'Park & Diamond' Takes Top e-Fest Prize

James Beal (EIX.org | e-Fest® | FamilyBusiness.org)

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e-Fest® Information
For 2018 e-Fest® info, click here (https://eiexchange.com/e-fest).

e-Fest® 2017
MINNEAPOLIS, April 9, 2017 – The finals judges returned their decision last night, after an excellent competition. The overall finals champion undergraduate student teams for e-Fest 2017 are:

#1 ($100K) - Team Park & Diamond, Virginia Tech

#2 ($50K) - Team Eat Your Coffee, Northeastern University

#3 ($25K) - Team Yellow Card, Auburn University

Along with these top three, others recognized among the top five finalists included Team Orindi Ventures (Grand Valley State University) and Team PeeWee Packs (Grove City College). A list of all 25 semi-finalist inventions is below.

The competition awarded more than $200,000 in grants and scholarships for the best undergraduate business ideas. Finalist teams were chosen from a pool of more than 160 teams from 81 schools who submitted seven-minute videos and 12 slides describing their business ideas. A panel of 32 judges selected the finalists, who received travel stipends and hotel accommodations for the final round.

The largest undergraduates-only business plan competition (as measured by the size of the cash awards), e-Fest is co-sponsored by the Schulze School of Entrepreneurship (http://www.stthomas.edu/business/schulze-school/), Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas, in Minneapolis and EIX.org (https://eiexchange.com/), an online learning platform for entrepreneurs, students and professors. Featured speakers April 6-8 included Best Buy Co. founder Richard M. Schulze and "Shark Tank" TV show regular Daymond John, founder of FUBU, the urban clothing company that grew into a $6 billion brand.

The top three teams received $100,000, $50,000 and $25,000 in prizes. An additional $10,000, $5,000 and $2,500 in grants went to their universities to support entrepreneurship education. A Friday night Innovation Challenge awarded $20,000, $10,000 and $5,000 in scholarships to the top three student teams that developed the best solution to a business challenge posed that evening.

More information about the competition, including rules and rubrics for judging, can be found here (https://eiexchange.com/e-fest).

The competition will take place at the Schulze School, located at 1000 LaSalle Avenue in Minneapolis.

2017 e-Fest Finalists

**Boost**
Linguistics
Team: Ethan Bresnahan, Alex Dodson, Jeff Nowak
Advisor: Chuck Sacco
Philadelphia, PA

**Drexel University**

**Caddy-Clean**
Quinnipac University
Team: Joshua Macari, Kyle Freitas
Advisor: Dale Jasinski
Hamden, CT

**University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign**

**Convey**
Software
Team: William Widjaja, Cody Pawlowski
Advisor: Chase Bonhag
Champaign, IL

**Northeastern University**

**Eat Your Coffee**
Team: Johnny Fayad, Ali Kothari
Advisor: Kimberly Eddleston Boston MA

Expression Med University of St Thomas (MN)
Team: Meghan Advisor: Laura Minneapolis MN
Sharkus Dunham

FinMoto University of St Thomas (MN)
Team: Sam Advisor: Laura Minneapolis MN
Rystrom Dunham

GeoSwap University of Delaware
Team: Jason Advisor: Vincent Newark DE
Bamford, Keith DiFelice
Doggett, Jordan Gonzalez

Green Blox College of Charleston
Team: Joshua Advisor: Kelly Charleston SC
Weston Shaver

In Our Hands University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
Team: Abigail Advisor: Colleen Oshkosh WI
Merrill Merrill

Jacket360 Western Michigan University
Team: Nicolas Advisor: Lara Kalamazoo MI
Theoret, Brandon Hobson
Chiddester

Level Western Kentucky University
Team: Muamer Advisor: Dawn Bowling Green KY
Razic Bolton

NextStep University of New Hampshire
Team: Sam Advisor: Andrew Durham NH
Warach, Tj Earle
Evarts, Max Miller

Orindi Grand Valley State University
Team: Jordan Advisor: Kevin Grand Rapids MI
Vanderham, Zoe Mccurren
Bruyn

Park & Diamond Virginia Tech
Team: David Advisor: Dick Blacksburg VA
Hall, Jordan Klein Daugherty

PeeWee Packs Grove City College
Team: Hannah Advisor: Yvonne Grove City PA
Vaccaro, Ross English

Phlex University of Florida
xGoggles
Team: Luke Advisor: Michael Gainesville FL
Torres Morris

Sensor4Safe Seton Hill University
Team: H Advisor: Lyzona Greensburg PA
Fitzgerald Marshall
Robertson II, Austin Sheridan, Melanie Ansell, Dhiraj Totwani

Simplifeye NC State University
Team: Cortney Advisor: Lewis Raleigh NC
Cox Sheats

SpeechMaste Western Michigan University
Team: Daniel Advisor: Lara Kalamazoo MI
Floyd Hobson

Strokeflow Johns Hopkins University
Team: Sam Advisor: Phil Baltimore MD
Einhorn, Zach Phan
Bredl, Emily
Hadley, Sofia Diez

Tibah Binghamton University
Team: David Advisor: Ken Binghamton NY
Axelrod, Mauricio Mcleod
Moraes

Torridity University of Wisconsin - Madison
Instrument Heating Solutions LLC
Team: Lizzy Advisor: Michael Madison WI
Svigelj, Austin Williams
Kyle, Zach
Klayman

Upright Kids University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh
Team: Dylan Advisor: Jordan Oshkosh WI
Parks, Brad Ploch Rhodes

Vowel Inc. Babson College
About the e-Fest Speakers

Dick Schulze founded Best Buy Co. in 1983, and as CEO for 19 years led it to become the dominant consumer electronics retailer in the U.S. The company’s 2015 revenue was $40 billion. Through the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation, Schulze has continued to fund initiatives that support education, human & social services, and health & medicine.

Daymond John is a regular of the ABC weekly television show Shark Tank, which received the 2015 and 2014 Emmy Awards for Outstanding Structured Reality Programming. The show features entrepreneurs who present their business concepts to a panel (John, a fashion and branding expert who founded the FUBU clothing company; billionaire Mark Cuban; real estate mogul Barbara Corcoran; Lori Greiner, known as “The Queen of QVC”; tech innovator Robert Herjavec; and venture capitalist Kevin O’Leary). The show is in its eighth season.

About the Schulze School of Entrepreneurship

The Schulze School of Entrepreneurship (http://www.stthomas.edu/business/schulze-school/) is based at the Opus College of Business at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis. It is the only of its kind within a business school, providing undergraduate and graduate entrepreneurship programs, public entrepreneurial and business education, and opportunities for funding new ventures. Innovators, serial entrepreneurs, small businesses, change makers and future business leaders come together in this hub of entrepreneurial thinking to recognize, explore and exploit opportunities. The Schulze School’s centers and institutes provide consulting, networking and small business incubators to help launch new endeavors and further solidify established ones. It serves 221 undergraduates who are majoring in entrepreneurship and nearly 400 who have taken entrepreneurship courses.

About EIX

Launched in 2014, Entrepreneur & Innovation Exchange (EIX.org) is a free online publication and learning platform that aims to dramatically improve the success rate of new business ventures. Dedicated to entrepreneurship students, professors and practitioners, EIX is funded by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. It is designed to advance and share the best research and practice of entrepreneurship, and make it relevant and accessible to both aspiring and practicing entrepreneurs. Dozens of universities have made it part of their entrepreneurship curricula.

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