

# 2023

Jane M. Klausman  
**WOMEN IN BUSINESS  
SCHOLARSHIP**

**Expanding opportunities  
for women in business**



**ZONTA**  
INTERNATIONAL



To encourage more women to pursue education and careers in business, Zonta International established the Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholarship.

The JMK Women in Business Scholarship was established in 1998 from a generous bequest by Jane M. Klausman, a member of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, New York, USA, and the 1990-1995 Zonta International Parliamentarian.

**In 2023, Zonta International awarded 37 international scholarships of US\$5,000 each.**  
Read to learn about this year's scholars.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Natalie Rais

District 1

Citizenship: United States



Pursuing bachelor's degree in finance with a concentration in real estate with a minor in building and construction technology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst (UMass), USA

Natalie Rais is a junior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Isenberg School of Management. She has a passion for learning about and pursuing a career in commercial real estate. When she started at UMass, she joined the Real Estate Club and was accepted into the Isenberg Real Estate Fund. During her sophomore year she was elected marketing director for both groups and is working to grow their influence through social media and planning a semi-annual networking conference.

For Real Estate Club, Natalie helps plan the curriculum and secure guest speakers. She is also a principal in the Isenberg Real Estate Fund, where she leads a group of four analysts and facilitates financial and qualitative analysis on live real estate investment opportunities. As a leader in both groups, she enjoys mentoring younger members.

This past summer, Natalie aided the finance, development and property management teams as an intern at the Boston private equity firm, Torrington Properties. Next summer she will be an intern on Wells Fargo's real estate banking team.

In her free time, Natalie provides her marketing and graphic design services to small businesses. She aspires to become a leader in the real estate industry and be the kind of mentor for young women she wishes she had. She also believes that women especially are not adequately taught how to achieve financial independence and hopes to learn how to personally invest in real estate and eventually start a nonprofit organization that teaches women financial literacy.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Siobhán Young



District 2

Citizenship: United States

Pursuing bachelor's degree in accounting from Le Moyne College, USA

Holds associate's degree in business administration from Onondaga Community College, USA

Siobhán Young is a non-traditional student pursuing her bachelor's degree in accounting, and eventually plans to receive her Certified Public Accounting (CPA) designation. Prior to returning to school, she worked a variety of jobs including retail, the restaurant industry, being a school bus driver and cleaning service. She spent a year as part of an AmeriCorps program, during which she obtained her certified recovery support worker (CRSW) license and worked as a coach at a local center.

Siobhán decided to return to school to seek out a better career for herself and her family, one that would allow her the opportunity to be more involved in her family life and community service.

Although returning to school as an adult has been difficult, her love of learning was reignited, and she met the academic challenges with vigor. She chose to pursue the career path of accountant and graduated from Onondaga Community College in May of 2023, before transferring to Le Moyne College to continue her education for her bachelor's degree. In June 2023, she began working at a local accounting firm, where she thoroughly enjoyed being in the field and learning more about the industry.

Siobhán looks forward to what the future holds and is excited to see where this path will take her.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Emma Kruus



District 3

Citizenship: United States

Pursuing bachelor's degree in commerce, with concentrations in management and marketing at the University of Virginia, McIntire School of Commerce, USA.

Emma Kruus is in her fourth year at the University of Virginia (UVA), McIntire School of Commerce, and is most passionate about developing ethics in business and finance. In 2022, she was president of the UVA Business Ethics Society and is currently executive vice president of Scholars of Finance at UVA. Both organizations seek to instill standards of conduct including compassion, honesty, curiosity, courage and morality in future leaders of the corporate world.

Emma is currently a peer academic advisor for a financial analysis course at the UVA McIntire School of Commerce and facilitates group and individual tutoring sessions for approximately 80 students. She has also been employed since 2018 as a summer intern at an international trade show company and has worked at exhibitions in Gdansk, Poland and Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

In keeping with her commitment to integrity, Emma plans to attend law school in the fall of 2024. She will concentrate on addressing incompatibilities found at the intersection of business, finance and ethics by enacting and applying laws that provide clarity to unethical corporate practices.

Finally, as someone who has raised more than \$140,000 in the past for community service projects, mostly involving pediatric cancer charities, Emma looks forward to participating in the numerous opportunities available in pro-bono corporate and legal work.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Aislin Roth



District 4

Citizenship: Canada

Pursuing master's degree in business administration at Stanford Graduate School of Business, USA

Aislin Roth is a first-year Master of Business Administration (MBA) student at Stanford Graduate School of Business. Prior to attending Stanford, she completed a pre-MBA internship in growth equity at Georgian, one of Canada's largest growth equity funds investing primarily in growth-stage business-to-business software-as-a-service (B2B SaaS) companies.

Aislin started her professional career as a consultant at Boston Consultant Group. She went on to join a venture-backed hotel-tech startup called Life House, a vertically integrated hotel software and management platform dedicated to making independent hotels operationally autonomous.

Aislin grew up near Toronto, Canada and she has an undergraduate degree in business from Queen's University. In her free time, she loves to travel and has visited more than 50 countries. She also loves to hike, ski and cook.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Simone Green

District 5

Citizenship: United States



Pursuing master's degree in applied communication from the University of Central Missouri, USA  
Holds bachelor's degrees in business marketing and psychology from the University of Findlay, USA

Simone Green is a graduate student-athlete at the University of Central Missouri, where she competes for the track and field team as a long and triple jumper. In addition to academics and athletics, Simone serves as a substitute teacher for Warrensburg Missouri School District and remotely works as an administrative assistant for a technology company.

