# Year in Review

## DEAN'S REPORT 2025-2026



University of Vermont
Grossman School of Business




## ACCREDITATION

**Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB):**
The Grossman School of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the global standard of excellence in business education. Fewer than six percent of business schools worldwide have earned AACSB accreditation, a distinction that reflects a commitment to high-quality teaching, impactful research, continuous improvement, and meaningful student outcomes.

AACSB accreditation requires rigorous peer review and evaluation of a school's mission, faculty qualifications, curriculum, and ability to prepare students for success in a rapidly evolving business environment. Through this ongoing process, the Grossman School continues to demonstrate its commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and student-centered learning.

AACSB ACCREDITED



**Global Responsibility Leadership Initiative:** The Grossman School of Business is a member of the Global Responsibility Leadership Initiative (GRLI), an international network dedicated to advancing responsible leadership and sustainable business practices. Through GRLI, the school connects with educators, researchers, and business leaders working to address complex social, environmental, and economic challenges.

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# Dean's Welcome

Welcome to the first of my annual reports as Dean of the Grossman School of Business.

It is my humble privilege to join a school with such a deep commitment to the idea that business should be a force for good. There are few business schools in the country whose values align so closely with my own, and that alignment is reflected not only in our academic programs, but also in the way this community approaches leadership, innovation, and impact.

This year marks both a celebration of an extraordinary legacy and the beginning of a new chapter for the Grossman School of Business. Under the leadership of Sanjay Sharma, alongside faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, and partners, the school developed a distinctive identity grounded in sustainability, entrepreneurship, experiential learning, and positive societal impact. The accomplishments highlighted throughout this report reflect the work of an entire community committed to preparing students to lead thoughtfully, responsibly, and effectively in a changing world.

One of the things that stands out most about Grossman is the strength of its community. Students, faculty, staff, alumni, employers, and members of our Board of Advisors all play an active role in creating opportunities for one another. Whether through mentorship, internships, case competitions, study abroad experiences, classroom learning, philanthropy, or career connections, there is a shared commitment to student success that is visible throughout the school.

**One of the things that stands out most about Grossman is the strength of its community.**

Higher education and business education in particular faces an important moment. Organizations are navigating rapid advances in artificial intelligence and technology, shifting workforce expectations, environmental challenges, and increasing global complexity. These changes create both uncertainty and opportunity. They also remind us that technical expertise alone is not enough. The leaders who will make the greatest difference are those who can learn continuously, collaborate across perspectives, adapt to new realities, and make decisions with both courage and good judgment.

At Grossman, we believe students develop those capabilities most effectively when learning extends beyond the classroom. Through internships, consulting projects, case competitions, student-managed investment funds, study abroad experiences, leadership programs, research opportunities, and the Grossman Co-op, students are challenged to apply what they learn in meaningful ways. These experiences help them build confidence, strengthen practical skills, and better understand how businesses can create value for organizations, communities, and society.

Since arriving in Vermont, it has become clear why so many students, alumni, faculty, and staff care so deeply about this place. The spirit of innovation, entrepreneurship, stewardship, and community engagement that exists across Vermont is reflected throughout the Grossman School of Business. It creates an environment where ideas are encouraged; relationships matter, and learning is grounded in purpose.

As a community, we have an opportunity to build an exceptionally strong foundation.



By continuing to invest in experiential learning, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, embracing emerging technologies responsibly, and strengthening connections with industry and community partners, we can help prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

This annual reflection tells the story of that work. It reflects the achievements of students who challenged themselves, faculty who advanced knowledge, staff who supported success, alumni who gave back, and partners who invested their time, expertise, and resources in the next generation of leaders. Together, these stories demonstrate what is possible when a community is united by a shared belief in the power of education and the positive role business can play in society.

Thank you for being part of the Grossman School of Business community.

Warmly,

Vikas Anand
*Dean, Grossman School of Business*

# The Sharma Legacy

The Grossman School of Business community came together to honor the remarkable legacy of Dean and Professor Sanjay Sharma and Professor Dita Sharma, whose leadership, generosity, and steadfast connection to the University of Vermont have had a lasting influence on the School and its people. In recognition of their contributions, alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and community partners rallied to raise significant philanthropic support that will help carry forward the values and aspirations that have shaped the Sharmas' time at UVM.

Throughout his tenure, Sanjay Sharma championed a vision of business education that prepares students to create value not only for organizations, but also for communities and society.

Throughout his tenure, he has championed the idea that business can be a force for positive change, preparing students not only to succeed professionally, but also to lead ethically, think broadly, and create lasting value for organizations, communities, and the environment. His commitment to academic excellence, sustainability, innovation, and experiential learning has helped position the Grossman School of Business as a place where students are encouraged to develop both the skills and



the sense of responsibility needed to lead in a changing economy.

Alongside Sanjay, Dita Sharma has been an integral part of the Grossman community. Her warmth, generosity, and engagement have helped foster a welcoming sense of connection among students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the School. Together, Sanjay and Dita have represented the values of community, care, and service that are central to the UVM experience. Their presence has strengthened relationships across the School and reinforced the importance of creating an environment in which people feel seen, supported, and inspired to contribute.

Gifts made in honor of Sanjay and Dita Sharma will help ensure future generations of Grossman students continue to benefit from the experiential learning, leadership development, and community engagement opportunities that defined their legacy. This philanthropic support will strengthen opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom, engage with business and community partners, pursue innovative ideas, and build the confidence to address complex social, environmental, and economic challenges. It will also help sustain the School's ability to foster a culture of thoughtful leader-ship, one that recognizes the connection between business success and positive impact.

The generosity inspired by Sanjay and Dita's legacy reflects the strength of the Grossman community and its shared belief in the transformative power of education. It is a tribute to the relationships they have built, the values they have modeled, and the enduring difference they have made at UVM. As the School looks to the future, this support will help ensure that the spirit of their leadership continues to guide students, faculty, and partners in creating meaningful impact in Vermont and far beyond.

## Recognition for Excellence & Impact Snapshot

Independent organizations continued to recognize the Grossman School of Business for excellence in business education, sustainability, entrepreneurship, positive societal impact, and accounting education.

**#2 Better World MBA in the World** according to Corporate Knights' 2025 Better World MBA Ranking.

**Top 50 Graduate Program for Entrepreneurship Studies and #7 Entrepreneurship Program in the Northeast** according to *The Princeton Review* and *Entrepreneur*.

**Top 2% National CPA Exam Performance** according to NASBA Candidate Performance data, ranking #17 of 721 institutions nationally.

**#2 Medium-Sized Accounting Program in the United States and #1 Public and Flagship University** for CPA exam performance in both New England and the Northeast.

**4-Star (Transforming) Positive Impact Rating** for the sixth consecutive year; one of only seven U.S. business schools recognized at this level. Student feedback placed Grossman among leading schools globally for positive societal impact.

Together, these recognitions reflect the Grossman School of Business's commitment to preparing future-ready leaders through academic excellence, experiential learning, innovation, and positive societal impact.

# Research Excellence

**Innovation and Structural Design in Regionalized Supply Networks:** Professor **David Novak**'s research examines how businesses can redesign supply networks to better withstand disruption, geopolitical uncertainty, and changing trade patterns. The work explores how more resilient networks can strengthen long-term business performance while reducing risk.

