

My Journey with JAGA at FSU

Before I begin, I would like to thank Joseph Grippi, Ken Hicks, Skip Lunsford, Wayne St. Clair, and the rest of JAGA for their contribution and investment in my academic endeavors and involvement with the game of golf over the last four years. I've witnessed tremendous personal and professional growth during my time at Florida State, and it would not have been possible without JAGA helping students such as myself succeed and kick off their career.

I am proud to say I've had a successful undergraduate tenure at Florida State, achieving Dean's or President's list recognition every semester at school. The scholarship allowed me to take advantage of extra credit hour opportunities which I invested in an "exploratory" major my first year of school, helping me narrow down my postgrad plans to an eventual double major in Finance and Communications. Throughout this time, I was able to remain connected with golf, continuing my work at Jacksonville Golf and Country Club for two more years and getting on the course myself as much as possible. This passion for the game fueled what would be my first career steps, securing an externship with ESPN and landing myself in the final round of interviews for the PGA Tour's competitive internship program.

I have since changed course in my career plans, but am grateful for the professional development I witnessed in my time pursuing a career in the golf industry. It was JAGA's continued investment in me that provided the financial cushion I needed to pursue an unpaid internship in commercial real estate. Taking an unpaid position as a college student was a risky move, but one that paid off as it helped me discover my passion for the field and gave me invaluable professional experience. Now, I plan to move to South Florida after graduation and pursue an analyst position with a capital markets team in the broader commercial real estate industry.

I am very proud to have represented the JAGA organization these last four years. The scholarship program was a catalyst for the growth I experienced during my time at FSU, and am excited for the future of the association as they continue to invest in students that share our love for the game of golf.

Best Regards,

Alex Caliel