Happy Spring!

Spring is in the air and warmer weather is finally here. We have plenty of entrepreneurship events lined up after spring break to keep you all busy. Of note is Third Thursday on March 23rd, which will focus on fundraising for your startup. Read more about the event below - we hope to see you there! Enjoy the nice weather and longer days, and have a relaxing and fun spring break.

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 - Fundraising First Steps
Thursday, March 23
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 panelists Lilly Wyden, Fahad Khan, and Laura Kornhauser in a discussion on how to fundraise for your startup. You'll be able to hear from panelists in VC who also have experience raising money for their own startups, prepare for the Columbia Venture Competition, and get advice on how to summarize fundraising goals and approach investors.
Read more and register for the event here!

Translational Fellows - Now Accepting PhDs
Deadline: March 20, 11:59PM
We have now had two successful years with our Translational Fellows Program and we’re pleased to announce that this year’s fellowship will also be open to current Ph.D. students (with advisor approval).

The TFP program funds 20% of the salary of selected SEAS Ph.D. students, postdoctoral researchers and research scientists within four years of receiving their Ph.D. The goal of the TFP program is to support SEAS researchers interested in commercializing research originating at SEAS either via licensing or new company formation. For more information and to apply, see the website here.

**Columbia Venture Competition**

**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. For those of you who successfully make it through each round, the CVC finals will be on April 13th!

**#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!

**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**

**Innovation Grant Info Session: Sizing Markets & Projecting Budgets**
Friday, March 17
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Columbia Entrepreneurship Design Studio (490 Riverside Drive)
Add financial viability to your startup story! When you submit your innovation grant summary, you'll need to include those aspects that will be most relevant to potential investors – even if fundraising is a long way off. Michael Lopez, partner at EisnerAmper, will help you gain an understanding how to build a credible story through numbers. Register here!

**Startup Finance and Accounting: Best Practices Investors Are Looking For**
Thursday, March 23
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Columbia Startup Lab (69 Charlton St)
Sign up for an 30-minute office hour with early-stage public accountant and partner at EisnerAmper John Pennett, a long-time friend to Columbia Entrepreneurship. John will answer your questions and cover:

- What angels are looking for in a set of credible financials
- What really impresses them
- What they DON’T want to see

Email cm3014@columbia.edu to request your slot!

**The Dean in Conversation with David E. Shaw**
Tuesday, March 28
5:30 PM, Morningside Campus - CEPSR Davis Auditorium
Join Columbia Engineering dean Mary C. Boyce for a conversation with David E. Shaw, the chief scientist at D.E. Shaw Research. This talk is a part of the "Engineering Icons" series of conversations featuring prominent engineers in practice. Register here!

**Applications now open for the Columbia Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator!**

*When:* April 19th-23rd

*What:* Columbia Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator provides social entrepreneurs with the tools, resources, and networks they need to successfully conceptualize and create the foundations for their social enterprise. Find out more at our [website](#).

Apply [HERE](#)! Deadline to apply is [March 31st](#).

*Columbia Social Entrepreneurship Accelerator is organized by the Columbia Social Entrepreneurship Club in partnership with Columbia Design Studio and The Tamer Center for Social Enterprise.*

**Entrepreneurship, Leadership, & Consulting Club**
Pitchathon
Friday, March 31 - Saturday, April 1
Columbia ELC is an inter-school event within the Columbia community, enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to plan and perfect their business plans and pitches. The event is open to all current CU students, under the mission of bringing the talented and diverse Columbia entrepreneurship community together. Throughout the event, industry experts in the realms of venture capital, design, rapid growth, and many others will have structured feedback sessions with teams to provide guidance on best practice and presentation. As with all leading startup events, the CE Pitchathon will conclude with a pitch competition in front of a panel of experienced venture capitalists, startup founders and academic experts in the fields of technology and entrepreneurship.
For more information and to register, click here!

Third Annual Data Science Day
Wednesday, April 5
All Day, Morningside Campus - Roone Arledge Auditorium
Join us for demos and lighting talks by Columbia researchers presenting their latest work in data science. The event is designed to foster collaboration between innovators in academia, industry and government. Keynote speaker Alfred Spector, Chief Technology Officer and Head of Engineering at Two Sigma, will be speaking on “Opportunities and Perils in Data Science”.
For more information and to register, click here!

Design Sprint: Storytelling and Pitches
Friday, April 7
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Columbia Entrepreneurship Design Studio (490 Riverside Drive)
Knowing how to tell a compelling story about yourself or your product is one of the most important yet overlooked traits of a successful entrepreneur. This Sprint will dive into the art of storytelling – from telling the backstory of a product to creating the narrative of your personal journey. Join us to explore how to construct a coherent narrative, expand your creative confidence, and master the art of a good story. This event is designed for the CVC and other venture competition finalists, but all members of the Columbia community are welcome.
Register here!

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!

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**Announcements**

**Kinnos Raises $1M Seed Round to Support Innovation and Growth**

Congratulations to Jason Kang ’16 SEAS, Katherine Jin ’16 CC, and Kevin Tyan ’16 CC, co-founders of Kinnos, a start-up healthcare company that develops technologies to prevent surface-transmitted infections. Kinnos recently closed $1 million in seed round funding. The seed financing was led by Georgica Advisors, with participation from New York Angels, VentureWell, and other strategic angel investors. Read more here!

**Amper Raises $4 Million in Funding For its A.I. Musical Composition Platform**

Amper Music, an A.I. musical composition software company co-founded by Drew Silverstein, ’16 MBA, announced that it has raised $4 million in funding. The round was led by Two Sigma Ventures, with participation from Foundry Group, Kiwi Venture Partners and Advancit Capital. Amper previously raised funding from Brooklyn Bridge Ventures. Read more about their success here!

**Columbia Engineering Celebrates Supporting Role in Oscar-Winning Jungle Book**

When The Jungle Book won the 2017 Academy Award for Best Visual Effects, Columbia Engineering’s Computer Graphics Group celebrated as their own technology contributed to movie history. Throughout The Jungle Book, the animated plants and trees move in life-like ways as the wind blows through them and monkeys swing on the branches. Those realistic movements were made possible by technology designed by Associate Professor of Computer Science Eitan Grinspun and his students. To read more about how they did it, click here!

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**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.