2014 30K Competition Team Bios and Business Descriptions

Bridge Sense

According to the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) National Bridge Inventory (NBI) there are over 605,000 bridges in the United States; of which 153,587, or 25%, are reported as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Deficient bridges are a burden to highway networks as they present safety concerns for the public, force costly and inefficient detouring for large load vehicles, and require more frequent structural inspections which are expensive and cumbersome.

Bridge Sense has developed a new and innovative method for load testing bridges continuously without requiring tedious on-site testing. This system provides an all-in-one structural monitoring solution that is superior to anything currently on the market. Bridge Sense focuses on low cost systems that can be widely deployed on the most vulnerable bridges in a highway network.

McKenzie Danforth is from Powell, Wyoming. She is a senior Architectural Engineering student in an accelerated program toward her M.S. degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Wyoming. McKenzie has begun her graduate research in bridge monitoring.

Mike Jung is from Littleton, Colorado. He is a graduate structural engineering student at the University of Wyoming. He has three years of industry experience in bridge design and has done extensive research on bridge monitoring through his graduate research.

BusMark

Given the recent increase in technological capabilities, our society has a need for information in real time. BusMark is a student management system that satisfies this demand. Parents may see the phrase “student tracking” as a potential security risk, but we see it as a solution for problems faced by nearly every school district in America. The market for school bus fleet and student management systems is very new; however, the idea of knowing where the school bus, your student, and GPS information is becoming more appealing to parents as technology advances and safety issues loom.

We would like to propose a plan for a student management system that will fulfill a market need and solve current and future problems faced by school administrators. As a new entrant into the market, we can easily identify problems with current systems and gain valuable feedback from administrators to sculpt our evolving business model.

Name: Conner Chas Hunsaker
Education: Junior, Accounting, UW
Hometown: Afton, WY
Occupation: Bus Driver, ACSD #1

Name: Brad Kovach
Education: Senior, Computer Science, UW
Hometown: Auburn, WY
Occupation: IT Intern at Albany County United Way, Web Developer at University Store

Name: Zane Erickson
Education: Junior, Business Administration
Hometown: Auburn, WY
Occupation: Bus Driver, ACSD #1
Kid Routine

For many parents and teachers teaching young children about the concepts of time and establishing routines is a challenge. Kid Routine will provide a way for caregivers and parents to create effective, engaging routines rapidly without sacrificing time and quality of the end result. It is a web based software solution that will have 4 main user portals, the day care administration portal, the teacher portal, the parent portal, and the family portal. It will allow users to build, organize and display daily routines for the children they are responsible for. This management system allows users to create daily routines for their children, and display them on a computer, tablet, or TV. By using the web base system, caregivers will be able to create and modify the routines for the children to see. All of the portals will be accessed via the same site or app, but will provide different functionality.

Ben Sims and Travis Gardner – We are both Laramie native, currently seniors majoring in computer science. Ben has worked for 5 and a half years as a programmer for Handel IT and is currently a project manager and senior programmer for them. Ben is the Founder and designer of Kid Routine. He is the father of two girls ages 4 and 2 who inspired this project.

Pharm Decision LLC

Health care in the United States is currently in a dynamic state and affordable health care is a concern for both patients and providers. Numerous geriatric patients rely on Medicare Part D for coverage in order to obtain prescriptions. Currently, these patients must select the most appropriate Medicare Part D plan on their own, which is a daunting task to the majority of these patients. In order to select an appropriate plan, patients must enter every one of their medications into the Medicare.gov site, select from multiple parameters, and decipher insurance and medical industry specific language. Presently, there is no system allowing pharmacists to provide information to patients, who are attempting to decipher the medical terminology and select the best Medicare Part D plan based on their needs.

Pharm Decision is a computer program that can be purchased by pharmacies. The computer program will link directly into the pharmacy’s database and will allow pharmacists to input the patients name and the program will automatically populate the patient’s medication regimen into Pharm Decision. Pharm Decision will then compare the Medicare Part D plans for which the patient qualifies and using an algorithm, will select the best plans for the patient based on the following: premiums, deductibles, pharmacies, and medication coverage.

Lisa J Ohnstad earned her Bachelors of Business Administration from the University of Wyoming College of Business in 2002. After graduation she pursued a career in retail management. Wanting to return to her home state she changed industries and became a commercial insurance underwriter, matriculation with her C.P.C. U. Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter in 2006. While working as an underwriter she wanted to be able to give back to her state, and nation. In 2007 she joined the Wyoming Army National Guard, and began to take prerequisite course to purse a Pharm. D. at the University Of Wyoming College Of Pharmacy. Lisa is currently a dual degree Executive MBA, and Pharm. D. student at the University of Wyoming.

Luke Wood started his career in IT in 1997 as Technology Intern for the Santa Fe Public Schools. In 2002 he joined Computer Corner in Albuquerque, NM as Sr. Computer Technician, during that time he served many of Computer Corner’s contracts including maintenance contracts for DOE sites of Sandia and Los Alamos National Laborites. In 2004 Luke changed carriers and became an Independent operator with Pacer Transport, that is where as he would say “learned people”. In 2010 he came back to IT as Service Center Manager at the University of Wyoming. He has earned an A+ certification in 2008 and HDI certification in Support Center Analyst in 2013.

Rebecca Pullos is a fourth year pharmacy student working toward her Pharm. D. at the University of Wyoming School of Pharmacy. She was born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming where she graduated from Central High.
School in 2007. After graduating from the School of Pharmacy in May of 2014, she plans to obtain her MBA while working as a pharmacist.

Joshua Hall is an undergraduate at the University of Wyoming studying anthropology. He brings ten years of customer service experience as well as three and a half years of computer repair and troubleshooting experience to the team. Joshua plans to graduate in 2015 with a B.A. in anthropology and criminal justice in addition to a minor in Mandarin Chinese.

**Snuffi Candle Company**

The Snuffi is a self-extinguishing, re-lightable, stackable, segmented candle that allows for a safer, more varied olfactory experience. Snuffi Candle Company’s mission is to offer an innovative, practical, safe product that improves the confidence and convenience in the way people burn candles. Customers will have the capability to customize their own candles by selecting the shape, length of burn, fragrance, and color. Customers can simply burn one segment, or stack multiple segments together for a finished pillar look. Once a segment is finished burning, the consumer can simply discard the exhausted segment, and burn the subsequent section. Snuffi Candle Company will offer a variety of different sizes, shapes, and designs.

**Natalie Hurst**

I am currently a senior studying Finance at UW. I am part of the track and field team- Go Pokes! My idea for this invention started when I was far too young and irresponsible for candles. I remember the day when my Mom gave me the responsibility of lighting a candle; it obviously wasn’t the best decision, since in the morning I woke up only to realize I left the candle burning all night. Needless to say, I lost my candle burning privileges. So, my idea started with a frustration- why isn’t there a candle that goes out on its own? With the help of my Dad, I realized that I could fix this frustration and we created my first prototype in 2010. This candle consisted of a single metal piece clamped to the wick. Watching that flame self-extinguish was one of the most exciting feelings. So, I continued to make these candles with the hope that incremental metal clamps would allow the candle to self-extinguish, but also to have the capability to re-light. I now know why there are no self-extinguishing candles. Coming up with a working prototype was one of the most difficult and frustrating projects I have ever experienced. However, we finally came up with a working prototype- a stackable segmented candle system that self-extinguishes and can be re-lit; and that is how the Snuffi was born.