

Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

Make connections, attend workshops and host your meetings

Discover how we support UTD students, researchers & alumni founders

Find out how to get plugged into to the UTD startup ecosystem

Originally established at the Naveen Jindal School of Management in 2006, the Institute has been providing venture support for students interested in entrepreneurship and training for students focused on pursuing careers at innovative corporations both big and small.

Today, the Institute, with the support of the Office of Research and Innovation, is responsible for advancing all University of Texas at Dallas entrepreneurship and research commercialization innovation activities through the creation of new ventures and partnerships.

Our mission at the Institute is to enable the next generation's new ventures. We accomplish this by educating, empowering, and equipping our students, alumni, faculty and staff, and the global UT Dallas community

Learn more about the Institute

Address: The University of Texas at Dallas 2830 Rutford Ave Richardson, TX 75080 | [map](#)

Operating hours: Mon - Fri, 8:00AM - 6:00PM

Learn more about the LaunchPad

Email: innovation@utdallas.edu

Accessibility

Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

We strive to enable the next generation's new ventures by utilizing world-class academic education, industry-leading experiential training, and venture coaching, to work with the entire campus to equip our students, alumni, and researchers with the support they need to discover the entrepreneurial mindset and launch new businesses.

The following resources are made available to media representatives and community partners who want to help spread the word about the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. We update this page periodically. For questions and more information, contact Sarah Crowe, the Institute's marketing and communications manager, at sarah.crowe@utdallas.edu.

We couldn't do what we do without the support of our partners and sponsors. Interested in becoming a partner and supporting our Comet founders? Reach out to Dresden Goldberg at dresden.goldberg@utdallas.edu.

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The University of Texas at Dallas

cbhatti@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

bryan.chambers@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

ewchoi@utdallas.edu

Academic Director Associate Professor of Instruction

sarah.crowe@utdallas.edu

Marketing Communications Manager

david.evans@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

mb.fickel@utdallas.edu

Program Manager

leah.frazier@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

leon.jacobson@utdallas.edu

Assistant DirectorCampus Director – Blackstone LaunchPadCo-Director – VMS NTX

julie.kim@utdallas.edu

Asst. to Center Director

jackie.kimzey@utdallas.edu

Associate Professor of Practice

carol.marcus-rehtmeyer@utdallas.edu

Executive Director

gary.marsh2@utdallas.edu

Manager, Events and Operations -Richardson IQ

sarahjane.murdock@utdallas.edu

Program Manager

paul.nichols@utdallas.edu

Associate Professor of Practice

kirk.otis@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

parkhd@utdallas.edu

Associate Professor

mpedigo@utdallas.edu

Senior Lecturer

rajiv.shah@utdallas.edu

Founder and Program Director – Systems Engineering & ManagementProfessor of Practice

rgw091000@utdallas.edu

Assistant Professor of Practice

kim.wright@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

anricka.ziller@utdallas.edu

Strategic Events Manager

nicky.ishaak@utdallas.edu

Project Coordinator at UTD @ The IQ

nehanth.narendrula@utdallas.edu

Software Engineer

poornima.thanikaivelu@utdallas.edu

Project Coordinator

samin.rahman@utdallas.edu

Project Coordinator

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Curious about how to become engaged with the Institute? We are looking for individuals and organizations to partner with to help grow and amplify our programs. We need volunteers, mentors, guest speakers, judges, and more. Please browse the opportunities below, and contact us if you have any questions.

Do you want to volunteer to help one of our many programs? We're always looking for mentors, judges, guest speakers and more to assist at our events and other programs. Let us know what interests you by clicking the link below.

Do you want to sponsor one of our many programs and receive brand visibility? Follow the link below and tell us what you're interested in sponsoring, or contact our Senior Director of Programs and Operations, Dresden Goldberg.

As we continue to grow, we rely on generous donations from individuals, foundations and corporations to support our many programs and opportunities for Comet entrepreneurs. Follow the link below to make a donation.

Please contact us for additional information on any of our initiatives:

Dresden Goldberg

dresden.goldberg@utdallas.edu

Senior Director – Programs and Operations
Partnership Director – Texas Network of Blackstone LaunchPads

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The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is excited to launch the 2023 CometX Summer Accelerator. CometX is a highly impactful startup accelerator that focuses on supporting the most promising and scalable startups in refining their business models and solutions, expediting their customer acquisition efforts, and positioning their ventures for rapid growth and expansion. Participating teams ... Continue reading Meet the 2023 CometX Summer Accelerator Cohort

Last week, the UTD Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship hosted the 2023 Big Idea Competition. Ten startup teams from across campus came together to compete for cash and scholarship prizes. This year, the teams pitched in front of a panel of experts at the Blackstone LaunchPad with over 100 people in attendance. Student Track (WINNER) Routora – Tom ... Continue reading Big Checks, Big Money and Big Smiles at the Big Idea Competition Finals

Conversations with Dr. Lakshman Tamil, director of the Quality of Life Technology Laboratory at UTD inspired Dr. Tim Cogan BS'15, MS'17, Ph.D.'21 to focus his PhD work in Electrical Engineering on the potential uses of artificial intelligence in medical imaging. Cogan is now Chief Technology Officer and Tamil is co-founder of MedCognetics, a company that spun ... Continue reading Alumni's AI Research Inspires Medtech Company

A random TikTok video sparked the idea for Sam McBroom MBA'19 to launch Strudel3D, an online business selling 3D-printed fidget keys. "This guy was talking about how a lot of people start 3D printing businesses and it doesn't work out because they like to like download a bunch of stuff online that's already out there," ... Continue reading 3D Printing Inspires Alum's New Retail Business

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This monthly e-newsletter is targeted toward current UT Dallas students, faculty, and researchers and includes the most exciting startup events, funding opportunities and more.

By clicking submit, you agree to share your email address with the UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Mailchimp to receive the monthly newsletter. Use the unsubscribe link in those emails to opt out at any time.

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The purpose of the Research and Innovation Council (RIC) is to help UT Dallas succeed in three ways:

John Adler worked in large and startup companies in the telecom corridor for 17 years, followed by a career in Venture Capital. He is currently working with technology companies as an entrepreneur, advisor, and board member. Most recently, he joined UTD as an Adjunct Professor teaching entrepreneurship. John has his Bachelor's in Electrical Engineering and an MBA from Southern Methodist University and is the author/co-author of ten granted U.S. patents in optical communications.

Laura Baldwin is the chapter lead for the Dallas chapter of Golden Seeds. She currently serves as President of Waco Bend Asset Management Ltd.; she previously served as Vice President of Finance and Investor Relations at Triad Hospitals, Inc., a Fortune 500 company, and also worked in equity research and investment banking. She received her BA from the University of Texas at Austin, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, and her MBA from Southern Methodist University.

George Brody is the Founder and Managing Partner of InfoNet of Things LLC, an IoT solutions company. His professional interests include entrepreneurship, angel investment, and the creation of new ventures at the intersection of wireless technology with medical and enterprise applications, involving IoT, 5G, AI, and Augmented/Virtual Reality. Brody serves as a member of the advisory council for the Naveen Jindal School of Management at The University of Texas at Dallas and as a Charter Member and Board Member of TiE Dallas, heading up its flagship Angel Network called TiE Dallas Angels. Brody earned his Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India, and he earned two

Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, respectively, from the University of New Brunswick, Canada.

Samantha has nearly a decade of experience in the financial services and banking industry covering venture capital, private equity, leveraged buy outs, technology and innovation. She holds a Master of Science in Accounting, a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, and a Bachelor of Science in Economics for Southern Methodist University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.

John Dupree is a Partner at Opus Faveo Innovation Development, a boutique venture development studio with offices in Austin and Dallas, where he helps lead the firm's activities supporting very early-stage start-ups as well as angels, small venture investors, family offices and tech transfer offices. Opus Faveo deploys organized, focused, executive management resources within a start-up acting as a co-founder along with the venture's entrepreneurs. The company focuses on first-time founders during the difficult pre-seed and seed phases using its skills in market analysis, business planning, recruitment, funding, operational support, and oversight. He is currently an active advisor to several startup companies including Ares Materials, First>Then, Parabeac, and Emobilus. John is also an active member of Social Venture Partners – Dallas.

David Evans is the Managing Partner of Sentiero Ventures, an early-stage venture fund that invests in artificial intelligence-enabled software businesses. He is a serial entrepreneur and technologist who started coding at 14, launched his first company at 19, and has exited multiple times as a founder and investor, including a national digital signage network that was sold to CBS and an Inc 500 eCommerce company that was sold to a strategic buyer. Additionally, David is the facilitator of the CometX Accelerator for student entrepreneurs at The University of Texas at Dallas and works as an advisor to multiple startups and accelerators.

Helena Krusec is the Deputy Engagements Lead for AFVentures within AFWERX. She serves as a generalist expert in all things venture capital, with a specific interest in defense and national security technologies, and supporting female founders in those fields. She is an experienced manager and strategic communications leader with a history of working with high-profile companies at the intersection of venture capital and national security. Leveraging her background in public policy, business, and data analytics, Helena has helped companies to develop successful digital and traditional media campaigns, execute aggressive sales and growth initiatives, created holistic brand and reputational profiles, and crafted strategies to help targets to flourish in highly competitive environments.

Florence Lowe is passionate about technology and is on a mission to spread awareness and access to clean data and good software that is simple and easy to use. To help drive this mission, she founded Alpha Genesis Labs and works with large to mid-size organizations to improve data accuracy. She also teaches graduate students about Digital Product Management at The University of Texas at Dallas' Naveen Jindal School of Management. Prior to that, she sat on an executive team that ran an agile software development company. As COO of Synerzip, Florence worked to digitally transform existing technologies to reach goals and deliver software solutions that end users could appreciate while ensuring that teams across the globe worked more efficiently. Florence has an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, a Master's in Computer Applications from Jawaharlal Nehru University, and a Bachelor's (Hons) in Mathematics from the University of Delhi.

Vishwanath Madhugiri is the Chief Innovation and Strategy Officer at SAAZ MICRO, Inc, a digital imaging innovations company. He has three decades of experience in the automotive, IT, and telecommunications industries, as well as in international commercial/research collaborations and incubating start-ups in Europe, the USA, India, and Australia. Madhugiri serves as a Board Member and Mentor at Technology Start-ups, and he is an invited member of the International Business Forum for both UK Trade & Investment and the CII-UK India Business Forum, an invited member of the India Council on Competitiveness, and an invited member of the Dean's Advisory Council at the Jindal School of Management at The University of Texas at Dallas. In 2014, he was invited to Buckingham Palace by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for his decade-plus time and contributions to the UK Trade and Investment agency.

David Matthews has a background as an entrepreneur, a lead investor in emerging investment funds, and as a venture capitalist. As an entrepreneur, he launched several successful start-ups including Intelecon and Green Mountain Dallas. He brought the initial capital together to launch emerging private equity and venture funds such as Red River Ventures, Elm Creek Partners, Trailblazer Capital, and RevTech Ventures. As a venture capitalist, Matthews has led investments in dozens of early-stage entrepreneurial ventures. With RevTech, he created a mentor-led, seed fund that has funded over 50 emerging retail technology innovators to date and led to over \$500 million of capital formation for retail concepts like Neighborhood Goods and retail technologies like Pensa Systems and Accel Robotics. His successful exits include Green Mountain Energy (sold to NRG), PeopleAnswers (sold to Infor), Spawn Labs (sold to GameStop), and OrderMyGear (recapitalized by SGE).

Mike recently retired from Texas Instruments (TI) after 32 years – all working within DLP® Products. He holds a Bachelor's and Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Florida. He joined TI in 1989 within the Central Research Labs when DLP Technology was in the very early stages of development. Mike was instrumental in bringing the technology to market. He became the Manager of Technology Development and his team developed new pixel, package and process nodes.

Kirk Otis has extensive experience leading operations, executing mergers & acquisitions, and leading strategic corporate growth initiatives. Through his work with VC and private equity funds, Kirk has completed over \$13.5B in strategic transactions spanning 10 countries in North America, Europe, the mid-east, India, and Asia. He is a principal and leads the Dallas office of HawkEye Capital Partners Inc., serving on the fiduciary boards of three privately held firms. Kirk earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration from Bowling Green State University and an MBA from Southern Methodist University.

Dayakar Puskoor, co-founder and managing director at Dallas Venture Capital (DVC), is a serial entrepreneur turned visionary investor, who had the foresight to launch one of the first tech-focused venture fund. Headquartered in post-telecom Dallas, the fund invested in several pioneering early-stage startups in cloud, AI/ML and mobile technologies in Dallas, Silicon Valley, Seattle and India.

With over twenty-five years of experience in various scientific and executive level positions within the biomedical sciences, Mr. Ronholdt's distinguished career has resulted in the development, validation, and launch of multiple regenerative medicine orthobiologic and cell-based products for orthopedic spine, trauma, sports medicine and wound care applications. His scientific accomplishments include six (6) issued patents, publishing ten (10) peer-reviewed scientific journal articles, and authored twenty-three (23) scientific abstracts. Mr. Ronholdt has been an invited speaker to major symposia to present on topics ranging from complex microbiology validations and stem cell characterization methodologies to

FDA compliance requirements and entrepreneurial strategies. Mr. Ronholdt holds a B.Sc., in Microbiology from Colorado State University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix.

Dr. Lauren Tyra is a scientist, venture capitalist, and Plano ISD School Board Trustee. After graduating from Plano East, Dr. Tyra attended the University of North Texas, where she double majored in Biology and German. She subsequently earned a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, where she was heavily involved in student leadership, led science fair outreach, and was a National Science Foundation Fellow. Dr. Tyra is a published scientific author, with publications in the Journal of Cell Biology, eLife and Developmental Cell. She is now the chief scientific officer of a local venture capital firm that specializes in healthcare and life science startups. Her firm has over 65 active life science, healthcare, and technology companies, and she serves as a board director or observer for multiple startups. Lauren is married to fellow Plano East grad, Jason Tyra, who is a tax attorney, certified public accountant, and United States Army Reserve officer. They are raising their two kids in Plano, where they are active in Scouting and sports.

Kevin Vela is the managing partner at Vela Wood, a boutique corporate law firm based in Dallas, TX. Kevin focuses his practice in the areas of venture financing, fund representation, M&A, and gaming law. In recent years, he has represented both startups and investors in hundreds of financing transactions. Kevin has been selected as a Super Lawyer, Top Latino Lawyer, and Best Lawyer in Dallas. He currently teaches Series A Transactions at SMU Dedman School of Law and is a part of the Dallas Business Journal Leadership Trust, a network of influential business leaders in Dallas.

Jeff has more than 25 years of management, operational and investing experience, including over 17 years of investing in early and late-stage companies. Collectively, Jeff has managed, sold, and invested in over \$1 billion worth of companies over two decades. Additionally, he sits on boards at The University of Texas at Dallas and Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business Venture Fund where he is a frequent lecturer and guest speaker on topics related to venture capital and entrepreneurship.

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Welcome to the Marketplace, a showcase of businesses run by UT Dallas students, staff, and alumni who are beginning their journeys as entrepreneurs. Items featured here are products made by students through their businesses.

If you would like to submit a product to the Marketplace, please fill out the form.

Sam McBroom MBA'19

Strudel3D designs and prints mechanical keyboard fidgets.

Abi Gallagher MS'19

Words for a Season creates hand-lettered temporary tattoos.

Lisa McCormick BAWild Mary's Active Botanical Elixir is a next-generation facial toner based on rosemary and inspired by an ancient beauty elixir.

Rebecca Poynter BS'89

OnPoynt Aerial Solutions provides drone assembly kits that allow students to open a box, build a drone, and fly it.

Cody Mains BA'11, MS'14

Bare Knuckle specializes in a wide variety of top-notch products to care for beards.

Ted Price BS'99

Ted's Pain Cream uses natural ingredients to reset your nerves to their pre-injury state.

Ngan Nguyen BS'19, MS'19

Beautifully handcrafted jewelry designed to be worn as personalized IDs.

Macario Magalindan BA'05

Based in Allen Texas, Crack Brisket specializes in smoked beef brisket with catering options available.

Timothy Reazor MBA'18, MS'19

Fifth & Cherry creates high-end, one-of-a-kind, handmade cutting boards that will last a lifetime so you can pass them down from generation to generation.

Michelle Gruben BA'06

Grove and Grotto is an online retailer specializing in unique items for the mind, body, and spirit.

Emily Chrastka BS'16

The Enchanted Rose Floral Company creates viable, environmentally sourced, long-lasting flower arrangements.

Huda Moopen BA'21

Hudhud Creations custom designs a range of products available for Muslims, such as art prints, pins, and stickers.

Brandon Friedman MPA'06

Rakkasan Tea Company imports solely premium loose-leaf tea from carefully selected estates in post-conflict countries as a way to promote peace and economic growth.

Leezen Amatya BS'15

Daniel Flores BS'15

Thang Duong BS'15

Momo Shack is a pop-up shop that offers authentic Nepalese momos (dumplings) in the DFW area.

Rachana Gupta BS'23

Silk Sense designs sustainable silk shirts and ties for men.

Tim Cogan BS'15, Ph.D.'21

Tim Cogan is a father, author, engineer, and scientist who loves telling stories to spark curiosity as well as communicating complex ideas in simple terms. His books have been sold across the world, and he continues to think up new stories with help from his family.

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BS BA Concentration

Prepares students to create new ventures or pursue a successful career in innovation-related corporate roles.

[Learn More](#)

Entrepreneurship Minor

Compliment your major by learning the foundational skills of innovation and entrepreneurship.

[Learn More](#)

Startup Launch

Launch your scalable startup in as little as 16-24 months.

[Learn More](#)

Entrepreneurship Classes & Electives

If you're interested in trying out a class to fulfill an elective or simply to explore a new subject, we have a variety of courses available to satisfy your curiosity.

[View Undergraduate Courses](#)

[View Graduate Courses](#)

Masters of Science in Innovations and Entrepreneurship

A flexible professional degree program that prepares students to innovate in an established organization or startup.

[Learn More](#)

Certificates

An entrepreneurship certificate is a cost- and time-effective way for students to get the skills they need to start their own companies or work for a startup.

[Learn More](#)

Startup Launch

Launch your scalable startup in as little as 16-24 months.

[Learn More](#)

[Read More...](#)

Our faculty are some of the most respected and innovative thought leaders, shaping the future and transforming business practices worldwide. [Learn more about them and our staff.](#)

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Arts-Based Learning for Business (ABLB) is a research project conducted by director and producer Kathryn Evans in conjunction with Paul Nichols, a member of the faculty at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Through a set of online video modules, instructors have the opportunity to inject arts-based learning into their curriculum.

Students view the videos and then practice the exercises that are demonstrated. The art-based curriculum has been shown to enhance innovation and creativity in all academic areas.

To request video links, please email ablb@utdallas.edu, with your name, email, and institution.

Associate Professor of Instruction in Music kcevens@utdallas.edu

Dr. Evans is a singer, conductor, director, producer and researcher in the arts and science. She was the Associate Dean for the Arts of the School of Arts and Humanities at The University of Texas at Dallas from 1995 to 2010. She holds M. A. degrees in Mathematics and in Music and a Ph.D. in Art and Technology, with an emphasis on arts education in the 21st century. She is a member and the Director of Educational Initiatives in the Art-Sci Lab in the School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology. Her other research project CDASH (Curriculum Development in Arts, Science, and Humanities) explores the current state of cross-disciplinary curriculum at the college and high school level. She is currently developing music and science curriculum at UT Dallas, including her course “Music, Science and Technology”.

Faculty – Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship paul.nichols@utdallas.edu

Paul is an accomplished innovator and business process strategist with a history of successfully applying and pioneering new technologies and techniques to solve real-world problems. His unique skills and experience have been applied in a variety of industries, from venture capital to entrepreneurship and national politics. He is a highly effective leader and team member with leadership training and practical experience in getting small, highly skilled groups of people to deliver new solutions and approaches quickly with limited resources.

Professor of Instruction in Theatre kathy.lingo@utdallas.edu

Kathy has taught at the university and college level for over 35 years. She has received multiple teaching awards, such as the Victor Worsfold Award and the Rose Award, as well as been nominated for the UT Regents Outstanding Teaching Award. She has been a Director and Assistant Director of Theatre as well as a forensics coach currently assisting the UTD competitive Individual Events team. Lingo is a Visiting International Professor at the University of Verona, Verona, Italy and works closely with the Translation Center at UTD.

Associate Professor of Rhetoric, Professional Communication, and Literature john.gooch@utdallas.edu

Dr. Gooch teaches, undergraduate and graduate courses in rhetoric, professional communication, public speaking, writing for literature, writing for the World Wide Web and computer-based communication for the ATEC program. He was Director of Rhetoric and Writing (2006- 2015) and Associate Dean for Graduate Education in Arts and Humanities (2015-2021). Dr. Gooch is actively engaging in efforts to bolster international education at UT Dallas including a faculty-led program hosted by Franklin University of Switzerland in Lugano, and with the International Studies Institute (ISI) in Florence. He is participating in teaching and research collaborations with colleagues at both Brescia University and Verona University in northern Italy. Dr. Gooch’s focuses his research in the areas of rhetoric, law, and policy.

Videographer at the ArtSciLab daniel.martinez-murillo@utdallas.edu

Daniel is an aspiring storyteller, writer, artist, and game designer. He is currently in the ATEC program at UTD, in the Games pathway. He likes to spend his time learning new skills, drawing, playing and making games, and imagining interesting worlds and stories from wherein he gathers the inspiration for my personal projects. Daniel says “Whatever I do, as long as I can express my creativity, I am happy. Life is only so long, so why not enjoy what I do?”

Research Assistant at the ArtSciLab bojal.bhatnagar@utdallas.edu

Ojal is an art enthusiast with the talents of a software engineer. Within the lab, she is currently working in close contact with Dr. Kathryn Evans on her projects, C-DASH and ABLB. She is currently pursuing her master's in computer science from the University of Texas at Dallas and paints mandalas during her free time. With her eyes fixated on her goal, which is to be a Data Engineer, she is working on personal projects that would help her achieve the goal.

Marketing Manager at the ArtSciLab gautam.iyer2@utdallas.edu

Gautam is currently pursuing his Master's in Business Analytics from the University of Texas at Dallas. Within the lab, he is working in close contact with Dr. Kathryn Evans and Dr. Roger Malina to create recognition of the ArtSciLab around the campus as well as the outside world. Gautam is always ready to talk about sports, especially soccer, cricket, and Formula 1. He aspires to be a Business Analyst and he is working on personal projects to achieve his goals.

In-Person Videos

Online Videos

Alumni Students

Video Services Supervisor

Videographer

Great exercise! It was fun and different.

I thought this would be a team building exercise with our group, but the exercise actually gave me an idea of what to expect in a scenario like this put us out of our comfort zone talking with other people in the class. This was a good ice breaking exercise.

The exercise was well designed and had actual value compared to others I have participated in for various things.

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Help our young, aspiring student entrepreneurs by contributing to the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Scholarship Fund. Contributions support scholarships for students in innovation and entrepreneurship degree programs at UT Dallas.

Offered To: Undergraduate Students This support is provided by freshbenies, a company founded by Jindal School alumnus Heidi Rasmussen (BA '91) and her husband Reid to support undergraduate students studying entrepreneurship at JSOM.

Offered To: Graduate Students This award supports graduate students enrolled in Innovation and Entrepreneurship programs at UTD.

Offered To: All Students Established by Ericsson, in honor of its founder Lars Magnus Ericsson, this award is designated for full-time graduate students at JSOM and undergraduate students pursuing a degree in Information Technology and Systems.

Offered To: All Students The scholarship was created as part of the annual Scholarship Breakfast event.

Offered To: All Students Saadia Sheikh, BS'09 Vice President E. Smith Realty Saadia Sheikh is passionate about many things and one of them is entrepreneurship. Just a few years after graduating from JSOM, her passion has translated into a thriving career in commercial real estate. In 2016, Saadia decided to give back to JSOM students pursuing degrees in entrepreneurship to encourage and support the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Offered To: All Students The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation assists future business leaders with pursuing their degrees in Texas schools through a scholar award program. Students across UT Dallas' seven schools are welcome to apply.

Offered To: Graduate Students A \$1500 merit-based scholarship for students with an engineering degree that are pursuing an MSIE or MBA with an I&E concentration.

Jeanne Spreier

jeanne.spreier@utdallas.edu

Scholarship Manager

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Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship faculty lead the university as thought leaders through their contributions to entrepreneurial research. In addition to the publications featured below, you can also search our database of faculty publications by author or keyword.

Shawn Carraher, Ph.D.

Carraher, Shawn & Welsh, Dianne & Svilokos, Andrew. (2016). Validation of a measure of social entrepreneurship. *European Journal of International Management*.

Park Dennis Haemin, Ph.D.

Park, Haemin & Howard, Michael & Gomulya, David. (2017). The Impact of Knowledge Worker Mobility through an Acquisition on Breakthrough Knowledge. *Journal of Management Studies*.

Chan, C. S. & Park, Haemin & Patel, Pankaj. (2017). The effect of company name fluency on venture investment decisions and IPO underpricing. *Venture Capital*.

C.S. Richard Chan, Haemin Dennis Park, Pankaj Patel & David Gomulya (2018) Reward-based crowdfunding success: decomposition of the project, product category, entrepreneur, and location effects, *Venture Capital*.

Islam, Mazhar & Miller, Jacob & Park, Haemin. (2017). But what will it cost me? How do private costs of participation affect open source software projects? *Research Policy*.

Ji Youn (Rose) Kim & Haemin Dennis Park. (2017). Two Faces of Early Corporate Venture Capital Funding: Promoting Innovation and Inhibiting IPOs. *Strategy Science*.

Kim, Ji Youn & Steensma, Kevin & Park, Haemin. (2017). The Influence of Technological Links, Social Ties, and Incumbent Firm Opportunistic Propensity on the Formation of Corporate Venture Capital Deals. *Journal of Management*.

Toyah Miller, Ph.D.

Arregle, Jean-Luc & Miller, Toyah & Hitt, Michael & Beamish, Paul. (2016). How Does Regional Institutional Complexity Affect MNE Internationalization. *Journal of International Business Studies*.

Vikram Nanda, Ph.D.

Dass, Nishant & Nanda, Vikram & Xiao, Steven. (2017). Truncation Bias Corrections in Patent Data: Implications for Recent Research on Innovation. *Journal of Corporate Finance*.

Madison Pedigo

Pedigo, Madison. (2019). Corporate Venture Capital Ramps Further in 2018, Tech Insights Inc., Tech Titans.

Joseph Picken

Picken, Joseph. (2016). From Startup to Scalable Enterprise: Laying the Foundation. *Business Horizons*.

Picken, Joseph. (2016). From founder to CEO: An entrepreneur's roadmap. *Business Horizons*.

Wook Shin, Ho & Picken, Joseph & G. Dess, Gregory. (2017). Revisiting the learning organization. *Organizational Dynamics*.

Harpreet Singh, Ph.D.

Aggarwal, Rohit & Kryscynski, David & Singh, Harpreet. (2015). Evaluating Venture Technical Competence in Venture Capitalist Investment Decisions. *Management Science*.

Singh, Harpreet & Aggarwal, Rohit & Cojuharencu, Irina. (2015). Strike a Happy Medium: The Effect of IT Knowledge on Venture Capitalists' Overconfidence in IT Investments. *MIS Quarterly*.

Rajiv R Shah, Ph.D

Shah, Rajiv R. (2018). The Early Years with Ahmed at Caltech. *Reminiscences of Ahmed H. Zewail: Photons, Electrons and What Else?* (pp. 25-30).

Eric Tsang, Ph.D.

Tsang, Eric. (2015). How Existing Organizational Practices Affect the Transfer of Practices to International Joint Ventures. *Management International Review*.

Tsang, Eric & Blevins, Dane. (2015). A critique of the information asymmetry argument in the management and entrepreneurship underpricing literature. *Strategic Organization*.

Ramoglou, Stratos & Tsang, Eric. (2016). A realist perspective of entrepreneurship: Opportunities as propensities. *The Academy of Management Review*.

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The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship offers a variety of programs and events to explore for students, staff, faculty, alumni, and the community to explore startups, research, and innovation. Take a look at our wide variety of experiential learning-based programs, events, workshops, panels, conferences, challenges, and more.

The Big Idea Competition (BIC) launched in 2007 by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Hosted annually, it has quickly become the largest student pitch competition on campus.

[Learn More](#)

Partnership program that enables participants to access mentoring, grow their network, and access resources to accelerate the success of their business.

[Learn More](#)

Partnership program that enables participants to access mentoring, grow their network, and access resources to accelerate the success of their business.

[Learn More](#)

Experiential program that pulls student teams into an environment that incubates ideas and engages prospective customers in preparation for the launch of a new business concept.

[Learn More](#)

A four-week virtual boot camp to help undergraduate students learn an entrepreneurial approach to work and life balance.

[Learn More](#)

Leveraging experiential learning through the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science's UT Design senior capstone course to help bring high potential technology startups to life.

[Learn More](#)

The UT Dallas Seed Fund invests exclusively in technology startups founded by the UTD community and are ready for commercial product development.

[Learn More](#)

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The University of Texas at Dallas' Big Idea Competition (BIC) is one of the most celebrated events of entrepreneurship in North Texas. Hosted annually by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship the BIC brings the best undergraduate and graduate students together from all disciplines, alongside top research faculty and alumni to pitch the most innovative startups and ideas in front of their peers and a panel of esteemed judges for cash and scholarship awards. *Occurs in the Spring

Program highlights include:

Past Big Idea Competition Celebrity Guests have included:

CoFounder & COO of ShearShare

Owner of the Dallas Mavericks

Shark on "Shark Tank"

Style Guru on Emmy Award-Winning Netflix Series "Queer Eye"

Venture Capitalist

Best-Selling Author

Former Apple Executive

Co-Inventor of Ethernet

Co-Founder and CEO of the Malala Fund

Founder of NOW Ventures

Are you a UT Dallas alumni with the next big idea?

Are you a UT Dallas student, staff, or faculty member who intends to commercialize UT Dallas-owned technology or research intellectual property via a new business venture?

Are you a current UT Dallas student (undergraduate, graduate, or P.h.D) with the next big idea?

Eligibility

Steps to Apply

Eligibility

Steps to Apply

Eligibility

Steps to Apply

To be considered for a special award category, you will need to select the special award option in your application.

The UTDesign Startup Challenge leverages experiential learning through the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science's UTDesign senior capstone course to help bring high-potential technology startups to life.

Selected ventures will receive \$15,000 of engineering services over one or two semesters to complete a presentation-quality prototype, a technical mentor, business coaches, and \$5,000 cash to grow the business.

The UTDesign Startup Challenge selection committee will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

The RISE Startup Challenge through the Naveen Jindal School of Management's Center for Retail Innovation and Strategy Excellence (RISE) is designed to help bring innovative retail startups to life.

