
UConn Center for Real Estate and Urban Economic Studies

22nd Annual Awards Banquet

Recognizing Excellence.
Celebrating Impact.



Thursday
April 23rd, 2026

5 pm to 8 pm
Rome Commons Ballroom

EVENT PROGRAM

5:00 P.M.	Networking / Cocktail Reception
6:00 P.M.	Dinner / Welcoming Remarks
6:30 P.M.	Opening Remarks
6:45 P.M.	Presentation of Awards

Real Estate Faculty and Staff

Jeffrey Cohen — Kinnard Scholar / Professor
Attorney Kristen Haseney—Asst. Ext. Professor
Kathryn O’Leary—Program Coordinator
Katherine Pancak—Professor In-Residence
Alex Van de Minne, Assistant Professor
David Wharmby—Real Estate Center Director

Real Estate Student Workers

Kiley Barbagallo, Nadia Bauco, Sydney Chauvin
Liam Fallon, Samantha Naples, Arya Pandya, Yashvi Raval

**This years Awards Presentation is made possible
through the generous support of**



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



John Flint

John graduated from Haverford College in 1955 with a BA in Economics and from the first UConn MBA class in 1959. At that point he was the youngest UConn MBA, and now at age 92 he is the oldest.

The MBA was instrumental in his getting his first job in the field of Commercial Real Estate. In 1977 he became a commercial real estate appraiser, leading to the MAI (Member Appraisal Institute) designation. He started his own appraisal business at age 50. He has served as President of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appraisal Institute.

Long active in the Town of Granby, he has at various times been on the Board of Finance (Vice Chair), Board of Selectmen (Vice Chair) and the Capital Projects Advisory Committee (Chair).

A major interest has been his collection of postmarks. For two four-year terms he was Director (President) of the Post Mark Collectors Club, an international organization of collectors which operates the National Postmark Museum in Ohio.

John and his wife, Carolyn, have lived in Granby for 67 years. They recently became great-grandparents!

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD



Austin Smyth
Sr. Director
Greystar

GREYSTAR

Austin Smyth is a Senior Director of Investments at Greystar, where he plays a key role in the Acquisition, disposition, and execution of multifamily investments across the northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Based in Manhattan, he is responsible for sourcing opportunities, leading transaction processes, and contributing to the strategic growth of one of the world's largest real estate investment platforms.

Prior to Greystar, Austin worked at Barings in Hartford as an intern during the school year which he did until he graduated. Upon graduation, Austin worked at J.P. Morgan, where he developed a strong foundation in institutional real estate investment as an Analyst.

Austin received his Bachelor of Science degree from the School of Real Estate. He was the Undergraduate Student of the year his senior year, and he was President of the real estate society for two years.

ALUMNI OF THE YEAR AWARD



Jessica Pollack
Asset Manager
TA Realty



Jessica Pollack is an Asset Manager at TA Realty, where she leads strategy and operations for a portfolio of office and retail properties, overseeing leasing, marketing, budgeting, and capital initiatives to drive long-term value.

She began her career at National Development in 2015, specializing in mixed-use assets and value-add strategies, and played a key role in the successful lease-up of major developments like The District Burlington and Meadow Walk in Greater Boston.

An engaged industry leader, Jessica frequently participates in academic and professional events, including speaking at the University of Connecticut, where she also mentors students. A UConn graduate, she is recognized as Alumni of the Year for her professional achievements and ongoing contributions to the real estate and university communities.

EARLY CAREER ALUMNI AWARD



Ryan Kaelin
Associate Director
Barings



Ryan is an Associate Director at Barings on the Real Estate Equity Asset Management team, where he oversees a diversified portfolio of multifamily and retail assets totaling more than 1,150 residential units and 479,000 square feet. In this role, he leads leasing strategy, retail lease negotiations, capital project execution, and debt compliance, while also supporting the management of four office and life science assets totaling 1.7 million square feet.

During his time at Barings, Ryan has led the disposition of a 418-unit multifamily tower in New York City and supported the execution of more than \$240 million in acquisitions. He has also played a key role in securing over \$360 million in debt financing.

