

HASLAM



Haslam Magazine is the premier publication of the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

MAGAZINE

Volume 16, Issue 2

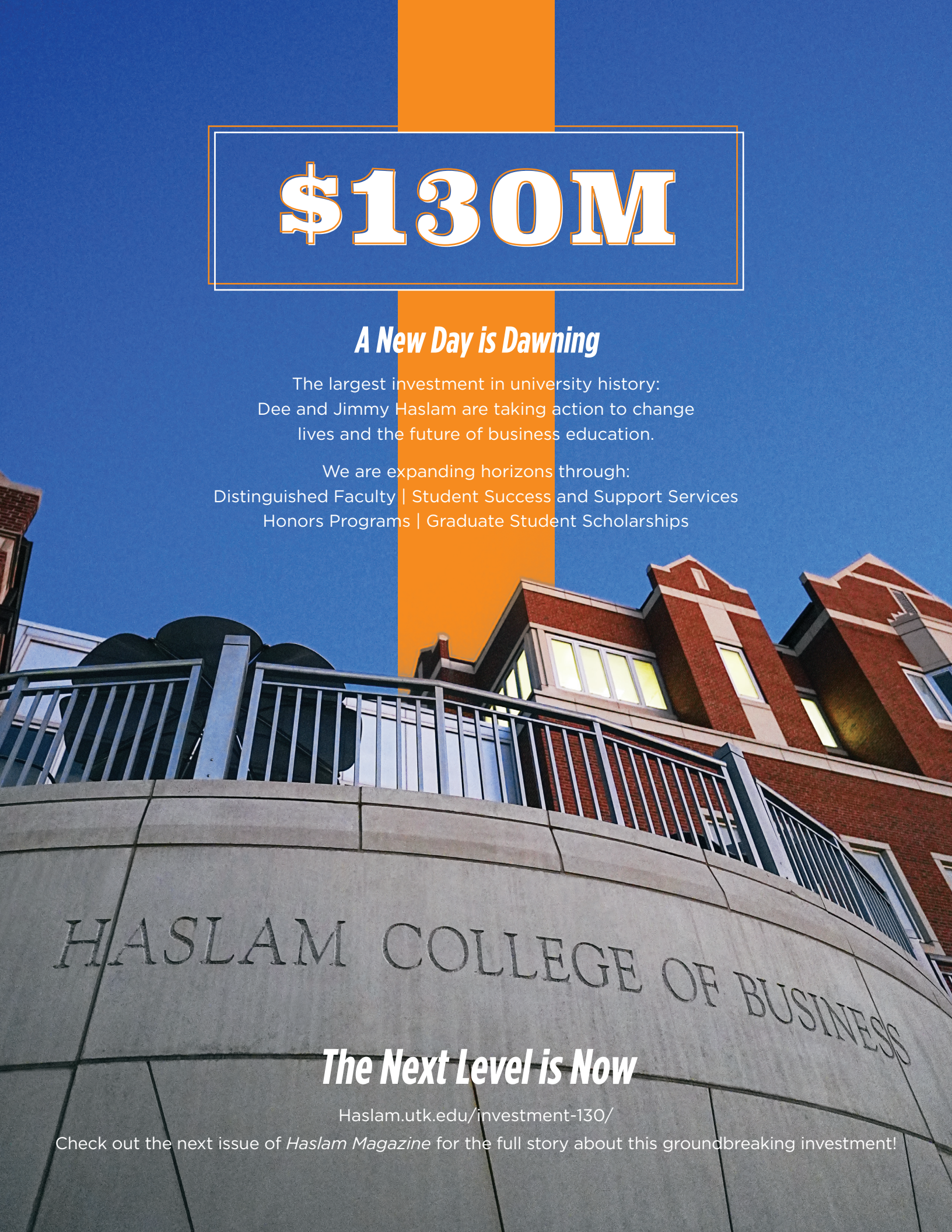
Investing in Education

**RANDY AND JENNY BOYD'S
COMMITMENT TO POSITIVE IMPACT**

**Natu Patel
Is Ahead of His Time**

**Skills-Based Hiring
in the Age of AI**

**Saving Lives with
Business Analytics**



\$130M

A New Day is Dawning

The largest investment in university history:
Dee and Jimmy Haslam are taking action to change
lives and the future of business education.

We are expanding horizons through:
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HASLAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Next Level is Now

Haslam.utk.edu/investment-130/

Check out the next issue of *Haslam Magazine* for the full story about this groundbreaking investment!

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Patrick Murphy-Racey

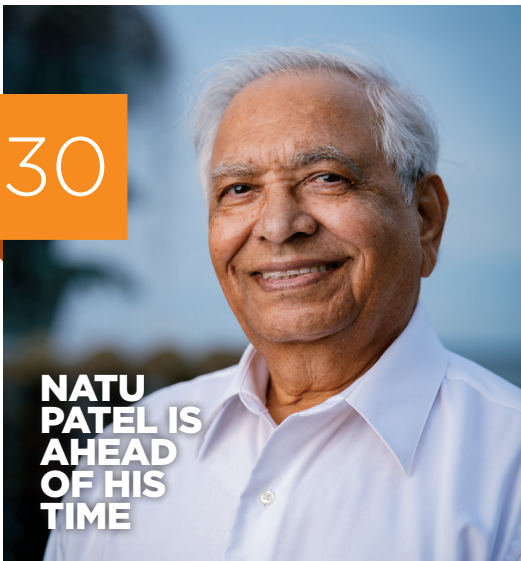


Randy and Jenny Boyd sign the new building's final beam on April 17.

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Investing in Education

RANDY AND JENNY BOYD'S COMMITMENT TO POSITIVE IMPACT



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NATU PATEL IS AHEAD OF HIS TIME

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CAMPUS IS RETURNING TO LIFE. We are welcoming students back to campus, and we look forward to the contributions to be made by a cohort of newly hired Haslam faculty and staff. With the beginning of a new academic year, we're also looking back to share recent happenings with you.

This spring, we raised the final beam on what will be the newest addition to our business school campus. With the naming of Randy Boyd Hall, our students, faculty, staff, and corporate partners are gaining a world-class, 245,000-square-foot learning environment, one which will become the largest academic facility on UT's flagship campus. UT System President Randy Boyd (HCB, '79) calls his commitment to the endeavor part of his lifelong dedication to leaving every place he goes better than he found it. That kind of dedication—and the deep faith and partnership in Haslam it implies—made the day a celebration of the college, the building, and the man. (*Investing in Education*, page: 24)

Another alumnus and donor, Natu Patel (HCB MS, '63), recently made a gift that both honors his past and celebrates a future being shaped by AI. The academic chair position he has endowed is designed to prepare students for the immersive technology of an AI-driven world and honors Patel's journey from a farm in India to a career focused on adopting emergent technologies into business enterprises. Patel's commitment to lifelong learning and giving back (*Natu Patel is Ahead of His Time*, page: 30) is making a positive impact

on communities in Tennessee, South Carolina, and his native India.

Community and societal impact come in many forms. For Haslam business analytics faculty, it often means utilizing data from partnerships with government, businesses, and communities, to discover what and why problems occur and to then enable solutions that address the root causes. Sean Willems, the Haslam Chair in Supply Chain Analytics in the Department of Business Analytics and Statistics, recently worked with other universities and entities associated with the city of Boston, Massachusetts, to examine a decade of automobile crash data. Analysis highlighted key areas of the city where young residents were most likely to be struck by cars and where traffic improvements, like speed bumps and cross walks, should be placed to maximize positive societal benefits. (*Saving Lives with Business Analytics*, page: 10) The approach shows great promise for application in other cities and towns.

Finally, an invitation! I personally invite you to save some time to enjoy our next issue, the upcoming winter issue of *Haslam Magazine*, which will focus entirely on the largest single philanthropic investment in the history of the University of Tennessee, a \$130 million pledge from Dee and Jimmy Haslam. The historic investment, announced in June, designates \$100 million to our college to attract distinguished faculty and enhance student success initiatives, graduate student scholarships, and the undergraduate honors program.

We are deeply grateful to the many people who support and carry out the mission of the college. Your influence and dedication changes lives and the world for the better.

With respect and appreciation,

Stephen L. Mangum
DEAN AND STOKELY FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP CHAIR
HASLAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

HASLAM

MAGAZINE

Haslam Magazine is the alumni publication of the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

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S. SETH REAGAN

Senior Executive Director of Advancement

MEREDITH HULETTE

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JESSICA LEIGH BROWN

Writer

JILL KNIGHT

Design and Production

PATRICK MURPHY-RACEY

Photographer

LEAH MCAMIS

Managing Editor

SCOTT MCNUTT

News Lists and Compilations

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Haslam College of Business
408 Haslam Business Building
Knoxville, TN 37996 • 4140
865-974-4542 | haslam.utk.edu | email: tgbrown@utk.edu



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Council



AS A PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL, the Haslam College of Business at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, must keep in touch with the world in which its graduates will function. One important avenue for maintaining this contact is the Dean's Advisory Council.

Since its formation in 1975, this council has played an increasingly vital role by developing plans and strategies to guide the college's future. The advice and insights of these leaders have proven invaluable to the college as it strives to improve its reputation as a national leader in business education.

These professional and business executives meet with the deans and faculty each year to discuss current business issues. Through the years, this continuing dialogue has shaped the college's choices of action in order to improve its response to the current issues and the anticipated demands of the market.

The Haslam deans and executive committee thank each member, past and present, for their service and devotion to the college.

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TL



Fortune
April 21, 2026

"Pollock...isn't surprised that Gray's videos draw such massive audiences. He argues that executives are now effectively celebrities, like movie stars and athletes.

"Why does what time they wake up or when they do their workout matter to them doing their job?" he asks. 'But that's what people love, because we live vicariously through our heroes. Business executives increasingly, for better or worse, play that role in society.'"

Tim Pollock, Haslam Chair of Business, Distinguished Professor of Entrepreneurship, and Kinney Family Faculty Research Fellow, on a 42-second video by Blackstone president and COO Jonathan Gray that drew 2.7 million views, a typical audience for his clips.

USA Today
April 15, 2026

"As UPS grew, it grew the reach of businesses, first across the U.S. and then around the world. It enabled businesses to have a larger reach. Things like package tracking that every business uses today can be attributed to UPS in the 1990s as it worked to hone that technology, as well as things like integrated supply chain networks for businesses to make their products. UPS was 'a fundamental enabler' of e-commerce. 'Big Brown' helped companies like Amazon grow up to what they are today. There's a lot of things that we take for granted now that UPS created."

Alan Amling, assistant professor of practice and a former vice president of corporate strategy at UPS, on UPS's role as a prime mover in innovations that have led to today's global e-commerce market.

The Conversation
November 25, 2025

"It's not uncommon for there to be some sort of expectation around who should have a particular occupation. Pilots tend to be male, most schoolteachers are female, and salespeople are often seen as extroverted. But that doesn't mean that women can't be pilots, men can't be teachers, or that introverts can't work in sales."

Christina Hymer, Douglas A. and Brenda Horne Faculty Fellow and assistant professor, reflecting on how individuals drawn to certain roles may not match traditional expectations, and what that reveals about assumptions surrounding who fits particular roles.

TechTarget
December 23, 2025

"Ethical sourcing is both a set of practices and a strategic perspective on how you're going to engage your supply chain to deliver value for customers. Organizations committed to ethical sourcing typically consider a supplier's commitment to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) goals. Ethical sourcing shakes up the norm and forces organizations to look at their entire production stream from a different angle. It requires commitment to working with suppliers over time to achieve ESG and other goals, which pushes organizations out of a short-term, transactional mindset into one that considers the long-term sustainable value of the company."

Dan Pellathy, assistant professor of practice and director of operations for the Advanced Supply Chain Collaborative, on how ethical sourcing can strengthen supply chain.

Fox 13 Memphis
April 17, 2026

"Automation won't replace everyone's jobs at once, but it could start taking over simple tasks in a restaurant. The technology might not be there right now, but it might be there in six to 12 months. That's why doing a good job at the other aspects of the job that are more human-oriented would be key to making sure that you don't get displaced."

Mike Kofoed, assistant professor, on how economic pressures are pushing fast food chains to replace human workers with automation or AI.

Supply Chain Xchange
October 9, 2025

"There has been a swing away from single sourcing as companies look to build resiliency by diversifying their supplier base. But sometimes you have to single source; there is competitive advantage when you go deep with a supplier. Don't be afraid of dependency. Instead, be smart about it. Ask yourself, 'Who am I choosing to have a dependency with?' We must demand transparency and put in processes to mitigate risks."

Kate Vitasek, Global Supply Chain Institute distinguished fellow, speaking on the closing panel at CSCMP EDGE Conference, in a discussion on whether supply chains are being weaponized geopolitically.

The Tennessean
January 9, 2026

"While uncertainties remain as companies restructure their workforces around AI and cope with rising goods and labor cost, I would characterize our outlook as precariously positive. The labor market has cooled and downside risks are elevated, but consumer spending in Tennessee has remained firm, which, if sustained, could help keep economic growth positive over the near term."

Larry Kessler, research associate professor, on the tenuous state of Tennessee's economy in 2026.

WATE
March 24, 2026

"Firearm deaths have risen 60 percent from 2014 to 2023; that's a lot. People tend to experience firearm violence through personal touch and personal anecdote. The way people feel about it tends to be how close it is to them. East Tennesseans may not know each shooting victim personally, but stopping gun violence would boost the local economy. In 2023, each firearm-related death cost Knox County \$308 per person, and the statewide cost per person was \$510."

Matt Harris, Boyd Distinguished Professor of Health Economics and Dr. Mike Stahl PEMBA Faculty Fellow, speaking about data collected by an interactive dashboard co-created by Haslam's Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research and the Department of Economics, which tracks gun violence in the state.

CFO Brew
March 12, 2026

"Early movers are now structurally advantaged. Companies that relocated production during the first Trump term didn't just 'avoid tariffs.' When trade policy shifts again, they don't have to react; they just execute their plan. Companies that moved capacity out of China into Mexico, Vietnam, Poland, et cetera, reduced geopolitical exposure, shortened lead times (nearshoring), and improved working capital turns. The savviest companies treated trade volatility as a permanent operating condition, not a temporary disruption."

Ted Stank, Harry J. and Vivienne R. Bruce Chair of Excellence and co-executive director of the Global Supply Chain Institute, on how companies that anticipated the long-term impact of tariffs on the economy now have an advantage over their competitors.



Professor **Yemisi Bolumole** is the new head of the Department of Supply Chain Management (SCM). She succeeds professor John Bell, who continues to contribute through teaching and research.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

#1

In its annual ranking, the *SCM Journal List* recognized the Haslam SCM department as the **No. 1 producer of empirical supply chain research.**



Assistant professor **Seongkyoon Jeong** coauthored "Cross-Platform Spillover Effect of Promotion: Evidence from the PC Game Market" for *Production and Operations Management*.



whitepaper

The **Global Supply Chain Institute (GSCI)** released its latest **whitepaper**, "Love to Hate the Forecast: Segmenting Planning Demand Triggers to Drive Total Value." The paper was coauthored by GSCI fellow **Mike Burnette** and associate professor

Lance Saunders. It was edited by professor **Ted Stank** and **Dan Pellathy**, assistant professor of practice and director of operations of the Advanced Supply Chain Collaborative.

#2

Supply Chain Management *among publics*

#8

Supply Chain Management *nationally*

Haslam's **graduate SCM programs** ranked **No. 2 among U.S. public universities** and **No. 8 overall** in the 2026 *U.S. News and World Report* rankings.

Rankings



Savanna Parker and Devin Fladd with students

Haslam's Lunch Hub series connects business students with guests for conversations about specific industries and career paths. Devin Fladd (EMBA-HL, '19) and Savanna Parker (HCB, '25) of UT Medical Center visited Lunch Hub to discuss career development, professional growth, and post-graduation pathways. Susan Hamlin (HCB, '06), the NFL's vice president of global partnerships, also participated in the series, sharing how saying "yes" can create unexpected career opportunities and how global partnerships shape the fan experience across the world. Danielle Franklin DeSarzant (HCB, '07), a principal product marketing manager at Intuit Mailchimp, was also a featured guest of the Haslam Lunch Hub.

