



The Wolverine Venture Battle (WVB) simulates the real world by allowing teams to compete for prize money by showing their progress toward proof of concept. It all comes down to today.

APRIL 28, 2023

STICHT AUDITORIUM

WELCOME TO THE BATTLE.

Dearest GCC Family + Friends,

It's the most wonderful time of the year...well, close to it. ;-)

We couldn't have this incredible event without the support of our tireless reviewers, generous sponsors, and amazing judges. Please take a moment to review this program for more information about these key players. I'd like to thank my colleagues in the Entrepreneurship Department, GCC's Development Staff, our student assistants, and, most of all, my own team, especially Lynn Bashew (E+I Program Manager) and Logan Hammerschmitt (E+I Campus Director), who have worked so hard to bring everything together for this year's competition.

We are thankful for the support of President McNulty and Provost Dr. Peter Frank as well as the countless faculty, staff, mentors, alumni, friends, and families who support our talented students on a daily basis. This event is dedicated to all of you. It's because of you that the young men and women on this stage are able to dream big with confidence. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

God bless,



Entrepreneur in Residence and Executive Director, E+I
Professor of Practice, Entrepreneurship Department

The excitement of a packed semester comes to a head today with the final round of the Wolverine Venture Battle. I am thrilled with the innovative ideas that will be on display here today and by the progress each team has shown throughout the semester.

On the stage before you, you will witness pitches from students spanning the entire campus, as representatives of the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes from 17 different majors compete for their share of the prize money and for your fan favorite vote.

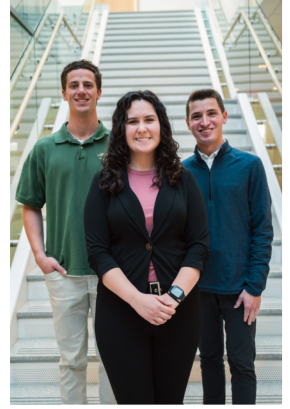
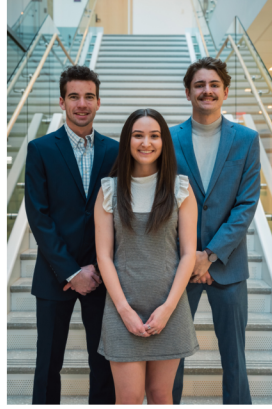
The support shown for this competition by our E+I family and the campus community at large has been tremendous, and it is my hope that you will be inspired by the presentations you see today. These students are the future of innovation, both on this campus and in this country, and, from what I can tell, we will be in good hands for years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to be with us today. I hope to see you all again soon!

With gratitude,



Campus Director, E+I



WVB PRIZES

Just as in real life, each Investor will have a set dollar amount to spend and can give any amount to any and all teams.

\$25K + IN-KIND SERVICES

The 1st Place Team (as determined by the total dollars awarded by the judges) will be crowned the Wolverine Venture Battle Champion.

All of the finalist teams could end up with cash or one team could take it all!



YOUR ROLE: VOTE FOR FAN FAVORITE

You have a say in who takes home the prize money, too!

After all teams have pitched, voting for the Fan Favorite award will open. You can text to vote for your favorite team. The team receiving the most votes will win an additional \$500 cash prize!

WVB SPONSORS



SPONSORS

WOLVERINE DONORS

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Tim '81, Grant '06, Meredith '07, Jonathan '09, and Natalie '11

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The Newton Family: Rick '86, Terrie '85, Josh '09, Anna '17, Jesse '19, Josiah '24, and Abigail

Susan (Peshek '81) + Peter Durfee '80

Elizabeth (Smith '81) and Peter Hanley

Elisabeth O'Brien '16

The Kiska Family

Stan '85, Deanna '87, Evan '20, and Lauren

The Pentz Family

Mark '81, Cheri '79, Michael '06, Yvonne '06

The Passaro Family

Dan Creston '81

Laura (Koller '11) and RJ Fryan '08

Connor Grieb '18

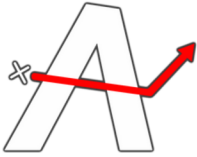
IN-KIND SUPPORT



Cedric E. Lewis JD/MBA

Thanks to our sponsors for their generous support!

