Rebekah: Welcome to Simon Bizcast, a podcast for prospective business school students navigating the admissions process, exploring Student Life and more. Join us at the University of Rochester Simon Business School for advice and take on all things B school.

Trista: Hi, Tony. Hi, Diana, how are you?

Diana: Thank you for having us here as well,

Trista: Thanks so much for joining me today. Thanks for everyone who's tuning in today as well. I wanted to take some time to spotlight a few more of our awesome clubs and organizations here at Simon. So, if you didn't catch our previous episode, where we highlighted a handful of [clubs] Simon Volunteers, Vision Consulting, Gaming club, Uncorked. Please make sure that you do listen to that previous episode, because lots of good information was shared in that last episode. But today, we're going to cover a number of different clubs and organizations. And I am joined by our awesome students, Tony and Diana, before we sort of dive into all things, clubs, and orgs. Diana, do you want to introduce yourself first, just your full name program and what you're hoping to do after you finish your MBA?

Diana: Yeah, sure. I'm Diana Castro. I'm a second year MBA student. I'm originally from Colombia. Prior to my MBA was working for Oxfam, a global nonprofit organization as a finance officer. I came to do my MBA just to be able to improve my soft skills, my technical skills as well as building whole network relations, and pivot into the tech industry. During my internship last summer, I was able to intern at Google for their financial operations team. And post-graduation, I'll be going to ServiceNow for their finance rotational program.

Trista: Awesome. Thank you so much. And congrats. That's so exciting!

Diana: Thank you. Yes, I'm very excited about that.

Trista: Awesome! And Tony, do you want to introduce yourself?

Tony: Yeah, of course. So, my name is Tony. I'm from Lebanon, currently pursuing a master's in finance. My experience before that was as a financial analyst in a consulting firm. And my plan is to pivot into sell-side finance.

Trista: Awesome. Well, thank you both so much. As I mentioned, the topic for today's podcast is talking about some more clubs and organizations. So, highlighting some of the amazing ways to get engaged here on campus. So specifically, we're going to highlight MAC, Meliora Fund, our Gaming Club, Net Impact, Pricing Club. So, lots to talk about. Tony, if you want to kick things off with all that we have to offer Simon, we have over 30 clubs and organizations, what made you decide to engage in the specific clubs and organizations that you're involved in? And tell us what those are?

Tony: Yeah, so currently, I'm involved with MAC, Meliora Fund, Simon Finance and Investment Club, which Meliora Fund is also a part of, and also Gaming Club. So, for MAC, the main reason why I decided to pursue being a part of MAC, which is the Masters Advisory Council, is I wanted to essentially be part of the voice of the master's student body. And so, my main focus going into that was to highlight some of the things that I saw that are, what the students liked, and some of the things that they might want to improve. I wanted to be a part of that and also be able to connect with as many of the Simon students and as many of the same faculty and different organizing bodies at Simon. So that was one of the main reasons for Simon Finance Investment
Club. It's like the main club for finance students and people focusing in for a career in finance. So, I think it's like a big no brainer for any finance student to join Simon Finance and Investment Club and engage in the different events that they host. Mainly being the event that the host where they send Simon students on a track in New York, connect them with alumni, host many events, and help students figure out the main focus that they want to do in finance. Meliora Fund is a big part of Simon Finance Club as well, where students get to essentially also be a part of fund, which is part of the Endowment Fund. And we get to write research reports, present those reports, and also attend events that are mainly aimed toward alumni who work in the investment field, and get to listen to what they do on a daily basis.

Trista: Wow, so you're a busy guy! Lots going on! But I couldn't agree more. And I think that's part of the reason we wanted to do a couple of different club spotlight episodes is because it really is the best way to engage with your fellow classmates. But other students from other programs, other MS programs, the full time MBA program, if you're looking to get engaged with your community, and as you mentioned, and faculty staff, so [it’s] really just a wonderful opportunity for engagement. So, thanks so much for sharing a little bit about you know, why you decided to get involved in those different clubs and organizations. And so, Diana, tell me a little bit about which clubs and organizations you're involved with, and what made you decide to get involved with those clubs?

Diana: Yes, during my second year, I have become the president for Net Impact. The VP of Alumni Relations for Pricing. And I'm also in Volunteers Club. I am from Net Impact and Pricing. I was a member during my first year for Net Impact. I became a member just because I have always been really passionate about sustainability [and] making an impact. I wanted to connect with other leaders who had the same mindset and be able to learn more on how to bring that sustainable approach once I graduate and go into my full time firm. Being active during my first year I was able to be to become the president during my second year, which is something I also really wanted. And be able to make more events to create more awareness and sustainability, sustainability careers, and plan other events for pricing. I became interested because I don't think we've talked much about pricing anywhere else. But once you come to Simon you hear, how we were, one of, I think the only school that offers the pricing concentration.