During her undergraduate studies at the University of Findlay, Simone held multiple leadership roles including president of the Black Student Union, representative of the President's Student Council on Belonging, and team captain for the track and field team. The three-time NCAA national qualifier and 10-time consecutive Great Midwest Athletic Conference event champion allowed her athletic knowledge and skills to serve a greater purpose by volunteering as an assistant jump coach for St. Ursula Academy's track and field team in Toledo.

Simone completed multiple internships revolving around youth success and career development at Brightspot Families and local nonprofit, Raise the Bar Hancock County. She also taught several career and soft-skill-based courses during the summer at her alma mater, Central Catholic High School in Toledo.

Following the advice and encouragement of a mentor, Simone is determined to "stack her credentials so no one can tell her that she is unqualified for or incapable of," holding a specific career position. Simone's goal is to serve as a youth workforce coordinator and inspire young people to dream big and guide them to achieve their goals.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Tatiana Kensoung

District 6

Citizenship: Cameroon and France



Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, USA

Born and raised in Cameroon, Tatiana Kensoung intimately understands the challenges posed by energy deficits. These experiences ignited her passion for effecting positive change in the energy sector. With an engineering background and experience working on international projects led in oil, gas, naval and nuclear sectors, she recognized the need to complement her technical skills with business and leadership expertise. This realization led her to pursue an MBA at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Post-MBA, she aspires to transition into a top strategy consulting firm, recognizing it as a pivotal step toward her long-term goal of becoming a vice president of strategy and operations in an energy firm focused on emerging markets.

Beyond academia, her commitment to a career in business is evident in her active involvement in extracurricular activities at Booth. She has been a mentor and advocate for women's professional development. Through various events, including networking sessions with sponsor firms and speaker panels on topics like fertility, managing a dual working family and personal finances, she strives to empower women and create opportunities for their advancement.

In her free time, Tatiana enjoys spending quality time with her kids, playing tennis and swimming.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Arina Lazareva



District 7

Citizenship: United States

Pursuing Bachelor of Science from the University of Bethel University, USA

Holds Associate of Arts, Anoka Ramsey Community College, USA

Arina Lazareva, a senior studying accounting and finance, is truly passionate about assisting individuals with their financial needs. Specifically, Arina is interested in empowering her church community and assisting them with tax preparation. As a tax intern, Arina strives to gain knowledge and experience that will allow her to succeed in the workplace after graduation.

Arina participates and attends many seminars, panels and events hosted by certified public accountants. During her free time, Arina also volunteers at her church as a Sunday school teacher for children ages 10 through 11. Additionally, Arina takes part in her university's business mentorship program. This program pairs students with successful business professionals who empower and develop the next generation of leaders. In the future, Arina strives to have the ability to also mentor women in business.

After graduation, Arina plans to pursue a career in finance as a financial analyst. After gaining experience as an analyst, she plans to develop her skills professionally to be the chief financial officer of a company. Arina hopes to continue developing her professional skills in accounting and finance and to continue complying with regulations, standards and ethical principles.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Marlee Lawson



District 8

Citizenship: United States

Pursuing bachelor's degree in business finance from Pacific Lutheran University (PLU), USA

Marlee Lawson is a third-year student at PLU studying business finance with a minor in innovation studies and pre-law. She was inspired to pursue finance after running her own small business preserving wedding and other special event flowers.

Marlee is very involved on-campus serving as a school of business ambassador and resident assistant (RA) for first-year students. As an ambassador, she works on an all-female team supporting prospective students, hosting events and acting as a liaison between the school of business and the local community. The RA role mainly entails ensuring the safety of residents and fostering community, but Marlee has also found many opportunities to act as a mentor, answering any questions they have about class requirements or career opportunities.

Marlee plans to help individuals and small businesses better manage, understand and utilize their finances. Money can be an exceptionally stressful topic for individuals, families and startup companies and she wants to aid in easing those worries by providing financial assistance.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Angela Zhou



District 9

Citizenship: United States

Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the Wharton School and master of international studies at the Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania, USA

Holds a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of Southern California, a Bachelor of Business from Università Bocconi, and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Angela is currently an MBA and Master of Art candidate at the Wharton School and the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. She is an entrepreneurship and innovation major working on her own startup business idea in the consumer space.

Previously, Angela earned three bachelor's degrees from the World Bachelor in Business program, a joint curriculum between the University of Southern California, Università Bocconi and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Throughout university, Angela studied Mandarin, Italian and Spanish to better understand the kaleidoscope of identities across Eastern and Western cultures.

Her interest in making a global impact led her to Google, where she helped articulate the magic of new technologies to users. In addition to launching AI-powered products to businesses, Angela worked with the Google arts & culture team to add cultural context to how people view, access and understand the world. As a champion for diversity, equity and inclusion, Angela has led product accessibility trainings, consulted on Google-wide marketing campaigns and volunteered for the company's beloved Doodle for Google submissions from K-12 students.

Angela is excited to continue grounding her business education in the arts and sciences and looks forward to joining the Zonta International community.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Nicole Milner

District 10

Citizenship: United States



Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in sales leadership from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA

Holds a Master of Arts degree in history from the University of New Orleans, USA, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in history from Louisiana State University, USA

Nicole Milner brings nearly a decade of expertise to her roles in diverse sales and territory management. There she strategically excels in developing client relationships, expanding territories and ensuring customer satisfaction. In 2023, Nicole's entrepreneurial vision materialized with the creation of Raintree Sourcing & Supply, a venture dedicated to delivering tailored products and procurement solutions for clients.

