



# *Where Mission Meets the Market*

*2021 Dean's Report*



**CHAIFETZ**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS  
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

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Learn More About the  
Chaifetz School's Unique  
Business Education

*Some photos used in this report were taken  
before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.*





# From the DEAN

“ One of the many things that attracted me to SLU was the strength, clarity and ambition of our conviction: **Higher purpose. Greater good.**”

In 1910, the School of Commerce and Finance was founded at Saint Louis University. It was one of the first business schools west of the Mississippi River and marked a commitment from this historic institution to lead the nation in educating its future business leaders. Over the next 100-plus years, the School built a legacy of exceptional faculty, world-class education and a spirit of possibility. Now, as the newest dean of the Chaifetz School of Business, it is my great privilege to build on that legacy for a new generation.

My tenure began on January 1, 2021. As you might imagine, my orientation to Saint Louis University was anything but traditional. The disruption from COVID-19 was felt in the halls of Cook and Davis-Shaughnessey Halls, with social distancing in our classrooms and

heightening anxiety from the uncertainty. However, as I began conversations with our students, faculty, staff and alumni, at first virtually and then in person, what became certain was this is the right place for me.

The pandemic has given us all a moment to consider our “why” and refocus on what is most important. Among the many things that attracted me to SLU was the strength, clarity and ambition of our conviction: Higher purpose. Greater good. As I began to meet with our students and faculty and ask their own reasons for joining SLU, I was humbled to hear those words come to life. Words like mission, service and faith are not always associated with business schools, but they define the Chaifetz School — and have for more than 100 years.

Still, as with any remarkable institution, there is always an opportunity to build on the past while creating a new future. I believe the Chaifetz School of Business is uniquely positioned to meet the demands of the global market and train the future generation of students, who want to do good as much as they want to do well. Over the last year, we have coalesced under a strategic plan that identifies three pillars that define our approach: inclusion, innovation and impact. Together, they will guide the next several years of investment and progress across the School.

This inaugural Dean’s Report is designed to share stories and showcase achievements from the last year. The strides forward we made in the past 12 months would be impressive in ordinary times — the added weight of the pandemic makes our accomplishments nothing short of extraordinary. I am immensely proud of all we accomplished and more during a period of incredible uncertainty.

*As I look toward the future, I see only possibility, for our School and for our students. This is where we educate the next generation of leaders who will be defined by the impact they leave behind. The Chaifetz School of Business is **Where Mission Meets the Market.***

Sincerely,

**Barnali Gupta, Ph.D.**  
Edward Jones Dean  
Chaifetz School of Business



# Leading the Future of BUSINESS

The Chaifetz School of Business set out to align the focus of emerging industry professionals towards a vision of a better world. Over our 100-plus year history, we at the Chaifetz School have placed our Jesuit tradition at the heart of our practices. *We not only prepare students to excel in the world of business, but we also encourage them to use their talents in the service of humanity.* Each Chaifetz student emerges from their experience as an engaged citizen equipped with the knowledge to make decisions, the skills to lead others and the wisdom to leave a positive impact everywhere they go.



## Inclusion

In a world challenged by division, the Chaifetz School provides a sanctuary that embraces diverse individuals and outlooks. We focus on building a community of students, educators and partners who share the belief that inclusion drives empowerment and success. We intentionally immerse our students in the surrounding community to help them develop diverse perspectives and enter the world as business leaders and people who understand the critical nature of inclusion.

## Innovation

With a rich tradition, the Chaifetz School's keen eye toward the future continues to define what is possible in business education. Our real-world, experiential approach to learning integrates the latest technology with innovative instruction, ensuring our students are prepared for the markets of today and tomorrow. Chaifetz graduates emerge with the knowledge, skill and support of our world-class institution to create the future — in business and beyond.

## Impact

Our power is rooted in Jesuit values and knowledge of the regional, national and global marketplace. We dynamically educate each of our students, equipping them with the practical knowledge and technical skills to enter the workforce with confidence. The Chaifetz School of Business instills the belief that business must be a driving force for good in modern society and our graduates enter the world ready to lead the charge.

**100+** year history of placing *Jesuit tradition* at the heart of our practices



# Opportunity Awaits

## A Conversation with Mike Medart, Chair, Chaifetz Executive Board

For some students, their alma mater is simply a formative experience to carry on to new endeavors. Mike Medart (MBA '82) sees his background at Saint Louis University as both a contributing factor to his success and an opportunity to guide the Chaifetz School's legacy. Medart received a Master of Business Administration at SLU, years before the Chaifetz School earned its name. Since then, Medart has found success in the business world and has returned to SLU as part of the Chaifetz Executive Board.

The Board consists of external business professionals selected to help support academia, performance and direction. Each member serves a multi-faceted role to offer input for program review, serve as outside judges of student work and offer feedback on alumni performance. Medart joined the Chaifetz School for his first year as chair of the Chaifetz Executive Board in 2021 at the request of Edward Jones Dean Barnali Gupta, due to his alumni status as well as his role as forerunner of Medart Inc. Prior to his appointment as chair, he had been a member of the Board for six years.

Medart is currently the president and CEO of Medart Engine and Medart Marine. As the third generation to own and operate the company, he has gained unique insight across many facets of the business world. As his career blossomed, Medart continually sought to give back to the University. In 2019, he generously supported family business education at the Chaifetz School with a gift to establish the Medart Clinical Professor in Family Business, a position now held by Tricia Bagsby, Ph.D. He also frequently

volunteers his time to entrepreneurship programs and student events at SLU.

*“I believe that students are drawn to the Chaifetz School of Business for a world-class education,” Medart said. “SLU stands above the rest in not only teaching core competencies, but also in helping you to learn soft skills. We weave classical lines of thought through the minds of students while we walk alongside them with faith as they discover or strengthen their own views on ethics and develop lifelong curiosity.”*

As his inaugural year as board chair comes to an end, Medart sees great opportunity to continue advancing the Chaifetz School's rich tradition of excellence. He hopes to develop Chaifetz Executive Board subcommittees to aid the School in further advancing curricular innovations and forging more partnerships with organizations in the region and around the world. The end goal for Medart is to expand the immense and unparalleled opportunities the Chaifetz School offers to incoming business leaders.

*“I want to help others see that this is a darn good school well on its way to becoming a great top 50 university for business.”*

*“I want to help others see that this is a darn good school well on its way to becoming a great top 50 university for business.”*

- Mike Medart, MBA '82  
Chair, Chaifetz Executive Board



Learn More and View Current Members of the

*Chaifetz Executive Board*

# Roadmapping the Future

The Chaifetz School of Business is a community of teachers and scholars, students and staff, alumni and friends who embrace a growth mindset with a focus on inclusion, continuous innovation and a commitment to impact. We equip our students to be agents of change in communities around the world through high-quality research and scholarship, innovative teaching, inclusive communities and impactful programs promoting lifelong learning. ***Our strategic plan aligns our focus by segmenting our values into five key strategic drivers.***



## Students and Academic Programs

Our students remain the reason behind every action and initiative at the Chaifetz School of Business. We aim to create an environment in which students feel accepted and academically challenged. We seek to expand diversity within and across disciplines and create cross-cultural, global and inclusive mindsets through our curriculum. Our undergraduate and graduate programs continually innovate to meet market demands and teach skills that last well beyond the classroom. The Chaifetz School will continue to create ties between students, corporations and communities through major-based internship opportunities and experiential learning.



## Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Creation

The Chaifetz School of Business wants every student to graduate with never-ending curiosity. We aim to recognize and reward scholastic efforts that propose solutions to issues faced in the pursuit of a fair and just society. We champion excellence in research, scholarship and creative contribution through strategic resource allocation. The Chaifetz School wants students and faculty to be provided the means to both produce and implement impactful research, whether that be through publication or activating organizations. The School continuously promotes faculty research within the University as well as in the broader business landscape.



## Community and Social Impact

As a Jesuit institution, we want our students to not only make their mark, but also leave the world better than they found it. We promote awareness and respect for our values, while accelerating student engagement within the community. The Chaifetz School identifies issues in underserved communities and supports outreach. Our students are catalyzed to make a difference early on through workshops, industry sponsored events, conferences and hackathons. We continually seek to grow our partnerships with nonprofits and socially impactful organizations as well as launch programs that connect us with the broader community.

