

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

FINANCE SCHOLARS

2024-2025 Annual Report



KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Business
Gates Capital Management
Center for Financial Analysis

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Bain & Company, Frankfurt, Spring 2025

A Note from the Director

This past year marked another exciting chapter for the Kansas State University Finance Scholars Program. We remain committed to identifying high-potential students early and equipping them with the resources, training, and exposure needed to thrive in competitive finance careers. Our efforts are grounded in a commitment to excellence and the belief that Kansas State students can compete at the highest levels.

In 2024–2025, we hosted 18 industry speakers, including alumni and partners, expanded technical training with top firms like Training the Street and Financial Edge for developing modeling and valuation skills, and competed in five external competitions—highlighted by a first-place finish at Washington University’s Olin School of Business Private Equity Challenge. These competitive settings continue to sharpen students’ analytical, teamwork, and presentation abilities.

Our students traveled to eight cities, including visiting three new cities; Frankfurt, Zurich, and Miami, building industry knowledge and professional connections. Additionally, we launched two new initiatives: a Women in Finance Conference for high school students and an alumni-led mock interview Superday on campus where each participant completed three to four back-to-back interviews, simulating the structure and pressure of real-world recruiting days.

Student outcomes were outstanding—graduates secured roles at firms like Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, and nearly all underclassmen landed summer internships. This success reflects the growing strength and reputation of the program. We welcomed an especially strong freshman cohort this year and continued our shift toward admitting students in their first or second year—a trend that positions them for even greater long-term success.

We are grateful to our alumni and supporters for their time, mentorship, and generosity. Whether it is hosting students for site visits, offering career advice, providing financial support, or returning to campus to teach and mentor, your involvement makes a real and lasting difference, and we are deeply grateful. Looking ahead, we are enhancing engagement options for alumni and supporters who want to contribute to the program’s success, developing high school outreach plans and connecting with more alumni across the country.



Dr. Sabuhi Sardarli

Associate Professor of Finance
Director, Gates Capital Management
Center for Financial Analysis

Whether you are new to Finance Scholars or a longtime supporter, we invite you to connect with us and get involved.





DALLAS

- Neuberger Berman
- Wingstop Restaurants, Inc.
- Darling Ingredients
- LAWY Capital Partners
- Riveron



MINNEAPOLIS

- Lazard
- Whitebox Advisors
- Columbia Threadneedle Investments
- Riverbridge Partners
- BMO Capital Markets



CHICAGO

- Magnetar Capital
- Solomon Partners
- Shorehill Capital
- Alliance Global Partners
- Stout
- Chicago Booth BPOC Private Equity Conference

COMPANY TRIPS & TRAVEL

We embarked on exciting trips to eight cities, each offering a unique glimpse into different career paths and industries.

IN THE FALL, Finance Scholars traveled to Kansas City, Minneapolis and Dallas, where they explored a range of finance careers through engaging site visits and professional connections.

"During our trip to Dallas, we visited firms across corporate finance, consulting, and private equity, gaining valuable insights into each field. A highlight of the trip was our visit to the Dallas Cowboys stadium, followed by an alumni dinner where we connected with both recent graduates and seasoned professionals. It was an incredible experience that blended professional development with meaningful alumni engagement."

Landon DiLeonardo, Finance Scholar, Vice-President

"Hosting the Kansas State Finance Scholars in Minneapolis at the Lazard office was a full-circle moment for me. As a junior at Kansas State, I had the chance to visit Lazard with the Scholars program, and being able to give back by hosting students has been one of the highlights of my career so far. The opportunities that the program gives students to learn, network and eventually end up in a great job is something rare."

Josh Glunt, Analyst, Lazard, Alumni



FRANKFURT & ZURICH

This year marked the third international trip for Finance Scholars, offering a global perspective on the world of finance. Led by Finance faculty Dr. Sabuhi Sardarli and Program Administrator Julia Parcell, thirteen students explored the vibrant financial hubs of Frankfurt, Zurich, and Zug. The group engaged with firms across investment banking, asset management, trading, and consulting sectors, gaining firsthand insight into the operations and strategies of international financial institutions. This immersive experience deepened students' understanding of the global finance landscape and highlighted the interconnectedness of markets and career paths across borders.

