



2023-2024 **LUTHER HODGES SCHOLARS**

ANNUAL REVIEW



We provide a world-class, transformative scholars experience for exceptional students who are committed to learning and working at the intersection of business, academia, policy, government and the nonprofit sector at home or abroad.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

Kim Allen, Ph.D

Luther Hodges Scholars

Greetings Scholars, Alumni, Friends, and Supporters!

There is a lot of good news to share from the school year we've just wrapped up—from summer cross-sector internships selections to October's Frontiers Conference at The Carolina Inn, to the onboarding of our newest class of scholars, and to the graduation of the Class of 2024. And let's not forget some of the biggest news of all--a transformational gift from the Luther Hodges family!

At the end of 2022, we promised to roll out new and revised initiatives recommended from the program's 2022 5-year review. We have now completed that to full effect. In the following pages, we share more about the program's endowment made possible by the Luther Hodges Family. We introduce you to our new student lounge space, our revised internship experience, updated curriculum, and other recommendations implemented from the program's 5-year review.

In all of this, we have carried on despite the disheartening start of the school year involving armed shooters and the killing of a beloved faculty member. These events along with the campus anti-war protests and rollbacks to DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) continue to color our students' lives and those of staff and faculty.

We look forward to your ongoing engagement with the Luther Hodges Scholars program. In fact, we've leaned into your support and guidance and depend on it. We invite you to join us at scholar events and for any of the Kenan Institute's events and activities that piqued your interest. Check them out here.

Please enjoy this review of our accomplishments and highlights. We are grateful for your continued support, commitment to our mission, and excitement for all the good that is to come.

Open roads ahead,

Executive Director,

Luther Hodges Scholars Program

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EVAN CENTER

OVERVIEW





Each year, up to 25 sophomores are selected to become Luther Hodges Scholars. Students are selected for their superior scholarship, interest in research, and desire to work with private and public sector professionals to address the timeliest, most pressing issues facing business and society.

Scholars are introduced to the critical role that business and the private sector play in providing solutions to these challenges. They develop competencies in leadership, research, and cross-sector collaboration that are essential for their success as leaders. The program's competency-based curriculum combines classroom learning with field experiences with lawmakers, policymakers, and non-profit professionals who work to make life better for residents in North Carolina and beyond.

Essential to their success, scholars receive individualized coaching and advising, research guidance from Kenan-Flagler faculty, and financial support for professional development opportunities tailored to their career interests. Scholars also have access to many resources of the Kenan Institute, including translational research, access to invitation-only conferences and forums, and connections to the Kenan Institute's affiliated centers.

Additional opportunities for Luther Hodges Scholars include:

1. [A fully funded cross-sector internship experience](#)
2. [Alternative breaks and field trips](#)
3. [The Scholars Leadership Council](#)
4. [Engagement & Networking opportunities with program alumni, faculty, and business & community leaders](#)

Luther Hodges Transformational Gift

In recognition of a transformational gift that honors the legacy of a family with nearly a century of service to the state of North Carolina, we are pleased to share news that the program has a new name!



Honoring the contributions of Luther H. Hodges, Sr., and Luther H. Hodges, Jr., in both the private and public sectors, the Luther Hodges Scholars program continues as a premier business education program for future business leaders committed to changing the world for the better. With generous funding from the Hodges family we are able to ensure vital support for our scholars now and for generations to come, immeasurably extending the reach and impact of our program.

To recognize the generosity and impact of the Luther Hodges family, a naming ceremony took place on Monday, March 6 in the Kenan Center. This event celebrated this incredible program milestone and was attended by current scholars, alumni, Kenan-Flagler faculty and staff, local business and community leaders, and the Hodges family, including Mr. Luther H. Hodges, Jr. himself. We are immeasurably grateful to the Luther Hodges Family for their investment in the program and look forward to seeing their legacy continue through the contributions of our students!

[Learn more](#) about this transformational gift and its impact.

Refinements

This year, we took a more deliberate approach with programming, choosing to refine and update our efforts rather than introduce wholesale new initiatives. Read below for a recap of enhancements enacted to ultimately improve the scholar experience.



Caffeinated Connections

Caffeinated Connections is a new offering that provides scholars with an additional informal engagement opportunity to connect with program staff and with each other over coffee or tea. Scholars are offered a variety of meeting days and times and on- and off-campus location options.

Advising Requirement

Luther Hodges Scholars engage in personalized one-on-one advising sessions with a dedicated advisor to connect them with campus and community resources, secure research opportunities, and develop professional goals aligned with their values and interests. Students meet twice per semester with an additional mid-semester check-in. Goal setting is a key component of scholar advising. Prior to a recent change, each semester, each scholar was required to develop three goals, each related to the program's three competences. Now, each scholar develops only one goal that's related to the competency focus of their year in the program. The three competency areas are cross-sector collaboration (sophomore year); research (junior year); and leadership (senior year).

Canvas Update

Canvas is an online platform that serves as the UNC's official Learning Management System. The platform is used primarily by course instructors to manage their courses, communicate and share course materials with students, and collect and provide feedback on student work. Similarly, the Scholars program utilizes a Canvas site to communicate and share program materials with scholars. Recent updates to the Canvas site's appearance and user-friendliness are intended to enhance communication of community resources and opportunities, provide student access to important documents such as Exploratory Fund Request forms, and improve the program's overall communications.

Explorations Initiative

The Luther Hodges Scholars Explorations Initiative provides scholars with an additional curated experiential learning opportunity outside of the academic curriculum. Explorations is the program's version of an Alternative Break. It enables scholars to engage contemporary business issues through a cross-sector lens and takes place during the university's scheduled fall break. Though intended to launch spring 2024, plans were derailed because of recently enacted university mandates that require students to pay out-of-pocket and then be reimbursed for travel and lodging expenses. We successfully resolved this dilemma and now students do not have to fund the trip in advance. The program's inaugural Explorations will launch fall 2024. This summer, staff is firming up scheduling and logistics for the 4-day trip to the nation's capital for up to 15 scholars.

Exploratory Funding

The Luther Hodges Scholar Exploratory Fund supports scholars in pursuing high-impact professional development opportunities. 2023 policy changes had mandated that students pay out-of-pocket and then be reimbursed for these activities. Starting summer 2024, students will be able to receive advance payments once again. Recent updates to the Exploratory Fund's usage guidelines are intended to encourage more students to use their funds by streamlining the process to ensure timely pay outs. These include providing a cut-off date to request funds and clearly outlining dos and don'ts to receive grants totaling \$2000 for approved professional development activities.

Scholar Dedicated Space

In the program's 5-Year Annual Review, reviewers noted a strong desire among scholars for dedicated physical space to meet up with their peers, relax, hang-out, and study. At the time, the program's consisted of two offices for staff. Thoughtful planning by the Kenan Institute generated physical space enough for four staff, study space for scholars, and a lounge replete with a couch, coffee bar, refrigerator, snacks, and more! In January, the program hosted an open house to invite and welcome scholars, staff, faculty and other friends of the program to check out our new digs on the 4th floor of the Kenan Center in suite #405.

Highlighting programmatic elements for these audiences:

- ▶ **Students:** prospective and current scholars
- ▶ **External Stakeholders:** program alumni, mentors, donors, scholar parents, internship sites
- ▶ **Internal Stakeholders:** UNC, Kenan Institute, and Kenan-Flagler partners and affiliates

We encourage you to follow and engage with our social channels:



Social Media

The program initiated a focus on social media and utilizing social media campaigns as of July 1, 2023. The primary aim of the program's social media usage is to highlight the exceptional work and impact of the program. Usage and content center on the program's three core competencies: leadership, research, and cross-sector collaboration.