UNDERGRADUATE

#17

Undergraduate Programs *among publics*

#47

Undergraduate Programs *nationally*

#10

Online Bachelor Programs *overall*

Haslam undergraduate programs ranked **No. 17 among U.S. public universities** and **No. 47 overall** in *Poets & Quants'* 2026 ranking of top business schools.

The **Online Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program** debuted at **No. 10 among U.S. public universities and overall** in the *U.S. News and World Report* Best Online Business Programs ranking.

Rankings



Retired Rear Admiral Kevin Sweeney joined **Haslam's Fall 2025 Supply Chain Forum** for a conversation exploring how military leadership, global security challenges, and today's shifting geopolitical environment shape modern supply chain decision-making.

YEMISI BOLUMOLE

Prioritizing Purpose



Yemisi Bolumole sometimes compares her life to a crowded stove full of simmering pots. As head of Haslam's Department of Supply Chain Management, an active researcher, an award-winning educator, and a mother of three, she is constantly balancing competing priorities. The challenge, she says, is ensuring nothing important is overlooked.

Bolumole, the Ryder Professor of Supply Chain Management, has spent much of her career pursuing excellence at the highest levels of academia and industry, and she's become increasingly intentional about what defines her life beyond career achievement.

"Because of my intensity, work can become all-consuming," she says. "Each day starts with me centering on what matters most and what I want to be known for, and each day ends there too. Being a mom is what defines me, and that is what I want to prioritize."

After growing up in Nigeria, Bolumole moved to the United Kingdom for graduate school, beginning a career that would span multiple countries and institutions. She earned a doctorate in logistics and supply chain management, worked in the oil and gas industry, helped build the

flagship transportation and logistics program at the University of North Florida, served on the faculty at Michigan State University, and published research in more than 40 leading academic journals before joining Haslam in 2021.

That intensity and dedication still shape the way Bolumole approaches teaching and research. As department head, however, she has learned to think more broadly about people, culture, and long-term impact.

"If I'm teaching a class or in a meeting about research, I lock in—then once it's done, I take a lap around the hallway for a mindset shift," she says.

The drive for excellence continues to energize the leader in her new role. While she appreciates the excellence of the department and its culture, she still explores ways to improve it.

Intentionality also shapes how Bolumole thinks about education and the future of supply chain management. While AI dominates many conversations in higher education, she believes

“Where we're going has never changed. Innovation is changing how quickly we can get there.”

—YEMISI BOLUMOLE

Yemisi Bolumole with two of her three children on the Crafton Family Terrace in the Haslam Business Building

innovation extends beyond learning new tools. The greater challenge is teaching students how to think creatively and adapt continuously.

“Even with AI as a helper, the market still needs innovative thinkers,” Bolumole says. “That is why we must model innovation in our curriculum.”

Part of that vision for innovation involves strengthening connections between the classroom and industry. Partnerships with companies such as Knoxville-based Axle Logistics give students firsthand exposure to freight brokerage and the supply chain profession, while site visits and other experiential learning opportunities reinforce classroom instruction. The goal is to layer academic rigor with relevant skills and technology.

Cheri Speier-Pero, emeritus professor of accounting and information systems at Michigan State University, remembers Bolumole as a committed faculty member with a strategic mind and relational approach to problem-solving.

“When a challenging situation arises, she can remove her own emotions and thoughts and put herself in the position of others to think through alternative solutions,” says Speier-Pero.

Anne Smith, Haslam’s King and Judy Rogers Professor in Business and William E. and Pamela R. Lee Faculty Fellow, says Bolumole’s cross-functional abilities make her a natural fit as department head.

“She’s one of those exceptional academics who’s well versed in approaches to research, can write for different audiences, and works extremely well with students,” Smith says. “She brings dexterity and excellence across the board to set the bar high for the department.”

Ted Stank, Haslam’s Harry J. and Vivienne R. Bruce Chair of Excellence in Business, agrees that Bolumole’s wisdom and insights are exactly what the department needs.

“She is wonderfully skilled at blending academic excellence with compassionate, people-focused leadership,” Stank says. “I am confident she will guide the Department of Supply Chain Management to continued success and exciting new heights of achievement and impact.”

While supply chain management has changed dramatically since Bolumole began her career, shaped by new technology and accelerating innovation, she believes the field’s core purpose remains the same.

“Where we’re going has never changed,” she says. “Innovation is changing how quickly we can get there.” ●



Harrison



Hymen



Mohrfeld



Thatcher



Whitworth



Jacobs

“Where Do Transitioning Executives Go? Exploring Demand-Side and Supply-Side Drivers of Destination Rivalry” and “Think Before You Speak: Sensemaking and Sensegiving in New CEOs’ Strategic Communications with the Capital Market” were coauthored by associate professor **Joseph Harrison** and accepted for publication in the *Journal of Management*.

“Who’s Behind the Red Suit? Exploring Role Prototypicality within Calling Enactment among Professional Santas,” research coauthored by assistant professor **Christina Hymen**, was published in the *Academy of Management Journal*.

Lecturer **Tara Mohrfeld** is the new assistant head and academic director for Haslam’s Department of Management and Entrepreneurship.

Professor **Sherry Thatcher** will serve as the department’s inaugural deputy department head, focusing on faculty socialization, mentoring, and development.

Thatcher was appointed consulting editor of the *Journal of Management*.

Teaching assistant professor **Whit Whitworth** is the new director of the Master of Science in Management and Human Resources program. They replace teaching professor **Jackie Jacobs**, who grew the program significantly and is now designing the Management Scholars of Distinction program for outstanding undergraduate management and human resource management majors.

#32

The college placed **No. 32 among public institutions** in *The Princeton Review’s* rankings of **undergraduate programs for entrepreneurship studies**.

#15 #33

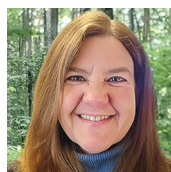
The Haslam **Full-Time MBA’s entrepreneurship concentration** was ranked **No. 15 among publics** and **No. 33 overall** in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2026 Best Graduate Business Schools.

#26 #52

Haslam’s **graduate management program** placed at **No. 26 among publics** and **No. 52 overall** in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2026 Best Graduate Business Schools specialty rankings.



MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



“Seeing Human Resources of Entrepreneurial Firms in New Ways,” was coauthored by professor **Melissa Cardon** and published in the *Journal of Business Venturing*.



Haslam project management classes, led by lecturer **John Clayton**, participated in a project management competition judged by executives from Hickory Construction, Dollywood, Knoxville Utilities Board, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 865 Neyland project, Blaine Construction, Navarro Research and Engineering, Point CAG, Y-12, and the National Nuclear Security Administration. Student teams developed a proposal for the forthcoming Neyland Entertainment District, a mixed-use retail and hotel space planned for UT.



Lindsay Mahony was named the assistant dean for entrepreneurship and strategic initiatives. Through this newly created position, Haslam's Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship

and Innovation (ACEI) will now report to the dean's office. This realignment emphasizes entrepreneurship and innovation as strategic priorities for the college and positions the ACEI to expand its regional engagement while growing its role as a campus-wide asset. Mahony continues to serve the college as director of franchising program initiatives.

ANDERSON CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION



BOYD VENTURE CHALLENGE

For the first time in the pitch competition's history, the **Boyd Venture Challenge** expanded to welcome student founders from across the **entire UT System**, opening the competition to a wider pool of entrepreneurial talent. Additionally, **prize funding increased from \$30,000 to \$50,000 this year**, marking the ACEI's largest competition to date. The expansion underscores the center's growing reach and its commitment to fueling venture creation across all UT campuses.

\$1.2M

The **ACEI provided nearly \$100,000** in funding to student founders across its programs and competitions, reflecting a deepening commitment to turning entrepreneurial ideas into real businesses. To date, **the ACEI has given over \$1.2 million to student-owned businesses.**

#29 #57

Haslam's **Full-Time MBA finance concentration** placed **No. 29 among publics** and **No. 57 overall** in the *U.S. News and World Report 2026* Best Graduate Business Schools specialty rankings.

Rankings

FINANCE



Farley

Ryan Farley, associate professor of practice and Torch Fund program director, was selected for the 2026 UT GenAI Faculty Fellows Program. The program aims to improve learning outcomes for students while also teaching AI literacy and best practices.



Guernsey

Scott Guernsey, assistant professor and Neel Corporate Governance Center research fellow, and **Matthew Serfling**, professor, were awarded WRDS Outstanding Paper Award in Corporate Finance at the 2026 Eastern Finance Association Annual Meeting for "When Speaking Freely Pays: Anti-SLAPP Laws and Firms' Cost of Equity."



Serfling

Assistant professor **Matt Henriksson** presented his coauthored paper "The Only Bet in Town? Sports Betting Legalization and Local Equity Bias" at the 2026 Eastern Finance Association annual meeting in Asheville, North Carolina.



Henriksson

Professor **Eric Kelley** received Microsoft's Most Valuable Professional designation for his work in Excel eSports and collegiate education. He is one of only four academics worldwide with an Excel MVP Designation.



Kelley

Kelley led a seminar on Gamified Excel in the University Classroom at the Microsoft Global MVP Summit in Redmond, Washington.

Recent PhD graduate **Zhengzhuo (Zyaire) Li** (PhD, '26) published "Financial Market Risk Perceptions and Mergers and Acquisitions" in the *Journal of Banking and Finance*.



Li



Puckett



Roark

Finance department head and professor **Andy Puckett** served as the vice president of programs for March's annual Eastern Finance Association Conference in Asheville, North Carolina. During the conference, he also presented his coauthored research paper "Has Retail Trader Sophistication Declined in Options Markets?"

In February, teaching professor **Scott Roark** and the UT Real Estate Club took a trip to Nashville, visiting Amazon and a local developer AJ Capital.



Teaching assistant professors **Kelley Anderson** and **Vince Fabrizio** led a trip of UT Financial Management Association members to New York City, where they met with industry professionals and UT alumni. The highlight of the trip was a guided tour of the New York Stock Exchange during the opening bell.



Teaching professor **Michael Yates** competed on Jeopardy! in an episode that aired on July 7.



UT hosted April's third annual Knoxville regional competition for the **Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge**. Student teams from six universities came to campus to compete in Excel eSports cases that showcased problem-solving, data analytics, speed, and teamwork. **UT won first place**

in the competition. In addition, the competition's panel discussion included two members of the Department of Finance Advisory Board: Billy Carroll (Smart Bank) and Tiffany Gardner (First Horizon Bank).



Ryan Farley accompanied UT Torch Funds members on a visit with **alumnus Larry Carroll** (MBA, '78) in Charlotte, North Carolina, to educate the students about careers in wealth management and ways firms approach investing.

In partnership with 865 Academies, Haslam's Office of Access and Community Connections (OACC) welcomed Knoxville-area 10th graders to campus for a hands-on introduction to college and career pathways.



OFFICE OF ACCESS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



The OACC held its first **Teaching Externship**, welcoming 16 Knoxville high school educators to campus to explore pathways that prepare students for success in business, strengthening the bridge between classrooms and future college and career opportunities.



The office hosted **The Power of Dialogue: Living Out the Modern Land-Grant Mission**, a lunch and learn that convened Haslam faculty and staff for a meaningful conversation on impact, leadership, and engagement.



The OACC's **11th annual Women in Business, Entrepreneurship, and Leadership Summit** brought together more than 200 attendees and featured keynote speakers, breakout sessions, and student perspectives on topics including artificial intelligence, leadership, and strategic growth.



Clayton Homes now sponsors OACC's **SCM Summer Camp**, a six-day camp that introduces talented high schoolers to the field of supply chain management.

Saving Lives with Business Analytics

Boston, Massachusetts, is a leader in traffic safety initiatives, undertaking multiple projects every year to protect pedestrians and cyclists. In one initiative, the city's Emergency Management Services (EMS) and Transportation Department partnered with business analytics researchers from UT, Rutgers University–Camden, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to identify neighborhoods that could benefit from additional safety measures. The results were delivered in a report that pinpointed areas where children from neighborhoods with high household poverty rates were at risk of being struck by cars.

Sean Willems, the Haslam Chair in Supply Chain Analytics in the college's Department of Business Analytics and Statistics, was one of the researchers to collaborate with these Boston public services to help the city pursue its safety goals and keep its residents and visitors safer.

Clarifying the Problem

Boston's EMS, in collaboration with its Transportation Department, has kept a decade of data on crashes. These records include patients' ages, crash locations, and times of incidents, but not information on patients' home neighborhoods. In Boston and in most cities, traffic crashes in school zones are a policy concern. The Boston agencies wanted to determine if patients in such crashes shared common characteristics—such as living in the same neighborhoods—that could help steer traffic safety improvements. Willems praised the agencies for their foresight in collecting data and their commitment to applying analytics to improve traffic safety.

"We were fortunate to tie into an initiative that Boston agencies were already pursuing," Willems explains. "They have a long history of developing descriptive analytics from the data and wanted to take actionable steps that improve traffic safety."

Fellow researcher Mark Brennan, an assistant professor of operations management at the Rutgers School of Business–Camden, also appreciated the depth of information Boston's public services provided. The researchers successfully translated that data into

insights, specifically related to pedestrians struck in school zones.

"We put an additional lens on their data by tying their records back to peoples' home neighborhoods, which helped us reveal new details about traffic incidents that happen when children are going to and from school," Brennan says.

The research team combined Boston's previously collected statistics with census data and other information sources and then processed this mixture to create giant geospatial data sets.

"After aggregating this disparate information, we parsed the data to draw an even more complete picture of crashes involving vehicles and child pedestrians in school zones," Brennan explains.

Their analysis examined whether the people struck by cars were school age or not, the socioeconomic status of their home neighborhood, whether they were walking or biking, and where the crash occurred.

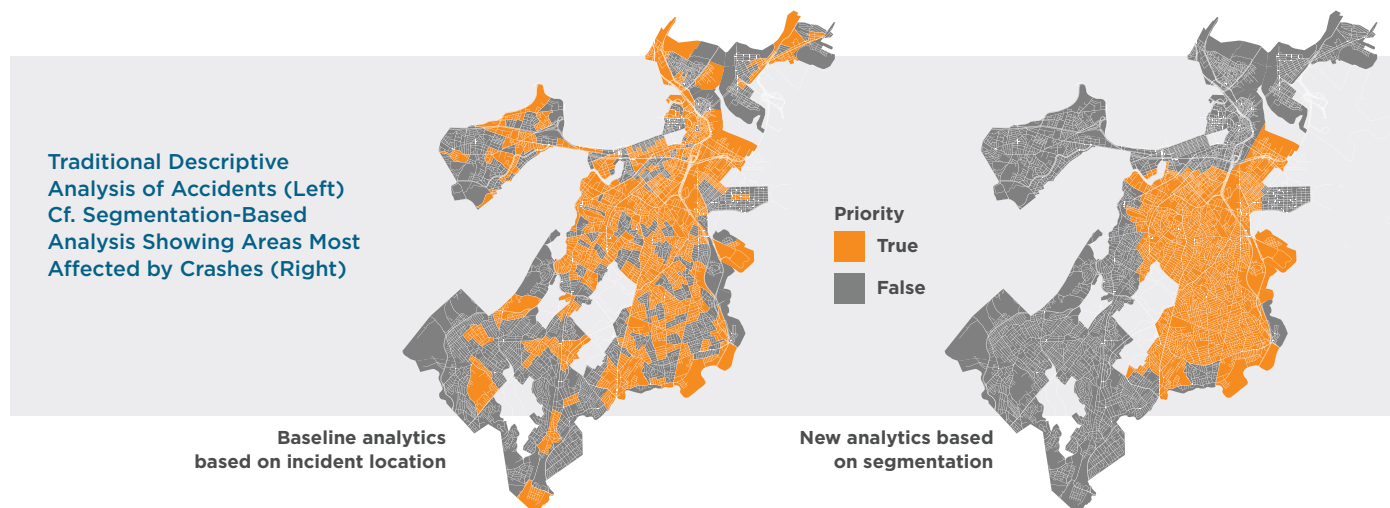
"The results showed that seven in 10 children struck by a motorist during school commute times were from moderately low- or very low-income neighborhoods," Willems says. "If these types of crashes were evenly distributed, we would expect to see just four in 10 children struck in these zones."

