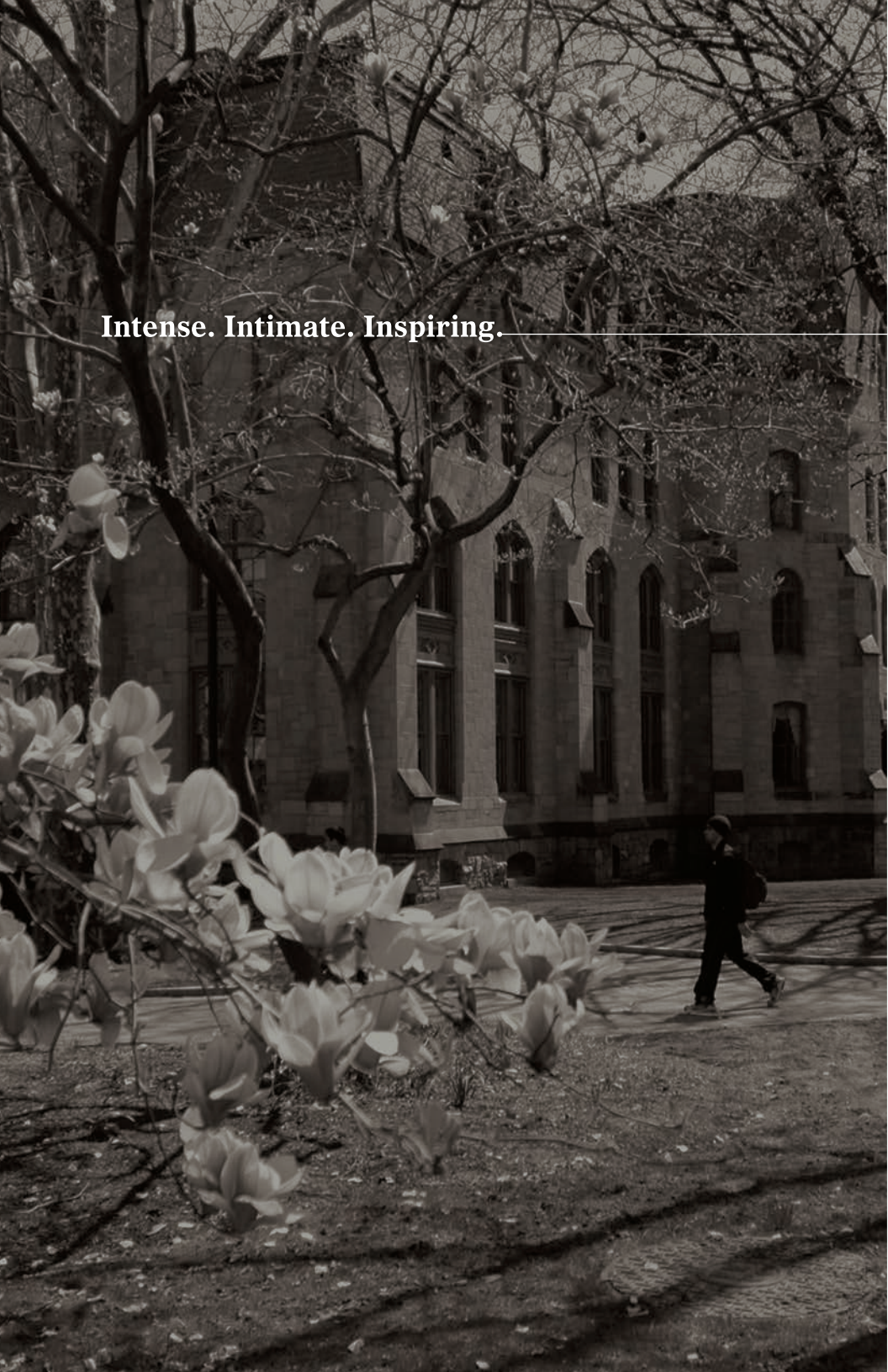


Where you're going depends on where you've been.



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 2025



## **AFRICA**

### **FRANCOPHONE**

James (Jeb) Beard  
Jennifer Bryan  
Julien Guiot  
Kenechi Ndili  
Mallika Patkar

### **GENERAL**

Vedant Batra  
Billy Kacyem  
James Kakisingi  
Maria Ignacia Leiva Crossley



## **EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA**

### **JAPANESE**

July Bok  
Wonwoo (Tony) Choi  
Kevin Gottfredson  
Yoon Joo Kim

### **KOREAN**

Ishak Caner  
Andrew Kim

### **MANDARIN CHINESE**

Zoroastro A. de Sousa Neto  
Neha Jain  
Michelle Li  
Victor Li  
Jessica Lin  
Benjamin Parker  
Sean Reasner  
Lloyd Soh  
Jason Togut  
Cindy Wang  
Jing Wang  
Ziqin Yuan  
Michael Yuan  
Jenny Zhang  
Angela Zhou  
Emily Zhuang



## **EUROPE**

### **FRENCH**

Lucy Friedmann  
Dhriti Kamat  
Joselyn Tatiana Salazar Garcia  
Natasha Urbany



## **GERMAN**

Mati Alemayehu  
Santiago Gonzalez Cardona  
Justin Koehler



## **GLOBAL**

Djavaneh Bierwirth  
Ai (Aimee) Chu  
Edward Kalaydjian  
Sebastián Prieto Vasquez  
Alfonso Rojas  
Yue (Joshua) Shen  
Roland Spier  
Gabriela Vodopives Caselli  
Doris Guohao Xu  
Rodrigo Yaryd  
Jane (Xiaozhu) Zhang  
Maria Zorrilla



## **SOUTH ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

### **ARABIC**

Rehaab Ali Raza  
William Misitano  
Nadir Tekarli

### **HINDI**

Ian Anderson  
Sharvani Mehta  
Yashodhana Raj  
Neha Saraf



## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **PORTUGUESE**

Leonardo G. Acedo  
Manuel Alvarez  
Wesley Aster  
Giancarlo Oriel Boldrini Villalobos  
Jaime Cabrera Baldwin  
S. Michael Huckaby  
Thomas Maddox  
Jennifer Nicole Pulido  
Jose Saiz



## **SPANISH**

Andrés Armada De Dios\*  
Alice (Allie) DiPietro  
David Maximilian Ehmke  
Manuel (Manny) Figueroa  
Gregory McLean  
Arunabh Singh

\*JD/ MA Student





## LEONARDO G. ACEDO

As a Venezuelan, American, and Spanish citizen, Leonardo Acedo has a deep passion for international experiences. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Leonardo moved to the United States at the age of 10, which instilled in him a sense of adaptability and a multicultural perspective.

From a young age, Leonardo was exposed to and fascinated by Venezuela's energy sector. Witnessing the country's rich energy resources and their impact on the local economy, Leonardo developed a keen interest in the field. This early exposure ignited his desire to pursue a career related to energy upon graduating from college.

Leonardo fulfilled his aspirations by earning his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland, where he acquired a strong technical foundation and honed his problem-solving skills. Equipped with a deep understanding of engineering principles, Leonardo embarked on a fulfilling career at ExxonMobil in Houston, Texas.

During his four years at ExxonMobil, Leonardo showcased his passion for the energy sector as evidenced in his dedication to developing critical energy infrastructure across Latin America. By contributing to the development of vital projects, Leonardo played a pivotal role in ensuring a reliable and sustainable energy supply to communities in the region.

Alongside his professional pursuits, Leonardo remains dedicated to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) within the Latinx community and beyond. Recognizing the power of diverse perspectives, he advocates for creating inclusive environments where individuals from all backgrounds can thrive and contribute their unique talents. Throughout his career, Leonardo has been actively involved in organizations supporting the advancement of underrepresented communities. Notably, he served on the Board of Directors for the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers in Houston. In this capacity, he contributed to initiatives aimed at fostering diversity and empowering Latinx professionals in the engineering field.

Through his studies at Wharton and Lauder, Leonardo aims to heighten his knowledge of business strategy while gaining a comprehensive understanding of sustainable energy practices within the context of Latin America. Leonardo's goal is to leverage his engineering background and business acumen to drive positive change in the Latin American energy sector, promoting sustainable development and addressing the region's energy challenges.





## **MATI ALEMAYEHU**

Mati was born in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he lived until the age of 5 before moving to the United States as part of the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program. He has since spent most of his life in metro Atlanta, Georgia, which he considers home today.

Mati first began learning German at age 9, and he continued to take German courses until his senior year of high school. He completed his undergraduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While at MIT, he explored many majors including physics, computer science, and mathematics, before eventually graduating with a degree in management. In the summer of 2017, his interest in physics led him to work in Hamburg, Germany, where he interned as an undergraduate research assistant at the Center for Free-Electron Laser Science. In addition to his technical courses, Mati continued to explore his international interests through coursework in German, Spanish, and Japanese. He was an active member of the MIT Consulting Group, the Ethiopian Eritrean Students' Association, and Nu Delta Fraternity.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree, Mati joined Capital One's Corporate Strategy team as an associate, working with executives across the firm on high-priority initiatives. He was also an active member of the diversity recruiting committee and helped coordinate and lead recruiting events at Harvard College and Howard University, aimed at increasing representation within the company. In April 2022, Mati made an internal move to the Pricing and Economics team, where he gained firsthand experience with the impact of rising interest rates on banking economics and the competition for consumer deposits. As the lead analyst for savings product pricing, Mati focused on applying game theory and statistical models to optimize deposit growth.

Through his experiences in deposit pricing, Mati discovered a keen interest in international finance and economics. While at Wharton and Lauder, Mati hopes to deepen his understanding of European politics and explore the role of multilateral organizations such as the European Union in financial regulation and monetary policy. After graduation, Mati aims to continue his career in financial services. In his spare time, he hopes to perfect his espresso-making technique.





## **REHAAB ALI RAZA**

Rehaab grew up strongly tied to three regions: South Asia, the Middle East, and Australasia. This unique upbringing fostered a profound appreciation for the exploration of varied cultural values, languages, and religious traditions, which she continues to carry with her in her life today.

For her undergraduate studies, Rehaab studied design computing at the University of Sydney, where she was awarded a merit-based scholarship. Throughout her academic journey, she pursued a diverse range of projects, employing design-thinking methodologies to create products centered around driving positive social impact.

Following her graduation, Rehaab was employed at Boston Consulting Group, where she worked on projects related to human-centered design, with a predominant focus on the public sector. Amid the challenges posed by the pandemic, she relocated to Dubai, where she worked for a healthtech startup before joining a digital agency.

Throughout her career, Rehaab has derived immense joy from working on different projects utilizing user-centered design in industries including tourism, health care, oil and gas, infrastructure, and finance. Specifically, Rehaab is interested in the application of behavioral design to product strategy, and exploring how products can be designed to achieve both user-centered goals alongside business objectives.

At Wharton and Lauder, Rehaab aims to develop a firm foundation in behavior and strategy. Additionally, she seeks to deepen her understanding of the Middle East, with a specific interest in examining the impact of religion on policy and contemporary legal frameworks.

Rehaab considers herself a serial hobbyist and is constantly looking for opportunities to acquire knowledge and learn new skills, even if she doesn't master them. On weekends, you will usually find her critiquing juices at a café, or meandering around the city with her polaroid camera.





## MANUEL ALVAREZ

Manuel was born and raised in Santiago, Chile. Having attended an international bilingual school, he was exposed to different cultures and understands the importance of experiencing the world through a combination of perspectives. After high school, Manuel studied mechanical engineering at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. He enjoyed working as a teaching assistant for different courses, teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students. During his last years, he combined his engineering degree with a Master in Science, focusing on behavioral finance and researching how state leaders influence financial markets.

Upon graduation, Manuel was eager to pursue a career in the financial sector and started working in asset management, primarily at Credicorp Capital. He worked there for nearly four years in an environment of rapid growth as part of an investment team that pushed to reach US\$1billion in assets under management. During this time, he honed his financial skills analyzing international markets as well as structuring and optimizing custom portfolios for approximately 80 clients, and he developed quantitative skills by teaching himself how to use Python to develop tools to facilitate projects.

In 2019, he joined AFP Capital, the third-largest pension fund in Chile. In his new role as a senior analyst, he managed the fund's entire equity portfolio of US\$12 billion and was able to create a positive impact on the financial welfare of 11.5 million Chileans (over 60% of the Chilean population). After a year, he was promoted to head of fund selection, leading a team for the first time and becoming responsible for the training, managing, and mentoring of a junior analyst.

Throughout his career, Manuel worked in the Chilean branches of two major Latin American financial holdings (Credicorp and Sura) and gained vast professional experience across multiple countries in the region. At Wharton and Lauder, he expects to expand on his past experiences with the program's global and multidisciplinary focus, which he believes is key to understanding Latin America's myriad cultural, political, ideological, historical, and social idiosyncrasies. Manuel is looking to gain a better understanding of infrastructure investing in the renewable energy space, combining assets from regional pension funds and foreign investment to unlock the region's huge potential.

In his spare time, Manuel is passionate about outdoor sports including skiing, kitesurfing, rock climbing, and others. He loves traveling to new places around the world to practice them.







## IAN ANDERSON

Born in Philadelphia, Ian Anderson is a proud Southeastern Pennsylvania native and is excited to move back to Philly and get back in touch with his hometown roots. Ian received his undergraduate degree at Johns Hopkins University, where he double majored in anthropology and international studies with a minor in Islamic studies.

Ian's first exposure to South Asia came from a course he took in his freshman year on the politics of South Asia. He was immediately fascinated by what he found to be one of the most complex and multifaceted regions of the world, and his interest in South Asia led him to study both Hindi and Urdu throughout his four years at Hopkins.

Ian studied abroad his junior year in Varanasi, India, through the University of Wisconsin, Madison and spent a semester after senior year as a participant in the Boren SAFLI program, an intensive six-month Urdu language program in Lucknow, India. Ian also spent the summer before his senior year at Hopkins working at a knowledge process outsourcing firm in Madhya Pradesh, India, where he witnessed firsthand the ways in which South Asian and American companies stand to benefit from close cooperation.

After graduation, Ian spent a year working for Amazon's fulfillment distribution network as an area manager, where he led a team of 80 direct reports and was responsible for overseeing the fulfillment of over 100,000 customer orders daily. After Amazon, Ian spent five years at the U.S. Department of State as a management officer. At Department of State, Ian focused on issues pertaining to the Middle East and South Asia, and he looks forward to learning more about this area of the world through Lauder's SAMENA track.

At Wharton and Lauder, Ian is most excited to learn from his fellow students, who possess a wide variety of international experiences, and for the opportunity to examine the rapidly shifting geopolitical and business environment that firms find themselves in a post-COVID world.

In his free time, Ian enjoys meditation, language learning, studying Indic philosophy, reading, writing stand-up comedy, exploring everything a city has to offer, and lively conversations with friends.





## ANDRÉS ARMADA DE DIOS

Andrés was born in Puerto Rico to Cuban refugee parents and grew up between San Juan and Miami, Florida. Spanish is his first language, but after the move to the mainland U.S. at the age of 5, his native tongue started to wane. Formal education in other romance languages followed, but Spanish always remained the language of the family.

Andrés attended New York University, graduating with a degree in political science after a brief stint in mechanical engineering. A summer language immersion program in Florence cemented his love of both the Italian language and the country itself, while also exposing him to the power of a true immersion experience. Upon graduation in 2019, Andrés took a teaching position in Murcia, Spain, with the aim of broadening his horizons via travel to every corner of Europe and the Middle East/North Africa (MENA) region, but most importantly, to reinforce any Spanish language skills that were still locked away in his brain.

A previous summer internship focusing on legal aid to children trafficked from Central America was Andrés' first exposure to global legal and policy work, but it was his time while working for the National Democratic Institute in Washington, D.C., that truly generated what would be his driving aspiration. Joining the international NGO in 2021 only a week before the fall of Kabul, Afghanistan, Andrés volunteered and joined the monthslong evacuation efforts. He did the same again during the Russian invasion and siege of Kyiv, Ukraine, in early 2022. Both were disasters in human cost, but the preparation and coordination in Ukraine only further proved that high-level policy decisions in a nation such as the United States will always have massive, far-reaching implications. Andrés was determined to become a member in the decision-making room.

