

2009 CREW Network Scholarship Recipients

Parul Amin

Hometown: Toms River, NJ

Nearest CREW Network Chapter: ICREW New Jersey

Current Enrollment: Monmouth University

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Business Administration with a concentration in Real Estate

Parul, a senior majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Real Estate at Monmouth University, is currently maintaining a major GPA of 4.0 and an overall GPA of 3.98.

While managing a medical practice, she gained experience in the field of commercial real estate with the acquisition of a few small investment properties and her interest in commercial real estate grew with each transaction. She made the decision to obtain formal education in this field and pursue it as a career.

Parul is confident that due to the tremendous support she has received from the local chapter of CREW Network, she will be able to advance to a position of leadership within the commercial real estate industry in the near future.

Ariel Ball

Hometown: New York, NY

Nearest CREW Network Chapters: CREW Atlanta, NYCREW and AREW

Current Enrollment: Emory University - Goizueta Business School

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Real Estate, Finance

Ariel, a rising senior at Emory University's Goizueta Business School, is majoring in both Real Estate and Finance. Her attraction to real estate stems from growing up in Manhattan, where she developed an interest in learning more about the financial and operational management of the endless supply of buildings in her "backyard."

Ariel has completed three rigorous internship programs, including two summers with an international brokerage firm and one with a special servicer. Says Ariel, "I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to see a broad range of real estate activities. At the brokerage firm, I provided support for client research and leasing activity. As the special servicer, I worked on distressed properties, providing demographic analysis and underwriting support. Given the issues in the credit markets today, it has been an incredible learning experience to be able to participate in problem asset workout situations."

Ariel's commitment to the industry is further evidenced by her co-founding the BBA Real Estate Club at the Goizueta Business School. The club's mandate is to educate classmates on this exciting industry through a variety of activities including panel discussions with local industry professionals. With leadership experience, hard work and drive, Ariel believes she will one day be able to advance to a senior leadership position within a large commercial real estate firm.

Alexandra Hale

Hometown: Louisville, KY

Nearest CREW Network Chapters: CREW Atlanta and CREW Louisville

Current Enrollment: University of Georgia

Enrollment Status: Junior

Current Declared Major: International Business

Alexandra, a junior majoring in International Business and minoring in Spanish at the University of Georgia, became interested in commercial real estate after taking classes in the Terry College of Business at UGA. Alex is a student in the Honors Program at the University of Georgia where she has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She hopes to pursue a career in commercial real estate after graduation in May 2011. Alex sees commercial real estate as being a great career fit for her because of her hard work ethic and outgoing personality.

Chelsey Hayes

Hometown: Bedford, TX

Nearest CREW Network Chapters: CREW Dallas

Current Enrollment: University of North Texas

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Real Estate

Chelsey is in her senior year as a real estate major at the University of North Texas. While Chelsey acquired an interest in the field of commercial real estate in junior high, her passion was truly sparked during her first college course, *Principals of Real Estate*. The professor of this course became her mentor and friend, and set her on a path to learn everything she could about the field.

Chelsey currently maintains a GPA of 3.91, while being actively involved in her community. She believes her ambition and determination set her apart from other students. After graduation, she plans to pursue her Master's Degree in Real Estate and eventually obtain her MBA. Chelsey hopes to become an administrator of a real estate development company or perhaps become involved in real estate consulting.

Nicole Lackey

Hometown: Athens, GA

Nearest CREW Network Chapters: CREW Atlanta

Current Enrollment: University of Georgia

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Real Estate

Nicole, a senior majoring in real estate at the University of Georgia, credits her interest in commercial real estate to growing up in a family full of real estate professionals as well as her experience interning at multiple commercial real estate firms. She sees commercial real estate as being a natural fit for her competitive, self-motivated and energetic personality.

Nicole began taking interest in real estate the summer before she was a freshman at the University of Georgia and her passion for the industry has continuously grown as she learns and experiences more. In addition to her classroom education, Nicole has completed three real estate internships providing her experience with sales calls, research, client interaction and the administrative work that goes with each. In addition to her internship work, Nicole is an active member in the Real Estate Society at the University of Georgia and many other leadership activities that have enhanced her networking skills.

Emma Lane

Hometown: Brighton, MA

Nearest CREW Network Chapters: NEWIRE

Current Enrollment: Northeastern University, College of Business Administration

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Finance

Emma is currently engaged in a dual degree program in Northeastern University, Boston and Dublin City University, Ireland and will graduate in May with a degree in International Business with an emphasis in finance.

Her interest in Commercial Real Estate was first sparked while participating in a work placement as part of her degree program. Working in the Commercial Real Estate Lending department of the firm led to an interest in pursuing a career in this area of the industry. Emma feels this placement and the ability to apply her background in finance, has enriched her understanding of the complex, yet compelling world of Commercial Real Estate.