Analysis Is Only Half the Job

In urban planning, officials look for a fact-based, understandable, and persuasive picture of need. With the results the researchers' analytics helped uncover, Boston officials have additional evidence that helps them apply in targeted ways traffic-calming improvements, such as speed bumps and raised crosswalks.

"You have the hard analytics, that's the technical breakthrough, but you need to distill this analysis so the city's planners can use these learnings," Brennan explains.

The following two maps show the benefits of the new analytics-driven approach to identifying areas with many crashes. The map on the left shows the traditional descriptive analysis of crashes as occurring throughout the city, while the map on the right shows the area most affected by pediatric crashes.



Validating the Work, Applying the Results

Charlotte Fleetwood, senior transportation planner for the City of Boston, said the methodology could help cities better understand EMS demand by focusing on where patients live. The insight gives planners a clearer picture of community needs and can help direct resources and interventions to the neighborhoods that stand to benefit from them.

"In particular, a set of neighborhoods with high rates of household poverty in which children were disproportionately at risk for being struck by motorists became apparent in the re-engineered demand data," she writes.

Based on the research findings, Boston initially prioritized where to locate six capital projects focused on traffic-calming improvements. The city also identified seven schools in which to conduct outreach to raise awareness of traffic safety.

Replicating Success

For cities facing similar traffic safety challenges, the analysis shows how public records can help prevent emergencies, not simply document them. By rethinking how emergency response data is organized and analyzed, city leaders can identify patterns, uncover inequities, and develop targeted policies to reduce injuries before they occur. Willems believes the same approach could be applied to other public health issues, including heat-related emergencies and workplace injuries. ●

—Scott McNutt

The researchers' report to the City of Boston formed the basis of the article, "The City of Boston Sites Policy Interventions to Address Disparate Car-Crash Risk," published in INFORMS Journal on Applied Analytics.



#25
#48

Haslam's **graduate accounting program** placed **No. 25 among publics** and **No. 48 overall** in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2026 Best Graduate Business Schools specialty rankings.

Rankings

ACCOUNTING & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Adams

The University of Waterloo featured assistant professor **Jillian Adams'** journey from a PhD student at the school to becoming a faculty member at Haslam.



Hart

Teaching associate professor **Amelia Hart** was presented with the 2026 TSC-PAPex Women to Watch (Experienced Leader) Award for her accomplishments in the accounting profession.



Lee

Associate professor **Jong Lee** and coauthors published "Understanding Factors Affecting the Use of Agile Development Practices in System of Systems Environments" in *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*.



Li

Associate professor **Yuan Li** and coauthors have a study forthcoming in *Information and Management* that explains why individuals choose to approach rather than avoid cybersecurity threats in non-work settings.



Myers

Professor **Linda A. Myers**, associate professor **Roy Schmardebeck**, and PhD alumnus **Xi Ai** (HCB, '21) published "Common Auditors in Mergers and Acquisitions: Post-acquisition Financial Reporting Quality and Audit Fees" in *Contemporary Accounting Research*. Their findings suggest that when an acquirer and target both engage the same audit firm-office for audit services, it can facilitate knowledge transfer about the target and provide important post-acquisition benefits. **Myers** also published "Do Managers Use a Multi-Period, Coordinated Strategy Involving Accrual Management Choices and Subsequent Earnings Forecasts to Inflate Expectations?" with coauthors in *Contemporary Accounting Research*.



Schmardebeck

The Department of Accounting and Information Management (AIM) hosted the inaugural **AIM Early Career Leadership Conference** in April. The event provided early-career alumni and graduating students with opportunities to engage in networking, panel discussions, and professional development workshops.

Associate professor **Dan Pienta** published with coauthors in *Information Systems Research* and *MIS Quarterly*. In "The Impact of Threatening Cybersecurity Situations on Employees: A Conceptualization of Security Perplexity," the scholars study how employees react to sophisticated and ambiguous cybersecurity breach threats.

Assistant professor and Neel Corporate Governance Center research fellow **Justin Short** and coauthors' study on directors' perceptions of multiple concurrent board service is forthcoming in *Accounting Horizons*.

Assistant professor **Ali Vedadi** and coauthors published "Unraveling the Psychological Links between Organizational Security Climate and Extra-role Security Behaviors" in *Information and Management*.

Several AIM faculty received new appointments. **Yuan Li** is now the Andersen Professor of Accounting, **Dan Pienta** is now the Reagan Professor of Business, and **Jama Summers** and **Scott White** are now Dennis Hendrix Teaching Professors.



Pienta



Short



Vedadi



Summers



White

2% Δ GDP

The center's **2026 Economic Report to the Governor of the State of Tennessee** states that Tennessee's inflation-adjusted gross domestic product (real GDP) will **advance by 2 percent in 2026**. The projected rate is slightly more than the 1.7 percent growth that was projected for 2025 but lower than the growth rate of 3.2 percent in 2023 and 2.7 percent in 2024.



Participants from the **Tennessee Business Leaders Survey** were invited to a dinner in Nashville in April to discuss the **Boyd Center's winter survey results**. Nearly 63 percent of employers responding to the Boyd Center's winter 2026 Tennessee Business Leaders Survey said they were using AI in a way that didn't affect their employment levels, while about 10 percent said they have fewer employees because of the technology.



View survey results

BOYD CENTER FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Survey of Ideas

The center launched the Tennessee Longitudinal Survey of Ideas in partnership with the Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs, Synergy Institute, and Launch Tennessee. With funding from the National Science Foundation, this study aims to better understand the development of innovative products and processes in Tennessee, focusing on the timeline from conception to market. Entrepreneurs, innovators, and others who work on the development of new products, services, and technologies are encouraged to take the survey by scanning the below QR code.



Participate in the survey

\$3.56 BILLION LOSS

In partnership with Voices for a Safer Tennessee, the Boyd Center created a dashboard tracking gun violence data across the state by demographics, county, and cause. The tool also estimates the economic impact of firearm deaths, finding that Tennessee's 1,622 gun-related deaths in 2023 resulted in an estimated \$3.56 billion in lost productivity and economic activity, or about \$510 per person statewide.



Learn more



214,000
JOBS
\$5.8B
INCOME
\$1.8B
TAX REV.

Research from the center found that outdoor recreation and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency operations have a major economic impact across the state, generating nearly \$5.8 billion in annual income, supporting more than 214,000 jobs, and contributing \$1.8 billion in state and local tax revenue.



The center hosted a conference, **Envisioning the Future of Local Government Finances in the United States**, that brought academics from across the U.S. to Knoxville to discuss working papers on technology, aging, education, migration, and more.

TennCare

A Boyd Center survey found **record-high satisfaction with TennCare**, with 97 percent of enrollees reporting they were somewhat or very satisfied with the program. The same percentage also reported high satisfaction with TennCare coverage for their children.

Adult Education

The center developed a report showing strong and sustained progress for adult learners supported through **Tennessee Reconnect**, the state's free tuition program for adults returning to college, powered by the **Tennessee Higher Education Commission**.



Assistant director **Kira Rasmussen** earned a Chancellor's Honors award for Extraordinary Customer Service, as well as Haslam's Staff Award for Innovation and Creativity.



Research professor **Celeste Carruthers** was named associate director in May. In her new role, Carruthers identifies new research opportunities for the Boyd Center and shepherds the process from start to finish, from advising on proposal development and assembling teams to managing timelines and disseminating impactful research findings. **Carruthers** was also recognized as one of the nation's top education scholars in the 2026 RHSU Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings. **Carruthers** coauthored two pieces of academic research published in *Southern Economic Journal*: "Who Takes High-Earning CTE Pathways?" and "Assessing a Free College Opportunity for Students in Disadvantaged Schools." She also coauthored "Returns to Four-Year Higher Education" for *AEFP Live Handbook*.



Research associate professor **Matt Harris** coauthored "The Anatomy of U.S. Sick Leave Schemes: Evidence from Public School Teachers" for *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

\$84,000

The Freeman Foundation awarded Haslam an institutional grant totaling \$84,000 to distribute in 2026 through its International Programs and Study Abroad (IPSA) office in support of student internships in Asia.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & STUDY ABROAD



A record **107 Haslam students** completed **international academic internships** across **13 countries in Europe and Asia** during the 2025-2026 academic year, marking a **35 percent increase** from the previous year.

\$35,000

The U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs awarded Haslam the IDEAS Grant, an institutional grant of \$35,000 for the exploration and establishment of three new international partners to support the college's international business major program, especially for students studying critical languages such as Chinese, Japanese, and Arabic.

1,051 experiences

Haslam continued to lead the university in **global engagement** this academic year, with **1,051 total study abroad experiences**, accounting for 46 percent of all study abroad experiences at UT.

20% of students

choose **international business** as a **collateral** or **concentration** continued as the top choice for undergraduate Haslam students, with **20 percent of juniors and seniors** selecting the focus in fall 2025.

2nd cohort

The **second cohort** of the **international business double major** celebrated the graduation of 13 students in May 2026.

Haslam was one of four institutions that contributed data to a report published by the Forum on Education Abroad examining the **career outcomes of study abroad participants**. The report found that **graduates who studied abroad earn** median starting salaries approximately **\$5,000 higher** than their peers who did not study abroad.

MSBAi

Haslam's Department of Business Analytics and Statistics (BAS) reimagined its business analytics master's program as the Master of Science in Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence (MSBAi), reflecting the growing centrality of AI in modern business decision-making.



Learn more

BUSINESS ANALYTICS & STATISTICS



Liu

Associate professor **Chuanren (Charles) Liu** and coauthors published "Which to Trust: Extracting Collective Wisdom Based on Opinion Quality Rank Learning" in *INFORMS Journal on Computing*.



Letizia

Associate professors **Paolo Letizia** and **Haileab Hilafu** coauthored "Linking Firm-Generated Social Media Content to Sales and Returns," published in *Management Science*.



Hilafu

Professors **Robert Mee** and **Wei Zheng** coauthored "Fast Approximation of Shapley Values through Fractional Factorial Designs," published in the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*.



Mee

Professor **Gil Souza** coauthored two papers published in *Production & Operations Management*: "Does Energy Efficiency Imply Cost Efficiency? Revisiting Design and Operations of Combined Heat and Power Generators" and "Getting to the Green: Should a Profit-Maximizing Firm Buy Carbon Offsets or Invite Consumers to Buy Them?"



Zheng



Souza



The marketing department hosted the third annual Marketing and Sales Innovation Conference and Awards, convening industry professionals and academics to discuss trends in marketing and sales through keynotes, workshops, and networking opportunities.

#28

Graduate Marketing Program
among publics

#52

Graduate Marketing Program
overall

Haslam's **graduate marketing program** placed **No. 28 among publics** and **No. 52** overall in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2026 Best Graduate Business Schools specialty rankings.



MARKETING



Chavez

"Warming up to Private Labels: Temperature Impacts Private Label Performance," coauthored by assistant professor **Daniel Chavez**, was published in the *Journal of Retailing*. "Whether, When, How, and Why Sales Managers Should Be Involved in Sales Teams," also coauthored by **Chavez**, is forthcoming in the *Journal of Marketing*.



Damavandi

Assistant professor **Hoorsana Damavandi** and coauthors have "Cushioning the Blow: Reducing Customer Attrition in Response to Price Increase Notifications" forthcoming in the *Journal of Marketing*.



Noble

"The Impact of Inter-Departmental Distance on Joint Sales in Retail Stores," a paper by professor **Stephanie Noble** and coauthors, was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Marketing*. **Noble** and coauthors also had "Increasing Accountability and Compliance with Robot Advice" accepted for publication by the journal.



White

The Federal Lab Consortium recognized **Christine White**, managing director of the MS in Marketing, assistant professor of practice, and director of partnerships and growth initiatives, as corecipient of the 2026 Technology Transfer Innovation Award for the departmental partnership between Oak Ridge National Lab's Innovation Crossroads program and undergraduate marketing students.

Haslam was recognized as the No. 1 graduate business school in Tennessee for fall 2025 enrollment by the *Nashville Business Journal*.

GRADUATE & EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



Amy Cathey, Haslam's associate dean for Graduate and Executive Education, enters her ninth year as a board member of the **East Tennessee Foundation**, a nationally accredited community foundation serving the people of East Tennessee.

#24

#54

In the latest *Poets & Quants* ranking of **Top 100 MBA programs**, Haslam's MBA program was ranked at No. 24 among public institutions for the second year in a row. Among all full-time MBA programs, Haslam ranked No. 54.

#16

#38

The college placed No. 16 among public U.S. schools and No. 38 overall in *Fortune's* latest **Best MBA Programs** rankings.

#11

#15

#8

#10

#48

#68

Haslam's non-MBA online master's programs—Online Master of Science in Supply Chain Management and Online Master of Science in Business Cybersecurity—climbed from No. 16 to No. 11 among public institutions and from No. 19 to No. 15 overall in the *U.S. News and World Report* **Best Online Business Programs** rankings. In the *Veteran's Graduate Business* ranking, Haslam placed No. 8 among public institutions and No. 10 overall; the college also landed at No. 48 among public institutions and No. 68 overall in the **Veteran's MBA** ranking.

#3

#6

#62

The college ranked No. 3 among U.S. public institutions in *The Financial Times'* 2026 **Custom Executive Education Ranking**. Haslam has ranked among the top five U.S. public institutions for custom executive education programs for the past 10 years and placed No. 6 nationally and No. 62 worldwide this year.

Rankings

#19

Full-Time MBA Program
among publics

#43

Full-Time MBA Program
overall

#25

Executive MBA
among publics

#46

Executive MBA
nationally

Haslam's **Full-Time MBA program** placed at **No. 19 among public institutions** and **No. 43 overall** in the *U.S. News and World Report* 2026 Best Graduate Business Schools specialty rankings. The **Executive MBA** placed **No. 25 among publics** and **No. 46 nationally** in the same ranking.

Rankings



"Office Hours: Business Edition," a Haslam podcast hosted by professor of practice **Monica Langley**, won three bronze Telly Awards and received an honorable mention from the Webby Awards. Haslam's offices of Marketing and Public Relations and Technology Enhanced Education produce and support the podcast. **Langley** moderated the latest Baker and Haslam Debate Series discussion on public policy issues, which examined the role of government ownership in private businesses. The event featured Nathaniel Lane of the London School of Economics and Aldo Musacchio of Brandeis University.



NEEL CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CENTER

The Governance Insights Speaker Series, hosted by the Neel Corporate Governance Center, addresses corporate governance topics, including board risk, stakeholder engagement, and regulatory challenges. This year's Governance Insights speaker series concluded with Amy Rojik, BDO's national managing principal of corporate governance.

Skills-Based Hiring in the Age of AI

When Connor Ross began a retail and operations management internship with Love's Travel Stops, the junior finance major from Memphis found himself managing teams, interpreting profit-and-loss statements, and improving customer service.

While Ross plans to pursue a future in wealth management, the internship provided him something beyond career direction: experience leading people, solving problems, and making decisions in real-time.

As AI reshapes the workplace, organizations place greater emphasis on what capabilities candidates can demonstrate rather than what credentials alone suggest. Leadership, communication, adaptability, judgment, and critical thinking skills have become increasing differentiators in a hiring landscape where technology can automate many tasks.

Skills-based hiring is not a new concept, but what has changed is how employers evaluate those qualities.