Andrés joined the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School in 2022 with the intent of also enrolling in the Lauder program. A proper mastery of the Spanish language, combined with the unique educational experience of a JD/MA in international studies, is what he sees as essential competencies to better become a statesman who can bridge the gaps in the Western hemisphere. Latin America is still at the root of Andrés' passion and identity.

Outside of the classroom, Andrés will forever be a football fanatic (Jurgen Klopp is a personal hero) and loves spending time outdoors when it is warm. In the winter, books and movies take the place of sports.





## WESLEY ASTER

Wesley grew up in Los Angeles, California, and developed an affinity for learning about new cultures at an early age. Wanting to reconnect with his grandfather's Latin roots, Wesley traveled extensively throughout the Spanish-speaking world in high school and college, including an immersion in Spain and a four-month trip across South America.

After graduating from the University of Southern California, Wesley spent two years in mergers and acquisitions as an investment banking analyst at Moelis & Company in Los Angeles. He then moved to Bogotá, Colombia, where he worked for Mesoamerica, a leading Latin American private equity fund. At Mesoamerica, Wesley worked on transactions with some of Colombia's most well-regarded brands and spent extensive time in Chile, where he helped UniFood, the country's largest restaurant and ice cream portfolio, navigate the 2019 social crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the pandemic forced Mesoamerica's team to work remotely, Wesley began working from São Paulo, keen to immerse himself in Portuguese and learn more about the region's largest economy. Captivated by the vibrant startup community in Brazil, Wesley joined Foodology, Latin America's fastest growing dark kitchen startup with plans to expand to Brazil. As Foodology's first finance hire in Mexico, Wesley built the finance department for Foodology's largest market and helped deploy their \$15 million Series A in Mexico. Since Foodology, Wesley has expanded his impact as an independent advisor, helping early-stage startups raise capital, build out their finance function, and tackle strategic challenges across Latin America.

Wesley's experience in Latin America has convinced him that connecting the region's founders with global capital requires a robust, interdisciplinary skillset combined with a profound understanding of the region's politics, diverse cultural influences, and colonial history. At Wharton and Lauder, Wesley seeks to deepen his understanding of how these elements affect Latin America's emerging startup and venture capital ecosystem.

Wesley speaks English, Spanish, and Portuguese and is passionate about understanding new cultures through international travel, history, and language. In his free time, he enjoys weightlifting, portrait, landscape, and drone photography, philosophy, and classical and blues guitar.





## **JAIME CABRERA BALDWIN**

Jaime was born in Lima, Peru, but his upbringing was shaped by the experiences he gained while moving around the country due to his military family. Despite the constant relocations, he learned to appreciate the diverse cultures of the places he lived in from an early age.

Jaime graduated from Universidad del Pacifico in Lima with a bachelor's degree in economics. During his final year, he relocated to Panama to join the Latin American headquarters of Procter & Gamble. While working there, he had the opportunity to enhance his teamwork skills in a global setting. He led a multifunctional team from five countries to reformulate the composition of a best-selling product in Peru, launched a new product in the Mexican market, and optimized the raw material supply chain of his business unit in Argentina and Mexico.

He then returned to Lima to complete his studies. Upon graduation, Jaime worked for four years at McKinsey & Company. Throughout his career, he led numerous successful projects, including setting up independent regional operating models for a cement company in Colombia and in the U.S., advising a cosmetics company on its go-to-market plan for a new business in Brazil, and structuring and executing an operating model for a novel eB2B platform for a leading consumer goods company in Peru and Argentina. He is also knowledgeable in leveraging analytics and digital marketing to personalize promotions in digital companies, and he has experience working on mergers in Latin America.

Jaime's background includes significant contributions to various nongovernmental organizations. He has volunteered for NetvalU in Peru, where he coached and taught hard and soft skills to underprivileged mentees, and for TECHO in Panama and Peru, where he supported building houses in vulnerable communities in Panama City and Lima.

Jaime's international experiences, both personal and professional, motivated him to pursue graduate studies at Wharton and Lauder. While establishing a global network, he aspires to explore novel destinations and learn about various cultures. In particular, he is excited about gaining a better understanding of the Brazilian culture to better champion entrepreneurship in the region.

Jaime is fluent in Spanish, English, and Portuguese, with some knowledge of German. In his free time, he enjoys trekking, sports, hanging out with friends, and traveling. In addition, Jaime is an enthusiast of basketball and surfing.







## VEDANT BATRA

Vedant was born and raised in Gurgaon, India, to a Punjabi family. His grandparents migrated to Northern India from what is today Pakistan, post the partition of British India. Their stories made him passionate about global affairs and inspired him to study and explore the world's diversity. Vedant enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program in high school and spent his undergraduate life in Austin, Texas, at Halstead, a student housing co-operative. During his time at Halstead, Vedant lived and interacted with residents from across the world, gaining a deep appreciation for multiculturalism.

Vedant double majored in finance and economics at The University of Texas at Austin. While in college, he was keenly involved with research at the McCombs School of Business and the UT Department of Economics. In his junior year, Vedant founded Goeman Bind, a think tank, to create a pool of knowledge in the development sector and catalyze stakeholder collaboration. Over the years, Goeman Bind has provided research and advisory services to leading nonprofits and the Indian government on domains such as corporate social responsibility. Through his work at the think tank, Vedant supported the UNAIDS Health Innovation Exchange (HIEEx) as a fellow in Geneva, Switzerland, for six months, helping bridge the gap between investors and entrepreneurs from the Global South.

Vedant also briefly worked as an investment consultant with Gray Matters Capital, an Atlanta, Georgia-based impact investor, where he led investments into two African social enterprises. More recently, he worked with the Impact Investors Council (IIC), India's leading nonprofit industry body, to strengthen the nation's impact investing ecosystem through data-driven research, advocacy, and thought leadership. At IIC, Vedant managed multiple projects including sizing the market for early-stage climate-tech equity investments in India and establishing the India Blended Finance Collaborative (IBFC) with USAID.

At Wharton and Lauder, Vedant hopes to build long-lasting connections with his peers and learn from their diverse cultural perspectives. As a member of the Africa General track, he looks forward to exploring the role of social entrepreneurship in sustainably tackling the various development sector challenges that plague sub-Saharan Africa.

Outside work, Vedant is an avid hiker, photographer, and backpacker. Living in hostels is his preferred method of travel. He also enjoys going to music festivals and producing house music when time permits.





## **JAMES (JEB) BEARD**

Jeb was born in Arkansas but spent much of his childhood in Brussels and Lausanne before graduating from high school in Atlanta, Georgia. While in Europe, Jeb attended international schools, gained a working knowledge of French and Spanish, and fostered a lifelong appreciation for working and living in a multicultural environment.

Jeb attended the United States Air Force Academy for his undergraduate education, where he majored in English and minored in Chinese. While at the academy, Jeb raced on the mountain bike team, completed a summer immersion at Nanjing University, and sought as many international experiences as possible, including an immersion to Morocco and Senegal, which ignited his fascination with West Africa.

Upon graduation, Jeb was commissioned as an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force, where he spent the majority of his career in the Special Operations community. The military stationed Jeb in Texas, New Mexico, Florida, and Washington, D.C., and deployed him on multiple missions to Afghanistan, Iraq, West Africa, and Southeast Asia. His most rewarding deployment was to Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, where he organized multiple training missions between the Burkina Faso and U.S. military following a period of civil unrest. In this capacity, he developed lifelong international friendships and gained an appreciation of the immense security challenges facing the region.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jeb looks forward to diving into the business world, where he is especially excited to explore the role of international business as a stabilizing force in emerging economies. On the Francophone Africa track, he hopes to build on his government and military background by better understanding the region's development potential through a business lens.

Outside of his professional life, Jeb enjoys being outside on his bike or a pair of skis. He also enjoys sailing and recently completed a Penn campus visit by boat via the Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River, where he tore the mainsail in a storm but enjoyed the lack of rush-hour traffic.





## **DJAVENEH BIERWIRTH**

Djavaneh was born in Germany to a Swiss-German father and Persian mother. Growing up in various countries including France, Switzerland, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, and the U.S., her multicultural background shaped her perspective and curiosity about the world. As a Community and Multicultural Development (CAMD) Scholar at Phillips Academy in Massachusetts, Djavaneh conducted research on internet censorship and the use of social media in social and political unrest, focusing on Iran's Green Movement and the Arab Spring. This early involvement in research and activism fueled her passion for the intersection of technology innovation and global affairs.

In college, Djavaneh pursued a dual degree at the University of Pennsylvania's Huntsman Program, earning a B.S. in economics with concentrations in management and finance, and a B.A. in international studies with a minor in Hispanic studies and focus on Latin America. During her time at Penn, she worked closely with the Financial Literacy Community Project, teaching financial literacy, college preparatory, and entrepreneurship courses in Philadelphia public schools.

After college, Djavaneh joined McKinsey & Company's New York office, where she worked on digital projects in Financial Services and Payments. She also played an active role in the McKinsey NYO Women's Initiative and volunteered as a school materials translator for immigrant families in New York City. Later, she joined the investment team of London-based specialist growth equity firm Greyhound Capital. Her focus was on investing in mid- to late-stage software and fintech startups globally, furthering Greyhound's mission to partner with startups that "improve people's everyday lives." While at Greyhound, Djavaneh also served on the board of cybersecurity startup Strike alongside the co-founders of Latin-American unicorn PedidosYa.

Djavaneh's passion lies in finding technology-enabled solutions to improve financial and educational outcomes for people. At Wharton, she plans to pursue concentrations in entrepreneurship and business analytics to further develop her expertise in these areas and support development of innovative and low-cost fintech solutions.

Outside of her professional pursuits, she's a fellow for the Royal Society of the Arts in the U.K., spends a lot of time at art museums (especially in the impressionist sections), and finds joy in playing old-school Nintendo games and listening to house music.

Djavaneh is fluent in German, French, and Farsi, and conversational in Spanish, and is currently working hard to maintain her beginner Duolingo Japanese streak.





## **JULY BOK**

Thanks to her parents' global business acumen, July grew up in Shanghai, China, with her three siblings. Speaking Korean at home and learning Chinese outside, July quickly developed an interest in foreign languages and intercultural relations. She learned Japanese and French as an adult, continuing her mission to gain a wider understanding of diversity and humanities.

July graduated a semester early and magna cum laude from New York University's Stern School of Business, concentrating in finance and data science. Before starting her first job, she moved to Tokyo, Japan, to advance her language skill, immerse herself in the local culture, and understand the complicated history of East Asia. Her passion for Japanese led her to join the Lauder program, and she is excited to deepen her expertise in East Asian politics.

July began her career in technology consulting with Ernst and Young in New York. She advised global executives in financial services firms, strategizing for new data systems and automation projects. Wanting experience in managing smaller companies, July moved back to Asia to support her family business' mergers and acquisitions and spearheaded global strategy for a high-growth media tech startup in K-pop. During her time in Korea, she also volunteered at the Korea Sexual Violence Relief Center, a free legal clinic for sexual abuse victims. She is now an official sponsor of the clinic.

At Wharton and Lauder, July looks forward to building on her past experiences and strengthening her understanding of East Asian geopolitics. She aims to join a strategy consulting firm after graduating. Whenever possible, she visits the theater and orchestra, practices mindfulness, and spends time with her quirky siblings whom she dearly loves.







## **GIANCARLO ORIEL BOLDRINI VILLALOBOS**

Giancarlo was born and raised in Lima, Peru. As a child, he traveled through the Americas with his family, which started his interest in exploring different cultures.

Giancarlo graduated second place in economics from Universidad del Pacifico in Lima. In college, he completed an exchange semester in Utrecht, the Netherlands, which strengthened his passion for intercultural exchange. During those six months, he visited more than 20 countries to immerse himself in a complete multicultural experience.

During college, he developed a passion for consulting. As part of a class, he advised a micro-entrepreneur in a small grocery store business, and Giancarlo's team finished second in that semester's contest for the best consulting project. Giancarlo was also part of 180 Degrees Consulting, a worldwide student consulting organization that focuses on advising nongovernmental organizations on their strategies and operations.

Giancarlo began his career in management consulting with McKinsey & Company in Lima, where he advised companies across Latin America in multiple subjects, including corporate strategy, digital transformations, venture building, and efficiency engagements. During his four years at McKinsey, Giancarlo looked for opportunities to keep traveling and learning from multicultural experiences, engaging in onsite assignments in Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, Ecuador, and Chile. He worked in remote engagements in other countries, including Panama, Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, which gave him the opportunity to relate with colleagues and clients from different cultures and backgrounds.

During his years at McKinsey, Giancarlo contributed with initiatives aligned with his passions. He was part of the Social Impact Group, and he led the initiative to support students from 180 Degrees Consulting with McKinsey mentoring and coaching to improve their projects. He also created an "Ace as an Analyst" initiative to help junior consultants strengthen their consulting toolkit. Additionally, he developed initiatives such as the creation of wellness perks and a nutrition program with nutritionist visits to the office, contributing to promoting wellness, one of his biggest passions.

Giancarlo keeps looking for ways to contribute to people's wellness on a bigger scale. He participated in a Latin American startup incubator with a project called Grit, which gives people the tools to start and sustain a holistic wellness life. He plans to keep working on this project as he learns about constraints and opportunities in wellness across different countries and realities.





## ISHAK CANER

Ishak was born in Turkey and immigrated to the U.S. with his parents when he was 5 years old. He grew up in northern New Jersey, moving around the region several times from elementary school through high school. Through both his experience growing up as a first-generation immigrant speaking two non-English languages (Turkish and Karachay) at home and his interaction with the culturally diverse communities of northern New Jersey, Ishak began to develop an appreciation for intercultural differences and cooperation at a young age.

After his freshman year at Harvard College, Ishak made the fateful decision to travel to Korea for a summer exchange program and ending up falling in love with the culture, heritage, and history of the country. He went on to complete two internships in Korea (including one at CJ E&M, a Korean entertainment conglomerate) and take three years of Korean language at Harvard, allowing him to graduate with a language citation in Korean in addition to his concentration in applied mathematics in economics.

After college, Ishak went on to do analytics work at Kepler Group, an adtech startup based in New York City. He began his career on the marketing analytics team, advising a large global pharmaceutical firm on digital marketing strategy and eventually overseeing a team of five analysts. He continued with more technical work on Kepler's data science team, helping identify analytics pain points for client teams and building out KIP Control, the company's proprietary digital marketing analytics engine.

At Wharton and Lauder, Ishak is excited to supplement his technical and digital marketing skills with a general management toolkit and build on his intercultural understanding to become an adtech product management leader who helps build more responsible and effective digital marketing solutions across international borders.

In his spare time, Ishak enjoys playing pickup basketball, listening to and performing music of diverse genres/backgrounds, following pro sports, and doing pro bono consulting for nonprofits on digital marketing strategy and implementation.





## WONWOO (TONY) CHOI

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Wonwoo spent his formative years following his father's diplomatic missions across Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, India, and Nicaragua. In his first 12 years of education, Wonwoo attended eight different schools across continents, experiencing radically different systems of education, values, and cultures. Having never lived in one place for more than two years, constantly internalizing his exposure to new cultures, languages, and ways of thinking became Wonwoo's *modus operandi*.

At Washington University in St. Louis, Wonwoo earned a B.A. in political science with a concentration in international politics. His undergraduate thesis focused on foreign direct investment attraction strategy and policy, with the intent to deepen his understanding of the interplay between policymaking and economic development. After his second year, Wonwoo took a leave of absence to join the Republic of Korea Air Force, serving in the Logistics Command at the K-2 Airbase in Daegu. As an interpretation specialist sergeant, Wonwoo was primarily involved in core projects with U.S. and Israeli aerospace and defense equipment and technology partners and vendors.

Wonwoo started his business career in management consulting with undergraduate summer internships at Bain & Company in Seoul and Tokyo. He later joined Boston Consulting Group in Chicago full time, working with a wide array of clients including in the consumer packaged goods, auto, and technology sectors. In his second year, Wonwoo joined the Global Advantage practice area focused on cross-border business challenges and transferred to the Dubai office. Across Dubai and Riyadh, Wonwoo's projects comprised national strategic priorities of governments and sovereign wealth funds in the Middle East.