It uses data-driven analysis to examine how sourcing choices, network structure, and operations strategy should adapt to geo-political pressures, rising costs, and shifting trade patterns. The topic explores how building more resilient and innovative supply networks can improve business performance, protect communities from shocks, and create more sustainable, long-term impact.




**Could Rising Oil Prices and Political Uncertainty from War with Iran Fuel a New Era of Green Energy? UVM Experts Weigh in:** Professor **Patrick Callery**'s research explores whether geopolitical instability and rising energy prices could accelerate investment in renewable energy and strengthen corporate climate commitments. It draws on research in corporate climate strategy to examine how investors and companies could respond to heightened fossil fuel risk by strengthening climate targets, reallocating capital toward clean technologies, and demanding more credible climate disclosures. The topic focuses on whether geopolitical instability can become a catalyst for faster, more accountable corporate action on green energy.



**Occupational Identity Formation in Unsaturated Spaces: The Layered Accretion of the American Astronaut's Identity:** Professor **Evelyn Micelotta** investigates how individuals shape professional identity in emerging fields where traditional career pathways have not yet been established. Using qualitative analysis of emerging occupations, it shows that identity formation happens through "layered accretion," as individuals combine, adapt, and stack elements from multiple existing roles to craft who they



are professionally. The topic examines how workers manage multiple, evolving identities in the early stages of an occupation and what this means for career development in new fields.

**Faculty Led Research Connects Global Myrrh Supply Chains to SI-MBA Learning:** Adjunct lecturer for the Sustainable Innovation MBA (SI-MBA) program, and member of the famed Explorers Club, **Dr. Anjanette DeCarlo** participated in field work in the Somali Region of Ethiopia. This research is a multi-year study of global myrrh supply chains that combines fieldwork, supply-chain mapping, and sustainability analysis to understand how the resin moves from harvesters to markets and what that means for local communities and the environment. It is also being used as a learning case for SI-MBA students, linking classroom concepts to real-world issues in ethical sourcing, traceability, and fair trade.



## Research Seminar Series

Professor **Glen W.S. Dowell**, the Samuel C. Johnson Professor in Sustainable Global Enterprise at Cornell University, spoke on the influence of industry and geographic factors on corporate environmental performance. Drawing on data from the United States and Canada, Dowell examined industrial greenhouse gas emissions and discussed how institutional differences and industry practices can shape sustainability outcomes.





Professor **Zhaohui Wu**, Professor of Supply Chain and Operations Management, Oregon State University, shared insights from his work in supply chain and operations management. The seminar provided an opportunity for UVM faculty and graduate students to engage with a visiting scholar, exchange ideas, and explore current research related to supply networks, sustainability, and operational decision-making.

# Graduate Education for Impact

The University of Vermont's Sustainable Innovation MBA (SI-MBA) has been ranked as the No. 2 Best Green MBA in the nation by *The Princeton Review* for 2027. At the same time, the Grossman School of Business was recognized among *The Princeton Review's Best Business Schools* for 2027, placing the school among elite on-campus MBA programs selected nationwide based on institutional data and student feedback.

The Sustainable Innovation MBA has maintained its position among the nation's leading sustainability-focused MBA programs, earning the No. 2 Best Green MBA ranking for a second consecutive year. The ranking also makes SI-MBA the highest-ranked AACSB-accredited Green MBA program in the nation. AACSB accreditation is recognized worldwide as the highest standard of quality in business education, with only a small percentage of institutions offering business degrees worldwide earning the distinction.



## Sustainable Innovation MBA (SI-MBA)

The SI-MBA program continues to distinguish itself as a leading graduate business program focused on sustainability, innovation, and systems thinking. The program attracted students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, creating a collaborative learning environment that reflects the interdisciplinary nature of today's business challenges.

Experiential learning remained central to the SI-MBA experience. Through the program's practicum projects and partnerships with mission-driven organizations, students worked on real-world business challenges while applying classroom concepts to create measurable impact. These experiences provided students with opportunities to develop skills in strategic thinking, stakeholder engagement, innovation, and problem solving.

The program also expanded its emphasis on artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, exploring how AI can be leveraged responsibly to drive innovation, improve decision-making, and advance sustainable business practices. Faculty continued integrating AI-related content and practical applications across the curriculum to prepare graduates for an increasingly technology-enabled business environment.





## Industry Engagement and Innovators in Residence

SI-MBA students benefited from direct engagement with business leaders, entrepreneurs, and sustainability practitioners through the Speaker Series and Innovator in Residence programs.

**6 Innovators in Residence hosted:**

**Kevin Hartley**, Cambio Roasters

**Kate Williams**, 1% for the Planet

**J. Renee Morin**, eBay

**Scott Tew**, Trane Technologies

**Charmion Kinder**, U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee

**Jim Osgood**, former Klean Kanteen, Cascade Designs, Turtle Fur

These leaders brought real-world perspectives on sustainability strategy, innovation, organizational change, leadership, and impact-driven business models. Their engagement provided students with opportunities to connect classroom learning to contemporary industry challenges while expanding professional networks and career pathways.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Ellen Tierney

**Sustainable Innovation MBA '26**

Ellen Tierney was selected by her peers to serve as the SI-MBA Class Speaker for the 2026 Inauguration Ceremony. Like many of our SI-MBA students, Ellen's undergraduate education was not business based, and she entered the program with a Visual Communications degree and a background in graphic design. Ellen initially wondered how her passions for art, environmental stewardship, and social impact could intersect in a meaningful career, but through the program, she discovered that innovation and sustainability require a diversity of perspectives and talents.

Ellen reflected on the sense of belonging she found within the cohort, stating that "for the first time, I realized that maybe belonging isn't about arriving with the right background. Maybe it's about finding a community that helps you discover why your background mattered all along."

Ellen's artistic contributions throughout the year included creating caricatures of her classmates and designing the official 2025 Ski Vermont poster, reflecting the creativity and generosity that made her a respected leader within the class.





## SI-MBA Podcast and Thought Leadership

The SI-MBA Podcast continues to grow as a platform for advancing conversations at the intersection of business, sustainability, innovation, and leadership.

### 6 Podcast episodes released:

*Charging Through the Storm: Redefining Sustainability, Resilience, and Leadership in the Sustainable Innovation MBA*
**Caroline Rooney G'26**

*Impact Investing, Deep Tech, and Democratizing Capital*
**Emily "Klein" Vogt G'19** on Scaling Ideas and Changing Systems

*Smart Buildings, Big Impact: How AI & Sustainability Are Transforming the Future of Energy*
**Scott Tew**, Trane Technologies

*Embedding Sustainability Into Business Strategy: Leadership, Trust & Impact*
**Jim Osgood**, former Kleen Kanteen, Cascade Designs, Turtle Fur

*From Engineering to Impact: How UVM's Sustainable Innovation MBA Bridges STEM, Business & Sustainability*
**Cole Drozdek '25, G'26** and **William Wright '23, G'26**

*B Corp Business as a Force for Good*
**Roma McCaig**, Board Member for B Lab and Once Upon a Farm

*Reimagining Coffee Through Triple Bottom Line*
**Kevin Hartley '81**, Founder of Cambio Roasters

*Building a More Connected World Through Communication, Service, and Leadership*
**Charmion Kinder**, US Olympic Committee

These conversations extended the reach of the program beyond the classroom while showcasing the expertise, perspectives, and influence of our community.

