

The Torch Funds



The origins of the Torch Fund date back to the early 1990s when MBA students expressed interest in starting up an investment fund to manage real funds. Jim Wansley and David Moon approached Jim Clayton for help. As a result, the student managed investment club was funded by Jim Clayton on January 28, 1997. The initial amount was \$250,000.

Knoxville businessman Jim Haslam signed on in the fall of 1999 to help bankroll the Torch Fund. This donation, only the latest in a series of generous donations to UT from Mr. Haslam, CEO and founder of Pilot Oil Corp., allowed a second group of students to participate in the Torch Fund program.

The primary objective of the Torch Fund is to provide students with the opportunity to develop real-world portfolio management skills and to learn about cross-functional team management which will help UT MBA graduates get better jobs in investment banking and asset management. This experience in managing money provides opportunity that cannot be replicated in the classroom. The investment objectives can best be accomplished with an emphasis on performance, investment diversification, benchmarking, team-based decision making, and active, continuing involvement by the participants to provide capital appreciation with above average, risk-adjusted returns on investment over the long-term. Membership in the Torch Fund is reserved exclusively for JD/MBA and 2nd year MBA students at the University of Tennessee who are selected by [Dr. Deborah Murphy](#).

2005-06 [Clayton Fund portfolio managers](#) are Brad Ball, Charisman Campbell, Douglas Gordon, and Kendrick Kirk. The Clayton Torch Fund Quarterly Report (2nd Quarter 2005) can be found [here](#).

2006-07 [Clayton Fund portfolio managers](#) are Pramook Tony Malasitt, Amit Sawhney, Yat H. Tsoi, and Ryan Gregory Warre

2005-06 [Haslam Fund portfolio managers](#) are Lucas E. Bryant, Farley Reardon, Aaron Sams, and Quinn Schumacher. The Haslam Torch Fund Quarterly Report (2nd Quarter 2005) can be found [here](#).

2006-07 [Haslam Fund portfolio managers](#) are Josiah Glafenhein, Travis Haynes, Jason Hudson, and Mahalaxmi Krishn.

Further information about becoming a Torch Fund manager is available [here](#).