

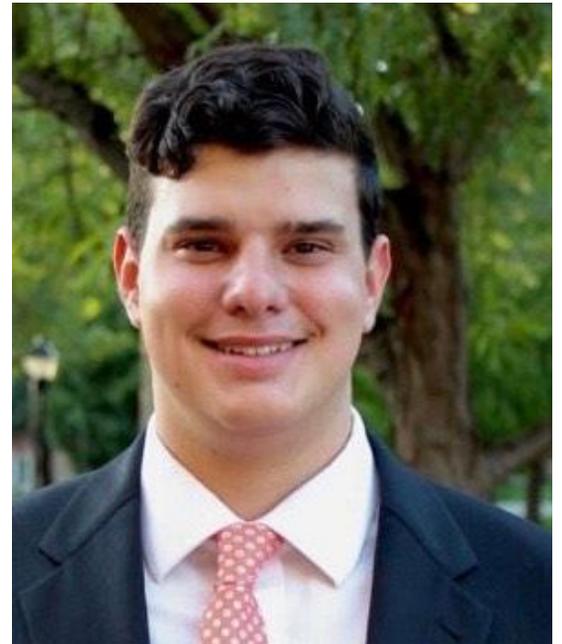
“My initial reaction to learning that I received the Prentiss Lee Faulconer Jr. and Diane Ramey Faulconer Endowment Fund Scholarship was shock, soon followed by elation and an overwhelming joy. It was a proud and relieving moment that I couldn’t wait to share with my parents,” said Alejandro Valladares. “This scholarship was an opportunity to enhance my education without digging myself into debt. It is very meaningful to me because I can start my life as a professional without a large burden.”

Receiving his Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting in 2019, Alex completed his Master of Business Administration with an emphasis in finance this summer. A native of Weston, Florida, Alex intends to pursue a career in the corporate finance industry as a financial analyst in Charlotte, North Carolina, or Cincinnati, Ohio. Initially choosing Marshall with hopes of playing baseball, Alex stayed because of the community.

“I arrived with no friends and quickly made friends that were like family. The academic programs within the College of Business and Honors College were outstanding. I knew I would get a more personalized education from professors that truly cared about their students and success,” Alex said.

His favorite thing about studying in the College of Business was the experiential learning where he studied real world business problems and learned how to provide solid solutions. He believes learning to balance school, work and his personal life was the greatest challenge he learned during his college years.

Alex served as the chair/ president of Marshall University’s Society for Advancement Management in the 2019-2020 Academic Year and he is an alumni member of Delta Sigma Pi. The Memorial Student Center is Alex’s favorite place on campus, particularly in the spring when everything is in bloom. He believes it is “fulfilling to see campus alive and thriving with students.” Alex hopes that he left a positive impression on Marshall, as he grew more personally and professionally than he ever imagined.



Fun Facts

Name: Alex Valladares

Class of 2020

Hometown: Weston, Florida

Major: Master of Business Administration in finance

Favorite color: Sky blue

Textbooks or eBooks: Textbooks

Favorite place in Huntington: Harris Riverfront Park or Ritter Park

Favorite thing about Huntington: The events held for the people in this area to interact with each other.

“I am influenced by the work ethic and generosity of many people. My mother, father and sisters each inspire me through their actions to be the best version of myself daily. On the other hand, Diane Faulconer and Brad D. Smith’s generosity motivate me to help people in similar ways that they have helped me,” Alex explains. “It was a pleasure to meet my scholarship donor, Mrs. Faulconer. She shared advice with me that I am grateful for. I am thankful that she and her late husband gave me, and many other students across the nation, the opportunity to seek higher education.”

Thankful for the guidance of the College of Business’s professors, faculty and staff, Alex acknowledges the impact alumni make to better Marshall University.

“Donations allow growth and progress. Scholarships can increase retention, or help make the student’s financial decision to attend college. Donations can attribute to the transformation of an entire college, like the College of Business. Thanks to Brad D. Smith and other donors, I witnessed a massive improvement. From upgraded facilities to funding research and immersive programs for students, the College of Business has evolved and grown.”