Greetings Alexa,

This is an invitation to all former and future SIF students! This semester we will meet on **Wednesday, May 1, from 12-2 PM in VBT 126**. If you'd like to attend, in-person or remotely via Zoom, please [contact me](mailto:).  

Best regards,  
Professor Brian Du

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**Student Investment Fund History**

Cal State East Bay's Student Investment Fund was established in May 2022 through the generous contributions of $277,000 from alumni Mike Coke, Michael Dance, and Ken Pereira. Mike Coke, President and co-founder of Terreno Realty Corp., credits part of his post-graduation success to the skills and knowledge acquired during his undergraduate experience at our university.

The Student Investment Fund serves a dual purpose. First, it enriches student education by providing hands-on experience in financial decision-making and teaches critical aspects of investment analysis and portfolio management. Second, it instills the value of philanthropy and the importance of giving back by sharing success. Each year, 5% of the fund’s net assets are distributed back to students in the form of scholarships.

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**SIF Advisory Board Members**

Dr. Ching-Lih Jan- Professor  
Dr. Eric Fricke- Professor  
Dr. Scott Fung- Professor  
Dr. Sinan Goktan- Professor  
Mr. Mike Coke- President and CEO of Terreno Realty; donor  
Mr. Ken Pereira- Retired CFO of SteelRiver Infrastructure Partners; donor  
Mr. Louie Navellier- Chairman and Founder of Navellier & Associates
Louie Visits Again!

Special thanks to Mr. Louie Navellier for his invaluable contributions as a guest lecturer for the Student Investment Fund (SIF) program. He has generously shared his insights with our students for two consecutive semesters. Mr. Navellier’s engaging lectures have provided our students with a unique opportunity to learn from a seasoned industry expert. We are grateful for his dedication and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

Hear from Current Students

The Student Investment Fund has been a more than worthwhile experience in showing me how to fundamentally evaluate stocks from the bottom up. It is a special class where all the work you do goes towards a decision that has the possibility of making an impact on a real portfolio. With that responsibility along with the proficiency I’ve gained with Microsoft Excel, I can confidently say this class has prepared me the most for my future professional career.
- Lucas Brown

I am grateful for the invaluable experience of being a part of the SIF. This opportunity has not only equipped me with knowledge applicable to my future career but also served as a significant personal investment.
- Leander Capitly

One of the best choices I made in my college career was taking the SIF course because I gained hands-on experience with working with a financial model. Specifically, I improved on Excel by working with real life data, which simulates a professional work environment. Moreover, I developed thorough analytics skills to quantify and understand financial data. The process of selecting an investment recommendation allowed me to communicate powerfully with my partner as I had to consider the many strengths and weaknesses of a company. So, I will forever be grateful for this opportunity that ensured me that I can be successful in a business finance world.
- Josue Cerna

I would 100% without a doubt recommend The Student Investment Fund to any student who has an interest in getting hands-on applicable skills with financial functions, creating models, stock analysis, and reading analyst reports. I’ve gained more from this class than I thought I would, as this isn’t your typical sit and listen to a lecture for an hour type of class. This is a class that requires you to use skills and techniques you have learned from other finance classes and use them in day to day work to filter through hundreds of companies to find the best possible company to invest in. This class will hone your skills in attention to detail as one mistake could ruin your entire data
set, but it will also challenge you to learn and apply the skills required to be successful in this class. Professor Dr. Du is a passionate mentor and professor dedicating not only his time and effort but also his knowledge in the investing space taking time to answer student questions in great detail. Overall if I had the opportunity to take this class again I wouldn't hesitate. I am grateful to have been able to share this learning experience with Professor Brian Du and my fellow classmates and hope to see the portfolio expand and grow semester by semester.

- Ming Chen

First, I am very grateful for being able to take the Student Investment Fund class. This class has given me hands on experience in investing and trading. I got to learn about different metrics to look at while valuing different companies. I was not comfortable with Excel when I first started this class, but over time this class has helped me tremendously in developing more advanced skills in Excel. Thank you so much Professor Brian, your class has taught me so many new things that I did not know about prior to taking your class. I appreciate how you have worked with us at every step and how you were always available when we needed help. For anyone considering taking this class, I highly recommend you do take it.

- Pearl Kaur

I am so glad that I had the privilege of taking the student investment fund course. Throughout my time in this course, I learned how to analyze finances, manage portfolios, and assess risks. Actually thinking about handling investments taught me how to make smart decisions based on research. These skills aren't just for the classroom—they're super useful in real life, whether you're managing your own money or making financial choices in a job. This course gave me the confidence and know-how to navigate the world of investments and financial planning.

- Casey Kehr

SIF has been the best class I have ever taken. I feel like all my other business classes were leading up to taking SIF. To use a sports analogy, my accounting, finance, and other business classes were like practice, teaching me the necessary skills and laying the foundation of knowledge. SIF felt like the first scrimmage before the actual season (starting a career in finance). I finally could use my skills from previous classes and actually apply them using real world applications. It was a really rewarding experience and the fact that Professor Du cares so much for his students really made the entire course even better. This class really put my Excel skills to the test but there is a sense of pride I have looking at all the work I have done this semester. I have no doubt that I will use what I have learned from Professor Du as I pursue a career in finance after graduation. He really knows his stuff and goes above and beyond to see his students succeed, if they are willing to do the work.

- Grayson Pritchard

The SIF course is great and I would recommend for other students focusing on a finance concentration to take this class for an upper division finance course. You can get experience for your financing job by using Excel. You get to work with someone for your presentation. You get to choose the sector that you can work in. You get to learn more about the companies in your portfolio. You can learn about what makes a company good or bad.

