

# Alumni Highlights

July-September 2021

tsai center for  
innovative  
thinking

## Alumni teams move onward and upward:

This summer, a number of alumni teams hit major milestones with their ventures. **KovaDx** (co-founded by **Song Kim MBA '20** and **Tim Adamson GRD '24**) received a [\\$256,000 grant](#) from the National Science Foundation to develop a red blood cell health index to monitor sickle cell disease. **ReRent** (founded by **Alikiah Barclay MBA '20**) became one of ten startups to earn a spot in the 2021 class of [Techstars Atlanta](#). **Kelewele** (founded by **Rachel Laryea GRD '23**) opened its first location at Dekalb Market Hall in Brooklyn, earning a feature in the [New York Times](#). **Spring Health**, the mental health startup (co-founded by **April Koh YC '16** and **Adam Chekroud PhD '18**) raised a \$190 million series C at a \$2 billion valuation as described in [Forbes](#) – making April Koh the youngest woman to run a unicorn. **Betty Tang (SOM '22)**, founder of **Upright**, gets named as one of [Forbes' Next 1000](#). And **Thermaband** co-founder **Markea Dickinson MBA '20** was selected for the [inaugural cohort of The New C-Suite](#), a partnership between Cosmopolitan and digitalundivided celebrating and supporting BIPOC women founders.

**\$190M**  
series C  
funding raised

## Impactful insights from community leaders:

Tsai CITY's mentorship efforts included reflections from different community members like **Anjelica Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Tsai CITY's faculty director**, [who emphasized](#) that a diversity of people, ideas, interests, and experiences is what spurs scientific and technological innovation. Alumna **Ellen Su YC '13** (co-founder of **Wellinks**) [encouraged students](#) to network and get to know different groups of people, and to take advantage of all the resources Yale has to offer – including our space. In a [recent blog post](#), current student **Fanta Traore SOM '22**, founder of **The Sadie Collective**, shared the importance of cultivating personal wellness and self-care when beginning the entrepreneurial journey.



Image via [Kelewele](#)

## Tsai CITY thought leadership:

Not only are our program alumni doing incredible things, but Tsai CITY staff are positioning themselves as leaders in the E&I space. After months of planning, **Ye Qin Zhu's MFA '20** citywide [installation and public participation](#), ten "Diary Disks," was installed near New Haven's City Hall for pedestrians to engage with. Zhu's latest project, "Constellation," formed part of the Inventgenuity Festival on Governors Island and was featured in the [New York Times](#). In addition, **Laura Mitchell Tully**, former Communications and Creative Director, co-authored a report on integrating DEI practices, as part of VentureWell's Advancing Equity project, "[Transforming Programs Through an Equity Lens](#)".



Image via [Diary Disks](#)

These teams have connected not just with Tsai CITY, but with Yale's broader ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation. Learn more about this ecosystem: [entrepreneurship.yale.edu](#)

To learn more about Tsai CITY:  
[city.yale.edu](#)  
[city.support@yale.edu](#)