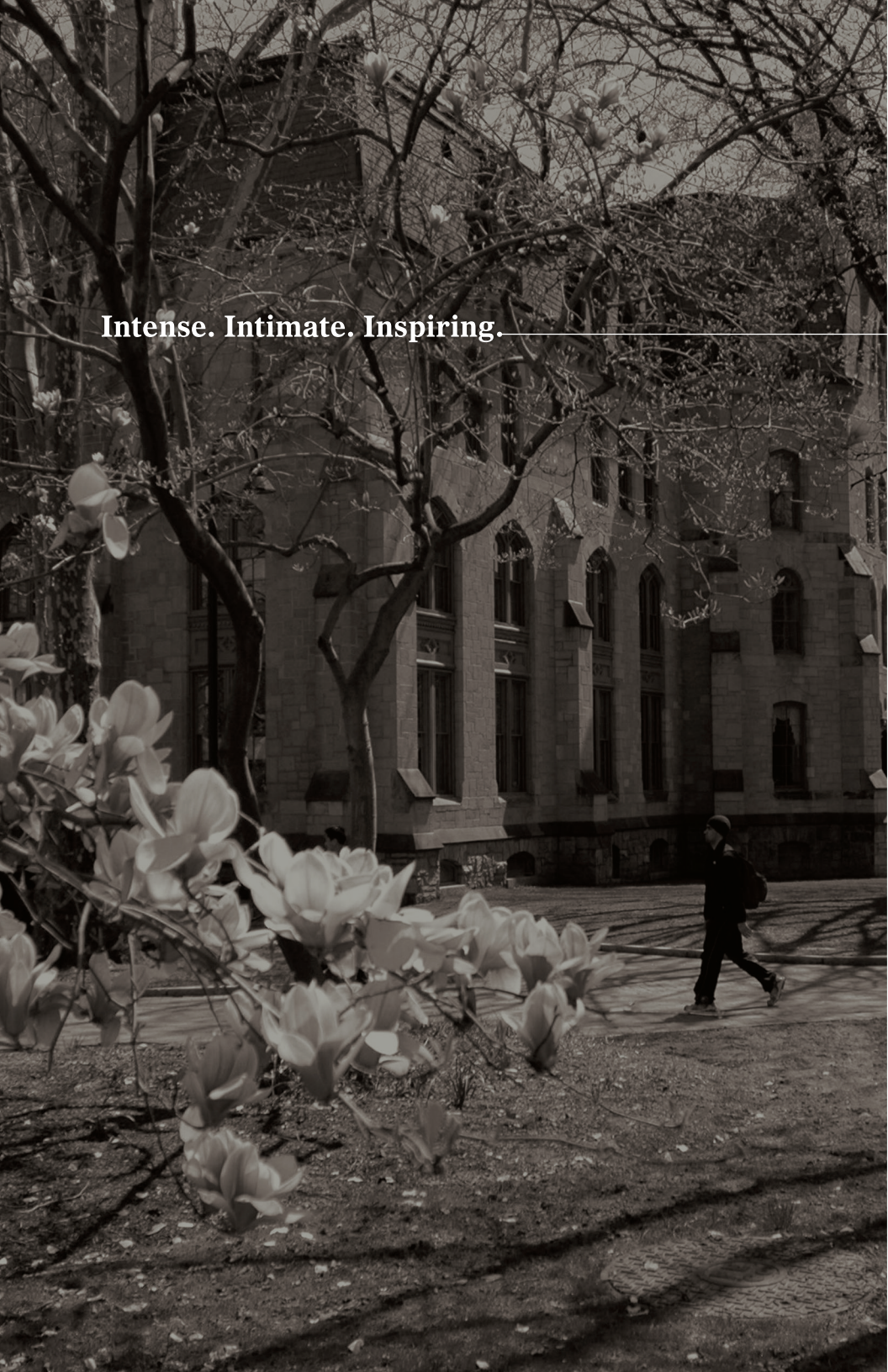


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Intense. Intimate. Inspiring.



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.

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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 2026



AFRICA

FRANCOPHONE

Kojoh Atta
Hinda Diakite
Temantimandze Shongwe
Naomi Weiner

GENERAL

Amanda Agyapong
James Entee Cobbinah
Beverly Y. Danquah*
Arden Demirayak
Rowa El-tohami
Lyncy Nyandoche
Cristina Parilli Lozada
Paula Takahashi Benitez
Loic Tchebetchou



EAST AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

KOREAN

Jeong Soo (Gary) Kim
Nathan Oh
Anne Soorim Park

MANDARIN CHINESE

Michelle Chen
Brannen Dickson
Russell Landes
Makeda Petiri
Becca Thorpe
Eric Wang
Matthew Yong
Tiffany Yuan



EUROPE

FRENCH

William Abelt
Serena Chiang
Catelyn Huang
Alexandre Georges Kern
Pamela Lian
Samantha Pecan
Abigail Stumpff
Jimmy Zhang

GERMAN

Viktoria Boening
Caterina Bonmassar
Qingfeng (Fong) Chai

ITALIAN

Lucas Araujo de Carvalho
Iliia Kozhelskii
Amelia Von Appen



RUSSIAN

Artur Barkan
Brian Gerevits
Tanner Hale
Weston Turner



GLOBAL

Sonia Alb
Daniel Ferreira
Pedro Kenzo Jukemura
Hiroki Kobayashi
Cuong Mai
Winnie Myat
Long Dinh Hai Pham
Rayan Sabbah
Vitória Ayer De Azevedo Velho
Hannah Zhao



SOUTH ASIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

ARABIC

Ravi Patel
Ghassan Zughalb

HINDI

Abhimanyu (Abhi) Chadha
Maitreyi Arun Menon
Shyla Singh
Atreyo Sinha



LATIN AMERICA

PORTUGUESE

Nicolas Celasco
Jose E. Coloma
Dania Paola Cortes Cervantes
Jhonny Andres Georges Parra
Javier Guerraty



SPANISH

Daniel Albert
Abigael Bamgboye
Cameron Clark
Alexa Huether
Nimrod (Nimi) Moshe Kimchy
Tatum Lee
Spencer Nussrallah
Alessandra Pelliccia
Akash Raman
Christo Ritter
Jose Andres Rivero
Araceli Georgina Sandoval
Aaron Varner
Sofia Vega

*JD/ MA Student



WILLIAM ABELT

William was born and raised in New York City, New York. In high school, he learned French, which gave him an early exposure to another language and culture. Will found this incredibly rewarding and knew he wanted to pursue this passion further at the college level.

Will earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in French studies and economics from Wake Forest University. After his freshman year, he enrolled in the seven-week summer language immersion program at the Middlebury Language School in Vermont, gaining deeper verbal, written, and cultural knowledge in French. In college, Will was also a member of Army ROTC and vice president of the French Club. He spent his senior fall semester studying abroad in Paris, completing economics classes in French at the Paris School of Business.

Following graduation, he was commissioned as a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) officer in the United States Army. He was first stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he completed the CBRN Basic Officer Leader Course. From March 2020 to April 2022, Will was stationed at Camp Humphreys, South Korea. Will managed all CBRN training and readiness for an AH-64 Apache helicopter unit. He also worked as a liaison officer with the Republic of Korea Navy and successfully helped coordinate several overwater training exercises. In March 2021, he transitioned to a direct leadership role as a mounted CBRN reconnaissance platoon leader.

From April 2022 to September 2023, Will served as the company executive officer for a CBRN Technical Escort Company in Fort Stewart, Georgia, supervising all supply, maintenance, and logistics functions for 70 soldiers. In this role, Will earned his top-secret clearance and worked with special operations at several multinational CBRN exercises. In January 2024, he left the Army to gain private sector experience.

While at Wharton and Lauder, he looks forward to developing his business knowledge and international acumen to one day lead a global-facing business. Will is excited to pursue his passion for global experiences through global modular courses, Lauder intercultural ventures, and unofficial international travel. He is delighted at the opportunity to forge lifelong connections with his peers and plans to serve on the Lauder Student Advisory Board to give back to the Lauder community. In his spare time, he enjoys fishing, golfing, cooking, skiing, and watching movies.





AMANDA AGYAPONG

Amanda Agyapong was born in Accra, Ghana, as the seventh of 21 children, and she moved to the United States when she was 7 years old. She lived in various cities and towns in New Jersey until moving to Philadelphia to attend the University of Pennsylvania. She majored in psychology with a focus on cognitive neuroscience, and spent a semester studying in London.

In her junior year, Amanda joined Management Leadership for Tomorrow, a nonprofit leadership pipeline for underrepresented talent. Through the organization, she obtained an internship at Google that became a full-time job after graduation. Amanda spent five years working for Google, with the last three years on the YouTube Shorts team as a community partner manager (CPM). As a CPM, she managed a community of more than 2,000 creators with subscriber sizes ranging from 1,000 to 23 million. She also led diversity, equity and inclusion efforts for the team.

In 2021, Amanda created a Ghana-based production company, Age Upon, and developed its first project, “The Cedi Life,” which premiered in March 2023. The six-episode reality series follows the lives of seven young Africans as they work hard and play hard during the “Detty December” party festival season in Ghana. “The Cedi Life” has amassed millions of views across YouTube, TikTok, and Instagram. Amanda looks forward to scaling her production company in Ghana and continuing to amplify African voices across the globe.

At Wharton and Lauder, Amanda looks forward to forming relationships and expanding her worldview while traveling with her classmates. She’s excited to learn from other entrepreneurs so that she can fulfill her dream of making Ghana an international production hub.

In her free time, Amanda enjoys drawing hyperrealistic art, dancing, making personal finance and lifestyle content, as well as watching TV and movies.





SONIA ALB

Sonia was born in Montreal, Canada. She grew up in a Francophone environment, living in various cities across Quebec and completing her high school through the French Baccalaureate Program in Paris, France. She balanced her academic education with her training in competitive gymnastics, a sport she has been practicing since the age of 5.

Sonia graduated in finance with summa cum laude, the highest distinction for graduates from the University of Ottawa. In addition to her academic achievements, she won over 20 awards in business strategy competitions. She also gained diplomatic experience interning as a political officer at the Embassy of Canada to Chile in Santiago, focusing on international relations and regional dynamics in Latin America.

Upon graduating, Sonia worked in digital consulting at Accenture in Montreal, where she earned the Distinctive Achievement merit, which is awarded to top performers in client engagements. Driven by her ambition to have a larger impact and tackle more strategic challenges, Sonia transitioned to working at McKinsey & Company in the Montreal office. There, she primarily worked in the United States on multinational consumer, private equity, and institutional investor clients. Her work focused on the business areas she is most passionate about: top-of-the-house strategy, growth, and mergers and acquisitions advisory.

Looking to build senior management experience in an area she is passionate about, Sonia joined Gildan, a global leader in apparel manufacturing. Sonia was the youngest in the organization to hold the role of senior manager, leading the Strategy and Corporate Development team. While based at the Montreal headquarters, she ventured to Barbados and Honduras to spearhead growth strategies, collaborating with local leadership in sales and manufacturing.

Driven by her dual passion for business and international relations, Sonia seeks to build on her professional journey through the Wharton and Lauder programs. She intends on building her business knowledge and complementing it with a sharpened understanding of global dynamics to ultimately advance as a global business leader.

Sonia is fluent in English, French, and Spanish. She is an avid traveler and enjoys hiking, skiing, and rock climbing.





DANIEL ALBERT

Daniel was born and raised in Newport Beach, California, and is a dual citizen of the United States and Australia. His career has revolved primarily around the restaurant industry, sparked by his childhood passion for international food and culture. He credits his mother, who grew up in Sydney, Australia, with teaching him the importance of a worldly education and exposing him to different travel and cuisines from an early age.

Daniel attended Johns Hopkins University, where he was an economics major and a four-year member of the varsity baseball team. After graduating, he moved to San Francisco to join the Corporate Development team at Flynn Group, the world's largest restaurant franchising platform. At Flynn, Daniel evaluated restaurant brand acquisition targets and the financial impact of franchising brands and integrating restaurant technology into daily operations. After observing industry trends and how a restaurant's technology stack could drastically improve financial performance, he joined the strategy team at Brightloom, a personalized marketing and loyalty platform for consumer brands.

While at Brightloom, Daniel worked with different Mexico City-based restaurant customers and immediately noticed how informal the operations of local restaurants were in comparison to the U.S., as well as how quickly concepts were gaining popularity with local and foreigner diners. With each successive visit to Mexico, he noticed that many of his favorite restaurant concepts were expanding locations and that international tourism and interest in Mexican culture and cuisine was growing. During these visits, Daniel was put in touch with Churrería El Moro, one of Mexico City's most beloved restaurant concepts, and was offered a position with the team in Mexico City as head of Corporate Development and Strategy.

After accepting the offer, Daniel led El Moro's U.S. expansion and implemented operational and financial best practices for its Mexican operations. While working in Mexico and interacting with different restaurant industry stakeholders, he increasingly saw the massive opportunity to formalize and scale restaurants in the region while simultaneously providing them with long-term capital and a global network for expansion. These insights led him to pursue the Lauder Program at Wharton, where he plans to deepen his understanding of Latin America's socioeconomic dynamics, digital transformation, and economic formalization. His post-graduation goal is to launch a fund to invest in the region's consumer and hospitality industries.

In his free time, Daniel enjoys working out, traveling, cinema, cooking, and visiting art museums.





LUCAS ARAUJO DE CARVALHO

Lucas was born in a small town in the countryside of Santa Catarina state, Brazil, where he was shaped by the gaucho tradition. He was raised in Florianopolis, a paradisiacal island and leading startup hub in Latin America. These environments, combined with his family's commitment to civil service and community engagement, influenced his drive to make a difference. He graduated second in his class with a degree in mechanical engineering from Federal University of Santa Catarina.

Lucas was trained in the Cartesian approach to problem-solving, yet he has a keen interest in the social sciences and constantly seeks to update his working model of reality. While in college, he co-founded three startups. The most successful raised \$1.8 million in seed capital to develop the world's first multitouch machine to dispense nutrition shakes. In 2019, he joined Boston Consulting Group in the Sao Paulo office, where he worked across a broad set of industries and functional practices. After two years at BCG, Lucas took on the responsibility of leading a major turnaround at an independent fuel distribution company in Brazil, one of the country's largest companies and part of his extended family business, at the onset of the pandemic. Over four years, he designed and implemented a strategy that grew the company's revenue by 50% and doubled the EBITDA margin while deleveraging its capital structure. Lucas also played a leading role in the sector by helping to organize a movement of several independent fuel distributors that corrected structural flaws in Brazil's carbon credit policy.

Lucas also served as the marketing leader for Fundo Catarina, the endowment fund for the Federal University of Santa Catarina and one of the first university endowments in Brazil. His work building awareness and public support contributed to a tenfold growth in the number of donors and the recognition of Fundo Catarina as an entity of public interest by the State Assembly.

At Wharton and Lauder, Lucas looks forward to expanding his knowledge of business, economics, and the international landscape, as well as gaining further exposure to finance, especially on long-term, world-changing infrastructure projects.





KOJOH ATTA

Kojoh Atta was born in Kumasi, Ghana, before immigrating to the United States at a young age after his family was accepted in the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program. He spent his formative years in Columbus, Ohio, growing up in a diverse community bound together by a love of Ohio State Football.

Kojoh earned his bachelor's degree at Stanford University on a full-ride Gates Millennium Scholarship as the first in his family to attend college. He majored in political science and minored in Spanish, and African and African American studies. At Stanford, Kojoh served as chair of the Undergraduate Senate and co-president of the Black Student Union. He interned at Goldman Sachs and The D.E. Shaw Group, and expanded his international perspective by working in the Dominican Republic, studying abroad in Spain, and participating in an exchange program in Japan.

Upon graduation, Kojoh joined KKR & Co. in San Francisco, focusing on credit strategies. He then pivoted to early-stage venture capital at TechNexus in Chicago, where he invested and cultivated partnerships between startups and corporate partners focusing on the future of work, media, health care, and energy. Most recently, Kojoh worked as an investor at Highland Capital Partners, covering Series A to Series C startups across B2B SaaS, B2C, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. Outside of work, Kojoh is a member of the Cap Table Coalition, an organization committed to closing the racial wealth gap by diversifying capitalization tables and the venture capital ecosystem.

At Wharton and Lauder, Kojoh aims to explore how venture capital, private equity, and entrepreneurship have driven and will continue to forge Africa's economic, social, and political transformation. He looks forward to strengthening his professional language skills to unlock opportunities across Africa's prominent Francophone and Anglophone economies. Kojoh aspires to ensure that Africa takes advantage of its demographic dividend to catalyze continental progress and prosperity. He is thrilled to join the multinational Lauder community and is eager to compare and contrast development and investment models across the Global South.

Kojoh is fluent in English, Twi, and French, with advanced Spanish and basic Mandarin proficiency. He relishes staying active by traveling the world, weightlifting, and playing soccer. In his free time, he enjoys jamming to Afrobeats and hip-hop, cheering on Chelsea FC and Ghana's Black Stars, learning languages, reading and watching historical books and films, and spending quality time with friends and family.





ABIGAIL BAMGBOYE

Born and raised in South London as British Nigerian, Abigail Bamgboye grew up enmeshed in a community of several cultures. Surrounded by people of British, European, South Asian, African, and Caribbean heritage, she developed a great curiosity for understanding other people, their histories, and their life experiences.

Excited to accelerate cutting-edge technologies to help solve pressing global challenges, Abigail studied materials science and engineering at Imperial College London as a Bank of England scholar. She demonstrated her passion for community building and creating access to opportunities through her roles as president and vice president of Imperial's Materials Society, with more than 700 members, and on the committee for the Royal School of Mines Union, with more than 1,000 members. Abigail was recognized with the Imperial College Student Activity Award for outstanding contribution to extracurricular life, the City & Guilds A.G. Charleton Prize for all-around excellence, and the Black Impact 2020 Entrepreneurship Award.

