



Lubin School of Business

## Awards Ceremony 2023

### **Scholastic Achievement Award – Danielle Riley**

Danielle is our Scholastic Achievement award winner graduating with a nearly perfect GPA in the BBA/MBA program in Public Accounting. While at Pace Danielle served as both secretary and President of the Accounting Society, a Hall Ambassador for the Residence Hall Council and was an active member of Colleges Against Cancer. Danielle represented Lubin at many University events including Open House and Pace Bound. Danielle was inducted to Alpha Lambda Delta and Beta Gamma Sigma and was honored to be selected to attend the Deloitte National Leadership Conference in May of 2021 and the PFK O'Connor Davies Leaders of Tomorrow Program. Outside of Pace Danielle has volunteered her time with the Feeding Westchester organization and spent last summer at PwC as an External Audit Intern. Danielle has also been the recipient of the EY Scholarship, the Pace University President's Scholarship, and was on the Dean's List First Honors for every semester she was here. Danielle plans to sit for the CPA exam upon graduation and has accepted an offer as an audit associate at PwC, a position she obtained through the Accounting Society and with the help of Career Services. We will be missing one half of the great "Debit & Credit" team. We couldn't think of a more deserving student for this award. Danielle, we know you are headed for success, and we are so proud to call you one of Lubin's finest, also known as our favorite "Debit".

### **Lubin Alumni Association Award- Ashley De La Cruz**

Ashley is graduating from the Combined Degree Program for Public Accounting and it has been a very busy 5 years for Ashley here at Pace. Ashley was a member, and team captain, of the Pace Cross Country Team and was awarded the Northeast 10 Student-Athlete award. She also was a member of the Pace Dance club. Ashley was also awarded the CAP Academic Honors Award, the EY Scholarship and was on the Dean's List. Ashley's favorite academic project was her work on the Biz Café in her Business 101 course; she worked with a team to create and monitor the weekly performance of a new café, and her team was the top performer out of 8 teams, generating the highest year to date revenue. This was definitely a great hands-on learning experience. In addition to her demanding athletic and academic schedule, Ashley was an active member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Alpha Chi, the Student Government Association, the Accounting Society, and in addition was the Assistant Operations Manager for Pace Perk, one of our student-run businesses. We will hear more about Ashley's future plans a little later.

### **BBA/MBA Public Accounting Program Department Award- Natasha Fallen**

Natasha is receiving the award for the highest GPA in the Combined BBA/MBA program. As a freshman, Natasha was very excited to experience all university life had to offer, and she sure made use of her time here at Pace! She immediately got involved with our student run businesses, being promoted quickly and eventually became a General Manager of the largest student run business. She also found time to work at our welcome center, be a resident assistant and gave up her time on weekends to be a featured speaker at Open Houses, Pace Bound, Orientation, and numerous other activities. We do remember one time where Natasha thought she was going to change her major, thank goodness it was only a moment in time, and she stayed an Accounting major. It was obviously the right choice because she has already passed the audit part of the CPA exam, and we are sure she will have success passing the other parts. Natasha would like to thank her parents for their endless love and support; Dean Murphy for always having her back; Dr. Winsted for always pushing her to be her best; Jim Davis for helping her see that anything is possible; and Kam Chan for his wisdom, encouragement, and support throughout her thesis project. Natasha, Lubin is very excited for all you have accomplished and contributed during your time at Pace. We are excited and proud to say you have accepted an offer with PriceWaterhouse Coopers LLP as an Audit Associate and wish you nothing but the best. We will hear more about Natasha later.

### **Public Accounting Department Award- Luis Quizhpe**

Luis transferred to Pace in the Fall of 2020 after completing his associate degree in Accounting from Westchester Community College, and now graduates with his BBA in Public Accounting. Luis was the recipient of the WCC transfer scholarship and was on the Dean's List First Honor's every semester here at Pace. Luis has given his time volunteering with the Letters Against Depression Organization and holds certifications in EY Digital Learning, EY Artificial Intelligence Learning, and EY Data Strategy Learning. With the assistance of Jim Davis and Career Services, last summer Luis was given the opportunity to work as a full-time Assurance FSO audit intern at EY in Stamford, Connecticut, and that led to an official offer and Luis will begin working full time at EY this coming January. Between now and then Luis will be studying full time for the CPA exam. Congratulations and we wish you the best of luck Luis.

