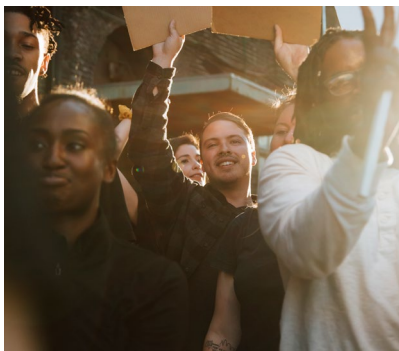


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Above: Moray Terraces, Cusco, Peru. Below: Machu Picchu, Peru (Inca Trail 2023)

EMERGING MARKETS: THE HIDDEN GEM IN SOUTH AMERICA

By Gabriel E. Mendoza Hanco

Throughout the history of humanity, great empires distinguished themselves by mastering specific domains, giving them an advantage over other empires. The Inca Empire, often regarded as the greatest empire in the Americas and the most significant agricultural empire in human history, is a prime example. Incas developed circular terraces that descend into the ground like an amphitheater. Each level creates a distinct microclimate, with temperature differences of up to 15.5°C (27°F) between the top and bottom (The Moray Terraces Research Station, Marcia Wendorf, 2019, Nov 24). This allowed experimentation with crops that led to several genetic changes in potatoes, resulting in the largest variety of potatoes in the world—over 5,000 types—a legacy still central to Peruvian cuisine, which is now considered one of the best cuisines worldwide.

This historical foundation offers a timeless lesson: leveraging your geographical position and resources can ensure power and prosperity. Centuries later, Peru faces the challenges of globalization on a changing landscape that demands high adaptability. While South America is often viewed as an unstable continent with high inflation rates and ongoing social problems, Peru stands out differently, remaining resilient and projecting a bright future for its people and economy.

In this essay, I will focus on how Peru, despite experiencing many economic difficulties throughout its history, has managed its economy during political turmoil and unexpected global events (like COVID-19) while maintaining the lowest inflation in the region and the most stable currency in South



America and one of the most stable across the world.

Looking ahead, according to Michael Porter, there are four main factors an investor considers when analyzing entrepreneurship: adequate country risk, sectors with clear comparative advantages, availability of managerial and operational personnel with

[*\(Continued on page 11\)*](#)



THE CASUAL REVOLUTION: WHY OFFICE ATTIRE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

By Wilson Jan

In the 1980s, New York City high-rise offices were monuments to formality. A sea of fluorescent lights buzzed over endless rows of cubicles, which were followed by mahogany-lined corner offices for executives that showed authority through their wardrobes just as much as their titles. Attire was as structured as the hierarchy; men wore tailored, dark suits with sharply knotted “power ties” in bold reds and blues, and women wore skirt suits with shoulder pads that broadened their silhouettes in an era obsessed with projecting confidence. Shoes were always polished, nylons were non-negotiable, and individuality was quietly stamped out. The office layout reflected the clothing, rigid and uniform. Dressing sharply wasn’t only an expectation, it was a corporate rite of passage.

Fast forward forty years, and things couldn’t be more different. Walking through a modern, open-format office, you might see a manager brainstorming

in a hoodie and leather sneakers, or a marketing leader in a sports coat and blue jeans at their standing desk, chatting with a colleague in a polo shirt. Today’s workspaces are designed for collaboration, not hierarchy. So, what happened? The rise of business casual. It has become the default for millions of workers worldwide, it has driven a major shift in how we view professionalism and the workplace itself.

The earliest cracks in business formality formed even before the 21st century. In the 1960s, the Hawaiian fashion guild introduced the “Aloha Friday” trend, which encouraged white collar employees to wear Hawaiian shirts to ease into the weekend. By the 1990s, the trend spread to the mainland, particularly California, as Casual Fridays. According to *Casual Business Attire* from INC., only 24% of companies had any casual day policy in 1992, but by 1999, this figure ballooned to 95%. Initially a once-a-

week novelty, it became so popular that full-time informality spread rapidly. At the same time, Silicon Valley startups were deliberately rejecting the rigid formality of Wall Street. For tech entrepreneurs, T-shirts, jeans, and sneakers represented rebellion against old-school tradition.

Changing generational values added more tension. When millennials entered the workplace in the 2000s, they questioned the need for suits and ties. Now, younger generations focus more on ideas and innovation than on appearance. Gen Z has pushed this even further, with the new world of widespread remote work and digital communication contributing to this end. The pandemic was the key driver; with offices closed, Zoom calls became the primary stage for professional interaction. Suddenly, only the top half of the outfit mattered, and sweatpants dominated the bottom. A 2023 *Gallup* survey found that over 70% of [\(Continued on page 12\)](#)

THE FUTURE OF BLOCKCHAIN

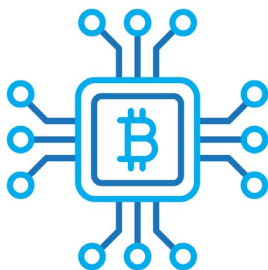
By Ireneusz Kozioł

And Why it is Important to Learn for Business Professionals?

Technology is everywhere in the business world whether it is computers, security systems, or even in the stock market. In recent years, cryptocurrency and blockchain are all the talk in the business world and many business personnel have dealt with cryptocurrency or invested in the stock market. Also, technology has exponentially evolved from just computers to now artificial intelligence, which can analyze trends and improve efficiency in firms. Here, we will talk about the future of blockchain technology and why it is important to learn this as a business person.

