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*School of*  
**ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE**

## AUGUST 2024 E-NEWSLETTER

The Spring 2024 term at UWaterloo has been non-stop and filled with celebrations! In June, we recognized our newest graduates during the spring convocation ceremony. Congratulations again to the Class of 2024!

We have fantastic events lined up for the rest of 2024 and can't wait to see you there. Keep an eye out for invitations and announcements over email and on SAF social media channels to stay connected with the SAF community.

Lastly, cheers to a joyful summer! Wishing you wonderful moments with family and friends, and we look forward to the rest of the year.

### **FEATURE STORIES:**

#### **Teaching excellence and financial innovation: Celebrating the remarkable career of Dr. Ranjini Jha**

Professor Ranjini Jha of the University of Waterloo's School of Accounting and Finance is celebrating a distinguished 26-year career marked by her dedication to education, innovation in finance, and mentoring future financial leaders. Jha, who transitioned from a successful banking career to academia, played a pivotal role in establishing key initiatives like the Student Investment Fund and Women in Finance. As she prepares for retirement, Jha leaves a legacy through the Jha Family Scholarship for Excellence in Finance and looks forward to personal pursuits.

#### **KPMG Canada appoints Benjie Thomas as next CEO**

KPMG Canada LLP has appointed Benjie Thomas (PDAcc '98) as its next CEO. Thomas is a seasoned executive with extensive experience in deal advisory and strong connections with private equity firms and pension

funds. He will assume leadership of KPMG Canada's operations on October 1, succeeding Elio Luongo, who has been the CEO and senior partner since 2016.

### **Natasha J. Chen demonstrates the benefits of hard work**

Graduating with a Bachelor of Accounting and Financial Management and currently pursuing her Master of Accounting, Chen has been a stellar student and an active member of various clubs and programs at the University of Waterloo. As the valedictorian, her dedication and achievements, both academically and within the community, make her a fitting representative for the Class of 2024.

### **Fairer reward systems and improved team dynamics: Key insights from new research**

Professor Kelsey Matthews, the co-author of a recent study by the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, revealed that requiring employees to explain their contributions leads to fairer bonus allocations and improved team dynamics. The research found that less skilled employees tend to exaggerate their performance and request higher bonuses when reporting voluntarily, but mandating explanations encourages honesty and diligence. This study offers valuable insights for managers aiming to enhance fairness and teamwork within their organizations.

### **SAF students win the global finals at CFA's Institute Research Challenge in Poland**

A team of University of Waterloo students won the CFA Institute's Research Challenge global finals, beating over 1,100 schools and 6,700 students worldwide. The team, consisting of Ryan, Coco, Arnav, Ronis, and Aryaman, took home the grand prize of \$10,000 for their exceptional analysis and presentation on Cargojet Inc. Their success highlights the importance of thorough research, critical feedback, and the valuable real-world experience gained through the competition.

### **ADDITIONAL STORIES:**

[Three SAF professors earn Distinguished Emeriti recognition for longstanding service](#)

[Professor David Ha is presented with the Excellence in Online Teaching Award](#)

[SAF Celebrates Glenn Ives' legacy and welcomes Lana Paton as new Advisory Council Chair](#)

[Our Journey to A4S: Addressing Human Rights Through Sustainable Sourcing](#)

[Dr. Adam Presslee wins Arts Award for Excellence in Research](#)

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