**Listen to episodes on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or our website:**

## SI-MBA Learning & Connection Summit

To celebrate more than a decade of impact, the Sustainable Innovation MBA program hosted its inaugural Learning & Connection Summit, bringing together students, alumni, faculty, and industry leaders for a weekend focused on sustainability, innovation, leadership, and practical action.

The Summit reflected the collaborative spirit that defines the SI-MBA experience. Participants explored topics including climate technology, sustainable finance, artificial intelligence, career transitions, and systems change through keynote presentations, workshops, and panel discussions led by alumni and business leaders.

Highlights included a keynote address by Kyle Clark, founder and CEO of BETA Technologies, who challenged attendees to think beyond short-term solutions and invest in long-term change. Additional conversations featured leaders including Jeffrey Hollender, co-founder of Seventh Generation, and Rochelle March, who examined the growing role of critical thinking, judgment, and AI in building resilient organizations.

Perhaps most importantly, the event reinforced the strength of the SI-MBA community, bringing together alumni from across cohorts to reconnect, share experiences, and support the next generation of changemakers. The Summit demonstrated how the relationships formed through the program continue to create learning, opportunity, and positive impact long after graduation.






## Master of Accountancy (MAcc)

The Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program continued to provide a rigorous, career-focused graduate experience that prepares students for leadership roles in public accounting, corporate finance, consulting, and related professions.

The program maintained strong connections with employers through a range of professional development and networking opportunities, helping students build meaningful relationships with industry leaders while exploring diverse career pathways.

A particular strength of the program continues to be its flexible pathways for students pursuing advanced accounting education. Through the 3+1, 4+1, and Accelerated Master's Program options, students can efficiently combine undergraduate and graduate study while earning a highly valued professional credential.

The Grossman School of Business at UVM continues to rank among the nation's strongest accounting programs, earning recognition in the latest National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) Candidate Performance Report.

Based on 2025 CPA Exam results, the accounting program at the Grossman School of Business at UVM earned the following distinctions:









## 2025 is the 15th consecutive year that UVM has ranked among the Top 40 mid-sized accounting programs in the United States.

### Professional Development & Career Outcomes

Throughout the year, MAcc students engaged with accounting professionals, alumni, and employers through a variety of programs designed to strengthen career readiness and professional growth. Highlights included the MAcc Lunch & Learn series, the Student and Alumni Luncheon, the annual Boston business trip, the Director Speaker Series featuring Tammy Waymire, and the MAcc Commencement Celebration.

These experiences connected students with industry leaders, exposed them to current trends in the profession, and helped build the relationships and confidence needed for success after graduation.

The strength of this preparation was reflected in the outcomes achieved by the Class of 2026. Graduates secured positions with firms and organizations including Deloitte, EY, PwC, RSM, Gallagher Flynn, CBIZ, National Life Group, and others across the accounting, finance, and advisory professions.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Lucy Parker

**Master of Accountancy '27**

Lucy Parker has combined academic excellence, leadership, and hands-on experience to make the most of her time at the Grossman School of Business. That commitment was recently recognized when she was named UVM's 2026 recipient of the prestigious Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) Scholarship, a national award that provides $15,000 in support to outstanding accounting students pursuing careers in auditing.

An accounting major with a minor in sports management and a sustainable business theme, Parker has paired her coursework with meaningful professional experience. Through internships with Gallagher, Flynn & Company, the Vermont Department of Taxes, and Community Bank, Parker explored multiple sides of the accounting profession while refining her career goals.

Now pursuing UVM's Master of Accountancy (MAcc) Accelerated Master's Pathway, Parker is preparing for CPA licensure and a future in the profession.



# People Who Make Grossman Possible

## New Full-Time Faculty



**Scott Soltis**
Assistant Professor



**Keith Doyle**
Senior Lecturer



**Warren Nilsson**
Lecturer



**Jon King**
Lecturer

## Staff and Faculty Awards & Recognition

USASBE Longenecker Fellow: **Erik Monsen**

Editor in Chief of Family Business Review: **Dr. Evelyn Micelotta**

2026 UVM BORED Awards, Best Professor: **Steve Gagner**

2026 VermontBiz 91 Influencers List & Athletic Department Award: **Bob Philips**

Beta Gamma Sigma Professor of the Year: **Michael Tomas**

Dean's Staff Excellence Award: **Cyndi Dowling**

Faculty Member of the Year: **Thomas Chittenden**

2026 GRONEN Founders Award: **Dean Sanjay Sharma**

SI-MBA Faculty & Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year: **Felipe Massa**

SI-MBA Adjunct Faculty Member of the Year: **Anjanette DeCarlo**



## In appreciation: Rocki-Lee DeWitt

The Grossman School of Business recognized the retirement of Rocki-Lee DeWitt, who served as dean from 2002 to 2009 and remained a dedicated mentor, educator, and supporter of students throughout her career. Her contributions helped shape generations of Grossman students while strengthening the school's commitment to experiential learning and student success.

## Remembering Sarah O'Sullivan




The Grossman School of Business community continues to feel the loss of our colleague and friend, Sarah O'Sullivan, whose warmth, generosity, and unwavering commitment to others touched countless students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members, and friends throughout her years at UVM. Known for her boundless energy and genuine care for others, Sarah made everyone feel welcome, valued, and supported. Whether guiding students, building connections across campus, supporting colleagues, or ensuring every detail was in place behind the scenes, she approached every interaction with kindness, humor, and a desire to make life better for those around her.

In honor of Sarah's extraordinary legacy of service and compassion, alumni, friends, colleagues, and supporters have come together to establish the Sarah O'Sullivan Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will support Grossman School of Business undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need, helping ensure that future generations of students have access to the opportunities Sarah worked so tirelessly to create for others.

The endowment reflects the very best of the Grossman community: people investing in students, lifting others up, and transforming compassion into lasting impact. As we remember Sarah, we are deeply grateful to the many individuals who have chosen to honor her life through their generosity. Their support will help students learn, grow, and succeed for years to come, extending Sarah's legacy through opportunities that empower others to achieve their goals.

A cherished member of the Grossman community and a tireless advocate for students, Sarah leaves a legacy that will continue to inspire and strengthen the school for generations to come.



# Investing in Student Success

## Hoffman Family Center for Student Success

The University of Vermont's Grossman School of Business celebrated the opening and naming of the Hoffman Family Center for Student Success during a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony on April 8, 2026. The center was named in recognition of a $1 million gift from the Hoffman family, owners of Burlington Subaru and Burlington Hyundai, which will expand professional and career development opportunities for Grossman students. Located in Kalkin Hall, the center serves as a central hub for academic and career advising, internship and job-placement support, leadership development, professional networking, and hands-on learning opportunities. The naming ceremony honored the Hoffman family's generosity and longstanding commitment to the University of Vermont while marking an important investment in the future of Grossman students. By strengthening the school's career pathways and providing individualized support, the Hoffman Family Center will help students build the skills, experiences, and connections necessary to successfully transition from the classroom into the workforce. The center also reflects a broader commitment to ensuring every Grossman student has access to the support, guidance, and career preparation resources needed to translate academic achievement into professional success.

