12th Annual IT and Web Venture Forum

CONGRATULATIONS!

Veronica and Mark Salazar, (left) Insperity recognize 2014 Most Promising IT Venture Companies along with Brad Burke, (far right) Rice Alliance.

2014 TOP TEN MOST PROMISING IT VENTURE AWARDS PRESENTED TO:

Esprit Dta, Ltd.
SoftNAS
eyeQ
INRFOOD, Inc.
WorthIt.co
Querium
Algorithm, Inc.
SportsTradex, LLC
Broadleaf Commerce
Unvired Inc.

TECHSTREET HOUSTON IMPACT AWARD PRESENTED TO
Health 2.0 Houston
More than 350 leading investors and promising startups in IT/Web/Software converged at the Largest IT Venture Capital Forum in the Southwest on Dec. 11, 2014 at Rice University.

Promising Information Technology, web, and software start-up companies pitched their companies to venture capitalists, investors, mentors, business & corporate leaders and industry experts. Since 1999, more than 30% of the start-up companies pitching at past Rice Alliance Technology Venture Forums have raised funding, totaling over $2.9 billion.

Feedback from attendees at last year's Forum:

"This is the best run entrepreneurial event I have ever attended. Logistics and quality of attendees were outstanding."

"I was told by a VC that he thought this was the best event for entrepreneurs in Texas. The event lived up to those expectations."

"This was such a great event. It was obviously well planned and the quality of the participants was very high."  
"Great networking."

"I saw plenty of investable companies."

"I met a lot of other investors I did not know before."

Why Attend?

• Get a first-look at emerging IT/software startups
• Network with over 100 investors
• Hear from leading venture capitalists and investors
• Meet start-ups one-on-one during the Company Showcase and Reception
• Learn what is required to get outside funding for your start-up company
• Network with over 400 members of the Texas and the Southwest region entrepreneurial ecosystem
• Learn what is included in a successful investor pitch
12th Annual IT and Web Venture Forum Agenda: Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship

Rice Alliance for Technology & Entrepreneurship
12th Annual Information Technology and Web Venture Forum
Thursday, December 11, 2014

7:30 - 8:30 AM
Registration

8:30 – 8:45 AM
Welcoming Remark
• Brad Burke, Managing Director, Rice Alliance
• Rachelle Aspan, Director, IT Acceleration Houston Technology Center

8:45 – 9:15 AM
Morning Keynote –
Jan Goetgeluk, Founder and CEO, Virtuix
“Surviving Shark Tank And Other Entrepreneurial Perils”

9:15 – 10:00 AM
Company Presentations

10:00 – 10:30 AM
Accelerator Panel: Driving Early Stage Startups in Texas
Jason Seals, TechStars
Molly Cain, Tech Wildcatters
David Matthews, VentureSpur
Kraettli Epperson, Traction Tank
Kirk Coburn, SURGE

10:30 – 11:00 AM
Networking Break

11:00 – 11:30 PM
Company Presentations

11:30 AM – 1200 PM
Angel Investor Panel - Angel Investors: Filling the Early Stage Funding Gap
Patrick Lewis, Houston Angel Network
Mark Thorsen, Central Texas Angel Network
Keith Kreuer, RedHouse Associates
Victor Elghohary, Texas Halo Fund

12:00 – 1:00 PM
Lunch and Networking

1:00 – 1:15 PM
Afternoon Remarks
• Brad Burke, Managing Director, Rice Alliance
12th Annual IT and Web Venture Forum - Agenda : Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship - Rice University

Venture Capital Panel: Investing Update from Texas' Leading VCs
   Ned Hill, Mercury Fund
   Venu Shamapant, LiveOak Venture Partners
   Dai Truong, Austin Ventures
   Jon Bassett, Silverton Partners
   Rajiv Bala, S3 Ventures

1:15– 1:45 PM

1:45 – 3:00 PM
Company Presentations

3:00 – 3:30 PM
Networking Break

3:30 – 4:15 PM
Company Presentations

4:15 – 4:45 PM
Afternoon Keynote -
Steven Welch, Co-Founder and Managing Partner, DreamIt
and Author, “We Are All Born Entrepreneurs”

4:45– 5:00 PM
Awards Recognition – Most Promising Companies
   • Brad Burke, Managing Director, Rice Alliance

5:00 – 6:30 PM
Company Showcase and Networking Reception

TechStreet Houston 2014 Health IT Track: Digital Health – The Impact and the Opportunity

Opening Session – Digital Health: The Impact and the Opportunity
   Moderator: Dr. Deborah Vollmer Dahlke, The Research Valley Innovation Center
   Panelists: Chris McCord, Healthcare Growth Partners
   Sivaram Arabandi, Ontoprise
   Phil Beckett, Greater Houston Health Connect

10:00 – 10:30 AM

On the Ground View from Hospital Executives and Payers
   Moderator: Brian Lang, Health 2.0 Houston
   Panelist: James Hury, Texas Children's Hospital

10:35 – 11:10 AM

On the Ground View from Clinicians
   Moderator: Dr. Pat McGinnis, Memorial Hermann
   Panelists: Dr. Bela Patel, Critical Care
   Dr. Matthew Harbison, Hospitalist
   Dr. Clark West, Radiologist, Memorial Hermann

11:15 AM – Noon
Lunch and Networking

1:00 – 1:40 PM
On the Ground View from Public Health and First Responders
   Moderator: Jeff Reichman, January Advisors
   Panelists: Peter Prezioso, Verizon Healthcare strategists
   Dr. Michael Gonzalez MD, City of Houston

1:45 – 2:30 PM
On the Ground View from Entrepreneurs
   Moderator: Dr. Dorit Donoviel, The National Space Biomedical Research Institute
   Panelists: Emma Fauss, CEO, Medical Informatics Corp
   Kim Bond Evans, CEO Seremedi, Inc.
   Babak Movassaghi, 2nd MD
   Rick Plezcko, VCS, Inc

2:30 – 2:40 PM
Networking Break

2:40 - 3:10 PM
The Commercializer Perspective
   Moderator: Michele Price, Breakthrough Business Strategies
   Panelists: Deborah Mansfield, Houston Technology Center
   Simril Parma MD, Platform Houston

3:10 - 3:50 PM
The Investor Perspective
   Moderator: Juliana Garaizar, Houston Angel Network
   Panelists: Jim Graham, TMX
   David Franklin, Houston Health Ventures

http://alliance.rice.edu/2014_IT_Web_Venture_Forum_Agenda/[1/30/2017 12:40:00 PM]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quick Facts</th>
<th>Recent Speakers</th>
<th>Company Spotlight</th>
<th>Earned Excellence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Outstanding Technology Entrepreneurship Program** – United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) - 2009 | Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business  
George R. Brown School of Engineering  
Wiess School of Natural Sciences |  |  |