On the dean's list for all four years of her degree, she was selected to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on academic exchange, allowing her to study nuclear engineering, computer science, and international development. Her work within MIT's D-Lab, supporting entrepreneurship and engineering capacity building for communities across Latin America, led her to explore international development through an MIT MicroMasters in data, economics, and development policy. Through her studies and internships at the Bank of England, Rolls-Royce, Boston Consulting Group, and teaching at a school in Malaysia, Abigail developed an appreciation for the complexity of delivering social and environmental impact at scale, and the importance of private sector investment and operations.

Abigail began her career in management consultancy at Bain & Company in London. Working with leading businesses in consumer packaged goods, energy and utilities, industrials, and finance, she supported executives across the U.K., U.S., and Europe on corporate strategy and operational transformations. Her areas of focus spanned net zero, clean air, and technology including artificial intelligence.

To enhance her skills to work in emerging markets, Abigail learned Spanish over a year while working full time in London. (She shares her experience as an adult language learner on her YouTube channel, "The Professional Polyglot.") At Wharton and Lauder, Abigail aims to deepen her international exposure and fortify her understanding of global markets. She also looks forward to gaining investment and entrepreneurial experience on campus and in industry.

Outside of her studies, Abigail enjoys exploring nature, connecting with people from all walks of life, broadening her cooking repertoire, and trying new things, including sports, crafts, and experiences.





ARTUR BARKAN

Artur was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and grew up in Voorhees and Collingswood, nearby towns in New Jersey. His parents moved from Russia to the area in the 1990s, and he is the first person in his family who was born in the United States. Growing up, Artur spent time between two very different cultures at home, in school, and abroad, which fostered a deep interest in modern history and global affairs.

This upbringing motivated Artur to study international studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, focusing on economics and European history. He was the undersecretary general for the Johns Hopkins Model UN Conference and a head researcher on foreign currencies under the applied economics department. Artur spent two semesters away from Baltimore, one in Washington, D.C., and one at the Hopkins SAIS campus in Bologna, Italy, focusing on the intersection of public policy and economic development.

Athletics played a major role in Artur's development; he swam during college and was an avid skier. Artur studied German at Hopkins and moved to Austria after graduation to learn the language, living in Hintertux glacier ski resort. He worked in Lake Tahoe in the ski industry for two years before moving to Seattle, Washington. His time in the outdoors industry built in him a drive to support careful stewardship of natural resources, climate, and ecosystems.

In Seattle, Artur worked for Sia Partners, a French management consulting firm, as part of the Digital Transformation business unit. He worked primarily with the technology firms based in Seattle with a focus on how to design and deploy mature data strategies. He also gained experience as a project manager for different digital UX and marketing initiatives, which sparked his interest in product strategy. He has remained closely involved with the local community as a freeride ski coach for the nonprofit SPAC at Stevens Pass, Washington.

During his time at Wharton and Lauder, Artur looks forward to learning the interdisciplinary skills needed to take his current experience and cultural knowledge and become a leader in product strategy development, with a goal to better society's use of clean energy.

He looks forward to connecting with the triathlon and mountaineering clubs at Wharton to stay active, taking advantage of student discounts to the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, and pursuing his passion for playing guitar.





VIKTORIA BOENING

Viktoria was born in Germany and moved as a child to the United States, where she grew up in the Midwest and South. From an early age, her international background provided her with a deep appreciation for different languages and cultures, while her experiences living in various regions of the United States enhanced her understanding of nuances within cultures. This unique blend of international exposure and domestic immersion during her childhood had a profound impact on Viktoria's values and perspectives.

After graduating from high school, Viktoria attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied finance and business economics and completed a minor in political science. During her undergraduate studies at the Wharton School, some of her academic interests encompassed the privatization of East Germany, American involvement in German unification, and the dynamics of industrial relations in present-day Germany. She also completed internships in Munich with KPMG's Audit Group and UniCredit's Equity Capital Markets Team, which solidified her dedication to understanding global financial markets. In addition, Viktoria led globally focused consulting projects and international Model UN conferences while at Penn.

After Penn, Viktoria worked in technology, media, and telecom investment banking at LionTree in New York City, where she also had the opportunity to work on European transactions. During this time, she developed an interest in the technology sector as a means for broader economic advancement and innovation. More recently, Viktoria moved to San Francisco, California, where she worked at Bain & Company, focusing on software and semiconductor projects in the private equity and general consulting practices. Outside of client work, Viktoria led pro-bono consulting projects within education and health care.

At Wharton and Lauder, Viktoria looks forward to deepening her knowledge of global financial markets, geopolitics, and cross-cultural business practices with a focus on understanding how to promote technological innovation in Germany. In her free time, Viktoria enjoys running, open-water swimming, and hiking. She is excited to return to Philadelphia and build lifelong connections with her Wharton and Lauder peers.





CATERINA BONMASSAR

Caterina was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts, and grew up in a multicultural household with an Austrian mother and an Italian father. From a young age, she was immersed in studying multiple languages. Starting early in her childhood and continuing through high school, she attended the German Saturday School of Boston. She also studied Italian and French during high school and continued her Italian studies in college.

Caterina graduated summa cum laude from Fordham University with a major in economics and a minor in marketing. At Fordham, she was involved in several extracurricular activities and was passionate about giving back to the community. One of the many ways she helped her community was through Strive for College NYC, where she mentored high school students in navigating the college admissions process. She continued her passion for mentoring post-graduation by volunteering at Minds Matter Boston, where she guided a group of high school students and their mentors in applying to summer programs.

After graduation, Caterina decided to pursue a career in the food and beverage industry with Kraft Heinz and relocated to Arkansas to work on the Walmart account. She advanced quickly through the organization, holding multiple roles. The roles she held ranged from retail and sales analytics to trade and account management at Walmart, where she managed the profit and loss for major brands such as Oscar Mayer and Capri Sun. After over three years with Kraft Heinz, she returned to the Boston area and joined Mars as a category manager for candy in-aisle and online at CVS. She advised CVS on key initiatives, led insights and analytics, and drove growth for the candy category. She also co-led the communications committee for Women & Allies of Mars, a group dedicated to providing resources that empower women and allies in the workplace.

At Wharton and Lauder, Caterina aims to expand her career globally while also building on her current experience in the consumer packaged goods industry. Through Lauder's curriculum, she plans to build cultural, political, and economic knowledge of the European Union. She also plans on being actively involved with Lauder's tight-knit community, collaborating and learning from others in the program.

In her free time, Caterina enjoys traveling, hiking, and exploring new restaurants with friends.





NICOLAS CELASCO

Nicolas was born a triplet in Buenos Aires, Argentina. From an early age, his exposure to international settings through family trips to different countries, studying English at school, and practicing taekwondo, opened the window to diverse cultures and sparked his passion to learn about other countries.

Coming from a family of engineers, Nicolas' grandfather inspired him to explore a career focused on the environment. This led him to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering at Instituto Tecnológico de Buenos Aires, where he discovered the sustainable mobility domain and its vital contribution to energy transition.

Propelled by his aspiration to work at the intersection of sustainability and international affairs, Nicolas began his professional journey as a project engineer at 35 South, a consultancy dedicated to sustainable transportation. At 35 South, he joined efforts with the United Nations Environment Program and the World Bank to boost electric mobility development across Latin America, including in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Brazil. These diverse teams and projects exposed Nicolas to the intricate cultural and economic contrasts within the region, motivating him to further expand his global perspective.

Nicolas transitioned into health care consulting at ZS Associates as an associate consultant, immersing himself in cross-continental collaborations with teams from the U.S. and India. As co-founder of the People's Committee in the Buenos Aires office, Nicolas orchestrated initiatives to foster teambuilding among colleagues, blending Indian and Argentine cultures.

In 2022, after settling in Boston to accompany his wife during her MBA program, Nicolas embraced a new career chapter at Hatch, a leading engineering consulting firm in North America. As a consultant, Nicolas dived into the U.S. sustainable transportation sector, providing strategic guidance to clients nationwide to advance the deployment of zero-emission vehicles. His time at Hatch helped him build a comprehensive understanding of the North American continent, enabling him to grasp the unique challenges confronting each region.

At Wharton and Lauder, Nicolas plans to deepen his knowledge of how business and sustainability intersect in emerging markets. In addition, he aims to attain proficiency in Portuguese to unlock new avenues of opportunity in South America's largest nation, Brazil. Looking ahead, Nicolas hopes to catalyze the energy transition and sustainable development in his home country of Argentina and Latin America at large.

During his free time, he enjoys trying new restaurants with family and friends, reading fantasy and history novels, listening to podcasts, playing guitar, working out, kitesurfing, and playing soccer.





ABHIMANYU (ABHI) CHADHA

As a first-generation Indian American, Abhi spent his childhood between nations and cultures in the diverse community of Northern Virginia. That upbringing, coupled with the *Time* and *Businessweek* magazines that came home, planted the seeds for a deep interest in business and international affairs.

Abhi majored in finance and government at William & Mary and held internships at EY's government advisory practice and the U.S. Department of State. He had the chance to explore multiple regions to further cultivate an understanding of a variety of perspectives. He studied South Asia through classes and an independent study. He also traveled to Austria for an exchange program with the Vienna University of Economics and Business. While studying German, social policy, and international finance, he met both diplomats from around the world and countless Austrians who helped him understand the political landscape in a moment fraught with domestic protest and challenges to the European project.

Outside the classroom, Abhi was deeply involved in building community at the university, serving as an orientation area director, president of the Eta Circle of Omicron Delta, president's aide, and tour guide. As chief of staff of student government when COVID-19 hit, he organized a team to survey student concerns and worked with administrators to craft solutions for health and academic challenges.

Following his graduation, Abhi joined EY San Francisco in the Financial Services Consulting practice, where he was immersed in the fintech ecosystem, financial regulation, and their role in inclusion. He helped develop a U.S. IPO strategy for a South African fintech by researching foreign private issuer and international guidelines for executives. He was subsequently seconded to a global payments fintech, where he crafted a change readiness strategy as part of a major data transformation. Additionally, he led new account development at government banking institutions and various fintechs, spearheaded the first U.S. Financial Services Chief Sustainability Officer Forum, and helped develop a strategy for the practice's next phase of growth.

Abhi is deeply honored to be part of the Wharton and Lauder cohort, and is keen to develop his understanding of South Asia, finance, and technology. He hopes to leverage his studies to work with financial institutions and governments to develop innovative solutions that democratize finance, further financial inclusion, and reduce inequity in emerging markets.

In his spare time, Abhi enjoys exploring new places, running, cooking, reading, listening to podcasts, and calling old friends on the weekend.





QINGFENG (FONG) CHAI

Fong was born in Vienna, Austria, to Chinese immigrant parents and raised in Warsaw, Poland, where she attended a German school. Growing up at the intersection of cultures, Fong not only learned Mandarin, German, Polish, and French, but also developed an early appreciation for different world views and how they complement each other. Seeking to broaden her horizons beyond summer language camps in the U.K. and France, she ultimately graduated from the American School of Warsaw and headed to the U.S. for college.

Her desire to make sense of the world via quantitative frameworks brought her to the University of Chicago, where she obtained a bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics while creating language learning opportunities as a board member of the German Club. Alongside her STEM coursework, Fong also pursued her interest in the visual arts, eventually becoming a UI/UX designer for multiple startups including Byto, where she and her co-founders created a social marketplace for gig work. On the side, Fong is still a designer and an illustrator, helping her international clients visualize data, technical concepts, and narratives.

As an economic consultant at Cornerstone Research, Fong analyzed data, led teams, and collaborated with professors to derive economic insights from big data in high stakes litigation settings, which often made news headlines. As a community builder, Fong transformed her office's social committee during the work-from-home transition, implemented development initiatives as the local analyst representative, and became co-head of the East Asian Affinity Group (now C-Hopsticks), spearheading firmwide cultural events.

At Wharton and Lauder, Fong is excited to become part of a multicultural community that is passionate about addressing global issues collaboratively. She is a firm believer in growing the pie and hopes to leverage her quantitative background, develop her intercultural skills, and advance her language abilities to research sustainability traditions and innovations across cultures.

Off campus, you can find Fong on a rock wall or Klettersteig route, on a couch rewatching Ghibli films, across the globe taking food photos for Google Maps reviews, or in a coffee shop drafting trip itineraries. Her magnum opus (thus far!) is a road trip spanning two months and 10,000 miles across North America, although her favorite trip is one she didn't plan: a monthlong mountaineering expedition in Western Patagonia.





MICHELLE CHEN

Michelle was born in Redwood City, California, and grew up in Seattle, Washington. She is the daughter of entrepreneurial, first-generation immigrant parents from China and Taiwan. Michelle's upbringing opened doors for her to explore East Asia, allowing visits to family and meetings with family business partners in China, Taiwan, and Japan. These experiences exposed her to the nuances between Eastern and Western cultures, innovative products, delicious cuisines, and ultimately a love for travel that made her immensely grateful to be part of two vibrant and distinct cultures.

While studying business administration and informatics at the University of Washington, Michelle was able to spend time in Europe. Starting with a month in London, she explored the intersection of technology and globalization at diverse organizations ranging from a 3D printing startup to football club Tottenham Hotspur. She later studied abroad in Germany, taking courses such as environmental finance that taught her how deeply business is intertwined with the environment, economics, and politics.

Her time at university drove an interest in working across business, technology, and design, which led her to join Deloitte Consulting in Seattle. After two years, she moved to New York City where she joined the Experience & Product offering and continued to work in product management roles, helping clients design, build, and launch new digital products across the sports and entertainment, travel, and wealth management industries. Her interest in product management lay in the ability to create impactful user experiences that in turn drove business success. Outside of work, Michelle is passionate about educational equity and led custom programs teaching design thinking to underserved high school and college students in New York City.

At Wharton, Michelle is interested in exploring the areas that bookend product delivery – earlier stage innovation and entrepreneurship, and later stage improvement based on data and analytics. At Lauder, Michelle hopes to deepen her understanding of the East and Southeast Asia region, improve her Chinese, and strengthen intercultural leadership skills. She is excited to learn from and build friendships with her diverse, globally minded peers. Her dream is to build her own venture bridging ideas from her East Asian heritage and American upbringing.

In her free time, Michelle enjoys going for runs outdoors, practicing Pilates, exploring new cafes, and watching Studio Ghibli films (her favorite is “Howl’s Moving Castle”).





SERENA CHIANG

Serena was born to Taiwanese parents in Canada and later spent time studying and working in Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, China, France, and Italy. Her early childhood was defined by encounters with contrasting cultures as she befriended and lived among Mandarin, English, Hokkien, and Francophone speakers. Sustained exposure to geopolitical tensions in Taiwan reinforced her proclivity for global affairs and encouraged her to explore the linguistic, political, and economic configuration of discrete societies.

She attended a bilingual school in the Swiss canton of Vaud before pursuing an interdisciplinary degree in modern languages (French and Italian) at University College London. During her studies, she developed a mutually complementary interest in humanities and business. In her third year, she completed an IoT business consultancy internship in Shanghai. She proposed smart technology adoption strategies for a Fortune 500 tire manufacturer while also perfecting her professional Mandarin. Upon graduation, she returned to Taipei to train as an investigative journalist. During this period, she covered topics ranging from small and medium-sized enterprises, transport, infrastructure, to the 2020 presidential elections, producing around five news reports a day at CTI TV News.

Keen to apply her research skills to business challenges with a global nexus, she accepted an offer to work in corporate investigations in London. She started as an analyst at Audere International and progressed to an associate role at Raedas Consulting, a Band 1 Chambers & Partners-ranked company. Her day-to-day involved dissecting corporate and financial evidence to support litigation claims surrounding corruption, contract breaches, and fraud, as well as helping funds and private equity firms de-risk their emerging market transactions through enhanced due diligence. She oversaw evidence collection and analysis that contributed to positive outcomes in high-value cases across mining, oil, and telecoms sectors.

Serena later pivoted towards private equity by working as an associate at a large single-family office. She specifically contributed to restructuring initiatives and mergers and acquisitions deals in the 3D printing, mobility, and consumer goods manufacturing space. During the Wharton and Lauder program, she is determined to further her interests in finance while also deepening her understanding of media and retail industries.

Serena joined the East Asia Lawyers Organisation to network with legal professionals when working on corporate investigations. She has enjoyed teaching and promoting languages to disadvantaged young people and encouraging their international outlook. She is passionate about politics and art history, and spends her free time exploring museums and galleries.





CAMERON CLARK

Cameron was raised in Gilbert, Arizona. Upon graduating from high school, he studied Spanish and gained an appreciation for multicultural experiences during a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Monterrey, Mexico. While in Mexico, Cameron managed the finances for the organization and worked with local business owners and landlords, instilling an interest in doing business in the region.

Cameron attended Brigham Young University for his undergraduate degree, majoring in finance. While at BYU, he was a member of the varsity men's swim team (backstroke and individual medley), the 2015 MPSF Conference Championship team, and received a varsity letter. He also co-founded Brigham Capital, a student-managed investment fund, and served as co-president of the BYU Investing Club.

Cameron interned at Westwood Global, an emerging markets investment manager in Boston, Massachusetts, and Wasatch Global Investors, a micro and small cap global investment management firm based in Salt Lake City, Utah. After graduating, eager to continue developing as an investor, Cameron joined Dodge & Cox, one of the oldest asset managers in the U.S., in San Francisco. He was responsible for co-managing investments globally in the biopharmaceutical, consumer staples, and construction materials sectors.

Outside of work, Cameron has served on the Young Professional's Board at Moneythink, a nonprofit focused on helping youth make financially informed educational decisions, and the West Coast Advisory Board of the Young Investors Society, a nonprofit educating youth around the world who come from disadvantaged backgrounds on investing and personal finance.

Cameron's experiences living in Mexico helped shape his values and career aspirations. At Wharton and Lauder, he is excited to refine his Spanish and gain a deeper understanding of the political and economic environment in Latin America as he prepares to invest in the region and globally.

In his spare time, Cameron can be found running on San Francisco's Marina Green, listening to lo-fi jazz, watching ESPN's "30 for 30," and attempting to surf.





