Justin Wheeler, Finance and French, ’95, has been appointed as the CEO of Berkadia Commercial Mortgage, LLC. After graduating from USU, Wheeler worked for a small private equity firm and then went on to earn his MBA from Brigham Young University. He spent the next 14 years working for Leucadia National Corporation, eventually being appointed COO in 2010. In 2009, Leucadia formed a joint venture with Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway to acquire one of the largest full-service commercial mortgage banks in the country, which they renamed Berkadia. After eight months as interim CEO of the company, earlier this year Wheeler was appointed as full-time CEO.

Wheeler is in charge of all strategic and tactical direction of Berkadia, where he oversees approximately 1,500 people, 700 of whom reside in India. In 2014, the company arranged $17 billion in real estate transactions. It services $240 billion in commercial real estate mortgages.

“To put it simply, we want to be the best in what we do,” Wheeler said, “and that means growth in activity and profitability.”

Wheeler hopes to grow and diversify Berkadia’s current activities, including significant inroads into retail, office and industrial finance and investment sales, identify smart acquisitions and investments and continue to hire the best mortgage bankers and investment sales advisors in the industry.

“I grew up on a farm in Idaho and didn’t know a thing about business before USU,” Wheeler said. “I had great professors and an education there that really opened my eyes and gave me a great foundation upon which to build my career.”