

Alumni Highlights

January-March 2023

tsai center for
innovative
thinking



Markea Dickinson-Frasier (SOM '20), co-founder of Thermaband. Photo courtesy of LinkedIn.

Alumni teams get mainstream exposure

Tsai CITY alumni were featured in major media outlets. 2021 Summer Fellowship Program participant [Rachel Laryea \(GSAS '21\)](#), founder of [Kelewele](#), a cultural lifestyle brand reimagining plantains in its commitment to connecting the African diaspora through food, culture, and innovation, was recently featured on [Snapchat's MarketWatch Show](#). [Markea Dickinson-Frasier \(SOM '20\)](#), co-founder of [Thermaband](#) – a health and wellness company empowering menopausal women with personal comfort on demand through a cooling/warming wearable, was featured in [Nasdaq](#) as one of the “Black Women Leaders to Watch During Black History Month and Beyond.” Additionally, Thermaband was selected as a [MedTech Color 2023 Pitch Competition](#) finalist.

Ventures moving onward toward opportunity

In February 2023, [Aspecta](#), founded by [Zongjian \(Jack\) He \(GSAS '22\)](#), a tech company that builds an AI-generated identity, [proudly partnered with TreeHacks](#), Stanford University's premier hackathon and one of the world's largest hackathons, as the exclusive technology partner. [Alexia Akbay \(SPH '19\)](#), founder of [Symbrosia](#), a CleanTech startup, [shared her plan to scale up and produce commercially](#) after a boost in funding.

Reflecting on impact, at Yale and beyond

Alumni and Tsai CITY leaders recently reflected on the impact of Yale's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. Former Tsai CITY Portfolio Manager, [Prannoy Nambiar \(SOM '19\)](#), summarizes his learning on being a first-time founder in this [article](#). Listen to [Ariana Day Yuen \(SOM '19\)](#), founder of [Forested](#), a venture on a mission to conserve the world's most biodiverse ecosystems around the Global South, talk about their work with “Farm to Future” on [Spotify](#). Meanwhile, [Clare Leinweber](#), executive director at Tsai CITY, affirms our continuing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in this LinkedIn [article](#). And our [Venture Advisors](#), Tsai CITY's team of entrepreneurs and investors who are experts in the process of early-stage venture creation, [discuss their work supporting student founders](#).



Tsai CITY Venture Advisors (left to right: Justin Silver, Margaret Cartiera, Clare Leinweber (Tsai CITY Executive Director), and Daniel Acheampong)

To learn more about Tsai CITY visit: city.yale.edu

These teams have connected not just with Tsai CITY, but with Yale's broader ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation. Learn more about this ecosystem at: <https://ventures.yale.edu>