

SEBA 2018 business idea competition draws crowd

Submitted by Mary Poppingo



Winner of the Business Idea Competition



Photos provided

The 7th annual SEBA Business Idea Competition drew a crowd of almost 100 visitors, including SEBA students, faculty and staff, to the Saint Mary's College Soda Center on May 3. Five individual groups composed of undergraduate and graduate students and alumni from the School of Economics and Business Administration gave presentations under the benevolent scrutiny of a panel of four seasoned investor judges, who gave live tips on how to dial in their work to raise capital.

The winner of the award was Julia Datsyuk, SMC alumni, of MomentoDeals, a platform where, "Hotel staff can dynamically change their prices, to sell unsold inventory to last-minute bookers," said Datsyuk, who will use a mobile app to connect customers with deals by

the hour.

The darling of the night for People's Choice and winner of second place was PotBelly, an automated personalized cannabis subscription box service presented by SEBA alumni Paul Giguere.

"Deregulation makes it difficult for existing players to change their market," said Giguere. "We are the first cannabis box series that offers a personalized customized box."

Randy Williams, a founder of the Keiretsu Forum, hosted the event, joined by judges Melissa Marsh Ross, a technology executive and angel investor, Shirley Gee, a department head and executive senior staff member with Stanford University's research laboratory, and Adam

Henderson, a Founder and COO of a recently launched technology company.

Other presenters included SEBA students Mark Guadagni and Lee Sims III, and Michael Reynolds.

The event was hosted by the Center for Regional Economy, in partnership with Stull Grant for Entrepreneurship and the Keiretsu Forum. City National Bank sponsored all the cash prizes to the winning teams. The objective of the annual SEBA Business Idea Competition is to help participants refine their ideas to get to the stage where they can actually present to investors.

Colorful cultural arts displayed at Orinda Pan-Asian festival



Opening ceremony and ribbon-cutting at Pan-Asian Arts Festival. From left: Assemblywoman Catharine Baker, Orinda Vice Mayor Inga Miller, Poet Laureate Amy Glynn, Consul-General Nagayoshi of Japan, Weylin Eng, president, Rotary Club of Orinda, Rotary District Governor Gary Vilhauer and San Francisco Asian Art Museum representative David Lei.



White Crane Lion Dancers unfurl scrolls of welcome at the Pan-Asian Arts Festival.



Young dancers from Hip-Hop Natyam Dance Academy, the first South Asian Dance School to serve the residents in Contra Costa County.

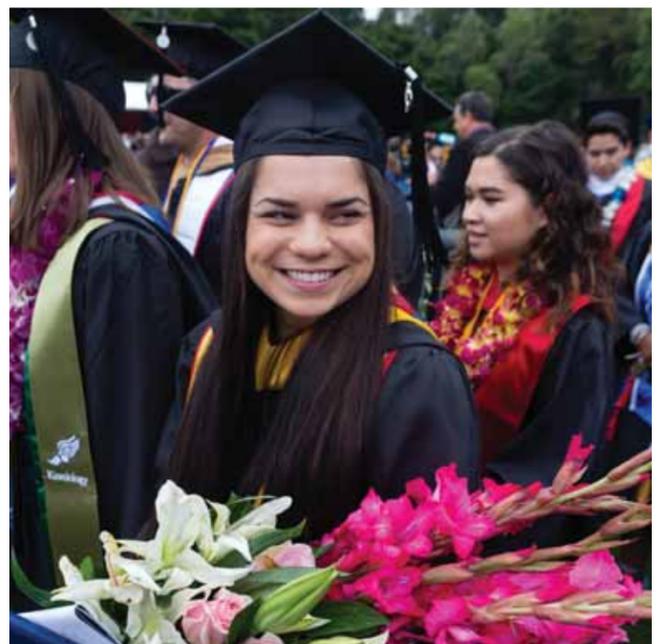


Members of the team from East West Bok Fu Do that will represent the United States at the International Bok Fu Do Association competition later this year in Baltimore, Md., demonstrate their skills. - Sora O'Doherty

SMC undergrads celebrate 2018 commencement



The Saint Mary's College class of 2018 waits for their turn to receive diplomas on May 26. Approximately 600 students were awarded undergraduate degrees; nearly as many completed advanced degrees at the post-graduate commencement May 27.



Krista Federas of Lafayette.

- Cathy Dausman