Hit the Ground Running

Welcome back to a new semester! Out with the old and in with the new: we’re proud to launch our new and improved 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. DevFest 2016
2. Career Paths After the Lab
3. MAKECU Hardware Hackathon
4. WE Pitch Festival 2016
5. Columbia Venture Competition Finals & #StartupColumbia Festival

Upcoming Deadlines
1. Dorm Room Fund Recruitment for Investment Partners
2. Columbia Venture Competition First Round Application
3. SEAS Translational Fellows Program
4. Columbia's First Ideation Lab
5. Columbia Startup Lab Application
6. App Idea Awards
7. Amazon Activate @ Columbia

Opportunities to Get Involved
Marketing Internship at Neopenda, Global Health Startup

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.
Upcoming Events

1. DevFest 2016
   Saturday, January 30th - Saturday, January 6th
   Differing locations and times on Morningside Campus
   Please register here.
   DevFest is a week-long student-only development festival hosted by The Application Development Initiative (ADI) at Columbia. The festival will include a variety of technical workshops every night, and it's open to undergraduates, graduates, experts and novices. DevFest aims to foster community and give an opportunity for participants to demonstrate their skills and newly acquired knowledge with a 24-hour hackathon on February 5th-6th.

2. Career Paths After the Lab
   Thursday, February 4th
   6:00-8:00pm
   Rennert Hall in the Kraft Center
   Please register and find more details here.
   Join us for a discussion on intellectual property, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship at Career Paths after the Lab, a panel and networking event with Bahram Jalali, Sameer Maskey, Carmen Chow, Jingwen Wang, and Satish Rao.
   This event is open to all University affiliates and specifically geared toward graduate students and Post-Docs in SEAS, GSAS, & The Medical School with research training in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics (STEM) field.

3. MAKECU Hardware Hackathon
   Saturday, February 13th - Sunday, February 14th
   CEPSR Schapiro Building and Mudd
   Please register here.
   MAKECU is Columbia’s annual Spring hardware hackathon started in 2015 by members of Columbia's IEEE Student Chapter to cultivate a stronger hacking culture amongst undergraduate students at Columbia. The organizers want to encourage and support a new generation of engineers who aspire to make great things.

4. WE Pitch Festival 2016
   Friday, March 4th - Saturday, March 5th
   Find more information here.
   Women Entrepreneurship (WE) Pitch Festival was launched a year ago to promote women entrepreneurs. It helps women develop their business ideas by meeting people with similar interests and learning from experienced mentors. Pitches at all stages are welcomed.
5. Columbia Venture Competition Finals and #StartupColumbia Festival

Thursday, April 28th - Friday, April 29th

Find more information 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. The Festival will feature the final round of the Columbia Venture Competition in which the top competitors in all five challenges will compete for 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 as well as announcements of the winners of the Columbia Venture Competition. Stay tuned because it's something you won't want to miss.

Upcoming Deadlines

1. Dorm Room Fund Recruitment for Investment Partners

Due by Tuesday, January 26th, 2016, 11:59 pm

Find out more and apply here.

Dorm Room Fund is looking for new investment partners to join its team in New York. DRF is a student-run venture fund, backed by First Round. We invest in and support the strongest community of student entrepreneurs across the nation. Since 2013, Dorm Room Fund has invested in 98 companies that have gone on to join incubators like Y Combinator, raise follow-on funding from investors such as USV, Google Ventures and Spark Capital, and grow into successful businesses building awesome products. Join us to invest in the best student-run companies in the country and encourage entrepreneurship at Columbia.

2. Columbia Venture Competition First Round Application

Due in February 2016

Please register here to receive reminders.

The Columbia Venture Competition has five challenges that will pay a total of $250,000 of cash grants to teams of current students and recent alumni who win. First round applications (executive summaries of your business idea) will be due in February. Please sign up at the link above to receive more information about the competition and deadline reminders.
3. SEAS Translational Fellows Program

Due by Tuesday, February 23rd, 11:59 pm

Find more information here.

The TFP is a competitive postdoctoral research program that funds selected fellows for one day per week (paying 20% salary), providing them the opportunity to pursue commercialization of a technology that originated in SEAS research. The TFP aligns resources available through Columbia’s entrepreneurial ecosystem to accelerate the pace of technology translation.

Spring 2016 will welcome the second class of TFP fellows. The application requires a nomination letter from a research advisor and a presentation on the technology that s/he will be commercializing. Please see the link above for more details on eligibility, opportunities, selection criteria, and application details.

4. Columbia's First Ideation Lab

The Archimedes Project Planning Committee is organizing Columbia's first Ideation Lab in Spring 2016. The lab will bring together students and young professionals from across all disciplines and schools for a weekend, challenging their creativity, expertise, and passion, to find solutions to Nepal's water and sanitation issues due to the April 2015 earthquake.

The committee is interested in finding collaborators and funding opportunities. To support the planning committee with preparatory research, identifying mentors, engaging with potential partners in Nepal, spearheading marketing or organizing logistics, please email Ramya Ahuja at ra2622@columbia.edu.

For those interested in participating in the Ideation Lab, the application will open in February 2016. What's most exciting? The winning social enterprise idea will be vetted in Nepal for implementation in Summer 2016 by a fellow of the Archimedes Project!

5. Columbia Startup Lab Application

Find out more information here and sign up here for the Lab's mailing list.

The Columbia Startup Lab is a 5,100 sq.ft. co-working facility located at WeWork Soho West that provides subsidized space for 71 Columbia young alumni founders and their teams to house and nurture their ventures. It not only gives Columbia alumni the physical space for their teams, but also provides a collaborative, supportive and high-achieving environment where ideas can be developed into successful businesses. The application and selection process will take place in March. Visit the links above for more details.

6. App Idea Awards

Due by Thursday, March 31, 2016

Find out more information and apply here.

The App Idea Awards is a competition in which people compete to get their app idea made without carrying the burden of financing. Participants have the opportunity to attend free online and physical classes so that people from all backgrounds and educations have the opportunity to apply. General Assembly, Harvard Angels, the Columbia Venture
Community and Rokolabs are sponsoring this competition to reward app based business models that can both generate revenue and scale. The winning team will receive up to $70K in funding for product design and development.

7. Amazon Activate @ Columbia

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! The application will open soon so stay tuned for this opportunity.

Opportunities to Get Involved

Marketing Internship Opportunity

Neopenda is a global health startup working to save the lives of the most vulnerable babies in the world. Our mission is to contribute to global efforts of reducing newborn mortality in areas with few resources. We are developing a vital signs monitor that can help alert attending nurses when a newborn is in dire need of care.

Marketing Intern

You will have the unique opportunity to design and manage a creative and inspiring crowdfunding campaign that will enable us to perform pilot studies with our device later this year. The timeline of the project will be 2 months. Responsibilities may include:

- Help develop a powerful storyboard for our video
- Lead marketing efforts (crowdfunding site profile, blogs, social media, press releases, flyers, etc)
- Coordinate campaign efforts (work with videographer to produce video, work with our team in Uganda to collect content, etc)

If you are interested, please contact Sona Shah at sona@neopenda.com.

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 seasship@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