- Alex Unguru

This class is one of the best course experiences I have had in my time here at CSUEB. I have always said that I believe the best learning comes from hands-on experience and that is exactly what this class offers. It provides an environment where students feel like they are the ones steering the ship and gives students a set of responsibilities similar to a workplace environment. However, what made this class amazing is that it never felt like work that you dreaded doing. Every time I was partaking in work for this class, I felt that I was growing and contributing to something real since it involves real funds that go towards helping actual students on campus in the form of
Because of that, it gives this class a sense of purpose that you don’t get with many other classes. On top of that, you get an amazing look into how Quantitative and Qualitative analysis is implemented when researching firms to add to our portfolio. All of this combines to create an experience that any Finance student should take advantage of. When Professor Du first mentioned this class when I was taking FIN-300, I was unsure if I should take it. But, now that I have taken the class, I am so thrilled that I was able to be a part of an amazing experience that I would recommend to every student who wants to expand what they know and get hands-on with their learning.

- Jordan Valente

As a marketing major, taking this class may seem impractical to the outside viewer, but it has helped me develop my understanding of various aspects and the work involved in investing. **Finance concepts and theories taught in lower divisions are actually put into practice, providing students with hands-on experience that no other current finance or business class offers.** Learning how to quantitatively and qualitatively analyze actual data and make decisions that have a real impact on the investment fund provides a truly unique and enhancing real-world experience for students to invest in.

- Julianne Marie Villarreal

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**Former SIF Student Spotlight: Fraser Owenson**

In our last newsletter, I mentioned receiving messages from former SIF students about how the skills they learned in the program have positively impacted their careers. I'm delighted to share an unedited message I received from Mr. Fraser Owenson this semester. With his permission, here's what he had to say. Students, take note of his offer for assistance!

Hi Professor Du,

I hope you’re well, I just wanted to get in touch after graduating last May and starting my new job this year.

I returned to the UK last summer and was in the process of applying to several firms over the fall and am happy to say I have joined Piper Sandler as an Investment Banking Analyst in their Energy & Power team. I’d known of the firm for quite a few years (it was previously known as Piper Jaffray and then following its merger with Sandler O’Neil became Piper Sandler companies) and was recommended to apply by some of the guys I met through golf while I was at East Bay.

I wanted to firstly say thanks for all your help while I was studying, your support both in the Student Investment Fund class and additionally on any extra-curricular queries I had was extremely useful and much appreciated. I really felt that the experiences and skills I gained by taking part in the SIF proved very useful in my career search, and many of the people I spoke to during my application process were interested to learn more about it. Having hands on experience in somewhat of a simulated real-world scenario meant that despite not having as much industry experience, I still felt I had the knowledge and understanding for a full-time role. I would recommend the SIF class to any future CBE students, especially for someone who is hoping to work in corporate finance and buy/sell side advisory.

I know that during my time in the SIF class we used Morningstar Direct, although you mentioned the idea you may change this going forward. In my new role we use CapIQ which is extremely helpful, as it gives the option to pull data directly into an Excel sheet rather than manually having to hardcode cells individually. This may be a good idea for the SIF as it would save some time in the initial data entry stages and may also help in the later stages for market news and the board pitch given the fairly extensive database and user-friendly dashboard.

Additionally, I wanted to mention some resources I used in my career search.

- [Morningstar Direct](https://www.morningstar.com/)
- [CapIQ](https://www.capiq.com/)

I hope you are well and I look forward to hearing from you in the future.

- Fraser Owenson
I was able to attend a Valuation training course through Training The Street in my new role that was extremely useful. Their courses are quite detailed and aren't the cheapest but are extremely useful for anyone who is certain they want to go down the corporate finance route and want to advance their skills. I also used WallStreetPrep's resources during my recruitment and would recommend both for any students looking to advance their knowledge or tidy up on any specific skills.

AmplifyME run quite a few simulations that last a couple of hours to a couple of days and can be tailored to given industries (M&A, Investment Banking, Asset Management, Trading etc.). They can do full courses for colleges although I am unsure of the cost but run a lot of courses that are free for students. This may be a good idea for some for the SIF students and seniors who may want some exposure to more real-world scenarios that don't cost a $1000+ like some of the other courses.

Also, I feel that networking was extremely worthwhile while I was going through my senior year and my career search. Given the extensive list of CBE alumni who are working in varying industries and positions, I found it helpful to speak to people who were a couple of years into the roles I was hoping to go into, as it meant I was able to hear first-hand experiences and gain a better understanding of where I wanted to work. There were several places that I either was more drawn to or completely disregarded based on networking and reaching out to people.

If it’s of any help, please feel free to forward my contact details to anyone who is interested in the SIF or is wanting to go down the route of a career in Investment Banking or corporate finance.

Thanks again for all your help during my time at East Bay.

Best,
Fraser Owenson
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Piper Sandler Ltd., Scotland
D +44 1224 655 983 | M +44 7714 658 100
E fraser.owenson@psc.com

Student Success

Former SIF students have started careers in these companies:
SIF Holdings
SIF Performance

The total value of the SIF portfolio (as of March 28, 2024) is $501,495. Total contributions are $392,425 and total investment earnings are $109,070. Since inception in May of 2022, the portfolio has returned 30.34%.

Monthly Time-Weighted Returns vs. S&P500
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<tr>
<td>Since Inception (5/11/22 to 03/28/24)</td>
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