Annual Report / 2020

We hope you enjoy reading our annual report for fiscal year 2020. We had a busy year at the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and we are proud of all that UT Dallas student and alumni entrepreneurs accomplished, particularly in light of the global pandemic. We are excited to announce that The Princeton Review ranked our MS degree program in Innovation and Entrepreneurship #10 in the nation, up from #15 the previous year. Along with our academic classes, we shifted all of our programming and events to online. The new format revealed ways we can effectively integrate virtual elements with live production moving forward, providing even more opportunities to cultivate entrepreneurship across campus and globally.

- The Institute Team

ON THE COVER
Doloromics co-founders Candler Paige Ph.D. and Ted Price Ph.D.
“Moving beyond the shakiest phases of kitchen-table startup to viable company takes vision, hard work and luck. That luck for University of Texas at Dallas students and alumni comes in the form of the Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.”
Brian Hoang BS’19, founder of SURVIVR (front row in green) with Techstars Austin cohort.
2006 – The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship is established as a collaborative initiative of the schools of Arts and Humanities; Behavioral and Brain Sciences; Economic, Political and Policy Sciences; Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science; Management; and Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The institute’s programs focus on initiatives in four broad areas: academic and student programs, internal programs and support, community outreach and research.

Spring 2008 – Texas Instruments Foundation establishes a $332,400 grant to create a TI Science & Technology Innovation Fund. A portion of the grant further established the Entrepreneurship Incentive Scholarship program which was designed to encourage undergraduates enrolled in UTD’s engineering, science and technology majors to take entrepreneurship courses leading to the university’s minor in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The Office of Technology Commercialization is created to help researchers create companies and move their inventions from the lab to the marketplace.

Spring 2010 – The School of Management launches the Master of Science in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MSIE) program designed both for individuals piloting startups and those leading pioneering ventures within established organizations.

2011 – The Venture Development Center opens creating 8,000-square-feet of dedicated space for spinoff companies established by university students and faculty. The facility includes 11 offices, six laboratories and central facilities including conference rooms and a kitchen.

2013 – Startup Launch Program, a competitive track within the MSIE degree program that offers students up to $25,000 in startup funds plus office space in The Venture Development Center at UT Dallas and support and mentoring from faculty and experienced entrepreneurs.
2015

Fall 2015 – CometX Accelerator introduced

2016

- UT Dallas receives $1 million grant by the Blackstone Charitable Foundation to establish the Blackstone LaunchPad on campus joining a network of 15 universities across the world.

2017

- Spring 2017 – Blackstone LaunchPad co-working space opens. The Institute establishes the UT Dallas Seed Fund to invest in university affiliated startups. I&E Graduate academic program rises to #19 in the U.S. by The Princeton Review.

2018

- 2018 – UT Dallas Seed Fund wins Tech Titans Investment Catalyst Award. I&E Undergraduate program ranked (#23) for first time by The Princeton Review.
- GalXc Accelerator introduced

2019

- 2019 – Institute teams up with UTA and UTSW to launch Venture Mentoring Service of North Texas offering mentor connections to high potential startups.
- Innovate(her) wins Tech Titans of the Future - University award

2020

- 2020 – The Institute moved all of its programming online for the entirety of the year during the pandemic.
LEG UP LEGAL

As an attorney turned entrepreneur, Anjie Vichayanonda launched Leg Up Legal to fill a gap that prospective law students often encounter as they prepare for law school: career path selection guidance.

While there’s no limit to resources for LSAT prep, law school admissions, and preparing for law school, there are few opportunities for prospective law students to gain in-depth knowledge about the wide range of legal practice areas available and the many legal career paths that students may pursue.

Leg Up Legal fills this gap by providing transparent, easily accessible information about getting started in the legal profession. This innovative business connects prospective attorneys with experienced lawyers who share their wisdom, encouragement, and support. Leg Up Legal also carefully curates and creates professional development advice that is relevant to a student’s career goals in the form of short, easily digestible videos, online posts, and downloadable PDFs.

leguplegal.com

CRACK BRISKET

Mac Magalindan (MIS, ’05), is a full-time Information Technology (IT) Project Manager with a tasty side hustle. Smoking brisket started as a hobby that primarily benefited Mac’s family and friends. But on Labor Day 2018, Mac sold more brisket than he gifted, and his weekends have been spent working on Crack Brisket ever since.

