



# DEPARTMENT OF **ECONOMICS AND FINANCE**

Fall 2024  
Newsletter

The mission of the department is to teach students the foundations of economics and finance theory and methodology with a global perspective on markets and the institutional environment.

## Academic Programs:

### Undergraduate

- Economics
- Finance
- Real Estate
- Risk Management and Insurance
- Commerce

### Graduate

- Economics, M.A.
- Finance, M.S.
- Economics, Ph.D.





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# Welcome to Economics and Finance

I want to make sure you know about some of the great things happening in the Department of Economics and Finance, so I put together a list of recent highlights that emphasize the accomplishments of our department and faculty members. Much of our success is due to the generosity of our alumni and friends. Our department is stronger than ever because of your support.

Stuart J. Fowler  
Department Chair  
stuart.fowler@mtsu.edu

- **Research Excellence:** Our faculty have been actively shaping the field, publishing a wealth of peer-reviewed articles. Impressively, nearly two-thirds of these publications are ranked as A or A\*—the highest accolades on the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) journal list, recognized globally as the gold standard for business publication rankings.
- **Booming Enrollment:** The popularity of our ECFN programs continues to soar! Fall-to-fall enrollment in ECFN majors increased by an impressive 7%, and preliminary numbers for Spring 2025 show a staggering 18% growth.
- **Dynamic Student Engagement:** Our ECFN clubs have delivered an exciting lineup of events that connect students with industry leaders and faculty. Signature events like “Meet the Professionals,” “Faculty Lunch and Learn,” and the “Annual Investment Challenge” were met with resounding success, providing students with invaluable learning and networking opportunities.
- **Groundbreaking Career Fair:** The newly established Real Estate Career Fair was a standout success, featuring over 20 leading employers, including Regions Bank, First Community Mortgage, and the Tennessee Housing Development Agency, creating powerful pathways for student internships and careers.
- **National Recognition:** The Financial Management Association (FMA) Club achieved the prestigious Superior Chapter designation, an honor awarded to less than 10% of FMA chapters worldwide, underscoring our students’ commitment to excellence.
- **Certified Success:** Our Financial Planning minor has been officially approved by the CFP Board as a registered program. With growing enrollment, this program is preparing students to become the financial leaders of tomorrow.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE  
STATE UNIVERSITY

*Department of*  
**ECONOMICS  
& FINANCE**



 *Murfreesboro, TN*

 *Jones College of Business*

**The Department of  
Economics and Finance  
offers many opportunities  
for its students.**

**Our students have  
recently completed  
internships at:**

Kroll, Wellpath, Strategic Financial  
Partners, Pacific Personnel  
Services, UBS, Chubb, Wilson  
Bank, Deloitte, State Farm, Brown  
& Brown, Goldman Sachs, Nissan-  
NA, Auto Owners, Cardinal Health,  
FIS-Marketing, FRANKE,  
Tennessee Comptroller of  
Treasury, US-Offsite, Tennessee  
Valley Homes, U.S. Department of  
Treasury, and the Washington  
Wizards

**\$97,000+**  
in scholarships  
awarded to current  
students in 2024-25

*For more information:*



[econfin.mtsu.edu](http://econfin.mtsu.edu)

# FACULTY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*Dr. Aaron M. Gamino*

“Re-Righting the Law: The Impact of VRA Preclearance on Language Minorities” accepted for publication in *Economics & Politics*.



*Dr. Shuangshuang Ji*

“The Effects of Bank Mergers on Listed U.S. Borrowers” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Financial Research*.



*Dr. Benjamin Jansen*

Achieved the passing standard established by CFP Board for the CFP Certification Examination.



***Dr. Jeffery Stark***

**Forbes Magazine** cited his co-authored research “Gender Bias and Crowd-Sourced Financial Information” in a recently published article.



***Dr. Daniel J. Smith***

"The Road to Serfdom and the Definitions of Socialism, Planning, and the Welfare State, 1930-1950" accepted for publication in the *History of Political Economy*.

