"Together, I ask that we make the following commitments: To translating our discoveries into impactful products, services, and policies, by removing barriers and bringing resources to our innovative faculty, students, and staff."

- Dr. Timothy Sands, President, Virginia Tech
Alumni Spotlight

Alley and Jack: Taaluma Totes

Alley Heffern and Jack Dufour, two Virginia Tech alumni who have made a huge splash in the entrepreneurial scene in more ways than one... Read more!

Be sure to tune in Friday, February 20 @ 9/8c to cheer for Alley and Jack on Shark Tank!
Entrepreneurs and Innovators Table

We invite students from all disciplines to apply for this month’s Entrepreneurs and Innovators Table (EIT), a casual meeting of minds where students have the opportunity to learn firsthand from local business leaders what it takes to conceive, launch and grow an entrepreneurial venture. The event creates opportunities to build networking contacts and connections that may result in mentoring relationships, internships, job opportunities and the launch of new ventures.

If you’re interested in mentoring aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs by hosting an EIT, please connect with us!

Faculty Spotlight

Alan Abrahams:
Associate Professor BIT

Alan Abrahams is playing a leading role in fostering entrepreneurship education and encouraging the exploration of new ventures within the Pamplin College of Business... Read more!
Union First Market Bank Innovation Challenge

The Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship invites Virginia Tech students to take part in the inaugural Union Innovation Challenge! Union created this challenge to inspire enterprising minds to submit innovative, clean energy proposals for a chance to win cash funding for their new venture, as well as significant start-up services from Union.

Deadline to enter: March 1, 2015 - Learn more.

ICAT Funding Opportunities

The Institute for Creativity and Technology (ICAT) is requesting proposals for 2015! Proposals must be interdisciplinary in nature and explore some aspect of technology and at least two of the following areas represented by the Institute: design, architecture, behavioral sciences, education, engineering, computer science, human sciences, humanities, social sciences, visual arts, performing arts

Learn more and submit your proposal here!
Innovate: Monthly Update

The Innovate Entrepreneurial Community, one of the most unique living learning communities on the east coast, has seen tremendous growth and success this year. Innovate welcomed many new aspiring entrepreneurs from the freshman class as well as returning students from its first year this fall. With Virginia Tech’s President Timothy Sands and the Pamplin College of Business’ Dean Robert Sumichrast, Innovate... Read more!
**Student Innovator and Entrepreneur of the Year Awards**

The Apex Systems Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship will wrap up its inaugural academic year by celebrating the best and brightest student innovators and entrepreneurs at Virginia Tech. The Student Innovator and Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (presented by AT&T) honor students who have demonstrated innovativeness, originality, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit in the development of processes, products, or technologies of a commercial potential and/or the launch of a new venture.

All Virginia Tech students, faculty, staff, and alumni are invited to nominate a student of their choice to receive these awards. For more information, and to nominate a student, click [here](#).

The award ceremony will take place on April 23, 2015 and the Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology. The keynote speaker will be VT alumnus, Jennifer VanBuskirk (President of Cricket Wireless)

---

**Student Spotlight**

**Allie Howe**

"Find something you're interested in and pursue it relentlessly," said Allison Howe on transitioning into Virginia Tech's entrepreneurial ecosystem... [Read more](#)
Watch Party: Taaluma Totes on ABC’s Shark Tank

Two Virginia Tech alumni entrepreneurs will be making an appearance on ABC’s hit show Shark Tank this Friday, February 20 9/8c!

Come celebrate the success of Taaluma Totes with us this Friday night where we’ll be watching the episode and cheering our fellow Hokies on from TOTS! TOTS will be reserved exclusively for this event until 10 pm so Hokies of all ages are encouraged to come celebrate! RSVP here!

Upcoming Events

ICAT Community Playdates

"Community Playdates" are open discussions of topics and ideas from ICAT, Virginia Tech, and the community. We welcome any interested students, faculty, and community members to join these discussions, and enjoy coffee/pastries from the Next Door Bake Shop! Upcoming discussions for the month of February include researchers and collaborators with the Center for Human-Computer Interaction (CHCI) and the Human Centered Design (HCD) program on February 20 and 27, respectively. Learn more!

8:30 am, every Friday
Institute for Creativity and Technology (ICAT)

The Entrepreneurship Option

This interactive workshop will help you identify what it takes and what it means to be a true entrepreneur instead of an employee. Presented at IdeaFest. Register here!

11:00 am - 12:30 pm, February 27, 2015
Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
150 Slayton Avenue, Danville, Virginia 24540

VT KnowledgeWorks Tech Transfer Challenge
The Tech Transfer Challenge awards $100,000 worth of mentorship and business support services to a winning team of Virginia Tech faculty, staff, students and/or alumni proposing to establish a new venture in Blacksburg, based on Virginia Tech-owned technology. Apply here!

9:00 pm - Noon, March 19, 2015
VT KnowledgeWorks I building, Lakeview Conference Room
2200 Kraft Drive, Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

**Virginia Tech Investor Network: Investment Meeting**

Hokie alumni are asked to join us for our first investment meeting of the Virginia Tech Investor Network. The VTIN, seeks to finance promising start-ups in which a founder, board member, or active investor is a Virginia Tech graduate, student, or faculty member.

Noon – 4:00 pm, April 23, 2015
Location TBD, Blacksburg, VA
Contact shayneg@vt.edu for more information.

**TechNite 2015: Nominations and Registration Open**

Have you gotten your ticket to the largest technology celebration of the year? Early bird registration is now open! Register here!

The Roanoke – Blacksburg Technology Council is also accepting nominations for their six TechNite Awards. Help recognize the innovative talent in our region and submit your nominations today. Learn more!

5:30 pm, May 8, 2015
The Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke, VA

---

**Heading Back to Campus? Get Involved!**

Are you a Hokie corporate innovator or entrepreneur planning a visit to campus? We would love to host you!

Connect with us!