**3:50 - 4:00 PM**

**Closing – The Path Forward**  
Moderator: Brian Lang, Health 2.0 Houston
Initial Presenting Companies

4C Talent is a technology company that provides a SaaS application that enables companies to make smart and efficient employment decisions based on cost, performance, risk and compliance. This platform is project-based and provides companies the right tools to accurately forecast and effectively manage their project based workforce. With the growth of the part-time and freelance workforce, many companies aren't equipped to handle the complexities or the costs that come with the increase in government regulations (Affordable Care Act, Misclassification of 1099 workers, etc). There are many workforce management solutions in the market, but there aren't any that are project based, built around workflow, that come together in one platform, like 4C.

www.4ctalent.com

AdAlgorithm, Inc. is a software product company in the clinical trials space based in Houston, TX and Bangalore, India. Algorithm offers Acuity: an industry and regulatory compliant data analytics platform based in the cloud designed to help companies developing new drugs and devices to reduce costs and speed decision-making through risk based monitoring (RBM) in their clinical trials. Acuity is designed to easily integrate to any 3rd party data source application, allows rapid build of customized visualizations, and utilizes proprietary algorithms to enable effective decision making through improved insights. Algorithm also provides process and technology consulting, and embedded resourcing for clinical trials including remote monitoring services.

www.algorics.com

BeautyNow is a free iPhone and Android app that is like OpenTable or Kayak for booking beauty appointments across the United States. BeautyNow is the only app of its kind that works in every major city in the U.S., and currently includes 4,500 spas and salons, with hundreds more on the waitlist to join. BeautyNow allows a user to find which nearby salons/spas have an open beauty appointment at the time they want, and then easily book with a few taps. On the backend, BeautyNow works by uniting salons and spas using multiple different brands of scheduling software, and connects them to the end user through a single, seamless application.

www.beautynowapp.com

Biota Technology will present how subsurface microbial data can be used as a novel information source to improve oil and gas production. A portfolio of applications will be presented with pilot data from the Permian Basin. We will discuss the emergence of this new information source, developed with $20M over 5 years, and our current objectives to work with customers to better predict reservoir...
quality in critical decisions such as sweet spot identification and water cut assessments.

www.biota.com

Health information sharing is NOT easy or efficient; the current process is heavily manual, time consuming and costly for providers. Each physician office and provider organization spends hours each day complying with information requests and chasing down elements of a patient’s record. For patients, the process is confusing and frustrating. myBlueHub is a health record tool that makes the flow of information efficient and electronic to ease the pain of our users. It helps patients collect, manage and share their health information and helps providers manage the cumbersome request for information process, share information with other providers and acts as a platform to message directly to patients. We charge providers for the use of the myBlueHub platform scaling from small practices to enterprise organizations. We monetize the access to data for strategies focused on the management of patient populations. We will monetize the data for analytics strategies and application integration.

www.bluehubhealth.com

Broadleaf Commerce, LLC is a privately held company committed to developing and supporting an open source alternative for enterprise eCommerce. It is the first company to develop an open source, enterprise-ready eCommerce solution using the widely adopted Spring Framework, which is the leading platform to build and run enterprise Java applications. Companies using Broadleaf Commerce are able to improve efficiency, capitalize on competitive advantages, and increase revenue. The open source business model yields a product that is superior to others for a fraction of the cost and is designed for customization.

www.broadleafcommerce.com

Burpy is a same-day grocery delivery service that deploys a crowdsourced shopper to preferred local retailers to source the items our customers want. Our mobile and web apps are simple and intuitive, but powerfully accurate at connecting customers to the right products. In our system of proxy shopping, the customer can communicate with the shopper as frequently or be as hands-off as they like. We are creating an intelligent personal shopping experience, in which recommendations and painless reordering flow into delivery by Burpy Personal Shoppers the customer comes to know and trust.

www.burpy.com

Chiron Health is a secure web-based platform that enables physician practices to conduct routine follow-up appointments with patients over video conference (reviewing lab results, adjusting meds, etc). Importantly, the company also offers a high-touch service component that handles all of the regulatory and reimbursement challenges associated with practicing telemedicine. The company is live with its first physician groups in Texas and is beginning pilots with several large academic medical centers including the University of Iowa and Northwestern University.

www.chironhealth.com

Data is Beautiful Solutions (DiBS) catalyzes discovery and empowers people through interactive visualization. Our tools render high-dimensional data in easy-to-use, elegant, cloud-based modules that require no programming experience from the users. Through our products, DiBS offers a solution to the growing high-dimensional data problem in biomedicine, and more broadly, across many industries.

www.dibsbiotech.com

eRelevance Corporation offers a Progressive Patient Engagement Service that gives healthcare providers an automated ability to build better relationships with their existing and prospective patients outside the point-of-care that puts no burden on the providers or their staff. The service leverages industry leading technology to improve patient relationships, increase revenue, and reduce staff workload. The company, located in Austin, Texas was founded in 2013 by Robert Fabbio, Lance Obermeyer, and Timothy Smith.

www.e relevancecorp.com

Esprit Data has developed a flexible, full-featured, secure virtual desktop, offered on a subscription basis, to small and medium enterprises. This virtual desktop is designed to support any application and can be custom configured in as many ways as a user can think of. This service is provisioned from, and backed up to, secure, triple-redundant data centers around the world, and is available anytime, anywhere, and on any device. Customer benefits include: Much lower costs; no new hardware investment; green (saves power); high-level security/encryption;
saves management time, plus streamlined management of all user activities; supports almost any app; simplified disaster recovery and telecommute options; rapid expandability within the enterprise. Our core management team is a highly-experienced cross section of telecom, IT, and financial services professionals, with well over $1B in collective successful exits to their credit.

www.espritdata.com

In retail, 70 percent of brand choices are made at the shelf. eyeQ provides the most advanced in-store marketing technology in the world to personalize, perfect, and deliver the messages that will move those choices in favor of our brand customers. The eyeQinsights system learns in-store shopper behavior and targets messaging to each shopper at his or her point of decision. Brands not only enjoy a lift in sales, but also receive continuous in-store shopper insights never before available to them. Our paying Fortune 100 customers are using the eyeQinsights system for rapid A/B testing in-store, optimized and targeted messaging, and robust effectiveness analytics. We make it easy for brands and retailers to say yes because our system is self-contained, light on IT impact, low on CAPEX, and effective. A robust pipeline of name brands continues to validate our technology and our strategy. eyeQ is the future of retail.

www.eyeQinsights.com

Girlmentum Media, Inc. combines entertainment, education, and technology to create innovative, health-focused, digital media for girls and their families. ShimmerTeen, our premium content website for teenage girls, capitalizes on girls' interest in and access to media to provide them an exciting and informative online experience. We incorporate news, popular culture, evidence-based medical articles, and interviews to entertain users while helping them answer important health, wellness, and lifestyle questions. Planet Daughter is our newsletter for fathers of girls. We know dads want to stay connected, but this can be challenging as girls gain independence and remain distracted by smart phones and social media. Planet Daughter contains research, news, and expert perspectives, so dads can parent, support, and guide their teenage (or pre-teen) daughters with more peace of mind. Initially focused on building our communities and network of content sponsors, we are exploring additional revenue streams including branded products and educational materials.