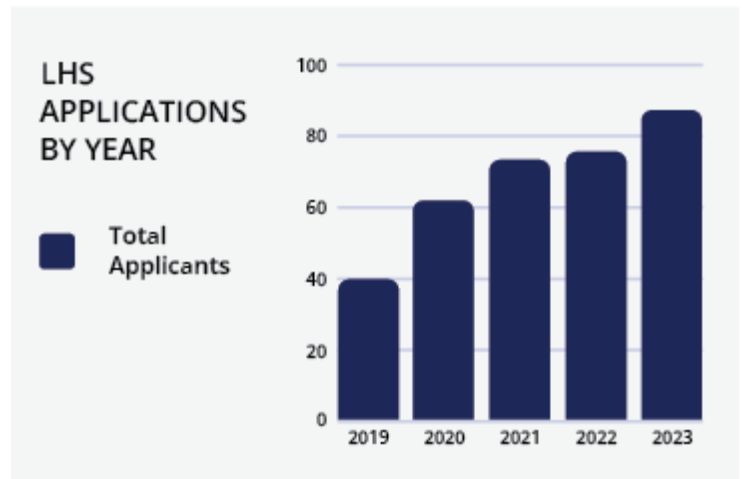
New Tactics

Some new tactics that have been incorporated in the social media initiative include:

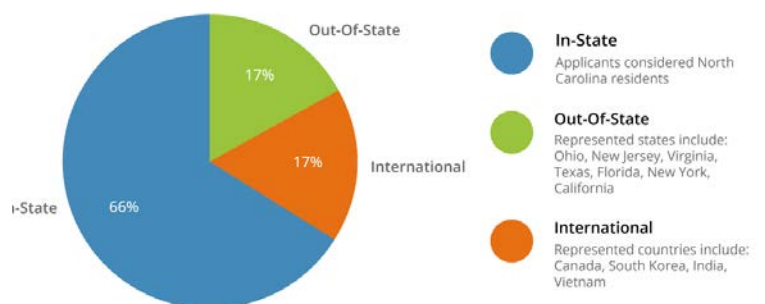
- ▶ Utilizing the stories in Instagram feature is a new undertaking for the program to highlight event-day videos, as well as reminders of upcoming events for LHS or for Kenan Institute. The views overwhelmingly surpass engagement indicators of regular posts.
- ▶ Use of social media as reminders or programmatic action items. This serves as a two fold function of speaking to the current scholar audience while also share with external stakeholders aspects of program activities.
- ▶ Posts highlighting scholar blogs on LHS website. We have had the goal of incorporating at least four blogs a month on to the website specifically written by the scholars. These are then highlighted via social media as a way to drive traffic to the website and highlight aspects in the program from their vantage point.

Applicant Profile

Interest in the program continues to grow, as shown by another record year of applications in 2023! The Class of 2026 selection process included 87 total applicants and 47 finalist interviews. Those numbers represent both the most total applications submitted and most total finalist interviews conducted in our program's history. Professional interests and campus involvements of this year's applicants show the diverse background and skills of our scholar community and we look forward to the impact those selected for the Class of 2026 will make within Kenan-Flagler, UNC, and beyond!



Class of 2026 Finalist Residency



SCHOLARS

The Luther Hodges Scholars Program is a distinguished collective of future business leaders from diverse backgrounds and interests, all dedicated to “changing the world for the better.” For the 2023-2024 academic year, the program proudly engaged 67 scholars, encompassing sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Of these scholars, approximately 60% are from North Carolina, while 10% identify as international students, enriching the program with their global perspectives.

Nearly 90% of Hodges Scholars major in Business Administration. Notably, 55% of these scholars pursue double majors in a variety of disciplines, including Public Policy, Economics, Statistics, Human Organizational Leadership & Development, Environmental Sciences, Computer Science, and Psychology. This interdisciplinary approach equips them with a broad and versatile skill set, enhancing their capacity to address complex challenges as cross-sector leaders.

The gender composition of our scholars is approximately 52% female and 48% male, highlighting our commitment to fostering an inclusive and balanced environment. The Luther Hodges Scholars Program continues to nurture and develop outstanding individuals who are poised to make significant contributions to society and the global business landscape.

'24 Graduates in Review



The Class of 2024 leaves the Luther Hodges Scholars Program with a lasting legacy and profound impact. This graduation is particularly special, as it marks the culmination of a journey that began under extraordinary circumstances. Four years ago, in 2020, the world was thrust into a global pandemic, leading to nationwide shutdowns to curb the spread of COVID-19. At that time, the Class of 2024 were first-year students at UNC, sent home just eight days after starting their college experience. They spent the rest of their first year taking classes remotely, foreshadowing an unconventional collegiate journey.

Throughout their time at UNC, the Class of 2024 faced a series of tragic and triumphant events. Despite these challenges, they remained resilient, strong, and committed to their purpose of changing the world. This year's graduates are poised to enter the business and non-profit sectors in diverse fields such as consulting, sustainability, marketing, and investment banking.

Some scholars will enter active duty, pursue graduate studies, or join leading global organizations in countries as far as Saudi Arabia. Notable employers include Deloitte, EY, Capital One, and McKinsey & Company. We are incredibly proud of the accomplishments of the Class of 2024 and look forward to the impact they will make in society as they embark on their professional careers.

Luther Hodges Scholars '24



Harrison John Abernathy
Lyons, CO

Harrison will begin his career as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army stationed in Tacoma, WA.



Angelina Bayrak
Mooreville, NC

Angelina will begin her career in consulting and strategy.



Derek Jean Brown
Garnet Valley, PA

Derek will begin his career in affordable housing financing with National Housing Trust in Washington, D.C.



Emily Caprioglio *
Apex, NC

Emily will begin her career in consulting with EY-Parthenon in Tysons Corner, VA.



Ryan Crowell
Charlotte, NC

Ryan will begin his career in product marketing management with Red Hat in Raleigh, NC.



Katie Goldman
Nashville, TN

Katie will begin her career as a commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force as an Operations Research Analyst while beginning her Masters of Science in Analytics at Georgia Tech.



Merytt Anderson Haney
Raleigh, NC

Merytt will begin her career at EY its Tax Technology and Transformation Unit in Charlotte, NC.



Alexander Jackson
Charlotte, NC

Alex will begin his career as a Consulting and Analyst for Accenture in Atlanta, GA.



Jaída Ellen Dolores Jett
Holly Springs, NC

Jaída will begin her career at McKinsey & Company in New York, NY.



Irfaun Delgado Karim *
St. Louis, MO

Irfaun will begin his career in a rotational program with Haslam Sports Group working for the Cleveland Browns and Columbus Crew in Ohio.



Jonathan Lee
Charlotte, NC

Jonathan will begin his career as a Community Health Fellow at Project Horseshoe Farm and attend medical school following the fellowship.



Yichie Audrey Lin
Charlotte, NC

Audrey will begin her career in the Corporate Analyst Program at JPMorgan Chase in Chicago, IL.



Gui Marinho Recife
Recife, Brazil

Gui will begin his career in investment banking with Piper Sandler in Charlotte, NC.



Mary Miller
Austin, TX

Mary will begin her career as a Product Manager at Capital One in Washington, D.C.



Carson Moore
Meridian, OH

Carson will begin his career as a Real Estate Analyst at Park Hill in New York, NY.



Will Nichols
Durham, NC

Will begins his career as an Analyst for Insight Sourcing Group in Atlanta, GA.



Jules Bea Oringel
Charlotte, NC

Jules will begin her career with Capital One's Corporate Strategy Team focusing on Climate Strategy in Washington D.C.



Sejal Rai
Charlotte, NC

Sejal will begin her career in Government and Public Sector consulting at Deloitte in Washington, D.C.



Koushik Sridhar
Charlotte, NC

Koush will be pursuing his Masters in Computer Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Lydia Thomas
Greensboro, NC

Lydia will begin her career as a Government and Public Sector Consultant with EY in Tysons Corner, VA.



Kesan Ucheya *
Delran, NJ

Kesan will begin his career as a Consultant with Deloitte in Washington, D.C.



Nicholas Hunter Vaughan *
Bermuda Run, NC

Hunter will begin his career as a Business Analyst at McKinsey & Company in the Washington, D.C. office.



Matthew Warren
Harrogate, North Yorkshire, UK

Matt will begin his career as a General Management Consultant in the defense industry for Jones Group Middle East in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.



Cole Williamson
Nashville, TN

Cole will be working as an Investment Banking Analyst at Bank of America in Charlotte, NC.



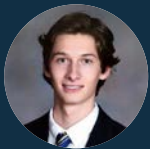
Aimee Yan
Westminister, CO

Aimee will begin her career in social impact consulting at McKinsey & Company in Atlanta, GA.