First, let's define what exactly blockchain technology is before we can discuss its future and importance. According to Investopedia.com, blockchain technology is a distributed database or ledger, shared across computer network nodes, that secures and decentralizes the record of transactions performed by an entity. This technology is very critical in fields like cryptocurrency, and it can make data in any industry immutable, meaning that data and information on the database cannot be changed or altered in any way. Like any other technology, there are a lot of future applications.

The future applications of this technology are also very present



in the medical field. An example of future applications of blockchain according to the *Adoption, Implementation, Definitions, and Future of Blockchain Technology in Ophthalmology* article by Kaur et al., a lot of ophthalmologists depend on intraocular lens (IOL) calculators for calculation of IOL power; a measurement for an artificial lens implanted during surgery to restore clear eye vision. However, the big problem here is that the data during this surgery is a target for cybercrime and malware. To secure the data used for this operation in the future, blockchain will be the solution to this issue as blockchain can't be hacked and the data can't be changed in this database. Another example from the article, regarding the future uses of blockchain, is the potential to revolutionize international data collection from private and governmental entities that help improve patient care and isolating epidemiological data which is data related to the distribution, patterns, and criteria of health and disease in the population (Kaur). Lastly, a way that blockchain can be used is in a situation where prescriptions can be monitored, medicine or treatment can be delivered to remote areas and

can be renewed based on the article. Here, blockchain technology in the future can be used to help monitor and boost patient cooperation with medicine and treatment. As a result of this implementation of blockchain technology, this can revolutionize treatment with costly medicine in beneficial ways as described. As we can see, blockchain has many helpful future applications, but it is important to consider that blockchain technology itself can change in the future as well.

According to Mufiidah and Destiani, the future direction of blockchain technology is improving security (Blockchain Frontier Technology, 2023). In their article, it is mentioned that security is the most difficult issue to deal with especially with new technology, and the way this could be dealt with is by using blockchain and internet of things (IoT) devices to improve the security of the transaction and could possibly improve the usage of blockchain. However, it is important to note that IoT devices can't process certain algorithms because of their limited computational power and storage. The article mentions smart contracts which are adaptable scripts that can be programmed to use the data within a self-executing workload

[*\(Continued on page 13\)*](#)

GOSSIPING: AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR FEMINISM

By Eloise Weintraub

If there was one thing I could confidently say we're all guilty of, it's gossiping. Maybe your roommate was irritating you so you vented to a friend about them or you heard a rumor going around school and couldn't help but text your sibling about it. Whatever the case may be, we all do it, yet two thirds of Americans still believe that gossip is bad for society (Ballard, 2024). This raises the question: why do we think gossiping is bad, where did the taboo around it come from, and why, even though we know we are not supposed to, we still can't get enough of it?

Gossip's definition has changed greatly throughout the centuries. In the modern era we consider gossip sharing private information without someone's consent to another person (*Definition of GOSSIP*, n.d.). Gossip in its purest form however, is just two people exchanging information that they were told to keep secret. We begin our journey in 1500s England where women were beginning to develop friendships with other women outside of their direct household. These friendships scared men as it allowed women to create close relationships where they felt safe discussing personal and societal issues. Those in power recognized that the growth of female dialogue was a threat to their superiority and outlawed gossip with the Proclamation of 1547 "forbidding women to meet together to babble and talk." (Tennant, 2024). This law institutionalized a taboo around gossip and was even enforceable, allowing men to command their wives and/or daughters to stay inside. Moreover, the proclamation was empowered by a strong religious backing during the Reformation movement and the establishment of the Church of England (Britannica, 2023). Those in positions of power within the church used it to preach about sinful

behaviors one of which being gossip thus demoralizing it and creating a further taboo around it.

Shifting back to the present, the effects of these early institutionalized taboos can still be felt. Women are no longer directly told not to gossip but they are made to feel as though certain topics are off limits. For example, while men are encouraged to talk about finances, women are often told to avoid the topics of money as it is unlady-like and inappropriate (Houston, 2025). In doing so the gender-pay gap, women making eighty-one cents to every one dollar a man makes, was able to flourish since women were discouraged from developing financial literacy skills and the ability to ask others for help since talking about money was framed as gossiping. Furthermore, the lack of open communication between genders about their wages allowed males to better hide their differences in pay and suppress female employees' ability to advocate as a group. Recent studies show that this is beginning to change with 52% of females saying they feel confident talking about their financial health and Gen Z as a whole being far more open to talking about money than previous generations (Financial Health, 2024).

Beyond just the office, gossip can serve as a powerful tool for protecting women's physical and mental health. From a psychological viewpoint, venting to someone you trust can provide an emotional release which eases stress. However, one of the unexpected outcomes of these conversations can be when the other person points out something you haven't noticed before. For example, let's say you're telling a friend about an argument you had with your partner that ended with them slamming the main door of the house and



Afternoon Tea for Three by Charles Joseph Frederick Soulacroix - Art Renewal Center

leaving rather than coming to a civil conclusion. While telling them the story your friend notices a pattern: every time you argue and it's not going your partners way they leave by slamming a door. Your friend points out that this is an avoidance tactic and is not okay in a relationship. So yes, technically you were gossiping about your partner, but in doing so it helped you to realize there's a toxic cycle going on that needs to be addressed. This example stems from the idea that gossip is an important part of maintaining female social networks that allow women to share their knowledge and past experiences to protect others from similar situations (Teal, 2024).