The RISE Startup Challenge selection committee will identify the top retail startup ideas from the Big Idea Competition applications and invite the founders to interview with the committee in April.

The committee will select the best retail startup idea to be awarded \$5,000 at the conclusion of the competition.

APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY

The RISE Startup Challenge selection committee will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

The Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology is a community of scholars, artists, and creative practitioners defined by their creativity, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural understanding. They cultivate skills in critical study and creative practice and foster the generation of new knowledge and new technological experiences.

The selected startup will be awarded \$5,000 at the conclusion of the competition.

APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY

We seek creative thinkers and problem solvers who wish to take their innovative ideas in the arts, the humanities, and technology to the next level. We seek applications for ideas that will make a difference in a globally connected world where creativity and imagination will become the primary determiners of economic value.

If you are interested in or have any questions about Big Idea Competition, please contact:

Anricka Ziller

anricka.ziller@utdallas.edu

Strategic Events Manager

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Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

Blackstone LaunchPad is a global network of universities committed to shaping and educating students to succeed in entrepreneurship and in their careers. Open to all students and recent alumni in all majors, campus-based Blackstone LaunchPad chapters enable participants to access mentoring, grow their network, and access the resources to accelerate the success of their business.

Accessible to over 700,000 college students per year, LaunchPad is designed to complement existing entrepreneurship on-campus resources, coordinate off-campus opportunities for schools and students to expand their reach, and convene students and staff at world-class events leveraging our industry-leading mentors, networks, and brands.

Founded in 2007, the Blackstone Charitable Foundation is committed to inspiring entrepreneurship globally. By leveraging the resources and intellectual capital of Blackstone, the Foundation empowers entrepreneurs, generates job growth and supports the communities in which we live and work.

The Blackstone LaunchPad network has access to several signature programs exclusively available to LaunchPad campuses and their students.

Annual Conference and Pitch Competition

LaunchPad's global network event brings together hundreds of student entrepreneurs, Campus Directors, and subject matter experts from Blackstone, Techstars, and other industry partners to help participants grow their network and get the training and advice they need to propel their companies forward. *Offered in Spring

LaunchPad Fellowship

In this 8-week virtual program, student founders receive \$5,000 to support their time working on advancing their startups. The LaunchPad Fellowship is largely self-driven, but also offers relevant startup workshops, peer networking events, mentor connections, and other opportunities to build entrepreneurial skills. This program is delivered virtually, in partnership with Future Founders. *Offered in Summer

LaunchPad Ideas Competition

Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

The goal of Bridge Venture Fellowship is to encourage historically underserved students across the 10 UT System schools to explore venture capital as a potential career path.

Fellows go through a virtual intensive in partnership with Capital Factory to learn about the business of venture capital. Students also hear from keynote speakers and spend time with diverse mentors in the investment sector. Finally, Fellows are then flown to a culminating event to network with peers, mentors, and venture professionals to advance their careers. This Fellowship is open to undergraduate and graduate students of any UT System school. All majors are eligible to apply, no finance or business background necessary.

Curriculum

1. The Business Model of Venture Capital
2. Deal Flow & Investing Thesis
3. Keynote Speaker & Mentor Roundtable
4. Early Stage Investment Structure
5. Keynote Speaker & Mentor Roundtable
6. Due Diligence & Investment Decisions

Benefits

This program is open to all undergraduate and graduate students at UT System schools in the Blackstone LaunchPad Network.

Our program supports students who have not previously had opportunities to learn about venture capital. We encourage Black, Latinx, women, LGBTQ+ students, and those who support them to apply. We strive to host inclusive, accessible events that facilitate all individuals, including members of the disability community, engaging fully.

To apply, please click the following link utd.link/BVF23

MS'24, UT Dallas

"It's very rare to be presented with an opportunity that intersects with one's skills, passions, and interests, and this is what the Bridge Venture Fellowship gave me. It was incredible to receive mentorship from professionals in the venture capital space over the course of the 3-week fellowship. At the in-person mixer at Austin, Cheryl Campos shared an incredible story about her humble beginnings and unconventional path toward starting her company and becoming a VC. I also got to meet people like me who are making professional strides in the industry despite overwhelming odds."

Ph.D.'22, UT Southwestern Medical Center

"I'm a senior graduate student, and I'm trying to figure out my transition out of academia. I've been really interested in startups and learning about how to get funding if I have a startup. However, through this fellowship, I've actually become more interested in the venture side. It's really cool to see that I can be a founder and possibly even be a venture capitalist in the future."

BS'23, UT Dallas

"Just having this Fellowship on your resume makes for a great talking point and has definitely given me access to a lot of professional opportunities. It also shows potential future employers that I'm motivated and driven, so it gives me a professional edge. I'm also better able to network more effectively and strategically, a skill I learned as a Fellow. I still have plans to immerse myself in the world of VC and startups after I graduate in a few months, but the fellowship is already proving valuable to me in other ways."

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Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

CometX is a six-week experiential accelerator program that pulls the most innovative student and faculty businesses on campus to learn all the necessary tools and tactics to be go-to-market ready. Members of the cohort can expect weekly sessions that include interactions with industry experts, personalized mentoring, and acquiring knowledge from incredibly successful startup founders.

Concepts you'll learn:

This 6-week in-person program covers the following topics:

Key Dates:

Tuesdays from 4:00 – 6:00 pm

July 11th – August 15th

The program concludes with a Demo Day

Participation in CometX is open to all currently-enrolled students of any classification/major. UT Dallas faculty, and alumni are also welcome to participate.

Dr. Terry Russell is the Managing Director of Interface Ventures, a Texas-based venture studio. Interface Ventures partners with national laboratories, universities, and corporations to build companies that solve important and valuable problems in energy, healthcare, and national security.

Dr. Russell has co-founded, financed, and led multiple technology-based startups. He has advised US and foreign government agencies, universities, and corporations on new venture creation. He is an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at UT Southwestern Medical Center and an active mentor in the startup community.

Dr. Russell received his Ph.D. in Physics from Boston University and performed his postdoctoral research at Harvard University.

A business accelerator is a fixed-term, cohort-based program that gives developing companies access to mentorship, educational components, and other support that help them become stable, self-sufficient businesses.

Are you a UT Dallas student with a business idea and you want to test out? Do you need help identifying your target market or figuring out your business plan? If you need help fine-tuning your business model or revenue model, or you are a first-time entrepreneur wanting to hone your skills from proven entrepreneurs, then this program could be perfect for you. That being said, you get what you put in. We

can't (and won't) start the business for you. We can't (and won't) do all of the research and customer discovery for you. We can (and will) teach you how to do it and support you along the way!

You will develop an entrepreneurial mindset, specific skills such as creativity, persuasiveness, resourcefulness, problem-solving, communication skills, leadership skills, collaboration/teamwork skills, presentation skills, and more.

CometX receives over 200 applications per semester and has an average of 50 participants each semester. Many CometX participants go on to compete in the UT Dallas Big Idea Competition and other state, national, and international competitions. 100% of feedback survey respondents agreed that the program added to their college experience at UT Dallas. By the end of the program, 15% of participants launch a business while 25% continue working towards launch.

No, this program is free to all UT Dallas students.

No, this is an experiential program that does not qualify for academic credit.

Any currently enrolled UT Dallas student, any classification (Freshman to Ph.D.), and all majors are welcome.

The program is offered in the summer. Please see the dates tab for specific start and end dates.

The Blackstone LaunchPad located on campus at 2830 Rutford Ave, the ground floor of Parking Structure 3, next to Taco Bell Cantina.

There is a significant cost for the entrepreneurial programs, resources, and support provided by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship each year, at no charge, free to you — our students and the UTD community. We do this because we believe it will lead to significant economic value, as your venture is able to generate revenues and hire employees. But, in order to continue offering these programs, the “cost” to you is the data about your startup's progress instead of a financial cost. By providing information about your venture, you help us communicate and demonstrate the impact we are making to our stakeholders. Some of the key factors we need to measure include job creation and revenue.

If you are a student, then the short answer is no — please see Section 6 in the link below for more details. If you are a member of the faculty, conduct research in a campus laboratory, or are employed by the university, there may be some intellectual property rights to consider. For more information visit the UT System Board of Regents rules on intellectual property.

My experience in CometX was irreplaceable. I had been slowly working on my company for 2 years, spending time planning and tweaking my idea. When I joined CometX, from the first day I was instantly set on track. Through the few weeks that the course had been going on, my company had matured from a small idea to a team of 6 people and a goal to have an MVP available by the end of the year. The distinguished lectures gave several answers to questions we had not even thought about. The accelerator is structured in a way that helps form a clear guideline for some of the key points to creating a startup, and the only thing I would change is to make it longer.

There are some events in life that change you and CometX is one of them. I came to the USA to pursue an education in Computer Science because almost all of the top CS companies I could name of started

here. There is something unique about building businesses in America that fosters such growth, and I believe programs like CometX are such an amazing gateway to them.

Going through the entire program opened up such a breadth of knowledge that gave me the right set of tools and information to build an amazing product while making it into a business. I not only was able to shape my vision but it also kickstarted a series of events that led to ResumePuppy winning 2nd place in the CometX pitch competition and then later winning the Big Idea Competition.

Leon Jacobson

leon.jacobson@utdallas.edu

Assistant Director, Programs and Operations

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Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

The Entrepreneurial Mindset Bootcamp (EMB) is a four-week virtual bootcamp to help undergraduate students learn an entrepreneurial approach to work and life. This bootcamp is for both students wanting to start their own businesses and those wanting to cultivate the entrepreneurial skills needed for the modern workforce

Topics include:

This program is open to all undergraduate students at UT System schools in the Blackstone LaunchPad Network.

Fall dates will be announced soon, please check back for updates.

If you are interested in or have any questions, please contact:

Dresden Goldberg

dresden.goldberg@utdallas.edu

Director – Programs & Operations

Campus Director – Blackstone LaunchPad

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Founded in 2018, the UT Dallas Seed Fund aims to provide seed or “gap” funding to UT Dallas affiliated companies in an effort to accelerate their growth and prepare them for larger angel investment or venture capital investment.

Furthermore, the program is carefully designed to provide an experiential learning opportunity for students by emulating a real-world investment environment. This is achieved by enabling entrepreneurially minded students to directly participate in the process leading to grants in high-potential startups by engaging in the due diligence and selection process.

UTD's pre/seed-stage venture capital fund invests exclusively in startups founded by, and/or commercializing technologies, innovations and intellectual property developed by, current UTD students, faculty, and researchers.

This opportunity is open to startups founded by current students, faculty, and researchers at any UTD school, center, or institute.

The fund will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

If you are interested in or have any questions, please contact:

Bryan Chambers

bryan.chambers@utdallas.edu

Director – UT Dallas Seed Fund Senior Lecturer

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The UTDesign Startup Challenge selection committee will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

If you are interested in or have any questions about UTDesign Startup Challenge, please contact:

Rod Wetterskog

wetterskog@utdallas.edu

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Founded in 2007, the Blackstone Charitable Foundation is committed to inspiring entrepreneurship globally. By leveraging the resources and intellectual capital of Blackstone, the Foundation empowers entrepreneurs, generates job growth and supports the communities in which we live and work.

Blackstone LaunchPad at UT Dallas is a co-working and event space that was established with a \$1M grant from the charitable foundation of the world's largest private equity firm, Blackstone, creating a 5,000-square foot multi-purpose collaborative space to inspire, accelerate, and support student entrepreneurship.

Monday through Friday: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Blackstone LaunchPad 2830 Rutford Avenue, Richardson, TX 75080, USA

[View room use guidelines](#)

To request the space for an event or meeting, please [click here](#).

Dresden Goldberg

dresden.goldberg@utdallas.edu

Sr. Director – Programs & Operations Campus Director – Blackstone LaunchPad

Sarah Jane Murdock

sarahjane.murdock@utdallas.edu

Program Manager

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The City of Richardson and The University of Texas at Dallas have teamed up on a powerful, economic development initiative by partnering on a new Headquarters for the Richardson Innovation Quarter (the IQ HQ).

Within the IQ HQ is an innovative space, UTD @ the Richardson IQ®, that will foster corporate innovator and university collaborations, support Richardson and the region's startup and entrepreneur community, and advance UT Dallas research.

Working at UTD @ THE IQ is about being part of a community. There is no better environment for collaboration and innovation than that which allows someone to get work done while surrounding themselves with like-minded entrepreneurs.

All memberships include:

Good for freelancers or new entrepreneurs.

Membership bonuses:

Good for early-stage or growing startups.

Membership bonuses:

If you're interested in using lab or office space in our section of the Richardson IQ HQ located at 1302 E. Collins Blvd in Richardson, please fill out this form and a member of our team will be in touch.

Within our space, at the IQ HQ, there are six research centers that represent a range of disciplines from multiple schools within the university. Each center is focused on forward-thinking solutions developed from its respective technology specialty, which include applied artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), imaging and surgical innovation, and smart mobility.

The Center for Applied AI & Machine Learning (CAIML) is a research and development center that partners with companies to apply cutting-edge artificial intelligence and machine-learning technologies to their products, services, and business processes.

The Center for Applied AI with UT Dallas Expertise (CAIQUE) showcases emergent applied AI research at the University to engage companies, win extramural grants, strengthen international partnerships and provide a global network for affiliated students to excel as UT Dallas alumni.

The multidisciplinary center draws from expertise across the University and will have affiliate faculty members from around the world. An industry advisory board will help shape the center's direction.

Researchers from the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) will advance fundamental algorithms, data structures, and analytical methods. Additional ECS researchers will pioneer material point methodologies (meshless modeling frameworks) for representing complex topological data to help 3D-model the next generation of manufactured parts, including complex medical devices.

Center for Imaging and Surgical Innovation (CISI) merges UT Dallas engineers and computer scientists, UT Southwestern Medical Center investigators and clinicians to develop emergent technologies to improve patient care and human health. UT Dallas, UT Southwestern, and local companies will collaborate on translational research, clinical trials, and product commercialization.

The Center for Smart Mobility (COSMO) aims to provide advanced solutions for the engineering of smart, multimodal cyber transportation infrastructures to improve safety and enhance mobility for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The center aims to pursue community engagement, strengthen industry collaboration, accelerate the transition of research into the real world, and advance education and outreach efforts.

IQ Design creates engaging experiences that communicate the significance of innovative research at UTD.

The Multi-Scale Integrated Intelligent Interactive Sensing (MINTS) Center will develop and deploy a cost-effective irrigation decision-support tool that uses super-resolution machine learning and remote sensing imagery from satellites, drones, and security cameras. The center will collaborate with municipalities, corporate campuses, and homeowners to save money by optimizing their irrigation water usage.

To inquire about partnerships with us, please contact fill out this form indicating your interest and a member of our team will be in touch.

To request the space for an event or meeting, please fill out this form and a member of our team will be in touch shortly.

1302 E. Collins BoulevardRichardson, TX 75081theiq@utdallas.edu

The IQ HQ is located at 1302 E. Collins Boulevard. There is plenty of free parking in front of and around the facility. When you arrive, the university space will be direct to your right.

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Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

The University of Texas at Dallas Venture Development Center (VDC) is a leading incubator designed to help students, faculty, and alumni commercialize their ideas and inventions. It does this through targeted, one-to-one support, enabling ventures to identify and build relationships with key industry partners, investors, entrepreneurs, and others to help them succeed.

The VDC offers 20,000 square feet of state-of-the-art dedicated office, lab, and meeting space, as well as shared business services and equipment. We help companies build out their teams, protect their Intellectual Property (IP), and connect with expert advisors. We work to get minimum viable products (MVPs) into customers' hands and prove a viable, scalable business model.

For startups, we help founders identify investor options, write and rehearse their company pitch, and navigate funding terms and other questions. For researchers and inventors seeking industry connections for translational research and licensing, we help identify partners, make introductions, and identify commercialization paths, including licensing agreements, IP assignments, and other contracting alternatives.

Four spacious conference rooms are fully equipped with whiteboards, TVs, and conference phones. We also have two smaller workrooms for conference calls or one on one meetings. Fully furnished and move-in-ready private offices, cubicles, and co-working desks designed specifically to match your needs.

Access facilities and labs at cost-effective prices with the opportunity to work with world-class faculty on research, grants, and commercialization.

Access core facilities: state-of-the-art instruments and technology for users in biological and interdisciplinary sciences. Perform device fabrication and characterization with a range of equipment in our cleanroom.

We offer below-market rates to allow our entrepreneurs to focus their capital on pursuing groundbreaking science and building their ventures.

From Amazon Web Services and Rackspace free hosting credits, our startups get access to an array of resources to help them get started. You'll also enjoy UTD technology discounts, gym and recreational center membership eligibility, and access to countless databases through the UTD Library. Our Comet Discount Program gives you savings across the metroplex. Use our high-speed internet with individual company networks. Grab a cup of coffee and a piece of fresh fruit from our complimentary coffee bar and fruit station. Hop into one of our golf carts to travel across campus quickly and easily.

Wet Labs

Shared Lab— The 120-square-foot shared media lab features a common freezer, RIO water supply, autoclave, and lab/glassware washer.

Adaptive 3D Technologies, LLC Adaptive3D is a premium additive manufacturing polymer resin supplier that partners with global industries to deliver solutions for functional end-use products and prototypes.

Astrapi Corp Astrapi is the leader in a revolutionary method of communication – spiral-based modulation, a game-changing force in communications technology that will support performance advances across a wide range of radio communications.

Avsana Labs Incorporated Avsana Labs Inc. is an early-stage in vitro diagnostics technology company led by Dennis Robbins with UTD Prof. Zhenpeng Qin, developing new technologies for viral diagnostic testing, such as the COVID-19 virus.

ClearNano ClearNano is a biomedical device service utilizing luminescent metal nanoparticles and their applications.

Data Security Technologies Data Security Technologies is developing innovative technologies for securing big data stored in NoSQL systems to enforce a wide range of security, privacy, and governance policies.

Emtec Solution Emtech Solution is a product development company specializing in designing and building new custom hardware and software, in addition to modifying existing ones.

FusionFlight Welcome to the future – FusionFlight designs and builds machines based on microturbine technology that will revolutionize both aerial mobility and compact energy production.

HermTac We're a group of makers, engineers, artists, designers, inventors, and volunteers working together on pandemic response initiatives.

HoboLoco Creating a game controller operated with two feet that can replace or augment a keyboard, mouse, or gamepad for interacting with a video game, virtual reality, or remotely operated robots.

Max IR Labs Provides scalable IR sensor solutions to industries that require specific thermal and chemical monitoring capabilities for R&D and production line operations.

MedCognetics The operator of a medical company intended to facilitate AI in breast imaging.

MicroSol Technologies MicroSol focuses on developing innovative energy harvesting solutions to power wearable electronics, wireless smart sensors, ultralow-power systems, and IoT applications.

OnPoynt OnPoynt is the nation's leading supplier of Drone Aerial Robotics Equipment and training for STEM Education.

pSolv pSOLV provides big data services and solutions including data integration, big data analytics, and cloud consulting.

Qualia Qualia Labs translates neuro- and biotechnologies into novel research tools and human clinical therapeutics.

R9 Technology R9 Technology provides the hardware, software, and cloud infrastructure to enable quick and easy deployment of IoT solutions.

SNAP Energy Ventures SNAP Energy Ventures assists companies by providing specialty chemical products to oil & gas, mining, and water treatment industries with an emphasis on custom formulations geared towards meeting customer needs and demands.

TraceIT TraceIT is building the most efficient, scalable, and easy-to-use workforce management platform.

UBPBio The Ubiquitin-Proteasome Biotechnologies (UBPBio), LLC is dedicated to providing academic and industrial communities with high-quality reagents to accelerate discoveries on the ubiquitin-proteasome system (UPS) and related pathways.

myVisionTrack Vital Art and Science is an ophthalmic medical device company that develops a home diagnostic system for patients with retinal diseases.

The Venture Scholar awards are a competitive award made by the Office of Research and Innovation, with guidance from the Office of Undergraduate Education, designed to reward the contributions and facilitate the entrepreneurial development of undergraduate researchers at UT Dallas.

Venture Scholars will work directly with startup companies that are members of UTD's Venture Development Center, or VDC. The principals for these companies are engaged in a variety of research, from basic to applied, to equip their startups for commercial success.

Research projects may range across a broad spectrum of possibilities, from validating product technologies to investigating market or customer insights to identifying prior art and existing alternatives to the startup company's proposed solution.

Students selected to receive a Venture Scholar award receive \$2,000, awarded upon participation in the Venture Scholar Award poster competition held in mid-December (Fall) and/or mid-April (Spring).

Research sponsors from the UT Dallas VDC supporting participant projects receive \$500 (for supplies, project travel, poster printing, etc.). Up to 10 awards are targeted per semester.

Students whose research, posters, and presentations are deemed to be exceptional will move on to the poster finals competition, held one week later. Judges from the external research and venture community will appraise the top presentations, with awards of distinction conferred to the top three winners.

Students may participate as Venture Scholars up to two times, e.g., a student selected for Fall 2023 may apply to participate again in Spring 2024.

Research projects will be drawn from the member companies of UTD's VDC. For more information about these companies, view the Residents tab.

In order for a submission to receive consideration for a Venture Scholar award, the student must meet certain eligibility requirements. Student applicants must be:

Applications are currently closed.

Check back for updated Program Timelines.

Check back for contact information.

As we consider your application, we'll look for commitments from you: you will fully participate in development programs, and be obsessed with growing your product, your customer base, and your team over the course of your membership.

The VDC accepts high-potential applicants that have a novel product or service that is scalable, addresses a clear market opportunity, and gives the company a sustainable competitive advantage. We focus on supporting the entrepreneurial, early- to mid-stage activities of true startup companies. The selection committee reviews applications and interviews companies to assure that they meet the standards for high-impact science, promising execution, and equally important, fit. Startups must show a willingness and capacity to operate within the VDC-shared community

*Note – At least one team member must be a current student, faculty, staff, or an alumnus/a of any University of Texas System school.

UT Dallas Research and Operations Center 17217 Waterview Pkwy, ROC 1.202 Dallas, TX 75252

The Venture Development Center is located inside the Research and Operations Center (ROC) building. The ROC is on the west side of the campus across from Waterview Parkway. There is limited guest parking in the front of the facility.

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Manta Systems is designing the first automated, app-enabled, frozen fish food feeder on the market.
Tamara Marshall, MBA'24

Routora is a route planning solution that creates faster and more efficient multi-stop routes by optimally reordering a list of addresses to save you time and money on the road. Tom Vazhekatt, BS'24

Olive Tree Therapeutics is designing a high-frequency, vibrating vest as a therapeutic modality for upper respiratory illnesses in dogs. Madison Valdivia, BS'23

OptiMIND is creating a series of brain training games designed to enhance brain and cognition across the lifespan, ensuring sharpness and focus at any age. Chandramallika Basak – Associate Professor

Fathomd is an online cloud-based platform for distributing interactive, role-playing games for higher education. Seckin Dogaroglu MS'19

YongBros is a game studio helping creators take their work into the Metaverse on Roblox. Ralph Yongoueth, BS'25

BioDiamond is developing a game-changing technology to bridge the biomass and battery manufacturing industries. Ben Stein PhD'22

INTRSCT is a consulting business focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and justice (DEIBJ). Regina Cline PhD'24, Neeru Sharma MS'24

SLAM Lab studies the connection between speech, language, and music in the brain. Dr. Yune Lee

Serve & Jam organizes engaging events, activities, and services to generate resources for non-profits and communities in need. Ashlee Green, MS'23

Truviu is a social media platform that allows its users to change how their profile looks, what their newsfeed contains, and the algorithm behind everything. Samin Rahman BS'23

Allercheck is creating a medical device that allows individuals with food allergies to pre-test food items to ensure safety. Tori Sonkin BS'25

Avsana Labs is a biotech spin-off working to improve viral diagnostic testing to mitigate the spread of contagious viral infections. Oren Eliezer, PhD'08

UniTalk is an advanced chatbot specifically designed for university admissions. Abhishek Mishra BS'24, Rami Ismael BS'24

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Conversations with Dr. Lakshman Tamil, director of the Quality of Life Technology Laboratory at UTD inspired Dr. Tim Cogan BS'15, MS'17, Ph.D.'21 to focus his PhD work in Electrical Engineering on the potential uses of artificial intelligence in medical imaging. Cogan is now Chief Technology Officer and Tamil is co-founder of MedCognetics, a company that spun ... [Continue reading Alumni's AI Research Inspires Medtech Company](#)

A random TikTok video sparked the idea for Sam McBroom MBA'19 to launch Strudel3D, an online business selling 3D-printed fidget keys. "This guy was talking about how a lot of people start 3D printing businesses and it doesn't work out because they like to like download a bunch of stuff online that's already out there," ... [Continue reading 3D Printing Inspires Alum's New Retail Business](#)

Ten teams have made it to the final event in our university business idea pitch competition open to alumni, current students, and faculty researchers. They will compete for \$170,000 in cash and scholarship prizes. The competition is hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, an interdisciplinary division of the Naveen Jindal School of Management. ... [Continue reading Meet This Year's Big Idea Competition Finalists](#)

When Zain Kalson BS'22 and his dad initially set out to solve the problem of high-conflict divorces—situations where one party drives the conflict—their original vision was a support group. Kalson says these divorces make up roughly 15 percent of all divorces. "It seemed to be a space where there's a lot of people that are ... [Continue reading Alum Launches AI-Powered Legal Tech Company](#)

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Wanting to create an event that would encourage and showcase the real-world problem-solving and creative solutions of the university's employees, the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship created the university's first "Staff Ideas Competition" this summer. Over 60 people participated in workshops and training sessions in June and July to develop and communicate their product and ... [Continue reading We Ran an Ideas Competition for Staff Over the Summer. Here's How it Went.](#)

Dallas Innovates: A team of UT Dallas bioengineers has developed a rapid test for viruses that delivers results as accurate as PCR lab tests within 30 minutes.

We're excited to welcome two new members to the faculty of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT Dallas. As adjunct faculty, Leah Frazier, who also leads our GalXc Accelerator cohorts, and John Adler will be teaching ENTP 3301: Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level. 3301 is often called our "intro to entrepreneurship" ... [Continue reading Institute Welcomes Two New Faculty Members](#)

UTD News Center: An innovative technology transfer collaboration has enabled sensor research from The University of Texas at Dallas to be leveraged into a potential rapid, at-home COVID-19 testing device.

The Office of Research, in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, is offering three new programs this fall for research faculty, Ph.D. candidates, postdocs, and other UT Dallas researchers interested in commercializing their inventions. The programs are: the Bio-Engineering Startup Training (BEST) series, the Venture Development Center ... Continue reading New Research-Focused Programs Launch for Fall

UTD News Center: Adaptive3D was acquired by Desktop Metal Inc., an industry leader in additive manufacturing based in Burlington, Massachusetts, in a deal announced in May.

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interdisciplinary division of the Naveen Jindal School of Management. ... Continue reading [Meet This Year's Big Idea Competition Finalists](#)

Large corporations are increasingly looking to the principles of lean startups to help develop new business ideas and spur innovation. Such is the case with IgniteConnex Inc., a subsidiary of technology consulting company CG Infinity set up to incubate new companies. CG Infinity has now partnered with several faculty at the Naveen Jindal School of Management ... Continue reading [New Internship Program Stresses Innovation](#)

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UTD entrepreneurs, Rahul Madhugiri BS'23 and Sofia Babool BS'22 understand what it takes to launch a venture while still in college. But as natural problem solvers, there was something missing about their collegiate entrepreneurship experience. "We have a lot of startup resources on campus that are staff and faculty-led, but none seem to be student-led," ... Continue reading [First Student-Run Accelerator Launches to Advance Early-Stage Ideas](#)

Ivan Cerino (MS'21, MBA'23) has a background in biomedical engineering, but after attempting to launch two startups in Mexico he found himself in the US working in software development. But that itch to jump into startups again led him to UT Dallas where he could earn his MBA and learn more about the entrepreneurial ecosystem ... Continue reading [How I Landed an Internship at a Venture Capital Firm](#)

Four student teams from UTD have been selected to move forward to the national round of the Blackstone LaunchPad x StartupTree Ideas Competition. The competition, taking place 100% virtually, gives students with just an idea the chance to win up to \$10,000 to start the next big thing. Applicants needed to be current students (undergraduate ... Continue reading [Meet the Comets Moving Through to National LaunchPad Ideas Competition](#)

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Dallas Innovates: A group of North Texas investors made up a major portion of the Series A round.

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Inside JSOM: Had he not plugged into the innovation and entrepreneurship program at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, software engineering senior Brian Hoang would likely be headed for a programming career after graduation on May 15.

Dallas Innovates: North Texas startups have the opportunity to take place in an emerging industry, experts say. Here's what founders need to know about finding funding and the future of esports.

Dallas Innovates: From giving attraction maps the augmented reality treatment via a mobile app to an unmanned aerial system capable of monitoring air quality, the University of Texas at Dallas students offered a variety in Thursday's Big Idea Competition final.

UT Dallas News Center: UT Dallas graduate students Chandra Achanta and Abinav Kalidindi created UNIBEES, an app that helps other students find freebies and giveaways on campus. Their free app is also available to students at UT Arlington, UT Austin and Texas A&M University.

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xconomy.com: The University of Texas at Dallas formally kicks off its Blackstone LaunchPad program.

UT Dallas News Center: Blackstone LaunchPad celebrates ribbon-cutting for 5,000-square-foot-new-home.

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UT Dallas News Center: UT Dallas has a new Executive Director at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE).

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Inside JSOM: The University of Texas at Dallas kicked off its annual Earth Week festivities with several events on Earth Day, April 22. Prominent among these was the Earth Entrepreneurship Forum, during which speakers discussed the past, present and future of the energy sector.

Inside JSOM: Mark Candella is on a mission to make esports a mainstream industry and to empower its participants. Known as Garvey in the gaming community, he visited Dallas April 2 to deliver the keynote presentation at the second annual Emerging Technologies — EmTech — Summit.

Dallas Innovates: North Texas startups have the opportunity to take place in an emerging industry, experts say. Here's what founders need to know about finding funding and the future of esports.

Inside JSOM: A recent UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship event demonstrated the institute's commitment to enabling the next generation of new ventures by presenting a topic of burgeoning, yet unconventional, interest — the surging market in growing and selling cannabis.

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Dallas Innovates: HoboLoco's name is a mashup of "hoverboard" and "locomotion." The startup combines both of these concepts to create its own unique gaming experience.

Inside JSOM: In less than two years, marketing major Varika Pinnam turned her sweet-smelling beauty hack into a fast-selling facial serum.

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(RUNNER UP) BuildQuota – Xavier Madison, MBA'23 / Naveen Jindal School of Management

BuildQuota is an AI-driven Construction Supplier Diversity Management software focused on simplifying the diversity compliance workflow for all stakeholders on projects, increasing job site productivity, and minimizing the risk of non-compliance.