JAMES ENTEE COBBINAH

James was born in Tarkwa, Ghana, but spent his formative years in the capital city of Accra. With parents from different tribes and a multilingual upbringing, James doesn't remember what language his first word was in. He grew up speaking Twi, Ghana's most common local language, along with Fante, Nzema, and English.

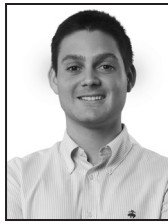
James earned his Bachelor of Science in business administration at Bucknell University, where he majored in financial management. At Bucknell, he was selected to join the Freeman College of Management's Student Advisory Board, worked at the school's career center for three years helping students with resumes and cover letters, was co-president of the Bucknell Investment Club, a leader in his Greek letter organization, an orientation leader for international students, and a residential adviser. He was also a member and contributed to several other clubs and societies. He studied abroad in Barcelona with a focus on international business, and fulfilled his childhood quest of watching his favorite soccer team, Barcelona, play Real Madrid in El Clasico.

After graduating, James joined Vanderbilt University's Office of Investments in Nashville and rotated across both public and private investment teams, allocating capital to hedge funds, long only, fixed income, credit, private equity, and venture capital funds globally across industries such as consumer, retail, tech, health care, and real estate.

At Wharton and Lauder, James is eager to develop his understanding of the venture capital ecosystem across emerging/frontier markets.

In his spare time, James enjoys the company of friends, traveling, and exploring. He is looking forward to exploring Philadelphia, experiencing cultural immersion, and developing strong friendships with his Wharton and Lauder peers.





JOSE E. COLOMA

Jose was born and raised in Lima, Peru, and began developing a multicultural background at a young age, moving with his family to Santa Cruz, Bolivia, at age 12. His upbringing in two South American countries ingrained in him a profound understanding of the region's socioeconomic and cultural dynamics. As a competitive junior tennis player, Jose represented Peru internationally in tournaments across 10 countries throughout Latin America, further enhancing his deep regional understanding.

Jose completed his undergraduate studies at Grinnell College, majoring in economics. In addition to excelling academically, Jose left a strong mark as a student athlete. He was Grinnell's top-ranked tennis player, clinching two Midwest conference championships and being honored with the Freshman of the Year award for exceptional academic and athletic performance. Jose's undergraduate experience was bolstered by a yearlong exchange experience at the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) in Sweden, where he gained firsthand insight into European and Swedish cultural and historical nuances. This experience was particularly eye-opening and introduced him to global citizenship.

Upon graduation, Jose spent five years at Nexus Group, a leading private equity firm in the Andean region, with an investment thesis focused on enabling affordable, top-quality products and services to the emerging Latin American middle class. By spearheading more than 30 mergers and acquisitions, value creation, and international expansion projects across the region, Jose gained a strong blend of financial acumen and operational expertise in diverse industries, such as sustainable packaging, retail, higher education, and financial services.

Additionally, as an angel investor and board member of Envios Pet, the leading pet e-commerce platform in Bolivia and Paraguay, Jose obtained hands-on experience operating early-stage companies and managing investments in highly regulated frontier markets.

Jose aims to leverage Wharton and Lauder's focus on global leadership, its close-knit community, and immersive experiences to continue developing an exhaustive understanding of the Latin American region while building a strong managerial and leadership skill set. His long-term goal is to help foster social and economic development in Latin America through private capital allocation.

In his spare time, Jose is an avid fan of his home soccer team, Universitario, which he intends to help reach the global soccer elite someday. Jose also enjoys playing tennis, soccer, and padel, watching movies, and traveling.





DANIA PAOLA CORTES CERVANTES

Dania was born and raised in Mexicali, Mexico, a border town to Calexico, California, where she attended primary and secondary school. Until age 18, her time was spent equally across both cities. Crossing countries to go to school every day with her passport in her pocket was Dania's norm, and growing up in border towns made her aware of the distinctions between Mexican and American cultures, as well as their unique interplay along the border. The experience made her curious and excited to explore beyond her hometown.

Dania attended Stanford University, where she studied optimization, engineering, and behavioral operations, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in management science and engineering in 2019. At Stanford, Dania was involved in professional and social associations that promoted access and development to minorities in STEM, business, and entrepreneurship, particularly through her four-year tenure in the Business Association of Stanford Entrepreneurial Students, where she served as sponsorship executive manager and chief financial officer.

Dania interned at TC Latin America Partners, where she led the market analysis and due diligence materials for one of the fund's investment targets in the mortgage lending sector; at First Republic Bank, where she analyzed the performance of existing and prospective alternative investment opportunities; and at Goldman Sachs Private Wealth Management (GS PWM), where she identified underperforming investment mandates to enhance client returns.

Upon graduation, Dania returned to GS PWM as a financial analyst. She had a front-row seat to learn from Bay Area founders and visionaries as she supported three private wealth advisers in the San Francisco office in monitoring asset allocation and investment strategies and executing trades for 95+ families with approximately \$26.5 billion in assets under supervision. After the pandemic, Dania moved to New York City and started as associate in the Client Relations and Capital Raising team in EQT, where she reported directly to both Americas co-heads, supporting client coverage and fundraising for New York and LatAm while leading due diligence efforts for both regions.

At Wharton and Lauder, Dania intends to build on her experience working with LatAm and to deepen her understanding of the alternatives market in Brazil, while strengthening her Portuguese language skills. Dania's long-term vision is to provide access, advocacy, and attention to pension funds across LatAm to increase returns and improve financial outcomes for many.

In her free time, Dania enjoys running (she's completed nine half-marathons), practicing yoga, trying new restaurants, learning about skin care products/routines, and napping.





BEVERLY Y. DANQUAH

Beverly was born and raised in New York City to Ghanaian parents. With a background in journalism and international development, Beverly is pursuing an internationally focused legal career to promote economic equity through legal advocacy. She graduated from St. John's University with a degree in communication arts and legal studies, and an international studies minor. At St. John's, she was features editor for the award-winning student newspaper, The Torch. Beverly received the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship to embark on study abroad trips to Italy, Ireland, and France that enriched her global perspective. Her undergraduate career culminated in delivering the university's commencement speech. Beverly's journalism path included valuable news internships at CNN, MSNBC, and ABC News during undergrad. Her experience covering the 2017 travel ban at CNN inspired an interest in law, motivating her to explore legal angles in news stories. As an editorial intern at MSNBC, she crafted content capturing migrant journeys across the U.S. southern border, including family separation stories.

Seeking to amplify underrepresented voices internationally, Beverly transitioned into the international development sector through the Princeton in Africa fellowship. She worked on sustainability communications for water and land use at the International Water Management Institute in Ghana until the program was cut short by COVID-19 in 2020. She then joined the nonprofit publication Rest of World, covering technology's global impact beyond the West.

Beverly is an alumna of The New York Times Student Journalism Institute and has freelanced for Teen Vogue and Essence, where she wrote pieces centering on African lifestyle and culture.

Alongside her journalism career, Beverly spent six years as a freelance event producer and consultant at the Apollo Theater, chairing the Young Producers Club. She co-founded the Apollo Teen Takeover, the venue's first annual event created by interns, now celebrating its 10th year.

Beverly joined the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School in 2023 to formally integrate her multifaceted background. Through the JD/MA program with Lauder, she aims to blend legal advocacy with international studies coursework to promote economic justice and equitable opportunities for people in the African diaspora. Before Penn Carey Law, she was an SEO Law fellow at Shearman & Sterling in New York City.

In her spare time, Beverly enjoys attending Afrobeats concerts, fitness classes, and discovering new ice cream flavors.





ARDAN DEMIRAYAK

Ardan was born and raised in Antalya, a touristic capital and southern coastal city in Turkey. Fascinated by different cultures and history from a young age, Ardan acquired a global perspective and interest in understanding the incentives shaping human interactions. After receiving a full scholarship to one of Turkey's leading universities, he moved to Istanbul, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in economics with honors.

Pursuing his enduring interest in financial markets, he interned at Global Securities as an equity research analyst focused on listed companies in Borsa Istanbul (BIST). Although he is passionate about the industry, he declined an offer to pursue an international career. Interested in China's economic success at the time, Ardan moved to Hong Kong, where he worked as a spring analyst for a technology-focused venture capital fund.

Following his experience in Asia, Ardan continued to expand his skills in macroeconomics and finance by earning a master's degree in international economics and finance from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Upon graduation, Ardan joined Nithio, a climate fintech, as one of the company's earliest employees. As the second person on the investment team, he worked closely with Nithio's chief executive officer and chief investment officer to build an impact-oriented, AI-driven fintech. He played a key role in the fundraising for Nithio's financial intermediary by owning and refining the financial model, supporting commercial negotiations, and preparing investor presentations.

Following the first close of Nithio's financial intermediary, Ardan transitioned to managing the full deal cycle of downstream debt transactions, including due diligence, investment committee submissions, negotiations and closing. He also worked in a cross-department capability to incubate and develop Nithio's lending tech capabilities.

At Wharton and Lauder, Ardan intends to deepen his understanding of the fintech ecosystem, including gaps and potentials across markets and the integration of AI technologies and blockchain within the financial industry. He aims to specialize in deal structuring and crafting complex financial instruments that leverage digital innovations to enhance access to capital in emerging markets and beyond.

Outside of work, Ardan enjoys Latin dancing, golf, and sailing.





HINDA DIAKITE

Hinda was born and raised in New York City to Malian parents. Her first international trip to Mali sparked a travel bug that would lead her to more than 27 countries so far, connecting her with people all over the world and expanding her interest in the global economy.

Hinda graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in health and societies. While in college, she studied abroad in France twice, first spending a summer in Tours with a host family and later a semester in Paris, where she honed her French skills and fully immersed herself in French culture. Hinda's time in France also allowed her to interact with the Malian diaspora. Outside of class, she spent time volunteering as a mentor to first-generation students in Philadelphia through the Dana How Scholars Program.

Hinda began her investment banking career at Morgan Stanley, where she focused on health care equity capital markets and was involved in the execution of over 25 equity transactions representing over \$10 billion of volume. In 2021, she moved to PJT Partners, expanding her skill set in capital markets advisory covering both equity and debt deals across all sectors. She worked on notable financings across the globe and on bankruptcy exit financing including LATAM Airlines, Revlon, and Envision Healthcare.

At Wharton and Lauder, Hinda is excited to expand her knowledge in business and the Francophone region in Africa while also strengthening her French. She is excited to meet new people with similar interests and explore new hobbies such as sailing. She intends to pursue an investing role in West Africa following graduation.

In her spare time, Hinda enjoys traveling, spending time with her family and friends, mentoring first-generation students, and trying out boutique fitness classes in the city. She speaks English, French, and Soninke, and can read and write in Arabic.





BRANNEN DICKSON

Brannen is a proud Jamaican-American dual citizen who was born in Boston, Massachusetts, to Jamaican parents, and grew up in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. From a young age, Brannen's parents encouraged him to adopt a global mindset, which developed his interest in other people and cultures. In third grade, he began learning Spanish, which opened the door to foreign language and cultural studies for years to come. In high school, Brannen paired his Spanish studies with a newfound interest in Mandarin.

Brannen attended Vanderbilt University, where he majored in Spanish and public policy studies with a minor in Chinese. He also studied Russian and Arabic. In the summer of 2021, he participated in the U.S. Department of State's Mandarin Chinese Critical Language Scholarship, which is a 10-week summer intensive language program.

Upon graduation, Brannen began working full time at Pfizer as part of their U.S. State Policy team. In this role, he analyzed legislation related to the company to help inform Pfizer's policy positions on several issues. During his time at Pfizer, he witnessed the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and Paxlovid therapeutic, the ways in which Pfizer communicates with relevant leaders and stakeholders nationally and globally, and the acquisition of an oncology company as part of Pfizer's push in combating cancer. Through work travels, he saw the ways in which a large company such as Pfizer operates in different regions, countries, and markets.

At Wharton and Lauder, Brannen hopes to bolster his understanding of the business world, advance his proficiency in Chinese and Russian, and gain deeper knowledge on the culture, politics, and society of the East Asia region.

Outside of school, Brannen enjoys reading, cycling, watching soccer and tennis, traveling, and building Legos. He is eager to explore new bike paths in Pennsylvania and familiarize himself with the city's food scene.





ROWA EL-TOHAMI

Rowa was born in Omdurman, Sudan, and grew up between Khartoum and Mississauga, Ontario. Growing up in a close-knit community, she was deeply influenced by revered ancestral values and a culture of communal care. However, the socioeconomic instability in her native country made her interested in studying abroad and ultimately pursuing international development work on the African continent.

As a high school senior in Sudan, Rowa was awarded the Cambridge University Top of the World award for receiving the highest score in the world on her IGCSE Sociology Exam. She later gained admission to Columbia University as a Kluge scholar, becoming the first member of her family to attend college in the U.S. Rowa graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in international studies. Living in New York City exposed her to pan-African perspectives and allowed her to grow and thrive in a melting pot of politics and culture. During her time at Columbia, Rowa helped to enhance the experiences of historically marginalized students on campus, including spearheading a mentorship initiative for African students as president of Columbia's African Students Association.

Rowa transitioned into the corporate world, gaining valuable experience as an investment banking analyst at J.P. Morgan covering energy companies and later sustainable development financing in Rwanda. As a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adviser in Kigali, she worked on supporting East African governments and the private sector with accelerating progress towards the 2030 SDG health and education sector goals. In this role, she also leveraged her expertise to advise early-stage African ventures on strategy and growth. Her passion for social entrepreneurship and education advocacy led her to pivot her career towards education entrepreneurship and launch an education startup operating in Nigeria and Egypt.

At Lauder, Rowa aims to deepen her understanding of Africa's historical contexts, pre- and post-colonial educational systems, and data-driven policy change. She is also interested in exploring the role of public-private partnerships in African talent development and plans to enhance her understanding of the continent's entrepreneurial ecosystem while studying frameworks for enabling economic synergies among countries.

In her spare time, Rowa enjoys traveling with her family, songwriting, and going to concerts with friends.





DANIEL FERREIRA

Daniel was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, but by the age of 4 had moved to the Netherlands and Ireland, where he spent the next 17 years. In Ireland, he attended a multicultural primary school with over 100 nationalities in the student body. His daily exposure to different cultures combined with his international upbringing fostered a lifelong curiosity for exploring global perspectives and languages. In addition to his native English and Portuguese, he learned Spanish and Irish Gaelic over his school years.

Daniel earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Trinity College Dublin. While at university, he attained leadership positions in multiple organizations, including the Trinity Student Managed Fund, where he defined asset allocation for a €200,000 long-only portfolio, and the Student Economic Review, where he helped manage the world's oldest undergraduate journal. He also interned in consulting roles with Deloitte and Accenture Strategy, both in Dublin.

After graduation, Daniel joined the Boston Consulting Group's Rio de Janeiro Office, which allowed him to experience and explore Brazil from a new perspective. He advised clients in a range of industries, from private equity to industrial and consumer goods, and across multiple functions and geographies. In more than four years in consulting, he worked with teams from the U.S., Europe, and Asia, traveling to multiple clients across Brazil and Latin America. Some key topics covered included business transformation, go-to-market strategy, and organizational structure.

At Wharton and Lauder, Daniel looks to deepen his financial and strategic acumen and broaden his global perspective, particularly in regions he has not had a chance to explore such as East Asia and Africa. He hopes to apply learnings from these experiences to solving key business issues in Brazil and globally, particularly on pertinent topics around sustainability and the global food chain.

In his spare time, Daniel is an enthusiastic cook and can often be found testing recipes from around the world. He is a keen football fan and an avid musician, listening and playing samba, Irish folk rock, and everything in between.





JHONNY ANDRES GEORGES PARRA

Jhonny was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, where he graduated with degrees in business administration and public accounting from Universidad Católica Andrés Bello (UCAB). During his undergraduate studies, his interests in globalization led him to several international initiatives: a semester studying business in New York; another semester studying e-commerce in Paris; and participating in the Latin American Model of United Nations (LAMUN), held in Mexico. Through these initiatives, he was recognized twice as a Glocal Student, a student who thinks globally and acts locally.

Interested in the financial industry as well as tech-driven solutions, Jhonny began his career in the finance department of Linio, the largest Latin American online retailer (acquired by Falabella Group), where he worked on managing treasury strategies, minimizing credit card fraud, and maintaining financial ledgers. He pursued a Master of Science in finance from Instituto de Estudios Superiores en Administracion (IESA) and immediately began working at a major local financial institution as a trader, where he managed strategies with equities, fixed-income securities, and derivatives.

Over the years, Jhonny's experience led him to manage a primarily fixed-income portfolio for a large financial institution with assets under management of over \$150 million. He later joined the board of directors for BNC, the largest nongovernmental financial institution in Venezuela, where he provided knowledge and insight on the securities and financial industries to the bank's leadership.

Jhonny is a CFA Charterholder and a firm believer in giving back to his community. His way of doing so has been through teaching. He has taught finance-related courses to graduate and undergraduate students both at UCAB and IESA since completing his studies at both institutions.

Through Wharton and Lauder, Jhonny will focus on understanding the key dynamics that led Brazil to become a global leader in the fintech industry, and how other Latin American countries, such as Venezuela, may catch up. By deepening his understanding of the fintech industry, Jhonny wants to learn how financial institutions in Latin America can seize tech-driven initiatives to serve unbanked and underbanked communities.

Jhonny enjoys learning about other cultures, and speaks French, Italian, English, and Spanish. During his spare time, he reads nonfiction and finds it really hard to say no to a nice tennis or padel match – as well as any opportunity to refine his golf swing.





BRIAN GEREVITS

Born and raised in Staten Island, New York, Brian was raised by Russian-Jewish parents who immigrated to the United States from the former Soviet Union Republic of Moldova. Having learned Russian as his first language, Brian was exposed to the richness and complexity of Eastern European culture from an early age. His experience as a first-generation American and the son of immigrants fostered a strong appreciation for his own culture and sparked an interest in exploring others.

