Welcome back to students, faculty and staff. We hope all in the UNM community had a restful, fun and productive summer break.

New Home and New Address
STC and the Innovation Academy have a new address at the recently completed Lobo Rainforest Building at the Innovate ABQ innovation district in downtown Albuquerque. After August 15, 2017, STC’s new address will be:

STC.UNM
Lobo Rainforest Building
101 Broadway Blvd. NE, Suite 1100
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Rainforest Culture
The Lobo Rainforest Building is the core site of the Innovate ABQ innovation district and the first of many places where people will be able to come together to create. Rainforest culture is a set of social behaviors that work in tandem with co-locating people, programs and companies. For Victor Hwang and Greg Horowitt, authors of The Rainforest and revelers of the innovation process, innovation culture thrives because innovators are in the habit of following these rules:

The Rules of the Rainforest
• Break rules and dream (accept rule breaking, embrace big ideas, avoid fatalism, believe the impossible is possible)
• Open doors and listen (be open to diverse points of view, learn by listening, practice spontaneous sociability)
• Trust and be trusted (trust first and people will want to do business with you)
• Experiment and iterate together (innovation is a continuous process of trial and error)
• Seek fairness, not advantage (treat people fairly and they will continue to innovate)
• Err, fail, and persist (a failed venture is knowledge gained, keep trying)
• Pay it forward (Rainforest systems ultimately reward people who are helpful to others)

These informal rules lower the barriers to successful person-to-person relationships that benefit both parties. The social networks that result balance individualism and community participation.
Engineering Students Design Longboard with Adjustable Handling Sensitivity

INVENTORS:
Department of Mechanical Engineering – UNM
Brandon Archibeque, BSME, Jay Del Barga, BSME, Bryan Jewell, BSME, Keith Pacheco, BSME, Malcolm Reese, BSME, Greg Smith, BSME, Mauricio Somarribas, BSME, Jason Velasquez, BSME

Skateboarding is a popular extreme sport that has spawned another popular extreme sport known as longboarding. Longboards typically have longer decks (the wooden platform the rider stands on), wider trucks (the plates that attach the wheels to the board and allow riders to turn), and bigger wheels than skateboards. Users prefer them over skateboards for cruising, racing and transport. Longboards on the market today are not easily customizable and require users to buy additional trucks with different baseplate angles to change the board’s handling sensitivity, also known as lean-to-turn ratio.

An adjustable longboard technology was recently disclosed to STC by eight UNM mechanical engineering seniors: Brandon Archibeque, Jay Del Barga, Bryan Jewell, Keith Pacheco, Malcolm Reese, Greg Smith, Mauricio Somarribas, and Jason Velasquez. The invention was the students’ senior design project. The board is named the “Nazaré,” referencing the seaside resort Nazaré, Portugal, the site of the biggest wave ever surfed.

The innovation is an all-in-one adjustable longboard that accommodates immediate changes in handling sensitivity and eliminates the need to purchase multiple trucks. The modular components, board and trucks, change two variables: the baseplate angle and wheelbase, which, in turn, changes the handling sensitivity. The rider inputs the maximum lean angle, or roll, which directly affects the output, or turning angle. The change of these two variables simultaneously through one system allows for maximized handling for cruising and downhill riding. The adjustable channels consist of front and rear beehive curved angle brackets with sliding attachment plates that move the trucks within the channels. A pin locks the brackets in one of five setting combinations.

The team surveyed longboard users to determine demographics, features users believed were most important, and an acceptable price range, which helped in both market research and prototype design.

The longboard market, a significant portion of the $5 billion skateboard market, is comprised of individuals below driving age, college students, skateboarders, and surfers. The price range for current longboards range from $100-$500, depending on design features. The inventors’ estimate that their adjustable longboard will fall within a mid-range price of $250, with a future goal of developing a fully adjustable board that will also appeal to higher price-range consumers.

STC has filed a patent application on this exciting new technology and is currently examining commercialization options. For more information, please contact Arlene Mirabal at (505) 272-7886 or amirabal@stc.unm.edu.