Olive Tree Therapeutics – Madison Valdivia, BS'23 Biology / School of Behavioral Brain Sciences

The Coupage Vest is a high-frequency, vibrating vest that is strapped firmly around the thoracic cavity of a patient to break up thick mucus in the lungs as a therapeutic modality for various upper respiratory illnesses.

(WINNER) Creator Camp – Jacky Chao, BA'22 Animation / Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology

Creator Camp is an education technology company that is on a mission to empower children with hands-on creative-tech skills, while also making sure they have a lot of fun.

(RUNNER UP) Catenate Corp – Sameer Ranjan, MS'20 Business Analytics / Naveen Jindal School of Management

Catenate's AI-driven platform aids decision-making at every important node of human life. Our products built over this platform can assist school students in choosing the right career, professional track and

improve their soft skills, people manage their well-being and individuals make wealth based on their risk profile.

(RUNNER UP) EKUSO – Karlin Oei, BS’20 Finance / Naveen Jindal School of Management

Using the innovative EKUSO method, we merge education, gaming, and social-emotional learning to create innovative environments for those who feel left out. Our e-learning provider provides fully customized youth esports training programs for middle and high schools.

(WINNER) OptiMIND – Chandramallika Basak – Associate Professor, Center for Vital Longevity / School of Behavioral Brain Sciences

OptiMIND is a series of brain training games designed to enhance brain and cognition across the lifespan, ensuring that you stay sharp and focused at any age.

(RUNNER UP) Kile Technology – Stefano Leonardi – Professor, Mechanical Engineering / Erik Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science

Kile Technology is developing digital twins of wind farms to optimize power production, increase durability and mitigate the risk of investment.

(RUNNER UP) Think! LLC – Joseph Friedman, Associate Professor, NeuroSpinCompute Laboratory / Erik Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science

Artificial intelligence processing units (AIPUs) that learn efficiently and autonomously.

A big “thank you” to our six expert panelists – Veena Somareddy (MA’14) from NeuroRehab VR, Jillian Levovitz from FemHealth Insights, Jeff Williams (BS’87) from Interlock Ventures, Annabel Reeves from Goldman Sachs, George Brody from InfoNet of Things, and Dennis Dayman an entrepreneur and investor- for asking key questions and providing valuable feedback to each team on their ventures.

Specialty awards were also awarded to select ventures.

UTDesign Startup Challenge – Manta Systems, Athlete Reserve, Longshots Disc Golf, Olive Tree Therapeutics

Center for Retail Innovation and Strategy Excellence “RISE” Startup Challenge – Manta Systems

Bass AHT Challenge Award – Belonging Again

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Conversations with Dr. Lakshman Tamil, director of the Quality of Life Technology Laboratory at UTD inspired Dr. Tim Cogan BS'15, MS'17, Ph.D.'21 to focus his PhD work in Electrical Engineering on the potential uses of artificial intelligence in medical imaging.

Cogan is now Chief Technology Officer and Tamil is co-founder of MedCognetics, a company that spun out of Cogan's PhD research at UTD. "We use AI for early cancer screening; right now, specifically for breast cancer, although we're looking at other areas," Cogan explained.

Cogan and his colleagues are particularly excited about the potential applications outside of the U.S., where radiologists may be prohibitively expensive or in short supply. He points to a partner organization in India where patients travel a full day or two from their village to get imaged. "And then they're stuck with this situation where it could take a week or a week and a half to have those images looked at," he said. "Do you just wait in the city for a whole week before going back to your village? Or if you do decide to go back to your village, do you want to come back?"

MedCognetics' software means that patients' images can be reviewed more immediately. "Within a couple of minutes, you could process the case and tell the patient, 'Yes, you should hang around or no, you're free to go,'" Cogan said.

For the U.S. market, Cogan emphasized that MedCognetics will not replace radiologists but will instead provide a second read. "I think the best thing is that we have people and AI working together, checking each other's work," he added. "Then you get the best possible outcome for the patient."

Receiving FDA clearance for its breast cancer screening software in December 2022 was a key milestone, according to Cogan. "There are dozens of companies or groups doing work similar to ours, but my understanding is there's a single digit number of mammography AI groups that have actually have FDA clearance," he said. "It's a pretty big hurdle to pass."

Earlier this year, MedCognetics received a \$750,000 grant from the National Institute of Health's (NIH) Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity.

“From the start, we’ve really focused on getting data and partnering with doctors everywhere,” Cogan said.

By gathering data from patients all over the world, MedCognetics aims to train its AI and machine learning technology on diverse populations so it works on every patient and every demographic. “If you take your system and you just train it on a particular type of patient population, it’s going to work really well for those particular patients, but it won’t necessarily work well on another group of patients,” Cogan explained. “People in Southeast Asia have a totally different diet and totally different lifestyle than people in say Central Texas, so cancer will manifest differently. You need your system tuned for people all around the world.”

As this technology improves, it might be applied in other medical settings beyond breast cancer screenings, providing greater access to medical imaging around the world.

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A random TikTok video sparked the idea for Sam McBroom MBA’19 to launch Strudel3D, an online business selling 3D-printed fidget keys. “This guy was talking about how a lot of people start 3D printing businesses and it doesn’t work out because they like to like download a bunch of stuff online that’s already out there,” McBroom said.

The guy in the video asked why people didn’t learn to make their own things—and that’s exactly what McBroom did. He already had an inexpensive 3D printer, so he learned 3D modeling and created fidget

keys inspired by computer keyboards. Gamers buy them as desk accessories, and people with ADHD use them to help them focus.

In January 2022, McBroom launched an Etsy shop to test the market. In just over a year, his Etsy shop has had over 2,500 sales. McBroom says it's a great test market because there's very little upfront investment needed. "I'm much more comfortable putting something on there where the customers already are and seeing if people like it versus creating a whole Shopify store just to see if something works," he explained. Strudel3D also sells through its own website now, too. McBroom still uses the original 3D printer, but it takes about 5 hours for one print, so he's also purchased another printer that takes about one hour per print.

While earning his MBA at UTD, McBroom took a class in entrepreneurship and submitted an entry in the Big Idea Competition. Learning about the challenge of brick-and-mortar businesses in that class also made him see the benefits of operating online, as he's doing now. "When you're doing something online, the landscapes are a lot different and there's a lot more flexibility in where you can sell," he said.

Recently McBroom spoke to an elementary school class, and a student asked for advice on getting started. He encouraged them to avoid decision paralysis and just start. "If you're trying to figure out what to do or where to start," he said, "just like do things and don't to give too much thought about whether they're going to be the thing that's going to define your life and change everything. Just do things that you would enjoy."

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Ten teams have made it to the final event in our university business idea pitch competition open to alumni, current students, and faculty researchers. They will compete for \$170,000 in cash and

scholarship prizes. The competition is hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, an interdisciplinary division of the Naveen Jindal School of Management. ... Continue reading [Meet This Year's Big Idea Competition Finalists](#)

Large corporations are increasingly looking to the principles of lean startups to help develop new business ideas and spur innovation. Such is the case with IgniteConnex Inc., a subsidiary of technology consulting company CG Infinity set up to incubate new companies. CG Infinity has now partnered with several faculty at the Naveen Jindal School of Management ... Continue reading [New Internship Program Stresses Innovation](#)

When Zain Kalson BS'22 and his dad initially set out to solve the problem of high-conflict divorces—situations where one party drives the conflict—their original vision was a support group. Kalson says these divorces make up roughly 15 percent of all divorces. “It seemed to be a space where there's a lot of people that are ... Continue reading [Alum Launches AI-Powered Legal Tech Company](#)

We are very excited to add Leon Jacobson to our team! Though he may seem new, Leon is a very familiar face among members of our staff. In 2022 Leon earned his MBA with a concentration in both entrepreneurship and marketing from UT Dallas while working on his own startup company. We asked Leon a ... Continue reading [Meet Our New Assistant Director: Leon Jacobson](#)

UTD entrepreneurs, Rahul Madhugiri BS'23 and Sofia Babool BS'22 understand what it takes to launch a venture while still in college. But as natural problem solvers, there was something missing about their collegiate entrepreneurship experience. “We have a lot of startup resources on campus that are staff and faculty-led, but none seem to be student-led,” ... Continue reading [First Student-Run Accelerator Launches to Advance Early-Stage Ideas](#)

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The world of venture capital has a diversity problem. According to an article from Forbes, while 58% of the people who work in the industry are white men, white men control 93% of the venture capital dollars. Furthermore, "just 1% of the \$70 trillion wealth management industry is controlled by women or minority fund managers, ... Continue reading New Program Aims to Bridge the VC Gap

PR Newswire: The University of Texas at Dallas announced today that two additional UT System institutions have joined the Texas Network of Blackstone LaunchPad.

RICHARDSON, TX, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 – Six student teams have been selected to compete in the Big Idea Competition (BIC) at The University of Texas at Dallas, a Shark Tank-style pitch competition. Hosted annually by the UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the 2019 BIC will be held Nov. 19 from 4 p.m. to ... Continue reading UT Dallas Student Entrepreneurs to Compete in Annual Big Idea Competition for \$100,000 in Cash and Prizes

Princeton Review: The Princeton Review® and Entrepreneur magazine today announced the results of The Princeton Review's 14th annual survey naming the top undergraduate and graduate schools for entrepreneurship studies.

PR Newswire: R9 Technology, an innovative provider of IoT-based services and solutions, has received FCC Certification for its G200 cellular gateway and SN400 sensor node. The two devices form the cornerstone of R9's SAFEZONE refrigeration monitoring system which simplifies food safety management.

UT Dallas News Center: Students at The University of Texas at Dallas with a desire to be entrepreneurs now have the opportunity to engage mentors, access workspaces and accelerate the launch of their products, thanks to new partnerships with two startup accelerator programs and a technology think tank.

Richardson, Texas (March 12, 2019) – The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it will host its 2nd Annual Emerging Technologies (EmTech) Summit on April 2, in downtown Dallas, in partnership with Dallas Startup Week. EmTech 2019: "Esports and the New Gaming Economy" brings together pioneers in new ventures with innovators from the ... Continue reading UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Announces 2nd Annual EmTech Summit in Partnership with Dallas Startup Week, April 2

PR Newswire: The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it has launched a partnership with Capital Factory, one of the most active early-stage tech investors in Texas, to accelerate to market the products and services of ventures founded by UT Dallas students.

Dallas Business Journal: In a move that distinguishes itself from its U.S. peers, this local university nabbed a relationship with a global blockchain group that brings some heft.

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Dallas Innovates: With new funding, the Dallas company is opening a research and development lab in North Texas, and hiring radio frequency engineers, and researchers to staff it.

Dallas Innovates: Earlier this month, the Dallas-based company was named one of the most promising startups at the annual Euroconsult Summit for Satellite Financing in Paris, France. Astrapi and four other firms were honored during the event's FinSpace 2017 cocktail reception.

Euroconsult: Venture Development Center startup company, Astrapi, wins a Finspace Award at the annual Euroconsult Summit for Satellite Financing which brings together the leading decision makers of the satellite-enabled business sector

Dallas Morning News: As a high school student in McKinney, Gautam (pronounced like Goth-am) Bhargava found himself dissatisfied and unmotivated at school. When he turned age 18, he dropped out of school to start an education startup.

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The University of Texas at Dallas

cbhatti@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

bryan.chambers@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

ewchoi@utdallas.edu

Academic DirectorAssociate Professor of Instruction

sarah.crowe@utdallas.edu

Marketing Communications Manager

david.evans@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

mb.fickel@utdallas.edu

Program Manager

leah.frazier@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

leon.jacobson@utdallas.edu

Assistant DirectorCampus Director – Blackstone LaunchPadCo-Director – VMS NTX

julie.kim@utdallas.edu

Asst. to Center Director

jackie.kimzey@utdallas.edu

Associate Professor of Practice

carol.marcus-rehtmeyer@utdallas.edu

Executive Director

gary.marsh2@utdallas.edu

Manager, Events and Operations -Richardson IQ

sarahjane.murdock@utdallas.edu

Program Manager

paul.nichols@utdallas.edu

Associate Professor of Practice

kirk.otis@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

parkhd@utdallas.edu

Associate Professor

mpedigo@utdallas.edu

Senior Lecturer

rajiv.shah@utdallas.edu

Founder and Program Director – Systems Engineering & ManagementProfessor of Practice

rgw091000@utdallas.edu

Assistant Professor of Practice

kim.wright@utdallas.edu

Adjunct Instructor

anricka.ziller@utdallas.edu

Strategic Events Manager

nicky.ishaak@utdallas.edu

Project Coordinator at UTD @ The IQ

nehanth.narendrula@utdallas.edu

Software Engineer

poornima.thanikaivelu@utdallas.edu

Project Coordinator

samin.rahman@utdallas.edu

Project Coordinator

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The University of Texas at Dallas

The University of Texas at Dallas' Big Idea Competition (BIC) is one of the most celebrated events of entrepreneurship in North Texas. Hosted annually by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship the BIC brings the best undergraduate and graduate students together from all disciplines, alongside top research faculty and alumni to pitch the most innovative startups and ideas in front of their peers and a panel of esteemed judges for cash and scholarship awards. *Occurs in the Spring

Program highlights include:

Past Big Idea Competition Celebrity Guests have included:

CoFounder & COO of ShearShare

Owner of the Dallas Mavericks

Shark on "Shark Tank"

Style Guru on Emmy Award-Winning Netflix Series "Queer Eye"

Venture Capitalist

Best-Selling Author

Former Apple Executive

Co-Inventor of Ethernet

Co-Founder and CEO of the Malala Fund

Founder of NOW Ventures

Are you a UT Dallas alumni with the next big idea?

Are you a UT Dallas student, staff, or faculty member who intends to commercialize UT Dallas-owned technology or research intellectual property via a new business venture?

Are you a current UT Dallas student (undergraduate, graduate, or P.h.D) with the next big idea?

Eligibility

Steps to Apply

Eligibility

Steps to Apply

Eligibility

Steps to Apply

To be considered for a special award category, you will need to select the special award option in your application.

The UTDesign Startup Challenge leverages experiential learning through the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science's UTDesign senior capstone course to help bring high-potential technology startups to life.

Selected ventures will receive \$15,000 of engineering services over one or two semesters to complete a presentation-quality prototype, a technical mentor, business coaches, and \$5,000 cash to grow the business.

The UTDesign Startup Challenge selection committee will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

The RISE Startup Challenge through the Naveen Jindal School of Management's Center for Retail Innovation and Strategy Excellence (RISE) is designed to help bring innovative retail startups to life.

The RISE Startup Challenge selection committee will identify the top retail startup ideas from the Big Idea Competition applications and invite the founders to interview with the committee in April.

The committee will select the best retail startup idea to be awarded \$5,000 at the conclusion of the competition.

APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY

The RISE Startup Challenge selection committee will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

The Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology is a community of scholars, artists, and creative practitioners defined by their creativity, critical thinking, communication, and cross-cultural understanding. They cultivate skills in critical study and creative practice and foster the generation of new knowledge and new technological experiences.

The selected startup will be awarded \$5,000 at the conclusion of the competition.

APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY

We seek creative thinkers and problem solvers who wish to take their innovative ideas in the arts, the humanities, and technology to the next level. We seek applications for ideas that will make a difference in a globally connected world where creativity and imagination will become the primary determiners of economic value.

If you are interested in or have any questions about Big Idea Competition, please contact:

Anricka Ziller

anricka.ziller@utdallas.edu

Strategic Events Manager

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The University of Texas at Dallas

CometX is a six-week experiential accelerator program that pulls the most innovative student and faculty businesses on campus to learn all the necessary tools and tactics to be go-to-market ready. Members of the cohort can expect weekly sessions that include interactions with industry experts, personalized mentoring, and acquiring knowledge from incredibly successful startup founders.

Concepts you'll learn:

This 6-week in-person program covers the following topics:

Key Dates:

Tuesdays from 4:00 – 6:00 pm

July 11th – August 15th

The program concludes with a Demo Day

Participation in CometX is open to all currently-enrolled students of any classification/major. UT Dallas faculty, and alumni are also welcome to participate.

Dr. Terry Russell is the Managing Director of Interface Ventures, a Texas-based venture studio. Interface Ventures partners with national laboratories, universities, and corporations to build companies that solve important and valuable problems in energy, healthcare, and national security.

Dr. Russell has co-founded, financed, and led multiple technology-based startups. He has advised US and foreign government agencies, universities, and corporations on new venture creation. He is an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at UT Southwestern Medical Center and an active mentor in the startup community.

Dr. Russell received his Ph.D. in Physics from Boston University and performed his postdoctoral research at Harvard University.

A business accelerator is a fixed-term, cohort-based program that gives developing companies access to mentorship, educational components, and other support that help them become stable, self-sufficient businesses.

Are you a UT Dallas student with a business idea and you want to test out? Do you need help identifying your target market or figuring out your business plan? If you need help fine-tuning your business model or revenue model, or you are a first-time entrepreneur wanting to hone your skills from proven entrepreneurs, then this program could be perfect for you. That being said, you get what you put in. We can't (and won't) start the business for you. We can't (and won't) do all of the research and customer discovery for you. We can (and will) teach you how to do it and support you along the way!

You will develop an entrepreneurial mindset, specific skills such as creativity, persuasiveness, resourcefulness, problem-solving, communication skills, leadership skills, collaboration/teamwork skills, presentation skills, and more.

CometX receives over 200 applications per semester and has an average of 50 participants each semester. Many CometX participants go on to compete in the UT Dallas Big Idea Competition and other

state, national, and international competitions. 100% of feedback survey respondents agreed that the program added to their college experience at UT Dallas. By the end of the program, 15% of participants launch a business while 25% continue working towards launch.

No, this program is free to all UT Dallas students.

No, this is an experiential program that does not qualify for academic credit.

Any currently enrolled UT Dallas student, any classification (Freshman to Ph.D.), and all majors are welcome.

The program is offered in the summer. Please see the dates tab for specific start and end dates.

The Blackstone LaunchPad located on campus at 2830 Rutford Ave, the ground floor of Parking Structure 3, next to Taco Bell Cantina.

There is a significant cost for the entrepreneurial programs, resources, and support provided by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship each year, at no charge, free to you — our students and the UTD community. We do this because we believe it will lead to significant economic value, as your venture is able to generate revenues and hire employees. But, in order to continue offering these programs, the “cost” to you is the data about your startup’s progress instead of a financial cost. By providing information about your venture, you help us communicate and demonstrate the impact we are making to our stakeholders. Some of the key factors we need to measure include job creation and revenue.

If you are a student, then the short answer is no – please see Section 6 in the link below for more details. If you are a member of the faculty, conduct research in a campus laboratory, or are employed by the university, there may be some intellectual property rights to consider. For more information visit the UT System Board of Regents rules on intellectual property.

My experience in CometX was irreplaceable. I had been slowly working on my company for 2 years, spending time planning and tweaking my idea. When I joined CometX, from the first day I was instantly set on track. Through the few weeks that the course had been going on, my company had matured from a small idea to a team of 6 people and a goal to have an MVP available by the end of the year. The distinguished lectures gave several answers to questions we had not even thought about. The accelerator is structured in a way that helps form a clear guideline for some of the key points to creating a startup, and the only thing I would change is to make it longer

There are some events in life that change you and CometX is one of them. I came to the USA to pursue an education in Computer Science because almost all of the top CS companies I could name of started here. There is something unique about building businesses in America that fosters such growth, and I believe programs like CometX are such an amazing gateway to them.

Going through the entire program opened up such a breadth of knowledge that gave me the right set of tools and information to build an amazing product while making it into a business. I not only was able to shape my vision but it also kickstarted a series of events that led to ResumePuppy winning 2nd place in the CometX pitch competition and then later winning the Big Idea Competition.

Leon Jacobson

leon.jacobson@utdallas.edu

Assistant Director, Programs and Operations

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The University of Texas at Dallas

The Entrepreneurial Mindset Bootcamp (EMB) is a four-week virtual bootcamp to help undergraduate students learn an entrepreneurial approach to work and life. This bootcamp is for both students wanting to start their own businesses and those wanting to cultivate the entrepreneurial skills needed for the modern workforce

Topics include:

This program is open to all undergraduate students at UT System schools in the Blackstone LaunchPad Network.

Fall dates will be announced soon, please check back for updates.

If you are interested in or have any questions, please contact:

Dresden Goldberg

dresden.goldberg@utdallas.edu

Director – Programs & Operations

Campus Director – Blackstone LaunchPad

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The UTDesign Startup Challenge selection committee will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

If you are interested in or have any questions about UTDesign Startup Challenge, please contact:

Rod Wetterskog

wetterskog@utdallas.edu

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Founded in 2018, the UT Dallas Seed Fund aims to provide seed or “gap” funding to UT Dallas affiliated companies in an effort to accelerate their growth and prepare them for larger angel investment or venture capital investment.

Furthermore, the program is carefully designed to provide an experiential learning opportunity for students by emulating a real-world investment environment. This is achieved by enabling entrepreneurially minded students to directly participate in the process leading to grants in high-potential startups by engaging in the due diligence and selection process.

UTD’s pre/seed-stage venture capital fund invests exclusively in startups founded by, and/or commercializing technologies, innovations and intellectual property developed by, current UTD students, faculty, and researchers.

This opportunity is open to startups founded by current students, faculty, and researchers at any UTD school, center, or institute.

The fund will consider proposals using the following evaluation criteria:

If you are interested in or have any questions, please contact:

Bryan Chambers

bryan.chambers@utdallas.edu

Director – UT Dallas Seed Fund Senior Lecturer

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The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is excited to launch the 2023 CometX Summer Accelerator. CometX is a highly impactful startup accelerator that focuses on supporting the most promising and scalable startups in refining their business models and solutions, expediting their customer acquisition efforts, and positioning their ventures for rapid growth and expansion. Participating teams ... Continue reading Meet the 2023 CometX Summer Accelerator Cohort

Last week, the UTD Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship hosted the 2023 Big Idea Competition. Ten startup teams from across campus came together to compete for cash and scholarship prizes. This year, the teams pitched in front of a panel of experts at the Blackstone LaunchPad with over 100 people in attendance. Student Track (WINNER) Routora – Tom ... Continue reading Big Checks, Big Money and Big Smiles at the Big Idea Competition Finals

Conversations with Dr. Lakshman Tamil, director of the Quality of Life Technology Laboratory at UTD inspired Dr. Tim Cogan BS'15, MS'17, Ph.D.'21 to focus his PhD work in Electrical Engineering on the potential uses of artificial intelligence in medical imaging. Cogan is now Chief Technology Officer and Tamil is co-founder of MedCognetics, a company that spun ... Continue reading Alumni's AI Research Inspires Medtech Company

A random TikTok video sparked the idea for Sam McBroom MBA'19 to launch Strudel3D, an online business selling 3D-printed fidget keys. "This guy was talking about how a lot of people start 3D printing

businesses and it doesn't work out because they like to like download a bunch of stuff online that's already out there,” ... Continue reading 3D Printing Inspires Alum’s New Retail Business

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We are very excited to add Leon Jacobson to our team! Though he may seem new, Leon is a very familiar face among members of our staff. In 2022 Leon earned his MBA with a concentration in both entrepreneurship and marketing from UT Dallas while working on his own startup company.

We asked Leon a few questions to get acquainted:

Tell us a little about you.

Over the last ten years, I have launched Direct-to-Consumer startups in E-Commerce, Advertising, Medical Transportation, and Health Tech, bringing products and services to market with the goal of making a positive impact in people’s lives. Most recently, while I was earning my degree, I was selected as a winner of the Texas Business Hall of Fame “Future Business Legend” award.

While working on my MBA, I was selected as a Venture Fellow at Revtech Ventures, a venture capital firm focused on retail technology, where I created an accelerator program.

I also enjoy guest lecturing for MBA classes on entrepreneurship and venture capital. I am born and raised in Dallas and am married to the most amazing person I know.

What would you like to achieve in your new role?

I really believe my role is to help cultivate the next generation of great entrepreneurs and innovators. If I can help nurture an innovative and cohesive environment within UT Dallas that creates successful startup ventures, that would be incredibly rewarding. Additionally, being able to be a mentor and positive influence for those looking to build their own businesses would tremendously impactful.

What program or event are you looking forward to most?

As someone who grew up watching Shark Tank, I am obviously excited to help organize and run the Big Idea Competition. This is a uniquely special opportunity for those individuals who are looking to create an innovative venture. I wish I had this type of competition when I was in college. Furthermore, helping students learn about venture capital, fundraising, and all the necessary steps to building a successful startup through our accelerator programs and other events is something I am very excited about.

What's your mentorship specialty?

Given my entrepreneurial experience as well as having worn the venture capital hat, I believe it allows me to relate to students, wherever they may be across their entrepreneurial journey. I started my first company at 25, but I also grew up watching my dad work extremely hard to be a successful entrepreneur in the retail space here in Dallas. I have seen every facet of the entrepreneurial journey, including the mistakes one makes along the way. I think this lends itself to being a great mentor. I like to be honest, but empathetic and encouraging.

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Medium: These student teams will pitch live for a total of over \$50,000 in cash and in-kind prizes.

The world of venture capital has a diversity problem. According to an article from Forbes, while 58% of the people who work in the industry are white men, white men control 93% of the venture capital dollars. Furthermore, "just 1% of the \$70 trillion wealth management industry is controlled by women or minority fund managers, ... Continue reading [New Program Aims to Bridge the VC Gap](#)

Inside Jindal: A graduate student at the Naveen Jindal School of Management looks forward to a promising future in entrepreneurship, having recently won three competitions — and taking home \$40,000 in cash and prizes in the process.

Inside Jindal: The UT Dallas Women's Summit that the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Career Management Center at the Naveen Jindal School of Management presented last month culminated with keynote speaker Kendra Scott, one of the most recognizable and successful entrepreneurs in the United States.

Dallas Morning News: The University of Texas at Dallas is one of the most important accelerators we have. It is our region's premier public high-academic quality institution and partner to leading academic medical center UT Southwestern.

Community Impact: As the tech industry continues to boom in North Texas, The University of Texas at Dallas is zeroing in on programs aimed at preparing the next generation of students to enter the workforce.

Dallas Innovates: With five new UT Dallas research centers, an extension of the university's Venture Development Center, and new attractions like TheLab makerspace, The IQ may just realize Richardson's vision to be "the premier tech hub in Texas."

UT Dallas News Center: The University of Texas at Dallas is partnering with the city of Richardson to support the region's startup and entrepreneur community by establishing a physical presence in the Richardson Innovation Quarter.

Dallas Morning News: Capital One and UT Dallas bring future workforce skills to students at Innovate(her).

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Ten teams have made it to the final event in our university business idea pitch competition open to alumni, current students, and faculty researchers. They will compete for \$170,000 in cash and scholarship prizes. The competition is hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, an interdisciplinary division of the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

Manta Systems – Tamara Marshall, MBA'24 / JSOM

Manta Systems is designing the first automated, app-enabled, frozen fish food feeder on the market.

Routora – Tom Vazhekatt, BS'24 Computer Science / ECS

Routora is a route planning solution that creates faster and more efficient multi-stop routes by optimally reordering a list of addresses to save you time and money on the road.

BuildQuota – Xavier Madison, MBA'23 / JSOM

BuildQuota is an AI-driven Construction Supplier Diversity Management software focused on simplifying the diversity compliance workflow for all stakeholders on projects, increasing job site productivity and minimizing risk of non-compliance.

Olive Tree Therapeutics – Madison Valdivia, BS'23 Biology / BBS

The Coupage Vest is a high-frequency, vibrating vest that is strapped firmly around the thoracic cavity of a patient to break up thick mucus in the lungs as a therapeutic modality for various upper respiratory illnesses.

Catenate Corp – Sameer Ranjan, MS'20 Business Analytics / JSOM

Catenate's AI-driven platform aids decision-making at every important node of human life. Our products built over this platform can assist school students in choosing the right career, professionals track and improve their soft skills, people manage their well-being and individuals make wealth based on their risk profile.

EKUSO – Karlin Oei, BS'20 Finance / JSOM

Using the innovative EKUSO method, we merge education, gaming, and social-emotional learning to create innovative environments for those who feel left out. Our e-learning provider provides fully customized youth esports training programs for middle and high schools.

Creator Camp – Jacky Chao, BA'22 Animation / AHT

Creator Camp is an education technology company that is on a mission to empower children with hands-on creative-tech skills, while also making sure they have a lot of fun.

Technology Commercialization Track

OptiMIND – Chandramallika Basak – Associate Professor, Center for Vital Longevity / BBS

OptiMIND is a series of brain training games designed to enhance brain and cognition across the lifespan, ensuring that you stay sharp and focused at any age.

Kile Technology – Stefano Leonardi – Professor, Mechanical Engineering / ECS

Kile Technology is developing digital twins of wind farms to optimize power production, increase durability and mitigate the risk of investment.

Think! LLC – Joseph Friedman, Associate Professor, NeuroSpinCompute Laboratory / ECS

Artificial intelligence processing units (AIPUs) that learn efficiently and autonomously.

April 26, 2023 / 3:20 PM / Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center / Reserve your seat

Special Guest Speaker – Gen Fukunaga

Gen Fukunaga is an entrepreneur and investor. He recently retired as CEO of Funimation Entertainment which he had founded in 1994, sold in 2005 to a public company, purchased back in 2011 and sold to Sony Pictures in October 2017. Funimation/Crunchyroll is the dominant distributor of Anime (Japanese

animation) outside of Asia including over 1,000 brands such as Dragon Ball Z, Akira, Ghost in the Shell, Cowboy BeBop and My Hero Academia.

Mr. Fukunaga is currently a partner in two venture capital companies and two commercial real estate private equity firms. He is also a Board member, and/or advisor in various start-ups.

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When Zain Kalson BS'22 and his dad initially set out to solve the problem of high-conflict divorces—situations where one party drives the conflict—their original vision was a support group. Kalson says these divorces make up roughly 15 percent of all divorces. “It seemed to be a space where there’s a lot of people that are going through some of the toughest moments of their life, and generally there’s just not a lot of support for them,” he adds.

Through their first iteration, Kalson says he and his dad “were having hundreds of people tell us how challenging it was to separate fact from fiction in their divorces.” The partner who is the source of conflict in a high-conflict divorce might spread misinformation, hide assets, or undervalue their business to minimize alimony or child support payments.

In January 2022, the father-son team pivoted to another idea: using artificial intelligence to uncover hidden assets that might otherwise take countless billable hours to find. Kalson is now CEO and his

father is CTO of Etheia (named for Aletheia, the Greek goddess of truth). The company sells its tech-enabled service to family law firms so that the firm has the information they need to negotiate a better settlement for their clients.

After extracting financial data from the disclosures provided by the other party's lawyer (credit cards, bank statements, and so on), Etheia can uncover things like an out-of-state utility bill tied to an undisclosed real estate property or safe box deposit containing gold. It also visualizes financial data and creates reports that family lawyers can use in court.