www.girlmentum.com

GripeO is a Customer Service platform. Consumers can submit product or service complaints in one consolidated location from the convenience of their mobile device or PC. If the business is working with GripeO, the feedback goes directly to them. If not, GripeO provides tools to share the complaint and increase the chances it gets acknowledged. Businesses use GripeO to mediate complaints, identify systemic problems, and improve customer service. Ignored gripes are moved to the GripeO "Complaint Marketplace" where competitive businesses can purchase leads. GripeO will also aggregate complaint data from the web and repurpose it as a lead/intelligence for paying businesses.

www.gripeo.com

GroupRaise is a simple online system for restaurants to engage local organizations in a 3-5 mile radius around their locations through in-restaurant fundraisers. GroupRaise Meals are fundraisers where groups of 20-200+ diners eat at a local restaurant who is donating a percentage of their meal sales back to a cause. These meals are organized, found, and marketed online nationally in over 50 cities across the U.S. The organization process, which could take weeks before or in some cases was not even possible, now takes minutes on GroupRaise.com. GroupRaise.com is dedicated to helping restaurants build enchanting relationships with local customers through meal fundraisers that support causes their communities care about. We focus on enabling our charitable organizers to create meaningful experiences over the dinner table, while driving sales and creating repeat business for our restaurant partners without the pitfalls of other marketing approaches like coupons.

www.groupraise.com

HedgeChatter provides an online dashboard which allows investors, traders and hedge funds to see how key influencers on social media are affecting stock price and view price trends based on real-time social media data ("chatter"). HedgeChatter processes nearly 2.1 million financial chatter messages every day from Twitter and other leading social channels. These messages are filtered for noise reduction, manipulation detection and price-to-message correlation, resulting in predictive alerts for stock price direction.

www.HedgeChatter.com

HireInfluence helps brands leverage social audiences beyond their own, with the goal of pushing highly customized content to targeted consumers in an authentic and engaging manner. Our service offering is comprised of 3 classifications, "Full
Service”, ”Creative” and ”Self Service”, targeting 4 market tiers ranging from Big Brand to Everyday Social Promoters. Our core product ”AdvoWire” uses unprecedented technology to provide a simple, effective and self-serve approach for anyone wanting to have their content SHARED on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn. Multi-media enabled, Industry specific, geo-targeted. Detailed engagement and conversion reporting make it easy to monitor successes along the way. #MotivatedInfluencers #ShareToEarn #OrganicMarketing #CustomAnalytics An AdvoWire Affiliate program is scheduled for release on 10/15/14. Now Real Estate, Crowdsourcing and Marketplace websites can include the ”Share it Now” button within their environment. This provides a new income stream while giving users of their site a simple and effective method to promote listings. www.hireinfluence.com

Companies like Amazon and Google scale well because they automate operations to allow for a handful of Engineers and Architects to operate 10 to 100x more devices per engineer than their competitors. Hollowpoint brings this capability to every organization without needing to build a custom software development and testing organization! We drastically simplify the ownership and maintenance of customer networks and infrastructure, freeing expensive engineering resources from time consuming tasks to work on real engineering projects. We complete processes in seconds that would take days, or weeks, and provide extensibility to execute custom tasks. Hollowpoint helps eliminate unplanned network downtime due to configuration errors, saving an untold amount of money for our customers each year. The Hollowpoint Infrastructure Control Platform will forever change the way we think of networking!
www.hollowpt.com

Inkscreen is an enterprise mobility company based in Austin, Texas focused on secure visual communication. The key value we deliver with our mobile solutions is a balance between IT’s desire for control and security with business users goal of easily communicating and documenting situations using visual information (photos and videos). We focus on regulated industries such as insurance, government, aerospace, energy, healthcare, and defense. Our first application is PhotoInk is the most secure high resolution photo storage, annotation, and sharing application available today. We have partnerships with Good Technology and IBM Fiberlink and are currently participating in an accelerator program at the University of Texas. In July 2014 we were named a finalist in the CTIA Super Mobility Week Startup Lab.
www.inkscreen.com

INRFOOD is a comprehensive nutritional database for customers who require a comprehensive and food product database. The system analyzes both nutrition facts and ingredients and provides analytics, white labeling, and plugins for easy integration into existing systems. INRFOOD’s long term objective is to be the preferred global solution for a centralized nutritional database for the food and wellness industries. This includes a strong scaling in our efforts to digitize a repository of consumer product information and behavioral trends.
www.inrfood.com

L2 Aerospace provides Speed Of Need (SON) solutions by integrating ground, air, and space technologies. The company was founded by General Lance Lord (USAF-Ret) to provide rapid deployment of technologies to the warfighter or civilian for instantaneous Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capability. The first product in the SON vision is Instant Eyes (IE). IE is a handheld rocket deployed UAV that provides rapid ISR in less than 20 seconds. While IE is based on a rocket technology delivery platform, it merely is an information technology tool that provides data to enhance effective decision making.
www.l2aerospace.com

Focus groups call LifeAssist a wearable ”OnStar for seniors” because our AudibleAssist product provides discreet support for falls, medication reminders, and a guard against wandering in a classically-styled watch that features an easy-to-use speech interface rather than buttons. Our patent-pending technology combines cellular, Wi-Fi, and GPS to provide an active medical alert that works anywhere, along with data-driven artificial intelligence that learns the wearer’s lifestyle. Unlike traditional medical alert products, we work wherever you are, 24x7 – and we don’t require a smart phone. LifeAssist extends independence for millions of vulnerable seniors.
www.lifeassist.com

Every year millions of Americans lose billions of dollars from working with inexperienced or negligent financial service providers. Livewire is a marketplace, directory and Q&A forum. Livewire connect people with financial and tax professionals based on community ratings and objective data, which makes it easy. People love Livewire because our video conferencing platform allows them...
to speak face-to-face to a professional that will get their financial house in order – without requiring them to leave their home. Month-over-month Livewire is growing at an exponential rate. Livewire is an eCommerce company with minimal overhead, allowing us to invest in a better customer experience at a lower price. www.LetsLivewire.com

Healthcare delivery is fundamentally changing and managing patient population is the key. Medi-Code’s integrated IT solution addresses the population health challenges faced by the new care delivery networks. It provides an integrated cloud-based platform to address specific pain points: 1. Clinical data collection using its interoperability and data sharing capabilities with disparate EHRs and other systems – helps health data to be available when and where needed. 2. GPRO and mandated reporting plus ACO Benchmark and PPM Analysis – for better control on incentives and shared savings. 3. Patient Attribution and Churn Analysis – to optimize patient base and risk scores. 4. Patient Cost and Utilization Analysis – for better visibility into costs. 5. Identifying High Cost and High Risk Patients using historical as well as predictive analysis – for better proactive and preventive care. 6. PCMH based Care Coordination and Care Management – to improve quality of care while reducing costs. www.medi-code.com

Frequently doctors must refer their patients to other physicians for their expertise. This often requires the physician, their staff, or patients to spend time calling offices and speaking to schedulers; an inefficient and frustrating process. At the same time, many physicians have unfilled openings in their schedules. The problem is not having a quick, central and efficient way to know which physicians are open and which are booked. We solve this problem by building a proprietary platform where physicians and patients can access a network of local physicians’ schedules, quickly find and schedule further specialty or primary care. Finding an scheduling an appointment takes less than one minute. This solutions takes into account a myriad of factors including patient’s insurance, hospital affiliations, usual referral sources, location, etc. www.mydocsdocs.com

Low-income, underserved students in America have only a 9 percent chance of graduating from college by the age of 25. Research shows that summer college programs are transformative in motivating these students to graduate from college. One Jump (rebranded from Edstension) will bridge this information gap by inspiring underserved students to pursue collegiate education through videos that feature individuals who were the first in their communities to make the leap to college and beyond. At the same time, we will offer a mobile-compatible website that will connect students to transformative enrichment opportunities that can propel them on the path to college through college visits and internships. OneJump will disseminate and market its platform through existing relationships with organizations such as Teach for America and charter providers that work in the over 20 Title I high schools around Houston. www.onejump.org

PledgeCents is the platform that allows any K-12 teacher, PTA/PTO member, and non-profit that focuses on K-12 to raise funds for any school or classroom need. Our platform has taken the traditional, archaic school fundraising tactics and incorporated it to an easy-to-use, secure online platform. We currently work with over 180 schools nationwide, have raised over $100,000 for classrooms nationwide, and have impacted over 25,000 students nationwide. We are helping teachers raise money faster, easier, and by reaching a larger audience. ‘Because Every Cent Counts’ www.PledgeCents.com

Querium is disrupting the way millions of students around the world will learn math, science, engineering and technology. Our patent-pending AI technology addresses critical needs (1) for education publishers building new online learning solutions, (2) for training and certification providers seeking real-world assessments of proficiency, and (3) for colleges creating amazing new online course offerings. We’ve created a solution that our customers can easily integrate into their web-based offerings, into electronic publications, and within online proficiency tests. Our management team members are all veterans of successful startup companies in online education content, instructional technology, enterprise applications, and engaging games. Our years of experience in education lead us to build a solution for the pain we felt at previous companies. We already have customers at education companies and at innovative educational institutions. Our passion to improve the quality of education drives us every day.
SmartVault disrupted the online document storage space in 2008 by injecting document management and file sharing capabilities into popular desktop and cloud-based accounting apps, such as QuickBooks, Xero and FreshBooks, via the patented SmartVault Toolbar. The company launched a client portal for tax and accounting professionals in 2010. In 2013, Intuit selected SmartVault as their document management partner to replace their native DMS offering for tax customers. Services-based businesses aren’t looking for a one-size-fits-all document storage solution, they want solutions that are tuned and optimized for their day-to-day document workflow—so their data is accessible when they need it and from any platform, device, or application they are using. Giving customers the ability to work the way they want to work continues to be the guiding light in our development efforts. Today, more than 95,000 users rely on SmartVault for their day-to-day document management needs, and that number continues to grow.

SoftNAS™ facilitates the multi-billion dollar migration to cloud computing and has secured executive sponsorship from two of its market partners, Amazon AWS and Microsoft Azure, the only two providers in the Magic Quadrant. Gartner predicts data migration to the cloud will be 41.3% (CAGR) through 2018, the fastest growing area of public cloud computing the research firm tracks. By 2020 it is further predicted 50% of enterprise data will be stored in the cloud. In the last twelve months, SoftNAS™ has a 30% monthly growth rate, securing nearly 25 Fortune 2000 customers like Boeing, Siemens, Coca-Cola, and Netflix. SoftNAS Cloud™ can be downloaded as virtual storage appliance and implemented in less than :30 with no specialized storage knowledge skills or training required, making enterprise-grade storage capabilities accessible to general IT administrators and DevOps teams. Our partners call SoftNAS the ‘easy button’.

Sponsiv’s launch product, VINU, is a premium iPad wine list solution for restaurant guests. The VINU platform takes the stress and intimidation out of selecting a wine and replaces it with engagement, valuable information and personalized recommendations. The result: restaurants sell more wine. One of our first clients is Norwegian Cruise Line which has deployed VINU onboard one ship. Wine sales have grown year-over-year by 19.8% in this recent VINU pilot and NCL is now budgeting for fleet-wide expansion. Our revenue model is three-fold. Restaurants pay a monthly subscription fee to operate VINU on their iPads. In addition, VINU is the first on-premise, point-of-sale marketing platform for wine brands, offering them the opportunity to differentiate their wine selections at time of purchase via custom curated winery content on enhanced wine detail pages. We also intend to monetize the data analytics we are harvesting from user interactions.

SportsTradex takes fantasy sports gaming to the next level. With legal real money skill-based games that last one day, each game day is like its own season. Users pick their team of athletes each day and compete against friends or other sports fans for huge cash prizes. The fantasy sports market is a $4B industry with over 40 million users in the United States and Canada. The daily games space is the fastest growing segment of the industry, where 1% of the total fantasy users account for 25% of the total fantasy spending. The daily fantasy user base increases approximately 100% each year. SportsTradex reached 5000 users and $200,000 in monthly revenue in September 2014.

Suvola is the leading company enabling the application of secure and trusted hyperscale computing for enterprise applications. We provide support for the necessary hypervisors, operating systems and middleware to allow for the deployment of enterprise applications on these secure and trusted next generation computing platforms. Working with our partners, Suvola enables the delivery of applications as secure and trusted enterprise computing appliances for on-premise deployment of IaaS, PaaS and SaaS.

Techcess Group is a Houston, Texas based Managed IT Service Provider focused on leveraging Enterprise technologies and solutions for small and medium sized businesses. We provide IT outsourcing, private hosted cloud solutions, cloud integration, disaster recovery, and a complete, end-to-end technology solution for small and medium sized businesses.

Unlistr.com is an email productivity app that helps you select and automatically unsubscribe unwanted email. Using patent-pending technology, Unlistr relays unsubscribe requests when safe, processes unsubscribe links and performs other
automated unsubscription tasks. Unlistr is currently available on iOS and Google Play with 30,000+ downloads. Most recently, Unlistr launched a plugin for Outlook (Windows). Also, Unlistr is currently in early stage discussions to license its technology to VC backed email companies.