Brian attended the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College (CUNY) on a full-tuition merit scholarship, where he majored in biology with a concentration in bioinformatics. In addition to his coursework, his fascination with diverse cultures propelled him to study Spanish and to pursue an enriching academic experience abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Outside of his studies, Brian devoted time to research in several of New York City's premier medical institutions, including new molecule discovery at Rockefeller University and oncology treatments at Mount Sinai Hospital. A summer internship at health care investment firm Deerfield Management ignited his passion for a career at the intersection of business and health care.

After graduation, Brian joined EY-Parthenon in New York City, advising clients in industries ranging from technology to life sciences, across engagements from mergers and acquisitions to commercial due diligence. Brian's experience on multiple global transactions with stakeholders across the world helped mold his international business acumen. Outside of client responsibilities, Brian was heavily involved in leading firm recruiting efforts, particularly for students from underrepresented groups. During his time at the firm, Brian launched an "Ace the Case" initiative, a preparation program for students from historically Black colleges and universities, supporting the early career growth of more than 50 students across three universities.

While at Wharton and Lauder, Brian is excited to reconnect with the Russian language and heritage while continuing to build his international perspective and global mindset. He seeks to deepen his understanding of technology, health care, and their intersection in addressing the evolving landscape of global health challenges.

In his free time, you can find Brian boxing, skiing, playing basketball, or devouring historical fiction novels. Brian is a fan of his many hometown New York sports teams, no matter how miserable they may be.





JAVIER GUERRATY

Javier was born in Santiago, Chile, and moved to Venezuela with his family when he was 4 years old. He attended an international British school, where he had classmates from around the world. After leaving Venezuela, Javier lived in Aruba for six months before returning to Chile, where he also attended a British school, was elected prefect of the school, and completed the International Baccalaureate.

At the age of 17, Javier started his studies at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile to obtain his business administration and economics degree. During his time at university, he represented his classmates as an elected delegate for the Students Council of the Faculty. He also served four times as a teaching assistant in finance, accounting, and microeconomics.

Upon graduation, Javier joined the Latin America Investment Banking team of J.P. Morgan, working from the Santiago office. He worked mainly in the power and dairy sectors, supporting one of the largest merger and acquisition deals within Chile's power sector.

After J.P. Morgan, Javier transitioned to management consulting at Mastercard Advisors Consulting, where he developed a deep understanding of Latin America by traveling and working in seven countries in the region, including Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panamá, Uruguay, and Argentina. During his tenure at Mastercard, he focused his career on payment technologies and financial inclusion. Additionally, Javier was selected as Mastercard's Ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean, representing his region in the Middle East and North Africa, which allowed him to live for nearly four months in Dubai, sharing regional best practices and working on a financial inclusion project for Pakistan.

In 2020, Javier founded and led as executive director Chile Se Educa, Chile's biggest financial education nonprofit organization, developing a community of over 60,000 followers and offering financial education courses to over 1,000 low-income families in Chile.

At Wharton and Lauder, Javier looks forward to deepening his knowledge of Latin America's politics, institutions, and economic drivers, learning Portuguese, and further developing his finance skills. He is married to Amelia von Appen, a fellow Chilean who is also pursuing the MBA/MA program and specializing in the Italian track.





TANNER HALE

Tanner Hale was born in Sandy, Utah. At 19, he served a two-year service mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Kiev, Ukraine. From that experience, he developed a deep love for the Russian language and the Slavic people, a curiosity of diverse cultures, and a commitment for helping others.

Upon returning from his mission, Tanner attended Brigham Young University where he majored in Russian with a minor in global business. Fueled by his love for language, he became a Russian language instructor for prospective missionaries. After his sophomore year, he interned in Riga, Latvia, working at the largest tire retailer and wholesaler in the country. During his final semester at Brigham Young University, Tanner embarked on a transformative study abroad program in Israel, taking classes from Palestinian and Jewish professors. He did a deep dive into the history and conflict of the region and learned about the complex religious and political narratives.

Post-graduation, Tanner worked as a sales representative at Lucid Software, a hyper-growth tech company. He exceeded targets to qualify for the prestigious President's Club two years in a row. Finding fulfillment in helping others, he also mentored new recruits on the sales team.

Outside of work, Tanner loves to get involved in the community. When the conflict erupted between Russia and Ukraine in 2022, he worked with local nonprofits and his local Rotary Club to raise money to build a modular home for a family in Ukraine that lost their home.

Tanner is thrilled to be attending Wharton and Lauder and plans to deepen his understanding of the Russian language and Eastern European cultures. He wants to pivot into social impact real estate and entrepreneurial ventures. In his free time, Tanner skis, bikes, surfs, golfs, and plays tennis, and soccer.





CATELYN HUANG

Catelyn was born in Minnesota but grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Raised by a Chinese father and a Taiwanese mother, Catelyn was introduced to language study and cultural exchange at a young age, spending her Sundays in Chinese school and summer breaks in Taiwanese day camps. These interactions proved formative; Catelyn has continued to seek out multicultural experiences.

In middle school, an introductory French class convinced Catelyn to pursue studies in the language. She took French classes throughout middle school and high school and eventually brought her passion to Brown University, where she studied applied mathematics-economics and completed significant coursework in French. While at Brown, Catelyn spent her freshman summer studying French in Rennes, France; her sophomore summer interning at a tech startup in Berlin; and her junior spring studying at l'Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne.

After graduation, Catelyn moved to Boston, Massachusetts, to start her career as an analyst at Cornerstone Research, an economic consulting firm. At the firm, she provided economic and financial analysis in high-stakes litigation and regulatory matters spanning a variety of industries and practice areas, from pharmaceutical antitrust to financial market manipulation. In addition to her consulting work, Catelyn was co-analyst representative for the firm's Boston office, serving as an advocate and voice for her fellow analysts, and an analyst lead for recruiting, managing, and organizing the interview process for all Boston analyst and summer analyst candidates.

At Wharton, Catelyn plans to continue building her technical skill set in areas of finance, business economics, and analytics. She is thrilled to have the opportunity to return to her French studies and is excited to continue expanding her cultural and linguistic knowledge alongside her fellow Lauder classmates. She hopes to one day put theory to practice and incorporate the various skills she will develop through both Wharton and Lauder in a globally focused career.

In her spare time, Catelyn loves all things food and cooking. In particular, she is an avid baker who draws from the communities around her for inspiration in adapting her own recipes. She was back-to-back champion of her office's (very serious and very prestigious) baking competition at Cornerstone and looks forward to more friendly competition in the years to come.





ALEXA HUETHER

Alexa was born and raised 70 miles north of the Mexican border in Tucson, Arizona. Growing up in a multicultural city with deep roots in Mexican culture sparked her intellectual passion for Latin America at an early age. She developed a love of language and international affairs and spent her junior year of high school in Viterbo, Italy. She picked up Italian living with a family that didn't speak English and researched the role of education in the assimilation of migrants in Italy, which she then presented at the Global Issues Network Conference in Luxembourg.

Alexa attended Georgetown University's Walsh School of Foreign Service, graduating summa cum laude with honors in international economics for her thesis on third-party country effects of the U.S.-China trade war. She also completed a minor in Spanish. During her undergraduate years, she studied abroad in Ecuador at Universidad de San Francisco de Quito and in Hungary at Corvinus University. In Budapest, she worked for the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs, the Hungarian government's think tank. During her time at Georgetown, Alexa also worked at the Embassy of Colombia, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. African Development Foundation, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, Jefferies Group, and Fabretto Children's Foundation, a nonprofit focused on education and nutrition in Central America. She spent her last two years as an international economics research assistant to Augusto Lopez-Claros, executive director of the Global Governance Forum, focusing on Latin American economies and climate finance.

After graduation, Alexa joined Jefferies in New York City on the Fixed Income Emerging Markets desk as a Latin American corporate desk strategist. She led coverage on over 90 credits, publishing reports on and managing positions in utilities, petrochemicals, protein, pulp and paper, and financials across Latin America. Her work included leading research trips to Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Mexico, and Panama to meet with chief financial officers, policymakers, and local investors. During her time at Jefferies, she also took classes in Portuguese and French and passed the Chartered Financial Analyst exam levels I and II.

At Wharton and Lauder, Alexa plans to focus on investment in Latin America and explore how to structure public market solutions to further sustainable investment in the region. In her free time, she enjoys theater, distance running, boxing, traveling, podcasts, pilot training, and volunteering for organizations that work with food security.





PEDRO KENZO JUKEMURA

Pedro was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. From an early age, he engaged in international experiences such as spending a month in a summer camp in Guatemala City and playing soccer at international tournaments in Europe. These experiences, combined with his Japanese ethnic heritage, ignited his passion for international traveling.

While studying industrial engineering at Universidade de São Paulo, Pedro was selected to participate in a dual-degree program. From 2017 to 2019, he lived in Milan, Italy, while pursuing a Master of Science at Politecnico di Milano. During this period, Pedro complemented his engineering skill set with finance and strategy courses. He also learned Italian and practiced the language daily with his Pugliese flatmate.

Upon graduation, Pedro decided to pursue an international career in management consulting. He returned to his hometown and joined Bain & Company. At Bain, he engaged in projects in industries including banking, utilities, consumer product goods, mining, health care, and strategic due diligences. He was also involved in cross-border cases with the Boston, Massachusetts, and Milan offices.

In 2022, Pedro pursued a six-month work transfer to Bain's office in Atlanta, Georgia, where he was exposed to the U.S. health care environment. This experience enriched Pedro's knowledge of the industry, which he leveraged in health care assignments upon his return to Bain São Paulo.

At Lauder, Pedro seeks to further explore the relationship between policies, economies, and health care investments around the world to apply global best practices toward improving health care in Brazil. He also expects to expand his worldview and live unforgettable experiences with his colleagues.

Pedro is fluent in Portuguese and English, with advanced knowledge of Spanish and a somewhat rusty Italian. He is passionate for soccer and is an outdoors enthusiast who loves to hike and explore nature while traveling.





ALEXANDRE GEORGES KERN

Alex was born in Bern, Switzerland, and grew up speaking German and French – two of the four languages spoken in this unique country in the heart of Europe. He perused the books of his grandfather, an internationally renowned jeweler, and visited one of the few art-focused high schools in Zurich, benefitting from the wide cultural offerings available in the picturesque city. He graduated from Haileybury & Imperial Service College in Hertfordshire, U.K., with the International Baccalaureate focusing on history, economics, and German literature.

Pursuing his creative aspirations, he enrolled at the Rhode Island School of Design. After RISD's Foundations program, he spent the remainder of his undergraduate time in the industrial design and architecture departments, with additional classes at the University of Southern California School of Architecture and a travel course to Oaxaca, Mexico. While at RISD, Alex interned with branding and marketing agency Spring Studios and spent a summer working for architect and art collector Hans-Jorg Ruch in the Engadine Valley, developing a multifamily vacation home nestled in the Swiss Alps. He graduated with a Bachelor of Architecture and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with honors and continues his engagement with his alma mater as a visiting critic, most recently to Kyna Leski's design studios, and as a mentor to students currently at RISD.

Upon graduation, Alex joined architect Steven Holl's 'TSpace Residency as the recipient of the Steve Pulimood Scholarship, designing a pavilion situated in the Hudson Valley, New York. He went on to work at the offices of architect, historian, and educator Robert A.M. Stern in New York City. As one of his first projects at RAMSA, Alex joined the design team of 3201 Cuthbert Street, a \$400 million life science building currently under construction in the heart of the developing University City district near Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He contributed to the RAMSA research seminars and taught high school students as a mentor. His latest role at RAMSA was as a designer and junior project manager of a single-family residence in Falmouth, Massachusetts.

At Lauder, Alex is looking to complement his creativity and design experience with the unparalleled international outlook offered by this unique program to pursue an entrepreneurial path in consumer products driven by compelling and emotional narratives. He is thrilled to become a part of Lauder's incoming cohort. In his spare time, Alex can be found skiing in the winter, playing tennis in the summer, or at art galleries in between.





JEONG SOO (GARY) KIM

Gary was born in Seoul, South Korea, and grew up in Seoul, California, and Pennsylvania. His fondest childhood memories include attending airshows at Moffett Federal Airfield and sleeping under the stars at Hidden Villa summer camp, both in California. After attending high school in Pennsylvania, he earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Columbia University with a minor in history. His senior thesis analyzed Korean propaganda during the 1960s and argued that South Korea simultaneously championed its history as a victim of Japanese imperialism while portraying itself as a benevolent colonizer in Vietnam.

After college, Gary joined the U.S. Navy as a Civil Engineer Corps officer and proudly served with the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Five (NMCB FIVE) in Port Hueneme, California. He served as a platoon commander and a detachment officer in charge during the battalion's 2019 and 2021 Indo-Pacific deployments. In 2022, he joined Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Far East where he served as an assistant public works officer and acting facilities engineering and acquisition director. He focused on harbor and drydock facility repair at the Sasebo Naval Base (Nagasaki Prefecture), and airfield modernization and expansion at the Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station (Yamaguchi Prefecture).

In addition to his role as a Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer, Gary is recognized for his published articles focusing on future naval force structural modernization and shipbuilding industrial base modernization. He has won multiple awards for his writing on modernizing the Marine Corps' force structure, and his article "Utilize Allies in Shipyard Modernization" served as a catalyst that led to the creation of a joint U.S.-Japan Ship Repair Council.

At Wharton and Lauder, Gary hopes to build deeper understanding of East Asia and business fundamentals on top of his engineering management experience. Upon graduation, he hopes to lead organizations that build maritime industrial capacity in the United States. During his free time, Gary is an avid runner, golfer and flutist. In addition to sharpening his Korean, he looks forward to improving his spoken Japanese skills.





NIMROD (NIMI) MOSHE KIMCHY

Born in the city of Haifa, nestled in the north of Israel, Nimi's formative years were marked by his passion for competitive tennis. As a participant in a U.S.-led program aimed at nurturing Israel's tennis talent while improving coexistence in Israel, Nimi formed enduring partnerships with fellow players from the Arab community to play mixed doubles in regional and national competitions.

Following the footsteps of his grandfather, one of the founders of the Israeli navy, Nimi made the decision to enlist. After completing his high school education, he graduated cum laude from the naval academy with a bachelor's degree in political science, finishing first in his class.

After graduation, Nimi was selected to represent the Israeli navy in an extensive four-month sailing drill in Latin America alongside counterparts from 20 foreign navies and Chilean naval cadets. This immersive experience broadened his horizons and deepened his understanding of international maritime practices.

Returning to Israel, Nimi assumed command of a ship in the southern maritime arena, where he became the youngest officer in his generation to be entrusted with overseeing entire patrol operations. Inspired by the opportunity to shape the future of naval education, Nimi transitioned to a new role as the director of the Littoral Combat School. Leading a diverse cohort of 260 cadets and 30 faculty members, he spearheaded a comprehensive overhaul of the curriculum. Drawing from his extensive experience, Nimi collaborated with naval headquarters and engineering experts to streamline training processes, reducing time requirements while simultaneously enhancing sailors' certification skills. Nimi and the school's faculty also introduced a community outreach program, fostering stronger bonds between cadets and the local community through weekly food distribution operations to families in need.

After a fulfilling career in the navy, Nimi taught himself the principles of finance and investments, and transitioned the private sector as a corporate financial analyst with one of Israel's leading financial consultancy firms.

At Wharton and Lauder, Nimi eagerly anticipates delving into the intricacies of Latin America's culture, social dynamics, and emerging markets potential, all while refining his business acumen. During his leisure time, he indulges in his passions for travel, exercise, scuba diving, and skiing.





HIROKI KOBAYASHI

Hiroki was born and raised in the small rural town of Okazaki, Japan, until the age of 14 when he moved with his family to Scarsdale, New York, as a first-generation immigrant. Despite initially not speaking English, Hiroki managed to join the high school varsity soccer team as a freshman, enabling him to connect quickly with teammates and fans and smoothly adapt to life in the U.S. In his senior year, Hiroki led the team to the state semi-finals for the first time in the school's history and received the All-American award. Through these experiences, Hiroki gradually developed a lifelong dream to give back to the two identities he embraces: soccer and Japan.

After graduating from Harvard College with a degree in applied mathematics, with a focus on statistics and a citation in Spanish, Hiroki embarked on a career in the sports business, first as a professional athlete. In 2015, Hiroki signed his first professional contract with Kitsap Pumas SC in Washington. Following one season in the U.S., Hiroki returned to Japan to try out with J-League clubs. Hiroki ultimately secured a dual career opportunity with Fujieda MYFC, serving as both a player on the field and an employee in the business development department at the club's office.

Having gained insights from a player's perspective in the sports business, Hiroki transitioned to Japanese domestic private equity firm Integral, aiming to apply the expertise gained in the PE business to the sports industry in the future. Over seven years at Integral, Hiroki acquired fundamental knowledge in finance, investing, and corporate management by assessing investment opportunities, executing deals, and providing management support to portfolio companies.

At Wharton, Hiroki plans to deepen his understanding of finance while also exploring entrepreneurship. Through Lauder's global track, Hiroki aims to delve into the interconnectedness of economics, culture, and public policies, all of which are crucial to conducting global business in soccer. Beyond sports, Hiroki is passionate about music and has formed a DJ duo, Night Sushi, with his beloved wife. Hiroki looks forward to organizing numerous DJ events during his two years at Wharton and Lauder to bring the community together.





ILIA KOZHESKII

Ilia was born to a mixed Russian-Belarusian family and raised in Moscow, a melting pot for the cultures of the former Socialist bloc countries. As a kid, he helped his parents rent a room to foreign tourists on Airbnb, which ignited his passion for foreign languages and eventually inspired him to transfer to a boarding school in Ireland.

Ilia graduated with distinction from Ca' Foscari University of Venice at the age of 19, earning a Bachelor of Science in economics, markets, and finance. During his undergraduate studies, he took part in the Globalization Program and learned Italian at Venice International University, where he shared a classroom with students from all over the world. In his sophomore year, he founded Venice Flower Delivery, which became the top-rated flower shop in Venice. Eager to continue his academic career, Ilia pursued a dual Master of Science program in energy economics at Bocconi University and MGIMO. As part of his research thesis, he surveyed over 300 Italian small and medium-sized enterprises about the impact of COVID-19 on the economic ties with China.

