Q2 2018 UPDATE
programs, events, academics

FEATURES

ENTP Programs Gain National Recognition
Our entrepreneurship concentration in UTD’s online MBA was ranked in the top 5 by BestColleges.com.

Emerging Technologies Summit Recap
Two-day conference, sponsored by Goldman Sachs makes big waves across North Texas.

UT Dallas Seed Fund Makes Investment
CollBox becomes the fourth investment since the UT Dallas Seed Fund’s inception in 2017.

IIE Director Makes June Headlines
In June, Blackstone LaunchPad Director, Bryan Chambers, was among featured Dallas business leaders participating in a multi-part, panel discussion series by D Magazine. Bryan also accepted an appointment as accelerator director for the Dallas office of Capital Factory covered by Dallas Innovates. Capital Factory is a co-working, event and tech venture incubation space located in downtown Dallas.
More National Recognition as Academic Program Hits Enrollment 3-Year High

In Q2, we learned that the Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) program at the Jindal School of Management had achieved a top-five national ranking by BestColleges.com as the #5 online MBA with a concentration in entrepreneurship. Not to be outdone by our online offerings, the classroom activity in I&E was as robust as ever, with many guest speakers and judges from Dallas-area and national firms, including Capital One, Mark Cuban Companies, REVTECH, Techstars, Twilio, USAA, among dozens.

With our academic program delivering this kind of value – both in the classroom and online – it was no surprise to us that our I&E enrollment numbers reached a 3-year high. Across all programs, including concentrations (aka, “minors”) and majors, more than 1,350 undergraduate and graduate students took ENTP classes in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018.

“Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of your students’ learning. I truly enjoyed the experience!” - Nicholas Wheeler, USAA

CS Students Wins OZY Genius Award

Recent graduate James Griffin won an OZY Genius Award, one of only 10 students nationwide to be recognized as possessing “the brains, ideas and inspiration to change the world.” James is founder of Ramifai, a UT Dallas-incubated software startup that simplifies degree planning for college students.
Smashing Debut of New Marquee Event: The EmTech Summit

In Q2, the first annual Emerging Technologies Summit – EmTech2018 – debuted at UT Dallas to highlight technology innovations in fintech, blockchain, and artificial intelligence.

The two-day conference brought together startup founders, pioneering innovations in these fast-moving, transformative fields, and enterprise leaders, pioneering the adoption of these technologies, on a global scale.

Presented by Goldman Sachs, New York Times best-selling author of “The Blockchain Revolution” Don Tapscott kicked off EmTech 2018 to a full-house of more than 500 audience members.

A day of packed concurrent sessions followed (standing room only, at times), led by speakers from IBM, Hedera Hashgraph, the US Securities and Exchange Commission, and many others.

For more information about EmTech 2018 or to get involved with EmTech 2019, please visit the EmTechSummit.com
UT Dallas Plays Startup Matchmaker During 2018 Dallas Startup Week

In early Q2, UT Dallas was once again featured as a major partner for the annual celebration of “all things startup” known as Dallas Startup Week, April 2-6.

Not only did several UT Dallas students, faculty, and graduates lead sessions and participate on panels, but the Blackstone LaunchPad at UT Dallas served as a special event venue for our Spring 2018 Startup Internship & Career Fair.

For the first time, the Startup Fair was expanded an additional hour and welcome to the public, not just UT Dallas students. UT Dallas students still got exclusive access to the close to two dozen startups seeking candidates for the first hour. View a video of the event on our website produced by one of the guest startups, Fixd!

Texas Business Hall of Fame

Two current UT Dallas students and one recent graduate learned they were this year’s recipients of the Texas Business Hall of Fame scholarships. Tina Dimitrova, Konan Mirza, and Brian Hoang, respectively. Both Tina and Konan have served as venture associates in our UT Dallas Seed Fund Support class. Brian is the founder of Immosis, a high-performing, UT Dallas-supported Virtual Reality startup. Read more online

Jindal School Alum Wins Tech Award

UT Dallas alum and co-founder of the startup ShearShare, Courtney Caldwell, was recognized with a Dallas Women In Tech Award by the Dallas Business Journal, with a special touch added: Courtney’s award being presented by Dr. Diane McNulty, Associate Dean for External Affairs and Corporate Development.
CollBox Wins UT Dallas Seed Fund Investment

The latest UT Dallas Seed Fund award was made in Q2 to Collbox. Founded by two UT Dallas alumni, Collbox provides an online marketplace that simplifies the task of collecting on past due invoices. Cameron Desautels and Matthew Darner (left and right, respectively, in photo with Institute executive director, Steve Guengerich).

Collbox was recommended for and received a grant of $25,000 after a highly competitive, three-month process. The process began with 41 companies recruited by venture associates in the Seed Fund Support class, taught by Bryan Chambers, program director for the UT Dallas Seed Fund.

This is the fourth investment made from the UT Dallas Seed Fund, since its first round of grants in early 2017. The Fund was established with an initial $300,000 pool of donations and matching funds from individual angel investors and UT Dallas alumni of JSOM, the Jonsson School of Engineering & Computer Sciences, and others.

For more information about the UT Dallas Seed Fund or to inquire about becoming a donor-investor, please visit innovation.utdallas.edu.

ENTP Council Expands

Two new Dallas-area business leaders joined the UT Dallas Entrepreneurship Council: Tahir Hussain, CollideVillage, and Kevin Vela, Vela|Wood.

The Council is the primary advisory group with whom the Institute’s leaders consult for advice and counsel, on strategy, execution, and advocacy.
Formula SAE Team Finds Home In LaunchPad

Formula SAE is a student design competition with the goal of building and racing a small, but powerful high-performance race car, in the spirit of the Formula One world racing league.

In mid-2017, a chance encounter between Mechanical Engineering undergrad, Ruger Carstens and the Institute’s executive director Steve Guengerich, led to the Institute “adopting” the Formula SAE team, hosting their meetings, raising funds, and generally cheerleading for them.

In June, the team traveled to Lincoln, Nebraska for its very first national competition, competing successfully in one of the two annual, national races. Learn more about the Formula SAE team at facebook.com/utdmotorsports.

Venture Development Center: VC Leader

VDC director Jon Shapiro estimates that VDC members, a majority of whom are from the medical device and other life sciences industries, have raised a combined $70m, across 56 startups over the past 5 years.

About 25% of the venture funding came from (mostly) non-dilutive federal research grants, like Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The remaining 75% came from a range of venture investors. Only 9 were fully inactive, with the other 47 either currently operating, acquired/merged, or publicly traded.