“Download Unlistr, the anti-suck.” ~Virgin Mobile

“Easily unsubscribe from your unwanted junk emails!” ~Komando.com App of the Day

“Not only has Unlistr helped me eliminate unnecessary emails, but I found the process quick and easy to setup.” ~AppAdvice.com

www.unlistr.com

Unvired Inc. is a Houston Headquartered company that develops software to build mobile applications for enterprises. We enable businesses to access data anytime anywhere on smartphones, tablets and Wearables like Google Glass or smartwatches. Our Value proposition is that we increase employee productivity and improve business processes. Our customers are in the Oil & Gas, Chemicals, Manufacturing, and Utilities verticals. We build mobile applications for Sales, CRM, Field Service, Asset Management, and Supply Chain Management. Our solutions can be deployed on the cloud or on-premise. Our partners include SAP, Amazon, Google, Apple, Microsoft, and BlackBerry. We are ushering in the era of Wearables, Internet of Things, and the Industrial Internet.

www.unvired.com

Engage Twitter followers in a secure, private, live chat session to solve customer service issues, and make mobile payments and purchases in a PCI-compliant environment. AliveTweet combines all the existing abilities of WebsiteAlive’s core applications—AliveChat, AliveConcierge, and AliveSecure—with social platforms to provide a spectacular customer service experience and a unique social monetization tool. WebsiteAlive is used by customers spanning multiple industries, ranging from SMBs to Fortune 500 organizations, in over 100 countries. Some notable clients include the NBA, NFL, NHL, Macmall, Computer Associates, Royal Caribbean, Billy Graham, and Bunnings. Local clients include the Houston Rockets, Texans, Shadow Creek Ranch, Gallery Furniture, University of Texas, University of Houston, and Flightaware.

www.alivetweet.com

WorthIt.co is a website and mobile app that allows shoppers to instantly find the lowest price on items they want and if the price is still too high, they can enter the price they are willing to pay and we will notify them when it goes on sale at any reputable online store. With the ability to set price alerts, this one service acts as a personal shopper notifying members when the exact item they want is at the price that fits their budget, saving them time and money.

www.worthit.co

YooLotto, invested by 7-Eleven, is the first Mobile App with proprietary lottery ticket scanning enabling 172 Million US lottery players to receive real-time personalized ticket results, reducing the annual $800 Million in unclaimed winnings, and rewards non-winning tickets. Current investors include 7-Eleven, Tech Wildcatters, and numerous Angel investors. YooLotto is the first Direct Mobile Advertising platform that increases sales for Retailers, Brands, and Lottery Commissions by connecting them directly to the lottery player. Industry data shows these players are “Premium Customers” and spend 3X more in purchases than non-lottery customers. Since our successful launch in Texas, we have started our national rollout in the remaining 43 Lottery States this year.

www.YooLotto.com

ZapFraud’s vision is to be the premier service to block scam emails. A free service which will be available to all consumers will give us a trove of scam emails and the ability to detect new scams very quickly. We are building world-class scalable tools to automate detection and adapt to new scams. The more scam we see the faster and better we will get. ZapFraud works by detecting a known scam storyline in an email and adapting to new variations on the scam. ZapFraud can detect more than 95% of the scam emails that major mail services fail to block. An Alpha pilot is currently underway and these results have been requested by several large internet companies that are impacted by scams. Premium protection services will be offered through channel partners and solutions will be customized for corporations.

www.zapfraud.com

Quick Facts

Outstanding Technology Entrepreneurship Program – United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) - 2009

Recent Speakers

Company Spotlight

Earned Excellence

http://alliance.rice.edu/2014_IT_Web_Venture_Forum_Companies/[1/30/2017 12:40:20 PM]
Testimonials

“This is the best run entrepreneurial event I have ever attended. Logistics and quality of attendees were outstanding.”

“I was told by a VC that he thought this was the best event for entrepreneurs in Texas. The event lived up to those expectations.”

“The Rice Alliance Forums continue to provide investors the most deal flow for the least cost of any entrepreneurial forum in Houston.”

“This was such a great event. It was obviously well planned and the quality of the participants was very high.”

“Great networking.”

“I saw plenty of investable companies.”

“I met a lot of other investors I did not know before.”

“You keep raising your own bar. It continues to offer great value.”

“You have nailed the logistics of this.”

“The event was well attended by investors.”

“Fantastic job! There are 49 states that wish they had this event.”

“Well run. Great attendance.”

“Excellent networking.”

“Got a sense for the Houston startup scene.”

“The Rice events have consistently had best caliber of attendees.”

‘Always high quality attendees and networking opportunities.”

“I established new relationships with at least three investors that expressed significant interest in my start-up.”

“Solid investor interest.”

“We gained exposure to venture capitalists and angel investors.”
"We generated several new business leads for our product."

"Excellent day. I drove in from Austin for it and it was worth the travel."

"The event was well attended by investors."

"I enjoyed the social opportunities as well as the keynotes the best."

"Great keynotes and panels, business plan presentations."

"I was particularly impressed by the polish of the business plan presentations."

"The keynotes were fantastic."

"The business plans presentations and the keynote presentation were the most interesting."

"Companies were pretty attractive."

"The shorter format for company presentations was just right."

"Great companies presenting!"

"Excellent rhythm and flow, especially the alternating focus on entrepreneurs and investors. The day never got boring."

"My attention span was always at 100%.

"Enjoyed the TechStars presentation as something new."

"I thought the seed accelerator panel was a great add this year."

"Interaction between the presenters and the investors was excellent."

"Always amazed at the breadth of the presentations. Lots of good potential out there.

"You keep raising your own bar. It continues to offer great value."

"It will soon need to be a 2 day event"

"You have a well-oiled machine. Everything ran on time which is very impressive given how much is going on."

"The Rice Alliance Forums continue to provide investors the most deal flow for the least cost of any entrepreneurial forum in Houston."

"I was amazed by the new innovations on the horizon for technology and web startups."

"This was such a great event. It was obviously well planned and the quality of the participants was very high."

"Learned a lot about emerging trends in entrepreneurship, talked to some great people."

"Can't wait until 2012!"
Speakers:

Steven Welch, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of DreamIt and Author, “We Are All Born Entrepreneurs”

Steven co-founded DreamIt Ventures, a new business accelerator model, which Forbes ranked as the #3 accelerator in the world. DreamIt Ventures is in five cities and turns out 50+ technology companies per year. Previously, Steve founded Mitos, building it into a global company in the biotech manufacturing field prior to selling it in 2007.

Jan Goetgeluk, Founder and CEO, Virtuix

Jan Goetgeluk is the founder and CEO of Virtuix and the developer of the Virtuix Omni™, the first ever virtual reality interface to move freely and naturally in video games and virtual worlds. Virtuix raised over $1 million on Kickstarter, before appearing on the ABC reality show, Shark Tank, and raising $3 million, including investment from Shark Tank investor and billionaire, Mark Cuban.

Venture Capital Panel: An Update from Texas’ Leading VCs

- Ned Hill, Mercury Fund
- Venu Shamapant, LiveOak Venture Partners
- Dai Truong, Austin Ventures
- Jon Bassett, Silverton Partners
- Rajiv Bala, S3 Ventures

Angel Investor Panel: The Future of Angel Investment

- Patrick Lewis, Houston Angel Network
- Mark Thorsen, Central Texas Angel Network
- Keith Kreuer, RedHouse Associates
- Victor Elgohary, Texas Halo Fund

Accelerator Panel

- Jason Seats, Techstars (Austin)
- Molly Cain, Tech Wildcatters (Dallas)
- David Matthews, VentureSpur (Dallas)
- Kreatti Epperson, JumpPhase Ventures/TractionTank (Oklahoma)
- Kirk Coburn, SURGE (Houston)

TechStreet Houston 2014 Digital Health Forum* – Speakers Include:

- Chris McCord, Healthcare Growth Partners
Thomas DeSouza, Allegory Venture Partners
David Franklin, Houston Health Ventures
Jim Ingram, TM
cSimrit Parma MD, Platform Houston
Deborah Mansfield, Houston Technology Center
Emma Fauss, CEO, Medical Informatics
Bryan Haardt, CEO, Decision Health
Kim Evans, CEO, Seremedi
Babak Movassaghi, 2nd MD
Brian Lang, Health 2.0 Houston
Jeff Reichman, January Advisors

---

Lunch Sponsor
Pillsbury

Office Hours Reception Sponsor
Comerica Bank

Company Showcase & Reception Sponsor
Winstead

Host Sponsors
Rice University

Supporting Sponsors
Opportunity Houston
Houston Technology Center
Houston Angel Network

Media Sponsors
Business Makers

Quick Facts
Nine Rice affiliated start-ups have received grants from the Texas Emerging Technology Fund

Recent Speakers
Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business
George R. Brown School of Engineering
Wiess School of Natural Sciences

Company Spotlight
Earned Excellence

Janice and Robert McNair Hall
P.O. Box 2932-MS 531
Houston, Texas 77252-2932

Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business
George R. Brown School of Engineering
Wiess School of Natural Sciences

Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship
Rice University

© Copyright 2014
Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship
Rice University
Rajiv Bala - S3 Ventures

Rajiv is a Vice President with S3 Ventures. His responsibilities at S3 include deal sourcing and structuring, due diligence, partner engagement, and portfolio management, and his investment focus includes technology/IT and medical devices. Prior to S3, Rajiv was a Marketing Manager and Applications Engineer at Texas Instruments. Rajiv holds a BS in Electrical Engineering and a BA in Economics from Rice University and an MBA from The University of Texas at Austin.

George Barber - Trailblazer Capital

George has been a Trailblazer Capital investment partner focused on mobile/wireless/semiconductor/web and IT companies since 2010. Previously, George was CEO and Chairman of Vapro Inc. and CEO of SyChip Inc (acquired by Murata). He also served as a Texas Instruments executive; President/Senior Executive of two acquired Bay Area communications companies; and had the roles of VP of Worldwide Broadband, Computer and ASIC organizations and VP of ASIA Application Specific Products Business Unit while living in Taiwan. He is a member of the Board for TI Ventures.

E. Scott Crist – Texas Ventures

Scott is founder and CEO of Texas Ventures. Prior to that, Scott was a managing director at Garage Tech Ventures in Silicon Valley. Prior to that, he was a successful entrepreneur including CEO and founder of two technology companies and grew revenues to over $100 million each in the last decade. Scott is a former Entrepreneur of the Year by CNN/ NASDAQ/ Ernst & Young. He is also an adjunct professor at the Jones Graduate MBA School at Rice University where he teaches entrepreneurship and venture capital. In addition, Scott is on the Kellogg Alumni Advisory Board at Northwestern University and the Houston Angel Network. Earlier in his career, he worked for Trammell Crow Group, IBM and Booz-Allen Hamilton. Originally from Virginia, Scott has an MBA from the Kellogg School at Northwestern University and a BS in Electrical and Computer Engineering from North Carolina State University.
**2013 IT & Web Venture Forum: Office Hours Investors**

**Victor Elgohary - Texas Halo Fund**

Victor has been a financial consultant and attorney for clients in energy, manufacturing, retail, healthcare, and service industries. For over 20 years, Victor has provided his small business and Fortune 500 clients with advice in various legal matters, current and pending litigation, financial analysis and valuation, business process optimization, and corporate strategy development. In addition to helping clients with financial and legal issues, Victor is also a managing member and one of the founders of the Texas Halo Fund, which invests seed capital in promising start-up companies. He is also a member and treasurer of the Houston Angel Network, which assists its members in finding and investing in promising start-up companies. Victor holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Rice University, an MBA from the University of Houston, and a JD from the South Texas College of Law. He is a Texas CPA with an accreditation from the AICPA in business valuation, and is also a Certified Valuation Analyst, a Certified Management Accountant, and Certified in Financial Management. Through his unique combination of experience and education, Victor is able to provide business owners and managers a holistic approach to pressing problems confronting his clients.

**Morgan Flager - Silverton Partners**

Morgan joined Silverton in 2006. Prior to Silverton, Morgan worked with FTV Capital in San Francisco, where he focused on growth investments in technology and financial services. Prior to that, Morgan held various executive positions at Ingrain Networks (acquired by SafeNet) and Kintana (acquired by Mercury Interactive Corp.). Morgan received his BS from Stanford University. Silverton Partners is an early-stage venture capital firm focused on Texas-based companies. Silverton partners with exceptional entrepreneurs who are committed to attacking growth markets with proprietary products or services.

**Joel Fontenot - Trailblazer Capital**

Joel, as Managing Partner of Trailblazer Capital, leverages unique insights gained from his experience in banking, investing, and operating early-stage companies to make and manage venture investments. Previously Joel worked for Cisco Systems, Inc. He joined Cisco through the acquisition of Metreos Corporation, where he served as CEO and Founder. Joel is a former Board Member of Spawn Labs, Inc., a Trailblazer investment he led and sold to GameStop in 2011. He serves on the Board of Directors of NetSocket, Inc., Koupon Media, Inc., Vobi, Inc. and cycleWood Solutions, Inc. Joel is an Executive Board member of the Bobby B. Lyle School of Engineering at SMU and on the Board of Cistercian Preparatory School. He was appointed to and served on the Texas Emerging Technology Fund Advisory Committee.
JR Garcia - Green Park & Golf Ventures

JR joined GPG Ventures in June 2011. As a Principal of the firm, he is responsible for sourcing and evaluating startup and early-stage investments in the healthcare and technology sectors, performing due diligence, and portfolio company and fund management. Mr. Garcia has prior operational and financial management experience at FedEx, Bold Ventures, and Lone Star Investment Advisors. He received his MBA from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University and his BBA in Finance from the University of Notre Dame.

Blair Garrou - Mercury Fund

Blair has focused on funding, operating and incubating startup software companies since the late 90’s. Blair is a co-founder and Managing Director of Mercury Fund, a seed and early-stage venture capital firm headquartered in Houston, Texas. With over $200 million under management, Mercury invests in compelling and novel software and science-based start-up opportunities, focusing on entrepreneurs and innovation originating in the U.S. Midcontinent. Blair is also a co-founder and Board Member of SURGE Accelerator, a mentor-driven seed accelerator focused on entrepreneurs seeking to solve the world's energy problems using software. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Management at the Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University where he teaches a course on venture capital. Prior to Mercury, Blair was the CEO of Intermat (NYSE: IHS), a leader in product information management software; a Principal with Genesis Park, a Houston-based private equity firm; helped launch and was the Director of Operations for the Houston Technology Center, where he led the formation of the Houston Angel Network; was an investment banker with BMO Nesbitt Burns; and began his career with Deloitte & Touche. Blair received a B.S. in Management from Washington & Lee University.

Melanie Jones - SURGE Accelerator

Melanie, as Director of Marketing at SURGE, manages SURGE's marketing, communications, and events as well as relationships with SURGE alumni and community organizations. Melanie has previously held positions at Waste Management and Ecom Access, a marketing software startup, where she also managed the company's affiliate department. Her first foray into the energy industry was with ExxonMobil where she worked in warehouse operations at an upstream facility in Venezuela. Melanie has a BA from McGill University (Canada) and an MBA from Rice University (Houston). SURGE Accelerator is the leading seed fund and mentor-driven accelerator that identifies, invests in, and enables entrepreneurs who are solving the world's energy and water problems using technology. SURGE already ranks amongst the world’s elite accelerators. In its first two years, SURGE companies raised $20M in funding, landed over 75 enterprise customers, and created more than 100 jobs. 21 out of 23 companies are still operating.
2013 IT & Web Venture Forum: Office Hours Investors

**Keith Kreuer - RedHouse Associates**

Keith has over 25 years of experience in starting and building innovative, customer-oriented information technology companies. As a principal with RedHouse Associates, Keith specializes in early-stage angel investments and currently sits on the Board of Directors of BBS Technologies, GolfNet, Assemble Systems, and the Leadership Team of Surge Accelerator. He is a venture adviser with DFJ Mercury and serves on advisory panels for Gazzang and Performix. He co-founded PentaSafe in 1997 and was Director of Services & Support until the company was acquired by NetIQ in 2002. Keith was a co-founder of Penta, acquired by VeriCenter in 2000, and has served in various management and technical positions at Generator Systems, Ernst & Young, and Exxon.

**Kala Marathi - Terrapin Stone**

Kala is the Executive Director of Innovation at the University of Houston's CT Bauer College of Business and the Managing Director of the Cougar Venture Fund. In her role as Managing Director of the Houston Angel Network, Kala has facilitated over $30M in investments in 85 deals. She has more than 15 years of operating and financial experience. Kala was formerly with Reliant Energy where she was a founding member of the corporate venture group, Reliant Energy Net Ventures. At Reliant, she led several smart grid pilots and technology initiatives, and launched a subsidiary called Texas Star Energy. She also has extensive experience in strategy and corporate finance with such firms as the Continental Airlines and Chase. Kala is a Director in the Texas Lyceum. Kala has B.A. in Japanese and Economics from Wellesley College, and an MBA from the Amos Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.

**Chuck McCoy - North Texas Angel Network**

Chuck has always been a part of the entrepreneurial community. His first year of graduate school was financed partly by payments from a retail pottery store he co-founded with a friend and partly by profits from buying classic Ford Mustangs in the Oklahoma countryside and selling them in the city. Chuck began 25 years in the software business in Arthur Andersen’s Tulsa office. Eventually, a Texas oilman offered Chuck the opportunity to “have your own deal if you will come handle a systems problem for my company”. During the next seven years Chuck built a software company by developing 3 enterprise level software products and selling them to customers from coast to coast. The sharp lessons learned about growing a business without a financing or capital appreciation plan serve well to this day. He holds a BBA from Oklahoma City University, an MS from Oklahoma State University, and is a veteran of the US Army.
Pat Noonan - Austin Ventures

Pat joined Austin Ventures in 2011 and focuses on early-stage investing. Prior to joining Austin Ventures, Pat was an Associate at Commonwealth Capital Ventures, an early-stage venture capital fund based in Boston. Prior to joining Commonwealth, Pat worked for the strategy arm of Capgemini, a global management consultancy. Based first in the firm’s office in Cambridge, MA, and later in its London, UK, office, he advised start-ups and Fortune 500 companies in the telecom, media, and entertainment industries. Pat holds an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and an AB from Harvard University. During his time at business school, he worked as an intern on Facebook’s monetization team. He is active in TiE (formerly The Indus Entrepreneurs) and helped launch TiE Young Entrepreneurs in Boston. He is a Startup Leadership Fellow (Class of 2008) and is involved in mentoring SLP participants. Follow on Twitter.

Rick Pleczko - Austin Ventures

Rick is an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Austin Ventures where he focuses on early-stage software investments in the Houston area. Prior to joining Austin Ventures, Rick was CEO and Founder of Idera, a software company focused on systems management software for server and cloud infrastructures. Under Rick’s leadership, Idera grew to become a multi-national company with a broad product portfolio used by over 12,000 customers worldwide. The company won numerous awards for product innovation and rapid growth, including the Houston Fast-Tech 50 award for nine consecutive years. Rick was also nominated for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year award for his work at Idera. Prior to Idera, Rick served in a number of senior executive roles including EVP and CMO at NetIQ, and SVP at Mission Critical Software, Platinum Technology, and LBMS. Rick started his career in technology as a software developer writing avionics software for an aerospace company in the UK.
2013 IT & Web Venture Forum: Office Hours Investors

PJ Pronger – West Texas Angel Network

PJ manages West Texas Angel Network as one of his responsibilities for the Department of Economic Innovation at West Texas A&M University. Other programs currently under his management include: Equitrend Capital LLC, Contract Procurement, Small Business Development Center, and Technology Commercialization. He specializes in capital networks and works with community organizations to develop local strategies for economic development. His programs have been featured in national media including the NBC Nightly News and the Wall Street Journal. Educational credentials include a BS in Agriculture and an MPA in Accounting, both from West Texas A&M and a Certificat de Langue et Civilisation Francaises from the University of Paris, Sorbonne. He also holds a certificate as a Certified Internet Webmaster. Outside the university PJ serves as Treasurer for Texas Mezzanine Fund, a Dallas CDFI loan fund which also deals in New Markets Tax Credits. PJ has received awards from a range of organizations, including: the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, the Friends of 4-H, the Association of Small Business Development Centers, the U.S. Small Business Administration, Alpha Kappa Psi, the American Advertising Federation, the Federal Aviation Administration, Carson County Square House Museum, the Texas Department of Agriculture, and the All Texas Art Competition. In former lives, PJ was a cattle rancher and an international student, playing American football in Paris. He now lives in Amarillo with his wife and family. www.linkedin.com/in/pronger/