After his public service at the World Bank Group headquarters, Ilia became a finalist of a startup acceleration program at the Stanford School of Engineering and co-founded a B2B marketplace for biofuels focused on Eastern Europe. Harnessing his prior experience in the energy sector, he joined TotalEnergies' leadership development program in Houston, Texas, where he rotated across operations, market analysis and risk management, gaining a well-rounded understanding of the global energy markets. During the program, Ilia presented an analysis of the company's strategy in Uganda, Russia, and Mozambique to the CEO in Paris. He later relocated to Geneva, Switzerland, to manage TotalEnergies' \$2 billion biogas portfolio on environmental law related issues, including climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainability certifications.

Ilia speaks Italian, French, Spanish and Russian. He is passionate about volunteering in his community and has been actively involved with the Galveston Bay Foundation and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. In his free time, he can be found hiking the Andean volcanoes or sharing the basketball court with local athletes.

At Wharton, Ilia plans to take part in an MBA student exchange program and pursue his entrepreneurial ambitions. At Lauder, he aspires to polish his Italian and contribute to academic research on developing economies. He hopes to find the best application of his skill set and his cross-cultural experience of working in Europe and the United States.





RUSSELL LANDES

Russell's upbringing in a small farming community in central Utah, alongside his six siblings and under the care of his parents, shaped his early years. Playing hundreds of hours of military board games with his dad and brothers sparked Russell's fascination of military history. After reading many stories and watching many documentaries on the U.S. military, Russell decided to serve in the Army and enrolled at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2013.

The challenges at West Point caused Russell to grow a strong devotion to his faith, so he decided to resign from the academy after two years of study to serve as a missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Taiwan. While there, he taught free English classes, worked with local clergy to assist the needy and less fortunate, and helped with disaster relief efforts. Russell developed a sincere appreciation for the culture, language, and people there.

Following his missionary service, Russell was readmitted to West Point in 2017. Hailing from a musical family, he sang the national anthem at more than 40 NCAA sporting events during his time as a cadet. He maintained his Mandarin by taking extra Chinese courses, joining the Chinese club, and representing West Point at the Business Language Case Competition at Brigham Young University. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in economics in 2019.

Upon graduation, Russell was commissioned as a signal officer in the United States Army and was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. As a platoon leader, he led his soldiers through three major training exercises without a platoon sergeant. During his next assignment as an executive officer, the commander was unexpectedly medically relieved, so Russell filled both the executive officer and commander roles for a time.

While at Wharton, Russell plans to learn the business fundamentals that will enable him to transition from military to civilian life. He is eager to improve his Mandarin through intense coursework at Lauder while broadening his understanding of the political, social, and economic influences in China.

Russell most enjoys spending time and speaking Mandarin with his wife and three children, but he also likes to play the ukulele, play the violin, and train the family dog for her next show.





TATUM LEE

Tatum was born in Dallas, Texas, into a multigenerational family of Texans who instilled a deep appreciation for intellectual curiosity and exploration. As a child, her lifelong love of studying cultures and languages outside of her own was sparked by countless hours spent reading, learning history, and listening to stories from her best friend's Latvian family.

Tatum attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she received a bachelor's degree in finance and a minor in anthropology as a member of the prestigious Canfield Business Honors Program. In her junior year, she studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, at Universidad Pontificia Comillas, where she studied Spanish culture, history, and international finance. Her studies in Austin and Madrid deepened her appreciation for cultural understanding and its importance in driving both successful business strategy and broader global change.

After graduation, Tatum began her career as a consultant at the Boston Consulting Group. She discovered a passion for digital strategy, leading her to work on projects helping companies gain a deeper understanding of their customers and use that knowledge to develop digital and AI solutions. As a member of BCG's Technology and Digital Advantage practice, her work with clients across the consumer, restaurant, and entertainment industries grew her expertise in innovation strategy, product management, and digital transformation.

Seeking further global perspectives on digital innovation, Tatum was selected for a fellowship with Alter Global, a venture capital firm that seeks to catalyze emerging market ecosystems by backing local tech founders. As a fellow, Tatum moved to Mexico City to work with Clara, a fintech startup focused on expanding financial accessibility across Latin and South America. At Clara, she led various initiatives centered around digital customer experience and strategic development. Her time at Clara solidified her interest in digital innovation as a tool to drive global change.

At Wharton and Lauder, Tatum is excited to polish her Spanish and explore the power of cultural understanding and technological innovation to solve problems within ever-changing global landscapes. In her spare time, she avidly consumes history novels, enjoys baking for friends and family, and loves teaching yoga as a certified instructor.





PAMELA LIAN

Born and raised in Southern California, Pamela grew up in Orange County and spent her childhood summers in Shanghai, China. Mandarin Chinese was the primary language spoken at home, and she cultivated the skill of translating between languages and cultures from an early age.

Pamela attended the American University of Paris, where she double majored in international business administration and art history with a minor in French. During these formative years, she achieved fluency in French while gaining a triple cultural perspective that has enabled her to pursue a global career in sustainable development.

After graduation, she joined the New York City office of Macro Advisory Partners, a London-based global advisory firm. She then entered the multilateral sector, conducting research and advancing policy dialogue on the intersection of emerging technologies and sustainable growth at the International Telecommunication Union of the United Nations in Geneva and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

To advance her economic and policy analysis capabilities, Pamela earned a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs with a concentration in international economic policy and a specialization in data analytics and quantitative analysis. She then joined the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank.

At IFC, Pamela collaborated with the institution's disruptive technology portfolio companies and led strategic initiatives to drive growth and investment within the digital economy across emerging markets. Her work focused on the e-commerce, fintech, edtech, agtech, and transportation sectors, and she also led the strategy review of IFC's gender-flagged investments to align capital commitments with corporate ESG targets.

Pamela is passionate about creating opportunities for others and served in leadership roles at the World Bank's Youth Summit to foster pathways for global youth to engage with the bank. She also volunteered as a pro bono consultant for the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center to support service delivery for immigrant and limited English proficiency communities in Washington, D.C.

At Wharton and Lauder, Pamela looks forward to refining her French language skills and deepening her knowledge of global business dynamics and financial markets. In her spare time, she enjoys cooking, baking, and keeping in touch with the many cultures that make up her roots.





CUONG MAI

Cuong was born and raised in Hanoi, Vietnam. From an early age, he was fascinated by international cultures, drawn to movies and documentaries from other Asian countries and the Americas despite not knowing all the languages. In 2010, Cuong was one of only two students from his city selected for a full scholarship from the Ministry of Education of Singapore to attend Raffles Institution, the top boarding school in the country, for high school. This marked the start of his exposure to the global community as he began to marvel at the distinct thought processes across cultures and how those differences can meaningfully contribute to learning and discussion.

After high school, Cuong moved to the United States to pursue his bachelor's degree at Pennsylvania State University, graduating summa cum laude in 2019 with a major in finance and minors in information systems management as well as the legal environment of business. At Penn State, he was the president of the Vietnamese Student Association and served as the director of finance for the newly founded Quantitative Finance Society. He also had an opportunity to intern at Passion Investment, a value-based asset management firm, where he spent the summer researching publicly traded equities within the textile and banking industry.

Following graduation, Cuong joined Deloitte in its Philadelphia office, advising internal clients such as partners and senior managers on deal pricing, deal structure and deal strategy during the pursuit stage, and on delivery feasibility during execution. In his four years at Deloitte, Cuong grew to become a key member of the team. Some of his largest contracts were in cloud transformation, artificial intelligence and IT professional services for clients across diverse sectors, including automotive, consumer goods, defense, insurance and asset management. Outside of client service, Cuong also led onboarding effort for new hires in his office, driving their integration into the firm and its culture.

At Wharton and Lauder, Cuong looks forward to enhancing his understanding of cultural, geopolitical, and historical context within emerging market countries, and how global businesses can bring about positive and lasting impacts for communities through business activity and investments.

In his spare time, Cuong enjoys traveling, cooking, hiking, and barbecuing with friends and family in his backyard.





MAITREYI ARUN MENON

Maitreyi was born in Ernakulam, in the coastal Indian state of Kerala, and grew up in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Raised in a family of entrepreneurs, Maitreyi's adventurous spirit was nurtured since birth. When she received a full scholarship to attend the prestigious United World College — an international network of schools that uses education to unite people and cultures from around the world — she jumped at the opportunity to spend her final two years of high school among students from more than 80 different countries. The unique experience of spending two years on a remote bioreserve with young, globally minded changemakers unearthed her desire to chase the divinity in diversity.

Maitreyi's journey then took her across borders and oceans to Colorado College (CC), where she graduated cum laude in mathematical economics and was a Davis United World College Scholar. At CC, Maitreyi developed a love for Colorado's great outdoors and was a dancer, choreographer, tutor, and member of the President's Council. She also studied abroad in Salvador da Bahia, Brazil, and Le Havre, France, bringing the languages she's comfortable conversing in to six.

Upon graduation, Maitreyi began her consulting career in Denver, Colorado, first with Analysis Group and then with Deloitte. In her career, she has tackled a wide range of complex econometric and strategic problems, from determining appropriate royalty rates for music copyright holders in the live concert industry, to designing a business model to transform an enterprise technology company from hardware sales to everything-as-a-service (XaaS). Maitreyi co-founded the local pro bono practice at Analysis Group Denver, where she managed and staffed projects in areas such as health care equity, police training reform, carceral justice, and homelessness. Maitreyi's personal experience of being a full-scholarship student since high school also drove her to mentor highschoolers at Minds Matter Colorado, an organization that prepares under-resourced youth for college and scholarship applications.

At Wharton and Lauder, Maitreyi hopes to continue growing within and through a tight-knit, impact-driven community. Maitreyi hopes to use her education and experience to give back to the communities that shaped her and create greater financial equality for historically marginalized groups.

In her free time, Maitreyi can be found hiking to lakes, experimenting in the kitchen, traveling to predominantly tropical locations, and ruminating on this very human experience that we spiritual beings call life.





WINNY MYAT

Winnie was born in Yangon, Myanmar, and grew up between Yangon and Singapore. Growing up in an overseas Chinese family with family members spanning all over East and Southeast Asia, Winnie was exposed to an amalgamation of cultures, fueling her appreciation for different food and cuisines.

Winnie graduated cum laude from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts in economics. While at Princeton, she conducted research examining the intersection of media, health care, and politics in Myanmar, and she spent a summer at Princeton in Beijing's Mandarin immersion program. Her studies took her to Latin America, Europe, and Southeast Asia, and propelled her to find more global opportunities.

After college, she joined Bain & Company in Washington, D.C., where she was deeply involved in Women@Bain to recruit more diverse talent. One of the most formative cases that she worked on at Bain was advising aerospace executives on a politically sensitive merger and acquisition transaction in Brazil, as well as to a family business in the industrial chemical space seeking to find strategic adjacencies. After Bain, Winnie joined a fintech startup in Utah in its payments strategy team, where she led initiatives to expand the business to Australia. She then joined a publicly traded professional services consultancy in its Strategy and Transformation team to lead special projects in the Office of the CEO, focusing on building their business in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa.

At Wharton and Lauder, Winnie plans to focus on understanding different developing economies and how to leverage learnings from one region to spur change in another. She hopes to further explore sustainable agribusinesses and entrepreneurship in emerging markets. She comes to Wharton and Lauder excited to learn from global perspectives and from peers from all over the world.

In her free time, Winnie enjoys baking, painting, watching tennis, and hosting dinner parties. She is fluent in Burmese and English and is conversational in Mandarin.





SPENCER NUSSRALLAH

Spencer was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. One of his passions has always been volunteer work. Since his teenage years, he worked with the Heart Ministry Center and Operations Others to help immigrant communities across Nebraska, and he was inspired to improve his Spanish fluency when he realized the power it had to drive genuine connections. He also has a passion for technology and is always looking for ways to use it to make an impact.

Spencer attended the Jeffrey S. Raikes School of Computer Science and Management at the University of Nebraska. In his sophomore year, he had the opportunity to join McCarthy Capital, a Nebraska private equity firm with \$4 billion under management, as a computer science intern and fell in love with finance. Interested in pursuing a career in finance, he earned a Bachelor of Science with a triple major in accounting, finance, and economics.

After graduation, Spencer worked for two years in technology investment banking at Lazard and BMO Capital Markets. He primarily worked on semiconductor and infrastructure software transactions globally. Simultaneously, he pursued and received a Master of Science in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin.

Spencer later returned home to Omaha to work for his longtime mentors at McCarthy Capital. At McCarthy, he had the opportunity to expand his industry experience beyond technology and partnered with companies such as Omaha Steaks, Caraway, Scooters Coffee, BiggerPockets, and Honey Smoked Fish. In addition, he had the opportunity to work on international and technological initiatives across McCarthy's investment portfolio.

At Wharton and Lauder, Spencer looks forward to advancing his Spanish and gaining business knowledge to use his experience in finance to make a global impact. He is particularly passionate about fostering connections between the Midwest and other global economies.

In his spare time, Spencer enjoys playing golf, running, listening to music, grilling, and eating, of course (he's a bit of a foodie). He's rarely without a cup of coffee in hand.





LYNCY NYANDOCHE

Lyncy was born in Nyamira, Kenya, and spent her childhood in different towns where she experienced rural, urban, and suburban settings. This instilled in her a deep sense of adaptability and empathy, allowing her to connect with people from diverse backgrounds. Growing up, she was inspired by her mother's entrepreneurial spirit. However, her childhood was marked by the heartbreak of witnessing her mother close the medical laboratory she had tirelessly built, due to a lack of access to funding. This experience fueled her aspiration to pursue a career in finance, aiming to empower others economically.

During high school in Kenya, she received mentorship and a full merit-based scholarship through the Precious Sisters Foundation that eventually led her to Bryn Mawr College, where she double majored in economics and mathematics. In her junior year, she studied abroad at the University of Edinburgh. During her time in Scotland, she learned about how investing in Africa creates opportunities and drives economic empowerment for locals.

Lyncy started her career as the first analyst at Amex Ventures. She covered the fintech and commerce portfolio, executed follow-on investments, managed portfolio exits, and conducted valuation analysis and quarterly performance reporting. Her highlight was working on a follow-on investment in a company that is redefining at-home dining and food delivery.

Lyncy is passionate about community engagement. At Amex, she co-led a committee for the Black Engagement Network, organizing a summer mixer that connected more than 450 diverse professionals and coordinating financial literacy workshops for underserved high school graduates in New York City. These successes led the team to establish a community engagement pillar that continues her initiatives.

Lyncy is also passionate about her motherland. In August 2023, she traveled to rural Kenya to volunteer with a nonprofit organization that builds libraries and community learning centers. She dreams of building a community learning center in her hometown, where roughly 75% of the 1.2 million residents are youths yearning for opportunities. She has also raised funds to distribute sanitary towels and run health awareness sessions, and built a borehole to improve access to water.

Through Wharton and Lauder, Lyncy looks forward to developing friendships with peers, connecting with industry leaders, sharpening her global business and investment acumen, and gaining a deeper understanding of Africa's cultural, geopolitical, and historical landscape. The knowledge will be instrumental in achieving her goal of leveraging private capital to bring positive financial and social change.

Lyncy speaks Swahili and Kisii. In her free time, she enjoys stand-up comedy, listening to audiobooks and podcasts, health and fitness, and spending time in nature.





NATHAN OH

Nathan was born in Korea to parents who split their time between the United States and Korea. He later followed his parents to Southern California, where he grew up. Despite this move, he maintained a connection to his roots by returning to Korea each year during school breaks.

After observing and learning about the impacts of various economic policies on his communities, Nathan developed an interest in economics. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from New York University. During college, he studied abroad in London, focusing on international economics. Later, he applied this knowledge while volunteering with the United Nations in an economic development project

After graduation, Nathan moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and joined Walmart eCommerce, where he managed the profit and loss of a business segment. The role taught him to run a business end to end with responsibilities that encompassed leading strategy and operations, vendor negotiations, and product development.

He then joined Meta, where he managed the Facebook Marketplace and Buy Sell Group's operations workflow. He focused on improving user experience and operational efficiency by overseeing product launches, strategy and planning, and machine learning optimizations.

At Wharton and Lauder, Nathan looks to formalize his business education and is particularly interested in studying the complex socioeconomic problems Korea faces. In the future, he hopes to use his experiences to contribute to solving these issues.





CRISTINA PARILLI LOZADA

Cristina was born and raised in Valera, a small city in one of Venezuela's least developed states, Trujillo. Growing up during the country's largest socioeconomic crisis, Cristina experienced firsthand the consequences of poor policymaking and became increasingly passionate about finding solutions to create a better future.

Cristina graduated in Venezuela with a bachelor's degree in economics from University of Zulia and a bachelor's degree in political science from University Rafael Urdaneta. This choice exposed her to diverse ways of thinking, prompting her to co-host a radio program and co-found a political nongovernmental organization, through which she publicly debated national issues and organized logistics to mobilize more than 1,000 people to vote during presidential elections.

Starting her career at Venezuela's top macroeconomic consulting firm, Ecoanalítica, Cristina analyzed the wrong turns the economy was taking. This experience led her to learn about effective policymaking and to join the Impact Evaluation Unit of CAF — the Development Bank of Latin America. Working with over five national governments, she realized how biases affect decision-making and yield massive consequences, which sparked her interest in the intersection of public policy and psychology.

As a Chevening Scholar, Cristina earned a master's degree in public policy at University College London. As a Fulbright Scholar, she graduated with a master's degree in behavioral and decision sciences at Penn. Living in London and Philadelphia, Cristina was immersed in truly multicultural societies, becoming passionate about forging meaningful relationships with people from all over the world.

Cristina spent four years in Washington, D.C., working at IDB Invest, the Inter-American Development Bank's private sector arm. From structuring a green loan for a Mexican forestry company to reforest more than 4,000 hectares, to supporting a Colombian fintech in financing more than 14,000 migrants, Cristina realized that governments should not be the only actors supported to drive development. A stronger private sector is paramount. After deeply understanding how to measure impact, she now seeks to invest in it.

