February Frenzy

We hope you are all managing to do well in the midst of the unpredictable weather. We have several exciting events and deadlines in the coming weeks. Continue reading to learn more about the upcoming events and deadlines as well as amazing opportunities for internships and career development.

This month's highlight is the Columbia Venture Competition (CVC). The deadline for the CVC has now been extended to Thursday, February 22nd at 11:59 pm. Start your brief one page Executive Summaries today for a chance to win a piece of $200,000. Early stage ideas are welcome as well. For more information about the CVC, continue to the "Upcoming Deadlines" section of this newsletter.

**SEAS Highlights: CVC Executive Summaries (*Extended Deadline: Feb 22*)**

If there is something specific that you'd like us to include in this newsletter, please fill out our wufoo form [here](#). If you're interested in what's happening at the university-wide scale, check out our friends at Columbia Entrepreneurship, The Lang Center, CTV, CORE and ADI.

---

**Upcoming Events**
Promoting Revolutionary Technology for Physical Disabilities
Tuesday, February 20, 2018 6:00 pm
Columbia Entrepreneurship Design Studio, Riverside Church, 490 Riverside Dr, Room 430

There is a gap between the needs of people with physical disabilities in the United States and the solutions available to meet those needs. What if technologies for people with physical disabilities could be profitable while also helping those in need? What if they could be designed not only to serve people with disabilities, but also to spur innovation for broader consumer markets?

By providing early stage funding and business advisement, The American Bionics Project will serve as the catalyst for advanced technologies and medical solutions for people with physical disabilities.

Join this spark workshop to help The American Bionics Project explore resources, connections and potential solutions to help their social venture.

For more details and registration, click [here](#).

Columbia Catalyst Series Startup Pitch Event
Wednesday, February 21, 2018 6:00 pm
Warren Hall Lobby, 1125 Amsterdam Avenue
Keynoted by Andras Forgacs, CEO of Modern Meadow

Have an idea you are working on? OR, want to hear what your classmates are working on? Come join us for food, drink and some inspiration.

If you have an idea, business plan or a prototype, we'd love to hear it!

- Present your idea to other students from business and engineering schools through a presentation, video or any other medium in fewer than 3 minutes.
- If you are looking for a collaborator or a co-founder include it in the pitch.

Don't have an idea? You can still join us!
For more details and registration please [click here](#).
To pitch your idea, [click here](#) to fill out the form.

The Future of Investing: Fintech NYC
Thursday, February 22, 2018 6:30 pm
JP Morgan Chase & Co., 383 Madison Ave, 12th Floor Conference Center, New York, NY 10017

Columbia Engineering researchers and alumni are leading the way through the fintechrevolution. Join Dean Mary C. Boyce, Professor Xunyu Zhou, and Addepar CEO, Eric Poirier (SEAS '04) as they discuss how new advances in technology are transforming traditional investing practices.

For more details and registration, click [here](#).

Design Your Future
February 20th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
February 27th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
March 6th – 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

The future can feel uncertain, so we've created Design Your Future as a three-session program where students learn to apply human-centered design to their careers and to life after graduation. The goal of this program to help you to better navigate your career and life choices in the face of this uncertainty.
Design Your Future is designed for graduate students who are nearing the end of their studies and preparing to launch out into the world. This can be both an exciting and unnerving time. What if you discover that your new job isn't for you? What happens if you start to drift away from the things you feel passionate about? Many recent graduates feel stuck after leaving school.

**Third Thursday: VC 101**
Thursday, March 22, 2018 5:30 pm  
Mudd 524

March Third Thursday will feature Curtis L. Mo, who will cover topics on venture capitals and funding. Curtis Mo has represented emerging growth companies, major public companies, investment banks, venture capital funds and private equity funds in hundreds of public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, buyouts, venture capital financings and other complex transactions. He has extensive experience in corporate governance matters and regularly acts as general outside counsel to public and private companies at all stages of development, particularly in the technology, life sciences, clean energy technology and consumer sectors.

For more details and registration, [click here](#)

**CVP Plug and Play Pitch Showcase**
Pitch Date: Tuesday, March 27, 2018 6 pm  
Registration ends: Monday, February 26, 2018 at 11:59 pm

Have a start-up? Looking for funding, exposure to VC firms, or corporate partners?

Columbia Venture Partners will be hosting Plug and Play Tech Center for its first ever pitch-networking event. Columbia University affiliates will pitch their startups in front of venture capital firms, students, and Plug and Play Tech Center, an international venture fund and accelerator. Afterwards, entrepreneurs will be able to connect with the Plug and Play team as well as the venture capital firms - Betaworks, Greycroft, Contrary Capital, and more - in attendance.

Following registration, you and your team members will be contacted for an interview should you be selected for the next round.

