is conversational in Italian and enjoys reading books in their original language where possible. She also enjoys travelling, cooking, and facilitating her book club, Women in Translation.

This journey has clarified the importance of an international mindset. At Wharton / Lauder, Annie is interested in studying the corporate strategy of MNC’s, cultural institutions in Latin America, and the intersection of the public and private sector in the region.
Growing up in Sligo, a small, coastal town of 20,000 in the West of Ireland, Zachary was part of an avid surfing family. Zachary’s formative years were spent at his family’s surf school, instructing in the cold waters of the Atlantic, washing surfboards and wetsuits, and interacting with people from every corner of the world. As the son of the coach for the Irish National Surf Team, he was fortunate to witness first-hand how the qualities of life deviated across borders and oceans, traveling through Europe, Africa, and South America with the team.

Zachary studied Mathematical Sciences and Bioinformatics, taught through both Irish and English, at the University of Ireland, Galway. Concurrently, he completed a secondary degree in Irish Translation and Cultural Studies. His coursework and research led him to study and intern in Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia, furthering his cross-cultural exposure by teaching him the importance of respecting other ideologies and beliefs different from those most familiar to him.

After graduating in 2016, Zachary wished to complement further his quantitative background with theoretical and practical business experience. He was granted a Naughton fellowship to study a Masters in Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation (The ESTEEM program) at the University of Notre Dame. As part of this year-long program, Zachary joined the innovation team at a Fortune 50 bank, strategizing how the bank will integrate blockchain technology in their cross-border remittances.

Moving to New York in July 2017, Zachary joined Cyndx, a Fintech startup focusing on optimizing workflow for investment banks, and private equity and venture capital firms through data intelligence. In typical startup fashion, he wore countless hats, working across the strategy, product, and growth teams during his tenure. In New York, Zachary was also actively involved in the leadership committee for Gotham Volleyball, an organisation that aims to improve the quality of life for LGBTQ+ individuals by building community through sport.

Prior to starting Wharton and Lauder, Zachary undertook a virtual internship with a LatAm-focused, early-stage VC firm. He also took advantage of enjoying the Irish countryside, learning how to perfect traditional Irish soda bread and Boxty, practicing the fiddle, and working on his embroidery skills (so he can decorate his future apartment and personalize some clothing). He is excited to contribute his unique cultural and business perspectives to the Wharton and Lauder community, and hopefully will promote Irish culture further by leading with empathy, humility, and enthusiasm.
Ian was born in south Florida to Jamaican parents. While still a toddler, his family returned to Jamaica to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities, giving him and his siblings a typical Jamaican upbringing. Inspired by his family members, who had settled in diverse countries around the world, he forwent the opportunity to immediately enter law school in Jamaica after high school, in order to pursue an undergraduate degree at Pomona College in California. Ian majored in Economics and completed a separate concentration in Accounting at the neighboring Claremont McKenna College. In addition to his major, he cofounded the Caribbean Students Organization, was manager of the college’s on-campus student-run restaurant, and completed a six-month intensive immersion in Spanish language and culture in Madrid, Spain.

After Pomona, Ian entered the then-nascent big-data and analytics consulting industry as an analyst and then an associate at Mu Sigma Inc. There, he worked as the onsite lead in a globally distributed team to execute engagements for sales, marketing, and product launch groups at leading Pharmaceutical companies. His projects included descriptive analytics such as reporting and dashboard design, as well as prescriptive analytics such as customer segmentation and sales-force territory optimization/design.

Pursuing his interest in finance and local enterprise, Ian transitioned to the commercial banking industry by joining Carver Federal Savings Bank - the last remaining African American-founded and run bank in New York. At Carver, he held various roles including portfolio/relationship manager for an assigned $100 million commercial real estate loan portfolio, and program manager for the bank’s consumer and small business micro loan product. In his final role, he worked directly with the Chief Credit Officer in redesigning the Bank’s credit risk management function to resolve regulatory deficiencies.

At Wharton/Lauder, Ian plans to deepen his skills in finance and develop a perspective on international development in emerging markets. He also plans to use the opportunity explore other fields including operations and fintech. Ian enjoys fishing and playing field hockey. He is a twin, and a self-proclaimed handyman.
Zack was born in New York City and grew up in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. Alongside his two brothers, Zack grew up in his family’s small business, where he developed an appreciation for entrepreneurship and small business.

In 2013, Zack graduated from Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business with a major in finance. Zack started his career working on mergers, acquisitions, and restructurings as an Investment Banking Analyst in Lazard’s middle market advisory practice. Subsequently, Zack joined Great Hill Partners, a private equity fund in Boston, as an Associate supporting the acquisition of high-growth technology, software, and businesses services companies in developed markets.

In 2017, Zack joined the International Finance Corporation (“IFC”) in Washington, DC to apply his investment skills and experience towards The World Bank’s twin goals of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. As part of IFC’s infrastructure investment team, Zack worked on equity and debt investments in more than ten countries, including Argentina, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

In his free time in Washington, Zack taught a U.S. history and civics class, entirely in Spanish, to assist immigrants studying for the U.S. citizenship exam at the Central American Resource Center of D.C. Additionally, Zack enjoys stand-up and improvisational comedy.

At Wharton and Lauder, Zack plans to expand his knowledge of the Spanish language and the Latin American region, with the plan of continuing a career in investment post-MBA.
Peter was born in Lake Forest, Illinois, and in 1997, moved to Toronto, Ontario and ultimately became a dual citizen of the United States and Canada. His international interests emerged in high school when he led fundraising and on-the-ground support to build homes for two Habitat for Humanity missions: New Orleans (after Hurricane Katrina) and then Cambodia. At the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) he pursued his B. Eng. in Civil Engineering and successfully completed RMC’s rigorous four-pillar Officer Commissioning Program in academics, bilingualism (French), athletics, and leadership. In his final year, Peter was selected to lead the Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALOY), where he directed a squadron of Indigenous Canadians in military training and leadership.

After honorably discharging from the Canadian Military, as a 2nd Lieutenant in 2014, Peter pursued a career in the natural resource sector. He began his private sector career as a Field Engineer for a boutique energy services firm supporting contracts in Iraq, Bangladesh, and Chad, and then for the energy supermajor, Shell, at their northern Canadian assets. Peter’s solid field experience got him recruited as a Research & Development Project Engineer for the largest gold mining company in the world, Barrick Gold. Using data analytics, his team demonstrated that you can drive efficiencies while creating safer, cleaner and more ethically accountable operations globally.

Recruited to Kinross Gold Corporation, he oversaw the economic study of the $150M Tasiast mine expansion in Mauritania and supported the securitization of $300M in project financing from the International Financing Corporation (World Bank). These assignments required extensive travel to West Africa, leveraging Peter’s working proficiency of the French language and cultural sensitivities. Peter’s success in Mauritania led him to be selected to join Kinross’s global mergers and acquisitions (M&A) due diligence team. Back home in Toronto, Peter was elected Chapter President of the Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Toronto Professional Chapter focusing on Sub-Saharan businesses and entrepreneurs with a network of like-minded professionals focused on sustainable development.

Peter is focused on an investment career in emerging and frontier economies. He enjoys adapting his skills to challenges that arise - fixing, building, growing and creating opportunities in rapidly changing environments. At Wharton/Lauder, he plans to develop a deeper, more nuanced understanding of Africa's emerging and frontier markets including the social and economic impacts of private investment. In his spare time, Peter is a competitive runner and enjoys reading, camping, squash, and golf.
Born in Seoul, Sung Hoon spent his early life moving between the United States and South Korea. His travels across East and Southeast Asia exposed him to different peoples and cultures and sparked his curiosity in international relations. He pursued that interest at Bowdoin College, where he studied Political Science and Mandarin, and traveled across China during the summers.

Upon graduation, he joined the Boston Consulting Group in Boston to research emerging consumer trends in the banking and insurance industries.

More recently, Sung Hoon moved to Liberty Mutual Insurance to get hands-on operational experience. For the past four years, he has worked on the Underwriting Strategy team, helping design and implement projects to improve profitability in personal lines insurance. Notably, he kickstarted a cross-functional weekly audit process for 800 call center sales agents to address a $50M profit gap that led to the creation of a fifteen-employee team. Additionally, he led competitive intelligence to design the firm’s strategic roadmap to improve underwriting capabilities. He also received the Liberty Mutual Patent Award for developing an image recognition algorithm that automates the assessment of the riskiness of dwelling structures.

Through the Wharton/Lauder program, Sung Hoon hopes to further his international studies and passion for learning about public markets investing and eCommerce platforms.

In his spare time, Sung Hoon enjoys experimenting with Asian dishes, reading science fiction, and playing tennis and golf.

SUNG HOON KIM

Lauder Focus: East and Southeast Asia and Korean
Jack was born and raised in Westchester, New York. He was exposed to different cultures from a young age, given that his mom was born in Uruguay and grew up in Bolivia with family spread across South America. Speaking both English and Spanish at home, he decided to start learning Chinese in high school. He then deferred college for a year to intern and travel in Africa and Asia.

While at Harvard College, Jack studied East Asian Studies and Economics. In addition to participating in an intensive Chinese summer program in Beijing, he studied abroad for a semester in Barcelona, taking history, literature, and economics classes in Spanish. Combining his regional interests in China and Latin America led Jack to pursue thesis research on Chinese agribusiness companies investing in Argentina, specifically focusing on the global soybean trade. Outside of class, Jack directed Harvard’s largest undergraduate prison education volunteer program, interned in finance in London, and interned in venture capital in Beijing.

After graduation, Jack moved to Mumbai where he was one of five international graduates selected to participate in the Mahindra Group’s Global Recruit Program, a rotational program at one of India’s largest conglomerates. As a Deputy Manager in the Group Strategy Office, he was involved in creating an automotive digital transformation strategy plan for Mahindra Auto. His main rotation was at SmartShift, a logistics tech platform for trucks, where he handled investor relations and led their Sri Lanka expansion project. Outside of work, he served as Secretary for the Harvard Club of Mumbai.

Seeking to gain more work experience in China, Jack joined TalkingData, China’s leading third-party big data platform, as a Global Business Development Manager. He ran a new business line selling alternative data to hedge funds, established technical partnerships with foreign companies, and helped local firms build overseas alliances. In his free time, he planned China's first-ever “Pop Plant-Based Festival,” a plant-based food and fitness festival attended by 8,000 people. In the months leading up to school, Jack interned at a venture capital firm in New York.

At Wharton/Lauder, Jack hopes to continue exploring the relationship between China and Latin America, the global food system, and the rise of plant-based food tech. Afterwards, he looks forward to launching a global career.