## Organizational Excellence

The Chaifetz School of Business provides focused attention on the inner workings of the School for the benefit of faculty and students. The organizational structure of the School relies on shared governance, promoting both accountability and transparency. Our staffing strategy seeks to advance diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, with a new director of DEIB to soon lead the way. The structure of our academic delivery is continually evolving to increase flexibility while enhancing impact for students. Our faculty build a dynamic and effective organizational structure together that streamlines communication between departments. The Chaifetz School will put new structures in place so that competencies are evaluated and development planning processes address gaps that may arise.



## Alumni and Friends

We hope to increase connections and engagements between the Chaifetz School of Business, alumni and corporate partnerships. Our strategic plan seeks to expand the School's corporate sponsorships by dealing with relevant and innovative topics of interest in various sectors of the St. Louis and Midwest region. The School builds strong corporate partnerships by utilizing the School's centers of distinction, including the Boeing Institute for International Business, Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship, Emerson Leadership Institute and Center for Supply Chain Excellence, as well as other programs.





# A Momentous Year

## 2021 at the Chaifetz School

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, no one could have predicted the totality of its impact on the world. Although the pandemic slowed many things — supply chains, conferences, normalcy — it did not slow the momentum that continues to build at the Chaifetz School of Business. We are immensely proud of the progress we have made over the last year, despite the myriad of challenges presented by the pandemic. What follows are a few highlights of the many achievements from across the School.

## Barnali Gupta Named Dean

On January 1, 2021, the Chaifetz School of Business welcomed Barnali Gupta, Ph.D. as the new Edward Jones Dean. Gupta joined Saint Louis University after an impressive 27-year tenure at Miami University of Ohio, where she last served as the associate dean for curriculum and professor of economics in the Farmer School of Business.

Gupta brings an academic background in economics with a specialization in industrial organization and applied game theory to the Chaifetz School. Beyond her impressive body of research at Miami University, she earned a reputation for attracting and retaining a diverse team of talented faculty and staff, while empowering them to develop creative new programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels. During her first year as dean, Gupta has focused the Chaifetz School of Business on creating impact through inclusive and innovative programs. Her daring goals have pushed the School to deliver on a range of new initiatives that are transforming the already nationally recognized business education at Saint Louis University. As Gupta sets her sights on the future, she looks to continue building on the School's core strengths while forging a path toward growth and innovation.



# 263

New Chaifetz Undergraduate Students in Fall 2021

# 14%

Growth of New Chaifetz Undergraduate Students Fall 2020 to Fall 2021

# 152

New Professional MBA Enrollees in Academic Year 2020-2021

# 73%

Growth in New Professional MBA Enrollment from Academic Year 2019-2020 to Academic Year 2020-2021

*School Crafts New*

# STRATEGIC PLAN

Shortly after her arrival in January 2021, Dean Gupta led all levels of the School in developing a new five-year strategic plan for the Chaifetz School of Business. The key to the plan is an updated and aligned framework of the School's vision, goals and foundational principles. It is from this framework that the School will evaluate its work, monitor its progress and set ambitious goals for the future.

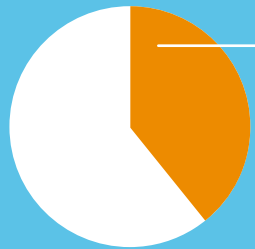
The strategic plan represents a deep collaboration between all major stakeholders for the Chaifetz School of Business. During the development process, the School conducted numerous focus groups and solicited feedback from students, faculty, alumni and board members. Their opinions ultimately shaped the message and tone for this exciting new chapter in the Chaifetz School.



# Growth in ENROLLMENT

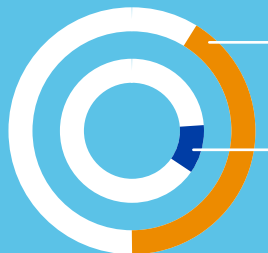
The 2020-2021 academic year also marked an increase in enrollment across the Chaifetz School of Business. The Finance program, in particular, has seen a significant increase in student interest. Such numbers are a promising indication that the School's reputation and offerings continue to carry weight with today's generation of students.

**1,023** Total Chaifetz School Undergraduate Enrollment in Fall 2021



**36%**  
Fall 2021 Class of New Chaifetz Undergraduates Represented by Students of Color\*

**378** Total Chaifetz School Graduate Enrollment in Fall 2021



**41%** Growth Fall 2019 to Fall 2021

**5%** Growth Fall 2020 to Fall 2021

\*Includes students reporting Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Pacific Islander or two or more races.

## New and Redesigned Graduate Certificates

Over the last year, the Chaifetz School of Business has invested in both new and redesigned graduate certificates that reflect the ever-changing conditions of the global business market. For SLU graduate students, these certificates offer an appealing opportunity to prepare not only for the jobs of today, but also the jobs of tomorrow.



**Financial Investing**  
*(Redesigned)*



**Supply Chain**  
*(Redesigned)*



**Real Estate**  
*(New)*

## New Director for the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship

On November 1, 2021, the Chaifetz School of Business named Lewis Sheats as the new director for the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship. Sheats previously served as the assistant vice provost for entrepreneurship at North Carolina State University and executive director of the NC State Entrepreneurship Clinic. Sheats also brings extensive start-up leadership experience to the Chaifetz School, as a founder of several new ventures including Interstate Logistics and Securus.



“Our history in entrepreneurship and location in St. Louis’ start-up scene positions the Chaifetz School to make an impact,” Sheats said. “I’m excited to create opportunities for students as we support the entrepreneurs reimagining the future of our region.”

Upon joining SLU, Sheats set an ambitious goal to transform the Center into a nationally recognized hub for entrepreneurship, strengthening the Chaifetz School and SLU’s position as one of the nation’s leading entrepreneurship programs. With a renewed focus on experiential learning and emphasis on developing an entrepreneurial mindset in students, he intends to achieve that goal over the next several years.

Gift of **\$1 Million**

From Donald and Nancy Ross Established the Donald L. Ross Entrepreneurship Opportunity Fund in 2021



Poets&Quants  
for Undergrads\*

#72



# Rankings ON THE RISE

Consistently ranked among the top 100 business schools in the U.S., the Chaifetz School's national reputation continued to grow in 2021, with the world's leading publications once again recognizing the strength of our academic programs and success of our alumni. Despite economic forces challenging the labor market, even more 2020 Chaifetz graduates successfully secured employment within six months of graduation than in 2019, propelling the School up 17 spots in Poets&Quants' outcomes subrank to No. 60 in the country in 2021. The School's analytics-focused One-Year MBA also earned its first-ever national ranking from U.S. News & World Report.

## U.S. News & World Report

2022 Best Undergraduate  
Business Programs\*\*

#16

International Business

#17

Entrepreneurship

#38

Finance

#72

One-Year  
MBA

2022 Best Business  
Schools Rankings\*\*

2022 Best  
Graduate Schools\*\*

#9

International Business

#14

Entrepreneurship

#16

Supply Chain

#89

Professional  
MBA

2022 Part-Time  
MBA Rankings\*\*

\*Best Undergraduate Business Programs, 2021. \*\*Ranked in 2021



# A Class to Remember



## The Chaifetz School of Business Class of 2021

The Class of 2021 was made up of remarkable and resilient students. They engaged creatively to serve their communities, gained professional experience and learned in innovative ways. Their commitment to develop as business leaders for others was inspiring, and their perseverance knew no bounds. These graduates enter the world poised to lead business as a driving force for good, and we are incredibly proud to count each one as an alum of Saint Louis University and the Chaifetz School of Business.