Nicole treasures moments with her husband, Eric, and their two daughters, Michelle and Emily. A strong advocate for family values, she finds joy in creating memories with her loved ones. Nicole extends her passion for community engagement through active volunteering at her local church. Participating in various committees and events, she exemplifies her commitment to making a positive impact beyond the professional arena.

One of Nicole's core passions is the empowerment of her daughters. Through her active involvement in both her business and community, she instills in them the unwavering belief that they can break barriers and achieve their goals through hard work and determination.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Aspen Delano



**District 11**

**Citizenship: United States**

**Pursuing bachelor's degree in risk management/insurance at Florida State University, USA**

Aspen Delano is currently a senior at Florida State University, majoring in risk management/insurance, and is expected to graduate in May 2024. In addition to working toward a bachelor's degree, Aspen is also dedicated to achieving the Certified Insurance Counselor (CIC) designation.

On campus, Aspen is actively involved in various organizations. She serves on the executive board of Gamma Iota Sigma, an international professional fraternity that focuses on promoting insurance, risk management and actuarial science as professions. Aspen is also a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and participates in the Women in Business Club.

During the past summer, Aspen had the opportunity to intern at Arthur J. Gallagher where she contributed to the team by assisting with sales support tasks, conducting research and engaging with clients. Aspen was also responsible for tasks related to lead generation, data analysis and administrative duties. She greatly valued the experience of learning from seasoned sales professionals and actively contributing to important sales-related projects.

Looking ahead, Aspen has accepted a position as an underwriting trainee at The Hartford. Aspen is also committed to continuing her education and will be pursuing a master's degree in risk management from Florida State University.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Lauren Hanley



District 12

Citizenship: United States

Pursuing master's degree in business analytics with a marketing and advertising specialization from the University of Colorado Boulder Leeds School of Business

Holds bachelor's degree in international affairs and leadership studies from the University of Colorado Boulder, USA

Lauren Hanley is currently pursuing her master's degree in business analytics with a marketing and advertising specialization. Her academic journey began with a bachelor's degree in international affairs and leadership studies, during which she developed a passion for advocacy work. For her honors thesis, Lauren conducted research on the unfair aesthetic standards for female presidential candidates in Latin America, earning her summa cum laude status.

Lauren's commitment to making a positive impact also led her to intern for various nonprofits, including the United Nations Association of Boulder County. During her time there, Lauren actively contributed to the grassroots movement Cities for Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Her role involved researching the impact of the treaty and promoting the ideals of gender equality within Colorado.

In addition to her advocacy work, Lauren served as the social media marketing coordinator for a leadership organization at the University of Colorado Boulder for two years, which inspired her to pursue a career in marketing analytics. Lauren's blend of academic excellence, advocacy experience and marketing skills position her as a well-rounded individual ready to make a meaningful contribution to the business world while continuing to champion the cause of women's empowerment.

Outside of her studies, Lauren enjoys working out, reading and spending time with friends and family.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Helene Lassen

District 13

Citizenship: Denmark



Pursuing master's degree in finance and accounting from Imperial College Business School, UK

Holds bachelor's degree in economics and business administration from Aarhus University, Denmark

Helene Lassen began her academic career at Aarhus University where she developed a keen interest in case competitions. This opportunity fostered practical learning skills and helped her gain valuable experience from workshops and international case competitions with students from around the world. Helene also spent time in the Aarhus School of Business and Social Sciences International Case Teams, as both a case solver and holding positions as a board member and chair. Helene went on to graduate with her bachelor's degree in the top three percent of her class.

Helene has professional experience working within mergers and acquisitions at Clearwater International, in private equity at FSN Capital and in consulting at McKinsey & Company. Through these positions, Helene has developed a strong commitment to increasing female representation in the consulting and finance industries.

In her free time, Helene enjoys spending time with her friends and family and hopes to be able to travel more in the future.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Luissa Schemuth

District 14

Citizenship: Germany



Pursuing Master of Science in economics and management of innovation and technology from Bocconi University, Italy

Holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Maastricht University, the Netherlands

In the pursuit of academic excellence and a passion for interdisciplinary learning, Luissa Schemuth seeks to bridge the realms of psychology and economics. After graduating from Maastricht University with a bachelor's degree in psychology, Luissa embarked on a transformative journey by choosing to pursue a master's degree in economics and management of innovation and technology at Bocconi University in Milan. Luissa is curious about cutting-edge technology and captivated by the dynamics of innovative systems and the startup sector.

Motivated by a desire to learn about various industries and solve problems in a fast-paced and demanding manner, Luissa interned at a consulting firm during her undergraduate studies. After completing her master's degree, she aspires to work in a venture capital firm to drive innovation and support promising entrepreneurs and ideas. Her long-term vision is to establish her own company and become a successful entrepreneur, inspiring women and girls to embark on this journey.

Luissa loves traveling to the U.S. and Asia. She enjoys living in different European countries to experience various cultures and meet new people and has studied in the Netherlands, Paris and Milan. She has a strong passion for giving back and was able to tutor young refugees in math and German during secondary and high school. In her free time, Luissa enjoys sailing and skiing and has worked as an instructor in both of her passions.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Avery Smitz

District 15

Citizenship: United States



Pursuing bachelor's degree in finance from Northwood University, USA

Avery J. Smitz is in her junior year at Northwood University where she is majoring in finance. She is enrolled in the BBA/MBA program, where she will be receiving her bachelor's degree in three years and master's degree in her fourth year. She is a member of the Northwood University varsity softball team and is an active participant in Business Professionals of America, Future Financial Advisors Association and the Finance Association of Northwood University.