## Hoffman Family Business Lecture

The spring semester opened with one of its most significant events, the Hoffman Family Business Lecture featuring Miguel Roque '96 and his talk, "Fresh Tracks and Hidden Obstacles: Navigating the Slopes of Success." Roque's return to campus offered students the opportunity to hear directly from an accomplished Grossman alumnus whose career reflects both entrepreneurial vision and the ability to adapt, grow, and lead through challenge. His remarks provided an engaging and thoughtful perspective on the realities of building a career over time, emphasizing the importance of resilience, flexibility, and staying focused when faced with unexpected obstacles.

As a Grossman graduate and current President of Bezos Academy, Roque brought a valuable combination of personal connection and professional experience






to the lecture. His message reinforced a theme that resonates across the Grossman experience: meaningful careers are rarely linear, but are often shaped by curiosity, resilience, and a willingness to embrace new opportunities. His visit underscored the lasting impact of the Grossman network, and the role alumni play in shaping the experiences of current students. The event also reflected the importance of the Hoffman Family Business Lecture as a signature opportunity to introduce students to innovative business thinking and leadership lessons from accomplished professionals. For many students, the lecture stood out as a highlight of the semester and a meaningful reminder of the opportunities that can emerge from a Grossman education.

## Leadership & Legacy Series

The inaugural Leadership & Legacy Series marked an important evolution of the Vermont Legacy and Family Enterprise Awards, shifting from a traditional recognition ceremony to a conversation centered on the lessons that sustain organizations across generations. Hosted by Professor Dita Sharma, the panel brought together leaders from Casella Waste Systems, von Trapp Family Lodge & Resort, and Tauck to reflect on what it takes to build organizations that endure for 50, 75, and even 100 years.

The event also created meaningful opportunities for students to engage directly with business leaders and past Vermont Legacy and Family Enterprise Awards honorees. Prior to the panel discussion, Sustainable Innovation MBA students participated in a networking luncheon with leaders including Karen Lawson of Lawson's Finest Liquids, learning firsthand about succession planning, social impact initiatives, environmental stewardship, and purpose-driven leadership. During the panel, students, alumni, faculty, and community members explored themes of leadership across generations, organizational resilience, innovation, and long-term value creation.

More than a celebration of longevity, the event demonstrated the power of connecting students with leaders whose organizations have successfully navigated change while remaining grounded in their values. It also reinforced a defining strength of the Grossman School of Business: bringing together alumni, business leaders, and students in conversations that transform experience into learning and relationships into opportunity.





## Dean's Leadership Speaker Series

The fall semester featured a standout installment of the Dean's Leadership Speaker Series with Julie Boland '88, U.S. CEO and Managing Partner and Americas Managing Partner at EY, addressing students on the topic of *Building the Next Generation of Leaders: Understanding the People Side of Business.* Boland shared lessons from a career leading more than 95,000 professionals across 33 countries, emphasizing that effective leadership begins with people, purpose, and authentic relationships.

Throughout the conversation, Boland encouraged students to focus not only on professional achievement, but also on the relationships that shape personal and organizational success. She spoke about the importance of leading with empathy, adapting to change, and remaining grounded in purpose during periods of uncertainty.

The event served as a powerful example of Grossman's commitment to creating student-centered opportunities where learning happens through dialogue, mentorship, and firsthand engagement with leaders whose careers reflect both professional excellence and a commitment to people-first leadership.

**STUDENT SPOTLIGHT**

## Emma Zwycewicz '26

**Concentration in Marketing**
**Theme in Sustainability**

Emma Zwycewicz's journey at the Grossman was shaped by a passion for storytelling, leadership, and community building. Pursuing a minor in Applied Design, Emma sought opportunities to connect creativity with strategy, both inside and outside the classroom. Through internships with the Vermont Brewers Association and Cultivate, she gained hands-on experience in marketing, public relations, and communications.

As Vice President of Women in Business and a Teaching Assistant for Grossman's Professional Development Series, Emma focused on creating opportunities for others to grow.

A highlight of her senior year was interviewing Julie Boland '88, U.S. CEO and Managing Partner of EY, during the Dean's Leadership Speaker Series, gaining insight into leadership, adaptability, and purpose-driven careers. These experiences prepared Emma to begin her career in advertising and marketing with a strong foundation in creativity, collaboration, and impact.



# Preparing Future Leaders

## PEAKS Program

PEAKS acknowledges the kinds of experiences that help students grow into confident, capable professionals. By encouraging involvement beyond the classroom, PEAKS reinforces Grossman's commitment to experiential learning and helps students build the communication, leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills that are essential in today's workplace.

For students, PEAKS provides meaningful recognition for the many ways they are investing in their professional development throughout their time at Grossman. Whether through leadership roles, career programming, networking opportunities, guest speakers, or other school-sponsored experiences, the program highlights the value of active engagement and shows students that their efforts are building toward something larger. In doing so, PEAKS helps bridge the gap between academic learning and real-world preparation.

The program also strengthens the broader Grossman community by creating a culture that values participation, initiative, and professional growth. It encourages students to take full advantage of the opportunities around them and helps distinguish those who are making the most of their business education. At the 2026 Honors Day celebration, Grossman recognized this year's PEAKS Champions for their outstanding engagement: Jordan Duncan earned Gold, Lars Plaehn received Silver, and Charlie Berlack earned Bronze, while Victoria Madison, Wolfie Weimersheimer, and Carly Steenstra were honored as leaderboard champions. Their recognition reflects the impact of PEAKS in preparing students to thrive beyond UVM.









## Trail Blazers Leadership Program

The Trail Blazers Leadership Program prepares students to lead with confidence through mentorship, professional development, and experiential learning. During 2025-26, participants engaged with alumni, industry professionals, and members of the Grossman Advisory Board while building the communication, networking, and leadership skills needed for future career success.

### Trail Blazers Highlights

Connected with Grossman School of Business Board of Advisors and alumni leaders

**Rino Caruccio**, Grossman School of Business Advisory Board member, was a guest speaker

New York City networking experience at **Centric Brands**

Professional conversation with entrepreneur and investor **Liz Paley**

Continued engagement with the Business Scholars Institute

## Signature Experiences

Through seminars, career treks, and immersive industry experiences, Grossman School of Business students connected with employers, alumni, and industry leaders while exploring career pathways and applying classroom learning in real-world settings.

### Kalkin Retail Seminar

Through the Eugene and Joan Kalkin Retailing Initiative, students participated in the inaugural Kalkin Retail Seminar in New York City. The experience included visits to Centric Brands, Apple, Burberry, and Nike, where students explored retail strategy, brand storytelling, consumer engagement, and emerging technologies while connecting classroom learning with industry practice.