Luther Hodges Scholars '25



Rishi Aila
Major(s): BSBA &
Public Policy



Will Ballenger
Major(s): BSBA



Liz Barteldt
Major(s):
Environmental
Studies BSBA



Connor Brennan
Major(s): BSBA &
Economics



Allie Dalola
Major(s): BSBA &
Economics



Harrison Dixon
Major(s): BSBA &
Economics



Alexandra Hatsios
Major(s): BSBA &
Media/Journalism



Arnav Gunwanii
Major(s): BSBA &
Statistics



Aleena Islam
Major(s): Political
Science



Khushi Jain
Major(s): BSBA



Richard Liu
Major(s): BSBA &
Biology



Aadit Mehta
Major(s): BSBA &
Computer Science



Hyo In Park
Major(s): BSBA
Statistics & Analytics



Shivalee Patel
Major(s): BSBA &
Economics



**Zoe Whitehead
Rockas**
Major(s):
Environmental
Science BSBA



Sasha Surkin
Major(s): BSBA



Rohan Tapiawala
Major(s): BSBA &
Public Policy



Izzy Tuck
Major(s): BSBA &
Political Science



Eliza Winsor
Major(s): BSBA

Luther Hodges Scholars '26



Matthew Abel

Major(s): BSBA



Jasmine Berry

Major(s): Human Organizational Leadership and Development & BSBA



Kathryn Bolick

Major(s): BSBA and Art History and Entrepreneurship



Abhiram 'Abhi' Bolisetty

Major(s): BSBA & Data Science and Statistics,



Christie Chen

Major(s): BSBA and Sports Administration & Data Science



Juliana Chiamonte

Major(s): BSBA and Public Policy



Tyler Coffee

Major(s): Entrepreneurship and Data Science



Eli Dykes

Major(s): BSBA and Entrepreneurship and Data Science



Samhita Gattupalli

Major(s): BSBA Information Science



Larkin Gliddon

Major(s): BSBA



Vansh Gogoi

Major(s): BSBA and Statistics



Asiah Graham

Major(s): BSBA



Nandini Gupta

Major(s): BSBA



Raven Heyward

Major(s): BSBA



Soham Joshi

Major(s): BSBA and Computer Science



Carter Osborn

Major(s): BSBA



Lucia Park

Major(s): Biostatistics



Adhithi Ramprakash

Major(s): BSBA Psychology



Anna Claire Sems

Major(s): BSBA and German



Yashu Singhai

Major(s): BSBA and Computer Science



Chi Vu

Major(s): BSBA and Information Science



Meilin Weathington

Major(s): BSBA and Global Studies



Caroline White

Major(s): BSBA and Environmental Studies

SCHOLARS IN THE NEWS



The Luther Hodges Scholars program, renowned for fostering academic excellence and leadership, has been prominently featured in news articles throughout the academic year. Highlighted in recent publications from the University of North Carolina (UNC) and the Kenan-Flagler Business School, the program's impact and the achievements of its scholars are celebrated.

The UNC Stories article delves into the program's mission to cultivate future leaders through rigorous academic training and real-world experience. It showcases how the Luther Hodges Scholars are making significant contributions to their fields, underscoring the transformative effect of the program on their professional and personal growth.

Similarly, the Kenan-Flagler Business School article highlights the diverse accomplishments of the two scholars, from their work within the program to community initiatives. These articles not only spotlight the impressive talents of individual scholars but also illustrate the broader impact of the Luther Hodges Scholars program in shaping the next generation of thought leaders and changemakers.

Change to Believe In

The article details the broader impact of the Luther Hodges Scholars program at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. Kesan Ucheya and Matt Warren, Class of 2024 Luther Hodges Scholars are highlighted along with the experiences of several scholars from the Class of 2025 as they sit down with Luther Hodges, Jr. Their experiences with internships in diverse fields and locations, exemplifies the program's mission to develop cross-sector business leaders tackling critical societal challenges.

The program, named after Luther H. Hodges Jr., builds on the Kenan Scholars Program and offers mentoring, career advising, and financial support, fostering collaboration and research on global business issues. The legacy of the Hodges family, their support for education and public service, is celebrated through the impactful careers of program alumni, who are making significant contributions in various sectors. [Read more](#)

Leading Now and Into the Future

Meet the inspiring Luther Hodges Scholars from UNC-Chapel Hill, Hunter Vaughan and Nora Elsayed, who are making headlines for their remarkable academic and extracurricular endeavors. Vaughan, a public policy and business double major from Bermuda Run, North Carolina, leverages his skills to support a nonprofit bringing baseball to Egypt. Elsayed, from Germantown, Maryland, founded a student organization promoting diversity in sports and interned with the Kenan Foundation of Asia. Both have flourished through the Luther Hodges Scholars program, which offers mentorship, leadership training, and financial support, enabling them to pursue meaningful careers. Read more about their journeys and the impact of the program on their academic experience. [Read more](#)

Announcing the 2024 Kenan Institute Student Award Winners



The 17th annual Kenan Institute Student Awards were presented at a ceremony and celebration April 17 in the Kenan Lounge at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. The five awards, presented through a generous gift from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Fund, are given annually each year to recognize students who have exhibited outstanding service and commitment by exceeding expectations during their tenure at UNC Kenan-Flagler and at the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise through its Luther Hodges Scholars program. Four of the five awards were given to Luther Hodges Scholars. [Read more](#)

Scholar Spotlight: Harrison Abernathy '24

A recent graduate from the Class of 2024, Harrison Abernathy discusses some of his experiences at University of North Carolina, being a Luther Hodges Scholar, and the intersection of a business degree and participation in ROTC, with potential benefits that arise from combining these two areas of study and training.



Both ROTC and my time at the business school taught me the importance of empathy. Identifying this and realizing it was an area I could grow in helped me grow into my own as a leader. You are not always going to know everything going on in somebody's life, so it is important to give people grace and be flexible in how you approach and tackle problems. It is also important when to be a leader and when to be a follower. The best leaders empower those around them and encourage

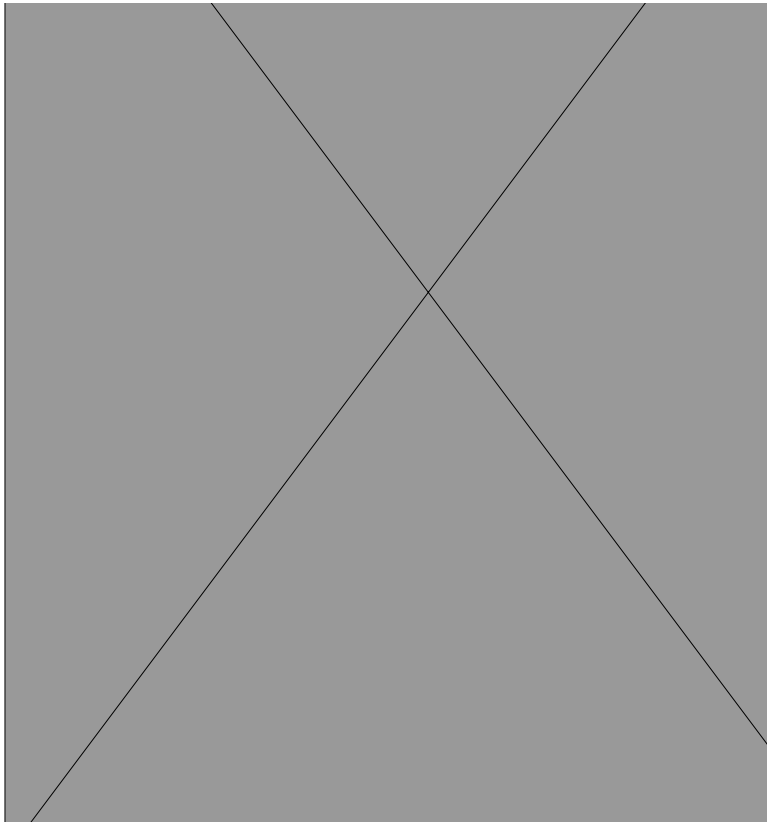
others to grow into leaders themselves. Having this type of mentality is something that did not come naturally to me, but was cultivated during my time at Carolina.

ROTC quickly teaches you time management skills. Staying organized with something as simple as a Google Calendar and daily planner helped me manage my tasks and assignments throughout my time at UNC. We get tasks in ROTC as well, with the difficulty and responsibility of them increasing exponentially as you spend more years in the program. The biggest thing I had to figure out was how to prioritize.

School Experience

How did you balance the demands of your business coursework with the rigorous training schedule of ROTC? What strategies have you found to be effective for managing your time and maximizing your performance in both areas?