Now the main takeaway you should have by this point is not to go around frivolously gossiping and spreading every rumor you hear but rather it should be to notice when something is personal, private information that you should not share and when something isn't gossip but a taboo. By identifying the difference, you can be a part of

[\(Continued on page 14\)](#)



REUTERS/Dylan Martinez, 2022.

THE FACE OF A NATION: THE JOURNEY OF AFRO-ECUADORIAN IDENTITY

By Daniel Mena Prado

A marginalized minority, in a small country, in a poor region. At the very bottom of an old social pyramid, in a nation with a dwindling identity, that helplessly reflects on foreign progress rather than taking matters into their own. As easy as it is to throw these labels around, this was the crude reality of Afro-Ecuadorian identity in the second half of the 20th century. Ecuador, similar to much of Latin America, has been shaped by racism throughout its history. Due to the colonial “casta”, a social classification system based on the concept of race, power and status was rigidly tied to European heritage. This marked a consistent struggle in national identity, with the majority 77.5% mestizo population (INEC, 2022) — people with Spanish and Indigenous ancestry — desperately claiming their “whiteness,” and suppressing their indigenous heritage. So where do Afro-Ecuadorians fall within this problem? Well, nowhere. Their modest numbers, limited geographical distribution, paired with their historical ties to slavery, sentenced the community to great underrepresentation.

In practice, Ecuador’s fractured self-concept has been patriotically put back together by one institution, the Ecuadorian soccer national team. Since its first real triumphs in the 1990s, the “selección” has served as a spark of hope, pride, and unity for the over 18 million Ecuadorians spread across the globe. Soccer had always been the country’s most popular sport, but the national team had had a rather discrete role for most of South America’s soccer history books. It was not until the first real efforts to qualify to a World Cup in the 90s and the subsequent historic qualifying campaign in 2002 (where Ecuador ended in 2nd place by winning against Brazil in the CONMEBOL qualifiers and went to the World Cup for the first time) that the Ecuadorian team carved its place in global soccer. Perhaps the most curious aspect of these historic teams was their demographic composition: 70% of the 2006 squad was Afro-Ecuadorian, a number which rose to 80% in the last World Cup in Qatar (Escobar-Jiménez & Palacios-Ocles, 2022). This trend is also evidenced in the domestic

soccer league, considering that “as of 2022, from every 10 professional soccer players in the country, 7 were Afro-Ecuadorian” (Escobar-Jiménez & Palacios-Ocles, 2022).

So, how did this happen? How was the Afro-Ecuadorian community able to become a symbol of national pride? How was a historically neglected minority thrust into the national and global spotlight? The evolution of Ecuador’s national team serves as an interesting case study, showcasing the rapid social ascension of an oppressed minority and the problematic response of long-standing social structures.

There is a generalized idea among Ecuadorian fans that the true change in soccer history came with Dusan Draskovic and the incorporation of Black players. The Montenegrin manager Dusan Draskovic became the head coach of the Ecuadorian national team in 1988 and introduced a new perspective for national soccer. He suggested strengthening institutions that would allow for the successful development of natural talent. In his eyes, this natural talent

[\(Continued on page 14\)](#)

A LITTLE BIT OF 'SAVE THE WORLD'

By Alyssa Galin

One of the kindest compliments I've ever received wasn't "you look pretty" or "you're so smart." It was something quieter, something that lingered long after the words were said: "*You have a little bit of 'I want to save the world' in you.*" At the time, I just laughed, thanked them, and awkwardly made a joke about being the next Captain America. But later, when I sat with it, the weight of that comment sank in. This person, who barely knew me, had seen something real: a restless spark inside me I hadn't even fully admitted to myself yet. A small but stubborn hope that maybe, somehow, I could help make things better.

When we arrive at college, we carry more than just the essentials packed into dorm rooms and backpacks. We bring dreams; big, huge, *urgent* dreams. Somewhere deep inside, many of us feel a restless need to save the world. Maybe it's the books we read growing up, the mentors who believed in us, or the quiet voice in the back of our mind on a rainy day that insists we were meant for something greater. Whatever the cause, that spark brought us here: a belief that education is a tool for change, and that we, somehow, are destined to wield it.

But as classes pile up, assignments grow harder, and the world's problems start to look even bigger and more complicated than we imagined, that original dream can feel overwhelming. How do you save the world when you can barely manage your own deadlines? How do you tackle injustice, inequality, climate change, all colossal, tangled challenges, when you can't even solve your accounting homework? Now, how are you supposed to do all that when you're still figuring out who you are?

The truth is, it's okay if you don't save the world. It's okay if you only save one person. And it's okay if that person is *you*.

This is not an excuse to give up ambition or lose hope. Rather, it's a gentle reminder that change starts small. Before you can lift others, you must have the strength to stand yourself. College is often painted as a training ground for activism, innovation, and leadership, and it is. But it's also a deeply personal journey. It's about growth, about learning how to take care of yourself mentally, emotionally, and physically. It's about recognizing your limits, and accepting that you are not a failure if your impact is measured in individual lives, not sweeping movements.

Saving yourself might mean learning how to manage anxiety, asking for help when you need it, or simply surviving the tough days. It might mean discovering your passions and allowing yourself to pursue them, even if they seem impractical. It might mean forgiving yourself when you fall short. It might mean getting up in the morning, even when every ounce of blood in your body tells you that you can't. There is a different, unique definition for everyone. We all have different definitions of 'saving yourself', and there's no need to justify it. These victories are not small. They are everything.