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| → Goldman Sachs | → Morgan Stanley | → Frankfurt Stock Exchange |
| → Stifel | → Deloitte Consulting | → European Central Bank |
| → Telios Capital | → Bain & Co | |
| → Partners Group | → Stone X | |

IN THE SPRING, Scholars traveled to Miami, Chicago, and New York to focus on firms in asset management and investment banking. Alumni dinners were a highlight of the Chicago and New York trips and a Super Bowl gathering with Jeff Gates and Mike Moran was a great way to spend time during the Miami trip.

"Miami surprised me. Meeting entrepreneurs just ten blocks from the beach and PE principals who left New York for sunshine, gave me a crash course in how geography shapes deal flow and firm culture. The conversations—whether about why a firm structures its fund a certain way or how to operate a PortCo—were things I enjoyed learning about. It stretched my idea of where and how you can build a finance career. The trip also clarified what can make a city attractive: access to diverse networks and a culture that encourages calculated risk."

Charlie DeZube, Finance Scholar, Associate

"For multiple years, I have had the pleasure of hosting KSU students at my offices in New York, where we discuss the asset management industry—particularly exchange-traded funds (ETFs). I am consistently impressed by their preparedness, curiosity, and professionalism. I look forward to continuing to support faculty and students in any way I can."

Steve Munroe, Managing Director,
Chief Marketing Officer, ProShares, Alumni

"Traveling to Frankfurt and Zurich with the Finance Scholars Program was an amazing experience that gave me a meaningful global perspective on finance. Meeting with professionals across two major financial hubs helped me better understand the nuances of international finance and the importance of global collaboration in the industry. It was interesting to gain perspective on how financial institutions adapt to different economic and regulatory environments."

Caleb Woleben, Finance Scholar, Associate

Conferences



Finance Scholars continued to engage with industry leaders and expand their professional networks. They attended a conference hosted by the Chicago Booth Private Equity Group and the Polsky Center. This event brought together investors, students, and entrepreneurs, providing a platform for networking and sharing insights on investing in today's evolving economy.

A group of scholars traveled to Kansas City for the 50th anniversary of the DeMarche Investor Conference, where they explored institutional investment strategies and market trends. The journey continued to Columbia, Missouri, for the Main Street Summit—a gathering for small business investors, operators and owners with a focus on innovation, relationship building and entrepreneurship.



NEW YORK

- Gates Capital Management
- JP Morgan Asset Management
- Stone Harbor Investments
- Prime Finance
- Wells Fargo
- Magnetar Capital
- BMO Capital Markets
- Ardea Partners
- ProShares



MIAMI

- Baron Global
- FMS Bonds
- IMAIM Capital
- Stone X
- JP Morgan Private Bank
- HIG Capital

Connect
with us

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kstatefinancescholars.com
kstatecfa@ksu.edu

WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

Finance Scholars gather for workshops and coffee chats featuring alumni and industry professionals. These sessions provide valuable insights and networking opportunities that strengthen students' readiness for competitive careers in finance.

2024-2025 Meetings

Goering & Granatino

- Avery Bolar, Chief Growth Officer

Stifel

- Art Kennedy, Branch Manager, First Vice President/Investments

Magnetar Capital Tailgate

- Ernie Rogers, COO/Partner
- Siobhan Morrissey, HR Associate
- Sydney Johnson, Portfolio Finance, Alternative Credit and Fixed Income
- Lavonne Harris, CFO

Koch Disruptive Technologies/ Koch Equity Development

- Keaton Goedert, Director
- Weston Hack, Senior Associate

Five Elms Capital

- Fred Coulson, Founder & Managing Partner
- Benjamin DeZube, Software Investor
- Parker Dyro, Software Investor
- Parker Larson, Software Investor
- Hugo Nascimento, Software Investor

Mission Peak Capital

- Wit Solberg, Founder

Jain Global

- David Hochberg, Global Head, CIO of Commodities Trading

Roz

- Donnie Hampton, Co-Founder

Darling Ingredients

- Randall Stuewe, Chairman & CEO
- Suann Guthrie, Senior Vice President Investor Relations, Sustainability and Global Communications
- Martin Guthrie, Vice President Innovation

Alliance Global Partners

- Chris Pravecek, Managing Director

Deloitte Consulting

- Doug Gish, Global Operate Leader

Vantage Investment Partners

- Daniel Kerley, Portfolio Manager
- Noah Watson, Equity Analyst

Konza Valley Capital

- Marshall Parker, CEO
- Jack Robertson, Associate

Lightedge

- David Glenski, Director FP&A

Independent Entrepreneur

- Tim Prier

Lewis & Clark Agrifood Capital

- Chuck Warta, Operating Partner

Boardman Holdings

- Doug Busch, Principal



Jeff Gates hosts students in his New York City office.