304

Undergraduate  
Degrees Granted by  
the Chaifetz School of  
Business in Fiscal Year 2021  
*(includes only first majors)*



147

Graduate Degrees  
Granted by the  
Chaifetz School of  
Business in Fiscal Year 2021  
*(excluding doctoral)*



34%

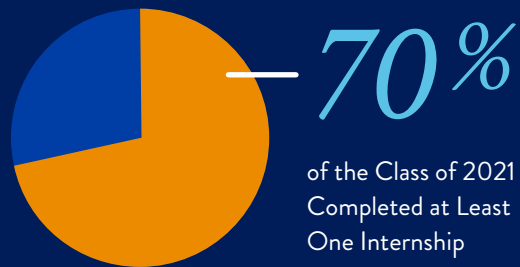
of the Class of  
2021 Reported  
Studying Abroad



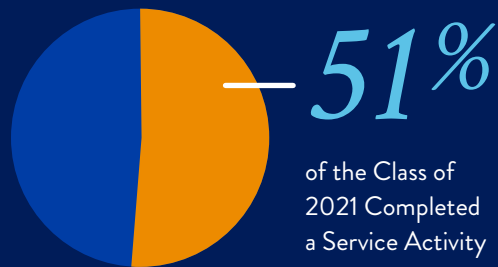
25,625

Chaifetz Alumni  
as of 2021



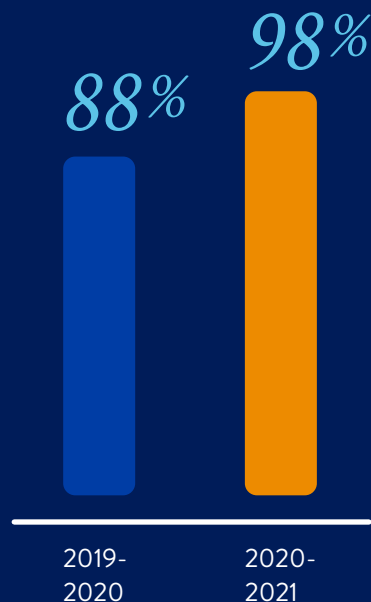


79,189+ Hours Spent at Internship Sites by the Class of 2021



10,326 Service Hours Completed by the Class of 2021 During Their SLU Careers

Graduates Working or in Graduate School Within 6 Months of Graduation



94

Different Employers, Including Fortune 100s, Start-Ups and Nonprofits, Joined by 2020-2021 Chaifetz Graduates

- Accenture
- Anheuser-Busch
- The Boeing Company
- Centene Corporation
- Cushman & Wakefield
- Deloitte
- Edward Jones
- Enterprise Holdings
- EY
- FedEx
- Goldman Sachs
- Mission Control
- Northwestern Mutual
- State Farm
- Stifel
- TD Ameritrade
- Visa
- Venture for America

## The Gifts that Guided 2021

As Chaifetz School faculty and staff work diligently to prepare our students for successful careers, the generosity of those who believe in our Jesuit mission propels us forward. Support from alumni, friends and corporate partners drove our pursuit of excellence over the past year, advancing inclusion, innovation and impact at the Chaifetz School of Business.

\$3,072,531

Total Giving to the Chaifetz School of Business in 2021

727

Unique Donors

\$1,226,935

Donated by 62 Organizations

\$1,845,597

Donated by 665 Individuals

\$28,443,073

Institutional Financial Aid Awarded to Chaifetz Undergraduate and Graduate Students for Academic Year 2020-2021

# Joining the Jesuit Mission

## New Faculty Hires 2019-2021

The faculty of the Chaifetz School of Business are experts in their fields who define both our understanding of industry through their leading research and the next generation of business leaders through their innovative instruction. Their business experience, industry connections and scholarly contributions create incredible opportunities for students and the business community, making them a source of tremendous pride for the Chaifetz School. The talent of our faculty continually grows, with new additions to our ranks each year. The Chaifetz School has welcomed the following faculty since 2019.

### Fall 2019

**Patricio Duran, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of  
International Business

**Marcus Painter, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Finance

**Noni Zaharia, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of  
Management

### Spring 2020

**Tricia Bagsby, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of  
Management

### Fall 2020

**Toschia M. Hogan, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of  
Management

**Yulia Vorotyntseva, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of  
Operations and  
IT Management

### Fall 2021

**Carlos Esparza, S.J., Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of  
Economics



54 Full-Time Faculty

15 Endowed Positions

36 Peer-Reviewed Publications\*

68 Editorial Board Appointments

\* Published, in press or accepted during winter, spring, summer or fall 2021



# The Intersection of FAITH AND ECONOMICS

*A Conversation with* Father Carlos Esparza

“It’s been very pleasant to see how receptive people have been to having a Jesuit on campus. I’m the first Jesuit in the business school in as many as 10 years. I’m very impressed with the faculty and how much they feel connected to the mission.”

- Father Carlos Esparza  
Assistant Professor of Economics

In 2021, the Chaifetz School of Business welcomed a Jesuit priest to the faculty for the first time in recent years. Father Carlos Esparza, S.J., Ph.D., joined the Chaifetz School in August as an assistant professor of economics following years studying and teaching across the country. After a competitive search, Esparza chose to bring his passion for academia to Saint Louis University and the Chaifetz School, where students focus on the higher purpose and greater good.

Esparza has spent years becoming a notable authority in diverse fields, including philosophy, statistics and economics. He fulfilled his ministry requirement over the span of three years by teaching math at a Jesuit high school in Houston. Motivated by his own pursuit of knowledge, as well as a fervent desire to share insight, Esparza looked to the Midwest for an opportunity to make a perpetual impact on business practices through higher education.

Esparza was captivated by the research and the bold initiatives Saint Louis University had undertaken and saw there were opportunities here to grow. He felt the University was firmly connected to the Jesuit mission while still offering diversity of opinion, philosophy and religion. He believes SLU is a place where disparate

groups can find a common ground, while still being joined together with a shared mission of compassion through business.

“It’s been very pleasant to see how receptive people have been to having a Jesuit on campus,” Esparza said. “I’m the first Jesuit in the business school in as many as 10 years. I’m very impressed with the faculty and how much they feel connected to the mission.”

Esparza currently teaches undergraduate students principles of economics and provides analysis into the broader context of the world. Outside of the classroom, he researches the economics of religion tied to education, including facets such as school closures, religious engagement and mental health. As part of a Jesuit institution once more, Esparza hopes to act as a resource for both students and colleagues within the School.

“This institution has done so well for so many years. I’m excited to live out this life as a Jesuit priest on a Jesuit campus.”



# Faculty Highlights



The Chaifetz School of Business regularly recognizes the success of its esteemed faculty through promotion and tenure. Generous support from alumni and friends also provides unique opportunities to bestow our most distinguished faculty with endowed appointments. With dedicated resources, we encourage our faculty to actively advance knowledge in their areas of discipline and work continually to support their innovation in the classroom. These valued members have remained steadfast in their dedication to student success as well as the pursuit of research, earning themselves a new distinction within the Chaifetz School.

## Endowed Position Appointments

### Summer 2019

#### Brad Carlson, Ph.D.

*James J. Pierson Endowed Chair in Marketing*  
Professor, Department of Marketing

#### Andrew Kaikati, Ph.D.

*Distinguished Professor in Marketing*  
Associate Professor, Department of Marketing

### Spring 2020

#### Tricia Bagsby, Ph.D.

*Medart Clinical Professor in Family Business*  
Assistant Professor, Department of Management

### Fall 2021

#### Hadi Alhorr, Ph.D.

*Paul G. Lorenzini Endowed Professor of International Business*  
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of International Business

#### Nitish Singh, Ph.D.

*David Orthwein Professor of International Business*  
Professor, Department of International Business



## Faculty Promotions

### Fall 2019

#### Rob Boyle, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor*  
Department of Management

#### Kerry Guilliams, MBA

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Operations and Information Technology Management

#### Dave Sanders, M.A.

*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Economics

#### Naresh Bansal, Ph.D.

*Professor*  
Department of Finance

#### Brad Carlson, Ph.D.

*Professor*  
Department of Marketing

#### Tom Doellman, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor with tenure*  
Department of Finance

#### Yan Sun, Ph.D.

*Professor*  
Department of Accounting

#### Jintong Tang, Ph.D.

*Professor*  
Department of Management

### Fall 2021

#### Mamoun Benmamoun, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor with tenure*  
Department of International Business

#### Anastasios Kaburakis, J.D., Ph.D.

*Professor*  
Department of Management

#### Katie Kelting, Ph.D.

*Associate Professor with tenure*  
Department of Marketing

# Decorated Excellence

## Selected Faculty Award Winners of 2021

The Chaifetz School's world-class faculty are beloved by students, respected by peers and highly-decorated in academia and beyond. Their exceptional contributions to student learning and research are regularly recognized with external accolades befitting their immense impact. These individuals dedicate their lives to the pursuit of knowledge and sharing their discoveries with the world.



