UC SANTA BARBARA

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Making Connections

Goleta Entrepreneurial Magnet, a collaboration between UC Santa Barbara, the City of Goleta and the Goleta Valley Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the tech entrepreneur community Wednesday evening with an open house at its new facilities in Old Town Goleta. Startups, including several recent graduates from the College of Engineering's Technology Management Program (TMP), mingled with veterans of the game, networked, and pitched their ideas to a room of business leaders and potential investors.

A project about two years in the making, the incubator was established to address the needs of startup businesses in the area by providing space, facilities and, in this case, mentorship to founders of young companies. The collaboration kicked off its first summer with a Summer Accelerator program, an intensive program for new entrepreneurs. The program currently has six teams, three of which — Salty Girl Seafood, Fluency Lighting Technologies and Shadowmaps — were winners at TMP's New Venture Competition finals. Team Shnack, which represented UC Santa Barbara at the 2014 University Mobile Challenge, is also a TMP-born venture. Two other new companies — Nextmover and Uptronics — rounded out the incubator's first summer cohort.

About UC Santa Barbara

The University of California, Santa Barbara is a leading research institution that also provides a comprehensive liberal arts learning experience. Our academic community of faculty, students, and staff is characterized by a culture of interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the needs of our multicultural and global society. All of this takes place within a living and learning environment like no other, as we draw inspiration from the beauty and resources of our extraordinary location at the edge of the Pacific Ocean.