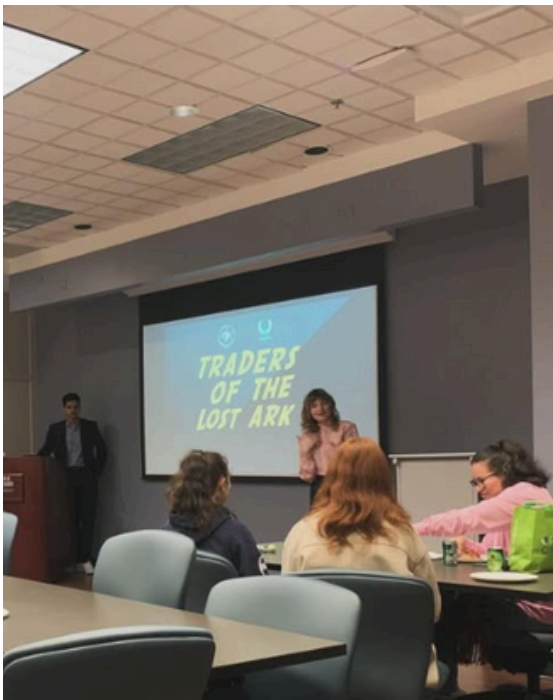


***Dr. Wisarut Suwanprasert***

“Post-Coup Sanctions and Thailand’s Agricultural Trade” accepted for publication in *The World Economy*.



# Beyond the Classroom: Clubs in Action



# Student Organizations Highlights



## MTSU Investment Club:

- Hosted the “Bank to the Future” event where students heard from Redstone Federal Credit Union and took a deep dive into financial planning and investment strategies.
- Kicked off “Traders of the Lost Ark,” the club’s Annual Investment Challenge alongside the Economics Club.



## Blue Raider Real Estate Club:

- Welcomed commercial real estate professional Michael Crabtree to campus for an enlightening presentation where he discussed negotiation strategies, creating value, and his successful projects in the Cool Springs area.
- Held a Real Estate Career Fair for students to connect with companies, expand their networks, and find job opportunities ahead of graduation.



## Economics Club:

- Hosted a Faculty Lunch and Learn with MTSU’s economics faculty where they shared information about their current research, career help, and how economics applies to their everyday lives.
- The Investment Club and Economics Club together hosted Bank of America for their “Big ‘Bank’ Theory” event where students heard from industry professionals about personal finance, financial decision-making, and career development.



## Financial Management Association (FMA):

- FMA traveled to UBS in Nashville for an office tour and panel discussion.
- Wilson Bank & Trust hosted FMA students for a tour offering students valuable insight into the operations of a community bank.
- Had 12 new students recognized and inducted into the FMA National Honor Society
- Gamma Iota Sigma, FMA, and the Investment Club together hosted the “Meet the Professionals” event allowing students to expand their network by building professional relationships and discovering new opportunities.
- Awarded Superior Chapter designation.



## Gamma Iota Sigma (GIS):

- The Omega Chapter traveled to Indianapolis to attend the 53rd GIS Annual Conference.
- Students attended the WSIA Symposium in Atlanta where they were able to engage with industry leaders and learn more about the surplus lines market.
- Cumberland RIMS hosted students at their TopGolf Holiday Party where students received a generous scholarship donation in support of the university RMI program.



# FALL 2024 TRAVEL



**GIS 53RD  
ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE –  
INDIANAPOLIS**

**FMA ATTENDS UBS  
PANEL DISCUSSION  
& TOUR –  
NASHVILLE**



**WSIA EXTREME  
RISK TAKERS  
SYMPOSIUM –  
ATLANTA**

# Graduate Programs

## Master's in Finance

- No. 26 **Best Online Master's** in Finance Program (2019) OnlineMasters.com
- **Program has grown** from approximately 12 students to over 30 in the 2 years since we moved to remote delivery.
- Five **fully funded graduate assistant positions** available to students every year.
- **Graduate Placements:** HCA Healthcare, Ascend Federal Credit Union, UBS, MAPCO Express, CVS Health, Deloitte, VUMC.

## Economics Ph.D.

- The Ph.D. program **ranked in the highly prestigious** U.S. News & World Report. The program's ranking is the highest for any graduate program at MTSU. The ranking puts our Ph.D. in Economics in the same category as the other major universities, such as UTK and Vanderbilt.
- Students have **presented their research** at several recent national and international conferences, including the Southern Economic Association meetings and the Public Choice Society Conference.
- Our Ph.D. students have **received recognition and awards** from other universities and organizations, such as the Adam Smith Fellowship, the American Enterprise Institute, and the CATO Institute. Additionally, they have published numerous articles during the last few years, including in journals well-ranked by the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC).
- Recent graduates have obtained a variety of different post-graduation employment opportunities. Some examples (not exhaustive): **Post-Doc:** Post Doc in Labor Economics at Ohio State University. **Tenure-Track Faculty:** Emerson College, Lincoln Memorial University, Northwood University, Linfield University, and more. **Private Sector/Governmental:** Citi Group, Sallie Mae, State of Tennessee, and City of Norfolk, Va.