### Bidisha Chakrabarty, Ph.D.

2021 Responsible Research in Management Award

*Fellows of the Academy of Management and Community for Responsible Research in Management and Business*

"CFO Gender and Financial Statement Irregularities," a 2020 study published with colleagues by Chakrabarty, Edward Jones Professor in the Department of Finance, found that firms with female CFOs had a lower likelihood of financial misreporting than firms with male CFOs. The research demonstrated the practical implications of gender diversity within the business landscape, and suggests tangible business benefits from more inclusive business hiring practices. This impactful work led to Chakrabarty's recognition as one of 13 recipients of the 2021 Responsible Research in Management Award, which pays tribute to high-quality research addressing critical issues in business and society.



### Marcus Painter, Ph.D.

Best Paper Award - Corporate Finance

2021 Financial Management Association Annual Meeting

At the 2021 Financial Management Association Annual Meeting, Painter, assistant professor of finance, was awarded Best Paper for his publication "Firm Statements, Consumer Political Beliefs and the Limits of Stakeholder Capitalism." Using smartphone location data, his research analyzed consumer response to a 2019 statement from a major retailer in support of gun control. He found that foot traffic corresponded to consumers' political alignments, with traffic among Republicans decreasing and traffic among Democrats increasing. The innovative method for granular analysis of change in firm performance showcased how polarization may be generalized to firms worldwide.



### Abhimanyu Gupta, M.Stat.

2021 Excellence in Teaching Award

*Emerson*

Emerson awarded Gupta, instructor of operations and IT management, its 2021 Excellence in Teaching Award for his innovation in student learning. Gupta identified that students were struggling to learn statistical programming and developed an application to translate the analytical requirements to programming codes. His application, Statsbuddy, allows students to focus on learning data analytics without being impeded by complex programming syntax. After finding success with his students, Gupta also created a free data literacy workshop for working professionals wanting to learn on their own. Statsbuddy is now used by more than 1,000 monthly users worldwide.



### Tricia Bagsby, Ph.D.

2021 '40 Under 40'

*St. Louis Business Journal*

Bagsby, Medart Clinical Professor in Family Business and assistant professor of management, was recognized by the St. Louis Business Journal as a '40 Under 40' in 2021. The annual list honors 40 emerging St. Louis-area business leaders under the age of 40 who are propelling the region forward. Bagsby was selected for her efforts to grow the Chaifetz School's impact for students, alumni and the community. In 2021, she led the School's first Virtual Entrepreneurship Week, established the Mission Meets the Market Digital Badge Program for students, initiated the new Chaifetz Expert in Residence program and took over as interim director of the Emerson Leadership Institute.





# INCLUSION

*Education and Acceptance - For All*

# Room at the TABLE

## The Aspire STL Student Organization

For some, the business sphere can feel hard to break into — many may feel barred from true acceptance due to either their gender expression or identity as a member of a traditionally underrepresented group.

In the fall of 2019, three freshmen sought to open a platform for people of all backgrounds. Chaifetz School of Business students Marissa Oxendine, Maddy Joplin and Abby Kwon founded Aspire STL, a free student organization devoted to collaboration and empowerment among women in business through conversation, mentorship and education.

Aspire STL initially launched on social media platforms in an effort to demonstrate community interest in the brand. Once its following grew, the trio pitched the organization to the Chaifetz School of Business, with similar goals uniting their cause. Oxendine sought to create an accessible community that would allow for personal growth while offering the opportunity to form business connections, inside and outside the School. Meanwhile, Joplin and Kwon had also noticed a lack of a strong community for women and minorities and sought to create an organization that would allow one to grow. Though they were soon challenged by studying abroad as well as the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, they pursued their mission with unwavering ambition. By fall 2020, Aspire STL had grown exponentially in membership and offerings.

Currently, the organization functions both in-person and online. Aspire STL offers personal and professional



development through mentorship opportunities, job application preparations, events with Chaifetz faculty and business leaders and more. The members meet weekly throughout the academic year to stay connected and up-to-date on current opportunities.

Their efforts to create a space for the underrepresented is a testament to the ingenuity and compassion of Chaifetz School students. Oxendine, Joplin and Kwon recognized the impact disparity plays in long-term outcomes and forged a solution in their sphere of influence to improve opportunity for all. Aspire STL creates an outlet where students can both learn and become confident in their abilities, especially when it comes to joining a male-dominated industry.

*“I’m proud to hear stories of people in our club that feel empowered to reach out, network and go through the interview process,” Kwon said. “It’s very heartwarming to see — it’s all because of some advice and stuff they do in the club.”*

The founding students plan to continue supporting the organization in the coming semesters, and have opened applications for the next executive board. Recently, they recruited a faculty advisor to support their new leadership throughout their transition and gained recognition from the Student Government Association as an official student organization on campus. As a new school year approaches, students are excited to see how Aspire STL will evolve with new faces at the helm.

*“We can’t wait to see where Aspire STL goes,” Joplin said. “Since the beginning, it’s been the three of us. So now, it’s a new board and a new way to do the club, with new ideas on the table.”*

Oxendine, Joplin and Kwon inspired a rally toward inclusion for the Chaifetz School’s student body. With the support of the Chaifetz School and Dean Barnali Gupta behind them, members of Aspire STL move forward together and keep a space open for others to join the fight for inclusivity.

# Supporting Local

## COVID-19 Relief Grant Program

Aligned with our Jesuit roots, the Habitat for Neighborhood Business at the Chaifetz School works to help restore economic vitality to underserved neighborhoods through mentoring, networking and education for existing and aspiring minority entrepreneurs. Chaifetz students actively support the program through internships with Habitat for Neighborhood Business administration, regular undergraduate consulting and graduate capstone projects focused on Habitat for Neighborhood Business entrepreneurs.

Recognizing the economic impact of the pandemic on small businesses in 2020-2021, the Service Leadership Program collaborated with the Habitat for Neighborhood Business to establish the COVID-19 Relief Grant Program. The new initiative sought to support minority businesses disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, it provided Service Leadership students with an avenue to apply their skills from the classroom while engaging with diversity in a small business setting.

Service Leadership students evaluated proposals from Habitat for Neighborhood Business entrepreneurs to address critical business needs, interviewed applicants and selected 10 local businesses for awards, including Diversity Gallery. Each grantee was then partnered with a team of Service Leadership students to implement the \$20,000 in total grant awards in a way that supported an upward trajectory for each business.

The program allowed students to focus on teamwork, collaborative skills and the importance of professionalism in a business setting. Participants learned about the challenges and resiliency of minority-owned businesses and gained hands-on experience working with entrepreneurs to formulate creative solutions to strengthen business positions in the face of adversity.



“ I learned a lot about how our entrepreneur has been able to run a successful business for 20 years,” said Patrick Holbrook, senior accounting major and Service Leadership Program student. “Even though she’s been running a business for a while, she’s constantly thinking of new avenues to take and the next direction to go, which has helped her remain successful.”

Students have emerged from their experience in the program with newfound skills to carry into their future careers. The program, now in its second cycle, offers a model for community engagement that supports opportunity and empowerment, gives students real-world experience and helps the future business leaders we are educating develop new perspectives on the critical importance of diversity, equity and inclusion.

## Service Reimagined

Cass Information Systems, a leading provider of integrated information and payment management solutions, has deep ties to Saint Louis University. The company has been led by five CEOs over its 106-year history — with the last three CEOs being SLU alumni. In 2018, the company committed \$100,000 over five years to support the Chaifetz School’s Service Leadership Program, establishing the Cass Information Systems Service Leadership Scholarship, enhancing weekly service opportunities for students and underwriting the program’s annual Service Day.

When the COVID-19 pandemic limited in-person activities in 2020, Cass CEO Eric Brungraber (MBA ’82) supported the Service Leadership Program’s quick pivot to partner with the Habitat for Neighborhood Business and use funds from the Cass gift to create the COVID Relief Grant Program. Our collaboration with Cass Information Systems has allowed us to provide students new opportunities for immersive education amid the disruption of the pandemic, all while making tangible change in underserved communities.

