

Aspen Johnson

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EDUCATION

Valdosta State University

B.S in Data Science: Computational Sci. & Eng. Track, Minors in Physics and Math

Expected: 2027, GPA: N/A

Palm Beach State

A.A in STEM: Mechanical/ Aerospace Engineering Track

Expected: Summer 2026, GPA: 3.5

PUBLICATIONS

An empirical application of improved gradient scaling for score-driven volatility filters

- In Collaboration with **Szabolcs Blazsek** and **Adam Kobor**; Conducted at Mercer University.

EXPERIENCE

Econometrics Researcher

Mercer University

Jan 2025 – Dec 2025

On-Site/Remote

- Co-authored and empirically tested the Hessian-filter scaled Beta-t-EGARCH volatility model, improving the traditional score driven filters with Newton-type gradient scaling.
- Analyzed log returns of high, in-demand, and volatile assets such as Bitcoin, S&P500 (IVV), Gold(IAU), U.S REITs, and the CHF/JPY for the period 2010-2025.
- Proved model robustness through major volatility shock events (COVID-19, 2022 Ukraine Invasion, 2023 Gaza conflict, and a 2025 presidential transition).

Financial Analyst Intern

Zinzino USA

May 2025 – Dec 2025

Remote

- Reduced time to process charge backs by two-thirds, digitizing workflows and simplifying documentation.
- Refined the charge back process within a few weeks of arrival, and curated a reference guide to aid future onboarding employees.
- Created clear documentation that enabled cross-departmental collaboration and made Finance operations easy for shareholders and upline leaders to understand.

LIFENEVERWASTED — Clothing Brand

FOUNDER

2026 – Present

- Details coming soon.

PROJECTS

CC Me Planner — Course Planner | HTML, CSS, and JS

- Developing a simple, effective planner for community college students to organize semester course schedules.

Name — Personal Study Dashboard | HTML, CSS, and JS

- Developing a minimalistic, yet organized dashboard for my personal uses

Name — Polarity Predictor Tool | HTML, CSS, and JS

- Simple 5 question quiz tool written for self-assessment in my undergraduate chemistry course.
- Served as a trial project for taking in and handling user input with JavaScript rather than HTML.
- Utilized JavaScript to take in user inputs and read them out to the user as well as the specific problems missed in the final page.
- Displayed looping through html links to take users through a progression of questions and then back to the home screen to begin again.

LEADERSHIP, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & EXTRACURRICULARS

Read2Succeed | *Tutoring young students at the local elementary schools to aid in building literary confidence*

Division 2 Women's College Basketball Player | *Valdosta State University*

Youth Sports Volunteer | *Assisted young athletes K-12 in a variety of sports to gain skill and*

Weekly Physics Study Group Member | *Going through Helliwell's Modern Classical Mechanics text*

Book Club Fellow | *Selected as one of ten students to participate through Mercer Universities Economics Department*

Content Creation | *Streamed myself doing psets and projects on youtube*

AWS Campus Prep Series Participant | *Completed a Summer-long series of webinars regarding Amazon Careers and Cloud Services*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages in order of proficiency: Python, Java, HTML/CSS, R, Gauss, C/C++, JavaScript, Octave

Developer Tools: Git, CLI, VSCode

OTHER

Clubs/Organizations: NSBE, SWE, and Codecademy's Women in Tech

Interesting Facts: Didn't take a first formal introductory physics course until sophomore going into junior year of college.