Happy Last Month of School!

It's hard to believe that there's only one month of school left in the academic year. It seems like we were just hosting our September Third Thursday and fall Fast Pitch competition, and here we are at the last Third Thursday of the year.

We have a few last entrepreneurship events lined up for this final month of school. Of note are our final round of the Columbia Venture Competition on April 13th and Third Thursday on April 20th, which will focus on launching your start-up. Read more about the events below - we hope to see you there! Enjoy the nice weather and the last bit of school.

Visit SEAS Entrepreneurship for more info.

What To Look Forward To

Entrepreneurship programs aim to connect you with resources to help build your idea or business. We collaborate heavily with other offices and organizations on and off campus to bring you speaker series, office hours, site visits, mentors, funding opportunities and much more. Read below about some of our key events for this academic year.

Columbia Venture Competition: Final Round
Thursday, April 13
First launched in April 2009, the Columbia Venture Competition awards prize money to early-stage ventures all founded by young Columbia entrepreneurs. Over the years the competition has grown to be a campus wide event, culminating in the #Startup Columbia Festival. For 2017, the competition will feature five different tracks and pay out a total of $250K to winners. April 13th will be the CVC finals where the top 6 teams pitch one last time to judges! To attend as an audience member, RSVP here.

#StartupColumbia
Thursday, April 13 - Friday, April 14
This two-day startup festival begins with the final round of the Columbia Venture Competition on April 13th. The winners of Columbia Venture Competition will be announced on April 14th. We'll feature Columbia-founded startups, panels discussing the
latest trends in technology and a wildly famous closing keynote speaker.
Register here!

Third Thursday: Taking the Plunge
Thursday, April 20
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Morningside Campus - CEPSR 750
Third Thursday is a recurring open forum and networking and info session for the Columbia University entrepreneurship community. It provides students, faculty, staff, and alumni the opportunity to hear ideas from across campus, form teams, and explore career options. You'll hear from Columbia alumni and other experts on their experiences working in the field, how they've applied their Columbia experience in their careers, and more.
On this Thursday, we'll be featuring Ryan Bubinski and Tom Yee in a discussion on the first steps that startups should consider. Ryan Bubinski graduated Columbia College in 2011 with degrees in biophysics and computer science. He is the co-founder of Codecademy, an online interactive platform with 25 million users that offers free coding classes in many different coding languages. Thomas Yee graduated from the Engineering School with a degree in biomedical engineering, and then went on to Georgetown Law for his JD. He is currently an attorney and partner at Knobbe Martens Olson & Bear LLP, an intellectual property law firm with offices in California, Washington State, and D.C.
Read more and register for the event here!

Ignition Grants
Applications due April 21, 2017
cFUND Ignition Grants are financial grants to assist Columbia University students in launching new businesses, social and not-for-profit ventures. cFUND Ignition Grants support the initial stages of early venture development from formation, IP protection, and incubation to building prototypes and creating proofs of concept. Teams that have received Ignition Grants in the past will not be eligible for additional grants. For more information, click here.

SEAS Entrepreneurship Sounding Board
Accepting Applications on a Rolling Basis
The Entrepreneurial Sounding Board Program offered by SEAS Entrepreneurship is an opportunity for Columbia engineers to schedule one-on-one advisory meetings with industry experts to discuss their own entrepreneurial ideas and challenges. This program allows engineering students to connect with recent alumni for entrepreneurial advice, support, and guidance. Click here to view the Sounding Board Advisors. If one of the advisors listed matches your interests, then please feel free to submit an application to be his or her mentee.

Upcoming Events
Undergraduate Startup Internship Fund Application

Deadline

Applications due April 12

Currently registered Columbia College, Columbia Engineering, or General Studies rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are in good academic and disciplinary standing with at least a 3.0 GPA, are eligible to receive a Columbia Undergraduate Startup Internship Fund to offset living expenses.

Email cce-sif@columbia.edu to apply!

Studio Hours

Wednesday, April 19 and Wednesday, May 3

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Columbia Entrepreneurship Design Studio (490 Riverside Drive)

Do you have an idea and want to get personal design thinking feedback from the Design Studio? During Studio Hours, teams or individuals are invited to discuss their projects or ideas one-on-one with human-centered designers in the Studio. Teams of Columbia affiliates are also welcome to use the studio space for working independently on their entrepreneurial projects. You do not need to register in advance for Studio Hours. Just drop by!

If you have questions, please reach out to designstudio@columbia.edu.

Hacking for Energy: The Final Presentations

Wednesday, April 27

1:00 PM - 3:45 PM, Morningside Campus - The World Room in Pulitzer Hall

Join the Columbia Technology Ventures and PowerBridgeNY on April 27th at Pulitzer Hall as they celebrate the end of the inaugural class of Hacking for Energy. Student teams will present the results of their efforts to create solutions for problems proposed by SolarCity, ConEdison, GE, and more. If you are interested in the results or taking the class next year – definitely stop by! Refreshments will be served. RSVP here to attend.

Pitch to Build Your Team

Tuesday, May 16

5 PM, The Hub @ Grand Central Tech

Pitch To Build Your Team brings together high potential life science startups, highlighting ELabNYC program alums, with experienced start-up professionals to help build their ventures. Hosted at Grand Central Tech, a space supported by Microsoft, this event will schedule five-minute pitches. We are targeting therapeutics ventures, diagnostics or devices ventures, and research tool, materials, or software ventures. All pitch ventures must apply and need to be approved in order to pitch.

For more information and to apply, click here.
Announcements

Text IQ featured in Forbes
Text IQ, an AI company founded by Columbia alumni Omar Haroun (MBA '12 and JD '12) and Apoorv Agarwal (PhD '14) has been featured in Forbes! Text IQ combines language analysis with network relationship analysis, narrowing down document sets to manageable sizes for human investigation and review. They have recently shaved off $3 million in legal costs and now have a revenue of 10x its burn rate. Check out the article here.

Opportunities to Get Involved

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!

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.

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