Get your ticket for the #StartupColumbia Festival Now!

In just over 2 weeks, we're rounding out at the 2015-16 academic year with the $250K Columbia Venture Competition Finals and the #StartupColumbia Festival. We are excited to hear the finalists' pitches and the remarkable keynote speakers, such as Snapchat founder Evan Spiegel and Venmo founder Iqram Magdon-Ismail. Buy your tickets to the festival now! Admission is free to the CVC finals. Don't forget to visit our website where you can stay up-to-date on events, like the ones listed below, and find plenty of entrepreneurship-related resources.

Upcoming Events
1. 2016 Columbia Venture Competition Finals & #StartupColumbia Festival - 4/28-29
2. Tech in Fintech - 4/12
3. Design Studio@Columbia Entrepreneurship - 4/15, 4/22
4. Almaworks Spring Demo Day - 4/19
5. Extreme Engineering: Entrepreneurship to Spaceship w/ Greg Olsen - 4/21

Upcoming Deadlines
1. Columbia Undergraduate Startup Internship Fund - 4/13
2. Tamer Center Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program - 4/15
3. Amazon Activate @ Columbia

In the Community
1. Columbia Technology Venture's Podcast Series
2. Kickstarter Campaign for Columbia Biomedical Startup - ends 5/3

If there is something specific that you'd like us to include in this newsletter, please contact us. If you're interested in what's happening at the university-wide scale, check out our friends at Columbia Entrepreneurship, CORE and ADI.
1. 2016 Columbia Venture Competition Finals and #StartupColumbia Festival

Thursday, April 28th - Friday, April 29th

Find more information and register to get your ticket here.

The 3rd annual #StartupColumbia Festival is a two day conference that brings together the Manhattan entrepreneurial community in celebration of innovation and new ventures that enrich our lives and address the world's most challenging problems. On Thursday, the Festival will feature the final round of the Columbia Venture Competition in which the top competitors in all five challenges will compete for $250K in prize money to fund their business ideas. The conference will continue the next day with discussions led by notable entrepreneurs, technologists, venture capitalists and more, including announcements of the winners of the Columbia Venture Competition. Get your ticket now because it's something you won't want to miss!

2. Tech in Fintech

Tuesday, April 12th, 5pm - 7pm

Roone Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall

Find more information and get your free ticket here.

This panel will expose Columbia University's best and brightest engineers and data scientists to one of the fastest growing industries with its base right here in New York City. Several CTOs and Heads of Data Science at leading financial technology companies will provide a detailed overview of what each company does, the strategic and technical challenges each faces, and the unique approaches and solutions that have allowed each company to succeed in their respective verticals. Panelists will also discuss how engineering and data science students interested in a career in fintech can best position themselves for a competitive job market. Immediately following the panel, Tech in Fintech will break out into a catered networking session.

3. 2016 Design Studio@Columbia Entrepreneurship

April Design Sprints: Design sprints are hands on, interactive ways to learn about specific parts of the design process. Whether you already have a product or idea, or are just interested in learning more about the process, these sprints are an intensive introductory experience that will help you develop your human centered design skills.

Testing Sprint: Friday, April 15th, 2pm - 4pm
An introduction to testing your ideas with customers or users.
Register here.

Storytelling Sprint: Friday, April 22nd, 2pm - 4pm
A deep dive into storytelling for founders, ideas, or everyday life.
Register here.

Upcoming Studio Hours: Do you have an idea and want to get personal feedback from Columbia’s Design Studio? During Studio Hours, you are invited to discuss your projects or ideas one-on-one with designers in the Studio. Teams of Columbia entrepreneurs or students are welcome to use the studio space to work on their projects during this time.

Thursday, April 14th from 1-3pm
Register here.

Thursday, April 21 from 1-4pm
4. Almaworks Spring Demo Day

Tuesday, April 19th, 5pm
Davis Auditorium, Schapiro CEPSR Building
Find more event information here.

Columbia University's student-run startup accelerator, Almaworks, will be hosting a demo day for its Spring 2016 graduating class. This event is open to the public and requires no prior registration. Come watch some of the top student startups in NYC pitch to the NYC startup community and then attend the post-pitch dinner session where you will be able to talk with all the teams in the inaugural Almaworks class. Free food and refreshments will be served. Learn more about Almaworks at [www.alma.works](http://www.alma.works).

5. Extreme Engineering: Entrepreneurship to Spaceship with Greg Olsen

Thursday, April 21st, 5:30pm
Room 750, Schapiro CEPSR Building
Find more information and register here.

Astronaut Greg Olsen, President of GHO Ventures, will discuss his career path which includes experience with space flight, venture investment, and business creation. More information coming soon at the link above!

