

Where you're going depends on where you've been.



The Lauder Institute  
Wharton · Arts & Sciences  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



Intense. Intimate. Inspiring.

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 2023



## AFRICA

### GENERAL

Harold Agblonon  
Roman Balin  
Weiwei Bi  
Oscar Leandro  
Sebastian (Seb) Read  
Alejandro Isaac Safdie  
Burake Taye  
Ugo Udeogu  
Jacky Yao

### FRANCOPHONE

Olaotan Awoyomi  
William (Chase) Hodge-Brokenburr  
Gianna (Ginny) Maceda  
Chad Payne  
Georgia Stylianides  
Sai Yeluru



## EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

### JAPANESE

Austin Allen  
Mintai Bautista  
George Masanori Iwaoka  
Yoon Kyung Kim

### KOREAN

Joseph Shin

### MANDARIN CHINESE

Christian Xavier Anthony  
Hunter Dong  
Matthew Griffith  
Angela Huang  
Peter Jin  
Shannon Julian  
Elliot Ng



## EUROPE

### FRENCH

Philip Abboud  
Marjorie Baker  
David Januario  
Santos (A.J.) Tella  
Kip Werner

### GERMAN

Vishoka Balasubramanian  
Paolo Fornasini  
Jeffrey Magyar  
Dave Warrington



## RUSSIAN

Edle Astrup Tschudi



## GLOBAL

Joaquín Campos  
Mariama Diallo  
My-Hanh (Hana) Do  
Arélyss Eblohoue  
André Rodrigues Ferreira  
Yuri Gomes De Abreu  
Yating (Grace) Guan  
Jasmine Helme  
Moshe (Moses) Emilio Lavi  
Tam Luong  
Delfina Mattern  
Dolapo Salawu  
Michael To  
Roy Wang  
Phyo Shwe Yee Win



## SOUTH ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

### ARABIC

Hashim Alawami  
Yara Azouni  
Kent Hamlin  
Nizar Taifour

### HINDÍ

Meghana R. Pannala  
Rohan Parikh  
Divyansh (Deva) Saxena  
Shashank Singh  
Chetan Singhal  
Sujith Yankanaik

### LATIN AMERICA

### PORTUGUESE

Maria Dolores (Lola) Basabe Valor  
Cristobal De Atucha  
Mateo Menna  
Alexander L.W. Robinson  
Mateo Sasse Mugica  
William (Billy) Thomas



## SPANISH

Mariam Badi  
Adriel Barrett-Johnson  
Camille (Cami) DeRy  
Sophia J. Dezen  
Tim Jacob  
Stephanie Michael Silva  
Mariana Pavia  
Julia Rioto Berbel  
Brandon Rollins  
Nader Sharif-Emami  
Hannah Sherman





## **PHILIP ABOUD**

Philip was born in Santa Monica, California, to Lebanese parents in the foreign service. Growing up across Lebanon, the U.S., and Tunisia exposed him to diverse environments and languages from a young age and instilled in him a natural curiosity that still drives him to this day. He attended St. Albans School in Washington, D.C., where he continued to seek out new international opportunities by learning French and participating in exchange programs in France and Australia. During high school, he also began to explore his growing interest in health care by working at a lab at the National Institutes of Health.

Philip earned his bachelor's degree at Harvard College, where he studied applied mathematics with a focus in economics and graduated cum laude with honors. At Harvard College, he also pursued a secondary track in East Asian studies and took Mandarin classes. Eager to put his language skills to the test and maximize his immersion, Philip completed a summer internship at BMW Brilliance in Beijing and discovered an interest in the world of international business.

After graduating, Philip explored his deep curiosity about the intersection of health care and business by joining L.E.K. Consulting in their Life Sciences practice in Boston. While at L.E.K., he worked with numerous biotech and pharmaceutical clients to develop global strategies to improve drug access and delivery to patients around the world. He gained direct industry experience through a secondment at an American multinational pharmaceutical company, conducting data analytics to support strategic recommendations for new portfolio investments. Outside of work, Philip served as executive director of Inspire, a national volunteer organization that provides consulting services to over 70 nonprofit groups each year.

Philip is excited to join a community of international changemakers at Wharton and Lauder, where he hopes to combine his lifelong commitment to exploring new cultures, desire to foster open dialogue across borders, and passion for learning new languages. He is looking forward to learning from his peers, faculty, and staff to support his ambition to become a global leader in the health care industry.

Philip speaks Arabic, French, and Mandarin. In his spare time, he enjoys visiting film sets around the world, reinventing Lebanese family recipes, biking, and slowly but surely making his way through the list of "1,001 Movies You Must See Before You Die."





## **HAROLD AGBLONON**

Harold was born and raised in the Republic of Benin, where he completed his primary and secondary schooling until the age of 17. Growing up in Benin and seeing how the lack of capital hinders a country's economic growth shaped Harold's passion and interest in international development.

At 18, he moved to the U.S. to attend college, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics and statistics from Columbia University. While at Columbia, Harold had the opportunity to study and conduct research on economic growth and politics in China, Chile, and Kenya through study abroad and research programs. He experienced firsthand the results of the socioeconomic progress made by China over the past several decades, which sparked in him a quest to find a prescription for sustainable growth for his own country.

Upon graduating from Columbia, Harold worked for MUFG (formerly the Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi) in New York as part of the Global Corporate & Investment Banking Program, where he rotated between Corporate Banking and the Restructuring Group to work with clients from health care, energy industries, and the technology, media, and telecom sector (TMT). Harold then joined Deloitte Consulting as a management consultant in the Strategy group, where he advised Fortune 500 clients and was the skills lead for the tri-state consultant community. In both professional capacities, Harold was most delighted to work on projects that contributed to sustainable growth in a number of countries.

Harold was a Schwarzman Scholar at Tsinghua University in Beijing, where he earned a master's degree in global affairs while gaining a deeper understanding of China from a cultural, socioeconomic, and political perspective to better inform his views on China-Africa relations.

At Wharton, Harold plans to focus on entrepreneurship, leveraging his background in operations and finance to help source and scale companies. At Lauder, he hopes to gain insight and experience to build the largest pan-African investment fund that will serve as a catalyst for sustainable growth.

Harold enjoys cycling, running, and traveling. He speaks French, Fon, and intermediate Mandarin.





## HASHIM ALAWAMI

Hashim was born in Saudi Arabia and grew up in the Middle East, Italy, and Texas. He attended an international high school in Houston, Texas, with 120 classmates from 40 nationalities, which further developed his deep appreciation and interest in cross-cultural experiences.

Drawn by a desire to tackle complex problems, Hashim completed an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering at Stanford University. He also continued to pursue his interest in cultures by joining a study abroad program in Germany and immersing himself in Japanese history classes. Outside of academics, Hashim co-founded and led SSAR, a student group that provided technical consulting. He is passionate about mentorship and continues to lead Qimmah, a nonprofit that helps overseas students prepare for the U.S. college application process.

After graduating, Hashim joined McKinsey & Company as a business analyst. He conducted data analyses, developed strategic visions, fostered client relationships, and supported the implementation of new initiatives for nine clients, including global companies, private equity firms, and government entities. He especially enjoyed working with a Saudi government-owned company to improve the education system in his home country over the next 10 years. He also worked closely with portfolio companies of private equity firms, helping them grow their bottom lines through salesforce effectiveness, expense management, and M&A opportunities.

Subsequently, Hashim joined Tritium Partners, a founder-friendly middle market private equity fund in Austin, Texas, as an associate supporting the acquisition of high-growth technology, logistics, and marketplace businesses. He contributed and led various execution stages in two platform acquisitions, two add-on transactions, three refinancing rounds for portfolio companies, and three debt restructuring negotiations. He also worked closely with five portfolio companies, helping with monthly tracking, strategic projects (e.g., pricing, cost structure, and add-on acquisitions), and attending board meetings as an observer.

At Wharton and Lauder, Hashim plans to deepen his knowledge of the culture and politics of the Middle East and develop his skills in sales and marketing to help him in his career in private equity.

In his spare time, you can find Hashim training for his next running race, watching his favorite soccer team or Formula 1 driver, planning his next trip, or spending time with family and friends.





## AUSTIN ALLEN

Austin was born in Osaka, Japan, to a Japanese mother and American father, and he moved to a small town in Utah with his family when he was 5 years old. Raised in a community where he belonged to the only household of Asian background, he learned to appreciate his Japanese heritage at an early age. After graduating from high school, he studied Japanese and reconnected with his roots during a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Southern Japanese islands of Kyushu and Okinawa.

Austin attended Brigham Young University for his undergraduate degree, majoring in actuarial science. While at BYU, he dedicated his efforts to passing multiple actuarial exams, eventually earning the Associate of the Society of Actuaries designation. He interned at an actuarial consulting firm in Tokyo, where he decided to pursue the actuarial profession and further immerse himself in the Japanese culture.

After graduation, Austin joined MetLife Japan in Tokyo. He managed the data analytics program in the internal audit department and was involved in spearheading multiple projects to identify insurance agents with high risk of committing fraud. Austin later joined Prudential Holdings of Japan, the country's largest foreign life insurance company, as an actuary focused on USGAAP valuation (U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). He supported the oversight of the valuation work of all subsidiaries in Prudential Japan and managed the actuarial valuation responsibilities of a block of business totaling over \$8 billion.

Austin's experiences working and being immersed in the culture in Japan has shaped his values and career aspirations. At Wharton and Lauder, he is excited to further refine his Japanese language skills and gain a deeper understanding of the political and economic environment in East and Southeast Asia because he wants to help advance insurance technology (insurtech) across the region.

Austin enjoys baking French pastries on Sunday afternoons and searching for the best Thai curries in town. He can be found outside regularly playing tennis, basketball, soccer, and golf, and he is a passionate fan of his hometown NBA team, the Utah Jazz.







## CHRISTIAN XAVIER ANTHONY

Born into a family of African American and German heritage, Christian spent his formative years in one of the most ethnically diverse ZIP codes in Brooklyn, New York. Experiencing the rich diversity of New York City gave him an early affinity for studying foreign languages and international affairs.

Christian earned his bachelor's degree in East Asian studies and public policy from New York University. He spent a year at NYU's Shanghai campus, studying Chinese language and history, and international business. He also interned in product development at BTCC, China's largest Bitcoin exchange firm at the time. In addition to gaining invaluable experience in the burgeoning Chinese fintech industry, Christian also dedicated time to conducting field research on the modern practices of ethnoreligious minorities in Shanghai. His completed research project was nominated for NYU's Global Engagement Symposium, and the experience inspired Christian to pursue future research opportunities in the Greater China region.

After graduating from NYU, Christian returned to the technology sector and joined Uber, where he spent a year helping expand UberEats operations to Chinese- and English-speaking restaurants across the United States and Canada. He was quickly promoted to engagement partner and given responsibility for managing the performance of an entire portfolio of UberEats restaurants. Christian left Uber to join the U.S. Census Bureau, where he did community-level work to help ensure a comprehensive survey of marginalized and undercounted groups across New York City in the 2020 Census.

Christian most recently worked as a program manager at Google, where he helped the company launch and refine a new advertiser identity verification initiative to address global advertiser transparency concerns. The experience gave him a deep appreciation for managing complex international policy issues, and it inspired him to further research the role of technology in bilateral U.S.-China affairs.

At Wharton and Lauder, Christian plans to augment his Chinese language and research skills while pursuing opportunities at the intersection of technology and global social impact.

Having started as a film major at NYU, Christian maintains a deep interest in filmmaking and photography. He also enjoys exercising, recreating recipes from the internet with his own flair, and traveling internationally.





## **EDLE ASTRUP TSCHUDI**

Edle grew up in Oslo, Norway, and has lived in Switzerland, the U.S., the U.K., and Russia. Her career is rooted in the global mining and metals industry, which she sees as integral to unlocking the green transition. She believes the sector is vital to sustainably producing minerals-heavy batteries, wind turbines, and solar panels. She is passionate about “Industry 4.0” and using hydrogen and new technologies to decarbonize sectors such as mining, steel, cement, and maritime and long-haul transport. She believes financial know-how will be the key to unlocking long-term industrial value.

Edle graduated from Brown University in 2015 with a double major in Slavic studies (Russian) and politics, philosophy, and economics (PPE). Directly after, she moved to Arctic Russia for a six-month internship at the Norwegian Consulate General in Murmansk. She subsequently moved to Moscow to work at the Indian-owned private equity firm SUN Capital in Moscow, a company that has been active in Russia since the 1960s. Edle's primary responsibilities were related to a gold mining project in Siberia, which aligned with her natural resources interest. After two years in Russia, she returned to Norway to be a campaign worker for the parliamentary campaign of the governing Norwegian Conservative Party in Oslo. Following that, she worked on the reopening of the iron ore mine Sydvaranger, located in Arctic Norway. Having gained hands-on experience with project finance in mining in both Russia and Norway, Edle pivoted to financial services, joining Société Générale in London. The bank has expertise in project finance in Russia through its ownership of one of Russia's largest banks, Rosbank, as well as a strong focus on sustainability-linked loans. There, she worked on project finance transactions and research in the minerals and metals value chain all the way to battery gigafactories and recycling plants. She was the point person for the global team's hydrogen research, while also working on more traditional mining transactions, predominately in the CIS, and Southern and Western Africa.

At Wharton, Edle wants to study how sustainable finance can be utilized within project and corporate finance to create positive ESG outcomes. This is particularly important with regard to heavy industries that are not always considered eligible for sustainable finance. At Lauder, she will pursue the Europe/Russia Program, building on knowledge gained in the region working both in the Norwegian foreign service and in private equity.





## OLAOTAN AWOYOMI

Olaotan was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. At 15, she moved to South Africa after she received a scholarship to attend the African Leadership Academy (ALA), a two-year program that seeks to transform Africa by developing a network of young leaders who will work together to accelerate the continent's growth trajectory. Living, working, and learning with students from countries across Africa, starting a restaurant and a community service project with her classmates, and completing an Afro-centric curriculum birthed Olaotan's commitment to creating impact on the African continent.

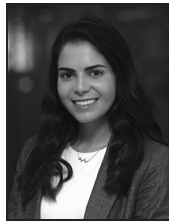
Olaotan attended Duke University, where she was awarded the Mastercard Foundation Scholarship for demonstrating academic strength and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. During her third year, she spent a semester living in France, studying French, and exploring her interest in West African geopolitics at the Sorbonne. While in college, Olaotan was selected to participate in IBM's 2015 Leading to Africa Program in Armonk, New York. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in international comparative studies with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa, a minor in economics, and a certificate in markets and management studies.

After graduation, Olaotan's interest in the integration of African markets into global value chains led her to Washington D.C., where she worked at the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), a business association that promotes trade and investment between U.S and African businesses and government stakeholders through meeting facilitation, advisory, and policy advocacy. Olaotan managed CCA's marketing and communications strategy in the U.S. and across more than 35 African countries. Notably, she led marketing and communications for the 2019 U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, which was attended by heads of state, vice presidents, and prime ministers from nine African nations and provided a platform for representatives to engage on investment opportunities in key sectors including agribusiness, energy, health, infrastructure, information and communications technology, and finance.

At Wharton and Lauder, Olaotan hopes to further explore the impact of regional and global systems and policies on local innovation and growth, especially for tech startups and small and medium-sized enterprises in Africa.

Olaotan is passionate about the empowerment of women and girls and has served as a volunteer tech assistant for the D.C. chapter of Black Girls Code and as a crisis intervention advocate for the DC Rape Crisis Center. In her free time, Olaotan loves listening and dancing to Afrobeats, watching musicals, and exploring global Black food history/culture.





## YARA AZOUNI

Yara was born and raised in Nablus, Palestine. Growing up under the Israeli occupation, her education was limited and many times inaccessible. However, her determination led her to commute to Ramallah, crossing checkpoints every day, to complete her International Baccalaureate diploma. Her educational journey continued at MIT, where she received her Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering with a concentration in product design. During her undergraduate studies, she also spent a year abroad at the University of Cambridge.

Entering a new world without checkpoints or roadblocks, Yara was determined to learn about other cultures and raise awareness about her own. She developed a newfound appreciation for cultural immersion, lived in 11 countries, and visited more than 50. To gain a better understanding of the challenges in global education systems, she combined her passions for travel and education. During her undergraduate program, she worked with the MIT Global Teaching Labs and taught engineering and debate to students in Yerevan, Armenia; Pavia, Italy; and Hong Kong. Undeniably, Yara's accumulated international experience enabled her to become a global citizen. Her desire for the unfamiliar led her to intern for MX3D in Amsterdam, where she printed parts of the world's first 3D-printed pedestrian steel bridge installed in the city's Red Light District.

Upon graduating from MIT, Yara relocated to Dubai to become a strategy consultant at Strategy&, where she worked on more than 10 projects in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar. Being part of a large multicultural firm, she was exposed to a diverse set of challenges that she solved across the public, energy, tourism, and education sectors.

With the continuing disruption of global education systems due to COVID-19, Yara decided to dedicate her future towards finding innovative solutions to the many barriers to education. At Wharton and Lauder, she looks forward to exploring the relationship between education and innovation under different geographical, political, and economic settings. Lauder's South Asia, Middle East, and North Africa (SAMENA) track will provide her with the tools necessary to lead a positive change in the MENA region and beyond. Through her studies, she will set the foundation to support her goal of becoming an education leader and entrepreneur.

In her spare time, you can find Yara reading, advocating for women's empowerment, learning a third language (Spanish), listening to house music, and planning her next trip.







## MARIAM BADI

Mariam was born and raised in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area to Ethiopian immigrant parents. Her interest in international affairs was sparked by a class trip to China during her senior year of high school. She then embraced a growing interest in a global career at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she majored in government and politics and minored in international development and conflict management. During her time at Maryland, Mariam participated in an exchange program at the University of Manchester in England. She also spent time volunteering overseas, including working on sustainable development projects in Uganda and serving as an English language teacher in Panama.

After graduation, Mariam won the U.S. State Department-funded Boren Scholarship to study Swahili for one year in Arusha, Tanzania. When she returned to the U.S., Mariam worked for Dexis Consulting, a D.C.-based international development firm, where she supported the CEO with scouting new business development opportunities. Interested in getting additional on-the-ground experience working in East Africa, Mariam went back to Tanzania the following year to volunteer with Smart Codes, a Dar es Salaam-based digital marketing agency. At Smart Codes, she worked to assist the CEO in forming a partnership with Vodacom Tanzania to launch an incubator for local startups. She also supported the creative teams with content development in English and Swahili.