VP Workshops

Vice President is the highest ranking position within the program. These scholars play a vital role in mentoring and training younger members, particularly within their target career areas. In addition to leading peer development, they contribute to the program's broader visibility by preparing newsletters for external audiences. This year, they further demonstrated their leadership by organizing and hosting several professional development workshops.

• Choosing a Target Area

Within Finance: All VPs

• 400 Technical Interview

Questions: Landon DiLeonardo, Michael Tumberger, Charlie DeZube, Max Roberts

• Capital IQ: Blythe Bolar and Will Hanson

• Case Interviews: Claire Thimgan



Avery Bolar captivates the audience with a creative take on private equity—drawing surprising parallels with Dune.



Each fall, Magnetar Capital hosts a tailgate to connect with current scholars.



Randall Stuewe and Suann Guthrie shared insights about Darling Ingredients just one day after the company's earnings release.

Workshops

• Event-driven Hedge Fund Security Analysis

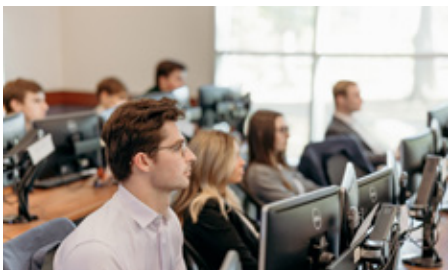
Jeff Gates, Managing Partner, Gates Capital Management

• Gates Capital Management Speaker Series - Cage Kings

Michael Thomsen

• Risk Perception in Venture

Kevin Lockett



Students sharpened their technical skills learning how to value companies and investments.

TRAININGS

Training the Street / Financial Edge

The program offered multiple technical training opportunities to enhance students' financial skillsets. In the fall, Training the Street, a New York-based firm, delivered a workshop focused on LBO and M&A modeling. Financial Edge, another leading training firm, led a session on Corporate Valuation in the spring. As part of the program's commitment to technical excellence, students are also required to complete external certifications, including Wall Street Prep and Bloomberg Market Concepts course.

COMPETITIONS

Internal Competitions:

- 24-Hour Security Analysis Challenge
- Gates Capital Management Stock Pitch Competition

External Competitions:

- CFA Research Challenge
- Southeastern Hedge Fund Competition
- Olin PE Case Competition
- Tenaska Business Challenge
- Best in the Midwest Case Competition

Gates Capital Management Stock Pitch Competition



First place:

Caleb Woleben, Bryce Disberger, Charlie DeZube, and Michael Tumberger pitched a buy on SPXC.



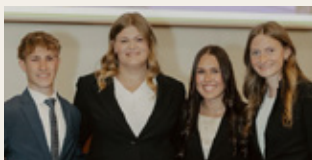
Second place:

Will Hanson, Landon DiLeonardo, and Max Roberts pitched a DEO buy.



Third place:

Aurora Ortega, Taylor Pringle, and Avery Stephany pitched a TTEK buy.



Freshman team honors:

Eliana Beckham, Annika Garrison, Jack Seal, and Sofia Steinmetz, recommended a buy on NVO.

Special thanks to judges:

CJ Heinz, Jonathan Huhn, Stephanie Siders, Matthew Smagacz, and Seth Auld.



Beyond technical preparation, students took part in the Elevate Your Impact training, which focused on key professional skills including:

- effective communication
- growth mindset
- personal branding
- first impressions
- relationship building
- executive dining etiquette

These sessions are designed to help scholars strengthen their executive presence and interpersonal effectiveness.

24-Hour Security Analysis Challenge

The third annual 24-Hour Security Analysis Challenge was held in the fall. Students participated in teams, each assigned to analyze VLTO, with a 24-hour window to make trade recommendations. Following the challenge, Jeff Gates conducted a workshop on campus to review the teams' findings and suggestions.



