

## 2003 PREA Real Estate Scholarship Winners

**Luis Castillo** is a 2004 MBA candidate at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business. Castillo spent the summer working for a real estate private equity firm focusing on the acquisition of distressed office and hotel assets across the country. He has also worked in the Apartment Investment Group of Arroyo & Coates, a San Francisco-based commercial real estate brokerage firm. He is actively involved in the Berkeley Real Estate Program and is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Latin American Business Club. Castillo received his Bachelor of Science degree in finance from Boston University.



**John Collura** graduated cum laude from Amherst College in 1997 after majoring in economics and serving in the student government. After graduation, he worked for one year as a consulting associate at Cambridge Associates, Inc., an investment consulting firm in Boston. Collura then spent more than three years with RREEF Real Estate Investment Managers in San Francisco, where, as an analyst and associate in the Acquisitions Group, he evaluated real estate investment opportunities. This past summer, Collura worked as an associate in Originations for GE Real Estate's Partners Group, analyzing preferred equity and mezzanine debt investments. At Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, Collura is co-chair of the Real Estate Club and is majoring in real estate, finance, and management and organizations.



**Allen Freeman** is a second-year MBA student at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is focusing on real estate development and finance. Prior to attending Haas, Freeman was a management consultant for Accenture, in Paris, and Xelus Corporation in Santa Monica. Last summer, Freeman worked as a Development Associate for JSM Construction, a southern California-based multi-family apartment developer. Freeman is vice president of the Berkeley Real Estate Club and is a member of the Urban Land Institute. In 2003, he participated on the Cal Bank of America Low-Income Housing Challenge Team. He currently serves on the board of Livable Berkeley, a local Smart Growth community group.



**Martin Healey** is pursuing his MBA at the Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley, with a concentration in real estate. Upon graduating in May of 2004, Healey intends to pursue a career in real estate investment, most likely within an opportunity fund or other institutional investment vehicle. Healey is currently president of the Berkeley Real Estate Club and was a member of the Berkeley team that won the inaugural UT Austin Real Estate Finance Challenge in November 2002, beating out teams from 11 other top MBA schools. Last summer, Healey worked with the commercial properties department of the Archon Group (a Goldman Sachs company) in Dallas.



**Laurent Luccioni** is currently a second-year MBA student at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, with career interests in real estate investment and finance. Last summer, he worked as an associate with Cherokee Investment Partners, a real estate private equity fund that acquires and revitalizes environmentally impaired properties. Prior to pursuing his MBA, Luccioni had more than five years' experience as a civil and environmental consultant and served as an expert witness in environmental litigations. He is a licensed professional engineer and has a Ph.D. in civil and



environmental engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Last June, he passed Level I of the CFA exam and was awarded the Chookaszian Prize in risk management. His industrial affiliations include membership in the Urban Land Institute and the Association for Investment Management and Research.



**Kevan McCormack** is currently a class of 2004 MBA student at the University of Texas at the Austin McCombs School of Business, where he is focusing his graduate education in real estate finance. During the summer of 2003, McCormack worked at Metropolitan Capital Advisors, Ltd., a top mortgage brokerage and investment-banking firm in Dallas. After graduating, McCormack plans on returning to the real estate industry to gain experience in both finance and leasing before fulfilling his career goals in real estate development. Prior to pursuing his MBA, McCormack graduated summa cum laude from Texas Tech University with a degree in interior architecture. After earning his bachelor's degree, McCormack worked with O'Brien and Associates Architects in Dallas, where he was responsible for design and construction management of several projects involving industrial, office, retail, and hospitality product types.



**Chris Pecoraro** earned his Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of Arizona. He is a certified management accountant and licensed real estate sales person. During his career, he has assisted in structuring more than a billion dollars in commercial real estate loan transactions as a senior real estate analyst for GMAC Commercial Mortgage in Los Angeles. He is a past board member of the Institute of Management Accountants (Scottsdale chapter). Pecoraro has also studied in Spain and has traveled throughout Europe. He is pursuing a MRED degree and an MBA from the University of Southern California. His ambition is to pursue a career in real estate asset management, managing real estate investments for institutional investors from acquisition or development through the exit strategy.



**Jeff Thomas** is currently a second-year MBA student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Kenan-Flagler Business School, where he is concentrating in real estate. Prior to business school, Thomas was an associate at J.P. Morgan Mortgage Capital, where he worked three years underwriting and securitizing commercial mortgage-backed securities products. He began his career at Beers Construction Company (now Skanska) as a project accountant. This past summer, Thomas interned in the acquisition group at Wells Real Estate Funds in Atlanta. He is a member of the UNC Kenan-Flagler Real Estate Club and the Urban Land Institute. He earned his BS in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1997.