At Wharton, Cristina will complement her international development background with strong finance skills to help companies thrive and increase their impact in society. At Lauder, Cristina will gain a deeper understanding of emerging markets, complementing her experience in Latin America with an immersive experience in her selected concentration track, Africa, aiming to contribute to both regions' mission: achieving a sustainable development path.

In her spare time, Cristina loves to play tennis, make new friends, and host dinners and special events at her home.





ANNE SOORIM PARK

Born and raised in a sunny Los Angeles beach suburb, Anne often wondered about her parents' homeland, South Korea. She visited her grandparents in London often, but had little opportunity to visit Korea. Drawn to the region, she learned Korean and Japanese in school and participated in various Korean American youth trends, spending hours on games such as Maplestory and learning the choreography to "Tell Me" by the Wonder Girls.

After high school, Anne moved south to graduate cum laude with a joint degree in mathematics and economics from the University of California, San Diego. As a senior, Anne studied abroad at Yonsei University while interning at a blockchain startup, finally experiencing life in Seoul. During this immersive semester, she recognized the importance of intercultural education and grew a deep interest in technology. In college, she also researched macroeconomics with noted economist Valerie Ramey, taught multivariable calculus, and started an alumni mentorship program for her business fraternity.

Anne started her career working with nonprofit, government, and commercial clients for Deloitte Consulting on the West Coast. Notably, she launched a state paid family medical leave platform and a critical COVID-19 testing and vaccination strategy for a military hospital network. She was also a founding member of the East Asian Inclusion group, where she created safe spaces through learning and community programs for over 100 practitioners.

After two years, Anne joined the product operations team at LinkedIn. There, she developed a centralized product recommendation tool adopted by engineering, standardized pilot launch operations, and enabled go-to-market for over 30 enterprise releases. She also created a mentorship program and organized hybrid events for her regionally diverse team. In 2023, she was ranked No.1 in her level of the 80-member organization.

At Wharton and Lauder, Anne plans to study the intersection of global policy, technology, and business to deepen her understanding of the social impact and governance of emerging technologies. She also looks forward to creating lifelong friendships and being inspired by her incredible peers.

Outside of the classroom, Anne can be found hosting dinners and board game nights for friends, often putting her guests to work and suggesting obscure indie games. Surprisingly, she has yet to receive a complaint. She also enjoys a wide range of hobbies including snowboarding, surfing, cooking, and reading autobiographies.





RAVI PATEL

Ravi spent his childhood growing up in many worlds. He was raised in a trilingual household in the cosmopolitan city of Miami, Florida, by an Indian-origin family that came to America by way of Jamaica and Zambia. Juggling conversations between English, Gujarati, and Spanish was a daily occurrence in his household and opened his eyes to nuanced perspectives and ideas that he wouldn't have seen otherwise. That, coupled with visits to his extended family in Caracas, Venezuela, ignited a passion for learning other people's culture, history, and languages that has not stopped growing.

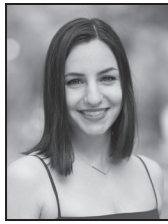
Ravi attended Tufts University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in international relations, history, and Arabic in 2018. His work as an undergraduate research assistant supporting Tufts faculty and leadership with campus groups such as the South Asian Political Action Committee inspired him to enter a career path that would tap into and encourage his love and knowledge of the world.

After graduation, Ravi joined Booz Allen Hamilton in Washington, D.C., as a political consultant, leveraging his background in the Middle East and South Asia to inform public policy in support of senior clients in the federal space. He won several company awards throughout his tenure, including a firmwide distinction for his exemplary contributions to the Middle East and North Africa region. As founder of the company's first community of practice for intelligence-specialized consultants, Ravi spent his final two years working alongside senior leaders to expand the company's open-source intelligence footprint and develop additional capabilities.

At Wharton, Ravi is eager to complement his past experience with multinational management, corporate strategy, and entrepreneurship skills. At Lauder, he hopes to sharpen his Arabic and gain a deeper understanding of the sociopolitical intricacies that can impact the agribusiness space in the Middle East and South Asia.

In his spare time, Ravi can be found indulging in his passion for the commercial aviation industry and hopes to connect with likeminded "aviation geeks." Having raced throughout his childhood in downhill skiing in Austria, Ravi also looks forward to getting involved with Wharton's Ski and Snowboard Club.





SAMANTHA PECAN

Samantha was born and raised just outside Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she was blessed with the opportunity to travel with her family from a young age. Discovering new cultures through art, architecture, and food quickly planted a seed of curiosity about the world. This fascination deepened in middle school when the introduction of French studies exposed her to the pleasure of learning and improving in another language.

Determined to gain fluency, Samantha continued studying French during her undergraduate years, including a summer immersion program in Tours, France, where she lived with a host family, and a semester in Paris that was unfortunately cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. These experiences further intensified her love of languages as a window into a culture.

Samantha earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, with minors in mathematics, design, and French. During her senior year, she discovered the world of mission-driven startups while working at Circa, a fintech company that aimed to make rent payments more flexible for low-income renters. Starting as a general intern, she worked her way up to full-time product designer for Circa's mobile app.

Upon graduation, she moved to New York City to continue working as the first product designer for a new education startup with a mission to simplify adulthood for new graduates. Leading the app design at both companies taught her self-reliance and left her ready for the next challenge.

At Wharton and Lauder, Samantha is excited to dive back into French language study and accompany it with a world-class business education. She hopes to expand her knowledge of management and business strategy alongside European geopolitics. She looks forward to exploring new career paths such as business development and operations.

In her free time, Samantha enjoys nonfiction books, traveling, fitness, and vegetarian cooking. She is passionate about sustainable initiatives and is always looking for positive ways to change her habits. Over the next year, she hopes to improve her skiing and continue learning Italian.





ALESSANDRA PELLICCIA

Alessandra was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, but spent much of her childhood in Nicaragua, Russia, and Colombia, accompanying her foreign-service parents. This upbringing immersed her in diverse cultures and fostered an understanding of the universal values that transcend geographical borders.

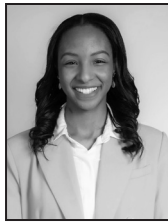
At Occidental College, Alessandra pursued majors in diplomacy and world affairs, and Spanish. She served as captain of the women's lacrosse team and volunteered for causes that she is passionate about: health equity and education. In 2019, she conducted independent research in Medellin, Colombia, examining the role of education in shaping historical memory and peace, supported by the Occidental College Young Grant and the Marina Orth Foundation.

Following her graduation in 2020, Alessandra joined Mathematica Policy Research as a technical proposal associate, where she crafted research and evaluation proposals for government agencies while also playing a key role in enhancing the business development practices of the international and climate business units.

Eager for international business exposure, Alessandra seized the opportunity presented by the Fulbright Binational Business Fellowship and relocated to Mexico City. There, she began working for Fundamental Venture Studio. At Fundamental, Alessandra cultivated relationships with investors and advanced the studio's mission of incubating impact-driven startups aimed at serving micro and small businesses across Latin America. Joining the studio at its inception, Alessandra developed the firm's knowledge management system and spearheaded the design of its venture-building playbook for launching impact startups in Latin America.

At Wharton and Lauder, Alessandra aims to deepen her understanding of Latin American geopolitics to support scalable, high-impact social enterprises contributing to the region's sustainable development. In her free time, she enjoys coaching youth lacrosse, reading, traveling to new countries, and long-distance running. Having run the Philadelphia Marathon in 2021, she eagerly anticipates the opportunity to run it again while living in the city.





MAKEDA PETIRI

Makeda was born in Baltimore, Maryland, to an African American family and father who was an early-stage entrepreneur. Even in the early days of his business, profits were set aside to support global development causes across the globe, which instilled in Makeda the value of having a global perspective. She attended St. Paul's School for Girls, where she began studying Japanese at age 9. She continued to gain knowledge and depth of the language through age 18, including completing a home stay in Yokohama, Japan. Having become interested in Chinese characters through learning the Japanese Kanji system, she began studying Mandarin in her final year of high school.

As Makeda matriculated to the University of Virginia, she took an interest in the global studies program. In her early years of undergrad, she continued her study of Mandarin and studied abroad in Shanghai, China, in 2016. Having always had an interest in the Middle East, Makeda also pursued Arabic language studies. She decided to pursue her undergraduate degree in Global Studies Middle East, writing her final thesis on the topic of statelessness in the Persian Gulf.

Makeda also had the opportunity to study abroad in Dominica in her final year at UVA, where she started a fellowship to launch sustainable agribusiness ventures on the island following Hurricane Maria.

After UVA, Makeda looked for opportunities to apply her global experiences. She pivoted to a business career at the global consumer goods giant Unilever. In her first role in product innovation for the St. Ives brand, she worked on the brand's global body wash restage, launching the new product line across markets in Southeast Asia, Latin America, Canada, and the U.S. Makeda held both brand management and strategy roles at Unilever, as an associate for the global hair care brand Tresemmé and in strategy across Unilever's North America Personal Care portfolio.

Makeda is eager to continue her study of Mandarin while in the Wharton and Lauder program. She plans to use her international business skill set and knowledge of personal care and wellness to launch a global wellness venture.

In her spare time, Makeda is an avid yogi and dancer, and loves to cook plant-based recipes to share with friends and family. She is excited to connect with a new community of like-minded peers and alumni over the next two years.





LONG DINH HAI PHAM

Long was born and raised in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. At the age of 15, he received a full-ride scholarship to attend an international high school in his country, befriending classmates from 32 different countries. This eye-opening experience sparked his interest in exploring cultures, learning languages, and studying abroad.

Following that early interest, Long sought a liberal arts education at Williams College, where he pursued a major in Asian studies and seized opportunities to join language immersion programs in Taiwan and Japan. While in college, he served as a teaching assistant in the Chinese and Japanese departments, and was active in a wide range of cultural and leadership activities, from leading the Vietnamese Student Association to performing in an Asian-music a cappella group.

Upon graduation, capitalizing on his strength in extracting and applying human insights, Long joined Unilever Vietnam as an assistant brand manager for iconic hair care brands including Dove, delivering product innovations and marketing campaigns that touched millions of consumers. Hoping to accelerate the breadth of his marketing expertise and leadership capability, he transitioned to roles in more entrepreneurial spaces, first as a product marketing manager leading growth initiatives for Aemi, a venture capital-backed startup that provides a technology-enabled marketplace platform connecting Vietnamese social sellers with global health and beauty brands. Later, he took the position as head of customer experience at Greenfield School, the first private school chain that brings affordable bilingual education to geographically disadvantaged students in Vietnamese rural provinces. At Greenfield, he managed three functions of public relations and marketing, admissions and customer service, and student affairs. He also coordinated curriculum development, market entry initiatives, and strategic partnerships with real estate and edtech firms.

Outside of work, Long also served as a board member and mentor of Viet Pride Scholarship, the first program that financially sponsors underprivileged Vietnamese LGBTQ+ students to finish high school and college. Long also has a special love for the performing arts. He has worked on artistic productions involving Vietnamese celebrities and participated in an array of performance activities in music and theater.

At Wharton and Lauder, Long is a member of the global track. In the long term, he strives to shape his career path at the intersection of entrepreneurship, technology, and entertainment. In the short term, he hopes to leverage his executional experiences to pivot to the consulting industry and expand his management toolkit.





AKASH RAMAN

Akash was born in Massachusetts to Indian immigrant parents, but he spent the majority of his childhood in India and Japan. He lived in New Delhi from ages 6 to 9, Tokyo from ages 9 to 11, and Bangalore from ages 11 to 14. In each city, Akash learned to adapt rapidly to new cultures, languages, and people, nurturing his interest in the intersection of cultures.

After finishing high school in the Boston area, Akash attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where he quickly realized that his love for Spanish ran deeper than purely the language. His pan-Latin American Spanish professors gave him a passion for understanding the nuances and histories of many Latin American countries. He completed a double major in economics and Spanish and Community and Culture, with a minor in accounting.

Akash began his career at Deloitte Consulting in the Strategy and Operations practice in Los Angeles, where he played a critical role in the merger of two major telecom providers. After two years, he moved on to the Content Strategy and Analysis team at Netflix, working at the intersection of creative talent and data-driven insights. At Netflix, Akash supported a variety of initiatives, including greenlighting new comedy shows, programming a new slate of interactive titles, and creating a proprietary IP prioritization framework for on-screen adaptation. In 2021, while at Netflix, he was selected to participate in a rotation to Mexico City as part of the Latin America Regional Strategy and Analysis team, where he helped to assess acquisition opportunities, expand studio footprint, and program telenovelas. Most recently, he worked at Discord, helping to stand up the business operations team, supporting all functions of the business including helping launch the in-house gaming studio, building net new ad-revenue models, and improving the core subscription revenue product. One of his favorite projects was getting a Mexican Spanish version of the core product into production.

At Wharton and Lauder, Akash hopes to further explore the impact of rapid mobile-first digitization of Latin America on consumer media preferences and e-commerce. He is excited to leverage Wharton's strength in finance to explore financing the next wave of paradigm-shifting consumer technologies.

Akash speaks English, Tamil, Spanish, Hindi, and prides himself on saying he can understand Malayalam. In his free time, he enjoys going for runs, continuing his childhood passion for tennis, watching TV (mostly comedy), talking about all things cars and watches, and cooking South Indian food.





CHRISTO RITTER

Christo was born and raised in San Francisco, California, and spent his childhood exploring the state with his twin and two younger sisters. California's varied landscapes nurtured his love for hiking, skiing, biking, backpacking, and surfing.

Christo attended Princeton University, where he studied history, Spanish, and entrepreneurship. He was able to study in Spain during two summers, in Gijón and Toledo, which reinforced his love for Spanish language and culture. His senior thesis, "Partners in Aid: Multilateral Collaboration in the Creation of the International Refugee Relief System," explored the inception and evolution of the modern refugee relief apparatus. Outside the classroom, Christo was a member of the Princeton Tigertones a cappella group and helped to run TruckFest, an annual event that raised money for local food banks.

After graduating, Christo moved to Los Angeles, where he worked at Capital Group as a member of the Capital Associates Program, an early-career rotational program that trains public markets investors. Through the program's four-to-six-month rotations, he invested in companies across various industries and stages, traded fixed income securities, built tech solutions to help investors recognize blind spots in their processes, and ran macroeconomic strategy to assess the risk of financial contagion following Silicon Valley Bank's collapse. Outside of work, Christo was selected to participate in the Riordan Leadership Institute, an eight-week nonprofit board training and matching program. Through RLI, Christo served on the board of Elemental Music, a nonprofit that offers music lessons to students throughout Los Angeles, in addition to co-chairing the organization's development and finance committees.

At Wharton and Lauder, Christo is excited to continue to study Spanish and immerse himself in the intricate socioeconomic and geopolitical realities that pervade Latin America. He hopes to meld his passion for investing with his global outlook by investing in early-stage businesses around the world.

In his free time, Christo enjoys singing, reading about cars, politics, or real estate, or planning an adventure with friends or family.





JOSE ANDRES RIVERO

Jose Andres was born in New York City and grew up in San Francisco, California. Born to Puerto Rican and Cuban parents, Jose Andres considers himself just as Latin as he is American. Having spent seven years in New York City, he loved living in the diverse melting pot and exploring other cultures, especially through museums and cuisine. He has an ingrained curiosity about all cultures and looks forward to broadening his understanding at Lauder.

Jose Andres attended Columbia University and earned a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering. While at Columbia, he worked as a teaching assistant for the class "Probability for Engineers," and focused his electives on Spanish and Italian language and culture. During his summers, Jose Andres worked at Compass Group as a Chilean asset manager and on Credit Suisse's Latin American investment banking team.

After graduation, Jose Andres returned to Credit Suisse's Latin American investment banking team as a full-time analyst based in New York City. He worked on mergers and acquisitions within several sectors including consumer, power generation, telecom, and industrials, across countries including Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Mexico. After Credit Suisse, he joined the corporate development team at Golub Capital, where he worked to expand the business by launching funds targeting new regions and investors, executing minority stake sales, and other initiatives.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jose Andres is eager to learn about Latin American economics and politics as well as the food/restaurant and real estate industries in Latin America and globally. He is excited about the opportunity to collaborate with his diverse cohort of classmates that also possess a similar curiosity for cultures and languages other than their own.

During his free time, Jose Andres enjoys cooking, skiing, wake boarding, tennis, Formula 1, and golf.





RAYAN SABBAH

Rayan was born in Hannover, Germany, to a Lebanese immigrant father and a German mother. Growing up in a bicultural family and attending an international school, he learned to appreciate the importance of intercultural understanding from an early age.

Rayan attended the University of Oxford, earning a degree in philosophy, politics, and economics in 2016. He especially enjoyed studying economics, international relations, and the major political thinkers who shaped the world.

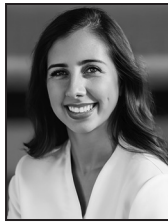
Rayan subsequently joined Lebanese Swiss Bank, a Beirut-based bank, in a strategic role. In 2019, a wave of prolonged mass protests against the country's ossified political system swept the nation, and Rayan eagerly participated in this outpouring against sectarianism and corruption. These events laid bare Lebanon's precarious economic condition. The country has suffered from an economic, political, and banking crisis that is ongoing. This reality shaped Rayan's trajectory at the bank, where he contributed to management and strategy within the context of the crisis, led its IFRS-9 compliance process, and directed the bank's most complex international credit recovery efforts, among other duties. The backdrop of the deteriorating situation in the country created many unusual experiences for Rayan, including one occasion where he faced a hostage-taking situation at the bank.

Rayan has also led various entrepreneurial projects, including acquiring and managing a Japanese fine dining restaurant and purchasing, managing, renegotiating, and marketing hospitality real estate, both in London.

Rayan has lived and worked across a range of social and cultural settings. His experiences reflect the central insight behind the Wharton and Lauder program; business does not operate in a vacuum, but rather is embedded in a rich social, cultural and political context. He looks forward to the combination of Wharton and Lauder courses that will help him understand the forces that shape societies and business across geographies and industries. More than anything, Rayan looks forward to developing friendships with peers from across the world and learning from their diverse perspectives.

