



seems that chance plays a central role, but, in the words of Louis Pasteur, "Chance favors the prepared mind."

While some elements of this story are timeless, others could only have taken place in the 21st century. A car mechanic watches a YouTube video produced somewhere else in the world and uses that as a key link in his invention. YouTube did not even exist 10 years ago. Knowledge has been transformed by the lightning fast communication of information around the world.

Just coming up with an idea is not enough; I am sure that many of you have come up with world-changing ideas talking with friends late at night in your dorm room. What also mattered here was the persistence of the car mechanic, teamwork, and the network of real, not virtual, relationships that connected him in four steps to exactly the person in the world who could help put his idea into reality.

There are Pomona College stories about creativity and innovation that illustrate the same principles I have been discussing. When I was traveling in India with my family over the New Year holiday, I opened the local paper in the town of Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) and saw an article about how a local young entrepreneur had helped to develop a new and affordable infant warmer for newborn premature babies. The article described how a team of four had met at Stanford, traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal, where they witnessed the immense need firsthand, then came up with a new concept, tested it, and is now manufacturing the device in India and

being educators, helping to prepare students to work together and come up with new ideas with world-changing potential in every field.