



Silicon Flatirons
KNOW WHAT'S NEXT.

2017 - 2018

Event Lineup





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Dear Friends and Supporters,

In all that we do, we seek to cultivate opportunities to prepare students, policymakers, business leaders, and the broader community to lead in a world of rapid change. The year ahead is full of opportunity to deliver on that promise.

We will launch our new season with an Entrepreneurs Unplugged on August 31 featuring Jim Packer, the President of Worldwide TV & Digital Distribution at Lionsgate. On October 4, we will explore "3D Wireless: The Promise and Challenges of Next-Generation Space and Airborne Wireless Systems." On October 18, we will discuss "The Social Implications of Technological Change," looking back at lessons from the introduction of the telegraph, and what that can teach us about today's information

age. On November 15, we will examine "Improving Resilience in Cybersecurity and Spectrum." On January 25, in Denver, we will hold a conference on "The Supreme Court and Patent Reform." Our annual technology policy conference will be on February 11 and 12 and will focus on "Regulating Computing and Code," examining how the central role of software is creating new challenges for policymakers. On March 8, we will explore the issues around notice and takedown requests in our annual content-focused conference.

In addition to these conferences, we will continue to propel entrepreneurship on campus and in the community through hosting the New Venture Challenge Information Technology Track, the Crash Course and Entrepreneurs Unplugged Series, Startup Summer, the Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network, the Governmental Entrepreneurial Leadership Accelerator (GELA), and a conference on #GiveFirst, where we discuss a book by Brad Feld of the same name. Please take a moment to check out this event lineup and mark your calendar to join us for these exciting events.

I am proud to welcome a new Silicon Flatirons faculty member this fall, Margot Kaminski. She comes to us from Ohio State and will direct our privacy and cybersecurity initiative. She joins, in addition to myself, our four other faculty directors: Amy Bauer (Tech Lawyer Accelerator program), Brad Bernthal (Entrepreneurship), Kristelia García (Content and Intellectual Property), and Blake Reid (Technology Policy). Dale Hatfield and Pierre de Vries continue to lead our Spectrum Initiative. It is a pleasure to work with such talented professionals. As you review our plans for the year ahead, we welcome your thoughts, engagement, questions, and concerns. We will continue to experiment—taking on new topics and making some changes to a few conference formats—and appreciate your feedback and support as we do so.

Cheers,

Phil Weiser

Silicon Flatirons Founder and Executive Director



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Season Kickoff! Entrepreneurs Unplugged: Jim Packer, Lionsgate

August 31, 2017

University of Colorado Law School

Silicon Flatirons presents Jim Packer as our featured entrepreneur with Phil Weiser and Sharon Matusik as moderators.

Entrepreneurs Unplugged is a meeting place where faculty, students, and community members learn about and get involved in entrepreneurship. In particular, the program offers students, faculty, and the Front Range startup community an opportunity to learn how a successful startup is created as well as an opportunity to network. Each Entrepreneurs Unplugged meeting features food, drink, and – most importantly – an experienced entrepreneur to discuss his/her start-up experiences.

Jim Packer, President of Worldwide TV & Digital Distribution

As head of Lionsgate's global television distribution operations and architect of many of the company's digital initiatives, Jim directs Lionsgate's strategies for capitalizing on evolving distribution opportunities in a fast-changing global marketplace. He oversees the worldwide distribution of Lionsgate's television roster of nearly 90 television shows on 40 different networks. In addition, he helped spearhead the rollout of the company's growing suite of subscription video-on-demand platforms. Jim is also co-head of the company's global home entertainment operations. He spearheads the licensing of Lionsgate's feature film slate to television, on demand, and digital platforms around the world. Before Lionsgate, Jim served as President of MGM's worldwide television and digital operation. He was an executive with The Walt Disney Company managing the distribution and syndication of Disney content. A graduate of the University of Colorado, Jim serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Colorado Foundation and the Leeds School of Business.

3D Wireless: The Promise and Challenges of Next-Generation Space and Airborne Wireless Systems

October 4, 2017

University of Colorado Law School

A wave of innovation in airborne and orbiting systems—from drones to new thousand-satellite constellations—poses difficult questions of who is in charge and how to coordinate increasingly complex operations to prevent harm.

Communication platforms will be located at a range of altitudes from ground level to geostationary orbit and beyond and be governed by national and international bodies with different interests and expertise. The coordination of these systems to prevent both physical collision and radio interference is becoming exponentially more complex, both technically and institutionally.

In this conference, experts will address the promise and challenges of next-generation airborne and space wireless systems, specifically the:

- design and engineering challenge of creating devices and systems to realize the vision
- policy challenge of creating a new regulatory framework that encompasses aeronautical, aviation, and communications agencies
- measurements, operations, and government regulations to ensure the effective and beneficial operation of the components and systems

The discussion will also explore new and old hazards, who is in charge of governing at both national and international levels, and resolving conflicts between incumbents and new entrants.