During her last three years before business school, Mariam worked for Emerging Public Leaders (EPL), a startup nonprofit that runs a public service fellowship in Africa to recruit and train African university graduates for careers in government service. In her capacity as program manager, Mariam was responsible for overseeing and expanding EPL's operations in Liberia, Ghana, and Kenya, securing new grants and partnerships, and developing and managing the budgets of EPL's country programs.

At Wharton and Lauder, Mariam plans to build upon her global experiences by learning more about Latin America and exploring Africa-Latin America intercontinental opportunities, with the career goal of designing and building brands of innovative products for emerging markets.

Mariam speaks Spanish, Amharic, and Swahili. In her spare time, she enjoys listening to Afrobeats and Reggaeton music, attending yoga and fitness classes, traveling, and exploring coffee shops.





## **MARJORIE BAKER**

Marjorie was born and raised in Washington, D.C., where the multicultural atmosphere of the nation's capital sparked her curiosity in global issues, other cultures, and language. She became a dedicated athlete, competing in junior tennis tournaments throughout the country. Marjorie embraced these diverse interests by pursuing her Bachelor of Arts in foreign affairs and Master of Science in commerce from the University of Virginia, where she was a member of the varsity women's tennis team. During college, she pursued her global interests outside of the classroom by interning at the Wilson International Center and the International Trade Administration as well as studying abroad in Lyon, France. Upon graduation, Marjorie worked as an assistant English teacher in elementary schools outside of Paris, immersing herself in a foreign culture and deepening her French skills.

Marjorie spent six years at Delta Air Lines, starting in Atlanta, Georgia, and then working in Amsterdam at KLM's headquarters. Throughout her career, she has worked in a multi-carrier, multicultural environment with Delta's joint venture partners, Air France/KLM and Virgin Atlantic, to achieve mutually beneficial goals among the carriers. Marjorie's roles at Delta were primarily in the Revenue Management department and covered a variety of functions, including market development, pricing strategy, competitive analysis, and revenue forecasting and analysis. She led projects that included building the annual revenue forecast for the EMEA region (Europe, the Middle East, and Africa), determining fare products for numerous new routes, and conducting competitor diagnostics. Managing pricing strategy for 12 EMEA countries and working to optimize "basic economy" expansion on European routes, Marjorie became fascinated by customer and market segmentation strategies across geographies and products.

At Wharton and Lauder, in addition to achieving fluency in French, Marjorie plans to bolster her understanding of the political, economic, and cultural forces that intersect in global business, with a focus on Europe. She is looking forward to building on her extensive experience in the aviation industry by exploring strategy, technology, and innovation in different market and industry contexts.

Marjorie spends her spare time running, reading books of all genres, traveling (more than 35 countries to date), and creating ceramics. She has volunteered as a reading tutor for elementary school students and for Off Their Plate, an organization that partners with financially stressed restaurants to provide meals to communities in need. Marjorie plans to achieve her goal of running her first marathon before graduation.





## VISHOKA BALASUBRAMANIAN

Vishoka spent his childhood across Kerala and Tamil Nadu in Southern India, and grew up speaking Tamil, Malayalam, Hindi, and English. His itinerant childhood exposed him to different cultures and to the disparities that economic liberalization brought to developing countries. Vishoka went on to study mechanical engineering, earning a master's degree in engineering management from Dartmouth College. Upon graduation, he moved to Corning, New York, to work for Corning Inc., a high-performance materials manufacturing company. He chose this opportunity over a more lucrative one in New York City because of his conviction that manufacturing plays an outsized role in welfare of the community it operates in.

Vishoka worked in product management in ceramic substrates and filters. These products were invented in the early 1970s and form the core of world-class pollution control systems. His work as a product manager was instrumental in setting the business on a growth trajectory from \$600 million to over \$1.5 billion. Leading a team representing every corner of the globe affirmed his conviction that leaders need to be culturally fluent and globally aware.

Vishoka transferred to Germany to help launch the next generation of particulate filters designed to comply with European regulations. He subsequently moved into a commercial role with Corning, helping BMW and Daimler to design and implement after-treatment systems to meet tightening emission regulations. Corning earned the 2018 Daimler Supplier Award in recognition of its exceptional work. While at Corning, Vishoka increased the size of the automotive commercial accounts sixfold to over \$150 million.

Vishoka's time in the automotive industry has afforded him the invaluable experience of observing globalization and government regulations through his customers' lenses. He plans to build on his German proficiency and improve his understanding of European politics at Lauder. He is determined to help lead a manufacturing company to adapt and remain competitive in an ever-changing landscape, acutely aware of their contributions to growing a vibrant middle class.

Vishoka spent his time in Corning deeply engaged with the community. He co-founded TEDxChemungRiver, bringing the global, cultural event to the Southern Tier of New York. He was also on the board of multiple nonprofit organizations, from promoting the arts to supporting the care of troubled children. He loves to surf – on Wikipedia – hike and dive. A good year includes copious amounts of beer, coffee, and travel. He hopes to visit his 75th country during his time at Penn.





## ROMAN BALIN

Roman spent his formative years in the U.S. and Europe, which shaped his interest in building cross-cultural bridges to solve global challenges. After attending primary and middle school taught in French, German, and English, he graduated summa cum laude from the George Washington University with a degree in international affairs and a specialization in international economics and Eurasian studies. During his studies, he further honed his French language skills by completing a semester at Sciences Po in Paris.

Subsequently, Roman joined the German Marshall Fund of the U.S., a think tank, where he served as the principal research assistant to U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, former chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. He also supported Jennifer Hillman, the former general counsel at the Office of the United States Trade Representative and a former appellate body member at the World Trade Organization. He specialized in research at the intersection of international trade, multilateral governance, and foreign aid, focusing on Africa.

The experience led him to join the World Bank Group, where he contributed to developing new financial instruments that broadened access to the bank's technical assistance programs, particularly in the aftermath of exigencies. He also supported a response strategy during the height of the Ebola crisis and helped shape the bank's innovation agenda by evaluating how the institution could more effectively capture, redeploy, and scale successful pilot programs across regions and sectors.

Passionate about investing in technology-enabled solutions to address development challenges, Roman joined the International Finance Corporation, the World Bank Group's private sector branch, where he managed its concessional and blended finance pipeline and contributed to financial solutions across disruptive technology, venture capital, and insurance. His work also encompassed the co-creation of gender-informed solutions with the private sector.

Roman most recently served as a fellow with The Lightsmith Group, a firm that pursues growth equity investments that address critical societal needs, particularly focused on building climate adaptation globally. In his capacity, he co-managed the Adaptation SME Accelerator Project, an ecosystem building initiative for early-to-growth stage companies that offer the technologies, products, and services to enhance resilience to the physical impacts of climate change.

At Wharton and Lauder, he hopes to enhance his understanding of entrepreneurship and innovation, particularly in Africa and frontier markets, as well as the potential of tech-enabled solutions to addressing climate change.







## **ADRIEL BARRETT-JOHNSON**

After spending two years in West Africa working on energy infrastructure development with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Adriel came to appreciate how central the private sector is to a country's growth and development, and how much influence developers and investors have in structuring that development. The experience inspired Adriel to come to Wharton and Lauder, where she intends to explore energy/infrastructure development and entrepreneurship in Latin America.

Adriel graduated from the University of Virginia in 2016, where she studied economics and statistics. Before starting at Deloitte in Washington, D.C., Adriel spent a few months working at a school in Somaliland, which solidified her desire to work internationally.

During her time at Deloitte, Adriel prioritized international work and sought opportunities to join different projects. She ultimately focused on supporting the public-sector side of public-private partnerships and worked in Puerto Rico for a year on the recovery effort after Hurricane Maria. In that role, she led a team that helped state agencies plan strategic PPPs for the recovery.

Following her work in Puerto Rico, Adriel went to West Africa to start and help lead the Power Africa West Africa Energy Program, a USAID-funded initiative to improve energy regulation across 24 countries and to help energy transactions reach financial closure. Adriel also completed a pre-MBA internship with Acumen Latam Impact Ventures, where she sourced new companies for investment, conducted due diligence, and supported current portfolio companies.

In her free time, Adriel enjoys throwing dinner parties, improv, rock climbing, lifting, and running.





## **MARIA DOLORES (LOLA) BASABE VALOR**

Lola was born and raised in Madrid, Spain. From a very young age, Lola was drawn to learn about other cultures and languages, to travel, and to live abroad. At age 11, Lola went to boarding school in the U.K. for a year, where she became fluent in English. Keen to become fluent in a third language and to develop an international mindset, Lola attended ICADE University, where she pursued a bachelor's degree in international business, studying two years in Spain and two years in France. To complete her integration in French culture, Lola interned at Société Générale Investment Banking in Paris.

After graduation, Lola joined Deloitte Transaction Services in Madrid, where she worked for a year on due diligence projects for mergers and acquisitions (M&A) transactions by assessing the historical performance of target companies. Aspiring to become an investor and driven to work in a global environment, Lola moved to London to work at Nomura as an investment banker in the firm's EMEA Industrials group. At Nomura, Lola worked on transaction execution and deal origination by developing financial and valuation analyses and presentations for key decision-makers during potential acquisitions, divestitures, and opportunities to optimize capital structure. Two years later, she transitioned to the buy side at H.I.G. Capital in Madrid, a global private equity firm specializing in mid-market investments. At H.I.G. Capital, Lola assisted on the firm's portfolio management and analyzed new investment opportunities through financial modeling, due diligence, and detailed industry research to identify value creation levers, risks, and exit opportunities.

During her free time, Lola loves traveling and has visited more than 30 countries. In these trips, Lola pursues some of her favorite hobbies including trekking, scuba diving, and learning about new cultures and local cuisines. While traveling through Latin America and volunteering in Peru, Lola developed a strong connection with the region.

At Wharton and Lauder, Lola plans to combine her passion for investing and for Latin America. She aims to learn about the region's challenges, local customs, and particular way of doing business, to become fluent in Portuguese, and to build on the skills she has developed as an investor.

Lola hopes to combine her cultural background, work experience, and time at Wharton and Lauder to transition to impact investing and to achieve her ultimate goal: efficiently deploying capital in Latin America for a positive social and environmental impact that will help unlock the region's full potential.





## MINTAI BAUTISTA

Mintai was born in Henan, China. She moved to Sapporo, Japan, when she was 9 years old, then to Columbus, Ohio, when she was 13. Immigrating twice as a child, she developed a global mindset, the courage to enter new environments, and the ability to learn from and become part of a new country's culture.

Mintai obtained two degrees with honors, mathematics and business administration with a concentration in finance, from The Ohio State University. While there, she led business development efforts for AIESEC, the local chapter of an international student nonprofit representing 126 countries, and helped many international students overcome language and cultural barriers and adapt to student life in the United States. At the time, she did not fully appreciate AIESEC's goal of developing global citizens, but she soon realized how valuable the different life experiences are in helping students along on their professional journeys. She is still part of the organization today.

In her professional life, Mintai channeled her courage to enter new environments as the first female on her team at FactSet, a financial software company, later helping her team achieve a 50/50 female ratio. At Indus Capital, she was the only female trader for the hedge fund. In this latter role, she used her knowledge of China and Japan and language skills while investing in the Asia-Pacific region and other emerging markets. Mintai has always been intrigued by how different the culture of money is in every country, from almost cashless with digital pay to traditional cash heavy and savings under the mattress. Moreover, as an international trader, she exchanged U.S. dollars to local currencies to buy equities and saw firsthand how money is highly regulated or restricted, depending on a country's policies.

At Wharton and Lauder, Mintai is looking forward to further researching the culture and policies of money. She is also looking forward to enhancing her previous knowledge of the East Asia region and improving her business language skills.

In her spare time, Mintai she enjoys training in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, snow skiing, and trying new cuisines. She also recently obtained her advanced diving certification and is looking forward to scuba diving.





## **JULIA RIOTO BERBEL**

Julia was born and raised in Brazil. Growing up in a politically engaged home, she learned to look at the world through an analytical and proactive approach. During high school, she led Model UN activities and joined an exchange program in the small town of Casco, Maine. This period taught her to learn from different cultures and backgrounds, and it raised her awareness about the responsibility of representing her country.

Back home, Julia worked part time as an English teacher for children and adults while applying to college, and she was accepted into business administration at the University of São Paulo. While at university, she divided her time between leading student government, traveling the world for mediation competitions, studying international business at an exchange program in Spain, and interning in corporate banking and marketing and sales. After graduating, she worked as a strategy consultant at McKinsey & Company, serving clients from different industries (retail, public sector, energy, banking, etc.), in different themes (strategy, implementation, merger management, etc.), and in all five regions of Brazil. Traveling across her country allowed her to understand the vast disparity of economic development conditions and living standards, igniting interest for the theme.

This realization was fostered by one of her most special projects in Crisis Management for McKinsey, leading the relocation of more than 25,000 people whose homes were at risk of collapse due to soil instability in one of Brazil's poorest cities. She coordinated logistics, legal, and social assistance teams, and had a direct impact on the lives of people in need of shelter and support.

Moved by the experience, Julia looked for another opportunity to work in social impact and accepted a position as adviser to the secretary of economic development of the State of São Paulo. In this role, she coordinated political and economic articulation for the private sector, supporting investment and competitiveness endeavors including COVID-19 economic stimulus and relief measures.

Julia has also served as a mentor for vulnerable youth; a volunteer on academic research for NOVA de Lisboa University, interviewing youth from distressed neighborhoods in São Paulo to assess the region's economic development; a supporter for women's initiatives for gender equality in the workplace; and a leader for youth workshops on career management, communication, and other topics. She also developed courses for high school students on the topics of problem solving, negotiation, economics, and diversity. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and nature-related traveling, running, and reading about history and politics. A hopeless extrovert, she also enjoys having a coffee or beer with friends.







## **WEIWEI BI**

Weiwei was born in France and raised by her grandmother in Tangshan, China, an industrial city in Hebei Province. She immigrated at age 4 to New Haven, Connecticut, taking frequent trips back to China to visit extended family and perfect her Mandarin. These experiences fed her curiosity about her heritage and global economic development.

Weiwei graduated from Stanford University in 2016, majoring in economics with a minor in East Asian studies. In her junior year, she studied abroad at Oxford University, where she completed a tutorial in modern Chinese history. Her summers were spent interning in Shenzhen, Beijing, and Accra, Ghana. Influenced by her parents' work in the health care sector, Weiwei began her career at ZS Associates in San Francisco. There, she advised pharmaceutical clients on sales and marketing strategy.

In 2018, Weiwei moved to Johannesburg, South Africa, as a Princeton in Africa Fellow at African Leadership Academy, an education nonprofit intent on raising the next generation of African leaders. At ALA, Weiwei volunteered as a mentor for the student enterprise program, partnering with young entrepreneurs to solve local problems. Inspired by their passion, this work persuaded her to pursue an operating role at mPharma, an African health care tech and supply chain company, where she could build a deeper understanding of local markets. Weiwei was hired as the project manager for a pilot study funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the first such opportunity for mPharma.

For this role, Weiwei moved to Lagos, Nigeria, where she oversaw the onboarding of 20 pharmacies to mPharma's franchising platform. Managing a team of 12, Weiwei was responsible for results across supply chain, key accounts, and finance. At the end of the pilot, mPharma received follow-on funding from the investment arm of the foundation to expand to three other states in Nigeria. In January 2021, Weiwei left Lagos to join mPharma's office in Nairobi, Kenya, to launch a similar business in a new market.

At Wharton and Lauder, Weiwei hopes to further develop her understanding of sub-Saharan Africa – its history, culture, and potential. She aims to translate her experiences to a career in impact investing, where she can continue to support high-impact entrepreneurs with a hands-on approach.





## JOAQUÍN CAMPOS

Joaquín was born and raised in Concepción, Chile. While attending a British school, he cultivated a deep interest in foreign societies and languages. After high school, Joaquín studied industrial engineering at Pontificia Universidad Católica in Santiago, Chile. He learned German as a third language and completed an exchange semester in Heidelberg, Germany, where he took courses in economics with students from all over the world. He also spent time living in the U.S. and practicing skiing, one of his passions.

Joaquín interned at Credicorp Capital Chile, where he grew as an investment analyst in the energy sector and the non-banking financial sector. Working with two diverse sectors led him to realize his interest in broadening his business exposure. He loved creating business value by fully immersing himself into a certain industry and context for a limited time period, and then being thrown into the next challenge, learning from the intensity of the varied settings and perspectives.

After graduating magna cum laude, he decided to enter into consulting, which would provide an ideal chance to work in different settings with people from different countries and cultures. He joined Bain & Company in Chile, but his desire to continue pursuing international experiences led him to transfer to Sao Paulo, Brazil, where he worked for over a year. In Brazil, he became fluent in Portuguese and worked with clients from sectors such as health care, private equity, retail, and consumer products across the highly diverse regions of the country. Later, he transferred back to Chile, where he grew his leadership skills in strategy planning and implementation for many local and global clients across South America, many of whom were in the fast-changing energy and natural resources sector. He also had an active role in pro-bono engagements for two international nonprofit organizations in Chile.

Having worked with many international companies with both local and global stakeholders, Joaquín decided to join Wharton and Lauder to further his exposure to multicultural settings and develop his skills to lead people and organizations towards action and change.





## **CRISTOBAL DE ATUCHA**

Cristobal was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Having attended an international bilingual school with Irish roots and traveling the world during his formative years, he understands the importance of experiencing the world through a combination of culture, language, and history. From a young age, he was exposed to new languages by attending after-school classes in French.

In 2016, he obtained his undergraduate degree in business administration at Universidad del Centro de Estudios Macroeconómicos de Argentina (UCEMA) in Buenos Aires. During his last year of college, his curiosity for the financial world made him join the Latin America credit risk team of Citibank as an intern, attending classes during the night and working during the day. At Citibank, he developed the financial roots of his career and was exposed to different corporate clients across the region, covering countries such as Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and Panama.

Upon graduation, Cristobal was eager to take his financial career to a more strategic level and joined the Investment Banking division of J.P. Morgan. He was a member of the Latin America mergers and acquisitions team based in Buenos Aires for almost four years. While at J.P. Morgan, he participated in several M&A transactions, providing buy-side and sell-side advisory services to clients in a wide range of industries throughout Latin America.

