Your trailmap to Entrepreneurship and VC @ Darden

A guide with key landmarks.

Throughout the FIRST YEAR

- Apply for a Batten Innovation Grant
- Attend networking events for entrepreneurs
- Attend Startup Seminar (speaker series)
- Attend Lunch & Learns
- Take advantage of Darden Strategic Competition Initiative (DSCI)
- Meet with your Darden Career Center Coach
- Build relationships with Darden entrepreneurship & innovation Faculty

SECOND YEAR Highlights

- Independent Study
- Venture Velocity
- UVA E-Cup Competitions
- Darden Strategic
- Starting New Ventures
- Networking with Alumni
- Attend Speaker Events
About the Batten Institute

The future belongs to innovators—and to those leaders who can bring an entrepreneurial mindset to firms both large and small.

At the Batten Institute for Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Technology, our work is fueled by this recognition. Our mission is to serve every Darden student who wants to be on the leading edge. We seek to challenge students to fulfill their creative leadership potential in 3 ways:

1. Advancing breakthrough ideas
   Translating and amplifying research for students and professionals that articulates the thought-leading Darden perspective on innovation.

2. Education in and out of the classroom
   Providing world-class experiential learning programs that intimately introduce students to disruption—in all its forms and sectors.

3. Transforming ideas into value
   Proactively supporting every aspect of venture creation.

We run flagship programs for Darden and UVA including iLab Incubator and Entrepreneurship Cup. We support professional pathways and networks in technology, startups, ETA, social enterprise, and VC (with the Mayo Center). And we drive broad research-to-action initiatives on topics including Effectual Thinking & Action, Sustainability, AI, Design Thinking, and good disruption.

In addition to the activities mentioned on the reverse side, there are myriad opportunities to engage both formally and informally with practitioners, faculty, staff, and students—which are open to all, not only Batten Scholars. Please visit batten.institute for a list of upcoming events.

How to Engage

We are located above the Camp Library and also have a presence around (including above!) the i.Lab area in the Classroom building. We have an open-door policy in all of these spaces and virtually. Our #1 priority is students! The recommended points of contact within the Batten Institute are:

Navigating Entrepreneurship or ETA @ Darden + E-Cup

MJ Toms
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Founders + Tech-Curious + Feedback on the Institute

Omar Garriott
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Founders + i.Lab Incubator + Independent Study / Mentorship

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Building Founder Community at Darden and Across Grounds

Jim Zuffoletti (MBA ’05)
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Research-to-Action Initiatives

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Social Innovators + Batten Scholars

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*You can also send general inquiries to batteninstitute@darden.virginia.edu, to be directed appropriately.