

## CU Leeds Finance Students Advance to National Finals of the CFA Institute Global Investment Research Challenge

A team of CU Leeds finance students defeated teams from other universities to win the regional title in the Chartered Financial Analysts (CFA) Institute Global Investment Research Challenge, held Friday, Jan. 28 in Denver.



Depicted from right to left in the photo, Leeds School of Business Undergraduate students Ryan Brauchler and Conner Gertje joined MBA student Prabhat Mulchandani in researching and writing a report evaluating the outlook for Western Union's stock. This required countless hours of fact-finding and financial analysis, following an initial visit to Western Union's headquarters in suburban Denver, where they joined students representing the other business schools in a question and answer inquiry of Western Union's Director of Investor Relations. The students continued to work over the winter break, submitted their written reports in mid-January, and made a graded oral presentation of their findings and recommendations to a panel of judges selected by the Colorado chapter of the 100,000 member CFA Institute. The CFA Institute is the most prestigious worldwide organization certifying professional investment management knowledge, administering a series of three rigorous certification exams to college graduates seeking careers in the field. Hence it is no surprise that around five hundred universities worldwide enter teams in the event.

The CFA Institute judges also praised the work of the teams representing business schools from the University of Wyoming, Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, and the University of Denver. Despite the high quality of others' work, the team from the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado won handily.

The victory earned the team an expenses-paid trip to compete with around thirty other teams for the national championship, held April 7- 9 in Omaha. The winner of that will compete for the world championship held a month later.

All teams had access to a faculty advisor and an investment management expert from the private sector. The faculty advisor from the Leeds School is Prof. Michael Stutzer, Director of its Burrige Center for Securities Analysis and Valuation. Mark Greenberg, CFA, a respected portfolio manager from Denver, served as the team's outside expert.