Seeking Proof, Not Proxies

A decade ago, recruiters and employers relied on measures like GPA to predict workplace performance. In the age of AI, however, many organizations are seeking more direct evidence of potential and capabilities. Internships, consulting projects, case competitions, and other applied learning experiences are progressively important for students as employers look for opportunities to observe skills in action.

The hiring process itself also is changing. Employers use technology like AI to drill down into the specific strengths candidates possess, and they are adding assessments, projects, simulations, and other experiential components to the hiring process to better understand how candidates think and perform in the real world.

Jeannine Berge, Haslam's director of undergraduate professional development



“We’re constantly looking for ways to facilitate collaborations with employer partners.”

—ADAM O'DELL

and career management, says employers expect graduates to understand how to use AI tools effectively and responsibly while the rise of AI is making human skills more valuable.

“Students still have to know how to critically evaluate issues,” Berge says. “It’s even more important that they learn what the organization values and how to make decisions, adapt quickly, and navigate change.”

As AI becomes more capable, human judgment becomes more important. Adam O'Dell, graduate and executive education career management director at Haslam, says employers emphasize relationship-building, adaptability, strategic thinking, and leadership when evaluating new hires.

“Students must package skills in a way that resonates with employers,” O'Dell says. “Telling that story means more than updating a résumé or performing well in an interview.”

Helping Students Stand Out

Those expectations influence how Haslam prepares students for the workforce.

Employer engagement extends beyond traditional recruiting events. Industry partners participate in projects, speak to classes, mentor students, and collaborate on consulting assignments that expose students to real business challenges.

“When industry representatives showcase a case study from their organizations, they are vetting our talent at the same time,” O'Dell says.

These experiences create benefits on both sides. Employers gain a clearer understanding of students' capabilities, while students apply classroom learning in professional settings and build evidence of their abilities before entering the job market. “We’re constantly looking for ways to facilitate collaborations with employer partners,” says O'Dell. “We want them to gain a deeper understanding of our students, see themselves as engaged partners, and open talent pipelines.”

Beyond creating those opportunities, Haslam's career management teams help students recognize and communicate the skills they are developing. From internships and leadership roles to class projects and volunteer experiences, students learn how to connect their experiences to the qualities employers value most. For Ross, his internship offered exactly that opportunity: a chance to test himself in ways the classroom alone could not. Working alongside managers and employees, he learned to navigate uncertainty, balance competing priorities, and adapt when plans changed, all of which helped him translate academic knowledge into professional confidence.

“This has been a great chance to develop skills I can use in a finance career,” he says. “I’m glad I had this opportunity and glad I said ‘yes.’” ●

Volunteers in Action

The **Haslam Service Medallion** went to **23 students** for completing more than **160 hours** of service while at UT, and **25 students** received the **Commitment to Service Award** for contributing more than **100 hours** in the past year alone. These students contributed 4,522 of the 49,000 volunteer hours logged by Haslam students in the past year.

Haslam Service Medallion

Haslam Service Medallion recipients: **Elijah Albaugh, Kyley Blanks, Brooks Brown, Olivia Burns, Katherine Cockman, Emily Edgar, Rachel Endsley, Hailey Evans, Samuel Gillespie, Valeria Hernandez Paez, Hana Hoitt, T.I. Issa, Claire Kennedy, Callie Lefler, Jennifer Lein, Serena Nguyen, Reese Quinlan, Stella Rankin, Jack Reid, Lydia Rothrock, Kaitlyn Sobel, Ella Webb, and Katie Wood**

Commitment to Service Award

Commitment to Service Award recipients: **Elijah Albaugh, Kyley Banks, Olivia Burns, Kaleb Caywood, Katherine Cookman, Emily Edgar, Monique Emond, Lydia Fisher, Mary Lindley Gray, Valeria Hernandez Paez, Claire Kennedy, Ella Krull, Callie Lefler, Jennifer Lein, Kaeley Morton, Serena Nguyen, Angelique Obando, Reese Quinlan, Stella Rankin, Marina Roe, Lydia Rothrock, Kaitlyn Sobel, Scotie Stroud, Sky Vilay, and Katie Wood**



Haslam Serves

Through Haslam Serves, students partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee to distribute food to more than 100 Knox County families through its Mobile Pantry, a program that brings fresh, nutritious food directly into local communities. They also served at the KCS Teacher Supply Depot, helping package and organize supplies provided free-of-charge to Knox County teachers.



Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Pantry



KCS Teacher Supply Depot

Recognizing Excellence



Top Graduates

Congratulations to Haslam's Class of 2026 Top Graduates!

- Accounting and Information Management: **Emily Cherrie, Faith Ellickson, Paige Gatlin, Riley Morris, Jonathan Reznik, Caleb Tarwater, and Cade Wassenaar**
- Business Analytics: **Jacob Blankenship, Joseph Brodrick V, Matthew Malone, Elliott Mascena, and Tyler Porter**
- Economics: **Olivia Rhines and Charlie Scott Sturgill**
- Finance: **Cayle Beltran, Joli Boggs, Michael Canonica, Katelyn Davis, Devan DiMaria, Lorianne English, Evan Lane, Anthony Matz, Kennedy Nemechek, and Reese Quinlan**
- Management and Entrepreneurship: **Hannah Haston, Brooklyn Henkle, and Jason Michaels**
- Marketing: **Kyla Alexander, Desirea Burke, Sara Snead, and Katherine Thurman**
- Supply Chain Management: **Katherine Klein, Evan Lane, Elliott Mascena, Jason Michaels, and Satchel Vaughn**

Student Organization Awards

The college recognized leadership, service, and growth across more than 40 Haslam student organizations at the Haslam Student Organization Awards. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

- Large Organization of the Year: **Beta Alpha Psi**
- Small Organization of the Year: **Tennessee Undergraduate Consulting Club**
- Member of the Year: **Keira Oxendine** (Women of Business Analytics at Tennessee)
- Advisor of the Year: **Winston Smith** (Beta Alpha Psi)
- Innovation of the Year: **Professional Sales Club**
- Event of the Year: **Tennessee Association of Supply Chain**
- Service Award: **Society of Human Resource Management**



Large Organization of the Year, Beta Alpha Psi, left to right: Dean Mangum, Braden Bright, Winston Smith, Terry Neal, and Lane Morris



Crigler

Freeman

Strong

The **Master of Accountancy (MAcc)** 10-month program graduated its largest cohort in the program's history, with 122 graduates in 2026. Graduates **Jasmine Crigler** (HCB, '25; MAcc, '26), **Colby Freeman** (HCB, '25; MAcc, '26), and **Allison Strong** (HCB, '25; MAcc, '26) received special recognition for their outstanding scholarship and leadership.

ACCOUNTING & INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Students from Beta Alpha Psi completed over 1,000 service hours this year, designed an AI code of ethics for their organization, and presented potential AI-related solutions to business leaders for the Epilepsy Foundation of East Tennessee. The organization's annual trip to New York City included 20 students interested in careers in public accounting and financial markets.

Haslam's **Online Master of Science in Business Cybersecurity** program graduated its first cohort in **December 2025**, marking a milestone for the program and its graduates. The program's first graduates included:

Moe Abdalla
(MSBC, '25)

Luke Anderson
(MSBC, '25)

Matthew Dowling
(MSBC, '25)

Brian Stubblefield
(MSBC, '25)

Recently graduated marketing and management major **Alyssa Drendel** (HCB, '26) of Hickory, North Carolina, completed the Boston, New York, and Tokyo marathons.

MARKETING

Through a collaboration designed by professor Neeraj Bharadwaj, students in his brand management course partnered with Knoxville-based Goodness to Go to tackle real-world marketing challenges. Students worked in teams and applied concepts such as segmentation, targeting, and positioning to develop data-driven recommendations, many of which the company has already implemented. Students in assistant professor of practice Amy Engstrom Clugg's brand management course explored brand strategy through a case study on Smokey, examining how the beloved mascot's identity connects with audiences and strengthens the UT brand.



Top: Alyssa Drendel; Middle: Engstrom Clugg, Smokey, and students; Bottom: representatives from Goodness to Go and Bharadwaj

Master of Science in Marketing students collaborated with oncologist and alumnus **Ron Matteotti** (PEMBA, '20) to develop a marketing plan for his telehealth company, Trusted Telehealth, applying classroom strategy to real-world business challenges.

GRADUATE & EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



L-R: Morel, Diallo, May, and Goodbred

A team of Haslam MBA students, including **Tijan Diallo**, **Logan Goodbred**, **Zach Morel**, and **Harry May**, earned second place at the SEC MBA Case Competition hosted by Texas A&M University. The team developed data-driven solutions for a case sponsored by Dell Technologies, and **Diallo** was recognized as best presenter in the divisional round for his communication and presentation skills.

Research & Technology

Aerospace and Defense MBA student **Madison Travis**, a digital communications strategist with Huntsville's Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation, was featured by her company on how she applies what she is learning in the program to her job.



[Read the article](#)



Roman (center), with Mark and Dawn Huber of iSustain

Heath Integrated Business and Engineering (Haslam MBA and Tickle College of Engineering chemical engineering) student **Jesse Roman** received the iSustain Sustainability Endowment, which supports students preparing to lead in sustainability and the circular economy.

Top: VolCourt winners with Spencer Dore at the center; Bottom: VolCourt Reverse Pitch winners, Blake Hopkins at left



New Horizon Precision, a drone-as-a-service company cofounded by **Spencer Dore** (HCB, '26), a recent management graduate from Nashville, earned second place in the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation's (ACEI's) Boyd Venture Challenge, won the \$250 Spark Innovation Award at the spring 2026 Graves Business Plan Competition, and earned first place at the center's spring Vol Court competition, sharing in the \$3,000 Roe Prize.

Students selected Cofluence (formerly Partnerly), an influencer marketing platform founded by MS in Marketing student **Blake Hopkins** (HCB, '25), as the winning company in the Spring 2026 Vol Court Reverse Pitch Competition.

ANDERSON CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION



Doyle

After overcoming personal loss and a season-ending injury, Lady Vol softball player **Amayah Doyle** founded Play4One Academy, a faith-based organization supporting young female athletes beyond sports. With support from the ACEI, the junior management major from Carversville, Illinois, is taking the venture to the SEC Startup competition.



Del Vecchio

DH Industries LLC, makers of Big Al's Hot Mustard, won first place in the lifestyle category at the fall 2025 Graves Business Plan Competition. The company is owned by **Alex Del Vecchio**, a senior management major from Lenox, Massachusetts.



Naugle

Ben Naugle, a senior management major from Knoxville, won the fall Vol Court competition for his window cleaning business, First Glance Knox, winning part of the \$3,000 Roe Prize.

Rise Alarm, a startup from Haslam students **Max Gallinek**, a supply chain management major from Charlotte, North Carolina; **Dan Fishman**, a senior majoring in supply chain management from Old Bridge, New Jersey; and **Collin Tornstrom** (HCB, '26), a recent marketing graduate from Knoxville, was featured by WATE 6, Knoxville's ABC-affiliate news station. The smart wake-up system combines a mobile app and physical device designed to help users start their mornings with purpose, and the students developed the startup with help of the ACEI. With Rise Alarm, **Gallinek**, **Fishman**, and **Tornstrom** won first place and \$5,000 at the ACEI's spring **2026 Graves Business Plan Competition** in the growth category. Rise Alarm also won the competition's UT Entrepreneurs Club Prize of \$1,000.



Immersive Study Abroad

Master of Science in Supply Chain Management (Global) students participated in an immersive study abroad experience in Panama, where they explored the Panama Canal, visited distribution centers, and experienced the region's economic systems. Students examined how tourism, commerce, and global supply chains operate within one of Latin America's fastest-growing economies and engaged with local communities.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT



Ritchie (left), and Umsted (right)

Senior supply chain management majors **Luke Ritchie**, of Phoenix, Arizona, and **Jack Umsted** of Germantown, Tennessee, were two of just six recipients of the Institute for Supply Management 2026 R. Gene Richter Scholarship, one of the most competitive and prestigious awards for undergraduate supply chain students in the U.S.

WATE 6, Knoxville's ABC-affiliate news station, interviewed recent supply chain management graduate and former Marine **Christina Richardson** (HCB, '26) for a Veteran's Day story. Richardson, of Alcoa, Tennessee, discussed how UT's Veterans Success Center helped her transition from military service to college life.



Watch the news story

Barron with his family
at Lakeshore Park

SCOTT BARRON

Seeking the Challenge



Scott Barron (UT, '01) is no stranger to a challenge. He works full-time as the director of parish ministries for Knoxville's Sacred Heart Cathedral and raises three young daughters with his wife, Kristin, all while completing his Master of Accountancy (MAcc) degree from Haslam.

"One of the mottoes from the last school I worked at was 'Seek the challenge, live an extraordinary life,'" Barron recalls. "I can't do anything halfway."

A native of Queens, New York, Barron moved to Nashville as a young adult, where he decided to attend UT after falling in love with Rocky Top.

After graduation, he moved to Virginia for a few years, where he worked in sports management and moonlighted as an EMT. At the age of 30, wanting to test his physical limits, he became a firefighter, finishing his training near the top of his class. Over time, he rose to the rank of sergeant in the fire department, developing strong leadership and decision-making skills under pressure. He took the news that it would be three years before he could drive the fire truck as another challenge. After proving himself, he was driving it within a year.

Working as a first responder deeply impacted Barron, helping him better handle stress. In comparison, the stresses of juggling MAcc coursework with other responsibilities are less intense.

"When we're feeling stressed, I remind my classmates that no one's life is in our hands today," Barron says. "When you have been inside a burning house or tried to help someone having a heart attack, it puts other things in perspective."

While he explored other industries early in his career, Barron has long been interested in economics. His father was a forensic accountant for the FBI, and Barron suspects he inherited a talent for numbers.

"I didn't want to be like my dad, so I stepped away from it," he says. "Now that I'm back in it, I'm wondering why I ever left."

This interest in numbers stayed with Barron during his time as a physical education teacher and campus leader at Cathedral of the Most Sacred Heart

“

The next chapter of your life is only a ‘yes’ and some hard work away.”

—SCOTT BARRON

of Jesus, where he eventually realized he was ready for a new challenge. When his boss asked if he’d considered a master’s in accounting, Barron reached out to Robert Fuller, Haslam’s MAcc program director.

Fuller, now the head of Haslam’s Department of Accounting and Information Management and the EY Professor in Accounting, says Barron’s positive attitude and natural mentorship have made a significant impression.

“Scott takes a sincere interest in the people around him, and I notice that students walk away from talking with him feeling encouraged, confident, and a little more hopeful,” Fuller says. “He’s a reminder that success is not only measured by grades, but also by the way we care for one another.”

MAcc classmate Steven Bankston (HCB, '07; MAcc, '26) appreciates how Barron is consistently thoughtful and engaging, even when busy or tired.

“You’ll almost always find him chatting with a student or professor,” Bankston says. “He checks in with us to see how we’re doing and if he can be helpful. Having him in our cohort has really enhanced my experience, and I think all our classmates would agree.”

Beyond his supportive nature, Michael McCay, vice president and executive director of the UT Alumni Association, also admires Barron’s resolve.

“Kudos to him for successfully juggling a full-time job with a master’s program,” McCay says. “I think Scott can be a model for midcareer professionals who have had great careers but want to enhance their skill set or learn a new one. The opportunities are there at Haslam.”

After graduating this year, Barron plans to take his CPA exams and apply his new skills in his role at Sacred Heart. He wants to become more involved in mentoring those around him who are trying to take the next step in their careers.

His first piece of mentorship advice?

“If I can do this, anyone can. The next chapter of your life is only a ‘yes’ and some hard work away. Seek the challenge, make a difference, and live an extraordinary life.” ●



Torchbearer

Hannah Haston (HCB, '26), a recent management graduate from Dandridge, Tennessee, was named a Torchbearer, the highest undergraduate honor awarded by UT. She maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her academic career, served as president of her sorority, and held leadership roles across the university. Haston completed more than 125 hours of community service and was also recognized as a Top Graduate and Volunteer of Distinction.



MANAGEMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Super
Bowl
LX

Ten Haslam students engaged in experiential learning at Super Bowl LX through the **Big Orange Combine**, working in areas such as event operations, hospitality, and sponsorship activation. The experience also included meeting former UT football player Josh Dobbs (UT, '17), as well as a visit to Google, where students connected with UT alumni and explored how business and analytics skills translate to global organizations.



Master of Science in Management and Human Resources (MSMHR) students **Cole Foster** (UT, '25), **Lucy Higgins** (HCB, '25), **Isabella Tependino** (UT, '25), and **Emily Totty** (UT, '25) took first place in a multi-university case competition the program hosted last fall.



Bremer

Accepted for Publication

Doctoral candidate **Janelle Bremer** coauthored “O*Net Plus: A Review and Organizing Framework Extending O*NET’s Content Model in Management Research,” which was accepted for publication in the *Journal of Management*.



McLellan

With a speech on Italian coffee culture, sophomore management major **Marlie McLellan**, of Gonzales, Louisiana, represented Haslam at the McClung Speech Competition, hosted by UT’s College of Communication and Information, and was among the top student speakers selected to present.

Japan

Haslam students took part in the Wilson Academy's inaugural global trip to Japan, where they engaged in service projects, cultural exchange, and experiential learning that supported both personal and professional development.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & STUDY ABROAD



Anyan



Smith



Shockites

Supply chain management and international business majors **Alexandra Anyan**, a junior from Memphis, and **Nathan Smith**, a sophomore from Newton Square, Pennsylvania, represented UT at CUIBE's Global Student Leadership Council at Universidad EAFIT in Medellín, Colombia. They engaged with student leaders from around the world in a week of professional development and cultural exploration.

Zoe Shockites (HCB, '26), a recent marketing and business analytics graduate from Evergreen, Colorado, published a research article on Portugal's fish canning industry in the *Journal for Global Business and Community*. She published the research through the mentorship of the Haslam Global Launch Scholarship.

First-year Haslam students spent the winter mini-term exploring business and culture abroad in **Costa Rica** and **Colombia**. In Costa Rica, students learned about **sustainable agriculture** and **eco-conscious business** while traveling through San José, Monteverde, and Playa Hermosa. In Medellín, Colombia, students visited local companies to explore how **tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture** shape the city's economy and culture.



Top to bottom: Students in Costa Rica; students in Colombia



During the winter mini-term, Haslam launched a **new program to Brisbane and Sydney, Australia**, exploring entrepreneurship in one of the world's leading innovation hubs. Alongside **connecting with entrepreneurs and startup leaders**, students experienced Australian culture through excursions to the Sydney Opera House, Bondi Beach, Australia Zoo, and the rainforest.



Students traveled to Vietnam for Haslam's second **economic empowerment service project**, partnering with a social enterprise in the Mekong Delta that supports female artisans. Along the way, students gained **hands-on experience in international business, entrepreneurship, and supply chains** while exploring how business can drive social impact.



Under the guidance of management lecturer Tory Kinson, **Haslam students earned multiple first-place finishes** at the **International Business Ethics and Sustainability Case Competition** hosted by Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Competing against more than 250 students from 41 schools and seven countries, **Don D'Arcangelo-McDonald** (HCB, '26) (recent public administration graduate from Miami, Florida), **Scarlett Krafft** (sophomore finance major from Phoenix, Maryland), **Katie Tolene** (senior economics and finance double major from Knoxville), **Clark Vaughn** (junior finance and accounting double major from Brentwood, Tennessee), and **Ethan Ward** (HCB, '26) (recent finance graduate from Knoxville) won the 25-minute presentation category, while **Kate Crass** (a sophomore dual degree student studying management and industrial engineering from Knoxville), **Marlène Ngo Song** (a senior finance major from Farragut, Tennessee), **Mia Picchiatti** (senior economics and statistics double major from Gallatin, Tennessee), and **Cami Quick** (a junior business analytics major from Crossville, Tennessee) took first place in both the 10-minute presentation and 90-second pitch categories.



D'Arcangelo-McDonald, Vaughn, and Ward also won the NASBITE International 2026 Virtual Undergraduate Student Case Competition with the guidance of Kinson.

BUSINESS ANALYTICS & STATISTICS

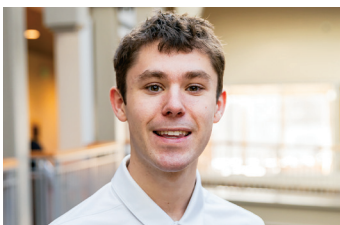


Jackson Vaughn (HCB, '26), a recent business analytics and international business graduate from Clarksville, Tennessee, earned a Gilman Scholarship to study abroad while he was a senior at Haslam.



Bowling Green, Kentucky's **Tyler Porter** (HCB, '26), a recent business analytics graduate, was named one of *Poets & Quants*' 2026 Best and Brightest Undergraduate Business Majors during his senior year, recognizing his academic achievement, leadership, and campus involvement.

ECONOMICS



Knoxville native and junior economics major **Cole Scheibelein** is among three UT students to receive the prestigious Boren Scholarship, one of the nation's most competitive awards supporting immersive language and cultural study abroad.



Ariel Soudry, a junior finance major from Farragut, Tennessee, earned first place in the final round of the McClung Speech Competition hosted by UT's College of Communication and Information. Soudry's speech focused on the Great Emu War.



A team of UT students won first place in the Knoxville regional Microsoft Excel Collegiate Challenge competition, hosted by Haslam's Department of Finance: **Gavin Gajjar, Tommy Houser, Nate Insko, Cesar Rager, Marina Roe, and Declan Werthan.**

FINANCE

Real Estate

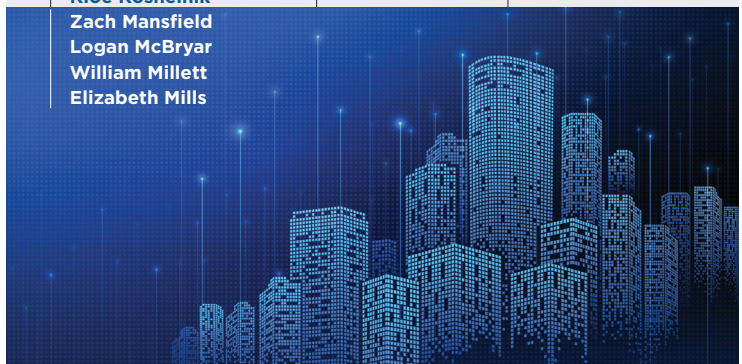
UT finance teams competed in two national real estate case competitions in April. One team traveled to Philadelphia to compete in the Mulroy Real Estate Challenge hosted by Villanova University, while four teams traveled to Nashville to participate in the Appraisal University Case Challenge. The teams included:

**Carrie Anderson
Anna Carey
Margaret Anne Hudson
Austin Hunley
Andrew Junikiewicz
Kloe Koshelnik**

**Park Mitchel
Carl Olson
Dhruv Patel
Hailey Patzer
Quincy Peacock**

**Spencer Settlemier
Bennett Stegen
Lesly Rodriguez
Asher White**

**Zach Mansfield
Logan McBryar
William Millett
Elizabeth Mills**







On April 17,

the future of the Haslam College of Business rose into view as a crane lifted the final beam into place atop the college's newest building. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors spent the morning signing the beam before its ascent to the future Randy Boyd Hall.

Investing in Education

The ceremony marked a milestone in the college's growth and provided an opportunity to recognize the new building's namesake, alumnus Randy Boyd (HCB, '79). For Boyd, the event reflected a lifelong belief in the power of higher education and a commitment to making positive impacts on the institutions that matter most to him.

Steven Bridges

Leaving Every Trail Better Than You Found It

Boyd traces that mindset to his time in the Boy Scouts.

“The code of the outdoors, as I learned and taught in Boy Scouts, says to leave every trail better than you found it,” Boyd explains. “It’s not just literal; it’s a metaphor for life. Everywhere I go, I want to leave it a better place.”

That philosophy has guided Boyd’s approach to business, public service, and philanthropy. Specifically, Boyd believes he can make his greatest impact on education.

A native of Knoxville, Boyd graduated from South Doyle High School at 16 and enrolled at UT. At 19, he became the first member of his family to graduate from college, earning a degree in industrial management from Haslam while working his way through school.

“Working while going to school helped me appreciate the value of education even more,” says Boyd. “It imprinted on me how important it is to provide opportunities for others to go to a university.”

The impact of his UT education extended far beyond what he learned in the classroom. A deep Haslam and UT network has been integral to his life and career. When he started his first company, he hired UT grads. When he had a business problem, UT professors helped him turn it around. When he needed advisors, many were alumni who had gone on to successful careers.

Expanding Opportunities

Following graduation from UT, Boyd built a successful entrepreneurial career, most notably launching Radio Systems

Corporation in 1991. The company has grown into a global pet products company with more than 1,400 employees and nearly \$500 million in annual sales. He also owns Boyd Sports, LLC, a company that manages six minor league baseball franchises, including the Knoxville Smokies.

As his business success grew, so did his commitment to creating opportunities for others.

In 2008, Boyd helped launch knoxAchieves, a workforce development initiative that later expanded statewide as tnAchieves. The nonprofit organization provides college access and support for high school students, particularly those who are first-generation college students or economically disadvantaged.

His work with tnAchieves led Boyd to state government, where he served as education advisor for Governor Bill Haslam and helped develop the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect scholarship programs. Later, as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, he worked with employers across the state to strengthen Tennessee’s workforce pipeline.

“A significant portion of that workforce would come from a college of business,” Boyd says. “That’s why it’s critically important for the Haslam College of Business to continue to grow, produce the talent our state needs, attract new businesses, and support the ones we have.”

His passion for educational opportunity ultimately brought him back to UT. Boyd became president and statewide chief executive officer of the UT System in 2018.

“I’ve always been passionate about education, so the opportunity to work at UT was a natural ‘yes’ for me,” he says. “I see it as an opportunity to help make education more accessible and affordable to more students.”

Naming Randy Boyd Hall

As UT president, Boyd has continued to invest in the university, supporting the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences, and Tennessee Athletics. Much of his philanthropy, however, has focused on Haslam.

His previous investments include the Boyd Venture Challenge, an entrepreneurship competition within the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (ACEI), and the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research.

“I believe a strong economy is dependent on strong business infrastructure, and strong business infrastructure is dependent on talented entrepreneurs,” he says.

As fundraising for the college’s new academic building ramped up over the past few years, Boyd decided the project aligned perfectly with his lifelong priorities.

“I knew I was going to be giving to something, somewhere, and this seemed like the most appropriate place and time,” he says. “This is a landmark facility not just for the Haslam College of Business and the University of Tennessee, but for the entire state.”

Boyd credits both the Haslam family and Stephen L. Mangum, the college’s dean and Stokely Foundation Leadership Chair, for inspiring his investment decision.

“I am a huge admirer of Jim Haslam and his entire family,” he says. “They have contributed so much to the college.”

He also points to Mangum’s leadership over the past 13 years.

“I’m making this donation in part as a thank you to Dean Mangum for his excellent leadership.”

From his perspective, Mangum says Boyd’s influence on the college extends far beyond philanthropy.

“I appreciate his ability to think outside the box and offer a valuable

On April 17, students, faculty, alumni, and friends gathered at Randy Boyd Hall to sign the building's final beam. Here, students gather with Randy and Jenny Boyd. The actual beam measures 21" high, 40' long, and weighs 2,000 lbs.



Jared Worsham

perspective based on his experiences,” Mangum says. “He’s also an eternal optimist who takes the long view. When there are challenges, he attacks things with a can-do spirit that is refreshing and invigorating for the rest of us.”

Building for the Future

Slated to open in spring 2028, Randy Boyd Hall is a 245,000-square-foot building that will become the largest academic facility on campus, including additional classrooms, dedicated research and study space, and new homes for two of the college’s engagement and research centers.

Amy Cathey, Haslam’s associate dean for graduate and executive education, says the building will also support growth in Haslam’s graduate and executive education programs, which serve a large population of working professionals.

“The new space will provide state-of-the-art classrooms for degree and non-degree programs, as well as team rooms, executive conference space, and a beautiful hospitality suite from which the downtown Knoxville skyline is visible,” says Cathey. “Given that more than half of Haslam’s graduate students are working professionals, it’s appropriate that this space provides wonderful views of campus, business, and community, as our students are connected in each of these areas.”

A Commitment That Endures

At April’s beam-signing ceremony, UT Provost John Zomchick welcomed attendees to Randy Boyd Hall.

“Randy Boyd’s leadership and generosity have helped define this era of

excellence for the university,” Zomchick told the crowd.

For Mangum, one of the most memorable aspects of the event was seeing Randy and Jenny (UT, ’79) Boyd alongside Jim Haslam II (HCB, ’52) and William B. Stokely III (HCB, ’63)—the namesakes of the college’s other two buildings.

“They are all now major contributors, not just in resources, but in time and talent to the college,” Mangum says. “With a wonderful turnout from students to staff, faculty, alumni, and others from across campus, there was a palpable spirit of community, accomplishment, and excitement for the future.”

Boyd says the event united all three sets of building donors and helped put his investment into perspective.

“I wanted to do my part to help them make this the best college of business in America.” ●

Investing in the College's Future

Generous support from Haslam alumni and friends is shaping the college's future.

Recent donors share what inspired their support for Haslam's new academic facility.



Patrick Murphy-Racey



Steven Bridges



Jared Worsham



Patrick Murphy-Racey



Jared Worsham



As both an alumnus of UT and a parent of a recent Haslam graduate, I have witnessed the evolution of Glocker Hall classrooms into the modern learning environment of the Haslam Business Building. For the college to expand to meet demand and keep pace with modern technology, Randy Boyd Hall is vital. That's why my wife, Katy, and I chose to invest in this campaign."

**—STEVE SENKUS (HCB, '93)
FOUNDER & FORMER CEO,
NONSTOPDELIVERY INC.**



Patrick Murphy-Racey



Patrick Murphy-Racey



Steven Bridges



Patrick Murphy-Racey



Jared Worsham



Patrick Murphy-Racey



Jared Worsham



Jared Worsham



Steven Bridges



Why would we give to UT, and specifically to Haslam, despite neither of us being alums? Having spent the majority of my career on the Haslam faculty and in administration is one reason. Having two daughters and one granddaughter with four UT degrees between them solidifies our commitment. Haslam continues to excel in producing business leaders. State-of-the-art facilities are critical to keeping the Haslam College of Business on the forefront of business education, and we want to be a part of that.”

—JAN AND ELAINE WILLIAMS
DEAN AND PROFESSOR
EMERITUS (JAN),
HASLAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



I support Haslam because I credit so many of my professional opportunities and successes to the foundation it provided. Growing up in rural Tennessee, a business degree was never on my radar. Investing in the new business building helps ensure others have access to the same opportunities that changed the course of my life.”

—JENNIFER HILLENMEYER (HCB, '99)
ASSURANCE PARTNER, EY BOSTON



Steven Bridges



Steven Bridges

There are still opportunities to invest in the college’s next chapter. To learn more about supporting Haslam’s students and mission, contact the Office of Advancement at HASLAMALUMNI@UTK.EDU.





Natu Patel Is Ahead of His Time

Natu Patel (HCB MS, '63) has spent a lifetime looking ahead. He correctly predicted the rise of the World Wide Web in the early 1990s, and today he has a similar conviction about AI.

"Everyone will have AI," Patel says. "It's already happening to a great degree."

That outlook on the future is now shaping a gift to his alma mater. Earlier this year, Patel committed \$2 million to establish an endowment for the Bharti and Natu Patel Business AI Distinguished Chair, designed to prepare Haslam students for an AI-driven business world. His connection to that mission stretches back more than six decades.

