

ULI Charlotte Etkins Scholars

Class Profile & Directory

2024 - 2025



Charlotte

AT A GLANCE

Student School Representation	
Davidson College	1
NCCU	1
UNC Charlotte	13

Undergraduate	Graduate
11	4

Committee Industry Representation
Advisory & Consulting
Banking
Brokerage
Capital Markets - Debt
Capital Markets - Family Office
Development



COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Total: 7

ULI Charlotte Etkins Scholars Committee			
Name	Email	Phone	Role
Alexis Kaiser	alexis.kaiser@jll.com	980-867-8187	Member
Andrew Jen	ayjcre@gmail.com	704-565-9344	Member
Ariel DiDonato	ariel.didonato@uli.org	704-940-7393	Staff; Program Manager
Dan Outen	douten@akridge.com	704-591-0624	Member
Jenae Valentine	j.valentine@maxisadvisors.com	216-571-5354	Member
Jon Lim	jon.lim@faison.com	609-947-9499	Chair
Krista Hunter	krista.hunter@truist.com	704-576-7863	Member
Shreya Patel	shreya.patel@bwe.com	704-945-3408	Member

STUDENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Total: 15

ULI Charlotte Etkins Scholars			
Name	Email	Phone	Role
Alberto Paiz	jpaiz@charlotte.edu	919-436-6169	Student
Brady Johnson	bradymj6@gmail.com	910-612-4280	Student
Cecilia Herrera	ceciliamhs03@gmail.com	336-772-3001	Student
Chris Cooke	kchristophercooke@gmail.com	704-572-9141	Student
Elijah Smith	esmit258@charlotte.edu	980-250-3478	Student
Emma Babbidge	erbabbidge@gmail.com	704-840-5664	Student
Janae McAfee	jmcafee2@eagles.nccu.edu	704-957-6088	Student
Jema Johnson	jema.makeba@icloud.com	919-396-4592	Student
Jerry Lee	jerry@lscdevs.com	917-968-5629	Student
Jordyn Hill	jordynnc0619@gmail.com	336-254-4642	Student
Matt Gregory	mgrego33@charlotte.edu	980-565-9675	Student
Micah Buck	mbuck12@uncc.edu	252-206-6742	Student
Setara Kong	skong3@charlotte.edu	336-782-3357	Student
Sonia Birla	sbirla@charlotte.edu	919-457-6536	Student
Uddayvir Singh	udsingh@davidson.edu	980-361-0889	Student



Charlotte

Join the GroupMe:



to ask questions and stay
informed with this year's
cohort!

COMMITTEE TEAM

Alexis Kaiser

Committee member



Current Company	JLL Capital Markets
Current Role	Senior Director
Hometown	Omaha, NE
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	Clemson
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	N/A
What you hope to gain from this program	Meet students and help educate about options in commercial real estate
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Switching careers from civil engineering to commercial real estate
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed use
Favorite book	Verity
Favorite TV show	Friends
Favorite movie	Catch Me if You Can
One word that describes you	Passionate
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/alexis-kaiser/

Andrew Jen

Committee member



Current Company	Interviewing
Current Role	N/A
Hometown	San Diego, CA
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	San Diego State University
Graduate school	UNC Charlotte
Expected graduation year	N/A
What you hope to gain from this program	Build community, continue learning, mentoring
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Breaking into commercial real estate
Favorite CRE asset type	Retail / Industrial
Favorite book	The Power of Positive Thinking
Favorite TV show	Breaking Bad
Favorite movie	Rams – Gary Hustwit
One word that describes you	Visionary
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/andrewjen/

Dan Outen

Committee member



Current Company	Akridge
Current Role	Vice President - Carolinas
Hometown	Concord, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Chapel Hill
Graduate school	UNC Chapel Hill
Expected graduation year	N/A
What you hope to gain from this program	Help the next generation of leaders in real estate
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Started and grew Akridge's local Charlotte office
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use Multifamily
Favorite book	John Adams by David McCullough
Favorite TV show	Succession
Favorite movie	Top Gun Maverick
One word that describes you	Optimist
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/danouten

Jenae Valentine

Committee member



Current Company	Maxis Advisors, A Foundry Company
Current Role	Senior Location Analysis and Incentives Manager
Hometown	Cleveland, OH
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	Ohio University
Graduate school	Nova Southeastern University
Expected graduation year	N/A
What you hope to gain from this program	Connecting with the students as a mentor
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Putting myself out there as a site selection expert serving as a speaker for numerous organizations
Favorite CRE asset type	Industrial
Favorite book	Becoming Michelle Obama
Favorite TV show	Insecure
Favorite movie	Love and Basketball
One word that describes you	Dynamic
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/jenae-valentine-msred-98670769