In an effort to help narrow the financial inclusion gap in Latin America, Cristobal decided to pursue a pre-MBA internship with the Business Development team of RappiPay at Rappi, mainly supporting the development of the fintech vertical in one of the most prominent startups in LatAm. He was part of the team leading the efforts of the credit card product launch, in addition to joining the digital wallet and debit card overall strategy team.

At Wharton and Lauder, Cristobal expects to deepen his roots in Latin America by understanding the main political and economic drivers in the region, consolidating his regional professional profile. In his spare time, Cristobal enjoys spending with his friends and family, and practicing outdoor sports including skiing, kitesurfing, rugby, soccer, tennis, among others.





## **CAMILLE (CAMI) DE RY**

Cami was born and raised in Los Angeles as a first-generation American. Raised by her Argentine mother and Swiss father, Cami spoke Spanish at home and traveled to Buenos Aires biannually where she developed a great appreciation for her Latin American roots. Cami also grew up near construction sites in Los Angeles and Buenos Aires, inspiring her fascination of real estate from a very early age.

Cami studied at Brown University and earned her Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics and economics on the advanced economics track. During her time at Brown, she focused her studies on development economics and statistical analyses that could be applied to real-world scenarios. She also took advantage of Brown's open curriculum to deepen her knowledge and passion for architecture and art history.

Following graduation, Cami began her career in real estate private equity, working most recently at The Blackstone Group. She handled institutional client relationships to contribute to capital-raising efforts for the real estate business. Cami worked with clients from across the globe, particularly focusing on Latin America and Asia Pacific regions, and developed a global perspective on institutional capital raising. Cami notably worked on the largest real estate private equity fundraise in history, which resulted in over \$20 billion of investor capital raised within a six-month period. She also worked as a product specialist for Blackstone's open-ended core+ funds. In this role, Cami drove fundraising, marketing, and reporting efforts for the business and contributed to over \$1.5 billion of investor commitments raised for the perpetual-life vehicle. Additionally, she worked closely on Blackstone's diversity and inclusion, and nonprofit partnership initiatives. She led the firm's partnership with Prep for Prep, a New York City-based nonprofit organization focused on developing effective leaders who reflect a diverse society, and she spearheaded an exclusive mock interview volunteer initiative for over 200 employee volunteers.

At Wharton and Lauder, Cami is looking to build upon her existing real estate and private equity experience to pivot her career towards real estate investing and development. In particular, she looks forward to deepening her knowledge of emerging markets across Latin America and the various social, political, and economic factors that impact the real estate environment in the region.

In her spare time, Cami loves cooking, contemporary art, and playing tennis. She looks forward to joining the Wharton Real Estate Club and continuing her nonprofit work with Philadelphia-based organizations.





## **SOPHIA J. DEZEN**

Sophia was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia. She received a full merit scholarship to the University of Georgia Honors Program, where she double majored in Spanish and economics. The summer after her freshman year, she left the U.S. for the first time and elevated her language study by living with a host family and taking Spanish classes in Seville, Spain. The learning and growth from cultural immersion nourished Sophia's curious spirit and prompted her to seek more international opportunities. She spent her third year of college studying at Oxford University, where she joined the college rowing team, competed for the Oxford Triathlon team, and led a charity hike in Northern Ireland.

After graduating one semester early in December 2014, Sophia spent a winter working on-mountain at Vail Resorts in Colorado before joining KPMG's advisory practice in Charlotte, North Carolina. Eager to pursue entrepreneurial work abroad, she took a sabbatical from KPMG and accepted a fellowship in Tel Aviv through Taglit Birthright Excel, an elite innovation program that cultivates business partnerships between the U.S. and Israel. During the fellowship, Sophia co-founded a children's financial literacy startup and learned about facets of Israel's startup ecosystem from executives and government leaders.

Building on her experience in Israel, Sophia moved to New York City in 2017 to join Citi Ventures, Citi's corporate innovation team. During her four and a half years at Citi, she helped found and grow Citi Ventures' D10X program, an internal startup incubator that partners with Citi business leaders to develop and launch fintech products. Sophia managed a portfolio of about 40 startup concepts and collaborated with executives to infuse design thinking and lean startup product management methodologies across Citi. In March 2021, she led the launch and investment in Ensemble, the first consumer product originated and spun out from Citi Ventures, currently valued at \$10 million.

Outside of work, Sophia serves on the Taglit Birthright Excel Alumni Leadership Board and runs road races as a wheelchair push-assist volunteer with the Kyle Pease Foundation, a nonprofit that helps athletes with disabilities compete in sports. She loves skiing on both snow and water, reading fiction, dabbling in painting, and working towards her quest to hike every U.S. national park.

At Wharton and Lauder, Sophia is excited to bolster her operational business acumen, evolve her leadership style, and strengthen her Spanish. She hopes to pursue a career that marries her professional and personal interests in fitness, healthy food, outdoor recreation, and innovation.





## MARIAMA DIALLO

Mariama's life has been defined by international experiences – be it moving to the U.S. as a teen, studying abroad in Spain as an undergraduate, or traveling across West Africa. These experiences helped her adapt to her surroundings and inspired her to continue to discover the world. Mariama was born and raised in Conakry, the vibrant coastal capital of Guinea. At a young age, she developed a fascination with different cultures through watching movies and documentaries, and visiting neighboring countries such as Senegal, Gambia, and Ivory Coast.

At 17, Mariama arrived in Louisville, Kentucky, with her siblings to join their mom. She had to finish high school and learn a new language. Her first school was an ESL (English as a Second Language) school, where she studied with other immigrants and first witnessed the true beauty of global citizenship. Mariama went on to earn a bachelor's degree in finance at the University of Louisville.

In college, Mariama wanted to take advantage of all the opportunities offered to students, so she got involved in many groups and events. She served as the vice president and president of the African Student Union, pledged the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, and twice represented the University of Louisville at the Target Business Case Competition at the Kelley School of Business. During her sophomore year, Mariama interned in Barcelona with a media company that focused on sharing African content in Europe.

After college, Mariama joined Goldman Sachs' Investment Banking division as an analyst in the Mergers & Acquisitions Group. For the first two years, Mariama focused on helping corporations around the world fend off shareholder activists including hostile takeovers/raids, strengthen their ESG strategy, and develop investor relations. After her promotion to associate, she moved to the Cross Markets Group, where she focused on Middle Market M&A across different industries.

At Wharton and Lauder, Mariama hopes to spend her time deepening her understanding of the global economic environments she will operate in as an aspiring investor and business leader.

In her spare time, Mariama enjoys spending time with family, traveling, cooking, reading, and watching documentaries. Additionally, she helps advise startups in Guinea and Senegal, and she volunteers as a career coach for Guineans studying in the United States.







## MY-HANH (HANA) DO

Hana grew up in a coastal city in Northern Vietnam. Born during the nation's economic opening, she witnessed the rising of the middle class, including her family, while many were left behind. Fascinated by how Singapore was able to leapfrog economically, lifting 90% of the population out of poverty, she moved to Singapore to pursue her bachelor's degree in business administration at the National University of Singapore.

After graduation, Hana started working at Google Singapore in the SMB Sales team. As she led the team's work in policy implementation for scaling ads, she realized her passion for data. In the next four years, she taught herself data analytics tools including SQL, R, Python, and Tableau, and she transferred to Google's headquarters in California. While working in Sales Operations and Strategy within Google Hardware, Hana built the first enterprise-level sales reporting dashboard heavily used by the 300-person global sales team. She also spearheaded multiple efforts to bring transparency to budget management and prioritization, which was crucial to scaling the nascent hardware sales division. To further improve her analytics skills, she joined Google Finance as a senior revenue analyst responsible for forecasting and analyzing billions of dollars in revenue. Within a few months of leading the retail segment, she devised a thorough scenario planning, successfully helping various teams navigate the most unpredictable retail season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

While at Google, Hana actively engaged in the company's community service campaigns through its philanthropic arm. She led a project to teach internet skills to 30,000 farmers across Vietnam. She was also a Google for Nonprofit diplomat, training nonprofits on advertising and marketing. Those experiences allowed her to recognize the importance of training and development for the less privileged. In California, she continued leading programs to mentor low-income and underrepresented students.

Her time in Singapore also furthered her interest in international cultures and histories. She lived and worked in London and Tel Aviv before moving to California. At Wharton and Lauder, Hana wants to further understand the cultural, socioeconomic, and political forces that can amplify or hinder community development. She also wants to study the accessibility to education in underdeveloped areas around the globe, especially in emerging markets.

In her spare time, she loves anything outdoors and also is an adrenaline junkie.





## HUNTER DONG

Born in New York City and raised on Long Island, Hunter grew up as the child of Chinese immigrant parents. His diverse surroundings instilled in him a profound sense of appreciation for his Asian American identity and led him to seek opportunities to connect with different cultures. Hunter's regular visits to China and work at his family's China-based business enabled him to witness the country's rapid development. As a result, he has established a deep respect and passion for its language, culture, and potential.

Hunter attended Princeton University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in operations research and financial engineering. Outside the classroom, he took on leadership roles in the Chinese Students Association and Global China Connection. He also spent two summers in China, one taking advanced language courses at Beijing National University and another interning at a Shanghai-based language learning startup. His senior thesis developed a new method of modeling Asian sovereign debt markets.

After graduation, Hunter further immersed himself in the East and Southeast Asia region by pursuing a Princeton-in-Asia Fellowship in the Philippines. In Manila, he worked at the Hinrich Foundation, a nonprofit focused on promoting sustainable global trade. He analyzed new methods of supporting local small businesses and helped to establish scholarship programs for students interested in trade. His fellowship, combined with his own family business experience, renewed his desire to support the development of small Asia-based enterprises.

Hunter joined IBM as a data scientist and consultant upon returning to the United States. In that role, he applied advanced analytics to build innovative solutions ranging from intelligent automatic restaurant operations for a fast-food chain to customer care AI for a health insurance provider. Hunter was also involved in pro bono projects, contributing to the development of COVID-19 chatbots used to quickly disseminate information at the onset of the pandemic. He also served as the diversity and inclusion chair for IBM New York's entry-level hires.

Hunter's goals at Wharton and Lauder are to enhance his fluency in Mandarin Chinese and develop his understanding of not just East and Southeast Asia, but also how the region is connected to the global economy. He plans to take his learnings to develop novel ways to support small businesses around the world.

In his free time, Hunter enjoys powerlifting, scuba diving, and roasting his own coffee.





## ARÉLYSS EBLOHOUÉ

Arélyss was born and raised in Benin, West Africa, where cultural pluralism is a norm. Benin has more than 50 ethnic groups living in harmony, and Beninese can sometimes practice two or three religions.

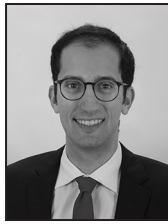
In high school, Arélyss excelled at mathematics and represented her country at the Pan-African Mathematics Olympiads in South Africa, earning a bronze medal. More than a competition, the Olympiads was a mini Babel tower where Arélyss was able to meet Africa in all its diversity.

Arélyss moved to France for university and studied computer science and applied mathematics. After receiving her engineering degree at a French Grandes Ecoles, she embarked on a career at Société Générale, using technology to shape financial markets. She spent three years working on fixed income assets pricing, then switched to quantitative trading to conduct research in automated trading strategies. Arélyss was also a part-time programming lecturer at La Sorbonne University in Paris. Moreover, she spent a summer teaching high school and university students at the first artificial intelligence camp hosted by the Vallet Foundation in Benin.

At Wharton and Lauder, Arélyss intends to focus on alternative investments, strategy, and disruptive and sustainable innovation. She also wants to deepen her knowledge in geopolitics and history. She hopes to play a political role in Benin as a second career.

In her spare time, Arélyss enjoys reading, debating, listening to podcasts, and backpacking. Getting to know her is easy -- just bring a soccer ball.





## **ANDRÉ RODRIGUES FERREIRA**

André was born and raised in a small town near Porto, Portugal. From a young age, André was fascinated by travel and different cultures because of the stories told by his grandparents, who traveled to different corners of the world.

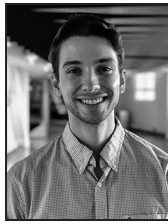
He pursued a bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Porto, motivated by the debt crisis that severely impacted small businesses in his hometown. During his time in university, André advised local startups, participated in case competitions, spent a year as part of the students' commission, volunteered with children in need, and supported a professor in research on data mining.

Upon graduation, André joined Bain & Company in the Madrid office, where he worked mostly in financial services, private equity, and technology. The projects he enjoyed the most were focused on businesses supporting small and mid-size enterprises (SMEs): creating a digital ecosystem for a Southeast Asian bank serving small businesses; designing a value creation plan for a discount and rewards app that provides support to small merchants worldwide; helping to create an SME bank in Portugal; and advising a leading Portuguese bank on measures to support a small business-dominated sector during the COVID-19 crisis. André experienced firsthand how cultural and socioeconomic differences impact business and daily life as he worked in Spain, Portugal, Germany, Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Argentina, Brazil, and Thailand.

At Wharton and Lauder, André plans to expand his global knowledge covering economics, politics, and history. He hopes to gain a deeper understanding of the political and economic factors underlying the lack of access to capital for small businesses and how technology and alternative sources of funding can contribute to solving this problem.

André has traveled to over 40 countries and in his spare time enjoys watching soccer and playing tennis and padel. He is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and English.





## PAOLO FORNASINI

Born to a family with European and Latin American roots, Paolo spent his childhood moving between southern Germany and the United States while visiting family in Ecuador and Italy. Growing up in a multilingual immigrant household sparked a lifelong passion for learning languages and building bridges across cultures.

After graduating from Atlanta International School in Atlanta, Georgia, Paolo studied economics, international business, and Germanic languages at Washington University in St. Louis. In addition to native proficiency in German and English, Paolo built on his heritage proficiency in Spanish and Italian through regular work, study, and volunteer opportunities, teaching himself conversational Portuguese and Swedish as well.

In college, Paolo became interested in consumer technology and gained his first exposure to the industry at European travel startup Gloveller.de in Karlsruhe, Germany, and with strategy consulting projects in Brazil. Adding to his experience in international growth and business development, Paolo interned on Google's Global Clients team, supporting automakers' marketing efforts.

Paolo has spent most of his career developing partnerships for Google's mobile app advertising business out of New York. Focusing on gaming, media, and entertainment, Paolo spearheaded a global project focused on diversifying revenue for a premium client segment. More recently, he relocated to San Francisco to lead a team managing relationships with the region's top mobile app companies, helping them grow revenue and adapt to new regulatory and privacy standards. He also co-founded his group's diversity, equity, and inclusion council and ran its community strategy.

Outside of work, Paolo is a lover of all things food and music. A founding member of Education Through Music's development board, Paolo is a classical and jazz pianist and a supporter of music education. Paolo also spent a summer helping organize a World's Fair expo in Milan. During this time, he supported the event's theme of "Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life" and implemented logistics for keynote speeches by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

At Wharton and Lauder, Paolo hopes to further his understanding of German and Nordic languages and startup ecosystems. His hope is that new technologies and strengthening of cross-border business relationships will deepen cultural understanding and create opportunities for entrepreneurs.





## YURI GOMES DE ABREU

Yuri was born in Belém do Pará, Brazil, and is a descendant of indigenous people, Iberians, and Africans. Born in the Amazon region, he carries the indigenous values of sharing. Being part of the third technician generation of his family, he has technology as part of his identity. Yuri was raised in multiple Brazilian cities and experienced contrasting economic structures, social conditions, and cultural traditions. This path shaped his lifelong interest in understanding social phenomena and in uniting business and technology to implement solutions.

At 14, Yuri was admitted to Liceu de Artes e Ofícios de São Paulo, a renowned technical high school. At 18, he graduated as a telecommunications technician and started working to support his parents and fund college. At 21, Yuri was admitted to Escola Politécnica da Universidade de São Paulo, becoming a first-generation college student. Studying industrial engineering, he realized that combining strategy, data, and social science is fundamental to drive businesses. Awarded a merit-based scholarship, he moved to France and earned his master's degree in computer engineering at Université de Technologie de Compiègne.

Passionate about performing arts, Yuri was a theater light designer for four years. In France, he founded a cultural association and led 205 volunteers from 20 nationalities in one of Compiègne's biggest open-air venues.

In France, Yuri worked as a knowledge manager for Cartier, implementing data and organizational systems to help the company innovate and prevent the loss of sensitive intellectual property. He later joined McKinsey & Company in Costa Rica, where he led the overhaul of one of the firm's main knowledge assets, delivering analytical recommendations based on socioeconomic demographics for 6,000 cities in the Americas. Back in Brazil, Yuri managed Uber's pricing for 15 Latin American countries, led projects, structured and expanded analytics-based pricing, and helped the company meet the challenge of the coronavirus pandemic and an economic recession. Concurrently, he founded companies in Brazil and Costa Rica.

Yuri believes that business is a great force for generating wealth in societies. At Wharton and Lauder, he wants to fulfill this life purpose by becoming a global leader at the intersection of technology, business strategy, and public policy. He hopes to combine all his life, work, and educational experiences to make a positive impact on the world.

Yuri loves to travel with his family and, as a barista, to share specialty coffee with people. He also enjoys cycling, ballroom dancing, and studying music and philosophy. Yuri is a Portuguese native speaker and fluent in English, Spanish, and French.





## MATTHEW GRIFFITH

Matthew was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Arlington, Virginia. From an early age, he was exposed to different cultures through his mother's career in international education. He first began learning Mandarin in middle school when he accompanied his mother on a business trip to China. He later moved to Beijing for a year with his family and attended an international high school alongside classmates from around the world. After returning to the U.S., he continued to study Mandarin throughout high school and college.

At Pomona College, Matthew earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics and minored in politics. He returned to Beijing during his junior year to study abroad and hone his Mandarin skills, and he also spent a summer interning at a corporate social responsibility nonprofit in Hong Kong. In addition, he interned at the EastWest Institute, a New York City-based global conflict resolution think tank, where he used his Mandarin to guide retired senior Chinese generals and admirals attending the 7th annual U.S.-China Sanya Initiative.

After graduating, Matthew moved back to D.C. to pursue a career in international business and joined Economic Consulting Services, a boutique consulting firm specializing in international trade litigation. He primarily worked with foreign companies seeking to reduce their exposure to anti-dumping tariffs and maintain access to U.S. markets. He was quickly promoted to economist and traveled to countries including China, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates to assist clients on the ground. Matthew utilized quantitative problem solving to make a direct impact; one of his proudest achievements was coding a program to automate the allocation of production costs for a client with approximately \$1 billion in annual exports to the U.S., allowing for more efficient monitoring of tariff liability. Working with clients over the course of multiyear trade cases gave him a crash course on the human impact of the connected global economy.