*Committed*  
**\$100,000**

to Support the Chaifetz School’s  
Service Leadership Program

# A Champion of Inclusion

## The Search for a DEIB Director

The Chaifetz School of Business launched a national search for a Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging in 2021. This new position will spearhead strategy and initiatives within the School to foster an environment of acceptance for people of all backgrounds and perspectives.

*As a Jesuit business institution, the Chaifetz School places strong value on creating a safe and empowering community for individuals from underrepresented groups.*

The director will execute intentional and meaningful DEIB events and programming for internal and external stakeholders that focus on well-being, resiliency, professionalism and personal and social development. They will provide training as well as marshal resources

to develop content that creates a sense of belonging in and out of the classroom. The director will also support faculty recruitment, represent the School in University DEIB initiatives and collaborate with both the Chaifetz School Diversity Committee and the University's Office of Diversity, Innovation and Community Engagement (DICE).

A commitment to action in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging is key to enhancing opportunities for underrepresented communities and furthering meaningful success for students, faculty and staff. We believe that education is the means for creating long-term wellness in communities locally, nationally and globally. With a new DEIB director reporting directly to the dean, the Chaifetz School will engage students in all the communities they will serve and send off graduated professionals prepared to lead business toward a more inclusive future.

*A commitment to action in the areas of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging is key to enhancing opportunity for underrepresented communities and furthering meaningful success for students, faculty and staff.*



# Bridging Expertise and Belonging

## The Inaugural XIR

In our effort to continually enhance student learning, the Chaifetz School established a new Expert in Residence (XIR) program in 2021. The innovative initiative embeds leading practitioners in their field within the Chaifetz School community to share industry insights and subject matter expertise with students, faculty and staff. Two-time Chaifetz School Alumna Tamika Mitchell was named the program's first XIR in November of 2021 to focus on diversity, equity and inclusion.

As a Chaifetz School expert in residence, Mitchell will showcase what it means to be an equitable and inclusive leader in today's business environment while sharing best practices from her experience. She will develop and deliver content in her area of expertise through guest lectures and workshops and will further support student development through mentorship, advising and other intentional programming. As a Billiken, Mitchell believes that SLU and the Chaifetz School are at the perfect crossroads to advance diversity, equity and inclusion.

*“ DEI used to be something that was good to have,” Mitchell said. “We’re in a space now that it is becoming a business requirement — students and workers coming out of college are demanding it of their employers.”*

The Chaifetz School's inaugural XIR appointment reflects the School's strategic focus on inclusion, innovation and impact. Already, Mitchell has begun work with the Emerson Leadership Institute to create a new digital badge that fosters competencies in DEI critical to students' future success as inclusive leaders. She will also facilitate a session at the Chaifetz School's "Be Heard: Women in Leadership" conference in April 2022. Through professional and volunteer roles, Mitchell has made it her mission to foster equity and inclusion in business while connecting underrepresented students with opportunity. She is excited to continue that work in her new role as an XIR at the Chaifetz School.

“Every door that has ever been opened for me, I make sure to leave it open with an extra hand for those coming behind me,” Mitchell said. “Grace and kindness to make it more palpable to the majority — I’m trying to bring others with me.”



**Tamika Mitchell**

*Finance '05, MBA '08*

Mitchell currently serves as a risk assurance and advisory manager at national accounting and consulting firm Armanino LLP, where she also represents the firm as a social ambassador to Moore Global. She is an accomplished businesswoman with experience designing, performing and managing audit plans as well as assessing financial, operational, compliance and fraud risks. Her work spearheading diversity and inclusion efforts at Armanino and in the community provide the basis for appointment as the Chaifetz School's inaugural expert in residence.

Her personal mission lies in connecting underrepresented students with opportunities to help change their personal trajectory. She has worked with the St. Louis Internship Program, local K-12 schools and area universities to expose students to the fields of accounting and finance, while supporting financial literacy and education initiatives. In her role as an expert in residence at the Chaifetz School, Mitchell will serve as champion for underrepresented communities and provide expertise in both diversity, equity and inclusion as well as accounting and finance.







# INNOVATION

*Top-of-the-Line Education and Research*

# Transforming Education

## Curriculum Innovation Grants 2021

Innovation is the cornerstone of excellence in education. The Chaifetz School of Business has pushed forward for over a century, evolving methods of teaching and preparing graduates for the changing world around us. With the COVID-19 pandemic further accelerating the need for creative and impactful instruction, the School prioritized support for valued faculty members to advance their world-class teaching methods.

Edward Jones Dean Barnali Gupta created the Curriculum Innovation Grant program in 2021 to support and recognize innovation within business courses and curriculum. The program is designed to support a variety of funding needs, such as the introduction of cutting-edge technology into coursework or to support time spent learning and implementing a new pedagogy, software or area.

*The grant encourages the pursuit of new endeavors that will transform the landscape of education at the Chaifetz School, awarding \$1,500 for individual faculty members or \$3,500 for a team.*

The Chaifetz School of Business bestowed the inaugural awards in May, with four Chaifetz faculty members — Naresh Bansal, Mamoun Benmamoun, Olgun Sahin and Lei Zhao — receiving grants.



## 2021 Curriculum

### Naresh Bansal, Ph.D.



#### Department of Finance

Naresh Bansal, Ph.D., professor of finance, received a grant to implement Desmos, an interactive online graphing tool, in his finance courses. With this tool, finance students will receive instant feedback on changes they make in financial parameters, allowing them to develop a deep grasp on the interconnectedness of a range of financial variables. For example, when investigating retirement planning, the online graphing tool will help students understand the complex relationships between asset allocation, inflation, interest rates and more, both visually and interactively.

### Mamoun Benmamoun, Ph.D.



#### Department of International Business

Mamoun Benmamoun, Ph.D., associate professor of international business, will develop and introduce non-technical artificial intelligence modules into a range of international business courses. After students learn the basic methods and applications of AI in international business, they will be able to simultaneously formulate and execute an AI strategy, while also becoming equipped with the tools necessary for ethical engagement in international business.

# Innovation Grantees



Olgun Sahin, Ph.D.

*Department of Finance*

Olgun Sahin, Ph.D., assistant professor of finance, will create new content to promote full student engagement with course material. He plans to develop short instructional videos as well as interactive student learning simulations. These unique educational experiences will allow students to learn asynchronously and enhance their overall outcomes as they transition from the University to the real world.



Lei Zhao, Ph.D.

*Department of Accounting*

Lei Zhao, Ph.D., associate professor of accounting, was awarded an Innovation Grant for development of a new course in data analytics for the Department of Accounting. Starting in spring 2022, the course will be offered to undergraduate seniors and graduate students as an introduction to specific business analysis technologies. Her endeavor will equip students to lead change in the field of accounting and stand out among their peers in the future.



## Sharing Best Practices

Grant awardees presented their winning proposals and shared insights on continuous innovation efforts across the School at the Research and Teaching Seminar Series, led by Jintong Tang, Ph.D., in October 2021. The Series is an ongoing professional development opportunity for faculty, held each Friday throughout the academic year at the Chaifetz School to promote and support dynamic change in teaching and research.

# Symbols of SUCCESS

## Mission Meets the Market Digital Badge Program

In 2021, the Chaifetz School created a new program focused on giving students tangible, co-curricular opportunities to develop real subject matter expertise. During its pilot stage, the program launched with three unique badge series. Each badge series embodies an area of the School's mission and showcases how Chaifetz graduates excel in business practice, with individual badges within each series signifying specific skills and knowledge.

“These new digital badges are a great addition to the number of opportunities we are given as students to expand our knowledge and unique skills,” said Grace Arnold, Community Engagement badge earner. “I look forward to utilizing this digital micro-credential during my upcoming job search and continuing to make an impact in the St. Louis area through service.”

The content and requirements involved are unique to each individual badge, with some badge programs available online in a self-paced format. Once the



program criteria is completed and verified by the Chaifetz School of Business, students are awarded a digital badge that can be used to differentiate themselves online. Each badge links out to information that details the competencies demonstrated to earn the badge, showing how each student strived to better themselves and make a tangible impact while doing so.

The Mission Meets the Market Digital Badge Program completed a successful pilot semester in fall 2021. Additional badges are currently in development for 2022, including a badge focused on diversity, equity and inclusion in the ELITE Leader badge series.

