Winter Updates

We hope you're all managing to stay warm in the midst of all these snowstorms! We have plenty of entrepreneurship events this month to keep you busy. Of note is Third Thursday, which is right around the corner - this month's talk will focus on building your pitch and prepping for the Columbia Venture Competition. Read more about the event below. We hope to see you there, and stay dry!

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.

Third Thursday - Pitching Investors: Getting to YES

Thursday, February 16
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Morningside Campus - Davis Auditorium
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. This Thursday, we'll be featuring Nelly Yusupova, an experienced web technology specialist, consultant and strategist who is currently the CTO of Webgrrls International. Nelly will be discussing how to pitch to investors, tell an effective story, and get that "Yes!" from potential backers.
Read more and register for the event here!

Columbia Venture Competition

Applications due February 24 by midnight
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. The first round applications for CVC 2017 will be due February 24 - stay tuned for updates on CVC and Ignition Funds for your startups and projects!

**Tamer Fund for Social Ventures**

Applications due March 1

Apply to the Tamer Fund for Social Ventures by March 1, 2017!

The Tamer Center for Social Enterprise at Columbia Business School is now accepting applications for the Tamer Fund for Social Ventures. This Fund provides seed grants of up to $25,000 to nonprofit, for-profit, and hybrid early-stage social ventures. Ventures must be led by Columbia University students or alumni, or be advised and have significant involvement by Columbia University faculty or researchers. Tamer Fund seed grants will be made to approximately seven ventures each year.

More information and the online application is available at: [http://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/socialenterprise/socialventures/apply](http://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/socialenterprise/socialventures/apply)

**Work at Columbia Startup Lab!**

Applications due March 12 at midnight

We’re looking for recent Columbia Engineering alumni who have received their degree in the past five years and who are working full time on their venture. Join the current cohort of Lab resident ventures in the 69 Charlton WeWork building in the middle of Silicon Alley. Columbia-founded startups come from Columbia College and the Schools of Business, Engineering, Law, and International and Public Affairs.

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**SEAS Translational Fellows**

Applications due March 20

The TFP program supports 20% of the salary of selected SEAS postdoctoral researchers and research scientists for one year. This is a competitive, nomination-based postdoctoral research program that funds selected fellows for one day per week, providing them with the opportunity to pursue commercialization of a technology that originated in SEAS research. The program provides mentoring resources, conflict-of-interest (COI) management, and other support to maximize the opportunity to create a new venture. The
TFP aligns resources available through Columbia's entrepreneurial ecosystem to accelerate the pace of technology translation. Read more about it 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.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Health Tech Assembly: Dr. Chelliah & Frank Sculli from Biodigital**

**Wednesday, February 15**

6:30 PM, Columbia University Medical Center/New York Presbyterian Hospital, 20th floor, Room 200

HTA will be hosting a discussion with Dr. Anjali Chelliah, who is using 3D models to inform pediatric heart surgery, and Frank Sculli from Biodigital, a company using interactive 3D visualization software with applications in education and business-consumer engagement.

RSVP here!

**Design Sprint: Test Your Business Model!**

**Friday, February 17**

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

Do you have a business or project idea that you're eager to dive into? Have you already been working on a venture and want to put your model to the test? Join us this Friday for the "Test Your Business Model" Design Sprint! Using design thinking techniques, we'll walk you through how to critically analyze your business model by identifying your key assumptions, developing low resolution prototypes, and learning more about your users' needs. This sprint will be particularly helpful for teams in Columbia's many venture competitions but is open to anyone with an idea for a project or venture.

Register here!

**Applying Data Science to Real-World Problems**

**Wednesday, February 22**

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM, Morningside Campus - CEPSR Davis Auditorium
Booz Allen Hamilton’s Dan Liebermann and Ben Arancibia will cover what it takes to get data science done in the real world. They will be sharing stories from the trenches – covering experiences and lessons learned from turning data science theory into reality when the problem (and the solution) are far from known. The talk will heavily engage the audience to hear their perspective, and cover the approach Booz Allen took to solve its clients’ problems. The goal is to get the audience thinking about what they would do in these situations and how they would apply their classroom experience.

An Afternoon with Y Combinator Partners Dalton Caldwell and Kat Manalac

Friday, February 24
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Columbia Startup Lab (69 Charlton St. @ Varick)
Join Columbia Entrepreneurship at the Columbia Startup Lab for an Afternoon with Y Combinator Partners Dalton Caldwell and Kat Manalac! Dalton Caldwell was the cofounder and CEO of imeem (acquired by MySpace in 2009), and the cofounder and CEO of App.net. He has a BS in Symbolic Systems and a BA in Psychology from Stanford University. Kat Manalac was Chief of Staff to Alexis Ohanian, cofounder of reddit, before joining YC as its Director of Outreach. Prior to that, Kat was at WIRED Magazine where she managed brand and strategy. Kat has a BS in Communications from Northwestern University.
Register here!

Best Practices for Negotiating Commercial Licensing Contracts: Lunch and Learn with Mintz Levin

Thursday, March 2
12:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Morningside Campus - Lerner Hall, 2nd floor Broadway Conference Room

Julie Korostoff, Co-Chair of Mintz Levin’s IT Transactions & Outsourcing Practice, will discuss strategies for early stage companies negotiating commercial licensing deals with large strategic partners. This session will focus on issues including how to make good use of a "pilot" as a launching pad for more long-term commitment deals, when a pilot can actually work against you, and when it makes sense to compromise and when not. Mintz Levin’s IT Transactions & Outsourcing Practice specializes in transactions involving technology licensing and development, systems integration, cloud computing, outsourcing, strategic collaborations, and other business transactions directed to the use, transfer, and development of technology and other intellectual property assets.
Food and refreshments will be provided.
Register here!

Design Sprint: Prototyping your MVP

Friday, March 3
Great ideas deserve to be shown off. This hands on, high energy design sprint will teach you the fundamentals of prototyping, and will end with you building an early Minimum Viable Product that can be tested on your users. Join us if you have an idea for a product, project or venture and want a boost in getting it out to your users. Bring any mock ups, renderings or materials needed to assemble your MVP. (A reminder will be sent to teams by email ahead of the Sprint).

Teams and individuals are welcome. While the official Sprint only lasts from 2-4pm, the hour after the Sprint (4-5pm) will be open for teams to test their prototypes on other teams with the support of coaches.

Register here!

Announcements

Columbia Startup Vidrovr Secures National Science Foundation Grant
Columbia startup Vidrovr announced in December that it has secured a National Science Foundation Small Business Research grant for $225,000 to conduct research & development work on autonomous multimedia video understanding systems. The Vidrovr team was co-founded by PhD candidates Joseph Ellis '17CU and Daniel Morozoff ’16CU. Read more about their accomplishment here!

MotherBox to Launch on Wenesday!
Columbia startup MotherBox is set to launch on Indiegogo this Wednesday, February 15! Cofounded by Columbia SEAS and Start-Up Lab alumnus Jin Li (MS '15 in Electrical Engineering), MotherBox allows you to charge your tech gadgets wirelessly. Soon, you’ll be able to enjoy watching your favorite show, use your favorite app…all while keeping charged at the same time. Read more about the company here and 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.