After BCG, Wonwoo moved to Hong Kong to join Northern Light Venture Capital (NLVC) as a senior associate. At NLVC, Wonwoo met with and invested in numerous founders at the forefront of innovation, primarily in Korea and the U.S. Prior to his departure, Wonwoo closed a new, dedicated \$120 million fund to invest in Korean startups. As a founding member of the fund, he played a critical role from investment thesis formation to authoring the investment sector strategic playbooks.

At Wharton and Lauder, Wonwoo seeks to deepen his understanding of the role of technology, finance, and entrepreneurship in economic development, while acquiring new mental models and technical skillsets in later-stage financing of high growth technology companies.

Wonwoo's passions are weightlifting, soccer (Qatar 2022 attendee), scuba diving, and learning new languages. He speaks English, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, and is currently learning Mandarin.





## AI (AIMEE) CHU

Aimee was born and raised in Tianjin, China, a coastal city bordering Beijing, and had the opportunity to travel frequently between China and the United States during her childhood. This experience helped her grow understanding of the interaction of different cultures and fostered her interest in U.S.-China relations, politics, international trade, and foreign languages.

Aimee attended Washington University in St. Louis, where she studied international and area studies and French. She spent one semester studying abroad in Switzerland, an experience that allowed her to hone her French language skills, explore different countries in Europe, and broaden her horizons beyond the U.S.-China sphere. After receiving her bachelor's degree, Aimee attended Cornell University, where she pursued a master's degree in public policy to deepen her expertise in the intersection of global trade and policymaking.

Aimee started her professional career in Washington, D.C., at The Asia Group, a geopolitical and business consultancy, where she worked with company founder Kurt Campbell, who now serves as U.S. President Joe Biden's top Asia policy advisor. Aimee was the company's first full-time international hire. In this capacity, she advised the executive teams of leading multinational companies to navigate the U.S.-China relations and to expand in the China market. During this time, she frequently accompanied client companies' C-suite members to engage with senior government officials in China and the United States to shore up their government relations efforts during the U.S.-China trade tensions. This invaluable experience working with global companies in diverse industries has drawn Aimee to the field of business and management. She then joined Tangram, an early-stage marketplace startup, where she worked closely with the chief executive officer on business strategies, company branding, product development, as well as fundraising.

At Wharton and Lauder, Aimee is excited to further expand her worldview through learning from her peers from diverse cultural backgrounds and engaging in cultural exchange programs. In addition, she hopes to deepen her knowledge in international business management and enhance cross-cultural understanding and global trade inclusiveness.

Aimee is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and English and conversant in French. In her spare time, she enjoys jazz music, creative writing, tree climbing, hiking, and cooking new dishes. She is in the process of learning to make latte art.







## **ALICE (ALLIE) DIPIETRO**

Allie was born and raised outside of Baltimore, Maryland, and was fortunate to travel often throughout her childhood. Her experiences abroad on family trips, school-sponsored excursions, and volunteer experiences around the globe gave her an early appreciation for intercultural immersion and spurred a commitment to learning multiple languages. Her formal Spanish studies began in first grade, and during her senior year of high school, she pursued AP Spanish and spent three weeks teaching English classes in Gijón, Spain, for her independent senior project.

Allie attended Washington & Lee University (W&L), where she studied business administration and Latin American and Caribbean studies (LACS), a multidisciplinary study of the region that included courses ranging from art history to politics. She graduated cum laude in 2019 and was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society and received the LACS department award. In 2017, she spent a semester abroad in Buenos Aires, living with a host family, studying at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, and exploring Argentina and the region.

After college, Allie moved to New York City and joined the Boston Consulting Group's New Jersey office. At BCG, she primarily worked with consumer goods clients on growth strategy and operations projects. She found particular interest in the consumer health space, where she worked with global clients to conduct consumer research and create go-to-market plans for growing brands that are working to solve challenging and pervasive health issues. She was also highly involved in office affiliation and was selected to serve as the office's youngest recruiting director in 2023.

At Wharton and Lauder, Allie looks forward to strengthening her Spanish skills and pursuing additional languages, connecting with globally minded peers, and merging her business acumen with her passion for travel and international studies. She is excited to see where this intersection takes her, whether it be deeper into consumer health with an international focus, the hospitality and tourism sector, or somewhere she has yet to discover.

Outside of school and work, Allie loves recreating in the outdoors. As a W&L Outing Club staff member, she led groups of students on several multiday backpacking trips throughout Virginia, and she is also a passionate runner and skier. She is an avid professional football (Ravens), hockey (Capitals), and baseball (Orioles) fan.





## DAVID MAXIMILIAN EHMKE

David was born and raised in a small German town at the French-Swiss border. From a young age, he was fascinated by travel and different cultures and chose to study Spanish as a third language after English and French in high school.

David earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Cooperative Education in Loerrach, Germany, where he studied business administration with a focus on international business. As part of this program, he worked with Roche Pharmaceuticals in six internships across the organization, culminating in a seven-month stay in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he worked with Roche's local affiliate's finance department and studied at the capital's Universidad de Belgrano. His interest in global topics, Latin America, and finance started to emerge and would only amplify over the next few years.

After graduating, David followed his interest in finance and started working with Texas Instruments. He spent the first two years in operational and financial roles in Germany, followed by a third year as a financial planning analyst at the regional headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. David thoroughly enjoyed the experience, learning basic Japanese and traveling the country to enrich his global perspectives.

Upon completing his expat assignment, David decided to go back to university to complement his corporate expertise with a Master of Finance degree at the University of Cambridge Judge Business School in the U.K. David then pivoted his career and started to work as a consultant with Alvarez & Marsal in London. As a senior associate, he worked on restructuring and corporate transformation engagements across Europe, the U.S., and Asia, focusing on working capital improvement, liquidity enhancement, and cash culture. He was also engaged in working groups including the on-campus recruiting activities for leading European business schools and supporting the talent acquisition team to upgrade processes and tools.

In the spring of 2022, a two-month sabbatical allowed David to further immerse himself in Latin America's challenges through a deep dive into Mexican history and contemporary politics. At Wharton and Lauder, he wants to continue his educational and professional journey through the continent, combine his corporate and advisory experience, gather more insights and, ultimately, support businesses to make a positive impact on the future of Latin America.

David speaks English, German, and Spanish. In his free time, he enjoys exploring the cuisines, histories, and music of Latin America, playing badminton, and spending time with friends and family.





## **MANUEL (MANNY) FIGUEROA**

Manny was born and raised in Houston, Texas. His father was an undocumented Salvadoran refugee. Growing up in a low-income community, he was exposed to many of the more challenging realities of life in America. Manny began questioning the state of affairs for not just his family, but those around him. He resolved to venture out and find the resources his community needed.

The first in his family to attend college, Manny was a member of the Class of 2018 at Dartmouth College. He majored in government and was a student leader on campus. He was a squad leader for the Dartmouth College Fencing Team, which culminated in a 2018 National Championship title, a spot in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Quincy Tirrell Cup for his leadership on the team. Manny was also on the Board of Executives at the Tabard, a gender-inclusive fraternity. His efforts were focused on building a welcoming, inclusive environment for members and guests through a variety of events. Separately, Manny was also heavily involved with the Center for Social Impact. He volunteered his time with America Reads, an after-school elementary reading program, and Upper Valley Haven, a food kitchen, and he spent a term working with at-risk high schoolers in the South Bronx, New York City, as their lead counselor.

Manny enlisted in the United States Army and began his service one week after graduating from college. His choice to enlist instead of commissioning was due to a pressing need to access the legal protection provided to undocumented family members of active duty military. Manny served five years as a cryptologic language analyst, specializing in Persian-Farsi. He distinguished himself with meritorious service as Team Lead, Directorate of Operations for the National Security Agency. He led a team of eight joint-service military analysts, supplying critical intelligence to deployed U.S. and coalition forces. He was also hand-selected to create and manage an initiative focused on adversary weapons development and manufacturing. His efforts helped shape national security policy in a heavily contested region of the world and he was recognized by the Secretary of Defense, the director of the NSA, and the Office of the President of the United States.

At Wharton and Lauder, Manny is most excited about further developing his leadership skills and exploring an idea he has for high-impact social outreach in underserved, multicultural communities.

In his spare time, you can find Manny dining at the next up-and-coming restaurant or at the gym, burning off all the delicious meals.





## LUCY FRIEDMANN

Lucy grew up in Providence, Rhode Island. Since the third grade, when her parents' love of French culture led to her enrollment in the French track at her elementary school, the language has served as a thread throughout her life. French is the official language of fencing, the sport in which Lucy competed for over half her life. By the end of middle school, she had earned a spot on the travel team at her local club and was competing at the national level.

Lucy was a recruited athlete at Yale University and fenced all four years as a starter. Graduating with honors in 2019, she majored in comparative literature with a focus on French and English languages. Her thesis research centered on the interplay of poverty, gender, and ambition in 19th century French and British literature.

After graduation, Lucy joined Amazon Web Services (AWS) as a member of the inaugural class of the Product Marketing Leadership Development Program. There, she developed fluency in the language of technology. In her almost four years at Amazon, Lucy worked for three distinct business units and learned how the process of technological innovation can differ across enterprises in a global conglomerate. While at AWS, she spearheaded strategy and execution of a first-of-its-kind rebrand of a service so important to the business that weekly updates were provided to the CEO. Most recently, she acted as a product marketing manager at Blink and drove the company's product positioning, packaging development, and launch strategy in the U.S., Europe, and Canada. Lucy's expertise on go-to-market process allowed Blink to launch its fastest-to-market product this year.

Through her work at Amazon, Lucy has realized that her passion lies with innovation, particularly in its early stage. At Wharton and Lauder, she is eager to build the skills to support early-stage ventures on an international scale.

Outside of work, Lucy is an avid reader, theater lover, and F45 fanatic. A member of the American Ballet Theatre's Junior Council Steering Committee, she collaborates with staff to revitalize membership programming as the ballet company and its audiences emerge from the pandemic. She also donates her time to escorting patients at Planned Parenthood.





## **SANTIAGO GONZALEZ CARDONA**

Santiago was born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia. He discovered his paramount interest in languages and cultural exploration while he was completing a middle-school exchange in Bournemouth, England, which became his main driver for the upcoming years. In 2010, he mastered German communication fundamentals during his International Exchange Program in Heilbronn, Germany, allowing him to help his classmates by building a bridge between English and German. In 2015, he spent a summer in Paris, France, studying at Université La Sorbonne, acknowledging the potential of learning a new language and unlocking a universe on how cultures embrace ideas and idiosyncratic principles. Following his soccer passion, he went to Brazil and Russia World Cups, and both times assumed a leadership role with his traveling mates. In 2014, he capitalized on Portuguese resemblances with Spanish to quickly master basic communication, and in 2018 he managed to understand the Russian alphabet to memorize keywords in public places.

Santiago graduated from business administration at Universidad de Los Andes. Motivated by his growing eagerness for quantitative skills, in 2018 he embarked on mergers and acquisitions investment banking at HBI, Evercore's boutique partner in Colombia, completing cross-border deals in renewable energies and health care. Seeking a more holistic skill set, in 2019 he joined Matrix Consulting, a leading regional management consulting firm. For five years, he worked with multicultural teams helping the largest and fastest-growing organizations in Latin America, including the world's leading beverage company, address their most complex managerial issues. His work spanned industries including consumer packaged goods, retail, mining, oil and gas, wine, fruits, packaging, agribusiness, entertainment, and real estate, covering on-site projects in Colombia, Peru, Chile, and Mexico. Besides his corporate career, reconnecting with his two-generation entrepreneurial roots, in 2020 he co-founded a microbrewery called Patria Cerveceria, a venture project following his lifelong engagement with beer's vast cultural background, production process, and industrial business model, with a creed beyond profit to improve the lives of individuals and communities in Colombia.

Santiago expects to grow integrally by exploring Wharton's hands-on and top-notch, innovation-driven entrepreneurship opportunities, leveraging Lauder's unique international focus as a catalyzer of potential venture breakthroughs. In his spare time, Santiago enjoys playing and watching soccer, cooking and exploring new culinary scenes, and compass-free traveling around the world. He speaks Spanish, English, German, French, and basic Portuguese.





## KEVIN GOTTFREDSON

Kevin, born in Colleyville, Texas, experienced a transformative shift when his family relocated to Fukuoka, Japan, at age 9. Exposed to international and Japanese schools, he developed a profound appreciation for diverse cultures. Upon returning to Texas, Kevin's fascination with cultural diversity persisted.

Taking a leave of absence from his undergraduate studies at Brigham Young University, Kevin embarked on a volunteer mission in Japan. This experience fueled his passion to pursue mechanical engineering with a minor in Japanese. Amid full-time studies, Kevin utilized his language skills to translate patents and legal documents, while also starting a small business repairing power cables. Under his leadership, he led a team that developed and patented a unique product – a safety attachment for outdoor valve handles. Kevin's love for music led him to play in the Utah Philharmonic orchestra during his university years. Additionally, he managed a Motown band, touring, playing festivals, and releasing an extended play album. Seeking practical experience, Kevin interned with notable companies including General Datatech, Dow Chemical Co., and Daikin Industries during his summers. These diverse opportunities across industries broadened his skill set.

Upon graduating, Kevin transitioned to management consulting at Bain & Company, where he gained expertise in management, strategy, and team leadership. He primarily served post-acquisition private equity companies, specializing in growth strategies and cost management across tech, oil and gas, utilities, and aerospace and defense.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kevin sought a change of pace and joined Ensign Peak Advisors as an investment analyst, focusing on portfolio strategy and fundamental equities. His responsibilities encompassed macroeconomic research and in-depth analysis of the technology, media, and telecom sectors.

Excited for his next chapter, Kevin enrolled at Wharton and Lauder to master Japanese language skills, which have proven valuable during his missionary work and time at Daikin Industries. He aims to strengthen his accounting and finance expertise and develop cultural and political acumen to become an effective global business leader.

Kevin boasts an eclectic group of interests: He enjoys cooking, baking, and chocolateeering, and takes great pleasure in trying new foods and restaurants. He actively seeks opportunities to collaborate with fellow musicians. He loves playing and watching sports, climbing, golfing, and camping. He speaks English, Japanese, and American Sign Language.





## **JULIEN GUIOT**

Julien was born and raised in the Washington, D.C., area with an American mother and a French father and grew up speaking French and English at home. Growing up in a bilingual household and spending time in both countries made Julien eager to take on new challenges and adventures, something which drove him to the Lauder program.

Julien earned his bachelor's degree in economics and French at Tufts University, where he graduated cum laude. Outside of academics, Julien was on the varsity sailing team all four years and was captain his senior year. He was also an active member of the Tufts Financial Group, serving as a research analyst focused on the energy and mining industries.

Julien began his professional career at Deloitte Consulting based in New York City. During this time, the majority of Julien's client service was focused on helping large multinational banks modernize their regulatory and compliance functions to reduce cost and operational risk. However, outside of his client work, driven by his passion for sustainability and combating climate change, Julien helped support multiple research papers on how energy and food companies should decarbonize. This passion led him to help develop Deloitte's sustainability services go-to-market strategy for his final project.

After nearly three years at Deloitte, Julien joined Via Transportation, a tech company focused on developing software for public transit agencies, on the Strategic Operations team as an associate principal. Julien focused on helping Via operate more efficiently at scale both by supporting its partnerships team to sell more effectively across more than 100 deals a year and by working with the finance team to drive down costs.

At Wharton and Lauder, Julien is eager to further develop his understanding of Francophone Africa and how emerging technologies can help address critical challenges in the food system. To support this interest, Julien wants to develop his skills in finance with a focus on venture finance as this will be a key enabler to help expand emerging technology adoption in Africa.

Outside of work and school, Julien enjoys the outdoors as an avid sailor, hiker, and biker in the summer and a skier in the winter. When not in nature, Julien loves to cook, run, play soccer, and shoot film photography.





## **S. MICHAEL HUCKABY**

Michael was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, before emigrating with his family to Santiago, Chile, at a young age. Raised bilingual by a Colombian mother and American father who met in Japan, Michael was brought up with a deep appreciation for multiculturalism and the importance of developing a global world view.

