



# ANNUAL REPORT

2022 - 2023





# MESSAGE FROM THE *Director*

Dear Friends of the UF Innovation Academy,

I am thrilled to present the Innovation Academy's annual report showcasing another remarkable year of progress and growth.

This year, our continued commitment to providing a well-rounded educational experience has led us to expand our co-curricular offerings. In 2022-2023, we introduced a fall open house for students to learn about our office and the resources available to them. Additionally, we continued our UF in Maynooth Ireland program after a two-year hiatus due to COVID. These initiatives serve as high-impact practices that enrich the lives of our students but have also strengthened our sense of community.

One of our primary goals this year was to strengthen our connection with our IA alum network. I am delighted to report that we have made significant progress in this area. Through targeted outreach, we witnessed a substantial increase in alum engagement within our Summit and Catalyst programs. IA alumna Brooke Garrison gave a keynote address to our Spring graduates. IA alumna Aashi Faldu served as a Catalyst Judge and provided insightful feedback to our first-year students.

We recognize the importance of bridging the gap between academia and industry. Over the past year, we forged a strategic partnership with Cox Enterprise. This partnership resulted in human design workshops for faculty and students, our overall design challenge for our Innovation-in-Action course, support for our top student prizes, and project mentorship that helps prepare our students for successful careers beyond graduation.

Our commitment to providing the best possible support for our students led us to introduce some enhanced advising best practices this year. Our advising team launched a new self-paced advising course, via Canvas, to allow students a deeper more valuable advising experience.

This year, we saw the lowest number of students on academic probation, 4%, and we improved our academic audits and included tracking for our Artificial Intelligence track. Through this enhanced academic advising and career guidance, we ensure that every student receives personalized support tailored to their unique goals and aspirations.

I am proud to announce that our efforts have been noticed. We have experienced a remarkable 22% increase in applications for the 2023 admission cycle. This surge in interest is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, as well as the support of our alums and partners.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past year, our Innovation Academy program is making significant strides toward our vision of becoming a premier program in higher education. However, we understand that there is still much work to be done, and we are committed to providing an exceptional educational experience for all our students.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our alums, partners, faculty, staff, and students for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, we are shaping the future of education and empowering our students to become leaders and innovators in their fields. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to another year of growth and achievement.

Go Gators,

Jeff City, Ed.D.