GPER Blockers: A New Class of Drugs for the Treatment of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases

INVENTORS:
Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Molecular Medicine – UNM
Eric R. Prossnitz, Ph.D.
Institute of Primary Care – University of Zurich
Matthias R. Meyer, M.D.
Department of Molecular Internal Medicine – University of Zurich
Matthias Barton, M.D.

Chronic non-communicable diseases, such as coronary artery disease, heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, and chronic kidney disease (e.g. diabetic nephropathy), account for the majority of morbidity and mortality globally. Oxidative stress, the result of increases in the levels of reactive oxygen species (ROS), such as superoxide, is crucially involved in most chronic non-communicable diseases. Excess production of these highly reactive small molecules causes cell damage over time. Eventually, many of the damaged cells die and are replaced by scar tissue, which impairs organ function. Excess levels of ROS also contribute to organ pathologies associated with the aging process.

Under healthy conditions, ROS molecules act in their necessary role of secondary messengers in cellular signaling processes that, for instance, maintain a healthy vascular system. Superoxide anions are produced to a large extent by a family of enzymes known as NADPH oxidases (Nox proteins). However, the activity of the Nox enzymes increases with age and other risk factors, such as smoking, high blood pressure or high levels of cholesterol or blood sugar in the body. Nox1 protein (continues on page 3)
Two rankings published recently also validated our successful technology-transfer program. UNM made the list of top 100 worldwide universities with the largest number of issued U.S. patents for the fourth year in a row (recognized by the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) and the Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO)).

**New Mexico Based**
- Clearstream Technologies
- Osazda Materials
- Osazda Energy
- EquiSeq

**Out-of-State**
- ODMR Technologies
- Viewpoint Molecular Targeting
- Linnaeus Therapeutics
- Revere Pharmaceuticals
- Nob Hill Therapeutics
- AAVP Biosystems
- Microgrid Labs
- Fluidviews

Visit our website to learn more: https://stc.unm.edu/entrepreneurs/start-up-companies/

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**Start-up companies**

**NAI**

**MILKEN INSTITUTE**

Milken Institute Ranking – The Best Universities for Technology Transfer

UNM Ranked 28th in the Nation for Tech Transfer & Commercialization
A patented dry powder nebulizer (DPN) technology created at the University of New Mexico is the basis for a new start-up company that is developing a next-generation nebulizer to treat serious respiratory diseases and infections.

Formed in 2016 by parent company VIC Technology Venture Development, Nob Hill Therapeutics, Inc. has licensed the DPN technology from STC. The nebulizer was developed by former UNM pharmacy professor Hugh Smyth, Ph.D. and UNM Clinical Assistant Professor Nicola Maynard, Ph.D. Nob Hill Therapeutics is targeting the device for patients suffering from serious pulmonary diseases such as non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis and lung infections.

VIC is a private, for-profit company focused on creating new start-ups from early-stage technologies developed at U.S. universities and federal research labs. Its business model strategy provides technical and management teams experienced in product and business development who efficiently shepherd its technology start-ups through their early development phase so that they are ready for follow-on investments.

Jee Shin, Managing Director of VIC’s San Diego branch and CEO of Nob Hill Therapeutics, explains the innovative technology:

“Nebulizers are the most reliable way to deliver therapy into the deep lung and are the preferred method over inhalers for treating elderly and pediatric patients as well as those with serious lung diseases. However, current nebulizers can only deliver liquid formulations and are often cumbersome to operate, have lower potency, and require a long therapy time. Our goal is to develop the first dry power nebulizer that can deliver a more potent, reliable therapy into the deep lung. It will be simple to use, require minimal maintenance and have a shorter treatment time. Dr. Smyth and UNM have done tremendous work to bring this technology forward and VIC is excited about the potential of Nob Hill.”

Targeted drug delivery to the lung is an emerging field. Nebulizers do not require the patient to breathe deeply or forcefully to receive optimal dosage and are an ideal mode of treatment for patients with limited lung capacity. Dry powder formulations are more potent and more stable than liquid formulations and delivery of the formulation through a nebulizer is more efficient. Dry powder nebulizers could offer the best treatment solution. The University of New Mexico technology is a novel method for delivering micronized drug particles to the deep lung through a dry powder nebulizer that delivers much larger quantities of drug than other currently used methods and devices.