In his spare time, Jack enjoys fitness, travel, and spending time outdoors.
Nanthini was born in southern India and raised in Singapore. Growing up in a multi-cultural, outward-looking state inspired her global outlook. Inspired by Singapore’s history of transforming from a colonial backwater to a thriving global business hub within a single generation, she developed an interest in private sector-driven economic development.

After graduating from high school, Nanthini moved to the United Kingdom to attend the University of Oxford, where she studied Economics and Management. During this time, she gained exposure to both the corporate world, as an equity analyst intern at BlackRock, and the world of grassroots international development, as a project worker working with an education-focused non-profit in rural Kenya.

Upon graduation, Nanthini joined McKinsey and Company as a management consultant in London, where she worked mostly on strategy projects across Europe, particularly in the consumer sector. She also spent five months helping to revamp the education system in a West African state.

After spending two years at McKinsey, Nanthini was keen to get a taste of general management and strengthen her experience in Africa. She took up an operational role based in Uganda, working for M-KOPA, a growth-stage company and social enterprise selling solar home appliances and smartphones via micro loans. There, she managed three teams and led the launch of the solar-powered fridge.

Through these experiences, Nanthini discovered her passion for working in emerging and frontier markets across Asia and Africa. She also grew her excitement for building market-based solutions to development challenges such as education, healthcare and energy.

Immediately prior to starting at Wharton/Lauder, Nanthini interned with an impact-focused venture capital fund in India and supported a private equity deal in Africa.

At Wharton/Lauder, Nanthini plans to focus on Entrepreneurship and Innovation as well as build a strong foundation in Finance, to complement her strategy consulting and general management skillset. She also hopes to develop a deeper, more nuanced understanding of different societies and strengthen her intercultural leadership skills. She is grateful for the opportunity to experience living in the United States and traveling in the Americas.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, cooking, reading and watching soccer. She also indulges in her love for the Korean language and culture, and hopes to be part of North Korea’s economic development in the future.
Andrew was born and raised in Toronto, Canada and moved to New York to attend NYU where he obtained a Bachelor of Science in finance and accounting and a Master of Science in accounting. At NYU, Andrew gained a passion for social impact and international markets through various endeavors. He took courses allowing him to travel to Argentina and Peru where he learned how to drive social impact initiatives working with both the public and private sector. His interests in global financial markets led him to complete an internship at a consulting firm in Beijing where he helped connect Chinese companies to North American financial markets.

After graduating, he joined PwC's Capital Markets Advisory group to deepen his knowledge of financial markets. At PwC, he advised companies across the globe looking to access capital markets through IPOs, equity follow-ons, debt and loan alternatives. He also lead efforts in developing capital markets research for internal and external clients.

Driven by his desire to gain more international experience and work on development issues, Andrew joined the World Bank in their Treasury's Financial Advisory and Banking Team. There, he worked with emerging market governments on a variety of public debt and financing issues. In this role, he led engagements with Pakistan on international capital markets issuances and developed a debt recording training tool for their provincial governments. He also contributed to writing research related to the management of contingent liabilities and international governments' engagements with investors on ESG issues.

Outside of work, Andrew also devotes his time to working with Streetwise Partners, a nonprofit connecting mentors from various professional backgrounds to adult mentees from under-resourced communities. As a mentor, he works with his mentees to provide them with the skills, resources and networks to secure employment. He is also a volunteer board member for Streetwise Partners where he helps with fundraising initiatives as well as engagement with the volunteering community.

At Wharton/Lauder, Andrew hopes to strengthen his strategic skills, to develop a more thorough understanding of business and politics in the African region, and to learn more about the use of fintech for financial inclusion as well as sustainable finance.

In his spare time, Andrew is a great cheese enthusiast, an avid traveler, and a member of an improvised comedy team in D.C. He is an avid Toronto Raptors fan and enjoys playing pick-up basketball.
Alice was born in São Paulo, Brazil. Diversity was a part of her life from the start: she was raised in a family of 7 different ethnicities, and as she was learning Portuguese, she moved to New York, where she spent part of her childhood.

Besides learning new languages, Alice invested in deepening her understanding of Latin American development through study trips to remote areas of Brazil, and developing an urbanism housing project in partnership with São Paulo Mayor's Office during her University studies. On top of that, she explored the Andes through hiking trips and supported companies in Brazil and Peru during her years in consulting. Alice has actively sought to broaden her inter-cultural awareness in her personal and professional life.

Alice attended Universidade de São Paulo (USP) and majored in Civil Engineering. During that time, she was an active member of the community as captain of the Handball team, Academic Director of the Civil Engineering Student Council and Class Representative. She also conducted academic research projects in Structure Dynamics for wind turbines and in Real Estate Urbanism, for which she won 2nd place in the Latin American Real Estate Conference (LARES).

Alice transitioned to be working in consulting after graduation, seeking to learn about different industries and to have impact on over businesses. At McKinsey, among other areas, she focused on strategy, developing a growth plan for a rising biotech company, investing strategy for an infrastructure PE fund, advising on the recovery of an infrastructure operator and changes in the business model of a pharmaceutical retailer considering Covid. She was also interested in Digital and Analytics so she participated in projects to develop fraud and credit application models, input optimization models for a mining company, re-designed customer journeys for a major Latin American bank and built an insuretech from scratch. Finally, she was a member of McKinsey All In, contributing actively to the Women and LGBTQ groups and was also a founder of the local office ‘Green Team’, responsible for implementing sustainability initiatives.

At Wharton/Lauder, Alice looks forward to further expanding her perspectives related to geopolitics and global businesses, especially how they impact companies’ strategy, risk and corporate finance functions and how technology and analytics can help them predict behavior and make better decisions.

In her spare time, Alice enjoys outdoor sports, photography and, ever since finding out she has celiac disease, trying out new gluten-free recipes with her family.
Nicole was born in Charlotte, North Carolina and grew up in North Carolina and Texas. She earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Goizueta Business School at Emory University, with majors in Finance and Chinese with a minor in International Business. On campus, Nicole served as a Resident Advisor and competed nationally on the club gymnastics team. She gained exposure to East Asia's business environment while studying abroad at Peking University's Guanghua School of Management in Beijing and interning for Hyundai Capital in Seoul.

After graduating from Emory in 2015, Nicole spent the Summer as a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Fellow, working to promote the quality of education in rural China through collaboration with teachers at elementary schools in Anhui and Sichuan provinces. Her Fulbright experience provided firsthand insight into the socioeconomic constraints of a rapidly developing economy, and the importance of education in improving access to economic opportunities.

In the Fall of 2015, Nicole joined Ernst & Young as a management consultant, where she managed and executed a range of consumer-facing, product-focused growth and expansion initiatives across automotive, telecommunications, government, and financial sectors. During her time at EY, Nicole also completed a social impact rotational program in Kenya and Tanzania, working with an East African impact investor to develop an innovative financial product and assess investment and strategic partnership opportunities. This experience sparked her interest in the creative, disruptive energy permeating the startup environment in emerging markets.

At Wharton and Lauder, Nicole is excited to further her understanding of entrepreneurial ecosystems and emerging technology in East and Southeast Asia and to sharpen her Chinese language skills. Ultimately, she seeks to develop the global perspective and leadership acumen needed to effectively drive inclusive growth and to develop innovative solutions to business and societal challenges.

Nicole is a tea enthusiast and also enjoys practicing yoga, reading books of all genres, and learning new languages in her spare time.
Michal was born in Krosno and raised in Warsaw, Poland. Throughout his childhood, his family split time between Poland and Germany, and so he developed a strong kinship with Polish and German cultures and languages. In high school, he took part in several Polish-German programs including an exchange program that took him to Hannover, Germany, and Vlotho, Germany where he participated as a laureate of the Polish National Competition in Economics.

Later attended the Warsaw School of Economics, where he finished his Bachelor in Quantitative Methods in Economics and Information Systems and his Master in Finance and Accounting. There, Michal actively developed and pursued a broad range of cultural exchanges with universities from Israel, Hong Kong, and India and eventually spent the final semester of his Master's program at the National University of Singapore.

Exchange programs and travels across Southeast Asia, as well as his interest in start-ups and technology led Michal to extend his stay in the region to gain work experience. He joined Rocket Internet, a leading European online venture builder, and worked for one of its startups Lamudi, an online real estate classified website. He joined as a Business Development Manager and eventually managed a 6-person sales team in Yangon, Myanmar. He was tasked with opening a 2nd country office in Mandalay, where he hired and trained the first five employees and signed their first three clients. After his time in Myanmar, he moved to Jakarta, Indonesia, to support Lamudi’s growing business there, where he stayed until returning to Warsaw to finish his Master thesis.

Upon graduating, Michal completed an internship at the Central Eastern European (CEE) Investment Banking team of Morgan Stanley in Warsaw, where he was able to apply his knowledge and complete all 3 levels of the CFA. He decided to join the Warsaw Office of McKinsey & Company where he developed strategic initiatives and presented recommendations to senior clients across 3 continents and 14 countries with a focus on Private Equity, Financial Services, and Healthcare. His most notable engagements include advising a leading Australian utilities player to expand into data centers and developing high-level growth strategy options for post-merger Qatari banks. He was selected as the only non-MBA CEE consultant to transfer to the NYC office, where he has spent the past year.

At Wharton / Lauder, Michal looks forward expanding his knowledge about global business and investments, and developing his managerial and personal skills, to complement his consulting and financial toolkit.

Michal enjoys reading classical literature and papers on international affairs and staying physically active by running, hiking, boxing, weightlifting. He is an avid traveler, having visited 50+ countries and worked and lived in 17 countries across 4 continents.
Alec was born in Washington D.C. but moved to Beijing, China when he was three years old. Growing up in China, he developed multicultural instincts and a global mindset from an early age. He attended an international school, played ice hockey and rugby, but also traveled extensively across China with his family. Half American and half Taiwanese, he also grew up in a bicultural home, speaking Mandarin to his mom, and English to his dad; spending summers in New Hampshire, and Chinese New Years in Taipei.

After high school in Beijing, Alec pursued his undergraduate degree at Middlebury College, where he majored in Political Science and minored in Economics. He played all four years of varsity rugby and helped establish the small liberal arts school as a force in D1 rugby. Through his studies, Alec became especially interested in how technology and the internet empowered civil societies around the world.

Upon graduating in 2015, Alec's interest in technology led him to Myanmar, where he worked for a Chinese company building the country's first data centers and fiber networks. He later went on to co-found KBZ Towers, a cell tower company partnered with Myanmar's largest bank. Building the company from a start-up to a successful business, in one of the hardest countries to do business in the world, provided Alec with a unique experience in solving problems and leading multinational teams. Outside of KBZ Towers, Alec also worked as a consultant on cell tower and data center projects in Nepal and Malaysia.

