

Q1 2018 UPDATE

programs, events, academics



FEATURES

SEED FUND ADDED TO GRADUATE PROGRAM

Seed Fund now welcomes graduate students to engage with local startups and venture capital firms in the DFW community.

INNOVATE(HER) INSPIRED YOUNG GIRL LEADERS

Nearly 100 middle school girls attended the Innovate(Her) conference to learn about technology, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship.

COMET STARTUPS WON BIG INVESTMENTS

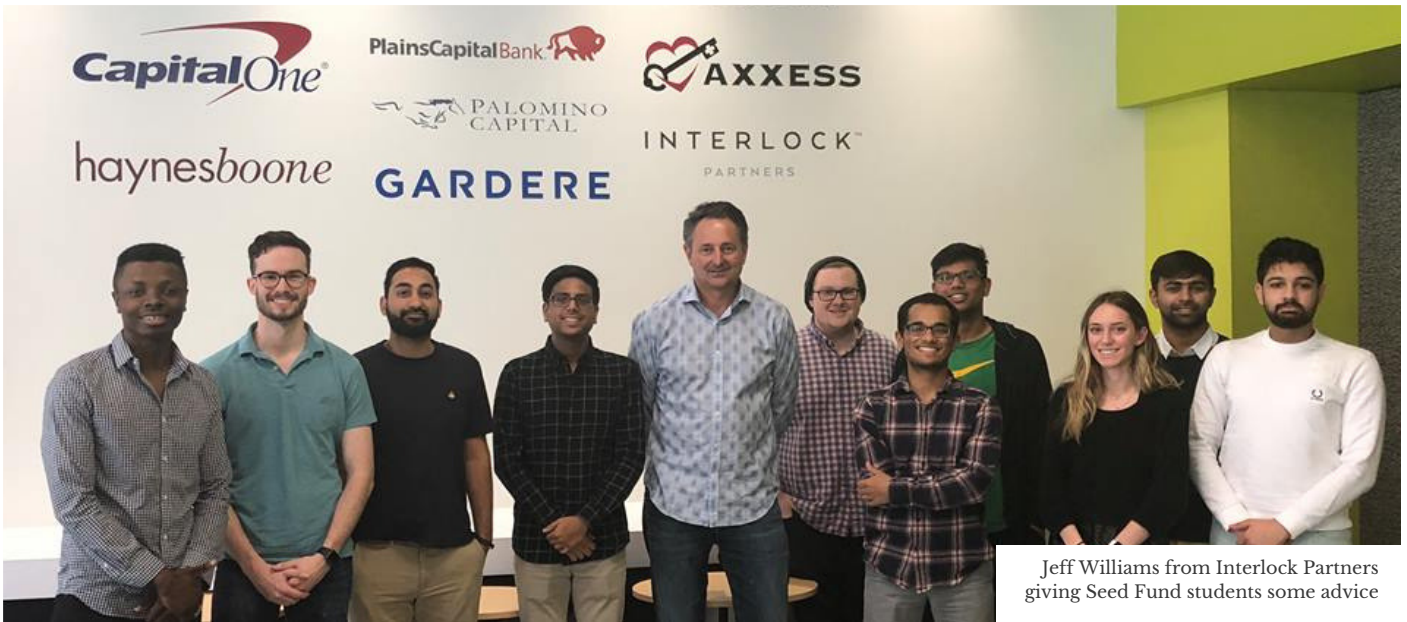
Congratulations to EverThread and ShearShare for scoring big funding from UT Dallas Seed Fund, Capital Factory & Google's Demo Day.

CROWD-FUNDING RESULTS IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Academic program of the Institute, led by Academic Director Madison Pedigo, kicked off a new round of crowd-funding and successfully raised \$21,000, boosting its endowed scholarship program to \$70,000.

“We now offer 22 entrepreneurship courses providing experienced-based learning for our students,” said Pedigo. “Your scholarship support is making a difference!”





Jeff Williams from Interlock Partners giving Seed Fund students some advice

MEET OUR SEED FUND CLASS: VENTURE CAPITALISTS IN THE MAKING

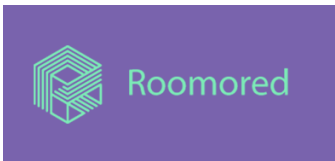
UT Dallas' Seed Fund course allows students to work like real venture capitalists as they source, evaluate, and ultimately invest up to \$100,000 per cycle/semester in qualified deals. In Spring 2018, 9 students were selected to work closely with the startup candidates and evaluate their business models, financial reports, and potential for growth. They have the decision-making power to choose the

finalists and support them in the final presentation. Students also received advice from local venture capital firms like Interlock Partners, Naya Ventures, Collide Village, and JF2 Capital Partners. These mentors gave them meaningful venture capital insights to fine-tune their work. Seed Fund is offered every semester. Learn more at bit.ly/seed-fund-utd.

