

**2017 – 2018 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR  
THOMAS GARRETT, CFA, CAIA**



**CFA Society  
Seattle**

We are pleased to share this brief interview between Niyada Taraka, CFA our 2016-2017 Volunteer of the Year recipient and Thomas Garrett, CFA, CAIA who received the award for 2017-2018.

**NIYADA:** Thomas, congratulations on being recognized as CFA Society Seattle's Volunteer of the Year in 2018! It is a well-deserved accomplishment. I know that you are busy so we'll just jump right into it. Tell me about yourself and your background outside of CFA Society Seattle.

**THOMAS:** I work at Verus, an institutional investment consultant headquartered in Seattle, where I help lead the capital markets research efforts of the firm. Verus serves some of the largest and most sophisticated investors in the market, and the CFA exams provided knowledge that has been very useful in our team's day-to-day work. It is great to be a part of a firm that holds the charter in high regard and supports employees in pursuing the CFA exams.

Outside of career and my work with CFA Society Seattle, I sit on the Seattle University alumni board, and also spend a lot of time working with and volunteering for The Mountaineers organization here in Seattle.

**NT:** How did you get involved as a volunteer?

**TG:** Five years ago I began attending the CFA Society Seattle luncheons downtown. The presentations were usually interesting and informative, and it seemed like a great way to spend lunch. The society president at the time, Brian Rowe, noticed how regularly I was attending and introduced me to some of the other board members. I started volunteering at the events and then eventually began to seek out new speakers using my professional network. After some success finding high caliber speakers and running events independently, I was invited to work with the board on other initiatives which then led to an official leadership role.

**NT:** What was the most rewarding volunteer experience that you've had this year?

**TG:** Charterholders who are new to the area or who are looking for new career opportunities often reach out to us. It can be tough to network in a new city and to get the lay of the land. The most rewarding experiences I've had are helping these charterholders to connect with other professionals and firms and to see them succeed. We often think about the CFA brand as being about a higher standard and ethics, but the CFA is also about helping people to become successful.

**NT:** Are there any areas of CFA Society Seattle that you are interested in increasing your focus on next year?

**TG:** Programming is where CFA Society Seattle has the most contact with our members and I look forward to continuing leading this society function. A lot of the value-add of being a board member is in longer-term strategy, so that will likely remain a significant focus point of my work over the next year.

**NT:** How can our other members get involved like you have?

**TG:** Show up to events, and ask to help out! The society is always looking for talented and driven local professionals.

**NT:** Thomas, congrats again and thank you for your time.

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