Law firms have long-established processes, so developing the market and encouraging innovation was Kalson's biggest challenge. "We just worked through that through a lot of deep customer discovery," he says. "It was dozens, if not hundreds, of calls with family attorneys trying to understand what are their pain points? What are the challenges they're experiencing? And what are some avenues where we might be able to support them better?"

While earning his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology and Systems at UTD, Kalson participated in the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurships' venture coaching opportunities, took the Startup Launch class, and matched with an industry expert through the Venture Mentoring Service of North Texas. "The biggest insight for me was to stay lean," Kalson says. "I realized we didn't need to raise capital, hire a team, or seek out investors. Staying lean meant focusing first on building a product that solves the challenges of our target market." He also worked with the alumni office to make connections in the legal tech space.

That hard work seems to be paying off. Etheia was named a semifinalist for the American Bar Association's Techshow in 2023 and was featured in Family Lawyer Magazine. They also participated in an event with the Dallas Bar Association Family Law Bench Bar and had several law firms sign up for trials.

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Debuff is a software application that helps esports players track stats and matches on Electronic Arts' Apex Legends. Co-founder and CEO John Kahn (BA'19) sat down with us to discuss his latest venture. Tell us about your new startup, Debuff The app is just a small piece of what we do. Our company's aim is to ... Continue reading How this alum is trying to create a unified ecosystem for the esports industry

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Wanting to create an event that would encourage and showcase the real-world problem-solving and creative solutions of the university's employees, the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship created the university's first "Staff Ideas Competition" this summer. Over 60 people participated in workshops and training sessions in June and July to develop and communicate their product and service ideas into a business competition-style pitch.

"Until this summer, how to get from concept to business had eluded me, I had no idea, really, how to go about it. With the frameworks and encouragement provided at the Staff Ideas Competition sessions, I feel like I am a lot closer to giving this idea an actual fair shot," said Matthew Unkenholz, the Performance Hall Manager at the School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, who has been working on a new concept he helped install at the Edith O'Donnell Arts & Technology Building Lecture Hall to integrate colored lighting with musical performances.

Over the summer, the Institute's faculty provided lunchtime workshops and training sessions on topics such as using a Business Model Canvas, understanding what a Minimum Viable Product is, and the fundamentals of a pitch deck and presenting.

After spending the summer working on their plans and meeting with mentors, nine finalists were chosen to pitch their ideas in person. "We were very impressed with the quality and thought behind the ideas – we initially imagined this as just an idea or concept-level competition, but many of the participants put a lot of effort into maturing their ideas into practical solutions ready for a business discussion," said Paul Nichols, Executive Director of the Institute.

The competition pitch day was August 19, and six were ultimately chosen as the winners by a panel of volunteer judges and "audience favorites" by the event attendees. The winners were:

Michael Lundie – Product Track, School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences, described his Neuro-insight platform to help companies improve connections and communication inside an organization and with their customers.

John (JD) Thomas – General Track, Office of Undergraduate Education, discussed his "Neighbors Only" online matchmaking system between customers and service providers to quickly connect people experiencing problems directly to those who can solve them.

Kim Warren – Retail Track, Venture Development Center, presented her idea of a "Spa-cation" venue providing full-service amenities for weddings and other large events.

Gloria Shenoy – Audience Favorite, Office of Policy, Accreditation, and Assessment, explained her concept of "EV-ees", a retail chain catering to electric vehicle owners while they wait to have their vehicle charged.

Julie Weekly and Cerise Hawker – Audience Favorite, Provost's Office, pitched their UTD improvement idea for campus groups to coordinate purchases of swag items to lower overall costs and increase the quality and relevance of gifts given to guests and volunteers of the university.

The Track winners received \$1,000 each and the Audience Favorites won \$500.

More than just a pitching competition, the process and interactions were an enlightening experience for the attendees and an opportunity to meet their colleagues. "It was a friendly atmosphere, and I really enjoyed seeing people from other departments and watching their ideas," added Julie Weekly.

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We're excited to welcome two new members to the faculty of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT Dallas. As adjunct faculty, Leah Frazier, who also leads our GalXc Accelerator cohorts, and John Adler will be teaching ENTP 3301: Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level. 3301 is often called our "intro to entrepreneurship" course because it students through the process of starting a venture using entrepreneur Steve Blank's lean startup methodology.

Leah Frazier – Entrepreneur / Podcaster / 2x Emmy Winner

Leah Frazier is a multi-licensed attorney turned fashion guru, who unapologetically left the practice of law to pursue her fashion ventures. Leah has built a multi-faceted empire as an award-winning fashion journalist, media personality, celebrity stylist, digital marketing expert, and in-demand fashion consultant to notable brands. She has been featured on Vogue.com, NBC, CW, CBS Local, Chase TV, Fox TV, Good Morning Texas, Haute Living Magazine, and many other outlets as an expert in fashion. Leah is also the proud owner of Think Three Media – a creative marketing agency that services brands in fashion, beauty, food, lifestyle, and more.

John Adler – Advisor, Entrepreneur, Venture Capitalist

John Adler's passion is finding the intersection of innovation and markets to build businesses and revenues. As an entrepreneur himself, he founded KAGE Networks in 2016, John has direct experience in domestic/international development, product management and marketing. As a venture capitalist with InterWest Partners and later Silver Creek Ventures, John was an early-stage investor in information technology companies, serving as a board member across software, cloud, system, semiconductor and services companies.

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The Office of Research, in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, is offering three new programs this fall for research faculty, Ph.D. candidates, postdocs, and other UT Dallas researchers interested in commercializing their inventions.

The programs are:

If you have any interest in commercializing your research – now or in the future – through licensing to large enterprises or launching your own startup venture, these programs are for you!

The BEST Series

The Bio-Engineering Startup Training (BEST) <<https://innovation.utdallas.edu/education/>> series is a new, customized education and training program for the bioengineering and life sciences community. This series will be 8 sessions held on alternating Fridays from 4:00-5:15pm at the UT Dallas Blackstone LaunchPad.

Each session will focus on a key commercialization part of the startup creation process including guest speakers with real-world experience in developing and funding bio startups, with Q&A, discussions and networking after.

Here is our schedule of sessions and topics. Food and beverages will be provided, attendance is free, we just ask you to RSVP with Paul Nichols (paul.nichols@utdallas.edu) so we know to expect you and keep you updated on any calendar changes.

The BEST series is a pilot of a concept to be offered to a broader range of STEM research field in the future. The goal is to increase the pool of talented, prepared “scientist-entrepreneurs” who could serve as CEOs or founders of a startup company, based on their research and UT Dallas intellectual property.

VDC Jetpack

The Venture Development Center (VDC) Jetpack is a set of services that helps a research leader and his or her team transition from working on an idea in the lab to working on a product in an operating company. There is no cost to the UT Dallas researchers or the venture for these services.

Normally, setting up or engaging most of the services is straightforward. However, the process can be time-consuming and — for first-time entrepreneurs — challenging to figure out the least expensive path.

The VDC Jetpack saves time and money by using pre-arranged partners who are volunteering their time, with the Office of Research paying the out-of-pocket fees for various typical expenses.

The services include the following:

To qualify for the VDC Jetpack, you must be a current UT Dallas research faculty member, graduate student, PhD candidate, post-doc, or research staff member working under the direction of a UT Dallas faculty researcher.

For more information about the VDC Jetpack or to apply, please send an email to jetpack@utdallas.edu. A brief online application is required, with a link sent to you once your inquiry is received.

UTDiscovery Scholar Awards

The UTDiscovery Awards <<https://innovation.utdallas.edu/utdiscovery/>> are a competitive award designed to reward the contributions and facilitate the entrepreneurial development of undergraduate researchers at UT Dallas. UTDiscovery scholars will work directly with startup companies that are members of UTD's Venture Development Center, or VDC (<https://innovation.utdallas.edu/venture-development-center/>).

The principals for these VDC and pre-incubator companies are engaged in a variety of research, from basic to applied, to equip their startups for commercial success.

Research projects may range across a broad spectrum of possibilities, from validating product technologies, to investigating market or customer insights, to identifying prior art and existing alternatives to the startups company's proposed solution.

Students selected to receive an UTDiscovery Award receive \$2,000, awarded upon participation in the UTDiscovery Award poster competition held in mid-December 2021 (Fall) and/or mid-April 2022 (Spring). Research sponsors from the UT Dallas VDC supporting participant projects receive \$500 (for supplies, project travel, poster printing, etc.). Up to 10 awards may be made per semester.

For more information about the UTDiscovery Awards, please contact Hillary Campbell (hillary.campbell@utdallas.edu).

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NTX Inno: A group of UT Dallas researchers, led by Shalini Prasad, alongside the team at Allen-based medical sensor device company EnLiSense – which was founded by Prasad to commercialize another product – have unveiled a sweat sensor that can alert doctors of a looming cytokine storm.

UT Dallas News Center: Countless interactions between nerves and other cells in the body create the sensory responses, including pain, that allow us to interact with the world. Researchers from The University of Texas at Dallas' Center for Advanced Pain Studies (CAPS) are cataloging those interactions, hunting for the molecular reactions that produce dysfunctional chronic pain with ... Continue reading Pain Researchers Use Sequencing Data To Map Nerve Interactions

Dallas Innovates: About a month after announcing he was forming a Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Dallas, Mayor Eric Johnson has released the group's newly appointed members who will work to attract, retain, and support startups in the city.

Dallas Innovates: Small businesses make up the fabric of our communities. Through the uncertainty of 2020, nonprofits, government entities, corporations and community leaders have collaborated with small businesses to ensure they continue to play that vital role.

Inside JSOM: After more than 17 years of "visionary" service, Dr. Joseph C. Picken retired in December from the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

Austin Startups: I arrived in Dallas a little more than six months ago, April 1, to begin my new role at the University of Texas at Dallas. At UT Dallas, I'm a clinical associate professor in the Jindal School of Management. We're a U.S. top 25-ranked entrepreneurship program, right up there with our UT Austin ... Continue reading Austin, Meet Dallas

NPR: Let's say you're a scientist, and you've invented what you think is a useful treatment for pain. But you have a problem. You don't have the money to go through the regulatory approval process.

UT Dallas News Center: UT Dallas has a new Executive Director at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE).

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Large corporations are increasingly looking to the principles of lean startups to help develop new business ideas and spur innovation. Such is the case with IgniteConnex Inc., a subsidiary of technology consulting company CG Infinity set up to incubate new companies.

CG Infinity has now partnered with several faculty at the Naveen Jindal School of Management and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to create a new, year-long internship program called the Infinite Corporate Incubator Program.

The idea grew out of a conversation between Rajiv Shah, Founder & Program Director for the Systems Engineering and Management (SEM) program at UT Dallas, and Professor of Practice, and Bhopi Dhall, founder and CEO of CG Infinity. The two first met while working at Texas Instruments years ago, and Dhall wanted to give back while also fostering innovation.

Through further conversations with Saurajit Kanungo, president and COO of CG Infinity, and Rob Palacios, Chief Innovation Officer/EVP at CG Infinity and President/Co-Founder at IgniteConnex, Inc., they arrived at the idea of an internship, but one where the university would help vet applications instead of the company fielding applications.

“They wanted to have UTD Master’s level students who can help them to understand what the customer requirements are, understand the internal capabilities, and then take all that into launching new initiatives,” Shah says.

CG Infinity wanted to hire a small cohort of interns with complementary skillsets to work as a team and help incubate new startup ideas. During the fall of 2022, Shah looped in Paul Nichols, Assistant Professor of Practice, and Emily Choi, Associate Professor of Instruction and Academic Director, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, to help conceptualize this internship program.

“In the past, when they went out and created solutions for their clients, they realized, ‘wow, this solution could actually be useful for more than just this one client, we should build a business around it and launch it,’” Choi says. “But going from the product or idea to launching into a business and scaling it, that’s a whole different process. That’s what we teach in the innovation entrepreneurship program.”

Working with Fiona Hunter in UTD’s Career Management Center and Angela Howard from the graduate advising team, Shah, Nichols, and Choi formalized the program and opened applications on an accelerated timeline compared to most other internship processes. “One weekend, all three of us burned the midnight oil and we narrowed it down [from over 90] to 15 or 20 applicants,” Shah says. They looked for students who had real-world experience and the ability to work as a team. Shah, Nichols, and Choi interviewed those 15-20 applicants and shared their short list with CG Infinity, who then interviewed finalists.

Ultimately, three Master of Science students in Business Analytics were chosen: Madhurima Madgula, Nekitha Ramachandran, and Pakshal Shah. They started in January and will continue through the rest of the calendar year. “Our plan now is to mentor and advise this group of students and make sure they have the right tools and concepts to support CGI initiatives,” Choi says.

The hope is that this partnership will continue indefinitely, and the cohort will grow in future years. Since many students studying entrepreneurship will nevertheless find jobs at large corporations, Nichols says this internship program will help fill a need in bringing entrepreneurial thinking to big companies. “We’ve started talking about, how do we emphasize more the corporate innovation side of things?” he asks. “This gives us a really good example of how you can bring that entrepreneurial mindset into a significantly sized organization.”

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UTD entrepreneurs, Rahul Madhugiri BS’23 and Sofia Babool BS’22 understand what it takes to launch a venture while still in college. But as natural problem solvers, there was something missing about their collegiate entrepreneurship experience. “We have a lot of startup resources on campus that are staff and faculty-led, but none seem to be student-led,” said Madhugiri. It isn’t uncommon to have college students run startup accelerators or pitch competitions. In fact, a study published in 2021 in the Journal of International Entrepreneurship suggests, “student-led entrepreneurial organizations (SLEOs) allow students to attend entrepreneurship events and workshops, to network, to work in multidisciplinary and international teams and to share ideas. All these activities promote an entrepreneurial environment and culture that is deemed to foster entrepreneurship.”

The concept, according to Madhugiri and Babool, is simple, “we’re going to utilize knowledgeable and seasoned entrepreneurs who have participated in and experienced first-hand the trials and processes of launching a venture. It’s like a pay-it-forward model for the next batch of upcoming Comet entrepreneurs,” stated Babool.

The incubator’s curriculum uses Guy Kawasaki’s “The Only 10 Slides You Need in Your Pitch.” The presentation format, developed by Guy Kawasaki, a venture capitalist and startup advisor, is designed to be used in pitch presentations for startups, and it focuses on the key information that investors need to know in order to make a decision about investing in a company. The format includes 10 slides that cover topics like problem/solution, financial projections, traction, and business model. Once the cohort of five students was selected, the team conducted a post-acceptance survey and curated a custom curriculum based on the specific needs of the cohort.

Friday, January 20th was the official kickoff meeting and over the next 10 weeks, the cohort will meet at the university’s Blackstone LaunchPad co-working space and the Richardson IQ where UTD has a significant presence to train and prepare for a culminating demo day.

Perks of the program include:

The following teams have been selected for the first cohort:

Allercheck is working to solve how people suffering from food allergies can eat pain-free by detecting allergens before they enter the system.

Tori Sonkin (BS ’25)

Nerveli is utilizing neuroscience fundamentals on pain to design a mobile application that allows users to take diagnostic testing that will produce daily tailored pain management recommendations.

Leon Jacobson (MBA ’22)

Homelessness in Dallas is a nonprofit art program designed to help improve mental health and increase a sense of dignity among homeless artists, helping break the cycle of homelessness.

Gia Kirk (BS ’23)

No-Time-2-Cook is a meal prep program tailored to students.

Ofer Turjeman (BS ’23)

Fits is a website-based 3D modeling tool that allows for a quicker and easier clothes shopping experience.

Zuhair Lakhani, (BS ’26)

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Ivan Cerino (MS'21, MBA'23) has a background in biomedical engineering, but after attempting to launch two startups in Mexico he found himself in the US working in software development. But that itch to jump into startups again led him to UT Dallas where he could earn his MBA and learn more about the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the US at the same time. Last year, Ivan spent an extended internship with the venture capital firm Moonshots Capital.

During the last semester of my MSIE (Master's in Innovation and Entrepreneurship), I signed up to take the Seed Fund Support Course (ENTP 4395 / 6377) with Professor Bryan Chambers. This was my first introduction to the VC industry and, honestly, one of the best classes I attended in my whole education. During the semester, Professor Chambers mentioned the possibility for a few students to get a fellowship to work at a local VC firm after finishing the course. That immediately caught my attention; remember my goal has always been to start my own company, so my thought was if I could join a VC firm I could probably 'reverse engineer' and deeply understand one of the most critical and complicated parts of having a startup: raising funds.

So, when the final presentations were completed I inquired with my professor about the fellowship. I was soon connected with Craig Cummings, the General Partner and Co-founder of Moonshots Capital, a VC firm with offices in Austin and Los Angeles.

A quick note: One of the most important things I've learned from this industry, and that I later reinforced working at Moonshots; in the VC industry connections-introductions mean a lot, seriously.

I had two interviews, prior to being accepted into the fellowship. The first interview was with the main associate of the firm, which later would become the person I would report to. The second interview was

with Craig; a few days later they confirmed the opportunity for me to collaborate with them as an MBA Associate.

Being an engineer with a non-financial background, I believe that what opened the door for me was all the experience and skills I obtained from the Seed Fund class and my initiative and eagerness to get this opportunity (and, of course, the intro from Bryan). Later I learned that people in the VC industry come from very diverse backgrounds. I worked part-time at Moonshots for 11 months while also attending my MBA classes and having a full-time job. So no, it wasn't easy, but it was totally worth it.

Moonshots Capital invests in seed to late-seed stage startups, for example, tech companies raising around \$2.5M to \$5M where Moonshots may potentially lead the rounds. The whole firm operates remotely; however, during my time with them, I had the chance to fly to Austin and LA to attend a few events and meet the team; that was one of the richest experiences because I got the opportunity to meet wonderful people, entrepreneurs, and investors doing exciting things.

During those 11 months, my role was to be the first point of contact between the firm and a potential investment opportunity. I would review hundreds of pitches every month to look out for the ones that had potential, and that also fit the firm's portfolio strategy. If I came across a deck that seemed interesting and had potential, I would reach out to the company founders for an introductory call and some additional information. If everything made sense, I would recommend that the main associate hold a meeting with them. We would have a weekly meeting to discuss these potential opportunities, which we would later share with the General Partners of the firm.

I take pride in 'having found' what I believe must have been the only investment that has come thru this channel. Most of the investments the firm has done in the past, and I think this is common throughout the industry, come from warm intros from other investors or founders previously funded. Yes, the vast majority of pitches they get from cold emails, or the website never gets to the last stage of consideration. And even if they do, 99% of deals end up in a non-investment decision. Many factors play into this decision and go beyond this post's topic, but it was interesting to see and learn from it.

I was also there while the firm was in the process of raising its 3rd fund, which also was a unique and enriching experience to witness; they are on the run to raise \$100M. It was very interesting to see that, in the end, the investors/firms also do the same thing that the founders do; they try to convince other people to invest in their business opportunity. And when you understand and are aware of that, I think it gives you more clarity on how to approach a VC firm and raise funds for your venture.

So, to conclude, here are two parting thoughts:

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Four student teams from UTD have been selected to move forward to the national round of the Blackstone LaunchPad x StartupTree Ideas Competition. The competition, taking place 100% virtually, gives students with just an idea the chance to win up to \$10,000 to start the next big thing. Applicants needed to be current students (undergraduate or graduate-level) in the earliest stage of their entrepreneurial journey. Students competed in four tracks:

Health & Life Sciences

“WhiteBat” – James Crisp BS’23 (Mechanical Engineering)

The WhiteBat consists of two distinct yet integrated components: a blood transfusion device and a drone. Its primary aim is to prolong the consciousness of victims of mass casualty events. The drone utilizes a hybrid design, having the agile takeoff abilities of a rotary drone without noticeably impacting the flight speed and range of a fixed-wing option. Depending on the application, highly protective armor is applied to protect against strong forces.

Social and Climate Impact

“Belonging Again” – Gia Kirk BA’22 (Animation, Interactive Technology, Video Graphics, Special Effects)

We’re a non-profit program, an initiative that aims to build friendships with homeless individuals in Dallas through UX research and craft-making that ultimately provides them a platform to visually communicate their stories.

Consumer Products

“Longshots Disc Golf” – Tyler DeLanghe MBA’24 (Systems Engineering & Management)

We are creating the world’s first and only disc golf driving range! Longshots is an engaging and entertaining facility that revolves around the fast-growing and amazing sport of disc golf. Similar to the fast-growing driving range TopGolf, we want to wow each and every customer with a truly unique experience every time they visit. Our facility will contain 3 key businesses: a driving range, a retail store (pro shop), and the Putting Bar.

General

Geospace Instrumentation and Data Solutions – Isaac Wright BS’22 (Physics)

ScintPi—a low-cost and robust sensor—is designed to be a practical solution to the high cost of available geospace instrumentation. ScintPi works by reading radio signals from dozens of overhead satellites to provide important information about the ionosphere.

About Blackstone LaunchPad

The Blackstone LaunchPad network makes entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial skills accessible and relevant for all college students to help them build thriving companies and careers. We work with higher-ed institutions to deliver proven startup resources, facilitate access to a global network of mentors and advisors, and offer unique virtual and physical convening opportunities so thousands of diverse college students can go further, faster. Students learn by doing, gaining knowledge and critical skills to help them succeed as a founder or contributor to the innovation economy. LaunchPad's ever-expanding network encompasses campuses with predominantly underrepresented populations. Learn more: www.blackstonelaunchpad.org.

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- Duyen Nguyen, BS'22 Accounting - Chukwudi Ukonne, MBA'24 & MS'24 Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Duyen and I (Chukwudi) both participated in the inaugural cohort of the Blackstone LaunchPad Bridge Venture Fellowship (BVF). After a 3-week period, where we both received training, mentorship, and resources centered around the startup and venture capital industry, we met in ... Continue reading 'My Participation in the Bridge Venture Fellowship is Already Opening Doors for me'

Inside Jindal: Two students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management recently participated in a three-week virtual boot camp to learn about venture capital from professionals in the industry.

Bonsai founder Shashank Kumar won \$10,000 for his pitch. Out of more than 130 student entrepreneurial teams from schools across the Blackstone LaunchPad network, one UT Dallas student impressed the judges on the mainstage of the 2022 Startup Grind Global Conference. Shashank Vinay Kumar, founder of Bonsai, placed third, winning \$10,000. Through Bonsai, Shashank hopes ... Continue reading UT Dallas Student Wins Third Place at Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition

We're excited to announce that Bonsai, co-founded by Shashank Vinay Kumar (BS'22), is one of 28 student-led teams headed to California to pitch in the semi-finals of the 2022 Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition during the Startup Grind Global Conference. Bonsai, which only just launched in 2020, is developing a ticket-resolution and lead-generation tool that uses ... Continue reading Bonsai Headed to Silicon Valley for Annual Pitch Competition

Sofia Babool BS'22 only just launched her tutoring service in the fall and already she's hit positive cash flow. Her company, Bright Owl is a virtual tutoring company that focuses on providing children with subject-specific homework help, test preparation, and college advising. Sofia, who is earning her undergraduate degree in neuroscience, has been participating in ... Continue reading Neuroscience Student Looks to Remove Tutoring Stigma with Startup

Dallas Innovates: UTD spinoff, Avansa Labs, took home the \$10,000 grand prize at MassChallenge's inaugural pitch competition in North Texas.

Dallas Innovates: This year's competition culminated with an awards ceremony during Global Entrepreneurship Week that featured a conversation with Ross Perot Jr. and Anurag Jain on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in North Texas.

As an artist and aspiring animator, I know the value of motion graphics firsthand, but did you know that it's also an invaluable tool you can use as an entrepreneur to grow your venture? What exactly are motion graphics? Motion graphics are simply described as, "pieces of animation or digital footage which create the illusion ... Continue reading Are you integrating motion graphics into your marketing plan?

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Inside JSOM: Mark Candella is on a mission to make esports a mainstream industry and to empower its participants. Known as Garvey in the gaming community, he visited Dallas April 2 to deliver the keynote presentation at the second annual Emerging Technologies — EmTech — Summit.

Dallas Innovates: North Texas startups have the opportunity to take place in an emerging industry, experts say. Here's what founders need to know about finding funding and the future of esports.

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xconomy.com: The University of Texas at Dallas formally kicks off its Blackstone LaunchPad program.

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UT Dallas News Center: Blackstone LaunchPad celebrates ribbon-cutting for 5,000-square-foot-new-home.

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Dallas Innovates: For entrepreneurs who intersect with The University of Texas at Dallas, there's a new source of startup funding.

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Inside JSOM: The University of Texas at Dallas kicked off its annual Earth Week festivities with several events on Earth Day, April 22. Prominent among these was the Earth Entrepreneurship Forum, during which speakers discussed the past, present and future of the energy sector.

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Debuff is a software application that helps esports players track stats and matches on Electronic Arts' Apex Legends. Co-founder and CEO John Kahn (BA'19) sat down with us to discuss his latest venture. Tell us about your new startup, Debuff The app is just a small piece of what we do. Our company's aim is to ... Continue reading [How this alum is trying to create a unified ecosystem for the esports industry](#)

Four student teams from UTD have been selected to move forward to the national round of the Blackstone LaunchPad x StartupTree Ideas Competition. The competition, taking place 100% virtually, gives students with just an idea the chance to win up to \$10,000 to start the next big thing. Applicants needed to be current students (undergraduate ... Continue reading [Meet the Comets Moving Through to National LaunchPad Ideas Competition](#)

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The world of venture capital has a diversity problem. According to an article from Forbes, while 58% of the people who work in the industry are white men, white men control 93% of the venture capital dollars. Furthermore, "just 1% of the \$70 trillion wealth management industry is controlled by women or minority fund managers, which often directly impacts the number of dollars invested in female and underrepresented founders."

These glaringly problematic statistics serve as the catalyst for a new program being launched by the Texas Network of Blackstone LaunchPad's called, "The Bridge Venture Fellowship." The fellowship is a virtual, multi-week bootcamp for 20 students across the 10 University of Texas System schools that will focus on introducing concepts of venture capital and will culminate in an in-person recruitment mixer with Texas-based VC firms in Austin.

Additionally, through participation in the Bridge Venture Fellowship, students will:

This program supports students who have not previously had opportunities to learn about venture capital. The recruitment process focused on targeting and engaging Black, Latinx, women, and LGBTQ+ students, encouraging them to participate.

Through the educational and mentoring programming, we believe the students will be well-equipped to begin their venture capital careers.

For more information, visit: <https://texaslaunchpad.org/>

For sponsorship opportunities contact Dresden Goldberg at dresden.goldberg@utdallas.edu

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RICHARDSON, TX, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 – Six student teams have been selected to compete in the Big Idea Competition (BIC) at The University of Texas at Dallas, a Shark Tank-style pitch competition. Hosted annually by the UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the 2019 BIC will be held Nov. 19 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Edith O'Donnell Arts and Technology Building. The BIC brings undergraduate and graduate students together from all disciplines to pitch the most innovative startups and ideas in front of their peers and a panel of esteemed judges for cash and scholarship awards.

The program typically draws more than 800 attendees each year and awards more than \$100,000 in prize money.

This year, entrepreneur, technologist, investor and impact leader Shiza Shahid to serve as the celebrity guest judge. Shahid co-founded the Malala Fund with Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai and has led the organization as founding CEO. She was named one of TIME magazine's "30 Under 30 People Changing the World," Forbes "30 Under 30 – Social Entrepreneurs" and a Tribeca Institute Disruptive Innovator. She is a member of the WEF Global Agenda Council and has been featured in multiple publications, including Elle, Fast Company, Forbes, Glamour, The Edit and Town and Country, and on television networks, including ABC, Al Jazeera, CNN, MSNBC and others.

The startup companies represented by the six finalist student teams competing in the Big Idea Competition are:

“At the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, we’re on a mission to educate, empower and equip the next generation’s new ventures. The Big Idea Competition brings our campus and surrounding community together to celebrate the accomplishments of UT Dallas entrepreneurs,” said Dresden Goldberg, director of programs and operations for the institute. “Through the BIC, we have been able to award funding to student startups. This funding can make a critical difference in helping them to launch their businesses. Past winners have gone on to win regional and national pitch competitions, secure venture capital and create jobs in our community.”

Tickets to the UT Dallas Big Idea Competition are complimentary. Register for the event [here](#).

###

About Interlock Partners

Interlock Partners LLC operates as a venture capital firm. The Firm provides seed and early-stage financing to startups operating in the marketplace, enterprise IT, technology, Internet and digital media sectors. Interlock Partners serves customers in the states of Texas and New York.

About Naya Ventures

Naya Ventures is an early-stage venture capital firm focused mainly on U.S. and India-based companies. They invest in and partner with companies that offer products and services in the mobile and SaaS arenas that have the potential to tap into global markets. Their portfolio companies are characterized by innovative technology, strong management teams with deep industry connections and significant customer traction. In many cases, they will be the initial largest investor and act as an incubator to the companies and their technologies.

About Silicon Valley Bank

Silicon Valley Bank, a subsidiary of SVB Financial Group, is a U.S.-based high-tech commercial bank. The bank has helped fund more than 30,000 start-ups. SVB is on the list of largest banks in the United States.

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Richardson, Texas (March 12, 2019) – The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it will host its 2nd Annual Emerging Technologies (EmTech) Summit on April 2, in downtown Dallas, in partnership with Dallas Startup Week.

EmTech 2019: "Esports and the New Gaming Economy" brings together pioneers in new ventures with innovators from the startup ecosystem and early adopters in mid-size and large enterprises. EmTech 2018, the Summit's inaugural year, focused on the intersection of fintech, AI, and the global blockchain phenomenon. An audience of more than 700 from around North Texas attended the Summit, keynoted by Don Tapscott, New York Times best-selling author of "The Blockchain Revolution," with sponsors Goldman Sachs, Hypergiant, IBM, & Roger Wilco.

EmTech 2019 will be presented at the Mavs Gaming Center the afternoon of Tuesday, April 2, with an Esports showcase and gaming technology expo at Capital Factory-Dallas the same evening.

"The mission of EmTech 2019 is to elevate the next generation of Esports and gaming products and services in a culturally iconic industry," said Steve Guengerich, executive director of the UT Dallas institute. "We expect the extraordinary line-up of speakers to address the current and future economic impact of this emerging industry for Dallas and the broader economy, in the process inspiring UT Dallas students and regional professionals to participate, through new, entrepreneurial career paths."

Among featured speakers at EmTech 2019 are Mark "Garvey" Candella, global lead of strategic partnerships for Twitch, Matt Hooper, development director of software development for Oculus VR, and Leemon Baird, founder and CTO of Hedera Hashgraph.

The partnership with Dallas Startup Week brings a major, special event to an already record-breaking slate of week-long programming in the festival's Gaming and Esports track, chaired by Kedreon Cole of Scoreboard Ventures. Registration is open and free to the public for all tracks at Dallas Startup Week, including special events like EmTech 2019.