Many of my classes at Kenan-Flagler gave me the opportunity to work on cases and present solutions to business problems through group presentations. These experiences sharpened my strategies around research and presenting. This focus on professionalism is something that made me a more vocal and diligent leader within the ROTC program. I was able to identify potential problems and construct solutions before they would occur. Being proactive and motivated to make a difference is a mentality I forged at Carolina, and will carry into my career in the military.



In what ways has the Luther Hodges Scholars program and ROTC shaped you?

The Luther Hodges Scholars program shaped me into a more intentional leader. With the mentorship I received from the LHS staff, I was able to lay out specific goals I wanted to accomplish in the public sector. By networking with some LHS alumni, I was able to discover internship opportunities with the Kay Yow Cancer Fund in Raleigh and a community foundation in my hometown. These internships helped me diversify my professional skillset and showed me a variety of ways I could impact the communities I lived in.

On the ROTC side, words could never do justice the impact the Army ROTC program at UNC has had on me. It has given me several professional mentors, as well as friends for life. Balancing ROTC with everything else college has to offer has consistently challenged me. The challenge of learning a profession has been a fulfilling experience. I am thankful for ROTC because it helped me realize just how important a life of service and giving back is.

Future Plans

What advice do you want to share to prospective and current scholars? What would you say to those who are considering ROTC for any branch?

My top piece of advice I want to share is that networking is not just a business skill, it is a life skill.

People at UNC, both peers and alumni, want to help, you just have to be proactive in reaching out and advocating for yourself. There is a shared love for this university that is not found at every school, so don't be afraid to ask questions and connect with people, even if the only thing you initially share with them is an affiliation with this school.

For those who are considering joining ROTC, I would say it is a tremendous advantage having the leadership development you'll receive in ROTC.

From my perspective, it was so valuable being able to compare and combine the leadership skills I developed in both KFBS and the ROTC program. Leadership is applicable in any field and at any job. It can take many forms, but being able to lead and build teams will always be valued.

What's next for you?

I will be going to Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Tacoma, Washington to serve as a 2nd Lieutenant in a Stryker Brigade. My MOS is a Medical Service Corps Officer, which means I will be coordinating the training and logistics of the medical personnel within a battalion.

RESEARCH



Scholarly Research in Business



Research is one of the program’s three core competencies, a research experience is a signature component of the program. Research drives innovation and is critical to conducting business in today’s economy. Employers place a premium on workers who are adept at solving problems, who think critically, and who can interpret data and communicate findings clearly and convincingly to a variety of audiences. During their senior year, scholars worked closely with Kenan-Flagler faculty to explore cutting-edge issues in business.

Research Course

To strengthen the research capabilities of our scholars, the program offers Persuasion with Data, a 1-credit mod taught by the institute’s chief economist, Gerald Cohen. Students explore the intersection of business and policy research and acquire knowledge and skills in three competency areas: research mechanics, information and data literacy, and communication of research findings.

The aim is to teach scholars how to make effective data-informed arguments and the value of a data-driven approach to problem-solving and business decision-making.

To move basic research discoveries quickly and efficiently into practice, scholars are supported in producing a translational research product as a final course deliverable. Completion of the course satisfies the program’s research requirement.

In the senior year, scholars can further develop their research skills by choosing to either undertake an independent research project supervised by a Kenan-Flagler faculty member or pursue an honors thesis.

Research Advisor Spotlight: Gerald Cohen, PhD.

On the Value of Research, Listening, and Supporting Others



As Chief Economist for the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, Dr. Gerald Cohen provides strategic vision and leadership to the translational economic research and policy initiatives at the Institute. In addition to his role as chief economist, he has served also as faculty advisor for a number of scholars on their honors theses. Dr. Cohen has been married to his wife, Elizabeth, for 30 years and they have three children.

Dr. Cohen sat down with us to share his professional experiences and his views on the value of research and the importance of paying it forward.

You've done such tremendous work with the scholars. They love you. They love your class. It's a real value add having you as an integral part of the scholars program.

I'm honored and I love working with the scholars. So, it's really my pleasure and honor to be involved with them.

Could you tell us a bit about how you got to the Kenan Institute, considering your background is in government having served in the Obama Administration?

Sure. My father was a professor. He's a physician, but he was a medical school professor. He did a lot of groundbreaking research on treatment of special needs individuals. I think I was always interested in the idea of doing research and trying to solve problems.

(In college) I took some economics classes and I realized that I loved it. It was intuitive to me. So I said, "I'd like to be like the professors that I had." I went to grad school. When you are in grad school, you're socialized to be a professor, and I loved teaching but it so happened that I ended up having two job offers. One was to be a professor at the College of William & Mary and the other one was to work at the New York Federal Reserve. My wife and I, who we were then engaged and to be married the summer before we started, said let's try New York. My wife was a fundraiser, and New York is a great place to be a fundraiser. So we went on this path that we didn't expect and that took me down a set of paths that I didn't expect.

First, I was at the Federal Reserve and then in the private sector, and then back to Treasury, and then I did a series of jobs in the private sector. Eventually I wanted to go back [to academia] to teach. So when this opportunity [at the Kenan Institute] came up, it seemed like the right fit for my skillset and interest in being in an academic setting, teaching, doing research, and having that bend towards being solutions oriented.

Why do you think research is important?

We need high quality research to solve big problems. If I think about some of the biggest economic problems facing society, I think most people would say, "This is a problem and we need to do something about it." Without research, we would not

know why it is a problem, what has caused the problem, and then what solutions are there to solve the problem. I think that is what research does; it actually tries to solve problems.

Why do you think research is important in an undergraduate business education?

Most people are hired to solve a problem. So, I think having that research experience allows them to do their jobs better.

What do you enjoy about teaching?

I love interacting with students and seeing their faces light up when they get something. I call it my teaching high, getting the sense that I just taught them something and watching the learning process occur. In many cases, my own insights come from their questions. It is super helpful to make me think about an issue in a way that I had not thought about it. When an expert looks at something, we spend our lives thinking about it. When a non-expert looks at it, they bring a fresh perspective. I love that.

What do you enjoy about serving as honors thesis advisor?

I'll say the fun part of doing that, advising the scholars on individual research, is that I learn a lot about different topics. For example, Shane Gravelle, who I advised this past year, researched a topic on second chance hiring, which I knew nothing about. I got to learn along with him. I get to be the beneficiary and foster excitement about learning about the students' topics. I have learned something from all of the students I have worked with. They help me think about the world in a different way.

When you are not working, what do you do to relax?

I love spending time with my family. This goes back to being an economist and seeing all of the research on how experiences are better than things. I'm very much about experiences. I avoid going shopping, but I love when we travel. I like going a bit off the beaten path, and you know, not just sitting in a bus looking at sites, but actually going hiking or biking.

I think one of the things that is most relaxing for me is fishing. When I need a break or want quality alone time, I go fishing. I find it very meditative, fly fishing in particular. You can find beauty in any stream. There's also the challenge of trying to figure out how to catch a fish using a fly that I've personally tied. That's very meditative to me and relaxing.



Dr. Cohen with his family at a friend's wedding in Scotland

What's the best advice you ever received? Always listen to your wife.

How would people describe you in three words? Curious. Dogged. Caring.