Prior to joining Barings in 2022, Ryan was an analyst at DLC Management, where he focused on the asset management of open-air shopping centers.

Ryan graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Finance and a minor in Real Estate. He is a member of NAIOP's Developing Leaders Program and an active member of the UConn alumni network.

EARLY CAREER ALUMNI AWARD



Cassie Cicalis
Asset Manager
Jefferson River Capital



Cassie Cicalis is the Head of Real Estate Asset Management at Jefferson River Capital, the family office of Tony James, former President of Blackstone. In her current role, she oversees a diverse real estate portfolio comprising approximately 1,100 multifamily units and 2.5 million square feet of commercial space across multiple markets and asset types.

In addition to leading asset management strategy and execution, Cassie plays an integral role in the firm's investment lifecycle, contributing to acquisitions and dispositions.

Prior to joining Jefferson River Capital, Cassie spent five years at AEW Capital Management in Boston, where she gained experience across both acquisitions and asset management.

She is also a graduate of the University of Connecticut, maintaining a strong connection to the UConn community. Her background combines operational expertise with investment insight, positioning her to drive value creation across complex real estate portfolios

INDUSTRY PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD



The Cigna Group, a Fortune 25 global health company, operates with a long term mission to improve the health and vitality of the individuals it serves.

Cigna Investment Management (CIM) is the internal investment management organization that manages and advises on investment assets on behalf of The Cigna Group and its affiliated insurance companies, pension plans, and related entities. It functions as the inhouse institutional asset manager supporting Cigna's balance sheet and long term obligations. Cigna Investment Management manages a diversified, multi-asset portfolio totaling more than \$30 billion of assets under management across both

Cigna Realty Investors (CRI) is the real estate division of Cigna Investment Management that invests and manages a portfolio with a gross asset value totaling approximately \$6 billion. CRI is a team of approximately 20 investment professionals focused on delivering superior long-term returns as a boutique real estate investor and has the ability to invest across the capital stack and in multiple property types.

ENDOWED SUPPORT

The University of Connecticut School of Business and the Center for Real Estate extend their sincere gratitude to the Nicholas Morizio Family for their generous endowed support, which will provide enduring resources and scholarship opportunities for future generations of students studying real estate.

Nicholas Morizio Family Scholarship

Nicholas Morizio is President of Colliers International in Hartford and



New Haven. His practice focuses on the sale and lease of major commercial properties throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Over his more than 36 years with Colliers, Nick has been involved in the purchase or sale of some of the most recognizable commercial real estate assets in

Greater Hartford and across the state.

Nick built his career through decades of hard work, emphasizing strong client relationships, trust, and face-to-face engagement. His credibility is grounded in significant transaction volume—including the marketing of properties valued in excess of \$800 million and totaling more than 100 million square feet—along with deep market knowledge and long-standing relationships with returning clients.

Nick is a past President of the Connecticut and Western Massachusetts chapter of SIOR and a past Chairman of the Connecticut Counselors of Real Estate. Nick also holds numerous awards throughout Real Estate societies and councils. Nick is the 2018 Recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award UConn Real Estate Center. He currently serves on The School of Business Advisory Cabinet.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Kiley Barbagallo
Co-President
Real Estate Society

UConn | SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

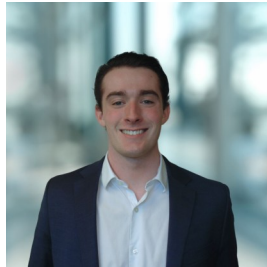
CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE AND
URBAN ECONOMIC STUDIES

Kiley Barbagallo is a graduating senior from Trumbull, CT, majoring in Real Estate and Urban Economics with a minor in Professional Sales Leadership. She is highly involved with UConn's Center for Real Estate, serving as a Student Admin, Co-President of the Real Estate Society, and formerly as Chief of Staff for Hillside Real Estate Investors.