### **New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants Award- Meaghan Petrie**

Meaghan completed her Combined Degree BBA/MBA in Public Accounting in December. While at Pace she received many honors including: Dean's List First Honors, Top 100 Scholar, the Academic Achievement Award, the Trustee Recognition Award Scholarship, and the Dudley Nearing Jr Endowed Scholarship, as well as being inducted into the following Honor Societies: Alpha Lambda Delta, Lambda Sigma, Alpha Chi and Beta Gamma Sigma. Meaghan was a mentor for the Setters Leadership House, an alternate Senator for the Lubin Business Association, and the Secretary of Colleges Against Cancer. She was also an Assistant Volunteers Chair for the Fall Leadership

Conference. Meaghan completed a full-time internship for 3 years at a renewable energy company Opal Fuels, and also worked at Pace Delivers, starting as the Assistant Finance Manager and moving up to the Chief Financial Officer and General Manager. Meaghan is an Associate Member of her local fire department where she assists in various volunteer and fundraising activities. Additionally, Meaghan had an internship with Ernst and Young, where she later received a full-time offer, which she began in January. Meaghan will take the first part of the CPA exam later this month. Meaghan would like to thank Professor Reisig for his dedication and commitment to his students, her parents, siblings, friends, professors, and Career Services for continuing to support her and push her to achieve her goals. Meaghan, this is a well-deserved recognition, and we wish you luck on the CPA exam, and continued success at your job.

### **Professional Auditing Award- Ashley De La Cruz**

Ashley is our Lubin Alumni Association winner, so we already heard about many of her accomplishments earlier, but we wanted to add a few more. Somehow, with all her other commitments, Ashley found time to complete six internships! These include three with CBIZ Marks Paneth and three with KPMG. Ashley has accepted a full-time audit associate position with KPMG and has also been accepted into KPMG's CPA Kickstart Program, which will start in August. This is a paid program to study and take both the Audit and BEC portions of the CPA Exam before transitioning over to client work in October. Ashley, we wish you best of luck with your future career and please come visit us often!

### **Accounting Faculty Award- Jeanine Cerqueira**

Jeanine completed the BBA/MBA program in Public Accounting this past December. During her time at Pace Jeanine was inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta, Lambda Sigma, and Beta Gamma Sigma, and spent all of her undergraduate semesters on the Dean's List. Jeanine spent 2 years with Pace Fit, as Assistant, then Chief, Financial Officer and was an active executive board member of Delta Sigma Pi, the Pace Accounting Society and Pace Cooks & Bakes. She was the invaluable Peer Leader for University 101 for 2 years with our Academic Advisor Jenny Rolston, where she helped welcome, acclimate and mentor 50 Lubin freshmen. Jeanine completed 2 summer internships, first with PSEG Long Island as a general accounting intern, and with Ernst & Young as an FSO Assurance Intern. In her spare time, Jeanine has volunteered for Relay for Life, the Ronald McDonald House and with her local Youth Soccer League. Jeanine has completed part 1 of the CPA exam, and has accepted an offer to work full-time at EY in the fall. She would like to thank her parents for their encouragement and support and the Lubin Advisement office (Eileen, Jolina, Jenny and Kathy) for their assistance throughout her time at Pace, helping her turn her academic goals into reality. Jeanine, Lubin is so proud of all you have accomplished, we will miss your smiling face, and we cannot wait to watch you continue your journey.