This summer, Avery will begin an internship that will help her gain experience in her field of study. She is hoping to deepen her knowledge in the finance industry by receiving hands-on experience before entering her senior year at Northwood University. Once she has received both of her degrees, Avery would like to pursue a career in corporate finance where she will be able to use the experiences she has gained at Northwood University and through her internship.

In her free time, Avery enjoys reading, rollerblading and experiencing the outdoors in Michigan.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Madeleine Newman



District 16

Citizenship: Australia

Pursuing bachelor's degree in economics, finance and accounting from the University of Otago, New Zealand

Madeleine Newman is in her second year studying economics, finance and accounting at the University of Otago, New Zealand. Originally from Sydney, Australia, she moved to Dunedin, New Zealand when she was 17 years old to pursue an international university experience.

After she completes her degree, she is interested in two career pathways: becoming a venture capitalist - looking at intellectual property rights in developing economies or specializing in international mergers and acquisitions in emerging markets. Her goal is to actively strive to challenge the intergenerational cycle of poverty and global inequality that plague modern society.

Madeleine is also dedicated to her volunteering, having various roles in both her local and international communities. For the past two years, she has worked with the local emergency homeless shelter, running community dinners twice a week. She has also volunteered with Friend Link where she runs a singing group for adults with intellectual disabilities. Her work with marginalized and ostracized individuals in society has highlighted their unique value and perspective that is overlooked in modern culture.

Madeleine is also part of Educating the Future (ETF), a youth-led organization that funds and constructs preschools in rural areas of Timor Leste. The volunteering she does with ETF actively seeks to combat the intergenerational cycle of poverty that is causing high rates of child mortality, malnutrition, extreme poverty and many other global fundamental humanitarian issues.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Nicole Lui



District 17

Citizenship: Hong Kong

Pursuing bachelor's degree in international business at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, HKSAR

Nicole Lui is an undergraduate student with a keen interest in the intersection of global affairs and financial markets. Born and raised in Hong Kong, Nicole embarked on an academic journey like no other. Her undergraduate program, the World Bachelor's in Business, took her to three different countries – each contributing to her diverse perspective on finance and the world.

Nicole spent a year each studying at the University of Southern California in the United States, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the Bocconi University in Italy. Throughout her journey, she was immersed in vibrant cultural diversity and witnessed the interconnection of global markets. It was this exposure that ignited her pursuit to understand the impact of geopolitical events on market dynamics.

Beyond her studies, Nicole is passionate about applying her business knowledge for social good. She led a student organization that connected students with startups for pro bono consulting projects. This initiative facilitated a valuable exchange – startups gaining access to new perspectives and additional human resources, while students acquired meaningful real-world experiences during their college years. Moving forward, it is Nicole's goal to continue to foster a community where education opportunities, business and social responsibility converge.

As Nicole prepares to graduate, she is excited to start her career in equity markets, navigating the complexities of trading and investments with her international experience. More importantly, she carries a profound sense of duty to channel her acquired knowledge toward making a positive difference in the world.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Shiu Jern Ong

District 17

Citizenship: Singapore



Pursing Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Before her MBA program, Shiu Jern Ong worked as a structural engineer in Singapore and Hong Kong. Recognizing the potential to enhance productivity, she led digital initiatives at her construction office to streamline manual workflows. Her efforts resulted in a 30% increase in productivity during specific design stages, which led the project to be awarded a grant from local authorities. She was innovative in embedding digital strategies from the project's early design stages, thereby maximizing efficiency and sustainability.

Through the experience of pitching different ideas to her team and managers, Shiu Jern developed an interest in product development. As a member of the Women in Digital International interest group at her company, she also had the opportunity to share her excitement and successes with fellow women in the industry. These discussions inspired her to improve her business skills so that she could develop products that added value to society, aside from being profitable.

Through her studies, Shiu Jern hopes to hone her finance and management skill set to deliver practical impact to businesses. She envisions utilizing technology to monitor supply flows, manage procurement risks and calculate the embodied carbon of materials to foster environmental consciousness in development. The Zonta International Jane M. Klausman Women in Business scholarship is a pivotal opportunity, springboarding her career and empowering her to drive positive change in a traditionally male-dominated industry.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Cynthia Anaba

District 18

Citizenship: Ghana



Pursuing bachelor's degree in business administration from Ashesi University, Ghana

Cynthia Anaba, a second-year business administration major at Ashesi University in Ghana, is a passionate advocate, communicator and entrepreneur. With a vision to embark on a career in corporate communications and eventually become a management consultant at a prestigious consulting firm, Cynthia actively pursues her goals through strategic internships and diverse learning experiences.

This past summer, she served as a project consultant at the Lee Iacocca Institute Lehigh University, offering valuable insights into market entry strategy for an Italian-based digital marketing company. Currently, as a student philanthropist ambassador, Cynthia engages with donors, contributing to Ashesi University's fundraising initiatives.

In her leadership role as the vice president of the Rotaract Club of Ashesi, Cynthia directs the club in various community volunteer engagements, showcasing her commitment to social impact. Additionally, she is an EdTech entrepreneur, co-founding UniGhana, a consultancy dedicated to guiding Ghanaian high school students with limited access to college education information.