For registration and more details, [click here](#)

---

**Upcoming Deadlines**

**Columbia Venture Competition (Extended Deadline)**

First Round Submission Deadline: Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 11:59 pm  
[APPLY NOW](#)

The Columbia Venture Competition was first launched in April 2009, and has paid out more than $350,000 in prize money to early-stage ventures all founded by young Columbia entrepreneurs. Over the years the competition has grown in the number of submissions and in competition quality.

This year the [Columbia Venture Competition (CVC)](#) has four challenges but you may only
enter one. The descriptions, rules, and eligibility guidelines are listed below. Each challenge will split $50,000 among the top three winners.

Judges come from across the Columbia Entrepreneurship alumni community and have a wide range of expertise and backgrounds. At SEAS, Columbia Engineering’s Entrepreneurship Advisory Board is part of the judging committee.

For descriptions, rules, eligibility guidelines and more details, please [click here](#).

**Tamer Fund for Social Ventures**

Applications Close: Thursday, March 1, 2018

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 and environmental 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.

For more information and the online application, [click here](#).

**ERA Summer 2018 Accelerator**

Applications Close: Thursday, March 29, 2018
Program Start: Monday, June 11, 2018

*ERA Summer ’18 NYC Accelerator Program ($100K in seed funding; NYC’s leading accelerator; Largest mentor network in NYC (350+); Work daily w/ full time staff + venture partners; NYC’s strongest post-program support w/ alumni network of 135+ companies).*

For more details and application, please [click here](#).

**In the News**

**Columbia University Start Me Up Bootcamp**

Join a select group of entrepreneurs for an exciting day of lectures and learning designed to build successful business.

**Eligibility**

- Each team consists of at least three members: The Entrepreneurial Lead (EL), The Technical Lead (TL), and The Industry Mentor (IM)
- The technology should be within a STEM-related industry that has potential commercialization ability and is scalable.
- The technology can be funded by any government agency but must be disclosed to the Columbia Technology Transfer Office.
- Students must complete five customer discovery interviews with potential customers before the event kickoff and must complete 15 additional customer discovery interviews by the final presentation day.

*Looking for resources on how to conduct successful customer discovery interviews? Check out the book Talking to Humans by Giff Constable*
Benefits

- Concentrated time to focus on commercialization activities
- Build relationships with experienced entrepreneurs and investors who can help you bring your product to market
- Identify commercial potential for your technology to increase probability of grant success and/or raising venture capital
- Develop entrepreneurship skills and learn about business model development. Students engage in the customer discovery process by spending time outside the lab and talking to customers, partners and competitors.

For more details and event timeline, please [click here](#).

---

**Career Development**

**Software Engineering Intern**
Trek Medics International

**SUMMARY** – Trek Medics International (www.trekmedics.org) is a nonprofit tech organization that builds and improves emergency medical systems in resource-limited settings through innovative mobile phone technologies. We are looking for a highly productive and reliable programmer who can join our software development team and contribute in one of three areas:

- **Backend functionality** – The Backend dispatches and coordinates first responders and IoT devices via text messages and automates the entire process from incident alert to patient handover at a facility
- **Frontend features** – The Frontend allows managers, supervisors and dispatchers to communicate and coordinate the platforms operations
- **Mobile App layout and design** – The Mobile App allows first responders to receive alerts and communicate their actions with the Beacon platform

[READ FULL JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

**Technical Intern/Summer Fellowship**
Kinnos

**SUMMARY** – We are looking for a dedicated technical full-time intern who will conduct experiments to advance our color changing technology into new product applications. If you're truly interested in stopping the spread of disease, aren't afraid to get your hands dirty, and have a knack for picking up new science and engineering concepts quickly, then we'll hold up our side of the bargain and give you a meaningful project with real deliverables that you can be proud of working on. To apply, please send a note to team@kinnos.us along with your resume/CV.

[READ FULL JOB DESCRIPTION](#)

**Startup Summer 2018**
Silicon Flatirons
SUMMARY – Startup Summer is a 10-week internship program that brings undergraduate students from around the country to Denver and Boulder for the summer experience of a lifetime. Students work full-time for some of the hottest startups in Colorado. Outside of work hours, students participate in fun programming and form teams to create their own startups, leading up to a pitch competition at the end of the summer.

Only 50 exceptional students will be selected.

APPLY NOW

Announcements

Columbia Startup Lab: Open seats for startups

Columbia Startup Lab is looking for recent alumni who’ve received their degree in the past five years who are working full time on their venture. Accepted applications will join the current cohort of Lab resident ventures in the 69 Charlton WeWork building in the middle of Silicon Alley. Limited seats available, apply here.

Opportunities to Get Involved

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 & Sounding Board

The staff of SEAS Entrepreneurship Programs invites you to our open office hours! Email seaseship@columbia.edu to schedule. We also have an amazing group of alumni serving on our Sounding Board. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity by asking 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!