Jon Lim

Committee chair



Current Company	Faison
Current Role	Managing Director, Investments
Hometown	Princeton, NJ
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	Emory University
Graduate school	UNC Chapel Hill
Expected graduation year	N/A
What you hope to gain from this program	Mentor the next generation of real estate leaders
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Chairing this committee and being able to give back to the real estate community
Favorite CRE asset type	Multifamily
Favorite book	The Buried Giant
Favorite TV show	The Office
Favorite movie	Tropic Thunder
One word that describes you	Optimistic
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/jonclim/

Krista Hunter

Committee member



Current Company	Truist
Current Role	SVP/Senior Relationship Manager
Hometown	Charlotte, NC
Currently reside in	Terrell, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Chapel Hill
Graduate school	University of Florida
Expected graduation year	N/A
What you hope to gain from this program	Mentoring and making new connections
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Building a large book of business
Favorite CRE asset type	Multifamily
Favorite book	Barbarians at the Gate
Favorite TV show	Ozark
Favorite movie	The Silence of the Lambs
One word that describes you	Determined
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/krista-hunter-86774

Shreya Patel

Committee member



Current Company	BWE
Current Role	AVP – Debt Originations
Hometown	Anderson, SC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	USC Columbia
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	N/A
What you hope to gain from this program	Mentoring and making new connections
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	The trust I have built with my teammates and clients
Favorite CRE asset type	Tied – Multifamily & Retail
Favorite book	Harry Potter series
Favorite TV show	Schitts Creek
Favorite movie	Caddyshack
One word that describes you	Ambitious
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/shreya-patel-43321a79/

STUDENT COHORT

Alberto Paiz

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Durham, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	UNC Charlotte
Expected graduation year	2026 (MSRE)
What you hope to gain from this program	Expand my network that helps establish my connections with industry professionals and learn from the various opportunities provided
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Starting my MSRE in Finance and Development just two years after graduating high school
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use
Favorite book	Invisible Man
Favorite TV show	The 100
Favorite movie	Avengers: Endgame
One word that describes you	Observant
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/alberto-paiz/

Brady Johnson

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	Country Club of Landfall
Current Role	Pro Service Assistant / Range Assistant
Hometown	Wilmington, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2027 (BS Finance)
What you hope to gain from this program	An all-encompassing world view of CRE that provides me with a dynamic perspective to apply to my career in the future
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Captaining my high school soccer team and leading them to their first conference championship in four years
Favorite CRE asset type	Multifamily, adaptive reuse
Favorite book	Can't Hurt Me – David Goggins
Favorite TV show	Breaking Bad
Favorite movie	The Batman
One word that describes you	Disciplined
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/brady-johnson2004

Cecilia Herrera

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	Commercial Real Estate Society at UNC Charlotte
Current Role	President
Hometown	Winston-Salem, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2025 (BS Finance; Real Estate Concentration)
What you hope to gain from this program	Meaningful connections and contributions to the program that will kickstart my career in commercial real estate
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Having the privilege to say that I paid for my entire 4-year college tuition by myself
Favorite CRE asset type	Multifamily
Favorite book	Genesis Begins Again
Favorite TV show	Cable Girls
Favorite movie	Harry Potter (all of them)
One word that describes you	Determined
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/cecilia-herrera-553740242



Charlotte

Chris Cooke

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Charlotte, NC
Currently reside in	Lake Norman, NC
Undergraduate or college school	NC State and Queens University
Graduate school	UNC Charlotte
Expected graduation year	2025 (MSRE)
What you hope to gain from this program	Networking
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Completion of MSRE degree as an adult student
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use
Favorite book	To Kill a Mockingbird
Favorite TV show	College sports
Favorite movie	Breakfast Club
One word that describes you	Determined
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/chris--cooke/

Elijah Smith

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Charlotte, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2025 (BS Finance; Real Estate Concentration)
What you hope to gain from this program	Networking opportunities and path to a full time role
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Being part of the CCIM program
Favorite CRE asset type	Multifamily
Favorite book	Rich Dad Poor Dad
Favorite TV show	The Walking Dead
Favorite movie	Friday
One word that describes you	Entrepreneurial
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/elijah-smith/

Emma Babbidge

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Charlotte, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2026 (BS Communications; Public Relations Concentration, Minor Urban Studies)
What you hope to gain from this program	Valuable and deep connections with like-minded individuals who will propel me into the robust world of CRE
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Working my way up to a VP role in my university's CRE club in less than a year
Favorite CRE asset type	Office
Favorite book	Atomic Habits
Favorite TV show	Full House
Favorite movie	The Big Short
One word that describes you	Loyal
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/emma-babbidge

Janae McAfee

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	Compass
Current Role	Real Estate Agent
Hometown	Charlotte, NC
Currently reside in	Concord, NC
Undergraduate or college school	NC Agricultural & Technical State University
Graduate school	NC Central University
Expected graduation year	2026 (MBA; Real Estate Concentration)
What you hope to gain from this program	Expand my knowledge of land use and commercial development while connecting with top leaders in the industry
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Owning and managing my first investment property
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use
Favorite book	How to Win Friends and Influence People
Favorite TV show	Family Feud
Favorite movie	Home Alone
One word that describes you	Solution-oriented
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/janae-mcafee-800249146/