During her time at UConn, Kiley earned the SIOR Scholarship, attended the ICSC Las Vegas convention, and participated in the ICSC Virtual Case Competition. She also completed internships with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and O,R&L Commercial, gaining experience in both multifamily finance and brokerage.

As a senior, she represented UConn in Cornell's International Real Estate Case Competition and received multiple awards, including the Connecticut Realtors' Past Presidents Scholarship and ICSC's Bill Holmes and Hart Realty Undergraduate Real Estate Award. After graduation, she will join Brand Urban in New York City as a Brokerage Analyst, focusing on retail leasing.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD



Daniel Gaudet

Analyst

GID

G | I | D

Daniel Gaudet is an Analyst at GID in Boston, where he focuses on the management and growth of a large national industrial portfolio within a leading institutional investment platform. In his role, he contributes to underwriting, market analysis, and portfolio strategy, supporting the evaluation and execution of real estate investment opportunities.

Daniel is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut, where he earned his degree in Real Estate and Urban Economics. During his time at UConn, he helped establish the Hillside Real Estate Investment Program and served as Vice President of the Real Estate Society, gaining hands-on experience in investment analysis and building a strong foundation in commercial real estate.

Recognized for his analytical approach, strong work ethic, and commitment to the industry, Daniel has successfully transitioned from academic achievement to a professional role at a highly respected real estate investment firm, positioning himself for continued growth in the field.

REAL ESTATE SOCIETY: BUILDING FUTURE LEADERS

Real Estate Society Officers 2025-26



L-R Alayna Christina | Kiley Barbagallo | Davio Visocchi | Nadia Bauco
L-R Nicolas Pawlos | Rebecca Schindler | Samantha Azia | Daniel Gaudet | Bryan Fishman

The UConn Real Estate Society is a student-led organization dedicated to preparing members for careers in the real estate industry through networking, professional development, and hands-on experiences. Driven by a highly collaborative team of officers, the society works cohesively to organize industry speaker events, coordinate trips, and maintain strong connections with alumni and professionals. This teamwork ensures the organization runs smoothly while providing valuable opportunities that bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world application.

Co-Presidents

Alayna Christina - Finance Major, Real Estate Minor
Kiley Barbagallo - Real Estate Major, Professional Sales Leadership Minor

VP Marketing - Nadia Bauco
Marketing Major, Real Estate Minor

VP Networking & Events - Rebecca Schindler
Real Estate Major, Analytics Minor

VP Member Engagement - Daniel Gaudet
Real Estate Major

VP Operations - Samantha Azia
Finance Major, Real Estate Minor

VP Career Resources - Bryan Fishman
Finance Major, Real Estate Minor

VP Speaker Relations - Nicolas Pawlos
Finance Major, Real Estate Minor

VP Recruitment - Davio Visocchi
Real Estate Major, Construction Engineering & Management Minor

Thank you
to our speakers!



CASE COMPETITION TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

Boston College Real Estate Case Competition 2025



The competition addresses the national affordable housing crisis, as the U.S. continues to lose over 125,000 units each year. It emphasizes interdisciplinary problem-solving, utilizing tools such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) to develop sustainable, community-focused solutions.

The 2025 case challenged participants to design a financially viable and socially responsible affordable housing project on a real-world site, balancing economic feasibility with meaningful community impact, and presenting their proposals to a panel of industry professionals.

Team 1 (First Place): Krishna Benzy | Peter (Sam) Cimini | Grayson Glasgow | Aidan Jubb (Pictured)
Team 2: Rebecca Schindler | Davio Visocchi | Aminieli Hopson

Cornell Case Competition 2025

Cornell 2025 focused on the theme “New Rules, New Opportunities: Leveraging Uncertainty for Growth,” challenging participants to develop innovative, research-driven strategies for emerging market multinationals. Competitors explored how companies can navigate shifting global conditions and turn uncertainty into opportunities while creating mutually beneficial, win-win solutions.

Kiley Barbagallo | Jason Carroll | Alayna Christina | Bryan Fishman | Daniel Gaudet

ICSC Foundation Case Competition 2025

Held virtually, the competition challenged teams to evaluate a case requiring both quantitative and qualitative analysis of retail real estate leasing and management. It tasked them with preparing a redevelopment and investment strategy that addressed financial performance, community impact, and long-term objectives of a 460,000-square-foot community shopping center in South Tampa.