Beyond her academic and professional pursuits, Cynthia enjoys travel and is an avid reader of self-help books. Looking ahead, she aspires to host a talk show like Oprah Winfrey.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Inés Hirschy Soto

**Region South America  
Citizenship: Uruguay**



**Pursuing bachelor's degree in business management at Universidad Católica del Uruguay, Uruguay  
Holds Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Universidad de la República, Uruguay**

Inés Hirschy Soto is a dynamic individual with a diverse background, currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration. Inés has been actively engaged in the real estate sector since 2011 and holds an analyst in real estate management certification.

Last year, Inés participated in Women Investors, a program on investing with gender lenses sponsored by UN Women. She has worked as a lab chemist, actress and drama teacher and has been a member of the Foundation for Contemporary Art (FCA) since 2017.

Born and raised in Uruguay, Inés brings a global perspective to her work, having lived in India, New Zealand and Berlin. In the realm of business and investments, she is committed to gender equity, ethics, environmental responsibility and excellence.

Beyond her studies and professional endeavors, Inés enjoys simple pleasures like drying her hair in the sun after a comforting shower. She loves being in nature, spending time with family and friends, mathematics, dancing and meditation, and is learning to sail.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Maria Korhonen

District 20

Citizenship: Finland



Pursuing master's degree in international sales and sales management from the University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Holds a bachelor's degree in management and marketing from the University of Eastern Finland

Maria Korhonen is an e-commerce entrepreneur and is currently pursuing her master's degree in international sales and sales management. Her journey in entrepreneurship began at the young age of 14 when she launched her first online business in the global market. During her initial year of undergraduate studies, she also worked as a project manager at a marketing agency, where she developed her leadership abilities.

Determined to succeed as a female entrepreneur, Maria made the bold decision to resign from her role at the marketing agency and establish her own company. Today, Maria is the driving force behind several successful online consumer brands. Despite being extremely driven to pursue her own business goals in e-commerce, she completed her bachelor's degree ahead of schedule with honors.

Maria's true passion lies in mentoring aspiring female entrepreneurs. She firmly believes that the new era of online business offers tremendous opportunities for women to discover their passions and unlock their full potential. Maria plans to share her experiences and insights to empower women to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams, fostering the next generation of business leaders.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Emilia Bylund Månssson



District 21

Citizenship: Sweden

Pursuing master's degree in industrial engineering and management from Linköping University, Sweden

Finishing her final year in the industrial engineering and management program, Emilia Bylund Månssson has acquired a solid foundation for entering the business field. Combining her specialization in computer science and supply chain mastery, she has gained a more comprehensive understanding of how to streamline and optimize supply chains by inheriting digital solutions, with the main objective of making them more sustainable. This is something she could apply in real-life cases through various internships, both as a management consultant at a globally leading consulting firm and as an intern at a scale-up that develops sustainable steel.

In addition to her internships and engineering studies, Emilia has experience in various leading roles in student associations, encouraging the university's student life. Currently, she holds the role of the president of external relations in a student consultant association. Emilia also serves as a member on a board of advisors. She is involved in operational work, serving as a project leader at both startups and listed companies.

Her primary motivation in life is to create a meaningful impact. Emilia believes that key success factors for advancing the world toward a better place are: people coming together, enhancing diversities and leveraging collaboration through financially sustainable business models.

Emilia wishes to inspire other women by starting a company of her own and by promoting the advancement of women in business.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Karin Östberg

District 21

Citizenship: Sweden



Pursuing master's degree in business and management from Stockholm School of Economics (SSE), Sweden.

Holds a bachelor's degree in retail management from SSE and a course diploma in marketing from Berghs School of Communication

Karin Östberg is currently studying for a master's degree in business and management at the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE), specializing in business development and strategic management. In 2024, she will begin studying at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business in the full-time Master of Business Administration (MBA) class as an exchange student.

Karin is naturally curious, which allows her to approach new challenges with a creative problem-solving mindset. This curiosity extends toward people as a primary source of inspiration for her. Being surrounded by supportive and driven individuals fuels Karin's motivation. Her passion for business development, innovation, management and strategy drives her to seek innovative solutions and embrace continuous learning. At the Stockholm School of Economics, Karin has been recognized multiple times for her academic achievements and is honored to have been selected for the Stockholm School of Economics Honors List 2023, which recognizes her as one of the top-performing students.

Karin holds a bachelor's degree in retail management from SSE and a course diploma in marketing from Berghs School of Communication. Besides this, Karin has seven years of hands-on experience in fashion retailing and is a former track and field athlete. Karin's experience as an athlete allowed her to develop a driven attitude and discipline to set and reach her goals. Outside of school and extracurriculars, Karin enjoys spending time with friends and family and is currently obsessed with the Downtown Abbey series.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Tara McCarthy



District 22

Citizenship: Australia

Pursuing dual Bachelor of Business Marketing and Industrial Design from Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Tara McCarthy is an emerging entrepreneur and designer of positive change in the fields of business strategy and innovation currently in her fourth and final year of her bachelor's degree in business marketing and industrial design. She has completed a semester exchange at the Technological University of Delft in the Netherlands -- studying a minor in designing sustainability transitions, as well as a Design for Change Study Tour program in Singapore. There, Tara was able to collaborate with business, health and design students on the future of health. In doing so, Tara has fortunately collaborated with like-minded and culturally diverse peers and mentors, fostering her global perspective and igniting her spark to amplify widespread impact.