### Wall Street Seminar

Led by Andrew Prevost, Professor and Steven Grossman Endowed Chair of Finance, the annual Wall Street Seminar brought 16 students to Morgan Stanley's Global Headquarters in New York City, where they presented investment research and received feedback from finance professionals and Grossman alumni. Alumni participants included Steve Penwell, David Gringeri, Andrew Percoco, J.D. Kelly, Blake Winkley, Georgii Apinian, and Jamie Flicker.

### Real Estate Finance in Practice Seminar

Through the Real Estate Finance in Practice seminar, students applied classroom learning to the analysis of real-world investment opportunities. As part of a semester-long capstone project, students traveled to Newmark's New York City headquarters, where they presented recommendations to a panel of industry professionals hosted by Adam Spies, alongside alumni J.D. Kelly and Bruce Simons. The experience provided students with direct exposure to commercial real estate finance, investment analysis, and professional decision-making.

## Boston Career Trek

Organized by Suzanne Lowensohn, Director of the Master of Accountancy (MAcc) Program, the annual Boston Career Trek connected students with employers, professionals, and alumni across the accounting and finance sectors. Students visited CBIZ, EY, RSM, and Wellington Management, gaining firsthand insight into career pathways, workplace culture, and internship and employment opportunities.




## New York City Career Trek

Led by Katy Reed and Maria Cunningham, members of the UVM Finance & Investment Club visited Morgan Stanley and Peapack Private Bank & Trust and connected with Grossman alumni working across finance. The experience included company visits, networking opportunities, and a young alumni coffee happy hour, providing students with valuable insights into careers in investment banking, wealth management, and financial services.



## Study Abroad

Experiential learning extends far beyond the walls of Kalkin and Ifshin Halls, with Grossman students gaining firsthand global business experience through study abroad opportunities around the world. During the 2025-2026 academic year, 52 Grossman School of Business students studied abroad, nine during the fall semester and 43 in the spring, immersing themselves in academic programs across 14 countries: Australia, Austria, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Through these experiences, students broadened their perspectives, developed cross-cultural competencies, and gained a deeper understanding of business in an increasingly interconnected global economy.

For **Shannon Douglas '26**, a business student and standout student-athlete, studying abroad in Dublin, Ireland, became a transformative experience. While expanding her understanding of international business practices in the classroom, she also trained alongside some of Ireland's top weightlifters under one of the country's leading coaches. What initially felt intimidating quickly became one of the most defining experiences of her college career, reinforcing the value of stepping outside her comfort zone. Reflecting on the experience, Douglas shared, "You don't need to have everything figured out before you start. You just need the willingness to try and keep learning along the way." Her time abroad exemplifies how international experiences at Grossman help students grow both personally and professionally, preparing them to collaborate across cultures, approach challenges from multiple perspectives, and lead in an increasingly interconnected world.



**"You don't need to have everything figured out before you start. You just need the willingness to try and keep learning along the way."**

| STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS | FALL SEMESTER STUDENTS | SPRING SEMESTER STUDENTS | COUNTRIES |
|---|---|---|---|
| 52 | 9 | 43 | 14 |

# Professional Development

This year we hosted a robust and engaging series of events designed to connect students with alumni, industry leaders, and emerging voices across the business landscape. Through a combination of employer engagement, speaker series, and career exploration programming, students were given meaningful opportunities to build networks, gain industry insight, and develop professionally outside the classroom. These experiences reflect the Grossman School of Business' continued commitment to preparing students for impactful careers while fostering strong connections with alumni and industry partners. The relationships and knowledge gained throughout the semester will continue to shape students' academic and professional journeys. The academic year began with a strong sense of energy and connection as students explored opportunities to engage with employers, student organizations, and peers. These events allowed students to engage in one-on-one conversations about internships, career paths, and organizational culture. These informal, yet impactful interactions helped students build confidence in professional networking and establish early relationships with recruiters.




**Entrepreneurship Through Acquisition Panel**



**Accounting & Finance Career Showcase**




**Careers in Finance Panel**



**Business of Sports Panel**






Marketing & Analytics Career Showcase



Careers in Business Innovation Panel



Club Fair

# Leadership in Action

## 13th Annual Schlesinger Global Family Enterprise Case Competition

In January 2026, the Grossman School of Business welcomed 21 teams from 11 countries across four continents for the 13th Annual Schlesinger Global Family Enterprise Case Competition (SG-FECC), widely recognized as the premier international competition dedicated to family business education. More than 100 undergraduate and graduate student competitors and approximately 60 judges from around the world gathered in Burlington to tackle complex challenges facing family enterprises.

Often referred to as the "World Cup" of Family Business Case Competitions, SG-FECC challenges students to analyze real-world family business cases and present strategies that balance family dynamics, governance, and long-term business success. After four days of competition, Bishop's University captured first place in the undergraduate league, while Sasin School of Management earned top honors in the graduate league.

As Judge Adam Ifshin of DLC USA reflected, "These young people are here from all over the world... They are so positive, vibrant, and smart. It gives you great hope."

Beyond the competition rounds, SG-FECC provided valuable networking opportunities and experiential learning for participants and for the nearly 60 UVM students who planned and executed the student-run event. The competition also offered an opportunity to celebrate members of the SG-FECC community whose contributions have helped



shape its success over more than a decade. Longtime supporters and judges Dita and Sanjay Sharma were recognized for their steadfast commitment to family business education and to the continued growth of SG-FECC. The event also marked the final year of Rocki-Lee DeWitt's involvement as a coach, honoring her years of mentorship and leadership in preparing student teams for competition.

Now in its 13th year, SG-FECC stands as a hallmark of the Grossman School of Business's commitment to experiential learning, global engagement, and leadership development. Its continued success demonstrates the school's ability to convene world-class talent while fostering a global community dedicated to the future of family enterprise.

### SG-FECC Competition

University of Vermont, Burlington
**Undergraduate Competitors**: Myra Shalaty, Cole Snyder, Leo Zematis, Griffin Zimmer (Undergrad Best Presenter Award, Spruce Division)
**Graduate Competitors:** Cole Drozdek, Maggie Dockray, Caroline Rooney, William Wright
**Graduate Best Presenter Award:** Caroline Rooney, Cedar Elm Division

**21** TEAMS

**11** COUNTRIES

**4** CONTINENTS

**40** JUDGES

## 8th Annual Dean's Cup

The Dean's Cup, held on March 3, was the largest competition yet, bringing together 54 competitors, 26 student volunteers, 21 judges, and 13 staff members. That level of participation shows how much the event has grown since its launch and how deeply it is supported by the GSB community. Students from UVM competed alongside peers from Champlain College and SUNY Plattsburgh, making the event feel especially dynamic and regional in scope. The one-day, two-round format challenged students to step into the role of consultant, work collaboratively under pressure, and present strategic recommendations to judges, all while competing for cash prizes and recognition.

The 2026 Dean's Cup recognized a first-place team from GSB: Andres Miguez, Austin Xiao, Erik Stensgaard, and Jordan Duncan, who took home the top honor in this year's competition. The event also included cash prizes totaling up to $3,000, reinforcing the Dean's Cup's role as both a professional development experience and a meaningful competitive opportunity for undergraduate students.