"With this fifth anniversary of Dallas Startup Week, we're thrilled to feature the EmTech Summit, coincidentally, as the fifth major special event this year," said Alyce Alston, CEO, the DEC Network and DSW Organizer.

Follow progress about UT Dallas innovation and entrepreneurship partnerships and programs on LinkedIn at [innovationUTD](#), Twitter at [innovationUTD](#), and Facebook at [launchpadUTD](#).

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PR Newswire: The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The University of Texas at Dallas has announced a new partnership with the Blockchain Research Institute (BRI), a global independent think tank working to identify the strategic implications and opportunities of blockchain for business, government and society.

Tech.Co: The competition, named after Penfolds' first Chief Winemaker Max Schubert, comes with a grand prize of \$33,000 in capital investment, representing Schubert's 33 years of dedication to the Penfolds brand.

PR Newswire: L'Oréal USA today announces the three finalists of its Women in Digital NEXT Generation Awards: ShearShare co-founder and COO, Courtney Caldwell; HelloAva founder, Siqi Mou; and Shine co-founders, Naomi Hirabayashi and Marah Lidey.

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Launch DFW: Who knew that just outside of the city of Dallas in suburban Richardson major innovation is happening inside the walls of the University of Texas at Dallas? Frankly, I did not realize this university had made such a name for itself in the innovation, entrepreneurship, and tech space. UTD is ranked #19 in the ... Continue reading [Can't Stop Won't Stop: UT Dallas' 2017 Big Idea Competition](#)

Richardson Living: Even for those who have heard the full-throttle, make-it-happen message of Guy Kawasaki, there's nothing quite like hearing him live. The Silicon Valley visionary, "brand evangelist" for Apple, Mercedes-Benz and Canva, and venture capitalist who started garage.com, is speaking at The University of Texas at Dallas on Nov. 16.

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Ten teams have made it to the final event in our university business idea pitch competition open to alumni, current students, and faculty researchers. They will compete for \$170,000 in cash and scholarship prizes. The competition is hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, an interdisciplinary division of the Naveen Jindal School of Management. ... Continue reading [Meet This Year's Big Idea Competition Finalists](#)

Large corporations are increasingly looking to the principles of lean startups to help develop new business ideas and spur innovation. Such is the case with IgniteConnex Inc., a subsidiary of technology consulting company CG Infinity set up to incubate new companies. CG Infinity has now partnered with several faculty at the Naveen Jindal School of Management ... Continue reading [New Internship Program Stresses Innovation](#)

When Zain Kalson BS'22 and his dad initially set out to solve the problem of high-conflict divorces—situations where one party drives the conflict—their original vision was a support group. Kalson says these divorces make up roughly 15 percent of all divorces. “It seemed to be a space where there's a lot of people that are ... Continue reading [Alum Launches AI-Powered Legal Tech Company](#)

We are very excited to add Leon Jacobson to our team! Though he may seem new, Leon is a very familiar face among members of our staff. In 2022 Leon earned his MBA with a concentration in both entrepreneurship and marketing from UT Dallas while working on his own startup company. We asked Leon a ... Continue reading [Meet Our New Assistant Director: Leon Jacobson](#)

UTD entrepreneurs, Rahul Madhugiri BS'23 and Sofia Babool BS'22 understand what it takes to launch a venture while still in college. But as natural problem solvers, there was something missing about their collegiate entrepreneurship experience. “We have a lot of startup resources on campus that are staff and faculty-led, but none seem to be student-led,” ... Continue reading [First Student-Run Accelerator Launches to Advance Early-Stage Ideas](#)

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Dallas Morning News: The University of Texas at Dallas is teaming up with the City of Richardson on what is hoped to be a transformational project.

Dallas Innovates: The Capital One and UT Dallas event brings together young female students with the goal of inspiring them to pursue their interests in fields such as science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. This year, new activities also taught attendees how to create logos for their personal brand and prepare for future job interviews.

UTD News Center: The Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars network has helped open the door to entrepreneurship for students at The University of Texas at Dallas.

UT Dallas News Center: The Blackstone Charitable Foundation announced today the expansion of its signature Blackstone LaunchPad student entrepreneurship programming from two to eight campuses in The University of Texas System, bringing the initiative's network and resources to a more diverse set of students.

UT System: Across the 14 UT institutions, research and development expenditures total \$3.1 billion – the second highest among U.S. public higher education systems.

Inside JSOM: In the not-so-distant future, autonomous vehicles will dominate the roads and drastically reduce traffic accidents, injuries and deaths.

North Texas Inno: Referred to broadly as social impact businesses, these startups and nonprofits aren't just focused on numbers and spreadsheets, but also on trying to make the world a better place. In North Texas, these impact-driven entrepreneurs come from a number of different industries, but all look to combine passion and profit to make ... Continue reading 5 Social Impact Startups to Watch in North Texas

Dallas Innovates: UT Dallas' largest startup pitch competition allowed six student teams to present their business ideas. See who took home the prize money.

Princeton Review: The Princeton Review® and Entrepreneur magazine today announced the results of The Princeton Review's 14th annual survey naming the top undergraduate and graduate schools for entrepreneurship studies.

Inside Jindal: Women from across North Texas recently converged on the campus of The University of Texas at Dallas to learn about entrepreneurship. For those who attended — three students in particular — the Women's Summit presented a great opportunity for education, inspiration, and empowerment.

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Debuff is a software application that helps esports players track stats and matches on Electronic Arts' Apex Legends. Co-founder and CEO John Kahn (BA'19) sat down with us to discuss his latest venture.

Tell us about your new startup, Debuff

The app is just a small piece of what we do. Our company's aim is to create an ecosystem for the esports industry. We want to solve the disconnected and overloaded information in Esports across communities. Nothing really works "together" in esports. People easily feel lost and overwhelmed when they have to visit varying websites for information and data. The app is the first step to that. It acts as the portal to interact in esports. We analyze and collect the best information to keep viewers and gamers involved and informed of the performances of players in tournaments.

How has the transition been from your corporate job at American Airlines to the startup world?

We started Debuff while I was still working full-time at American Airlines. I was making good money with good benefits but it was beginning to become challenging to manage both. I started to realize that I could no longer try to keep building my startup on the side. After leaving, I worked for about eight months full-time on a drone startup. Getting back into startups lit the spark in me again because I really gravitate to that. My team and I decided to really get Debuff up and running this past August.

You've probably been working on this venture for some time, how did you begin building Debuff?

We've had this idea since 2019. When we started working on the app we began to realize we couldn't do it as a side project. It's really a full-time job to build something this big. Actually, there was a period of time when we didn't add any new features to the app because we simply weren't available to put 100% in due to our other work responsibilities. Now, that I am full-time we are making tremendous progress.

You're live on the app store. Now what?

We would like to scale up Debuff to be like the Olympics of esports. Except for tracking the performance of the tournaments, we would love to start linking data across games. It provides the viewers and gamers with more thorough analysis but also opens communication across esports communities.

What advice do you have for students who are interested in starting their own business?

First, find the smallest piece you can put out that gives value to get started. Don't worry too much about the 5-year plan for now. Focusing on the smallest piece of your business is the first step in building a business. Second, if there is something that you know you can't do or that you don't know how to do, you have to believe that you can find the right person to do it. At the end of the day, it's about having the belief in yourself that you can work it out.

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UTD Alumni Relations: Jackson Brougher PhD'22 completed his doctorate in May, but before finishing the degree he was already leading the research efforts of a new pharmacology startup he co-founded as the company's chief science officer.

Dallas Observer: North Texas beer drinkers rejoice. The long wait is finally over. Peticolas, the beloved Dallas brewery, is making three of its beers available in stores throughout North Texas.

UTD Magazine: The University of Texas at Dallas alumnus founded a company to put cutting-edge genomics to work in forensics by teaming up with partners both public and private to answer unresolved questions of identity, particularly in the arena of law enforcement.

Jindal News: The Dallas Business Journal has named an alumna of the Naveen Jindal School of Management among its 40 Under 40 2022 honorees.

New York Times: Some veterans have started businesses that draw from their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, and thrived.

Canvas Rebel: We caught up with the brilliant and insightful Heidi Rasmussen a few weeks ago and have shared our conversation below.

Dallas Innovates: Dallas-based nonprofit accelerator Impact Ventures has unveiled the lineup of its latest cohort, made up of nearly 20 companies.

NTX Inno: ShearShare has burst onto the startup scene in Buffalo over the past three months, hosting events, unveiling a new version of its software and hiring local employees.

Buffalo Rising: ShearShare – a beauty tech startup – recently relocated to Buffalo from Dallas, Texas.

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The GalXc women's accelerator provides education, training, networking and mentoring to a cohort of women. Participants develop skills and competencies to become effective business leaders and founders of high-achieving startups.

This 8-week program covers the following topics:

Guest speakers, subject matter experts, and mentors are included throughout the program. The program concludes with a pitch competition.

Participation in GalXc is open to all currently-enrolled students of any classification/major. UT Dallas staff, faculty, and alumni are also welcome to participate.

Fall 2022 dates will be announced soon. Please check back in August for the updated schedule and application.

Leah Frazier

Owner, Think Three Media

Leah Frazier is a leading FashionPreneur™ and was recognized as one of Dallas' most successful women for 2015. In addition to this elite recognition, Leah received the "Rising Star" award for fashion blogging by Fashion Group International of Dallas in 2017, and was also nominated as one of the "Best Journalists of 2017" by Cosign Magazine. In 2018, Leah was awarded the "Startup Evangelist of the Year" honor by The Dallas Entrepreneur Center, and also "Best Stylist of 2018" by Cosign Magazine. She is a multi-licensed attorney turned fashion guru, who unapologetically left the practice of law to pursue her fashion ventures.

Leah has built a multi-faceted empire as an award-winning fashion journalist, media personality, celebrity stylist, digital marketing expert, and in-demand fashion consultant to notable brands. She has been nominated as one of the best wardrobe stylists in Dallas, and recently led the styling initiatives for the Emmy and 5-time Addy Award-Winning #IAMUP campaign for WFAA Channel 8.

Leah is also the proud owner of Think Three Media – a creative marketing agency focused in the areas of content marketing, social media marketing, and public relations services for brands spanning the industries of fashion, beauty, public speaking, the performing arts, food, lifestyle, and more.

Leah has been featured on Vogue.com, NBC, CW, CBS Local, Chase TV, Fox TV, Good Morning Texas, Haute Living Magazine, and many other outlets as an expert in fashion. Leah has cultivated top-tier partnerships with Belk, Cantu Beauty, Marshall's, Via Spiga, Vogue, Brahmin, Neiman Marcus, Warner Bros., Shoedazzle, Yosi Samra Shoes, and more.

Leah has co-authored her first book, “The Success Factor,” which reached #1 as a best seller for Women and Business reads, and was also awarded an African-American Literary Award for 2018.

A business accelerator is a fixed-term, cohort-based program that gives developing companies access to mentorship, educational components, and other support that help them become stable, self-sufficient businesses.

Are you a UT Dallas student with a business idea and you want to test out? Do you need help identifying your target market or figuring out your business plan? If you need help fine tuning your business model or revenue model, or you are a first-time entrepreneur wanting to hone your skills from proven entrepreneurs, then this program could be perfect for you. That being said, you get what you put in. We can’t (and won’t) start the business for you. We can’t (and won’t) do all of the research and customer discovery for you. We can (AND WILL) teach you how to do it and support you along the way!

You will develop an entrepreneurial mindset, specifically skills such as creativity, persuasiveness, resourcefulness, problem solving, communication skills, leadership skills, collaboration/teamwork skills, presentation skills, and more. GalXc has received over 450 applications since launch in spring 2019 and has an average of 30 participants each semester. GalXc participants have gone on to compete in the UT Dallas Big Idea Competition and other state, national, and international competitions. 100% of feedback survey respondents agreed that the program added to their college experience at UT Dallas.

No, this is an experiential program that does not qualify for academic credit.

Any currently enrolled UT Dallas student, any classification (Freshman to PHD) and all majors are welcome. UT Dallas alumni, staff, and faculty may also participate. GalXc is intended for women or for those who identify as women in an effort to create a comfortable and collaborative environment, however all gender identities are welcome.

Probably not but you are welcome to bring your own. If we have a sponsor to provide funding for food, then we will provide it.

The program is offered in the spring and fall semesters. Please see the dates tab for specific information each semester.

The Blackstone LaunchPad located on campus at 2830 Rutford Ave, the ground floor of the PS3 parking garage next to Taco Bell Cantina.

GalXc meets once per week for 2 hours for 8 weeks.

GalXc covers the following topics:

There is a significant cost for the entrepreneurial programs, resources, and support provided by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship each year, at no charge, free to you — our students and the UTD community. We do this because we believe it will lead to significant economic value, as your venture is able to generate revenues and hire employees. But, in order to continue offering these programs, the “cost” to you is the data about your startup’s progress instead of a financial cost. By providing information about your venture, you help us communicate and demonstrate the impact we are making to our stakeholders. Some of the key factors we need to measure include job creation and revenue.

If you are a student, then the short answer is no – please see Section 6 in the link below for more details. If you are a faculty member, researcher, or are employed by the university, there may be some intellectual property rights to consider. More information here: <https://cms.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/90101-intellectual-property>. Please contact Dresden Goldberg if you are unsure: dresden.goldberg@utdallas.edu

I was hesitant applying to GalXc because I really wanted to learn more about entrepreneurship, but I didn't have a business or clear idea. I am so glad I joined the program because it really changed the trajectory of the rest of my time at UTD. It made me pull together a business concept and pitch deck, which I had never done before and also pitch for the first time. I ended up winning 3rd place in the GalXc pitch competition. It wasn't even about the money so much as feeling like I can actually do this and move it forward because someone liked it and believed in it. IDA is now in the middle of our pilot/beta stage. We are working on increasing users for a later launch and building out the rest of the features. It was approximately a year ago that I was in GalXc getting ready to pitch this. I am so grateful that I got to be part of the 1st cohort because it changed everything!

I had an amazing learning experience taking part in the GalXc program, an 8-week accelerator program for women entrepreneurs at The University of Texas at Dallas. We learned about developing our business ideas, differentiating and innovating, marketing our ideas, fundraising, managing legalities, among many other things. It was also very inspiring to be able to meet successful entrepreneurs who shared with us their stories of how they made it happen. Additionally, I loved meeting with experienced investors and mentors who gave us valuable feedback on our pitches. The program helped me to develop my idea and enhance my entrepreneurial and presentation skills, as I came in Third place for the pitching competition. Overall, I would highly recommend it to any budding entrepreneur looking to start their own business.

I participated in a GalXc pitch competition after completing the 2-month GalXc program, where I learned various aspects of starting a startup. By the pitch competition, I felt my concepts of startup building have advanced. Particularly, the very important startup idea pitching skill I've gained helped me win the second place in the competition.

The LaunchPad network helps students succeed in entrepreneurship and in their careers. Available to over 750,000 college students, LaunchPad is designed to complement existing on-campus entrepreneurship resources, catalyze student ventures through connections to off-campus opportunities, and convene students and staff at global events leveraging our world-class, industry-leading mentors, networks, and brands. LaunchPad transforms students into entrepreneurs.

We believe the energy transformation is the greatest opportunity of our lifetime and will need breakthrough technologies to solve systemic problems in a profitable and scalable way.

At Palio's – Richardson, we are proud to serve our local Richardson community. From being active in sponsoring local events, sports teams, and schools to helping organizations with fundraising, we strive to help the Richardson community thrive, all while serving the best gourmet pizza, pasta, sandwiches & salads in town!

If you are interested in or have any questions about GalXc, please contact:

Anricka Ziller

anricka.ziller@utdallas.edu

Strategic Events Manager

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The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship offers a wide range of exceptional innovation and entrepreneurship academic programs at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Our courses blend state-of-the-art curriculum with experiential learning in a flexible format that allows each student to tailor their degree to meet their needs.

Undergraduate Courses

Graduate Courses

The Naveen Jindal School of Management offers 12 courses in innovation and entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level. Students receive a solid foundation in the management disciplines essential to innovation with specific focus on the tools, techniques and skills required to develop and lead product, service and business model innovation.

The Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MSIE) degree program provides a solid foundation in the management disciplines essential to innovation with specific focus on the tools, techniques and skills required to develop and lead product, service and business model innovation. The MSIE degree is designed to complement baccalaureate or advanced degrees in business, engineering, science or the arts.

Any UT Dallas undergraduate student may earn a minor degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, regardless of the degree that student is pursuing. A minor requires 18 hours of coursework.

If you have questions regarding our academic programs in innovation and entrepreneurship, please do not hesitate to contact us at innovation.utdallas.edu.

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Try looking in the monthly archives. :)

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Dallas Innovates: This year's competition culminated with an awards ceremony during Global Entrepreneurship Week that featured a conversation with Ross Perot Jr. and Anurag Jain on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in North Texas.

Every day we get to work with brilliant minds building, molding, and shaping a better tomorrow. We love to celebrate our Comet entrepreneurs. But it's not often we get to bring attention to those who put country first. In observance of Veterans Day, we wanted to celebrate a few of our Comet entrepreneurs who returned ... Continue reading Comet Started. Veteran Owned.

As an artist and aspiring animator, I know the value of motion graphics firsthand, but did you know that it's also an invaluable tool you can use as an entrepreneur to grow your venture? What exactly are motion graphics? Motion graphics are simply described as, "pieces of animation or digital footage which create the illusion ... Continue reading Are you integrating motion graphics into your marketing plan?

It's back! The UT Dallas Big Idea Competition is back and bigger than ever. 20 startup founders are competing for over \$350,000 in cash and scholarship prizes at the university's largest startup pitch competition. Below are the students, alumni, and researchers competing in the 4 categories that make up this year's competition. Let's meet them: Watch ... Continue reading Meet the Finalists Pitching at the Big Idea Competition

Community Impact: As the tech industry continues to boom in North Texas, The University of Texas at Dallas is zeroing in on programs aimed at preparing the next generation of students to enter the workforce.

In today's digital age, podcasts are a dime a dozen, and it can be hard to find one that really strikes your fancy as a budding entrepreneur. an entrepreneur. That's why we have curated 5 amazing business podcasts for entrepreneurs to listen to, that will surely inspire and help you in running your own business. ... Continue reading Top 5 Podcasts for Entrepreneurs

While studying at UT Dallas, Leezen Amatya BS'15, Daniel Flores BS'15, and Thang Duong BS'15 began selling Nepalese dumplings (called 'momos') at pop-up events throughout Dallas. In 2018, they took a leap and pitched their food concept in the finals of the Big Idea Competition – they were a hit. We met up with Leezen ... Continue reading Catching up with Momo Shack

UTD News Center: An innovative technology transfer collaboration has enabled sensor research from The University of Texas at Dallas to be leveraged into a potential rapid, at-home COVID-19 testing device.

NTX Inno: To highlight the young entrepreneurs and techies from across the region, from those still juggling college classed to others running fully-fledged startups, NTX Inno has compiled a list of some of the most promising and accomplished innovators poised to shape the local ecosystem and beyond

UT Dallas Magazine: University of Texas at Dallas alumni stepped up to help early in the crisis, using their time and talents to provide solutions during one of the nation's most difficult challenges.

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– Duyen Nguyen, BS'22 Accounting

– Chukwudi Ukonne, MBA'24 & MS'24 Innovation & Entrepreneurship

Duyen and I (Chukwudi) both participated in the inaugural cohort of the Blackstone LaunchPad Bridge Venture Fellowship (BVF). After a 3-week period, where we both received training, mentorship, and resources centered around the startup and venture capital industry, we met in person at the concluding event; a mixer that took place at Capital Factory in Austin. At this event, we got to interact and network with fellow BVF participants from other UT System institutions, our mentors, and sundry industry professionals. It was great fun, and we returned to Dallas the following day to resume our regular academic schedules and put what we had learned into practice. A few days ago, Duyen and I reconnected to talk about what we had been up to in the months since the Fellowship ended, and whether we had the opportunity to put what we had learned into practice. We spoke about her extremely busy schedule; how she balances her academic life with a promising professional career she just started with a multinational company.

"It's been so busy," she said. "I started my internship as an auditor a few weeks back and I'm also taking three summer classes, with assignments and exams upcoming. But everything's working out great nonetheless."

I told her about my marketing internship with the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, an opportunity I was able to leverage because of my participation in the Bridge Venture Fellowship.

“It’s been really tasking, but it’s been incredibly insightful so far. I’m learning a lot, working with excellent people, and being exposed to the world of innovation and entrepreneurship. Also, as a beneficiary of the programs offered by the IIE, I’m able to offer some insights on how the institute’s processes can be improved on what students expect from such programs.”

We also spoke about how we had each been applying our learnings from the BVF in our current roles. Duyen mentioned that though she hadn’t found an opportunity to directly apply what she had learned, the BVF was opening doors for her in different ways.

“Just having this Fellowship on your resume makes for a great talking point and has definitely given me access to a lot of professional opportunities. It also shows potential future employers that I’m motivated and driven, so it gives me a professional edge.

I’m also better able to network more effectively and strategically, a skill I learned as a Fellow.’ I still have plans to immerse myself in the world of VC and startups after I graduate in a few months, but the fellowship is already proving valuable to me in other ways.”

For me, one of the most impactful ideas behind the BVF was the diversity. Our cohort had such a diverse background of academic and professional experiences; from people in the medical sciences to engineering students and English majors. I saw people who took unconventional paths to entrepreneurship and was inspired to believe I could too.

The Bridge Venture Fellowship is a 3-week paid learning opportunity for historically excluded students to learn about venture capital and network with peers and industry professionals. The virtual bootcamp is open to 20 students across the UT System schools and culminates in an in-person recruitment mixer in Austin with Texas-based venture capital firms.

The Bridge Venture Fellowship program supports students who have not previously had opportunities to learn about venture capital and encourages Black, Latinx, women, LGBTQ+ students, and those who support them to apply. BVF hosts inclusive, accessible programming that facilitates all individuals, including members of the disability community.

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Bonsai founder Shashank Kumar won \$10,000 for his pitch.

Out of more than 130 student entrepreneurial teams from schools across the Blackstone LaunchPad network, one UT Dallas student impressed the judges on the mainstage of the 2022 Startup Grind Global Conference.

Shashank Vinay Kumar, founder of Bonsai, placed third, winning \$10,000. Through Bonsai, Shashank hopes to revolutionize the world of customer engagement through an AI-tool that automates and assists customer support teams.

Customer service requests often take longer than necessary because the agent doesn't know the answer, and has to spend time searching through the company's database to find the right information. Bonsai's AI-system searches a company's database to find the right answer, reducing a 20-minute ticket to two minutes.

"We are thrilled to be the third-place winners and share Bonsai's mission at the Startup Grind Global Conference! We are grateful for the opportunities provided by the Blackstone LaunchPad and hope our journey inspires future young entrepreneurs. I'd like to thank my co-founders, Jatin Kumar and Pritivi Rajkumar, and the amazing team at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT Dallas for their unwavering support and commitment to fostering the next generation of entrepreneurs," said Shashank, a computer science junior in the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

"We were so impressed by the creativity of the ideas and the quality of presentations at this year's Blackstone LaunchPad Annual Pitch Competition," said Blackstone Charitable Foundation Board Chair Amy Stursberg. "It's inspiring to see such diversity of ideas and commitment to solving problems through entrepreneurship."

Akeem and Marquee were one of five student teams selected to pitch in a live final round, after a month of coaching from Blackstone LaunchPad ambassadors. The finals were held live on the mainstage of the Startup Grind Global Conference in Silicon Valley, California.

The all-woman panel of judges included Kelly Burton, Executive Director at Black Innovation Alliance, Kelsey Davis, Founder & CEO of CLLCTVE and Syracuse LaunchPad Alum, Christine Feng, Senior Managing Director at Blackstone, and Amy Stursberg.

These judges assessed finalists on both the quality of their pitch and their investability – how viable the business model was, how innovative the idea, the size of the market, existing traction, and the strength

of the team and founder-market fit. Over \$50,000 in cash and in-kind prizes were awarded to all five student teams. (The prize awards will be paid to the student entrepreneur(s) in recognition of their achievements in preparing for and participating in the pitch competition. There is no obligation to use the prize proceeds for any particular purpose.)

“The entrepreneurial skills that students learn through the Pitch Competition, including creative problem-solving and persuasive storytelling, will benefit them throughout their careers,” said Blackstone Charitable Foundation Executive Director Maura Pally. “Whether they focus on building their startups or choose another path, we are excited to see where their enormous talent and skills lead them.”

First place, \$20,000: NuLife Kicks, Akeem Anifowoshe and Marquee Anifowoshe, College of Southern Nevada

NuLife Kicks hopes to pioneer the sneaker restoration trade through both a line of sneaker care products and a business model to develop and train other entrepreneurs in sneaker-care techniques.

Second place, \$15,000: StaffOnTap, Kayla Foley, Cornell

StaffOnTap wants to make a difference for seniors, nurses, and nursing homes by connecting understaffed nursing homes to temporary nurses at an affordable price.

Third place, \$10,000: Bonsai, Shashank Kumar, UT Dallas

Bonsai is seeking to revolutionize the world of customer engagement through an AI-tool that automates and assists customer support teams.

Fourth place, \$5,000: Mindsets & Milestones, Diondraya Taylor, UCLA

Mindsets & Milestones is using entrepreneurial education to help equip the next generation of young women with the skills and self-confidence to succeed in reaching their goals.

Fifth place, \$2,500: SPORA, Andrea Paz Lacavex, UC Santa Cruz

SPORA, or “Sociology, Planning, and Optimal Restoration of Algae,” is producing Green Gravel in hopes of making the reforestation of kelp forest ecosystems more accessible and scalable.

For more information about UT Dallas LaunchPad, please visit innovation.utdallas.edu/programs/blackstone-launchpad. Learn more about the broader Blackstone LaunchPad network at www.blackstonelaunchpad.org.

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We're excited to announce that Bonsai, co-founded by Shashank Vinay Kumar (BS'22), is one of 28 student-led teams headed to California to pitch in the semi-finals of the 2022 Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition during the Startup Grind Global Conference.

Bonsai, which only just launched in 2020, is developing a ticket-resolution and lead-generation tool that uses machine learning. If the name Bonsai sounds familiar, it's because the team took home the first-place \$25,000 prize in the student track of the 2021 UT Dallas Big Idea Competition last fall.

The 28 student teams from 24 network schools were selected from a nomination pool of over 130 startups. These students represent the top candidates based on four criteria: Innovation, Business Model and Viability, Team, and Pitch Quality. They will compete to be one of five finalists pitching for a chance to win a total of over \$50,000 in prize money and in-kind prizes.

For more information about the UT Dallas LaunchPad, please visit innovation.utdallas.edu. Learn more about the broader Blackstone LaunchPad network at blackstonelaunchpad.org.

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Sofia Babool BS'22 only just launched her tutoring service in the fall and already she's hit positive cash flow. Her company, Bright Owl is a virtual tutoring company that focuses on providing children with subject-specific homework help, test preparation, and college advising. Sofia, who is earning her undergraduate degree in neuroscience, has been participating in university startup programming like the GalXc Accelerator and the UTD Big Idea Competition, as well as national offerings like EO GSEA and Hello Alice Small Business Growth Fund where she has been awarded over \$10K in prize earnings.

How does your tutoring service work?

We first begin with a free diagnostic assessment that analyzes the current academic strengths/gaps of each student. We then conduct a student profile test that assesses the personality traits, hobbies, and interests of each student so we can find a tutor that overlaps, not just academic gaps, but other important qualities that make up a foundational teacher-student relationship. After 6 months, we reassess the student to ensure that progress is being made through a second academic assessment.

What's your "why?"

Our work stems from the desire to change the negative stigma that surrounds tutoring as a crutch for struggling academic students, to one that focuses on celebrating the want for a student to unlock their full academic potential. Tutoring has often carried the aura of "weak students needing help." We believe tutoring is for the brave and bold who want to further educate themselves to bring out their full potential

As a student who always needed extra tutoring, I was often quiet about publicizing my need for academic support; today, I believe that those who engage in extra tutoring should be proud of their strengths and the self-recognition that they have much to improve on. The social impact we are creating through this mindset switch will, hopefully, encourage thousands of students to celebrate their strengths and improvement areas, unafraid of what others may say.

Gives us an update on your company, what's in the works?

Currently, we are a cash-flow positive business with 60+ students and hope to scale within other regions of the USA/Canada within the next 2 years (they already have clients in Texas, California, Canada, Oklahoma, and Florida). With additional funding, we also hope to make our diagnostic assessment and tutor/student profile matching service completely AI-driven. By involving machine learning, we'd be able to enhance our relationship with each customer by providing data-driven tutoring that monitors our students' progress.

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As an artist and aspiring animator, I know the value of motion graphics firsthand, but did you know that it's also an invaluable tool you can use as an entrepreneur to grow your venture?

What exactly are motion graphics?

Motion graphics are simply described as, "pieces of animation or digital footage which create the illusion of motion or rotation and are usually combined with audio for use in multimedia projects." Motion graphics animation usually features shapes, objects or text that are being set in motion. "What does that look like you might ask? Let's take the Institute's logo and give it some movement.

Why is this so valuable?

The way in which people consume information is changing and that means your marketing strategy needs to begin adapting to this change if you're going to succeed at reaching your various stakeholders/consumers.

In a recent statement by Adam Mosseri, the CEO of Instagram, he states, "we're no longer a photo-sharing app or a square photo-sharing app..." "There's some really serious competition right now. TikTok is huge, YouTube is even bigger. People are looking to Instagram to be entertained."

Video advertising strays from the cheesy car salesman pitches of the past and leans towards the Pixar-like storytelling that's made Disney an animation powerhouse. Using elements like the tone of a narrator's voice, music, color theory, and the stylistic movement of the animations can create a strong digital brand identity. This is a chance to build a world your target audience wants to be a part of. For example, maybe you are trying to attract supernatural buffs, try dark colors with green hues, blurry shadows and glowing eyes, the sound of leaves crunching and distant howling, and have a narrator that sounds straight out of ghost adventurers.

How can YOU integrate motion graphics into your overall startup strategy?

As I mentioned earlier, motion graphics can illustrate complex ideas visually, so the use of them can be quite extensive.

Say you're developing a complex neurological device that can be implanted into the brain. Instead of filling your pitch deck with stagnant images and too many words, you could create an animated video that visually guides people through the surgical process of implanting your device. Creating "how to videos," promotional product videos/animations and GIFS are all forms of video content that can be used to convey your message to a particular audience – whether it be VC's or your target market. Here's another example: you're a service-provider and you want consumers to understand how they can get from "I have a problem" to "someone is coming to fix the problem," using your app. I know you've seen this type of video before, it's the classic "how-to" and it's a very effective way to communicate both the use of your app and the functionality of your product – you can't go wrong there.

To round out our conversation, I'll mention one last thing, especially if you aren't convinced yet that motion graphics are the way to go. One of the best qualities of motion graphics is its ability to be used on multiple platforms. You can reuse this content on your social media channels and even your website. I suppose this is why they say, "content is king!"

