Welcome Back

We're excited to have everyone back on campus for Fall 2017 and welcome our new students! There's a lot to look forward to this semester, with great speakers, hackathons, Design Sprints, and of course the Fast Pitch competition. We hope to see you all at Third Thursday on September 21, featuring two-time Columbia alumnus Steve Jacobs, former CIO of Gilt Groupe.

Keep reading for upcoming events and deadlines!

SEAS Highlights: Third Thursday (Sept 21), and Harry West's Human Centered Design Course (Deadline Sept 22)

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, The Lang Center, CTV, CORE and ADI.

Our last Third Thursday with Ryan Bubinski (CC '11 codecademy founder) and Tom Yee (SEAS '99, Knobbe Martens Partner)

Upcoming Events

Columbia Entrepreneurship Design Studio's Design Your Year
Tuesday, September 19, 2017 4:00–6:00pm
Riverside Church Room 430
Design Your Year is an interactive way to learn more about human-centered design while thinking critically about the adventures and experiences you will have over the next year, and the risks you will take. Come prepared for a fast-paced, interactive experience!

Please register [here](#)

**Third Thursday: Welcome Back Entrepreneurs!**
Thursday, September 21, 2017
5:30PM, Mudd 524

Third Thursday for September features **Steve Jacobs from Gilt Groupe**. Jacobs holds a PhD in electrical engineering from Columbia University. He is a founding member of DoSomething.org's technical advisory board and is also on the Board of Advisors for Zaius, a marketing automation platform. Third Thursday is a recurring open forum and networking 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. We'll provide food!

Please register [here](#)

**NextGen Cleantech Startups Showcase and Demo Night**
Monday, September 25, 2017
5:30 - 9:00pm
The New York Academy of Sciences
7 World Trade Center
250 Greenwich St - 40th Floor
New York, NY 10007

Join us at NextGen Cleantech, an exciting Startups Showcase and pitch event co-hosted by PowerBridgeNY and NEXUS-NY. NextGen Cleantech will feature innovative and ground-breaking cleantech spinning out of New York's leading research institutions - this will be is a rare opportunity to see many up and coming cleantech companies all in one place and meet the founders who are making it all happen.

Please register [here](#)

**Design Workshop: Crafting Your Killer Idea**
Thursday, September 28, 2017
2:00 - to 5:00pm
Riverside Church Room 430

The heart of every entrepreneurial process is a great idea. Join us to learn about ideations, brainstorming techniques, and how to go from pinpointing a challenge to developing an innovative solution. During this fast-paced sprint, you learn how to turn meaningful needs in the world into ideas and solutions that can generate positive social impact!

Please register [here](#)

**Democratizing Education: The Future of Global EdTech**
Tuesday, October 10, 2017
5:00 - 8:00pm
Casa Italiana, on the Campus of Columbia University

There is no greater social equalizer than education but for so many children in our global society, a meaningful education is out of reach. Technology holds promise but progress is slow. Join the discussion at "Democratizing Education: The Future of Global EdTech" and learn how innovative ideas, motivated entrepreneurs, and progressive policy makers are disrupting antiquated school
systems across the globe. Keynote Speaker: Yin Lu, Vice President of International at Khan Academy

Please register [here](#).

**Fast Pitch Competition**

*Tuesday, November 14, 2017
6:00 - 9:00pm
Location TBA*

Fast Pitch is Columbia Engineering's annual elevator pitch competition where teams have 60 seconds to sell their business ideas to a panel of judges. Your elevator pitch could be the most important words that describe your business. If you are not able to hook your investors, partners, or customers within the first minute, then you have likely lost them forever. The Fast Pitch competition will help your team improve your marketing, sales, and promotional capabilities. Teams are judged on their appeal, conciseness, and completeness. Attendance and participation is free. As for the experience, it is priceless!

**Upcoming Deadlines**

1. **Human Centered Design Course with Harry West**

   Apply by September 22 at 5pm

   We are thrilled to have Harry back this fall and are inviting students from across campus to join this unique class that he will teach on 6 consecutive Fridays beginning October 27 and ending December 8th (with a break on November 24). Class sessions will be interactive and students will learn about design thinking and the process of human-centered design as they work in teams, engage in hands-on prototyping, and present their designs to others. Course description and syllabus.

   Apply Here: [https://goo.gl/forms/VAH1nj5QijSO58Xq1](https://goo.gl/forms/VAH1nj5QijSO58Xq1)

2. **Lemelson Prize**

   Apply by September 29th

   The [Lemelson-MIT Student Prize](#) is a national invention competition that recognizes *individual graduate students* who have tested prototypes of *two or more inventions* and *teams of undergraduate students* with a tested prototype of *one invention*.

   The competition is open to full-time, degree-seeking students (as of the spring semester of 2018) with technology-based inventions in *healthcare, food/water and agriculture, transportation*, and *consumer devices*. Inventions are not limited to class projects or thesis work, and any side/personal projects could also be considered. Patents are encouraged but not required. In each of the four categories, graduate students are awarded $15,000 and undergraduate teams are awarded $10,000.

3. **Fast Pitch**

   Videos due October 30th. Teams who submit videos have priority to pitch.
Save the Date for the live event on **November 14th, 2017 in Davis Auditorium**

### 4. EdTech Design Challenge 2017

Columbians across campus are encouraged to apply for EdTech Design Challenge 2017, a 7-month initiative designed to foster teams of Columbia innovators and entrepreneurs to generate new tech-based businesses, products, or programs that solve deeply entrenched K-12 education problems.

- EdTech Challenge **Info session**: Sep. 21 -- REGISTER TODAY
- EdTech Challenge **Application Deadline**: Sep. 30 -- APPLY NOW
- Democratizing Education **Panel & Cocktail Reception**: Sep. 30 -- TICKETS ON SALE

### 4. ELABNYC

Apply by October 23

ELabNYC, the Bio and Health Tech Entrepreneurship Lab NYC, is open to research scientists, engineers, MD's, MBA's faculty, graduate students, post docs, and technologists based in NYC who meet certain eligibility requirements—see [ELabNYC.com FAQ's](https://elabnyc.com) for details.

---

**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](mailto:seaseship@columbia.edu) 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](mailto:seaseship@columbia.edu). 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!

---

**Announcements**

Congratulations to all our Columbia Venture Competition (CVC) winners for Spring 2017. For more information about the CVC please visit our [website](https://www.columbia.edu/).  

**Technology Challenge**

1st place - **Voyant Photonics**, tiny, cheap laser radar for self-driving cars
2nd place - **Cathecare**, products sterilizing catheter hubs
3rd place - IMMPLACATE, off-the-shelf stem cell therapy for immune disorders

Global Technology Challenge
1st place - Kheyti, affordable greenhouses for smallholder farmers in the developing world
2nd place - Luso Labs, automated and accessible cervical cancer screenings
3rd place - Allied Microbiota, cheaper, more effective cleanup of various pollutants

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list