Izzy Melgar | Het Patel | Hannah Patz | Jack Zirlen

Villanova Mulroy Real Estate Challenge Case Competition 2026

The 2026 Mulroy Real Estate Challenge challenged students to act as real estate developers, analyzing a comprehensive development project from initial concept through financial feasibility. Teams created investment strategies that integrated market analysis, design considerations, and capital structuring, ultimately presenting their recommendations to industry professionals. The competition emphasized technical modeling, strategic decision-making, and collaborative problem-solving in a real-world development context.

Lilliana Killen | Adrew Myer | Sabrina Ortega | Hannah Patz

HILLSIDE REAL ESTATE INVESTORS



The Hillside Real Estate Investors (HREI) is an experiential learning program at the University of Connecticut where students manage a live real estate fund, making real investment decisions with industry professionals and partners. Students gain hands-on experience in sourcing deals, analyzing markets, and managing a portfolio. The program integrates alumni and industry partners, including TA Realty, who serve as mentors, curriculum advisors, and guest lecturers. With an initial target fund of \$1 million, HREI empowers students to lead in all aspects of the investment process, building an impactful bridge between academic theory and professional practice in real estate investment.



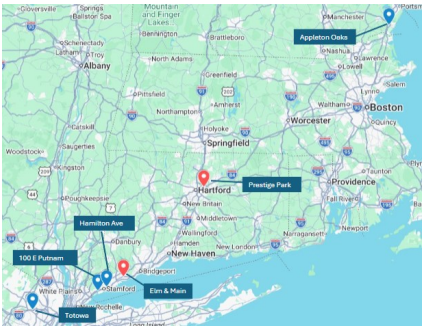
Hillside Real Estate Investment Fund Graduates—Class of 2026

Celebrating our graduating seniors who have completed two semesters in the Hillside Real Estate Investment Fund, developing practical skills through hands-on investment experience.

Kiley Barbagallo	Nicholas Demanche	Izzy Melgar
Krishna Benzy	Jacob Discuillo	Samantha Naples
Jason Carroll	Bryan Fishman	Het Patel
Mark Chernyak	Daniel Gaudet	Nicolas Pawlos
Alayna Christina	Grayson Glasgow	Rebecca Schindler
Peter Cimini	Aidan Jubb	Ethan Stagg
		Davio Visocchi

HILLSIDE REAL ESTATE INVESTORS

Map Overview



Individual Properties



100 East Putnam, 100 E Putnam Ave
Cos Cob, CT



Hamilton Industrial, 120 Hamilton Ave,
Stamford, CT



Totowa Light Industrial, 601 Union Blvd.
Totowa, NJ



Appleton Oaks, 241 Drakeside Rd
Hampton, NH



Elm & Main, 136 Main St.
Westport, CT



Prestige Park, 200 Prestige Park Rd
East Hartford, CT

SCHOLARSHIPS

Byrl N. Boyce Valuation Scholarship

This scholarship is given in honor of Byrl N. Boyce and is awarded to students who are pursuing a career in real estate valuation.

DANIEL GAUDET

Carl Traub Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 2004 in memory of Carl F. Traub to support real estate students enrolled in the UConn School of Business.

KRISHNA BENZY

CT REALTORS® Past Presidents Scholarship

This scholarship is in honor of all past CTR Presidents. It is open to students enrolled in the Real Estate Program at UConn.

KILEY BARBAGALLO

CREA Foundation Scholarship

The CREA Foundation is proud to dedicate their time and effort to making sure that students don't just enter higher education, but succeed in obtaining a degree that will transform their lives and help in bringing their dreams to reality. The CREA Annual Award to UConn students is designed to support that journey.

JANE TORRENCE | DAMIAN CZERKIEWICZ

SCHOLARSHIPS

Debbie C. Philips Scholarship

This scholarship provides support for undergraduate students majoring in Real Estate and Urban Economics.