# UF IA

## BY THE NUMBERS

**1,000+**

IA STUDENTS

**25+**

DIFFERENT MAJORS

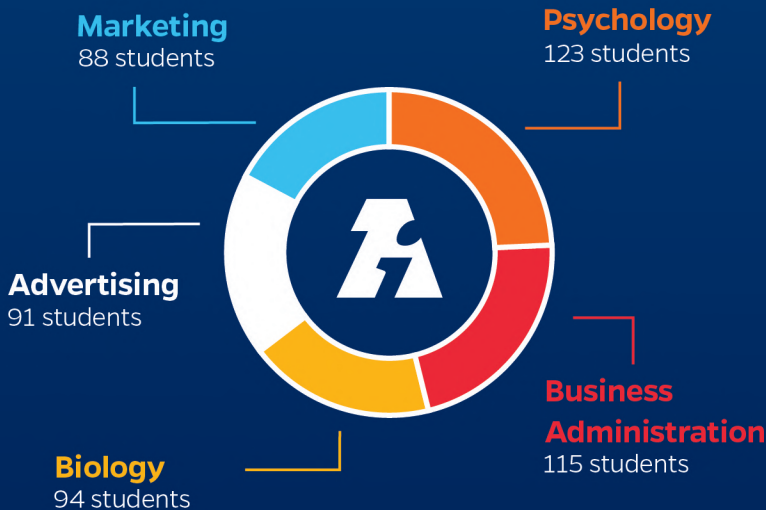
**7**

DIFFERENT COLLEGES

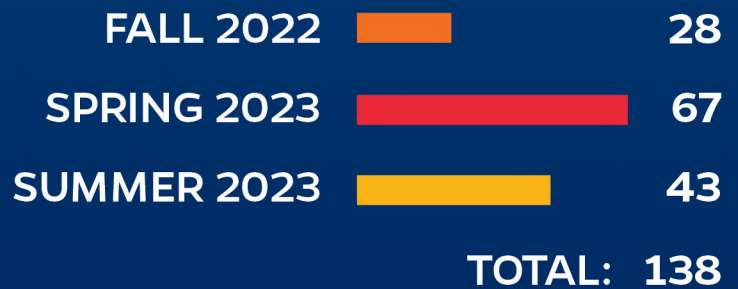
**300+**

PROTOTYPES PITCHED

### TOP 5 MAJORS



### INNOVATION MINOR COMPLETION





# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



## MAYNOOTH

The Innovation Academy encourages students to take advantage of the wonderful study abroad opportunities available to UF students. From September 24 to November 5, 2022, 15 IA students embarked on a six-week, UF faculty-led innovation study abroad program in Maynooth, Ireland. Participating students earned six UF credits as they visited businesses such as Autodesk and Citi, took some exciting cultural excursions, and gained an expanded international experience.

## IGNITE

The Ignite series is an exclusive program intentionally and collaboratively developed by the UF Housing and Innovation Academy teams to help students transition to college during the Fall semester. These weekly sessions enable them to connect with peers and valuable resources on and off campus. Students toured spaces like the UF FabLab and UF Innovate, where they learned about prototyping resources and business incubator services. They also met local business professionals from Opus Coffee, Slice Engineering, the Loss Prevention Research Council, and more.

## IA OPEN HOUSE

The IA team welcomed all pre-enrolled and current IA students to visit the IA office for the IA Open House event in the Fall. Students met the IA team and learned how to check in to advising, where to come to class, and reserve the Pitch Studio. It was a lively event with fun activities, a 3D printer demonstration, and free popcorn for student participants.

**NEW  
PROGRAM!**



# SPRING 2023

## LAUNCH

At IA's exclusive convocation for incoming IA students, UF Alum and Vice Provost for Integrative Learning and Life Design at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Farouk Dey, delivered the keynote address. He prompted students to "adapt and to change with the times" in an ever-changing world full of exciting opportunities and that they should never stop learning during this "fourth industrial revolution." Jaden Nosse, a second-year IA student and Business Administration major, presented a compelling Sophomore Message, encouraging students to take risks, expand their network, and never give up.

## SUSS SCHOLARSHIP

Established by Richard and Dawn Suss, the Suss Family Endowment provides scholarships for Innovation Academy students pursuing a degree from either the Warrington College of Business or the College of Journalism and Communications. Since 2018, the Suss family has been members of the UF Parent and Family Leadership Council and have awarded the scholarship to one IA Business or Journalism and Communications student since 2021.

The Innovation Academy is pleased to announce Calum Clark as the 2023 Suss Scholarship awardee. Calum is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a minor in Innovation and was awarded \$1,350 by Richard and Dawn Suss. IA congratulates Calum on this accomplishment and wishes him every success in his future endeavors!



## IA LOCAL INTERNSHIP

During the fall semesters, IA students can work on projects with ventures in the greater Gainesville community as a part of the UF Innovation Academy Local Internship Experience. This year's partner list included the Cade Museum for Creativity + Invention, ThemeWorks, Inc., the Loss Prevention Research Council, and the United Way of North Central Florida. At the end of the fall semester, student teams presented the outcomes of the team's work on their assigned projects to distinguished guests.

## Innovation Academy ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Successfully navigated the UF curriculum committee process to establish **IDS 1107: Innovation Mindset** as a permanent course.

Introduced **AI-related tools** into IDS 1940 and IDS 4950 for idea generation and brainstorming purposes.

Presented **Academic Integrity workshop** for Ignite Series and enhanced academic integrity message in all classes.



# SPRING SPEAKER SERIES

First-year IA students gathered to hear a talk from Dr. Tony Middlebrooks, a UF Warrington College of Business professor, mid-Spring semester. In an engaging presentation, he discussed the connections between creativity and design thinking with leadership. IA student teams were also challenged in the Creativity and Design Thinking for Innovation course to develop a pitch based on a children's museum design challenge from ThemeWorks, Inc. The team finalists were judged by a panel from the company, who provided valuable insight on how to develop their solutions further.



# SPRING SENIOR PROJECT

IA student teams in the Spring Senior Project faced a unique challenge, **“How might we enhance Alachua County’s premier Live/Work/Play community of the future?”** Students visited San Felasco Tech City’s (SFTC) facilities to gain insight and pitched ten design thinking-based solutions to Mitch Glaeser and his team at SFTC. The SFTC management team recognized two Top Innovator teams for their work.