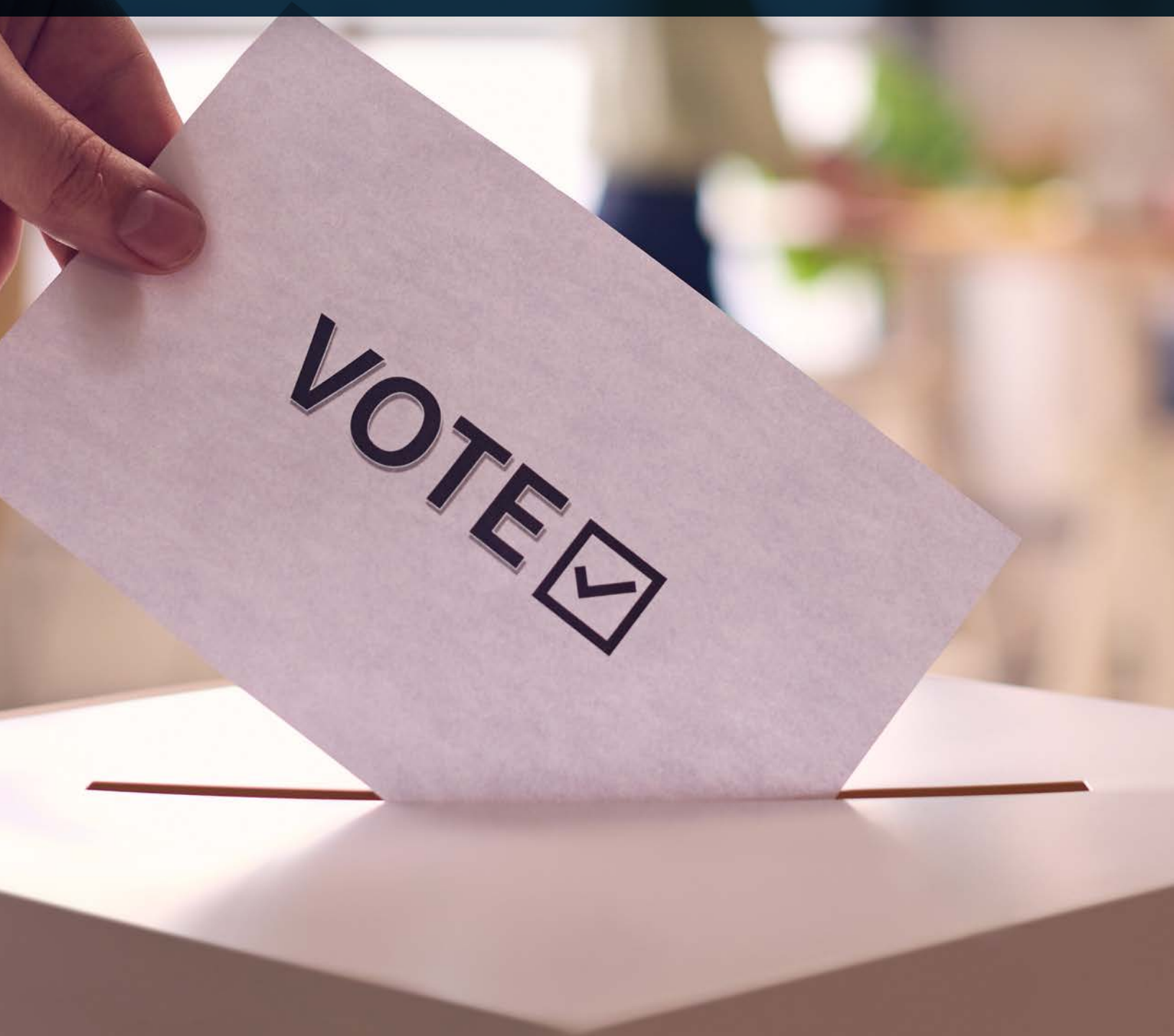
Who is one person, living or dead, you would invite to dinner and why?

Abraham Lincoln. I think a lot of people would choose Abraham Lincoln. I would love to get his perspective on where America is now and hear him speak about how he dealt with the Civil War.

What more would you like for people to know about you personally and professionally?

My door is always open. I love talking to students and hearing about their interests and seeing what I can do to help. Sometimes it's not being a problem solver that is the most helpful to somebody but it's just being a friendly, supportive person. So, my door is always open!]

ABSTRACTS & PUBLICATIONS



Increasing the Power of the Vote: Ranked Choice Voting and Partisan Sentiment



Hunter Vaughan

Advisor:

William Goldsmith, Ph.D.
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Public Policy



Honors Thesis

This thesis is an investigation into how the two major parties interact with ranked choice voting – an alternative to traditional means of conducting elections. My primary research question explores what the relationship is between stated political affiliation and opinion on ranked choice voting among eligible voters in the US. While still a relatively new concept, there is thorough academic literature into the potential benefits of ranked choice voting in improving voter satisfaction and engagement and reducing political polarization. The aim of this research paper is to fill a gap where academic research on this topic seems to be absent – who exactly understands and supports ranked choice voting? This paper implements univariate, bivariate, multivariate, and geographic analyses to answer this question and provide demographic insights that can advise policymakers on strategies to educate people on this topic and its potential to improve the power of the vote. These analyses found that democrats are more likely to both understand and support ranked choice voting, that a large majority of ranked choice voting municipalities are politically blue areas, and that individuals with a voting history are more likely to understand ranked choice voting - all of these findings are backed with statistical significances.

BUILDING COMMUNITY



Luther Hodges Scholars recognizes that a sense of belonging is essential for our students to thrive as individuals, scholars, and professionals. Since its inception, the program has worked diligently to provide opportunities that foster collaboration, personal support, and professional development. As a result, Luther Hodges Scholars has a thriving community among current scholars, program alumni, and campus & community partners.

The 2023-2024 academic year continued to build our supportive community as program staff offered events and activities that deepened relationships between scholars, alumni and friends of the program. From team-building activities with current scholars, to alumni check-ins, to the development of the Luther Hodges Scholars Advisory Council, this year was filled with intentional efforts to enhance engagement with program stakeholders. Learn more about this year's community-building experiences below.

Mentor Spotlight: Rob Mazzoni '05



It all started at a basketball camp in middle school. As a kid from Lebanon, Pennsylvania, Rob Mazzoni grew up a huge basketball fan. Knowing about UNC because of Michael Jordan, Rob attended Carolina basketball camp in the eighth grade and fell in love with Chapel Hill. His passion for the university and for business led him to UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School where he completed an honors thesis advised by Dr. Greg Brown. While at Kenan-Flagler, Rob gained an appreciation for investing, capital markets, and endowments and following graduation began his professional career with UNC Management Company, focusing on private equity.

After spending two years working with UNC Management Company, Mel Williams, a close mentor to Mazzoni, founded the upstart investment firm TrueBridge Capital. In reflecting on his decision to join the firm, Rob explained that "the way he [Mel] invested in people I found incredibly compelling...and it was an opportunity to go deep in venture capital, and hopefully become an expert in the asset class." He later decided to pursue his MBA at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, using this time to enhance his credentials and build his network.

After completing his MBA, Rob returned to TrueBridge Capital to continue investing in venture capital funds and technology companies, as well as co-lead its direct investment fund. In January 2023, Rob joined Wellington Management to lead software investing for the late stage venture capital fund.

Rob grew up around the field of business, observing his father's working in procurement at The Hershey Company. For him, business, and specifically investing, was always his chosen career path. According to Rob, not only do you have to constantly learn new

things, as innovation is an undercurrent to technology investing; hard work and drive are often rewarded in the business world. Appreciation for these are due, in part, to the values instilled in him by his parents from a young age—in "whatever you do, do it well and see it through."

Rob got connected with Luther Hodges Scholars (then Kenan Scholars) in 2018 through his close relationship with his college advisor and then executive director of the Kenan Institute, Greg Brown. He was attracted by the program's mission to expose students to the various ways business can make an impact, as Rob has always considered investing an impactful career path. "The capital we manage is on behalf of endowments, foundations, and pensions, and we invest that capital in technologies that can shape our future", he said. Rob also expressed his passion for mentorship and service as a driving force for his investment in the program. "I have always loved trying to teach and work with people and serve as a mentor. I viewed it as a natural conduit to mentor UNC students", he shared.



Upon reflection, Rob acknowledged a deep appreciation for the mentors in his life. From the work ethic his father instilled, to his mother's unwavering confidence in him, Mazzoni spoke of the value of having wonderful supportive parents. He shared that "It's just so meaningful. It's something I try to think about with my kids...believing in them." In addition to his parents, Rob acknowledged the impact of Mel Williams' mentorship on his life and career and appreciation of Greg Brown's encouragement of his academic and professional career, including an introduction that landed Rob his first investing job interview, which played a key role in his ultimate career path.

For Rob, there are key indicators that can help students identify a potential mentor. These include someone who is responsive, present, thoughtful, and has a desire to invest in you. He also believes that professional and personal success are intertwined with having an impact. "Any type of job or path you take is going to feel hard. So I want to make what I do also feel meaningful", he shared. He added that it's vital to maintain your priorities. For Rob, "family is everything".

From mentoring scholars, to presenting at events and providing guidance as a member of the program's Advisory Council, Rob Mazzoni's contributions to Luther Hodges Scholars have deeply strengthened our community. We are so appreciative to him for his leadership and investments. His positive impact will continue to be felt through not only his own career and volunteer efforts, but also through the scholars he inspires.