Alec's experience growing up and working in Asia has not only shaped his values and identity, but his aspirations as well, which that is why he chose to pursue his graduate studies at Wharton/Lauder. He hopes to develop a deeper understanding of business, and East and Southeast Asian's political and economic environment, that these foundations will allow him to develop and deploy technology 5G innovations in the region's emerging markets.
Born to trilingual parents in Mumbai, and raised across London, Tokyo, and New York, Rukmini’s fascination for and comfort with cultures around the world began at an early age. Her observations about the differences in economic conditions, class systems, and cultural norms across the Eastern and Western hemispheres shaped her lifelong interest in understanding why countries operate at such different levels of success. She is particularly interested in the legacies of colonialism that have created these disparities, and the political, economic, and technological factors that can level them.

Rukmini graduated from Columbia University with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and a special concentration in Business, which strengthened her understanding of political systems across the globe. She held leadership roles at the Columbia Daily Spectator, Model United Nations, and the Global Recruiting Committee, where she evaluated and welcomed international applicants to the University. She pursued French language throughout the four years, and spent a semester at Columbia’s Paris campus during which she lived with a French family, deepening her understanding of a culture to which she is now feels deeply connected.

After graduating, Rukmini worked in consulting at Booz & Company (now PwC Strategy&) for two years, sharpening her analytical and client-facing skills. Desiring more ownership, she pivoted to the exciting world of startups, starting as a supply chain analyst at MM.LaFleur before realizing that her true passion lay in technology and innovation. She became the first product management employee after successfully automating several complex processes into one comprehensive digital product, improving the company’s ability to capture revenue.

Rukmini has since continued to work in product management, honing her ability to gauge and build successful products, and stepping into team leadership roles. At her most recent role at Plated, she developed and owned the strategic roadmap for the entire digital experience, and led a 9-person cross-functional team to execute it. Throughout her professional experience, her appreciation for diversity of experience and background has helped her lead and collaborate with teams spanning Europe, North Africa, and Asia.

At Wharton/Lauder, Rukmini will focus on Entrepreneurship and Innovation to further develop her passion for technology, while concentrating in the French track to hone her language skills. Her goal is to drive innovation at a major technology leader by building products that solve real-world challenges and anticipate future ones.

In her spare time, Rukmini enjoys exploring new cities, reading, cycling, and learning how to cook new foods.
Dylan was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Russian-American parents. From a young age, he was shaped by his family’s immigration story, which cultivated an appreciation for the Russian language and culture. Being a first-generation American allowed him to understand and appreciate the nuances of different cultures.

Dylan attended New York University’s Stern School of Business for his undergraduate degree, ultimately majoring in finance and business economics. During his time at NYU, Dylan had the opportunity to spend academic terms in Spain and Vietnam, further broadening his global perspective. Further, during his time at NYU, Dylan developed a passion for real estate investing and development. He solidified his interest by interning with a variety of real estate investment firms in New York and becoming an active member of NYU Stern’s real estate club.

After graduating from NYU, Dylan worked at J.P. Morgan Asset Management as part of its direct real estate investing team. He worked across acquisitions and asset management for various real estate investments across the United States. During his tenure, he was part of an investment team that closed over 25 real estate transactions across asset classes, representing over $7.4B of committed gross capital. Through his experience, Dylan gained in-depth knowledge on the real estate investment process as well as business plan execution. Additionally, working within the real estate industry, he has learned about numerous local markets across the United States.

At Wharton/Lauder, Dylan is looking to gain a better understanding of the business environment that shapes modern Eastern Europe while continuing to pursue his passion for real estate. He also intends to expand his knowledge of disruptive technologies that are driving innovation within the real estate industry. Ultimately, he plans to use his experiences at Wharton/Lauder to position himself for real estate investment and development opportunities both in the United States and abroad.

In his free time, Dylan enjoys playing tennis and basketball, exploring new cities, and trying new cuisines. He is also an avid basketball and football fan.
CORY MCOMBER

Cory was born in Utah and raised in a small town in northern California. He moved overseas at age 10, when his father joined the U.S. Foreign Service as a Health Practitioner, subsequently moving every two to three years to different countries. Prior to attending college in the U.S., he lived in Russia, Kuwait, and China and enjoyed learning new languages and customs. He has since visited his family in Armenia, South Africa, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Jordan, often staying for several months at a time and visiting neighboring countries.

Cory studied Russian and Chinese while growing up, including participating in a two-year Mandarin Chinese mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Toronto, Canada. At Brigham Young University (BYU), he took Chinese language classes, completing a Chinese minor alongside his combined Bachelors and Masters degrees in Accounting. He graduated with University Honors, and wrote and defended a thesis combining his Chinese and business studies through original research exploring differences and outcomes of U.S. and Chinese public companies' use of financial accounting estimates.

After graduating from BYU, Cory moved to the San Francisco Bay Area to join Cornerstone Research as an economic consultant, specializing in economic and statistical analysis used in complex business litigation. He worked on several high profile cases across industries, including M&A antitrust between foodservice operators and major health insurers, public securities lawsuits, and financial benchmark rate manipulation. He later joined BCG as a consultant in the San Francisco office, where he worked on strategy projects for leading U.S. financial, consumer, technology, and industrial companies. Cory then moved to Boston where he transitioned to private equity investing with Nonantum Capital, a spin-out from Charlesbank Capital. As part of the inaugural Associate class, he contributed to and led various stages of execution in three closed business services transactions. He provided portfolio company monitoring, was a board observer, and worked directly with management teams on strategic projects (e.g., pricing, cost structure, add-on acquisitions, customer profitability and rationalization).

At Wharton/Lauder, Cory is excited to refine his Chinese language skills and to immerse in business and area studies. He hopes to combine his interest in China with his background in consulting and investing.

Cory enjoys weekend excursions with his wife and two young daughters, watching/playing sports, waterfall hiking, reading, classical music events, and finding the best burger in town.

Lauder Focus: East & Southeast Asia and Mandarin
Kristen was born and raised in New York City. Studying Spanish and Latin from a young age and studying abroad at a Madrid high school, she developed a love of languages and cultural learning through immersion.

Kristen earned her bachelor’s degree from Middlebury College, where she majored in Economics and Psychology and graduated Phi Beta Kappa. While at Middlebury, she studied Spanish, French, and Portuguese and spent her junior year studying in language immersion programs at Universidad Católica in Montevideo, Uruguay and Sciences Po in Bordeaux, France. During her senior year, Kristen co-authored an article alongside Middlebury’s Psychology Department Chair, published in the Frontiers Journal of Study Abroad, which explored the effects of technology usage and parental communication on the study abroad experience.

After graduation, Kristen joined BlackRock’s global private equity team based in Princeton, where she spent three years making private equity and growth investments across sectors including enterprise software, healthcare, and consumer. In addition to investing in the U.S., Kristen executed and monitored several investments across Europe and Latin America.

Eager to advance her language skills in a professional context, Kristen moved to Paris to join Eurazeo’s middle market private equity team in 2018. At Eurazeo, Kristen underwrote, executed, and monitored investments in French companies, with a focus on expanding their international presence. As a member of the Board of Directors of EFESO Consulting, Orolia, and Dessange International, Kristen supported these companies in their global growth strategies, closing add-on acquisitions across Germany, Switzerland, the U.S., Canada, and Brazil.

At Wharton/Lauder, Kristen looks forward to deepening her knowledge of the global geopolitical and business landscape and hopes to broaden her ability to support companies in their international expansion.
Daniel Miao was born in Austin, Texas. The first of many moves occurred at eleven months of age, when he moved to Shanghai. Raised by his grandparents until he was 5 years old, Daniel was imbued with a sense of traditional Chinese culture. He then moved back to the US and lived in Utah, Delaware and Pennsylvania before finishing high school. Constantly moving around, Daniel learned to quickly adapt to new surroundings.

Daniel attended Dartmouth College for undergrad, double majoring in Mathematics and Economics and completing his thesis on optimal strategy in a variation of poker. At college, he realized and nurtured his interest in investing and trading, eventually rising to co-president of Dartmouth’s undergraduate investment fund. At his last internship at Belvedere, an options market maker, he fell in love with the energy of the trading floor but resolved to develop a more fundamental approach to markets.

Daniel then joined Bunge, the B among the ABCD’s of agribusiness to deepen his understanding of localized market/cultural peculiarities and their impact on consumer/producer behavior. He spent time working at a grain elevator in rural Illinois and a soybean crush plant in Alabama, where he built solid foundations on farmer mentality and the physical nature of commodities. He then moved to St. Louis to trade export soybeans, where he began to appreciate the global dynamics underpinning agriculture. He then moved to Geneva, Switzerland, where he traded flow across five continents and started surfing the US/China trade war. Working with colleagues from dozens of different countries, Daniel learned to bridge cultural barriers and foster intercultural bonds. More recently, he moved to Shanghai where he took up the role of Commercial Manager and was responsible for the physical flow of 10 million metric tons per year of soybeans and canola into Asia. There, Daniel got his first taste of managing a team and enhanced his leadership skills with people from different backgrounds.

Over the course of his moves, Daniel has developed fluency in his native tongues of Mandarin/English, gained proficiency in Spanish, and picked up some basic French from his two years in Geneva.

Daniel’s global background has led him to pursue the MBA/MA with Lauder, where he intends to further refine his understanding of the broader economic and geopolitical forces driving change globally today.
Felipe was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and raised in a multilingual family who spoke Croatian, German, and Portuguese. His upbringing nurtured his interest in foreign cultures from a young age, allowing him to speak three languages fluently at the age of 15. At 16, Felipe had his first solo experience abroad, which instilled in him a passion for traveling that has steered important decisions in his life.

Seeking a multicultural education, Felipe chose to pursue a dual degree. He attended Escola Politécnica da Universidade de Sao Paulo, where he graduated in Naval Engineering. Awarded a merit-based scholarship, he also majored in Marine Engineering at Université du Sud Toulon-Var in France.

Upon graduation, Felipe worked in the strategic department of Hypera, the largest Brazilian Pharmaceutical company. He directly supported the Prescription Products Division VP in numerous projects, ranging from elaborating the division's budget to structuring discount campaigns. He played a critical role in optimizing the multimillion-dollar free samples distribution process, impacting over 800 employees.

Felipe joined Kearney, a global management consulting firm, to broaden his skillset. He participated in projects in Health, PE, and Retail. Despite having worked in Organization Restructuring and Procurement, he specialized in strategy and top-line transformation. He performed several market assessments and M&A due diligence and assisted a hospital group develop its expansion strategy, defining the allocation of over $30M. His background enlightened the decision-making process within companies in developing countries has plenty of room for development.

In addition to his formal role, Felipe was a co-leader at PROUD, Kearney’s LGBTQI+ network. Although established in the USA, the group was incipient in Brazil, so Felipe mobilized local peers and joined forces with other offices to develop a structured ally initiative, engaging over 20% of the Brazilian office. Focusing on Community, Inclusion, and Recruiting, their efforts increased LGBTQI+ representation by three-fold. These experiences shaped his long-term goal of harnessing diversity and generating truly inclusive workplaces.