### Badges Awarded in Fall 2021

10

Community Engagement:  
Transformative Service

6

ELITE Leader in  
Ethical Leadership

3

Social Entrepreneurship:  
Peer Success Mentor



## Badges Launched in 2021



### Community Engagement: Transformative Service

The Community Engagement series demonstrates a student's deep commitment to service and the greater good of the community. Transformative Service badge earners engage in direct service, reflect on forms of social injustice and practice identifying meaningful business solutions to address community issues.



### ELITE Leader in Ethical Leadership

The ELITE Leader series helps students develop the critical leadership skills necessary for today's modern business environment. Through the Ethical Leadership badge, participants learn about ethics in theory and practice, and develop enhanced leadership skills grounded in integrity and service. The knowledge gained from this program activates each badge earner graduate to create meaningful, ethical practices and stand up to injustice where they see it.



### Social Entrepreneurship: Business Success Mentor

The Social Entrepreneurship series provides the opportunity to consider ways business can be leveraged as a force for good in the community. Earners of the Business Success Mentor badge spend a semester supporting a peer from an underserved population through the steps of a new venture launch. Mentors provide coaching on entrepreneurship and career skills while practicing respectful accountability — developing diverse perspectives through service in our community.

## The Gift of Opportunity

### Emerson Supports ELITE Leader Badge Series

Emerson, an American multinational corporation and long-time supporter of the Chaifetz School's Emerson Leadership Institute, is helping forge the way for the Mission Meets the Market Digital Badge Program. The corporation's gift of \$50,000 in 2021 to the Chaifetz School of Business will support development and facilitation of future badges in the ELITE Leader series, while providing scholarships to enhance student access to the program. Emerson's generosity opens a gateway for students to enhance their own leadership skills and develop insight that will carry them throughout their careers.

*Gift of*  
**\$50,000**

to Support Development and  
Facilitation of Future Badges



# Creating Entrepreneurs

## Mission Control

Austin Smith, *Economics and Entrepreneurship '17*  
Byron Abrigg, *Economics and Entrepreneurship '17*  
Brandon Smith, *Entrepreneurship '20*

Austin Smith graduated from the Chaifetz School of Business with not only a degree, but a fully-developed business idea and a partner to pursue it with. He met cofounder Byron Abrigg during move-in day in 2013 and, shortly after graduation, they launched Mission Control GG. The concept was inspired by an idea Austin's brother and fellow cofounder Brandon Smith developed as a high school student at the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship's Allsup Entrepreneurship Academy. In their college years, the three honed the idea for a competitive, organized gaming platform through their coursework and Chaifetz School pitch competitions.

A few short years later, Mission Control is now a thriving start-up, with a mission to gather and grow communities through recreational esports. The company's two-sided platform offers organizations administrative capabilities to create and manage leagues, as well as user-facing functions to view announcements, join activities and interact with fellow players. The start-up raised \$1.75 million in a seed financing round in 2020 and inked a deal with Cinemark in 2021 to bring esports to some of its 523 theaters, while offering an online gaming experience to its customers.

The three entrepreneurs leveraged core competencies and soft skills

they learned at SLU to achieve success. Austin is grateful for the support of the Chaifetz School, both in providing students opportunities to engage in business prior to graduation and preparing incredibly skilled, capable graduates who have served as some of Mission Control's first employees.

“We were very fortunate to have professors who helped us understand the intersection of Catholic faith with the market and our business,” said Austin Smith, CEO of Mission Control. “That foundation is at the core of why we wanted to be entrepreneurs, especially in the city of St. Louis.”



# \$1.75 Million

Raised in Seed Funding Round in 2020



## Bark n Sniff, LLC

Henry Matus  
*Entrepreneurship '21*

In 2018, Henry Matus' vision went dark for 20 seconds. That darkness led to a diagnosis — brain cancer. While he began his battle against cancer, an idea was born that changed the trajectory of his future. He thought of creating a product to help aging dogs that were being diagnosed with cancer at alarming rates. His idea eventually evolved into Bark-N-Sniff, a pet nutrition company which provides affordable supplements for man's best friend.

Matus credits much of his success and drive to his experience at the Chaifetz School of Business. Each lesson learned at SLU fueled his desire to turn down traditional workplaces and pursue the growth of an idea born from his life experience. According to Matus, the School pushed each student to emerge from their comfort zones and envision new ways of applying their degrees.

“I owe so much to SLU and the Chaifetz School,” Matus said. “The Entrepreneurship curriculum allowed me to dip my toes into every area of business — each class I took was formative in its own unique way and I apply the lessons I learned in my business every day.”

# Shaping the Future

## A Spotlight on Faculty Research Pursuits

The creation of knowledge spreads far beyond the classroom for Chaifetz School faculty members. Leaders within the School conduct innovative research that influences government policy, business practices and technological advancements in real time. These scholarly contributions are regularly published in top academic journals and supported by competitive grants to move industry and society forward with leading research.



### Heather Bednarek, Ph.D.

*Missouri Medicaid Expansion: Considerations for Health and Financial Security*

*Missouri Foundation for Health Research Grant*

When Heather Bednarek, Ph.D., associate professor of economics, joined SLU as an economist with an interest in health policy, she began research focused on Medicaid in Missouri. Her early research became intertwined

with questions from simply maintaining the program to receiving matching federal funds to expanding it. Nearly 15 years later, following a successful ballot measure to expand Medicaid in the state, Bednarek returned to her original focus as co-principal investigator on a \$471,000 research grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health.

Over the last year, Bednarek and her colleagues at SLU's Health and Social Policy Action Network (HealthSPAN) have taken a comprehensive approach to explore the effects of Missouri Medicaid expansion along two distinct, but interrelated, pathways — improved access and utilization of health care as well as greater economic resilience and food security. The three-year research project will result in data-driven recommendations for health care systems, policies that will address financial and health inequity and inspire renewed synergy between community organizations and government leaders.

Co-principal Investigator on  
**\$471,000**

Research Grant from the  
Missouri Foundation for Health



### Justin Goodson, Ph.D.

*Dynamic Ride-Hailing with Electric Vehicles*

*Transportation Science*

As ride-hailing platforms rise in popularity, Justin Goodson, Ph.D., associate professor and program director of the Chaifetz School's M.S. in Supply Chain Management, is exploring optimization for both profit and ease of access. In a study published in *Transportation*

*Science* in July 2021, Goodson and his co-investigators considered the problem of an operator controlling a fleet of electric vehicles for use in a ride-hailing service. In order to maximize profit, the operator must assign cars to riders as well as recharge and reposition vehicles in anticipation of future requests. The study compared the use of deep reinforcement learning, a category of machine learning and artificial intelligence where intelligent machines can learn from their actions, to traditional optimization strategies. Goodson and colleagues analyzed data collected from Manhattan in New York City to find that machines trained with deep reinforcement outperform reoptimization approaches. The study's findings propose the possibility of reworking ride-hailing platforms with new artificial intelligence strategies and scaling optimal policies across other regions.



### Patricio Duran, Ph.D.

*Multi-Stakeholder Agency: Stakeholder Benefit Alignment and National Institutional Contexts*

*Journal of Management*

A forthcoming article by Patricio Duran, Ph.D, assistant professor of international business, and colleagues in the *Journal of Management* analyzes how national institutions affect stakeholder benefit alignment. The

research proposes an institutional framework grounded in relative stakeholder salience and argues that stakeholder benefits are better aligned when national institutions enhance ease of withdrawal, legal protection and private enforcement for less salient stakeholders. Overall, the study adds new insights to the stakeholder-agency literature by conceptualizing and quantitatively examining the degree of alignment across different stakeholder benefit dimensions.





# Real-World Immersion

## *Experiential Learning Opportunities*

Higher education exists in different formats and locations, offering a chance to learn through formative experience. The Chaifetz School of Business provides real-world opportunities that translate directly into skills invaluable to an eventual career. Our students have chances to immerse themselves in the business world, gaining real connections in their industry and valuable experience that sets them apart in their careers.

