

Successful Tech Talents from UIUC

In our last Newsletter, we wrote that, over the last 15 years, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) has made an incredible progress in building a **vivid high-tech ecosystem** and promoting **tech transfer from academia to the industry**. **Entrepreneurship** flows from the classrooms to **Research Park**, home to 100+ companies and growing.

Rich ecosystems usually have robust research institutions, incentives for entrepreneurship, and available funding. The UIUC ecosystem has now all the required ingredients to keep their talents, preventing them from migrating to other ecosystems such as Silicon Valley, which happened in the past.

To have an idea of the potential for innovation that this ecosystem has going forward, let us take a look at some track record. In fact, many famous tech companies have been founded by UIUC alumni, as the **sample*** below shows:

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD) — Jerry Sanders III (B.S. '58)

Netscape — Eric Bina (B.S. '86, M.S. '88) and Marc Andreessen (B.S. '93)

Oracle Corp — Larry Ellison (**) and Bob Miner (B.S. '63)

PayPal — Luke Nosek (B.S. '96) and Max Levchin (B.S. '97)

IronPort Systems (acquired by Cisco) — Scott Banister (*)

Slide (acquired by Google) — Max Levchin (B.S. '97)

Tesla Motors — Martin Eberhard (B.S. '81, M.S. '83)

Xoom (acquired by Paypal) — Alan Braverman (B.S. '95)

Yammer (acquired by Microsoft) — Alan Braverman (B.S. '95)

Yelp — Russel Simmons (B.S. '98) and Jeremy Stoppelman (B.S. '99)

Youtube (acquired by Google) — Jawed Karim (B.S. '04) and Steve Chen (B.S. '99)

MessageMe (acquired by Yahoo) — Vivek Tatineni (B.S. '06)

This is just a sample of successful companies founded by UIUC alumni. There are many other companies that we did not include here.

Hopefully, UIUC students, faculty, and alumni will follow this legacy and will bring other amazing innovations to life in the coming years.

* Source: "Tech companies started by University of Illinois alum", by Ali Afridi.

<https://medium.com/hack-vc/tech-companies-started-by-university-of-illinois-alumni-6753327a0829#.bz2g1kjby>

** Founder did not complete degree at UIUC.