THREE BROTHERS. ONE WILDCAT LEGACY.

From their early days in Overland Park, Kansas, to leadership roles on Wall Street and beyond, Jordan, Austin, and Alex May represent a powerful legacy of excellence, resilience, and K-State pride. All three brothers are proud graduates of Kansas State University's finance program — and each credits the foundation laid in Manhattan as instrumental in shaping their careers in investment banking, commercial real estate, and corporate lending.

Jordan May, the eldest, is a Director in CMBS Investments at Prime Finance in New York, where he has overseen \$1.5 billion in investments and the management of over 200 distressed loans. Named one of CREFC's Top 20 Under 40, Jordan reflects on the growth of K-State's business school with pride:

"Watching Kansas State's business school and alumni base grow into what it has become today is something I'm incredibly proud of. From donors and mentors to top-tier faculty, it's rewarding to see the program thrive."

He cites Professor Eric Higgins as a formative influence:

"There was such a thing as a stupid question — and he'd let you know. But his deep expertise taught me how to think critically, which shaped how I invest today."

Austin May serves as a Director in Solomon Partners' Business Services

Group in Chicago, where he focuses on advising private equity-backed businesses in M&A transactions. His first day on campus remains one of his most vivid memories:

"That moment of stepping into life on my own — the anticipation of new experiences and independence — was the beginning of my trajectory."

Austin credits the late Professor Scott Hendrix with helping open professional doors and guiding his early success:

"His dedication to students was unmatched. His guidance opened doors I didn't even know existed."

If given a do-over, he offers this advice to current students:

"Study abroad. If you have the chance, do it. It will challenge and change you in the best ways."

Alex May, the youngest, is Vice President of Lending & Capital Strategy at JPMorgan in Denver, where he leads the modeling and strategy for the global lending portfolio. Like his brothers, Alex forged lifelong memories in Manhattan — especially on Saturdays at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

"There isn't much that beats a Saturday at the Bill. Cats by 50."

His most impactful professor? Sabuhi Sardarli.

"He knew how to push students to take charge of their future. I still have nightmares about missing his final and having to stay an extra semester."



Alex's only regret? Not getting more involved while on campus:

"There's so much the business school offers. Mentorships, student groups, competitions — they all help position you for success."

When not closing deals, you can find the May brothers taking their competitive spirit to the slopes, courts, and trails. They share a passion for outdoor activities, travel, family, and constant learning — always seeking new perspectives and challenges.

Their journey — from Kansas classrooms to top-tier finance roles — continues to inspire current students, and is a powerful reminder of what's possible with hard work, humility, and a strong foundation.

"We all took different routes in finance, but it started with K-State. The education, the community, the opportunities — it all shaped who we are."

EXPANDING ACCESS AND INSPIRATION: WOMEN IN FINANCE

This year, we launched an exciting new initiative aimed at empowering the next generation of leaders—Women in Finance event for high school students. Designed to introduce young women to the dynamic world of finance, the event featured panel discussions, interactive workshops, and the opportunity to connect with successful professionals and current K-State Finance Scholars.

By showcasing real-world career paths and fostering early mentorship, this program reflects our commitment to broadening access, building confidence, and inspiring diverse talent to pursue opportunities in finance.



PREPARING FOR SUCCESS: SUPERDAY READINESS

This year, the Finance Scholars Program launched a new Superday readiness initiative to better prepare students for the demanding final-round interviews common in competitive finance recruiting. To support this effort, 18 alumni from across the country returned to campus to conduct mock interviews, offer personalized feedback, and share insights from their own experiences in investment banking, private equity, consulting, and more.

In addition to the professional preparation, the weekend also featured an alumni reunion, giving returning professionals a chance to reconnect with classmates and meet the next generation of K-State talent.