“This innovative technology responds to a real need in the healthcare market,” stated STC CEO Lisa Kuuttila. “We are very fortunate to be working with Nob Hill Therapeutics to get this device to patients who need better treatment options. The nebulizer market will exceed $1 billion by 2023. We believe Nob Hill’s DPN has great potential to be a leader in the market.”
STC Innovation Awards Dinner Honored UNM Inventors and Innovation Fellows

The 68 UNM faculty, staff, and students, listed below, received issued US patents within the past year (March 1, 2016-February 28, 2017), representing the largest number of UNM inventors to be recognized since the inception of the Innovation Awards event in 2004. The university inventors ran the gamut from first-time inventors to experienced inventors and include UNM professors, research professors, distinguished and Regents professors, emeritus professors, staff members, and graduate and postdoctoral students. The inventors represent departments and clinical/research centers across main and HSC campuses that reflect a strong level of collaboration. Several inventors were honored for multiple issued patents.

Inventor Honorees

Jacob O. Agola, Ph.D.
Kateryna D. Artyushkova, Ph.D.
Plamen B. Atanassov, Ph.D.
Nicu-Viorel Atudorei, Ph.D.
Edgar C. Boedeker, M.D.
Steven B. Bradfute, Ph.D.
Jeffrey Brinker, Ph.D.
Steven R. Brueck, Ph.D.
Eliseo Castillo, Ph.D.
Bryce Chackerian, Ph.D.
Alexandre Chigaev, Ph.D.
Seong W. Choi, Ph.D.
Vojo P. Deretic, Ph.D.
Jean-Claude Diels, Ph.D.
Ravi V. Durvasula, M.D.
Bruce S. Edwards, Ph.D.
Petr G. Eliseev, Ph.D.
Steven W. Graves, Ph.D.
Sang E. Han, Ph.D.
Sang M. Han, Ph.D.
Majeed M. Hayat, Ph.D.
Mark K. Haynes, Ph.D.
Joshua P. Hecker, Ph.D.
Elizabeth L. Hedberg-Dirk, Ph.D.
Stephen D. Hersee, Ph.D.
Mani Hossein-Zadeh, Ph.D.
Linnea K. Ista, Ph.D.
Ravinder K. Jain, Ph.D.
Ying-Bing Jiang, Ph.D.
Ronald R. Kay, P.E.
Yuliya V. Kuznetsova, Ph.D.
Matthew R. Lakin, Ph.D.
Richard S. Larson, M.D., Ph.D.
Seung-chang Lee, Ph.D.
Gabriel P. Lopez, Ph.D.
Julie A. Lovchik, Ph.D.
Shuang (Sean) Lu, Ph.D.
Debra A. Mackenzie, Ph.D.
Melanie E. Moses, Ph.D.
Alexander Neumann, Ph.D.
Jeffrey P. Norenberg, Pharma.D., Ph.D.
Dominique R. Perez, B.S.
Aarun J. Roy
Christina Salas, Ph.D.
Alexander Serov, Ph.D.
Zachary D. Sharp, Ph.D.
Mansoor Sheik-Bahae, Ph.D.
Andrew P. Shreve, Ph.D.
Scott S. Sibbett, Ph.D.
Larry A. Sklar, Ph.D.
Darko Stefanovic, Ph.D.
Zurab Surviladze, Ph.D.
Mahmoud R. Taha, Ph.D.
Todd A. Thompson, Ph.D.
Graham S. Timmins, Ph.D.
Charles R. Truman, Ph.D.
Angela Wadlinger-Ness, Ph.D.
Timothy L. Ward, Ph.D.
Walker R. Wharton, Ph.D.
David G. Whitten, Ph.D.
Cheryl L. Willman, M.D.
Shaorong Yang, Ph.D.
Payman Zarkesh-Ha, Ph.D.
## Issued Patents (January 1, 2017 – June 30, 2017)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Patent Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immunogenic HPV L2-Containing VLPs and Related Compositions, Constructs, and Therapeutic Methods</td>
<td>U.S. Patent No. 9,533,057, issued January 3, 2017. Inventors: Bryce Chackerian, David S. Peabody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affinity Selection of Nipah and Hendra Virus-Related Vaccine Candidates from a Complex Random Peptide Library Displayed on Bacteriophage Virus-Like Particles</td>
<td>U.S. Patent No. 9,549,976, issued January 24, 2017. Inventors: David Peabody, Bryce Chackerian, Carlee Ashley, Eric Carnes, Oscar Negrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System and Methods of Photon-Based Radiotherapy and Radiosurgery Delivery</td>
<td>U.S. Patent No. 9,561,389, issued February 7, 2017. Inventors: Shuang Luan, Lijun Ma, Zhe Chen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-PGM Catalyst for ORR Based on Pyrolysed Poly-Complexes</td>
<td>U.S. Patent No. 9,570,761, issued February 14, 2017. Inventors: Alexey Serov, Plamen B. Atanassov, Barr Halevi, Paul Short</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Porous Nanoparticle-Supported Lipid Bilayers (Protocells) for Targeted Delivery and Methods of Using Same</td>
<td>U.S. Patent No. 9,579,381, issued February 28, 2017. Inventors: Graham Timmins, Seong Won Choi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Anticancer Therapy

DNA Sample Preparation and Sequencing

Targeting Abnormal DNA Repair in Therapy-Resistant Breast and Pancreatic Cancers

System and Methods for Using a Dynamic Scheme for Radiosurgery
U.S. Patent No. 9,630,023, issued April 25, 2017. Inventors: Shuang Luan, Nathan Swanson, Lijun Ma

Non-PGM Cathode Catalysts for Fuel Cell Application Derived from Heat-Treated Heteroatomic Amines Precursors
U.S. Patent No. 9,634,331, issued April 25, 2017. Inventors: Alexey Serov, Barr Halevi, Kateryna Artyushkova, Plamen Atanassov, Ulises Martinez

Halide-Based Scintillator Nanomaterial
U.S. Patent No. 9,644,141, issued May 9, 2017. Inventors: Marek Osinski, Nathan Withers, Brian Akins, Gennady Smolyakov, Krishnaprasad Sankar

Modulators of GTPase and Use in Relevant Treatment

Bi-Functional Catalysts for Oxygen Reduction and Oxygen Evolution
U.S. Patent No. 9,647,275, issued May 9, 2017. Inventors: Alexey Serov, Plamen Atanassov, Nalin Andersen

Systems and Methods for Reconfigurable Filtenna
U.S. Patent No. 9,653,793, issued May 16, 2017. Inventors: Youssef Tawk, Christos Christodoulou, Joseph Costantine, Maria Elizabeth Zamudio Moreno

Nested Frequency Combs

Compact Biosensor of Matrix Metalloproteinase with Cadmium-Free Quantum Dots
U.S. Patent No. 9,655,553, issued May 23, 2017. Inventors: John Plumley, Erin Milligan, Marek Osinski

Metal-Oxide Catalysts for Fuel Cells

Large-Scale Patterning of Germanium Quantum Dots by Stress Transfer
U.S. Patent No. 9,666,431, issued May 30, 2017. Inventors: Sang M. Han, Talid Sinno

Pliable Pressure-Sensing Fabric
U.S. Patent No. 9,671,297, issued June 6, 2017. Inventor: Scott Sibbett

Non-PGM Catalysts for ORR Based on Charge Transfer Organic Complexes
U.S. Patent No. 9,673,456, issued June 6, 2017. Inventors: Alexey Serov, Plamen Atanassov

Flow Cytometry for High Throughput Screening
U.S. Patent No. 9,677,989, issued June 13, 2017. Inventors: Larry Sklar, Bruce Edwards, Frederick Kuckuck

Method and System for Feature Extraction and Decision-Making from Series of Images

Systems and Methods for Distributing Power Using Photovoltaic Resources and a Shifting Battery System
Innovate New Mexico, the state’s network of leading technology transfer organizations, is gaining traction in its efforts to become the state’s united entrance to the innovative technologies coming from New Mexico’s research universities and national labs. On April 18, the network—STC.UNM, NMSU Arrowhead Center, New Mexico Tech, and the Sandia, Los Alamos, and Air Force Research Labs—held its third technology showcase at Sandia Golf Club in Albuquerque.

The day’s events included welcoming remarks from Lisa Kuuttila, CEO & Chief Economic Development Officer at STC.UNM; Mary Monson, Senior Manager of Industry Partnerships at Sandia; Peter Anselmo, Executive Director at the NM Tech Center for Technology Commercialization, Terry Lombard, Director of IP & Technology Transfer at the NMSU Arrowhead Center; Ross Munchhausen from the Richard P. Feynman Center for Innovation at Los Alamos; and Matt Fetrow, Tech Engagement Lead at the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL).

Six researchers from UNM, NMSU, NM Tech, Sandia, and AFRL pitched their technologies (see list below) to 160 attendees comprised of national and international companies, investors, entrepreneurs, and local business and community leaders.

- Pseudomorphic Glass for Space Solar Cells, David Wilt - AFRL
- Microneedle Sensors to Monitor Health and Human Performance, Ronen Polsky, PhD – Sandia
- DNA-Based Biosensor, Steve Graves, PhD – UNM
- Method and System for Purifying Produced Water, Jianjia Yu, PhD - New Mexico Tech
- Ligand-Directed Targeting and Molecular Imaging Based on In Vivo Phage Display, Renata Pasqualini, PhD and Wadih Arap, MD, PhD - UNM
- ZIF CO2 Capture, Nasser Khazeni, PhD - NMSU


Presenters and exhibitors had ample networking sessions to talk with company technology scouts for possible business opportunities. Meetings were also scheduled and held between companies and start-ups and technology inventors.

The lunchtime session, moderated by Lisa Kuuttila, featured a panel of New Mexico start-up CEOs who discussed their experiences growing their companies in New Mexico. Participants were Brian Barnes, Project Manager of Resilient Solutions 21, Mark Fidel, Co-Founder and Head of Corporate Development for RiskSense, David Joseph, Co-Founder and CEO of Avisa Pharma, and Carlos Murguia, CEO of KoolArmor.

Innovate New Mexico thanks the following event sponsors: Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), AFRL, Sandia National Labs, MEP, and New Mexico Tech.
Rainforest Student Pitch Competition

STC UNM and the UNM Innovation Academy co-hosted their fifth Rainforest student pitch competition on Monday evening, April 24, at the Bow & Arrow Brewing Co. The event drew a large crowd from the community who heard pitches for ideas, technologies, and companies from nine student finalists. The 90-second presentations were the culmination of a vetting process that included initial submissions of video pitches to a panel of judges who selected finalists for the final round at Bow & Arrow.

Below are the nine finalists and five winners.

- Joseph Graham – TABS, a mobile app for bar/brewery/restaurant expedited payment service*
- Torran Kahleck – Campus Assistant, a multi-platform chatbot that uses AI to quickly answer queries
- Munji Kahalah – Inde Beats, a platform to connect local artists and listeners*
- William Quinn Palmer – A bundled & downloadable/copyable collection of public domain information
- Clay Space – An entertainment experience fueled by blockchain technology
- Haydn P. Jones – Crafted bread that is sustainable, tasty, and cross promotes local breweries and bakeries*
- Keith Flynn – Weather and a Smile, an app that provides the weather with a joke
- Kyle Guin – New software to make data entry into computers painless*
- Kimberly Oostman – Online Communication Academy using innovation and remediation to solve communication problems*

*winners of $1,000 prizes

Clay Space and Munji Kahalah also won trips to attend the European Innovation Academy held July 9-28, 2017, in Turin, Italy. The academy is billed as an extreme entrepreneurship educational program held over 15 days and offering 70 sessions to students.

STC and the Innovation Academy thank the sponsors: Bow & Arrow (donated space), Sherwin Williams, and the New Mexico Gas Company.

Business pitch competitions are opportunities for aspiring student entrepreneurs to present their innovative ideas for products, services or technologies to local entrepreneurs, investors, and business professionals. This competition is open to students from any university in the state of New Mexico.

The next Rainforest student pitch competition will be held on November 13, 2017.

STC Internship Academy Hosts Two Groups

STC hosted two groups in March and June as participants in its professional internship academy. The visiting groups came to learn about STC’s technology transfer and commercialization programs and best practices that would be useful to their own university TTO programs.

At the end of February and the beginning of March, Esra Ayhan Cakir, an IP specialist at Bilkent University’s TTO in Ankara, Turkey, and Rabia Tas, the vice director at Anadolu University’s TTO in Eskisehir, Turkey, visited STC for two weeks to learn how STC markets, protects, and commercializes inventions at the University of New Mexico. The instruction was also an opportunity for the Turkish visitors to compare and contrast the patent system and commercialization approaches of the two countries. Prior to their trip to STC, Ms. Cakir and Ms. Tas also participated in six virtual mentoring sessions with STC CEO Lisa Kuuttila.

In June, Kansai TLO sent two of its technology-transfer professionals, Dr. Hirofumi Furuhashi, leader of the tech-transfer team, and Naoko Fujita, international alliance manager, to STC for a week-long visit to learn about STC’s program. Kansai TLO is the second largest technology licensing office in Japan and is funded by a seven-university partnership, including Kyoto University, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine, Kyushu University, Fukuoka University, Wakayama University, and Nagoya Institute of Technology. STC is working with Kansai TLO on an international virtual office program.
In 2015, Terry Laudick was appointed to the STC.UNM Board of Directors. In just two years of service, he has had a major impact on the organization and the University of New Mexico.

Mr. Laudick has been the president and CEO of Nusenda Credit Union (formerly New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union) since 2000 and was COO and executive vice president of marketing starting in 1993. Today, Nusenda is the state’s largest credit union with more than 170,000 members and 19 branches. Over a 34-year career, he has served as a proud ambassador for credit unions and credit union associations in Kansas, New York, and Oklahoma. In 2013, he was recognized by the National Association of Federal Credit Unions as CEO of the Year.

Mr. Laudick is a longtime supporter of the University of New Mexico and its many programs. Perhaps his most important contribution to the University’s goal of economic and community development has been Nusenda’s $3 million investment in the Innovate ABQ initiative to create an innovation district in downtown Albuquerque. As a founding partner with UNM, Nusenda’s investment was critical to follow-on investments and grants received for the development of the venture. The bold move turned a great idea into reality.

He has also devoted countless hours as chair and interim president of the Innovate ABQ board as it established its corporate identity, undertook the search for a developer, and executed the development plan for the site.

In recognition of his efforts, Mr. Laudick received the 2016 UNM Presidential Award of Distinction for his leadership and public service to the community. The award is one of the most prestigious recognitions bestowed by UNM’s president.

“Terry’s commitment to the educational and economic opportunities for New Mexicans is truly outstanding. We would not be where we are today, on the verge of opening the Lobo Rainforest Building, without his vision and courage to act,” stated STC CEO Lisa Kuuttila. “He continues to be the guiding force of the Innovate ABQ vision. The tag line of Nusenda Credit Union is ‘The Power of WE’. It’s a perfect way to describe what Terry has done for STC, UNM and the community.”

In addition to his position at Nusenda and Innovate ABQ, Mr. Laudick has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Business Advisory Council to College and Career High School, the Living Cities Leadership Table, the CNM Foundation, and many national and local credit union industry boards.

It must be exciting to see the opening of the first projects on the site—the Lobo Rainforest Building and the CNM FUSE Makerspace. What do you see as the next steps in the development of the Innovate ABQ vision?

“The opening of the Lobo Rainforest Building and CNM FUSE Makerspace are certainly catalyzing events for Innovate ABQ. Now we must push forward with momentum to create the place for more community and start-up interactions. We’re actively recruiting tenants and operators for the nearly 70,000 square feet of space in the existing church and education wing, and hope to make significant announcements very soon.”

STC Board of Directors

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Vice Chair

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Dr. John C. Stormont

Mr. Pedro F. Suarez

Mr. Gary Tonjes

Mr. Charles J. Wellborn

Dr. Craig G. White
Cara Michaliszyn joined STC as a student office assistant in May 2006 while finishing her undergraduate degrees at UNM in psychology and sociology. As she moved up the ladder at STC, Cara also completed her MBA with a concentration in marketing from UNM’s Anderson School of Management. She is currently STC’s University Ventures Manager, supporting STC’s activities related to economic development and managing its corporate marketing.

During her eleven years at STC, Cara has been involved in virtually every area of the organization from administration, invention disclosures, and IP portfolios to technology marketing, agreements, IT, data analysis, and new company formation. She has a breadth and depth of knowledge about STC that is unique and valuable to the highly collaborative organization.

Cara’s economic development duties encompass a very large area of responsibility. She manages STC’s business incubator, the Cecchi VentureLab, which houses STC and other start-ups as physical and virtual tenants. She develops and manages new STC-Innovation Academy programs and events that promote entrepreneurship, such as New Ventures Café (a business mentoring program), student internship fairs and student pitch competitions. She also manages the Innovate New Mexico network and showcases that promote technologies developed at the state’s research universities and national labs. Cara is also the go-to person at STC for fundraising and grant writing. Her successes in this area have supported Innovate ABQ and STC-Innovation Academy programs. And, she manages the STC Co-Investment Fund, an investment fund for UNM start-up companies.

“Growing the various economic development initiatives and programs that are a part of UNM and the wider community creates and sustains new companies and trains the next-generation workforce,” she said, “and keeps us all connected and collaborating so that we can exponentially impact the end goal of creating jobs in New Mexico.”

Cara’s corporate marketing duties include website and social media management and development. In addition to updating the STC website, she created the original Innovate ABQ website, the current Innovate New Mexico website, and the new Lobo Rainforest website.

“Marketing is fun and rewarding,” she explained. “Whether it’s marketing campaigns, in-person networking, social media awareness of STC, news articles, or events that promote our technologies, we have multiple avenues for finding the right entrepreneurs and investors for our inventions and start-ups. I love researching the latest marketing tools and seeing if they might work for STC. We try to be everywhere so people can find us and so that they can tell us what we’re doing right and what needs improvement. We give everything a chance because you never know what will lead to a successful product or company.”

Jessica Moose, an outstanding MBA student at UNM’s Anderson School of Management, is the kind of professional STC is lucky to have on board.

Jessica became an innovation intern at STC in fall 2016 during her first semester of the accelerated MBA program at Anderson and quickly became a highly valued member of the team. “I had taken an entrepreneurship class and really loved it,” she explained. “I was looking for a job where I could apply my business knowledge and skills. Innovation Academy Executive Director Rob DelCampo told me about the student internship program at STC and it has been a great experience. I have learned about the impressive technologies coming out of UNM, the marketing process, and STC’s economic development programs and activities in the community.”

In addition to her work at STC, she is also a graduate assistant to Dr. Del Campo and Dr. Michelle Arthur, chair of the organizational studies department at Anderson.

Jessica is focusing her career goals on healthcare administration and business development. She has seen the value, in particular, of telemedicine in small communities. “My dad is an IT professional at a hospital in Alamogordo and I’ve experienced how critical telemedicine can be in a small community. We always had to go to Albuquerque for specialist care. STC put me in contact with Project ECHO, UNM’s program to deliver specialist care and mentoring to underserved populations through virtual clinics, and I learned about job and internship opportunities. At STC, you’re not just an intern but part of the team. They want you to grow professionally and will put you in contact with others who can help you too. Their networking is just tremendous.”
LOBO RAINFOREST BUILDING RIBBON CUTTING AND OPEN HOUSE — AUGUST 25 (9:00am-12:00pm)
Join us for a Ribbon Cutting and Open House at our new office space inside the Lobo Rainforest Building (101 Broadway Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102). The Ribbon Cutting will begin at 9:00am and Open House tours will be from 10:00am-noon. RSVP is not required. For questions, contact (505) 272-7900.