In his free time, Rayan enjoys pursuing his newly found passion for fitness, spending time with friends, traveling, watching soccer, and reading history.





ARACELI GEORGINA SANDOVAL

Born in El Paso, Texas, to Mexican and Cuban parents, Araceli experienced the dynamic blend of American and Latin cultures. Through her family's rich history of entrepreneurship in Cuba, Mexico, and the United States, she recognized the crucial interplay of governance, security, and business in achieving prosperity for communities. Araceli's early exposure to the disruptive effects of organized crime and political turbulence fueled her determination to bridge gaps between diverse communities and unconventional concepts.

Fascinated by the military's role in diplomacy and development, Araceli studied at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where she received a Bachelor of Science in psychology with a nuclear engineering track. She graduated with honors and with national championship titles as the captain of the Ethics Debate Team and a member of the West Point Judo Team.

Araceli was commissioned as one of the U.S. Army's first female Armor officers. Trailblazing women into combat arms, she served as a platoon leader and a battalion logistics director. She managed teams of 20 to 50 soldiers, over \$20 million dollars of equipment, and implemented logistics frameworks to deploy 700 soldiers.

In 2021, Araceli was assessed and selected for Special Operations, the U.S. Army's elite unit for unconventional operations. She served as a Psychological Operations Detachment commander in West Africa. While conducting information operations, Araceli and her team advised foreign governments, nonprofit organizations, and U.S. embassies in three countries. To restructure areas impacted by instability, she developed a multimillion-dollar research project to increase awareness of terrorism and illicit trafficking in African parks.

Araceli is pursuing a Wharton and Lauder joint degree to gain a deeper understanding of global public policy, international business, and global development. She plans to use her degree to help blend her military expertise with business acumen, bridging the gap between her extensive field experience in Africa and her pursuit of entrepreneurship in Latin America.

Outside her professional endeavors, Araceli volunteers with educational nonprofits including the National Hispanic Institute. She is a gender advocate for the United Nations Women, Peace, and Security directive, assisting with the integration, planning, and development of gender perspectives in the military.

Araceli is constantly moving, often found hiking, attempting to surf, bargain shopping, or making friends with strangers. However, she does slow down for good desserts, adventure novels, and witty conversations.





TEMANTIMANDZE SHONGWE

Tema was raised in Lobamba Lomdzala, in the Kingdom of Eswatini. At 13, she enrolled at Waterford Kamhlaba, the United World College of Southern Africa, and over the course of her teenage years, she studied in an economically and culturally diverse environment. This experience laid the foundation for Tema to become an interculturally competent and service-oriented leader with a desire to play a role in promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in developing countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa.

Her desire shaped her studies in economics and French culture as well as her extracurricular activities at Wellesley College. Recognized for her intercultural leadership potential and commitment to a civic-minded career, Tema was selected as a 2020 Fellow at the Albright Institute for Global Affairs, founded by former U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Madeleine Albright. She assisted her economics major adviser on a paper about the impact of democracy on firm productivity in Indonesia that was published in *The Review of Economics and Statistics*. She also conducted her own research on the development of export-oriented small and medium enterprises in Eswatini.

After graduating, Tema joined Analysis Group (AG) in Boston as a senior analyst, leading teams of junior analysts applying economics and statistics to support clients embroiled in litigations within the antitrust, health care, energy, and finance areas. Additionally, she played a significant role in shaping AG's diversity, equity and inclusion strategy as a leader of the Black employee resource group. Outside of work, Tema co-managed a grassroots fundraising effort to raise \$4,000 to purchase reusable face masks from seamstresses in Eswatini, which were donated to over 1,300 high school students from low-income households as they transitioned back to in-person classes after the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Wharton and Lauder, Tema looks forward to strengthening her French and building upon her intercultural leadership and technical skills that will help her become a successful investor in private sector development across sub-Saharan African markets. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, fellowshiping with other Christians, watching documentaries, and exploring hiking trails while traveling.





SHYLA SINGH

Shyla was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, and raised in New Delhi, India. With deep-seated familial roots in pre-partition Punjab, she was brought up speaking Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, and English in the cosmopolitan environment of Delhi. Her upbringing helped cultivate a desire to explore different cultures at an early age.

An avid equestrian, Shyla was the Indian Junior National Champion in dressage and has competed internationally. Her training across Europe and involvement in her family's business of breeding thoroughbred racehorses enriched her global perspective and facilitated meaningful interactions worldwide.

Shyla completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating magna cum laude with a dual degree from Wharton and the college, earning a B.S. in economics with a concentration in finance, and a B.A. in political science. During her time as an undergraduate, she was involved with the Wharton Asia Exchange and Wharton India Economic Forum, aiding her understanding of business in Asia. She also served as the president of the Women in Leadership Series and the Penn Polo Club. Her summers were spent interning at the Observer Research Foundation, a political think tank in India; the infrastructure private equity group at CDPQ, a Canadian pension fund; the Investment Banking division at Wells Fargo; and Blackstone's real estate group.

Upon graduating, Shyla joined Stone Point Capital (SPC) in Greenwich, Connecticut, as a private equity analyst. She also spent two years cross-staffed on the Capital Markets Team at SPC, providing portfolio companies with financing solutions and gaining exposure to credit investing. During her tenure as an investment professional, Shyla gained experience in investing in businesses in the global financial services sector, working on leveraged buyouts, debt recapitalizations, portfolio company acquisitions, and strategy.

At Wharton and Lauder, Shyla is eager to delve into the intersection of policy, governance, and business, enhancing her language skills and regional expertise while exploring the critical relationship between policy and investing in emerging economies.

Shyla is a passionate gastronome, constantly in search of new and exciting culinary experiences, an avid traveler, and an enthusiast of British satire.





ATREYO SINHA

Born in Kolkata in 1995 and raised in every corner of India, Atreyo grew up in a rapidly globalizing country that, in many ways, was growing up alongside him. Raised in a trilingual home speaking English, Hindi, and Bengali, his time spent in London for his father's job and eventual enrollment in international school made Atreyo keenly aware of how small and borderless the world was becoming.

Atreyo graduated from Tufts University in 2017 with a bachelor's degree in economics and international relations. In his time at Tufts, he served as captain of the Tufts Mock Trial team, team lead for the nonprofit consulting club 180 Degrees Consulting, and gave a TEDx talk on the beauty and importance of human interaction through cultural differences.

Armed with a passion for scaling organizations globally, Atreyo worked at a tech firm in the San Francisco Bay Area for two years before obtaining a Master of Science at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He then worked as a management consultant, first at Visa and later at McKinsey & Company. In his role as a consultant, Atreyo focused on international expansion, working with clients across industries to help them grow across borders and navigate business, cultural, and policy challenges.

Atreyo volunteers with New York-based organizations that help undocumented immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees find employment opportunities in America that fit their qualifications.

At Wharton and Lauder, Atreyo will continue to learn about growing and scaling organizations, and the global contexts in which they operate. With a focus on South Asia and India, he aims to tap into a region that is brimming with opportunity and is set to have a seat at the table for some of the coming century's most prolific growth stories. He is passionate about reaching emerging and underserved markets and believes they will have a pivotal role in the future of the international economy.

Atreyo is an avid sports fan who fanatically watches football (Arsenal FC) and cricket (India). He also enjoys good food, golfing, tennis, skiing, films and trivia.





ABIGAIL STUMPF

Abigail was born in New York City and spent her formative years in Michigan. She began studying French in middle school and quickly fell in love with both the language and the connection it offered to a fascinating new culture. Throughout high school at a Detroit-area boarding school, she delved further into her passion for foreign language, excelling in French while also beginning to study Spanish.

Abigail enrolled at the University of Miami, where she continued honing her French and Spanish while pursuing a degree in finance. To bridge the gap between academics and practical experience, she interned in various functions within Rocket Mortgage and its affiliates, including with the office of the chairman. A semester studying abroad in Paris living in a homestay during her junior year significantly boosted her French fluency and solidified her passion for the culture.

She started her career at Quartet Health, a venture capital-backed mental health care tech startup based in New York City, where she worked closely with company leadership to provide financial analysis to support company strategy. Drawn to asset management and seeking more traditional finance exposure, she transitioned to Blackstone, where she managed the profit and loss of the infrastructure business.

At Wharton, Abigail plans to refine her skill set and deepen her knowledge of finance. She is particularly interested in the power of financial investment to drive positive global advancements, especially in health care and infrastructure. She looks forward to increasing her French proficiency and immersing herself in French culture through Lauder, setting the foundation for an international career.

In her free time, Abigail loves spending time outdoors, particularly through running and skiing. She recently completed the New York City marathon and is eager to find her next challenge. An avid traveler, she aims to visit one new country per year.





PAULA TAKAHASHI BENITEZ

Paula was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. She grew up in a family of Japanese immigrants, which contributed to her curiosity of meeting different cultures since an early age. Her grandfather moved to the country when he was 5 years old, in search of a better life. He was extremely resilient and found success after becoming the only one in his family to graduate as an engineer. Inspired by her grandfather's journey, Paula's family instilled in her the belief in the transformative power of education.

Paula enrolled at the University of São Paulo, one of the most prestigious schools in the country, where she studied pharmacy. Her decision was driven by a desire to positively impact people's lives. She volunteered during college, working closely with patients to support them with medication intake. Even though she was enthusiastic about the field, she encountered significant challenges to build a lasting career. Determined to find another passion, Paula embarked on an exploratory journey and completed five different internships during college, from conducting clinical trials to working with Givaudan in flavors and fragrances.

She pivoted her career to consulting, a sector where she could continue to explore while generating impact by participating in strategic decision-making. Paula joined Boston Consulting Group as an intern right before graduation and continued working there as a project leader. She had the opportunity to work in more than 10 sectors, including agriculture, airlines, climate and sustainability, and health care, which she recently decided to specialize in. BCG also awarded her performance twice, accelerating her promotions from associate to consultant to project leader.

Consulting was the propeller of Paula's first experience abroad. She lived one year in Paris, working mainly on health care projects with teams from all over the world, including Germany, Israel, the U.S., Spain and Morocco. This experience also fulfilled her desire to interact with multinational cultures.

Looking forward, Paula aims to expand her impact on people's lives by working with international development to improve health equity and access across countries. At Wharton and Lauder, she expects to learn more about how public and private sector can cooperate to push forward international health care development.

In her spare time, Paula loves to try new restaurants, travel, spend time with loved ones (including her cat), and learn new things. She's currently trying tennis.





LOIC TCHEBETCHOU

Loic was born and raised in Douala, Cameroon, where he was immersed in local traditions that nurtured his cultural curiosity from an early age. Growing up amid political constraints, infrastructural challenges, and limited opportunities, Loic cultivated a deep desire to make a significant impact on Cameroon and the African continent.

After relocating to the United States as a teenager, Loic completed his high school education in Maryland. His interest in financial markets led him to pursue a degree in business administration with a concentration in banking and finance at Bowie State University, a historically black college (HBCU). During his time at university, Loic was highly active on campus, assuming several leadership roles, most notably serving as the president of the Finance and Economics Club for two years.

Loic began his career in the financial sector, specializing in risk management. His first role was as an internal auditor at Goldman Sachs, where he audited the global markets division, particularly the sales and trading teams. Loic was responsible for uncovering more than 30 internal risk findings worldwide. Following his success in auditing, Loic furthered his understanding of regulation and policy risks by joining the firm's Communications Compliance group. Starting as a team member and progressing to team lead, he managed six analysts who reviewed communication risks across the Americas and oversaw the group's \$2 million-a-year relationship with a consultancy firm.

Seeking to broaden his expertise, Loic joined Morgan Stanley as a project manager, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the firm's communication supervision program. In this role, he worked closely with both internal and external stakeholders — including business units, litigations, human resources, technology teams, and external vendors — to ensure Morgan Stanley's global compliance with regulatory standards.

At Wharton and Lauder, Loic wants to expand his understanding of both public and private financial markets on a regional and international scale. He intends to deepen his knowledge of Africa's political, historical, cultural, and socioeconomic landscapes. Committed to unlocking Africa's full economic potential, Loic is focused on identifying and leveraging critical drivers to achieve that goal.

Outside of his professional activities, Loic enjoys reading nonfiction, coaching boxing, playing chess, mentoring undergraduate students, and volunteering. He is also fluent in French.





BECCA THORPE

Becca grew up in Tianjin, China, learning Chinese from a young age through local preschool and then through daily classes at her international school. After moving back to the U.S. at age 16, Becca continued to pursue language learning, completing an intensive summer of Arabic immersion in Morocco through the U.S. National Security Language Initiative for Youth.

Becca graduated summa cum laude from William & Mary, where she studied international relations with a double minor in marketing and Chinese. She continued her Chinese language study with a summer immersion program in Xi'an through the Critical Language Scholarship (10% acceptance rate) and with a gap year post-graduation in Beijing through the Confucius Institute Scholarship (20% acceptance rate). During the gap year in Beijing, she also interned with the Carnegie China Center, where she helped secure \$1.2 million in funding for the center.

After the year in Beijing, Becca began her career in consulting, starting first with IBM and then joining Prophet, a boutique growth strategy consulting firm. With Prophet, Becca worked in both New York City and Singapore, managing multinational, multidisciplinary teams across the financial services and tech industries. She managed over 12 projects in Asia, including a banking app redesign, the positioning strategy of a new AI-powered phone, and the rebrand of a global tech company. She also grew a key Asian electronics client account by 25% and helped design a digital strategy that drove 20x new leads for a Fortune 500 insurance client.

Becca is passionate about pro bono work, mentorship, and creating an inclusive culture. She helped stand up Prophet's global pro bono rotation program, helping to shift it from an ad hoc initiative to a biannual rotation with established intake and delivery processes. Outside of regular project work, she mentored over 10 younger associates across the U.S. and Asia, providing advice on career development and client delivery. In the Singapore office, Becca also mentored new joiners as the office doubled in size and diversity in a year.

Becca is excited to join the East Asia track at Wharton and Lauder, where she wants to continue to study the impact of China in the global business environment and learn more from her multilingual peers.

In her free time, Becca likes going for runs with friends, learning Singlish, and finding new street art. She is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and has elementary proficiency in Arabic and French.





WESTON TURNER

Weston Turner was born in south Texas and raised in the Austin-area town of Leander. He attended Texas A&M University, earning his bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus on management information systems.

While at Texas A&M, Weston participated in the Army R.O.T.C. program, earning a commission into the United States Army. During his studies, Weston studied abroad in India and participated in a United Nations multinational military training exercise in Mongolia. His overseas experiences fostered an appreciation for international engagement and a love of foreign cultures.

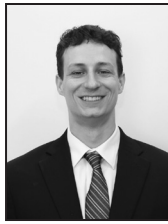
Upon graduation in 2015, Weston served as an infantry platoon leader in 4th Infantry Division, headquartered on Fort Carson, Colorado. As a platoon leader, he led troops on two deployments to Afghanistan. While serving in Colorado, he met his future wife, Susannah. They married in 2019, shortly after Weston received a branch reassignment to Special Forces. Weston and Susannah have two sons together.

In the Special Forces Regiment, Weston was assigned to serve in Kyiv, supporting a special operations advisory group charged with professionalizing and empowering the Ukrainian Special Operations service. Weston later served as a Special Forces representative to U.S. Embassy Warsaw, where he engaged with senior U.S. government officials in the embassy to coordinate multinational special operations activities throughout Poland and Eastern Europe. He later assumed command of a Special Forces team deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he and his team worked with a Bosnian counter-terrorism unit to improve its training and organization.

In early 2024, Weston participated in an externship with renewable energy technology startup Equilibrium Energy. He assisted Equilibrium's business operations team in crafting updated policies and procedures to facilitate a scaling workforce.

Weston is honored to join the multinational community at the Lauder Institute. He intends to study energy markets and finance to prepare for a career in the renewable energy sector. On his days off, you can find Weston training Muay Thai, reading science fiction, and playing with his sons.





AARON VARNER

Aaron was born and raised near Houston, Texas, and was encouraged by his parents to study French at an early age. While in high school, he was vice president of the French Club and won a scholarship competition in his senior year to stay with a French family over the summer.

At Pomona College, he double majored in French and mathematics. In his junior year, he studied abroad in Paris at Université de Paris I and worked at a French news agency. While considering pursuing a doctorate in French literature, he moved back to the Houston area to work as a teacher in a low-income school district, where he helped students with college admissions and test preparation.

Interested in learning more about business and financial services, he left teaching to become a product manager for ManhattanLife. There, he was offered the opportunity to design the life and investment products for a new subsidiary in Latin America. In his new role, he taught himself Spanish to better communicate with the company's agents, client, and software developers, and he also developed the region's first fixed indexed annuity. The experience sparked an enduring interest in both Latin America and innovation in the financial services sector in particular.

Although no longer a teacher, Aaron is still passionate about helping others. He co-founded a fintech startup to help democratize systematic trading and also volunteered as an English as a second language (ESL) tutor for a local nonprofit.

In his free time, he enjoys weightlifting, dancing salsa and bachata, and reading. He has a weakness for joining too many book clubs and buying more books than he can possibly read.





SOFIA VEGA

Sofia was born in New York City and raised in Connecticut. She was raised in a multicultural household with grandparents who immigrated from Cuba, Costa Rica, and Argentina. This upbringing inspired Sofia to explore her heritage and sparked her appreciation for diverse perspectives. During her childhood, she learned Spanish at home and took Mandarin classes throughout high school and early college. As a competitive violinist from a young age, Sofia performed in an orchestra that exposed her to unique experiences, including playing at Carnegie Hall and touring multiple cities in China during high school. These experiences catalyzed her passion for exploring cultures outside of the many in her household.

After receiving the Presidential Scholarship from Wake Forest University, Sofia earned her bachelor's degree with a major in business and enterprise management, focusing in product management, and a minor in computer science. While at Wake Forest, Sofia was involved in many campus initiatives, but she is most proud of her role at Musical Empowerment, an organization creating equitable access to music education. This experience was particularly impactful for Sofia as she was paired with a Hispanic girl also named Sofia, paralleling her childhood violin education.