"Taking the Seed Fund course has given me valuable insights into the Dallas venture capital ecosystem and opportunities to get more involved in that community as I move forward in my career. I've also picked up valuable skills that apply even outside the venture capital space. And I'm gaining all this experience while making a tangible impact on the startup community at UT Dallas."

- Samir Rahi, Fall 2017/Spring 2018 Seed Fund student

E-CLUB PARTNERS WITH ON-CAMPUS CLUBS



Spring 2018 has been busy for E-Club, the student-led entrepreneurship club at UT Dallas. E-Club collaborated with UTD VR Society, HackUTD, and ACM to launch the Founder Series - where students can learn from entrepreneurs building startups, real-time! The Founder Series featured leaders from Roomored, Immosis AR/VR, Creative Labs, and ParkHub. More at utdeclub.com.



Innovate (Her)

The Innovate (Her) program (previously called Girls Going Places) was created to educate young women about technology, finance and the entrepreneurial mindset necessary for a successful future. This year, nearly 100 middle school girls from Dallas, Richardson, Frisco, and Allen attended the event and engaged with a similar number of professional women mentors from the community through a series of activities designed to encourage innovative and entrepreneurial thinking.



For the first time, we introduced a tech module in collaboration with the Sci-Tech Discovery Center. Students learned about flip-book animation, how to manipulate framing in a character, and got a chance to dip their toes in an entire 3D animation world.

Innovate(Her) was produced in partnership with Capital One, whose Future Edge mission is to prepare DFW for a digital-driven future. Through 2020, Capital One will invest \$150 million globally into programming, mentorship, and partnerships to inspire the next generation of leaders and thinkers.



COMETS IN AUSTIN FOR SXSW EDU

In March, UT Dallas students and staff attended SXSW EDU to represent UT Dallas and our work with the Blackstone LaunchPad charitable foundation. UT Dallas is one of only three recipients of the Blackstone LaunchPad grant in Texas. Two student entrepreneurs - Bobby Thakkar (Creative Labs) and James Griffin (RamifAI) - provided brief updates to Blackstone about their progress. Creative Labs is a student-run agency servicing to small businesses and startups. RamifAI is an automated college advising platform using AI.



RamifAI team representing the Blackstone LaunchPad program



Top: Bryan Chambers sharing his work at UTD Blackstone LaunchPad program
Bottom: UT Dallas students at the Blackstone LaunchPad booth

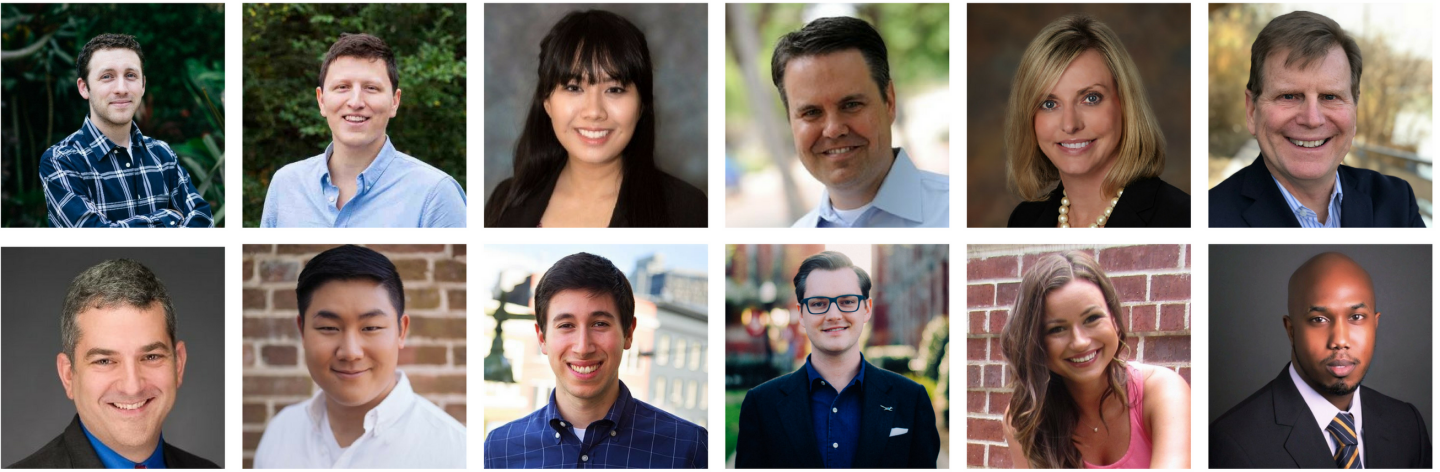
NEW PARTNERSHIP: TECHSTARS X BLACKSTONE

With a shared purpose in being catalysts in innovation and sparking entrepreneurship in students, Techstars and Blackstone Charitable Foundation have partnered to expand the capabilities of Blackstone LaunchPad programs to accelerate the chances of success for these collegiate entrepreneurs.

