

# Office of Engaged Learning Newsletter

Issue No. 1 | February 2022

With the first month of 2022 drawn to a close, the Office of Engaged Learning would like to share some incredible stories from this past year and to say thank you to our students, faculty mentors, and collaborators for all of your hard work.

## Newsletter Highlights

Incubator@SMU

Undergraduate Research

Student and Faculty Spotlights



**Aryan Bhatnagar, '22.** Founder and CEO of EZ Tutor. Big iDeas and GCEC Winner

## Upcoming Events

### February:

E-Launch Pitch Practice  
2/14-17 - 5:00pm - 6:00pm  
Incubator@SMU

ELF Application Deadline  
2/15 - Due at midnight

Incubator Roundtable Talks:  
Marketing for Retail Business Owners  
2/16 - 4:00-5:00pm  
Zoom [[Register](#)]

Big iDeas Business Plan Competition and Demo Day  
2/18 - 9:00am - 1:30pm  
Fondren Library

### March:

Making Awesome Research Posters  
3/2 & 3/3 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm (drop-in)  
Clements Hall G01

Research Elevator Pitch  
3/9 & 3/10 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm (drop-in)  
Clements Hall G01

Research and Innovation Week:  
Undergraduate Poster Session  
3/29 - 3:00-6:00pm  
Hughes-Trigg Ballroom [[Sign-up to present](#)]

### April:

Résumés For Researchers  
4/13 & 4/14 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm (drop-in)  
Clements Hall G01

## Featured Events

**Big iDeas Business Plan Competition and Demo Day**  
Friday, February 18, 9am-1:30pm

**Founders Lunch with Rene Larrave**  
Wednesday February 23, 12pm

**Lab Hopping**  
Tuesday, March 1, 4-6pm

**Research and Innovation Week**  
March 28-April 1, 2022

# Incubator@SMU Highlights

## Big Ideas \$5000 Competition and Demo Day Feb. 18

The **Big Ideas Business Plan Competition** is taking place on Friday, February 18th, 2022, so mark your calendars! The competition will be held in the Texana room in Fondren Library from 9:00-11:00 am. After the competition, Demo Day kicks off on the first floor of Fondren beside Starbucks. Demo Day will take place from 11:30 am-1:00 pm and is an excellent opportunity to see the fantastic products and services seed-funded by Big iDeas and the Incubator.

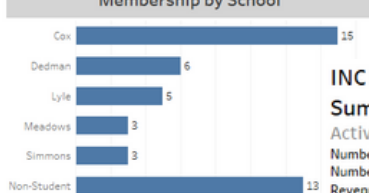


## Coming Soon: Incubator's Media Room

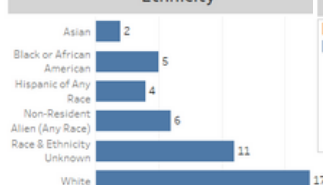
The Incubator@SMU is excited to announce we are building a media production room within the semester. Use of the media room will be on a reservation basis and will be available to all members of the Incubator and others who may reserve the space. The media room is the first door on the right as you walk into the Incubator. It will be the perfect place for your company's photography, videography, or podcasting needs. Stay tuned for more on the opening of the Incubator's Media Room.

## Incubator Statistics

Membership by School



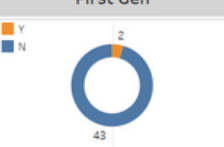
Ethnicity



### INC Program Summary

Active Companies Fall 2021  
 Number of Participants: 45  
 Number of Companies: 46  
 Revenue Generated Last Term: \$1,452,333.00

First Gen



Incubator companies have raised 5.4 million in funding

## Launch of Entrepreneurship Fellowship Program



The Incubator@SMU now offers an Entrepreneurship Fellows program. This program takes in individuals looking to launch their product or service into the market no matter what stage of the process they are in. Fellows within the program will receive guidance, education, and mentorship. At the end of the program, fellows participate in Pitch Day, where they pitch their idea, product, or service to judges. After completing the full program, fellows will also receive access to one-year of free co-working space and mentoring support to continue to expand and work on their company.



## Entrepreneur Spotlight: Kristine Locker

Incubator alumna **Kristine Locker '15** and her company, LOCKER, have been recognized by *Forbes Magazine* as one of "The Next 1000." LOCKER is an online platform where users can organize, create, and share fashion wishlists with their friends and family. The platform has been an incredible success, now boasting over 5,500 users. Publications such as *Shout Out LA* and *Spectrum Local News* have also recognized Kristine and LOCKER. Congrats, Kristine; we can't wait to see what's next for you and LOCKER!



# Undergraduate Research Highlights

## Summer Research Intensive

Applications will open soon for faculty to receive match-funding for up to two Undergraduate Research Assistants during the summer. Students are able to work up to 30 hours per week. They will also receive extra training, in the form of weekly workshops that cover research skills, professional development, and data science.

Last year, 44 students participated, supporting the work of 27 faculty members.

Details can be found [on our website](#).



As the culmination of the 2021 Summer Research Intensive, students presented "Three Minute Thesis" style talks. A panel of judges rated the students on content and delivery, awarding prizes to the top four projects. First place was **Abigail Hays '22**. Her presentation is titled *Air Entrapment in Small-Scale*

*Fin Propulsion Systems to Maximize Thrust*. Abigail works with **Dr. Paul Krueger**, Department Chair and Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

## Journal of Undergraduate Research

The SMU Journal of Undergraduate Research recently released Volume 7, Issue 1, which can be [read online](#). The print edition of Volume 7 (both issues) will be available in late April.