Helge Rokenes, CFA - ABH Capital Mgmt. & North Texas Angel Network

Helge is Director on the Board of at the North Texas Angel Network and has been an Investment Manager at ABH Capital Management, a Texas-based Family Office, for the past 10 years. “NTAN is a Texas non-profit corporation that seeks quality deals for angel investors to consider. We are a part of a statewide network of angel groups that cooperate on deals across Texas. Our members identify and screen these applicant companies. We educate and coach early stage companies in North Texas for the purpose of raising money, assisting in their growth and improving the local economy. Entrepreneurs from any industry are encouraged to apply.”

Michael Segrest - Silver Creek Ventures

Michael joined Silver Creek Ventures in 1991 and has helped the firm manage 5 venture funds, with over 75 portfolio company investments spread over those 20+ years. Michael has actively worked with over 25 of those portfolio companies, helping them realize their goals of becoming successful start-up companies. As a general partner for the Firm, Mr. Segrest has focused his investment activities on information technologies, particularly in the areas of security, networking, and services. Prior to Silver Creek, Mr. Segrest served as a principal for a merchant banking firm specializing in the communications industries. Mr. Segrest received his undergraduate degree from The University of Texas at Austin in the ERB program (Electrical Engineering option) and his MBA in Finance from The University of Texas at Austin.
David Steakley - Texas Halo Fund

David is an investor in real estate and private equity in Houston. David was formerly a partner at Accenture, where he spent 19 years focusing on financial services clients. David is an active member of the Houston Angel Network, is currently managing a portfolio of approximately 20 private equity stakes for himself and a small private equity fund run by his company, Thiwtlig Management, and is involved in a number of real estate ventures. David serves on the boards of the Vender Safe, Pervino, HeatGenie, Salient Pharmaceuticals and RSET, is a governing trustee of the Houston Symphony Orchestra, and is on the board of directors of the Houston Angel Network.

Vik Thapar - Cypress Growth Capital

Vik has fifteen years of experience spanning venture capital, private equity and information technology consulting. As a Venture Partner, he is primarily responsible for identifying promising potential companies for investment as well as assisting with all aspects of the investment process. Prior to joining the Cypress team, Vik was Director of the North Texas Regional Center for Innovation and Commercialization (RCIC), overseeing the process of identifying, vetting and mentoring companies seeking funding from the State of Texas’ $200 million Emerging Technology Fund (ETF). The Fund makes investments in early stage technology and life science companies. In that role, Vik developed an extensive, statewide network of relationships with investors, intermediaries, entrepreneurs, economic development officials and service providers. Vik also worked with Dallas-based private equity firm Lone Star New Markets, conducting financial and business analysis projects. He spent the first decade of his career working in the information technology field as a consultant to Fortune 500 companies including Zale’s, Lockheed Martin and start-ups Univesco, Inc. and Best Crossmark. Vik is also very active in the Texas entrepreneur community and currently serves on the Board of Directors of TeXchange as well as TIE Dallas. He holds a Master of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University, with a concentration in Entrepreneurial Studies and Strategy, and a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Texas at Dallas. Vik lives in the Dallas area with his wife Geetha and daughter Maya.
**Scott Ticer - Lone Star Angels**

Scott is a seasoned communications and digital media executive with extensive new business creation, development and operations expertise. He has served in key roles at Dow Jones, Computer Sciences, BellSouth, McGraw Hill, and as an entrepreneur at successful upstarts VentureWire and Covad, and airBand Communications, where he was a co-founder. He also co-founded and operates a small wireless ISP in Dallas called Tieless Communications. Scott is a co-founder of Lone Star Angels where he connects investors with startup opportunities in north Texas. He has extensive experience in helping create and grow new businesses, having raised nearly $300 million in capital for privately-held companies since 1998. Prior to relocating to Dallas, Scott was vice president of business development for VentureWire, an information service of Dow Jones & Co., Inc. Prior to VentureWire, Scott was one of four co-founders of airBand Communications Inc., a Sevin Rosen-backed startup in Dallas providing wireless internet access, serving as vice president of business development and network operations. Before airBand, he was the founding business development executive at Covad Communications, crafting key partnerships with AT&T, Qwest and Concentric Networks, helping pave the way for Covad’s IPO. Prior to Covad, Scott served as a principal at Computer Sciences Corp.’s management consultant unit. He began his career as a reporter and editor after graduating from The University of Texas at Austin’s Plan II honors program, working for Times Mirror, Tribune Co. and McGraw Hill’s BusinessWeek magazine.

**Alan Ying – Polus Capital**

Alan began his career as a surgeon at Duke where he started MercuryMD out of a garage, grew it to over 100 employees, sold it to a publicly traded company, and helped run the acquiring $400M healthcare business before going to the other side of the investor table as an angel and then venture capital investor. Currently, he is Managing Director of Polus Capital and an owner and the Non-executive Chairman of KLAS Enterprises, a leading provider of healthcare information services. Most recently he was a Venture Partner at Chrysalis Ventures, a leading healthcare VC firm based in Louisville, KY. He is a regular columnist writing about growth companies at Inc.com. Alan serves on the Boards of multiple growth companies ranging in size from $5M to $100M in revenue, is a Director on the Board of the Gulf States Chapter of YPO, and is a Trustee of the Post Oak School, a nationally recognized Montessori K-12 institute in Houston, TX. Alan earned his BA in Philosophy from Rice University, his MD from The Ohio State University, and trained in general and thoracic surgery at Duke University. Alan is a loyal Cleveland sports fan, a season ticket holder of the Houston Rockets, and a proud champion of the 2012 K Academy Duke Basketball Camp.
Stewart Youngblood - Tech Wildcatters

Stewart is Program Director of Tech Wildcatters, leading all investment and application activities and supporting the startups during the 3 month program. Tech Wildcatters is the premiere b2b accelerator in the US. After launching in Spring 2010, Tech Wildcatters has graduated 5 classes of companies (37 total) and has been named to the Forbes Top 10 list of accelerators back-to-back years. We are the only b2b-focused accelerator in the Forbes Top 10, and have had two exits within the last year (Key Ring and Proxomo). Our mentors are top-tier and come from numerous disciplines. Our goal is to connect you with people that truly make a difference in your business, both from a funding perspective as well as a product perspective. We are experts at helping you penetrate organizations that can be customers, investors, or both.