"I was first exposed to computers during my time in graduate school at UT in the early 1960s," he recalls. "It's because of the education I received that I am now able to give back."

Natu Patel with wife Bharti at the iconic Pineapple Fountain in Charleston, South Carolina

From Farm to Future Tech

Patel grew up in India in the 1950s with his family, who deeply valued education. His father was forced to leave school to support his family but committed to ensuring his children had more opportunities. Patel achieved his father's dreams when he studied engineering as an undergraduate in India.

During his time in school, Patel taught himself English through Hemingway novels and Perry Mason mysteries.

"I kept reading even though I didn't know what a hamburger or a motel was," he says.

That persistence brought him strong academic performance and a life-changing decision. Rather than continue the traditional engineering path, Patel chose to pursue graduate business study in the U.S.

After being accepted to Haslam's Master of Science in Industrial Management program, he boarded a ship and traveled halfway around the world to New York. On board, he met fellow student Vasant Gala, who also was headed to Rocky Top. Patel's decision to pivot from engineering to business stood out to Gala.

"That was a unique choice at that time," Gala says. "Right away, I noticed he was different—kind of a thinker. We got to know each other on the ship and are still friends today, more than 60 years later."

From New York, the two boarded a Greyhound bound for Knoxville, where Patel enrolled in several courses, including quantitative analysis. During that class, a visiting professor introduced him to a cutting-edge concept: computer programming.

Patel, who spent hours learning programming languages and incorporating them into his master's thesis, says he was hooked.

Automating the Factory Floor

Patel completed his degree and moved to Detroit, Michigan, in hopes of joining Ford Motor Company. During his interview, a manager queried him on the pages of computer code in his thesis. When the recent

alum explained that he had written the program himself, a job offer followed.

On his first day at Ford's glass factory, Patel arrived in a suit and tie only to be handed coveralls. He spent the next year working on a project aimed at replicating a newly developed glassmaking process. The work required careful experimentation and documentation, recording pressures and temperatures that could later be used to validate the results.

The project was successful and Ford secured a license to manufacture glass according to the new, more economical method. The automotive giant soon launched a project to automate production using an IBM Fortran system. When Patel heard about the initiative, he asked who would lead it.

"Anyone who can run with the ball can have it," his manager told him.

Patel volunteered, traveled to Chicago to learn IBM's programming language, and returned to Detroit to lead a two-year effort developing the IBM 1800 automation system to manage factory operations more efficiently.

"Everyone was very happy with it," Patel remembers. "It was a big success."

Between Two Countries

Patel returned to India for an extended visit after achieving success with the automation project. There, he met and married his wife, Bharti.

Patel worked at Ford until 1970, when he and his wife moved back to India to start a business. However, government bureaucracy and political instability led them to return to the U.S. a few years later. Patel held several professional roles, earned permanent residency, purchased a home, and even pursued a doctoral degree.

Throughout his career, Patel continued to anticipate emerging trends. He applied programming expertise to optimize a natural gas pipeline between Ohio and New Jersey and worked at another glass plant in West Virginia. Later, he took a job at Texas Instruments, where he contributed to a \$1 billion pipeline project in India.

When a heart attack paused his professional life, Patel used his downtime during

recovery to pursue real estate development and technology investing. He followed companies like Google, Microsoft, and Amazon as they rose, using his understanding of technology and markets to guide his investing decisions.

"I noted which companies appeared most often in the news," he says.

In 2022, he recognized the early momentum behind technology and AI computing company NVIDIA and invested accordingly.

A Legacy of Giving

Now retired, Patel prioritizes philanthropy to continue a family legacy.

"Folks in need would come to my father for loans in India, and he would offer them the funds with no interest and no time limit," he says. "His city named a street in his honor. I am trying to carry out his approach to help the communities where we lived."

Patel and his wife have supported multiple worthy causes while pursuing that legacy: a mobile science education lab for his childhood community in India, \$500,000 toward a homeless shelter in Kingsport, Tennessee, and \$500,000 funding for the local school system there. He also has been active in civic life through the Kiwanis Club and, more recently, the Rotary Club in Charleston, South Carolina.

Bharti Patel has been central to these efforts.

"She has supported me through more than 56 years of marriage, working and raising our two children while I often traveled overseas for work," he says. "I want to honor her."

The couple raised their children with what Patel calls East-West values, grounded in respect for elders, pride in heritage, and a strong emphasis on teamwork and generosity.

"They fully support our charity work, and I hope they will carry on that legacy," he explains.

Their daughter, Mamta Patel, a senior VP in human resources at a large pharmaceutical company, believes her father's commitment to learning profoundly impacted her.

“

Folks in need would come to my father for loans, and he would offer them the funds with no interest and no time limit. I am trying to carry out his approach to help the communities where we have lived.”

—Natu Patel

“He’s an avid lifelong learner who’s constantly reading, and that thirst for knowledge is something that carried through to my brother and me,” she says. “He’s always been ahead of his time. His commitment to this investment at UT reflects how much he values helping future generations.”

Childhood friend C.B. Patel agrees about the Haslam alum’s altruistic spirit, describing him as steady and generous.

“Whether it’s helping family in India or supporting his community, Natu has always been a big help to others,” says C.B. Patel. “Over a lifetime of friendship, I can always call him and count on him for help.”

Reflecting on the Patels’ \$2 million gift to the college, Haslam Dean and Stokely Foundation Leadership Chair Stephen L. Mangum says the investment will help Haslam further engage with the possibilities of AI.

“The new AI chair provides the opportunity to seek a thought leader who can help us chart a path forward using AI responsibly and transforming how we teach, research, and operate,” he says. “We are deeply grateful to the Patel family for this opportunity.”

Patel continues to look to the future with excitement.

“We need to teach students both AI and specific business skills,” he says. “That combination is the key to success.” ●

Natu Patel with his son Ashish and grandson Ishaan on the neighborhood bench honoring Patel’s father Raoji “Mota” Patel (shown in the framed photo). The Patel families live three doors down from each other in Charleston, South Carolina.



Left to right: MAcc student Jasmine Crigler, faculty Lauren Cunningham, MAcc student Scott Barron, PSF advisory board member Janet McKinley, PSF executive director Morgan Vance, faculty Robert Fuller, and MAcc student Allison Strong

PAT SUMMITT FOUNDATION

A Collaboration with Accounting



Pat Summitt exemplified the Volunteer Spirit. From her passionate coaching style to the care she showed her players and Tennessee, the legendary Lady Vols basketball coach believed deeply in discipline, preparation, and responsibility on the court and beyond. Those same values now guide the work of the Pat Summitt Foundation (PSF), which Summitt and her son, Tyler, established following her diagnosis with Alzheimer's to support research, education, and caregiving resources.

As the foundation officially began operating independently as a 501(c)(3) in 2025, PSF leadership faced a critical moment of transition. With growth and independence came full responsibility for the organization's auditing processes, an essential component of donor trust and nonprofit accountability. Rather than navigate that transition alone, PSF turned to a natural partner: Haslam's Accounting and Information (AIM) department.

Establishing a Standard

After years of operating under a larger philanthropic organization, PSF's move to independent status marked an important milestone and introduced new operational responsibilities. According to foundation executive director Morgan Vance (UT, '12), accountability isn't optional for charitable organizations.

"We are held to a level of accountability by the IRS, but we try to hold ourselves to a higher level because of who we represent and the name we bear," says Vance.

Transparency, donor confidence, and unqualified audits have long been central to the foundation's work, Vance explains, making audit readiness a priority during the transition. That priority led PSF advisory board member Janet McKinley (HCB, '80), a former chief corporate auditor and longtime supporter of Haslam's accounting programs, to suggest a collaboration with the AIM department. Drawing on her own experience with experiential learning as a student, McKinley saw an opportunity that could benefit both students and the foundation.

"When you're preparing for an audit, the goal is simple: You don't want surprises," McKinley says. "Strong internal controls help ensure that, and this project allowed students to bring their knowledge to a real organization at exactly the right time."



When you're preparing for an audit, the goal is simple: You don't want surprises. Strong internal controls help ensure that, and this project allowed students to bring their knowledge to a real organization at exactly the right time."

—JANET MCKINLEY
(HCB, '80),
PSF ADVISORY
BOARD MEMBER

Lessons Beyond the Classroom

The collaboration was incorporated into Haslam's Master of Accountancy (MAcc) advanced auditing and information management governance courses during the 2025 fall semester, giving students the opportunity to apply classroom concepts in a real-world setting. According to Lauren Cunningham, Cheryl Massingale Business Faculty Scholar, Keith Stanga Professor of Accounting, and co-facilitator of the MAcc and PSF collaboration, rather than working through a hypothetical case, students evaluated an active nonprofit organization navigating a major operational change.

"This took us from classroom cases to real-world circumstances," explains Cunningham. "Students applied technical knowledge in a real-world context and walked away with a better appreciation of how accountants can directly support an organization's mission."

Beyond technical skills, Cunningham emphasizes that the project required students to build communication, teamwork, and professional judgment skills that are difficult to fully develop in a traditional classroom setting.

Cunningham and Robert Fuller, AIM department head, EY Professor in Accounting, Decosimo Accounting Faculty Fellow, and collaboration co-facilitator structured the engagement to guide students through risk assessment, inquiry, and evaluation while allowing them to take ownership of the analysis and recommendations. The result mirrored professional audit and advisory work rather than a simulated assignment.

From Inquiry to Recommendations

The project began with two in-class sessions featuring PSF leadership, including Vance and Mayson Gordon, PSF's assistant director of strategic initiatives. During these discussions, students learned about the foundation's day-to-day operations, from handling donations received by mail to responding to potential IT

disruptions. The sessions offered what Vance described as “a peek behind the curtain” into nonprofit operations, helping students understand the controls and processes that support mission-driven work.

After the classroom sessions, students worked in teams to identify key risk areas and develop tailored recommendations appropriate for an organization of PSF’s size and resources. With no additional access to foundation staff or proprietary financial/donor records, students relied heavily on detailed notes, professional standards, and collaboration with faculty. Despite those constraints, McKinley explains the results exceeded expectations.

“Based on only two classroom discussions and without performing a detailed onsite audit, the internal control recommendations were very comprehensive and well-structured,” she says.

Stepping Into the Advisory Role

For many MAcc students, collaboration with PSF marked their first experience working with a real client.

“It gave me confidence in approaching professional client interactions and understanding the advisory role accountants play beyond just the numbers,” says recent MAcc graduate Jasmine Crigler (HCB, '25; MAcc, '26).

Students were challenged to balance risk, feasibility, and cost, a departure from traditional academic projects. Recent MAcc graduate Allison Strong (HCB, '25; MAcc, '26) noted that the experience required careful listening and realistic problem-solving.

“We had to be creative with the solutions we presented PSF; we couldn’t suggest solutions that aren’t feasible,” she explains. “We had to think through real-life constraints.”

Scott Barron (UT, '01), a MAcc student balancing a full-time career and family, emphasized the applicability of the work. “Even only halfway through the program, we felt prepared to offer recommendations that could be implemented immediately,” he says.

From a faculty perspective, Fuller enjoyed seeing how the project helped students grow.

“It was rewarding to see the students build confidence about complex audit topics by asking questions, connecting technical details to audit risk, and providing practical steps to reduce risk and improve controls,” says Fuller.



As a small staff, collaborations like this help us achieve the results we need without adding extra burdens.”

—MORGAN VANCE,
PSF EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Impact on the Pat Summitt Foundation

PSF leadership has already begun prioritizing and implementing several student recommendations, with plans to address additional items throughout the year.

“As a small staff, collaborations like this help us achieve the results we need without adding extra burdens,” Vance says. “It helps us be as efficient as possible and ensure donor dollars are used to further our mission.”

McKinley noted that the project also provided reassurance to PSF’s staff and board, confirming that many strong controls were already in place while highlighting areas for additional improvement. Implementing recommendations early, she believes, positions the foundation for long-term success.

Learning With Purpose

The collaboration between Haslam’s MAcc program and the PSF demonstrates how higher education can deliver measurable value to community organizations while preparing students for professional practice. For Haslam, it reinforces a commitment to experiential, client-focused learning. For PSF, it strengthens operational integrity during a pivotal stage of growth.

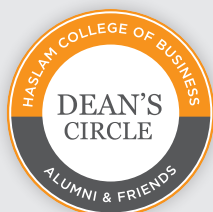
Both partners hope the project serves as a model for future nonprofit collaborations across disciplines, extending expertise where it is needed most. By connecting classroom learning with real-world impact, the collaboration prepares students not only for successful careers, but for meaningful contributions beyond the balance sheet.

More than an academic exercise, the partnership reflects a shared commitment to preparation, accountability, and teamwork, values Pat Summitt championed throughout her life. ●

—Leah McAmis

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Report



THE DEAN'S CIRCLE

Members of the Dean's Circle support Haslam students, faculty, and programs through leadership-level annual giving to the College Fund. Cumulative gifts made each calendar year of \$2,500 or more (\$1,000 for young alumni members) qualify for Dean's Circle membership and are recognized by plaques in the Haslam Business Building and invitations to special events throughout the year. This listing reflects donors whose cumulative investments in the College Fund in 2025 qualified for the annual recognition.

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Dr. Theodore Wesley Glocker Sr. joined the University of Tennessee over 100 years ago, becoming the first faculty member dedicated to business education. His dynamic leadership molded the program from the very first classes offered to what is now known as the Haslam College of Business, home to over 11,000 students.

Members of the Glocker Society share the vision, passion, and commitment to excellence in education the college's first dean demonstrated so long ago. Those who are part of this prestigious group are recognized for lifetime giving to the college of \$1 million or more.

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Throughout the Haslam College of Business' history, the arches of its business buildings have welcomed countless students. The tradition continues with today's students, who pass through the original stone arches of Glocker, as well as the new steel arches throughout the James A. Haslam II Business Building.

While the business building's arches represent a link to the past, donors recognized by the Archway Society create a bridge to the future by establishing endowments benefiting Haslam College of Business students and faculty. Through their distinguished support, these generous donors provide today's students the opportunity to pass through Haslam's arches and into a brighter future.

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Continued on page 42



Above: New building renderings show the third floor commons lounge (top) and the north wing entrance on Cumberland Avenue (bottom). Below: The Melton Lounge.