Professionally, Tara's jobs have included client success intern, junior business designer, platform designer, program facilitator and panel mediator. These positions have honed her expertise in client engagement, co-design, marketing communications, workshop facilitation and project management. Tara was also honored to have been a TEDxQUT speaker in 2023, raising awareness and starting the conversation on sexual health and wellness and the future of sex technologies.

Looking ahead, Tara aspires to launch her own business in the mental health and/or sexual health space, working to empower and elevate the health of young people. She strives to create a legacy that fosters well-being, nurtures innovation and champions the transformative power of design in business.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Pearl Pyae



**District 23**

**Citizenship: Myanmar**

**Pursing Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Edith Cowan University, Australia**

Pearl Pyae was born and raised in Myanmar and migrated to Western Australia in 2022 to pursue a Master of Business Administration International (MBA) at Edith Cowan University (ECU). Since completing her computer science undergraduate degree from the University of Information Technology (UIT) in Yangon, Myanmar, Pearl has followed her passion for technology and entrepreneurship by building an e-commerce business.

By pursuing an MBA in Australia, Pearl hopes to build experience, knowledge and skills to further strengthen and expand her business. Pearl has a strong work ethic and believes in resilience as she has overcome significant hardships because of ongoing instability in Myanmar, studying full-time, working part-time in Perth and managing her e-commerce business in Myanmar.

Pearl loves volunteering and engaging in various volunteer roles in both Australia and Myanmar. She currently serves as the marketing director at ECU Women in Business. Making contributions to the Myanmar community is hugely important to Pearl, and her goal is to become a successful entrepreneur and to motivate and empower young women to pursue their dreams.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Saloni Shingavi

District 24

Citizenship: Australia



Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Oxford University, United Kingdom  
Holds bachelor's degree in actuarial science and statistics from the University of New South Wales, Australia

Prior to pursuing her Master of Business Administration (MBA), Saloni Shingavi worked as a management consultant at McKinsey & Company, serving several clients across government, healthcare, technology, mining and banking industries on strategy projects. During her time at McKinsey, Saloni gained invaluable experience working closely with executive leadership teams, managing stakeholders and building consensus across organizations.

Saloni is also a graduate of the University of New South Wales, where she earned a high distinction in actuarial studies and statistics. During her undergraduate studies, she interned at JP Morgan and Macquarie Group, gaining valuable experience in equity research and risk analysis for investment projects.

Saloni is a passionate advocate for gender equity in business management, having seen firsthand the underrepresentation of women in her sector at university and in her field. She is working as head of partnerships at the Oxford Women in Leadership Alliance and is dedicated to improving the outcomes of female students at the Saïd Business School and beyond.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Mansa Shroff

District 25

Citizenship: India



Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology and biotechnology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

Mansa Shroff is in her first year of the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program with a focus in healthcare at the University of Cambridge. She is the first daughter in her family to have an international education having received her Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) through merit scholarships.

Mansa is extremely proud of her contributions to global healthcare startup communities, having started with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Wisconsin Technology Transfer Office where she supported licensing and patenting of life sciences startups. She took these learnings to build an Artificial Intelligence + Internet of Things (AI+IoT) startup from Massachusetts Institute of Technology called WKD.SMRT.

As an Asian female scientist, Mansa believes that the MBA program, resources through Cambridge University and Zonta's advocacy efforts will empower her with the skills, global networks and thought leadership that she envisions using to catalyze unique global partnerships and accelerate innovation in women's healthcare. This scholarship will enable Mansa to further Zonta International's vision of championing women and improving their quality of life because gender equality is a pivotal force in driving progress across the UN's sustainable developmental goals.

Mansa hopes this year as an MBA student to further hone her personal leadership and entrepreneurship goals while reflecting on the type of leader she wants to be in the digital health world.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Rin Kikuchi

District 26

Citizenship: Japan



Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom  
Holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Kyoto University, Japan

Rin Kikuchi is resolute in her mission to transform the food system into a more sustainable and resilient one. Her determination was sparked at the age of 15 when she witnessed food shortages in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. Rin commenced her academic journey at Kyoto University, where she majored in agricultural economics and was able to deeply explore the relationship between farmers and consumers.

Following her undergraduate studies, Rin actively engaged in multiple startups dedicated to promoting sustainable agriculture and empowering local farmers and fishermen. In 2022, Rin assumed the role of business development manager at a social enterprise, where she led the creation of a direct-to-consumer e-commerce platform.

To further amplify her impact and leadership abilities, Rin is pursuing an MBA at the University of Oxford. Her objective is to formulate a business model for a sustainable food system in collaboration with social enterprises and major corporations. Upon completing her studies, Rin envisions a career as a policy strategy consultant, where she will play a pivotal role in developing a comprehensive plan for the Japanese government's food-system strategy. She aims to reshape consumer food choices using technology and foster enhanced collaboration between companies and academic institutions.

In her free time, Rin enjoys visiting farmers' markets, preparing Japanese cuisine and tending to her vegetable garden.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Anamika Das

District 27

Citizenship: India



Pursuing master's degree in entrepreneurship and innovation at the University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Anamika is a dynamic and visionary leader with a passion for innovation and social impact. She holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and began her professional career in engineering services. Driven by her entrepreneurial aspirations, she co-founded Desi Diaries Jaipur, an online platform that connected local vendors and businesses with a national customer base. She also served as a founding member and marketing lead for Finite, an Indian skincare startup. In these roles, Anamika demonstrated her ability to develop and execute innovative marketing strategies, manage teams and build relationships with clients.