At age 19, Michael returned to the U.S. to pursue his undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in philosophy, politics, and economics (PPE) and a minor in Latin American studies. Eager to pursue work experiences that would also help challenge his cultural perspective, Michael decided to spend his summers abroad working at the United Nations in Rome, Italy, and later consulting in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Upon graduation, Michael joined Partners Group as a rotational financial analyst in their Denver, Colorado, headquarters, where he gained exposure to private equity across several teams before moving to New York City as an associate on the special situations team. During his tenure as an investment professional, Michael gained ample experience working on large corporate restructurings, underwriting complex rescue financings, evaluating portfolio company mergers and acquisitions strategies, and participating in boardroom discussions.

Outside of work, Michael has actively sought to support educational initiatives in Latin America through his involvement in Latin American Leadership Academy (LALA) as a mentor, in addition to serving as a standing member of the Partners Group Impact (Verein) Investment Committee, an employee-funded foundation focused on supporting entrepreneurial nonprofit organizations and social enterprises through grants and impact investments.

At Wharton and Lauder, Michael is eager to bridge his industry experience to explore the cross-border private market trends in Latin America and how they tie into the broader global economic framework. He is excited to advance his Portuguese fluency through immersion while simultaneously cultivating a deeper understanding of the historical, socioeconomic, and political dynamics that have continued to shape the region.

In his spare time, Michael enjoys freeride skiing, scuba diving, hiking through national parks, trying new restaurants, and reading philosophy. He is an avid traveler who has visited over 35 countries.







## NEHA JAIN

Neha was born in Paris, France, and grew up near Dallas, Texas. Growing up in a semi-nomadic, multilingual family that often traveled to India and Europe to see family and friends, Neha learned multilingualism was key to creating deep bonds around the world. A National Merit Scholar, she studied Spanish and Mandarin and was in her school's Medical Academy where she began to study the complex system that is the human body and its health.

At Columbia University, Neha studied industrial engineering/operations research and entrepreneurship, continuing her passion for understanding complex systems and improvement through innovation. She implemented this passion as student body president, designing and executing policies fostering diversity and inclusion for which she received the Indelible Mark Award. Off campus, she explored systems improvement through supporting President Obama's global climate change strategy at the White House, improving data flows for New York's pension system at Accenture, and supporting the 3G rollout at China Telecom in Shanghai as a Columbia Presidential Global Fellow. She also enjoyed serving as a resident advisor, Chinese Students Club executive member, and Wushu team member.

Post-graduation as a Fulbright Scholar in Taiwan, Neha taught English and volunteered in the community. She was thoroughly impressed by the Taiwanese health care system's affordability and quality, and the balance between East and West as traditional Chinese medicine kept most illness at bay, but Western methods were deployed as fail-safes.

As a management consultant at Oliver Wyman, Neha devoted herself to applying Taiwan's health care best practices to the U.S. For five years, Neha led teams as an engagement manager to design prevention-focused insurance plans, transform insurer operations to support preventive care, negotiate deals between incumbents and innovative prevention-focused startups, and more. She supported clients in transitioning millions of patients and billions of dollars to more effective health care practices. At OW, Neha received leadership awards for recruiting dozens of new employees and enhancing inclusion for marginalized colleagues.

At Wharton and Lauder, Neha is excited to continue studying best practices from leading global health care systems and explore how to propagate these practices in the U.S., whether through consulting, venture capital, or entrepreneurship.

In her free time, Neha enjoys experimenting with traditional Indian medicine and psychosomatic wellness techniques, singing everything from pop to opera, fine dining, comedy writing, and spending time with family and friends around the world.





## **BILLY KACYEM**

Born and raised in Yaoundé, Cameroon, Billy was forced to face the realities of economic underdevelopment, exacerbated by inefficient policies and improper capital allocation, from a young age. These realities were emphasized after he moved to the United States in 2010, where Billy learned the importance of a necessary condition for economic success: an established and protected private sector bolstered by sound regulations, a true competitive market, and broad access to capital. He made it an objective to further his understanding of the driving factors behind the United States' rapid growth into an economic powerhouse, with the larger goal of becoming a leader who will help reshape the economy of Cameroon and other sub-Saharan African nations to foster a more sustainable private sector.

After graduating from high school in Kings Park, New York, Billy attended the University of Pennsylvania as part of the Huntsman Program Class of 2018, double majoring in economics and international studies. The interdisciplinary curriculum helped him grasp the importance of understanding the sociocultural, economic and political dynamics of a region as a unit. Studying abroad in Lyon, France, facilitated a more worldly view, as he learned from elements of another culture and adopted them as additional angles from which to practically contextualize theoretical business concepts.

Upon graduation, Billy joined J.P. Morgan, where he served as a client executive for asset owners (e.g., public funds, endowments and foundations, corporate pensions, Taft Hartley) in the U.S. He also generated incremental and new business opportunities via pre- and post-trade solutions such as custody, fund accounting, and performance measurement. Billy successfully won his business' first new public fund mandate in over five years, negotiated various multiyear contract extensions with marquee public funds, and increased the revenue potential of existing clients through fee reprices and new products.

While at Wharton and Lauder, Billy seeks to deepen his understanding of sub-Saharan Africa's private sector as well as the key sociopolitical, fiscal, and geographic spheres of influence that surround them. He hopes to work for an investment firm or fund with a core focus on the region, where he can bring innovative perspectives shaped by his previous experience within finance and upbringing across various cultures.

In his spare time, Billy enjoys listening to kompa, cooking, running, and spending time with his nephew. Billy is fluent in French and English.





## JAMES KAKISINGI

Originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, James was born in Douala, Cameroon. He grew up in a multilingual home with French, English, and Swahili as the main languages. Upon completing high school, his curiosity to understand cultures led him to live in Singapore for a few months, which sparked his desire to study outside his home country.

At 18, he moved to the Netherlands to pursue a Bachelor's of Business Administration on a scholarship at the Hanze University of Groningen. While pursuing his degree, James spent a semester at ESSEC Business School in Paris, focusing on finance and geopolitics.

After his studies, James worked in business development consulting at EuroDev, a Dutch boutique consulting firm. At EuroDev, James served North American health care companies and helped them design and execute growth strategies to increase their top line and expand their presence across Europe.

Seeking to expand his skill set and explore the technology industry, James joined the cloud data services firm NetApp, where he rose through the ranks to become a senior cloud specialist focused on Amazon Web Services (AWS), leading NetApp's cloud go-to-market strategy and execution in Central Eastern Europe and Africa. During his time at NetApp, James revamped NetApp's cloud commercial focus in emerging markets, built a network of innovative cloud partners across seven countries, and exponentially increased revenues within these regions.

Beyond his professional engagements, James is passionate about supporting youths in Africa. In 2020, James launched The Urega Foundation to honor his late father, a medical doctor and social entrepreneur. Since launching the nonprofit, James has raised over \$30,000 to support the education of Cameroonian high school students who experienced war or profoundly challenging life circumstances that hindered their education. He and his team have changed the lives of 60 youths, many of whom are pursuing their education in the United States and across the world.

At Wharton, James is excited to explore innovative ways to channel capital into making an impact in Africa. At Lauder, James aims to deepen his understanding of the cultural, political, and historical context of current wars and conflicts in Eastern and Central Africa and explore social entrepreneurship's role in helping revive the communities affected. In his free time, James can be found either on a tennis court or watching a tennis match. He also loves taking long walks daily.





## **EDWARD KALAYDJIAN**

Ed was born in Montreal, Canada, where he grew up in a mixed Francophone and Anglophone household with a multicultural family of Armenian and Syrian descents. He spent the majority of his formative years attending French schools in Montreal, but spent the final two years of high school at The Hotchkiss School in Connecticut.

Inspired by an interest in diplomacy, Ed pursued a Bachelor's of Science in foreign service at Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, where he graduated magna cum laude in the global business major with proficiency in Spanish. During his years at Georgetown, Ed was involved with a variety of on-campus extracurriculars, notably running Hilltop Consultants, a student-run consultancy focused on supporting nonprofits, acting as an official university tour guide, working for the Georgetown University Student Investment Fund, and volunteering as a literacy tutor in Washington D.C.'s Ward 8 neighborhood. Ed also gained experience through internships during his undergraduate years, notably in international law at Winston & Strawn in London, and with Morgan Stanley's investment bank in New York City.

Upon graduating from Georgetown in 2020, Ed began his career at McKinsey & Company with a desire to deepen his understanding of the intersection of the public and private sectors. During his first two years as a consultant, he gained experience in a range of fields serving both private equity investors as well as public sector clients within the Canadian federal government. Driven by a desire to deepen his understanding of emerging markets and to gain experience in the nonprofit space, Ed left for a secondment in the spring of 2022 to join One Acre Fund's Innovation Lab in Nairobi. Over the eight months that Ed spent in Kenya, he helped the social enterprise nonprofit design, develop, and launch new microfinance pilot programs to better serve the target farmer population with an emphasis on drought-resistant programs.

At Wharton and Lauder, Ed is excited to sharpen his financial acumen, develop a more holistic knowledge base of global emerging markets, and foster meaningful relationships with like-minded students to help catalyze a future career focused on impact-investing. In his free time, Ed is an avid ski-tourer, which is the sport of climbing mountains with skis on, natural wine enthusiast, house music fan, and (very) amateur sketch artist.





## **DHRITI KAMAT**

Dhriti's journey has been defined by constant forward movement and cultural exploration. With an upbringing that spanned five countries, including Luxembourg, India, Germany, Poland, and the U.K., he developed a deep empathy with European and Asian cultural identities. Dhriti's ability to forge connections across languages and borders while remaining anchored in his roots has shaped his globalist perspective and reinforced his belief in the transformative power of intercultural exchange.

After graduating from the University of Warwick with a degree in economics, Dhriti moved to London to work in consulting. Through his time at Deloitte and Wavestone, Dhriti focused on digitizing the workforce, working in Europe and the Middle East. His projects focused on designing and executing technology transformations that unlock productivity in corporate and frontline workforces. Collaborating with multinational organizations, including French, British, and Middle Eastern banking institutions, Dhriti successfully advised on technology transformations that redesigned HR technology stacks to create more digital journeys, helping to drive efficiencies in work performance and organizational agility.

Dhriti is motivated by a deep-rooted passion for reskilling the workforce, and he wishes use his time Wharton and Lauder as a platform to help empower more people and organizations with technology. His goal is to work across industries to consult on how technology can be leveraged to impact workforce effectiveness. Dhriti wants to help companies orchestrate the right operating and future of work models at scale, and he envisions working alongside corporate and humanitarian leaders, addressing the pressing challenges of frontline labor market restructuring.

At Wharton and Lauder, Dhriti looks forward to strengthening his language skills and expanding his perspectives on international challenges and their solutions. He also hopes to expand his global perspective by engaging with a diverse cohort of international peers, enriching the dialogue at Wharton and Lauder with his multicultural insights. Dhriti looks forward to fostering strong relationships within the close-knit Lauder community and contributing to its growth within the broader Wharton ecosystem.

Dhriti is fluent in Hindi, Konkani, and Marathi, and has some knowledge of German. In his spare time, Dhriti likes to keep active. He is an avid cricket fan, having represented Luxembourg's national team. Dhriti also loves to hike and camp, and is keen to further explore the U.S. national parks.





## ANDREW KIM

Born in the southeast corner of Seoul, South Korea, Andrew immigrated to Seattle in 2006, shortly after South Korea's disappointing defeat at the 2006 World Cup. Along with the immigration came the birth of his Korean American identity: Andrew filled his wardrobe exclusively with Hollister flannel shirts, traded in his soccer ball for a basketball, and memorized all the lyrics to songs by Boyz II Men and Brian McKnight.

After high school, Andrew moved across country to attend Amherst College in Massachusetts, where he graduated with honors in mathematics and history. While in college, he studied abroad in South Korea, wrote his senior thesis on the Bay Area's Asian American movement, and served on the College's Asian Student Association. These experiences further sharpened – and challenged – his understanding of his own cultural identity in relation to both Korea and America, countries that have indelibly shaped the way he interacts with the world.

Following his graduation in 2018, Andrew started work as a business analyst at ION Trading, a fintech company based in New York. There, he analyzed ION's vendor contracts to consolidate cross-regional expenditure and drafted regulatory reports for ION's mid-market customers. After a year, Andrew moved to Bulgaria to teach English through the Fulbright Foundation. He was responsible for teaching more than 300 high school students and coaching the school's 40-person debate team.

Most recently, Andrew worked as an account executive at LinkedIn, partnering with seed-stage startups to help them utilize LinkedIn for recruitment and retention. As a salesperson, Andrew cut his teeth at negotiating with C-level executives, driving deals from prospect to closed won, and leading deal strategy sessions with his team members. Andrew finished his FY2023 Q3 as the No. 1 performer in an 80-person organization and was the only representative to hit the half quota three months in advance.

Drawing from his experience working closely with startup founders, Andrew plans to study the geopolitical and cultural differences between Korea and America's startup ecosystem and their effect on entrepreneurs. He's excited to meet like-minded peers and learn from one another at Wharton and Lauder.

Outside the classroom, Andrew can still be found playing basketball and scouring the internet for new '90s R&B songs. Unfortunately, he no longer wears his Hollister flannel shirts.





## YOON JOO KIM

Yoon Joo was born in Seoul, South Korea, and moved to Tokyo, Japan, with her family when she was 9. She attended an international school in Tokyo, where she joined a tight-knit community of diverse cultures and learned Japanese, English, and Spanish. At 14, Yoon Joo moved back to Seoul with her parents and gained a newfound appreciation for her Korean background. She fostered an interest in global policy and participated in Model United Nations, attending international conferences in Beijing, Boston, and Singapore. Her multicultural education sparked a lifelong passion for bridging cultures.

Yoon Joo graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in cognitive neuroscience. At Penn, she served as president of Wharton Korea Undergraduate Business Society, chair of external affairs for the Korean Students Association, and diversity chair for Sigma Kappa. In addition, Yoon Joo was passionate about community outreach and tutored with the West Philadelphia Tutoring Project at the Civic House.

After graduating from Penn, Yoon Joo joined Goldman Sachs as an analyst in the international sales trading team in Tokyo. She deepened her knowledge of Japanese equities and worked closely to manage client accounts, including global hedge funds and asset managers. In her first year, Yoon Joo was elected as a member of the Analyst and Associate Council. During her tenure, she led diversity and inclusion efforts by organizing roundtable discussions and networking sessions. More recently, she relocated to New York as an associate to lead U.S. synthetic product coverage of Asian institutional clients. Over two years, she won the trading mandate of a sovereign wealth fund and asset managers based in Korea and Japan. Outside of work, she volunteered with Apex For Youth and led weekly reading clubs with elementary students in New York City to empower Asian and immigrant youth.

Yoon Joo's career in Asia and the United States shaped her view that culture drives business decisions. At Wharton and Lauder, she is excited to further refine her Japanese language skills and build on her knowledge of global business.

In her free time, Yoon Joo enjoys hot yoga and boxing. She ventures outdoors as well, diving in the summer and skiing in the winter. Cooking is also one of her languages of cultural fluency; her favorite dish to cook is doenjang-jigae.





## JUSTIN KOEHLER

Justin (pronouns: he/him) is a German-American dual citizen who grew up in the Bay Area of San Francisco and rural Bavaria. Justin has ties to Germany on both sides of the family; his mother grew up near Munich, and his father's family is from Hamburg.

At the University of Michigan, Justin earned sequential bachelor's and master's degrees in industrial and operations engineering. Interested in exploring intercultural elements of systems thinking, he engaged in the Engineering Global Leadership (EGL) Honors Program and the Tauber Institute for Global Operations, a joint venture between the College of Engineering and Ross School of Business, where he studied German and global business topics. On campus, he served as regent of Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity, planned service trips as EGL's volunteer abroad coordinator, and taught optimization and lean manufacturing courses as a graduate student instructor. For his master's capstone project, Justin worked as a consultant to the CEO of Youth for Understanding (YFU) USA in Washington, D.C., a student education and exchange nonprofit founded post-WWII to repair relations between Germany and the U.S.

After graduation, Justin joined Boeing Commercial Airplanes as an industrial engineer in Seattle, Washington, where he focused on raw material procurement analytics, optimization, and supplier management. As business lead for a large-scale SAP implementation, Justin configured and implemented the advanced planning and optimization module supporting all aluminum and titanium commodity procurement.

