Starting with Black History Month. In our ENTP 340: Inclusive Innovation class, we kicked off Black History Month hearing the entrepreneurial stories of four inspiring black women founders. In this class, we started a conversation with black women founders telling their true life stories that we change the narrative on who gets to become a successful entrepreneur, business founder, innovator, and changemaker in America.

Nichole Wilson, entrepreneur, business founder, innovator, and changemaker in America. Increasing the number of females interested in STEAM-related careers. Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Art and Math (S.T.E².A.M.) with a goal of founding an organization whose mission is to instill a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in children and youth.

Jemia Cunningham-Elder ’09, CEO and co-founder of Black-owned tech start-up, 14 Allergens. This company was co-founded in 2016, and makes, markets, and sells delicious food that is free from the most common allergens, corn, and sugar so that people can enjoy it, together, regardless of dietary restrictions. In 2021, Jemia was named one of the Top 25 Women in Tech by the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) and one of the Top 10 Black Women Entrepreneurs to watch by Black Enterprise.

Chamilla Banks, entrepreneur, business founder, innovator, and changemaker in America. By Cece Symone, a brand that celebrates all fashion forward women and girls of color. As an entrepreneur and a mom of two young black boys, Chamilla understands first-hand the importance of being well dressed and the power of a confident look. She founded Chamilla Banks LLC as the parent company for Cece Symone in 2013.

Karen Jones, entrepreneur, business founder, innovator, and changemaker in America. A parent with a passion for networking, diversity, and education. Parenting with intention. Owner of True Remove. Karen is the CEO and founder of TrueRemove, a digital marketing and advertising company with a focus on empowering women and minority-owned businesses through strategic partnerships, paid media, creative advertising, and social media strategy.

We did our very best to stay quiet during the campus-wide quiet period, but you know we can’t stay quiet for long in ENTP. We have too much to share and we are too excited about this incredible group of entrepreneurs! We hope you will join us next week in celebrating black entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial journeys of Nichole, Jemia, Chamilla, and Karen. If you are a student and you are invited to attend our Black History Month celebration, we hope to see you there!

Celebrate the Achievements of Black Entrepreneurs

In August and September 2021, we will be hosting a series of virtual events to celebrate the achievements of black entrepreneurs. Stay tuned to our email list for more information on these events.

rules of the new economy

In the book Rules of the New Economy, Shomari Wills argues that Black people have always been part of the American economy and have contributed to the growth of the country. Wills notes that Black people have been at the forefront of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout American history. He cites examples of successful Black entrepreneurs such as Madam C.J. Walker, who was the first self-made female millionaire in the United States.

Madame C.J. Walker

Madam C.J. Walker was a remarkable woman who was ahead of her time. She was born into slavery in 1867 and worked hard to build a successful beauty empire. Over the course of her lifetime, she brought 20,000 other Black women into the beauty industry. She was a role model for other Black women and proved that with hard work, determination, and a willingness to take risks, anyone can achieve success.

The Tanning of America: How Hip-Hop Created a Culture That Rewrote the Slavery and Became Millionaires

In The Tanning of America: How Hip-Hop Created a Culture That Rewrote Slavery and Became Millionaires, Shomari Wills explores the role of hip-hop in shaping American culture. He argues that hip-hop has been used to rewrite the narrative of slavery and has become a source of wealth and success for many Black people.

Rules of the New Economy

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In partnership with Vox Media Studios and Vox, this enlightening explainer series will take viewers deep into the world of Black entrepreneurship and the role of hip-hop in shaping American culture. In this episode, we explore the impact of hip-hop on the entertainment industry and how it has been used to rewrite the narrative of slavery and create wealth for Black people.

Black Fortunes: The Story of the First Six African Americans Who Escaped Slavery and Became Millionaires

In Black Fortunes: The Story of the First Six African Americans Who Escaped Slavery and Became Millionaires, Shomari Wills tells the stories of six Black people who were able to escape slavery and become millionaires. He notes that these people were able to build successful businesses and make a difference in American society.

We encourage you to check out the following books to learn more about the history of Black entrepreneurship and the role of hip-hop in shaping American culture.

Rules of the New Economy

The Tanning of America: How Hip-Hop Created a Culture That Rewrote Slavery and Became Millionaires

Black Fortunes: The Story of the First Six African Americans Who Escaped Slavery and Became Millionaires

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