At Wharton/Lauder, Felipe plans to deepen his understanding of the differing cultural aspects and geopolitical nuances in Africa. Furthermore, he seeks to examine the regional business landscape to determine winning strategies and, ultimately, bring a broader and more innovative vision to emerging markets.

In his spare time, Felipe enjoys traveling, skiing, and running. He is a self-declared wine lover and an amateur ballroom dancer. Routinely, he can also be found on his yoga mat or walking his dog around the block.
Kristiani grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma. As soon as language courses were offered at her school, she started studying the Spanish language. Initially, this was a way to learn more about her own cultural roots on her mother’s side from Mexico and Spain. It ended up giving her much more by sparking a passion for traveling and connecting to the various cultures around her.

After graduating high school, Kristiani majored in a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering with minors in Chemistry and Spanish. Through her areas of study, she saw different perspectives on group interaction and problem solving that diversified her analytical skills. This was carried through with chemistry research at the University of Oklahoma as well as a process engineering internship with Chevron. Upon graduating, she was able to spend the summer in Spain to continue her Spanish language study at the University of Deusto and experience travel around Spain.

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma, Kristiani began working full time at Chevron as a Facilities Engineer. For the first two years, she worked in central engineering in Houston, Texas. In this role, she worked with various business units around the world, from Angola to California, creating dynamic process simulations to perform optimization and process safety case studies for their facilities. In 2018, Kristiani was transitioned to a new role as an Operations Support Engineer in the Permian Basin located in Midland, Texas. In this role, she started out supporting a legacy asset, working closely with operations to find low cost solutions to improve field performance. She then moved on to support a developing area where she optimized facility capacities to increase oil production and completed a field-wide analysis of the gas gathering system to understand bottlenecks and improve reliability. At Wharton/Lauder, she is excited to further explore cultural impacts on business around the world.

In her spare time, she enjoys dancing West Coast Swing, learning more about the world through reading and travel, as well as visiting art museums. When she can get away, she enjoys taking her dog, Fox, on hikes and relaxing in nature.
TIFFANY MONTHE-SIEWE

Tiffany was born in Maryland and raised in Cameroon. She attended primary and secondary school in Cameroon before attending college in the US. Tiffany is a native French speaker and has spent significant time in Paris. Despite her many experiences in the US and Europe, she remains passionate about the growth and development of Sub-Saharan Africa and is committed to driving instrumental change on the continent.

In 2016, Tiffany graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh with a B.Sc. in Business Administration (concentration in Finance) and a minor in Global Systems Management. During her time in Pittsburgh, she was heavily involved on campus - presiding over the African student organization, coordinating diversity and inclusion programs for the Office of Admissions, and tutoring for a French course. In recognition of her outstanding leadership and contribution to the Carnegie Mellon community, upon graduation, Tiffany received the Senior Leadership Award.

After graduating, Tiffany joined JP Morgan as a financial controller where she streamlined investigation and reconciliation processes for the EMEA-based exotics and hybrids trading desk. In 2018, she had an opportunity at Twitter and was ecstatic to move to Silicon Valley. As a part of their Corporate Finance team, she developed a forecasting model for the contingent workforce and optimized reporting processes for business partners. Most importantly, Tiffany initiated and led efforts to increase Twitter's engagement vis-à-vis African advertisers and end users.

When immersed in the technology industry, Tiffany was able to craft her personal mission, namely, to develop and support African startups addressing socioeconomic issues, creating jobs, and consequently boosting the economy. At Wharton/Lauder, she looks forward to understanding what it takes to launch a successful venture and is eager to explore the technological entrepreneurial ecosystem, particularly in emerging markets.

In her spare time, Tiffany enjoys traveling the world, trying out new recipes, and watching a good basketball game.
Joe was born in Paris, France, and moved back to his native country, Lebanon, at the age of seven. Relocating from Europe to the Middle East at this young age and engaging with a radically different culture left its mark on Joe, who has been seeking multi-cultural experiences ever since. In his professional career, he discovered the many perspectives on the region, as a result of working in Beirut, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, and Jeddah.

Ever since he built his first Pentium 4 computer at the age of ten, Joe has had a passion for digital. This culminated in pursuing a degree in Electrical and Computer Engineer at the American University of Beirut, where he learned the fundamentals of software development. Eager to understand the wider business perspective driving digital decisions in addition to their inner-workings, he went on to earn his degree in Strategic Management from HEC Paris, paving the way for his career as a management consultant in the digital field.

At Strategy&, Joe led 15+ projects streams working with his teams on developing digital strategies for government and private sector clients, defining the concept for large scale digital solutions, and analyzing the feasibility of disruptive digital initiatives in the region. He worked with a sovereign wealth fund on smart city concepts for billion dollar mega-projects, assisted with the digitization of the healthcare sector by developing the feasibility for an electronic medical records system integrated with public hospitals, and pushed for the deployment of a unified e-Education platform for public schools. Recently, he also helped his clients launch a dedicated tele-health network to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and explored the potential market size and use cases for various emerging technologies such as 5G, drones, AR/VR, AI, and blockchain.

At Wharton/Lauder, Joe aims to immerse himself in a rich and diverse environment and gain a deeper understanding of the political and cultural factors influencing digital decision making in the Middle East and beyond. Through these studies, he is setting the foundation that will support his ambition to become a leader in the digital strategy or product management fields.

Joe is fluent in three languages: French, English, and Arabic. Outside work, he enjoys a good sci-fi read, well-crafted films, meditation, and powerlifting.
Growing up between Rhode Island and Maine, Meagan took her basic knowledge of Spanish and passion for discovering other cultures to Argentina, where she was a high school exchange student with Rotary International. The experience cemented her desire to ultimately pursue language study and cultural immersion as a gateway to a fulfilling career.

Meagan moved to Washington, D.C. after high school to attend The George Washington University (GWU). There she graduated magna cum laude with a major in international relations and minors in journalism and Spanish. Outside of the classroom, she took on various internships, including a pivotal experience in communications at Albright Stonebridge Group, Madeline Albright's global strategy firm. Here, she was one of a team of two responsible for raising media profiles of ASG leadership, including staffing broadcast engagements of a former Secretary of Commerce and drafting social media copy for Secretary Albright.

She was also able to hone her Spanish-language skills by directly enrolling in the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain for a semester of her junior year. The rest of her free time at GWU was spent as an athlete on the school's varsity sailing team, of which she was a four-year member.

Looking to combine her interests in media relations and strategy on a global scale, Meagan joined The Brunswick Group, a strategic communications advisory firm, post-graduation. While at Brunswick, Meagan helped clients across sectors and industries deal with a variety of crises and business-critical issues. Most notably, she volunteered to serve as project coordinator for a global team of over 40 colleagues based in 10 offices during frequent assignments in Dammam, Saudi Arabia to support the communications function at Saudi Aramco, the world's most profitable company and largest oil and gas company, leading up to and throughout its $1.7 trillion IPO, the world's largest, and related transactions. These transactions included a $12 billion bond debut and $69 billion acquisition of petrochemicals manufacturer SABIC. Meagan was active on communications strategy and subsequent messaging creation, crisis preparedness, and scenario planning for each of these milestones.

Having worked with several energy companies grappling with environmental challenges across geographies while at Brunswick, Meagan hopes to dive further into sustainability and transnational management at Wharton/Lauder, especially as they relate to Latin American markets. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, rock climbing, learning a third language (Turkish), and creating detailed Google Docs to plan for her next trip.
Alon was born in Duesseldorf, Germany to a German-Israeli family. With his multicultural background, he has always been traveling between different worlds, both physically and culturally. Growing up bilingual, Alon is a native German and Hebrew speaker. In addition, he has intermediate skills in French and Spanish.

For his undergraduate degree, Alon studied Business Administration with a minor in Business Law at WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management in Koblenz, Germany. To broaden his horizon and to nurture his interest in discovering new cultures, he spent a semester abroad at Jiaotong University in Shanghai, China and completed a voluntary “Management Abroad” course in Dubai, UAE. He made use of the two summer breaks of the degree to intern in business development at Roche Diagnostics in Barcelona, Spain and Rocket Internet in Berlin, Germany. As part of his extracurricular activities, he was active as one of the organizers of Europe’s largest student-led entrepreneurship conference, “IdeaLab”. This experience shaped his long-term goal of pursuing a career in the digital space.

Upon graduation, Alon moved to Berlin, where he completed two additional internships—one as an Entrepreneur in Residence at the fintech unicorn N26 and one in investment management at Axel Springer, a German media conglomerate that he later joined full-time. Having started as an analyst, he transitioned from a generalist role to become a portfolio manager and board observer for two of Axel Springer’s subsidiaries in the digital marketplace realm in 2018. In this function, he was involved in multiple M&A transactions and startup investments. Alon was also part of the deal team that was responsible for the partial sale of Axel Springer to private-equity firm KKR and its subsequent delisting. Moreover, he was frequently traveling to Paris and Tel Aviv to oversee various strategic projects for the Axel Springer Executive Board and its subsidiaries.

Alon’s international exposure and fascination for different cultures motivated him to pursue the Wharton/Lauder dual degree. He hopes to capitalize on his experience so far and to dive deeper into the workings of a globalized society and business world. He is passionate about digital media and investments and seeks to apply the learnings from the Lauder Global Program to a role that is combining these two interests.
Azline was born in Chicago, IL, and raised in Waterloo, IA. She became a Gates Millennium Scholar in 2009 and attended Spelman College, graduating cum laude, and majoring in International Studies. Azline curated her love for French culture through her high school language classes and a class trip to France. This experience opened the world for her and influenced her cosmopolitan mindset. Seeking further exposure to the international community, she studied abroad in Fort de France, Martinique, and Geneva, Switzerland to expand her knowledge of French culture and francophone civilization. Subsequently, she developed an interest in tourism and business development as an avenue to explore the intersection of emerging markets, economics, and consumer travel demand.

Upon graduating, Azline launched her seven-year career in global business at Delta Air Lines working in the Pricing and Revenue Management department. She executed the leisure and business passenger pricing strategy for international markets and contributed to the transformation in which Delta de-commoditized the in-flight experience for customers traveling to Ghana, Nigeria, and Australia. Fascinated by how Delta elevated its brand position and gained global market share, she joined the Sales department to maximize contract effectiveness and grow revenue within the Travel Agent community. Through her professional experience working with airline partners, Virgin Australia, and Korean Air, Azline gained an intimate perspective of brand management within diverse communities. These interactions piqued her interest for multicultural marketing to influence consumers’ perception of products.

