

# News from CFALA

## For Immediate Release

### Contacts:

James Peters, CFA  
CFA Society of Los Angeles  
310-407-4883  
info@cfala.org

Deirdre Perez, CFA  
CFA Society of Orange County  
949-222-6387  
info@cfaoc.org

## University of Southern California Wins the 2012 CFA Institute Research Challenge in Southern California

LOS ANGELES – The University of Southern California (USC) won the 2012 CFA Institute Research Challenge in Southern California, which was held Feb. 24 at The Pacific Club in Newport Beach, California. USC now advances to the Americas Regional Final in New York City on April 10, 2012, with the chance to advance to the Global Final. The CFA Institute Research Challenge in Southern California was co-presented by the CFA Society of Los Angeles and the CFA Society of Orange County.

The members of the winning team from USC are Abhinav Anand, Peter K. Bartholomew III, Jizeng Chia (Andrew), Weston Tong and Lau Pok Yat Watson. The team's faculty advisor is Dr. Mick Swartz, Ph.D. and the team's industry mentor is Jean-Baptiste Nadal, CFA.

Each university assembled teams of 3-5 business and finance undergraduate and graduate students who each research the specified target company and prepare both a written report as well as a formal presentation. This year, each university prepared a research report and presentation on j2 Global (JCOM), a Los Angeles-based provider of cloud-based, business communications and storage messaging services.

### About the CFA Institute Research Challenge

The CFA Institute Research Challenge is a global competition which tests the analytic, valuation, report writing, and presentation skills of university students. Last year, nearly 2,500 students from over 546 universities in 45 countries participated and learned best practices in equity research from leading industry experts. More information can be found at [researchchallenge.org](http://researchchallenge.org).

### About the CFA Institute

CFA Institute is the global association for investment professionals. It administers the CFA and CIPM curriculum and exam programs worldwide; publishes research;

conducts professional development programs; and sets voluntary, ethics-based professional and performance-reporting standards for the investment industry. The Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation is a mark of distinction that is globally recognized by employers, investment professionals, and investors as the definitive standard by which to measure serious investment professionals. CFA Institute has more than 100,000 members, who include the world's 90,000 CFA charterholders, in 135 countries and territories, as well as 135 affiliated professional societies in 58 countries and territories. More information may be found at [cfainstitute.org](http://cfainstitute.org).



###

Released 03/15/2012