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David & Jane Schumann
James Schwab
Dane & Meg Scism
Jim & Laurie Seabury
Aileen Seilaz
Scott A. & Kathy W. Selbach
David G. & Swannee Sexton
Eugene T. Seymour
Family & Friends of Jim R. Shelby
Jimmy R. & Billie M. Shelby
Howard W. (Bud) & Barbara
Sherrod
William A. & Dene R. Shipp Jr.
Stewart G. & Ann T. Siewert
Toby C. & Betsy Silberman
Jerry & Tina Simmerly
Barrett & Betsy Simonis
Taylor & Jean Simonton
Karen Sisk
Kevin & Belle Six
A. Dean & Ann H. Skadberg Sr.
Frederick S. Slagle
Eva DiAnne Smith
Gregory L. & Lisa V. Smith
James F. Smith Jr.
Orville N. Smith
Randall E. Smith
Richard A. & Ann S. Smith
Thomas S. Smith
David M. Snapp
Aaron & Eva Snyder
Southern Company
David H. & Beverly C. Stacey III
Stage Stores Inc.
Andrew H. & Emily B. Stallings
Doug Standifer
Jeanne P. Martinson Statham
Randolph B. Stephenson
Stephen & Christina Stern
David & Deborah Stevens
William B. Stokely III
William B. Stokely Jr. Foundation
Matt & Wendy Stone
John A. Stout
Ron Suedekum
Joseph W. Sullivan III
Michael & Rebecca Sutton Sr.
Robert S. Talbott
Andy Taylor
Sharon M. Taylor
Tennessee Executive
Development Program Alumni
Tetra Recycling
Third National Bank
Arthur A. & Hasseline E.
Thompson
Judi Vogt Tompkins
Karen Trent
Mary Trotter
Truist Bank
Trust Company of Tennessee
Nathan Tudor
Norman D. Turgeon
Rick & Toni Turner
William L. Vallett Jr.
Arthur Van Buren
Bill & Jo-Ann Vandergriff
The Family of Roland C. Van
Dorselaer
James H. & Connie P. Valavides
Frank & Jane Venable II
David C. Verble
Paul & Lori Vetter
A.L. & Patricia W. Viles
Kate Vitasek
Dena & Von vonWerssowetz

Charlie A. & Nancy G. Wagner III
George A. Wagoner
Friends of James W. Wansley
James W. & Candy P. Wansley
Carolyn G. Ward
James C. & Corinne P. Ward III
William Way
R. Gregory West
Roger E. & Rose Baldwin West
Marlin K. & Erin K. White
Milburn H. & Sandra D. White
Alan R. Whitman
Kay & Bill Whitman
Friends of Jan R. Williams
Jan R. & Elaine A. Williams
Rod A. & Karen C. Williams
Tim & Amy Williams
Willis Corroon Corporation of
Tennessee
Jack Willis
Kenneth & Shari Wills
Alan D. & Wendy R. Wilson
Edward E. & Anne A. Wilson
Tandy W. & Connie M. Wilson IV
John Q. & Wanda W. Wisecarver
Ronald H. Wolf
H. Pat Wood
Neville J. Woods
Chris & Melissa Wyatt
Elise Roby Yanders

*List as of June 30, 2026

1914

SOCIETY
HASLAM COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

THE 1914 SOCIETY

When the School of Commerce began in 1914, it had only 11 students and one faculty member. While their numbers were few, their shared passion for leadership in business practices and education was strong. As the college has evolved, the passion shown by its original students and faculty has persevered.

1914 Society members reflect the values of the college's founders and understand the importance of continuing that legacy. Members of the 1914 Society invest in the college through bequests, charitable remainder trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance gifts, or retirement beneficiary designations.

Jeff & Jacqueline Abbott
John G. & Donna Adams Jr.
Robert N. Andrews
Rex A. Armstrong
Martha F. Arnold
Dan B. Ashby
Jonathan C. Bailey
John V. Barker
Jeff & Denise Barlow
Tom & Jennifer Bell Jr.

Mike A. & Nancy M. Berry
LeRoy B. & Julie O. Bible
David & Vanessa Birdwell
Steven P. Birdwell
Harold A. Black
John H. Boll
Richard B. Boring Jr.
Randy & Jenny Boyd
Charles W. Brinkley Jr.
Shirley Pih Broadbery
Betty J. Brown
Debra L. Brown
H. Carey Brown
Steve & Jill Brown
Don & Joan Bruce
Harry J. Bruce
Robert L. Bryan & Delores Lyons
Cameron J. Burnette
Andrew N. Burns
Richard N. Camp
Thomas R. & Nancy H. Campbell
Dave & Penny Carver
Paul A. Castagna
H. Jerry Collins
John C. Compton
David A. Cooper
Scott V. & Julie C. Cooper
Samuel L. Coulter
Joe R. Crafton Jr.
Tommy H. & Susan W. Crunk
L. Michael & Carolyn B. Cuddy
Helen Cummings
Jesse M. & Elaine M. Curtis
Marc & Kelli Davenport
William & Carol Dickenson
Daniel H. Dougherty
Charles W. & Sarah J. Duggan
Donald N. Edmands
Anne Todd Eisner
Kenneth L. & Gina R. Evans Jr.
Don C. & Sandra H. Fancher
Larry W. Felts
Bruce D. Fisher
Michael M. Flanary
Ron D. Ford
Roberta J. Fox
Donald W. & Suzanne H. Freeman
Phillip & Jinny Furlong
Leslie D. Galloway
Sarah F. Gardial
Marvin D. & Yolanda Gass II
Robert W. Gibeling Jr.
Nan M. Given
Robert L. & Joni T. Goan
Susan Golcic
Kathleen Gooch
James M. Gower III
Edward D. Gray Jr.
Gary & Libby Green
Paul F. & Patricia A. Green
Chris & Susan Hadorn
Gregory A. & Katherine R. Hamilton
Lee E. Harkleroad III
James L. & Donna C. Harlan II
Roy L. Harmon Jr.
Frank M. & Teresa Ashworth Harris
Stephen J. & Donna K. Harrison
Jerre & Barbara Haskew
James A. & Natalie L. Haslam II
Keith Hatchett
Tom S. & Constance E. Hawkins Jr.
F. Reed & Kathrine Hayes



Each month, Haslam's Lunch Hub series connects students with alumni leaders, offering firsthand insights and real-world perspectives on career growth and professional success. The college recently welcomed father-and-son duo Michael and Chase Strickland of Bandit Lites, Inc., for a session focused on family business and leadership. The Stricklands shared insights on the value of hard work, the importance of strong communication, and how expanding and leaning on a professional network can open doors.

Michael Strickland (HCB, '77), founder of Bandit Lites, has worked for decades in the music stage lighting industry with acts such as the Beach Boys and Paul Revere and the Raiders. He's passionate about pouring this experience into the next generation of leaders.

"Lunch HUB provides an amazing opportunity to spend quality time with students and staff," Strickland says. "For a brief moment, the students get to take a deep dive into real-world opportunities."

Chase Strickland (HCB, '22), Bandit Lites' business manager, also enjoyed the chance to connect with students at the event. "The open, informal setting made the conversations real," he says. "We shared ideas and engaged with students in a way that doesn't always happen in more formal classroom environments."

Alex Hendl (HCB, '26), a recent marketing graduate from Aurora, Ohio, enjoyed hearing from the father and son alumni.

"Michael, as an industry veteran, and Chase, as a rising professional, both shared valuable insights that I will carry into my career after graduation."

Monroe Harris, a senior management major with a minor in music business from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, also appreciated the opportunity to hear the Stricklands' industry-specific insights. "What resonated most was how they actively invest in students through initiatives like the Music Industry Club," she says. "They represent what it means to work hard while being good people." ●

Lunch Hub
FAMILY BUSINESS
AND LEADERSHIP

NEW BUILDING

Donors

Continued from page 40

John & Mary Joslyn

Cindy L. & Jeff J. Joyce

Ron A. Justus

Jim J. & Penny Y. Keras Jr.

Chris P. & Donna G. Kinney

Knaster Charitable Trust - Michael Lobel, Trustee

Russell L. Lamb

Chris & Quinita LaPorte

Richard E. & Patricia M. Mallicote

A. David & Sandra L. Martin

G. Adam & Tabatha F. McClain

Penny & Joe McDonald

Janet McKinley

Jack P. & Trish H. Mills

Chad A. Moore

Anthony & Kendra Mubarak

Terry L. & Robin A. Neal

James I. & Kathy J. Newsome III

PYA

Regions Bank

Jon G. & Mintha E. Roach

King W. & Judy P. Rogers III

Chris L. & Lauren G. Schellman

Dane & Meg Scism

Jim & Laurie Seabury

Steve & Katy Senkus

A. Dean & Ann H. Skadberg Sr.

Greg L. & Lisa V. Smith

Thomas S. & Jane A. Smith

Nancy C. Stalcup

David & Deborah Stevens

David H. & Jessica A. Stokes

Joe P. & Sheryl S. Teague

Charles A. & Nancy G. Wagner III

Michael A. Wiechart

Jan R. & Elaine A. Williams

Ken W. & Sara S. Winston III



Above: New building renderings show an exterior view from Volunteer (top) and the Anderson Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (bottom). Below: The Melton Lounge.



Thomas A. & Holly Heming
Dennis R. & Jennie L. Hendrix
Robert Z. & Terri P. Hensley
Henry W. & Patricia G. Herzog Jr.
Jeff M. & Lucy J. Hoffman
Roseann Hogan
David Hollins
Regina Holt
Phyllis B. Horning
David R. Howard
Stan & Teresa Hurt
Elizabeth A. Ingalls
Mel S. Jacobson
Joel & Sandra Jarvis
William L. & Elaine A. Jenkins Jr.
Daryl P. Johnson
Charles B. Jones Jr.
Ronald A. & Joan N. Justus
Timothy F. & Janet W. Kercheval
Ben & Margaret Kimbrough Sr.
Mark & Lindy Kinser
Rufus B. & Rebecca K. King Jr.
Michael A. & Pamela S. Koban Jr.
Steve & Cindy Kroeger
Jeffrey & Shannon Land
Monica J. Langley
Chris & Quinita LaPorte
Ronald E. & Carolyn B. Lawrence
Fred & Sharon Lawson
William E. & Pamela R. Lee
LeAnn & John Luna
Stephen L. & Troba Mangum
Cheryl S. Massingale
A. David & Sandra L. Martin
Larry B. & Jane Hope Martin
Whitney Johns Martin
Cheryl S. Massingale
F. Stewart McCorkle Jr.
Janet L. McKinley
Robert C. & Ann McMahan
Scott D. McWilliams
George & Peggy Melton
Dan M. & Amy E. Miles
Joseph Minga
W. David & D. Sien Moon III
Charles G. Moore
James M. Moore
Charles W. & Sherry R. Morgan
Michael J. & Renee L. Mulcahy
Michael J. & Kimberly A. Musso
Pamela R. Neal

Terry L. & Robin A. Neal
Gordon H. & Camoline D. Newman
James I. & Kathy J. Newsome III
Dennis H. Owen
Mitchel T. & Chris F. Parrott
Chip & Carolyn Pearson
Edward V. & Karen D. Pershing
Johnny & Kimberly S. Pitts
Bill S. & Kathy P. Portis
Patricia D. Postma
Gary M. Pratt
Jerry & Suzanne Ratledge
Richard B. & Jane M. Ray Jr.
S. Seth & Loren L. Reagan
Philip A. & Kathi Reisz
Jon G. & Mintha E. Roach
Mary Nell Robbins
Martin L. & Carol Fri Robinson
King W. & Judy P. Rogers III
Nolen & Clarice Rollins
Brett W. Rousch
Robert E. & Anne L. Sandlin
David L. and Marilyn A. Schreiber
Cory S. & Jennifer L. Schulz
Louis C. & Sherlene C. Schumacher

Charles G. Seay
Gregory M. Sekelsky
Scott A. & Kathryn W. Selbach
James B. Selleh
Steve & Katy Senkus
Marc A. Shepherd
William A. & Dene R. Shipp Jr.
Bill H. Sims Jr.
A. Dean & Ann H. Skadberg Sr.
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Gregory L. & Lisa V. Smith
Randall E. Smith
David M. Snapp
Aaron & Eva Snyder
Gil Souza
Shea Sproles
David H. & Beverly C. Stacey III
Nancy C. Stalcup
Connie Dorrough Steinmetz
David & Deborah Stevens
Michael & Rebecca Sutton Sr.
Robert S. Talbott
Herman J. Tallman
W. Kirk Taylor
Joe P. & Sheryl S. Teague
Neal & Cathy Townsend
Pamela C. Treacy
Walter & Patricia Trent
Jerry & Kendra Tune
Thomas M. & Traci A. Van Dorselaer
Dwight H. & Shelia Van Inwegen
Bill & Jo-Ann Vandergriff
James H. & Connie P. Vavalides
A.L. & Patricia W. Viles
Charlie A. & Nancy G. Wagner III
James W. & Candy P. Wansley
James C. & Corinne Ward III
Paul A. Warren
Charles R. West
Marlin K. & Erin K. White
Kay & Bill Whitman
Michael & Lisa Wiechart
Jan R. & Elaine A. Williams
Rod A. & Karen C. Williams
Kenneth & Shari Wills
J. Michael & Nadine C. Woodall
Joseph M. & Karen S. Young
Lynn & Liz Youngs
Morgan M. & Kathryn Zook

*List as of June 30, 2026

Update



Stay in touch!

To share your news with the Haslam community, submit it, along with any relevant images, to haslampr@utk.edu. Please use "Alumni News" in your subject line.

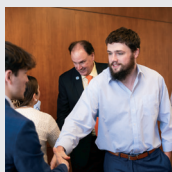
This update reflects information known as of May 31, 2026.

'70s



Larry Carroll (HCB, '78) participated in Haslam's Project Inspire series, discussing the importance of relationship-building, mentorship, trust, and continuous learning in wealth management and long-term career success.

UBS hired **Michael Shain** (HCB, '73; MBA, '76) as a financial advisor in Greenville, South Carolina.

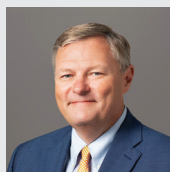


Michael (HCB, '77) and **Chase Strickland** (HCB, '22) of Bandit Lites shared insights on leadership and family business during a Haslam Lunch Hub session. See story on page 41.

'80s



Jim Atchley (HCB, '86; MBA, '88), Knoxville market president for First Horizon Bank, is a UT 2025 Alumni Professional Achievement Award Winner.



Martin (Marty) Brown (HCB, '85), president and CEO of PYA, will step down from ownership at the end of 2026 after leading the firm through a decade of transformative growth. Brown will remain CEO throughout 2026 and then assume the non-ownership role of chief growth officer for accounting and advisory services in 2027.



The Tennessee Comptroller's office selected **Bryan Burklin** (HCB, '80) as the new director of local government audits.



Kris Emery (HCB, '89) was named director of Oak Ridge Associated Universities' financial operations.



Halifax, England's Physical Properties Testers Group Limited named **Mark Fleiner** (HCB, '89) its chief executive officer.



Greg Gheen (MBA, '88), a founder of Realty Trust Group and company president from 1998-2022, retired in 2025 after 27 years with the company. He also was named an Outstanding Alumnus of Roane State Community College.

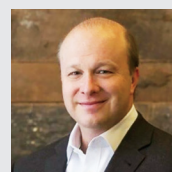
Barry White (HCB, '85), CEO of the Chattanooga Tourism Co., retired after leading the organization for eight years.

'90s



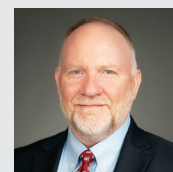
Andrew Brock (HCB, '98), president of digital technologies, global CIO and CEO of HOAM Ventures, spoke with *(Inside) Technology* about how HOAM and its parent company, Associa, are transforming the HOA industry.

The Alabama Trucking Association honored industry leader **Fenn Church** (MBA, '93) with the H. Chester Webb Award.

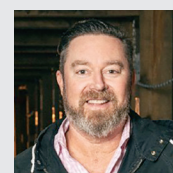


Direct Edge Campaigns, under the leadership

of president **Gregory Gleaves** (HCB, '96), won four Reed Awards for Campaign Excellence in 2025 from *Campaigns & Elections*.



David McMillan (HCB, '92), leader of PYA's healthcare consulting practice, will succeed Marty Brown as president and CEO of the firm on January 1, 2027.



MDWerks, Inc., appointed **Roy Milner** (HCB, '94), founder and co-founder of several distilled spirits companies, to its board of directors.

'00s



Jessica Bookstaff Doppelt (HCB, '00) recently spoke to MS in Marketing students about her success founding PigeonForge.com while still in college and growing it into a leading tourism marketing platform focused on regional engagement and economic impact.



Danielle Franklin DeSarzant (HCB, '07), a principal product marketing manager at Intuit Mailchimp, led a keynote fireside chat during the Department of Marketing's third annual Marketing and Sales Innovation Conference and Awards and also spent time on campus with students as a featured guest of the Haslam Lunch Hub.

Daniel Dougherty (MBA, '00), director of electronics manufacturing and OEM sales at John Deere, received the UT 2025 Alumni Service Award.

Acadia Healthcare Company, Inc., appointed former CFO **David M. Duckworth** (HCB, '01; MAcc, '02) as interim CFO and principal financial officer.

Delisa English (EMBA-SL, '03), president and CEO of the Blood Connection, was recognized as part of the inaugural South Carolina 500 list.