This initiative not only elevated students' readiness but also deepened the mentorship culture that sets our program apart—strengthening ties between past and present Finance Scholars.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW & BENEFITS

Academic Component

- Coursework:
 - Financial Modeling
 - Security & Portfolio Analysis
 - Mergers & Acquisitions
 - Advanced Portfolio Management
 - Intermediate Accounting & Analytics II
 - Derivatives Or Fixed Income

Industry Component

- Weekly alumni workshops, networking and industry discussions
- Courses & Certifications
 - Wall Street Prep
 - Bloomberg Market Concept
 - Training The Street
- Competitions
- Group and Individual Networking Trips

Career Development

- Dedicated Finance Career Coach
 - Resume Reviews
 - Mock Interviews
 - Resume Book
- Executive Mentor Program
- Semesterly Performance Evaluations

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SCHOLARS

- Scholarships:

\$1,000/year - Interns	\$2,500/year - Associates
\$1,500/year - Analysts	\$3,500/year - Vice Presidents

*and up to \$2,000/semester in bonus scholarship dollars
- Housing support for summer internships in higher cost of living areas
- Industry subscriptions, books and training programs to enhance learning

STUDENT PROGRAM ROADMAP

INTERN

ANALYST

ASSOCIATE

VP



FACTS & FIGURES

average starting salary

\$91,000

significantly higher than the department and college average



FULL TIME POSITIONS

Goldman Sachs (IB)
JP Morgan Asset Management (AM)
JP Morgan Private Bank (O)
Deloitte Consulting (SC)
Capstone Partners (PE)
VantEdge Partners (PE)
Edward Jones (O)

IB=Investment Banking, AM=Asset Management, SC=Strategy Consulting, PE=Private Equity or Venture Capital, O=Other



7 out of 8 SENIORS
graduated with jobs
in target sectors

2025

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Piper Sandler (IB)
PSG Equity (PE)
Five Elms Capital (PE)
Magnetar Capital (AM)
VantEdge Partners (PE)
Vantage Inv. Partners (AM)
KSU Foundation (AM)
Security Benefit (AM)

Koch Disruptive Technologies (PE)
EPR Properties (O)
O'Keeffe & O'Malley (IB)
FCS Private Wealth (O)
DeMarche (AM)
Connected Vision Advisors (IB)
Fusion Bank (O)
Bounds Technologies (O)

FRESHMEN



SOPHOMORES



JUNIORS



SELECTION CRITERIA:

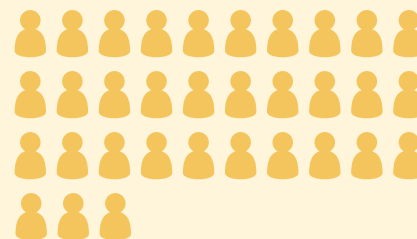
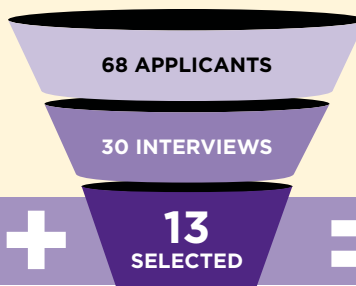
- ✓ GPA
- ✓ Involvement
- ✓ Entrance exam
- ✓ Hard work and determination
- ✓ Social and networking skills

WE BEGAN FALL 2024 WITH

20 SCHOLARS

FALL 2024

New Cohort Selection Process



33

Total number of students served during the academic year

Special Thanks

JEFF GATES

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Jeff Gates, whose generosity and leadership have helped shape our trajectory. From hosting alumni dinners in New York City to judging competitions, mentoring students, and guiding teams through the 24-Hour Security Challenge, Mr. Gates continues to lead by example.

His dedication, industry insight, and powerful network have opened doors for countless students and helped elevate the reputation and reach of our program. We would not be where we are today without his support.

ROB SCHNEIDER

Thanks to Rob Schneider for helping expand student opportunities and advancing the program's mission.

In addition to his financial support, Mr. Schneider continues to mentor several students, providing invaluable guidance as they navigate their paths into the finance industry.



Executive Mentors

Executive Mentors meet monthly with mentees to hone professional skills, identify career opportunities and build a professional network. If you're ready to serve as a mentor, visit wildcatlink.ksu.edu and contact us to be matched with one of our finance scholars.



Finance Scholars gathered for a Super Bowl watch party, enjoying an evening with Jeff Gates and Mike Moran at their Miami residence.

FRED COULSON

Thanks to Fred Coulson, who visited campus to share his career journey and insights, inspiring our students with both his experience and candor.

In addition to his time, Fred graciously supported our international trip to Frankfurt and Zurich, helping make this invaluable global experience possible. He also arranged a special dinner featuring authentic German cuisine, giving students a cultural and culinary highlight they won't soon forget.



