



Columbia  
Business  
School

Saturday, May 17, 2025



# EMBA & PhD Recognition Ceremony

# EMBA & PhD Recognition Ceremony

## **Columbia University in the City of New York**

### **Columbia Business School**

#### **Welcome Remarks**

Costis Maglaras  
Dean and David and Lyn Silfen Professor of Business

#### **Distinguished Speaker Remarks**

Jamie Kern Lima '04

#### **PhD Student Speaker**

Omar Mouchtaki

#### **EMBA-NY Student Speakers**

Lenny Pereira  
Adithya Simha

#### **Presentation of Faculty Awards**

Samantha Shapses  
Senior Associate Dean and Dean of Student Affairs

#### **Presentation of Student Awards**

Susan West  
Senior Director, Academic Affairs

#### **PhD Remarks**

Costis Maglaras  
Dean and David and Lyn Silfen Professor of Business

#### **PhD Hooding**

Elizabeth Elam  
Director, PhD Program

#### **Recognition of EMBA- NY Candidates**

#### **Closing Remarks**

Costis Maglaras  
Dean and David and Lyn Silfen Professor of Business

## Distinguished Speaker

*Jamie Kern Lima '04*



Jamie Kern Lima went from Denny's waitress to billion-dollar entrepreneur! She's the host of the #1 Self-Improvement Podcast in the country, The Jamie Kern Lima Show podcast, where Oprah Winfrey was her first guest. She's a Guest Shark on the upcoming Season 16 of Shark Tank on ABC. She's a two-time New York Times bestselling author, her new book WORTHY made it 14 weeks in a row on the NY Times bestseller list. She's founder of IT Cosmetics, a company she started in her living room and sold to L'Oréal in a billion-dollar deal, becoming the first female CEO of a brand in L'Oréal's 100+ year history. Her love of her customers and remarkable authenticity and belief eventually landed her on the Forbes America's Richest Self-Made Women list.

She's been a Denny's waitress, a struggling entrepreneur, and has overcome years of self-doubt, body-doubt and God-doubt. She's a mother of two and an active investor, speaker, and thought leader who is passionate about inspiring and elevating women. She recently held her live event called Becoming Unstoppable, where more than 260,000 women joined live from their living rooms, and many iconic women of our time including Oprah Winfrey, Ellen DeGeneres, Robin Roberts and Maria Shriver all joined to support Jamie in her mission of building self-worth in every single girl, woman and person! She's also an active philanthropist who has funded leadership training in more than 100 prisons and shelters across the US, and has donated over \$40 million in product and funds to help women face the effects of cancer with confidence. She's donating 100% of her author proceeds for WORTHY.

# 2025 Award Recipients

Columbia Business School is proud to recognize students, faculty, and staff members with the following awards acknowledging their accomplishments and contributions.

## Awards

### Executive MBA Commitment to Excellence Award

Established by the Executive MBA class of 1991 in memory of Professor Margaret K. Chandler, this award is presented to a faculty member for exemplary contributions to the class experience. This award is selected by the EMBA-NY Class of 2025.

- Malia Mason, Senior Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs & Courtney C. Brown Professor of Business
- Jay Dahya, Professor of Finance

### The Nahum Melumad Memorial Prize Award

The Nahum Melumad Memorial Prize, named in memory of Nahum Melumad, the James L. Dohr Professor of Accounting and Business Law and a member of Columbia Business School's Accounting Division for more than 20 years, is the highest honor given to one member of each graduating class based on outstanding scholarship and significant contribution to the Columbia community.

- Bessie Zavidow, EMBA-NY Saturday
- Nicholas Gajdzik, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday

### The EMBA Distinguished Service Award

Presented to a graduating student who is selected by classmates as deserving special recognition for exceptional contributions to the spirit and experience of the class

- Rachel Sylora, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Yamicha Stephenson, EMBA-NY Saturday

### EMBA Student Representative Awards

This award recognizes the elected student representatives for their service to the EMBA community.

