

2015 Winners

Cash Prizes Nurture Ideas that Foster Innovation

In a tough competitive lineup, six WPI undergraduate teams vied for a prize in the 2015 Strage Innovation Awards. The presentations took place in Higgins Laboratories 102 on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Thirteen teams submitted ideas ranging from novel EKG teaching devices, to high tech robotic phlebotomist, to soft robots, to an online platform for cell phone recycling. Intent to Compete Forms were screened for the idea's commercial potential, stage, and value to society.

The objective of the competition is to develop student knowledge and practical experience in the translation of creative ideas into viable new products, ventures, or licensing opportunities. Any full-time WPI undergraduate student may participate. Commercial, social, and philanthropic proposals are presented and ranked by experienced judges Henry Strage '54, Harold Lake '54 and Paul Street. Each of the six presentations was top notch, but in the end, judges decided to award two prizes for first place.

Two teams captured First Place prizes - Interactive EKG Model and MilkSafe Storage Device.

The Interactive EKG Model team created a model heart to demonstrate seven heart conditions. This product is a teaching tool for medical students and can also be used in a cardiologist office during patient consultations. It includes a model heart that will show different cardiac conditions by demonstrating the electrical activity within the heart, as well as a 12-lead EKG wave to match it. The device interfaces with a computer screen. This device also includes a clear plastic torso that demonstrates where EKG electrodes should be placed, as well as a smaller model heart that will show the different views of the 12 leads. This team is comprised of Elizabeth Paulson (BME), Kyla Rodger (BME) and Adelle Milholland (BME).

The MilkSafe team is prototyping an affordable lean-in-concept cooling container to store mother's milk at appropriate temperatures for up to 16 hours. In low-income nations, such as Haiti, where electricity, refrigeration, and ice are not readily or reliably available, the team intends to use this product to facilitate storing mother's milk while she is away from her infant at work and help reduce the number of infant deaths there due to malnutrition. The MilkSafe team included students Jordan Jones (BME), Rebecca Lee (BME), Mikayla Pasciuto (ME), and Shreyas Renganathan (BME).

Congratulations to all applicants and best of luck in your continued work on the products!



The Agenda for 2015



Our Judges - (l to r) Harold Lake '54 (wife Sally), Henry Strage '54 (wife Alberta) and Paul Street



1st Place Interactive EKG Model - Elizabeth Paulson (BME), Kyla Rodger (BME) and Adelle Milholland (BME) with judges



1st Place MilkSafe Storage - Jordan Jones (BME), Rebecca Lee (BME), Mikayla Pasciuto (ME), and Shreyas Renganathan (BME)