Anamika is also a passionate advocate for social justice. She volunteered as the city head and national social media manager for Robin Hood Army, a nonprofit organization that distributes leftover food from restaurants to underprivileged children. In this role, she led a team of more than 150 volunteers and forged partnerships with celebrities to raise awareness and support for the organization's mission.

Currently, Anamika is pursuing a master's degree in innovation and entrepreneurship at the University of Luxembourg. She has also interned with Blochome, an upcoming blockchain startup and partnered with multiple incubators. Anamika plans to utilize her rich experience, strong academic background and this exposure to launch the European chapter of her professional excellence.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Carmen Schliesser



District 27

Citizenship: Germany

### Pursuing master's degree in management from London Business School, United Kingdom

Carmen Marleen Schliesser is a first-generation graduate and Laidlaw scholar through the Women's Leadership Fund currently pursuing her master's degree in management at the London Business School. A serial founder since the age of 18, she went on to build two profitable, five-figure ventures in the retail and consulting industry. With her company 720Impact, she has consulted more than 15 international startups during their growth and funding stages while managing six-figure project budgets. Her efforts have been recognized recently through a nomination for the Recent Graduate Award by the University of Westminster.

Carmen is currently part of the executive committee of the Social Impact Club where she supports students in becoming responsible business leaders. In addition, she acts as an ambassador for the school. Following her master's degree, Carmen is looking to widen her impact by becoming a member of a leading management consulting team to drive the global implementation of sustainable practices in corporations.

Carmen advocates for equity and diversity and empowers other female entrepreneurs through pro bono consulting. She is part of the student philanthropy council at London Business School, supporting the empowerment of diverse talent. In addition, she mentors African startups at the Westerwelle Foundation, initiated a fundraising project for Save the Children and contributed to the research efforts in the field of social inclusion to the Freudenberg Foundation. Carmen is a nature enthusiast, a basketball and volleyball player and always loves a good book recommendation.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Katharina Hartung



District 28

Citizenship: Germany

Pursuing a bachelor's degree in international business administration at WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management, Germany

Katharina Hartung's interest in sustainability and business was sparked in 2019 when she began an apprenticeship at E.ON, an electricity supplier, where she developed an understanding of the energy market. Currently in her second year of study at WHU – Otto Beisheim School of Management, Katharina serves as the head of sponsoring at SensAbility – The WHU Impact Summit, an organization hosting Europe's largest student-organized conference on social and sustainable business.

Katharina has completed an internship at EY Parthenon to deepen her knowledge of environmental, social and governance (ESG). Driven by her passion for social and environmental stewardship and her strong commitment to making a positive impact, Katharina's goal is to work in a field dedicated to tackling urgent sustainability challenges and driving meaningful change in the economy.

Throughout her journey, Katharina has been committed to advocacy for others and has a genuine passion for corporate citizenship. During her apprenticeship, she held the position of the second chairwoman of the youth and trainee representation, where she had the opportunity to implement projects focused on improving training conditions. Additionally, she dedicated her time to volunteering at the local Caritas Association, providing support and companionship to residents of an assisted living facility that she visited two times a week. She organized community events and visited individual residents to go grocery shopping and play board games.

In her free time, Katharina enjoys hiking and fitness as well as cooking with her friends.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Céline Birkl



District 29

Citizenship: Germany

Pursuing master's degree in business from Yale University, USA and École des Hautes Études Commerciales (HEC) de Paris, France

Holds bachelor's degree in business, FOM University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Céline Birkl is currently pursuing a dual master's degree in business at HEC Paris in France and the Yale School of Management in the United States. Throughout her academic journey, she has cultivated a profound interest in entrepreneurship. As part of her coursework at Yale, Céline is engaged in developing a nonprofit solution for more accessible career education for underprivileged adolescents in the United States. She also contributes her skills to a student consulting team working on textile waste traceability with a startup in India.

Céline is deeply intrigued by matters of global affairs, currently specializing in China and U.S.-China relations. Having immersed herself in diverse environments in the United States and in Europe and speaking more than four languages, she recognizes the significance of cultural exchanges in fostering global unity and preventing conflicts. As part of her life goals, Céline is dedicated to residing on every continent for at least a few months. Upon graduation, Céline is excited about embarking on a career that integrates her entrepreneurial drive with her global orientation.

In her leisure time, Céline is dedicated to sports. She is currently exploring rugby at Yale, indulges in salsa and bachata dancing and enjoys challenging her friends to squash matches. During colder days, she finds solace in a compelling psychology book and a cup of hot cocoa.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Ana Lucía Chávez

District 29

Citizenship: Mexico



### Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Ana Lucía Chávez holds dual bachelor's degrees in law and economics from Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico. She is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School as a Said Foundation scholar and is co-chair of the Latin American Club.

As a market and business service manager at Enerlogix Solutions Consulting, Ana played a key role in facilitating the transition of clients to the wholesale electricity market in Mexico. Leveraging her expertise in both economics and law she advised clients on the formulation of data-driven strategies tailored to meet their energy requirements. Additionally, she offered guidance on navigating regulatory requirements for a seamless contract negotiation process.

Outside of her studies and work, Ana Lucía co-founded Las Lunas Glamping, a boutique outdoor accommodation company in Mexico. Through this business, idea she aimed to reconnect people with nature while providing the local community access to dignified jobs and growth opportunities.