WVB PRESENTATIONS



ATHLETES AFTER

A sports recruitment platform designed to help give high school athletes the power and information they need.

Max Muncy '24 and Justin DeMild '24



BRIDGE

A creative media and networking platform for those in the music industry.

Elliot Eyre '24, Maura Donatelli '24, and Caleb Warrick '24



CLIQZ

A social network designed to take people from bored in their apartments to out and doing things in as few clicks as possible.

Joe Gray '24



FOLDED HANDS

An application that allows members of a congregation to connect with their pastor and other members of their church to engage in prayer.

**Dillon Werstiuk '23, David Kraus '23,
and Avalon Parsons '23**

justpause.

JUST PAUSE

An accountability and companion app for individuals living with bipolar disorder.

Luke Gilligan '24 and Mark Wilhelm '23



PRAYREAL

A faith-based social media that connects you with your Christian friends when you respond to a daily, spontaneous notification to pray.

Grace Anne Shaw '24, Cade Voller '26, Jack Bowery '26, Sarah Anderson '25, and Ally Gaines '25



SABBATICA

Provides a 3-5 day micro-sabbatical program that aims to rest, refresh, and rejuvenate burnt out employees and pastors.

Grant Baierl '23, Rachel Goetz '24, and Jake Botkin '23



SONGBIRD

A gamified education app that teaches music to students with special needs.

Jenna Knepper '25, Zach Warrick '26, Rachel Petschke '26, Aliyah Shelatz '25, and Addison Byers '24



VIRTUAL CLARITY

Virtual reality technology for behavioral health units and those experiencing depression.

Anna Ortiz '24 and Emma Ruby Whiteford '24

SCHEDULE

Our event will begin with a welcome from E+I Executive Director Yvonne English. Each team will have 8 minutes to present followed by 6 minutes of Q&A with the judges.

PRESENTATION ORDER

- Just Pause
- Athletes After
- Songbird
- Virtual Clarity
- PrayReal
- Sabbatica
- Bridge
- Folded Hands
- Cliqz



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR JUNIOR JUDGES!

As part of this year's competition, we have 60 high school students from 14 schools/programs serving as Junior Judges.

Each student has been given \$20 to "invest" in their favorite team.

SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS REPRESENTED

- EACADEMY@LINDENPOINTE (SHARPSVILLE, HICKORY, SHARON, FARRELL, GREENVILLE, KENNEDY CATHOLIC, UNION, WEST MIDDLESEX, AND PHAA-- PENNSYLVANIA HOMESCHOOL ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION)
- DELAWARE COUNTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
- AQUINAS ACADEMY OF PITTSBURGH
- GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL
- VENANGO EACADEMY (ROCKY GROVE)
- CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

REVIEWERS



MANY ENTERED, BUT **ONLY NINE TEAMS** WERE CHOSEN TO PRESENT IN THE FINALS.

Thank you to all 56 REVIEWERS who participated in Round 2 of the Wolverine Venture Battle process. We couldn't do this without you!

