

October 8, 2014

Finalists named for Fort Worth business plan competition - *by Betty Dillard*

A list of 22 semi-finalists for the 2014 Fort Worth Business Plan Competition has been narrowed to three finalists.

The three local small business finalists in the fourth annual competition – sponsored by the Fort Worth Business Assistance Center (BAC), Capital One Bank and The Alternative Board – are Boyd Construction Services LLC, Janz Hair & Fashion Jewelry Gallery LLC and Rich Aviation Services & Fort Worth Flight Center.

The trio of finalists is vying for cash and prizes valued at more than \$75,000 and will make their presentations before judges on Oct. 30 at Texas Christian University.

Boyd Construction provides general contracting services for non-residential construction projects.

A startup, Janz Hair & Fashion Jewelry Gallery offers hair extension, and fashion and jewelry image consultant services.

Rich Aviation Services is located at Meacham International Airport in Fort Worth and provides flight training through FAA-certified instructors to students within Texas and outlying states.

The BAC launched the business plan competition to provide an opportunity for small businesses operating in Tarrant County to develop a business plan while receiving six weeks of training and coaching on strengthening their business.

Tickets to the Oct. 30 final presentations and awards program at the Dee J. Kelley Alumni Center, located at 2820 Stadium Drive, are \$20. The ticket includes admittance to the 5:30-8 p.m. event and refreshments.

Scott Sherwin, president of SalesMastery Consultants Inc., an authorized licensee of Sandler Training, will keynote the event with his address, “What you know CAN hurt your business.” He will discuss why people really do business with one another, the essential “rules” that can guarantee success and the three words that increase value in business.

Other sponsors of the Fort Worth Business Plan Competition are SalesMastery Consultants/Sandler Training and the Fort Worth Business Press. Additional support is provided by B2B CFO, Solomon Bruce, the TCU Neeley School of Business MBA Program, SCORE and Tarrant Small Business Development Center.



October 24, 2014

TCU alumna brings hard-hitting documentary to campus – *by Amanda Hernandez*

“My mom’s body was maimed... I was numbed. I couldn’t understand how they could kill her... My entire family was killed. I had 11 brothers. No one is alive besides me.”

This is a testimony by Jean-Baptiste Ntakirutimana, a genocide survivor featured in the documentary “Beyond Right and Wrong: Stories of Justice and Forgiveness.”

The Center for International Studies put on a film screening in the auditorium of the Brown-Lupton University Union Wednesday night. The film’s message: forgiveness.

The film was brought to campus by TCU alumna Erin Griffin [BBA ‘10], the film’s global impact producer, in part with the Center for International Services. Griffin said this film was brought to TCU to raise awareness about this global issue and to inspire students to use their education to make a difference.

“It is crucial that we listen and learn from one another to stop the cycle of pain, hatred and violence,” Griffin said. “It is important to expose ourselves to the world's most brutal stories that result in forgiveness and new life so that we can begin the conversation that leads to reconciliation.”

The documentary follows individuals in Rwanda, Northern Ireland and Israel-Palestine whose lives have been torn apart by violence and their journey of choosing to forgive rather than hate those who killed their loved ones.

“You could say lots of things [to describe this film], you could say powerful, emotional, daunting, but the word that most comes to mind is necessary,” said Tracy Rundstrom Williams, associate director of the Center for International Services. “This is a film that we need to watch.”

Griffin was joined by Dr. Ray Pfeiffer, associate dean of the Neeley School of Business, and Dr. Mark Dennis, associate professor of East Asian Religions, in a panel following the film screening. Among the topics of discussion was the effect of religion in global conflicts and how individuals in the business world can do their part to prevent them.

Williams echoed the main idea of the film, which is that the way to peace is not through the never-ending cycle of hatred and retaliation, but through reconciliation and forgiveness.

“It’s pretty hard for us to wrap our minds around the idea of forgiving someone that literally tears our family apart and does the worst thing that you can imagine,” Williams said. “The way to move forward is to figure out methods of forgiveness and reconciliation, and working together in cooperation.”



October 24, 2014

Business students to partner with Hunters for the Hungry— *by Shelby Frazier*

Three juniors in the Neeley School of Business's BNSF Next Generation Leadership Program are parenting with Hunters for the Hungry (HFTH) to enlighten students about how hunting can help local families.

Hunters for the Hungry is a national organization that works with hunters who want to donate excess venison to food banks. The organization at TCU will not only be donating venison but all types of game that are brought to them.

“HFTH is a national organization, but this is the first time it is being brought to a university campus and being promoted to students,” said Molina. “We want to bring in people from all different backgrounds, perspectives and mindsets and see what they can bring to this organization.”

Anthony Molina, Robbie Blair and Chris Hiemenz are the business majors in Next Gen that are working on developing a student organization affiliated with Hunters for the Hungry. Their plan is to take excess game meat such as, fish, deer and birds and donate it to local food banks. Food banks number one request is for protein but it is the most expensive and most difficult food item to acquire, said Molina.

“There is a need for the killing of a certain amount of animals to keep a balanced eco system,” said Molina. “We are hoping people will want to donate their extra game for a good cause.”