## 14th Annual UVM Business Pitch

The 14th Annual UVM Business Pitch highlighted student creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurial thinking through a competition that showcased the strength of student ideas and the effort behind bringing them to life. The event challenged students to move ideas beyond the classroom and articulate how innovation can become action. For participants, the competition represented both a showcase of entrepreneurial thinking and an opportunity to gain valuable feedback from experienced judges and business leaders. As a signature spring event, the Business Pitch reinforced the school's support for students who are eager to think creatively, take initiative, and translate ideas into action.

## Case Competitions

Case competitions remain one of Grossman's most visible forms of experiential learning, challenging students to analyze complex business problems, develop strategic recommendations, and present their ideas under competitive conditions. During the 2025-2026 academic year, Grossman students represented the school at regional, national, and international competitions across North America and Europe.








**Babeş-Bolyai University International Case Competition (BBUICC)**
Cluj-Napoca, Romania
**Competitors:** Benjamin Weaver, Otto Berckmueller, Alexander Rubin, Ruby Blunt

**Cornhusker Business Case Competition University of Nebraska Lincoln College of Business**
**Competitors:** Joe Anderson, Samuel Kyle, Anka Delos Reyes, Alaina Cimonetti
Placed 3rd

**Lazaridis International Case Competition (LAZICC)**
Wilfrid Laurier, Waterloo, Ontario
**Competitors:** Shannon Douglas, Alexandra Johnson, Joe Rob, Hunter Jaehn

**Rotterdam/Carlton International Case Competition (ROCA)**
Rotterdam University and Carleton University Ottawa, Ontario
**Competitors:** Grace Berry, Lizzie McCrystal, Pierce Cattier, Dakota Swart

**Marshall International Case Competition California (MICC)**
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
**Competitors:** Seth Rubinstein, Shannon Buck, Arianna Clark, Emma Kanjorski

**The Engineering and Commerce Case Competition (EngComm)**
Concordia SGW, Montreal
**Competitors:** Sabrina Goslin, Joe Rob, Alethea Constantine, Emilie Buttolph

**McComb's National Women's Case Competition (NWCC)**
University of Texas, Austin
**Competitors:** Dakota Swart, Elizabeth (Lizzie) McCrystal, Emma Zwycewicz, Carly Steenstra

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Marley St. Pierre '26

**Concentration in Finance**
**Theme in Global Business**

Throughout my time at Grossman, I combined academic achievement with a commitment to helping others succeed. Alongside honors including selection to the Wall Street Seminar, induction into Beta Gamma Sigma, and securing a full-time role at UBS, I served in leadership and mentoring roles such as Vice President of GSAC, Grossman Student Ambassador, Senior Lead Coordinator for SG-FECC, Head Teaching Assistant for Business Communication, and Teaching Assistant for the Professional Development Series.

My proudest accomplishment was co-founding the Grossman Case Competition Association, helping grow it from five founding members to more than 40 students. The organization created opportunities for students to build analytical, presentation, and leadership skills while gaining confidence to pursue ambitious goals.

I expanded that commitment to service through GiftDrive, a platform that helps nonprofits manage digital donation drives and engage donors more effectively. My greatest impact has come not from individual achievements, but from empowering others and creating opportunities that will continue long after graduation.



# Career Readiness

## Grossman Co-op

This past year marked an exciting milestone for the Grossman School of Business, as the Grossman Co-op debuted and welcomed its first cohort of students. Designed to give students meaningful, full-time professional experience before graduation, the program is already proving to be a powerful bridge between classroom learning and career readiness.

The inaugural cohort of Grossman Co-op students stepped into roles at leading employers across Vermont and beyond, including Wayfair, BETA Technologies, Gallagher Flynn & Company, National Life Group, and engageCFO. Over the course of the year, these students demonstrated how experiential learning can accelerate professional growth, strengthen confidence, and deepen understanding of their chosen fields.

As the program continues to grow, the Grossman Co-op is creating opportunities for students to build confidence, explore career paths, and contribute in meaningful ways to the organizations they join. This first cohort set a strong foundation for the future, demonstrating that when students are given the chance to learn by doing, they are capable of making an immediate and lasting impact.

### 2025-2026 Co-op Spotlights



**Grace Berry '27**
*Supplier Inventory Management Co-op*
*Wayfair, Boston, MA*

Berry reflected on her growth throughout the experience: "I have transitioned from a new Co-op student to an impactful contributor managing inventory and supplier projects." Her experience highlights how quickly students can move from learning the basics of a role to making meaningful contributions within a professional team.



**Jordan Dawley '27**
*FP&A Intern Co-op*
*BETA Technologies, South Burlington, VT*

As an intern, Dawley took on significant responsibility. "There are numerous tasks that I am solely responsible for," he said. "I am confident in my ability to do them without needing assistance, meaning that I am saving my team valuable time." His reflection underscores the confidence and independence students gain through the co-op experience.

# Internships

2025 GRADS WITH INTERNSHIPS 84%

Through internships across industries including finance, marketing, accounting, consulting, sustainability, and technology, Grossman students gain valuable experience that enhances both their academic learning and post-graduation success.

According to the most recent verified outcomes data, 84% of Class of 2025 graduates completed an internship or other significant professional experience before graduation (97% knowledge rate). Additionally, 95.9% of graduates from the Class of 2025 were employed or continuing their education within six months of graduation (84.2% knowledge rate).

## 2025-2026 Internship Spotlights




**Grace Robinson '27**
*Editorial Marketing Intern*
*OnLogic, South Burlington, VT*

My internship with OnLogic provided hands-on experience across many facets of marketing, including content development, website optimization, product photography, press releases, and digital content creation. Through the role, I strengthened my research, writing, and technical skills while gaining valuable insight into how marketing teams collaborate to support business goals in a B2B environment. Attending Grossman career events helped me secure the opportunity by building networking and professional communication skills. Most importantly, working alongside the talented team at OnLogic deepened my interest in marketing and helped me grow both personally and professionally.

ONLOGIC



**Owen Talbot '27**
*Fixed Income Sales and Trading Intern*
*Wells Fargo, Charlotte, NC*

My internship with Wells Fargo strengthened my understanding of fixed income markets while helping me develop presentation, communication, and networking skills. Through exposure to multiple Fixed Income Sales & Trading desks, I gained insight into how markets operate and how investment professionals make decisions in a fast-paced environment. My favorite experience was working with the Macro Credit desk, which helped clarify my career interests and deepen my understanding of credit markets. Grossman alumni connections and networking opportunities played an important role in securing the internship, and I look forward to returning to Wells Fargo as a Macro Credit Trading Analyst.

WELLS FARGO

# Student Experience & Engagement

## Honors Day

Honors Day remains one of our most meaningful traditions, celebrating students whose achievements exemplify academic excellence, leadership, engagement, and service. The recognition reflects not only individual accomplishment, but also the collaborative and supportive community that helps students thrive throughout their time at Grossman School of Business.