Over the past decade, Azline has nurtured her passion for mentorship and advocacy for educational opportunities in underserved communities; her humble beginnings are the driving force behind her ambition. She is a mentor and motivational speaker for the Upward Bound program, leading workshops for first-generation students applying to college. While at Wharton, she hopes to mentor undergraduate students to prepare them for professional careers.

At Wharton/Lauder, Azline plans to study the key economic drivers that contribute to revenue growth for African consumer package goods companies. She is excited to research the business retail trends to understand how these companies build brand awareness and influence lifestyle consumption preferences. Her goal is to become well-versed in building a global market strategy for these companies to grow brand equity and expand outside of the African continent.

Azline enjoys cooking and hosting parties, traveling, and hiking. She has traveled to over 30 countries in Europe, the Americas, and Asia, and is enthusiastic about future global opportunities.
Linh was born and raised in Hanoi, Vietnam and moved to the US at the age of 17 to pursue her undergraduate degrees. As she acclimated to life in the US, she experienced firsthand the contrast in Vietnamese and American cultures and economies and developed a strong interest in international business development.

After graduating with distinction from the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities with a degree in Finance and Management Information Systems, Linh joined Deloitte Consulting in 2015. She specialized in delivering global, complex technology and finance transformations for Fortune 500 companies in Financial Services, Consumer Product, Food & Beverage, and Professional Services industries for clients in the US, UK, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Japan.

Linh spent a year in Tokyo helping Japan’s biggest Fast Food chain build a multi-year technology transformation roadmap. There, she learned to build effective working relationships with clients from a different region of the world while overcoming language barriers and socio-cultural differences in values and business practices.

Linh is also passionate about advocating for women’s financial independence in developing countries. She volunteered at Landesa, a Seattle-based NGO lobbying for women’s land rights in developing nations. Her experience from growing up in Vietnam and working with Landesa gave her a unique perspective of how internalized constraints and cultural beliefs about gender and power impact women in developing countries and how education and policy changes can help address these constraints.

At Wharton/Lauder, Linh hopes to explore the intersection of Food Tech, Entrepreneurship, and Social Impact in emerging markets. In her spare time, Linh enjoys hiking, reading biographies, listening to Audible and podcasts, going to standup shows, and trying new local restaurants.
NICOLAY NIELSEN

Nicolay was born and raised in Oslo, Norway. Through his family’s business, one of the oldest privately held businesses in Norway, he was exposed to global trade at a young age and witnessed the importance of having a global mindset in business.

After graduating from high school, Nicolay served in the Norwegian Armed Forces where he attended the officer candidate school in Trondheim, Norway and graduated with the rank of sergeant.

Nicolay graduated cum laude from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance. At TCU, Nicolay was a member of the BNSF Next Generation Leadership Program where he founded an organization with a fellow student aimed at helping international students through the process of applying for OPT (post-graduation work visas).

Post-graduation, Nicolay has held various jobs in finance. He began his career working in Equity Research in New York, focusing on the industrial & aerospace and defence sectors. In Oslo, Norway he worked at a boutique investment bank focusing on the maritime shipping sector. However, most recently Nicolay has worked at his family business in Oslo.

In his spare time, Nicolay enjoys endurance racing and wine. He has finished 3 Ironman triathlons and 8 marathons including New York, Berlin, Chicago and Cape Town. Nicolay is a Certified Sommelier with the Court of Master Sommeliers.
THOMAS O’DUDEN

Tom was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Arlington, Virginia. From an early age he was exposed to a wide variety of international cultures, growing up with au pairs from all over Europe and South America. These relationships proved to be formative, sparking a lifelong curiosity about global issues and a sense of the wider world beyond the suburbs of Washington.

In high school, Tom discovered a passion for learning languages, studying both German and Russian, and teaching himself Danish. He attended the Virginia Governor’s German Academy, a German immersion program, in the summer of 2010, marking his first experience with the power of language immersion.

Tom graduated with distinction from the University of Virginia, completing a double major in Mathematics and Public Policy. While at UVA, he interned at the Supreme Court of the United States, returned to the Virginia Governor’s German Academy as a Resident Assistant and spent a summer immersed in Russian at the Middlebury Language Schools. Tom was also active in his community, volunteering as a soccer coach and captaining a local men’s league team of students.

Following graduation, Tom joined Deloitte Consulting in 2015. His projects focused on commercial due diligence, supply chain analysis and industry assessments for clients in aerospace & defense, TMT, industrials, and financial services. Tom led delivery of over a dozen engagements with clients in the UK and Australia, traveling throughout Europe and Australia to collaborate with local Deloitte teams and pitch prospective clients. Through his work experiences to date, Tom has developed an appreciation for both global commercial connectivity and the nuances of doing business cross-culturally.

At Wharton/Lauder, Tom looks forward to further exploring this global connectivity, with an emphasis on the intersection of geopolitics and financial markets in particular. In his spare time, he enjoys reading, keeping up with current events, and playing soccer.
Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico to a Nigerian father and Cuban mother, Ike moved to south Florida as a child—eventually settling in the Tampa Bay area. Growing up in a culturally-rich household, he was enamored by the history of West Africa and its synergies in Latin America (LATAM). He took particular interest in Brazil as it reflected a culture so similar, yet so foreign to his own ethnic background.

After graduating from the International Baccalaureate program at Saint Petersburg High School, Ike attended Harvard University. As an undergraduate, he majored in Neurobiology and minored in economics. While at Harvard, he earned a language citation in Brazilian Portuguese.

Ike's exposure to Brazil allowed him to travel to the region on multiple occasions—publishing policy research, volunteering at the 2016 Olympic Games, and interning at a health-tech startup in São Paulo. These experiences gave him the confidence to fully immerse himself in Brazil, and upon graduating in 2017, he returned to work full-time for Harvard Business School’s Latin America Research Center. As a research-writer, Ike developed academic cases on healthcare and technology enterprises emerging from the region.

The experience of working alongside clinicians while in Brazil enabled Ike to visualize the extent to which medical supply scarcity adversely affects patient outcomes in Latin America. Motivated by his desire to reduce this disparity in the region’s healthcare resources, hee obtained a language-acquisition fellowship to Colombia. The opportunity allowed him to launch an early-stage medical tourism startup—working at the intersection of medical research, patient advocacy, and cultural exchange. He continued working in Healthcare upon returning to the U.S., taking on a clinical research role at Columbia University’s Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer’s Disease and the Aging Brain.

At Wharton/Lauder, Ike hopes to connect his knowledge in the sciences to real-world applications. At the same time, he seeks to gain a firmer grounding in the economic, political, and cultural forces shaping LATAM. Ultimately, he intends to leverage this background in a professional role strategically positioned to enhance economic development within the region.

Ike is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and English. In his spare time, he enjoys building web-apps, dancing salsa, and traveling. He is also a martial artist and regularly trains Brazilian jiu-jitsu.
Satoshi was born into an entrepreneurial family in Nara, the old capital of Japan. Seeing the family businesses go bankrupt during the economic downturn known as the lost decades in Japan, he decided to learn global best practices in order to provide management support to local businesses lacking significant resources.

A passionate American Football player and member of Japan's national high school football team, Satoshi's athletic career was cut short due to an injury in his freshman year of college. That same year the earthquake in Fukushima occurred. After witnessing the tragedy as an on-site volunteer, he studied Environmental Economics and spoke at the United Nations climate conference COP19 in Poland about the nuclear disaster in Fukushima and the potential of renewable energy.

Eager to explore the impact of private capital, Satoshi started his career in the infrastructure Finance Team at Mitsubishi Corporation, Japan's largest conglomerate. Intending to impact Fukushima and the energy industry in Japan, he executed cross-border deals in the world's largest infrastructure sector-focused investment alliance and learned global best practice related to investments. Satoshi leveraged lessons from deals he engaged in to establish Japan's first private equity infrastructure fund.

Satoshi experienced his life-changing role when he was seconded to a renewable energy portfolio company in rural India. He discovered more than 50% of local companies and residents lack access to stable electricity. By leading rooftop solar energy projects, he achieved meaningful impacts by providing access to electricity. Seeing this impact, he transitioned to working in the most challenging part of Africa, where 60% of people live below the poverty line. In the Agriculture/Forestry operation and retail company in coastal Kenya, he set up the Corporate Finance Team to function as the CEO office and supported Tevis Howard, a Forbes under 30 entrepreneur. He led the equity fundraising, operational improvements and international expansion into the Tanzanian market - just as he contributed to portfolio companies as a private equity professional back in Mitsubishi but this time making more substantial social impact.

After establishing a strong foundation in the company in rural Kenya, Satoshi is passionately seeking ways to fill the gap between developed and emerging markets. Leveraging the resources in the Wharton/Lauder program, Satoshi expects to develop solutions to the problems companies are facing in emerging markets.
Raised in Washington Heights and the South Bronx in New York City, Melvin comes from a family from the Dominican Republic. He received his B.A. degree in Economics and Law & Policy from Baruch College.

Prior to embarking on his MBA/MA journey, Melvin worked at ICV Partners, LLC a middle market Private Equity firm as an investment associate. Before working at ICV, he was an Analyst in the Consumer M&A Investment Banking Group at Robert W. Baird in 2017 and in the Leveraged Finance Group at Citigroup from 2014 to 2016. While at Citi, Melvin executed several M&A and financing transactions for companies within various sectors including consumer, transportation and logistics, and healthcare services.

Melvin is was named a fellow for the Robert Toigo and a Managing Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) programs. In addition, he is a Sponsors for Educational Opportunities (SEO) and Student Sponsor Partners (SSP) alumni. Currently Melvin services his community by serving as a board member of his high school, All Hallows and a junior board member of the Getting Out Staying Out (GOSO) organization, an organization dedicated to empowering young men in educational achievement, meaningful employment and financial independence.

At Wharton, Melvin hopes to focus on developing his leadership style by participating in various clubs in a leadership role. Additionally, Melvin plans to join the Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition (ETA) and General Management club to better understand how to lead an organization, improve and professionalize local businesses. He hopes to utilize his learnings from his extracurriculars and incorporate them into the local businesses in his communities.

Melvin enjoys spending time with family, dancing to Spanish music and playing chess.
Patrick is a global citizen, high-agency leader, and the guy you want to go on an adventure with.

Patrick was born and raised 12,000 feet above sea level in La Paz, Bolivia, to a family with ties to Peru and Argentina. Also a German citizen, he spent time interning in Europe at the World Food Programme headquarters in Rome and a boutique executive search firm focused on emerging markets in London. He’s volunteered in South Africa, led pro-bono work across Central America, and backpacked through Eastern Asia multiple times. In total, he has been to 32 countries and continues to return a better version of himself after each trip.