At Wharton and Lauder, Matthew is excited to deepen his understanding of the issues facing international businesses and learn more about the global economy. He is looking forward to improving his Mandarin and furthering his understanding of the U.S.-China trade war through formal study. Outside of business hours, Matthew enjoys basketball, hiking, piano, and chess.







## YATING (GRACE) GUAN

Grace was born into an ethnic minority Manchurian family in a small city in Hunan, China. Her parents' sacrifice and dedication to her upbringing laid the bedrock upon which her values of authenticity, altruism, and compassion were built. At the age of 14, Grace pursued her education in the U.S. Her venture abroad was punctuated by constant change, taking her from a public school in an impoverished part of Texas, then to Pennsylvania, and eventually to a boarding school in New York. The exposure to a spectrum of sociocultural environments instilled in her a lifelong sense of curiosity and appreciation for intercultural learning.

Grace attended Hamilton College on a full merit scholarship, double majoring in mathematics and economics. During college, Grace worked five on-campus jobs and, as a teaching assistant and tutor at the Quantitative Literacy Center, furthered her passion for helping students improve their quantitative skills. She spent the summer after her freshman year in Seoul, studying Korean anthropology and intensive Korean at Ewha Womans University. During her college years, she also enjoyed leading summer tutoring programs for children from underprivileged communities in rural China. She visits her Chinese middle school frequently to promote opportunities for young people with limited access to the world outside of China.

Grace spent most of her professional career as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan, covering financial institutions for four years in both New York and Hong Kong, where she advised corporates on capital raising needs and mergers and acquisitions. Most recently, Grace worked in a secondary private equity fund focusing on investments in Asia. Her experiences in advising clients through extensive due-diligence trips across nine North American and Asian countries deepened her understanding of the influential roles that culture, society, politics, and religion play in the world of business.

Grace is eager to broaden and diversify her global perspective as part of the international Lauder family. She is passionate about financial inclusion and poverty alleviation, and she plans to explore the intersection between private businesses and economic development in emerging nations.

In her spare time, Grace enjoys touring the world on foot through marathons and has completed in seven, including in New York, San Francisco, Bali, Phuket, and Penang. She also loves spending time in nature, exploring street food around the globe, and is always keen to delve into new cultural experiences.





## KENT HAMLIN

Kent Hamlin was born in Washington, D.C. An innate curiosity for unfamiliar people and places led to an early interest in Near Eastern history. Kent pursued archeological internships in Turkey during high school, including a transformative experience searching for shipwrecks with Bob Ballard, who discovered the Titanic wreck, and witnessing firsthand the inception of the Syrian Refugee Crisis. He continued these interests as an Arabic and Near Eastern Studies major at Cornell University, where he graduated magna cum laude and spent a semester abroad in the United Arab Emirates to write his undergraduate honors thesis on censorship in the art market of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Kent's MENA interests have evolved to focus on exploring solutions for the region's challenges, such as unemployment, social progress, protection of heritage, and refugee crises. He is driven by a sense of purpose to reveal and empower the enormous potential of MENA's cultural heritage and people. After a short stint as a consultant in New York, Kent returned to the Middle East, seeking social impact work in Jordan. He secured a position at BeyondCapital in Amman, inspired by its mission of empowering individual potential by driving entrepreneurial impact. At BeyondCapital, Kent led the development of high-impact programs including the first incubator for Middle Eastern fund managers and Jordan's only formal angel investment network. Both programs empower talented entrepreneurs by providing training, networks, and seed capital.

At Wharton and Lauder, Kent hopes to deepen his experience in sustainable, socially conscious businesses with a focus on entrepreneurship. From his experiences, he believes the greatest potential exists in the communities that are overlooked or left behind. Kent hopes that Lauder will help equip him with the leadership and cross-disciplinary skills needed to amplify his impact in such communities.

In his spare time, he enjoys teaching a weekly English class to refugees, hiking, painting, and exploring museums and galleries.





## JASMINE HELME

Zigzagging her way across continents throughout her early career, Jasmine has developed a fascination for intercultural connections, having lived and worked in the U.K., China, Peru, and the U.S. Born in London to a Peruvian mother and English father, a multicultural backdrop was a formative part of her upbringing, and the desire to explore this further is precisely what brought Jasmine to Lauder.

After completing her undergraduate degree in mathematics in the U.K., Jasmine sought an investment banking internship in Shanghai and worked on U.S.-China cross-border mergers and acquisitions. Subsequently, she spent just over two years in Hong Kong, working in equity research in the China food and beverage and Macau hospitality sectors. Curious to understand more about her Latin American heritage, Jasmine then moved to Peru to work at the region's largest investment bank, Credicorp Capital, covering the infrastructure and construction sectors. Living in Peru sparked in her a deep interest in the mining sector. She realized that demand for minerals underpins the entire global economy and, if managed responsibly from an environmental and social standpoint, that the industry generated by resource extraction can deliver significant economic and inclusive benefits to remote communities.

In 2017, Jasmine joined the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector lending arm, where she focused on investments in the global mining sector to spur development in emerging markets across Latin America, Africa, and Asia. As part of her work, Jasmine was part of a small team supervising IFC's investment in the multibillion-dollar Oyu Tolgoi copper project in Mongolia, which once in production is expected to contribute approximately a third of Mongolia's gross domestic product and generate substantial opportunities up the supply chain for local communities.

In her free time, Jasmine is a musician playing classical and jazz piano, drums, timpani, xylophone, and more. Most weekends, you can find her scrambling up a mountain trail or practicing vinyasa yoga flows.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jasmine hopes to explore ways to promote a greener integrated global economy, which she believes can be achieved through investments in key minerals for a low-carbon future, battery storage technology, and plant-based protein alternatives. She hopes to continue a career path in sustainable investing after completing her graduate degree.





## **WILLIAM (CHASE) HODGE-BROKENBURR**

Chase was born and raised in Southern California. Regular visits to extended family in Rio de Janeiro, where he saw the impact of globalization on daily life, motivated him to gain a closer understanding of different cultures and people around the world.

As an undergraduate at Bowdoin College, Chase majored in economics and French, with an Africana studies minor. He was active in various organizations and committees across campus. Most notably, Chase was co-chair of the Bowdoin Entertainment Board, captain of the Club Water Polo team, member of the Bowdoin Trustee Committee on Multicultural Affairs, and member of the Student Activities Funding Committee.

Chase followed a lifelong dream and moved to China for his first job after graduation. In Shanghai, he joined Yooya, where he developed strong cross-border management skills as he helped oversee local online advertising campaigns on behalf of foreign brands. He enjoyed driving engagement of foreign products through consumer research but wanted to gain a more in-depth understanding of Chinese investor mandates, so he completed a four-month internship at DealGlobe, a cross-border merchant bank. At DealGlobe, Chase worked closely with the firm's senior vice president to identify potential startup investment opportunities for Chinese investors.

After 18 months in China, Chase returned to Los Angeles, where he transitioned to an international role at Creative Artists Agency (CAA). Working as an assistant in the Media Finance department, Chase sourced and identified independent film projects for potential Chinese investors and helped craft outreach strategies. He was promoted into the company's agent trainee program and was involved in the packaging, financing, and sales efforts of over 30 independent films while helping develop the company's growth strategy in African markets.

A lifelong supporter of opera, Chase partnered with the LA Opera to help formulate strategies to increase audience engagement with both underrepresented minorities and young professionals. He joined the board of directors a year later, working to increase diversity of both performers and consumers, and grow the artform.

At Wharton and Lauder, Chase looks forward to immersing himself in an international environment while further exploring the impact of globalization on consumer behavior. Routinely, you can find Chase watching soccer, discovering new music, and visiting the local art museum.





## ANGELA HUANG

Angela hails from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and considers herself a Midwesterner at heart with a global mindset. Raised by Chinese immigrant parents, she spent her childhood bouncing between the suburbs of Detroit and Chicago, with a brief stint in Toronto, Canada. Biannual family trips to China helped Angela forge a strong connection to her heritage, while spending school breaks to visit relatives across Tokyo, Vancouver, Tel Aviv, and Rome sparked an international curiosity. Angela's identity as both American and Asian American emerged early in her childhood, and she immersed herself in both cultures through language classes, movies, music, and food.

At the University of Michigan, Angela pursued a dual degree in business from the Ross School of Business and user experience design through the School of Information. She co-founded one of the world's first collegiate chapters of Lean In On Campus, a gender equality organization, and also represented student government as vice chair of the Gender Equity Commission. Angela's other campus involvement included serving as vice president of standards for Delta Gamma sorority and as a member of Delta Sigma Pi professional business fraternity. Angela complemented her academics with international exposure through study abroad programs in Hong Kong, India, and Ireland.

Eager to combine her interests in business and technology, Angela moved to Chicago upon graduation to work at McKinsey & Company. She focused on digital strategy and digital transformations, establishing herself as a firm-wide analyst leader in global business services for the insurance and technology industries. After two years at McKinsey, Angela felt compelled to pursue her passion for design thinking and user experience research. She joined a global design innovation consultancy, IA Collaborative, and worked at the intersection of human-centered design and strategy. Angela applied design thinking in context and launched IA's capabilities across marketing analytics, digital prototyping, and in-store product pilots. The pandemic-driven disruption worldwide pushed Angela to join Looped, a livestream event startup enabling creators to connect with their fans personally within an interactive virtual venue experience. As director of strategy, Angela led business model innovation to drive strategic growth and revenue, and managed key channel partners to build product pilots and partnerships.

At Wharton and Lauder, Angela is excited to apply her knowledge across business, technology, and design to the social enterprise and innovation space, particularly in Asia. During her spare time, Angela loves enjoying live music, exploring museums, and getting outdoors to rollerblade and hike.





## **GEORGE MASANORI IWAOKA**

George was born in New York City and grew up in the suburbs of New Jersey, right outside of the city. His immigrant parents raised him in a traditional Japanese household, keeping him close to his Japanese culture.

While his parents were hopeful that George would attend college in Japan, he decided to attend the University of Rochester because he felt that his job opportunities were significantly greater in the U.S., and a degree from an American institution would ultimately help him pursue a career straddling the two cultures.

After graduation, George started his career at Citigroup and worked across teams in both New York City and San Francisco. During his second rotation in the San Francisco office, George had the opportunity to advise technology clients based on the West Coast. Inspired by the rapidly emerging and innovative tech companies he was advising, he decided to pursue a career working alongside innovative technology companies.

After his rotation program, George started working for Pando, a fintech Series A startup. The company is pioneering a new class of financial products called income pooling, where a group of individuals can contractually agree to share a percentage of future income, mitigating income volatility in high-risk, high-reward careers. Coming in as the 12th employee at the firm, he had to adapt quickly to the rapid and unpredictable startup environment, managing the company's entire finance operations. During his tenure, he helped the company raise its first \$3 million credit facility.

After earning his master's degree in business administration, George hopes to pursue a career in venture investing, specifically leveraging his bi-cultural Japanese American background to bridge the Japanese and American venture capital ecosystems. George looks forward to taking advantage of the academic and career opportunities offered at Wharton and Lauder as a member of the Japan track program.

Outside of his career, George is an avid runner and training to qualify for the Boston Marathon. He is a passionate photographer and has been running a photography business on the side since 2015, specializing in event and wedding photography. During his free time, George also loves crabbing and golfing, both of which he looks forward to enjoying with his classmates.





## **TIM JACOB**

Tim was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. From an early age, his linguist mother encouraged him to pursue foreign languages, and after taking his first Spanish class in middle school, he found he shared his mom's passion for languages. In high school, he deepened this passion by taking advanced Spanish classes and attending immersion trips in Latin America, where he got a first taste of the rich and diverse cultures of the region.

Seeking to deepen his interest in Latin America, Spanish, and international studies, Tim attended Brown University, where he majored in international relations with a focus on Latin America and Spanish. At Brown, Tim also played varsity lacrosse, serving as captain of the team his senior year when he led the team to an Ivy League championship and NCAA tournament appearance. Inhibited by his lacrosse career from studying abroad for a semester, Tim sought out an international study experience, working at a boutique marketing consultancy and studying in Madrid, Spain, between his sophomore and junior years.

Upon graduation, Tim joined the Marina Orth Foundation, an education nonprofit organization based in Medellin, Colombia, to get hands-on experience operating in the region he studied in college while simultaneously creating more opportunities for underserved communities in the area. Following a desire to continue to use his Spanish and understanding of Latin American markets in his career, Tim joined the Latin America team of the Mintz Group, a corporate investigations firm, where he worked on a variety of complex investigative projects. His work included onsite international arbitration witness and source development in Peru; managing teams of investigators conducting due diligence investigations for U.S.-based investors in Latin American companies; and developing and managing a novel type of investigation for one of the firm's largest new clients.

While working at the Mintz Group, Tim led groups of students from his high school alma mater on three immersion trips to Mexico to spark an interest in different cultures and languages in the next generation of students.

At Wharton and Lauder, Tim hopes to develop his fluency in Spanish and strengthen his understanding of how the complex political, social, and economic ecosystems in Latin America inform business in the region. As a former athlete, Tim tries to be as active as possible in his free time by cycling, doing yoga, backpacking, skiing, dancing (salsa and bachata), and playing lacrosse.







## DAVID JANUARIO

Raised in a tiny Brazilian town to older parents and around a global yet small spiritual community, David had a sheltered and unusual upbringing. However, from an early age he developed a deep curiosity about the world by learning French from his mother, a Brazilian-born descendent of French Jews, and interacting with his spiritual leader, who was also the CEO of a large multinational corporation.

Inspired by this leader's mentoring and global business success, David became the first student from his high school to study economics at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP). While at university, he helped organize and lead many large sporting and social events, and participated in a six-month exchange program in Germany and a weeklong immersion in France. Those experiences reinforced his desire to become a global person.

After graduating, David moved to São Paulo to begin his finance career in investment banking at Morgan Stanley, covering all sectors. While working on several cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&A), David developed a solid foundation in corporate finance and business strategy. Eager to learn more about investments and have a direct impact through his work, David joined GIC as an associate supporting investments across all real estate sub-sectors. He worked alongside U.S., European, and Singaporean teams to close approximately \$5 billion in transaction activity and understood the importance of having a global perspective when making investment decisions. He was promoted to assistant vice president before leaving to pursue his master's degree. While at GIC, David also volunteered as an English teacher to underprivileged teens in São Paulo.

Through analyses of property technology investments at GIC, a personal angel investment, and visits to the startup scene in Tel Aviv and Singapore, in the last two years David has developed a growing interest for technology as a tool for transformation. At Wharton and Lauder, he plans to complement his finance skills with a broader understanding of global entrepreneurship issues, leadership and innovation, aiming toward a venture capital career and a long-term ambition to either launch or join a proptech in Brazil.

In his free time, David enjoys surfing, soccer, house music, stock picking, books, and hanging out with his tight-knit group of friends. He also loves traveling and has visited more than 20 countries across four continents, numbers he hopes to increase before his Wharton and Lauder graduation.





## **PETER JIN**

Peter was born in Delaware and grew up in Northern New Jersey. As a Chinese American, he traveled frequently between the U.S. and China to visit family. At an early age, he was exposed to diverse cultures and languages, which sparked his passion and curiosity for learning more about global affairs.

After graduating from high school, Peter attended Harvard College, where he concentrated in applied mathematics and economics with a secondary in government. During his junior year, he studied abroad in Athens, Greece, focusing his studies on learning about European economic policy. Outside the classroom, Peter was president of his Engineers Without Borders chapter, where he fundraised nearly \$50,000 in national sponsorships and grants, and led the organization's water supply project in the Dominican Republic and elementary school construction project in Tanzania.

While in college, Peter interned at Man Numeric, a hedge fund based in Boston, where he developed quantitative trading algorithms for the firm. He also interned in the Strategic Planning department of Hainan Airlines, helping to launch the airline's Beijing to Mexico City route, the first nonstop from China to Latin America operated by a mainland carrier.

After graduating, Peter joined Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in the firm's New Jersey office. At BCG, Peter worked in a variety of industries including retail, travel and tourism, medical devices, public sector, and industrials. During his time at BCG, Peter also spent over a year in Asia, helping multinational corporations grow their presence across the region.

At Wharton and Lauder, Peter hopes to build on his passion for understanding global political and economic issues while deepening his cultural perspective.

Peter speaks English, Mandarin, Shanghainese, and Russian. In his spare time, he enjoys running, trying out new recipes, and learning about different cultures. As an avid traveler, he has visited more than 80 countries.





## SHANNON JULIAN

Growing up in the multicultural community of Edison, New Jersey, a predominantly Asian town, Shannon was immersed in an environment rich in different languages and perspectives. From a young age, her first-generation Chinese American friends inspired in her a love of Chinese culture by teaching her about its traditions, history, and holidays, as well as by sharing mooncakes with her during Lunar New Year.

When Shannon attended Princeton University, where she received a bachelor's degree in economics and a certificate in Chinese language and culture, she put into action her desire to learn the language so that she could connect with the culture and people more directly. She had the opportunity to attend a Chinese language summer immersion program in Beijing, interacting with people who spoke no English and had never had a conversation with an American. She was amazed at the ability to bridge cultural boundaries with Chinese people by speaking their language, because they took her efforts as a sign of deep respect toward their culture. At Wharton and Lauder, she seeks to further develop her understanding of China and pursue her ultimate goal of working in a multilingual and multinational environment.

Shannon worked in management consulting for nearly five years, first starting at Boston Consulting Group and then moving to the health care consulting firm Qral Group. In her time at Qral, she worked across multiple pharmaceutical product launches, including designing pre-launch marketing strategy and post-launch customer analytics. Her work rebranding the strategy for an induction of labor product enabled the CEO to successfully secure funding to support developing a sales force and marketing team. She also led a team to develop a product positioning strategy to best address unmet needs across hospitals, potentially reducing costs related to giving birth. Shannon has a strong interest in health care technology and educational technology, and she would like to pursue future opportunities in product management roles where she can have direct ownership over meaningful product development.

In her free time, Shannon participates in competitive ballroom dancing and enjoys traveling. She is passionate about understanding different people and finding common ground to build connections.