**Christopher A. Guido Outstanding Senior Award for Academic Excellence and Overall Achievement:** Allison Kingsley

**Sanjay Sharma Outstanding Junior Award for Academic Excellence and Overall Achievement:** Arianna Clark

**Award for Excellence in the Entrepreneurship Theme:** Eegan Coia, Rowan Godbout

**Award for Excellence in the Global Business Theme:** David Ishmail, Emma Kanjorski

**Award for Excellence in the Sustainable Business Theme:** Alexander Rubin

**PCAOB Scholarship Award:** Lucy Parker

**Johnson Lambert LLP Master of Accountancy Vermont Scholarship:** Jonas Keim

**Weinstein Award for Excellence in Accounting:** Alia Tesini

**Gallagher Flynn Award for Excellence in Accounting:** Hailey Kessler



**Senior Award for Excellence in Business Analytics:** Allison Kingsley, Cole Snyder

**Junior Award for Excellence in Business Analytics:** Grace Berry, Lucas Pyrro

**Stephen Penwell Award for Excellence in Finance:** Emma Kanjorski, Joshua Moore

**S. Nakamoto Award for Excellence in Crypto Currency**: Oliver Uchitelle

**Spies Family Award for Real Estate Finance:** Julia O'Dwyer

**Major Junius Adair Award for Excellence in Finance:** Sawyer Beck, Arianna Clark

**Senior Award for Excellence in Marketing:** Casey Huczko, Jena Vicinelli

**Junior Award for Excellence in Marketing:** Sophie Ball-Dolan, Leah Feldman

**Peaks Champions: Gold:** Jordan Duncan; **Silver:** Lars Plaehn; **Bronze:** Charlie Berlack; **Leaderboard Champions:** Victoria Madison, Wolfie Weimersheimer, Carly Steenstra

**Perkin Award:** DJ Murphy, Arianna Clark

**Philip J. Branon Award:** Richard Yeung

**GSB Student Leadership Award:** Otto Berckmueller, Kate Kelly

**GSB Student Engagement Award:** Joseph Anderson, Sophie Ball-Dolan, Grace Berry, Alaina Cimonetti, Luke Nelson, Alexander Rubin, Marley St. Pierre

**First Year Students of Distinction:** Lucas Del Olmo, Billy Delahunty, Finnian Heney, Leah Hunter, Sabrina Krementsova, Jack Liddy, Kevin Moran, Sara Stiel, Jack Taylor, Emily Weaver, Derek Winkel

**Sophomore Students of Distinction:** Emilie Bakkevig, Anka Delos Reyes, Jason Douglas, Laird KrodelSmith, Fiona Pan, Luke Rizio, Carly Steenstra, Ozzie VanHendrick, Derek Wenner

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Alison Kingsley '26

**Concentration in Marketing & Business Analytics, Theme in Global Business**

"During my time at the Grossman School of Business, I found myself drawn to the intersection of data and design in global markets and hospitality. This curiosity ultimately led me to pursue a dual concentration in Business Analytics and Marketing, a theme in Global Business, and a minor in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

I gained hands-on experience as a Hospitality Management Intern at The Essex Resort and Spa and as a Data Analytics and Paid Media Intern at Karen Fahey Advertising. On campus, I served as a peer tutor, teaching assistant, GSB Ambassador, and as the senior lead for the Website, Media, and Communications Committee of the Schlesinger Global Family Enterprise Case Competition.

My advice to new students is to challenge yourself and don't be afraid to ask for help. Some of the most meaningful parts of my college experience came from stepping outside my comfort zone. What started as something entirely new became a welcoming community and grew into lifelong friendships."



# Beta Gamma Sigma

The International Honor Society Beta Gamma Sigma (BGS) recognizes outstanding students at business schools accredited by AACSB International, representing the highest academic achievement a student can attain in an undergraduate or master's business program.

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED **31**

This year, the Grossman School of Business inducted 31 new members into the society and presented honor cords to 30 senior members to wear at Commencement. Our chapter was also recognized with Highest Honors by BGS, allowing Chapter Advisor Barb Arel to present a $1,000 scholarship to inductee Avery Bellavance. Beta Gamma Sigma members awarded the 2026 BGS Professor of the Year medallion to Professor Michael Tomas.

The ceremony also recognized retiring Dean Sanjay Sharma, winner of the 2024 Beta Gamma Sigma Dean of the Year award. Thanks to an alumni donation, the chapter dedicated a newly acquired Beta Gamma Sigma key statue in his honor. The statue, which symbolizes the honor, wisdom, and earnestness that guide the society, is permanently displayed on the first floor of our building for all to see.

**BGS Inductees**

Hunter Acostamadiedo
Addison Auletta
Sawyer Beck
Avery Bellavance
Grace Berry
Pieter Bultman
Pierce Cattier
Arianna Clark
Oskar Gillberg
Lillian Girod
Kate Henning
Noor Jerath
Luke Nelson
Lucy Parker
Myra Shalaty
Benjamin St. John
Miranda Versweyveld
Sydney Vollmert
Emerson Warren
Emma Warren
Madison Williams

**BGS Members**

Olivia Bonner
Colin Bullock
Caroline Canney
Karl Daly
Shannon Douglas
Dawson Good
Casey Huczko
David Ismail
Emma Kanjorski
Jonas Keim
Kyle Kerrigan
Allison Kingsley
Rachel Larivee
Roman Legere
Meredith Lentz
Rowen Martin
John Martin
James Millerick
Charles Monaghan
Joshua Moore
Marley St. Pierre
Samuel Schlitz
Colburn Snyder
Kendall Spencer
Alia Tesini
Jena Vicinelli
Benjamin Weaver
Griffin Zimmer






**Associate Dean Barb Arel made a dedication to retiring Dean Sanjay Sharma in the form of a newly acquired statue of the Beta Gamma Sigma key — a symbol that represents the honor, wisdom, and earnestness that are the guiding principles of BGS. The key, which was given through the generosity of a donor, is now on permanent display against the north wall of Kalkin Hall facing the Ifshin Hall Atrium.**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Dahabo Abukar ’26

**Concentration in Business Analytics & Marketing**
**Theme in Entrepreneurship**

Throughout my time at Grossman, I embraced opportunities to grow as both a leader and a strategist. While I entered the program interested in analytics and finance, I discovered my passion at the intersection of marketing, analytics, and human behavior. Through leadership experiences across campus, I developed the confidence to communicate effectively, collaborate with diverse teams, and apply data-driven thinking to real-world challenges.

One of the most meaningful aspects of my experience has been serving as a Grossman Ambassador. In this role, I have had the opportunity to support prospective and current students as they navigate their own academic and professional journeys. Helping others find their place within the Grossman community has been especially rewarding and has reinforced my commitment to people-centered leadership.

Looking back, Grossman helped me recognize my strengths as a relationship builder, problem solver, and emerging leader. The experiences, mentorship, and community I found here have shaped my future aspirations and prepared me to pursue a career that combines strategic thinking with meaningful human connection.



## Grossman Student Clubs & Organizations

Student organizations are a cornerstone of the Grossman experience, providing opportunities for students to lead, compete, build professional networks, and translate classroom learning into action. Throughout the year, these organizations created meaningful opportunities for engagement while strengthening the sense of community that defines Grossman.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

**Accounting Club:** This past year, Accounting Club took a professional development trip to Boston where students were able to visit CBIZ, RSM, and EY. This trip gave members the opportunity to learn about careers in accounting, connect with professionals, and gain insights to the different paths and opportunities in the accounting profession.