Luther Hodges Scholars Announces Advisory Council

The Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise was proud to host the inaugural meeting of the Luther H. Hodges Scholars Advisory Council on Friday, October 13, 2023 at the conclusion of the institute's annual Frontiers Conference. The 10-member Council was formed from a recommendation from the program's 5-year External Review completed in spring 2022. The Review team was chaired by Charles 'Chuck' Lovelace, retired Executive Director of the Morehead-Cain Foundation and was composed of accomplished scholarship program professionals from across the country. We're proud to announce that Lovelace has agreed to serve as the inaugural chair of the Luther Hodges Advisory Council.

The newly minted Advisory Council serves as a key advocate for the Luther Hodges Scholars Program. Council members share their gifts and talents in service to the program's mission—to develop future business leaders committed to changing the world for the better. Members are drawn from an accomplished pool of Kenan-Flagler alumni and faculty, business and community professionals, and scholar program alumni and are representative of the program's cross-sector focus. The Advisory Council meets biannually to review program progress, make recommendations, help problem-solve, and advise on programming and fundraising efforts. Members serve two-year renewable terms.

Inaugural Members of the Luther Hodges Scholars Advisory Council



Charles 'Chuck' Lovelace, '77, '79
Chair
Executive Director (retired)
Morehead-Cain Foundation



Kevin Clark, '99
Founder and CEO
Next Game Advisors



Dana O'Donovan, '95
Social Impact & Monitor Institute
Deloitte



Vicky Garcia, '07
President and CEO
Latino Community Credit Union



Patrick 'Pat' G. Hartley, '76
Senior VP & Institutional Consultant
Graystone Consulting



Elizabeth Kelly, '11
Managing Director
Pappas Capital



Jordan Mareno '19
Associate
Education Strategy Group



Rob Mazzoni, '05
Late stage VC Investor
Wellington Investment



Shimul Melwani, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, UBP
Kenan-Flagler Business School



John 'Jack' Noble, '20
MBA Candidate
The Tuck School of Business at
Dartmouth

Alumni Spotlight: Jessie LaMasse '21

On Making an Impact and the Value of Reflection

A graduate of the Class of 2021, Jessie LaMasse shares about her Carolina experience, her professional journey, and lessons learned along the way. When Jessie enrolled and graduated from the program, it was still referred to as Kenan Scholars. Because of a generous gift from the Luther Hodges family, the program is now known as the Luther Hodges Scholars program. Thank you, Jessie, for your continued support of our growing community!



When I learned about sustainable finance and impact investing, I was immediately driven by my curiosity to work in the space.

Why did you decide to become a Luther Hodges Scholar?

I saw the Kenan Scholars program as a place where my values were aligned with my goals. Business school was intimidating to me, and I wanted to pursue business with a change-making mindset. Kenan Scholars felt like a safe space and an innovative incubator for

like-minded people driven to see cross-sector work as a force for the public good.

What is your overall experience at UNC/KFBS and as a Scholar?

Kenan Scholars was my favorite aspect of my business school experience. It provided me with a brilliant cohort, inspiring mentors, ample resources, and most importantly an encouraging environment to grow beyond the boundaries of traditional business. I was able to achieve so much academically and personally because of the opportunities [afforded by the program].

What is your hometown? Crystal Lake, IL

Where you do currently live? New York, NY

What are some of your hobbies?

Outside of learning more about the low-carbon transition and sustainability, I love being active and outdoors. I spend my weekends with friends at parks in NYC and doing yoga.

Experience at Carolina

Why did you pursue a business degree?

From a young age, I was volunteering in my community which created a strong foundation for my values. To me, business is an opportunity to advance change. The industry has a strong influence on the way we live and the potential to correct complex problems. I wanted to utilize my business degree to promote sustainable projects that improved communities.

Why did you choose to study at UNC/KFBS?

No other place felt like home. I toured a lot of colleges near my hometown in Illinois, but none of them felt like a place I could grow and be surrounded by a supportive environment at the same time. When I found UNC, I knew instantly that this was the place for me. Kenan-Flagler was like the cherry on top that gave me the extra prestige and challenge that I wanted to have in a college experience to push myself beyond my expectations.

What person, course, or experience most influenced you when at KFBS/UNC?

It's so hard to pick just one because the Scholars program has so many pieces that allowed me to grow in different ways.

- 1. Research: Professor Jeff Mittelstadt (thesis advisor) –** On the first day of his job, I went to Jeff's office. I was eager and excited to have a professor who focused on sustainability at KFBS. From that day on, not only did Jeff come to be my thesis advisor, but he was a mentor and consultant for all the thoughts and ideas I had about sustainability in business. Additionally, his interdisciplinary career path is an inspiration and reminder to me that you don't need a linear or industry-specific path to still have it all fit together like a puzzle.
- 2. Mentor: Martin Sather –** Martin was an enormous help in preparing me for the job that I have now. In preparation for my interviews, I would practice with Martin and ask him questions that I did not feel comfortable asking in class about finance and the stock market.
- 3. Peer: Andrea Prego –** Andrea and I participated in the program's Kenan Foundation Asia summer internship in 2019. Surviving another country together on the other side of the world and working together on projects that supported the Thai community created a [forever] bond between us. I know I can count on her for anything. Andrea is a life-long friend and sponsor of my career path.

Lessons Learned

What life lessons would you like to share with students?

Whenever possible, walk away from tech and reconnect with your community. The best connections, opportunities, and lessons I have had in life happened offline. I've learned that there is great value in taking time away from the desk to check in on those around you and to develop your soft skills.

What advice do you have for students who are transitioning from college to the 'real world'?

Seek out learning opportunities. There are no more required classes or reading assignments, and it is quite easy to fall into only learning about your job and industry since that will become your new daily routine. However, the things that got you to where you are now will not get you to where you want to be. Find opportunities to follow your curiosities through reading, classes, or peer group activities. Every person, place, and thing can be a learning opportunity if you have an open mind and seek to understand.

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

If there is one thing I could tell all scholars, it's to make the absolute most of the program. If you engage at events, meet with mentors, and pursue research that you care about, the things you will get out of this program will take you much farther in life than you'd ever expected.

Alumni Engagement

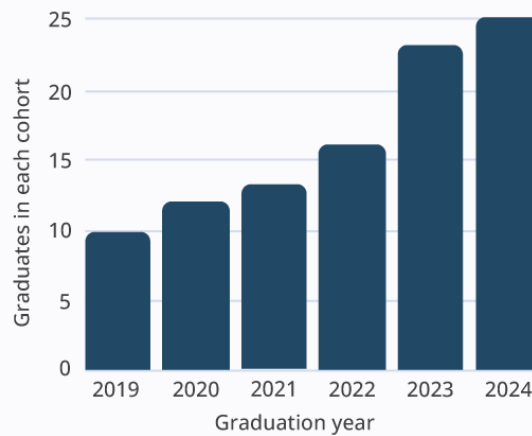
More information on the program's efforts to stay connected with alumni in the 2023-2024 academic year can be found below.

- ▶ [Facilitated alumni service on the selection committee for the Class of 2026 \(October\)](#)
 - 10 alumni (at least one from each graduating class) served as finalist interviewers
- ▶ [Hosted a Virtual Alumni Meet Up \(November\)](#)
 - 14 alumni in attendance
 - Topics discussed included: development of an alumni database, alumni serving as mentors, alumni engagement events
- ▶ [Post Meet-up Survey \(agreement percentages in parentheses\):](#)
 - Desire to stay connected to the program (100%)
 - Interest in serving as guest speakers and panelists (78%)
 - Hope to connect with current scholars (78%)
- ▶ [Hosted a research panel featuring Emily Arnold '20 and Matt Bravante '19 \(November\)](#)
- ▶ [Conducted individual outreach via phone, LinkedIn, and Zoom to all alumni \(March\)](#)
- ▶ [Funded a campus visit for Gabriela Goodman '23 \(April\)](#)
 - Served as program event moderator and had dinner with select scholars
- ▶ [Connect alumni to current scholars to explore career interests \(ongoing\)](#)
- ▶ [Develop alumni database \(ongoing\)](#)
 - Maintain up-to-date contact info and professional experiences

Alumni Profile

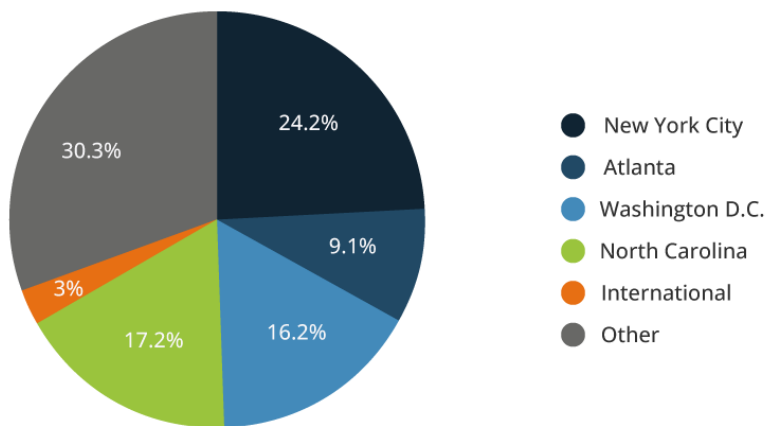
As of June 1, 2024, the Luther Hodges Scholars program has 99 undergraduate alumni across six cohorts. The first class of scholars graduated in 2019. The largest graduating class (25) is the program's most recent, the Class of 2024.