During his time at UT Dallas, Mac founded the Filipino Student Association, which has grown to over 800 members. He participated in the inaugural Academic Bridge Program and was a member of the UT Dallas Orientation Team.

Mac uses his background in IT to automate the different processes associated with smoking bbq, applying the “low and slow” process with smoking the meats.

When presented with COVID challenges, Crack Brisket pivoted from taking only large-scale brisket orders to smaller ones, and the business is thriving.

Mac loves the hustle of managing Crack Brisket in addition to his working at his day job. As for what’s next, Mac is taking it one smoking session at a time.

crackbrisket.com

CERSCI THERAPEUTICS

Co-founded in 2015 by Lucas Rodrieguez, MS’14, PhD’16, CerSci Therapeutics is a clinical-stage biotechnology company developing non-opioid pharmaceuticals for the treatment and prevention of chronic and pain.

With a focus on alleviating human suffering and rescuing society from the on-going opioid crisis, CerSci is poised to deliver a new generation of non-opioid medicines to treat acute postoperative pain and chronic neuropathic pain. (e.g. painful diabetic neuropathy).

CerSci’s lead clinical candidate, CT-044, is currently in Phase I Safety and Tolerability Studies in human volunteers (Phase I), the VC arm of materials engineering company Applied Materials.

In August 2020, CerSci Therapeutics was acquired by ACADIA Pharmaceutical in a $52.5 million deal that could net nearly $900 million more for its shareholders with milestones and royalties.

cipherbio.com
Collaborative Spaces to Develop/Scale Ideas

Blackstone LaunchPad is the front door for entrepreneurship at UT Dallas. Our students can walk in with an idea and get connected to resources that will help them take the next step. These resources include mentorship, a co-working space for student-led startups, and events ranging from guest lectures on current technologies to community networking events.

30 COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE FY 2020
15,308 sq.ft.

5,000 sq.ft.
ANNUAL UNIVERSITY PITCH COMPETITION

Competition brings undergraduate and graduate students together from all disciplines to pitch the most innovative startups and ideas in front of their peers and a panel of esteemed judges for cash and scholarship awards.

$150K PRIZE MONEY & SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FY 2020

667+ NUMBER OF ATTENDEES FY 2020

Winners FY 2020

Student Track Winner ($25,000)
Glaucomedi
Jacob Akwal - BS'21 Biomedical Engineering
Hebah Abdallah - BS'19 Biomedical Engineering

Glaucomedi is dedicated to developing next-generation technologies to advance glaucoma treatment, reduce failure rates and improve the quality of life for millions of glaucoma patients. Using its proprietary technology, the Squid Glaucoma Shunt (SGS), Glaudomedi offers a glaucoma treatment solution that is significantly smaller and more efficient than existing processes.

Alumni Track Winner ($25,000)
Lazarus 3D
Mouna Tanoua, BS'19 Biomedical Engineering

Using their soft-3D, printing-based technology, Lazarus 3D creates organ replicas of patients from their MRI/CT data in materials that mimic real tissue properties, allowing doctors to perform a “dry-run” on an exact replica of a patient’s organs prior to the actual procedure.

Research Commercialization Winner ($100,000)
X-Nerve
Robert Rennaker, Ph.D. (faculty)

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA) is a serious health condition that can result in increased risk of stroke or fatal cardiovascular event. X-Nerve electronically activates the tongue and moves it forward, reopening the blocked airway and providing a more effective, less intrusive method of treating OSA.
INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

VENTURE DEVELOPMENT CENTER INCUBATION PROGRAM

Apply for dedicated office or wet/dry lab space at the universities exclusive incubation space. Residents can build out their teams, protect IP, and connect with industry experts.

30 COMPANIES IN RESIDENCE
FY 2020

FY 2020 Startup Companies

- Embedded Technology
- System Solutions
- Immosis
- Sprinkl
- MicroSol Technologies
- MaxIR Labs
- Snap Energy
- R9 Technology
- TrivTech
- Sqwaq
- Qualia Medical
- SoTECH Secure
- CerSci Pharmaceuticals
- TechRover Solutions
- Vital Art and Science
- Data Security Technologies
- Invene
- SIINO
- SoPHIE Labs
- Interoperate
- Clear Nano
- OnPoynt Aerial Solutions
- pSolve
- Toyota
- Astrapi
- TraceIT
- Adaptive 3D
- Logan Medical
- Ted’s Pain Cream
- WavExchange

COOMETX

Experiential accelerator program that pulls student entrepreneurs into an environment that incubates ideas and engages prospective customers in preparation for the launch of a new business concept.