# SPRING SUMMIT

IA welcomed IA alumna Brooke Garrison as the keynote speaker for the spring Summit ceremony. Brooke Garrison graduated in December 2019 with a degree in Journalism and Communications, and a minor in Innovation. In the years since, she has built a career as a marketing consultant with TEGNA and 10 Tampa Bay, where she continues to utilize the skills she learned in the Innovation Academy daily. In addition to IA Medallions, the Director’s Award was presented to Paul “Trip” Dickison, the Emerging Leader Award to Alexis Barry, the Emerging Innovator Award to Aashi Faldu, and the IA Scholar Award to Madison Wilson.

## ADVISING & ACADEMICS

### IDS 1940: Creativity & Design Thinking for Innovation Fall 2022 in Maynooth

15 students

45 individual innovations

Nine design thinking team projects

The course was redeveloped to integrate improvements made in the on-campus curriculum since the last time the course was offered abroad in 2019 (due to COVID). Assignments were developed to be site-specific to Maynooth, resulting in increased student interaction with the Maynooth University students and town residents. The Maynooth University Department of Design Innovation faculty member; Anthony Cleary granted access to his fabrication lab, and student prototypes were 3D printed. These assignments and the ability to print their 3D-modeled prototypes increased student engagement and produced higher-quality projects.

### IDS 4930: Innovation Mindset Fall 2022 online course

38 students (15 in Maynooth; 23 in US)  
8 design thinking team projects

### IDS 1940: Creativity & Design Thinking for Innovation Spring 2023

975 individual innovations (compared to 960 in 2021)  
225 design thinking team projects (compared to 195 in 2021)  
Partnered with **ThemeWorks** for first-year student design thinking project (3D modeled prototype) – *How might we create an engaging and interactive educational experience for museum patrons?*





# SUMMER 2023



## SUMMER SUMMIT

Summit is the Innovation Academy's Award Ceremony, where eligible IA graduates receive their Innovation Medallion and celebrate with the graduating class. Associate Provost of Undergraduate Affairs Dr. Angela Lindner presented how "All living is encounter: on beauty, roots, and love." She described the importance of knowing who you were, who you are, and who you are becoming, all of which contribute to each student's unique journey. Three IA graduates were recognized with awards: Fiona Hart received the Director's Award, Caitlin Cassady received the Emerging Leader Award, and Mia Ferrante received the IA Scholar Award.



## CATALYST

The Catalyst Summer A and Summer B events serve as a launching point for first-year IA students to take their ideas forward beyond the classroom and apply their innovative solutions to the communities they live in even after the corresponding course, Innovation in Action, ends. IA partnered with COX Enterprises and centered this year's challenge around the question, "How might we reach zero waste at the COX Enterprises campus in Atlanta, Georgia, by 2024?" IA student teams presented over 50 prototypes as potential solutions to the proposed question at this year's 11th annual Catalyst events. Five judges, including IA alumna Aashi Faldu, evaluated the prototypes and presented six awards at each event. The Judge's Choice Awards went to "LoxedIN" and "Chomp-Create," each team received a \$2,000 prize presented by COX Enterprises. Amelia Mauad, Dean Gordon, Jordan Anderson, Hayden Hawes, and Forest Weiss of "LoxedIN" proposed an innovative trash, recycling, and composting receptacle that utilizes NIR spectroscopy and fluorescence sensors to identify and restructure receptacles to reduce waste management at the COX Enterprises campus. Alana Walker, Jacob Brandon, Alex Wohlhueter, Gianna Spadavecchia, and Hallie Hersh of "Chomp-Create" proposed a hydro-powered machine that implements a wood chopper, industrial mixer, and a funnel to produce bags of a revolutionary wood/cement concentrate to cut wooden spool waste.

## ADVISING & ACADEMICS

### IDS 494: IA Internship Fall 2022

14 students (compared to 10 students in 2021)

Local Internship Partners:

- Cade Museum
- Loss Prevention Research Council (LPRC)
- United Way Reading Pals
- ThemeWorks

### IDS 4950: IA Senior Project Spring 2023 - 10 design thinking team projects

Partner: **San Felasco Tech City**

How might we enhance Alachua County's premier Live Work Play community of the future?

