

# Strage Innovation Awards

## Awards Stimulate Ideas that Spur Invention

Each year WPI undergraduate students can choose to commit their innovative ideas to a number of challenging entrepreneurship and innovation competitions. Since 2006, one of the most beloved competitions has been the Strage Innovation Awards. It is not only valued by WPI students, but it is well-regarded by a team of judges that return faithfully each year to listen to our impassioned students reveal their inventions, demo by demo, slide by slide and word by word.

This year was no exception to the competition's history that we received a great pool of innovative applications. On April 28, 2016, four teams, pitted against rigid selection criteria, were asked to present their ideas in ten minutes or less and to entertain responses to judges questions over the next 15 minutes. These are not simple everyday questions like where did you get this ideas from. They are much deeper inquiries, because on the way, our judges just happen to conduct a pretty good score of due diligence before showing up at the table. Sound a bit like confronting a venture capitalist? Sure does, but these investors also have a great interest in student success.

From the 2016 applicant pool, the four finalists included:

- "Adaptable System for Construction Using Additive Manufacturing" with Sarah Chamberlain presenting. (Her teammate, Richard Eberheim, was unable to attend due to his MQP commitments that same day.);
- "Multifunctional Hyaluronic Acid Scaffold" with Alicia Aquino presenting by video from Paraguay;
- "Brace Yourself: Redesigning the Charleston Back Brace" with Ingrid Marko;
- "VIPER: Vital Information Program for Emergency Responders" with Maria Lockette and Joshua Donovan.

## Congratulations!

We congratulate "Brace Yourself: Redesigning the Charleston Back Brace", for capturing First Place and "Adaptable System for Construction Using Additive Manufacturing" for capturing Second Place.

## Thank you!

We thank our esteemed judges Harold Lake, '54, Paul Street, Marvin Lesser and Foisie School of Business Dean, Michael Ginzberg. (This was an inaugural event for Marvin and Michael and we hope they can return next year!)

We are indebted to Henry Strage, '54 and Alberta Strage for the endowment that funds the prize each year and to Harold's wife Sally Lake for providing thoughtful questions and remarks to students during the Q&A sessions.



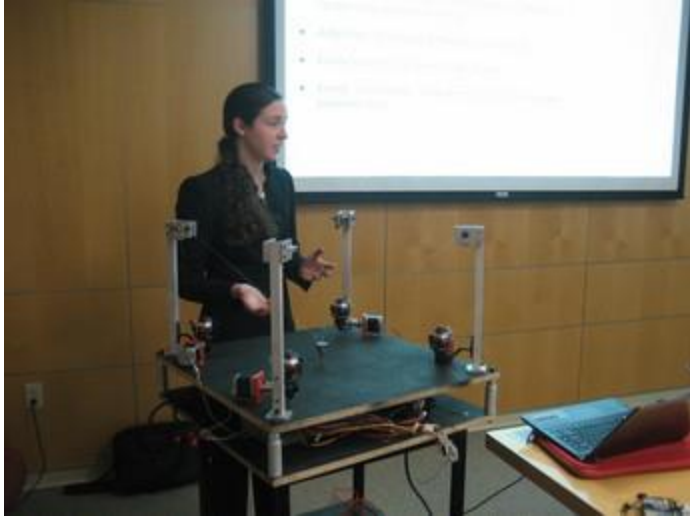
Paul Street shares enthusiasm for the additive technology potential at construction sites



Joshua Donovan and Maria Lockette tend to a question



Henry reviews his due diligence before questioning the VIPER team



Sarah Chamberlain pitches her gantry and extruder innovation