About the Author: Jared Beltran, BA'22

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It's back! The UT Dallas Big Idea Competition is back and bigger than ever. 20 startup founders are competing for over \$350,000 in cash and scholarship prizes at the university's largest startup pitch competition. Below are the students, alumni, and researchers competing in the 4 categories that make up this year's competition. Let's meet them: Watch ... Continue reading Meet the Finalists Pitching at the Big Idea Competition

In today's digital age, podcasts are a dime a dozen, and it can be hard to find one that really strikes your fancy as a budding entrepreneur. an entrepreneur. That's why we have curated 5 amazing business podcasts for entrepreneurs to listen to, that will surely inspire and help you in running your own business. ... Continue reading Top 5 Podcasts for Entrepreneurs

UT Dallas Alumni News: As the CEO and co-founder of Unthink Inc. and YFret Inc., Tina Mani MS'95 has spent years navigating the ups and downs of entrepreneurship.

JSOM Perspectives: The OWLIE Award stands for Outstanding Worthy Leaders Involved Exceptionally. This annual awards event provides a unique platform to recognize students, faculty, staff, mentors, alumni and supporters for their exceptional service on behalf of the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

The Mercury: For business administration and marketing junior Johnathon Jones, his beef jerky business – Jerky Jones – is more than just a side gig: it's a connection to family and his place in the military community.

NTX Inno: A little less than a year after launching, the founders of Campus Oven are looking to sell the startup.

UTD News Center: A University of Texas at Dallas graduate student is developing biosensors to help physicians make faster decisions that could save patients' lives.

NTX Inno: While they weren't packed into the auditorium at UT Dallas this year, hundreds tuned in remotely to the university's Big Idea Competition, where more than \$200,000 in prizes was up for grabs.

Inside Jindal: Marketing senior Varika Pinnam won two major student awards in September — 2020 Student Entrepreneur at Dallas Startup Week and Collegiate Marketer of the Year from the DFW chapter of the American Marketing Association.

The Mercury: Student initiatives range from providing food for frontline workers to technology accessible for the visually impaired.

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Wanting to create an event that would encourage and showcase the real-world problem-solving and creative solutions of the universities employees, the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship created the university's first "Staff Ideas Competition" this summer. Over 60 people participated in workshops and training sessions in June and July to develop and communicate their product and ... Continue reading [We Ran an Ideas Competition for Staff Over the Summer. Here's How it Went.](#)

UTD Alumni Relations: Jackson Brougher PhD'22 completed his doctorate in May, but before finishing the degree he was already leading the research efforts of a new pharmacology startup he co-founded as the company's chief science officer.

Dallas Observer: North Texas beer drinkers rejoice. The long wait is finally over. Peticolas, the beloved Dallas brewery, is making three of its beers available in stores throughout North Texas.

- Duyen Nguyen, BS'22 Accounting - Chukwudi Ukonne, MBA'24 & MS'24 Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Duyen and I (Chukwudi) both participated in the inaugural cohort of the Blackstone LaunchPad Bridge Venture Fellowship (BVF). After a 3-week period, where we both received training, mentorship, and resources centered around the startup and venture capital industry, we met in ... Continue reading 'My Participation in the Bridge Venture Fellowship is Already Opening Doors for me'

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Ivan Cerino (MS'21, MBA'23) has a background in biomedical engineering, but after attempting to launch two startups in Mexico he found himself in the US working in software development. But that itch to jump into startups again led him to UT Dallas where he could earn his MBA and learn more about the entrepreneurial ecosystem ... Continue reading [How I Landed an Internship at a Venture Capital Firm](#)

Debuff is a software application that helps esports players track stats and matches on Electronic Arts' Apex Legends. Co-founder and CEO John Kahn (BA'19) sat down with us to discuss his latest venture. Tell us about your new startup, Debuff The app is just a small piece of what we do. Our company's aim is to ... Continue reading [How this alum is trying to create a unified ecosystem for the esports industry](#)

Four student teams from UTD have been selected to move forward to the national round of the Blackstone LaunchPad x StartupTree Ideas Competition. The competition, taking place 100% virtually, gives students with just an idea the chance to win up to \$10,000 to start the next big thing. Applicants needed to be current students (undergraduate ... Continue reading [Meet the Comets Moving Through to National LaunchPad Ideas Competition](#)

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Dallas Innovates: Powered by Capital One in partnership with The Dallas Entrepreneur Center and UT Dallas, the Women's Summit gathered hundreds of women for personal testimonies, hands-on workshops, and business building. It also coincided with Women's Entrepreneurship Week.

UT Dallas News Center: Three graduate students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management at The University of Texas at Dallas have turned their passions into entrepreneurial ventures and in turn have each been rewarded with a \$15,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation.

Yahoo Finance: Rally for Safety, the wearable emergency alerting button and mobile app, with a core mission to help end sexual assault and rape on college campuses, announced that it has partnered with The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (the Institute) at the University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) for a pilot program focused on the ... Continue reading Rally for Safety Launches 100 Student-focused Pilot Program with The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT-Dallas

Dallas Business Journal: The Innovate(her) program at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Texas at Dallas is a free one-day program for middle school girls to learn about STEM-related topics such as technology and finance.

Inside JSOM: Had he not plugged into the innovation and entrepreneurship program at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, software engineering senior Brian Hoang would likely be headed for a programming career after graduation on May 15.

Inside JSOM: In less than two years, marketing major Varika Pinnam turned her sweet-smelling beauty hack into a fast-selling facial serum.

Inside JSOM: The University of Texas at Dallas kicked off its annual Earth Week festivities with several events on Earth Day, April 22. Prominent among these was the Earth Entrepreneurship Forum, during which speakers discussed the past, present and future of the energy sector.

Inside JSOM: Mark Candella is on a mission to make esports a mainstream industry and to empower its participants. Known as Garvey in the gaming community, he visited Dallas April 2 to deliver the keynote presentation at the second annual Emerging Technologies — EmTech — Summit.

Dallas Innovates: North Texas startups have the opportunity to take place in an emerging industry, experts say. Here's what founders need to know about finding funding and the future of esports.

Inside JSOM: A recent UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship event demonstrated the institute's commitment to enabling the next generation of new ventures by presenting a topic of burgeoning, yet unconventional, interest — the surging market in growing and selling cannabis.

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Max-IR Labs, a developer of infrared sensors for industrial process control and biochemical analysis, announced plans for field demonstration and testing of its ISMIRTM technology. On Monday, Jan. 17th, Max-IR Labs, a member of the UT Dallas Venture Development Center, initiated field testing of its patented sensor technology at a local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). ... Continue reading [Max-IR Labs Moves its Sensor Technology from Lab to Field](#)

Dallas Innovates: The Energy-as-a-Service company expects to put the new cash into sales, marketing, project execution, and software development talent in order to further its mission of industrial emissions reductions by funding and de-risking capital projects geared toward reducing carbon emissions caused by process heat.

UT Dallas News: With assistance from University of Texas at Dallas engineering students, one of the University's spinoff companies is developing a flexible and more accurate 3D-printed nasopharyngeal swab for infectious disease testing.

Every day we get to work with brilliant minds building, molding, and shaping a better tomorrow. We love to celebrate our Comet entrepreneurs. But it's not often we get to bring attention to those who put country first. In observance of Veterans Day, we wanted to celebrate a few of our Comet entrepreneurs who returned ... Continue reading Comet Started. Veteran Owned.

While studying at UT Dallas, Leezen Amatya BS'15, Daniel Flores BS'15, and Thang Duong BS'15 began selling Nepalese dumplings (called 'momos') at pop-up events throughout Dallas. In 2018, they took a leap and pitched their food concept in the finals of the Big Idea Competition – they were a hit. We met up with Leezen ... Continue reading Catching up with Momo Shack

NTX Inno: To highlight the young entrepreneurs and techies from across the region, from those still juggling college classed to others running fully-fledged startups, NTX Inno has compiled a list of some of the most promising and accomplished innovators poised to shape the local ecosystem and beyond

UT Dallas Magazine: University of Texas at Dallas alumni stepped up to help early in the crisis, using their time and talents to provide solutions during one of the nation's most difficult challenges.

UTD Alumni Relations: Tacos, quesadillas, ceviche — the dishes Mollie Guerra BS'13 serves through her pop-ups and meal-prep business may sound common. But the ingredients the Dallas chef incorporates into these otherwise ordinary items are anything but.

UT Dallas Alumni News: As the CEO and co-founder of Unthink Inc. and YFret Inc., Tina Mani MS'95 has spent years navigating the ups and downs of entrepreneurship.

UTD News Center: Adaptive3D was acquired by Desktop Metal Inc., an industry leader in additive manufacturing based in Burlington, Massachusetts, in a deal announced in May.

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Every day we get to work with brilliant minds building, molding, and shaping a better tomorrow. We love to celebrate our Comet entrepreneurs. But it's not often we get to bring attention to those who put country first. In observance of Veterans Day, we wanted to celebrate a few of our Comet entrepreneurs who returned to civilian life and built businesses.

Founder & CEO, The Enchanted Rose Floral Company

The Enchanted Rose Floral Company's creates forever wood flowers beautifully crafted from sustainable and environmentally friendly soft woods such as bamboo and tapioca. In 2020, Enchanted Rose officially became certified as a Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) through the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), the nation's largest third-party certifier of businesses owned and operated by women in the US.

Founder, Cameron County Mercantile

After recently returning to her hometown of Emporium, PA., Denyse observed a town that had been economically hit hard by the pandemic. Not one to sit around, she and her husband started Cameron County Mercantile to provide local artists, makers, growers and producers a place to sell their products with no overhead. She works with other local small businesses to create a main street atmosphere in the hopes of enticing tourists driving through the town on their way to the local state parks, dams, and elk viewing stations, to stop and visit. While employed at the university (Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship), Denyse participated in the GalXc accelerator where she received valuable feedback on her idea and learned how to articulate what she wanted to do.

Founder & CEO, Rakkasan Tea Company

While serving tours with the Army's 101st Airborne Division in the Middle East, Brandon was often served tea by locals. In 2017 he launched his premium loose leaf tea company that imports solely from carefully selected estates in post-conflict countries as a way to promote peace and economic growth. RTC's superior tea is delivered the way it was meant to be consumed: Pure and organic, with no added flavors. Since their launch, Rakkasan has been named "Startup Impact Importer of the Year" by the Global Chamber Dallas, received the "Biggest Social Impact" award at the 2019 UTD Big Ideas Competition as well as profiles by The Dallas Morning News, D Magazine, The Dallas Observer, The Dallas Business Journal, Inc. Magazine, and Fresh Cup Magazine.

Founder, Forgot or Knot

Forgot or Knot's mission is to create memorable gift experiences by utilizing their team of shopping experts to hand-deliver gifts for any occasion topped with a personalized video message from the gift sender. Since launching his company in 2019, Jason has represented UT Dallas in the Blackstone LaunchPad Fellowship, an 8-week virtual program for student founders where they receive \$5,000 to support their working on advancing their startups. Most recently, he competed as a finalist in the student track of the UT Dallas Big Idea Competition.

Co-founder, Fifth & Cherry

Tim comes from a long line of fine cabinet makers, but it's what he did with the wood scraps that made him a business owner. Fifth & Cherry crafts long-lasting cutting boards made in the USA from 100% responsibly sourced cherry wood. Each board comes with a lifetime warranty including complimentary refinishing for life to maintain its superior craftsmanship. While earning his dual degrees at UTD, Tim was accepted into the Blackstone LaunchPad Propel program (to represent UTD), a two-day entrepreneurial event held in New York City that included a mentor madness session, where student teams met more than 50 business and industry experts from the Blackstone and Techstars networks. Fifth & Cherry has also partnered with several companies and saw a 500% increase in sales in 2020. One of its new partnerships is with Big Green Egg, a leading producer and international distributor in the barbecue industry.

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It's back! The UT Dallas Big Idea Competition is back and bigger than ever. 20 startup founders are competing for over \$350,000 in cash and scholarship prizes at the university's largest startup pitch competition. Below are the students, alumni, and researchers competing in the 4 categories that make up this year's competition. Let's meet them:

Watch the awards ceremony in person or live streamed on November 9 at 4 pm. Registration is required. Visit https://utd.link/BIC_2021 to learn more.

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In today's digital age, podcasts are a dime a dozen, and it can be hard to find one that really strikes your fancy as a budding entrepreneur. That's why we have curated 5 amazing business podcasts for entrepreneurs to listen to, that will surely inspire and help you in running your own business. While there are many podcasts that focus on business, we've done our best to provide you with variety in each podcast, so there is something for everyone!

"How I Built This" is one of the most popular entrepreneurial podcasts out there right now. Hosted by Guy Raz and produced by NPR, "How I Built This" explores, "innovators, entrepreneurs, idealists, and the stories behind the movements they build." Each episode chronicles a different business' tale of successes and failures, each sharing what they wish they would have known and what they were happy to learn along the way.

Guy Raz interviews some of the world's most successful and well known companies, such as Airbnb, Bumble, BuzzFeed, and Lululemon. The episodes have gripping narratives and are sure to hold listeners' attention, as Guy Raz is an excellent storyteller and interviewer, even called "one of the most popular podcasters in history" by the New York Times. If you are looking to learn about the growth of a company or product that you use on the daily, Raz is your guy.

[Listen to it on Apple or Spotify.](#)

Even if you aren't starting a business of your own, it is always helpful to have sources of passive income to supplement your main source of income. When pioneering your own company, passive income becomes a must have, allowing you to make money while spending more time on pursuing your own business. In this podcast, Pat Flynn teaches his listeners how to maintain and create multiple sources of passive income lifestyle while keeping focus on running and improving your startup.

The podcast covers more than just how to start and maintain passive income. Pat Flynn offers marketing tips, blogging strategies, online business tips, and refers to himself as the “crash dummy of online business,” as Pat explains how to avoid the same pitfalls he fell into when he was getting started.

One of the fan favorite episodes is “SPI 494: Why Online Summits Rock (& How to Run One) with Rob Gelb of HeySummit – Smart Passive Income”. With COVID, many events moved online, including those at UT Dallas. This episode shows you how to properly run online events, which are perfect for startups as they are a lot less hassle and more affordable to run.

Listen to it on Apple or Spotify

It’s undeniable that women in today’s business and entrepreneurial spaces face systematic challenges, and it can be unnecessarily hard to be a female woman entrepreneur. But as it is still hard to be a woman in the 9 to 5 space, with existing the wage gap, lack of sufficient maternity leave, and the effects of COVID on women being laid off, many women decide to go their own way, and start their own business.

“She Did It Her Way” is a podcast about how to be a successful entrepreneur, and it focuses mainly on women in the startup and entrepreneurial worlds. Amanda Boleyn hosts the show and interviews successful women who have made the transition from 9 to 5 workers to successful entrepreneurs. Even if you aren’t a woman, listening to the stories she and the guests share is inspiring, and everyone can benefit from listening to her productivity hacks, business strategies, and how to successfully start your own business while working full time.

Listen to it on Apple or Spotify.

While the other podcasts we have recommended are geared more towards starting out, “Masters of Scale with Reid Hoffman” covers that, as well as how to scale your successful startup into a larger business. Reid Hoffman will give a unique theory each episode on how businesses scale and backs it up with the interview of a successful company.

Even if you do not yet have a business started up, this is a great podcast to listen to if you want to learn about the growth of businesses and is considered a “business podcast that doesn’t sound like a business podcast”.

Masters of Scale was also the first American Media program to be committed to a gender balance for guests, with an even 50/50 split, so you are sure to hear success stories from everyone, not just men.

Listen to it on Apple or Spotify

Nowadays, many of the most successful startups are technology startups, and for good reason. To produce and sell software, you don’t need to have as much investment capital as you would mass producing and selling hardware. All you really need is a good computer, and the skills to create and sell your product. The second part is where many people get hung up, as learning to code can be a big commitment, especially when you are already working a full-time job. Fortunately, that’s where the no-code revolution was born from.

No-code, or “low-code” is a movement where entrepreneurs discovered that they too, can develop apps and software without having to manually code everything out.

“Low Code Ninjas,” hosted by John Koetsier and Peggy Anne Salz, explores some of the success stories of those who were able to successfully create profitable applications without having previous coding experience.

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While studying at UT Dallas, Leezen Amatya BS’15, Daniel Flores BS’15, and Thang Duong BS’15 began selling Nepalese dumplings (called ‘momos’) at pop-up events throughout Dallas. In 2018, they took a leap and pitched their food concept in the finals of the Big Idea Competition – they were a hit. We met up with Leezen recently to see what the crew has been up to.

What has team momo been up to since competing in the 2018 Big Idea Competition? The Big Idea Competition really opened the doors to our big dream – becoming a national brand. Since the competition, we were able to streamline our pop-up operations, started our direct-to-consumer eCommerce store and got into our first retail store by winning Foxtrot’s Up & Comers competition! Simultaneously, we have been focusing on three main categories to grow – the team, the brand and the production.

We understand that this is a marathon, not a sprint, so we put a strong emphasis on personal growth and team dynamic. The more each one of us grows as individuals, the stronger the team becomes.

The importance of brand is crucial to what we do. This involves storytelling, being vulnerable, sharing not only our wins but also our failures (lessons) and being authentic to who we are. The connection we create with our community means a lot to how we run our business.

Since momos are all handmade at the moment, we have been looking at different ways to operationalize production so we can crank out more momos. If we have more momos, we can serve more people and continue towards our big dream.

What was THE moment you knew you had something that people would consume?! (Leezen) have been inadvertently testing the market ever since I moved to the US at the age of 10. Whether it was school or work, I would always take momos for lunch when our family would make them and share with my classmates and coworkers. They would always say that they had never heard of momos before but all it took was one bite. Once they had that first bite, they loved it. This translated to the Dallas Farmers Market when we first started this journey in 2017. We were able to test the concept with a broad variety of customers and when we saw their reactions from the first bite, we knew we had something special steaming.

How did your team deal with Covid? Any setbacks? From the business perspective, Covid really helped us accelerate our CPG journey. For context, we started testing the frozen momo concept in Q4 2019 to see if people would be interested. Then when Covid hit, we were able to quickly launch our e-commerce store from the previous year's experience and began selling frozen momos since in-person events were shut down. This helped us grow our brand and further our reach with more customers. From a personal standpoint, Covid is a lot to process for probably all of us. 2020 was a tough year but with challenges comes growth so we're thankful for the lessons.

What's on the horizon for Momo Shack? Team, brand and production. Our goal is to continue growing as individuals and as a team, increase our brand awareness by leveraging content, social and podcast (The Secret Sauce Podcast) and unlock production to get into more retail stores. Our focus will be a mix of pop-up events, B2B relationships and DTC model.

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The Office of Research, in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, is offering three new programs this fall for research faculty, Ph.D. candidates, postdocs, and other UT Dallas researchers interested in commercializing their inventions. The programs are: the Bio-Engineering Startup Training (BEST) series, the Venture Development Center ... Continue reading New Research-Focused Programs Launch for Fall

UTD Alumni Relations: Tacos, quesadillas, ceviche — the dishes Mollie Guerra BS'13 serves through her pop-ups and meal-prep business may sound common. But the ingredients the Dallas chef incorporates into these otherwise ordinary items are anything but.

PR Newswire: The University of Texas at Dallas announced today that two additional UT System institutions have joined the Texas Network of Blackstone LaunchPad.

UT Dallas Alumni News: As the CEO and co-founder of Unthink Inc. and YFret Inc., Tina Mani MS'95 has spent years navigating the ups and downs of entrepreneurship.

UTD News Center: Adaptive3D was acquired by Desktop Metal Inc., an industry leader in additive manufacturing based in Burlington, Massachusetts, in a deal announced in May.

Dallas Innovates: With five new UT Dallas research centers, an extension of the university's Venture Development Center, and new attractions like TheLab makerspace, The IQ may just realize Richardson's vision to be "the premier tech hub in Texas."

JSOM Perspectives: The OWLIE Award stands for Outstanding Worthy Leaders Involved Exceptionally. This annual awards event provides a unique platform to recognize students, faculty, staff, mentors, alumni and supporters for their exceptional service on behalf of the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

UT Dallas News Center: The University of Texas at Dallas is partnering with the city of Richardson to support the region's startup and entrepreneur community by establishing a physical presence in the Richardson Innovation Quarter.

Dallas Morning News: Capital One and UT Dallas bring future workforce skills to students at Innovate(her).

NTX Inno: A group of UT Dallas researchers, led by Shalini Prasad, alongside the team at Allen-based medical sensor device company EnLiSense – which was founded by Prasad to commercialize another product – have unveiled a sweat sensor that can alert doctors of a looming cytokine storm.

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UT Dallas Alumni News: As the CEO and co-founder of Unthink Inc. and YFret Inc., Tina Mani MS'95 has spent years navigating the ups and downs of entrepreneurship.

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NTX Inno: For young entrepreneurs, the challenges of building a startup or creating new technology include the long hours of coding, developing and building a deck, often while navigating college classes or their entry to the business world.

Inside JSOM: Two graduate students in the Naveen Jindal School of Management have won funding from the RevTech SAFE Schools Grant Challenge for proposing a solution to help suppress the COVID-19 virus on university and college campuses.

NTX Inno: After announcing a partnership with SMU and UTD in early April to search for applicants for the RevTech SAFE Schools grant challenge, the organizations received a flurry of student pitches. And after sifting through the applications, five winners have been selected.

Dallas Innovates: RevTech expects the grants to deliver more than \$1.5 million of community impact. Recipients include Cafe Momentum, COOKED-19, Cooklist, among others with a mission to lift up the city of Dallas.

UT Dallas News Center: University of Texas at Dallas computer science senior Pablo Peillard says he's always been a maker.

Austin Statesman: Texas undergraduate teams pitched their startup ideas over the weekend at the University of Texas-Austin to win their share of \$50,000. UT-Dallas' SurvivR, a virtual reality platform that standardizes police training, won \$5,000.

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UTD Magazine: The University of Texas at Dallas alumnus founded a company to put cutting-edge genomics to work in forensics by teaming up with partners both public and private to answer unresolved questions of identity, particularly in the arena of law enforcement.

Jindal News: The Dallas Business Journal has named an alumna of the Naveen Jindal School of Management among its 40 Under 40 2022 honorees.

New York Times: Some veterans have started businesses that draw from their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, and thrived.

Inside Jindal: Two students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management recently participated in a three-week virtual boot camp to learn about venture capital from professionals in the industry.

Dallas Innovates: A team of UT Dallas bioengineers has developed a rapid test for viruses that delivers results as accurate as PCR lab tests within 30 minutes.

Bonsai founder Shashank Kumar won \$10,000 for his pitch. Out of more than 130 student entrepreneurial teams from schools across the Blackstone LaunchPad network, one UT Dallas student impressed the judges on the mainstage of the 2022 Startup Grind Global Conference. Shashank Vinay Kumar, founder of Bonsai, placed third, winning \$10,000. Through Bonsai, Shashank hopes ... Continue reading [UT Dallas Student Wins Third Place at Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition](#)

Canvas Rebel: We caught up with the brilliant and insightful Heidi Rasmussen a few weeks ago and have shared our conversation below.

Medium: These student teams will pitch live for a total of over \$50,000 in cash and in-kind prizes.

Dallas Innovates: Dallas-based nonprofit accelerator Impact Ventures has unveiled the lineup of its latest cohort, made up of nearly 20 companies.

NTX Inno: ShearShare has burst onto the startup scene in Buffalo over the past three months, hosting events, unveiling a new version of its software and hiring local employees.

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Wanting to create an event that would encourage and showcase the real-world problem-solving and creative solutions of the universities employees, the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship created the university's first "Staff Ideas Competition" this summer. Over 60 people participated in workshops and training sessions in June and July to develop and communicate their product and ... Continue reading [We Ran an Ideas Competition for Staff Over the Summer. Here's How it Went.](#)

UTD Alumni Relations: Jackson Brougher PhD'22 completed his doctorate in May, but before finishing the degree he was already leading the research efforts of a new pharmacology startup he co-founded as the company's chief science officer.

Dallas Observer: North Texas beer drinkers rejoice. The long wait is finally over. Peticolas, the beloved Dallas brewery, is making three of its beers available in stores throughout North Texas.

- Duyen Nguyen, BS'22 Accounting - Chukwudi Ukonne, MBA'24 & MS'24 Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Duyen and I (Chukwudi) both participated in the inaugural cohort of the Blackstone LaunchPad Bridge Venture Fellowship (BVF). After a 3-week period, where we both received training, mentorship, and

resources centered around the startup and venture capital industry, we met in ... Continue reading 'My Participation in the Bridge Venture Fellowship is Already Opening Doors for me'

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Dallas Innovates: The gaming industry contributes over \$260 billion to the U.S. economy, according to statistics provided by the University of Texas at Dallas. Globally, the esports audience will reach 380 million this year. And, by 2021, esports is projected to have more viewers than every professional league (besides the NFL).

Richardson, Texas (March 12, 2019) – The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it will host its 2nd Annual Emerging Technologies (EmTech) Summit on April 2, in downtown Dallas, in partnership with Dallas Startup Week. EmTech 2019: "Esports and the New Gaming Economy" brings together pioneers in new ventures with innovators from the ... Continue reading UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Announces 2nd Annual EmTech Summit in Partnership with Dallas Startup Week, April 2

PR Newswire: The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it has launched a partnership with Capital Factory, one of the most active early-stage tech investors in Texas, to accelerate to market the products and services of ventures founded by UT Dallas students.

Dallas Business Journal: In a move that distinguishes itself from its U.S. peers, this local university nabbed a relationship with a global blockchain group that brings some heft.

PR Newswire: The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The University of Texas at Dallas has announced a new partnership with the Blockchain Research Institute (BRI), a global independent think tank working to identify the strategic implications and opportunities of blockchain for business, government and society.

Dallas Innovates: This month, the Dallas venture investor and adviser joined Capital Factory as the Vice President of Accelerator and Investment Fund, where he will manage a team across the state in line with the Texas Startup Manifesto.

Inside JSOM: Student teams from The University of Texas at Dallas showed recently that winning a business pitch competition — or launching a successful business, for that matter — requires having not just a great idea but also the preparation, passion and tools needed to stay focused and convince others — including celebrity judge Tan ... Continue reading Students Demonstrate High Level of Preparation at UT Dallas Big Idea Competition

UTD Mercury: The first annual Women's Summit held at UTD took place in the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center earlier this month.

JSOM Perspectives: A sold-out audience of more than 300 filled the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center on Oct. 15 for the first Women's Summit. The event was hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, in partnership with Women Entrepreneurship Week 2018.

UT Dallas News Center: The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation has selected three undergraduate students at The University of Texas at Dallas for scholarships that recognize leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. Konan Mirza, Brian Hoang and Tina Dimitrova each have won \$15,000, with funds for their awards donated by the Mitchell Family Foundation.

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Max-IR Labs, a developer of infrared sensors for industrial process control and biochemical analysis, announced plans for field demonstration and testing of its ISMIR™ technology.

On Monday, Jan. 17th, Max-IR Labs, a member of the UT Dallas Venture Development Center, initiated field testing of its patented sensor technology at a local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The sensor evaluation follows a successful technology development work in partnership with the lab of Professor Amy Walker at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), under SBIR funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Treatment of municipal sewage is a very energy-intensive process: it accounts for over 1% of total U.S. electric energy consumption. In-line monitoring of nitrogen contaminants, such as nitrate and ammonia, at a WWTP using Max-IR's sensor can enable automated controls and optimization of the wastewater treatment process, resulting in significant energy savings. Municipal sewage is treated in industrial-scale bioreactors, where the metabolic activities of various microorganisms are used for biodegradation of the nitrogen contaminants into N₂ gas. This treatment requires aeration – a process in which air is passed through the treated wastewater. Aeration represents over 50% of the WWTP electric power consumption. However, implementation of real-time controls based on in-line sensors can reduce energy consumption due to aeration by as much as 20%.

Max-IR Labs' sensor technology is based on pre-concentration of contaminants using ion-selective materials, and subsequent infrared (IR) spectroscopy for detection of the nitrogen-based contaminants. If implemented across all municipal WWTPs in the U.S., energy savings would equate to a reduction of roughly 2M metric tons of CO₂ per year from reduced electric power generation/usage. This is roughly equivalent to CO₂ reduction from converting 900,000 cars from gasoline to electric, or about the number

of Tesla cars sold in 2021. Potential energy savings and greenhouse gas reduction from implementation of Max-IR's technology on a global scale would be much larger.

"Sensor evaluation at the wastewater treatment plant is an important milestone for our startup. It will prove that the technology works in harsh field conditions. This demonstration opens up new possibilities for collaborations and commercialization activities with the key stakeholders in the analytical instrumentation and environmental sensing marketplace," said Dr. Roodenko, founder and CEO of Max-IR Labs. Beyond detection of nitrogen compounds at WWTPs, Max-IR Labs' sensors can be utilized to control processes in other industrial and lab-scale bioreactors.

Methods developed by Max-IR Labs for analysis of environmental water has led to new R&D efforts focused on detection of harmful perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), as well as toxic industrial materials (TICs) and toxic industrial chemicals (TIMs) in water. Max-IR Labs won a Phase I ARMY STTR for development of a new methodology to screen TICs/TIMs in potable water filtration systems. The Army-sponsored Phase I project was carried out with support from UTD under a subaward to the lab of Dr. Jean-François Veyan.

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UT Dallas News Center: Countless interactions between nerves and other cells in the body create the sensory responses, including pain, that allow us to interact with the world. Researchers from The University of Texas at Dallas' Center for Advanced Pain Studies (CAPS) are cataloging those interactions, hunting for the molecular reactions that produce dysfunctional chronic pain with ... Continue reading Pain Researchers Use Sequencing Data To Map Nerve Interactions

ASPIRE: Jindal School MBA Alum Pivots Volunteer COVID-19 Work to New Company

Voyage Dallas: Forgot or Knot's mission is to create a memorable gift experience that deepens customer's relationships with their family, friends, and/or clients.

UTD News Center: The Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars network has helped open the door to entrepreneurship for students at The University of Texas at Dallas.

NTX Inno: To move the needle of climate change, it will take buy-ins from the industrial sector. And Skyven Technologies is looking to help by showing industrial plant operators cost-saving, customizable solutions to reduce carbon emissions.

Austin Inno: Gerald Youngblood's parents bought him his first computer when he was about 8 years old. It was a Tandy Color Computer II.

Dallas Innovates: Enjoy living vicariously through these incredible women, writes TechFW's Lauren Acton. Meet 10 female entrepreneurs who share practical advice on launching a company.

NTX Inno: Through pandemic and pivots, the North Texas tech scene continues to emerge as a growing hub of startup activity, with the year seeing large later-stage funding rounds, exits, IPOs and even the coronation of a new unicorn.

