

# 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 Blaszek](#) and [Adam Kobor](#); Conducted at Mercer University.

## EXPERIENCE

### Econometrics Researcher

Jan 2025 – Dec 2025

*Mercer University*

*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

May 2025 – Dec 2025

*Zinzino USA*

*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

2026 – Present

*FOUNDER*

- 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*

## 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 **Hellwell'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 pssets 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.