Jema Johnson

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Wake Forest, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2027 (BA Architecture)
What you hope to gain from this program	Mentorship, skill development, and a strong network
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Being Co-Founder and President of the Black Student Union at my high school and seeing it flourish after graduating. It took many years to get it approved because of the lack of representation for African-Americans at the school
Favorite CRE asset type	Office
Favorite book	The Poetics of Space by Gaston Bachelard
Favorite TV show	One Piece
Favorite movie	Moonlight
One word that describes you	Intuitive
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/jema-johnson

Jerry Lee

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Portland, OR
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	Claremont McKenna College
Graduate school	UNC Charlotte
Expected graduation year	2025 (MSRE)
What you hope to gain from this program	Advice with respect to creating a RE DEV firm
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Was a corporate credit trader on Wall Street for 25+ years
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use (Retail and Multifamily)
Favorite book	The Death and Life of Great American Cities
Favorite TV show	Slow Horses
Favorite movie	American Beauty
One word that describes you	Curious
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/james-jerald-lee-29a856112/

Jordyn Hill

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Greensboro, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2025 (BS Marketing and Management)
What you hope to gain from this program	A one-of-a-kind opportunity to delve into the world of real estate with esteemed professionals and have some fun along the way
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Getting my real estate license in February of 2023
Favorite CRE asset type	Retail
Favorite book	Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life
Favorite TV show	The Office
Favorite movie	Get Smart
One word that describes you	Resilient
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/jordynxhill

Matthew Gregory

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	Madison-Simmons Homes & Communities
Current Role	Land Acquisition Intern
Hometown	Mooreville, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2024 (BS Finance; Real Estate Concentration)
What you hope to gain from this program	Expanding my network and gaining insights from industry professionals
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Earned a 4.0 GPA for the spring semester of 2024 taking 15 credit hours
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use
Favorite book	The Bible
Favorite TV show	Better Caul Saul
Favorite movie	Bullet Train
One word that describes you	Hungry
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/matthew-gregory-1st/

Micah Buck

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	UNC Charlotte
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Wilson, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2027 (BS Finance; Real Estate Concentration)
What you hope to gain from this program	As a returning member, I hope to gain everything I got last year and more
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Finishing my first year of college strong
Favorite CRE asset type	Multifamily apartments
Favorite book	The Next Millionaire Next Door
Favorite TV show	The Office
Favorite movie	Edge of Tomorrow
One word that describes you	Curious
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/micah-buck-4923a0275

Setara Kong

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	First Horizon Bank
Current Role	Commercial Real Estate Intern
Hometown	Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2024 (BS Finance; Real Estate Concentration and Management)
What you hope to gain from this program	Continue building my network by connecting with like-minded scholars and professionals in development
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	Coming to study in the US – it was a leap of faith coming into a new country not knowing anyone. But I was able to adapt quickly, and without coming here, I wouldn't have found my passion for CRE
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use Office and Retail
Favorite book	Game of Thrones
Favorite TV show	Industry
Favorite movie	Wall-E
One word that describes you	Determined
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/setara-kong-044b93205/

Sonia Birla

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	VHB
Current Role	Transportation Planning & Development Intern
Hometown	Cary, NC
Currently reside in	Charlotte, NC
Undergraduate or college school	UNC Charlotte
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2025 (BS Finance, BA Geography, BS International Studies)
What you hope to gain from this program	Regulations behind development and what unique methods developers are using to adapt to rapidly urbanizing cities
Returning scholar?	Yes
One accomplishment you are proud of	Being the inaugural Sustainability Liaison in UNC Charlotte's student government and working to spend almost \$160,000 on sustainable projects on campus
Favorite CRE asset type	Mixed Use
Favorite book	The Book Thief
Favorite TV show	Brooklyn Nine-Nine
Favorite movie	About Time
One word that describes you	Resourceful
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/sonia-birla/



Charlotte

Uddayvir Singh

Etkins Scholar



Current Company	Davidson College
Current Role	Student
Hometown	Chandigarh, India
Currently reside in	Davidson, NC
Undergraduate or college school	Davidson College
Graduate school	N/A
Expected graduation year	2025 (BA Economics)
What you hope to gain from this program	Deeper understanding of the industry and expand my professional real estate network
Returning scholar?	No
One accomplishment you are proud of	I am the current captain of the D1 Men's Tennis Team at Davidson College
Favorite CRE asset type	Office
Favorite book	Psychology of Money
Favorite TV show	Suits
Favorite movie	Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara
One word that describes you	Diligent
LinkedIn Profile	www.linkedin.com/in/uddayvir-singh/