In 2021, articles from the JoUR were **downloaded over 5000 times!**

The most popular title is *Ketamine's Role in Spirituality: How One Synthetic Drug Catalyzes a Natural Experience* by **Samiah Woods '21**. It has been downloaded over 900 times.



## Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Anindita Das**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, and her research group recently published their first article, "[Crystal Structure and Optical Properties of a Chiral Mixed Thiolate/Stibine-Protected Au18 Cluster](#)" in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.



Visit faculty and see their research up-close at Lab Hopping March 1, 2022

Among the co-writers were undergrads **Justin Patty '23**, **Dylan Tietje-Mckinney '23**, **Roumina Hajj Hosseini '21**, and **Mohamed Ghabin '21**

Read an interview with Dr. Das by **Aya Bellaoui '24** [on the Undergraduate Research blog](#).

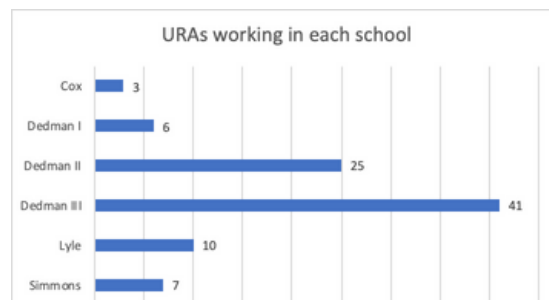
## Research and Innovation Week

Join us for the Undergraduate Poster Session in the Hughes-Trigg Ballroom on Tuesday March 29, 3-6pm!

More information at: [smu.edu/researchandinnovationweek](http://smu.edu/researchandinnovationweek)

## Undergraduate Research Stats

Undergraduate Research Assistants receive hourly wages to work with faculty on projects across campus. Our office provides matching funds for up to 4 URAs to faculty members who apply. There are currently 92 students funded through the URA program, including Hamilton Scholars (a program of **Dedman College Interdisciplinary Institute** that is match-funded by our office).



# Student and Faculty Spotlight

## Engaged Learning Fellows (ELF) Spotlight

Over 275 capstone projects funded through ELF since 2011



Click image to watch YouTube video.

**Zack Demaree '22** has created a series of video interviews with luminaries like President Gerald Turner and Mayor Eric Johnson called *Foundations: The Road to Success*. Learn about it in this video interview with Zack, created by **Ixchell Ibañez '24**.

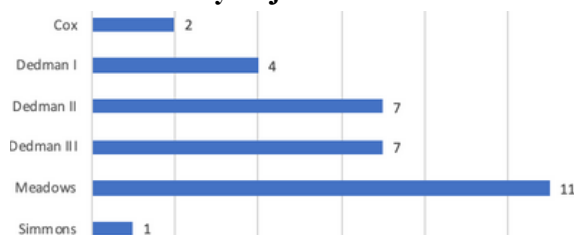


**Pictured:** Engaged Learning Fellows **Leia Hannum '22, Bri Tollie '22, and Bethany Bass '22.**  
Photo by **Ash Thyne '23**

**SMU PRIDE Project** is a student-led intersectionality-centered project documenting SMU & Dallas LGBTQ+ history. The team uses oral history methods to collect stories and plans to launch a website with their research and advocacy resources.

## ELFs by School

Based on Primary Major



## Mentor Spotlight

**Rene Larrave** is a serial entrepreneur and SMU Cox School of Business professor. He serves as a Mentor-in-Residence at the Incubator@SMU, where he advises and invests in growing startups. His personal companies, Mango Chango and Command Hound have an office in the Incubator and he is a huge asset to the community through his expertise and mentorship. You can get to know and learn from Rene at the Founder's Lunch on Friday, Feb. 25th. Click the photo below to register.

**INCUBATOR @ SMU**  
**FOUNDERS LUNCH**  
With **Rene Larrave**  
February 23 from 12pm-1pm @ The Incubator  
Professor of Strategy & Entrepreneurship within Cox School of Business  
REGISTER: <https://booking.smu.edu/calendar/engagedlearning/rene>  
MangoChango  
Lunch will be provided

## Students Competing in TCU and Rice Business Plan Contests

- **Raleigh Dewan '23** applied to TCU Values and Ventures with his company **Steadispoon**: a spoon designed to help those with Parkinson's eat with dignity.
- **Jude Lugo '25** applied to TCU Values and Ventures and Rice Business Plan Competition with his company **Commerce Navigator**, an all in one business solution for E-Commerce Entrepreneurs. Also cheer him on for the Cox MBA Entrepreneurship Club competition as he competes to win \$50,000
- **Eric Vu and Alex Cerpa '25** applied to TCU Values and Ventures and Rice Business Plan Competition with their company, **MediChain**: a blockchain solution for housing medical records
- **Manov Jain '22** applied to TCU Values and Ventures and Rice Business Plan Competition with his app **Anim**, a product that gives users a health and sustainability score on the foods they purchase.

## Make a Donation

It costs approximately \$2000 to fund a student project. Want to make a difference?