In 2018, Justin transitioned to a fast-paced tech supply chain role at Cisco in San Jose, California. In the Product Operations organization, Justin migrated security software offers to a subscription billing platform with auto-renew enabled to drive recurring revenue. Most recently, as a new product program manager, Justin mitigated material shortages through the COVID-19 pandemic, leading a cross-functional team to launch manufacturing lines in China and Mexico for new models of Catalyst 9300 enterprise switches.

At Wharton and Lauder, Justin looks forward to advancing his German fluency and gaining business knowledge to re-imagine global supply chains of the future and integrate leading sustainability practices into operations.

Justin is passionate about advocating for and uplifting the queer community. He has been involved with the volunteer-led LGBTQ2+ organization Out for Undergrad (O4U) since 2015 and served as sponsorship lead for the O4U Engineering Conference, coordinating a team of volunteers to develop corporate partnerships. In his free time, Justin enjoys practicing yoga and playing tennis and volleyball.







## MARIA IGNACIA LEIVA CROSSLEY

Maria Ignacia Leiva Crossley was born in Santiago, Chile. In September 2010, at age 15, she entered Overbrook Academy in Massachusetts. This boarding school offered her first meaningful intercultural experience. During her year at Overbrook Academy, Maria Ignacia learned a valuable lesson for her future professional and personal development: She realized a world comprised of diverse cultures and peoples requires flexibility and tolerance for a successful performance.

In 2016, Maria Ignacia resolved to complete a one-year minor in international business at the Darla Moore School of Business of the University of South Carolina. While there, she participated in the International Student Advisor Council, a student club to increase representation of international employees in local companies and promote business between local and global companies.

In June 2018, she started an internship in the Hong Kong branch of ProChile, an agency of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile. Her ProChile experience helped her professional and personal development as she joined multicultural teams comprised of individuals from Hong Kong, Chile, and Mainland China, learning about teamwork, soft skills, and collaborative leadership.

In early 2019, after returning to Chile, Maria Ignacia graduated from the University of Chile with a Bachelor of Science in business administration. She then joined the family holding company. She took up the CEO position at Agrícola La Capellania, a subsidiary with 90 permanent employees and 1,000 temporary workers. After four years, efficient agricultural management resulted in an increase of 55% in production. Moreover, she implemented state-of-the-art technology at the technical level to secure high agricultural production standards.

At Wharton and Lauder, Maria Ignacia hopes to master her business knowledge to meet the increasing demands of the agriculture industry. By networking with the world's successful climate leaders who have spent years studying, devising, and proposing cutting-edge solutions, Maria Ignacia will transform her professional performance into an original and innovative contribution to agriculture in Chile and its impact on the international market. She also hopes that meeting world-class female leaders and learning from their inspiring stories will equip her with the best tools to be a true leader in her society.





## MICHELLE LI

Michelle was born and raised in New Jersey. She spent her summers abroad, visiting extended family in both northern and southern China. She and her family later moved to Beijing as her dad started developing his real estate business. In Beijing, Michelle attended international school, where she studied both French and Mandarin.

In college, Michelle majored in international relations and business at the University of Southern California, where she took classes on foreign policy, Asian economies, as well as international finance. During summer breaks, she completed internships at a hedge fund in New York City and the Financial Times in Beijing. Michelle graduated from USC a semester early and moved to Washington, D.C., for two months for an internship in political affairs.

Following graduation, Michelle moved to New York City and worked at Walmart eCommerce on the grocery team, where she first developed an interest in the food space. At Walmart, Michelle worked on developing category strategy, enhancing the digital shopping experience, and growing relationships with Fortune 500 consumer packaged goods companies. Once the COVID-19 pandemic began, Michelle also led initiatives to curb price gouging and manage inventory. Michelle later moved to SmartAsset, a fintech startup, to gain a better understanding of how businesses grow from the ground up. She led the Financial Products team, where she contributed to increasing revenue growth and profit, and assisted with product development and long-term product planning.

At Wharton and Lauder, Michelle looks forward to furthering her cultural understanding of East and Southeast Asia, building global connections, and improving her Mandarin in business contexts. She is also interested in learning more about the foodtech and agtech space and hopes to eventually move to Europe or Asia.

In her free time, Michelle enjoys pottery, running, reading contemporary fiction, and trying new restaurants.





## VICTOR LI

Victor was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He immigrated to Sydney, Australia, at the age of 4 and grew up as an Australian Chinese. Frequent trips to visit family back in Beijing sparked an interest in his Chinese roots and a passion for intercultural exchange.

During his undergraduate studies, Victor transformed this interest into a foundation for his career. While attending the University of Sydney, he elected to complete a bachelor's degree in Chinese studies in addition to his finance and economics majors. He would balance his commitments as president of the investing society and a director of 180 Degrees Consulting with summer terms at Fudan and Peking University and internships with Chinese investment firms. In his final year in 2019, he studied at the University of Hong Kong as a Westpac Asian Exchange Scholar. This transformative semester provided Victor with a greater appreciation of the Greater China region, convincing him that this was the ideal location to pursue his personal and professional interests.

Victor then started his career as a consultant in the Hong Kong office of Bain & Company. As one of the few members of his Greater China cohort with a Western background, he thrived on pan-Asia projects for multinational corporations, ranging from fast-moving consumer goods strategy to post-merger integration work. He developed his analytical skills and understanding of emerging sectors in Mainland China by completing a private equity rotation in the Shanghai office, during which he led workstreams on several commercial due diligences with a focus on industrial technology and renewable energy. He then continued his work in heavy industry by working closely with site employees to implement operational initiatives.

At Wharton and Lauder, Victor intends to build on his experience working in Greater China and his interest in sustainability and artificial intelligence with a deeper understanding of the cultural and geopolitical dynamics that will shape the future of the surrounding region.

In his free time, Victor enjoys playing poker, following the English Premier League, and reliving the glory of his short-lived competitive eSports career. His favorite ways to stay active are hiking and weightlifting.





## JESSICA LIN

Jessica was born in Memphis, Tennessee, to Chinese parents and grew up in Edina, Minnesota. She spent her early childhood in Cupertino, California, and Hunan, China, where she learned to eat spicy food and lived with her grandparents, who set up a strong foundation for her connection to her heritage. Even after moving to Minnesota, she remained immersed in Chinese culture thanks to her family. She grew up playing the guzheng, going to Chinese school, learning ink painting and participating in Chinese dance.

Jessica studied finance and accounting at Washington University in St. Louis. She was heavily involved in Lunar New Year Festival (LNYF), one of the largest cultural shows on campus that shares Asian culture and celebration with the campus and broader St. Louis community. She led the 200-person group to expand LNYF's mission of exploring Asian heritage and social issues found in Asian culture.

After graduating, Jessica began her career at Travelers in their Fixed Income department, where she learned about credit analysis and contributed to the investment decisions of the \$70 billion portfolio. While at Travelers, Jessica covered health care, tech media and telecom, and consumer and retail sectors. She loved what she learned about the technology industry and had the opportunity to take her analysis skills to Apple, where she managed her own credit limit portfolio and worked closely with different internal partners and business customers to ensure seamless cashflow. At Apple, Jessica established credit relations with new partners and contributed to the creation of a new avenue for retail customers to purchase Apple products.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jessica is excited to further explore her own heritage and expand her worldview. She looks forward to gaining deeper knowledge of the political and economic climate of Asia, building her intercultural leadership skills, and learning about other cultures from her fellow students.

Outside the classroom, Jessica can be found messing around in the kitchen, painting watercolor landscapes and traditional Chinese ink drawings, and petting every dog that passes by.





## **THOMAS MADDOX**

Tommy was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. He was taught Spanish from an early age by his Chilean babysitter, who became a beloved extended member of his family. This early exposure to another language and culture helped instill in him a love of language, geography, and world history that would grow throughout his life.

Tommy earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the United States Military Academy at West Point. While at West Point, Tommy elected to learn Portuguese and completed a semester abroad at the University of Brasilia in fall 2015. He was a member of the West Point Scuba Team, where he became a certified Divemaster, instructed and certified hundreds of new divers, and completed international team diving trips in Mexico, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic.

Following graduation, he was commissioned as an infantry officer in the United States Army. He was first stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, where he completed the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course and Ranger School. From June 2018 to September 2022, Tommy was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. As an infantry platoon leader, he completed training deployments to Australia and Indonesia. As an operations officer, he established an international network of over 15 countries throughout the Indo-Pacific area, committed to advancing jungle warfare techniques following the COVID-19 pandemic. In September 2022, Tommy left the Army to gain private sector experience. He returned to Utah and served in a management role at Blue Raven Solar before leaving for the Lauder summer term.

While at Wharton and Lauder, he looks forward to developing his business leadership competencies to one day lead an enterprise of his own. He is excited to continue his passion for international travel and making timeless connections. In his spare time, Tommy enjoys keeping up with his favorite sports teams, backcountry camping, scuba diving, DIY projects, and learning new skills.





## **GREGORY MCLEAN**

Greg was born near Toronto, Canada, but moved with his family to Bangkok, Thailand, as a teenager. In Thailand, he was exposed to his first truly multicultural environment at the international school he attended, and it was there that he began developing the perspective of a global citizen. His education in Asia, together with summers spent in North America, led to the growth of his interests in international affairs, politics, and business.

Greg attended the University of Toronto for his undergraduate studies, earning his Bachelor of Commerce with high distinction. He double majored in economics and finance, which allowed him to learn more about the global systems of capital and business that govern countries and companies across the world. He was also actively involved in the university community as a trumpet player, choir member, investment club analyst, and volunteer consultant.

After graduation, Greg began working at Realstar Group, an international commercial real estate firm that manages private equity funds. His career there began with a focus on multi-family apartment operations and asset management. However, he quickly moved into fund management, earning promotions into progressively senior roles focused on investment decision-making for the funds. He also worked on debt financing, capital raising, and investor relations in his role as a fund manager. While at the firm, he obtained his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) designations.

To further his passion for environmental protection, Greg volunteers on the board of the Canadian Organization for Tropical Education and Rainforest Conservation, a charity that manages a rainforest conservation site in Costa Rica. He also volunteers with Junior Achievement, a global youth and education charity, where he teaches young students about personal finance.

At Wharton and Lauder, Greg plans to leverage his finance background with a top graduate education to work on pressing global challenges such as the climate crisis and the housing shortage. He believes that with thoughtful leadership and partnership across public and private sectors, his work in finance can make the world a more sustainable place.

In his spare time, Greg enjoys snowboarding, dancing, learning languages, cooking – and being mediocre at any sport he tries.





## SHARVANI MEHTA

Born in India and raised in the United States after immigrating with her family when she was almost 2 years old, Sharvani grew up with a deep love for her South Asian roots while also trying to fit in at schools where she was sometimes the only Indian American in the classroom. On trips to visit family in India, she grew to appreciate the similarities and differences between the lifestyles in her grandparents' hometown of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and her own in Richmond, Virginia.

A foreign language-intensive curriculum enabled Sharvani to learn French and Arabic while in high school. She graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor's in Commerce, double majoring in marketing and information technology and earning a minor in South Asian Studies. Inspired by her grandmother's role in the household as the steady breadwinner for more than three decades, Sharvani focused her senior thesis on analyzing the gendered impact of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2016 demonetization policy on Indian women's financial independence.

After graduation, Sharvani spent the next four years at Deloitte Consulting in Arlington, Virginia, advising government clients on how best to prioritize their customers, put the American people at the heart of public service delivery, and build stronger relationships with agency and industry partners. She led the workstream that delivered one of the first-ever Customer Experience (CX) strategies in the defense space, enabling a culture and mindset shift towards customer centricity within a traditionally rigid organization.

At Wharton and Lauder, Sharvani plans to merge her experience in customer-first thinking with her passion for South Asian studies to develop a human-centered solution that advances financial literacy and economic independence for South Asian women. More broadly, she is excited to expand her perspective to be more globally inclusive, elevate her Hindi language skills, and prepare to make an impact in the consumer goods and social entrepreneurship industries.

In her free time, Sharvani enjoys reading (especially memoirs by pioneering women), cooking up plant-forward dishes, trying new restaurants as a Yelp Elite reviewer, and exploring the local arts and culture scene with friends.





## **WILLIAM MISITANO**

William was born and raised in Oceanside, New York, and graduated from Carnegie Mellon University, majoring in international relations and politics with a student-defined minor in Arabic and Middle Eastern studies. He had the opportunity to spend a week at Carnegie Mellon's campus in Doha, Qatar, where he spent time with students, learned about the history and culture of Qatar and the Middle East, and began to appreciate learning in a globally diverse environment.

While at Carnegie Mellon, William was a member of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps and participated in a foreign language study program that allowed him study Arabic in Amman, Jordan, through the Qasid Language Institute.

In 2015, William commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy and went on to complete his training to become a submarine warfare officer by attending Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina, and the Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York. Following his training, he served three years aboard the USS Jacksonville, a Los Angeles Class submarine based out of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and completed its final deployment. Following the deployment, William conducted a change of home port to Bremerton, Washington, for the submarine's decommissioning in 2021. As the main propulsion assistant on the USS Jacksonville, William and his sailors were responsible for all nuclear related mechanical systems onboard the submarine. He also served as the audit and surveillance officer. Following his time on the submarine, William was stationed in Manama, Bahrain, at the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet Headquarters, where he served as the strike officer. Although he was unable to travel around the region due to the COVID-19 pandemic, William welcomed the opportunity to live abroad and use his Arabic daily.

After Bahrain, he was stationed at the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in Washington, D.C., where he served as an analyst at the Nimitz Warfare Analysis Center. While at ONI, William focused on adversary undersea capabilities and provided intelligence updates to the fleet.

At Wharton and Lauder, William is looking forward to strengthening his Arabic language skills and exploring sustainable sources of energy, especially nuclear power, which would help to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

In his free time, William enjoys reading and making fresh, hand-made pasta.







## **KENECHI NDILI**

Kenechi was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and spent the first eight years of her life in Houston, Texas, before moving with her family to Lagos, Nigeria. After a few years in Nigeria, she moved on to the United Kingdom for secondary school. Growing up across different cultures sparked an interest in the cross-cultural experience.

Expanding on this interest, Kenechi studied sociology and social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh before earning a Master of Science in anthropology and development management from the London School of Economics.

After graduation, Kenechi began her career at Access Bank in Nigeria, where she focused on HR-business partnering and culture integration through the bank's merger with Diamond Bank in 2019. Looking to have more social impact, she transitioned to the advocacy organization Nigeria Health Watch, where she partnered with organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, Facebook, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to develop awareness around key challenges in the Nigerian health care sector.

At Wharton and Lauder, Kenechi hopes to advance her French fluency while deepening her understanding of the Francophone African social and economic landscape, with the hopes of developing sustainable solutions that can bridge the gap between the Francophone and Anglophone business environments.

In her spare time, Kenechi likes reading books, traveling, swimming, golf, and throwing dinner parties for friends.





## **BENJAMIN PARKER**

Ben grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he fell in love with its diverse mix of cultures, its music, and most importantly, its food. From an early age, he viewed cuisine as the best way to get to know other cultures, a value he keeps with him to this day.

Ben deferred enrolling at Princeton University for a year in order to participate in Princeton's Bridge Year program, during which he lived in Kunming, China, with a host family for nine months and volunteered at a local nongovernmental organization. Spending time abroad laid the groundwork for Ben's passion for international relations. After returning to the U.S., he majored in politics with a concentration in Chinese language and culture. At Princeton, Ben was a lightweight rower in his freshman year and later joined an a cappella group and the Glee Club. He also spent two summers back in East Asia: one in Beijing participating in a Mandarin immersion program, and another interning at the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei. Ben's senior thesis explored China's economic statecraft in Latin and South America.

After graduating in May 2020, Ben continued to work on China-related topics, spending six months as a research intern with the China Power Project, part of the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank. There, he explored China's efforts to improve its military, economic, and diplomatic capabilities. In February 2021, he joined Rhodium Group, a China-focused macroeconomic and policy research firm. At Rhodium, Ben was the primary research analyst on a multiyear project cataloging and analyzing China's economic statecraft, including a deep dive into the obstacles faced by multinational companies operating in mainland China. He also worked on other topics including a series of reports on the impact of Chinese investment on Southeast Asian countries and a paper on the future of China's digital currency.