Trista: Yeah, Pricing is huge.

Diana: Yeah, we have amazing pricing professors. I got interested in pricing and then I got in became a member. And during my first year I was a first year MBA rep, which is a position where school offers leadership positions during your first year. And I helped plan for example, the Pricing Trek, where we went to Boston to connect with other alums that are in pricing and also to learn about pricing careers with SKP, which is a consulting firm in pricing, Wayfair, and those things and since I was a rep, I wanted to continue like in the board. But since my passion wasn't that net impact presidency, I just chose to be selected as the VP of alums and volunteers. Working from a nonprofit organization, I'm always about giving back to the community. So, I wanted to join the club to be able to give back to the Rochester community.

Trista: Absolutely. And it sounds like you're definitely taking advantage of lots of leadership opportunities within those organizations. So that's really exciting. And a great way to you know, develop those leadership skills.

Diana: For sure!
Trista: So, thanks so much for telling me a little bit about why you decided to get so involved in those particular clubs and organizations. And so, we've highlighted a several different clubs and orgs today. So, Diana, can you tell me or give me a brief overview of kind of the goals and objectives of those clubs you're involved in? What is the sort of the main goal?

Diana: So, Net Impact is about building relationships among like-minded individuals who share a passion for making a positive impact in their professional and personal life. So, to keep cultivating that passion or just getting started. For pricing is to gain exposure and awareness about pricing careers and connect students with other alums that are in that field and what pricing is and what does it look like in each firm. And volunteers, I will say it's that part of like being leaders that give back through either volunteering in schools or with, [Habitat for Humanity] we're building houses and all of that. So, it's about being leaders who know how to give back.

Trista: That's amazing! Thank you so much. And Tony, tell me a little bit about the goals and objectives of the clubs that you're involved with.

Tony: So, for Masters Advisory Council, it's mainly to represent the MS student bodies. So, the four different programs. And be able to essentially take the voice of those students and bring their concerns to the same faculty and the staff. And for Simon Finance and Investment Club, it's to provide finance students, mainly with the knowledge and key capabilities of them being able to go into finance and being knowledgeable of the path that they choose, and not just picking any random path. For Meliora Fund, it's mainly to cover the investment, the track of like the Simon Finance and Investment Club and provide students with the ability to have a knowledgeable idea of how the markets operate, and how, research reports are being conducted, how they're able to write an equity report, and essentially be knowledgeable investment professionals.

Trista: Awesome, thank you so much! I think, having just a brief overview of the objectives of these clubs and organizations are, is really helpful as prospective students are listening in and trying to get a better understanding of opportunities on campus. Whether that is something we might be looking for, in terms of a sort of outlet to decompress, to some clubs and organizations that are more interest based, or a place to learn more about a particular area or develop a specific set of technical skills. So, this is super helpful in that respect. So, of course, there's always a lot going on at Simon, if you look at our events, calendar, it is just absolutely booked. And a lot of those events are hosted by our clubs and organizations. So Tony, tell me a little bit about some of the events that are hosted by, any of the clubs that you're involved with.

Tony: So, for MAC, Masters Advisory Council, what we mainly host is the Frozen Fiesta, which is an MS end of fall event, where it's a social event that MS students get to go and connect with each other. Have fun, take a bit of a break, after finals, during the end of the semester, and just connect with each other and get to meet other MS students as well. That is our main event. We also, this year, we're starting our first MS week where we essentially have a full week of events for students. We get to connect with them more. Give them the space to connect with each other as well. For Simon Finance and Investment Club, I believe the main event is the New York City trip where students are taken to New York City to connect with prospective alumni in the field and get to learn more about the different fields in finance. And another event is the workshop, the financial modeling workshop, which is right at the start of when we start our program and we get to learn more about financial modeling, and essentially prepare us more for
our interviews and our career later on. And for Meliora fund, it's weekly events where we connect with each other. Sometimes there's like alumni hosts, like alumni futures. And mostly it's just to connect, learn what's happening in the market and, enrich each other with the different knowledge that we've found in the market.

Trista: Thank you. I've never been to Frozen Fiesta. But I hear it's an absolute blast!

Tony: It definitely is.

Trista: And, Diana, same question for you. Tell us a little bit about any events that the clubs that you're a part of hosted.