And sometimes, saving yourself ripples outward in ways you cannot predict. The classmate who sees you prioritize your mental health might finally decide to seek therapy. The friend who watches you chase your dream job might find the courage to apply for theirs. Change often happens quietly, person by person, life by life.

One person at a time. That is how the world is saved.

It's tempting to think that unless you create a groundbreaking nonprofit or write laws or invent a life-saving technology, you are not doing enough. But impact is not a competition.



Some people are called to build organizations; others are called to teach one student, heal one patient, write one story that comforts someone in the dark. Every act of kindness, every small decision to keep going, adds to the great tapestry of change.

Saving one person matters. Saving yourself matters. Because you are part of the world you so desperately want to heal. Your health, your happiness, your ability to love and persevere, these are not luxuries or side quests. They are central to the work of making a better world.

So if you find yourself feeling like you're falling short, if the problems you care about seem too big and your efforts too small, remember this: you are not alone. You are doing important work by simply continuing to care, to learn, and to grow. You are allowed to focus on one person at a time. You are allowed to start with yourself.

Maybe, in the end, that's how the world gets saved: not in grand, sweeping gestures, but in a thousand tiny acts of courage, compassion, and care.

ARE WE MORE THAN OUR ACHIEVEMENTS?

By Sadie Fitzpatrick

Let's be honest. From the moment you walked onto this campus, you entered a pressure cooker. We're all in the same race, defined by the same unforgiving metrics, the prestige of your internship, the size of your offer compared to your peers, the speed of your promotion post-graduation. Here at Bentley, the pursuit of professional validation isn't just a goal; it's the air we breathe. Subconsciously, we've bought into a dangerous, high-stakes formula: Achievement = Worth

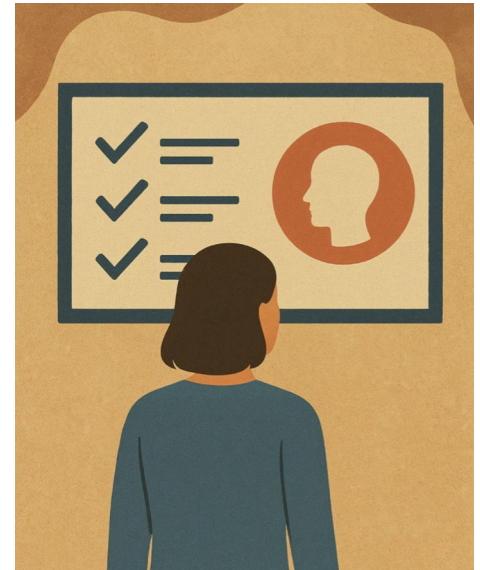
This performance culture is a grind, and it creates a foundation for who we are. Every coffee chat, networking event, and final exam is a calculated step toward solidifying an identity that is fundamentally extrinsic. But this reliance comes with a psychological cost. If your career is your identity, what happens when you inevitably hit a wall, a venture fails, a rejection comes in from your top-choice firm, or you just don't get the top rating? The answer is simple, your entire sense of self collapses. We need to pause the hustle and ask a critical question: Are we truly more than our achievements and careers? Decades of psychological and ethical research confirm the answer is a resounding yes and understanding why reveals that the most valuable investment you can make is in your own future.

Psychologists have long warned against tying identity to external markers of success. Carol Dweck's research on fixed versus growth mindsets shows that when we define ourselves solely by performance, we limit our potential to learn, adapt, and flourish. Failure is no longer just an obstacle, it becomes evidence of personal inadequacy. Students with a fixed mindset equate failure with identity, while those with a growth mindset see setbacks as opportunities to develop new skills or strategies. Yet in a culture where internships,

job offers, and GPA feel like the only markers that matter, cultivating a growth mindset is more difficult than ever. The formula we live by achievement equals worth, erases the possibility of embracing failure as a steppingstone. Similarly, Deci and Ryan's Self-Determination Theory argues that intrinsic motivation which is driven by curiosity, purpose, and autonomy leads to deeper fulfillment than extrinsic markers like salaries or accolades. If our worth is tied only to outcomes, we miss out on the very experiences that build resilience, creativity, and self-awareness.

College students are particularly vulnerable to this trap. Research shows that excessive academic pressure correlates with anxiety, burnout, and even diminished academic performance. Martin Seligman's work in positive psychology demonstrates that well-being is tied not only to achievement but also to meaning, engagement, and relationships. Ironically, the more we chase external achievement as the sole definition of worth, the less fulfilled and often less successful we become. The paradox is that the very culture designed to make us high achievers often undermines the possibility of lasting success.

The conversation doesn't end with psychology. Philosophers have long asked what it means to live a good life. Aristotle's notion of eudaimonia, or human flourishing, emphasizes character, purpose, and balance is not simply professional success. Flourishing, in his view, requires cultivating virtue and living in accordance with your values, not merely climbing a career ladder. Likewise, modern ethicists argue that collapsing our identity into career metrics ignores the richness of human value. You are not reduced to a GPA, job title, or salary bracket; you are a complex person with moral worth



that transcends output. This ethical perspective matters deeply in a culture like Bentley's, where ambition often overshadows reflection. If our community equates worth only with achievement, we risk fostering not excellence, but insecurity. Ethical living requires stepping back and valuing ourselves not for what we produce, but for who we are becoming.