At Wharton and Lauder, Ben hopes to further hone his Mandarin skills and better understand the complex political, economic, and interpersonal relationships between the U.S. and China. Ben believes that by fostering business and personal ties, the two countries can work together to solve global problems.

In his spare time, Ben enjoys playing tennis, singing, cooking with friends, and hosting dinner parties.





## MALLIKA PATKAR

Mallika was born in Northern Virginia to Indian parents. Regular childhood visits to India sparked her interest in social mobility and development, not just in the context of her own family's experience, but in emerging economies more broadly. The formative years of her life were formative to India's economy as well, and witnessing the country's rapid but inequitable growth inspired her academic and professional ambitions.

At Columbia University, Mallika studied economics and political science in order to deepen her understanding of geopolitics and theories of international development. Driven by a passion for languages and a desire to gain a more global perspective, Mallika studied abroad in both Amman, Jordan, and Paris, France, during her undergraduate education.

Shortly after graduating, Mallika moved to Paris to join AXA's financial inclusion division, AXA Emerging Customers. While there, she was able to explore the critical role insurance plays in fostering financial resilience and supporting economic development across both emerging and mature economies. Mallika has worked across 15 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe to develop insurance solutions for underserved populations, including smallholder farmers, independent workers and migrant workers. With a strong focus on understanding the customer and ensuring that solutions are relevant to their needs, Mallika conducted in-depth field work in the Philippines, Egypt, India, and Thailand. In order to hold the business accountable to its social mission, Mallika was instrumental in designing and managing the impact measurement practice of AXA Emerging Customers.

At Wharton and Lauder, Mallika plans to further explore the role of the private sector in supporting economic development. She is excited to focus on Africa in order to consider the intersection of economic development and climate change in the region and continue developing French language skills. As an avid traveler – having visited over 30 countries so far – she is looking forward to new global experiences.

Her curiosity for the world translates naturally into a love of food, and in her free time she is constantly trying new cuisines and recipes. In addition to being an avid foodie, she also enjoys exploring art museums and practicing archery, which she used to shoot competitively (You can still trust her with an apple on your head, though!).





## SEBASTIÁN PRIETO VASQUEZ

Sebastian was born in Bogota, Colombia, before moving to Zurich, Switzerland. Growing up in an international school, he learned early on the value of different perspectives and beauty of different cultures. While embracing his identity as a “third culture kid,” Sebastian holds his Latino heritage close to his heart.

He earned his bachelor's degree in economics with a minor in business administration from Boston University. While specializing in macroeconomics and banking theory, he also indulged in his interest in astronomy, completing several semesters of coursework. Alongside academics, Sebastian also competed as an NCAA Division 1 decathlete, representing Boston University's Track & Field team. Additionally, he held leadership roles in the university's Undergraduate Economics Association and Finance Club.

Sebastian's professional journey led him to Singapore, where he worked for six years in J.P. Morgan's Sales and Trading division. Within this role, he specialized in trading foreign exchange and interest rate derivatives, specifically focused on Asian markets. His clients ranged from large asset managers and hedge funds to sovereign wealth funds and central banks. Sebastian managed a client portfolio and advised them on navigating the complex landscape of global macroeconomics and geopolitical developments.

At Wharton, Sebastian's focus will center around investment valuation and private equity coursework. He aspires to pursue a career in alternative investments, with a particular interest in the space industry. At Lauder, he looks forward to developing the skills necessary to succeed in a highly interconnected global environment. Specifically, he is looking forward to the strong humanities curriculum at Lauder to enhance his global perspective and elegantly complement business studies at Wharton by providing a lens through which to frame his learning.

Outside of academics and work, Sebastian has been involved with the Special Olympics for the last 10 years. He is also active with Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, an organization dedicated to help young Black and Hispanic professionals break into finance.

During his free time, Sebastian delights in the adventure of mountaineering. He seeks to climb two of the Seven Summits: Aconcagua in South America, and Vinson Massif in Antarctica.





## **JENNIFER NICOLE PULIDO**

Jennifer was born and raised in Miami, Florida, to Colombian parents. She grew up in a vibrant community with immigrants from across Latin America and the world. This exposure to so many different cultures instilled her with a curiosity about the world and a desire to explore it.

She attended Stanford University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in computer science and a Bachelor of Arts in comparative studies in race and ethnicity. While at Stanford, Jennifer was president of her sorority, Sigma Theta Psi, and vice president of the Society of Latinx Engineers. She was also on the leadership team of two dance troupes: Akasma Bellydance and Catch-A-Fyah Caribbean Dance.

Jennifer began her professional career at PayPal, working with a portfolio of Latin American merchants, which allowed her to gain an understanding of how negotiation and decision-making is influenced by the culture and history of a country. While at PayPal, she served as a core team member for Unity, the Women @ PayPal community and as the global co-chair of Aliados, the Latinx @ PayPal community, helping diverse professionals to break into tech and mentoring students interested in STEM.

Jennifer pivoted into a product management role at Book of the Month, a book subscription startup with over 400,000 subscribers. While at Book of the Month, she oversaw the launch of audiobooks and the expansion into Canada, two new revenue streams for the company.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jennifer is excited to develop her understanding of the business landscape in Latin America and hone her Portuguese language skills. She also looks forward to analyzing what factors go into making a product successful in different markets and leveraging that understanding at a large technology company after graduation.

In her free time, Jennifer reads like it's going out of style, dances with more enthusiasm than skill, and travels as often as her credit limit permits. She looks forward to exploring with her Lauder cohort, learning a new language, and becoming a part of the Wharton community.





## YASHODHANA RAJ

Yashodhana was born in Mumbai, India, and moved to Israel in middle school, where she was exposed to a new country with a different language, culture, and history. This experience laid the foundation to her global outlook. Her journeys through Milan, Vienna, New York City, and Moscow further shaped her growth as a global citizen.

Yashodhana earned a bachelor's degree in international economics, management, and finance at Bocconi University in Milan, Italy. She was actively involved in the Women in Business student club and the student magazine *Tra i Leoni*. She picked up Italian while exploring the country's rich cultural heritage, art, and cuisine.

Interning with the Academic Council on the United Nations System, Vienna Liaison, Yashodhana worked with various stakeholders, including U.N. organizations in Vienna and New York City, to advance female empowerment with a special focus on ending gender-related violence against women and girls.

Yashodhana also taught underprivileged girls at a suburban school in India, where she introduced skill-building courses to help them become economically independent and start their own businesses. This is where she realized the power of entrepreneurship.

Yashodhana worked as a research assistant at the SKOLKOVO Institute for Emerging Market Studies in Moscow, analyzing the economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS). She examined the sociopolitical, economic, cultural, and linguistic factors that impact entrepreneurs in emerging economies.

As director of entrepreneurial initiatives at The Global Education & Leadership Foundation (tGELF) in Delhi, India, Yashodhana managed a global entrepreneurship ecosystem, working with entrepreneurs from across the world and connecting them to a network of investors, incubators, and venture capitalists. She also launched the Gender Equality Track to increase participation of female entrepreneurs. At tGELF, Yashodhana co-led Values 20, a group of values experts and practitioners that engages with the Group of 20 (G20), with the aim of bringing values at the center of policymaking.

At Wharton and Lauder, Yashodhana wants to deepen her understanding of the interplay between local and global business dynamics and gain intercultural leadership and language skills. Her long-term goal is to establish an accelerator for female founders in India to help them grow, scale, and succeed. She aspires to build a gender-diverse entrepreneurial ecosystem, boosting female representation.

In her spare time, Yashodhana loves writing fiction and wrote her first novel in high school. She has learned Indian classical dance, Bharatanatyam, and enjoys hosting dinners for friends where she experiments with new recipes and cuisines.





## SEAN REASNER

Sean was born and raised in Southern California. As a high school freshman, he had the great fortune of being a member of his school's inaugural Chinese language class, which instilled in him a lifelong interest in all things China. He attended the University of California, San Diego, completing a joint degree in mathematics and economics. While in college, Sean continued to take Chinese classes at any opportunity, including spending a semester studying at Beijing Normal University.

After graduation, Sean moved to Weihai, China, to work as an English teacher. He spent one year teaching at English First, then four years at Shandong University. He is grateful for the opportunity to meet such a wide cross-section of Chinese people and to gain invaluable on-the-ground experience in the country.

Sean returned to the United States and moved into the tech industry. He first worked at AppFolio in Santa Barbara, California, on its Value-Added Services team. Subsequently, he took a position at Meta in Los Angeles, helping the company recruit for its machine learning engineering teams.

At Wharton and Lauder, Sean hopes to continue to improve his fluency in Chinese and deepen his understanding of China and the East Asia region while also sharpening his knowledge of business in preparation for a long and varied international career.

In his free time, Sean enjoys film, golfing, and Chinese cooking.





## ALFONSO ROJAS

Alfonso was born in Antofagasta, a primarily mining town in the north of Chile. He started playing competitive beach volleyball and soccer at a young age, allowing him to travel to tournaments across multiple countries and better manage his Type 1 diabetes.

After high school, Alfonso decided to move to Santiago and study business and economics at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. During those years, he played college beach and indoor volleyball, playing in the Chilean first division and earning multiple awards. During his third year, Alfonso got a scholarship for a one-year exchange at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he focused his studies on international business and enjoyed getting to know different cultures and learning new languages.

Upon graduation, Alfonso wanted to pursue a career that would help him learn more about the fintech industry in order to use technology as a vehicle for financial inclusion. In 2020, Alfonso joined Mastercard Advisors in Santiago, where he worked in management consulting for fintech companies and other financial institutions. After two promotions in two years, Alfonso started leading teams of consultants from different geographies and backgrounds. He had the opportunity to work with clients all over Latin America, North America, and Europe, leading different projects such as market entries, institutional transformations, and financial innovations related to product developments.

During his time at Wharton and Lauder, Alfonso hopes to better understand a broader variety of intercultural contexts and the geopolitical and economic differences across different regions in the world, while learning more about finance, technology, and entrepreneurship.

In his free time, Alfonso enjoys playing sports such as soccer and volleyball, cooking, and spending time with friends and family.







## JOSE SAIZ

Jose is a Mexican national who is deeply interested in entrepreneurship and finance. He earned his degree in economics from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México and studied abroad in France and Ireland. Growing up in Mexico, a developing country marked by financial inequality and weak institutions, Jose saw firsthand the challenges that poverty and underdevelopment create. He believes that businesses can play a vital role in solving these problems and creating positive social change.

Jose's professional journey began with internships at a family office, a venture capital firm, and a nonbanking financial institution, which gave him a broad exposure to the world of finance. He then joined Actera, a search fund focused on the Mexican and U.S. middle markets, where he was part of the firm from day one, making it a unique opportunity to experience its evolution from within.

After Actera, Jose joined Advent International as a private equity analyst, focusing on the firm's Latin American effort. This move allowed him to compare his previous experience in a three-person office with an institutional international player. Later, he moved to Credit Suisse, where he served as an investment associate for the firm's asset management division in Mexico (CSAM), the leading local alternative asset manager with over US\$2 billion in assets under management. At CSAM, he was responsible for analyzing, executing, and monitoring investments across various industries using different investment strategies, including private equity, structured finance, and distressed investing. Most recently, he supported CSAM Mexico's efforts to be spun off from its parent company to become an independent firm.

Outside of work, Jose is a soccer enthusiast and a fan of Real Madrid. He enjoys playing golf and padel tennis, as well as traveling. He is excited to continue exploring entrepreneurship and finance and hopes to further his knowledge in these areas at Wharton and Lauder.





## JOSELYN TATIANA SALAZAR GARCIA

Joselyn is originally from Quito, Ecuador, but grew up primarily in the Middle East and Asia. Her childhood spanned eight countries, from India to Mexico and several others in between. As a “third culture kid,” she grew up with a deep appreciation for different traditions, food, and languages. Her lifestyle inspired her love of global cuisine, as well as her passion for languages and international affairs.

Joselyn graduated magna cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania, with a double major mathematical economics and French studies. During her junior year, she interned at Boston Consulting Group in Houston, where she returned full time upon completion of her studies. At BCG, Joselyn worked primarily for large oil and gas clients on projects ranging from enterprise-wide change management to IT digital transformations. Additionally, she worked closely on several pro bono cases for Houston’s Chamber of Commerce, where she spearheaded analyses to understand the talent pipeline in Houston and the shortcomings between higher-ed institutions and local industry leaders.

After BCG, Joselyn worked at Google in the Global Strategy & Operations team for the Global Business Organization (GBO) – the largest revenue generating arm of the business responsible for all of Google Ads. She worked on several high visibility projects for senior vice presidents, and the offices of the CEO and CFO, evaluating go-to-market models for the sales teams, identifying operational efficiencies for GBO, and leading the annual headcount and resource allocation of operational expenditures for about 25,000 full-time employees. Aside from her core work responsibilities, Joselyn was also actively involved with diversity, equity and inclusion efforts as the global LatinX Community Lead for her organization.

At Wharton and Lauder, Joselyn is excited to deepen her knowledge of multicultural management and financial modeling to develop the right mix of hard and soft skills to influence stakeholders. She aspires to work in the ed-tech partnerships space, connecting the public and private sectors in a mutually beneficial manner.

In her spare time, Joselyn loves trying new recipes, participating in social dancing (both Latin and Arabic), and catching up on the latest reality TV shows.





## NEHA SARAF

Neha was 11 months old when her parents left India to build their life in a small industrial town in Kazakhstan. Over the seven years that followed, Neha embraced the Kazakh culture alongside her Indian roots, sparking her appreciation for diverse perspectives. Neha also lived in Zambia and Dubai before moving to London in 2007. Being schooled in four different languages before the age of 12 inspired Neha to embrace global viewpoints and left her fascinated by the different economic, political, and cultural contexts across geographies.

Neha's passion for understanding the world led her to work with a university team to help a Vietnamese village purify its water systems and to volunteer as a Himalayan conservationist to encourage Nepalese locals to sign up for government sustainability initiatives.

In 2017, Neha graduated first-class honours with a Bachelor of Science in economics from University College London. Her economics degree introduced her to business solutions as a powerful tool to effect change, so she decided to join UBS Investment Bank in 2018 for exposure to and rigorous training in finance and capital markets that she knew she would need to have an impact on a bigger scale.

As a mergers and acquisitions and advisory banking associate, Neha took great pride in helping her FTSE 100 and 250 clients navigate their corporate strategy through COVID-19. More recently, she advised Coca-Cola on evaluating the potential disruption from the Ukraine war sanctions on the company's Russian business. In her effort to employ her business toolkit towards positive change, in 2022 Neha also led a team of four to devise a prototype to advise FTSE industrial companies on effective sustainability reporting frameworks.

Outside of work, Neha finds purpose in connecting people. During her brief stint at PwC in 2018, she created Humans of PwC, her effort to foster community spirit in the 800-member division. Early last year, Neha launched The Finance Connect, a free application resources and mentoring platform, in the hopes to boost the confidence of students who may not have the adequate support or knowledge to land investment banking roles.

At Wharton and Lauder, Neha is excited to collaborate with her peers to gain a deeper understanding of how businesses can implement sustainable strategies to drive value creation globally.

In her free time, Neha enjoys hiking, participating in dance workshops, planning her next travel adventure, and spending time with family and friends.





## YUE (JOSHUA) SHEN

Joshua was born in Wenzhou, China, and immigrated to Canada shortly after kindergarten. Despite leaving his home country at a young age, he maintained a close relationship with his heritage, thanks to his father's work as a Chinese history researcher and scholar. Through his annual trips to visit his grandparents, he became fascinated by the differing perceptions of China in his two homes.

To pursue his curiosity, Joshua attended Claremont McKenna College, where he graduated cum laude in economics and international relations. He continued to foster his interest in China and its relationship with the global order. As co-president of the school's Chinese Political and Societal Studies club, he hosted numerous events that sparked on-campus conversations about China's foreign policy. Additionally, he worked as a research assistant at the Keck Center for International & Strategic Studies, supporting research in Chinese government and law enforcement.

