

**BUSINESS ANALYTICS
 & STATISTICS**

The **Women of Business Analytics at Tennessee (WomBAT) student club** is experiencing record participation. This fall, distinguished lecturer Brian Stevens led an interactive RStudio

workshop that introduced core analytics concepts and highlighted the growing importance of data in today's business world.



Brian Stevens with WomBAT co-presidents Megan Morehead and Keira Oxendine.

Undergraduate Programs

The college welcomed approximately **2,568 new undergraduates** to begin the 2025-2026 academic year.

Several **Haslam students** spent fall break in Nashville with the VOLbreak program, a partnership with the Jones Center for Leadership and Service, serving the community and learning from alumni and corporate partners how to make a meaningful impact.

ANDERSON CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION



Third-year management student **Ben Naugle**, founder of First Glance Knox, won the first-place Roe Prize of \$1,500 in the Anderson Center's fall 2025 Vol Court pitch competition.



Blake Hopkins



Laurel Johnston



Megan Miller



Kiwoong Yoo

MARKETING

MS in Marketing student **Blake Hopkins** (HCB, '25) won the spring 2026 Vol Court reverse pitch competition with his influencer marketing app, Cofluence.

PhD student **Laurel Johnston** was selected as the 2025-2026 recipient of the Normand Turgeon Marketing Fellowship. Johnston also received the 2025 AMA Marketing Strategy SIG Doctoral Student Research Award.

PhD student **Megan Miller** accepted a job with the University of Arkansas as an assistant professor of marketing.

PhD student **Kiwoong Yoo** accepted a job with the University of Colorado, Denver, as an assistant professor of marketing.

CAROLINE TOOLE

His Strength, Her Mission

Caroline Toole's older brother, Jonathan, is her best friend and hero.

The two grew up as typical siblings but became especially close when the pandemic started in 2020. "We were spending more time together, so I began to understand him better," she recalls. "We realized how much we need each other."

Jonathan's early years were difficult. At three years old, he began having multiple seizures—sometimes hundreds each day. He was diagnosed with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a rare and severe form of epilepsy. Jonathan spent two years at a children's hospital in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, working through many developmental challenges before eventually becoming seizure-free.

He continues to defy expectations. Doctors once told the family Jonathan wouldn't live past 15; today, he's 26. He was told he'd never drive, yet he now drives a big truck to his full-time job at a restaurant, where he's worked for seven years. "My brother is one of the smartest people I know, and he's thriving now with great peers and friends," Caroline says. "Life is still hard, but he has a great family and friends to support him."

Caroline loves talking about Jonathan and spreading awareness about Lennox-Gastaut syndrome. At age nine, she started selling homemade bracelets to support the Lennox-Gastaut Foundation. Now a marketing student at Haslam,



she put her skills to work in 2024 by raising more than \$2,000 from 80 individuals in one month through a successful fundraising campaign. Caroline spoke to fraternity and sorority groups, family members, and others to spread the word. "Many of my peers didn't know what Lennox-Gastaut syndrome was," she says. "By the end of the fundraiser, they had learned a lot."

Caroline also serves as fundraising and merchandise chair for the UT chapter of Best Buddies, a program that supports students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and promotes a welcoming campus, especially in out-of-classroom activities. One Best Buddies initiative pairs an IDD student with a volunteer. "Being part of Best Buddies allows me to further my connection with people with disabilities," Caroline says. "They enrich my life, and like Jonathan, push me to be a better person every day." ●



Boyd



Randolph



Strieter



Travis

The University of Tennessee Center for Profitable Agriculture welcomed MBA student **Alaina Boyd** as an extension specialist.

Brion Randolph was recognized as one of the 2025 Best & Brightest Executive MBAs by *Poets&Quants*.

Emma “Em” Strieter was named a *Poets&Quants* MBA to Watch.

Huntsville’s Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation highlighted **Madison Travis**, an Aerospace and Defense MBA student and digital communications strategist, who says she applies what she learns in the program to her job daily.

OFFICE OF ACCESS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Left to right: Cat Cappas, Logan Frost, and Danny Orrico.

TakeOff Program

Haslam’s 2024-2025 TakeOff program concluded in the spring with a pitch competition, during which business major **Catherine “Cat” Cappas**, supply chain management major **Logan Frost**, and finance major **Danny Orrico** won with the business concept SmartBites, a student meal-preparation service alternative.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & STUDY ABROAD

After receiving a free passport from Haslam, **Valeria Hernandez-Piaz** studied abroad in Florence in spring 2025 and found time to volunteer locally, a rare experience for visiting students. She now serves as an ambassador for her study abroad program, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps.

Zoe Shockites published in the *CUIBE Journal for Global Business and Community* and earned a scholarship for her research.