6. Columbia-Coulter 2016 Pitch Day

Tuesday, May 3rd
Find more information here.

Each year, the Columbia-Coulter Translational Research Partnership provides up to $1 million to bring innovative biomedical technologies to market to benefit human health and society. On Tuesday, May 3rd, teams of Columbia engineers, clinicians and students will speed-pitch their envisioned med tech products and business opportunities to a panel of judges and invited guests. With access to education, funding and mentorship, selected teams work to move promising ideas from conception to proof-of-concept, resulting in projects that are more attractive to commercial partners. More information on the Columbia-Coulter Partnership is available at [www.columbia-coulter.org](http://www.columbia-coulter.org). If you’re interested learning more about the program or attending the Columbia-Coulter Pitch Day, please email coulter@columbia.edu.

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**Upcoming Deadlines**

1. Columbia Undergraduate Startup Internship Fund

   Due by Wednesday, April 13th
Find out more information and apply here.

Columbia Entrepreneurship and the Center for Career Education are pleased to announce the Columbia Undergraduate Startup Internship Fund (SIF) sponsored by Columbia College for summer 2016. The Startup Internship Fund is specifically designed to encourage undergraduate (CC, SEAS, GS) students to accept a quality unpaid/low-paid internship at a high-growth, innovative startup that will help them explore opportunities in New York’s fastest growing industry while alleviating some of the financial burden. The startup does not have to be a technology company. Depending on the student’s application and budget form, a maximum amount of up to $5,000 can be awarded.

2. Tamer Center Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program

Due by Friday, April 15th

Find out more information and apply here.

The Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School supports the Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program, a unique and exciting opportunity for students to apply learning from the classroom with an organization making social change in the world. This fellowship was expanded in 2015 to provide financial support to Columbia and Barnard undergraduate and graduate students engaged in summer internships that create social and environmental value. The Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program contributes a $200 to $600 per week stipend to assist with expenses associated with the internship to summer fellows, depending on the availability of funds.

3. Amazon Activate @ Columbia

Find out more and apply here.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) and SEAS Entrepreneurship Programs at Columbia have partnered to provide students, staff, and faculty interested in starting web-based business ventures free tools to do so. AWS provides web services, commonly known as cloud computing, which are on-demand IT resources. Cloud computing helps many startups launch without investing in costly infrastructure.

The Activate program offers several benefits to new Columbia startups, and those that have not raised more than $1.5 million in funding. Some of these perks include $1000 in AWS credits valid for one year, free access to web-based training and hands-on labs, one month of premium AWS Business Support, and more! This program accepts applicants on a rolling basis.

In the Community

1. Columbia Technology Venture's Podcast Series

Listen here.

Columbia Technology Ventures’ first-ever podcast series is now available for download and streaming on Soundcloud and iTunes. The podcasts are a great opportunity to hear from informative and engaging industry figures on topics related to venture capital, entrepreneurship, tech transfer, innovation and more, as well as catch up on any CTV events you may have missed.

Currently you can hear podcasts from speakers including Carlo Rizzuto of Versant Ventures (Venture Capital Perspectives); Xavier Hughes of the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Cheryl
Martin, formerly of the U.S. Dept. of Energy, and Javier Saade, formerly of the U.S. Small Business Administration (Obama's Startup Nation); Marian Nakada of Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Bob Silverman of Roche and Steven Weinstein of Novartis Ventures (Biopharma Perspective on Early Venture Investing and R&D); and more! Subscribe to the podcast on Soundcloud or iTunes, and keep an eye out for more new content coming.

2. Kickstarter Campaign for Columbia Biomedical Startup

Closes Tuesday, May 3rd
Support Neopenda here.

Neopenda is a startup social enterprise founded by Columbia Biomedical Engineering students Sona Shah and Teresa Cauvel (both MS’16). Sona and Teresa are designing neonatal healthcare solutions for the places they are needed most. Their first product is a simple, low cost wearable vital signs monitor that gives voice to newborns in medical distress and eases the burden on over-taxed nurses and doctors. On March 23rd, Neopenda concluded the Relevant Health accelerator and launched a Kickstarter to fund their first field deployment in Uganda. Go to Neopenda’s website for more information, and follow them on Twitter and Facebook for more news.

Mentoring

We’re always looking for mentors for our most promising teams. If you would like to share advice and help an aspiring entrepreneur, please register here to be a volunteer mentor. You will have the amazing opportunity to assist a team improve its business idea/model and increase its chances of gaining funding!

Office Hours

The staff of SEAS Entrepreneurship Programs invites you to our open office hours! Email seaseship@columbia.edu to schedule. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity by asking us questions about anything related to entrepreneurship, especially as you prepare to enter the Columbia Venture Competition. We have many resources that we'd love to share with you!