Led two field trips to SFTC in spring 2023 to expose all IDS 4950 students to the site.

The SFTC management team recognized two Top Innovator teams for their work.

**Summer 2023** - 5 design thinking team projects

Partner: **Cox Enterprises** in Atlanta, GA

How might we reach zero waste at the Cox Enterprises campus in Atlanta, GA, by 2024?

The Cox Enterprises team recognized one Top Innovator team for their work.

Top 5 teams presented to the following panel of judges at the annual Speaker Series Pitch Competition:

**Ryan Kremser**, VP of Project Development @ ThemeWorks

**Mike Sherburne**, Senior Project Manager @ ThemeWorks/head of internship program

**Carmen Hurtado**, Senior Product Development Manager @ the Cade Museum

**Raymond Rawls**, independent exhibit designer/fabricator, Gainesville, FL

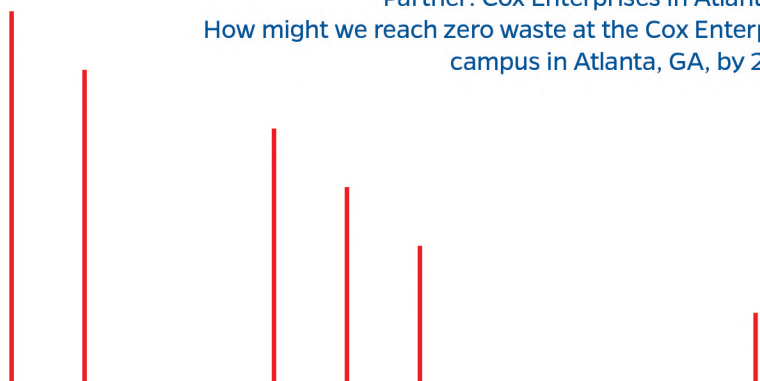
**Callie Adams**, IA Ambassador

### IDS 1359: Innovation in Action Summer 2023

66 Catalyst projects (35 Summer A; 31 Summer B)

Partner: Cox Enterprises in Atlanta, GA

How might we reach zero waste at the Cox Enterprises campus in Atlanta, GA, by 2024?





# SPECIAL Thanks

Our accomplishments this year would not have been possible without the generous support of our partners, and all of the Innovation Academy students and their families.

Dr. Ben Sasse  
President

Dr. J. Scott Angle  
Interim Provost and Senior Vice  
President, Academic Affairs

Dr. Mary Parker  
Vice President,  
Enrollment Management & Associate Provost

Dr. Heather White  
Vice President, Student Life

Dr. Brian Harte  
Interim Provost,  
Teaching & Technology

Dr. Angela Lindner  
Associate Provost,  
Academic Affairs

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UF Division of Enrollment Management  
UF Department of Housing and  
Residence Education  
UF Division of Student Life  
UF Counseling and Wellness Center  
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Dr. Elizabeth Palmer  
Ms. Megan Cantrell  
  
Mr. Jamie Kraft  
Mr. Parker Van Hart  
Ms. Sierra Calhoun-Pollard  
  
Mr. Daniel Stepp  
Ms. Amy Freeman  
Dr. Emily Brooks  
Mr. Dylan Forest Gamble  
Mr. Mitch Glaeser

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences  
College of Education  
College of Design, Construction and Planning  
San Felasco Tech City  
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering  
Loss Prevention Resource Council  
College of Journalism and Communications  
IA Curriculum & Advisory Committees  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Themeworks  
Warrington College of Business  
Cox Enterprises, Slice Engineering, Cade  
Museum for Creativity and Invention

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ON GIVING TO IA

PLEASE CONTACT:

**Dr. Jeff City**  
Director, UF Innovation Academy  
jcitty@aa.ufl.edu

**Matthew Fiore**  
Assistant Director of Development,  
University Initiatives  
mfiore@ufl.edu

**UF** Innovation Academy  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

321 Infirmary Building  
Gainesville, Florida 32611  
innovationacademy.ufl.edu  
(352) 294 - 1785

-  @UF\_IA
-  /UFInnovationAcademy
-  @ufinnovationacademy
-  /school/university-of-florida-innovation-academy/
-  /UFInnovationAcademy