58 participants

CometX

GalXC

Newly introduced accelerator provides education, training, networking and mentoring to a cohort of women. Participants develop skills and competencies to become effective business leaders and founders of high-achieving startups.

36 participants

SEED FUND

UT DALLAS

Invests exclusively in early-stage technology startups founded by UTD students, faculty, staff, alumni and other program affiliates.

6 investments total

SEED FUND

Blackstone Launchpad & Techstars

Network designed to complement existing entrepreneurship on-campus resources, coordinate off-campus opportunities for schools and students to expand their reach, and convene students and staff at world-class events leveraging industry-leading mentors, networks, and brands.

26 schools
Over 500 events hosted by the network
INSTITUTE PROGRAMS

UT DALLAS WOMEN’S SUMMIT

North Texas-area women entrepreneurs share their lessons learned, offer on-the-ground guidance and talk through their careers with UT Dallas students and others in the University community.

458 virtual participants

innovate (her)

Sponsored by Capital One, this program, was created to educate young women about technology, finance and the entrepreneurial mindset, skills that are necessary for a successful future. Participants engage with professional women mentors from the community through a series of activities designed to encourage innovative thinking.

100 mentors
282 students

STARTUP INTERNSHIP AND CAREER FAIR

Students interested in interning or working for a local startup are encouraged to attend the fair that features North Texas startup companies looking for tech, marketing, design, and business talent.

7 companies
100 attendees

Through our partnership with Capital Factory, a select number of UT Dallas student/alumni founders and their teams, with no-charge, receive virtual co-working memberships to Capital Factory (CF).

16 applicants
25 companies

VENTURE MENTORING SERVICE

This program provides a platform to entrepreneurs and mentors. Entrepreneurs receive world-class mentoring services and guidance from a team of experienced professionals to grow their ventures. Mentors guide aspiring entrepreneurs helping them to overcome challenges through a streamlined online platform.

34 mentors
17 ventures
EARN A DEGREE

UT Dallas offers a wide range of exceptional innovation and entrepreneurship academic programs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Our courses blend state-of-the-art curriculum with experiential learning in a flexible format that allows each student to tailor their degree to meet their needs.

STARTUP LAUNCH I & II

A competitive track within the MSIE and undergraduate degree programs for students with a significant and scalable business concept who desire to launch their venture during or immediately after completion of the degree. The program is designed to progressively develop and mature both the entrepreneur and his or her venture concept from the early startup stage to the point where it is ready for launch and represents a prime candidate for funding by the professional investment community.

38 SL1 Undergrad
13 SL 1 Grad
7 SL 2 Grad

VENTURE ANALYST PROGRAM

This course enables entrepreneurship and finance students to participate directly in the process leading to seed investments or grants in high-potential startups by engaging in a rigorous due diligence process that leads to initial grant funding.

51 venture analysts

SOFTWARE STARTUP LAUNCH TRACK

Computer Science students interested in launching a software-based startup company can elect to pursue the CS Software Launch Track (CS-SSLT).

ENTP 4340

Social Sector Engagement and Community Outreach

A project-based course where students get hands on experience working with local nonprofits improving service delivery or business practices, fund-raising, marketing, IT solutions, HR issues and/or governance.

51 students
(L to R) Daniel Flores BS’15, Thang Duong BS’15, Minu Amatya, Leezen Amatya BS’15, founders of Momo Shack Himalayan Dumplings.
DONORS