### Industry Mentorship

#### *An Addition to Applied Portfolio Management*

Applied Portfolio Management offers the Chaifetz School of Business' top finance students the opportunity to gain hands-on equity experience as they work together to actively manage nearly \$2.5 million in University endowment funds. In 2020, Thomas Doellman, Ph.D, associate professor of finance at the Chaifetz School, added a mentorship component to the APM program to both enhance student learning and connect them with leaders in the St. Louis region's robust finance industry. The new mentorship program expanded in fall 2021 to include 18 mentors from Asset Consulting Group, Edward Jones, Kennedy Capital Management, NISA Investment Advisors and Wells Fargo Wealth and Investment Management. At a ratio of 1:1, mentors guide students in their equity research and as they emerge as leaders in the field of finance.

For nearly 20 years, the APM program has given Chaifetz School students direct experience as equity

analysts. Every decision has a monetary impact on endowment funds, providing students meaningful industry experience as they conduct research and build an equity portfolio. Austin Junger (Economics and Finance '21) experienced the impact of the skills he learned during his job search.

*“I secured a job as an analyst in the global markets division at Goldman Sachs prior to graduation,” Junger said. “One of the questions they asked me when I interviewed was ‘pitch a stock,’ so my experience in Applied Portfolio Management was definitely advantageous.”*



Explore the Applied Portfolio Management Program



ACG | ASSET CONSULTING GROUP

NISA



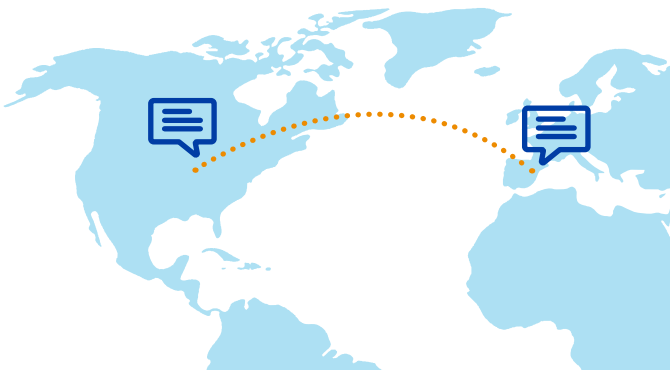
Edward Jones

## Conversations Across Continents

### The International Business SLU-Madrid Collaboration

With a Saint Louis University campus in Madrid, Spain, the Chaifetz School of Business has a unique opportunity to add global context to its international business courses through collaborative learning experiences. In 2021, Mamoun Benmamoun, Ph.D., associate professor of international business at the Chaifetz School, and Laura Muro, Ph.D., professor of accounting at SLU-Madrid, worked together to integrate global, virtual collaboration for students in two courses.

The courses placed students from Madrid and St. Louis into virtual teams to research and present timely topics relevant to their class. Students explored the economic and geopolitical implications of COVID-19 on select countries and European Union relations with the Middle East and North Africa, including issues of immigration and maritime disputes in the Eastern Mediterranean. Each multinational team of students worked together to research and produce recorded presentations. The classes in St. Louis and Madrid then met virtually to discuss each topic. The opportunity equips students with the skills necessary to communicate across regions, while also granting them insight on the perspectives present in regions apart from their own.



## Data-Driven Solutions

### The One-Year MBA Program

The modern business environment demands professionals who possess the ability to transform data into actionable business intelligence. The Chaifetz School's nationally ranked One-Year MBA Program focuses on equipping students with these in-demand skills, but it goes beyond mere classroom instruction.

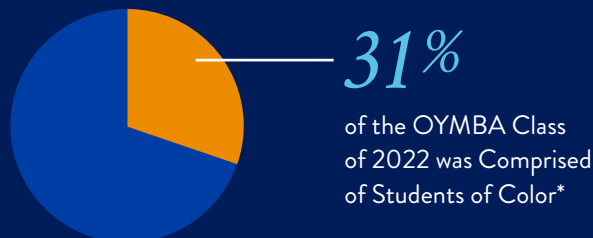
*Through an 11-month integrated curriculum, students learn methods of analysis, develop technical skills to analyze data and become proficient in data visualization and presentation.*

With a comprehensive skill set, students conclude the OYMBA Program with a 12-week practicum that embeds them with industry partners to solve real business problems with data. Guided by expert faculty, the OYMBA students gain direct experience applying their new skills while building their networks with potential employers.

In one such project for the OYMBA class of 2021, the Chaifetz School partnered with the St. Louis Aquarium Foundation to understand how visitors interact with the exhibits in the Conservation and Education Center (CEC) and what they learn from their visit. The class diverged from traditional data collection by using text mining techniques to analyze audio transcripts and statistical tools to analyze video recordings of visitors in the exhibit.

Practicum sponsors vary each year, with previous partners including Nestlé Purina and Together Credit Union. Regardless of the organizations involved, the practicum offers invaluable experience for students to apply data analytics competencies developed over the previous two semesters to a real-world consulting project. Each student emerges from their experience with the confidence to use common analytical platforms and the skills to develop critical, data-driven solutions. The OYMBA Program prepares students for success with in-demand skills and networking opportunities well before their job search begins.

OYMBA Class of 2022 starting summer 2021 is the *most diverse* class in program history.



Explore the One-Year  
MBA Program

3.38

Average  
Undergraduate  
GPA



18 Months

Average  
Professional  
Experience



### Growth in One-Year MBA Enrollment

Summer 2020  
to Summer 2021

27%

Summer 2019  
to Summer 2020

131%

\*Includes students reporting Asian, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, International or two or more races.





# IMPACT

*Fulfilling Purpose for Lifelong Change*

# Dressed for Success

## The Billiken Career Closet

A job interview can open the door to a life of professional fulfillment — the first step is looking your best. Yet, for some students, an expensive suit or a blazer is inaccessible.

Driven by the belief that opportunity for students should not be limited by financial circumstances, the Chaifetz School Dean’s Student Advisory Board created the Billiken Career Closet as an accessible resource for students. The Billiken Career Closet allows students on campus to access an assortment of professional attire for use in their interview and job search processes, free of charge.

The project started in September of 2020, after a member of the Dean’s Student Advisory Board mentioned how accessibility is key for diversity, equity and inclusion in the student body. From there, members worked on acquiring donations and scouring estate sales for gently used professional attire.

Once on the racks, the selection has been curated to be gender-inclusive and without explicit sizing to ensure that each student feels comfortable in their selection. Elyse Lewandowski, President of the Dean’s Student Advisory Board and Chair for DEI, has found that her position allows her to reach others and make a positive impact on the trajectory of their career.

*“I’ve always had a lot of thoughts on what Saint Louis University could improve on,” Lewandowski said. “When you love something, you find ways to challenge it and make it better.”*

Lewandowski has seen the impact of the project herself. While on an advocacy trip to Washington, D.C., with the campus ministry, she discovered that a fellow student’s entire outfit was from the Career Closet. This resource has enabled opportunities for students and has not gone unnoticed.

*“This project is one of the things I’ve been most excited about,” Lewandowski said. “It’s nice to create something I know people will use.”*

The student leaders managing the Billiken Career Closet continually search for ways to expand their offerings and push students toward achieving success. Attaining a wide range of sizes has been a challenge the young organization has continually sought to address, and donations are always appreciated. The Career Closet currently accepts gently used donations through donation bins stationed at both Career Services in Griesedieck Hall and the Valerie A. Davisson Career Resources Center in Davis-Shaughnessy Hall.

The Billiken Career Closet plans to pursue partnerships for clothing drives in the near future, and continually remain available to the needs of each student.





# A Community Lens on BUSINESS

with societal issues on the ground. These experiences challenge students to practice critical thinking skills and apply ethical leadership to promote positive change. Service opportunities are tailored to students' individual interests and range from mentoring teens experiencing homelessness through Covenant House to fighting food insecurity through Food Outreach and Campus Kitchen. During the 2020-2021 academic year, Service Leadership students provided nearly 3,844 hours of service across 17 unique service sites.

“Our Service Leadership Program offers students a unique opportunity to apply the business acumen, leadership skills and ethical lens they develop at the Chaifetz School to social issues in our community,” said Ben Smyth, Ph.D., Service Leadership Program manager. “Through unique academic coursework and direct experience with not-for-profits and community organizations, Service Leadership graduates set themselves apart as difference makers prepared to lead business as a force for good.”