But how do we move forward in an environment where achievement seems inescapable? The solution is not to abandon ambition, careers matter, and striving for excellence is part of what brought us here. Instead, we must anchor our identity in more sustainable ground. This means investing in relationships, cultivating resilience, and finding intrinsic meaning in learning. It means recognizing that rejection does not erase our value and that setbacks do not define us. Failure, instead of being the end of self-worth, becomes a catalyst for growth.

Practical steps can help make this shift real. Take time for reflection outside the grind through journaling, counseling, or even casual conversations with peers about purpose rather than performance. Invest in passions that

(Continued on page 15)



DRESSES TO DREAMS: THIS IS ONLY THE START

By Leticia De Souza

When Lily Flaherty, Naeelah Desanges, Paige Trager, and I walked into our first committee meeting at the end of our first year at Bentley, we had no way of expecting how far we'd come with our Dresses to Dreams journey.

Prior to COVID, there was an organization at Bentley called Dresses to Dreams, an initiative in which high school students from the greater Boston area would come to campus to go prom dress shopping, but completely for free. With everything shutting down in 2020, by the time student organizations could come back to full capacity events, there was no one left on campus with the experience needed to take on the responsibility of leading the club. The club had gone dormant, and all of the prom dresses had been left in a storage unit, just waiting.

During the spring semester of 2024, at a large student honors council meeting, Professor Rubio announced that Kaylee Cosgrove ('24), an honors student, was hoping to revive the Dresses to Dreams event. Despite her efforts, she received no support from those she contacted on campus. Professor Rubio then

suggested reaching out to the former president of Dresses to Dreams to seek approval for the honors program to take responsibility for the event. After this proposal, he asked the council if they would be willing to take on the project as a committee; following a vote, the council agreed, and four of us stepped forward to form the team that would begin work on this new venture.

Naeelah, Lily, Paige, and I worked for months to build the event practically from the ground. All we had to work off from the old program was a Google Drive filled with mostly outdated information. We started brainstorming ideas before summer break, and then we took a day out of our summer vacation to come back to Bentley and make an inventory of the number of dresses we had in stock, and when we came back to campus in the fall semester at the start of our sophomore year, it was full speed ahead.

We divided the tasks into administration, marketing, operations, and outreach, and the four of us planned out the entire event. From working with vendors for services,

coming up with a brand image, contacting schools and registering students, to figuring out the day-of rotations, that was only a few of our tasks. With our committee expanding in January 2025, we then had even more hands to help out and divide the workload, and those new members jumped head first into their positions.

The stress leading up to the event was immense. Although we knew the amount of work we had put into it, it was difficult to visualize how the event would take place when we had no clue what it looked like in the past, but when the day of the event came, it was obvious that everything paid off. We had over 60 high school students come to our event, and every single one of them left with a dress. To see their smiles that day, the amount of fun they had while dress shopping, and their engagement in the CWB's confidence workshop and student panel was amazing to see. Also, to know that we eased the burden on families of having to buy an expensive prom dress was so rewarding as well, especially knowing how stressful the

(Continued on page 15)

RISK TAKING & STEPPING OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE

By Sanjit Bajpai

I was a freshman in high school when I first fell in love with failing. Not the kind of failure that ends things, but the kind that begins things. As Barack Obama once famously said, “You can’t let your failures define you. You have to let your failures teach you” (NASP).

That’s exactly what I did during my freshman year of high school, when I began my venture into entrepreneurship by starting my own clothing brand. At the time, it felt like a wild leap into the unknown, and honestly, it was. I had no idea how to “make my own business,” let alone even create clothes. Not to mention, I had absolutely zero guarantee that anyone would buy what I created. All I had was an idea and the willingness to take a risk.

As you can probably guess, I stumbled...a lot. I was operating in the world of both clothing and business from virtually no experience or guidance. Through hours upon hours of research, I taught myself the basics of a business model, website UI, customer discovery, product-market fit, graphic design, marketing, and much more. Countless nights blurred into mornings, and months melted away into the ceaseless pursuit of knowledge. There were many late

nights filled with self-doubt and many nights where I contemplated quitting.

Although I was operating in uncharted territory, I contacted garment suppliers and invested in my vision as well as myself. Throughout the entire process, every issue and misstep that I had led me higher on the stairs to success. I still vividly recall when, after four grueling months, I finally heard the ringing of my very first sale.

It was the moment that changed everything for me.

Through all of my initial failures and setbacks I learned something that has stuck with me till this day: mistakes are not setbacks, they’re stepping stones. That one sale led me to run my business all throughout high school, achieving over 35k in sales over 4 years.

Each setback and issue I faced taught me something about persistence, adaptability, and creativity. And perhaps most importantly, I discovered that the willingness to take risks is often more valuable than the outcome itself.