After graduation, Joshua joined Bain & Company's Hong Kong office as a management consultant. His work primarily focused on growth strategy, performance improvement, and operating model projects for clients across various industries. Advising clients in Mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, he even had the opportunity to temporarily relocate to Sydney, Australia. There, he was part of an internal task force collaborating with OpenAI to identify potential generative AI use cases across different industries. Through his work at Bain, Joshua recognized the power of framing messages to influence perception and decision-making.

At Wharton and Lauder, Joshua is eager to expand his knowledge of international relations and learn more about communication methodologies in business. He aspires to use this knowledge to promote cultural understanding and encourage informed discourse, particularly given the rise of polarization in various regions worldwide.

In his spare time, Joshua enjoys live music, leisure travel, cozying up on the couch to read or watch movies, and savoring good food with great company.





## ARUNABH SINGH

Arunabh was born in India and moved to the United States as a young child. Having divided his childhood between Delhi and Memphis, Tennessee, he developed an interest in intercultural exchange. In addition to his native Hindi and English, he began studying Spanish in middle school, which opened doors first to student exchange programs in Panama City and Madrid, and later to working abroad in Mexico through the U.S. Fulbright Program.

Arunabh graduated from Vanderbilt University with a triple major in computer science, economics, and mathematics. Outside the classroom, his time was dedicated to student government, Indian choreography, and volunteering for the two causes for which he's most passionate: education and sustainability.

After graduation, Arunabh redirected his technical skills to the financial industry, working as an investment banking analyst and later associate at Bank of America in New York City. In addition to being actively involved in the Asian American and LGBTQ+ affinity groups, he covered insurance and later financial technology companies. Experience working on international mergers and acquisitions spurred him to pursue professional experience abroad. He moved to Mexico City on a Fulbright Binational Business scholarship, spending a year at Talipot Holding, an investor in alternative assets. There, he was on the investment teams for Latin American startups in diverse fields, ranging from agricultural technology to e-bikes. His work in finance, both domestically and internationally, has driven his interest in internationally oriented early-stage companies with a social focus.

At Wharton and Lauder, Arunabh seeks to further develop an understanding of the international business environment, particularly the private sector's role in addressing economic, educational, and environmental disparities in today's world.

Arunabh's hobbies include dance, desserts, and deep dives on Wikipedia. Ever since his Eagle Scout days, he's also been a fan of spending time in nature, whether hiking, biking, or camping.





## LLOYD SOH

Lloyd was born and raised in Singapore. Growing up, he also spent a couple of years in Alabama and California. Studying alongside classmates from a variety of countries sparked his interest in history, governance, and international affairs. This led to him joining the debate team while pursuing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in high school. During his time in the Singapore army, Lloyd was awarded an overseas scholarship by the Singaporean government to further his undergraduate studies at Brown University in the U.S.

At Brown, Lloyd triple majored in economics, urban studies, and a self-designed major in political economy of state-led development. With the latter, he examined the East Asian model of development, complemented with coursework in Chinese politics, Korean history, and Japanese language and culture. He has been fortunate enough to spend a summer in Hokkaido, Japan, and a winter in Chongqing, China (instead of the other way around).

Wanting to deepen his understanding of data analytics and operations, Lloyd later completed a master's degree in industrial and systems engineering at the National University of Singapore.

Lloyd brings with him a blend of public and private sector experiences. As a government scholar, he began his career as an analyst in the Strategy and Policy team at the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, where he analyzed developments in the maritime industry, including port developments in the Middle East and Asia. Official visits to various port cities in China provided him with the valuable exposure to how business is done in China. Lloyd was later handpicked to set up the Transformation Office to prepare the organization for digitalization, disruption, and decarbonization.

After leaving the public sector, Lloyd joined Citi as a post-graduate management associate, with rotations in functions such as analytics, sales, strategy, and product management. He was selected to represent his country office on the inaugural Council of Management Associates, working alongside colleagues from around Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Upon completing the two-year management associate program, Lloyd specialized as an investment product manager covering fixed income solutions.

Prior to starting business school, Lloyd joined the Investment Strategy and Business Development team at GenZero, a Temasek investment platform that aims to accelerate decarbonization globally. At Wharton and Lauder, Lloyd hopes to deepen his understanding of finance and real estate, and explore how government and business can work together to drive positive and sustainable outcomes.





## **ZOROASTRO A. DE SOUZA NETO**

Zoroastro was born and raised in Brazil, in a small town in the countryside of São Paulo, where he lived until graduating from high school. Around this time, he took interest in other languages and cultures and began studying English and Japanese by himself.

In 2013, he was admitted at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), one of the most prestigious universities in Brazil. During his undergraduate years, he divided his time by learning new languages, as he continued studying Japanese and started learning French and Mandarin, engaging in academic sponsored research, and working in internships to deepen his knowledge of chemical engineering and strategic consulting. During his university years, Zoroastro went twice to China to further his knowledge of Mandarin, receiving sponsorships from Santander Universities and from the Confucius Institute.

In 2018, Zoroastro started working as a business analyst in Dextron Managing Consulting, a strategic boutique in Brazil, where he focused on the education and consumer goods industries. In 2020, to further increase his impact on society, he joined McKinsey & Company. As a McKinsey consultant, Zoroastro worked with clients from consumer goods, telecom, and banking, focusing on strategy, pricing and implementations to complete his skill set.

At Wharton and Lauder, Zoroastro is excited to deepen his understanding of the social, economic, and political intricacies of China and to further his knowledge of finance and strategy.

In his spare time, Zoroastro loves to cook, read, run, and watch movies.





## **ROLAND SPIER**

Roland grew up in Washington, D.C., in a French-American household. He was raised speaking French at home as his native language and later began studying Mandarin in middle school.

Following high school, Roland took two gap years to dance as a professional-level trainee with the Pacific Northwest Ballet in Seattle, Washington. He danced principal roles in front of large audiences and appeared as a guest artist for various smaller companies.

Although he had opportunities to keep dancing professionally, Roland decided to return to school. At Columbia University, he majored in architecture and earned a concentration in East Asian Studies with a focus on Mandarin. Roland continued to participate in extra-curricular performing arts groups, was vice president of the Architecture Society, and served as the head of recruitment for his fraternity. While at Columbia, Roland interned at world-renowned architecture firm NBBJ and hospitality startup Selina, and earned LEED Green Associate accreditation in sustainable building design.

Roland graduated cum laude from Columbia in 2020 and began working at the New York office of OC&C, a London-based strategy consulting firm with 14 offices globally. During his time at OC&C, Roland specialized in technology, media, and telecom, and B2B services sectors. He had the opportunity to work with leading Fortune 500 corporates and top tier private equity firms. In his role, Roland worked on numerous projects in the architecture, engineering, and construction industry, which combined his interest in business strategy with his passion for the built environment.

At Wharton, Roland is eager to develop his knowledge of finance, energy, infrastructure, and transportation while maintaining a global comparative lens through Lauder. Post-graduation, he hopes to transition into a finance or strategy role that further specializes in the built environment sector and the technology that is disrupting it. He hopes later to split his time between the United States and France.

Outside of work, Roland founded a mentorship organization, Second Act Network, that helps professional dancers explore and succeed in secondary careers by leveraging their unique perspectives and connecting with fellow former dancers. He enjoys watching soccer, playing guitar, reading, and biking around New York City.







## **NADIR TEKARLI**

Nadir was born and raised in the mountain valleys of Northern Utah. As the son of a Syrian immigrant, Nadir traveled between the United States and the Middle East from a very young age. With family living in various parts of the region, Nadir was able to gain a more holistic view of an incredibly diverse part of the world, leading to a deep appreciation for his Arab background and the complexity that comes with it.

Nadir attended his hometown college, Utah State University, earning a bachelor's degree in economics with minors in political science and business. Outside of the classroom, he was involved in various student groups across campus, culminating in a term elected as the student senator of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business. Additionally, he served on student boards related to government relations, the USU athletics student section, and student fees.

After graduation, Nadir moved to Washington, D.C., to work in several roles at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and U.S. House Democratic Caucus before moving into economic research at the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU). Most recently, Nadir was working at the American Bankers Association in the office of the chief economist, analyzing issues pertinent to the financial services industry such as inflation, geopolitical risks, and the lasting effects of COVID on the economy.

Outside of work, Nadir got involved with the community by serving in various groups, including a seat on his neighborhood zoning committee, his neighborhood transportation committee, and the board of the Network of Arab-American Professionals.

At Wharton and Lauder, Nadir aims to improve his knowledge of Arabic and the intersection of business and policy, particularly in how the built environment affects economies across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

In his free time, you can find Nadir hosting cookouts, talking about urbanism and zoning, perfecting his Levantine recipes, reading, and planning a ski trip back to Utah.





## JASON TOGUT

Jason was born and raised in New York City, a place whose diversity and global reach had a significant impact on his upbringing. Growing up in such an international city, he had the opportunity to study Chinese as a teenager, developing a deep appreciation for Chinese language and culture. At 17, he first traveled to China and began to understand and appreciate the importance of China's role in the world, and the centrality of U.S.-China relations to global peace and prosperity.

Jason graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude from Brown University with degrees in international relations and East Asian studies. While in college, he studied abroad at National Taiwan University and interned at Geber Brand Consulting. He also interned at the U.S.-Consulate General in Shanghai, working on visa fraud prevention and political issues. Jason wrote two senior capstone papers at Brown, one on Taiwanese energy independence, and the other on the theoretical basis for China's actions in the South China Sea.

After graduation, Jason worked at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, where he facilitated six high level policy dialogues between key stakeholders in the United States and China. These dialogues had a particular focus on the economic and technological competition between the two countries. He played an integral role in formulating consensus documents for these dialogues, crafting policy suggestions for decision-makers in the United States and China.

Jason believes that economic engagement is critical to maintaining constructive U.S.-China relations. He is excited to build on his experiences at Wharton and Lauder, perfecting his Chinese language skills, learning the managerial and financial toolkit to help businesses succeed in the Asia Pacific, and helping to slow the forces of decoupling that have worsened the U.S.-China relationship.

In his free time, Jason loves to run, play trivia with his friends, and travel to new places in the United States and around the world.





## NATASHA URBANY

Natasha was raised in a Venezuelan American household in Washington, D.C. In this environment, she developed an appreciation for other cultures and languages. For 13 years, she complemented her education at The Potomac School with Spanish-language studies at La Escuela Argentina, a K-12 institution sponsored by the Argentine embassy. Upon graduating from La Escuela Argentina, Natasha was honored as *la abanderada* (valedictorian).

Natasha went on to earn her B.A. in political science and French and Francophone studies at Columbia University. She also sought out international learning opportunities, studying French literature in Paris and international relations at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. Outside of class, Natasha was selected as a Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) Career Prep Fellow.

After graduating, Natasha served as a human capital consultant at Deloitte, working with Fortune 500 clients across the technology, energy, and health care sectors. Natasha advised clients as they built equitable, data-driven workforce management processes. She applied lessons learned from these experiences to spearhead the launch of a pro bono consulting program. Alongside a small team, she designed and scaled a virtual program that enabled 50 staffers to work with seven international nonprofits and social enterprises, impacting more than 1,000 community members.

Natasha then transitioned to KPMG's Human Capital Advisory practice, where she expanded her scope of work to serve as a subject matter expert to clients undergoing global finance and IT transformations. She was consistently recognized for living KPMG's values around excellence and inclusion, winning several awards. She was also recognized for upskilling on Python and SQL by participating in Correlation One's rigorous Data Science for All program.

At Wharton and Lauder, Natasha looks forward to building upon her existing technical skill set and plans to pursue quantitative coursework that touches on the environmental, social, and governance issues that are currently top of mind for leaders. She is also excited to connect with her peers in the MLT Professional Development Fellowship.

In her spare time, Natasha can be found running with her local track club, hitting the ski slopes out west, and taking her lab, Lilly, on scenic strolls.





## **GABRIELA VODOPIVES CASELLI**

Gabriela grew up in Brazil, attending a Swiss school, which exposed her to different cultures and sparked her curiosity for exploring the world. She attended an American boarding school in Lugano and learned Italian with Turkish friends, studied Spanish in Buenos Aires, practiced French in Paris with her aunt, and studied engineering in Stuttgart.

Gabriela has always felt a sense of responsibility to give back to her community and has participated and led several social work initiatives. She organized a construction and volunteered with TECHO, a youth-led nonprofit that fights poverty; volunteered as an English and math teacher in an orphanage and at BASCRI, an association for hearing-impaired children, after learning sign language; and organized several Christmas campaigns to build toys for children in orphanages.

Gabriela graduated with a degree in industrial engineering from Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro. During her studies, she published an article and presented it at the POMS Operations Management for Social Good Conference, was awarded a scholarship for an exchange program at Universität Stuttgart, and worked as a teacher assistant in programming and calculus.

After graduating, Gabriela gained extensive experience in consulting, working on projects in different industries and subjects. She designed a new sales channel for an insurance company, led the value creation workstream for an education merger and acquisition and the technical operational synergies of a telecom M&A, assessed a retailer's logistic processes, developed new models of remote working right after the pandemic started, and helped with the development of a new product for ship construction in Singapore.

Eager to combine her work with the purpose she felt through social work, she joined the female founding team at Kuri, a startup with the vision to create the tech infrastructure needed to transform a conservative and male-dominated industry into a value-based health care system. Gabriela led product development and other initiatives to create Kuri from scratch.

At Wharton and Lauder, Gabriela wants to focus on innovation, sustainability, and impact initiatives. She is eager to leverage the global mindset and network that Lauder provides to be able to transform people's lives for better.

In her spare time, Gabriela has always enjoyed sports and exercise. She was captain and member of a vaulting team for seven years, participating in state, national, and Latin American championships. Gabriela also practices Muay Thai, climbing, beach sports, cycling, and wakeboarding whenever she gets the chance.





## CINDY WANG

Cindy was born in Chicago, Illinois, but grew up in the Kansas City metropolitan area. As one of the few Chinese Americans in her community, she witnessed the repercussions of cultural disconnect at an early age. She subsequently developed an interest in the way politics and culture interact and the effects of these interactions on an increasingly global economy.

This interest motivated Cindy's undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in political science and a minor in consumer psychology. Within these areas of study, Cindy sought out opportunities to advance her understanding of Chinese politics and history, in addition to her Mandarin language skills. She also spent her sophomore summer interning at CITIC Securities in Beijing, where she experienced firsthand the importance of cultural adaptation and the many cultural nuances affecting daily interactions.

Following graduation, Cindy joined Morgan Stanley in New York as a regulatory compliance analyst. Through her rotational program, Cindy gained exposure to a wide range of regulatory obstacles facing businesses both domestically and internationally in a post-2008 financial crisis world. Cindy later joined Blackstone, where she helped deal teams across the firm to collaborate efficiently while avoiding transactional conflicts of interest. Beyond her daily responsibilities, Cindy also played a critical role in automating the team's workflows and decreasing reliance on external resources.

At Wharton and Lauder, Cindy looks forward to exploring different cultures and deepening her business knowledge, particularly in the areas of managerial decision-making and innovation strategy. In her spare time, Cindy enjoys collecting vintage postmodern furniture, playing tennis, and solving The New York Times crossword puzzles.





## JING WANG

Jing grew up between Southern California and Shenzhen, China. She attended Northwestern University, where she double majored in economics and international studies with a focus on East Asia. During her undergraduate career, she studied abroad in Beijing at Peking University, where she pursued academic interests in Mandarin and China's political and economic development.

Upon graduation, she worked as a consultant with Kearney in New York City, focused on private equity and technology clients. Jing advised clients on due diligence, growth strategy, and mergers and acquisitions. Having grown up in China's Silicon Valley, Jing aspired to be at the forefront of innovation and joined two different financial technology unicorns in San Francisco in product management roles. There, she was a part of teams working to bring innovative financial solutions to the market. Jing also interned with the investment team of an early stage venture capital firm that backs exceptional immigrant entrepreneurs.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jing is excited to sharpen her understanding of global entrepreneurship, specifically emerging technologies in Asia. She hopes to build the skills and relationships necessary to become a successful investor, supporting the next generation of startups designed to change the world.