#### Academic Representatives

- Christopher Batz, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Morgan Bui, EMBA-NY Saturday
- Shyaan Hasnain, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Yamicha Stephenson, EMBA-NY Saturday

#### Career Management Representatives

- Neeraj Asthana, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Dennelle Clarke, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Jason Foster, EMBA-NY Saturday
- Pranav Krishnan, EMBA-NY Saturday

#### Community Representatives

- Jothika Cholan, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Matthew Charles Willmott, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Hyewon Chung, EMBA-NY Saturday
- Jun Fujita, EMBA-NY Saturday

#### Social Representatives

- Paarshva Shah, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Ravi Mehta, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Rupak Darshan Mehta, EMBA-NY Saturday
- Lenny Pereira, EMBA-NY Saturday

#### Women in Business Representatives

- Maheen Abbasi, EMBA-NY Saturday
- Alexis Larcenaire, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Lidia Novosad, EMBA-NY Saturday
- Shabeen Rehman, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday

#### EMBA Advisory Board

- Tatiana Imad Gholmie, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Jordan May, EMBA-NY Friday/Saturday
- Rupak Darshan Mehta, EMBA-NY Saturday
- 

### Dean's Award for Contributions to the Doctoral Program Award

This award recognizes a faculty member who has gone above and beyond to support Ph.D. students at CBS.

- Paolo Siconolfi, Franklin Pitcher Johnson Jr. Professor of Finance and Economics Division

# 2025 PhD Candidate Hooding

Columbia Business School proudly celebrates the achievements of our doctoral candidates. Today's hooding ceremony honors their scholarly excellence, dedication, and contributions to the academic community.

---

## Hooding Ceremony

### Department of Accounting

- Anthony Le, Accounting Rules and Accountants
- Rongchen Li, Intermediaries and Emissions Disclosures
- Joaquin Peris Peris, Voluntary Disclosure and the Internal Information Environment of the Firm

### Department of Decision, Risk and Operations

- Jirawat (Jerry) Anunrojwong, Incentives in Market Design: Robust Auction Theory and Applications to Electricity Markets
- Akshit Kumar, Platform Operations: From Models to Methods
- Utkarsh Patang, Optimization and Decision-Making in Decentralized Finance, Scheduling, and Graphical Game Theory
- Ethan Woojin Che, Reinforcement Learning via Differentiable Simulation: Applications in Operations Management (anticipated)
- Boris Epstein, Online Decision-Making: Applications in Hiring, Inventory Placement, and Matching
- Omar Mouchtaki, Data-driven Decision-making: New Insights on Algorithm Performance and Data Value

### Department of Finance

- Amanda Dos Santos, Essays in Finance and International Macroeconomics
- Jeremias Luca Huber, Essays in Asset Pricing and Private Equity (anticipated)
- Candy Melissa Martinez, An Emissions Tax for Buildings and Welfare (anticipated)
- Tomas Javier Mondino, Essays in International Finance (anticipated)
- Stefan Walz, Essays in Financial Economics
- Daheng Yang, Essays in Financial Economics (anticipated)

### Department of Management

- Xin Lucy Liu, Intersectionality in High-skilled Expatriates' Migration Dilemmas (anticipated)
- Angela Soomin Ryu, Firm Strategy and the Shaping of Sociopolitical Discourse

### Department of Marketing

- Maren Hoff, How Cultural Change Shapes Consumers, Products, and Trend Over Time
- Eric Sanghyeok Park, Immersive Technologies in Marketing: A Spatial Framework
- Yu Ming (Jasmine) Yang, Creator Content Production and Promotion Decisions on Online Video Platforms

# Recognition of EMBA-NY Candidates

## **\*\*DEAN'S HONORS WITH DISTINCTION**

Students demonstrating exceptional academic performance, in the top 5% of the class, receive the graduation honor of Dean's Honors with Distinction.

