Q4 2017 UPDATE

programs, events, academics

FEATURES

BIG IDEAS ON DISPLAY AT UTD

Over 100 teams applied, but only six made it to the big stage.

COMETS IN NYC FOR TECHSTARS

Two startups from UT Dallas flew to New York to participate in Techstars Training Camp.

ACADEMICS SEE MAJOR GROWTH

New programs expand academic offerings for resident UT Dallas entrepreneurs.

ONE OF THE NATION’S BEST

The Princeton Review has selected The University of Texas at Dallas as the #19 school in the nation in their ranking of the “Top Schools for Graduate Entrepreneurship in 2018.”

The ranking is a result of continued growth across multiple areas of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship academic program, led by Director Madison Pedigo, including faculty and staff strength, enrollment increases, scholarships offered, and experiential programs and resources like the Blackstone LaunchPad, Comet X, and UT Dallas’s student entrepreneurship club, aka, E-Club.
UT DESIGN STARTUP CHALLENGE

Through a new collaboration between the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science and the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, two high-potential startups received $20,000 in cash, materials, and services. Other resources include a technical mentor and business coaches to grow their startups. The inaugural year’s sponsors are Plains Capital Bank and Naya Ventures.

THE BIG IDEA COMPETITION

In November, six student teams competed in the finals of the Institute’s annual Big Idea Competition. This year’s program was presented by title sponsor Interlock Partners. An all-star panel of industry experts, including noted speaker/author Guy Kawasaki, ethernet co-inventor Bob Metcalfe, Jeff Williams (Interlock Partners), Julie Nickols (Haynes and Boone), and Courtney Caldwell (ShearShare) led the awarding of $80,000 in cash and scholarship awards, more than tripling 2016’s total. The 2017 BIC winners are:

First Place - Neuro Rehab VR
Second Place - Cthrough
Third Place - Alta Air

Veena Somareedy, founder, Neuro Rehab VR
Elaine Wang, founder, Cthrough
This fall, Techstars and Blackstone LaunchPad teamed up to create an innovative new program for collegiate entrepreneurs. Blackstone LaunchPad Techstars Training Camp selected top performing teams from schools across the Blackstone LaunchPad global network for two days in New York City with Techstars’ world-renowned mentors, content, and resources.

Representing UT Dallas were Vigilant Labels, a label printing solution designed for anesthesiologists, and Players Revolution Sports, an adult recreational sports application enabling players to compete, win, and be seen locally, regionally, and nationally.

"SINCE BLACKSTONE’S FOUNDING, ENTREPRENEURIALISM HAS BEEN PART OF OUR DNA. THIS IS WHY IT’S BEEN SO IMPORTANT TO US TO SUPPORT STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS ACROSS THE BLACKSTONE LAUNCHPAD NETWORK."

- Stephen Schwarzman, Blackstone’s Chairman, CEO, & Co-Founder
DONATE TO THE 2ND ANNUAL INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP FELLOWSHIP FUND

In December, we launched our 2nd annual scholarship crowdfunding campaign, raising $25,000 through January 31st. Please consider an end-of-year gift supporting future generations of entrepreneurs at UT Dallas through our endowed fellowship programs. Please Donate at https://impact.utdallas.edu/project/3270

NEW ACADEMIC COLLABORATION FOR SOFTWARE STARTUPS

The Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Science and Institute have collaborated on a unique new major, the CS Software Launch Track (or C-SLT). The C-SLT is for CS and SE students interested in a career as a founder of a software-oriented startup. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/software-startup

GROWTH CONTINUES AT UT DALLAS INCUBATOR

UTD’s early-stage incubator, the Venture Development Center, has experienced substantial growth in 2017. With a total of 27 companies, the VDC is at 95% occupancy.

Newly admitted companies for the fall include Cthrough, LoCap, Logan Medical, discourse.ai, ClicknShip, and Saucy.

Cersci Therapeutics, TraceIT, Skyven Technologies, and Adaptive 3D were among the startups receiving funding, with Cersci raising $4 million in a Series A round.

Drs. Greg Dusso (from left), Lucas Rodriguez, and Theodore Price of Cersci Therapeutics