## DORIS GUOHAO XU

Doris grew up in Shanghai, China, and attended foreign language schools throughout childhood. At age 15, she left home to attend high school in Dallas, Texas. Although she spoke fluent English then, the initial challenges in establishing friendships in a new country made her realize that mastering the language is only the beginning to mastering a culture and local relationships. This experience piqued her interest to explore other cultures in both breadth and depth.

Doris attended Columbia University with a major in financial economics and a minor in East Asian studies. Her love for cultural immersion pushed her to study abroad twice. She spent a summer in Paris, France, focusing on Western art and music history, and another in Kyoto, Japan, focusing on Japanese language.

After graduation, Doris moved to Singapore and started her career as a consultant at Oliver Wyman. She worked with clients in the financial services and telecom industries across Southeast Asia. Doris enjoyed problem solving and participated in projects including digital transformation, acquisition due diligence, and process optimization.

Doris later joined Ease Healthcare, a digital health startup focused on simplifying women's health journeys. In the role of growth lead, she initiated numerous projects to acquire and retain customers across Singapore and the Philippines. The startup experience opened the door to the venture capital industry for Doris. Also aiming to strengthen her business Japanese, she committed to a pre-MBA internship at Dawn Capital, a corporate VC fund based in Tokyo, Japan. During her short stay, she played a key role in international sourcing and due diligence efforts.

A language enthusiast, Doris aims to become a hyperpolyglot in the long term. She is currently fluent in Chinese, Italian, French, and Japanese, and hopes to explore Arabic and a Slavic language in the future.

Doris is also passionate about wine. After pursuing the Wine & Spirit Education Trust (WSET) Level 3 sommelier qualification, she is currently working towards the Italian Wine Scholar certification. Doris also enjoys dance and choreography, focusing on Chinese dance and contemporary genres.

At Wharton and Lauder, Doris is excited to strengthen her analytical thinking through a major in business analytics. She is also looking to build her leadership skills through social activities inside and outside the classroom.





## **RODRIGO TROTTA YARYD**

Rodrigo was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil, and has also an Italian citizenship due to his immigrant grandfather. When he was young, as part of the NGO CISV he spent one month in India, which was the start of his interest for international traveling. During high school he was part of the U.N. Model simulation.

In 2014, he started pursuing his Production Engineering degree at the University of São Paulo, the most prestigious university in the country. During his university years, he was vice president of the students' union and, for 3.5 years he explored his deep interest in Corporate Social Responsibility researching best practices in developing countries, resulting in national and international publications.

He spent one academic year at the Politecnico di Milano, where he combined his personal goal to learn Italian and visit his family's town, and join a top-ranked Management Engineering course, studying topics such as international business and social innovation. Additionally, he was a Marketing team member of AIESEC Italy, a youth-led NGO that seeks to develop leadership qualities and capabilities in young people through practical experience in international settings.

After returning to Brazil in 2019, Rodrigo started to work at Boston Consulting Group, first as an intern and then as an Associate after graduation in 2020. During his time in BCG, he worked in many different industries, such as oil & gas, mining, consumer, and industrial goods, covering strategy planning, due diligence, turnaround, sustainability, portfolio optimization, among other topics. He was also the recruiting focal point and an active member of Pride@BCG, BCG's LGBT+ Network, very important part of his career and personal life.

Rodrigo has always had a deep interest in the Social Impact practice at BCG, and, in September 2022 he moved to South Africa as part of BCG's Social Impact Immersion Program, being the only Brazilian accepted in the last five years. He had the chance to explore topics related to climate change, energy transition and global health, including having experiences in Mozambique.

Rodrigo aims to continue exploring the social sector, using the MBA to develop the skill set, network, and experience required to thrive in this sector, and bring back these learnings to Brazil.

In his spare time, Rodrigo enjoys reading, traveling, doing spinning and CrossFit.







## MICHAEL YUAN

Michael was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the son of two young immigrant scholars who left Communist China to pursue their doctorate degrees in America. Drawn by the entrepreneurial spirit of Silicon Valley, his family made their home at its epicenter in Palo Alto, California. There, his curiosity for the natural world fused with the energy of his hometown, inspiring him to study electrical engineering as an undergraduate at Princeton University.

Under Princeton's Gothic arches, Michael's eyes opened to a larger world outside of science and technology. He explored art through singing, sculpture, and gardening; he delved into his roots through a nonprofit internship in Shanghai and a venture capital firm in Beijing; and he exercised his leadership muscles as a resident assistant and founder of the Brewing Club.

Seeking to add business skills to his toolkit, upon graduation from Princeton, Michael took a management consulting position at Oliver Wyman. Walking the halls of his clients, which included Qatar's Free Zone Authority, a Hollywood celebrity grocery store, and a North Carolina insurance company, he learned how those organizations worked and how to change them for the better.

Realizing that becoming an investor would give him the most direct potential for impact, he took a fellowship at SOW Asia, a social impact investing nonprofit based in Hong Kong, then transitioned into investing roles at Warburg Pincus and Lee Equity Partners. He gained deep expertise in global private equity, investing in companies such as Polyplus, a French gene therapy manufacturer, and Qualifacts, an electronic medical records company.

At Wharton and Lauder, Michael seeks to meld his internationalism, analytical skills, and entrepreneurial energy into a career that manifests his truest self, and in doing so creates a lasting impact on the world.

In his spare time, Michael is an avid hobbyist with interests in athletics (1-handicap golfer, competitive soccer), art (singing, glassblowing), the outdoors (skiing, spearfishing), and gastronomic pursuits (cooking, beer).





## ZIQIN YUAN

Ziqin was born in Yangzhou, China. When she was young, her family moved to Staten Island, New York, landing in a neighborhood of immigrants who welcomed them into their community. They later settled in Edison, New Jersey, another multicultural neighborhood that solidified her desire to learn from and connect with people from diverse backgrounds.

Ziqin earned her bachelor's degree at Dartmouth College, majoring in government and quantitative social sciences with a focus on education. Her classes inspired a passion for revealing and countering systemic inequities, and she interned at the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and wrote an honors thesis that assessed gender bias in contemporary Supreme Court decisions. On campus, she sought opportunities to uplift diverse voices, first as a writer and later as editor of the opinion section of Dartmouth's newspaper. Off campus, she sought opportunities to connect with her Chinese background by studying abroad in Beijing and volunteering as a preschool teacher at a Beijing-based foster home.

After graduation, Ziqin worked at L.E.K. Consulting with the goal of eventually applying the strategies and lessons she learned to support organizations in the nonprofit sector. While at L.E.K., she served as a regional director of Inspire, a volunteer organization that provides consulting services to local nonprofits across the U.S. These experiences led her to become a nonprofit consultant at the Bridgespan Group, where she supported philanthropists and nonprofits in their work to build a more equitable world. At Bridgespan, she worked on issues ranging from health equity to the arts, advising clients from large national foundations to small, place-based nonprofits. Her work led to over \$100 million in grants to dozens of nonprofits. She is particularly passionate about her work through Bridgespan's Leading for Impact program, where she coached nonprofit leaders on ways to strengthen their organizations.

Ziqin is thrilled to join Lauder's multicultural community and learn from her classmates' wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and aspirations. She is excited to continue improving her Mandarin and hopes to combine her passions for social impact and inclusivity by learning from the leaders of international nonprofits, social enterprises, and other mission-driven organizations.





## JANE (XIAOZHU) ZHANG

Jane was born in Xi'an, China, a city steeped in a 1,000-year history and culture that is especially renowned for its Tang Dynasty legacy. Jane's love for Chinese poetry blossomed during her school years, and she always envisioned bringing her cultural heritage to the global stage.

Storytelling is part of Jane's DNA. She graduated from Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, southern China, with a degree in economics. She was a journalist for the school newspaper and a member of the Asia-Pacific Student Entrepreneurship Society.

At age 21, Jane became the first in her family to study abroad. She earned a master's degree in public administration and nonprofit management from New York University, where she won the prestigious Ellen Schall Scholarship for Social Entrepreneurship. Her career in cross-cultural communication led her to work at the China Arts Foundation, Ogilvy Public Relations, and the United Nations, where she facilitated communication between ambassadors, education institutes, and international nongovernmental organizations during the 71st United Nations General Assembly.

With a deep passion for culture and business, Jane headed to Hollywood to pursue her career. She joined Creative Artists Agency (CAA), the world's leading entertainment and sports agency, representing over 5,000 actors, directors, musicians, and athletes, including Tom Cruise, Steven Spielberg, Beyoncé, and Cristiano Ronaldo. As part of CAA's global strategy and corporate development team, Jane spearheaded market data insights and crafted successful business development strategies. Collaborating with artists and business executives from diverse backgrounds honed her leadership skills.

Jane's crowning achievement was founding the joint venture CAA China from scratch and developing international projects in China, Korea, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. Her passion for non-English film and TV content led her to support "Parasite," the first foreign language film to win the Oscar for best picture, and the creators of the Netflix series "Squid Game" in their historic Emmy wins. Jane has also emerged as a community leader for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and minority representation in Hollywood on-screen and off-screen.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jane plans to leverage her skills in investment and technology to further facilitate the culture business. She aims to deepen her understanding of global culture and embrace the Lauder community's diversity and intimate environment. Ultimately, Jane aspires to become a prominent female Asian leader and a global citizen.

Outside of work, Jane is a writer. She loves traveling, rollerblading, basketball, K-pop, and is a passionate foodie.





## JENNY ZHANG

Jenny was born in New York and raised in New Jersey. She has always been fascinated by languages and the interconnections between globalization and culture.

Jenny studied economics at Princeton University and graduated cum laude. During college, she held various leadership roles in Princeton's Undergraduate Student Government and Student Design Agency, and continued her involvement post grad as the Alumni Schools Committee Chair of Beijing for undergraduate admissions interviews.

Jenny spent a semester in London studying European politics, a summer in Shanghai conducting research for Harvard Business School case studies, and other college summers in Chicago at the Federal Reserve Bank and Citi.

Post graduation, Jenny moved to New York to join Citi's Investment Banking Mergers & Acquisitions Group. After her analyst program, she joined GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, as part of the Private Equity Funds and Co-Investments Group. During Jenny's three years at GIC, she executed on approximately 45 investment opportunities, investing over \$6.7 billion of capital in North American funds and co-investments. She enjoys building culture and served as the social co-chair of her group and a member of the GIC NY Office Rec Club.

In her spare time, Jenny is an avid tennis player and traveler. She has been to about 35 countries and enjoys cooking, graphic design, and summer bike rides.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jenny hopes to grow her investor perspective, leadership capacity, and global knowledge.





## ANGELA ZHOU

Angela was born in Southern California and attended 11 schools on three continents. She was raised by Chinese parents who cultivated an appreciation for the arts at an early age. A Kandinsky replica hung above her childhood piano, where she pondered different instruments of expression.

As a result, Angela gravitated towards experiences where she could tap into her love of storytelling. After her International Baccalaureate, she joined the first class of 45 international students in the World Bachelor in Business program, which allowed her to study at the University of Southern California, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Università Bocconi in Italy. Throughout university, Angela studied Italian, Spanish, and Mandarin to better understand the kaleidoscope of identities across Eastern and Western cultures. She brought these insights as an ambassador for her program's Board of Trustees and helped shape the curriculum for nine cohorts of students.

For the past few years, Angela has worked at Google as a product marketer to bring stories to life through delightful user experiences. In addition to launching products that help customers grow their business using AI, Angela has worked with the Google Arts & Culture team to add cultural context to how people view, access, and understand the world. She worked on Google's first-ever cultural hub honoring the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, which featured more than 100 stories from 40 cultural institutions. She also conceptualized partnerships with Netflix and Disney to capture the cultural zeitgeist. As a champion for diversity, equity and inclusion, Angela has led product accessibility trainings, consulted on Google-wide marketing campaigns, and judged the company's beloved Doodle for Google submissions from K-12 students.

Understanding cultural nuances has helped Angela articulate the magic of technology to different audiences. She is grateful for the opportunity to fine-tune her global acumen and language skills at Wharton and Lauder as an aspiring consumer entrepreneur.

Angela also loves listening to Taylor Swift, visiting art museums, and collecting Penguin Clothbound Classics.





## EMILY ZHUANG

Emily was born and raised in Houston, Texas, a city renowned for its diverse population. This instilled in her a deep appreciation for the value of cross-cultural perspectives from a young age, and it's where she recognized how this mindset could foster collaboration, innovation, and productivity.

Emily attended The University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering with a minor in business. During her undergraduate studies, she participated in several specialized trainings and internships throughout the entire energy value chain, allowing her to gain valuable industry, manufacturing, and sustainability experience across the United States. At UT Austin, Emily also served in several leadership roles within her university's Society of Women Engineers and Student Leadership Team to promote affiliation and integration across groups on campus.

After graduation, Emily started work as a management consultant at Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in the Houston office. During her time at BCG, she had the opportunity to work in several practice areas including energy, industrial goods, and consumer products, across the U.S., Europe, and the Middle East. This diversity of experience allowed her to develop both analytical and qualitative skills, and her distinguished performance was recognized in 2022 when she was awarded the opportunity to participate in the Associate Abroad exchange program to Copenhagen. Motivated to seek out opportunities to further her appreciation of various communities and cultures, she leveraged this experience not only to gain a deeper understanding of business practices in a different market from the U.S., but also immerse herself into the Nordic culture. Emily was also able to advance her sustainability expertise in Copenhagen, where she worked on projects ranging from developing a market maker strategy regarding sustainable biofuels to conducting a comprehensive ESG strategy for a development company.

At Wharton and Lauder, Emily looks forward to collaborating with her peers as they understand how local differences impact businesses and lifestyles in regions of the world. She hopes to inspire insightful discussions, challenge existing norms, and share these findings with her Lauder family and the broader community.

In her spare time, Emily enjoys painting, photography, traveling, and trying new restaurants for her food-focused social media accounts.





## MARIA ZORRILLA

Maria was born and raised in Mexico City. Throughout her childhood, she was able to travel around the world, which helped her develop a global mindset and sparked her curiosity for different cultures. Eager to have an international experience from a young age and to improve her English, Maria attended a boarding school in Connecticut during a year in middle school.

Maria attended Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and graduated with a B.S. in chemical engineering. During her undergrad, she spent a semester abroad at Université Jean Moulin in Lyon, France, where she gained basic proficiency in French and a deeper understanding of the country's culture and history. During her last year of undergrad, she was a member of the Chemical Engineering Student Council, in charge of student coordination.

After college, Maria joined AlphaCredit, a nonbanking financial institution in Mexico and Colombia primarily dedicated to payroll deduction loans. She began as a strategic planning analyst, working closely with the C-levels and managing the company's cash flow, among other responsibilities. She was then offered a position in the Funding and Investor Relations team, where she was promoted to associate. There, she was mainly responsible for executing debt raising processes.

In early 2021, Maria decided to pursue the green investing sector and joined Finergreen, a French investment banking boutique focused exclusively on renewable energies. At Finergreen, Maria executed and led project finance and mergers and acquisitions transactions involving multicultural teams across different Latin American countries.

Outside of work, in 2021 Maria co-founded REDIGE, a nonprofit organization aimed at creating a network of organizations that work to eliminate gender-based violence in Mexico and help victims.

In her spare time, Maria enjoys skiing, hiking, traveling, and reading novels. She is fluent in Spanish and English, with basic knowledge in French.



## **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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

The University of Pennsylvania values diversity and seeks talented students, faculty and staff from diverse backgrounds. The University of Pennsylvania does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected class status in the administration of its admissions, financial aid, educational or athletic programs, or other University-administered programs or in its employment practices. Questions, complaints of alleged discrimination, or concerns regarding these policies or their implementation may be directed to the Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Programs, Franklin Building, Suite 421, 3451 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6205; (215) 898-6993 (Voice) or (215) 746-7088 (Fax).



Preparing leaders to speak the global languages  
of business, culture, and politics. *Fluently.*

---





The Joseph H. Lauder Institute of  
Management & International Studies  
University of Pennsylvania  
Lauder-Fischer Hall, 2nd Floor  
256 South 37th Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6330  
p 215.898.1215 f 215.898.2067

[www.lauder.wharton.upenn.edu](http://www.lauder.wharton.upenn.edu)



The Lauder Institute  
Wharton · Arts & Sciences  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA