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Congratulations to Entrepreneurial Student Rachel Paule

November 26, 2014

We are excited to send BIG congratulations to Entrepreneur student Rachel Paule, this year's recipient of the Leonard and Betty Blount Scholarship.

We first met Rachel at our 3 Day Startup in February. Teams voted on business ideas they found interesting. Three potential fashion apps were combined into one team. Rachel's fashion app helps users determine what to wear based on a database of what they own, where they are going, and the current weather report. This app became known as Sweater Weather.

Although Sweater Weather did not win the 3DS competition, Rachel reached out to the Georgia Southern Incubator for guidance. Rachel and her team are developing the fashion app. Rachel and the Sweater Weather team has great resources for app development and coding. The problems with development began with creating a database of clothing. The Incubator team helped find potential companies with basic clothes such as t-shirts, shorts, long sleeved, or pants rather than focusing on brands. Still, issues arose in trying to make connections for rights to use photographs of the clothing.

The incubator team then worked to connect Rachel with indie clothing designer and Georgia Southern alumni, Emily Bargeron. Emily owns Mamie Ruth and was excited about the opportunity to help Rachel with her Sweater Weather database.

Rachel is still pursuing the Sweater Weather app and is hopeful to start beta testing in 2015.

Rachel is also the President of the Georgia Southern Service Learning Advisory Board. She has been actively engaged in student leadership since becoming a student at Southern.

Rachel also works part-time while pursuing her degrees. She continues to impress us with her ability to manage so many tasks while maintaining a full class load. We look forward to Rachel's bright future and helping her in her entrepreneurial ventures.

Global Entrepreneurship Week Ends with BIG Cornhole Catapult Ringers

November 26, 2014

Another great Global Entrepreneurship Week is in the books. The week started off wonderfully with the Mayor's proclamation, read by Councilman Boyum. The proclamation gave a brief summary of Global Entrepreneurship Week as an initiative aimed at young people all over the world to connect, inspire, mentor, and engage the next generation of entrepreneurs.

This proclamation is just one of the many ways that the City of Statesboro continues to show support for all the efforts of the Business Innovation Group at City Campus. We are thankful to have the City of Statesboro as our partner.

The week continued with lectures from area experts. Ron Kirby gave a motivational talk on Wednesday evening about leadership and guiding a team after which we enjoyed an intimate networking event on Wednesday at Eagle Creek Brewery. We rounded out speakers on Thursday morning with our first webcast ProBid procurement session featuring Gulfstream.

The highlight of the week definitely came at the end with our first ever BIG Maker Day on Saturday. This was our first attempt at a maker faire type event. The purpose was to build excitement and intrigue of what's to come with the area's first Digital Fabrication Laboratory. BIG Maker Day landed on the heels of the One Georgia grant award which will help to fund the equipment for the FabLab.

Regular Farmer's Market grazers wandered over to see what the excitement was all about. Spectators were amazed by sample products, provided by Technical Training Aids, made by a 3D printer similar to what will be available when the FabLab opens. Kids also enjoyed constructing Build and Grow kits provided by Lowes.

Spectators and attendees alike were especially captivated by the BIG Cornhole Catapult workshop and competition. Eight teams showed up at 9 am Saturday morning to begin constructing catapults. The Maven Makers of Savannah, Ty Donaldson and Tim Cone, brought lumber and other materials, giving each team the same 'kit' to make their catapult with. It was especially intriguing to watch as teams got creative and made modifications in hope of increasing their chances of winning.

Teams ranged from middle school aged kids to hobbyists and professionals. BIG thanks to all the teams who participated: M Squared, The Bright Knights, Statesboro High School, The Lobbits, Boro Take Out, Spencer and the Red Beards, Trubert, and Team Brodie.

M Squared seemed to have a pretty accurate catapult during first adjustments. They experimented by adding more weight to gain distance, but had a devastating malfunction when the load became too much for the bucket to hold. They recovered well and had a good showing in the three rounds of general competition.

The rest of the teams had a few hits here and there landing a bag or two on the boards. They all had their fair share of misses as well. Spencer and the Red Beards, led by Councilman Boyum placed third.

Their catapult seemed deadly accurate, but a little too much arc resulted in bags hitting and bouncing off the board.

Trubert and Team Brodie found themselves in a sudden death fourth round match. Both teams tied with five points each at the end of round three. Trubert, consisting of Robert Faller and True West, landed one more bag in sudden death. However, it was Team Brodie that went home with the bounty by landing two bags. Congratulations to Cleve, Lori, and Bryce Kinard and Austin Lasota for taking home the first place chalice.

BIG thanks to everyone involved. A special thanks to Sea Island Bank for providing tailgate chairs and Robert Faller for making a beautiful set of custom cornhole boards for the winners. Most of all thanks to our outstanding volunteers and staff at City Campus and to the Maven Makers for creating custom chalices for the winners and moderating such an enjoyable event in Downtown Statesboro. We appreciate all the support and look forward to building upon this momentum to cultivate the creative culture in our region.

Funding Secured for Georgia Southern City Campus

FabLab Equipment

November 26, 2014

The Business Innovation Group at Georgia Southern University is pleased to announce the receipt of funds from an Equity Award granted by the OneGeorgia Authority. OneGeorgia is a program that has merged with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs becoming a financial partner for economic development in Georgia. They recently announced their decision to grant a \$500,000 OneGeorgia Equity Award for the advancement of workforce development in the Statesboro-Bulloch County region. The project, titled "Statesboro-Bulloch Regional Career and Workforce Initiative," involves Georgia Southern University, the Development Authority of Bulloch County and Ogeechee Technical College. The grant will assist with the purchase of equipment, software, and machinery necessary to support economic growth and a work ready labor force; leveraging the expertise of Georgia Southern University and Ogeechee Technical College by supporting business startups and workforce training.

At City Campus, the funding received from the OneGeorgia Authority Equity Fund coupled with additional funds from Georgia Southern University will be used to secure computers, two types of 3-D printers, a mig welder, CNC plasma cutter, and other rapid prototyping equipment for the Innovation Incubator and Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab).

The programs in City Campus are coordinated by the Georgia Southern University Business Innovation Group (BIG) located in downtown Statesboro and encompass departments of the College of Business Administration, including the Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED), the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), and the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership (CELL). "This support will go a long way in helping us make the FabLab a reality," said Dominique Halaby, director for the Center for Entrepreneurial Learning and Leadership. "The State's investment is the perfect complement to investments already made by the City of Statesboro and the U.S. Economic Development Administration."

The Innovation Incubator and FabLab is a joint venture between Georgia Southern University, the Downtown Statesboro Development Authority, City of Statesboro, Statesboro Arts Council, and the Economic Development Administration. The project is associated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) established Global FabLab Network. The incubator is designed to create sustainable jobs, increase the number of local businesses, and improve and diversify the economic drivers in coastal Georgia. Once completed, the FabLab and Incubator will serve the community as a hub for creativity and small business innovation. Citizens will be able to take their ideas from conception to prototype in one place.