

# Q4 2018 UPDATE

programs, events, academics



## FEATURES

### ENTP Program Sees MS Ranking Jump to #11

For the first time, both the undergraduate and graduate I&E academic programs have been ranked by the Princeton Review and *Entrepreneur*.

### Inaugural Women's Summit Sells Out

One-day conference, sponsored by Capital One, makes big waves across North Texas and on campus.

### UT Dallas Seed Fund Makes 5th Investment

Alumni startup, Tankee, becomes the fifth recipient of the UT Dallas Seed Fund.



## ENTP Council Expands

Three new Dallas-area business leaders joined the UT Dallas Entrepreneurship Council: Tracy Merzi (Dallas Business Journal), Courtney Caldwell (ShearShare), Dayakar Pushkoo (Naya Ventures).

The Council is the primary advisory group with whom the Institute's leaders consult for advice and counsel on strategy, execution, and advocacy.

## Women's Summit

On October 15th, more than 300 people gathered at the Davidson-Gundy Alumni Center for the inaugural (and sold-out) Women's Summit, presented by the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The event kicked off with addresses from Dr. Anne Balsamo, Dean of the School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, as well as Ruth Ruggero Hughs, Chair of the Texas Workforce Commission.

Attendees heard insights from investors and founders, and enjoyed a fireside chat with Kellie Rasberry, co-host of The Kidd Kraddick Morning Show, and Merrilee Kick, Founder and CEO of BuzzBallz. The afternoon concluded with a keynote, "The Hard Work of Doing Good Well" from Jessica Shortall.

The Institute's Assistant Director, Dresden Goldberg, made a special announcement about the launch of a new women's accelerator program, GalXc, set to start in January 2019. The accelerator includes business building curriculum and mentor hours with experienced women entrepreneurs.

The Summit was in partnership with the 2018 Women Entrepreneurship Week, a program led by Montclair State University that focuses on female focused programming across universities in 32 countries and 46 states.



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## 2018 Big Idea Competition

In November, six student teams competed in the finals of our annual Big Idea Competition. This year's program, kicked-off by Meagan Moakes, Director of Community Development at RevTech Ventures, was record breaking on many levels: the number of applications (more than 250), the audience size, and the amount of prize money awarded.

Seven judges, Tan France, designer and style guru on the Emmy Award-winning Netflix series *Queer Eye*, Jason Story (Interlock Partners), Bryan DeLuca (Bioworld), Nate Nelson (PointB), Rebecca Poynter (OnPoynt Aerial Solutions), Samantha Colletti (Silicon Valley Bank), and Alex Robertson (Vinson & Elkins), awarded more than \$100,000 in cash and scholarship awards.

In addition to serving as a judge, France engaged in a conversation about entrepreneurship led by master of ceremonies J-Si Chavez of *The Kidd Kraddick Morning Show*.



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## UTDesign Startup Challenge

The UTDesign Startup Challenge is a major component of the Big Idea Competition. This year, we welcomed Raj Malik, founder and CEO of Bioworld, as the presenting sponsor of this year's awards.

Recipients of the awards, which are \$15,000 in services and \$5,000 in cash, were Sahai and Thread AI. In addition, Hobo Loco, which was a winner of the Institute's Spring 2018 CometX quick pitch, was awarded a services-only UTDesign Startup project worth \$15,000. Hobo Loco, which makes a VR game controller for your feet, is led by Rick Tett. Rick is a UT Dallas graduate student, in the innovative, joint JSOM-ECS Computer Science-Software Launch Track, or C-SLT.

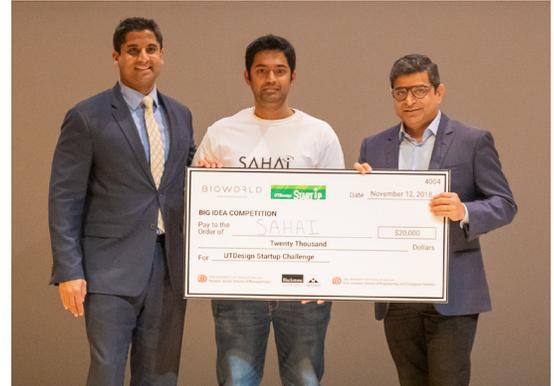
The UTDesign Startup Challenge began in the Fall of 2017 as a collaboration between the Institute and the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science.

## Tankee Wins Seed Funding

In Q4, the UT Dallas Seed Fund selected Austin-based startup Tankee, as the recipient of the fifth award for \$25,000.

Tankee, is a kid-friendly digital entertainment platform for streaming gaming content. It was co-founded by UT Dallas alum, Gerald Youngblood MBA '10,

For more information about the UT Dallas Seed Fund or to inquire about becoming a donor-investor, visit [innovation.utdallas.edu](http://innovation.utdallas.edu).





## UT Dallas co-hosts 20th Annual National Life Sciences Conference and Venture Showcase

In November, UT Dallas joined UT Southwestern, UT Arlington, other North Texas university co-hosts, and the Dallas Regional Chamber to welcome the US Health and Human Services (HHS) Department's 20th Annual SBIR/STTR Conference.

This three-day national conference is designed to educate attendees about America's largest seed fund and how to apply for research and development dollars. With more than \$1 billion of annual HHS funding, this is one of the largest sources of early-stage capital for technology commercialization in the United States.

UT Dallas was pleased to have several speakers on the program, including Institute leader Steve Guengerich in a "fireside chat" with Lucas Rodriguez, CEO of CerSci Therapeutics, a leading UT Dallas-incubated life sciences company. Further, UT Dallas, UT Southwestern, and the UT System Office of Innovation co-hosted a life sciences venture showcase and reception on the conference's opening night.

In addition to a pleasant evening full of high-intensity personal networking among the conference-goers, several startups nominated from each of the co-hosts displayed their products and services. The UT Dallas early stage ventures exhibiting at the showcase were Vigilant Labels, Qualia Medical, and Max-IR.



## ENTP Programs See Rankings Jump

In Q4, for the first time in our history, The Princeton Review ranked our Undergraduate Innovation and Entrepreneurship Concentration at the Naveen Jindal School of Management, #23 in the nation. Our graduate program, which has been in the top 25 rankings since 2016, moved up from #19 to #11.



## Institute Bids Farewell and Greetings To Leaders

As 2018 closed, the Institute said “farewell, but not goodbye” to two giants of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship academic program.

Dr. Joseph Picken founded the Institute in 2006 and served as the founding academic director of the program. Although now retired, he remains an advisor to the program.

Prof. Madison Pedigo, turned over the reins to Executive Director, Steve Guengerich. During his tenure, Madison led the rankings effort to its highest level. He will continue teaching part-time, online, while gaining more time to travel and be with family.

Joining the Institute to oversee our academic programming is Paul Nichols. Paul has proven to be an excellent addition to the Institute team. Prior to his academic leadership role, he has been an active alumnus, and member of UT Dallas’ inaugural First Freshman class in 1990. He has also served as a mentor and guest speaker for the Jindal School of Management’s full-time MBA program, for which he is also an alum.