Shockites

Haslam’s International Business Case Team placed second at the sixth annual BisNet International Case Competition.

A group of Haslam students completed the college’s first faculty-directed study abroad experience in the Netherlands, spending 10 days studying business activities in the country.



GRADUATE & EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



Gracie Steely, a senior human resource management major, was awarded the Debbie Mackey Scholarship, East Tennessee Compensation and Benefits Association Scholarship, and Panhellenic Purpose Award. She logged more than 500 hours volunteering with Hope Town, Junior Achievement, and

the Fantasy of Trees benefit for Dolly Parton Children’s Hospital, and she also served as an Ignite Leader and completed an internship with International Paper.

MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Management students **Eliza Abston** and **Lindsey Hessler**, along with finance student **Andrew Brown** and supply chain management student **Madelyn Stone**, presented to a panel of UT system economic development leaders on their studies, involvement, and post-graduation career hopes.

Alex Del Vecchio won first place in the Lifestyle Category of the Graves Business Plan Competition with Big AI’s Hot Mustard.

Master of Science in Management and Human Resources students **Cole Foster**, **Lucy Higgins**, **Isabella Tepedino**, and **Emily Totty** won first place in the UT Haslam Human Resource Case Competition, sponsored by the Baldwin Group and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Entrepreneurship student **Blake Hopkins** founded Partnerly, an online platform that allows businesses to find content creators in seconds.

PhD candidate **Nataliia Yakushko** accepted a tenure-track faculty position in entrepreneurship at Virginia Commonwealth University.



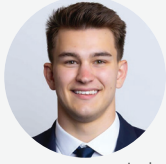
Torch Fund

At the October 31 Torch Fund Performance Presentation, 43 undergraduate and MBA students reported on the Carroll, Haslam, LaPorte, and McClain portfolios before donors, board members, and guests. The funds collectively outperformed benchmarks by 92 basis points, with the Haslam Fund leading at 206 basis points above its benchmark.

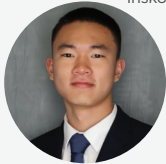
FINANCE



Houser



Insko



Li



Mayfield

Fourteen finance and accounting students attended December's Active Cell Microsoft Excel and Financial Modeling Training Camp in Las Vegas. The three-student team of **Tommy Houser**, **Nathaniel Insko**, and **Sean Li** advanced to the team semifinals at the Luxor eSports Arena, finishing sixth in the world and third in the U.S.

Four students also reached the individual semifinals: **Nathaniel Insko**, 18th in World (5th in U.S.); **Tommy Houser**, 31st in World (12th in U.S.); **Sean Li**, 51st in World (27th in U.S.); **Carter Mayfield**, 54th in World (29th in U.S.).

The students were accompanied by finance faculty Eric Kelley and Marc Via and AIM faculty Winston Smith.

The Tennessee Capital Markets Society made its first trip to New York City, connecting 28 members with top firms like Bain Capital, Wells Fargo, Bloomberg, and AllianceBernstein. Students gained career insights, professional exposure, and valuable networking opportunities in investment banking, private equity, hedge funds, and more.

During the UT Investment Group's annual Bloomberg Battle at the newly renovated Masters Investment Learning Center, **Ben Yu** took first place and **Aryan Gupta** earned second, showcasing their Bloomberg terminal expertise.

UT finance student organizations, led by **Women in Finance**, raised more than \$25,000 at the October 2 JAET Stock Market Challenge to promote financial literacy for East Tennessee youth.



Brown



Evon



Gupta



Svendsen



Yu

BLOOMBERG GLOBAL TRADING CHALLENGE

The 2025 Bloomberg Global Trading Challenge featured teams from 50 countries, including the UT Investment Group with **Andrew Brown** (captain), **Wesley Evon**, **Aryan Gupta**, **William Svendsen**, and **Ben Yu**. Using Bloomberg Terminals, they crafted and executed an investment strategy in a real-world simulation, finishing third among all SEC universities out of more than 2,300 global teams.



Chen



Haun



Flood



McManemin

Alex Chen, **Colin Flood**, **Ryan Haun**, and **Ashley McManemin** won first place in the inaugural Tractor Supply Case competition in September. Jeff Barland was the faculty leader.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



In an article for *Supply Chain Management Review*, master's student **Rachel Cooper** (HCB, '25), highlights how supplier expertise and

strategic partnerships can help pharma companies overcome regulatory, market, and operational hurdles to bring products to market faster and more successfully.

Kevin Ho was named Tennessee Veteran of the Year and National Student Veteran of the Year by Military Friendly. (See story on opposite page.)

NRF '26 RETAIL'S BIG SHOW JANUARY 11-13 | NYC

For the third consecutive year, UT will have the largest contingent of supply chain management majors at the National Retail Federation conference, with 22 Haslam students winning the full scholarship to attend the conference.