## YOON KYUNG KIM

Born in Korea, Yoon moved to Israel with her family as an infant and lived there for two years. Although she returned to Korea to attend elementary school, Yoon traveled to Germany every summer for four years to visit her aunt's family. When Yoon was 12, her family moved once again to Japan. Through these experiences, Yoon not only became fluent in Korean, English, and Japanese but also developed a curiosity about geopolitical dynamics in Asia and a desire to study and work in a multicultural environment.

Yoon received her Bachelor of Arts in neuroscience and economics from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. Outside of the classroom, Yoon was a student graphic designer for the Nelson A. Rockefeller Center for Public Policy and the Social Sciences. She was also president of the Korean Students Association, chair of academic affairs for the Student Assembly, and a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

After graduating from Dartmouth, Yoon joined J.P. Morgan as an equity research analyst. Over the two years with the Japan Equity Research team, Yoon trained her analytical and technical skills as well as deepened her knowledge of the machinery sector and Japanese corporate culture. She found joy in connecting ideas among sectors and regions, which led Yoon to her next role at J.P. Morgan in equity sales. While at the firm, Yoon also was elected as a member of Analyst & Associate Council to design a workplace attractive for young talent.

Yoon believes that the more interconnected our world becomes, the more crucial it is to understand the ever-changing dynamics among nations, corporates, and individuals. She is thrilled to approach business and policy decisions with an international mindset.

Yoon enjoys jogging in her spare time and completed three full marathons in Japan (Mt. Fuji, Tokyo, and Tateyama) and one half-marathon in Singapore. She has volunteered as a guide runner for visually impaired runners on weekends to share her passion with others. She goes diving in the summer and skiing in the winter to stay active. When she is indoors, she likes to cook anything from Kimchi fried rice to beef bourguignon.





## **MOSHE (MOSES) EMILIO LAVI**

Moshe was born and raised in Sderot, a working-class town in southern Israel. Besides learning how to dodge the rockets launched towards Sderot and sing “Little Town” from Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast,” he developed a passion for exploring other cultures through history books, mythologies, literature, the arts, and sports. He holds an Israeli-Portuguese dual nationality and speaks Hebrew, English, and German.

At 17 years old, Moshe left Israel for Norway, having been awarded a full scholarship to complete the International Baccalaureate at United World College Red Cross Nordic. During his two years at UWCRCN, he studied, volunteered, and lived communally with peers from 89 countries, learning firsthand valuable cross-cultural leadership lessons.

Following his graduation, Moshe was awarded the Davis UWC Scholarship and the Kellogg International Scholarship to pursue a bachelor’s degree at Carleton College. He graduated magna cum laude with a double major in political science and history. He studied abroad twice: war studies at King’s College London and researching European political economy across Western Europe. Moshe also developed an interest in German history and literature, spending two summers in a language immersion program at Middlebury College.

Upon graduating, Moshe returned to Israel and conscripted to the Israel Defense Forces. Moshe completed the IDF Officers Course and served in the COGAT unit (Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories). He was commissioned to intelligence and civil-military affairs roles, working with international organizations and the Palestinian Authority. He participated as a humanitarian officer in two operations. During his service, he was awarded an exchange program in the U.S. Army and a sponsored master’s degree in political science at Tel Aviv University, where he graduated magna cum laude.

Moshe was honorably discharged as a captain in 2017. He joined Meidata, Israel’s largest market research advisory, rising through the ranks to a principal analyst and director of operations. He advised defense, aerospace, homeland security, and public-sector clients to make data-driven strategic business decisions.

Moshe has been especially active in civil society organizations, specifically in public policy, environmental, and LGBTQ+ groups. He enjoys reading, writing, playing the violin, exercising, hiking, and playing chess. He ran a translation business for three years. Moshe hopes the Wharton and Lauder dual degree will enhance his business foundations, helping him develop a global career in international development and ESG (although he still dreams about becoming a football/soccer manager someday).





## OSCAR LEANDRO

Oscar was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. He attended the Universidad Metropolitana in his home country, where he majored in economics. His global interests drove him to complement his studies by participating in exchange programs every summer: at the London School of Economics, Peking University, and Sciences Po in Paris. These experiences helped him develop a global mindset that was distinctive among his peers.

During college, he got involved in many extracurricular activities, but none more important than being president of the student council from September 2013 to July 2015. During this troubled period for Venezuela, his personal growth helped him develop a greater conscience for his country and a deep interest in development.

After graduating, he started working in Deloitte consulting, gaining experience in financial advisory and helping develop practices for transnational companies to manage the hyperinflation and devaluation of the Venezuelan currency. After Deloitte, he founded Ecoem, the first startup accelerator in the country, working with diverse startups in fintech, software development, and online media. Among the success stories is Pago Flash, the first payment method that created a digital point of sale in Whatsapp and Instagram. Another success story is Efecto Cocuyo, a women-founded digital media platform that has become an example in the region for independent journalism, earning many awards in Latin America and featured in Time magazine's "Person of the Year" 2018 issue recognizing journalists who risk their lives in pursuit of truth.

In 2018, Oscar founded GSF Global, a consulting firm assisting in the privatization of state-owned companies and promoting the financing of local companies in the Caracas Stock Exchange. During the first year, Oscar helped expand operations in Paraguay and Florida. The company is transitioning to private equity amid an economic transition in Venezuela.

Oscar was a fellow on the Georgetown University Latin American Board and a Young Founder of the Westerwelle Foundation in Germany. He was invited to Stanford University's "Venezuela: What's Next" conference in 2019 to discuss the role of entrepreneurship and innovation during the country's economic transition.

At Wharton and Lauder, he hopes to combine his three passions of private equity, fintech, and emerging markets. He chose the Africa track to specialize in emerging markets, combining his experience in Latin America with his newfound knowledge.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading about artificial intelligence (AI), developing countries, and literature. He practices Krav Maga, boxing, water skiing, and beach sports. Oscar also coordinates programs for high school students from Caracas who volunteer in rural Venezuela twice a year, and he mentors promising volunteers who develop their own social impact projects





## **TAM LUONG**

Tam Luong was born and raised in Cantho, the cultural and economic center of the Mekong Delta, Vietnam. At the age of 15, he received the government-sponsored ASEAN scholarship to pursue middle school and high school in Singapore. This experience sparked Tam's curiosity in learning about other cultures and languages, and it propelled him to pursue his undergraduate studies at Tufts University near Boston, where he majored in computer science and quantitative economics.

While at Tufts, Tam developed a passion for international development and spent a summer interning at the Harvard Kennedy School affiliated Fulbright Economic Teaching Program (now Fulbright University) in Ho Chi Minh City. Fascinated by the fast pace in which progress and impact can be made in the private sector, Tam spent the next two summers at Google covering the Vietnam online advertising market and at L.E.K. helping Fortune 500 companies understand and penetrate the complex and interwoven economies of Southeast Asia.

Upon graduation from Tufts University, Tam decided to further his adventure and stay in the U.S. He joined Analysis Group in the Health Economics Outcome Research (HEOR) practice, where he assisted international pharmaceutical clients with clinical data analysis, market access, and health care data analytics.

Outside of work, Tam is passionate about giving back and learning how entrepreneurship can be leveraged as an engine of growth in developing countries. He volunteered as the director of fundraising and business development for VietChallenge, the largest startup competition for Vietnamese founders internationally. Motivated by his experience working at the forefront of health care and by his interactions with Vietnamese founders, Tam comes to Lauder with a deep interest in exploring how health care innovations can be successfully adopted and implemented in the context of developing countries. He also plans to explore the interactions between Southeast Asia and the rest of world with the goal of strengthening economic and sociopolitical cooperation between Southeast Asia and other regions.

In his spare time, Tam loves to run, hike, and spend time outdoors with friends. He also enjoys cooking Vietnamese food and is looking forward to hosting friends for cooking sessions.







## **GIANNA (GINNY) MACEDA**

Ginny was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. A proud Filipina American, she grew up frequently visiting family in Manila. Her family instilled in her a commitment to service, a value that later shaped her professional life. In high school, Ginny interned for a Filipino solar social enterprise, spurring her to write an independent study on social entrepreneurship as a mode of economic development in the Philippines.

Ginny attended Yale University, where she studied literature and philosophy, earning her bachelor's degree cum laude in humanities. She grew Yale's first social enterprise club, founding consulting and microfinance teams to advise local nonprofits and support local entrepreneurs to qualify for microloans.

Believing in the power of the private sector to drive economic development, Ginny joined Bain & Company to build her business experience. She worked primarily on growth strategy and private equity due diligence to understand what makes a strong strategy and operating model. She also worked closely with Bain's Social Impact Practice and co-led the Global Development Network, a community of 500 employees passionate about international development. Through this work, Ginny learned about smallholder farmer agriculture and inclusive supply chains. She is fascinated by how the supply chains of agribusinesses and consumer packaged goods companies can provide opportunities for millions of small farmers around the world to grow their incomes as suppliers to global markets.

Ginny moved to Ethiopia for a six-month secondment with the Agricultural Transformation Agency. She led a team of locals and expats to launch Ethiopia's first public agribusiness accelerator, focused on scaling small and medium-sized enterprises in the country's honey industry and building their relationships with small honey farmers.

Seeking to focus on international development and inclusive supply chains full-time, Ginny joined the nonprofit TechnoServe. As a manager on the Strategic Initiatives team, Ginny worked with clients such as AB InBev, Danone, and Nespresso to design and evaluate inclusive supply chains that worked with smallholder farmers around the world. She also built experience in technology solutions for international development, such as managing the development of digital tools for cashew farmers and processors in Benin and Mozambique.

At Wharton and Lauder, Ginny seeks to complement her strategy background with experience in operationalizing a global agricultural supply chain, gain professional fluency in French, and deepen her experience working with multicultural teams. An avid traveler who has visited 45 countries, she is also eager to embark on new adventures. In her spare time, Ginny enjoys practicing yoga, dancing hip-hop, reading philosophy books, and sketching.





## JEFFREY MAGYAR

Jeffrey was born in Tokyo to a Korean American mother and a Swiss father who met at the Lauder Institute in 1988. Having moved to London at a young age, Jeffrey attended the French Lycée, a multilingual and multicultural melting pot, and grew up bilingually. As a teenager, he dreamed of becoming a professional tennis player until a lower back stress fracture derailed his progress and made him focus on his academic studies.

Jeffrey studied civil engineering at Imperial College London, where he played for the varsity tennis team and graduated with first class honors. For the final year of his master's degree in engineering, Jeffrey studied at ETH Zürich. As a Swiss national, he had never lived in Switzerland, and he wanted to experience and better understand its culture and values. At ETH, Jeffrey wrote his thesis on the role of building technologies in the slum upgrading program of Baan Mankong, Thailand. His research work included traveling to Thailand for three weeks to conduct on-site interviews and analysis.

Upon graduation, Jeffrey joined a boutique strategy consultancy focused on the sports, media, and telecom industries. As a business analyst and project manager, he particularly enjoyed working on projects for blue-chip sports clients, given his passion for sports. When his firm's directors pivoted to become business partners and shareholders of two startups, Jeffrey joined them as the head of strategy of both companies. One is a tech hardware startup that markets a patented device to reduce rising damp in basements, and the other is an internet infrastructure startup that connects customers to next generation, gigabit-capable broadband.

Jeffrey is incredibly proud and excited to follow in his parents' footsteps and be part of the Lauder family. Having learned about modern European history from a scholarly French perspective, he is relishing Lauder's unique program to revisit this, expand his knowledge of European cultures and societies, and embody Lauder's interconnection between liberal arts and business education. The program will also enable him to perfect his German, making him trilingual in the three languages that matter most in Europe.

After graduating from Wharton and Lauder, Jeffrey is looking to move to Switzerland, join a venture capital or private equity firm, and ski on the weekends. Jeffrey has entrepreneurial ambitions but would like fundraising experience before starting or co-founding a business.





## **DELFINA MATTERN**

Delfina was born in Frankfurt, Germany. She attended an international high school in Frankfurt, studying for a bilingual International Baccalaureate in a class where over half the students had international backgrounds.

After high school, she moved to central London to pursue a bachelor's degree in global management at Regent's University London. While at university, Delfina engaged with other cultures through multiple exchange semesters. She spent several months each in Paris, Sydney, and Geneva, studying both the academic material and the local culture.

After completing her degree, Delfina began volunteering in the efforts to support Syrian refugees who were arriving in Germany at the time. She helped collect, organize, and distribute secondhand clothing and other useful items to the new arrivals. She then decided to pursue a graduate degree in management at the University of Sydney, spending more than a year immersing in the diverse Asian-Pacific cultures in Australia. During this time, Delfina also collected experience in the social impact space. She worked for a mental health startup, providing support in growing its business and maintaining customer success, and helped to develop another venture combating plastic pollution.

Following graduation, Delfina joined Boston Consulting Group in the Berlin office, supporting clients across a spectrum of industries ranging from automotive and mining to finance and IT. Throughout her two and a half years at BCG, Delfina was able to participate in social impact work with her clients. She helped an international diversified mining company develop its global response to climate change, and she helped establish a coronavirus testing strategy for a welfare association that operates nursing homes. She was also exposed to social impact through pro bono consulting and work in the public sector. These and previous experiences helped Delfina discover a passion for social impact that she hopes to carry forward in her future roles after graduating from Wharton and Lauder.

Delfina is excited to complement her skill set and experiences by deepening her knowledge of finance and gaining a better understanding of the interplay between business, government, and sustainability. In her spare time, she looks forward to exploring the city of Philadelphia and the greater U.S., and engaging with her classmates to learn about new cultures, cuisines, and languages.





## MATEO MENNA

Mateo was born and raised in Patagonia, where crude oil was first discovered in Argentina and currently one of its main production hubs. Since he was very young, he wondered why a region endowed with world-class natural resources could not translate its potential into sustained economic growth, and this enigma has guided his career.

Mateo studied economics at Universidad del Centro de Estudios Macroeconómicos de Argentina (UCEMA), where he was valedictorian of his class and selected to deliver the graduation speech. During his undergraduate studies, Mateo spent a semester abroad at the University of Toronto under the sponsorship of the Canadian government, an experience that exposed him to the richness of intercultural exchange. He then earned a master's degree in applied economics from Universidad Torcuato Di Tella (UTDT) and authored a research paper on Latin American mortgage credit markets published by the Asociación Argentina de Economía Política (AAEP).

While at university, Mateo became especially interested in how education helps underprivileged children, so he began tutoring students who were the first in their families to attend college. He is currently advising a school in Buenos Aires Province, where he collaborates on designing the curriculum and forecasting funding needs.

Upon graduation, Mateo joined Banco Ciudad, a leading retail public bank in Argentina, where he spearheaded the financial assessment of strategic projects such as a footprint expansion and the reduction of credit card delivery times, while participating in initiatives aimed at improving financial access and housing deficit in low-income districts.

Mateo continued his career at EnDriven, a private investing company focused in the Latin American energy sector, as part of the Business Development team. He was involved in project valuation and mergers and acquisitions (M&A), including originating, evaluating, and structuring deals. He led the acquisition of a fire and gas detection service company and the economic analysis of a technology to produce second-generation biofuels from sewage wastewater. In his many engagements, he had the chance to build strong relationships with colleagues from Brazil, the United States, and Spain. These interactions enabled him to understand how cultural values affect professional and interpersonal dynamics.

At Wharton and Lauder, Mateo hopes to find a unique opportunity to sow the foundations of a global career, obtaining the strategic knowledge and leadership skills to overcome intercultural barriers and extend the benefits of international integration, especially in the Latin America region.





## STEPHANIE MICHAEL SILVA

Born in New Jersey to a Chilean mother and American father, Stephanie has long been passionate about her Latin culture. While she didn't learn Spanish at home, she taught herself the language by listening to artists like Maná and Juanes. Stephanie spent a few childhood summers visiting family and attending school in Santiago, Chile, and later obtained her dual citizenship.

Stephanie studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, double majoring in finance at the Kenan-Flagler Business School and in public policy at the College of Arts & Sciences. Ever curious about the world around her, Stephanie took German and Mandarin language classes and studied abroad in the United Arab Emirates. She also interned for a female-founded media startup in Madrid, Spain. Stephanie's extracurricular involvement included serving as president of Carolina Women in Business, teen program director of Autism Outreach, and vice president of professional development of Delta Sigma Pi, a professional business fraternity.

Stephanie began her career in New York City, working in equity research at Citigroup. Over three years, she covered stocks in consumer and specialty finance, U.S. banks, and media and cable sectors. Driven by a desire to directly invest in companies and gain international exposure, she made the career transition to private equity. She worked for MLC, an Australian superannuation fund, as a senior associate on the Americas co-investments and funds team. During her almost three-year tenure, she invested AUD\$250 million annually into growth and buyout stage companies in the U.S., Europe, Asia, and Australia/New Zealand.

In order to gain exposure to Latin America, Stephanie completed the LAVCA | MIT Sloan "Inside Private Equity: Dealmaking in Latin America" certification program and networked with early-stage venture capital firms in Chile. These experiences reaffirmed her desire to invest in female- and minority-led companies in Latin America after she earns her MBA.

At Wharton and Lauder, Stephanie hopes to leverage her background and international work experience to be a bridge between cultures, learn from her peers, and make a positive impact on the Latin America region. In her free time, she enjoys watching and playing soccer, skiing, traveling, fitness, reggaeton, and exploring new restaurants and cuisines. She is very excited to live in Philadelphia and become a part of the tight-knit Wharton and Lauder community.





## ELLIOTT NG

Elliott was born and raised in Singapore, a city-state renowned for its melting pot of cultures. Although ethnically Chinese, Elliott grew up speaking English at school and at home and developed a love for Western history as a child. Pursuing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in high school exposed him to overseas cultures through world literature and global history. During this time, he also learned how to play the bagpipes and went on community and cultural outreach trips across Southeast Asia. These experiences motivated him to explore life beyond Singapore.

This led him to the University of Bristol in the U.K., where he studied law and immersed himself in European history and cultures. Determined to develop commercial awareness to augment his legal education, Elliott joined the university's banking and investment society. He also interned at Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London and UBS in Singapore, experiences that piqued his fascination with financial markets.

Upon graduation, he returned to Singapore and decided to pursue a career in finance. He joined Hera Capital Partners as a private equity analyst, working on growth-stage investing across Southeast Asia. Wanting more transaction experience, he then joined SMBC Nikko, the investment banking arm of Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group. There, he focused on the development and execution of cross-border mergers & acquisitions (M&A) in Southeast Asia and Oceania, especially those involving Japanese investment in those regions.