### **Finance Department Award- Anthony Ciardiello**

Anthony has achieved many successes during his 4 years at Pace. One impressive accomplishment that stands out is his performance in the Mock Portfolio project. He was able to identify key investment opportunities and forecasted appropriately for major world events, which resulted in an overall return of 5.44% over a 7-week period. Additionally, he produced weekly progress reports within Microsoft Excel and provided weekly market analysis supporting commentary surrounding the active management strategy, demonstrating strong analytical and communication skills. This accomplishment showcases his proficiency in portfolio management and his ability to use data analysis to make informed investment decisions. Anthony also demonstrated leadership skills by founding and holding the position as President of the Pace University Billiards Club. He also makes time to volunteer at the Pace community garden. In the fall of 2023, Anthony will be attending Fordham University for an MS in Finance. He would like to thank Prof. Eric Brooks for helping him throughout his college years.

### **Finance Faculty Award- Thomas Minafra**

Thomas has consistently achieved high academic performance, evidenced by his Dean's List honors in Finance with a minor in Economics. Additionally, Thomas has gained practical experience as a Financial Services and Insurance Associate Intern at State Farm Insurance, where he processed payments, analyzed finance reports, and interacted with mortgage and loan companies to ensure accurate insurance information to policy holders. Thomas also demonstrated leadership skills as the President of the Interfraternity Council and the Treasurer of the Delta Kappa Epsilon Fraternity, where he constructed budgets, collected membership dues, and organized events to attract new members. Finally, he holds several licenses, including FINRA SIE NYS Life, Accident and Health Insurance Services 17-55. Thomas would like to thank Eileen Murphy, Jim Davis, and Prof. Kenneth Lobo for helping him throughout his college years. We will hear more about Thomas later.

### **Management Department Award- Tianna Orwig**

Tianna is graduating with her BBA in Business Management and minors in Economics and Finance. Tianna is a member of the Pforzheimer Honors College, and the Business Honors Program where the topic of her senior project was "Analysis of Alcohol Sales during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Marketing Plan for D&R Beverage Center." During her time here at Pace, Tianna was President for Delta Phi Epsilon, as well as their Vice President of Programming, a member of the Order of Omega, relay chair for Colleges Against Cancer, Assistant Purchasing Manager for Pace Perk, and Senior Marketing Manager for Pace Delivers. Tianna also gave her time at many Open House and Pace Bound events, worked as a Tour Guide in the Pace Welcome Center, and was the first Lubin Leader for Business 101. In addition to her positions on campus, Tianna completed two full-time summer internships at American Express, and has accepted a full-time offer there as a Financial Analyst. On Monday we are excited to hear Tianna deliver the student address at the Pace Commencement Ceremony, an honor well deserved. Tianna would like to thank Dean Murphy, her father, and her

sorority members. We would like to applaud you Tiana for all of your accomplishments, and we wish you continued success.

### **Management Faculty Award- Darby Gallagher**

Darby Gallagher is a member of the Pforzheimer Honors College majoring in Business Management. Darby has his real estate license and is credited with the creation of a digital networking system that acquired over 10,000 new contacts while working as a Real Estate Professional at Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty. This accomplishment demonstrates his ability to leverage technology to enhance networking and expand his client base. Darby has also demonstrated leadership skills acting as a founding member and President of the Pace University Club Soccer team. He revamped the Pace University Men's Soccer Club during his sophomore and junior year and successfully entered a local university league, playing against schools like Stony Brook and Adelphi. Darby has been accepted to Fordham University for an MS in Social Work but is also looking into Columbia and Pace University. During his free time, he volunteers at Rescue Rights Animal Shelter. He also volunteers time at New York-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health center helping those struggling with drug addiction and alcoholism. Darby would like to give a special thanks to Eileen Murphy, Nori Barnes, Carol Turco, Patrick McGuigan, Jolina Halloran, and Yaniv Gorodischer, who have supported him academically, professionally, and in his personal life. And on a side note, Dean Murphy invites you Darby to continue to come by her office to update her calendar!