Dallas Morning News: When Tye and Courtney Caldwell, co-founders of McKinney-based startup ShearShare, pitched investors in Silicon Valley on their app that connects hairstylists with empty salon space, the first reaction they got had nothing to do with the technology.

Dallas Innovates: PrimeVOX Communications' now patented AI technology allows the telecommunications company to provide customers with crystal-clear calls and unbelievable reliability.

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Dallas Morning News: The University of Texas at Dallas is teaming up with the City of Richardson on what is hoped to be a transformational project.

UT Dallas News Center: Countless interactions between nerves and other cells in the body create the sensory responses, including pain, that allow us to interact with the world. Researchers from The University of Texas at Dallas' Center for Advanced Pain Studies (CAPS) are cataloging those interactions, hunting for the molecular reactions that produce dysfunctional chronic pain with ... Continue reading Pain Researchers Use Sequencing Data To Map Nerve Interactions

Dallas Innovates: The Capital One and UT Dallas event brings together young female students with the goal of inspiring them to pursue their interests in fields such as science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. This year, new activities also taught attendees how to create logos for their personal brand and prepare for future job interviews.

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Austin Inno: Gerald Youngblood's parents bought him his first computer when he was about 8 years old. It was a Tandy Color Computer II.

UT Dallas News Center: The Blackstone Charitable Foundation announced today the expansion of its signature Blackstone LaunchPad student entrepreneurship programming from two to eight campuses in The University of Texas System, bringing the initiative's network and resources to a more diverse set of students.

The Mercury: For business administration and marketing junior Johnathon Jones, his beef jerky business – Jerky Jones – is more than just a side gig: it's a connection to family and his place in the military community.

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We're excited to announce that Bonsai, co-founded by Shashank Vinay Kumar (BS'22), is one of 28 student-led teams headed to California to pitch in the semi-finals of the 2022 Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition during the Startup Grind Global Conference. Bonsai, which only just launched in 2020, is developing a ticket-resolution and lead-generation tool that uses ... [Continue reading Bonsai Headed to Silicon Valley for Annual Pitch Competition](#)

The world of venture capital has a diversity problem. According to an article from Forbes, while 58% of the people who work in the industry are white men, white men control 93% of the venture capital dollars. Furthermore, “just 1% of the \$70 trillion wealth management industry is controlled by women or minority fund managers, ... Continue reading [New Program Aims to Bridge the VC Gap](#)

Sofia Babool BS’22 only just launched her tutoring service in the fall and already she’s hit positive cash flow. Her company, Bright Owl is a virtual tutoring company that focuses on providing children with subject-specific homework help, test preparation, and college advising. Sofia, who is earning her undergraduate degree in neuroscience, has been participating in ... Continue reading [Neuroscience Student Looks to Remove Tutoring Stigma with Startup](#)

Buffalo Rising: ShearShare – a beauty tech startup – recently relocated to Buffalo from Dallas, Texas.

We’re excited to welcome two new members to the faculty of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT Dallas. As adjunct faculty, Leah Frazier, who also leads our GalXc Accelerator cohorts, and John Adler will be teaching ENTP 3301: Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level. 3301 is often called our “intro to entrepreneurship” ... Continue reading [Institute Welcomes Two New Faculty Members](#)

Dallas Innovates: UTD spinoff, Avansa Labs, took home the \$10,000 grand prize at MassChallenge's inaugural pitch competition in North Texas.

Max-IR Labs, a developer of infrared sensors for industrial process control and biochemical analysis, announced plans for field demonstration and testing of its ISMIRTM technology. On Monday, Jan. 17th, Max-IR Labs, a member of the UT Dallas Venture Development Center, initiated field testing of its patented sensor technology at a local wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). ... Continue reading [Max-IR Labs Moves its Sensor Technology from Lab to Field](#)

Inside Jindal: A graduate student at the Naveen Jindal School of Management looks forward to a promising future in entrepreneurship, having recently won three competitions — and taking home \$40,000 in cash and prizes in the process.

Dallas Innovates: The Energy-as-a-Service company expects to put the new cash into sales, marketing, project execution, and software development talent in order to further its mission of industrial emissions reductions by funding and de-risking capital projects geared toward reducing carbon emissions caused by process heat.

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UTD Magazine: The University of Texas at Dallas alumnus founded a company to put cutting-edge genomics to work in forensics by teaming up with partners both public and private to answer unresolved questions of identity, particularly in the arena of law enforcement.

Jindal News: The Dallas Business Journal has named an alumna of the Naveen Jindal School of Management among its 40 Under 40 2022 honorees.

New York Times: Some veterans have started businesses that draw from their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan, and thrived.

Inside Jindal: Two students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management recently participated in a three-week virtual boot camp to learn about venture capital from professionals in the industry.

Dallas Innovates: A team of UT Dallas bioengineers has developed a rapid test for viruses that delivers results as accurate as PCR lab tests within 30 minutes.

Bonsai founder Shashank Kumar won \$10,000 for his pitch. Out of more than 130 student entrepreneurial teams from schools across the Blackstone LaunchPad network, one UT Dallas student impressed the judges on the mainstage of the 2022 Startup Grind Global Conference. Shashank Vinay Kumar, founder of Bonsai, placed third, winning \$10,000. Through Bonsai, Shashank hopes ... Continue reading UT Dallas Student Wins Third Place at Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition

Canvas Rebel: We caught up with the brilliant and insightful Heidi Rasmussen a few weeks ago and have shared our conversation below.

Medium: These student teams will pitch live for a total of over \$50,000 in cash and in-kind prizes.

Dallas Innovates: Dallas-based nonprofit accelerator Impact Ventures has unveiled the lineup of its latest cohort, made up of nearly 20 companies.

NTX Inno: ShearShare has burst onto the startup scene in Buffalo over the past three months, hosting events, unveiling a new version of its software and hiring local employees.

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UT Dallas News Center: It was always his dream class — a class he wishes he could have taken in college. A few years ago, Blackstone LaunchPad director Bryan Chambers set out to design a program at The University of Texas at Dallas that would teach the business of venture capital and entrepreneurial concepts and empower students ... Continue reading [LaunchPad Director Wins Tech Titans Award for Seed Fund Efforts](#)

Dallas Innovates: Emerging Technologies Summit is a two-day fintech, blockchain, and AI conference at UT Dallas featuring innovators from startups to large companies with digital thought leader Don Tapscott as keynote speaker.

Launch DFW: Who knew that just outside of the city of Dallas in suburban Richardson major innovation is happening inside the walls of the University of Texas at Dallas? Frankly, I did not realize this university had made such a name for itself in the innovation, entrepreneurship, and tech space. UTD is ranked #19 in the ... Continue reading [Can't Stop Won't Stop: UT Dallas' 2017 Big Idea Competition](#)

Richardson Living: Even for those who have heard the full-throttle, make-it-happen message of Guy Kawasaki, there's nothing quite like hearing him live. The Silicon Valley visionary, "brand evangelist" for Apple, Mercedes-Benz and Canva, and venture capitalist who started garage.com, is speaking at The University of Texas at Dallas on Nov. 16.

Dallas Innovates: Guy Kawasaki, venture capitalist and one-time Apple evangelist, will delve into the challenges facing those in the innovation space as the keynote speaker and judge of UT Dallas' Big Idea Competition.

Austin Startups: I arrived in Dallas a little more than six months ago, April 1, to begin my new role at the University of Texas at Dallas. At UT Dallas, I'm a clinical associate professor in the Jindal School of Management. We're a U.S. top 25-ranked entrepreneurship program, right up there with our UT Austin ... Continue reading [Austin, Meet Dallas](#)

Dallas Innovates: Do a deep-dive with expert practitioners covering topics critical to startup success. The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The University of Texas at Dallas will host the first session on Sept. 20.

Dallas Business Journal: Rajiv Shah couldn't find the graduate business program he dreamed of while he was in school. So years later, he created his own.

Dallas Innovates: Entrepreneurs looking for venture capital and the possibility of scaling up their new companies may find it in innovation-hungry China.

Dallas Innovates: For entrepreneurs who intersect with The University of Texas at Dallas, there's a new source of startup funding.

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TechCrunch: Courtney Caldwell and her husband Tye have been building the Dallas-based startup ShearShare, which provides a marketplace service connecting stylists with open seats at hair salons, since 2017.

Dallas Innovates: Neuro Rehab VR's new XR Therapy, a portable system that's clinically validated and FDA registered, is being lauded as the first virtual reality system for neurological rehabilitation and physical therapy treatment.

NTX Inno: After being accepted into the inaugural Google for Startups Accelerator for Black Founders, four local companies have landed funding from the technology giant.

Forbes: Originally from a small town in Bangladesh, Lail Hossain moved to the U.S. as a foreign student after high school to further her education.

Auganix: SURVIVR, a provider of virtual reality (VR) training solutions for police and security forces, has recently been awarded a Phase III SBIR contract by the US Department of Defense (DoD) to provide its VR training platform to the US Air Force (USAF).

Dallas Morning News: University of Texas at Dallas biotech startup CerSci Therapeutics has been bought by a San Diego pharmaceutical company for \$52.5 million in a deal that could later reward its backers with hundreds of millions more.

Dallas Innovates: Dallas-based Hashing Systems is on a mission to create the financial infrastructure of the future. The startup builds crypto-financial infrastructure based on Hedera Hashgraph and Ethereum, which enables companies to move tokens across a decentralized finance space faster and more cost-effective than current methods.

NTX Inno: Covering North Texas' tech scene everyday gives us a unique view into the ecosystem, including stealthy startups and those that have been building traction for years.

Dallas Innovates: A grant from the McKinney Economic Development Corporation's Innovation Fund will fuel the expansion of Invene, a growing product-as-a-service company. The move could create up to 12 "highly specialized" software engineering jobs in the next three years.

Built In: Each of the state's top tech hubs — Austin, Houston and Dallas — has cultivated its own unique tech culture, leading to the rise of various sectors including biotech. Fueled by academic brainpower and a deep-rooted healthcare industry, Dallas has naturally become a life sciences hotspot, cementing Texas' standing as a biotech boomtown.

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NTX Inno: A little less than a year after launching, the founders of Campus Oven are looking to sell the startup.

Dallas Innovates: Enjoy living vicariously through these incredible women, writes TechFW's Lauren Acton. Meet 10 female entrepreneurs who share practical advice on launching a company.

UTD News Center: A University of Texas at Dallas graduate student is developing biosensors to help physicians make faster decisions that could save patients' lives.

Dallas Innovates: About a month after announcing he was forming a Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Dallas, Mayor Eric Johnson has released the group's newly appointed members who will work to attract, retain, and support startups in the city.

Dallas Innovates: Small businesses make up the fabric of our communities. Through the uncertainty of 2020, nonprofits, government entities, corporations and community leaders have collaborated with small businesses to ensure they continue to play that vital role.

NTX Inno: Through pandemic and pivots, the North Texas tech scene continues to emerge as a growing hub of startup activity, with the year seeing large later-stage funding rounds, exits, IPOs and even the coronation of a new unicorn.

Dallas Morning News: When Tye and Courtney Caldwell, co-founders of McKinney-based startup ShearShare, pitched investors in Silicon Valley on their app that connects hairstylists with empty salon space, the first reaction they got had nothing to do with the technology.

NTX Inno: While they weren't packed into the auditorium at UT Dallas this year, hundreds tuned in remotely to the university's Big Idea Competition, where more than \$200,000 in prizes was up for grabs.

Dallas Innovates: PrimeVOX Communications' now patented AI technology allows the telecommunications company to provide customers with crystal-clear calls and unbelievable reliability.

Inside Jindal: Marketing senior Varika Pinnam won two major student awards in September — 2020 Student Entrepreneur at Dallas Startup Week and Collegiate Marketer of the Year from the DFW chapter of the American Marketing Association.

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UT Dallas News: With assistance from University of Texas at Dallas engineering students, one of the University's spinoff companies is developing a flexible and more accurate 3D-printed nasopharyngeal swab for infectious disease testing.

Dallas Innovates: This year's competition culminated with an awards ceremony during Global Entrepreneurship Week that featured a conversation with Ross Perot Jr. and Anurag Jain on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in North Texas.

Inside Jindal: The UT Dallas Women's Summit that the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Career Management Center at the Naveen Jindal School of Management presented last month culminated with keynote speaker Kendra Scott, one of the most recognizable and successful entrepreneurs in the United States.

Every day we get to work with brilliant minds building, molding, and shaping a better tomorrow. We love to celebrate our Comet entrepreneurs. But it's not often we get to bring attention to those who put country first. In observance of Veterans Day, we wanted to celebrate a few of our Comet entrepreneurs who returned ... Continue reading Comet Started. Veteran Owned.

As an artist and aspiring animator, I know the value of motion graphics firsthand, but did you know that it's also an invaluable tool you can use as an entrepreneur to grow your venture? What exactly are motion graphics? Motion graphics are simply described as, "pieces of animation or digital footage which create the illusion ... Continue reading Are you integrating motion graphics into your marketing plan?

Dallas Morning News: The University of Texas at Dallas is one of the most important accelerators we have. It is our region's premier public high-academic quality institution and partner to leading academic medical center UT Southwestern.

It's back! The UT Dallas Big Idea Competition is back and bigger than ever. 20 startup founders are competing for over \$350,000 in cash and scholarship prizes at the university's largest startup pitch competition. Below are the students, alumni, and researchers competing in the 4 categories that make

up this year's competition. Let's meet them: Watch ... Continue reading Meet the Finalists Pitching at the Big Idea Competition

Community Impact: As the tech industry continues to boom in North Texas, The University of Texas at Dallas is zeroing in on programs aimed at preparing the next generation of students to enter the workforce.

In today's digital age, podcasts are a dime a dozen, and it can be hard to find one that really strikes your fancy as a budding entrepreneur. an entrepreneur. That's why we have curated 5 amazing business podcasts for entrepreneurs to listen to, that will surely inspire and help you in running your own business. ... Continue reading Top 5 Podcasts for Entrepreneurs

While studying at UT Dallas, Leezen Amatya BS'15, Daniel Flores BS'15, and Thang Duong BS'15 began selling Nepalese dumplings (called 'momos') at pop-up events throughout Dallas. In 2018, they took a leap and pitched their food concept in the finals of the Big Idea Competition – they were a hit. We met up with Leezen ... Continue reading Catching up with Momo Shack

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We're excited to announce that Bonsai, co-founded by Shashank Vinay Kumar (BS'22), is one of 28 student-led teams headed to California to pitch in the semi-finals of the 2022 Blackstone LaunchPad Pitch Competition during the Startup Grind Global Conference. Bonsai, which only just launched in 2020, is developing a ticket-resolution and lead-generation tool that uses ... Continue reading Bonsai Headed to Silicon Valley for Annual Pitch Competition

The world of venture capital has a diversity problem. According to an article from Forbes, while 58% of the people who work in the industry are white men, white men control 93% of the venture capital

dollars. Furthermore, “just 1% of the \$70 trillion wealth management industry is controlled by women or minority fund managers, ... Continue reading [New Program Aims to Bridge the VC Gap](#)

Sofia Babool BS’22 only just launched her tutoring service in the fall and already she’s hit positive cash flow. Her company, Bright Owl is a virtual tutoring company that focuses on providing children with subject-specific homework help, test preparation, and college advising. Sofia, who is earning her undergraduate degree in neuroscience, has been participating in ... Continue reading [Neuroscience Student Looks to Remove Tutoring Stigma with Startup](#)

Buffalo Rising: ShearShare – a beauty tech startup – recently relocated to Buffalo from Dallas, Texas.

We’re excited to welcome two new members to the faculty of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT Dallas. As adjunct faculty, Leah Frazier, who also leads our GalXc Accelerator cohorts, and John Adler will be teaching ENTP 3301: Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the undergraduate level. 3301 is often called our “intro to entrepreneurship” ... Continue reading [Institute Welcomes Two New Faculty Members](#)

Dallas Innovates: UTD spinoff, Avansa Labs, took home the \$10,000 grand prize at MassChallenge's inaugural pitch competition in North Texas.

Inside Jindal: A graduate student at the Naveen Jindal School of Management looks forward to a promising future in entrepreneurship, having recently won three competitions — and taking home \$40,000 in cash and prizes in the process.

Dallas Innovates: The Energy-as-a-Service company expects to put the new cash into sales, marketing, project execution, and software development talent in order to further its mission of industrial emissions reductions by funding and de-risking capital projects geared toward reducing carbon emissions caused by process heat.

UT Dallas News: With assistance from University of Texas at Dallas engineering students, one of the University’s spinoff companies is developing a flexible and more accurate 3D-printed nasopharyngeal swab for infectious disease testing.

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Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The University of Texas at Dallas

xconomy.com: The University of Texas at Dallas formally kicks off its Blackstone LaunchPad program.

UT Dallas News Center: Blackstone LaunchPad celebrates ribbon-cutting for 5,000-square-foot-new-home.

UT Dallas News Center: UT Dallas has a new Executive Director at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE).

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The Wall Street Journal: In recent weeks, protests have erupted in response to police violence against citizens - specifically communities of color - forcing departments to reconsider how officers do their jobs. Police forces have been using tech - like Tasers and body cameras - to try and reduce the use of lethal force and ... Continue reading Technology Helps Train Police Officers

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TechCrunch: Courtney Caldwell and her husband Tye have been building the Dallas-based startup ShearShare, which provides a marketplace service connecting stylists with open seats at hair salons, since 2017.

The Mercury: Student initiatives range from providing food for frontline workers to technology accessible for the visually impaired.

Dallas Innovates: Neuro Rehab VR's new XR Therapy, a portable system that's clinically validated and FDA registered, is being lauded as the first virtual reality system for neurological rehabilitation and physical therapy treatment.

NTX Inno: After being accepted into the inaugural Google for Startups Accelerator for Black Founders, four local companies have landed funding from the technology giant.

NTX Inno: For young entrepreneurs, the challenges of building a startup or creating new technology include the long hours of coding, developing and building a deck, often while navigating college classes or their entry to the business world.

Forbes: Originally from a small town in Bangladesh, Lail Hossain moved to the U.S. as a foreign student after high school to further her education.

Auganix: SURVIVR, a provider of virtual reality (VR) training solutions for police and security forces, has recently been awarded a Phase III SBIR contract by the US Department of Defense (DoD) to provide its VR training platform to the US Air Force (USAF).

Dallas Morning News: University of Texas at Dallas biotech startup CerSci Therapeutics has been bought by a San Diego pharmaceutical company for \$52.5 million in a deal that could later reward its backers with hundreds of millions more.

Dallas Innovates: Dallas-based Hashing Systems is on a mission to create the financial infrastructure of the future. The startup builds crypto-financial infrastructure based on Hedera Hashgraph and Ethereum, which enables companies to move tokens across a decentralized finance space faster and more cost-effective than current methods.

NTX Inno: Covering North Texas' tech scene everyday gives us a unique view into the ecosystem, including stealthy startups and those that have been building traction for years.

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UTD News Center: An innovative technology transfer collaboration has enabled sensor research from The University of Texas at Dallas to be leveraged into a potential rapid, at-home COVID-19 testing device.

NTX Inno: To highlight the young entrepreneurs and techies from across the region, from those still juggling college classed to others running fully-fledged startups, NTX Inno has compiled a list of some of the most promising and accomplished innovators poised to shape the local ecosystem and beyond

UT Dallas Magazine: University of Texas at Dallas alumni stepped up to help early in the crisis, using their time and talents to provide solutions during one of the nation's most difficult challenges.

The Office of Research, in collaboration with the Office of Undergraduate Education and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, is offering three new programs this fall for research faculty, Ph.D. candidates, postdocs, and other UT Dallas researchers interested in commercializing their inventions. The programs are: the Bio-Engineering Startup Training (BEST) series, the Venture Development Center ... Continue reading [New Research-Focused Programs Launch for Fall](#)

UTD Alumni Relations: Tacos, quesadillas, ceviche — the dishes Mollie Guerra BS'13 serves through her pop-ups and meal-prep business may sound common. But the ingredients the Dallas chef incorporates into these otherwise ordinary items are anything but.

PR Newswire: The University of Texas at Dallas announced today that two additional UT System institutions have joined the Texas Network of Blackstone LaunchPad.

UT Dallas Alumni News: As the CEO and co-founder of Unthink Inc. and YFret Inc., Tina Mani MS'95 has spent years navigating the ups and downs of entrepreneurship.

UTD News Center: Adaptive3D was acquired by Desktop Metal Inc., an industry leader in additive manufacturing based in Burlington, Massachusetts, in a deal announced in May.

Dallas Innovates: With five new UT Dallas research centers, an extension of the university's Venture Development Center, and new attractions like TheLab makerspace, The IQ may just realize Richardson's vision to be "the premier tech hub in Texas."

JSOM Perspectives: The OWLIE Award stands for Outstanding Worthy Leaders Involved Exceptionally. This annual awards event provides a unique platform to recognize students, faculty, staff, mentors, alumni and supporters for their exceptional service on behalf of the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

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Inside Jindal: The UT Dallas Women's Summit that the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the Career Management Center at the Naveen Jindal School of Management presented last month culminated with keynote speaker Kendra Scott, one of the most recognizable and successful entrepreneurs in the United States.

Dallas Morning News: The University of Texas at Dallas is one of the most important accelerators we have. It is our region's premier public high-academic quality institution and partner to leading academic medical center UT Southwestern.

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Dallas Observer: What's in a cup of tea? The rebellious seeds of our democracy, sure. But tea, at least in America, is a contemplative drink, maybe a comfort during illness or a holiday tradition.

Dallas Innovates: Founding a new company can be difficult, especially when you are also balancing college courses and visa procedures.

Lifestyle Frisco: Detour Doughnuts is the confectionary dream of Jinny Cho, a longtime Frisco resident and a woman with the donut business in her blood.

McKinney Online: The leading magazine chronicling innovation in North Texas, NTX Inno, has named James Griffin, CEO of Invene, a North Texas 25 Under 25 recipient.

North Texas Inno: Referred to broadly as social impact businesses, these startups and nonprofits aren't just focused on numbers and spreadsheets, but also on trying to make the world a better place. In North Texas, these impact-driven entrepreneurs come from a number of different industries, but all look to combine passion and profit to make ... Continue reading [5 Social Impact Startups to Watch in North Texas](#)

Dallas Innovates: Powered by Capital One in partnership with The Dallas Entrepreneur Center and UT Dallas, the Women's Summit gathered hundreds of women for personal testimonies, hands-on workshops, and business building. It also coincided with Women's Entrepreneurship Week.

Cision: The Board of Directors of ilumi Solutions/ Meshtek Labs announce Swapnil Bora as the CEO of MeshTek Labs, an Internet of Things (IoT) company based in Dallas, TX.

Inside Jindal: AT&T has awarded funding to a company founded and led by a graduate student in the Naveen Jindal School of Management to develop a product that helps children learn STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — concepts while having fun.

GuideLive: The environment is student- and work-friendly, the University of Texas at Dallas student says. Johnson is majoring in finance and marketing at the university and says the classes she takes directly apply to running the coffee shop.

GuideLive: Dallas' own Bishop Cider Co. and Cidercade has plans to take its bar and retro gaming complex statewide with new locations set to open in Houston and Austin.

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Dallas Innovates: A grant from the McKinney Economic Development Corporation's Innovation Fund will fuel the expansion of Invene, a growing product-as-a-service company. The move could create up to 12 “highly specialized” software engineering jobs in the next three years.

Built In: Each of the state’s top tech hubs — Austin, Houston and Dallas — has cultivated its own unique tech culture, leading to the rise of various sectors including biotech. Fueled by academic brainpower and a deep-rooted healthcare industry, Dallas has naturally become a life sciences hotspot, cementing Texas’ standing as a biotech boomtown.

The Wall Street Journal: In recent weeks, protests have erupted in response to police violence against citizens - specifically communities of color - forcing departments to reconsider how officers do their jobs. Police forces have been using tech - like Tasers and body cameras - to try and reduce the use of lethal force and ... Continue reading [Technology Helps Train Police Officers](#)

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Inside JSOM: Two graduate students in the Naveen Jindal School of Management have won funding from the RevTech SAFE Schools Grant Challenge for proposing a solution to help suppress the COVID-19 virus on university and college campuses.

North Texas Inno: Capping off the Accenture-presented virtual summit at Capital Factory, which focused on female diversity and inclusion in the industry, six startups (three from North Texas) made their pitches to a panel of judges, including True Wealth Ventures’ Sara Brand, Notley Ventures’ Lawton Cummings, Amazon Web Services’ Sandy Carter and Baker Botts’ Natalie ... Continue reading [Fort Worth’s NeuroRehabVR wins the Women in Tech Summit pitch competition](#)

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D Magazine: Anjie Vichayanonda was an intellectual property lawyer for five years, most recently as an associate with the trademark practice group at Haynes and Boone.

UT System: Across the 14 UT institutions, research and development expenditures total \$3.1 billion – the second highest among U.S. public higher education systems.

NTX Inno: After announcing a partnership with SMU and UTD in early April to search for applicants for the RevTech SAFE Schools grant challenge, the organizations received a flurry of student pitches. And after sifting through the applications, five winners have been selected.

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UT Dallas News Center: The University of Texas at Dallas is partnering with the city of Richardson to support the region's startup and entrepreneur community by establishing a physical presence in the Richardson Innovation Quarter.

Dallas Morning News: Capital One and UT Dallas bring future workforce skills to students at Innovate(her).

NTX Inno: A group of UT Dallas researchers, led by Shalini Prasad, alongside the team at Allen-based medical sensor device company EnLiSense – which was founded by Prasad to commercialize another product – have unveiled a sweat sensor that can alert doctors of a looming cytokine storm.

Dallas Morning News: The University of Texas at Dallas is teaming up with the City of Richardson on what is hoped to be a transformational project.

UT Dallas News Center: Countless interactions between nerves and other cells in the body create the sensory responses, including pain, that allow us to interact with the world. Researchers from The University of Texas at Dallas' Center for Advanced Pain Studies (CAPS) are cataloging those interactions, hunting for the molecular reactions that produce dysfunctional chronic pain with ... Continue reading Pain Researchers Use Sequencing Data To Map Nerve Interactions

Dallas Innovates: The Capital One and UT Dallas event brings together young female students with the goal of inspiring them to pursue their interests in fields such as science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. This year, new activities also taught attendees how to create logos for their personal brand and prepare for future job interviews.

ASPIRE: Jindal School MBA Alum Pivots Volunteer COVID-19 Work to New Company

Voyage Dallas: Forgot or Knot's mission is to create a memorable gift experience that deepens customer's relationships with their family, friends, and/or clients.

UTD News Center: The Blackstone LaunchPad & Techstars network has helped open the door to entrepreneurship for students at The University of Texas at Dallas.

NTX Inno: To move the needle of climate change, it will take buy-ins from the industrial sector. And Skyven Technologies is looking to help by showing industrial plant operators cost-saving, customizable solutions to reduce carbon emissions.

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Fort Worth Business Press: Neuro Rehab VR offers rehabilitation of patients with brain and spinal cord injuries. The company is one of the first and few in the health care industry that applies VR technology in the treatment of neurological diseases and injuries, such as stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, ... Continue reading Fort Worth start-up has potential VR, therapy success

Inside JSOM: Had he not plugged into the innovation and entrepreneurship program at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, software engineering senior Brian Hoang would likely be headed for a programming career after graduation on May 15.

Dallas Innovates: HoboLoco's name is a mashup of "hoverboard" and "locomotion." The startup combines both of these concepts to create its own unique gaming experience.

UT Dallas Development and Alumni Relations: As a neuroscience student at UT Dallas, Emily Chrastka BS'16 was focused on one thing — earning her degree.

D Magazine: With a free heart and the courage to follow it, he fought the city to permit the first breweries in modern-day Dallas. Now he's taking the fight to the Supreme Court.

Dallas Innovates: CerSci's focus is on alleviating human suffering and rescuing society from the ongoing opioid crisis via a pain drug that does not affect the central nervous system.

UT Dallas Magazine: Alumnus Hopes His Business Gives Veterans and Post-Conflict Countries a Better Future

GlobeNewswire: ReMode's inaugural edition brought together over 1,000 participants, both days, representing all sectors of the fashion industry including thought leaders, top brands, retailers, technology providers, finance partners, and NGOs.

JSOM Perspectives: In today's Shark Tank nation, where entrepreneurship has been popularized by reality TV, having a Ph.D. in arts and humanities might not seem like money (and time) well spent.

LaunchDFW: There isn't anything more disappointing than when you order something online and when it finally arrives, it's not at all what you thought you were purchasing. Online shopping is convenient, but it can leave a lot of room for error. Not knowing exactly what you've bought until it arrives on your doorstep is a ... Continue reading Nicole Mossman wants to take your online shopping experience to the next level

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Dallas Observer: What's in a cup of tea? The rebellious seeds of our democracy, sure. But tea, at least in America, is a contemplative drink, maybe a comfort during illness or a holiday tradition.

UT Dallas News Center: University of Texas at Dallas computer science senior Pablo Peillard says he's always been a maker.

Dallas Innovates: Founding a new company can be difficult, especially when you are also balancing college courses and visa procedures.

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Austin Inno: Gerald Youngblood's parents bought him his first computer when he was about 8 years old. It was a Tandy Color Computer II.

UT Dallas News Center: The Blackstone Charitable Foundation announced today the expansion of its signature Blackstone LaunchPad student entrepreneurship programming from two to eight campuses in The University of Texas System, bringing the initiative's network and resources to a more diverse set of students.

The Mercury: For business administration and marketing junior Johnathon Jones, his beef jerky business – Jerky Jones – is more than just a side gig: it's a connection to family and his place in the military community.

NTX Inno: A little less than a year after launching, the founders of Campus Oven are looking to sell the startup.

Dallas Innovates: Enjoy living vicariously through these incredible women, writes TechFW's Lauren Acton. Meet 10 female entrepreneurs who share practical advice on launching a company.

UTD News Center: A University of Texas at Dallas graduate student is developing biosensors to help physicians make faster decisions that could save patients' lives.

Dallas Innovates: About a month after announcing he was forming a Task Force on Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Dallas, Mayor Eric Johnson has released the group's newly appointed members who will work to attract, retain, and support startups in the city.

Dallas Innovates: Small businesses make up the fabric of our communities. Through the uncertainty of 2020, nonprofits, government entities, corporations and community leaders have collaborated with small businesses to ensure they continue to play that vital role.

NTX Inno: Through pandemic and pivots, the North Texas tech scene continues to emerge as a growing hub of startup activity, with the year seeing large later-stage funding rounds, exits, IPOs and even the coronation of a new unicorn.

Dallas Morning News: When Tye and Courtney Caldwell, co-founders of McKinney-based startup ShearShare, pitched investors in Silicon Valley on their app that connects hairstylists with empty salon space, the first reaction they got had nothing to do with the technology.

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Forbes: In today's socially conscious world, both employees and customers favor businesses that participate in charitable initiatives. While you could make a donation to a national or global nonprofit, you and your team may find it more fulfilling to offer your time or resources to an organization closer to home.

