

PYT Funds, a Washington D.C.-based student loan funding platform, is actively fundraising its seed round, said Dick Adams, CEO and co-founder.

Brief Summary:

PYT is aiming to meet the student loan tuition gap by offering "student loanership" programs, in which students crowdfund 10% to 20% of their tuition to build their credit and in turn, banks fully fund their student loans.



Investors:

New Media Ventures, Points of Light, Village Capital alumni and TEDCO



Insurmi, a Phoenix, Arizona-based provider of a conversational customer engagement platform for the insurance industry, could raise a bridge round ahead of its Series A, but is now preparing to launch an agency-focused version of its product, CEO and founder Sonny Patel said.

Brief Summary:

Insurmi offers an Al-powered digital assistant, named Violet. It initially targeted only insurance carriers as customers, but now it is getting ready to launch a version of Violet for the agency market.



Investors:

Coplex, angel investors, and the Global Insurance Accelerator (GIA)

Interesting Fact:

The company will be marketing to agencies through social media channels as well as making direct sales calls, he said. It will be investing in funny and intriguing video marketing to generate more buzz around Violet.



*Dapp, a Mexico-based digital payment network, is raising its pre-Series A round, said Antonio Pelaez, CEO and co-founder.

Brief Summary:

Dapp provides plug-and-play technology to banks and fintechs, which they integrate with their merchants. The merchants generate a QR code at the time of payment and consumers scan and pay the QR code from any compatible digital wallet.



CEO:

Antonio Pelaez



Interesting Fact:

The company chose the name "Dapp" for a couple of reasons. While it means "decentralized app," the word "dap" also represents a greeting and gesture of understanding between two people. The second "p" in Dapp stands for payment, hence the name "Dapp," a mobile app that understands various methods of payment, CEO Antonio Pelaez told Fintech Horizons..



Percent Pledge, a Chicago-based corporate giving platform provider, is in the midst of its seed raise, said Joel Pollick, CEO and founder.

Brief Summary:

Percent Pledge is a B2B model that matches employers with a charitable giving portfolio, which companies customize based on what causes that company is passionate about.



Advisors: Winston & Strawn, McDermott Will & Emery, and Sidley Austin

Investors:

angels

CEO and founder:

Joel Pollick







Maptycs, a New York City-based insurtech that provides customized real-time risk reports of geographical areas that allow insurers to make instant assessments of property exposure to risk, will seek capital in Q4 this year, said Jacqueline Legrand, CEO and founder.

Brief Summary:

Maptycs uses geospatial visualization and advanced analytics to help insurance professionals better understand property risk exposure. (Founded 2014)



Investors:

As of March, Maptycs had been bootstrapped, Legrand told FHM.

CEO:

Jacqueline Legrand





Interesting Fact:

Prior to Maptycs, Legrand served as COO of a 600-person international brokerage firm, and as CEO of both Brokerslink, a Zug-based global brokers network, and HighDome PCC, a captive insurance company domiciled in Malta.



♠Kasko, a London-based insurtech that designs, launches and scales functional and digital insurance products across any distribution channels, is in the midst of raising seed capital, said Nikolaus Suehr, CEO and co-founder.

Brief Summary:

Kasko is an insurtech-as-a-service provider that offers customized white-label insurance products to insurers.



CEO and co-founder:

Nikolaus Suehr





Interesting Fact:

There will eventually be a liquidity event for its investors to monetize their investments, Suehr explained. Ideally, one of its customers will become a strategic investor at some point, which will lead to a buyout. The timeline is difficult to predict as it depends on how far along Kasko is with its growth goals. It could look for strategic investors to acquire a minority or majority stake in three to five years, he estimated. Likely acquirers are insurance carriers or IT consulting or IT vendor firms.



Hostbuddy, a San Jose-based startup providing an AI assistant for ordering at fast casual and fast food restaurants, is seeking seed financing, CEO and founder Sagar Golla said.

Brief Summary:

The company provides a virtual waiter that takes orders, which diners can use at their tables or by the register, Golla said. Hostbuddy can help patrons avoid long line-ups, he said.