Thanks to the new partnership, Blackstone LaunchPad participants will receive:

- Access to the Techstars network of more than 10,000 mentors
- Invitations to signature events
- Education through Techstars' world-renowned content and startup services





MENTOR OFFICE HOURS LAUNCHED!

This spring, we kicked off a new series of Mentor Office Hours to help UTD students and alumni connect with successful entrepreneurs. Throughout the semester, we hosted nine afternoons of mentor sessions, with 22 mentors and more than 90 students participating. Special thanks to Montgomery Coscia Greilich, LLC for sponsoring these “very handy, very to-the-point, very helpful” mentoring sessions.



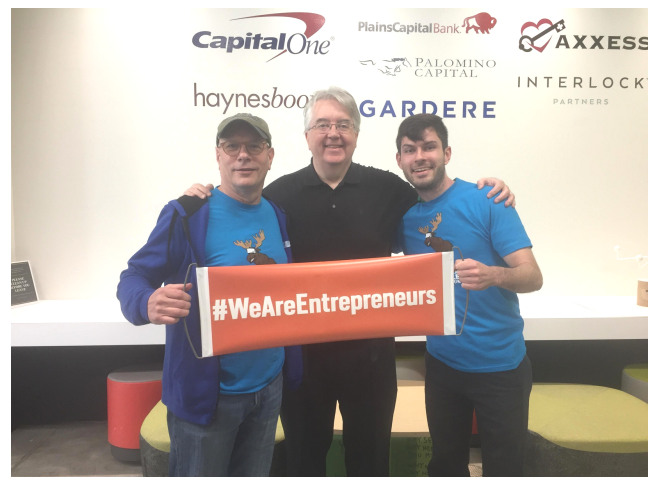
REVTECH LEGENDARY OFFICE HOURS

In January, the REVTECH accelerator hosted its first speed-mentoring Legendary Office Hours at the Blackstone LaunchPad facility. Entrepreneurs interested in retail startups were invited from across the North Texas community to participate. We welcomed over 100 students, entrepreneurs, and mentors from different fields in marketing, strategy, product development, IT, venture capital, and talent management.

COMETX ANNOUNCED HOBO LOCO AS WINNER

In Spring 2018, Shahzil (Shaz) Amin continued to lead CometX, a seven-week, experiential program that prepares student entrepreneurs for the launch of a new business concept.

On the last day of class, teams gave a final 5-minute pitch to a panel of guest judges. Team Hobo Loco (Rick Tett, Jim Ramsey and William Donovan) won first place - a \$2,000 scholarship award as their business concept for transporting users in virtual worlds. The solution enables precise, fluid-controlled movement in any direction in the virtual reality.



Jim Ramsey, Rick Tett, and William Donovan (left to right) winning the first place at CometX Spring'18

EVERTHREAD RECEIVED UT DALLAS SEED FUND

The UT Dallas Seed Fund, a program of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, invests exclusively in technology startups founded by UTD students, faculty, staff, alumni and other program affiliates.

In Fall 2017, UT Dallas Seed Fund made its third award - \$50,000 investment to EverThread, a software solution for on-demand customization & personalization for retailers and their suppliers.



Nicole Mossman MS'15 is founder of EverThread

SHEARSHARE WON BIG IN COMPETITIONS



ShearShare's founders Courtney MBA'06 and Tye Caldwell

Great news after great news! ShearShare knows how to set a good start to 2018.

In February, ShearShare won \$100,000 in the Diversity & Inclusion Investment Challenge presented by Capital Factory.

Again in March, ShearShare's founders Courtney Caldwell & Dr. Tye Caldwell attended Google's Demo Day, tying for 1st place as a Judge's Favorites, receiving a \$250,000 investment.

GROWTHS CONTINUED AT UT DALLAS INCUBATOR

UTD's early-stage incubator, the Venture Development Center, recently added Juice-BX, a provider of innovative charging stations for phones, IoT and other smart devices. With a total of 28 companies, the VDC is now at 90% occupancy.

The Entrepreneurial Development Series, the in-depth training for startup founders and principals, concluded its last two sessions in February and March. We'd like to thank Vinson & Elkins LLP, Bishop Cider Co. and Peticolas Brewing Company for sponsoring the series.

J U I C E - B X 
POWER UP. STAY CONNECTED.



ENTREPRENEURIAL
DEVELOPMENT
SERIES