Read more for a full conference summary and background.



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The Social Implications of Technological Change

October 18, 2017

University of Colorado Law School

In partnership with the **Center of the American West** and the **College of Media, Communication and Information**.

The rapid acceleration of communications technology is changing our society and economy in profound ways. At this conference, we will examine the social implications and impacts of the information technology revolution, considering how the telegraph parallels the modern rise of social networks, mobile computing, and introduction of global access to broadband networks. In so doing, we will also consider which laws and policies can mitigate less desirable impacts of information technology in our lives.

In 1861, Western Union completed the transcontinental telegraph, changing U.S. history forever. Before then, news would take days or weeks to reach across the country. In the wake of the telegraph, all aspects of life—commerce, culture, and war—were transformed. Today, the latest transformation is the wave of social media and new media that has decimated the notion of a “news cycle.” This acceleration of information production and consumption dates back to the mid-1800s, and the technological changes of that era bear study as we grapple with the technological changes of today.

In this program, Edmund Russell, a Professor of History at Boston University now working on a project evaluating the development and impact of the telegraph, will present his work on the topic. A panel of experts will then discuss the implications of this technological change and link it to the ongoing challenges and opportunities related to the acceleration of information production and consumption.

Improving Resilience in Cybersecurity and Spectrum

November 15, 2017

University of Colorado Law School

Society increasingly depends on computer networks and wireless systems. Yet, outages and adverse incidents are regular occurrences. It has become essential for this technology to maintain an acceptable level of service—in other words, to be resilient.

Different fields have different approaches to becoming resilient. For example, medicine and electric grid management learn from many decades of practice and mistakes to improve the safety and robustness of service delivery. Their overarching goal is to drive greater awareness and learn from experience, not to cast blame or scapegoat individuals for mistakes. In the fields of cybersecurity and spectrum, by contrast, there are no institutional strategies for capturing information around outages, attacks, and interference, which in turn would enable learning around why such harms arise and drive better practices to avoid them in the future.

This conference will explore institutional strategies in health care and electricity to improve the resilience of computing and radio systems. We will bring together a range of professionals, academics, and policymakers to consider how such institutional strategies could be developed and implemented in areas of cybersecurity and spectrum.



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The Supreme Court and Patent Reform

January 25, 2018
Holland & Hart, Denver

The Supreme Court has systematically evaluated a range of patent law issues over the last dozen years—from the use of injunctions (in the eBay case) to whether venue is proper for patent litigation (in the TC Heartland case). During this time period, Congress weighed in on patent reform but focused more on the structure of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and its processes than substantive patent law.

For commentators and practitioners, this path of patent reform raises both substantive and institutional questions. In this conference, we will explore both sets of questions, evaluating whether the Supreme Court has effectively resolved patent law issues and whether the Court has the tools to modify patent law on an ongoing basis. Are there areas in which the nation's highest court is better situated than others to modify patent law? Is the cost of a common law approach in some areas, such as the issue of patentable subject matter, too great to bear on the system (given the prolonged state of uncertainty inhering in judicial change)? By contrast, is Congress able to make contested decisions about patent law—that is, when the range of relevant stakeholders are not in consensus?

We will explore these questions in an engaged, interactive manner. After our keynote speaker and through breakout sessions, we will view this set of questions through different lenses: the impact of judicial change on patent litigation, the impact of judicial change in terms of driving the optimal patent policy, and the impact of judicial change in terms of prosecution and the impact on practitioners. We will then bring the conversation together with an integrated conversation that seeks to leverage the teachings of the keynote speaker and the insights of the breakout sessions.

Regulating Computing and Code

February 11 - 12, 2018
University of Colorado Law School

Software now structures and enables virtually all communications services, thus raising important challenges for governance. On one level, these challenges relate to the rapidity of technological changes and whether policymakers can act quickly and effectively to advance policy goals. On another level, the global interdependence of many of these services challenges the ability of national regulatory bodies to advance public policy goals. In the case of the emerging 5G wireless standards, the new architecture will rely on software-defined networks and will be developed by international standards bodies, raising questions for how national policy goals—ranging from public safety communications to cybersecurity and competition—will be advanced by national-level bodies.

In the 2018 annual technology policy conference, we will explore the set of governance challenges raised by the dominance of software:

- the ability to make predictions in today's technological environment, asking, for example, how such challenges affect antitrust policy
- the increasing pervasive use of algorithms—from automated vehicles to internet-based services like search, to public policy issues like recommended prison sentences—raises challenges for policymakers
- whether the massive amounts of data created and analyzed should be stored locally, with some countries seeking to mandate such regulation
- the fundamental challenge of how to design regulatory institutions that can be effective in today's technological environment

As per tradition, this conference will bring together a group of leaders from academia, government, and industry.