The students are teaming up with the environmental science department and the accounting department to gain multiple perspectives on how to give back to the community in the most efficient and beneficial way. They also are in the process of gaining sponsors from larger chain hunting stores like Academy and local hunting stores around the Metroplex.

Molina said that one in five families in Texas struggle to put enough food on the table and that was the driving factor in their decision to partner with Hunters for the Hungry. He said since the program's inception over 20 years ago, it has provided over two million pounds of meat to Texans. Some self-proclaimed hunting enthusiast students are saying the idea behind the partnership may have great merit.

"I think the idea of donating the leftover meat to families and food banks in need is not only a great idea but a beautiful way to help out the environment along with it," said Julia Sebesta, senior speech language pathology major.

Kassie Dyakon, a senior entrepreneurial management major said that she agreed.

"I have never been big on the idea of hunting, but the idea of donating to local food banks and community families is something I hold very dear to me," said Dyakon. "I would join this organization to be able to see the benefits that our donations are making on other people's lives."

Molina said he hopes to get an information tent set up on campus in the next two weeks. At the tent will be pamphlets about the national organization and also brochures about how TCU's partnership with HFTH. Specifically what TCU is doing to make a difference, and ways in which TCU students can get involved and give back to the community.

"If you make it easy, they will come," said Molina. "Our goal is to feed people, and we want to make it as simple as a process as possible."



October 25, 2014

Renovated Daniel-Meyer to put TCU basketball in the spotlight - by

Jonny Auping

You might say the Texas Christian University men's basketball team was the sacrificial lamb in the university's football-motivated move from the Mountain West Conference to the Big 12 Conference. The rising prominence and success of coach Gary Patterson's Horned Frogs were demanding the attention and respect of the entire nation. The Frogs were ready for a move into the big leagues.

The basketball team, on the other hand, was not. The TCU men's basketball team has not made the NCAA Tournament since 1998, but two years ago it was thrown into arguably the best conference in college basketball.

Ready or not, the opportunity to give maximum exposure and opportunity to the football team was too good to pass up. Football is the most lucrative asset any university has at its disposal. College basketball is number two. As successful as the track or baseball programs may be, TCU may need its men's basketball team to start pulling its own weight in order to consider the move to the Big 12 financially viable.

Following the adage "You have to spend money to make money," TCU is making full-scale renovations to Daniel-Meyer Coliseum, where the men's and women's basketball team play.

On Oct. 3, the day before the football team set out to battle – successfully, as it turned out – the Oklahoma Sooners, men's basketball coach Trent Johnson and Assistant Athletic Director John Denton spoke at the Fort Worth Rotary Club about the renovations and the coming season.

The two men were introduced by Brad Hancock, the director of the Neeley Entrepreneurship Center and a Kentucky native who, with tongue firmly in cheek, claimed that despite football's popularity in North Texas, basketball was "ordained and sanctified by God."

Denton, who is also the color analyst for TCU basketball on the TCU network, then took the stage to talk about Daniel-Meyer Coliseum or, as he referred to it, "the new sanctuary."

The \$46 million already committed to the renovations was raised in a matter of six months. The arena will still hold about the same number seats as it previously had – roughly 7,500. However, the 1961 arena will have a much more modern look. Denton said he expected it to have “the feel of the American Airlines Center,” which is home to the Dallas Mavericks and considered one of the better arenas in the National Basketball Association.

A prominent feature in the building will be a TCU Hall of Fame. It will pay homage to the accomplishments of all TCU athletics throughout history and house memorabilia such as the 2011 Rose Bowl Trophy and Davey O’Brien’s Heisman Trophy.

The total renovations are projected to cost \$63 million. TCU expects the arena to re-open in October 2015. This season will be Johnson’s third as TCU’s head basketball coach and its third year in the Big 12. Johnson’s team shocked the country two seasons ago when the Horned Frogs defeated the fifth-ranked Kansas Jayhawks in Daniel-Meyer Coliseum. Last season, though, TCU failed to record a single win in conference play. The Frogs have finished 10th in the conference in both of their seasons in the Big 12.

Johnson says the team is “in a good place,” citing young developing talent on the roster, but he has no false pretenses about the competition in his conference.

“With all due respect to the ACC, the Big 12 is the best basketball conference in the country from top to bottom,” Johnson said.

TCU hopes that a state-of-the-art arena will help recruit top-level talents on the basketball court. Since Southern Methodist University hired Larry Brown, SMU has held an advantage in the recruiting department in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The arena will give TCU something to show recruits to debunk the idea that the basketball program is just the neglected brother of the looming football program.

In the meantime, the team will not have a home it can call its own. This season the team will play most of its games at the Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center in southwest Fort Worth.

“The home crowd will come if we play good basketball,” Johnson said. “We can play outside for all I care.” Still, the head coach is aware that the newly renovated arena will bring with it raised expectations and he plans to remind his players they should not take it for granted. “All those other programs ... they did a lot of winning before they got new facilities,” Johnson said. “For us it’s backwards.”