### **Marketing Department Award- Jaclyn Poniros**

Jaclyn is a member of the Pforzheimer Honors College graduating with a BBA in Advertising and Integrated Marketing Communications, along with a minor in Digital Design. Jacklyn has made the Dean's list every semester in her time at Pace. She recently presented her Honors thesis, titled: "The Influence of Direct-to-Consumer Pharmaceutical Advertising on Patient Willingness and Implications of Brand Image," conducting an original study on the topic of pharmaceutical advertising. During her summers, Jaclyn completed two internships, one as Lead Project Management Intern at Titanium Linx Consulting, and one as a Graphic Design Intern at Regeneron. She is certified in digital marketing through HubSpot Academy, and she served as a mentor for the International Buddy Program at Pace University. Jacklyn would like to thank her parents for their constant support and guidance.

### **Marketing Award- Kendall Pluschau**

Kendall is graduating with her BBA in Advertising and Integrated Marketing Communications, with a minor in Communications. As a freshman, Kendall became a member of the Lubin Business Association, and in her junior year, she became the senator. The following spring she was elected president, the position she has held for the last three semesters. During her junior year, Kendall was only one of two juniors who were on the Pleasantville campus's Ad Team, an experience that

she credits for fully integrating marketing and advertising into both her passions and education. Kendall also completed internships at EW Group, a small event management company and at AIG Life & Retirement. Kendall will be participating in a faculty-led study abroad program to Costa Rica later this May and then will pursue full-time employment with a goal of earning a master's degree, and opening her own advertising agency in New York City. Kendall would like to thank Eileen Murphy, the late great Paul Kurnit, Jim Davis, Dr. Paul Ziek, her parents, and her roommates, Heather and Elayna for their support, encouragement, inspiration, and assistance, in multiple aspects of her educational experience. Kendall, we hope you have a wonderful time in Costa Rica and we wish you luck with whatever your next steps will be.

### **American Marketing Award- Chase Ware**

Chase Ware has achieved academic success in the combined degree program earning her BBA in Marketing and her MS in social media and mobile marketing. A highlight accomplishment of Chase is her involvement in the Pace University Advertising Team. As a member of a 13-person team, she competed in an intercollegiate event to create a full advertising campaign for a division of Facebook. This experience demonstrates Chase's ability to work collaboratively, think creatively, and apply her marketing knowledge to real-world scenarios. It also shows she has experience in project management and was able to contribute to a team effort to deliver a cohesive advertising campaign. Her graduate research thesis is on the influence of COVID 19 in social media and on the buying behaviors of Gen Z. While on campus, Chase has worked as both a tour guide and resident assistant. She has created a welcoming, safe, and open community for all. During her time at Pace, she is most proud of the remodeling of Pace Perk during COVID while still growing her customer base. Chase would like to thank Dr. Winsted, Jim Davis, Sal Tofano, PK, Dr. Courtney Gosnell, Wen, and her family and friends.

### **Career Services Award- Natasha Fallen**

You already heard about some of Natasha's accomplishments, however she is receiving the Career Service Award for the many interesting internships she has done outside of Pace. As a sophomore during the pandemic, Natasha was hired as a financial reporting intern for Regeneron Pharmaceutical. Another internship Natasha was extremely excited for was her accounting internship at the New York Mets, as she was very eager for the perks that came along with the internship. As if that was not enough, Natasha also had a finance internship at SportsNet NY (SNY TV). She also completed a summer internship with PWC, and will be working there full-time. We hope you take some time to rest and study for the last parts of that CPA exam. We wish you much success in all you do!

### **Career Services Award- Thomas Minafra**

As a student in BUS 255, we just knew that Thomas was going to take everything he learned to set himself apart from other candidates competing for careers in the finance industry. Participating in

the Goldman Sachs Beyond the Classroom program helped Thomas focus on a career path in wealth management. When presented with the opportunity to work at State Farm Insurance the summer prior to his junior year, he jumped at the chance, working part-time during the semester and full-time over the summers. He clearly impressed his manager at State Farm, and he sponsored Thomas to study and pass the FINRA, SIE and NYS, making it clear that the organization valued him; he was offered a full-time position to begin after he graduates. However, Thomas has chosen a different path, as he is a final candidate for a position at Morgan Stanley. Well done, Thomas, on all of your accomplishments.