



**Friday, April 10 | Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts  
DeVos Family Room, Floor 3**

**11:00 a.m. REGISTRATION**

**11:30 a.m. WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

- Barry Miller, President, The Volo Foundation

**11:45 a.m. LUNCH & FIRESIDE CHAT: *Innovation, Decentralization, and the Future of Finance***

- Taylor Gerring, Co-Founder, Ethereum, UCF Business Hall of Fame Inductee 2026
- Dean Paul Jarley, UCF College of Business

**12:45 p.m. NETWORKING BREAK**

**1:00 p.m. FIRESIDE CHAT: *The Next Wave of Financial Intelligence – AI, Data and the Consumer Experience***

- Sarthak Pattanaik, Chief Data & AI Officer, BNY
- Dexter Wilson, Senior Director, Head of Strategic Partnerships, BNY

**1:30 pm. PANEL DISCUSSION: *State of FinTech 2026 – Reinventing Financial Services***

Moderated by Yafei Zhang, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Finance, UCF College of Business

- Matt Cannon, Vice President of Enterprise AI, FAIRWINDS
- Howard Haney, Chief Technology Officer, Voloridge Investment Management
- Jeffrey Potovin, UCF M.S. FinTech '25
- Maharaja Subramanian, Head of Project Management, Volante Tech

**2:30 p.m. PRESENTATION: *AI in Academic Research and Industry Adoption***

- Sean Cao, Ph.D., Associate Professor of FinTech, AI and Capital Markets, University of Maryland College Park



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**2:50 p.m. NETWORKING BREAK**

**3:00 p.m. PANEL DISCUSSION II: *Man & Machine, Leveraging AI Productivity, Human Intuition and Intent in Finance***

Moderated by Rodney Ndum, Ph.D., J.D., Lecturer, Department of Finance, UCF College of Business

- Sean Cao, Ph.D., Associate Professor of FinTech, AI and Capital Markets, University of Maryland College Park
- Vijay Chopra, Ph.D., Lecturer, Department of Finance, UCF College of Business
- Hiba El Harak, UCF M.S. FinTech '26
- Alejandro Lopez Lira, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Department, Warrington College of Business, University of Florida

**4:00 p.m. PRESENTATION: *Tokenization as the Financial Infrastructure for the Space Economy***

- Grant Blaisdell, Chief Executive Officer, Copernic Space

**4:20 p.m. PRESENTATION: *The Rise and Fragility of Stablecoins – Tokens, Pegs, and Crashes***

- Cuneyt Akcora, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Finance, UCF College of Business

**4:45 p.m. CLOSING KEYNOTE**

- David Yermack, Ph.D., Albert Fingerhut Professor of Finance and Business Transformation, New York University Stern School of Business

**5:30 p.m. NETWORKING RECEPTION: *Rooftop Terrace & Kessler Tier***

**7 p.m. PERFORMANCE: *Legally Blonde – The Musical, Walt Disney Theater***

