

## SOUTHERN UTAH UNIVERSITY NEWS

# Opportunity Quest inspires young entrepreneurs

by Shay **BARUFFI**

IRON COUNTY TODAY

Southern Utah University's Opportunity Quest was presented by the Larry H. & Gail Miller Center for Entrepreneurship. Opportunity Quest is a business pitch competition that pursues the most inventive business ideas with a high potential for expansion. The competition is part of the Utah Entrepreneur Challenge, which is a state-wide university entrepreneur competition.

Tyler Stillman, the Director of Entrepreneurship, gave a brief description of how the event works; "Every participant has 90 seconds to pitch their business idea, this is followed by a short question and answer period between the participant and judges. Each presentation takes about four minutes total and at the end of the event the judges choose three runners-up and one winner of the competition."

This year's competition featured 20 entrepreneurs: Kaelei Corbridge, Braden Mineer, Shayley Stephenson, Gregory Rogers, Hannah Hickenlooper, Quinten Gish, Myni Anoman, Jared Britt, Nathan Randall, Connor



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**AUSTIN SPENCER**  
1st runner-up



**GREGORY ROGERS**  
2nd runner-up



**JOSEPH THOMPSON**  
2nd runner-up

Jaten, Stephen Cutler, Albert Hanks, Carter Fillion, Madelyn Tebbs, Quinn Hagerman, Joseph Thompson, Tanner Runolfson, John Woolley, Jameson Griffiths, Austin Spencer and Mirryn Morrill.

The group presented various brilliant ideas ranging from graphic design companies to mobile dating apps to leather working. Presenter Madalyn Tebbs is currently a Junior at SUU studying both business and graphic design/marketing. She presented on her graphic design business *Madly Done Designs* where she does stunning card layouts for her clients.

After the presentations, the runners-up were announced; the 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up was Austin Spencer and his business EZ Feed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up was Gregory Rogers and his business The Art of Success, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> runner-up was Joseph Thompson and his Equipment and Implement Sales business. The winner of the Opportunity Quest competition was Mirryn Morrill who presented her stencil creation company, *Morr Décor Stencils*.

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Opportunity Quest Competition, the business ideas presented were inspiring.

# Professor explores deaf culture in early 20th century sports

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Professor of History at SUU, Dave Lunt, introduced Professor Kimball; "Dr. Kimball is an associate professor of history at BYU. He has a Ph.D. in history from Purdue University. He is the author of two books; *Legends Never Die: Athletes and Their Afterlives in Modern America*, and *Sports in Zion: Mormon Recreation 1890-1940*."

Dr. Richard Kimball's APEX talk focused on "how deaf men used the new sport of football to fight for the use of sign language and fight against the prevailing notions about deaf physicality and weakness in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century," as stated by Dr. Kimball.

During the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, deaf people faced shocking obstacles and judgement. "Eugenicists lead by Alexander Graham Bell generally classified deaf people with the mentally disabled, criminals,

paupers and alcoholics. Although the idea was completely unfounded, many Americans associated the deaf with what they called 'feeble-mindedness'. Bell argued that the congenitally deaf should voluntarily forgo marriage as a way to stem the genetic tie to deaf

descendants," said Dr. Kimball.

Many curriculums in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century omitted sign language because they sought to force deaf people to appear 'normal' by teaching them speech and lip-reading skills. Sign language was considered

primitive and unusual. According to Dr. Kimball, "In 1900 nearly 40% of American deaf students were enrolled in oralist schools. By 1920, 80% were enrolled in schools that shunned sign language altogether."

Deaf publications from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century exposed the worth of sports like football in fighting for equality. Gallaudet College in Washington D.C. was the heart of football for deaf men in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Deaf athletes at the college fought the opinions associated with deaf people at the time, they proved that they are equal on the field to their hearing counterparts.

Football remains an important part of Gallaudet University's curriculum today. According to Dr. Kimball, "Senior fullback and team co-captain, Mike Haynes, with the Gallaudet Bison stated, 'we all realize when you play for Gallaudet you're playing for the deaf community across the country.'"



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**A.P.E.X. DIRECTOR DR. LYNN VARTAN SPEAKS WITH DR. RICHARD IAN KIMBALL** about advancements within the deaf culture throughout the last two centuries.