Andrew Fraser (HCB, '07; MAcc, '08) is now chief executive officer of Turner Companies.



The Tennessean Hotel in Knoxville promoted **Erica Greene Johnson** (HCB, '05) to area director of convention services.



TLC Beverage Brands named **Lisa Inman** (HCB '09; MAcc '10) its chief financial officer.



Former Lady Vols Basketball standout and Duke Blue Devils women's basketball head coach **Kara Lawson** (HCB, '03) was named ACC Coach of the Year.



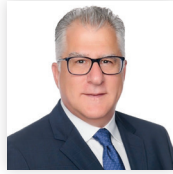
Sandra Kay Lee (MBA, '07), president and CEO of Creative Dining Services, was selected for inclusion in *Marquis* "Who's Who."



Charles McRae (MBA, '02) is now chief operating officer at Cardiovascular Logistics.



Jarrett B. Millsaps Jr. (MBA, '02), was selected as president of the hospitals Saint Joseph East in Lexington and Saint Joseph Mount Sterling in Kentucky.



Tectonic Therapeutic appointed **François Nader** (PEMBA, '00), an independent director of Moderna Inc., as chair and independent director of its board.



Joshua Oed (MBA, '07) is now vice president of global supply chain at Enerflex Ltd., located in Houston, Texas. Oed also published *Dreamcatcher: A Son's Collection of Dreams About His Late Mother and Brother*.



Pete Pearson (MBA, '02) was appointed to the Knoxville Utilities Board of Commissioners.



Nelson Pratt (HCB, '00), managing director and national HUD practice leader with Apprise by Walker & Dunlop, is leading a national HUD/FHA multifamily valuation and market study practice group.



Ben Roberts (HCB, '02) joined CFP Board as managing director of program development.



Holman Logistics named **Tim Sartin** (HCB, '03) its vice president of sales.



James Sterba (ADMBA, '07), procurement agent manager in supplier management for the Boeing Company, was elected to the city council in Mukilteo, Washington.

'10s



Terrell Broady Jr. (HCB, '17; MBA, '18) founded Advocates for Autism, a nonprofit supporting autistic students nationwide.



PYA promoted **Kyle Dickson** (HCB, '17; MAcc, '19) to manager in its audit and assurance services.



Devin Fladd (EMBA-HL, '19) and **Savanna Parker** (HCB, '25) of UT Medical Center spoke with students about healthcare careers and professional growth at a Haslam Lunch Hub session.



Kyle Franklin (ADMBA, '18) was promoted to vice president and global supply chain and operations deputy at Lockheed Martin.



Erich Gertz (EMBA-HL, '19) was promoted to director of revenue cycle integrations at Radiology Partners.



Kiewit Nuclear Solutions hired **Michael Gilhooly** (ProMBA, '17) as a business line manager.

Will Godwin (HCB, '17) is now a partner at Sterling Seacrest Pritchard.



Rachael Green (ProMBA, '17) was named senior vice president of engineering and operations/president of Malibu Boats.



The UT Health Center profiled **John Howington** (PEMBA, '19), a trailblazing thoracic surgeon and pioneer of cancer prevention and treatments at Virginia Mason Franciscan Health in Silverdale, Washington.



Stacy Leeds (EMBA-SL, '10) was named president of the University of Tulsa.

Connor Mykleby (HCB, '15; MAcc, '17) joined Red Door Wealth Management.



At the MIT Sloan Sports Analytics Conference, **Nikhil Morar** (HCB, '19), manager of business analytics and strategy for the Los Angeles Lakers, spoke on the panel "Storytelling through Data."



Julia Myers (EMBA-HL, '18) delivered a talk at TEDxLakeshore Drive in early 2026. A spontaneous retinal detachment left her feeling not in control of her situation, inspiring her talk, "Losing My Sight Taught Me to See."



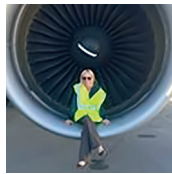
←
Watch
the talk



Jason Neal (ProMBA, '18) is now a senior project manager with Mueller Water Products.



Sandra Neal (ProMBA, '13) accepted a new role as product manager at SolidProfessor.



SeyTec, led by CEO **Stephanie Seybert** (ADMBA, '15), was named Elite Supplier of the Year for Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control.



Kelley Simpson (EMBA-HL, '16) was hired as managing director, leader of oncology services at Premier Inc.



Brett Spenst (EMBA-SL, '10) is now senior executive officer of AdventHealth's Rocky Mountain region.

Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital added **Richard Steinfeld** (PEMBA, '10) to its medical staff.



Micah Johnson Stockett (HCB, '10) was named CEO of communications and senior director for enterprise at GE Aerospace.



Jennifer Tribble (ADMBA, '17) was promoted to director of staff at Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex.



The Tolan Group named **Howard Weeks** (EMBA-HL, '18) the chief medical officer of behavioral health solutions in Henderson, Nevada. Weeks is also an adjunct lecturer with Haslam's Executive MBA—Healthcare Leadership and Physician Executive MBA programs.

'20s



Carter Barczak (HCB, '23), senior analyst with Empirix Partners, authored an article for Knoxville's *Cityview Magazine* on how AI is permeating everyday life.

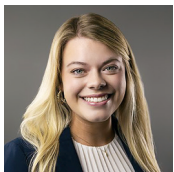


Thirteen Executive MBA—Strategic Leadership (EMBA-SL) alumni were inducted into the program's inaugural EMBA-SL Fellows cohort.

- **Erin Culver** (EMBA-SL, '22)
- **Mark Furrow** (EMBA-SL, '23)
- **Mike Gwinn** (EMBA-SL, '24)
- **Matthew Heimberger** (EMBA-SL, '24)
- **Amanda Hoefling** (EMBA-SL, '22)
- **Bryan James** (EMBA-SL, '21)
- **Eric Johnson** (EMBA-SL, '21)
- **Jenny Koltnow** (EMBA-SL, '23)
- **Elizabeth Million** (EMBA-SL, '25)
- **Eugene Naughton** (EMBA-SL, '22)
- **Lewis Runion** (EMBA-SL, '24)
- **Cory Schulz** (EMBA-SL, '23)
- **Cody Wilson** (EMBA-SL, '20)



Tom Black (PEMBA, '21), vice president of emergency services at Emerus Holdings, was recognized with UT's 2025 Alumni Professional Achievement Award.



PYA promoted **Madalin Blake** (HCB, '21; MAcc, '22) to manager in its audit and assurance services.



The Trust Company of Tennessee hired **Elizabeth Bradshaw** (MBA, '25) as a client specialist.



NYC Health + Hospitals/ South Brooklyn Health appointed **Selwena R. Brewster** (PEMBA, '21) as chief medical officer.



Knox News featured **Scott Daughtry** (HCB, '24; MSBA, '25; MBA, '26), director of strategy for UT men's basketball team, in an article on his work for the team.

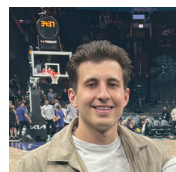
Kayla Edidin (ProMBA, '25) was named chief operating officer of Red Door Brands.



Christopher Frost (MSMHR, '20) has a new position as senior manager, human resources operations at Barracuda.



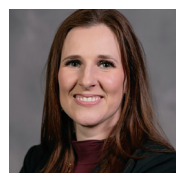
Cruz Galaviz (ProMBA, '23) serves on the Kituwah Board for Kituwah LLC, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' business arm.



Robby Geron (HCB, '24) is now a basketball operations assistant with the Phoenix Suns.



Ebony C. Harpool (PEMBA, '21) recently joined Monogram Health as a market physician executive.



Ashlee Hawkins (EMBA-HL, '23) founded and is principal consultant at Hawkins Healthcare Strategy.



Knox News featured **Blake Hopkins** (HCB, '25) in an article on UT student businesses for his photography business.



Stephen Howes (ADMBA, '21), was promoted to vice president of aeronautics operations at Lockheed Martin.



Paul Hungler (EMBA-SL, '23), associate professor in Smith Engineering at Queen's University, was chronicled by *Study International* for his experience in Haslam's Executive MBA—Strategic Leadership program.



New Jersey's The DAK Group hired **Keeghan Krause** (HCB, '25) as an investment banking analyst to address mid-market M&A growth.



Greg Linton (EMBA-HL, '24) founded and is the CEO of Perinatal Access.



Mark Long (ADMBA, '25), was named deputy chief engineer at Leidos.



Daniel Mejia (ADMBA, '22) was promoted to 569 AMXS squadron director of the 76th Aircraft Maintenance Group at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.



Rather & Kittrell in Farragut, Tennessee, hired **Nathan Miller** (HCB, '23) as an associate advisor.

Aarthi Nuthakki-Kolaskar (EMBA-SL, '21) was named one of *Enterprise World's* Most Empowering Woman Leaders to Watch Globally in 2026.



Fiemu Nwariaku (PEMBA, '26), the Helen Lowe Bamberger Colby Presidential Endowed Chair in Health Sciences at the University of Utah, was recently named president-elect of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons. He will assume the role in September 2026.



Edward O'Bryan (PEMBA, '20), founding partner of Uplift Capital and chief medical officer for Graham Healthcare Capital, joined First Capital Bank's board of directors.

Sean O'Neill (EMBA-HL, '25) developed a malnutrition initiative that improved patient care and hospital performance, helping a partner health system identify and treat malnutrition earlier and generating approximately \$5 million in additional reimbursement in its first year.



INBRAIN Neuroelectronics hired **Bill Phillips** (EMBA-HL, '20) as the head of engineering.



Catherine Post (ProMBA, '21) was hired as in-house counsel for Tennessee Valley Public Power Associates.



Jeremy Roberts (EMBA-HL, '23), chief executive officer with SCA Health - Medfinity Health Surgery Center, founded and is CEO of Roberts Holdings Group, LLC.



Shannon Serio (EMBA-HL, '22) is now the chief financial officer for Herself Health.



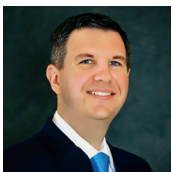
Jeffrey Smith (EMBA-HL, '21) joined the Permanente Medical Group as director of accounting and financial reporting.



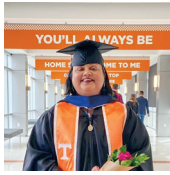
Michael A. Stachowiak (EMBA-SL, '24) was named president and deputy CEO of Texas Life Insurance Company.



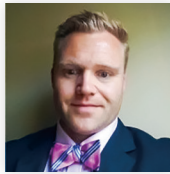
Steve Townsend (ProMBA, '21) is vice president of commercial development with Cintra, a Ferrovial company.



Nathan Tudor (EMBA-HL, '21) is now a regional administrator with USA Health.



Sash Wadhawan (ProMBA, '24) is now a production planner at Constellium.



Nate Worthington (ProMBA, '21) is the owner and CEO of Petty Coffee Company in Knoxville.



Paramount Sleep Company hired **Sofia Vachino** (HCB, '25) as an intern in marketing and sales support.



Nicholas Wells (PEMBA, '24) was appointed chief medical officer at Georgia's AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Murray.

40 Under 40

UT recognized nine Haslam alumni as Volunteer 40 Under 40.



Bible

Charley Bible (MBA, '15), president of design and build with KaTom Restaurant Supply



Cogburn

Christina Cogburn (HCB, '14), senior manager of retail data analytics for Pilot Company

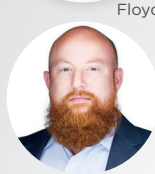
Matthew Davis (PEMBA, '20), president and CEO of West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians



Floyd

Kaitlin Floyd (MBA, '21), Olympic marketing account supervisor for GMR Marketing

Cohl Morgan (HCB, '14), co-founder and executive vice president of PWA Properties



Peña

Zachary Peña (HCB, '15), CEO of Empirix Partners

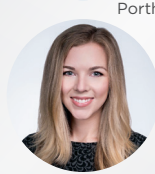
Catherine Porth (MBA, '18), founder and executive director of Let Her Speak



Porth

Paulina Todd (ADMBA, '19), president and COO of Aero-mark, LLC

Elizabeth Watkins (HCB, '14), senior manager of corporate procurement with Instacart



Watkins

Six college alumni were named to *Knox News'* latest 40 Under 40 class.

Laura Graham (HCB, '17; MSMHR, '18), lifestyle content creator

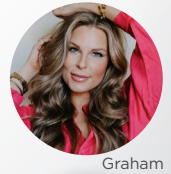
Mary-Margaret Murray (HCB, '21, MSMHR, '23), HR consulting manager for the City of Knoxville and coach at Landing Health and Performance

Todd Skelton (JD/MBA, '14), general counsel with HF Capital

Shante Southwood (MS-MHR, '23), HR business partner with Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Chase Strickland (HCB, '22), business manager at Bandit Lites

James Tourville (HCB, '18), owner of SouthSide Garage



Graham



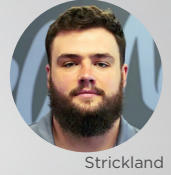
Murray



Skelton



Southwood



Strickland



When Andrea Addis (HCB, '00; MAcc, '01) arrived at UT, she planned to study international business. She never imagined that 25 years later she would be interim treasurer for the entire UT system, overseeing the finances of the institution that launched her career.

"It wasn't on my career path, but it's a really wonderful opportunity," Addis says.

Her journey to university leadership has been defined by a willingness to embrace unexpected opportunities, continuous learning, and a commitment to serving others.

Saying Yes to Growth

As an undergraduate at Haslam, Addis discovered a talent for accounting.

"It's not about math," she says. "It's about organizing financial information in a way that makes sense for a reader or decision-maker."

ANDREA ADDIS

Serving to Make a Difference

Beyond the technical skills she developed were the relationships she built with Haslam faculty who encouraged Addis to pursue the college's Master of Accountancy (MAcc) program.

Although she completed her MAcc with a concentration in taxation, Addis's professional path took an unexpected direction. She accepted a position with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) after graduation. She worked in the TVA's office of the inspector general for more than a decade in internal audit, compliance and policy oversight, and fraud investigation. The experience provided a strong foundation for her career and taught her the value of stepping outside her comfort zone.

"I said 'yes' to things that were outside my usual focus and learned to embrace feeling uncomfortable, because it's how we grow as humans," says Addis.

Her years with TVA shaped Addis into both a leader and lifelong learner, preparing her for increasingly complex leadership roles.

She later served for more than 10 years as the director of internal audit for Knox County before returning to her alma mater in July 2023 to work in audit and compliance, transitioning in March 2026 to serve as the UT System's interim treasurer.

The role has broadened Addis' perspective on the interconnected systems that keep the university running, revealing how functions like tax, payroll, and revenue-generating activities overlap to support the system's mission.

"I get to see how all the different operations weave together to make the university work," she says.

A Commitment to Service

Those who have worked alongside Addis are quick to praise the qualities that have defined her two decades of leadership.

Windle Morgan, who worked alongside Addis at both TVA and Knox County government and is now senior director of internal audit at Consolidated Nuclear Security LLC, describes her as strategic, thoughtful, discerning, and deeply committed to her team.

"She is a great person to work with and a leader who's trustworthy, supportive, and empathetic," Morgan says. "I'm delighted that she is making an impact at the University of Tennessee, but that comes as no surprise."

Brian Daniels, chief audit and compliance officer for the UT System, believes Addis's enthusiasm and experience across government and higher education position her to be an impactful leader.

"Her professional experience in large, complex organizations, including multiple levels of government, allows her to share her wisdom with others," Daniels says. "In her role as interim treasurer, she's making a broad impact on the success of the university."

Throughout her career, Addis has remained committed to public service. Whether serving TVA, Knox County, or her alma mater, she has consistently sought opportunities to contribute where she can add the most value. Stewarding the future of UT, an institution that has shaped multiple generations of her family, is simply the latest chapter in that commitment. ●

We celebrate the community of alumni and friends



who are supporting Haslam's unparalleled growth.



That support ensures continued excellence in industry impact,



faculty engagement, and student advancement.





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