**Diversity in Business:** Partnered with the UVM Mosaic Intercultural center to receive $500 in funding each semester to support collaborative events to expand the club's programming and draw strong student turnout.

**Entrepreneurship Club:** Looking back on the 2025-26 academic year, the UVM Entrepreneurship Club was just coming out of a leadership change and getting back on its feet. Some of our most dedicated members were seniors getting ready to graduate and our club attendance was low from week to week. The new leadership decided to focus more on the experience of e-club rather than the offerings. They started doing more outreach to sponsors, went on field trips, and had a ton of great guest speakers. Some of the most notable accomplishments were a tour with OVR (a startup in Burlington), the founders of Fluency came as guest speakers (just signed a deal with TikTok), and sponsored a pitch competition where students could win $1,500 for their business idea.

**Finance & Investment Club:** The Finance & Investment Club went on its annual NYC networking trip in the spring. Students visited Morgan Stanley, Peapack Private Bank, and the New York Stock Exchange to meet alumni and hear about careers in finance.

**Grossman Case Competition Association (GCCA):** Hosted their third annual Challenger Case Competition with judges traveling from out of state, had their highest number of student teams yet, and a student-written case. Continued its rapid growth by hosting its largest Challenger Case Competition to date, expanding participation, and sending teams to competitions throughout North America.

**Grossman Student Advisory Committee (GSAC):** GSAC advocated for and coordinated more seating and study spaces in the Kalkin Atrium as a part of our initiative to enhance the student experience in Grossman. The desks were installed over the summer, and students can now find seating more easily during the day.

**Marketing Club:** Following its revitalization, the club completed a successful first year as a fully operational student organization. The club hosted a multitude of guest speakers and provided opportunities for students to learn more about the world of marketing outside the classroom.

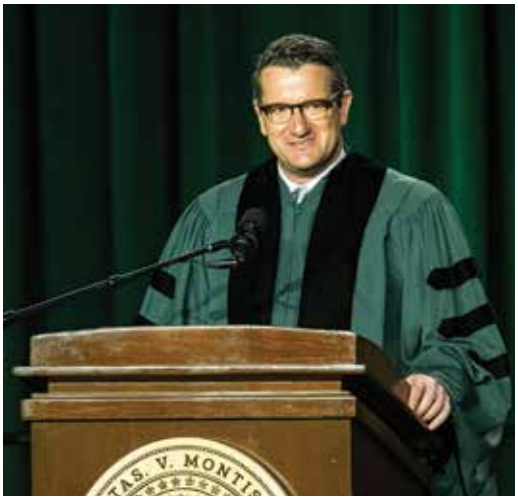
# Celebrating the Class of 2026

The Class of 2026 reflects the many path-ways through which Grossman students prepare to lead and create impact. This year, 220 undergraduate students, 27 Master of Accountancy (MAcc) graduates, and 25 Sustainable Innovation MBA (SI-MBA) graduates completed their studies and joined a growing network of alumni shaping organizations, communities, and industries around the world.

## Undergraduate Commencement

At the Grossman School of Business commencement celebration, the Class of 2026 reflected on the relationships, experiences, and opportunities that defined their time at UVM. Student speaker Allison Kingsley, recipient of the Christopher A. Guido Outstanding Senior Award, spoke about the importance of community, crediting professors, advisors, staff, classmates, and friends for helping shape the student experience. Her message encouraged graduates to continue building supportive and inclusive communities wherever their paths lead.

Commencement speaker **Mark DeMichaelis '87**, President and CEO of State Garden and a member of the Grossman School of Business Board of Advisors, challenged graduates to focus less on titles and accolades and more on consistency, discipline, and the relationships that shape a meaningful life and career. He also honored the legacy of Sanjay Sharma and Dita Sharma, whose leadership and commitment have influenced generations of Grossman students.







## SI-MBA Inauguration



The Grossman School celebrated the twelfth SI-MBA cohort, honoring 25 graduates committed to advancing innovation, sustainability, and positive societal impact. Throughout the year, students engaged in immersive experiential learning and completed practicum projects that addressed complex business, environmental, and social challenges in collaboration with real organizations.

The ceremony also marked the first official graduation event led by Vikas Anand as Dean. Class speaker Ellen Tierney reflected on the sense of belonging she found within the SI-MBA community, while inaugural cohort graduate Ben Tacka '15 shared an optimistic vision for the future of sustainability and responsible business. Student achievement was also recognized, with Nikki Nikolova receiving the Malcolm Severance Graduate Excellence Award and five graduates inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma.



## Master of Accountancy (MAcc) Commencement

Twenty-seven graduates crossed the stage at the University of Vermont Graduate College Commencement Ceremony, marking the completion of a rigorous program known for strong CPA performance and career outcomes. Speakers throughout the ceremony emphasized resilience, purpose, and the responsibility that comes with advanced education.

Members of the Class of 2026 accepted positions with organizations including Deloitte, EY, PwC, RSM, Gallagher Flynn, CBIZ, National Life Group, and others throughout the accounting, finance, and advisory professions. According to program director Suzanne Lowensohn, many graduates have already achieved early success on the CPA exam, demonstrating both the strength of the curriculum and their readiness to enter the profession with confidence.

## Advancing Grossman's Future

The Grossman School of Business extends its gratitude to the Board of Advisors for their leadership, expertise, and commitment to advancing the school's mission. Through strategic counsel, industry insight, and advocacy, board members help strengthen opportunities for students, support innovation across programs, and foster meaningful connections with alumni and business communities.

**2025-2026 Board of Advisors:**

Rino Caruccio '84
Jim Craige '89
Bill Davis '71
Mark DeMichaelis '87
Don Droppo Jr. '96
Christopher Durovich '79
Jamie Flicker '87
Kenneth A. Ghazey '78
Terence Greene '90
Jill Greer
Jeff Hass '69
Andi Hey '17 G '19
Chris Higgins '84
Gregory W. Hunt '79
J.D. Kelly '18
James R. Keller Jr. '03
James R. Keller Sr. '72
Spencer Lovejoy '12
Andrew Percoco '17
Robert M. Phillips
Robert Russell '91
Bruce Simons
Alyssa Stankiewicz G '19
Maddie Stoops '19
Carrie W. Teffner '88 G '97
Emily "Klein" Vogt G '19
Claire Walton
George Wrenn '17
Cyma Zarghami '84, HON '12

## GROSSMAN BY THE NUMBERS

**Undergraduate Graduates:**
220

**MAcc Graduates:**
27

**SI-MBA Graduates:**
25

**Students Studying Abroad:**
52

**New Beta Gamma Sigma Inductees:**
31

**SG-FECC Teams:**
21

**Countries Represented at SG-FECC:**
11

**State of Vermont Business Co-op:**
1st

**Alumni Engaged Across Events & Programming:**
100+



# Looking Ahead

Building on a year of student achievement, experiential learning, alumni engagement, and program innovation, the Grossman School of Business will continue to create opportunities that prepare students for meaningful careers and lifelong impact. Investments in career-connected learning, industry partnerships, student leadership, and emerging technologies will further strengthen the school's ability to educate innovative, purpose-driven leaders for Vermont and the global community.



Grossman
School of Business

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