Freddie Bremble '80

Allyson Sveda '88

Dean Faklis

Bob Baierl

Liam Krut '14

Winifred McGee '77

Alan Mesches '71

Jennifer Gilliland

Alissa Sgro '96

Lesley Winfield '92

Rob Wright '04

Paul Marshall '78

Edward Huttenhower '76

Scott Brainard '76

Chris Botting '83

Brad Dearborn '78

Tiffany Bicek '18

Kim Ford '72

Melissa Jacobs '92

Evan Lowe '89

Scott McDowell '87

Ronald Miller '75

John Romain '85

Steve Wickman

Lindy Hitzel '19

Toby Basalla '98

Steve Solman '96

Frances Baldwin

Sandy Frederick

Glenn Grossman

Kim Marks

Chloe Sayers '15

Ron Emery

Brian Gongaware '92

Warren Poschman '98

Craig Creaturo '92

Scott Inderbitzen '10

John Holt '84

William Messner '96

Ruth Entwistle '07

Beth Lepore

Brian Montgomery '96

Robin Parsons

Dianne Ruhl '89

Tim Tobitsch '03

Joshua Weatherstone '15

Curt Given '84

Alex Graham '67

Bob Keller '73

James Will '98

Patricia Premick '84

Barbara Johnson '79

Charles (Bob) Scott '72

Andrew Ellison

Collin Foster '12

Don Lockhart '67



DAN CRESTON '81

Mr. Creston graduated Cum Laude with a BA in Business Administration. While on campus as a student, Dan interviewed with Borg-Warner Chemicals and was hired for a position in Sales Management, a job he remained at for six years. In 1987, Dan started at Alpha Packaging, Inc. where he became Chief Operating Officer and Partner. He partnered with the CEO to open nine plastic packaging plants and took sales from \$400K in 1987 to \$230M in 2015. They sold the company twice to private equity firms and Dan remains a shareholder today. Currently Dan is the Founder and Owner of Creston Consulting, LLC (small business mentoring and angel investing), which he started in 2015. He judges start-ups for grants and investment potential with two nonprofits...Arch Grants (www.archgrants.org) and St. Louis Arch Angels (www.stlouisarchangels.com).



PETE DURFEE '80

Mr. Durfee has over 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical sciences industry. He was formerly employed at Gilead Sciences, Inc. ("Gilead"), a publicly held, research-based biopharmaceutical company, that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need, from 1997 until retiring in 2012. During his tenure, Mr. Durfee served as Senior Director of Corporate Engineering and Facilities Operations (CEFO) which was responsible for the strategic and operational direction of Gilead's engineering pursuits. While at Gilead, Mr. Durfee was responsible for directing Engineering, Validation, Maintenance/Facilities Operations, Manufacturing/Contract Manufacturing, Environmental Health & Safety, Corporate Real Estate, Site Services, and Security. Mr. Durfee received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and completed the required coursework for a Masters in Electrical Engineering at Penn State University before moving to California in 1988. Peter and his wife Susan (Peshek '81) are retired and they live and play in Montreux, Nevada.



BRAD SCHAKE

Brad Schake is the Director of Field Operations for Armstrong, where he is responsible for leading, coordinating, and serving 500 field operations employees across 13 systems in 6 states, as well as leading Armstrong's "Top Ops" high potential leadership development program. Armstrong is a family-owned company located in Butler, Pennsylvania that is focused on delivering an unmatched fiber network to the communities in the northeast that we call home. Brad earned a BS in Education from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 2003 and served over 10 years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, first as an enlisted soldier and later as a commissioned officer in the Signal Corps, where he first learned to love leadership, technology, and operations. Outside of work, Brad loves spending time with his wife, Amy, and their three children as well as cheering on the Grove City College Wolverines Football team #BrickByBrick. Brad also serves as an elder, worship leader, and life group leader at Community Alliance Church in Butler, Pennsylvania.



MATTHEW W. GORDON

Mr. Gordon earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus in Accounting and Finance from Slippery Rock University. While at SRU, Matthew was a starting pitcher for the "ROCK" baseball team. He was selected to the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference first team during his senior season. Upon graduation, Matthew was hired as a Core Associate at F.N.B. Corporation in Pittsburgh. While working for FNB, he completed the requirements for his MBA, also from SRU. In 2020, Matthew joined Davevic Benefit Consultants in Grove City, PA, his family's business now in its 3rd generation. Davevic is a full-service benefit consulting agency that strives to be on the cutting edge of insurance products, services, and strategies with particular attention to detail when working with clients. Matthew resides in his native town of Grove City where he is a board member on the Chamber of Commerce. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, attending sporting events for his favorite Pittsburgh sports teams, and spending time with his new wife, Stephanie, his friends, and his family.

JUDGES



RJ FRYAN '08

Dr. Fryan is a dynamic leader who has spent most of his career in the manufacturing industry. RJ grew up in Canton, Ohio, where he started working in the steel industry while still in college. RJ has served in various functions within the steel industry throughout his career, including operations, marketing, supply chain, and sales. He is the CEO of Kind Special Alloys US and Lake Park Tool and Machine in Youngstown, Ohio. RJ earned his MBA from Anderson University and his DBA from George Fox University. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his wife Laura (Koller '11) and their three children, Raymond, Emma, and Evelyn.