Patrick moved to the U.S to study Finance and International Development at the University of Maryland. While on campus, he served in leadership roles for the President’s Council on Diversity & Inclusion, the Interfraternity Council, Phi Delta Theta, and the Student Government. Today you can find his name engraved on the fountain at the center of campus, next to a few of his role models like distinguished alumni like Scott Van Pelt (ESPN anchor) and honorary members like Franklin D. Roosevelt, as a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society.

Upon graduation, Patrick joined Deloitte Consulting in Washington, D.C. (McLean), where he’s served clients in financial services, pharmaceuticals, telecom, and government agencies. He created program governance standards for a State’s agencies, managed teams across five different countries, informed the target acquisition decision for a Fortune 100, and created internal award-winning product marketing campaigns. By the time he left, he had coached over 300 new hires and was named an “Ace of McLean,” an award reserved for the top 1% of consultants in the McLean office.

Patrick’s proudest achievement is co-founding Medfund, a medical non-profit in Bolivia. Winner of the 2016 University of Maryland and Morgan Stanley’s Do Good Challenge, Medfund has since grown to have over 20,000 supporters on Facebook and provided aid to over 8,000 patients.

Patrick’s achievements stemmed from stubbornly chasing win-wins, a ‘yes, and’ mentality, and energetic authenticity. At Wharton/Lauder, he aims to explore how Entrepreneurship and Innovation can create abundance and achieve triple bottom lines.

As for adventure-seeking, Patrick has scuba-dived with sharks, go-karted through downtown Tokyo, and camped in abandoned water tanks (to name a few). He is always looking for new adventures, but more importantly, people who want to go on some with him.

Lauder Focus: Latin America and Portuguese
Camila was born in São Paulo, Brazil to a Brazilian-Italian mother and an Argentine-Spanish, French-educated father. She lived in Paris then New York City – where she spent most of her life – attending the Lycée Français and finishing high school at Riverdale Country School. Living in multicultural environments and traveling throughout all corners of Latin America and Europe during her upbringing has modeled her worldview and passions, making global citizenship a part of her identity from an early age, and fostering a deep understanding and profound curiosity for different cultures.

To this end, Camila attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she majored in International Relations, French and Hispanic Studies, with a concentration in European Studies. She studied abroad in Rome, Italy and reinstated the Psi chapter of Delta Sigma Pi – a professional coed business fraternity – as co-founder and Vice President of Professional Development. In between semesters and summer internships, she remained involved in her position as Junior Council, fundraising for two non-profits in NYC: Educando and the Council of the Americas.

After graduating in 2011, Camila embarked on a rich and exciting career path working at Fortune 500 companies analyzing legal activities in Latin America with Cleary Gottlieb LLP, planning investment banking roadshows and conferences throughout the U.S. and Brazil with Bradesco Securities, Inc., and managing the Clinton Global Initiative’s first overseas event in Brazil. Working with lawyers, bankers, philanthropists, government officials and hospitality executives has taught her how to succeed under a diverse range of leadership styles.

For the last 5 years, Camila has held strategic positions in Digital Marketing at the Estée Lauder Companies in NYC. She played a critical role in growing global and regional social media platforms at MAC then BECCA Cosmetics. She has also been active in Estée Lauder Company’s diversity & inclusion and corporate social responsibility programs, through the MAC AIDS Fund and BECCA’s partnership with the JED Foundation.

At Wharton and Lauder, Camila is excited to leverage her international experience with formal business training while further understanding and identifying opportunities for social impact via business development and marketing. She’s passionate about leveraging the potential of the private sector to drive inclusive growth in Latin America & Africa.

Camila is fluent in Portuguese, French, English, Spanish and Italian. Outside the classroom, she enjoys skiing, scuba diving, horseback riding, Zumba, eating food in good company, and learning enough Japanese to impress itamae (Japanese sushi masters).
MIKE RAVITSKY

Mike was born in Texas to Moldovan parents who moved there when the Soviet Union collapsed. He grew up hearing stories about grocery store lines, scarcity, and the relationship-based informality of Soviet society. During grade school, he would buy and resell model airplanes on eBay for little profit with the support of his parents, who reminded him that his private business venture would have been illegal in the USSR.

Mike proceeded to study Business Management at the University of Texas with the hope of exchanging his budding toy airplane empire for something bigger. During his studies, he and his brother, Genya, co-founded FactoryPure, an online retail business focused on small-engine machinery. After graduating, he joined Hewlett Packard Enterprise, where he worked in HR during two global spin-offs involving 100,000 employees.

Yearning for more international experience, Mike moved on to explore human rights and geopolitical issues via internships with Freedom House and the Hudson Institute. He capped this intercultural quest via a Fulbright scholarship in Moldova, where he interviewed political figures for a research project assessing Moldova’s foreign policy.

Mike then spent another year developing FactoryPure full-time, which generated over $10m in revenue in 2019 and is listed on the Inc5000 and Financial Times lists of fastest-growing companies.

At Wharton/Lauder, Mike hopes to set up a new career path that blends business with international affairs as a consultant for firms operating in the post-Soviet space, where there are fascinating cultural, regulatory, and geopolitical factors in business. Eventually, he aims to leverage this consulting experience in a non-profit context via the World Bank or another development organization.

Outside of work, Mike enjoys weightlifting, soccer, exploring craft microbreweries, and convincing people that one can appreciate the nuances of Indian Pale Ales without being pretentious.
Daisy Rincon, daughter to Mexican immigrants, was born and raised in San Jose, California. The cultural and linguistic diversity in her household and the San Francisco Bay Area fostered her cultural awareness and global curiosity from an early age. She attended the first four years of elementary school in Spanish and continued studying the language through high school.

At the University of California, Los Angeles, Daisy earned a Bachelor of Arts in English. While in college, her deep interest in solving complex problems in the fashion industry combined with her fascination with other cultures and languages led her to study Italian in Florence, Italy.

As a Silicon Valley native, she observed firsthand the role of technology in transforming industries. Daisy joined Intel’s Fashion Business to contribute to the cycle of innovation. As Fashion Business Strategist, she forged partnerships with leading institutions of higher learning across the US and Europe to introduce technology into the curriculum for the next generation of designers. She also drove designer partnerships to bring products to market and showcase retail solutions at Fashion Week in New York and Paris. To further develop her marketing acumen, Daisy joined Intel Sports, leading marketing partnerships with top-tier Spanish and English football leagues. Concurrently, she led a startup team in the development of a patented safety wearable, which led her to discover her entrepreneurial spirit.

In pursuit of entrepreneurship, Daisy moved to the leading fashion and technology capitals—London, Paris, and Berlin—to conduct hands-on customer and market research at the intersection of the two industries. She designed strategies for lifestyle and technology companies prior to returning to London, where she joined the founding team of a natural skincare brand and earned a Master of Arts in Fashion Entrepreneurship and Innovation from UAL’s London College of Fashion.

Daisy’s international experiences are a core part of her identity. At Wharton/Lauder, she is excited to advance her French and Spanish skills while augmenting her understanding of global business, economic environments, and analytics. She is keen to combine her passions for culture, language, fashion, and technology to transform business and bring about positive change.

Outside business hours, Daisy is passionate about women’s empowerment. She founded Women Intel Sports to support career progression in male-dominated industries and MEVEST to nurture women’s financial literacy and wellness. She is fueled by running international half marathons, exploring new restaurants, drinking coffee with new friends, and, of course, travelling.

DAISY RINCON

Lauder Focus: Europe and Spanish
Allison was raised in Delaware, in a home full of Japanese art and stories of her mom’s childhood in Tokyo. In fifth grade, she asked her parents to make her a cardboard Eiffel Tower as her Halloween costume. They obliged, not realizing this was the start of her long love for foreign languages and cultures.

Allison earned her bachelor’s degree from Duke University, where she majored in Linguistics and minored in Chinese, while building on her high school French and Spanish education. During college, she interned with Vietnam’s Green Summer campaign, studied sociology in Paris, and worked in Kunshan at its Industrial Technology Research Institute, facilitating technology transfer between China and the US. These experiences reaffirmed her interest in building relationships across cultures.

After she graduated, Allison was on the first plane to China, determined to put her language skills to the test in cross-border business. Her passion for mentorship led her to join AIC Education as a college admissions consultant in Hangzhou. The relationships she developed with her clients stoked her desire to engage more deeply in China’s growing economy. She accepted a Taiwanese government fellowship to further study Chinese at National Taiwan University, where she developed fluency in Mandarin and an appreciation of the intricate politics between China, the US, and surrounding countries.

To facilitate global business exchange, Allison moved to Shanghai to join Labbrand, working with executive clients on strategic and culturally relevant branding for Asia markets. She increased client yield by developing an AI brand naming software and coordinating its rollout in five countries. Allison quickly rose to Senior Consultant, a role in which she managed teams across six departments and led client groups from 15 countries, leveraging Chinese and occasionally French to position brands to expand in a challenging market.

Outside of the office, Allison served on the Shanghai leadership board of the Duke Alumni Association as VP of Social Impact. With a deep love for the environment, she has organized community events including a Techstars Startup Weekend to spark innovative green businesses. She attempts the occasional triathlon and loves to lead community discussions about feminism and improving diversity and equity in the workplace. She looks to consult on projects with high social impact in the future.
MOHAMED (SIMO) SENHAJI RHAZI

Simo was born and raised in Casablanca, Morocco. Seeking a multicultural education, he tested into Casablanca’s French school system at age 12. As an aspiring global leader, he decided to go to the United States in 2011, even though he had never been there and couldn’t speak the language. After spending 9 months in Boston taking English classes along with classmates from over 40 different countries, he was accepted into Boston College.

In August 2012, Simo arrived at Boston College as the only Moroccan on campus. While challenging, the experience forced him to connect with people in English and develop cross-cultural adaptability skills. Grateful to be receiving a quality education, he volunteered for a year at a high school tutoring program, where he encouraged 9th grade students to invest in their own education.

During college, Simo majored in Finance and Mathematics, spending the summer after his junior year working as a sales and trading analyst at Goldman Sachs in NYC. After graduating in May 2016 among the top 10 students of his class, he joined Wayfair.

As likely the only Moroccan in the company, Simo spent 2 years focusing on growing our B2C customers via paid social digital channels. Leveraging the latest technological and data-driven advances to target customers, he achieved a 700% growth in monthly net new emails added to our customer base while meeting ROI goals.

Seeking managerial skills, Simo joined the B2B team in 2018 to develop a new B2B acquisition channel, Direct Mail, switching both business unit (from B2C to B2B) and channel type (from digital to off-line). Partnering with 15 different teams, internal and external, he established the channel’s measurement infrastructure and scaled monthly revenue from $1M to $7.5M. When he became manager, he began to appreciate the importance of empowerment and trust.

