

## Insights from our Finance class

*By Ribka Shewamare and Farah Amer*

Meet Ribka and Farah, two energetic Business Administration students here at Arizona State University. Our path for growth through the Fundamentals of Finance (FIN 300) class was transformational; therefore, we would like to share some of our experiences with everyone. FIN 300 is one of the best classes we took here at Arizona State University. As Business Administration students, we've learned a lot from the class including but not limited to Excel, case studies, and problem sets. Our class was engaging and full of a variety of activities and learning styles. Our professor, Dr. Leepsa Madhabika did a great job at pushing us to get the most out of that class. Our favorite part of the class was where we did case study discussions and Excel spreadsheets. If you're a business student, you know how Excel is important in business as we need to use it in the accounting and finance section in our career lives. The case studies made us research ethical cases, watch different films about it, and read articles that happened in real life. The subprime mortgage crisis case study, for instance, was about the time when lenders were lending money to borrowers who did not qualify for it and who had low credit scores. They were falsifying documents

and tricking borrowers into taking the loan and in the end the borrowers were unable to pay the money back, so they were charged the highest interest rate. The case dives deep into the ethical issues and talks about different legal and financial terms. We learned a lot from this and many other cases so that we do not make the same mistakes in our future business lives. Ethical business cases taught us to prioritize ethical decision-making, develop critical thinking, acquire legal and financial knowledge, recognize predatory behavior, promote ethical practices, and learn from past mistakes to build a more responsible business future.

The other cool thing we love about this class is the Excel Spreadsheet activity we do every class. We remember our first Excel assignment—we were all confused, we didn't know what to do and we had the misconception that Excel is challenging. However, we made significant progress over time. By the end of the semester, we are confident in using Excel, a valuable computer skill. The things we learned in this class are really useful for our internships too, since we both work in businesses.