JOSH NEWTON '09

Josh Newton is a developer, marketer, designer, trainer, assessment expert, consultant, photographer, husband, and father from Claysville, PA. He has a BS in Computer Information Systems from Grove City College and enjoys bringing ideas to life through web design and web app development. He currently works as the Director of Technology for the Newton Institute, a family owned and operated business, in the greater Pittsburgh area. Along with being responsible for the technical needs of the company, he works with clients who want to better align their employees' natural abilities and talents with their work. He loves watching people flourish through self-awareness and authenticity to achieve the purpose of their organization. Josh loves spending time with his wife and six kids. They are the motivation behind everything he does.



MICHAEL PENTZ '06

Michael Pentz earned a BS in Business Management and is the Vice President of Calvin Group Inc, a used asphalt paving equipment dealer in Windsor, Colorado that reaches customers around the world. He joined his father in the company in 2009 to manage the day-to-day activities of the company. Prior to that, Michael worked in marketing and product development for startups, nonprofits, and brands such as LG, Apple, and Specialized. Michael lives in Colorado with his wife, Yvonne (Phillips '06), and their three children.



CONNOR GRIEB '18

Connor Grieb is the founder and president of SEO Vineyard, a digital marketing company established in 2016. Connor launched SEO Vineyard while attending Grove City College and has built over 400 websites and is actively working with 120 businesses in Pittsburgh and throughout the United States. Their goal is to empower businesses to thrive in the ever-evolving landscape of digital marketing and SEO, leveraging cutting-edge strategies to enhance online visibility, drive organic traffic, and achieve business growth. Connor is happily married to his wife, Macy (Hall '20), and they live in Pittsburgh, PA. When Connor is not behind a computer working, he is with family, friends, or on the golf course.



GRACE HOVIS '19

Grace Hovis is part of the third generation to come into her family's business, Hovis Auto & Truck Supply, Inc., a 17-location automotive parts warehouse distributor in Western Pennsylvania. A graduate of Grove City College with a B.S. in Entrepreneurship and a former Wolverine Venture Battle competitor, Grace currently directs marketing and training initiatives for all Hovis locations and works closely with their 25-person sales team. Seeing the importance of industry involvement and the need to build up future generations to lead the aftermarket, she currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Young Auto Care Network Group (YANG), a 1,700 member national automotive Under 40 networking group, and holds a position on the Auto Care Association's Education Committee, an organization that represents the entire automotive aftermarket. This past year, Grace was named one of Aftermarket News' 2022 Women at the Wheel and received the Auto Care Association's "4 for the Future: Impact Award."

JUDGES



PAUL PASSARO

Paul Passaro's career began on Wall Street at the municipal bond firm Roosevelt & Cross, Inc., and he has subsequently served as the Chief Financial Officer or Chief Operating Officer of a number of enterprises with as many as 1,400 employees, including Pine Needles and Mid Pines Resorts, Corporate Realty Advisors (now part of Jones Lang LaSalle), 9Marks, The Gospel Coalition, DunnWell (now a part of Cintas Corporation), and East West Partners Club Management. Paul's management responsibilities have included leading finance, operations, strategic planning, human resources, and business development. In addition to three years of full-time mission work in South Africa, Paul has helped plant churches and has served on the boards of privately-held businesses and nonprofits in the US and overseas, including Thrive Farmers International. He is a cum laude graduate of Williams College with an MBA from UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School. Paul and his wife, Kristi, are the parents of three children (including Annie '22 and Charlie '27) and reside in Chapel Hill, NC, where they are members of Christ Community Church (PCA).



MARK PENTZ '81

Mark Pentz earned a BA in Business Administration and is the Owner and President of Calvin Group Inc, a used asphalt paving equipment dealer in Windsor, Colorado that reaches customers around the world. Mark's passion for paving equipment started when he was a young boy in Pennsylvania when he went to work for his father, who ran an equipment dealership. Mark founded Calvin Group in 1996 and the company has since expanded to selling paving equipment around the world. He lives in Colorado with his wife, Cheri (Crispin '79), and two dogs. He has three adult children and five grandchildren.





Catalyzing + Equipping Innovative Thinkers and Entrepreneurs Who Serve The Common Good

Yvonne J. English '97

*Entrepreneur in Residence + Executive Director, E+I
Professor of Practice, Entrepreneurship Department*

Ken Smith '84

*Assistant Director, E+I
Assistant Professor, Entrepreneurship Department*

Lynn Bashew '84

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Logan Hammerschmitt '16

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