## **\*DEAN'S HONORS**

Students demonstrating exceptional academic performance, in the top 25% of the class, receive the graduation honor of Dean's Honors

# EMBA-NY

Maheen Abbasi  
Gautam Adusumilli\*\*  
Elizabeth Agyemang  
Daniel Ahmadizadeh  
Joseph Alukal  
Jonathan Alvear  
Miguel Alvear  
Shannon Armstrong  
Amit Banik  
Stephanie Barimah  
Jade Bassil\*\*  
Jeremy Foster Berke  
Brandon Best  
Daniel Bishop  
Derek Brookshire  
Morgan Bui  
Tijana Bzenic  
Xuguang Chen\*  
Hyewon Chung  
Adam Coombs\*  
Emily Davila  
Justine Dharni  
Jean-Franco Diaz\*  
Sonia Donde  
Yuchen Duan  
Kathleen Durongpisitkul\*  
Olivia Erickson  
Yoel Fainchtein Kaplan  
John Francis Faso  
Pio Figueroa Contreras  
Michael Foley\*\*  
Jason Foster\*  
Jun Fujita  
Nathan Garlock  
Nan Girard  
Evgenia Gorovaya  
Russell Adrian Gerald Grant  
Nicole Green  
Manav Gupta  
Mohit Gupta  
Reeti Gupta

Dr. Elijah Heyward III  
Meris Hoxha  
William Hudson  
Sarah Hwang\*  
Arjun Iyer  
Reed Jarvis\*  
La Keisha Jones  
Lin Ju\*  
Beatrice Kao  
Rosa Catharina Keizer  
Joseph Kim  
Alexander Koh  
Pranav Krishnan  
Charlotte Kwon  
Jacob Lauer  
Richard Lee  
Aaron Maurice Levin  
Davin Lewis  
Bryan Maloney  
Nicole Mandell\*  
Dario Marcelli III  
Rupak Darshan Mehta  
Mallory Meiser  
April Moorhouse  
Kelsey Moszkiewicz\*  
Steven Mountzouris  
Pronay Mukherjee  
Hellen Nguyen  
Ryohei Nishida  
Lidia Novosad  
Engels Obi  
Nishanth Parameshwar  
Pavinkurve  
Lenny Pereira  
Derek Pires\*  
Paul Pitakbunkate\*  
Cayla Plotch\*  
Joan Porta  
Allan Pries  
Abhishek Rakesh Shah  
Aditya Ramamurthy

Julia Revina  
Ty Rosa  
Sam Ruddock  
Taylor Ryan  
Sumer Sanghi  
Tilottama Sen  
Mohammed Shammasi\*  
Ankita Shroff  
Daniel Singh  
Kyle Sittmann\*  
Vitaliya Stankuviene  
Yamicha Stephenson  
Blake Stout  
Shun Tanaka  
Arsh Thind  
Joyee To  
Aia Tulepbergenova  
Diogo Vergniassi  
Tyler James Voigt\*  
Daniela Shahrazad Qajar  
Gerard-Sharp Wambold  
Linda Wang\*  
Chenjing Wang  
John Whalen  
Junyan Wu  
Daniyar Yeralin  
Bessie Zavidow\*\*  
Jiaxin (Jia) Zhang  
Victoria Zhu

## Saturday

# EMBA-NY

Jessica Abernathy  
Omokhoje Amu\*  
Vlad Ananev  
Sarah Andrews  
Hideki Aoki\*  
Neeraj Asthana\*  
David Ayo  
Kaitlyn Barclay  
Jean-Pierre Barthelemy\*  
Christopher Batz  
David Alexander Bautista\*\*  
Gaea Bhalla\*  
Mittal Bhogade  
Benjamin Blad  
David Blanchard  
Athena Boncan\*  
Thomas Bosley  
Jared Bower  
Kevin Brosnan  
Kathreen-Marie Capiral  
Becky Ann Chacko  
Alex Chan  
Siyi Chen  
Jothika Cholan\*  
Dennelle Clarke  
Dylan Cohen  
Louise Connelly\*  
Andrew Coombs  
Christopher Dinan\*  
Joel Dmello  
Thao Ngoc Phuong Do\*\*  
Tim Dong  
Brady Donnelly\*  
Omar Elmasry  
McKenna Elves  
Kevin Entwistle  
Xiuying Fan  
Ross Fayne  
Tomasz Felpel  
Daniel Franco\*  
Nicholas Gajdzik\*\*  
Tatiana Imad Gholmie  
Isabelle Giap  
Aneisha Gill  
Barbara Gomes Tilkian  
Ryan Gomez  
Wendell Joseph Gorum II MD  
Jessica Greenberg\*  
Jacob Grogan  
Shyaan Hasnain\*\*  
Elisa Heikkilä  
Elissa Hersh  
Sarah Higgins  
Rachel Horton  
Amy Hu  
Yu Miao Hu  
Lawrence Ji\*\*  
Alison Jin  
Aaron Khandros  
David Kigel  
Marissa Kim  
Tyler Kimble\*  
Joseph Addison King  
Sarah Kislak  
Brad Kligman\*  
Kevin Kozikowski\*  
Stacy Kramer  
Paul Kwak  
Jeffrey Landau  
Alexis Larcenaire  
Jessica Blair Levine  
Adam Lincoln  
Maria-Jose Lopez  
Michael Lucciola  
Stephen Ethan Lyle\*  
John Lynch  
Bart Macdonald  
Aedan Macdonald  
Anupama Malladi\*  
Chengru Mao