Alumni by Graduation Year



Alumni by Location

Where do graduates live?



IMPACTFUL PROGRAMMING

Josh Lerner
Jacob H. Schiff Professor of Investment Banking
Harvard Business School

- Co-Director, National Bureau of Economic Research's Productivity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Program
- Founder, Global Capital Research Institute
- Former academic participant in the World Economic Forum projects and events
- Worked on issues concerning technological innovation and public policy at Brookings Institution
- Recognized in the top 40 most influential economists worldwide by research.com
- 2024 Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow

LUTHER HODGES SCHOLARS
BUSINESS SCHOOL

A key component of the Hodges Scholars Program is its programming, designed to offer numerous events for scholars to develop professionally, engage with business and community leaders, strengthen research and networking capabilities, and celebrate their achievements. In the 2023-2024 academic year, we are grateful for the opportunity to engage with Hodges Scholars through a variety of activities, including scholarly advising, coursework, programming, informal events like Caffeinated Connections, and initiatives that help scholars develop the core competencies needed to be effective cross-sector leaders in a global society.

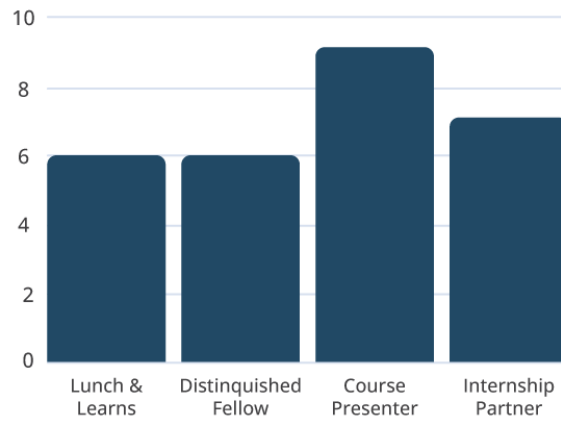
Additionally, the Luther Hodges Leadership Council provides valuable opportunities to foster community and create meaningful experiences among scholars. Each gathering was well received and played a crucial role in supporting our students' desire to connect and network.



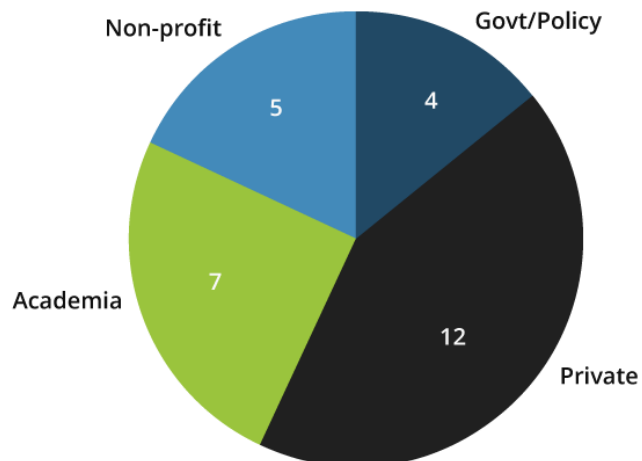
The scholars have an opportunity to engage with many guests and speakers throughout the academic year. The following is a compilation of all the engagement opportunities the 2023/2024 academic year. These opportunities are categorized in four channels:

1. Lunch & Learns/Cross-Talks
2. Distinguished Fellow visits/Fireside chats
3. Course Speakers/Presenters
4. Cross-Sector Internship Partners

Speaker Type



Sectors



Lunch & Learns/ Cross-Talks

Another experience available to Luther Hodges Scholars is our “lunch & learn” series. These events provide our students the opportunity to learn from experts who delve into contemporary and emerging trends in the business world.



Matthew Bravante '19
Co-Founder and COO
21st Century Infrastructure



Emily Arnold '20
Business Analyst
Capital One



Nancy Lovas
Entrepreneurship & Business Librarian
Davis Library



Kevin Martin '89
Vice President
US Public Policy
Meta



Elizabeth Faber '89
Global Chief People & Purpose Office
Deloitte



Kathryn Black '99
Strategic Initiatives Executive (Retired)
Bank of America

Lunch & Learn with Meta's Kevin Martin '89

The Luther Hodges Scholars program was pleased to welcome back alum and former Student Body President, Kevin Martin, for a lunch & learn. Martin currently serves as the head of Meta's Washington D.C. Office and Vice President for Public Policy North America & Global Competition. Martin's career highlights include service as the Commissioner and Chair of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), co-chair and partner of the telecommunication practice at Squire Patton Boggs, an international law firm, and White House Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. Martin was keen to provide insights and takeaways related to his work across the sectors in government, law, and technology policy.

[Read More](#)

Cross-Talk with Elizabeth Faber '89: A Career Centered Around People and Purpose



The scholars had the opportunity to sit down with UNC alumna, Elizabeth Faber, the Global Chief People and Purpose Officer at Deloitte. Tyler Coffee, Class of 2026 discusses the highlights of this scholar exclusive event. [Read More](#)

Distinguished Fellows Fireside Chats

Luther Hodges Scholars have the opportunity to sit down with the Kenan Institute Fellows during their visit to the Kenan Institute. With each visit, a scholar is selected to moderate an exclusive fireside chat that provides the scholars with time to ask additional questions about their research and any career insights and advice the fellows may have. Below are blogs written about a few of the fellow visits that occurred during the 2023-2024 academic year.



Thomas Stith III
CEO
The Michael Thomas Group Inc



Kathleen Sutcliffe
Bloomberg Distinguished Professor
Johns Hopkins University



Tara Watson
Professor of Economics
Williams College



Josh Lerner
Jacob H. Schiff Professor of
Investment Banking
Harvard Business School



Angelica Leigh '20
Assistant Professor of Management
and Organizations
Duke Fuqua School of Business



Gabby Goodman '23
Research Associate
Brookings Institution

Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow Visits

Josh Lerner Ph.D., Jacob H. Schiff Professor of Investment Banking, Harvard Business School - The Venture Capital Bust and the Resilience of Innovation

Describing the Fireside Chat with Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow Dr. Josh Lerner as phenomenal, Khushi Jain, Class of 2025, provides some takeaways from his visit with Luther Hodges Scholars. [Read Blog](#)

Angelica Leigh, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Management and Organizations, Fuqua School of Business - The Influence of Mega-Threats on Individuals at Work

Dr. Angelica Leigh, a Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellow, visited the Kenan Institute in September to discuss her research on the influence of 'mega-threats' on individuals at work. Along with four other distinguished fellows, the focus of Dr. Leigh's work broadens our understanding of the lasting impacts of workforce disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Learn More](#)

Tara Watson, Ph.D. Following Dr. Watson's Kenan Institute Distinguished Fellows presentation, "An Economist's Guide to Immigration Reform", Scholars had the opportunity to explore Dr. Tara Watson's research and professional experiences and learn what advice she has for future professionals. Leading the discussion was Gabriela Goodman, an LHS Class of 2023 graduate who also spoke on her work with Dr. Watson and experiences as a new professional. [Read More](#)