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*Murfreesboro, TN*



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# Student Spotlight

## *Miriam Galindo*

“I have been fortunate enough to participate in a research project, ‘Comparative Salary Satisfaction Among Business School Faculty in Tennessee,’ that aligns with my research interests. My responsibilities included assisting in the development of survey questions and the analysis of data. This experience has enabled me to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, has deepened my understanding of economic research and fostered connections with faculty members and peers that I might have missed out on otherwise.”



## *Sreehari Sreejith*

“Connecting with my Microeconomics professor allowed for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity with the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) in D.C. This experience helped me grow both personally and professionally. I have also accepted leadership roles in the Economics and Investment Clubs. These roles later paved the way for even more exciting opportunities, such as attending the NABE Annual Conference, where I expanded my network and gained valuable exposure to the industry, further shaping my career aspirations.”



## *Evan Ramsey*

“As a Finance student at MTSU, I have fully engaged with the various clubs that are available to me. The Financial Management Association (FMA) and Gamma Iota Sigma have provided me with valuable opportunities to travel, learn, and expand my professional network. The support and resources provided by the Finance faculty have been important in both my education and professional development and ultimately contributed to my securing an internship.”



# MEET THE ECONOMICS & FINANCE STUDENT AMBASSADOR

*JADA HESLOP*

**Major:** *Finance*

**Minor:** *Business Law*

**Summer Internship:**

*Brown & Brown Insurance*

**Certifications:** *Dale*

*Carnegie, Microsoft Office  
including Excel, and*

*Canva*

**Skills:** *Project Planning &  
Execution, Data Analytics,  
Interpersonal Skills,  
Budgeting and  
Forecasting*



The student ambassador connects with prospective students and informs them about MTSU programs and campus life. This includes sending news blast items about the latest things happening around the Jones College of Business and the Department of Economics and Finance. Additional responsibilities include recruiting students, giving campus tours, and creating promotional material.



[econfin.mtsu.edu](http://econfin.mtsu.edu)

**MTSU**

**ECONOMICS  
and FINANCE**

# MTSU's Financial Management Club (FMA) Awarded Superior Chapter Designation

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

**MTSU**  
ECONOMICS  
and FINANCE



- This highly coveted designation is awarded to less than 10% of FMA chapters.
- Achieving this honor requires a high level of effort and exemplary commitment from students and faculty.
- MTSU's chapter will be recognized worldwide for this honor on FMA International's website, *fma.org*.
- Congrats to Dr. Frank Michello and his outstanding student team!



To join ECFN's FMA club, [mtsu.edu/business/stu\\_orgs.php](https://mtsu.edu/business/stu_orgs.php)

# Fall 2025 Scholarship

## Application

## Deadline

## February 15



[econfin.mtsu.edu/scholarships](http://econfin.mtsu.edu/scholarships)

### INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE!

It's that time of year again! The scholarship application portal is open and accepting submissions. We encourage each student to apply. By completing just one application, students are automatically entered into a pool of **all** available scholarships for which they are eligible. In 2024 alone, our department awarded more than \$97,000+ in scholarships! Students are required to submit by **February 15, 2025** to be awarded scholarships for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Scan the QR code below to take advantage of this opportunity and get started today!





# MTSU

ECONOMICS  
and FINANCE

**Department of Economics and Finance**

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## Give to Economics & Finance

Donors play a vital role in the ways we are able to sustain and enhance our mission. ECFN's Enrichment Fund (92288) is used to support the following example academic activities:

- Student Activities, Travel, and Awards
- Faculty-Led Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research
- Supporting MTSU's Partnership Programs

To support MTSU's Economics and Finance Department, please donate online at the following secure donation site [www.mtsu.edu/supportbusiness](http://www.mtsu.edu/supportbusiness). Please select the Economics and Finance Enrichment Fund menu item.

Or mail checks payable to *Economics and Finance Enrichment Fund* with memo *Account 92288* to:

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Middle Tennessee State University  
Murfreesboro, TN 37132



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