Elliott also served in the Singapore Army for two years and was commissioned as a field artillery officer. The experience taught him the importance of teamwork, discipline, and tenacity. Prior to business school, he was an active reservist attached as a forward observation officer to an infantry battalion.

Elliott enjoys reading history, cooking, and traveling, especially reading about the history of a place to better understand cultural contexts while visiting. He also enjoys road cycling and playing the occasional game of golf.

At Wharton and Lauder, Elliott hopes to better prepare himself for a finance role, with a long-term focus on East and Southeast Asia. He plans to sharpen his financial knowledge and hopes to connect his personal and professional interests to understand the business cultures of East and Southeast Asia more meaningfully.





## MEGHANA R. PANNALA

Meghana was born in Hyderabad, India, to a Telugu-speaking family and moved to the United States with her parents at the age of 3. She grew up in northern Virginia and spent many summers in India with her grandparents in her ancestral village hometown, where she developed a deep appreciation for her roots and culture. Growing up in a bilingual immigrant household, Meghana grew to understand how powerful multicultural fluency could be.

After high school, Meghana attended Rice University in Houston, Texas, where she majored in applied math and economics. She was heavily involved on campus, including a range of student government positions and work with the Baker Institute, the university's think tank. She also participated in advocacy and education efforts for Houston's large refugee population and spent most of her Tuesday afternoons mentoring refugee children at a local middle school. While at Rice, she took Hindi classes and spent part of her sophomore year studying migrant labor in the United Arab Emirates. Through these experiences, she developed a passion for economic development and respect for its ability to both empower individuals and stabilize regions.

Upon graduation, Meghana spent three months in Jaipur, India, as part of the Critical Language Scholarship Program. She studied Hindi, took Bhangra classes, and volunteered at a women's domestic violence shelter. It was during her time in Jaipur that she saw firsthand how important infrastructure is for development and progress.

After returning to the U.S., Meghana joined Boston Consulting Group as an associate in the Washington, D.C., office. Throughout her time at BCG, Meghana developed analytically driven recommendations to support clients in health care, consumer, private equity, and the public sector. Much of her casework involved topics at the intersection of these industries, including supporting BCG's public sector COVID-response work, private equity due diligences in consumer health, and biopharma commercial growth strategy within the immunology space. Meghana frequently leveraged her analytical strength to bring complex optimization solutions to her clients and learned how to build effective public-private partnerships to address critical social and economic issues.

At Wharton and Lauder, Meghana is excited to deepen her understanding of the social, economic, and political nuances in South Asia while exploring how government policies, private ventures, and cultural influences can drive the region's economic progress.





## ROHAN PARIKH

Rohan was born in the cosmopolitan city of Mumbai, India, to a business-oriented family that spoke four languages. He was exposed to diverse cultures at a very early age through domestic travel and the traditions right at home. Encouraged by his parents and brother to pursue extracurriculars, Rohan represented his school, district, and state at soccer competitions and performed on the stages of Mumbai theaters as a young artist. These varied experiences shaped his thinking and influenced his perspectives, which later informed his work in emerging markets.

Rohan completed his degree in electronics and telecommunication engineering from University of Mumbai. In college, he was very active in organizing cultural events, rising from a volunteer to the position of cultural secretary for the school. While actively managing his father's stock portfolio, he decided to pursue his interest in finance and earned his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and financial risk management (FRM) certifications, followed by a master's degree in mathematical finance from Boston University.

Rohan interned at State Street Associates, a think tank in Boston, where he researched the Argentinian debt crises along with estimating the closed economy's inflation. This work experience led to his full-time role as an emerging markets trader at a Natixis, a French Investment Bank. As part of the bank's new Latin American team, Rohan helped increase revenue ninefold and expand product range and outreach to local markets, including in Brazil and Mexico. He rose quickly through the ranks, from analyst to a director in six years.

At Wharton and Lauder, Rohan hopes to return to his business roots by focusing on entrepreneurship and innovation as well as strengthen his strategic skills to solve problems in emerging markets. In his spare time, Rohan stays true to his soccer origins and passionately follows and plays the sport. He also loves exploring the cocktail/beer scene while traveling to different regions.







## MARIANA PAVÍA

Mariana was born in Bogota, Colombia, and moved to Miami, Florida, at a young age. She grew up surrounded by diversity that, along with her experience learning English, fostered within her a love for foreign languages as well as a deep appreciation for her native Spanish. Though both her parents are Colombian, they understood, encouraged, and placed great value on broadening one's horizons by living and learning abroad. Motivated to learn a new language, Mariana studied French throughout high school and later solidified her skills with intensive French courses during her gap year in Lyon, France.

Mariana went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in consumer psychology. It was during her time at Penn that she became deeply interested in Latin American history. Her honors thesis, which explored various representations of the 1948 "Bogotazo" riots in Bogotá, won the Jeanette Nichols Prize for the best undergraduate thesis in social history. Outside of the classroom, Mariana consistently sought out opportunities for cultural immersion that could add a global perspective to her education. She spent a summer in Florence, Italy, learning Italian; studied in Edinburgh, Scotland; and spent a spring break working at a vineyard in the Maule region of Chile.

After graduation, Mariana joined Audible's New Business team focusing on the U.S. Hispanic market. She helped launch Audible Latino, a merchandising and marketing initiative targeting Spanish-speaking customers. While on the team, Mariana worked on everything from go-to-market planning and execution, translations, managing two-person operations teams, to later interviewing authors and celebrity narrators as an Audible Latino Editor. After the launch of Audible Latino, she was invited to join the International Expansion team, where she developed market validation research for expansion into Latin America and helped launch Audible Sweden. Mariana then transitioned to the Product Marketing team, working on go-to-market and positioning strategies for Audible's membership portfolio.

Mariana is thrilled to join the community at Wharton and Lauder. At Lauder, she plans to expand her knowledge of Latin American sociopolitical and economic factors, with a focus on innovation and technology in the entertainment space.

In her spare time, Mariana enjoys reading and listening to books, riding her road bike, and working on creative projects.





## CHAD PAYNE

Chad Payne is a proud Canadian of Caribbean and Fijian/South-Asian descent, born and raised in Vancouver, British Columbia. Since he was young, Chad has been passionate about languages, athletics, and mentorship. Through a French immersion education, Chad developed a bilingual fluency that he refined by conversing with French-speaking Canadians and visiting Tunisia in high school. He also demonstrated athletic potential in basketball and track and field, competing against the top athletes in Western North America. He also supported his community by launching afterschool art programs for students with learning disabilities.

Chad left home to attend The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in economics, concentrating in strategic management, and business economics and public policy. At Penn, Chad was a sprinter on the NCAA Division 1 Track Team, vice president of the Black Wharton Undergraduate Association, the first Black undergraduate peer advisor in Wharton's history, and an academic tutor in West Philadelphia. He also received the Vice Dean's Award for Service to The Wharton School, and the Cane Award, one of four honorary awards presented by Penn's president to graduating students in recognition of their positive impact on campus.

After graduation, Chad worked in management consulting at Kearney Inc. in New York City. He focused on growth and organizational strategy for U.S. and international Fortune 500 retail, finance, health care, private equity, and telecommunication companies. Additionally, Chad oversaw Kearney's recruiting at Penn, founded the South Asian employee resource group, and mentored junior consultants.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Chad returned to Canada and was promoted to manager after overseeing a \$600 million global spend-optimization project for a Fortune 15 telecom. Following the murder of George Floyd, Chad co-authored the "Super Spreaders for Change Series," articles for the company that highlighted the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on marginalized communities and the racial injustices in healthcare, education, and votership.

Before coming to Wharton and Lauder, Chad completed a venture capital fellowship with Digital Dx, a woman-founded, early-stage venture fund investing in digital health startups, and he partnered with Fulton, a Wharton-founded venture modernizing arch support insoles.

Outside of work, Chad serves as a board member of the Class of 2016 Penn Fund Gift Committee and a mentor to high school students in New York. He also loves athletic challenges. He completed the 2019 New York City Marathon and picked up surfing, golf, and tennis during the pandemic quarantine. He enjoys baking cookies, discovering artists, and talking with family in Vancouver.





## **SEBASTIAN (SEB) READ**

Seb was born and raised in Johannesburg, South Africa. After attending Michaelhouse, a boarding school in KwaZulu-Natal, he went on to study mechatronic engineering at the University of Stellenbosch. For his academic excellence, he was invited to join Golden Key International Honour Society, which is open to students in the top 15% of their class. He took an introductory finance class during his fourth year of engineering and realized his love for learning was not confined to physical items; finance is the key to understanding how businesses work. Inspired, he pursued a master's degree in engineering management at the University of Stellenbosch.

Seb earned a scholarship from South African utility Eskom in return for two years of service to the company. While working at an Eskom remote power station, he became a leader in innovation, reducing crane maintenance costs by 60% and implementing hydrogen safety upgrades. This early career success encouraged him to seek more opportunities. He began reading extensively about finance, specifically about private equity (PE) and mergers and acquisitions (M&A). He applied to numerous investment banks in South Africa and accepted a back-office position at Barclays in Johannesburg.

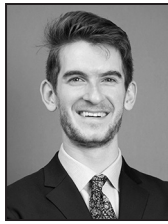
At Barclays, Seb spent two years learning as much as he could about financial services while studying for an online accounting degree, earning Golden Key admission once again. Through networking efforts, he found a position on the M&A team of Barclays. As part of the team, Seb closed deals across several industries, including a \$1.2 billion restructuring for Vodacom, \$112 million windfarm disposal for Tata Power, and Exxaro's \$180 million mining bookbuild.

In 2019, he moved to the 60 Degrees Group family office in the Cayman Islands, where he worked on tech-centric PE deals. He closed a \$1.5 million fintech private equity deal, worked with chief financial officers on a \$3.75 million capital raise, and identified the cause of revenue swings in a management buyout deal.

At Wharton and Lauder, Seb aims to expand his network and to explore private equity investing in the context of emerging markets. In addition, he is eager to serve the community as a Christian while exploring how faith and business intersect.

In his spare time, Seb enjoys diving, running, and going to the gym. He also enjoys volunteering at church, spending time with friends and family, meeting new people, and experiencing different cultures.





## ALEXANDER L. W. ROBINSON

Growing up in South Africa, Kenya, and Brazil, Alexander learned from a young age that home wasn't a place but a feeling of connection, acceptance, and camaraderie. He learned that foreign environments are the most fertile grounds for deep intellectual and interpersonal growth. And he learned that local depth and global breadth are symbiotic, not antithetical.

These lessons have served as Alexander's guideposts throughout his life. He has lived and worked on five continents, visited over 50 countries, learned three foreign languages, and forged countless friendships along the way. After graduating high school from the International School of Kenya in Nairobi, he spent a year volunteering in Salvador, Brazil, through Princeton's service-based Bridge Year Program. While at Princeton, he pursued an interdisciplinary course of study straddling the German, art history, European culture, and humanistic studies faculties, and he studied abroad at Humboldt University through Columbia's Berlin Consortium. After graduation, he served as chief of staff to the chairman of Anglo-Dutch information services giant RELX, and as a consultant to U.S. federal agencies abroad.

At Wharton and Lauder, Alexander plans to deepen and broaden his knowledge of global business, politics, and intercultural leadership while thinking critically about how to best leverage his skills for greater societal impact. As a yoga instructor, competitive marathoner, crisis counselor, and plant-based protein advocate, Alexander wants to apply his passion for international business to build healthier, happier, and more sustainable communities worldwide.





## **BRANDON ROLLINS**

Brandon was born in Provo, Utah, and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, after spending four years in England during elementary school. He first developed an interest in international relations through conversations with his father, who traveled frequently to Latin America and Europe for his work in international banking.

At Brigham Young University, Brandon double majored in economics and comparative literature. During his time at BYU, Brandon served a two-year mission working with immigrant communities in East Los Angeles, California, where he learned Spanish and developed an appreciation for the cultures of Latin America. After his mission, Brandon took Latin American literature classes to improve his Spanish and served as editor-in-chief of the “BYU Political Review.”

After graduating, Brandon worked as a business analyst for Capital One in McLean, Virginia, using data to analyze customer behavior and improve business strategy. He worked in roles in digital marketing and collections strategy, and he led a team of software engineers to modernize the data infrastructure of an internal customer management system.

Concurrently with his work at Capital One, Brandon served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve as a platoon commander in an amphibious assault company in Norfolk, Virginia. He had attended Officer Candidate School and completed his entry-level training prior to beginning at Capital One and served with his reserve unit for one weekend a month and two-week exercises every summer, leading a platoon of 40 Marines.

In January 2019, Brandon began working full time for the Marine Corps. He moved to Stuttgart, Germany, where he served as a civil affairs officer for Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa and enjoyed traveling around Europe. In October 2020, Brandon moved to Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he worked as an information operations officer at Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

At Wharton and Lauder, Brandon is focusing on the relationship among private commerce (especially multinational corporations), public policy, and national security. In his free time, Brandon likes trying new restaurants with his wife, Macie, visiting national parks, swimming, and reading.





## **ALEJANDRO ISAAC SAFDIE**

Alejandro is the second generation of Jewish immigrants from four different countries who fled Europe during World War II. He was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, by a loving, cosmopolitan family. They used to have dinner while discussing current global events in a peculiar mix of Greek, Spanish, English, and French. He realized from a very young age how vast, exotic, and fascinating the world was.

Alejandro pursued his economics degree at the University of Buenos Aires. While in college, he participated in an exchange semester in Maastricht, Netherlands, where he experienced firsthand the value and fun of multicultural ventures. He went on to graduate magna cum laude, and as he embraced friends and family during the ceremony, he was overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for his good fortune.

He started his professional career working in his family's textile factory, which was founded by his great-grandfather. Although he was part-owner, Alejandro started out in the warehouse and worked his way up to administrative tasks. This experience taught him to own every job he had, and that's exactly what he did after graduation when he went to work as the first employee of Agilis, a fintech startup that disrupted the lackluster mortgage market in Argentina. He worked his way up to product manager, directly supervising a team of five. Unfortunately, the country's macroeconomic crises were too much for the growth-focused firm to bear, and the enterprise closed. But Alejandro learned something invaluable: Finance and technology were his passions.

He continued his career with a niche tech consulting company, Poincenot Tech Studio, leading over 50 people from four major banks in Argentina and Mexico on digitalization and loan platforms, and helping launch over six fintech products to market.

Alejandro wanted to explore more unfamiliar horizons, so he joined BuenBit, a Latin American cryptocurrency exchange. As the head of product, he managed a platform of more than 300,000 users, an experience that made him want to delve deeper in the industry over the next few years.

At Wharton and Lauder, Alejandro seeks to learn more about Africa, a continent he's eager to explore. He hopes to combine his talents and interests in cryptocurrencies, startups, and finance to strike a positive impact worldwide.





## **DOLAPO SALAWU**

Dolapo was born and raised in Ibadan, Nigeria. For many years, Dolapo watched his entrepreneurial mother fight through several challenges, including accessing capital, to grow her business. As a result, he was determined to find a way to ease the strain on others like her. This experience inspired Dolapo to study economics at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and ultimately pursue a finance career.

Seeking to work in a global and culturally diverse firm, Dolapo became one of the first candidates from an African university to intern at Bank of America's Investment Banking Division in London. During Dolapo's two summer internships at the bank, he gained exposure to different sectors, coverage, and product groups, including consumer and retail, energy and power, industrials, leveraged finance, and sub-Saharan Africa coverage. Dolapo was part of the team that advised the Ghanaian government on its \$2 billion Eurobond raise in the global capital market.

Following this deal, Dolapo became more passionate about playing an active role in the ongoing effort to move African countries beyond aid through private capital deployment. He moved back to Nigeria to work with United Capital and Coronation Merchant Bank, Lagos-based investment banking boutiques advising clients across West Africa.

Dolapo later joined African Capital Alliance as a private equity professional covering real estate investment across sub-Saharan Africa. During this time, he witnessed the vital role intergovernmental relations and policies play in enhancing or inhibiting private capital deployment in emerging markets. For instance, following the discovery of crude oil in Ghana, his team built an internationally branded hotel in Sekondi-Takoradi, a boundary city between Ivory Coast and Ghana. However, a maritime boundary dispute between these states, which lasted for over three years, ensured that oil exploration and other economic activities in the city, and his team's investment objectives by extension, were delayed. Dolapo believes that Lauder will provide him with a sense of and appreciation for the historical, economic, and political situation in emerging markets, which will enhance his ability to make better investment decisions.

At Wharton and Lauder, Dolapo hopes to improve his understanding of global politics, history, and international relations and learn how to infuse this knowledge with his investing skills to solve global challenges. In his spare time, Dolapo enjoys watching football, cooking, hiking, reading biographies, and volunteering with education nonprofits.





## MATEO SASSE MUGICA

Mateo was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With much of his family forced to flee Argentina during the 1970s due to the economic crisis and subsequent military dictatorship, Mateo was born into a multicultural and open-minded family that lived both in developed and emerging countries, and experienced firsthand the excesses of both left and right. From a young age, he was exposed to a variety of cultures, languages, and backgrounds, which motivated his interest in global politics and cultures, with a special focus on Latin America.

Wanting to understand the complexities of Argentina's macroeconomic crisis, Mateo pursued a degree in finance from the Universidad de San Andrés, where he discovered his passion for capital markets and the need to create inclusive and robust financial markets as a driver of economic growth. During his studies, Mateo volunteered as a tutor for school and university students, and now mentors students on careers in the financial industry and to prepare for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam. In 2020, Mateo became the youngest CFA in Argentina.

After graduation, he joined BNP Paribas Asset Management Argentina as a fixed income analyst. Within two months, he was managing five short-term, local currency fixed income funds with a combined assets under management (AUM) of \$250 million. He was the youngest analyst at BNP Paribas to be given such responsibility. In this capacity, he surpassed all his performance objectives and was promoted in under two years to portfolio manager, again becoming the youngest employee in the company's history to hold that position. For nearly four years, he managed equity, fixed income, and multi-asset discretionary mutual funds through one of the worst economic crises in the country.

At Wharton and Lauder, Mateo wants to learn more about the diverse cultures and history of Latin America. He hopes to connect outside capital to exciting projects in the region, focused on financing the main economic drivers of the different countries.