## Friday/Saturday

# EMBA-NY

Emily Mass\*  
Jordan May\*  
Justin McCarty\*  
Ravi Mehta  
Yash Mistry  
Tommy Monaghan  
Michelle Mondesir-Aiyedun  
Alvin Moore II  
Lissette Muñoz  
John Anthony Najarian  
Dan Negron  
Bruno Neme Farha  
Josh Neustadter  
Vinh Nguyen  
Emmanuel Chukwu Ebuka Nwajagu  
Joseph Park  
Payal Patel  
Pravin Patil  
Azmeen Peerbhai  
Michael Pisani  
Daniel Piscatelli  
Bari Rabinovich\*\*  
Alexandria Regan  
Shabeen Rehman  
William Reich  
Michael Rodriguez  
Allison Roye  
Avri Sainte  
Alexander Sebelen Dupuy  
Paarshva Shah  
Natalie Shammass\*  
Nisha Shankar  
Alexandra Silverman  
Madeline Silverman  
Adithya Simha  
Taryn Stewart  
Lexington Studevont  
Shoaib Syed  
Rachel Sylora\*

LeeAnn Szeto  
Jie Tian  
Caleb Nathaniel Trees  
Maria Antonieta Trujillo  
Thurman Van Riper  
Anurag Varshney  
Michael Vigliarolo II  
Michael Evan Waggoner  
Andrew Ward  
Matthew Charles Willmott\*  
Daniel Yanai  
Leslie Yeh  
Philip Yim  
Mohammad Yousuf  
Bessie Zavidow\*\*  
Rui Zhang

## Friday/Saturday

As a lifelong member of the Columbia Business School community, I adhere to the principles of

**TRUTH  
INTEGRITY  
& RESPECT.**

I will not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do.

# Alumni Code

To adhere to the Honor Code principles of truth, integrity, and respect.

To conduct ourselves professionally as ambassadors of the Columbia community.

To respond to outreach from the community in a timely manner.

To advance the community by lending our time, talent, and resources.

To nurture, over the course of our lives, the relationships we've initiated in our years at Columbia.

# Letter to Alumni

## *Development and Alumni Relations*

Dear Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your graduation and welcome to the Columbia Business School alumni network! On behalf of the Development and Alumni Relations Office, and CBS alumni worldwide, I applaud your fortitude, determination, and accomplishments over the course of your business education. Rather than marking the end of your time at Columbia, your recent commencement ceremony kicks off the beginning of your new relationship with the School.

You now belong to a network of more than 50,000 alumni, some of the world's foremost minds in global business, government, and society, in more than 130 countries.

There are limitless opportunities to remain connected to your classmates and to the School. I encourage you to join your local alumni or affinity club, attend an upcoming alumni event, sign up to volunteer as an admissions ambassador or Columbia Career Network mentor, and engage with alumni and students on MyCBS.

Please visit the [alumni website](#) for additional information about your alumni benefits and resources, including how to update your email forwarding address. Stay tuned for the alumni newsletter and make sure to check out the Recent Alumni Board for updates and fun events with recent grads.

Once again, congratulations on this wonderful achievement! I can't wait to hear about the impact you'll make in your career and on the lives of others.

Development and Alumni Relations Office