Emma hopes to complete a Masters in Real Estate to help further her education in this area. Her long-term goals involve working in a senior leadership position within asset management or commercial lending. Says Emma, "Through my hard work and commitment to obtaining a place at the forefront of the industry, I feel it is only a matter of time."

Julie Markham

Hometown: Littleton, CO

Nearest CREW Network Chapter: CREW Denver

Current Enrollment: University of Denver

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Finance and Real Estate

Julie, a senior at the University of Denver, is concurrently completing her BSBA Finance/Real Estate, MBA, and MS in Real Estate and Construction Management, and will graduate with all three degrees in June of 2010. Currently, she has a 3.99 GPA. Julie first became interested in real estate after reading *Rich Dad, Poor Dad* in the 7th grade and became determined to be a successful real estate developer and investor. Julie is passionate about green building and sustainability, and recently became a LEED Accredited Professional legacy.

Julie hopes to work in commercial real estate, both domestically and internationally, particularly in third world countries. This past summer, she interned with the Grameen Bank, a Nobel Peace Prize winning institution, for microfinance which gives small loans to women who live in poverty. While at the Grameen Bank she was exposed to a sister organization that provides solar panels for rural huts, a concept that she hopes to replicate in the future. Additionally, she spent her summer travelling through the Middle East learning about various global real estate issues. Julie is extremely excited to join the CREW network and begin her career in real estate.

Mara Merutka

Hometown: Golf, IL

Nearest CREW Network Chapter: CREW Chicago, Wisconsin CREW

Current Enrollment: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Real Estate & Urban Land Economics; Finance, Investment & Banking

Mara is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, double majoring in Real Estate and Finance. She currently serves as the treasurer of the Real Estate Club on campus and recently won first runner-up at USC's International Real Estate Case Competition as a part of the UW-Madison team.

Mara has participated in three internships throughout college with a commercial real estate owner/operator, a large investment bank and a real estate private equity firm. She has also developed further knowledge of the real estate and finance industries through shadow/networking programs with CB Richard Ellis, Goldman Sachs and BMO Capital Markets.

When asked about the factors that have contributed to her current success, Mara replied, "My work ethic and determination have laid a strong foundation for my success thus far. However, the support and guidance I have received from a number of mentors and from Wisconsin's Real Estate program has been instrumental in pushing me to higher levels of achievement."

Cynthia Thiebaut

Hometown: Pleasanton, CA

Nearest CREW Network Chapter: CREW Silicon Valley, CREW San Francisco

Current Enrollment: University of California, Berkeley

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Business

Cynthia is a senior at the University of California, Berkeley majoring in Business with a minor in city and regional planning. She became interested in real estate development in grade school and her passion for the industry has grown since. She enjoys the fast-paced people oriented business and the art of negotiation, project management, and entrepreneurship.

In addition to her academic excellence, Cynthia has worked in residential brokerage for three years and recently interned with Leased and Field Site Support at Lockheed Martin. She likes to take leadership positions holding the internal VP position in the Undergraduate Real Estate Club and is actively involved in the Business School Association at her school.

When asked why she loves real estate, Cynthia says, "Real estate is a beautiful and tangible asset that people can see and touch and which plays a dual role as an investment and a masterpiece." As for her career goals, Cynthia would like to work as a project manager at a commercial development company and eventually start her own business.

Erika “Faith” Thompson

Hometown: Orlando, FL

Nearest CREW Network Chapters: CREW Orlando

Current Enrollment: University of Central Florida

Enrollment Status: Senior

Current Declared Major: Finance and Real Estate

Faith is a senior at the University of Central Florida. She is majoring in both Finance and Real Estate and minoring in International Business, and is set to graduate in August of 2010. She currently holds a 3.9 grade point average for her major and is currently working as an intern at a local Real Estate brokerage firm, NAI Realvest.

Faith first began studying commercial real estate her sophomore year of college and became one of the founding members of her real estate club. Her involvement with the club opened her eyes to the many different opportunities in commercial real estate. The support from her fellow club members and her teachers grew her interest and excitement to learn more about the subject. The Orlando real estate community as a whole also put a great deal of emphasis on strengthening the real estate program and supporting its students. Because of this, Faith gained several mentors who have been advising her for several years.

Faith has realized the importance of networking and gaining work experience before graduating. She has completed several internships giving her experience with financial advising, property appraisal, and brokerage. She also attributes much of her success to her NAIOP Challenge class where her team had to create a development plan from start to finish. Through her experiences, Faith realized her current interests are in brokerage, development, and real estate investments. Overall, she hopes to be the top of the field she chooses and plans on helping students achieve their goals just as so many have helped her.