Ideation & Innovation

Hubert John Abiera has over a decade of experience in product development in consumer and medical technologies. He has launched a plethora of low to high volume products in both small startups and large companies. In addition to being the first engineer hired at FORME, he led the product development team that took a product from an early concept design to full launch. Hubert holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, focused in Mechatronics, from San Jose State University and is currently in grad school part time at CU Boulder for M.E. Engineering Management, focusing on Finance.

Mel Day is a Canadian interdisciplinary artist, former college athlete, art lecturer in the Department of Art & Art History at San José State University, and co-founder of The Wall of Song Project, a participatory art and civic singing platform. Recent work explores the power of art, sport, and the rituals of collective singing for women's athletics and social change efforts with the Institute for the Study of Sport, Society & Social Change, Francique Sport & Education, among others. Day has shared her work with venues including the Provident Credit Union Event Center, San José Institute of Contemporary Art, Grace Cathedral, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (San Francisco) and Berkeley Art Museum.

Alvin Cho is the Vice President of Product & Engineering for Digital Innovation and Transformation at Fiserv. He is experienced in creating enterprise products from inception to market and has been directly involved in every phase of the product lifecycle. His work has ranged from AIOps, Open Banking to developer experiences. His goal is to be able change businesses, lives and the world around him for the better.

Abby Queale is the Director of SJSU's Office of Innovation. She is a registered patent attorney and is published in both the legal and engineering fields. Abby began her career in technology transfer at Florida State University (FSU) as Associate General Counsel and Senior Licensing Manager. Bitten by the entrepreneurial bug, Abby went on to lead MagCorp, a technology development partner of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, as its founding CEO and developed a new model for technology development partnerships between the public and private sectors. Abby loves playing and watching sports and is a Disney Parks aficionado who loves helping family and friends plan their trips.

Professor Ahmed Banafa has extensive experience in research, operations and management, with a focus on IoT, Blockchain, Cybersecurity and AI. He is the recipient of a Certificate of Honor from the City and County of San Francisco, and an Author & Artist Award 2019 from San Jose State University. Banafa is a member of the MIT Technology Review Global Panel. He is the author of the books: Secure and Smart Internet of Things (IoT) using Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Blockchain Technology and Applications, as well as a Quantum Computing book forthcoming in 2023. He studied Electrical Engineering at Lehigh University, Cybersecurity at Harvard University and Digital Transformation at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).