CEO and founder:

Sagar Golla





Interesting Fact:

Prior to Hostbuddy, Golla was CEO and founder of AppVoyage, which created a cloud service called POScript to connect mobile apps to point-of-sale systems through a single API. Earlier in his carrier, he was a software architect at Nexsi Systems (which was backed by Sequoia) and held various roles at Sun Microsystems.



Ubitquity, an enterprise-ready blockchain platform for real estate recordkeeping, lanning to expand into the South East Asian market.

Brief Summary:

Ubitquity introduced a recording and tracking system, which using blockchain, adds transparency to the process and to ownership and property information. It also reduced search time. With its blockchain platform, it aims to strengthen and not replace its existing analog counterpart: the physical or paper records in real estate and its client base includes title companies, municipalities/land records offices, the CEO said.



CEO:

Nathan Wosnack





Interesting Fact:

Wosnack has been an entrepreneur since the age of 19 and has had a couple of successful exits. He considers Ubitquity to be the most fulfilling company he has ever started because it went from a startup with no money, no customers, and no platform to one that with a SaaS platform and API, a growing customer list and a healthy amount of revenue, he told FHM.



◆Twilight, a NYC-based startup which is developing an app to help young people save for a down payment on their first home, is looking to raise its first round of funding, co-founders Darren Small (CEO) and Allyson Alves (CTO) told this news service.

Brief Summary:

Twilight's mission is to "close the housing gap" in the US by helping millennials simplify their finances and budgeting processes, Small said. It is developing a mobile application that will provide a step-by-step plan for millennials to find easy ways to save for their first home.



Interesting Fact:

Twilight plans to generate revenue through a tiered monthly subscription model. It is initially thinking that the base version of its app will cost users about \$8.00 per month. The company will probably not cross-sell products over its app, Small said.



*Articence, a Pleasant, California-based startup that has created a 'Deep Text' SaaS model that can extract data on demand from formats such as PDF, docx, txt and CSV files, is in talks with a medical services company and a pharmaceutical company on potential contracts, CEO and Founder Sonal Koul said.

Brief Summary:

Articence's Deep Text SaaS model can extract data on demand from formats such as PDF, docx, txt and CSV files and the data then can be translated for Deep Learning and Machine Learning. The Articence data is compatible with API and Open source frameworks such as TensorFlow, Keras and Neon.



honeyfi

Most Recent Coverage:

♦ Honeyfi, a Charlotte, North Carolina-based startup offering an app to help couples save money and manage their finances together, is seeking seed financing, CEO Ramy Serageldin said.

Brief Summary:

Honeyfi has developed an app where couples can set rules and both contribute to save for things such as vacations, weddings or purchasing a home -- or split household expenses such as utilities and groceries. The app helps new couples manage both their individual and combined expenses, Serageldin said.





◆TipTags, the Los Angeles-based creator of a patented mapbased messaging system, is in the midst of raising \$800,000 in pre-seed funding via a convertible note, CEO Tim Roberts said.

Brief Summary:

the Los Angeles-based creator of a patented map-based messaging system website



Micruity, a Toronto-based company creating infrastructure that facilitates the placement of third party life insurance annuities into retirement plans, is seeking funds to build out its software, CEO and Co-founder Trevor Gary told this news service.

Brief Summary:

a Toronto-based company creating infrastructure that facilitates the placement of third party life insurance annuities into retirement plans website



Hummingbiird, a Tallahassee, Florida-based startup offering an app that connects college students seeking services with student workers and service providers, is now raising equity financing, CEO Matthew Solomon and COO Zachary Polito told this news service in a joint interview.

Brief Summary:

a Tallahassee, Florida-based startup offering an app that connects college students seeking services with student workers and service providers website



*GoSave, a Santa Monica, California-based digital "piggy bank" and financial literacy app provider, is in process of its seed raise, said Andrew Birt, co-founder and CEO.

Brief Summary:

GoSavers are smart piggy banks with an intuitive touch screen and an iOS and Android application that help you teach your child about savings, rewards, goals, chores and financial literacy.



Interesting Fact:

While GoSave is headquartered in California, most of its team resides in Australia. Birt lives in Brisbane with his wife and two little children. Prior to GoSave, Birt served as CMO for CliniCloud. He also co-founded LIFX, a smart bulb lighting company, which was acquired last year for \$51m by Australiabased Buddy Platform Limited.