

ABOUT VILLHARD GROWTH PARTNERS

Villhard Growth Partners is a St. Louis-based growth buyout firm that invests in, partners with and grows strong, tech-enabled business and health care services companies. They focus on lower market transactions in which they can invest alongside aggressive, entrepreneurial teams that share their passion for growing and building great businesses.



Bulldog B.I.T.E.

BUSINESS INNOVATION BY TRUMAN ENTREPRENEURS

ELEVATOR PITCH COMPETITION

FINALS

Thursday, March 31, 2016



ABOUT THE BULLDOG B.I.T.E.

With the financial and professional support of alumni Doug ('94) and Diane ('95) Villhard, Truman State University is proud to present the finals for our elevator pitch competition - Bulldog B.I.T.E. In this type of competition presenters outline a concept or idea for a product, service or project in a short period of time, typically from thirty seconds to three minutes. The length of the pitch mirrors the time spent waiting for and riding an elevator in a high-rise building. The purpose of the pitch is to spur the interest of a potential investor or financial backer.

BULLDOG B.I.T.E. FINALISTS

STEPHEN CUTLER

O'Fallon, MO

Marketing and Management

JORDAN DUECKER

St. Louis, MO

International Business

WILLIAM FRIES

Smithville, MO

Computer Science and Business Administration

ANTHONY HILL

Fenton, MO

Business Management, Finance, and Accounting

SHANE LEGATZKE AND MICHAEL POINDEXTER

Waunakee, WI • Kansas City, MO

Accounting and Finance • Marketing

KEVIN WU

Johnston, IA

Business Administration and Computer Science

MEET OUR JUDGES

Stacey George ('00) graduated from Truman in 2000 and the University of Kansas School of Law in 2003. She has served as senior counsel for the past five years for Wells Fargo & Co. She previously served as compliance counsel at Edward Jones and began her career in private practice. As a securities attorney, Stacey specializes on investment company act products, alternative investments and independent brokerage matters. She is licensed to practice law in Missouri and Illinois and holds a number of securities licenses.

Amanda Gioia ('93) is a senior business leader for the Worldwide Communications Team at MasterCard in St. Louis. She is responsible for managing and implementing internal communications, leadership communications, philanthropy and community relations, technology-based and local PR efforts for the company's technology organization. Amanda was recognized by the St. Louis Business Journal as one of the Most Influential Women in Business in August 2012. She has an MA in Media Communications from Webster University, and a BA in English from Truman State University.

John Haney ('01) is a husband, father of three, CEO of Apps from Outer Space, and Tech Lead at Lextech Mobile. His apps have been downloaded over 125 million times and topped App Store charts. John also runs the Year of Swift meetup to help others get started with making their own apps.

Chris LeBeau ('05) works for Eagle Bank and Trust Co. as the VP of Entrepreneur Services, a role that has been chartered to answer, "How can a bank better serve entrepreneurs?" Preceding this, Chris served as the Director of Operations for Gateway Venture Mentoring Service, connecting early-stage entrepreneurs with mentoring and startup resources to accelerate the growth of their venture. Prior to that, he served as a strategic planning consultant for health care organizations in the St. Louis and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Chris hold a BA in Business Administration from Truman State University.

Kevin Tibbs ('95) is an experienced and prolific formulation chemist, having formulated over 500 successful products in the past 14 years. He has created an impressive portfolio of items, with a particular expertise in cosmetics, personal care products and natural cleaning. Kevin began his career 17 years ago as a chemist and has worked in the research departments of Bristol, Myers, and Squibb, Sherwood Medical, TYCO Corporation, Steris Company and Westport Labs. He is co-founder of BETTER LIFE, a manufacturer of green household cleaning products, where he currently serves as the "Mad-Skilled Scientist." He often serves as a guest host on the Home Shopping Network and recently appeared on the hit ABC tv show "Shark Tank" for his company BETTER LIFE.