Throughout her college education, Sofia sought opportunities to study and work internationally to expand her global perspective. Prior to graduating, she worked as a product management intern at an e-commerce startup in Cape Town, South Africa, interned as a consultant in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and studied in Barcelona, Spain, for a semester. After her graduation, she spent a year as a technology consultant with EY in New York City, focusing in the financial services digital strategy sector. She then joined EY-Parthenon's financial services group, where she focused on corporate strategy and mergers and acquisitions strategy work. During her time at EY, she maintained her interest in international work, most notably partnering with the firm's corporate responsibility group, EY-Ripples, to help lead a pro bono growth strategy project for a Chilean mining company.

Sofia is thrilled to join Lauder to continue growing her international business skill set and preparing to be a global leader. At Lauder, she hopes to further her understanding of the Latin American economic and political landscape, history, and culture. In her free time, she enjoys playing musical instruments, watching Formula 1, and spending time with family and friends.





VITÓRIA AYER DE AZEVEDO VELHO

Vitória was born in São Paulo, Brazil, Latin America's biggest and most culturally diverse capital. Growing up amid the rich tapestry of the largest Italian, Japanese, and Arab diasporas in the world (including her own Lebanese heritage), Vitória became fascinated with different cultures and aspired to be a global citizen. At the same time, inspired by her family's ethical values, she was always passionate about effecting social change and improving her communities' welfare.

Imbued by this strong purpose, Vitória sought a law degree, graduating cum laude from the University of São Paulo (USP), Latin America's highest-ranked law school. While at USP, she coordinated the Center of Capital Markets, impacting more than 100 students, and volunteered as a Portuguese teacher at a free prep course, assisting more than 200 low-income teenagers to be admitted in Brazilian universities. She also seized USP's international opportunities, participating in a double degree program with Université Jean Moulin Lyon III and earning AUCANI-USP's scholarship to pursue a study abroad program at Queen Mary University of London. These experiences turned her curiosity about different cultures into an insatiable appetite for the world.

Vitória started her career at McKinsey & Company. As a top 5%-rated consultant, she helped clients tackle challenges ranging from building an award-winning data ethics strategy in a global cosmetics company to identifying cost reduction levers equivalent to \$5.5 million in a telecom's call center operations. She worked in São Paulo, New York City, and Kingston, Jamaica. Vitória also led internal projects, such as the Women's Initiative and PRISM, a social mobility group, further deepening her commitment to diversity and equality in the workplace.

Embracing a secondment opportunity, Vitória took on the role of institutional relations manager at ImpulsoGov, a Brazilian healthtech nonprofit that leverages data and technology to transform the Brazilian public health system. The organization has already served more than 150 municipalities with more than 11 million people who cannot afford private health care. Vitória was responsible for structuring the fundraising area, and creating processes and deploying strategies that led the organization to secure about \$5 million, giving it financial sustainability for 19 months versus three months when she joined.

At Wharton and Lauder, Vitória plans to expand her knowledge of global economics, politics, and culture, especially to understand the intricacies of innovation and its potential to revolutionize developing countries. Outside of business hours, you can find her listening to vinyl records, playing and watching volleyball games, and discovering new experiences.





AMELIA VON APPEN

Amelia was born in Santiago, Chile. Her family owns a ports and logistics company, Ultramar, so she lived her first year of life in Antofagasta, a city in the north of Chile near important port operations. She then lived for three years in Buenos Aires, Argentina, also because of her father's job in the family company.

She finished middle school in Chile, and then lived one year in Palo Alto, California, as her father studied for a master's degree at Stanford University. She returned to Chile, where she finished high school and later studied business administration and economics in Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile.

After graduation, Amelia joined Cencosud, a retail company, as a customer journey analyst in the corporate area. She specialized in customer experience (CX), complementing her work experience with CX studies in Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. She transitioned to the home improvement branch of Cencosud as a project leader for the digitalization of the operation. To gain more experience with the company's operation, she transferred to a store as assistant sales manager, supervising a staff of 17.

Amelia has also been involved in an educational nongovernmental organization in Chile, Conectado Aprendo, for more than three years, teaching underprivileged children math and English. She is also part of the Women's Committee for Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile Business Administration and Economics Alumni NGO, which provides networking for women. She is also part of her family company's committees on sustainability, fundraising, and diversity, equity and inclusion.

While at Wharton, Amelia wants to deepen her understanding of operations and logistics. She also wants to learn Italian and immerse herself in European culture, as her family business is expanding to Europe. She is also interested in psychology and human behavior.

Amelia is the oldest of eight siblings and is very close to her family. She likes to play padel and tennis, loves nature, and is an avid reader. Amelia is married to another MBA/MA candidate, Javier Guerraty, whom she met while in university.





ERIC WANG

Born in the United States to Chinese immigrant parents, Eric spent his childhood moving between the northeastern U.S. and central China. He developed a deep appreciation for cultural differences while living in both countries and formed a cross-cultural identity as a Chinese American. Eventually settling in the multicultural melting pot of suburban Atlanta, Georgia, Eric became acutely aware of and intensely curious about other cultures, forming the foundation of a lifelong passion for cultural exchange.

Eric pursued his undergraduate education at Georgia Tech, where he studied industrial engineering and minored in computer science. His International Plan degree designation enabled him to take international relations courses that broadened his global acumen. He spent an exchange semester in Beijing, taking engineering courses in Chinese and meeting local and international students, and he interned for a Chinese education technology startup, helping manage a province-wide middle school essay competition. Following his work in China, Eric nurtured his burgeoning interest in leveraging technology as a catalyst for social good. In Atlanta, he led the launch of a student-developed app for behavioral health nonprofits that connected more than 20 providers across Philadelphia and Miami.

After graduation, he continued working in the public and social sectors as a consultant at Alvarez & Marsal, focusing on digital strategy and technology enablement for state governments and nonprofit agencies across education, public health, health insurance, and social services. Notably, he helped a state public health department reorganize during the COVID-19 pandemic to operate more effectively, and helped a social services agency implement an HR system to modernize workforce management. Eric also led national cultural communications for his firm's diversity, equity and inclusion initiative, amplifying personal stories from colleagues who shared their cultural traditions, holiday customs, and religious celebrations. Outside of work, he led the New York City chapter of a global Mandarin language-learning newsletter and hosted community language meetups.

At Wharton and Lauder, Eric looks forward to deepening his connection to Chinese language and culture, broadening his global worldview and cultural knowledge, and forming lifelong friendships in the community. Post-graduation, he is determined to expand his interest in technology for social good and leverage business as diplomacy for Sino-U.S. relations.

Eric is fluent in English and Mandarin and has some knowledge of Spanish. In his free time, he enjoys playing electric guitar, running long distance, finding his next favorite hot sauce, and traveling with his friends and family.





NAOMI WEINER

Naomi was born in Washington, D.C., and moved to Brussels, Belgium, when she was 2 years old. She grew up speaking French while attending a local Belgian school and developed a love for travel from an early age. After she and her family returned to the U.S., Naomi graduated from Sidwell Friends School in D.C.

Naomi graduated from the University of Chicago with a degree in economics and a minor in human rights. She was a member of the women's soccer team and head of the International Policy Program at the Institute of Politics. She also studied abroad and lived in a homestay in Dakar, Senegal, during her junior year.

She started her career at Deloitte Consulting in its Strategy & Analytics group, where she worked across industries on operating model transformations, pricing strategies, and mergers and acquisitions. After gaining experience on climate-related projects, she became interested in the value creation opportunities that sustainability strategies could offer both company profits and society. She also co-published two reports on how sustainability can drive financial profit; both articles were published by Deloitte and The Wall Street Journal.

While at Deloitte, Naomi was selected to represent the firm at One Young World, a summit for young entrepreneurs and global leaders to develop solutions to building a more sustainable future. Each year, the summit is attended by 2,000 people from more than 190 countries, and key speakers included Meghan Markle, Muhammad Yunus, and Justin Trudeau.

Following One Young World, Naomi was keen to move abroad and work for an early-stage company. She moved to Paris, France, and joined a team of 12 at a climate research and consulting firm, Telesto Strategy. The firm also ran a startup accelerator program with the U.S. State Department for entrepreneurs in Ghana. The work focused on preparing climate entrepreneurs to engage with global investors and included projects on carbon sequestration and climate risk resilience.

Naomi completed a pre-MBA internship on the sustainability team at Astorg, a European-based private equity firm. Working from Astorg's Paris office, she gained exposure to sustainable investment in private markets. She hopes to pursue a career in growth investing upon completing her MBA/MA.

Naomi is an avid skier in the winter and scuba diver in the summer. She loves to travel, having visited more than 60 countries, and looks forward to meeting people from all over the world while at Wharton and Lauder.





MATTHEW YONG

Matthew was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada, as a second-generation Chinese Canadian. Growing up in a diverse city, Matthew developed an appreciation for cross-cultural ideas and experiences. He continued his postsecondary education in Vancouver at the University of British Columbia, graduating with a degree in finance.

During this period, Matthew's passion for international business grew. It started with an internship at a German technology company, followed by an exchange semester at ESSEC Business School's Singapore campus. Outside of the classroom, he also represented UBC at international case competitions in the United States, the Netherlands, and Japan.

Upon graduation, Matthew worked in management consulting at KPMG and McKinsey & Company, serving clients in North America, the Caribbean, and Europe. He has worked across a variety of industries on go-to-market strategy, post-merger integration, due diligence, revenue growth management, and operations transformation.

In 2023, Matthew pivoted into the international development space by joining the United Nations World Food Programme in Rome, Italy. At WFP, he focused on efficiency improvement projects across the U.N. system and with country offices in Tanzania, Kenya, Jordan, and Brazil.

At Wharton and Lauder, Matthew intends to further explore the dynamics of global affairs and cross-cultural collaboration. With a focus on East and Southeast Asia, he is excited to deepen his understanding of geopolitics and socioeconomic in the region as well.

Matthew speaks English, Cantonese, Mandarin, French, and Italian. In his free time, he enjoys teaching English to students around the world, practicing a minimalist lifestyle, and exploring classic men's fashion.





TIFFANY YUAN

Tiffany grew up in Cranbury, New Jersey, and frequently visited her extended family in Shanghai, China, her parents' hometown. Experiencing the differences between both places, from family dynamics to cultural customs, helped build an early appreciation for intercultural exploration that informed her academic and professional pursuits.

After high school, Tiffany attended Johns Hopkins University, where she graduated with honors in public health. She developed her interest in topics that transcend borders through a Woodrow Wilson Undergraduate Research Fellowship, focusing on disease outbreak response. Outside of class, she was a top-ranked competitive debater who served as president of her team and vice president of finance for the American Parliamentary Debate Association. She also competed in world championships in Bangkok, Thailand; Mexico City, Mexico; and Capetown, South Africa. There, she was able to learn different perspectives on a wide range of topics – from the global energy crisis to the philosophy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations – by engaging with debaters of diverse backgrounds and nationalities.

Upon graduation, Tiffany moved to Washington, D.C., to join Bain & Company as an analyst, working on projects across industries including utilities, health care, and private equity. During her time at Bain, she transferred to the Amsterdam office, where she worked with UNHCR to revamp its fundraising strategy. While in Amsterdam, she visited over 45 cities across 12 countries. Upon returning to Bain's office in D.C., she helped improve operations at an offshore wind turbine manufacturer and traveled frequently to the company's factory in France. Seeing the challenges faced by companies across the energy value chain in a rapidly changing technological and regulatory landscape sparked Tiffany's interest in renewable energy.

At Wharton and Lauder, Tiffany hopes to build on this interest to explore the intersection of energy transition and international development, applying her global business knowledge to tackle sustainability issues. She also looks forward to improving her Mandarin and to better understanding the cultural and geopolitical dynamics in the East and Southeast Asia region critical to growth and cooperation.

In her spare time, Tiffany loves to bake, read, travel, and take what her friends have termed “insanely long” walks. She is excited to explore Philadelphia and the world with new friends, and for the 40-minute walks from Rittenhouse Square to campus.





JIMMY ZHANG

Raised in the vibrant multicultural neighborhoods of San Francisco, California, Jimmy discovered his passion for diverse cultures and languages early on. He pursued a bachelor's degree in human geography and urban planning at the University of California, Berkeley, where he delved into international political economies and honed his skills in geographic information systems. A study abroad in Hong Kong further enriched his global perspective.

Jimmy initially worked as a community mental health professional in the San Francisco Unified School District, developing a network of 120 providers focused on helping students from diverse backgrounds with issues ranging from student belonging to sexual and reproductive health. This foundation in mental health underpinned his transition into the media and entertainment sector, where storytelling is vital, through a post-baccalaureate program at the Atelier Ludwigsburg-Paris, funded by Creative Europe/European Union. He studied at three leading European film schools — NFTS in the U.K., La Fémis in France, and Filmakademie in Germany — to hone his skills in international film distribution, sales, and public financing. He co-produced an internationally acclaimed short film, “Auggeschwärmt,” which was broadcast on Arte. His studies under prominent European producers and financiers underscored the economic and cultural impact of media.

While living abroad, Jimmy founded a product marketing production company, creating videos for clients including Casino Groupe, AT Internet, and the 2024 Paris Olympics. This venture further deepened his understanding of international market dynamics. Jimmy then joined MK2 Films, distributing works from François Truffaut, Charlie Chaplin, and Agnès Varda to notable clients such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Centre Pompidou, Cannes Film Market, ACMI (Australia), and the Spanish Ministry of Culture. His role in distribution was instrumental in developing public audience strategies at the Sundance Film Festivals in 2022 and 2023.

At Wharton and Lauder, Jimmy is eager to build and learn from a network of colleagues passionate about their work and culture. He aims to deepen his knowledge of global business strategies and explore how public financing models in France could rejuvenate regional economies in the U.S. through cultural production. He is keen to leverage his multicultural insights to understand how technological advancements and evolving media landscapes shape consumer behavior.

Jimmy is an avid film enthusiast, often supporting his local cinema or organizing viewing excursions. When not immersing himself in movies, he enjoys backcountry backpacking and exploring local cultural events.





HANNAH ZHAO

Hannah was born in Tianjin, China. She grew up in an entrepreneurial family and was always eager to learn new things and put ideas into action. At the age of 15, she moved to Southern California and lived with a homestay family to immerse herself in American culture.

Hannah graduated cum laude from Wake Forest University with a double major in finance and economics. In her sophomore year, she studied abroad in Madrid, Spain, which solidified her understanding of the European economy and culture. During college, Hannah continued her drive for implementing new ideas. She introduced a series of events at the Globe, the international student club, to help every student find their comfort space at Wake. She also created the first K-pop dance showcase in Wake Forest history, which has become an annual tradition.

Upon graduation, Hannah started her full-time career at Goldman Sachs as a general analyst, supporting over 100 investment bankers globally. She then focused on diversified industrials coverage as an investment banker at Wells Fargo in New York. She worked on transaction execution and deal originations in the utilities, environmental, and electrification sectors. Two years later, she transitioned to the buy side at Orix Capital Partners in New York, a middle-market private equity firm specializing in industrial services investments. She evaluated new and add-on investment opportunities in the environmental and telecom space, and collaborated closely with portfolio management teams.

Outside of work, Hannah volunteers at Hire Heroes USA to support military members and families with their career transition plans in their job searches, helping them identify strengths and transferable skills, strategize career paths, and prepare for interviews. She also volunteered as a health care outreach assistant in Fiji with Involvement Volunteers International to conduct health checks, workshops, and awareness campaigns on nutrition and diabetes for 400 patients in 10 villages.

At Wharton and Lauder, Hannah hopes to continue to refine her understanding of the global environmental and technology markets and her skills as an investor in the private equity and growth equity space. With an entrepreneurial spirit, Hannah is eager to help carry out exciting and impactful technologies and bring them to the market. In her free time, she enjoys dancing, crocheting, and walking her two dogs, Melon and Suka.





GHASSAN ZUGHAIB

Born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon, Ghassan brings a rich tapestry of cultural heritage, shaped by his Arab identity, French education, and Western-influenced upbringing. Growing up in Lebanon's complex and challenging economic and political ecosystem, he developed a deep interest in technology and its role in transforming societies across the globe.

Driven by this fascination, Ghassan pursued a degree in computer and communications engineering at the American University of Beirut. During his studies, he founded the first digital platform to streamline Lebanon's fragmented public transportation system using GPS and machine learning. Despite the country's infrastructural challenges, his team's groundbreaking work garnered significant media attention and established partnerships that consolidated informal buses onto the platform. This experience left a lasting impact on Lebanon's transportation landscape and solidified his passion for using technology to solve pressing social issues.

Due to the country's political and economic instability, his startup shut down and Ghassan quickly transitioned to a role in management consulting at Strategy&. He relocated to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, where he worked on ambitious strategies aimed at launching national scale technological solutions in the Middle East, notably in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Ghassan's multicultural background and proficiency in Arabic, French, and English allowed him to engage in complex discussions with both government officials and private sector leaders across various industries, providing him with a firsthand view of how efficient governments collaborate with the private sector to embrace innovation.

Beyond his work, Ghassan served as an elected member of Strategy&'s People Council, representing 800 peers across Middle East offices. In this role, he helped develop initiatives to enhance the overall experience of his peers and improve the performance of the company, addressing topics such as compensation, diversity and inclusion, work-life balance, social engagement, mental health, and well-being. At Wharton and Lauder, Ghassan aspires to deepen his understanding of the socioeconomic and political contexts of the Middle East and beyond. He is eager to explore venture capital finance and aims to reignite his entrepreneurial spirit and passion for impactful technological solutions.

In his free time, Ghassan has an affinity for extreme sports and outdoor adventures. He can often be found jumping out of planes, scuba diving, or exploring deep caves. He is also an avid track and field athlete, soccer player, and padel tennis enthusiast. When not pushing the limits of his physical abilities, he enjoys mentoring startups and volunteering.



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