AMINIELI HOPSON

GHAR Commercial Real Estate Scholarship

This award is given to students pursuing commercial real estate and is open to students enrolled in the real estate program at UConn.

SAMANTHA AZIA | DAMIAN CZERKIEWICZ

ICSC | John Hart Real Estate Undergraduate Scholarship

This award is given to an undergraduate real estate student who is planning to work in the retail sector, and is given in honor of John M. Hart, a member of the ICSC Foundation board of Directors and owner of Hart Realty Advisers, Inc.

KILEY BARBAGALLO

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ned Heberger Student Development Fund Scholarship

This fund is used to expand both the quantity and quality of resources available to qualified students affiliated with the UConn Real Estate Center.

PETER CIMINI

Real Estate Center Scholarship

This scholarship provides support for undergraduate students who are studying real estate.

SYDNEY CHAUVIN | NOLAN DEE | CARLO MORANO
ANDREW MYER

Society of Industrial Office REALTORS® (SIOR) Samuel F. Pierson Scholarship

SIOR offers a number of awards to students interested in a career in real estate, preferably sales. Criteria include demonstration of potential for future academic and professional accomplishments.

ALAYNA CHRISTINA | NICHOLAS DEMANCHE | NICOLAS PAWLOS
REBECCA SCHINDLER | DAVIO VISOCCHI

SCHOLARSHIPS

Stephen D. Messner / SBA Scholarship Fund

This scholarship honors Stephen D. Messner and provides support for graduate and undergraduate students in the areas of real estate and finance.

JASON CARROLL | SHELBY HUNT

William N. Kinnard, Jr. / CREUES Alumni Scholarship

This award is given in honor of William N. Kinnard, Jr., the first appointed Director of the Real Estate Center in 1965. This scholarship is awarded to students in the real estate major with a strong interest in a real estate career. Criteria include demonstrated potential for future academic and professional accomplishments.

BRYAN FISHMAN

FELLOWSHIPS

Dr Marc Louargand Memorial Fellowship

This fellowship provides support for students who are studying real estate and are an incoming or continuing graduate student.

NADIA BAUCO

RECOGNITION

2026 Graduating Seniors with Real Estate Major

Kiley Barbagallo	Daniel Gaudet	Samantha Naples
Jason Carroll	Grayson Glasgow	Lynn Sanchez
Alayna Christina	Aminieli Hopson	Rebecca Schindler
Peter Cimini	Aidan Jubb	Carter Sirois
Nicholas Demanche		Davio Visocchi

2026 Graduating Seniors with Real Estate Minor

Megan Alvarado	Jan Guanilo	Ghulam Mustafa
Nadia Bauco	Abigail Hodgson	Het Patel
Harrison Bied	Morgan Hodorski	Nicolas Pawlos
Santiago Blas	Casper Jankowski	Nicholas Pfeifer
James Celentano	Amanda Kiman	Jeremy Pham
Nicholas Cinque	Nicholas Kirejczyk	John Picard
Timothy Conroy	Dovidas Kizevicius	Jake Saldutti
Jacob Discuillo	Joseph Lakaj	Thomas Serrano
Olivia Eslava	Kaden Maccarone	Salvatore Signorello
Liam Fallon	Carlo Marano	Kevin Solorzano
Bryan Fishman	Kian McEnerney	Ethan Stagg
Madison Fontanella	Izarriah Melgar	Tighe Thebodeau
Tristan Fraser	Sophia Menoutis	Tien Van
Kacie Goncalves	Thomas Messineo	Adam Weiss
	Sidonie Moutran	John Wojenski

RECOGNITION

2025 UConn Center for Real Estate Golf Tournament First Place Team



COLIN IGOE | JAKE KELLY | JOE MCMAHON | DANIEL RUSSELL

Special thanks to all of our sponsors who made our 2025
tournament possible!



Save the Date!

Our next golf tournament will be held on [September 15th, 2026](#).