NEW VENTURES CAFÉ — AUGUST 25 (9:00am-12:00pm)
Representatives from SCORE, ABQid, and New Mexico Angels will be available for one-on-one, confidential discussions and mentoring to inventors, students, and start-up companies. Coffee and light breakfast provided. Save the dates for subsequent New Ventures Café held on September 29, 2017, October 27, 2017, and November 17, 2017. To register for August, visit: https://NewVenturesCafe.eventbrite.com.

SBIR: THE NATION’S BEST SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR TECH START-UPS — SEPTEMBER 12 (8:00am-9:00am)
Presented by Barbara Stoller, SBIR Coach at ABQid. The Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) provides over $2 billion every year in contracts and grants to small US-owned companies to develop new products and services that are based on innovative, unproven concepts and technologies. The best way to get in the game is to learn to write a competitive SBIR proposal. This STC seminar is free and open to the UNM community and the public, but registration is required. Breakfast will be provided. Please register at: https://SeminarSBIR.eventbrite.com.

INNOVATE NEW MEXICO® TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE — OCTOBER 17 (8:00am-3:00pm)
This statewide, special collaborative event will highlight research and technology opportunities, start-up companies, and economic development resources from the leading research institutions in the state of New Mexico. For more details and to register, visit www.innovateNewMexico.com/event.

RAINFOREST STUDENT PITCH COMPETITION — NOVEMBER 13 (5:30pm-7:30pm)
Save the date! STC.UNM and the UNM Innovation Academy invite you to this community initiative where aspiring student entrepreneurs will present their innovative ideas in 60-90 second presentations. Please visit https://stc.unm.edu/events/ where details about the event and how to participate will be posted!

CEO Lisa Kuuttila Invited to Speak to Japanese Universities

In March, STC CEO Lisa Kuuttila was invited by Osaka Prefecture University to present STC’s innovation ecosystem and start-up program at the Osaka Innovation Hub. Her talk, entitled “Lessons Learned from University of New Mexico’s Start-Up Activities,” focused on the history and development of STC’s start-up program and best practices formulated over the course of the program. The presentation profiled STC start-up success stories and included an update on activities at the Innovate ABQ innovation district and the Cecchi VentureLab’s new home at the Lobo Rainforest Building.

The trip also included meetings at Kumamoto University, Kwansei Gakuin University, and with Sanda City Mayor Mori and TLO (University of Tokyo Technology Licensing Organization) President Yamamoto to discuss projects and STC’s internship program.

Staff Directory

Lisa Kuuttila
CEO & Chief Economic Development Officer
kuuttila@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7905

Denise Bissell
Executive Assistant & Communications Specialist
dbissell@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7310

Melissa Castillo
Innovation Assistant
mcastillo@stc.unm.edu • 505-277-0608

Matthew Davis
Intellectual Property Coordinator
mdavis@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7890

Alicia Earl
Disclosures & Agreements Coordinator
earl@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-8774

Preston Hendrix
Controller
phendrix@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7909

Jovan Heusser
Director of Commercialization
jheusser@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7908

Eri Hoshi
International University Ventures Manager
ehoshi@stc.unm.edu • +81-80-4028-9203

Laura Meurer
University Ventures Specialist
lmeurer@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7041

Cara Michaliszyn
University Ventures Manager
cmichaliszyn@stc.unm.edu • 505-750-7592

Arlene Mirabal
Marketing Manager
amirabal@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7886

Amber Ortega
Office Administrator
aortega@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7900

Savanah Romero
Accounting Coordinator
sromero@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7250

Gabriel Wilkinson
AFRL Commercialization Assistant
gwilkinson@stc.unm.edu • 505-277-2324

Briana Wobbe
Innovation Associate
bwobbe@stc.unm.edu • 505-272-7912

Office: 505-272-7900
Web: www.stc.unm.edu

STC’s New Address:
Lobo Rainforest Building
101 Broadway Blvd. NE, Suite 1100
Albuquerque, NM 87102

gwilkinson@stc.unm.edu • +81-80-4028-9203