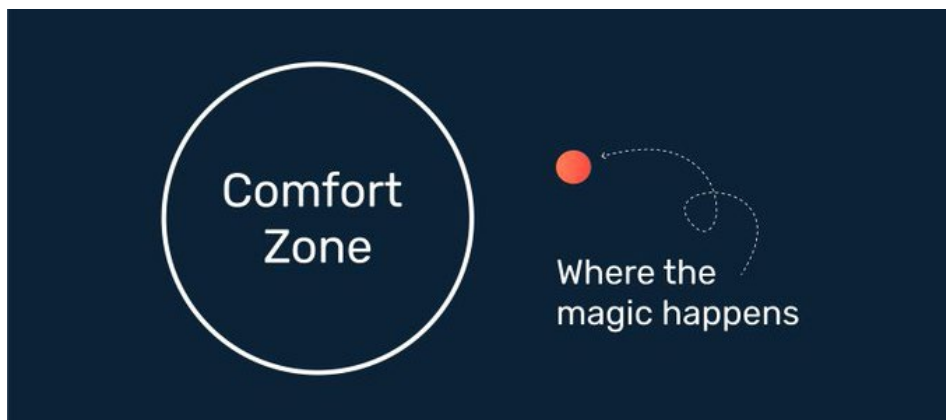
Risk-taking, or navigating uncertainty, is essential in growth and is one of the most important skills we can



develop as young adults. I don’t mean gambling on chance or throwing all of your money on the roulette table; I mean taking calculated risks and intentionally stepping out of your comfort zone to pursue opportunities that may lead to meaningful growth. College is full of challenges designed to push us, but from what I initially discovered during my freshman year of high school, the most transformative experiences happen when we dare to take those leaps.

Steve Jobs was infamous for his risk-taking tendencies, bringing an idea from his family’s garage to one of the biggest innovations of our time, the Apple iPhone. The same can be said of Jeff Bezos, who left a stable job to pursue his vision, resulting in a complete shift in how people shop today. Everyone told these risk-takers that their idea wouldn’t work, but their vision kept them committed. These two examples out of the millions are prime examples of how taking that initial risk outside of your comfort

(Continued on page 15)



EMERGING MARKETS: THE HIDDEN GEM IN SOUTH AMERICA *(Continued from page 2)*

competitive advantages, and a developed capital market that facilitates stable financing for investment projects.

Investment Potential through Michael Porter's lens.

Before an investor decides to invest, there are several aspects to consider. Michael Porter outlines four principles investors should assess in entrepreneurship and market entry. He first mentions adequate country risk—Peru maintains an investment-grade rating from S&P, indicating a region with only Chile as a safer sovereign risk (Lopez R, 2017). This credibility reflects fiscal prudence and consistent debt management, overseen by the Banco Central de Reserva (BCRP), known for managing the national currency effectively.

This last element, the BCRP, has played a crucial role in driving the Peruvian economy into the path of success. Julio Velarde, the President of the BCRP, is recognized globally due to his excellent performance in the role. To prove its undeniable performance during its current position at the board of directors on the BCRP, magazines as *The Banker* (Financial Times Group) recognized him as the “Central Banker of the Year” three times, on 2015 and 2022, and on 2020 by the same magazine he received the “Central banker of the Americas” award (Velarde, 2022).

Second, he highlights the importance of comparative advantages. Peru's strengths range from mining, tourism, transportation, biodiversity, and agricultural exports (avocados, blueberries, quinoa, etc.), industries that have gained a competitive edge due to global demand. The greatest example when we hear of Peru's comparative advantage might be tourism. However, over the last few years, agricultural exports exemplify how Peru's economy has evolved, becoming the top exporter of blueberries in the world (Piñeiro et al., 2025), and the second largest exporter of avocados (PROMPERÚ, 2024). Furthermore, industries such as

tourism lack large regulations towards formality, since Peru has a large tourist route around the south of the country, gathering unique landscapes, and, without any doubt, one of the most famous ancient buildings of the world, Machu Picchu.

In this regard, throughout the last decade, Peru has been seen as a mining-based economy, rather than an industry based on tourism, with minerals such as copper, silver, and gold as its main minerals of exportation. Nowadays, Peru is switching this narrative towards also being an agriculturally based economy that empowers not only foreign investors but also national capitals that want to expand their business within this industry, compared to the mining industry nowadays in Peru, which foreign investments mainly dominate based on countries such as Canada, China, and the United States.

The Central Bank:

The BCRP, as mentioned earlier, plays a huge role in maintaining the country's economic stability. One of the indicators that is often used to analyze a country's economy is its inflation. During the year 2024, Peru's inflation stayed under the range expected by the Central Bank, which is under 2% (Banco Central de Reserva del Peru, 2024). In order to give a better understanding of these numbers, the world's average inflation rate for the year 2024 is approximately 6% (World Bank, 2024), and going even further, Peru had a better performance than countries like Germany (2.3%) and Japan (2.7%) in terms of inflation (World Bank, 2024).

The Andean Future:

Peru and other countries in the south of the Americas have been facing complex political and social conflicts that have hindered the progress of the economy. Peru is not the exception, while its macroeconomic background has become more solid throughout the years, its microeconomic aspect and social context have severely affected the political stability of the



Banco Central de Reserva del Perú, 2021.

country (Cheng 2015), which is now dealing with one of the most difficult backgrounds regarding the political aspect, with a whole country divided and many political players.

In this sense, while facing huge problems in its internal politics, Peru has found the proper way to cope with these problems successfully while creating a safe place for both foreign and national investors. Due to the critical factors based on Michael Porter's lens and the several macroeconomic results, Peru has become a rising star in the firmament of South America's emerging economies (Cheng, 2015).

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THE CASUAL REVOLUTION: WHY OFFICE ATTIRE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME *(Continued from page 3)*

American workers wear business casual for most workdays, a distinct contrast from the sharp tailoring of the previous decades (Brenan, 2023). Even with back-to-the-office mandates, many employees and employers just don't see the need to return to full formality.

