

**Entrepreneurial Greenhouse – Spring 2023**  
**BIDDING ONLY**

Greenhouse is an Accelerator Program that over the course of twenty years has helped hundreds of Columbia students launch their businesses and prepare for subsequent investment by providing mentorship, guidance, funding for prelaunch expenses, access to experts in key fields and opportunities to present their startups to professional investors.

Participants are required to (a) define goals and (b) required to make weekly progress and communicate it throughout the semester. Along the way, each team receives mentorship from experienced founders, venture capitalists, angel investors, venture lawyers, technology experts and others along the way. Greenhouse also helps many students prepare for application to the Eugene Lang Entrepreneurial Initiative Fund, the Columbia Startup Lab and outside accelerator programs such as yCombinator and Techstars.

**Instructors:**     **Brendan Burns**  
Serial Entrepreneur  
CEO, See.Me  
[bbstepstone@gmail.com](mailto:bbstepstone@gmail.com)

**Dave Lerner**  
Director  
Columbia University Entrepreneurship,  
Innovation & Design  
[davelernergsb@gmail.com](mailto:davelernergsb@gmail.com)

**TA:**                **TBD**

## **Tentative Course Schedule\***

\*all topics and speakers are subject to change as they are tailored to the specific needs of the class

### **January 24, 2021**

Orientation, Commitments, Class Introductions

### **January 31, 2021**

Founders Discussion & Comms Strategy (Lecture, Discussion, Workshop)

- Founder Huddles
- Comms Mindset: Secret Language of Founders
- Weekly KPI and Monthly Email Prep
- Workshop

*Pre-Readings:*

[Remotely Works](#)

JF monthly updates

Rob Hayes (CBS '95), First Round Capital: [Advice for First-Time Founders](#)

Uncovered Podcast: [On Founder Mindset](#)

### **February 7, 2021**

Designing Your Future

- Definitive Future/Definite Optimist
- Pre-Mortem/Pre-Parade Exercise

*Pre-Readings:*

[Sequoia's Managing Partner Roelof Botha's comments on Invest Like the Best](#)

[Kapil Gupta on the Naval Podcast: Conquering the Mind](#)

### **February 14, 2021**

Lecture and Workshop: Startup Tools and Marketing, Productivity Hacks

*Speaker:* Nat Kelner

*Pre-Readings:*

[On Workplace Environment](#)

[Improving Your Workspace](#)

[Mario Gabriele \(from Twitter\) on Productivity Hacks](#)

## **February 21, 2021**

Getting to Product/Market Fit

Product Design, Lean, Innovation, Bootstrapping

*Speaker:* Mike Russell, CEO Monument (former CEO Paintzen)

*Pre-Reading:*

Marc Andreessen: [The Only Thing That Matters \(product market fit\)](#)

[How Superhuman Found PM Fit](#)

[Classpass on PM Fit](#)

## **February 28, 2021**

Raising Money: Lecture and Workshop

Investor Pipeline Prep and Presentations, Review of Weekly KPI's & Monthly Email

*Pre-Readings:*

Paul Graham: [Default Alive or Dead](#)

Mark Suster: [Lines not Dots](#)

Alex Iskold: [The Perfect Seed Round Deck](#)

Alex Iskold: [When and How to Send Investor Updates](#)

Roman Sheeth: [20 Tips for Fundraising](#)

Drake Dukes: [thread with data on 5,000 co's that raised Series A in last 12 months](#)

## **March 21, 2021**

Building a Brand:

*Speaker:* Jesse Derris, Derris & Co.

[Netflix on Brand \(FRR\)](#)

[Making Your Brand Look Bigger Than It Is \(FRR\)](#)

**March 28, 2021**

Business Development & Sales:

Speaker: Kevin Weeks, SOFI

[Hubspot on Business Development](#)

[Building the Best Sales Deck \(FRR\)](#)

**April 4, 2021**

Important Legal Startup Hacks and Pitfalls to Avoid:

QSBS, R&D Tax Credits

Speaker: Charles Torres, DLA Piper

[Finding the Best Lawyer \(FRR\)](#)

**April 11, 2021**

Startup Boards:

Speaker: Greg Marsh, CEO KeyMe

Pre-Readings:

Brad Feld: [Startup Boards](#)

Jerry Neumann: [Your Board of Directors is Probably Going to Fire You](#)

Alex Iskold: [Why Startups Need a Board of Advisors](#)

[Customer Service and Self-Serve \(FRR\)](#)

**April 18, 2021**

Pitch Practice Sessions for all teams

[Advice from Carter Cast \(Pritzker Ventures\) via NW Kellogg](#)

**April 25, 2021**

Later Stage Funding

Speaker: Jason Santiago

Final Presentations & Greenhouse Reception

## **Brendan Burns**

Brendan Burns has spent over 20 years at leading information technology, graphic arts, information security and financial institutions including 1000|Museums, Moody's Investors Service, Salomon Brothers, and AdOne, an Internet software pioneer.

Currently Burns is the CEO of See.me, a web3 company building a global ecosystem to help visual artists gain recognition, constructive feedback and economic opportunity. See.me has worked with over 7,000 artists from 35 countries over the past two years and built strategic relationships with SCOPE Art, Sotheby's Institute, Meural and others.

Burns has an MBA in Finance/Entrepreneurship from CBS went to Fordham University undergraduate. Since 2004, Burns has been an adjunct professor in the Lang Center for Entrepreneurship at Columbia's Graduate Business School and serves on the Advisory board of the Lang Fund which invests in promising student-originated startups.

## **Dave Lerner**

Dave was appointed [Director of Entrepreneurship at Columbia University](#) in 2013. In his years with Columbia Entrepreneurship he's launched the Columbia Startup Lab, the Columbia Design Studio, Startup Law Studio, #StartupColumbia, CTech Founders Track and a host of new tech programs and curricula throughout the university's many schools. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at Columbia Business School where he teaches the Greenhouse Accelerator and is an Adjunct Professor at Columbia Engineering teaching entrepreneurship courses.

By background he's a serial entrepreneur, angel investor in 150+ companies, host of popular podcast [Venture Studio](#), and is a well-known mentor to founders in the NYC ecosystem.