CONGRATULATIONS
2020 GRADS!

Transitioning from campuses to virtual classrooms, dealing with COVID-19 and facing civil unrest, Cornellians have demonstrated resilience, creativity and determination to succeed in these challenging times.

An irrefutable Cornell goal is to make the world a better place. We salute the Class of 2020 confident that you join others within the Cornell and world communities to address global issues with positive impact.

Zach Shulman ’87, JD ’90, Director, Entrepreneurship at Cornell
Cornell Tech has announced a $1 million grant from The Atlantic Philanthropies to jumpstart its Public Interest Tech (PiTech) initiative. PiTech will be geared toward developing the tools, systems, data sets, research, and education needed to address significant public sector concerns.

The gift will help Cornell Tech create the foundational infrastructure for the PiTech initiative, which bridges the gap between the public and private sectors in much the same way public interest law does. The goal is to build a community of researchers and practitioners dedicated to addressing societal challenges that might otherwise “fall between the cracks” of federal research funding, commercial investment, and foundation support.

“Our commitment to initiatives like Public Interest Tech will be what sets Cornell Tech apart from other institutions,” said Greg Morrisett, the Jack and Rilla Neafsey Dean and Vice Provost of Cornell Tech. “We are distinguished by a drive not simply to advance tech for tech’s sake, but to build a better world. I am enormously grateful for The Atlantic Philanthropies’ support of this vision.”

Read full story.

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LEVERAGING FOOD & AG INNOVATION TO STRENGTHEN THE ECONOMY AND GROW JOBS

This is a shout out to all innovative, high-growth food and agriculture startups. Apply by July 15th to pitch your business idea for a chance to win up to $1 million!

“The competition is a window into what Upstate New York has to offer startups like RealEats, and the New York State Center of Excellence for Food & Agriculture at Cornell AgriTech is the most valuable resource I have come across as an entrepreneur. With their help, we have been able to secure a kitchen space, obtain financing, and build out our supply chain. Along with support from the City of Geneva and Ontario County resources, RealEats has been on an accelerated growth track.” - Dan Wise, founder and CEO, Real Eats America (Geneva, NY), the 2019 Grow NY grand prize winner.

Additional 2019 winners included: Dropcopter (Syracuse, NY) and Tiliter (Munich, Germany) each awarded $500,000; Capro-X (Ithaca, NY), Combplex (Ithaca, NY), The Perfect Granola (Victor, NY) and Whole Healthy Food (Ithaca, NY) each awarded $250,000.

Funded by Empire State Development through its Upstate Revitalization Initiative and administered by Cornell’s Center for Regional Economic Advancement, the Grow-NY Food & Ag Startup Competition winners will be announced during the Grow NY summit November 17-18, 2020.
NYPBC GRAND PRIZE TO RAPSTUDY!

3 CORNELL TEAMS WIN CASH AWARDS

Co-founded by Drew Speckman ’21 and Cosimo Fabrizio ’22, rapStudy is an educational platform that helps kids learn through their favorite music. They integrate educational information into students’ favorite songs to increase engagement, retention, literacy, and achievement.

Upon bestowing the first place $2,000 award in the Technology and Entertainment track to RapStudy, the NYBPC judges said: “love this idea”, “it has massive potential” and “it could upend pedagogy”.

At the end of the 2020 competition, rapStudy additionally was awarded the NYBPC Grand Prize of $10,000. Dream Haus, took second place in the Technology and Entertainment track and received a $750 cash award.

Based on computer vision and machine learning, the Dream Haus platform helps home buyers articulate their “ideal home” preferences, then proprietary algorithms will search the current inventory of available properties to provide a list of houses that are the most similar to the prospective buyers’ preferences.

In the NYBP Competition’s Military and First Responder track, Polici, co-founded by Aadi Kulkarni ’22 and Henry Manley’22, received the Concept Stage award. Polici summarizes lengthy research papers into pithy entertaining reads which are then distributed to individuals who will benefit.

Now in its 11th year, the New York Business Plan Competition also includes tracks for MedTech & Well Being, AgTech & Food, Consumer Products & Services, and Energy & Environment.

Over 450 students, representing over 40 New York State colleges and universities, participated in this year’s competition.
Beer & Business

CORNELL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR SHARES HIS STORY

“I think I failed as an English teacher, but it turned out I was a pretty good beer teacher.” – Steve Hindy ’71, MAT ’73

The co-founder and chairman of Brooklyn Brewery, a craft beer pioneer, Hindy answered questions and led a virtual beer tasting during a May 15th webinar jointly hosted by Cornell Entrepreneur Network and Entrepreneurship at Cornell.

Starting with his days as a Cornell freshman with aspirations to be a golf course designer, to becoming a teacher in Ithaca, Hindy talked about his transition into journalism and eventually becoming a Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press from 1979-84. While in Beirut, where drinking alcohol is illegal, Hindy met a few Americans who were avid home brewers. The idea for starting a brewery followed.

Beyond sharing how Brooklyn Brewery came to be, Hindy talked about building a brand which now, 32 years later, has an international presence. Watch the on-demand video or read more about Hindy’s career.

Eclectic Convergence '20

NOVEMBER 13TH - CORNELL ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

Experience our wonderful mix of speakers as they share personal stories and perspectives. Whether the event is live at The Times Center in NYC, or virtual due to pandemic restrictions, we are confident that you will be inspired!

Register now to save the date.

You are receiving this monthly newsletter because you have opted in to the Entrepreneurship at Cornell listserv. Submit story ideas and general feedback to doe5@cornell.edu