Mateo is fluent in English and Spanish, with some knowledge of French. In his spare time, he loves gaming, playing soccer, and traveling. He also volunteers and sponsors dog shelters in Buenos Aires and helps with annual donation drives for low-income neighborhoods in Buenos Aires.







## **DIVYANSH (DEVA) SAXENA**

Deva was born in India but moved to Sydney, Australia, as an infant with his family. In his early years, he followed his father's job in maritime trade across the Asia-Pacific melting pot, attending international schools across India and Singapore before returning home to Australia for university. This early exposure to different cultures fostered his ongoing love for exploring new environments, particularly across Asia, through work, study, and travel.

Deva's research into Australia's economic and cultural links to Asia won him the title of National Young Historian and set the foundation for his undergraduate degrees at the University of New South Wales, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in English literature and a Bachelor of Laws, both with honors. At university, Deva strove towards a global education in his disciplines, completing a study abroad at the University of Glasgow in Scotland as well as short courses in Chile, Guatemala, and China. To celebrate his graduation, he embarked on a solo, eight-month backpacking trip across parts of South and Central America and through South Asia.

After a brief stint working in mergers and acquisitions for a U.S. law firm, Deva transitioned to a career in strategy consulting at Kearney. He specialized in telecommunications, completing projects on new product strategy, digital operating models, and multiple due diligences on network infrastructure assets. Deva worked with all of Australia's telecom carriers as well as incumbent carriers in Asia and the U.S. Most notably, he contributed to Australia's 5G and fixed-network rollout, successfully navigating the challenges of rapid tech advancement, the politics of internet availability, and the business case of a nationwide infrastructure project. He subsequently completed a similar project for an incumbent U.S. carrier, helping guide the leadership team through critical decisions as they balanced the economics of the rollout with an uncertain technology and political environment.

Deva is particularly passionate about indigenous reconciliation. He founded Kearney's Reconciliation Committee and launched a scholarship fund for indigenous Australian and Maori students to gain exposure to the Asia-Pacific corporate environment.

At Wharton and Lauder, Deva is excited about unpacking the role of emerging media and communications platforms in driving economic growth and shaping political and cultural landscapes. In his spare time, he enjoys watersports and lying on a beach, often with a good book.





## NADER SHARIF-EMAMI

Born in New York City to Iranian parents, Nader was raised as an Iranian, speaking only Farsi until he attended school. Language let him connect with his relatives and family friends, and through these interactions, he absorbed his family's values and culture. Nader attended an international boarding school, the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, where he became friends with many Latin American students after discovering strong similarities between Iranian and Latin American cultures.

Nader studied economics at Bucknell University and also walked onto the university's nationally ranked lacrosse team as a defenseman, earning a spot on the team every year despite two serious ACL tears in his knee. While at university, Nader studied abroad at the London School of Economics, founded Bucknell's first investment club to help prepare younger students for a professional career in business, and was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

Nader's experiences in international business during summer internships at global macro and AI hedge funds, coupled with the cultural interactions he had growing up, drove him to pursue international work after graduation. He cold-emailed about 300 firms in Latin America and received only four responses, none of which resulted in an interview. Following a six-month search, he accepted an unpaid, four-month trial internship at Hudson Bankers, a boutique mergers and acquisitions firm in Chile.

Arriving for the first time in Santiago in 2017, Nader overcame a steep learning curve and improved both his language and financial analysis skills so quickly that the company offered him a full-time position after two months. Over the next four years, he worked on a series of high-profile transactions in the Andean region, including the sale of one of Chile's largest supermarket chains, a major land reserve in Chilean Patagonia, and a vending machine company. He became the first analyst to lead a deal at the firm and was promoted to associate one year earlier than normal.

At Wharton and Lauder, Nader aims to build on the skills he developed working in Latin American finance by taking a deeper dive into the cultural and economic connections between emerging markets and the United States. Ultimately, he wants to invest in Latin America and other developing economies with capital and expertise from around the world. Nader is fluent in Farsi, English, and Spanish, and intermediate in German. His hobbies include traveling, skiing, cooking exotic meals, and horology.





## HANNAH SHERMAN

Hannah grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and is a dual citizen of the United States and the Netherlands. Hannah graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, where she majored in Spanish literature and government, with a focus on international relations. During college, Hannah worked for an education nonprofit in Guatemala and a microfinance organization in Honduras. These experiences showed her how education and access to financial services can empower unbanked populations, specifically women, and sparked her interest in financial inclusion in Latin America. While at Bowdoin, Hannah was awarded a Harry S. Truman Scholarship, a national award created by the U.S. Congress recognizing students who have displayed a commitment to leadership and public service.

After graduation, Hannah spent a year in Washington, D.C., as a Truman-Albright fellow at the Center for Financial Inclusion at Accion International. There, while researching financial inclusion initiatives in Latin America, she was introduced to the region's vibrant entrepreneurial community. Her time at Accion highlighted the importance of the private sector in driving economic development in emerging economies and ignited her interest in entrepreneurship. After receiving a Binational Business Fulbright Scholarship, Hannah moved to Mexico City, where she studied business at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and worked for Collective Academy, an early stage edTech startup. At Collective, Hannah focused on marketing and operations, gaining valuable experience on how to build an impact-driven startup from the ground up.

After two years in Mexico, Hannah joined Uplift, a San Francisco Bay Area fintech startup that offers low-cost, short-term consumer travel loans. At Uplift, Hannah worked in operations and executed projects across product, engineering, and finance. She also watched and learned as the company navigated the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the travel industry.

At Wharton and Lauder, Hannah seeks to sharpen her operations and entrepreneurship skills, improve her Spanish, and better understand Latin American history, politics, economics, and culture. Eventually, she hopes to build innovative social-impact startups that drive economic development and financial inclusion in Latin America.

In her free time, Hannah enjoys hiking, biking, skiing, camping, yoga, and traveling. A novice but enthusiastic cook, she looks forward to sharing recipes with her classmates over potluck dinners.





## **JOSEPH SHIN**

Joseph was born and raised in Sydney, Australia, and studied finance and law at the University of New South Wales. As a student, Joseph spent semesters abroad in Korea and the United States and participated in moot court competitions, debate, and Model UN, the latter of which included some time in China with the Australian Human Rights Commission.

After graduating, Joseph worked on the trading floor at J.P. Morgan in Sydney. Following training in New York City, he joined the Fixed Income, Currencies and Commodities sales team with coverage of hedge funds and pension funds.

Joseph then joined Allens Linklaters, where he advised governments on public infrastructure delivery including Australia's largest motorway network, Australia's largest defense capital, and Sydney's second airport.

Joseph was then seconded to Kim & Chang as a foreign legal consultant. At K&C, he primarily advised private equity funds and Korean conglomerates on their infrastructure and real estate investments in overseas markets.

At Wharton and Lauder, Joseph hopes to explore his interest in technology, entrepreneurship, and real estate, with a particular focus on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in East and Southeast Asia.





## SHASHANK SINGH

Shashank's formative years were spent moving across the length and breadth of India and living in sleepy cantonment towns as his father served in the Indian Army. Early in life, he learned to adapt and call each new place home, appreciating the myriad of social and cultural experiences that the country had to offer.

Shashank moved to the capital, New Delhi, for his schooling and completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Delhi as an engineering major. At university, he served as the project lead of a solar electric vehicle team, building two cars and securing \$50,000 in innovation grants from the Indian government. He was also elected president of the Quiz Club (trivia) and represented the institute at national championships.

After graduation, Shashank spent the first couple of years working in the government and social sector. He started with Avanti Learning Centres, a Dell-funded edtech startup, teaching math and science to underprivileged students. He then worked as a consultant with EY, exploring government-sector projects in India and Bangladesh. He met many young innovators while working on tech transformation projects of government services, and those interactions piqued his interest in tech entrepreneurship.

To understand the world of tech entrepreneurship, Shashank spent the next four years in the venture capital industry at Orios Venture Partners, an early stage Indian fund, and Fosun International, a Chinese conglomerate. At the venture funds, he focused primarily on consumer technology investments and invested over \$40 million in India, Israel, and Southeast Asia. Among other things, he learned to say "Hello," "Nice to meet you," and "Let's take this offline" in five languages.

In the future, Shashank plans to take the entrepreneurial route to solve the tougher challenges facing India in high-impact sectors, such as education and mobility. As a distant dream, he hopes to run for public office someday and work for the Indian government to lead large-scale systemic change.

At Wharton and Lauder, Shashank plans to strengthen his entrepreneurial toolkit and learn more about technology products, policy, and consumer psychology. Beyond his career goals, he hopes earning his graduate degree will teach him invaluable lessons both inside and outside the classroom.

Shashank spends his free time emulating street-basketball stars and playing the guitar. You'll often find him editing Wikipedia and trying to answer questions about life, the universe, and everything in between.





## CHETAN SINGHAL

Born in India, Chetan spent his early years living in small towns across the country before moving to Singapore at age 10. Growing up in Singapore's unique multicultural milieu, alongside other expatriates with a similarly nomadic childhood, fostered in him a deep appreciation of both being a "third-culture" kid as well its challenges.

Chetan went on to pursue the International Baccalaureate program at United World College in Singapore. Studying alongside classmates of over 50 nationalities in a curriculum that sought to transform education into a force to unite people led to further introspection on race, culture, and the stories that bring people together. It was a formative time that led to Chetan's love for history and a lifelong quest to experience new cultures and uphold a spirit of learning.

Chetan attended Williams College, where he majored in history with a focus on modern Europe and South Asia. Taking full advantage of Williams' liberal arts curriculum, Chetan furthered his passion for learning by exploring topics ranging from Russian literature to Tibetan Buddhism and helping the history department develop a course exploring cinema in the erstwhile German Democratic Republic. He spent a summer in Freiburg, Germany, to learn German and spent his junior year abroad studying at Exeter College, Oxford University.

After graduation, Chetan joined J.P. Morgan's investment banking practice in New York City, covering the energy industry. After two years covering clients exclusively in the U.S., Chetan moved to J.P. Morgan's London office to gain broader geographic exposure, where he covered clients across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Over the next two and a half years, he worked on some of the largest energy-focused transactions across countries such as Kazakhstan, Austria, and the United Arab Emirates. These transactions were milestones in the respective governments' energy policies for the ongoing decade. Leading global teams was a humbling experience; it made Chetan appreciate that while his finance toolkit was ubiquitous, each country brought with it its unique cultural challenges that required him to adapt constantly and lead with empathy.

At Wharton and Lauder, Chetan hopes to harness his experiences working in the global energy industry to transition into initiatives focused on environmental sustainability. Through the South Asia, Middle East and North Africa track, he hopes to enhance his knowledge of this dynamic region and explore the rise of an increasingly mission-driven business environment focused on sustainability.





## GEORGIA STYLIANIDES

Georgia was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, to Greek-Cypriot parents and raised in Vancouver, Canada. Her origins were clear as her family's mother tongue was a combination of English and Greek, spoken with strong South African accents. Georgia grew up discussing the child-friendly topics of global capital markets and corporate responsibility with her banker/lawyer mother while doing French and Mandarin homework for her international school's International Baccalaureate program. Her framework for understanding the world was shaped by the intersection of cultures within her multigenerational household.

Georgia attended Wellesley College, completing dual majors in mathematics and art history. Furthering her interest in unifying seemingly contrary ways of thinking, she focused on logic and set theory, becoming deeply fascinated by the "foundational crisis of mathematics." Seeing similarities in art history, she delved into colonial representations of antiquity, pursuing questions of how the flow of people, resources, and ideas have shaped fundamental aspects of current global culture.

Exploring the intersection of her two degrees, Georgia completed a year-long independent study that utilized math to illuminate how the value of art can be understood quantitatively. Using linear regressions, she investigated how landmark restitution cases could reset the value of artists' secondary market, as with Gustav Klimt's *Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer I* or Max Liebermann in the Gurlitt Hoard.

Graduating in 2018, Georgia moved to New York City to join Sotheby's. She created a model that quantifies specialists' unique valuation approaches. As a risk assessment, the model determines how accurate and precise individual specialists' and teams' price expectations for works of art perform relative to auction results. As the transaction structuring analyst for the commercial office, Georgia worked closely with the chief financial officer, senior management, specialists, and business directors to assist in running high-value, multi-departmental deals from pitch to final payment in New York, London, Hong Kong, Geneva, and Paris.

At Wharton and Lauder, Georgia looks forward to continue working at the intersection of culture, data, and questions of prediction and behaviour. She plans to delve deeper into the development challenges the digital age presents and is excited to be learning with and from classmates who come from diverse backgrounds.

Georgia also enjoys running, skiing, and painting. An avid reader, she is on a mission to have everyone read "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy." She can be found trying to recreate her grandmother's inimitable Greek food or mimicking the poses of subjects in an art museum.





## NIZAR TAIFOUR

Nizar was born in Rome, Italy, to Sudanese parents and lived most of his life in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., in a mix of African, Arab, South Asian, and Latinx immigrant communities. As a child, Nizar pored over maps of the world in his father's travel agency until he could point out countries, cities, and landmarks by heart. His love of geography opened the door to learning more about his neighbors' backgrounds as he quickly and easily formed multicultural bonds.

Over the years, Nizar's trips back to Sudan formed his interests in development, particularly telecommunications infrastructure. Having had the fortune to grow up with information and services available at his fingertips, he came to see the internet and internet-backed technologies as tools for development if more people could access them. Universal connectivity has become one of Nizar's main areas of interest.

In college, Nizar pursued studies in business, global development, and Arabic. He graduated cum laude from Virginia Tech with dual degrees in international studies and marketing. He also served as an executive director in the student government, a student technology advisor to the administration, and worked part time, all of which led him to public-sector consulting.

After graduation, Nizar followed his interest in technology for public good to a consulting position with Accenture's public-sector practice. There, he developed and implemented strategies for adopting digital solutions such as Salesforce, blockchain, customer platforms, and AI chatbots. One project in particular changed his life: an engagement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where he helped lead the development of an application system that awarded \$1.2 billion in broadband loans and grants to rural communities.

Seeing how existing technologies and business models have impeded universal connectivity, Nizar began to consider how he could help usher in the next generation of solutions to close the digital divide. At Wharton and Lauder, Nizar plans to focus on entrepreneurship and innovation in hopes of building telecom networks and services that are better suited to connect overlooked communities around the world.

Nizar enjoys the outdoors, watching travel shows to plan future trips, and mentoring kids in his community in lacrosse, tech, and coding. He is continuing to nurture his lifelong appreciation for Arabic while also rebuilding his fluency in Spanish.







## **BURAKE TAYE**

Burake was born in Washington, D.C., to Ethiopian parents and raised between Geneva, Switzerland, and Nairobi, Kenya. While living in Geneva, he attended an international high school in France, where he studied in both French and English and completed the French Baccalaureate. He spent most of his summers in Ethiopia with his extended family, keeping him connected to his roots. From an early age, he was exposed to a wide variety of social, economic, and cultural backgrounds, allowing him to easily adapt to different cultures and value systems.

Burake attended the Rochester Institute of Technology, where he pursued a bachelor's degree in industrial and systems engineering and a master's degree in engineering management. Stimulated by the idea of improving and optimizing processes across sectors, he completed internships in health care, warehousing and logistics, and consumer goods. Ultimately, his desire to have a positive impact on the lives of others at scale led him to focus on health care. Upon graduation, Burake joined Simpler Consulting/IBM Watson Health, a boutique consulting firm that specializes in strategy execution through the implementation of a lean operating model. He supported over a dozen health care organizations throughout the U.S., helping them improve the quality, delivery, and access to care while increasing profitability. Eager to combine his interest in operations and emerging markets, he moved to Johannesburg, South Africa, to support Simpler's first client in Africa. To help execute the ambitious growth strategy of the client, Burake worked on the first enterprise-wide, lean transformation of scale on the continent. He had the opportunity to coach and work alongside over 500 senior leaders and frontline employees across southern Africa to drive process and mindset changes. His boots-on-the-ground experience exposed him to Africa's untapped business potential.

At Wharton and Lauder, Burake looks to strengthen his strategic and financial skills while further developing his understanding of the factors shaping the African business landscape. He hopes to dive deeper into the challenges that the region faces and how business can help address them.

Burake is fluent in English, French, and Amharic. In his spare time, he enjoys playing basketball, dancing, and photography.





## **SANTOS (A.J.) TELLA**

A.J. was born in London, England, to Nigerian parents. At the age of 5, A.J. and his family immigrated to the U.S. He lived in upstate New York for 12 years before attending the University of Pittsburgh for his undergraduate degree. He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics with a minor in French.

Part of a diverse, multicultural family, he has always been captivated by new cultures, languages, and international travel. After becoming proficient in French, A.J. taught himself Italian and enjoys using both whenever possible. He also developed a passion for travel photography and film production, with which he has found entrepreneurial success.

A.J. began working in corporate banking after graduation. He completed PNC Bank's corporate banking rotational program, filling various roles in commercial banking, energy banking, equipment leasing, and the Market Intelligence group. While in Market Intelligence, A.J. worked as an internal consultant, sharpening his quant and data analysis skills while building tools with Tableau and SQL. Upon completion of the program, A.J. joined the bank's Aviation Finance group. Covering 15 states in the U.S. and supporting three managers, he sourced and structured asset-backed financing for business aircraft, playing a role in over \$320 million worth of transactions.

At Wharton and Lauder, A.J. is excited to study strategic management and international business with a focus on French. He looks forward to further developing in the art of strategy and creating competitive advantage. Inspired by his heritage, passions, and work experience, he plans to pivot into strategy consulting work in the technology and media industries, and ultimately take on clients from underrepresented communities in the U.S. and Europe. He intends to leverage his diverse background and linguistic skills, as well the industry knowledge that he's amassed through his film production work.

In his spare time, A.J. enjoys travel and travel photography, playing and watching European football, video games, musical instruments, and lifting weights.





## **WILLIAM (BILLY) THOMAS**

Billy grew up in Eagan, Minnesota, a Twin Cities suburb near the Minneapolis airport. As a young boy, he watched with fascination at the parade of planes approaching and taking off over his neighborhood every day. He wondered, “Where is everyone going? Where are they coming from?” His curiosity led to an interest in maps, which led to his eagerness to understand different cities and countries. He studied Spanish in school and eventually taught himself German so that he could participate in a German exchange program during high school, an experience that inspired him to continue studying languages, histories, and economies in other parts of the world.

