First and foremost, the Office of Engaged Learning would like to say congratulations to all our Spring 2022 graduates (see inside)! We also would like to share some inspiring stories from this past quarter and say thank you to our students, faculty mentors, and collaborators for all of your hard work. - Director, Jennifer Ebinger

Learn more about research and entrepreneurship programs at smu.edu/engagedlearning
**Incubator@SMU Highlights**

**Big Ideas Competition Winners**

The Spring 2022 Big Ideas Business Plan Competition took place this past February. There were 6 winners of the 13 companies competing — spotBOX, Steadispoon, Commerce Navigator, Sister Shaq’s, College Plus, and Equity Ahead. All started by SMU undergraduate students, these companies span various industries and include for- and non-profit organizations alike. Winners will use their seed funds to grow their business to the next level and joined the first cohort of the Incubator's Entrepreneurship Fellows Program.

**Entrepreneurship Fellows Program**

In Spring ’22, the Incubator@SMU launched its first cohort of Entrepreneurship Fellows. This program accepts early-stage companies as they prepare to launch their product or service. Fellows receive mentoring and education with a final pitch contest for seed funds. Pitch winners this year were Mona El-Gharby, Pamela Bailey, and Roberto Delgado. After completing the program, fellows receive access to one year of free co-working space at the Incubator and mentoring support to continue expanding and growing their company. Applications for Entrepreneurship Fellows are open at smu.edu/incubator.

**Entrepreneur Spotlight: Carlos Carpizo and Adriana de Urquidi**

Kosmos is bridging the gap between companies and young workers using a gamified Virtual Reality platform to help HR professionals connect with the new generation in the workforce, the "digital natives."

Kosmos meets them where they are: the digital. Prospective employees play a game that prompts them to learn, explore and be challenged. Every twist and turn, every decision and action, is measured to assess their 21st century skills. This data is then presented in a meaningful and actionable way to give companies indicators of each employee's potential for engagement and productivity, as well as opportunity areas for employee development.

The Incubator@SMU is home to 33 companies who have raised over 5.4 million in funding. Our members are undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Email bigideasandincubator@smu.edu to learn more!
Undergraduate Research Highlights

Summer Research Intensive
After a rigorous application and selection process, 23 faculty members have been awarded funding for the 2022 Summer Research Intensive. These faculty will hire undergraduate students to assist on research projects throughout the summer.

The students will also attend weekly lectures and workshops. Thanks to the Office of Research Compliance, SMU Libraries, and the Hegi Career Center for co-hosting these sessions. The experience culminates in a "Three-Minute Thesis" style competition.

The SRI is cross-programming with the McNair Scholars program and "Research Experiences for Undergraduates" programs funded by the National Science Foundation. These programs are based in the Data Science Institute and the departments of Chemistry and Mathematics.

Journal of Undergraduate Research
The Journal of Undergraduate Research is proud to release the print version of their seventh volume! Copies will be distributed to departments and by request. JoUR Vol. 7 features articles by Isabelle Beaudoin '21, Sisi Kang '21, Madeline Payne '22, Eleni Sullivan '21, Nathan Greenhaw '22, Matthew Hutnyan '21, and Justin Patty '23.

Congrats to the authors and to the JoUR editorial team: Hannah Webb '22 (Editor-in-Chief), Jessie Henderson '22 (Senior Editor), and Assistant Editors Thatcher Dunlap '22, Isabelle Galko '22, Engie Hamza '23, Tamal Pilla '25, and Saifiyah Zaki '24.

Read a behind-the-scenes article the Journal by Aya Bellaoui '24 on the Undergraduate Research Blog.

Graduating Engaged Learning Fellows
Elizabeth Bell, Associations between HiTOP Dimensions and Perseveration (Mentor: Michael Chmielewski).
Zack Demaree, Foundations: The Roads to Success (Mentor: Jake Batsell).
Tyne Dickson, Equity Ahead (Mentor: Kara-Lynn Vaeni).
Taylor Enslin, Anchor Institutions: Eds and Meds (Mentor: Cullum Clark).
Ru Ferguson, iDentities (Mentor: Mark Burrell).
Gabrielle Gard, Determining BCRP Overexpressing Cancer Cell Line Model (Mentor: Pia Vogel).
Ethan Gueck, Boppii. (Mentor: David Sedman).
Leia Hannum, Pride Project (Mentor: David Doyle).
Champion Johnson, Banneky, An Educational Platform for Cognitively Diverse Students (Mentor: Jake Batsell).
Madeline Pan, Discerning the Attitudes of Healthcare Workers in the Midwest Amidst the COVID Variants (Mentor: Xiao Hu).
Evan Schumacher, Aesthetic Analysis of Gender Roles in Classical Ballet (Mentor: Brandi Coleman).
Jay Sherman, Bridge the Gap Chamber Players: Inspiring the Dallas Community Through Breaking the Music Barrier (Mentor: Aaron Boyd).
Alexander Smith, Cardiovascular Reactivity and Pain Perception during a Cold Pressor Test in Individuals with Multiple Sclerosis (Mentor: Scott Davis).
Brishonne Tollie, Pride Project (Mentor: Brad Klein).
Izzah Zaheer, Evolution of Local Journalism (Mentor: Tony Pederson).

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Student and Faculty Spotlight

Engaged Learning Fellows (ELF) Spotlight

Sayumi Mahawanniarachchi '23 is studying the addictive health risk behaviors of undergraduate students. Learn about her project in this video interview with Sayumi, created by Ixchell Ibañez '24.

ELF Fulbright Winners
Congratulations to our fellows who recently received Fulbright U.S. Student Awards:

- **Austin Hickle** (South Korea - English Teaching Assistantship)
- **Evan Schumacher** (Germany - Study/Research)
- **Izzah Zaheer** (Belgium - English Teaching Assistantship)

Student Entrepreneur Spotlight: Seun Suberu

Seun Suberu '23, a Big Ideas winner and member of the Incubator, competed in Cox's Business Accelerator Program's Startup Launch Competition with his company, CollegePlus. CollegePlus is an app designed to match students with colleges based on their particular interests or preferences. Suberu took home first place, accompanied by a $73,825 check. He will use these funds to grow his business and launch it to the next level. Two other Incubator members, Jude Lugo & Madison McMahan, also competed in the Startup Launch Competition.

Mentor Spotlight: Kim Commerato-Lance

Kim Commerato-Lance is a key Mentor-in-Residence at the Incubator and also a Corporate Communication & Public Affairs professor in Meadows. Kim teaches "Boulevard Consulting," an advanced course that partners with an organization to create an in-depth strategic plan to help the organization achieve its goals. Fall semester, the Incubator was Boulevard Consulting's client. Sister Shaq's Sweet Tea, an Incubator startup, was the class's client this Spring. Kim is an invaluable asset to the team, and we thank you for everything you do!

Students Competing in TCU Business Plan Competition

SMU undergrads Raleigh Dewan and Mason Morland competed in TCU’s Values and Ventures competition this past spring with their product, SteadiSpoon, a self-stabilizing spoon for those with hand tremors. Raleigh and Mason made it to the final round after outpitching seven other teams and ended up placing 4th overall, winning $2,500. The SteadiSpoon team also received the Founder’s award for best pitch, accompanied by $5,000 in funding. This competition was a great experience as they competed against teams from Harvard, Brown, Northwestern, Cornell, and Johns Hopkins University, to name a few.

Make a Donation

It costs approximately $2000 to fund a student project. Want to make a difference? Search for "Office of Engaged Learning Fund" at https://link.smu.edu/giving/givenow.