At Wharton/Lauder, besides developing entrepreneurship skills, Simo is eager to learn how to adapt those to different cultures and political contexts. To become a social impact leader across boundaries, he wants to master effective communication, influence, and motivation in all contexts. He believes that technology will be key to improving the world.

In his spare time, Simo loves to play and follow tennis. He is very grateful to live in an era where the 3 best tennis players of all time are still active. He is a big Roger Federer fan and have travelled several times to see him play.
Joe was born in Toronto, Canada to Chinese immigrant parents who both pursued their higher education in Japan. Growing up in a household where Mandarin, English and Japanese were spoken, he developed an early curiosity for learning languages and exploring different cultures.

Joe attended UC Berkeley majoring in Chemical Engineering. In college, he took advantage of the cultural diversity at Berkeley and served as President for the largest international student group on campus. During the summers, he worked as a youth counselor at a Chinese language immersion camp in Minnesota and interned abroad at Sumitomo Electric in Yokohama, Japan where he developed novel characterization techniques for semiconductor materials in the Analysis Technologies division. Following his internship, Joe left Japan with a renewed appreciation and passion to learn more about its rich culture and technological landscape.

After graduation, Joe stayed in the Bay Area and joined as a process engineer at JSR Micro, a Japanese fine chemicals company, where he managed its largest semiconductor chip manufacturer account and led several international projects spanning digitization, quality improvement, and sustainability. Intrigued by the possibilities of AI in driving sustainability in manufacturing and unlocking the next generation of performance materials, he transitioned into software as an Engagement Manager at Citrine Informatics, a series B startup. There, he led the implementation of an enterprise-wide AI adoption strategy for a Fortune 500 company, training its researchers to apply machine learning to accelerate R&D product to market cycles while introducing more eco-friendly raw material alternatives.

At Wharton/Lauder, Joe is eager to dive deeper into the intricacies separating American and East Asian markets, positioning himself to drive international expansions and go to market strategies for tech startups with missions in sustainability. He is eager to improve his Japanese language skills in the hopes of breaking down the cultural barriers in developing successful cross-cultural partnerships.

In his spare time, Joe enjoys exploring different foods, especially desserts. To counterbalance the excess calories, he is always up for new workout ideas and plays basketball and golf regularly. He is a devout follower of his favorite NBA teams (Toronto Raptors and Golden State Warriors).
MANSUKH SINGH

Mansukh was born and brought up in Jamshedpur, which is India’s first industrial planned city. A close brush with the international clientele at his parent’s business instilled in him a curiosity for diverse cultures and served as an impetus behind him picking up five languages during his formative years. From racing a Formula based car in Milan, Italy for the Society of Automotive Engineers to earning honorable recognitions at prestigious international science competitions such as Quanta, he perpetually demonstrated a propensity for intercultural collaboration and learning.

Traveling and experiencing diverse dialects, languages and cultures within India and after completing his undergrad in Mechanical Engineering, Mansukh moved to the United States to pursue a Masters in the same discipline from Purdue University. Post-graduation, he started his professional career as a New Product Introduction Process Engineer at Cummins Inc. where he led a major strategic project worth $250M. He collaborated with the Global Manufacturing Strategy group and OEMs across the world to develop novel engine design solutions for the 2nd highest selling automotive model in North America, the Chrysler Dodge Ram.

Mansukh’s next stint took him to Apple, where as a Product Quality Manager, he led the development and successful launch of iPhone 8, 8+ and X. He was behind one of the biggest MacBook recalls in the history of the company and worked arduously to resolve product issues that jeopardized the Apple Watch S4 launch. Reporting to as high as the COO of the company, he saved multi-millions as part of his quality initiatives in the APAC region. From one trillion-dollar conglomerate to another, Mansukh transitioned into the Cloud computing space with a move to the tech giant, Amazon Web Services. As a Hardware Dev Engineer, he designed statistical algorithms for elastic compute and storage server farm health monitoring systems to prevent $1.3B in service outages. He further drove ODMs and OEMs in the Europe, Americas and Asia region to augment capacity and fortify AWS’s presence in 190 countries worldwide.

Mansukh has been an active member of the United Nations and has led several corporate and crowd funding initiatives. He has worked as a Volunteer Intake Specialist for the American Red Cross and has served as the President of Rotary International in his Alma Mater. He worked at orphanages of the Department of Social Welfare of the Presidency, Government of Guatemala, teaching kids and oppressed women critical life and academic lessons needed to sustain amid the competitive factors of contemporary times. He is a practicing pilot with the American Federal Aviation Administration and has a Sr. Diploma in Tabla, an Indian classical musical instrument that he avidly practices.

At Wharton/Lauder, Mansukh plans to deepen his understanding of business and the social, economic and political nuances of the South Asian region while exploring how government policies, capital markets and cultural practices influence the region’s economic progress.

Lauder Focus: South Asia, the Middle East, & North Africa and Hindi
THIBAULT TERRIEN

Thibault was born in Sydney, Australia to French parents. From a very young age, he was exposed to other languages and cultures by attending elementary school in English, igniting a life-long curiosity for linguistic and cultural diversity. At age 5, his family moved to Toronto, Canada, before eventually leaving for France, 5 years later. Spending most of his teenage years in France, Thibault was selected in high school for an exclusive European Class program which included history classes in Spanish and several exchanges and cultural trips to Spain.

After completing his French Baccalaureate with honors, Thibault majored in International Business & Management at ESCEM Business School in Poitiers, France. During his studies, he was an active part of campus life, participating in several student-led associations. After interning at Havas Media in Barcelona and Santiago de Chile for more than a year, he became greatly interested in Latin American culture and decided to move to Chile upon graduation to learn more about life and business in the Andean region.

Thibault soon joined LATAM Airlines, South America’s largest airline, as part of their Future Talent program and was appointed to the revenue management team. After little more than 2 years working on regional projects such as the FIFA World Cup in Brazil, his responsibilities expanded to leading a team through economic turmoil in Argentina and Brazil. The desire to increase the reach of his international experience motivated him to join the Airline Partnerships team in 2016, where he began working on the joint venture with American Airlines and later oversaw all strategic partnerships in Asia, Oceania and the Middle East. Expanding LATAM’s global network through new partnerships allowed Thibault to learn about the importance of culture in business and he eventually received a company award for negotiation.

While in Chile, and with the specific goal of contributing meaningfully to the community, Thibault participated in the creation of the International Employee Council at LATAM and launched an annual social event for employees. With a group of foreign friends, he also co-founded the Salta Alto Foundation, a basketball-focused outreach program promoting social cohesion in their adoptive country.

In his spare time, Thibault enjoys cooking and especially tasting world cuisines, as well as being active and discussing current global events with friends. At Wharton/Lauder, he hopes to learn from his fellow classmates and further his understanding of worldwide cultural, economic and political challenges.
Khaing was born in Mandalay, Myanmar and grew up under the military junta. Luck brought a few people into her life who taught her to look for opportunities beyond her geographical border and she decided to pursue an undergraduate degree at Villanova University where she majored in Management Information Systems and minored in Business Analytics. Villanova was where she first learned the essence of education – having access to different perspectives and viewpoints that challenges one’s opinions and expands one’s worldview.

Eager to share her experience on how education can open one’s mind and unlock opportunities, Khaing became heavily involved with various outreach and mentorship programs during college. She devoutly wrote blogs reaching out to people in communities like hers in Mandalay where access to higher education is natively thought unachievable. She participated in Villanova community service programs focused on mentoring children in inner-city Philadelphia schools. Khaing was also a proud Villanova Ambassador, helping incoming students navigate their first year of school. As the student representative on the American Council of Education – Multiculturalism committee, she advocated for raising international student ratio on campus. Hungry for more global experience, she studied abroad in London for a semester focused on learning European history and culture.

Her academic and internship experience with data analytics led Khaing to join Deloitte Consulting LLP in 2012 after graduation. As a consultant, she had the opportunity to travel and work on various projects across North America to help businesses innovate through technology transformation. Her clients included Fortune 500 companies in Consumers, Manufacturing, Automobile and Oil & Gas industries. Her career with Deloitte also allowed her to move and explore different cities: Philadelphia, Toronto and San Francisco. Through all this, Khaing continued her mentorship efforts by participating in various initiatives. She co-led the Deloitte Canada national training program for all new analysts entering the technology service portfolio. She was involved with the Bay Area Women Inclusion Council, promoting diversity and inclusion within the Deloitte West Region.

The culmination of her global experiences catalyzed by a global pandemic and racial injustice movements in 2020 empowered Khaing to dedicate her future career tackling global social issues with a focus on access to education for everyone across different socioeconomic backgrounds. At Wharton/Lauder, she hopes to deepen her global interdisciplinary knowledge of sociology, politics and economics to become better equipped to pursue her passion post-graduation.
MELISSA BLAINE TOVIN

Melissa grew up outside of Boston, Massachusetts and attended the Winsor School. She then went on to study engineering at Brown University, where she enjoyed the application of math and science in the real world and working in teams to create solutions to real problems. She also took advantage of Brown's flexible curriculum, studying French throughout her time at Brown and studying abroad in Paris at the Sorbonne during her junior year - an experience that spurred a desire to eventually live and work abroad.

Melissa pursued management consulting after school to supplement her quantitative and problem solving focused academic background. As an analyst working on projects ranging from healthcare to consumer products, she quickly gained the business experience she was looking for but was not passionate about the projects or industry.

Melissa pursued her interests in Food & Beverage by joining growing specialty coffee company Blue Bottle Coffee. During her 5 years at Blue Bottle, she worked across the business, in finance, supply chain, product and marketing. She started by optimizing Blue Bottle’s supply chain for coffee purchasing and then moved on to merchandise and supplies. She collaborated with the brand and communications teams to develop new products to sell online and in cafes. Eventually she moved to a new role developing and releasing products, managing the release of over 20 new products over 1.5 years. At Blue Bottle, she also gained experience working internationally, aiding in the import of coffee and products to the US from Central and South America, Africa and Asia and the opening of the business in Japan and Korea.

In 2019, looking for a new challenge, Melissa took on a role in Wine & Spirits Strategy at Constellation Brands, a public Fortune 500 Food and Beverage company. At Constellation Brands, she developed executive level strategic plans and presentations working cross functionally within the Wine and Spirits division. She focused on a 5-year strategic plan for the spirits division, the annual strategic planning process and new digital initiatives during her time at Constellation.

In her spare time Melissa enjoys cooking and baking, skiing, yoga, dancing, reading and traveling. She is pursuing her MBA and MA to advance her career within Food and Beverage and Consumer Products. She hopes to eventually start her own business within this space with aspirations to expand the business beyond the US.
Natasha Vaz was born in Toronto, Canada and moved to Boston, MA with her family at age four. Both of her parents have roots in Goa, India, and were born in Kenya before immigrating to Canada in the 1970s. Natasha’s eclectic heritage sparked a love for travel and culture at a young age. Her parents fueled this passion by prioritizing exposing her to different countries, cultures and food throughout her childhood and adolescence. She found her love of the Spanish language at age 10 while on a vacation in Malaga, Spain, and has been dedicated to perfecting the language ever since.