Dallas Morning News: Brandon Friedman moved to Dallas last year with his wife, young son and a new mission: He is founder and CEO of Rakkasan Tea Company, which he runs from two small, stripped-down rooms at the back of an old brick building in Deep Ellum.

Dallas Innovates: From using AI and imaging processing to evaluate fruits and veggies to helping commercial real estate owners manage their solar assets, learn more about the energy technology startups that will be featured at EarthX through Sunday.

Inside JSOM: Dr. David Hanson, a 2007 UT Dallas PhD alumnus and founder and CEO of Hanson Robotics, described “Bringing Robots to Life,” in a recent campus visit that served as warmup event for the upcoming Emerging Technologies Summit.

JSOM Perspectives: A company founded and run by Jindal School alumnus Dr. Peter Baek has won the \$33,000 grand prize in the Penfolds Max’s “Maximum Funding” startup competition.

JSOM Perspectives: Entrepreneur and Naveen Jindal School of Management alumnus Oscar Yactayo knows the life of an entrepreneur includes long hours, evolving business plans and surrounding yourself with talent.

Drone Radio Show: OnPoynt was established in 2012, following the passage of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act. In this episode of the Drone Radio Show, Ron talks about OnPoynt Aerial Solutions, the rise of drone technology in STEM Education Programs and the challenge of serving the education market

UT Dallas Magazine: Less than a year after opening his Dallas cidery, Joel Malone BS’08, MS’11, MBA’11 saw an opportunity for expansion.

Dallas Innovates: UT Dallas student James Griffin is applying the skills he's learned at Blackstone LaunchPad for his startup RamifAI, a degree-planning software startup that uses artificial intelligence.

Fast Company: ShearShare, which lets freelance stylists rent out unused salon space, sees an opportunity to help the beauty and grooming industry adapt to the gig economy.

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Lifestyle Frisco: Detour Doughnuts is the confectionary dream of Jinny Cho, a longtime Frisco resident and a woman with the donut business in her blood.

McKinney Online: The leading magazine chronicling innovation in North Texas, NTX Inno, has named James Griffin, CEO of Invene, a North Texas 25 Under 25 recipient.

North Texas Inno: Referred to broadly as social impact businesses, these startups and nonprofits aren't just focused on numbers and spreadsheets, but also on trying to make the world a better place. In North Texas, these impact-driven entrepreneurs come from a number of different industries, but all look to combine passion and profit to make ... Continue reading 5 Social Impact Startups to Watch in North Texas

Dallas Innovates: UT Dallas' largest startup pitch competition allowed six student teams to present their business ideas. See who took home the prize money.

RICHARDSON, TX, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 – Six student teams have been selected to compete in the Big Idea Competition (BIC) at The University of Texas at Dallas, a Shark Tank-style pitch competition. Hosted annually by the UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the 2019 BIC will be held Nov. 19 from 4 p.m. to ... Continue reading UT Dallas Student Entrepreneurs to Compete in Annual Big Idea Competition for \$100,000 in Cash and Prizes

Princeton Review: The Princeton Review® and Entrepreneur magazine today announced the results of The Princeton Review's 14th annual survey naming the top undergraduate and graduate schools for entrepreneurship studies.

Inside Jindal: Women from across North Texas recently converged on the campus of The University of Texas at Dallas to learn about entrepreneurship. For those who attended — three students in particular — the Women's Summit presented a great opportunity for education, inspiration, and empowerment.

Dallas Innovates: Powered by Capital One in partnership with The Dallas Entrepreneur Center and UT Dallas, the Women's Summit gathered hundreds of women for personal testimonies, hands-on workshops, and business building. It also coincided with Women's Entrepreneurship Week.

UT Dallas News Center: Three graduate students from the Naveen Jindal School of Management at The University of Texas at Dallas have turned their passions into entrepreneurial ventures and in turn have each been rewarded with a \$15,000 scholarship from the Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation.

Cision: The Board of Directors of ilumi Solutions/ Meshtek Labs announce Swapnil Bora as the CEO of MeshTek Labs, an Internet of Things (IoT) company based in Dallas, TX.

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NTX Inno: While they weren't packed into the auditorium at UT Dallas this year, hundreds tuned in remotely to the university's Big Idea Competition, where more than \$200,000 in prizes was up for grabs.

Dallas Innovates: PrimeVOX Communications' now patented AI technology allows the telecommunications company to provide customers with crystal-clear calls and unbelievable reliability.

Inside Jindal: Marketing senior Varika Pinnam won two major student awards in September — 2020 Student Entrepreneur at Dallas Startup Week and Collegiate Marketer of the Year from the DFW chapter of the American Marketing Association.

TechCrunch: Courtney Caldwell and her husband Tye have been building the Dallas-based startup ShearShare, which provides a marketplace service connecting stylists with open seats at hair salons, since 2017.

The Mercury: Student initiatives range from providing food for frontline workers to technology accessible for the visually impaired.

Dallas Innovates: Neuro Rehab VR's new XR Therapy, a portable system that's clinically validated and FDA registered, is being lauded as the first virtual reality system for neurological rehabilitation and physical therapy treatment.

NTX Inno: After being accepted into the inaugural Google for Startups Accelerator for Black Founders, four local companies have landed funding from the technology giant.

NTX Inno: For young entrepreneurs, the challenges of building a startup or creating new technology include the long hours of coding, developing and building a deck, often while navigating college classes or their entry to the business world.

Forbes: Originally from a small town in Bangladesh, Lail Hossain moved to the U.S. as a foreign student after high school to further her education.

Auganix: SURVIVR, a provider of virtual reality (VR) training solutions for police and security forces, has recently been awarded a Phase III SBIR contract by the US Department of Defense (DoD) to provide its VR training platform to the US Air Force (USAF).

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Dallas Innovates: ShearShare founders Courtney and Tye Caldwell won \$100,000 in the Dallas Diversity & Inclusion Investment Challenge Tuesday evening, clearing the way for the McKinney startup to grow its team.

JSOM Perspectives: In the first episode of 2018, Dr. Britt Berrett interviews Peter Baek, MD, CEO and founder of Vigilant Labels, a business that expedites required syringe labeling — to the patient's advantage. Baek discusses the problem he faced as a practicing anesthesiologist and how he arrived at his innovative solution.

Dallas Business Journal- Like most college students, Abinav Kalidindi quickly caught on to one of the underrated perks of the experience: free food.

Tech.Co: The competition, named after Penfolds' first Chief Winemaker Max Schubert, comes with a grand prize of \$33,000 in capital investment, representing Schubert's 33 years of dedication to the Penfolds brand.

Dallas Innovates: This spring, the UNIBEES app will launch at TCU, UNT, and SMU. By next fall, it's planning to be in more than 100 universities nationwide.

Dallas Innovates: Dr. Peter Baek has parlayed medical training, a military career, and academic resources into a deceptively simple startup that may provide critical drug compliance in operating rooms nationwide.

Dallas Innovates: From giving attraction maps the augmented reality treatment via a mobile app to an unmanned aerial system capable of monitoring air quality, the University of Texas at Dallas students offered a variety in Thursday's Big Idea Competition final.

UT Dallas News Center: UT Dallas graduate students Chandra Achanta and Abinav Kalidindi created UNIBEES, an app that helps other students find freebies and giveaways on campus. Their free app is also available to students at UT Arlington, UT Austin and Texas A&M University.

NPR: Let's say you're a scientist, and you've invented what you think is a useful treatment for pain. But you have a problem. You don't have the money to go through the regulatory approval process.

D Magazine: Addison accelerator Collide Village has launched CoBuild, a startup studio aiming to provide entrepreneurs resources and hands-on partnerships to launch successful startups.

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Inside Jindal: AT&T has awarded funding to a company founded and led by a graduate student in the Naveen Jindal School of Management to develop a product that helps children learn STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — concepts while having fun.

Yahoo Finance: Rally for Safety, the wearable emergency alerting button and mobile app, with a core mission to help end sexual assault and rape on college campuses, announced that it has partnered with The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (the Institute) at the University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) for a pilot program focused on the ... Continue reading Rally for Safety Launches 100 Student-focused Pilot Program with The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT-Dallas

Dallas Business Journal: The Innovate(her) program at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Texas at Dallas is a free one-day program for middle school girls to learn about STEM-related topics such as technology and finance.

PR Newswire: R9 Technology, an innovative provider of IoT-based services and solutions, has received FCC Certification for its G200 cellular gateway and SN400 sensor node. The two devices form the cornerstone of R9's SAFEZONE refrigeration monitoring system which simplifies food safety management.

GuideLive: The environment is student- and work-friendly, the University of Texas at Dallas student says. Johnson is majoring in finance and marketing at the university and says the classes she takes directly apply to running the coffee shop.

GuideLive: Dallas' own Bishop Cider Co. and Cidercade has plans to take its bar and retro gaming complex statewide with new locations set to open in Houston and Austin.

Fort Worth Business Press: Neuro Rehab VR offers rehabilitation of patients with brain and spinal cord injuries. The company is one of the first and few in the health care industry that applies VR technology in the treatment of neurological diseases and injuries, such as stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, ... Continue reading Fort Worth start-up has potential VR, therapy success

Inside JSOM: Had he not plugged into the innovation and entrepreneurship program at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, software engineering senior Brian Hoang would likely be headed for a programming career after graduation on May 15.

Dallas Innovates: HoboLoco's name is a mashup of "hoverboard" and "locomotion." The startup combines both of these concepts to create its own unique gaming experience.

UT Dallas Development and Alumni Relations: As a neuroscience student at UT Dallas, Emily Chrastka BS'16 was focused on one thing — earning her degree.

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Dallas Morning News: University of Texas at Dallas biotech startup CerSci Therapeutics has been bought by a San Diego pharmaceutical company for \$52.5 million in a deal that could later reward its backers with hundreds of millions more.

Dallas Innovates: Dallas-based Hashing Systems is on a mission to create the financial infrastructure of the future. The startup builds crypto-financial infrastructure based on Hedera Hashgraph and Ethereum, which enables companies to move tokens across a decentralized finance space faster and more cost-effective than current methods.

NTX Inno: Covering North Texas' tech scene everyday gives us a unique view into the ecosystem, including stealthy startups and those that have been building traction for years.

Dallas Innovates: A grant from the McKinney Economic Development Corporation's Innovation Fund will fuel the expansion of Invene, a growing product-as-a-service company. The move could create up to 12 "highly specialized" software engineering jobs in the next three years.

Built In: Each of the state's top tech hubs — Austin, Houston and Dallas — has cultivated its own unique tech culture, leading to the rise of various sectors including biotech. Fueled by academic brainpower and a deep-rooted healthcare industry, Dallas has naturally become a life sciences hotspot, cementing Texas' standing as a biotech boomtown.

The Wall Street Journal: In recent weeks, protests have erupted in response to police violence against citizens - specifically communities of color - forcing departments to reconsider how officers do their jobs. Police forces have been using tech - like Tasers and body cameras - to try and reduce the use of lethal force and ... Continue reading Technology Helps Train Police Officers

Austonia: Camps are allowed to operate, but not all of them will; pools are up and running, but reservations and masks are required; and of course they're coming off months of at-home learning in a pandemic that is, for some, providing an excellent excuse to spend more time on their primary obsession: playing video games or watching other people play them ... Continue reading Austin-based, kid-friendly streaming service Tankee sees success in pandemic as families spend more time at home

Inside JSOM: Two graduate students in the Naveen Jindal School of Management have won funding from the RevTech SAFE Schools Grant Challenge for proposing a solution to help suppress the COVID-19 virus on university and college campuses.

North Texas Inno: Capping off the Accenture-presented virtual summit at Capital Factory, which focused on female diversity and inclusion in the industry, six startups (three from North Texas) made their pitches to a panel of judges, including True Wealth Ventures' Sara Brand, Notley Ventures' Lawton Cummings,

Amazon Web Services' Sandy Carter and Baker Botts' Natalie ... Continue reading Fort Worth's NeuroRehabVR wins the Women in Tech Summit pitch competition

Fortune: After months of lockdown, one of the top priorities for many people as restrictions are lifted might have been deemed inessential before but is increasingly becoming more essential for others.

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Dallas Innovates: Dallas-based URCompd is expanding to all casinos in North America, a major step for the casino marketing startup that was formed in 2014.

PR Newswire: L'Oréal USA today announces the three finalists of its Women in Digital NEXT Generation Awards: ShearShare co-founder and COO, Courtney Caldwell; HelloAva founder, Siqi Mou; and Shine co-founders, Naomi Hirabayashi and Marah Lidey.

Dallas Innovates: UT Dallas alumnus Shahzil "Shaz" Amin says nothing came easy. Participants of the 10 selected teams for this semester's experiential accelerator program will get coaching from the no-holds-barred entrepreneur and investor.

Skyven Technologies: After two exciting rounds of on-stage pitching in front of an expert panel of judges, 15 semi-finalists were narrowed down to six awardees. With a grand prize of \$1 million, second prize of \$500,000, and four runner-up prizes of \$250,000, Skyven claimed the top honor.

Dallas Morning News: Ted Price, an associate professor at the University of Texas at Dallas, researches chronic pain and helped start a local company, CerSci Therapeutics...

Dallas Morning News: Foot Cardigan, the Dallas-based online subscription company that sends zany socks to 30,000 regular customers monthly all over the world, is ready for its next act.

Rolling Out: From cornrows to high-top fades, history has repeated itself with the most eccentric styles in the beauty industry. Unfortunately, the talented professionals behind these iconic hairdos have struggled to find and maintain their footing.

D CEO Healthcare: CerSci Therapeutics will receive an additional one million in 2018, totalling to \$2.65 million by 2018 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for its Direct-to-Phase II Small Business Innovation Research grant.

Dallas Innovates: A group of North Texas investors made up a major portion of the Series A round.

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Inside JSOM: In less than two years, marketing major Varika Pinnam turned her sweet-smelling beauty hack into a fast-selling facial serum.

Inside JSOM: The University of Texas at Dallas kicked off its annual Earth Week festivities with several events on Earth Day, April 22. Prominent among these was the Earth Entrepreneurship Forum, during which speakers discussed the past, present and future of the energy sector.

Inside JSOM: Mark Candella is on a mission to make esports a mainstream industry and to empower its participants. Known as Garvey in the gaming community, he visited Dallas April 2 to deliver the keynote presentation at the second annual Emerging Technologies — EmTech — Summit.

Dallas Innovates: North Texas startups have the opportunity to take place in an emerging industry, experts say. Here's what founders need to know about finding funding and the future of esports.

Inside JSOM: A recent UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship event demonstrated the institute's commitment to enabling the next generation of new ventures by presenting a topic of burgeoning, yet unconventional, interest — the surging market in growing and selling cannabis.

UT Dallas News Center: Students at The University of Texas at Dallas with a desire to be entrepreneurs now have the opportunity to engage mentors, access workspaces and accelerate the launch of their products, thanks to new partnerships with two startup accelerator programs and a technology think tank.

D Magazine: With a free heart and the courage to follow it, he fought the city to permit the first breweries in modern-day Dallas. Now he's taking the fight to the Supreme Court.

Dallas Innovates: CerSci's focus is on alleviating human suffering and rescuing society from the ongoing opioid crisis via a pain drug that does not affect the central nervous system.

Dallas Innovates: The gaming industry contributes over \$260 billion to the U.S. economy, according to statistics provided by the University of Texas at Dallas. Globally, the esports audience will reach 380 million this year. And, by 2021, esports is projected to have more viewers than every professional league (besides the NFL).

Richardson, Texas (March 12, 2019) – The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it will host its 2nd Annual Emerging Technologies (EmTech) Summit on April 2, in downtown Dallas, in partnership with Dallas Startup Week. EmTech 2019: “Esports and the New Gaming Economy” brings together pioneers in new ventures with innovators from the ... Continue reading UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Announces 2nd Annual EmTech Summit in Partnership with Dallas Startup Week, April 2

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D Magazine: Anjie Vichayanonda was an intellectual property lawyer for five years, most recently as an associate with the trademark practice group at Haynes and Boone.

UT System: Across the 14 UT institutions, research and development expenditures total \$3.1 billion – the second highest among U.S. public higher education systems.

NTX Inno: After announcing a partnership with SMU and UTD in early April to search for applicants for the RevTech SAFE Schools grant challenge, the organizations received a flurry of student pitches. And after sifting through the applications, five winners have been selected.

Techstars: If there's one thing that inspires us, it's seeing young entrepreneurs taking action after being motivated by some challenge to their community.

Dallas Innovates: RevTech expects the grants to deliver more than \$1.5 million of community impact. Recipients include Cafe Momentum, COOKED-19, Cooklist, among others with a mission to lift up the city of Dallas.

D Magazine: A medical and manufacturing partnership is modifying full face snorkeling masks to be personal protective equipment, ready to use in case hospitals run out.

Dallas Innovates: CEO Luke Escude says business is up as companies working remotely during COVID-19 need more voice conferencing options.

Inside JSOM: In the not-so-distant future, autonomous vehicles will dominate the roads and drastically reduce traffic accidents, injuries and deaths.

D Magazine: Brandon Friedman and Terrence “TK” Kamauf run Rakkasan Tea Company out of two rooms lined with exposed brick and filled with mounds of canisters.

Dallas Morning News: The immigrant family behind Momo Shack built a new community for themselves around dumplings.

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PR Newswire: The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it has launched a partnership with Capital Factory, one of the most active early-stage tech investors in Texas, to accelerate to market the products and services of ventures founded by UT Dallas students.

Dallas Business Journal: In a move that distinguishes itself from its U.S. peers, this local university nabbed a relationship with a global blockchain group that brings some heft.

UT Dallas Magazine: Alumnus Hopes His Business Gives Veterans and Post-Conflict Countries a Better Future

PR Newswire: The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The University of Texas at Dallas has announced a new partnership with the Blockchain Research Institute (BRI), a global independent think tank working to identify the strategic implications and opportunities of blockchain for business, government and society.

Dallas Innovates: This month, the Dallas venture investor and adviser joined Capital Factory as the Vice President of Accelerator and Investment Fund, where he will manage a team across the state in line with the Texas Startup Manifesto.

Inside JSOM: After more than 17 years of “visionary” service, Dr. Joseph C. Picken retired in December from the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

GlobeNewswire: ReMode’s inaugural edition brought together over 1,000 participants, both days, representing all sectors of the fashion industry including thought leaders, top brands, retailers, technology providers, finance partners, and NGOs.

JSOM Perspectives: In today’s Shark Tank nation, where entrepreneurship has been popularized by reality TV, having a Ph.D. in arts and humanities might not seem like money (and time) well spent.

LaunchDFW: There isn’t anything more disappointing than when you order something online and when it finally arrives, it’s not at all what you thought you were purchasing. Online shopping is convenient, but it can leave a lot of room for error. Not knowing exactly what you’ve bought until it arrives on your doorstep is a ... Continue reading Nicole Mossman wants to take your online shopping experience to the next level

Inside JSOM: Student teams from The University of Texas at Dallas showed recently that winning a business pitch competition — or launching a successful business, for that matter — requires having not just a great idea but also the preparation, passion and tools needed to stay focused and convince others — including celebrity judge Tan ... Continue reading Students Demonstrate High Level of Preparation at UT Dallas Big Idea Competition

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Dallas Observer: What’s in a cup of tea? The rebellious seeds of our democracy, sure. But tea, at least in America, is a contemplative drink, maybe a comfort during illness or a holiday tradition.

UT Dallas News Center: University of Texas at Dallas computer science senior Pablo Peillard says he’s always been a maker.

Dallas Innovates: Founding a new company can be difficult, especially when you are also balancing college courses and visa procedures.

Lifestyle Frisco: Detour Doughnuts is the confectionary dream of Jinny Cho, a longtime Frisco resident and a woman with the donut business in her blood.

McKinney Online: The leading magazine chronicling innovation in North Texas, NTX Inno, has named James Griffin, CEO of Invene, a North Texas 25 Under 25 recipient.

North Texas Inno: Referred to broadly as social impact businesses, these startups and nonprofits aren't just focused on numbers and spreadsheets, but also on trying to make the world a better place. In North Texas, these impact-driven entrepreneurs come from a number of different industries, but all look to combine passion and profit to make ... Continue reading 5 Social Impact Startups to Watch in North Texas

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UTD Mercury: The first annual Women's Summit held at UTD took place in the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center earlier this month.

JSOM Perspectives: A sold-out audience of more than 300 filled the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center on Oct. 15 for the first Women's Summit. The event was hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, in partnership with Women Entrepreneurship Week 2018.

Forbes: In today's socially conscious world, both employees and customers favor businesses that participate in charitable initiatives. While you could make a donation to a national or global nonprofit, you and your team may find it more fulfilling to offer your time or resources to an organization closer to home.

Austin Statesman: Texas undergraduate teams pitched their startup ideas over the weekend at the University of Texas-Austin to win their share of \$50,000. UT-Dallas' SurvivR, a virtual reality platform that standardizes police training, won \$5,000.

UT Dallas News Center: The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation has selected three undergraduate students at The University of Texas at Dallas for scholarships that recognize leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. Konan Mirza, Brian Hoang and Tina Dimitrova each have won \$15,000, with funds for their awards donated by the Mitchell Family Foundation.

UT Dallas News Center: It was always his dream class — a class he wishes he could have taken in college. A few years ago, Blackstone LaunchPad director Bryan Chambers set out to design a program at The University of Texas at Dallas that would teach the business of venture capital and entrepreneurial concepts and empower students ... Continue reading LaunchPad Director Wins Tech Titans Award for Seed Fund Efforts

Dallas Morning News: Brandon Friedman moved to Dallas last year with his wife, young son and a new mission: He is founder and CEO of Rakkasan Tea Company, which he runs from two small, stripped-down rooms at the back of an old brick building in Deep Ellum.

Dallas Innovates: From using AI and imaging processing to evaluate fruits and veggies to helping commercial real estate owners manage their solar assets, learn more about the energy technology startups that will be featured at EarthX through Sunday.

Inside JSOM: Dr. David Hanson, a 2007 UT Dallas PhD alumnus and founder and CEO of Hanson Robotics, described "Bringing Robots to Life," in a recent campus visit that served as warmup event for the upcoming Emerging Technologies Summit.

Dallas Innovates: Emerging Technologies Summit is a two-day fintech, blockchain, and AI conference at UT Dallas featuring innovators from startups to large companies with digital thought leader Don Tapscott as keynote speaker.

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Cision: The Board of Directors of ilumi Solutions/ Meshtek Labs announce Swapnil Bora as the CEO of MeshTek Labs, an Internet of Things (IoT) company based in Dallas, TX.

Inside Jindal: AT&T has awarded funding to a company founded and led by a graduate student in the Naveen Jindal School of Management to develop a product that helps children learn STEM — science, technology, engineering and math — concepts while having fun.

Yahoo Finance: Rally for Safety, the wearable emergency alerting button and mobile app, with a core mission to help end sexual assault and rape on college campuses, announced that it has partnered with The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (the Institute) at the University of Texas at Dallas (UT Dallas) for a pilot program focused on the ... Continue reading Rally for Safety Launches 100 Student-focused Pilot Program with The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UT-Dallas

Dallas Business Journal: The Innovate(her) program at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Texas at Dallas is a free one-day program for middle school girls to learn about STEM-related topics such as technology and finance.

PR Newswire: R9 Technology, an innovative provider of IoT-based services and solutions, has received FCC Certification for its G200 cellular gateway and SN400 sensor node. The two devices form the cornerstone of R9's SAFEZONE refrigeration monitoring system which simplifies food safety management.

GuideLive: The environment is student- and work-friendly, the University of Texas at Dallas student says. Johnson is majoring in finance and marketing at the university and says the classes she takes directly apply to running the coffee shop.

GuideLive: Dallas' own Bishop Cider Co. and Cidercade has plans to take its bar and retro gaming complex statewide with new locations set to open in Houston and Austin.

Fort Worth Business Press: Neuro Rehab VR offers rehabilitation of patients with brain and spinal cord injuries. The company is one of the first and few in the health care industry that applies VR technology in the treatment of neurological diseases and injuries, such as stroke, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, ... Continue reading Fort Worth start-up has potential VR, therapy success

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Inside JSOM: Had he not plugged into the innovation and entrepreneurship program at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, software engineering senior Brian Hoang would likely be headed for a programming career after graduation on May 15.

Dallas Innovates: HoboLoco's name is a mashup of "hoverboard" and "locomotion." The startup combines both of these concepts to create its own unique gaming experience.

UT Dallas Development and Alumni Relations: As a neuroscience student at UT Dallas, Emily Chrastka BS'16 was focused on one thing — earning her degree.

Inside JSOM: In less than two years, marketing major Varika Pinnam turned her sweet-smelling beauty hack into a fast-selling facial serum.

Inside JSOM: The University of Texas at Dallas kicked off its annual Earth Week festivities with several events on Earth Day, April 22. Prominent among these was the Earth Entrepreneurship Forum, during which speakers discussed the past, present and future of the energy sector.

Inside JSOM: Mark Candella is on a mission to make esports a mainstream industry and to empower its participants. Known as Garvey in the gaming community, he visited Dallas April 2 to deliver the keynote presentation at the second annual Emerging Technologies — EmTech — Summit.

Dallas Innovates: North Texas startups have the opportunity to take place in an emerging industry, experts say. Here's what founders need to know about finding funding and the future of esports.

Inside JSOM: A recent UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship event demonstrated the institute's commitment to enabling the next generation of new ventures by presenting a topic of burgeoning, yet unconventional, interest — the surging market in growing and selling cannabis.

UT Dallas News Center: Students at The University of Texas at Dallas with a desire to be entrepreneurs now have the opportunity to engage mentors, access workspaces and accelerate the launch of their products, thanks to new partnerships with two startup accelerator programs and a technology think tank.

D Magazine: With a free heart and the courage to follow it, he fought the city to permit the first breweries in modern-day Dallas. Now he's taking the fight to the Supreme Court.

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Dallas Innovates: CerSci's focus is on alleviating human suffering and rescuing society from the ongoing opioid crisis via a pain drug that does not affect the central nervous system.

Dallas Innovates: The gaming industry contributes over \$260 billion to the U.S. economy, according to statistics provided by the University of Texas at Dallas. Globally, the esports audience will reach 380 million this year. And, by 2021, esports is projected to have more viewers than every professional league (besides the NFL).

Richardson, Texas (March 12, 2019) – The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it will host its 2nd Annual Emerging Technologies (EmTech) Summit on April 2, in downtown Dallas, in partnership with Dallas Startup Week. EmTech 2019: “Esports and the New Gaming Economy” brings together pioneers in new ventures with innovators from the ... Continue reading UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Announces 2nd Annual EmTech Summit in Partnership with Dallas Startup Week, April 2

PR Newswire: The UT Dallas Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship today announced it has launched a partnership with Capital Factory, one of the most active early-stage tech investors in Texas, to accelerate to market the products and services of ventures founded by UT Dallas students.

Dallas Business Journal: In a move that distinguishes itself from its U.S. peers, this local university nabbed a relationship with a global blockchain group that brings some heft.

UT Dallas Magazine: Alumnus Hopes His Business Gives Veterans and Post-Conflict Countries a Better Future

PR Newswire: The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at The University of Texas at Dallas has announced a new partnership with the Blockchain Research Institute (BRI), a global independent think tank working to identify the strategic implications and opportunities of blockchain for business, government and society.

Dallas Innovates: This month, the Dallas venture investor and adviser joined Capital Factory as the Vice President of Accelerator and Investment Fund, where he will manage a team across the state in line with the Texas Startup Manifesto.

Inside JSOM: After more than 17 years of “visionary” service, Dr. Joseph C. Picken retired in December from the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

GlobeNewswire: ReMode’s inaugural edition brought together over 1,000 participants, both days, representing all sectors of the fashion industry including thought leaders, top brands, retailers, technology providers, finance partners, and NGOs.

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JSOM Perspectives: In today's Shark Tank nation, where entrepreneurship has been popularized by reality TV, having a Ph.D. in arts and humanities might not seem like money (and time) well spent.

LaunchDFW: There isn't anything more disappointing than when you order something online and when it finally arrives, it's not at all what you thought you were purchasing. Online shopping is convenient, but it can leave a lot of room for error. Not knowing exactly what you've bought until it arrives on your doorstep is a ... Continue reading Nicole Mossman wants to take your online shopping experience to the next level

Inside JSOM: Student teams from The University of Texas at Dallas showed recently that winning a business pitch competition — or launching a successful business, for that matter — requires having not just a great idea but also the preparation, passion and tools needed to stay focused and convince others — including celebrity judge Tan ... Continue reading Students Demonstrate High Level of Preparation at UT Dallas Big Idea Competition

UTD Mercury: The first annual Women's Summit held at UTD took place in the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center earlier this month.

JSOM Perspectives: A sold-out audience of more than 300 filled the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center on Oct. 15 for the first Women's Summit. The event was hosted by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (IIE) at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, in partnership with Women Entrepreneurship Week 2018.

Forbes: In today's socially conscious world, both employees and customers favor businesses that participate in charitable initiatives. While you could make a donation to a national or global nonprofit, you and your team may find it more fulfilling to offer your time or resources to an organization closer to home.

Austin Statesman: Texas undergraduate teams pitched their startup ideas over the weekend at the University of Texas-Austin to win their share of \$50,000. UT-Dallas' SurvivR, a virtual reality platform that standardizes police training, won \$5,000.

UT Dallas News Center: The Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation has selected three undergraduate students at The University of Texas at Dallas for scholarships that recognize leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. Konan Mirza, Brian Hoang and Tina Dimitrova each have won \$15,000, with funds for their awards donated by the Mitchell Family Foundation.

UT Dallas News Center: It was always his dream class — a class he wishes he could have taken in college. A few years ago, Blackstone LaunchPad director Bryan Chambers set out to design a program at The University of Texas at Dallas that would teach the business of venture capital and entrepreneurial concepts and empower students ... Continue reading LaunchPad Director Wins Tech Titans Award for Seed Fund Efforts

Dallas Morning News: Brandon Friedman moved to Dallas last year with his wife, young son and a new mission: He is founder and CEO of Rakkasan Tea Company, which he runs from two small, stripped-down rooms at the back of an old brick building in Deep Ellum.

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Dallas Innovates: From using AI and imaging processing to evaluate fruits and veggies to helping commercial real estate owners manage their solar assets, learn more about the energy technology startups that will be featured at EarthX through Sunday.

Inside JSOM: Dr. David Hanson, a 2007 UT Dallas PhD alumnus and founder and CEO of Hanson Robotics, described "Bringing Robots to Life," in a recent campus visit that served as warmup event for the upcoming Emerging Technologies Summit.

Dallas Innovates: Emerging Technologies Summit is a two-day fintech, blockchain, and AI conference at UT Dallas featuring innovators from startups to large companies with digital thought leader Don Tapscott as keynote speaker.

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