JUSTIN BOISSEAU

We appreciate Justin Boisseau for sharing his time and expertise with our students during the annual trip to New York City and offering valuable insights into careers in investment banking.

His support extends beyond financial contributions—Justin actively engages with students at alumni dinners, offers mentorship, and returns to Manhattan to judge competitions and support key events. His ongoing involvement makes a lasting impact on our students' preparation, confidence, and career success.

PAUL & SANDRA EDGERLEY

We appreciate Paul and Sandra Edgerley's continued generosity and belief in the mission of the Finance Scholars Program. During our bi-annual trip to Boston, the Edgerleys host a group of Finance Scholars, providing students with valuable exposure to industry professionals and real-world insights.

In addition, Paul and Sandra funded professional dress and travel luggage for Scholars, ensuring that students are equipped to make strong first impressions on career treks and in interviews. Their support helps our students not only show up—but stand out.

VICE-PRESIDENTS



Blythe Bolar

Major: Finance
Certificate: Investment
Management



Abby Colburn

Major: Finance
Certificate: Professional
Strategic Selling



Landon DiLeonardo

Majors: Finance & Accounting
Minors: Statistics & Economics
Certificates: Investment
Management & Data Analytics



Will Hanson

Majors: Finance & Mathematics



Reese Kuzniakowski

Major: Finance



Claire Thimgan

Major: Finance
Minor: Economics



Michael Tumberger

Majors: Finance & Accounting

ASSOCIATES



Jayden Brethour

Majors: Finance
& Accounting



Charlie DeZube

Major: Finance
Minor: Computer Science
Certificate: Marketing
Technology



Bryce Disberger

Major: Finance
Certificate: Professional
Strategic Selling



Landyn Luttrell

Majors: Finance & Accounting



Gabriel Mohacsi

Majors: Finance &
Accounting
Minors: German & Economics



Aurora Ortega

Majors: Finance &
Accounting



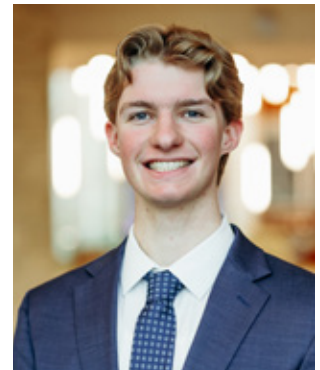
Max Roberts

Major: Finance
Minor: International Agriculture



Brandon Spielman

Major: Finance
Certificate: Investment
Management



Caleb Woleben

Major: Finance
Certificates: Strategic Sales &
Investment Management

ANALYSTS



Sam Baldwin

Major: Finance
Minors: Spanish &
Economics



Grayson Hunsberger

Majors: Finance & Accounting



Tyler Kuzniakowski

Major: Finance



Taylor Pringle

Majors: Finance & Mathematics
Minor: Leadership Studies



Samuel Ralston

Major: Finance



Andrew Seger

Major: Finance
Certificate: Integrated
Investment Management



Carter Watkins

Majors: Finance &
Accounting
Certificate: Integrated
Investment Management

INTERNS



Eliana Beckham

Majors: Finance & Accounting
Certificate: Professional
Strategic Selling



Jacob Caldwell

Major: Finance
Certificate: Investment
Management



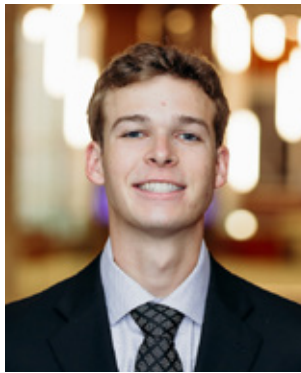
Annika Garrison

Major: Finance
Minor: Non-Profit Leadership



Liam Hazen

Majors: Finance & Economics



Jaxon Koehn

Major: Finance



Johan Lin

Majors: Finance & Computer
Science



Jack Seal

Major: Finance
Certificate: Investment
Management



George Shields

Major: Finance

We invite you to

get involved



Introductory meetings to meet and connect with scholars



Workshops for targeted skills needed in the industry



Six-month mentorship with a student



Advisor role in finance competitions



Group or individual visits on site



Network to create career opportunities for students



Help connect us with visits in new cities including Dubai and Tokyo

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Center for Financial Analysis

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