After attending high school at Phillips Academy in Andover, Natasha pursued her undergraduate degree at Vanderbilt University and studied Spanish and Corporate Strategy. During her time at Vanderbilt, she prioritized opportunities that would allow her to give back to the Nashville community, while also enriching her cultural experiences. She taught weekly ESL classes to Hispanic adults in Nashville, mentored underprivileged elementary students, and interned at a nonprofit in Guatemala.

After graduating from Vanderbilt in 2015, Natasha moved to Manhattan to work in Human Capital consulting for Deloitte. The highlight of her Deloitte experience was when she was selected to participate in their pro-bono consulting initiative in Nicaragua, an opportunity that would allow her to fuse her love of Spanish with business. In hopes of spending more of her time working on missions that resonated with her, Natasha joined a healthtech startup in New York called Oscar Health Insurance. She worked on business expansion at Oscar and successfully doubled their market footprint.

After about a year at Oscar, Natasha decided she wanted to prioritize living in a Spanish speaking country and working exclusively in social impact, which led her back to Deloitte in Bogota, Colombia to work in Corporate Social Responsibility. Most of her time in this role was spent improving Deloitte’s hiring and talent practices to increase the number of women in leadership positions.

Natasha’s experiences living and working in Spanish speaking countries primed her for joining the Spanish LATAM track at Lauder. She hopes to spend the duration of her MBA leveraging her language and business skills to pursue a career working for mission driven companies.
Christina was born in Colorado and raised in Texas. Her parents, immigrants from China who moved to the US for graduate school, taught her early on the importance of personal growth, hard work and equal opportunity – principles that continue to guide the major decisions in her life. Over two decades of traveling back and forth between the US and China with her family, she developed a strong interest in understanding the intricacies of both rapidly changing countries.

After high school in Texas, Christina attended Yale University, where she majored in Economics, with a focus on international development. After spending a summer in Nairobi building a case study on a sustainable beekeeping social enterprise, she was inspired by how businesses and technologies like M-Pesa could empower women and previously unbanked members of Kenyan society. She wrote her yearlong senior thesis on mobile money ecosystems in Sub-Saharan Africa, and joined Visa, Inc. after graduating to learn about the design of payments systems around the world.

At Visa, Christina joined the New Graduate Rotational Program in San Francisco and rotated through multiple parts of the business, including the Government Relations team based out of Washington, D.C., where she learned firsthand the impact that domestic and international governments can have on business outcomes. She then spent almost two years on the Business Development and Strategic Partnerships team, where she was responsible for managing Visa’s global partnerships and negotiations with technology companies like Facebook, Amazon and smaller startups, helping expand access to payments on technology platforms globally.

Christina then joined Cortico, a nonprofit civic technology startup based out of MIT Media Lab as Chief of Staff, to work on issues related to polarization in media and public discourse, where she learned how to build an impact-driven startup and team from the ground up. After Cortico, she joined the Elizabeth Warren presidential primary campaign in Iowa, mobilizing diverse grassroots communities in politics and advocacy. Outside of work, she was active in local civic and mentorship initiatives, most notably with the Cambridge city government and with Chinese immigrant youth programs in San Francisco and DC.

At Lauder/Wharton, Christina seeks to become proficient in Mandarin and to better understand China, its government and culture, and its impact on the world. She seeks to eventually build innovative companies and organizations at the intersection of government, civic infrastructure, and technology. She also hopes to convert her Lauder classmates to her love of country music, U.S. National Parks, civic engagement, and potlucks.

CHRISTINA WANG

Lauder Focus: East & Southeast Asia and Mandarin
Breanne was born in Provo, Utah and moved several times in her formative years, spending time in Houston, Texas and a few small cities in Utah. She attended Brigham Young University, where she double majored in Ancient Near Eastern Studies and double minored in Arabic and Music.

At BYU, Breanne participated in semester-long studies abroad in Jerusalem and Amman, Jordan, and also spent a year and a half volunteering full-time in Taiwan, where she learned Mandarin Chinese. She completed her undergraduate studies with an internship with the US Department of Defense in Washington, DC, where she worked with international military officers from more than 60 countries.

After graduating from BYU, Breanne completed a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies, splitting time between The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and The Ohio State University. While in graduate school she focused on international cooperation in conflict situations, interning with an Israeli/Palestinian dialogue group, interviewing Palestinian women in refugee camps across the West Bank, and teaching a job-skills class to newly-arrived refugees in Columbus, Ohio.

Breanne moved to Washington, DC after completing her Master's degree and continued her work in international cooperation, managing the development of Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, and Somali training programs for the US government, before moving on to Grant Thornton, LLP, where she managed the training development strategy and program implementation for accounting, auditing, change management, and human capital consulting training programs.

In 2015 Breanne was selected as a Presidential Management Fellow, a flagship US government leadership program, and spent the next several years at the US Small Business Administration, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the US Trade and Development Agency. During her time in government she focused on the nexus between business and government, helping to develop multi-country policies supporting small business international trade; supporting impact investing internationally in emerging economies and nationally with the Small Business Investment Company, one of the largest fund-of-funds in the US; and leading the strategy and implementation of programs to streamline and improve government procurement practices through life-cycle cost analysis in 10 countries across Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

At Wharton/Lauder, Breanne will continue to focus on global business and innovation, aiming toward a career at the intersection of international business and social impact.

Breanne speaks Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Spanish, and Hebrew, and enjoys biking, hiking, camping, rock climbing, photography, and spending time with her nieces and nephews.
Aimee was born in Beijing, China and moved to the U.S. after her first birthday. She went back to Beijing at age 5 to attend boarding school, reunited with her parents at age 8 in the U.S. and moved around frequently before finally settling in Charlotte, North Carolina at the start of high school. Growing up, she would spend every summer back in Beijing with family which helped her develop an intimate understanding of both American and Chinese cultures and how to best be the bridge between the two cultures.

Aimee studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Kenan-Flagler Business School majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Corporate Finance. While undergoing investment banking recruiting, she noticed the distinct lack of diversity in the investment banking industry but also in the financial services industry more broadly. She spearheaded the creation of a Diversity Coordinator role at Kenan-Flagler’s largest club, the UNC Finance Society, to introduce students from underrepresented groups to careers in finance.

After graduating in 2015, Aimee moved to New York City and joined J.P. Morgan’s Investment Banking Group on the Consumer & Retail Coverage team where she advised large-cap corporate clients on capital raising needs and M&A transactions. After two years, she made the transition to Goode Partners, a consumer-focused growth equity fund based in New York City. In this role, she was responsible for monitoring the two restaurant groups in the portfolio, evaluating new opportunities in the consumer sector and sourcing new deals. Outside of work, Aimee is committed to financial empowerment, so she joined High Water Women, a New York City based organization dedicated to financial literacy education and impact investing. She was invited to become the Chair of the Young Women’s Council (YWC) at a critical time in the organization’s growth and quickly professionalized and expanded the YWC from two to twelve passionate young women. She also created the team and program structures, planned and executed YWC fundraising events and served as the liaison between the YWC and senior Board.

At her previous firm, Aimee was the only female investment professional and saw the benefits of having investors with diverse backgrounds thereby increasing funding opportunities for founders or management teams with diverse backgrounds. At Wharton/Lauder, Aimee plans to continue advocating for more diversity in private equity and to further her understanding of the investing landscape in East Asia.
Wendy was born in Shanghai, China and immigrated to Canada at the age of 2. Growing up, her life constantly shifted between Canada and China – back and forth, every couple of years up until college. Her travels over the past two decades have allowed her to not only witness the impact of the economic growth in a developing nation through infrastructure and technological developments, but also experience the shifting behaviors and values amongst the growing middle class. Her pendular upbringing cultivated her curiosity for emerging markets and set the foundation for her global journey.

After graduating from an international school in Shanghai, Wendy attended the University of Toronto, where she majored in Business and Economics. Motivated to learn more about the world around her, she searched for opportunities that expanded her horizons. As a student, she volunteered for the Shanghai World Expo, studied abroad in Siena, Italy, and helped raise funding for 20+ international interns to work in Toronto as a leader on AIESEC Canada's national team.

Wendy joined Kearney as a management consultant in the summer of 2017. As a consultant, she faced international business challenges such as developing risk mitigations for the China-US trade war, addressing cultural dynamics in a German-American merger, and consolidating a company's global manufacturing footprint. Her upbringing and experiences thus far have reinforced her passion for tackling complex business problems.

At Wharton/Lauder, Wendy plans to enrich her understanding of the world and expand her knowledge of the geopolitical issues and business practices in Africa and other developing nations. She hopes to sharpen her leadership capabilities and apply her interdisciplinary learnings in an open-minded and honest community.

In her spare time, Wendy enjoys skiing, doing yoga, reading, and running outside with her dog. She is fluent in English, Mandarin, and Shanghainese, and aims to improve her French over the two years at Lauder.
Emily was born in the coastal city of Dalian, China, and moved to Vancouver, Canada when she was seven years old. She lived in Canada for four and a half years, becoming fluent in English and beginning her study of French. After the fifth grade, Emily moved with her parents back to China, where she attended Shanghai American School and lived as an expat in the country she was born in for the remainder of her middle and high school years.

At the age of 17, Emily moved exactly halfway around the world to attend college at New York University’s Stern School of Business. Concentrating in Finance and Marketing with a minor in Philosophy. She split her free time between student government, as well as, volunteering internationally in countries such as South Africa.

After a summer as an investment banking analyst at Credit Suisse in Hong Kong, Emily joined the Global Product Group at BlackRock in New York upon graduation. During her three years as an analyst, she worked across a range of functional roles spanning product development and strategy, covering BlackRock’s funds across all asset classes. Additionally, she participated in the launch of dozens of new funds at the firm and led the revamp of a critical product governance process examining the commercial viability of BlackRock’s recently launched products.

In 2016, Emily combined her international background, experience and passion for travel to found JustWandering.com, both to share her ample experiences of traveling internationally, and to become a source of information for others to do the same. Outside of work, she has dedicated much of her time adding to and enriching the site, which has generated more than 2 million page-views to date.

In her spare time, Emily enjoys exploring different cultures and cuisines, sake and shochu connoisseurship, and activities including sailing and skiing.

At Wharton/Lauder, Emily hopes to continue adding to the JustWandering platform, eventually using the site as a bridge towards her goal of becoming an entrepreneur in the travel space, and her broader dream of bringing different peoples and cultures together through shared experiences and mutual understanding.
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