PLACEMENTS

Deutsche Bank | CHFA | Freddie Mac | Fulton Realty Capital | GID
The Cigna Group | Bradley Foster & Sargent | DFS Construction
Deloitte Consulting | Acadia Realty Trust | Panza Home Group | RTX
Budderfly | Travelers | Honeycomb Real Estate Partners
The Simon Konover Company | Soundwater Properties | Merrill Lynch

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

2025 Dean's List

Preston Alessio	Lilliana Killen	Samantha Naples
Kiley Barbagallo	Riley LaBombard	Samantha Porres
Peter Cimini	Grace Maria	John Stein
Aidan Jubb	Lorenzo Matiz	Davio Visocchi
	Sidonie Moutran	

2025 Babbidge Scholars

Babbidge Scholars: Students earned a 4.0 for both Spring & Fall 2025

Samantha Azia | Sofia Davino | Nicholas Pfeifer

2025 New England Scholars

New England Scholars: Students earned a 3.7 for both Spring & Fall 2025

Preston Alessio	Bryan Fishman	Abigal Hodgson
Olivia Eslava	Christian Fournier	Morgan Hodorski
	Jane Harhay	

Certifications

Kiley Barbagallo - A. CRE Accelerator
Peter (Sam) Cimini - A. CRE Accelerator
Bryan Fishman - A. CRE Accelerator | ARGUS
Daniel Gaudet - ARGUS
Ivan Khrystenko - A. CRE Accelerator
Nicolas Pawlos - ARGUS
Rebecca Schindler - A. CRE Accelerator | ARGUS
Davio Visocchi - ARGUS

ENDOWMENTS

*The Real Estate Center thanks our Alumni and Friends
for their contributions to the following
UConn Foundation Endowments:*

Barings Real Estate Advisers LLC Fund

Bryl N. Boyce Valuation Scholarship

Carl F. Traub Memorial Scholarship

CATIC Foundation Real Estate Excellence Program

CT REALTORS® Past Presidents Scholarship

CREA Foundation Scholarship

Dr. Marc A. Louargand Memorial Fellowship Endowment

Debbie C. Phillips Scholarship

GHAR Commercial Real Estate Scholarship

ICSC | John Hart Real Estate Undergraduate Scholarship

Judy Paesani Student Fund

Konover Coppa Family Fund for the School of Business Center for Real Estate

Matthew J. Halprin New England Retail Properties, Inc.
Real Estate Excellence Program

Ned Heberger Student Fund

Nicholas Morizio Family Scholarship

Real Estate Center Council Fund

Real Estate Center Scholarship

S.I.O.R. Scholarship Fund in the name of Samuel F. Pierson

Stephen D. Messner / School of Business Scholarship Fund

William N. Kinnard, Jr. / CREUES Alumni Scholarship

William N. Kinnard, Jr. Professorship Fund

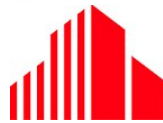
CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE ADVISORY BOARD

The following are members of the 2025-2026 Advisory Board.

Paul Champagne	Valbridge Property Advisors
Dags Chen	Marcus & Millichap
Thomas Curtin	Retired
Ernie DesRochers	NorthMarq Capital
Mark Duclos	Sentry Commercial
Christine Elmore	TA Realty
Tiffany Gherlone	Perform Properties
Matthew Halprin	New England Retail Properties
Martin P. Kane	MPK Partners
Ronald Lamontagne	Partners Group
Anna Paladino	CBRE Debt & Structured Finance
Carol Presutti	Berkshire Hathaway NE Properties
Rick Roth	Roth Equities LLC
Andrew Sabatini	SitusAMC
Denise Stake	State of Connecticut Treasurer
Andrew Tedford	Talcott Realty Investors, LLC
Rick VanSteenbergen	Hartford Investment Management Co.

RECOGNITION OF REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY PARTNERS

UCONN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE AND
URBAN ECONOMIC STUDIES



**CUSHMAN &
WAKEFIELD**



A TRIBUTE TO OUR 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR



A TRIBUTE TO OUR 2025-26 ACADEMIC YEAR





UCONN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

**CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE AND
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