Through her accomplishments in business and entrepreneurship, Ana Lucía exemplifies strong leadership abilities. She sees herself becoming someone who provides platforms and resources that will enable other women as professionals. After finishing her degree, Ana Lucía envisions re-entering the energy consulting sector to further her expertise in transitioning to clean energies.

Outside of her studies, Ana Lucía enjoys rock climbing and currently represents Oxford University on the bouldering competition team.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Caroline Kopf

District 30

Citizenship: Germany



Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Columbia Business School, USA

Caroline Kopf is a second-year Master of Business Administration (MBA) student at Columbia Business School and has worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company prior to that. Throughout her studies and career, Caroline has demonstrated her passion for solving environmental and social challenges by leading internal sustainability initiatives at McKinsey and supporting a variety of impact-focused extracurriculars at Columbia Business School. Caroline worked with sustainability and biodiversity-focused startups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Africa to strengthen their business model and impact and serves as vice president of the Green Business Club.

Furthermore, due to her desire to address inequality and social challenges, Caroline worked as project leader for the Initiative Chefsache, a network of leading organizations in Germany committed to bringing more women into leadership positions and mentoring young females to support them in their personal and professional development. She is also a volunteer teacher at a prison in New York, helping to address the social injustice formerly incarcerated individuals experience in the United States. After completing her MBA, Caroline will continue working as a consultant and aims to focus on environmental sustainability and social impact.

Caroline loves traveling and exploring different countries and their cultures. She has lived and worked in various countries across the globe including Germany, the U.K., Malaysia, Mexico and the U.S., and is fluent in four languages. Caroline is also very active and loves doing sports including yoga, bouldering and salsa dancing.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Samantha Shaw

District 30

Citizenship: United States



Pursuing master's degree in economics and communication in international tourism from Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland

Holds bachelor's degree in communication from Texas A&M University, USA

Samantha Shaw found her passion for international tourism after her first study abroad trip to New Zealand in 2019. After returning to Texas, she was hired to be among the first education abroad ambassadors at Texas A&M University and was later established as the first senior ambassador in the program. Throughout her four years in education abroad, she constantly sought out ways to advocate for international awareness. She earned national recognition by winning first place at the 2020 National Virtual Joining Hands Symposium for her poster design advocating disability inclusion in education abroad. She conceived and executed a school-wide "abroaduation" event, teaching students how to move abroad after graduation. As an inaugural Global Peer Mentor, she paired up incoming exchange and local students, fostering cultural exchanges.

She currently works as the student coordinator of her master's program in Switzerland as well as with the school's United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) chair promoting the use of different information and communication technologies within sustainable tourism at World Heritage Sites. She sees her future in the tourism industry, primarily within sustainable tourism systems, focusing on the sociocultural realm. She aims to reshape the industry's image by prioritizing community well-being as the foundation for a healthy destination.

Samantha's interests outside of school are well in line with what she studies, as she is an avid traveler and will have a trip booked whenever she is free. She hopes to continue traveling and exploring, always in pursuit of a new adventure.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Julie Chou



District 31

Citizenship: Taiwan, Republic of China

Pursuing Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Oxford, United Kingdom

Holds bachelor's degree in business administration from National Taiwan Normal University, Taiwan

Julie Chou is the head of communications at the Taiwan Mucopolysaccharidosis (MPS) Society. She first discovered her passion for patient advocacy when her elder brother was diagnosed with the rare genetic MPS disease. The founding of the Taiwan MPS Society by her parents left a mark on her, emphasizing the transformative power of optimism in the face of adversity. Starting with spending time with patients at hospitals, Julie evolved into a dynamic force, organizing international seminars, awareness programs and leading volunteer recruitment and training. This early immersion in social-communal mindfulness became a cornerstone of her identity.

Julie's determination to uplift others and maintain a positive mindset led her to excel in both the nonprofit and private sectors. With roles in executive offices, she was able to hone her project management and marketing communication skills. Her journey eventually led her to Hotai Development, Taiwan's leading air conditioning provider, where she passionately championed women's leadership. Julie remains an active member of the international MPS community, representing Taiwan and pioneering Asian representation within the International MPS Network.

Julie envisions making a significant impact in both the business and nonprofit spheres. Post-MBA, she aims to leverage her positivity and determination to continue her family legacy of aiding those in need, forging a career dedicated to social impact. Looking ahead, Julie harbors a long-term goal of establishing an ecosystem for rare disease nonprofit organizations in Asia, harmonizing healthcare, geopolitical collaboration and women's leadership.



## 2023 Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholar

# Soyun Shim

District 32

Citizenship: South Korea



Pursuing a bachelor's degree in international office administration from Ewha Womans University, South Korea

When she was young, Soyun Shim took care of her sister on behalf of her busy parents. The girls participated in a free tutoring program, sponsored by their local government, which is when she realized that many of her peers were living in similarly difficult situations. SeonYun pledged to herself that when she became an adult, she would make sacrifices to support people's needs and improve their living conditions.

Soyun aspires to play a role in supporting women's rights. As director of Human Rights Solidarity at the Student Council, Soyun works for human rights and gender equity. To improve the welfare of female students, the organization planned a project to place sanitary pads in the school bathroom for students to use. As a result, menstruation is being recognized not as shameful, but as a natural phenomenon.

After completing her degree, Soyun plans to establish a social enterprise that lays a foundation for supporting the vulnerable. This business will not only provide support for psychological pain but also financial aid for underprivileged people, including low-income women.