AmplifAI
Ann Myer
Axxess
Bioworld
Blackstone Charitable Foundation
Capital Factory
Capital One
Chambers Venture Capital
Chien-Hao Chiu
Christopher N. Bachus
Chuck Butler
Claire and Terry Rock Scholarship
Collide Village
Dallas Blockchain
Dallas Business Journal
Dallas Capital Bank
David Matthews
David Schmidt
Dell
DFWexcelerator
Earth Water, LLC
Ericsson
freshbenies Scholarship
G6 Holdings
Gardere
Goldman Sachs
Gregory Dess, Ph.D.
Haemin Park, Ph.D.
Haynes and Boone
Hemal A. Doshi
Hypergiant
IBM
Intels Capital
Interlock Partners
Jackie Kimzey, Ph.D.
Jason A. Story
Jill Arredondo
Jonathan Shapiro
Dr. Joseph Picken Distinguished Professorship in Innovation and Entrepreneurship
Julie Nickols
Kelly Reyna
Lars Magnus Ericsson Scholarship
Laura Madden
Madison Pedigo
Matthew D. Cafrelli
Montgomery Coscia Greilich
Nano Global Corp
Nano Vision
Naya Ventures
Neuron Shield, LLC
North Texas Blockchain Alliance
NTT Communications
NTT Data
Onpoint Leadership
Palomino Capital
Pei-Ping Mo
Peter Buffett Scholarship
Plains Capital Bank
Polsinelli
Remy A. Pascual
REVTECH Ventures
Richardson Chamber of Commerce
Richardson Living
Rick Tett
Robert Wright, J.D.
Roger Wilco
Saadia Sheikh Scholarship
Satyajit P. Doctor
Sean Minter
Sheen Levine, Ph.D.
Silicon Valley Bank
Sri Ranga
State Farm
Steven Tan
Tahir Hussain
Talk STEM
Tara Vornkahl
Tech Titans
Texas Capital Bank
The Dallas Entrepreneur Center
The IndusLotus Group
TIE Dallas-The Indus Entrepreneurs
Tolleson Wealth Management
Toyah Miller, Ph.D.
Traci Merzi
U.S. Capital Partners LLC
Vela Wood
Vinson & Elkins
Wright Connatser
Wyly Family Foundation
Zelaya Productions
Zhuo Lu
The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship consists of a combination of faculty and staff who work cross-departmentally in the Naveen Jindal School of Management.

**Faculty & Staff**

- **PAUL NICHOLS**, Executive Director/ Senior Lecturer I, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. paul.nichols@utdallas.edu
- **MADISON PEDIGO**, Senior Lecturer II, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. mpedigo@utdallas.edu
- **ROBERT WRIGHT, JD**, Associate Academic Director/Senior Lecturer I, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. rgw091000@utdallas.edu
- **EMILY CHOI, PHD**, Assistant Professor, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. ewchoi@utdallas.edu
- **TOYAH MILLER, PHD**, Associate Professor, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. toyah.miller@utdallas.edu
- **JACKIE KIMZEY**, Senior Lecturer II, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. jackie.kimze@utdallas.edu
- **H. DENNIS PARK, PHD**, Associate Professor, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. parkhd@utdallas.edu
- **RAJIV SHAH, PHD**, Clinical Professor, Director MS Systems Engineering and Management, Jindal School of Management. rxs079000@utdallas.edu
- **DRESDEN GOLDBERG**, Director, Programs and Operation, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, dresden. goldberg@utdallas.edu
- **BRYAN CHAMBERS**, Director, Blackstone LaunchPad, Adjunct Professor, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. bryan.chambers@utdallas.edu
- **KIM WARREN**, Venture Development Manager, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. kim.warren@utdallas.edu
- **DENYSE CARPIO**, Assistant to the Center Director, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Jindal School of Management. denyse.carpio@utdallas.edu
- **SARAH CROWE**, Marketing Communications Manager, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. sarah.crowe@utdallas.edu
- **SARAH JANE MURDOCK**, Project Coordinator, Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. sarahjane.murdock@utdallas.edu

**Entrepreneurship Club Leadership**

- Dilayda Celik
- Ramya Reddy
- Ronak Hedge
- Sarah Romanko
- Matthew Lorentz
- Coraima Saavedra
- Harshini Rallapalli
- Askshat Sharma

**People**

- **MADISON PEDIGO**

**Entrepreneurship Club Leadership**

- **Dilayda Celik**
- **Ramya Reddy**
- **Ronak Hedge**
- **Sarah Romanko**
- **Matthew Lorentz**
- **Coraima Saavedra**
- **Harshini Rallapalli**
- **Askshat Sharma**

The Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship consists of a combination of faculty and staff who work cross-departmentally in the Naveen Jindal School of Management.
Visit Us
Blackstone LaunchPad
2830 Rutford Ave
Richardson, TX 75080

Phone
(972) 883-5990

Email
innovation@utdallas.edu

Website
innovation.utdallas.edu