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Entrepreneurship Education at Olin College

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Franklin W. **Olin**
College of Engineering

Olin by the Numbers

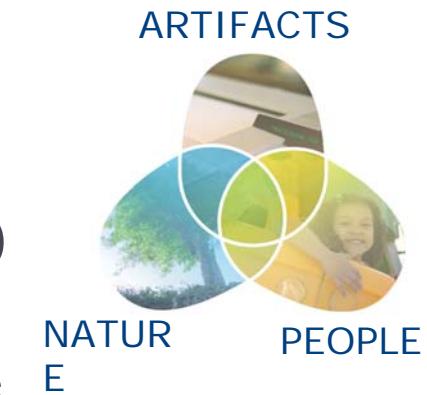
- ▶ Chartered in 1997, first class begins in 2002
- ▶ \$460M endowment to start the college
- ▶ \$130,000 tuition scholarship for all students through 2010
- ▶ 9:1 student-faculty ratio
- ▶ 46% women, 54% men
- ▶ ~300 students
- ▶ 3 ABET accredited degree programs (ME, ECE, E)



- ▶ National Academies Committee on Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine

Entrepreneurship Education at Olin College

- ▶ Required Classes
 - ▶ Fundamentals of Business and Entrepreneurship
 - ▶ User Oriented Collaborative Design
 - ▶ Senior Capstone Project for Engineering (SCOPE)
- ▶ Entrepreneurship Concentration and Capstone
 - ▶ 25% of students choose this option (but 5/20 are women)
 - ▶ 2 additional entrepreneurship/business classes
 - ▶ Technology New Ventures
 - ▶ Entrepreneurship and New Ventures
 - ▶ Negotiations
 - ▶ Business Law
 - ▶ Economics
 - ▶ Social Entrepreneurship
 - ▶ Product Design and Development
 - ▶ Capstone
 - ▶ Advanced, self-designed team or individual project to build and/or execute a plan to bring a new organization, product or service into being



Entrepreneurship Education at Olin College

- ▶ Attitudes
 - ▶ Motivations are extremely passion driven as opposed to end-goal driven
 - ▶ Flexibility
 - ▶ Gender balanced (students and faculty)

- ▶ Supporting Resources
 - ▶ Machine Shop
 - ▶ Olin Foundry
 - ▶ Olin IP Policy
 - ▶ Free summer housing at Olin
 - ▶ Leave of Absence

- ▶ Close Proximity to Babson
 - ▶ Babson Hatchery
 - ▶ Babson business plan competition
 - ▶ Babson summer venture program
 - ▶ Incoming class is 55% women at Babson as well

- ▶ National Academies
 - Committee on Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine

MinderBinder

the foundry

@1795

Bluestem
ENERGY

1
Recipe
Tango

YB

sunbeam

idea Tree
DESIGN

RADENT
networks

Olin College

Entrepreneurship Education at Olin College

- ▶ Lots of women at Olin College
 - ▶ 45% women, 55% in incoming class
- ▶ What do they think about opportunities in entrepreneurship?
 - ▶ "It's not always obvious how to go from an idea you are passionate about to starting a business."
 - ▶ "When we have great ideas, we want to share: have an event, or encourage community involvement."
- ▶ Frustrations
 - ▶ "When at a networking event, I tried to approach people I wanted to talk to. But it's hard to compete with the tall guys in power suits when you are a short Asian woman."
- ▶ What works?
 - ▶ "I was inspired by the women speakers in FBE talking about their first start-ups. They had strong personalities, were risk-takers, driven, extremely self-confident, and enjoyed their autonomy."
- ▶ What more can we do in undergraduate education?
 - ▶ What do you think?

Student Businesses

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► National Academies
Committee on Women in Science, Engineering and Medicine

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