Entrepreneurship

Hai Truong
Content Producer & Communications Officer
UC Irvine Applied Innovation

Education Background:
University of California, Irvine—B.A. in English

Current Job Tasks:
Produce stories, videos, and manage publication of content for Applied Innovation.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
Covering a wide range of technology, business, and innovation and working with other entrepreneurs and creatives to do meaningful work.

Piece of Advice:
Be curious, be audacious, and don't be afraid to show humility and ask for help. Building, growing, and running a business is tough—nobody achieves success at it alone.

Shawn Wehan
Chief Executive Officer
Givsum Inc.

Education Background:
Master in Divinity, UC Berkeley
B.A. in Communications, Seattle University

Current Job Tasks:
As CEO I am in charge of overseeing all general operations, hiring, Board/Investor communications and fundraising.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
There is a constant excitement moving through the stages of business development. No two days are the same as the business is always changing in it's life-cycle.

Piece of Advice:
Becoming an entrepreneur is challenging and it will take longer than you think, so you want to make sure that your product/service is incredibly exciting for you personally; otherwise you should never begin down the road.
Education Background:
Graduated from UC Irvine in 2014 with a B.S. degree in Public Health Science. Also obtained minors in Anthropology & Digital Information Systems.

Current Job Tasks:
As an entrepreneur all hands all on deck. Some days I am working closely with the product team prioritizing new features, selecting key areas we should address in our current product. Other days I am in pure marketing mode hosting focus groups or scheduling interviews with professors. One of my favorite pass times are meeting with students at events such as these. It never feels like work it always keeps me in touch with why I started this venture. It was not too long ago that my co-founder and I were college students ourselves, but hearing the insight from current students keeps us accountable on whether we are building something for us or for our users.

Favorite Thing About Their Job:
My favorite part of the job is getting to hear the stories of students, professors, and administrators. We are constantly learning new things and discovering key challenges that we can address. We see our mission of making academic life simplified a collaborative effort, which means we have to be out there engaging with our users to ensure we are making something that has a positive impact on their lives not a negative one.

Piece of Advice:
The pure joy and passion of embarking on an entrepreneurial endeavor outweighs the fear of not starting it. Sometimes we can let fear stifle us from trying new things, but once you take your first step in a new direction and witness the benefits however small or grand, it is reassurance that you are on the right path. The importance of being passionate is that it allows you to endure the obstacles and hurdles as they come, without that it is easy to quit.