The Double Life of Academic Entrepreneurs

Some faculty (and students) lead a double life to get important research discoveries to market. Hear from several successful academic entrepreneurs about balancing a successful startup company launch and an academic career or pursuing a degree.

[Left] Roger Chamberlain, professor and director of Computer Engineering Programs at Washington University, teaches in the areas of digital systems, parallel processing, computer architecture, embedded systems and reconfigurable logic. He currently works with Exegy Inc., a St. Louis firm he and three other WU professors helped establish to commercialize university technology for fast disk searches. Today Exegy provides products and services to firms in the financial services industry.

[Left] Matthew MacEwan, founder, president and CSO of Retectix LLC, which is located at UMSL’s ITE incubator in St. Louis. By 30 years of age, he had already invented two medical devices — a surgical mesh that speeds healing and a titanium hardware that promotes bone growth in the spine. He has also served as mentor for an UMSL graduate student startup company and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering and an M.D. with clinical specialization in neurosurgery at Washington University.

[Left] Dr. Sheila Grant, professor of biological engineering at Mizzou, is co-founder and CTO of EternoGen and the lead inventor of the company’s NanoMatrix technology; and Luis R. Jimenez, President and COO, EternoGen. The company focuses on tissue repair and regenerative medicine.

[Left] Dr. Wes Harris, professor and associate dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Chris Spilling, professor and chair, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, will discuss their roles in launching Alkymos Inc., a company developing ways to remove toxic Aluminum from feeding solutions for premature infants.

The Story of Schlafly Beer

Tom Schlafly, Chairman of Schlafly Brewing Co. and a partner at Thompson Coburn, co-founded The Saint Louis Brewery in 1991 when the company received the first micro-brewery license issued by the State of Missouri. In 2008, Schlafly became the largest American-owned brewery in St. Louis when InBev purchased Anheuser-Busch. In 2013, Schlafly became the largest American-owned brewery in Missouri when Boulevard Brewery from Kansas City was acquired by a Belgian brewery. Schlafly is now the 44th largest craft brewer in the United States.

Tom Schlafly will tell the story of Schlafly Beer from its early days as a brewpub at the western edge of Downtown St. Louis to where it is today, selling beer in 15 states, including several on the East Coast. After his formal remarks he will entertain questions from the audience. A reception follows from 5 to 6 p.m.