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Content Conference

March 8, 2018

University of Colorado Law School

The fourth annual Silicon Flatirons content-themed conference will examine the Section 512(c) Safe Harbor for Online Service Providers (OSPs). This section of the Copyright Act allows service providers who meet certain criteria to absolve themselves of liability for copyright infringement stemming from content posted by users without their knowledge. This immunity hinges on a regime known as “notice and takedown” (NTD).

In this conference, we will bring together industry leaders, platform executives, artists, academics, and policymakers in a series of panels to consider the following series of inquiries: What exactly does the law say, and why? What are the various concerns around NTD? Is the primary concern still piracy, or have we moved on to concerns around the perceived “value gap” between payments made by 512(c) compliant platforms and others? How effective is NTD anyway? As we shift our focus from P2P to platforms, we’ll consider whether OSPs are really the “new pirates.” We’ll start by asking how OSPs and search engines actually work. As we move toward an app-driven environment, we’ll ask what are the logistical limitations of NTD? What’s next? As we look toward a cooperative future, what lessons can we take from the EU? What can we take to discussion around trade policy and trade negotiations? In the U.S., to what extent are we comfortable with private industry setting the rules?

Community, Creativity, and #GiveFirst

April 2018

University of Colorado Law School

#GiveFirst is an oft-mentioned—and encouraged—approach to entrepreneurial community interactions. #GiveFirst refers to the willingness of an individual to unilaterally help others without securing a guaranteed benefit in return. As author and investor Brad Feld notes, this approach is “not altruistic—you do expect to get things in return—but you don’t set up the relationship to be a transactional one.”

In this annual entrepreneurship-themed conference, Silicon Flatirons will convene entrepreneurs, academics, and investors to analyze #GiveFirst. The conference will examine conditions where a #GiveFirst mentality emerges, how #GiveFirst adapts over time, and ways in which #GiveFirst influences the outcomes in companies as well as throughout the startup community.

This conference will explore three perspectives:

First, the conference will examine entrepreneurial communities and #GiveFirst behaviors. What conditions allow #GiveFirst to emerge as a norm startup interaction? Moreover, where it exists, what determines whether #GiveFirst is maintained or evaporates over time? A body of scholarship, called generalized exchange theory, analyzes similar behaviors. As Robb Willer notes, “Generalized exchange refers to the indirect giving and receiving of benefits among three or more people who belong to the same group, organization, or network.” The conference will consider whether entrepreneurial communities can learn from the study of generalized exchange about ways to nurture and sustain #GiveFirst norms.

Second, the conference will analyze the individual perspective. In particular, how does a strategy and pattern of behavior work out for individuals who embrace #GiveFirst? Wharton Professor Adam Grant’s work, for example, explores how “otherish” habits fare as a professional strategy. The conference will consider the conditions where otherish behaviors work and fail. Finally, informal relationships work well for individuals who are part of a network; does this marginalize individuals who are from groups that are not traditionally part of a startup scene?

Third, the conference will explain how #GiveFirst affects startups and, more specifically, how startups assemble resources and generate innovation. Stanford Professor Woody Powell highlights network alternatives to the classic make vs. buy organizational choices. Further, the work of Harvard Professor Teresa Amabile and University of Rochester Professor Edward Deci underscores the connection between context and creativity. How does #GiveFirst affect creativity and innovation? How does this research inform the organizational structure of startup activity?



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Entrepreneurial Series



AUG 31, 2017

Entrepreneurs Unplugged: Jim Packer, Lionsgate

5:30 - 7:00 PM

SEPT 14, 2017

Crash Course: Employment Law for Startups

5:30 - 7:00 PM

NOV 08, 2017

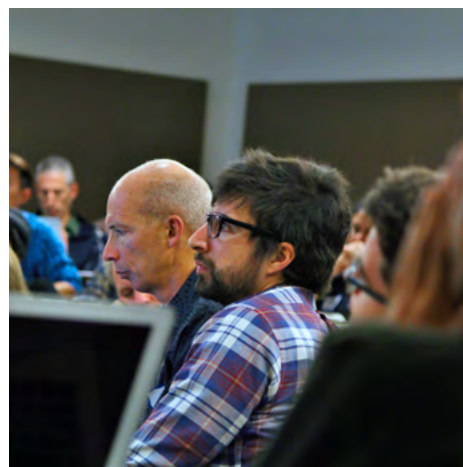
Entrepreneurs Unplugged: Daniel Epstein, Unreasonable Group and Eric Glustrom, Watson University

5:30 - 7:00 PM

NOV 29, 2017

Crash Course: What Fundraising Structure is Right for Our Startup?

5:30 - 7:00 PM



JAN 24, 2018

Entrepreneurs Unplugged: John Levisay, Craftsy

5:30 - 7:00 PM



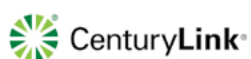


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