Fashion brands have quickly adapted to meet these new trends. Labels like J. Crew, Ann Taylor, and Banana Republic have begun producing "elevated casual" pieces, such as quarter zips, knit blazers, and leather sneakers. Workers can transition from a video meeting to a coffee shop to an after-work gathering with no one batting an eye. This redesign of workwear allows office workers to balance comfort and professionalism while rejecting the outright stiffness of once-defined dress codes. This evolution in fashion isn't just about clothing; it reflects a generational shift toward flexibility and self-expression as we push further into the 2020s.

However, not everyone is fond of the revolution. Some executives worry that casual attire undermines professionalism and authority in business settings. Older employees may perceive relaxed dress as

disrespectful, while younger workers argue that productivity is not solely dependent on lapels or cufflinks. This generational tension also manifests in other aspects of society, as younger professionals are phasing out relics that were once meaningful standards.

Globally, the shift has been uneven but still apparent. In finance centers other than Wall Street, like London, Hong Kong, or Tokyo, a tailored suit may still be the safest choice for high-level meetings. Even in these locales, however, the edges are softening. As the revolution increasingly reverberates around the globe, multinational corporations are revising dress policies to accommodate rapidly changing needs and preferences. This more inclusive approach will only be more popular as the demand for professional varieties increases across the globe.

The rise of business casual is ultimately a reflection of broader social change. Just as cubicle walls have given way to open offices and remote work, the boundary between formal and informal has been blurred. The casual revolution doesn't only signal collaboration and comfort, but a new understanding of the workplace. One where results and ideas

outweigh structure and hierarchy. One where collaboration and individuality aren't at odds with professionalism, but they are essential to its evolution.

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THE FUTURE OF BLOCKCHAIN *(Continued from page 4)*

of actions between entities, and store data securely through encryption that restricts access to the data only to authorized parties. When companies start converting business processes into computational processes, smart contracts in blockchain can increase operational functionality and with this technology it can increase the security and integrity of data within IoT systems as well as improving blockchain effectiveness in the future.

Regulatory laws of blockchain technology have significant implications for the future. In the article, regulatory laws are defined as the processes that are developed by governmental bodies and local administrative organizations to specify the acceptable uses of a product or technology within the region or country (Blockchain Frontier Technology, 2023). Currently, as stated in the article, there are no established or internationally accepted standards for using blockchain technology. In the future, the standards of using blockchain technology will be impacted by the government and other entities needing to answer this question: what international regulatory guidelines enable the optimum use of blockchain in the IoT and what should be the policies of using this technology acceptably? Now that we have discussed the future of blockchain technology, we need to discuss why exactly it is important to understand blockchain for business professionals and Bentley students.

There are many advantages for business professionals in understanding blockchain or knowing how to use it as a solution for companies. According to Kirbac and Berna, based on the semi-structured interviews with some blockchain experts, the blockchain advantages for businesses are described in this list (ResearchGate, 2021):

1. Increase event and document reliability
2. Build competitive advantage
3. Track orders across multiple touch points
4. Optimize applications and processes
5. Improve productivity per file
6. Manage documents digitally
7. Access new data sources
8. Improve system integrations like IoT, EDI, AI, etc.
9. Expand digital collaboration
10. Transaction integrity and visibility.

As the list implies, blockchain has many benefits and uses for any type of business, in any industry, and based on the information in this article, business professionals that know this technology will be more beneficial to their companies than business professionals without this knowledge. According to Fachrunnisa and Hussain, blockchain can have major potential on both sides of the employment relationship by allowing individuals to securely manage and control access to their education, skills, and job performance records, in a reliable database (2020). To my understanding, applying an analytical code to the data that they have on individuals would allow companies to match individuals to roles much more accurately and effectively. Understanding this technology could be very important in the fourth industrial revolution as skills and requirements change (Kirbac). This further illustrates the point that by knowing and understanding this information, you will be very competitive and important in the job marketplace, compared to people who are not yet equipped with this skill.

In conclusion, there are many ways

that blockchain can be used in the future and improved as well as understanding the reason why blockchain knowledge is important to business professionals and Bentley students alike. Based on the sources in this article, I would recommend that every student should learn about how blockchain works, and inform their peers to educate themselves on how to use this technology in their careers because of the reasons provided in this article.

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GOSSIPING: AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR FEMINISM *(Continued from page 5)*

open conversation, both males and females, to try and disrupt the current systems that allows the few to decide what topics are off limits for the many. So whether you're talking about the difference in starting salaries offered by recruiters or the way someone has been treating you, gossip is your greatest tool.

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THE FACE OF A NATION: THE JOURNEY OF AFRO-ECUADORIAN IDENTITY *(Continued from page 6)*

was the strength, speed, flexibility, and endurance of the Black race. This notion shifted focus towards exploiting the potential of Afro-Ecuadorian players, who had historically been excluded in large numbers because of prejudice (Escobar-Jimenez et al., 2022).