As an undergraduate at Yale University, Billy majored in economics while seeking opportunities to broaden and deepen his interest in languages and history. He learned Portuguese while studying abroad in Brazil, studied Turkish in preparation for writing his senior thesis about Northern Cyprus, and was particularly passionate about economics and history courses that focused on Latin America and Africa. In addition, while participating in Model UN, he helped run conferences in Beijing and Budapest. As principal trumpet with Yale University Bands, he performed with the Trimitas Lithuanian State Wind Orchestra while touring the Baltics and with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ghana while touring Ghana.

Prior to Lauder, Billy worked for four and a half years at Bain & Company in New York, gaining experience in a range of industries and capacities, with particular emphasis on customer and consumer strategies in consumer products and financial services. Working with multinational companies, Billy coordinated with clients and Bain teams across the Americas, Europe, and Asia.

During his third year at Bain, Billy took advantage of the firm’s externship opportunity and for six months worked in Mozambique for an economic development nongovernmental organization, TechnoServe, to develop a strategy for rice and vegetable production with a local aid group. He immersed himself in field research and used his Portuguese to interview farmers and business owners throughout Mozambique, gaining an understanding and appreciation of the complexities of Mozambican development: the bureaucratic restrictions from the Mozambican government, the ambiguity of China’s aid strategy, and Mozambique’s infrastructural challenges.

At Wharton and Lauder, Billy hopes to strengthen his understanding of the legal, historical, and economic legacies that influence how global businesses navigate the intricacies of emerging markets. He also looks forward to cooking and creating cocktails for his classmates and discovering scenic hiking trails in the greater Philadelphia area.





## MICHAEL TO

Growing up between Hong Kong and Sydney, Michael grew to love the multiculturalism of metropolitan cities and the differences between cultures. His love for dynamic cities drove him to pursue opportunities in Shanghai and London. With Europe at its doorstep, London has allowed Michael to continue his exploration of European cities over the past five years through both his personal travels and his career in investment banking and private equity.

Michael pursued a dual degree in law and business at the University of Hong Kong, graduating top of the class with first class honors. He represented his university in legal and business competitions internationally, including in the U.S., the U.K. and Japan. Michael also studied a year abroad at the University of Oxford. During university, he represented Hong Kong as part of a 20-student group in the Pilot Scheme for Financial Talents Exchange Program between Shanghai and Hong Kong. The purpose of the program was to deepen understanding between the two key financial systems, and it included meetings with senior government officials such as the vice mayor of Shanghai and internships with major financial institutions.

Keen to continue exploring Europe, Michael started his career in London in the TMT Investment Banking team of Credit Suisse. There, he built fundamental financial skills and discovered a passion for learning about businesses and investments. Driven by his desire to conduct fundamental analysis, lead deal teams and make an impact on businesses, he transitioned into private equity with Lone Star/Hudson Advisors. Over the past three years, his increasing responsibility has propelled him to lead deal teams and invest in companies across Europe including in the Nordics, France, and Germany.

At Wharton and Lauder, Michael intends to dive into learning the nuances of conducting businesses in different parts of the world. He believes that these insights will enable him to better understand businesses, generate ideas, and become a global investor and international citizen.

In his free time, Michael enjoys destination techno music events, discovering new places, and all racket-related sports. Whenever he has time alone, he prefers to read, exercise at a gym, meditate, and practice yoga.





## UGO UDEOGU

Ugo was born in Chicago to Nigerian parents who decided that he would speak Igbo as a first language. When he turned 6, Ugo's father took a new job and moved the family to Nigeria. He spent 10 years living in Jos, a city in northern Nigeria, and Lagos.

Ugo realized how divided Nigeria was in religion, ethnicity, and language and began to question how it had become so culturally segmented. He turned to the local library for answers and his love for Nigerian historical fiction was born. Three years later, the terrorist group Boko Haram bombed parts of Jos, forcing Ugo's parents to withdraw him from school. Ugo completed high school in the U.S. at Georgetown Preparatory School, where he learned to play American football and received an offer to play at Butler University. Though he planned to pursue football professionally, his career was cut short due to an injury that occurred during a tryout for the Indianapolis Colts.

In his first year at Butler, Ugo took a computer science class for extra credit and immediately developed a passion for the subject. Consequently, he pursued a degree in computer science and a minor in environmental studies. As undergraduates, Ugo and his friends built an electronic medical record that clinics in the Dominican Republic used to keep patient information. This experience spurred his interest in facilitating innovation in emerging markets.

Upon graduation, Ugo developed his programming abilities further as a product owner at Eli Lilly, where he supported cloud platforms and managed contractual agreements between the firm and its SaaS partners. He also implemented solutions that enabled business unit developers to release new applications that were both efficient and compliant with strict federal regulations. He was later promoted to service delivery manager to lead the Enterprise Automation team in eliminating operational inefficiencies across the company.

As a dual citizen, Ugo was raised in and appreciates the unique perspectives of two distinct cultures. At Lauder, he plans to expand his global perspective and build his technical skills to prepare for a role in banking focused on disruptive technologies in emerging markets.

In addition to reading African historical fiction, Ugo loves kayaking and traveling to new countries. You can also find him at a local yoga studio doing his best to look remotely flexible.





## ROY WANG

Roy is originally from Tokyo and was raised across many cities between Japan and China. At age 10, Roy moved with his family from Tokyo to Shanghai, where he finished middle and high school. After spending seven years in China, Roy attended Middlebury College in Vermont, where he majored in international politics and economics, and minored in mathematics and Arabic. After becoming fluent in Arabic, Roy studied abroad at the University of Jordan in Amman, where he researched refugee issues in the region with local nongovernmental organizations, including Jordanian UNHCR, and through visits to Za'atari Refugee Camp, which is the largest Syrian refugee camp in the world. During his time in the Middle East, Roy was selected to participate in McKinsey & Company's EDAD program with its Dubai office.

At Middlebury, Roy also founded a nonprofit organization focusing on educational inequality in inland China. His project was awarded the Davis Project for Peace and recognized by Clinton Global Initiative, giving Roy and his team the opportunity to meet former U.S. President Bill Clinton and his panel working with world-changing student initiatives. Roy completed his summer internship in his junior year with Goldman Sachs in Tokyo.

Since gradation, Roy's career has taken him to New York City, London, Hong Kong, and back to his hometown of Tokyo, where he has worked several positions with multinational financial services corporations including as a management consultant with Ernst & Young, an equity research coverage analyst with Credit Suisse, and most recently as an investment banker specializing in mergers & acquisitions with Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Roy obtained his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) certification in 2017.

Beyond his professional career in finance, Roy has founded and invested in several startups. He sold his first venture on digital media in Shanghai at the age of 17, and since then has worked with entrepreneurs across the world to build and grow a portfolio of small businesses. Roy also invests in publicly traded securities, where he has trading experience in U.S, Japanese and China A-Share stocks for a combined 10+ years. In his spare time, Roy enjoys traveling, playing musical instruments such as saxophone and piano, and adventure sports including car racing, hang gliding, and scuba diving.

At Wharton and Lauder, Roy looks forward to sharpening his entrepreneurship skills, and he is also looking to spend a semester in the West Coast to expand his network within the premium venture capital/startup ecosystem in the San Francisco Bay Area.





## DAVE WARRINGTON

Dave was born and raised in Northern Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. He first discovered his interest in foreign languages and cultures through the classics, diving into Homer's epics at an early age to explore worlds beyond his immediate suburban surroundings.

Dave pursued his passion for Latin and Ancient Greek literature at Georgetown University, majoring in classics and philosophy. Seeking to engage with a broader range of classical scholarship, he began learning German, first immersing himself in the language during a summer at Middlebury College and then during a semester abroad at the University of Vienna in Austria. Outside of the classroom, Dave served as captain of the Georgetown Triathlon Team and worked at The Tombs, a historic college bar and favorite student haunt.

Upon graduation, Dave spent a year conducting postgraduate research in Platonic philosophy at the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg in Germany, with the support of a German Academic Exchange Service fellowship. While there, he focused on parsing the philosophical and literary intentions of Plato's "Ion", while simultaneously preparing to commission in the United States Marine Corps.

In 2016, Dave completed the yearlong process to become a Marine infantry officer. In his first assignment as a platoon commander, he led 40 infantry Marines in preparation for and during a deployment to the Asia-Pacific. During multiple bilateral exercises with Japanese and Filipino partners in the region, Dave became fascinated by the myriad ways in which national politics and strategic policies manifested themselves at the tactical and interpersonal levels. Dave was then selected as the company executive officer, second-in-command, and chief of staff to an air-assault company of 185 Marines, and he deployed again to Japan, South Korea, and Australia.

After completing his tour in the operating forces in 2019, Dave was promoted to captain and assigned as a company commander at the School of Infantry, where he led a cadre of 30 instructors responsible for training 1,500 new infantry Marines annually. There, he redesigned the parent command's culminating training event and developed novel risk-mitigation procedures for the unit's highest-risk training evolutions.

At Wharton and Lauder, Dave intends to leverage the programs' combined strengths in health care and multinational management to pursue general management opportunities in health care. In his spare time, Dave enjoys training for marathons, attempting Julia Child recipes, and watching the latest A24 films.





## KIP WERNER

Kip was born in New York City and spent his childhood between New York and Connecticut. He was exposed to Europe and European culture from a young age by his mother, who was an accomplished Alpine skier on the U.S. National Team and spent many years competing there. In primary school, he found a passion for French, taking a keen interest in French poetry and literature. As a young adult, he attended a National Student Leadership Conference seminar in Geneva, where he was first introduced to the nuances of international trade in France and Switzerland.

Kip attended the Wharton Undergraduate program at the University of Pennsylvania, concentrating his studies in finance, entrepreneurship, and innovation, and graduating magna cum laude. His sophomore internship at BlackRock in the Infrastructure Investment Group showed him the wide-reaching impact of renewable energy investing and guided his postgraduate career plans. After an internship with J.P. Morgan's Energy Investment Banking group, he joined J.P. Morgan's generalist mergers and acquisitions team for three years. While there, he advised on over \$15 billion in corporate M&A activity throughout the power and renewables, oil and gas, metals and mining, and health care sectors.

Wanting to better understand the ownership and management of energy projects, Kip shifted laterally to a primary investing role with Blackstone Energy Partners. While at Blackstone for two years, Kip served as a board observer and oversaw the management, operation, and M&A activity of two of the largest independent power portfolios in the United States, Lonestar and Lightstone Generation. In addition, he had an active role in building the portfolios of Blackstone's international development companies, Fistera Energy and Gen X Energy. These companies appraise global investment and development opportunities across the power generation and clean technology spaces, particularly in Europe, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. These experiences illustrated the impact of international development and multinational partnerships and solidified his desire to work in global technology and sustainability.

At Wharton and Lauder, Kip would like to explore how to best structure international ventures to help promote the launch and adoption of new technology, particularly in the area of sustainability. At the same time, he hopes to better understand cultural practices that can help make such ventures successes. In his spare time, he enjoys cycling, skiing, sailing, and watching Formula 1 racing.







## **PHYTO SHWE YEE WIN**

Phyto grew up in Yangon, Myanmar, in an entrepreneurial family with her parents running a small business out of the family home. At the age of 14, she moved to Singapore to attend high school, where she was able to take advantage of extracurricular opportunities not accessible in Myanmar, such as singing in the choir, performing in a classical guitar ensemble, and conducting research in the nanoscience laboratory at the National University of Singapore. After high school, Phyto wanted to seek more diverse experiences to broaden her perspectives, so she moved to the United States for her undergraduate studies.

Phyto attended Rice University in Houston, Texas, as a Trustee Distinguished Scholar. She studied mathematical economic analysis and accounting, and she engaged with the Houston community through volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in builds across the city. Houston was also a major hub for refugee resettlement, and she served as a mentor at the Partnership for the Advancement and Immersion of Refugees, helping high school students improve their English language skills and prepare for college applications.

After graduating from Rice, Phyto joined the New York City office of NERA Economic Consulting, motivated by the opportunity to solve challenging problems at the intersection of finance, economics, and law. She advised global financial institutions, multinational corporations, and leading law firms on a multitude of projects, including using predictive analytics to forecast product liability claims for a Fortune 100 company and conducting valuation analyses of target companies in mergers and acquisitions.

Prior to starting the Lauder summer term, Phyto interned remotely with Endeavor, supporting the global community of entrepreneurs. She also volunteered as a tutor success lead at Pandemic Professors, a nonprofit organization offering free online tutoring to students from low-income families. Through Wharton and Lauder, she wants to deepen her understanding of international business and politics, particularly on private-sector driven economic development and entrepreneurial activity in emerging markets. In the long term, Phyto hopes to contribute to sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Southeast Asia and the strengthening of democratic institutions in Myanmar.

Outside of work, Phyto enjoys exploring the diverse neighborhoods of New York City on runs, bike rides, and food tours. She also loves visiting national parks and spending time in nature, learning about new cultures through travel, books and cuisines, as well as singing and dancing along to K-pop music.





## SUJITH YANKANAİK

Sujith was born in Bangalore, India, and developed an early appreciation for education and cultural awareness because of his family. His mother married as a teenager and was unable to complete high school. His father is a first-generation college graduate, and his entire family worked to support this goal. Sujith's parents are from a village with no electricity, and his grandparents are illiterate. Vowing to give their children the opportunity to receive the best education, his parents immigrated to the U.S. when he was 7 years old.

Sujith studied economics at the University of Michigan and was drawn to social impact initiatives. These interests ultimately led him to an internship with a microfinance organization in Honduras. Upon graduation, Sujith decided to forgo an offer to work in corporate strategy to follow his passion for social impact. He became a social entrepreneur for the nonprofit United Teen Equality Center (UTEC) in Lowell, Massachusetts, where he raised \$5 million in seed capital to incubate and operate two social enterprises, UTEC Mattress Recycling and Café UTEC. This experience, coupled with his family's struggle to access education, motivated him to make a greater international impact.

His desire to improve India's education system led him to join the venture philanthropy firm Central Square Foundation (CSF), which is backed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. At CSF, Sujith worked as a consultant to the Indian government's education department. He played a key role in strategizing and implementing reforms for the country's 19,000 teacher education institutes. Sujith wanted to broaden his impact even further internationally, which led him to a role with the Global Education and Leadership Foundation. At the foundation, Sujith leveraged his CSF relationships to develop a partnership with the New Delhi government and create India's first entrepreneurship mindset curriculum for 80,000 students. Sujith also used his experience as a social entrepreneur to develop global partnerships for entrepreneurial projects, including a partnership with the Misk Foundation.

Sujith hopes to use his time at Wharton and Lauder to gain technical and analytical skills that will propel him to make a greater impact in a strategy role in South Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa. In his spare time, Sujith is a marathoner and triathlete. He continues to dedicate his time to improving education access in the developing world through various nonprofits and pro bono consulting.





## JACKY YAO

Jacky was born in a small historic mining town in Hubei, China, and spent his childhood in Hubei's capital, Wuhan, before moving to Toronto, Canada, with his family at the age of 12. From a very young age, Jacky developed a deep passion for Chinese history and literature, sparked by his love for the classic Chinese novel "Romance of the Three Kingdoms."

During Jacky's visits back to Wuhan in his teen years, he got to meet many African students studying in China. Inspired by their history and culture, Jacky developed his initial interest in the African continent. He earned dual degrees in business administration and global economics from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. His graduation thesis was on the effect of Chinese aid on economic development in Africa.

After graduation, Jacky moved to Shanghai, China, to work for the investment banking subsidiary of Fosun Group, China's leading investment conglomerate. Because of his international background, he was invited to participate in many of Fosun's overseas fintech investment projects. In this role, Jacky was able to gain a deep understanding of the global fintech industry through investment projects across seven different countries.

As one of the earliest investors in Alibaba's Ant Financial, Fosun's fintech investment team worked closely with Ant Financial in shaping China's fintech industry. Through this unique opportunity, Jacky witnessed fintech's meteoric growth and outsized impact. He is convinced that the revolutionary combination of finance and technology will change the 21st century as profoundly as the steam engine changed the 19th century.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jacky is eager to gain cultural fluency in Africa in order to explore sustainable and socially responsible ways to deliver groundbreaking fintech services in Africa. He is also looking to improve his French to further expand his knowledge of Africa.

Jacky served as president of the Ivey Business School's alumni chapter in Shanghai, a role that provided him with extensive experience organizing galas and other large events. He plans to bring this expertise to social life at Wharton and Lauder and to fundraising efforts for the Philadelphia community.

In his spare time, Jacky enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, and watching movies. He is an avid supporter of the Chicago Bulls and enjoys attending NBA games.





## SAI YELURU

Sai was born in South India and spent his teen years in Michigan and Texas. Drawn to the field of computer science, Sai joined a two-year STEM-based boarding program for the 11th and 12th grades at the University of North Texas. There, he realized that his interest was not purely in software but rather in the intersection of software engineering and business. After high school, Sai earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Texas at Austin's McCombs School of Business, majoring in information systems.

At UT, Sai pursued a number of extracurricular pursuits, including two dorm-room startups, several UT and Austin-based service organizations, and underclassmen mentorship roles. In his junior year, Sai volunteered with the nonprofit Code Orange, teaching computer science to elementary school students at an under-resourced school. This experience led him to realize his interest in social technology entrepreneurship, notably in infrastructure and education. As a result, he sought roles where he could develop the skills to make an impact in this space. He interned at Oliver Wyman and later joined McKinsey Digital full time in the Dallas office.

As a business analyst with McKinsey, Sai served various multibillion-dollar institutions on different strategic topics, including board-level strategy, analytics organization redesign, and technology operations. McKinsey helped Sai build a foundational toolkit of professional business skills and refine his longer-term professional interests. Through discussions with McKinsey colleagues and personal mentors, Sai realized that his deeper passion was in advancing entrepreneurship in emerging markets through effective interventions in technology and infrastructure.

Sai left McKinsey on a secondment to join BioLite Energy, an off-grid energy provider, to remotely support their global operations team. Through BioLite, Sai validated that his interest lay in this field and applied to Wharton and Lauder to develop his entrepreneurship and leadership skills in the context of sub-Saharan Africa. As part of the Africa French track, he's excited to develop his regional understanding and linguistic fluency to support his vision of local entrepreneurship in the region.

Outside of his professional interests, Sai loves to cook, make hot chocolate, play basketball, read development economics and fantasy fiction, and generally try new things. He's looking forward to living in a new city and leaning into the Wharton and Lauder communities.





## **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

### **Non-Discrimination Policy Statement**

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