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**

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
- Alejandro Rodriguez, UCF M.S. FinTech ’25
- Maharaja Subramanian C, Head of Project Management, AMERICAS, Volante Technologies

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 Vijay Chopra, Ph.D., Lecturer, and 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
- Hiba El Harak, UCF M.S. FinTech ’26
- Benjamin Harvey, Ph.D., Founder, AI Squared
- 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***

UCF CELEBRATES THE ARTS 2026