



## **CHRIE FutureFund™ Introduces Vu Minh Hoang Dang**



I spent my childhood in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, immersed in the world of competitive table tennis, proudly playing for the city's youth team in national tournaments from the age of 9 until 18. This athletic background instilled discipline, focus, and resilience—qualities that proved invaluable when I transitioned to academics. Despite opportunities to continue in sports, I chose to pursue my passion for computer science abroad. While my field is not hospitality and tourism management, I have seen how computer science, including machine learning and AI, can make a real difference across many industries. When I was younger, international travel introduced me to new technologies I had not seen before, and that sparked a lasting interest in how innovation shapes our lives. Since then, I have been especially curious about how digital tools enhance service experiences and foster trust in areas like hospitality and tourism, where seamless interactions and credible information really matter.

At Purdue University Fort Wayne (2016-2021), I earned both my undergraduate and master's degrees in computer science. As an international student, I overcame cultural and linguistic challenges while maintaining academic excellence—receiving the PFW Merit Chancellor Scholarship and consistent Dean's List honors. Beyond technical expertise, I developed leadership skills and discovered a passion for mentoring through my work as a tutor.



Currently, I am pursuing a Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of Houston under Dr. Rakesh Verma. The university's R1 status and collaborative research environment provide an ideal setting for my work in natural language processing, cybersecurity, and crowdfunding. My research focuses on developing secure, trustworthy systems to combat online misinformation and fraud.

Between degrees, I worked at a startup developing a research-sharing platform, which reinforced my commitment to practical innovation. This led to my proudest achievement: co-authoring a Best Paper Award-winning study at the 30th Annual Graduate Education Conference. Our paper, *"Leveraging Service Quality Model as a Feature Set with Learning Machine for Fake Hotel Review Detection,"* demonstrated how combining computer science with hospitality theory could create more reliable review detection systems.

Looking ahead, I aim to advance digital security through global academic leadership. My goal is to establish a research institution focused on protecting users from online threats. I view computer science as more than technical innovation—it is a means to address crucial human challenges through empathy and integrity.

From table tennis courts in Vietnam to research conferences in the U.S., my journey reflects continuous growth and adaptation. I remain committed to bridging disciplines and cultures while working toward a more secure and connected digital world.