



**CFA Society
Los Angeles**

E-Newsletter

June 2025

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Original Content

BMO Stadium Serves as Venue for Annual Meeting of the Members

Tom Derse, CFA

Following the overwhelming success of last year's CFA Society Los Angeles (CFALA) Annual Meeting of the Members at SoFi Stadium, the 94th Annual Meeting was held at BMO Stadium in Los Angeles. Like last year, the venue inspired great attendance, as more than 150 members registered for the Exposition Park event.

For most attendees, the evening started with a tour of the stadium. This included a visit to the press box, the Field Club, the locker room, and a special look at the Vault, an ultra-exclusive area that even the tour guide admitted she had rarely entered.

Members then convened for drinks and appetizers at the Sunset Deck. Sunset Deck is a unique open-air space designed to embrace Los Angeles' weather. With stunning views of the field, downtown LA, and Exposition Park, it offers the perfect backdrop. According to the [stadium website](#), this space "blends

a Palm Springs inspired decor and a water feature creating the ultimate social oasis."

Members were then asked to make their way downstairs to conduct the annual meeting. Section B of the stadium provided a unique setting for the proceedings. With the dais on the field and the members in the stands, it was a great setup and much different from the usual dinner tables situation.

Mariya Entina, CFA, Outgoing President of CFALA, presided over the meeting with great proficiency. She balanced recognizing award winners and volunteers while understanding the love of efficiency. Incoming President Steven Wang, CFA shared his vision for the upcoming year, which should continue on a path of growth. CFALA now has 2,547 members, an all-time high, and it is on pace to set records in member engagement.

Entina also reminded members about CFA Institute's proposed bylaw change, which would eliminate member-elected Presidents Council Representatives (PCRs) as voting participants in the Institute's board nominations



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process, replacing them with a non-voting advisory council. This would remove the only formal member-elected voice in board selection, weakening transparency, representation, and trust. The CFALA Board of Governors recommends voting “Against” Proposal 1e to preserve inclusive governance.

The annual meeting includes recognition of members who have contributed to the success of CFALA.

Award winners this year were:

Outstanding Society Member:
Y. Allen Kim, CFA

Outstanding Volunteer:
Hilal Yilmaz, PhD, CFA

James H. Fletcher, CFA
Emerging Leader Award:
Patrick George, CFA

Corporate Award:
*Capital Group – Accepted by
Chris Richardson*

Innovation Award:

Scott Laudeman, CFA (Board Rep), Patrick George, CFA (Co-Chair), Hilal Yilmaz, PhD, CFA (Co-Chair), Evelyn Drake, CFA, Chase Foster, CFA, Patrick Glennon, CFA, William Hahn, CFA, Jason Sampas, Esq, CPA, Doug Scotti, CFA, Patricia Shields, and Eduardo Silva, CFA

Steven Reznik, CFA and Andy Berkin, PhD were also recognized for CE milestone achievements.

Events like this do not happen without the help of CFALA staff and volunteers. The program starts with an attractive venue, and the results have consistently been fantastic. Caitlin Topkis, CFALA Director of Operations and Programming shared some details on the process of finding the right venue. “We toured a bunch of places. We considered COSM (a shared reality experience located in the Hollywood Park district) and the LA Zoo. Ultimately we are looking for interesting experiences for members.”

Curated Content**Curation by Stuart Fujiyama, CFA and Sona Shahinian**

CFA Institute 2025 Graduate Outlook Survey: Finance Top Career Choice

According to CFA Institute's 2025 Graduate Outlook Survey results, finance remains a top career choice for graduating students globally. But in a world of AI-driven tools, do young professionals still see value in human financial advisors? Check out this article for the answer, along with other insights on career preferences, workplace expectations, and industry trends. We've also provided a link to the full report.

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Turing's Milestone, Graduation's Microphone

After having served students this year as friend, confidant, assistant, and mentor, wouldn't AI make the ideal commencement speaker? That's the question posed by High Point University Assistant Professor of Philosophy Matthew Brophy in this Inside Higher Ed piece. Brophy prompted four of today's most advanced large language models, then asked ChatGPT-4 to synthesize their outputs into a single speech. How do you think it sounds?

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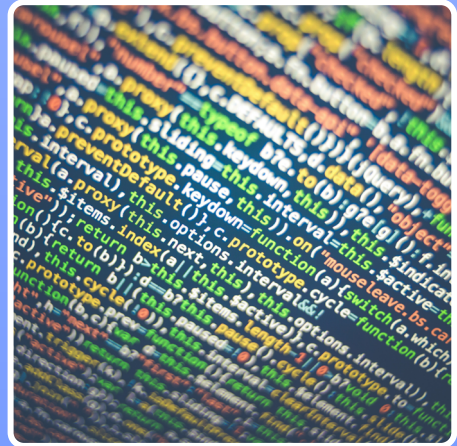
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No, Graduates: AI Hasn't Ended Your Career Before It Starts

How can new college graduates compete with powerful AI? In this WIRED article, tech journalist and author Steven Levy shares his perspective in a commencement speech at Temple University's College of Liberal Arts. While acknowledging the challenges, he offers a hopeful take on what still sets humans apart, and why that matters now more than ever.



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Best Graduation Speeches

Created by Christina Negrut and now curated by Italy-based web strategist Carlo Scomparin, this aptly named website features over 400 of the best college graduation speeches that its administrators could find. In a lengthy, quote-filled article, Negrut and Scomparin offer their thoughts on “how to prepare, structure, and deliver a great commencement address.”



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The Most Popular Commencement Address

While curation of the best graduation speeches involves some subjectivity, viewing of the featured speeches can then be tracked. This turned out to be the most popular speech, beating out even the one by Steve Jobs in 2005.



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The CFA Society Los Angeles (CFALA) e-newsletter is a periodic publication with stories about noteworthy events and programs sponsored or hosted by the society, guest articles by members, book reviews, and other items of interest to CFALA members. If you'd like to contribute a story suggestion or write an article, we'd love to hear from you - email Chief Executive Officer Laura Carney at laura@cfala.org.

Please note that the content of this e-newsletter should not be construed as investment advice, nor do the opinions expressed necessarily reflect the views of CFA Society Los Angeles.