This proved to be a big break for many future idols like Agustín Delgado, Ulises de la Cruz, and Iván Hurtado. With successes like a Copa America 3rd place in 1993 (the nation's best result at that time) and the first serious qualifier campaign effort in 1998, Draskovic's philosophy was quickly embraced by the Ecuadorian public. The 2006 qualifiers and World Cup remain the team's greatest international performance. With a physical and agile team cementing their place as a South American powerhouse, qualifying to their second consecutive World Cup—marching strongly through the group stage and losing in the round of 16 to England after a close game. Many Ecuadorian fans enthusiastically praised their athletes. There was an overall sentiment of national admiration towards the accomplishments of Black players, with Afro-Ecuadorian rising stars becoming heroes of the national game.

While Dusan Draskovic was certainly influential in providing opportunities to Afro-Ecuadorians in soccer, he remains a double-edged sword, as his theories reinforced the notion that Black people, as an isolated group, share a genetic predisposition to contribute to the

country through sports. This concept of "Black Otherness" can be understood as a direct response from the trembling social order to the sudden rise of Afro-Ecuadorian idols. Afro-Ecuadorian player's successes, in the face of outstandingly negative conditions, were reduced to a simple example of pseudoscientific "racial" theory. The disruption is explained in the Ecuadorian mind within the frame of race, attributing it to the black communities' "physicality", disregarding factors like poverty, lack of opportunities, and lack of access to resources.

"Otherness" stands as a clear enemy to establishing a single, equitable, unified national identity. In a successful national identity, the idea of being an Ecuadorian will come before the notion of being Black, white, or mestizo. Afro-Ecuadorian activist Alexandra Ocles' challenge of fans' praise for the national team perhaps best shows the underlying problems:

"...the Ecuadorian national soccer team, composed of 90% of Afro-descendant players, has given joy and glory to Ecuadorian men and women, from the beginning of the World Cup. Did you read the newspapers? There are news, shouts, and commentaries: "golden Blacks;" ... What would have happened if we had lost these two matches? Maybe racism would have emerged again and we could have heard calls for the whitening of the team, as was the case a few years ago.

What doesn't change is the reality that Afro-descendants face in Ecuador: for many, we continue to be the thieves, the social predators, the prostitutes, or the simple domestic employees. What doesn't change is that we don't have access to a quality education that reinforces our identity; what doesn't change is that my daughter doesn't want to be black anymore because it causes her too many problems in school" (Ocles 2006, as cited in Rahier 2008).

Although sports are a vessel for success, they will not single-handedly lift a historically oppressed minority out of their unfortunate reality. However, soccer can become the spark for a cultural transformation towards a more aware, united, and equitable society.

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ARE WE MORE THAN OUR ACHIEVEMENTS? *(Continued from page 8)*

may never make a résumé but feed your sense of wholeness. Volunteer, create, or pursue a hobby simply for joy. These choices build an identity that cannot be destroyed by a single failed interview or missed promotion. Developing intrinsic value also means asking questions beyond “What job will I get?” to “What kind of life am I building?” and “What kind of person

do I want to become?” These shifts reframe success not as a checklist of milestones but as a lifelong pursuit of growth, balance, and well-being.

At Bentley, it is all too easy to confuse achievement with identity. But the truth is clear, you are more than your résumé. You are more than your next job offer. Decades of psychological and

ethical thought confirm that self-worth is deeper, richer, and more enduring than any career milestone. The most valuable investment you can make is not in your LinkedIn profile; it is in yourself. If we can begin to believe that, then maybe the race slows, the pressure eases, and we rediscover who we were meant to be, not just successful, but whole.

DRESSES TO DREAMS: THIS IS ONLY THE START *(Continued from page 9)*

upperclassmen years of high school can already be.

As we look to take this year’s event on the road, we are back to square one in terms of planning, but this time, it feels riveting. We already have connections built with campus partners and various high schools, we know what materials we need and how to do successful

long-term planning. Although there are still many logistical aspects to figure out, with our expanded team and supportive staff that are there to help us in every aspect, I feel confident in our execution of the event this upcoming spring semester, and I cannot wait to see the smiles on those high schoolers’ faces when they find their dream dress.

RISK TAKING & STEPPING OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE *(Continued from page 10)*

zone is paramount in making dreams come true.

The Yerkes-Dodson Law, which was conducted by psychologists Robert M. Yerkes and John Dillingham Dodson in 1908, states that performance increases as stress increases (Harvard). The most stressful situations often take place in areas where we are unfamiliar, and it is integral in achieving desirable outcomes to take those first steps.

If you stay within your comfort zone, only fulfilling tasks that are “safe” or “familiar,” true growth will never occur because it involves things you are already used to. Simply put, if you never opened up a new textbook, you would never learn the concepts and topics that are taught within that

book. In a comfort zone model study by Marco Van Geldren published in *Frontiers In Psychology*, a five-country study of 198 students pushed through 8-10 real-world challenges in 1-2 days. Learning surged as students did tasks that forced them to leave their comfort zone. These challenges that these students were put up against increased their learning dramatically and even surprised them because they realized what they were truly capable of when they took that risk.

For anyone reading this who feels hesitant about taking that leap—whether it’s applying for a leadership role, presenting research, studying abroad, or even just speaking up in class—I encourage you to remember this: failure is not final. In fact, it is often the beginning of something bigger.

So take the risk. Step outside of the comfortable, the familiar, the predictable. Not every risk will pay off the way you expect, but every risk and setback will teach you something valuable. And sometimes, the most intimidating opportunities turn out to be the most rewarding.

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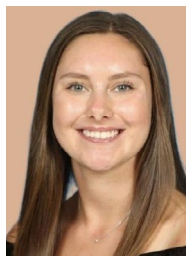
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