## Service Day 2021

The Service Leadership Program's student-led day of service provides another opportunity for Billikens to engage with the community each year. In April 2021, Service Day invited students, faculty and staff across campus to roll up their sleeves. A total of 52 participants gathered to perform maintenance and beautification at the Historic Greenwood Cemetery, the first non-denominational commercial cemetery for African Americans in the St. Louis area. Volunteers paid their respects by laying gravel, clearing overgrowth, picking up waste and more.

“*Business schools are more than Wall Street. Every business right now is talking about environmental, societal and governance issues— meaning grand societal challenges and the urgency to address them. As a business school, it is our fundamental responsibility to understand and address these grand challenges.*”

- Barnali Gupta, Ph.D.  
Edward Jones Dean

Explore the Service  
Leadership Program



## The Service Leadership Program

The challenges society faces today demand industries to do more than simply acting ethically. Businesses must take a leading role in shaping their practices to promote social good while protecting the planet. The Chaifetz School helps position its graduates as leaders who will push business to think differently through its unique academic minor in Service Leadership. The School's program weaves together the traditions of Jesuit education with the fundamentals of leadership by uncovering ways that students can support vulnerable communities and address challenges head on.

The Service Leadership curriculum requires students to participate in 200 hours of intentional service, including 100 hours at the same nonprofit. But the program is more than simply service. As an academic minor, Service Leadership combines service with coursework and hands-on leadership workshops. Together, the curriculum gives students the context to understand societal challenges and equips them with the tools to be agents for change.

Embedding students in the community through service offers participants the opportunity to engage

# A Story to SAVE LIVES

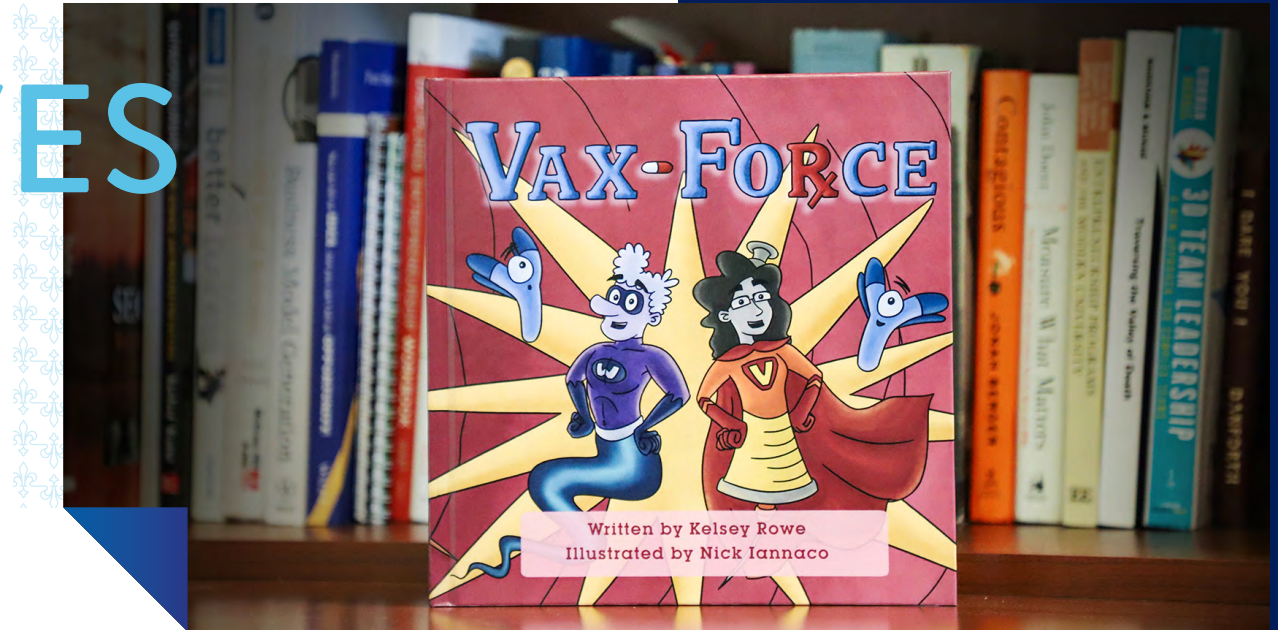
## “Vax-Force” by Kelsey Rowe

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, vaccine distribution has opened to children as well. Yet, conversations about medicine and vaccines can be difficult for a child to understand. To keep them safe, there is a pressing need to dispel the fear and fundamental misunderstanding of vaccinations. Kelsey Rowe, M.D. (MBA '18), leveraged her entrepreneurial skills and medical training to create a simple way for parents to introduce vaccinations to their children before they receive one.

While taking an entrepreneurship class at the Chaifetz School of Business, she came up with a book concept for a project and was inspired to pursue it further. Her book, “Vax-Force,” explores how a vaccination works inside the human body.

An African American pediatrician, Dr. Vaxson, leads the story by explaining how trusted doctors and scientists made Vicky the Vaccine. Her mission is to tell Willy the White Blood Cell and his Antibuddies how to find and fight bad-guy germs like Measles, Tetanus and Polio. The book lays out the immune response in simple terms so a child can both understand the process and enjoy the story.

In 2017, Rowe entered the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship’s Elevator Pitch Competition, where ideas for products and projects are pitched to local professionals. Her concept was met with overwhelming support, winning the social impact track and its \$2,500 top prize. Rowe put her winnings towards forming Vaccination Victory LLC, hiring illustrator Nick Iannaco and publishing the book through the FriesenPress



in 2019. Though the book was produced prior to the emergence of COVID-19, Rowe believes the topic is more applicable than ever in a pandemic environment.

“*I originally viewed it as a niche product for families who like vaccines,” Rowe said. “But now, with the pandemic, I changed the pricing structure to try to make it more available and affordable. Everyone is thinking about vaccines now.”*

Rowe created this book from the intersection of knowledge provided to her by both the School of Medicine and the Chaifetz School of Business. As she continues to roll out her creation, “Vax-Force” makes donations to support UNICEF’s immunization efforts, donating a dollar for each book sold. For aspiring entrepreneurs within the Chaifetz School, Rowe has a word of advice: “If you have an idea, go for it.”



“*If you have an idea, go for it.*”

- Kelsey Rowe, MBA '18  
Author of “Vax-Force”

# A Celebration of Ingenuity

## Entrepreneurship Week 2021

Saint Louis University was one of the first of 25 schools in the country to see the potential of teaching entrepreneurial skills through intentional coursework and create a dedicated center for entrepreneurship.

Decades later, entrepreneurship is now woven throughout more than 170 courses across multiple disciplines and majors. In an effort to both celebrate and showcase the St. Louis community's entrepreneurial efforts, the Chaifetz Center for Entrepreneurship set aside five days for Entrepreneurship Week in 2021 from April 12 to April 16.

Entrepreneurship Week offered five different ways to engage in a range of events and leveraged technology to open participation to anyone, anywhere. In the end, the event connected the vibrant ecosystem of business ingenuity at Saint Louis University and in the St. Louis region.

“*Entrepreneurship Week allowed me to validate my business ideas and back them with tangible funding, visibility in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and support as a future founder.*” - Sophie Mueller, Entrepreneurship '21



### Day 5

## Keynote with Jim Kavanaugh & Fireside Chats

The virtual Entrepreneurship Week concluded with a keynote address from World Wide Technology CEO Jim Kavanaugh (Business Administration '86), recognition of the week's competition winners and small group fireside chats hosted by St. Louis-area entrepreneurs.



492 Registrants

\$14,250 in Prize Money

20 SLU and STL Organizations Participated

10,000 Views

52 Pitches Presented

## Entrepreneurs in the Making

### Case Competition Winners

1 Sophie Mueller  
SLU Senior  
\$3,000

2 William Arras,  
Jessica Fajardo,  
Brittany Tasasse  
SLU Sophomores  
\$2,000

3 Patrick Hunt  
SLU Sophomore  
\$1,000

### Elevator Pitch Competition Winners

1 Anthony Ward  
Iowa State  
University Senior  
\$3,000

2 Sara Winkler  
SLU Senior  
\$2,000

3 Avery Tilley  
Michigan State  
University  
Sophomore  
\$1,000





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