Course Speakers/ Presenters

BUSI 120 Guest Lecture: On the Importance of Defining DEI



The sophomore cohort had the opportunity to learn about DEI and its impact in research and organizations as well as the importance of defining the terms. Asiah Graham, Class of 2026, writes about the guest lecture that was presented by LaChaun Banks, Kenan-Flagler Professor the Practice and Kenan Institute Research Fellow. [Read More](#)



Hannah Cohen
Data + Strategy
StreetEasy (Zillow Group)



Jonathan Pingle '03
Managing Director and
Chief US Economist



Janet Cowell
Chief Executive Officer
Dix Park Conservancy



Susan Cates '98
Managing Partner
Leeds Illuminate



Shimul Melwani
Associate Dean,
Undergraduate Business Program
Kenan-Flagler Business School



Ritch Allison '89
CEO-Retired
Domino's Pizza



LaChaun Banks '10, '17
Professor of Practice
Kenan-Flagler Business School



Dan Gitterman
Professor of Public Policy
UNC School of Public Policy



Vicky Garcia '07
President and CEO
Latino Community Credit Union

Cross-Sector Internship Partners

Cross Sector Internships 2024

Each summer, the Luther Hodges Scholars program collaborates with for-profit and not-for-profit organizations across the globe to provide scholars with a Cross-Sector Internship Experience. This initiative offers scholars a fully funded, eight-week internship in which they use their business skills and knowledge to address a particular societal need. The following organizations are serving as internship sites for Summer 2024:

- ▶ CLIMB USA – Madison, WI
- ▶ The KAL Firm – Atlanta, GA
- ▶ Kenan Foundation Asia – Bangkok, Thailand
- ▶ Peak Health – Morgantown, WV
- ▶ U.S. Department of Commerce – Greensboro, NC
- ▶ Washington Institute for Business, Government & Society – Washington, D.C.

Program staff facilitate bi-weekly reflection sessions for scholars to gather and discuss the impact of their experience. We're pleased to share that the scholars are underway on this summer's experience and are excited for their personal and professional development opportunities. For more information on the partners and projects for each internship.

[Read More](#)



Robert 'Bob' Wynn '76
President
CLIMB USA



Emily Gereffi
Senior Intl. Trade Specialist
U.S. Department of Commerce:
U.S. Commercial Service



Kaseem Ladipo '09
Founder & Principal
The KAL Firm



Allison Morris
Director of Partnerships
Kenan Foundation Asia



James 'Jim' Moore
Founder, President & CEO
Washington Institute for Business,
Government and Society



Amos Ross
President
Peak Health



LSDS
Team Leader Solutions & Decision Support

Fall 2023 Luther Hodges Cross-Sector Showcase



From Cheese Curds to SWOT Analysis: Our WI Journey

Members:

Rishi Aila, Will Ballenger,
Harrison Dixon, Aleena Islam,
Zoe Rockas



Transforming Atlanta: Our Journey in Nonprofit/Public Sector Consulting

Members:

Arnav Gunwani, Khushi Jain,
Richard Liu, Shivalee Patel,
Rohan Tapiawala



2 Months with NCAIED, A Lifetime of Experience

Members:

Connor Brennan, Hyo In Park,
Eliza Winsor



Hodges Scholars in the Land of Smiles

Members:

Nora Elsayed, Allie Dalola,
Aadit Mehta, Izzy Tuck



The Future is Bright at myFutureNC

Members:

Liz Barteldt
Sasha Surkin

Frontiers Conference

The Frontiers of Business Conference: Workforce Disrupted was held on October 12-13, 2023 at the Carolina Inn, hosted by the Kenan Institute. Corporate executives, top researchers and policy leaders will convene to share objective, evidence-based solutions for navigating the precarious road toward a labor market equilibrium. Scholars attended the conference and hosted guest speakers and panelists. Harrison Dixon, Class of 2025, wrote of his experience while attending the two-day conference in “Frontiering into the Professional World”.

[Read More](#)

Orientation & Welcome Dinner

The Class of 2026 met the rest of the scholar cohorts at the start of The spring semester kicks off the scholar new scholar journey with the Class of 2026 having the first opportunity to meet the rest of the scholars at a welcome dinner and orientation weekend to learn more about the scholar journey and what to expect in the program. Lucia (Chaeyeon) Park shares her experience as a new scholar embarking on orientation weekend. [Read More](#)

LSDS Travel Safety & Risk Assessment Training

As part of their Cross-Sector Internship experience, sophomore scholars participate in training on traveler preparation, digital safety best practices, and situational awareness in partnership with Leader Solutions and Decision Support (LSDS). Read more about this training from Matthew Abel, Class of 2026, as he takes part in the training before embarking on his internship over the summer. [Read more](#)

Leadership Council

In December 2019, the Hodges Scholars Leadership Council was established to serve as the student voice of the Hodges Scholar experience. Comprising two scholar representatives from each cohort, the Leadership Council has worked to foster student engagement and relationship building, strengthen affinity for the program, and provide feedback and recommendations to the Hodges Scholars staff.

The 2023-2024 council included Emily Caprioglio (Senior), Mary Miller (Senior), Sasha Surkin (Junior), Rohan Tapiawala (Junior), Lucia Park (Sophomore), and Larkin Gliddon (Sophomore). This year’s council developed a budget proposal, approved by the Hodges Scholars staff, which provided funding for a range of events throughout the academic year to enhance the student experience within the program. These opportunities included:

- ▶ [A Hodges Scholars sponsored pottery event at Glazed Expectations](#)
- ▶ [Lunches, coffee hours, and acai bowl dates at local Franklin Street restaurants such as](#)
- ▶ [The annual Hodges Scholars Semi-Formal, a year-end celebration at The Story](#)

Because the program and its scholars rely on each other for support, each cohort of Scholars presents two representatives to participate in the LHS Leadership Council to amplify the voices of their peers. Larkin Gliddon and Lucia Park, as the two members representing the sophomore class, outline the function of the Leadership Council and detail our experiences thus far as the Council’s newest members. [Read More](#)

SPECIAL THANKS





We are touched beyond words...

For the lasting legacy of Frank Hawkins Kenan to improve the lives of people in North Carolina, across the country and around the world through cross-sector collaborations among business, government and academic leaders

To Luther Hodges, Jr. and family for their generosity, legacy of public service and economic betterment, and commitment to the state of North Carolina and to the nation

For the staff and faculty of the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise and Kenan-Flagler. You root for our students, you marvel at their accomplishments, and your work and service undergirds our commitment to provide a world-class transformative experience for the next generation of cross-sector leaders

To the donors that support the program's high-impact innovative student experiences

To Mike and Helen Norona whose contributions help lay the foundation for the program's distinctive cross-sector internship experience

For the time, energy, expertise, and wisdom of the program's mentors and their dedication to supporting our students

For the invigorating leadership of the Kenan Institute and Kenan-Flagler Business School whose commitment to cross-sector collaboration aligns perfectly with the Luther Hodges Scholars program

To the program's champions, Tom Kenan, Pat Hartley, Scott Smith, Greg Brown, and Dan Drake

What makes the Luther Hodges Scholars program great is the community that embraces it.

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Program Coordinator
tya_smith@kenan-flagler.unc.edu
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Kim Allen heads up the institute's signature scholarship program, which provides a world-class, transformative scholarship experience for undergraduate and graduate students of Kenan-Flagler Business School. Kim has more than 20 years of leadership experience in education, community engagement and nonprofit management in organizations such as UNC-Chapel Hill, the NAACP and the Martin Luther King, Jr. History & Public Policy Center, where she served as executive director.

Phil Hardy serves as the assistant director of external relations for the institute's Luther Hodges Scholars program. His primary focus is to foster relationships with campus and community stakeholders, support continued engagement opportunities for program alumni, and develop cross-sector summer experiences for students. Prior to this role, Phil was the Luther Hodges Scholars Advisor, providing advising and programmatic support for student development and achievement. Before joining the institute, Phil was a student success advisor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. He has experience working in public, private and community colleges.

Keith Martin joins the Luther Hodges Scholars program as our new Assistant Director of Student Engagement. In this role, he'll provide our students advising and coaching to support, connect them with campus and community resources and assist with securing internship and research experiences. Prior to joining the Institute, Keith served as the Senior Academic Advisor for NC State University's College of Education.

Tya Smith serves as the program coordinator for the Luther Hodges Scholars program. She has eight years of event management and program coordination experience. Her work involves planning and coordinating the program's signature events, growing the program's online presence, including managing its social media platforms, and assisting with program evaluation and assessment.



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