Diana: So Net Impact, our main event is, in April, it's during Earth Day, but we call it Earth Week. And we build a pop-up thrift shop. It's almost around the end of the year, people are doing spring cleaning or getting ready to if you're graduating moving out. So, we provide students like a place where they can donate their clothes, because maybe they're just moving to a place that might not be as cold, or they won't be using their blazers and suits that they brought to MBA. And then with all of those clothes, we sort items that are still in good condition, and we make a thrift shop in the same building, which is very fun to do. I'm very excited to organize it this year. And since net impact is a whole global organization, we actually were invited to talk about it through the Net Impact summit during the fall, since that's like something we started two years ago, I think. So that's the biggest one. And we have done small ones like sustainability in marketing with M&T panelists. The chocolate tasting with a small business here in Rochester that is woman owned and B Corp certified. And they taught us about like, their B Corp certification, how they do ethical sourcing, and meet all those standards, which was very interesting. And I think one of my favorite events so far. For pricing, we have the Pricing Trek, which is around like the same as the Finance Trek, but we go to like firms that are, are more involving pricing. So, for example, this year, we went to New York, and we had a session with some an alum from EY that works in pricing. The students went to CM Associates in another firm I forget right now. But that trek is very big. And as well, we had a pricing case workshop. So that's for pricing. And then for volunteers, volunteers actually organize our Fall Ball. So that that is mainly organized by the previous board. Since Fall Ball is around October, so that's very soon coming back from the summer, but it's very fun. As Simon students, we get to dress up very nice dresses, it's at a museum that has this place where there's butterflies that museum also has games. The even has like a small market to take pictures. So, people have a lot of fun either going in doing those games, dancing, eating everything. And then they have the Pieces section which is part of volunteers and its people who volunteer and go to teach at schools and give like mentorship to kids. So, I have not been able to go to the Pieces side, even though I have been really wanting to but it's just conflict with my schedule. But it sounds amazing. And I have heard really great stories from my friends that have gone.

Trista: Oh, yeah, I was learning more about that last year right before I went on maternity leave. And I was so sad because I just think it sounds like an amazing opportunity and such a wonderful program for our local Rochester students. So, I'm hoping to be able to get involved at some point here myself because that does sound like a really wonderful opportunity. So, thanks so much for sharing just a sampling of the many, many events hosted by our clubs and organizations here at Simon. And so final questions for both of you. We've talked a lot about a few of our different clubs and organizations here MAC, Meliora fund, Net Impact pricing club.
And, Tony, what would you say? What do you think is the most valuable thing about being engaged within the Simon community?

**Tony:** So, I believe that considering we are a business school, the main thing about business schools is to be able to connect with like-minded people who are interested in these fields who are going into these fields later on. And being part of these fields, one has to, have a strong network, and be able to if you want to be successful in either finance or other fields. You need to connect with people and be able to leverage on those on that network later on. So being part of these events, being able to connect with these people, and being able to essentially build up your net professional network, I believe, is one of the most important part of our clubs, and also being able to learn and grow more, either your knowledge or your sense of belonging to the to that field, is a very important part of engaging in these clubs and engaging with the community at Simon.

**Trista:** Yeah, absolutely. I couldn't agree more. And Diana, what would you say?

**Diana:** Yeah, I will Second Tony, with the networking. When you arrive to business school, you will hear a lot of like, network, network, build those connections. And I think that's very important. When you come here, be able to attend these events be part of things where you can strengthen your network, because at the end of the day, like once we leave the school, those are the people that will be there for you. Like I bet with like any of my classmates, I know I can reach out. And they will refer me for a job, or I will do the same for sure help them expect what they can expect from an interview on the company I'm in. And also, I think it teaches you a lot of things that are not learned in the classroom. We have a lot of clubs, where you get to learn about different things from professional things such as like the business modeling, or I know they're doing SQL, learning, but also about learning about each other's differences and what makes each other unique and being able to embrace diversity that Simon offers a lot in their community. Because once we go into the real world, I think we will be dealing with a lot of people and being able to build those values in Simon community will really help us set up for success once we are in corporate America.

**Trista:** Absolutely. And I think that is such a key purpose of getting involved and getting engaged at Simon, is really providing you with additional opportunities for building those skills that you'll need outside of the classroom and in the workforce. And so, what better way to do so then by getting involved. So, thank you both so much for taking some time to chat with me today. I really appreciate it. Learning a little bit more about all that you do here at Simon. Thanks everyone listening today as well. I hope this was really helpful as you're considering and getting engaged and getting involved at Simon and learning more about what it's like to be a Simon student. So Tony, Diana, I hope you both have a great weekend. And I will talk with you both again soon!

**Tony:** Thank you!

**Diana:** Thank you for having us and have a good weekend.

**Trista:** You too. Bye.

**Outro:** Thank you for listening to Simon this cast. Stay in touch with Simon Business School. Visit our website simon.rochester.edu To begin your business school journey.