Carnegie Mellon University
Swartz Center for Entrepreneurship

OLYMPUS

APRIL 15, 2021
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Presentations: 4:00–4:45pm
Virtual Networking Session: 4:45–5:30pm

PROJECT OLYMPUS SHOW & TELL 24

PROJECT OLYMPUS

Kit Needham, Director Project Olympus and Assistant Dean for Entrepreneurial Initiatives

INNOVATION FELLOWS

Brian Holt, BioBind, Inc.
Jay Reddy, Advanced Optronics
Greg Houchins, Chement

NSF I-CORPS PARTICIPANTS

Joel Perdzock, Komodo
Kwaku Jyamfi, Farm to Flame Energy
Asha Banks, Cheernotes

OLYMPUS FACULTY TEAMS

Carl Kingsford, Ocean Genomics
Satya Venneti, Telling.AI

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CONNECTS

Margot Matouk, Investor, Next Act Fund

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KIT NEEDHAM

Director Project Olympus and Assistant Dean for Entrepreneurial Initiatives

Kit is Director of Project Olympus and CMU's Assistant Dean for Entrepreneurial Initiatives. She provides start-up advice, business strategy planning, connections to industry experts, advisors and the business community to student and faculty startups. She is a member and technical advisor to BlueTree Allied Angels and serves on the Screening Committee. She also provides consulting services to promote economic growth to Chambers of Commerce, individual entrepreneurs and non-profit organizations.

INNOVATION FELLOWS

BRIAN HOLT

BioBind, Inc.

Brian Holt is a research associate in the lab of Prof. Stefanie Sydlik. He completed his PhD in Biomedical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University and his BSE in Biomedical Engineering from Case Western Reserve University.
In the lab of Prof. Sydlik, Brian is part of a team that aims to overcome heavy metal toxicity. To do so, they created a new class of chelators, termed "BioBinders". BioBinders can bind toxic metal ions while being biocompatible. Brian is working on developing this technology into a commercializable product that can benefit health.

JAY REDDY

Advanced Optronics

Jay Reddy is a 4th year Ph.D. student in Electrical and Computer Engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. Before CMU, he completed his undergraduate studies at UC Berkeley majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. His research is focused on developing new minimally-invasive, flexible, biocompatible devices to allow long-term optical monitoring and intervention in biological tissues.
While at CMU, Jay has worked with Prof. Maysam Chamanzar to develop "Advanced Optronics", a flexible polymer device architecture to pipe photons into or out of biological tissue. This platform enables efficient optical access deep into tissue from light sources and sensors located safely outside of the body, using only a micrometer-scale, flexible, polymer optical tether.

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GREG HOUCHINS

Chement

Gregory Houchins received his B.S. in Physics and Mathematics from James Madison University and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Physics from Carnegie Mellon. He is currently a post-doctoral researcher whose work has focused on a range of topics in electrochemistry and energy storage, from machine-learning-enabled computational optimizations of Li-ion battery cathodes, to mechanistic understandings of degradation pathways.
His continued research will focus on developing electrochemically engineered carbon zero cement inspired by battery science, which would drastically reduce the embodied carbon of concrete and the carbon output of the built environment.

I-CORPS PARTICIPANTS

JOEL PERDZOCK

Komodo

Komodo saves users time by streamlining the municipal credit evaluation process. Komodo extracts and standardizes fundamental credit information into a single location, saving users an average of six hours per week. Komodo makes our users money by allowing them to search for mispriced bonds using any of our forward-looking credit indicators; think instant credit reports for municipal bond issuers.

Komodo lets you create custom, user-defined ESG scores and indexes that are automatically tracked, reviewed, and updated for your entire muni portfolio.

https://komodoanalytics.io/

KWAKU JYAMFI

Farm to Flame Energy

Farm to Flame Energy provides valuable energy out of biomass that would otherwise be wasted. Wood waste and agricultural waste such as corn stocks are examples of potential biofuels. Various energy crops, such as miscanthus, can also be deployed to increase the capacity for electricity generation.

The Universal Biomass Solution
Providing scalable, end-to-end electricity generation systems for communities in underdeveloped countries.

https://farmtoflameenergy.com/

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ASHA BANKS
Cheernotes

Frustrated with greeting cards that failed to capture what she wished to convey, CEO, Asha Banks, founded CheerNotes, a company that helps EVERYONE share a special, authentic moment with their loved ones.
Through her classes within the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon she continued to research and test a way to provide a better selection and easier process for buying greeting cards. Her classmates, Hannah Poulson and Shana Pradeep joined her on the journey to making CheerNotes a reality which led to the company's January 26, 2020 launch!

CHEER notes

CheerNotes is a carefully curated greeting card marketplace designed to inspire connection and belonging through designs that reflect shared culture and experiences.

https://cheernotes.com/

OLYMPUS FACULTY TEAMS

CARL KINGSFORD
Ocean Genomics

Ocean Genomics is a developer of gene expression software designed to analyze expression and RNA (ribonucleic acid) sequencing data. The company software analysis pipeline converts raw sequence fragments and data into usable and interpretable features, supporting drug discovery and personalized treatment recommendations, enabling clients to derive quantifications from prebuilt alignments and transcripts that can explain the sequencing reads so observed.

Ocean's AI-driven transcriptome analysis platform and expert services empower discovery and translational research

https://oceangenomics.com/

SATYA VENNETI
Telling AI

Satya is the CTO and Co-founder of Telling.ai, a venture-backed company transforming respiratory care by developing technology to diagnose and monitor lung diseases and infections through analysis of voice and breath sounds. This capability will be a foundational tool for healthcare providers currently struggling to manage care for the over 70 million Americans and 1 billion people who suffer from chronic or acute respiratory disease around the world and it will be accessible to anyone with access to a mobile phone.

Telling.ai analyzes voice and breath sounds to assess lung health

https://telling.ai/

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MARGOT MATOUK

Next Act Fund

Margot is Investment Committee Co-chair and Treasurer of Next Act Fund, a Pittsburgh based angel network investing in women entrepreneurs. Margot has extensive experience in specialty retail, including senior level merchandising positions, strategic planning, marketing and consulting. Margot holds a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University.

VIRTUAL NETWORKING SESSION

https://remo.co/

At the virtual networking session you'll be able to:
- – See who else is at the Show & Tell and send them a private message
- – Visit startups at their own "virtual table"
- – Meet up with fellow attendees in the lounge area