



Alabama  
Entrepreneurship  
Institute

# THE 2021 FACULTY/STAFF INNOVATION PITCH COMPETITION



A total of  
\$30,000 in cash  
prizes along with  
coaching, incubator space  
and entry into the summer  
program to help jump-start your  
business idea and your own learning.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

## 2021 FACULTY/STAFF INNOVATION PITCH COMPETITION WINNERS

### ALABAMA POWER FOUNDATION – INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY GRAND PRIZE



#### **\$10,000 – Future Streets Design**

Future Streets Design uses a trained algorithm and Google Satellite API to provide cities and developers with road width inventory. This data is further paired with national standards to create recommendations for repainting roads to create complete streets, including bike lanes and shared paths, for a greener, more inclusive city.

Eric Courchesne – Geospatial Services Manager, College of Arts & Sciences

### CULVERHOUSE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS – 2021 GROWTH BUSINESS AWARD



#### **\$10,000 – Made Health and Fitness App**

Through research, a system has developed that can measure muscle and fat from a single picture taken using a smartphone in just seconds. The automated system is SIMPLE to use, provides ACCURATE measurements, and is completely PORTABLE since it can be downloaded directly to the smartphone you most likely have in your pocket and taken anywhere in the world.



Mike Fedewa – Associate Professor, College of Education

# 2021 FACULTY/STAFF INNOVATION PITCH COMPETITION WINNERS

## OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

### First Prize

**\$5,000 – City Detect**

**Erik Johnson** – Assistant Professor of Economics, Culverhouse College of Business



Urban blight is contagious and spreads across a city destroying property values and communities. City Detect helps cities fight blight by guiding the efficient deployment of scarce resources. The project can scale extremely well, and the AI is trained and able to detect blight through camera interface, automated image collection and data warehousing on AWS (using single pictures rather than video keeps data needs manageable). The models become more powerful as data size is increased. Features also include: GIS mapping/hotspot detection and automated property report generation (provides historical blight score for property/relative property blight score).



### Second Prize

**\$3,000 – Dactylo**

**Darrin Griffin** – Associate Professor, College of Communication & Information Sciences



Dactylo is a software that relies on virtual reality (VR) to introduce new sign language learners to the fundamentals of sign. Instead of observing sign via 2D (print book) or watching videos on YouTube of other signing, hearing sign language students, parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, and deaf and hard of hearing children learning sign can utilize an immersive, interactive VR environment to practice and learn sign fundamentals. The software has moved to a COVID-19 safe strategy to provide cost effective Google Cardboard VR headsets that are personalizable and easy to use with any Android or iPhone for learning sign language fundamentals.

### Third Prize

**\$2,000 – Duafe Hair, Inc.**

**Pamela Foster** – Professor and Deputy Director, College of Community Health Sciences



Duafe Hair, Inc. has just been incorporated as a business in 2020. The first product for the company has been envisioned and presented in previous competitions: Heads UP, an accessory which attaches to a stationary salon dryer to keep the head under the dryer to save drying time for both the client and hairdresser. Currently, there is no such product in the market and US patent has been completed, with an International Patent submitted.





# THANKS TO ALL COMPETITORS, JUDGES, FACILITATORS, AND THE SUPPORT TEAM

## Competitors



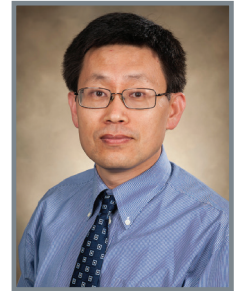
**Michael Baptiste**  
Adjunct Professor,  
College of Education



**Josh Dolphin**  
Mental Health Professional I,  
College of Community Health  
Sciences



**James Harris**  
Assistant Professor,  
College of Engineering



**Dawen Li**  
Associate Professor,  
College of Engineering



**Steven MacCall**  
Associate Professor,  
College of Communication  
and Information Sciences



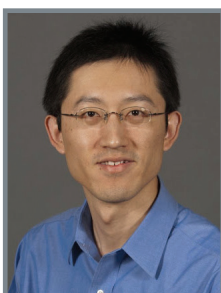
**Kathryn Meadows**  
IT Data Resources Analyst,  
Academic Affairs



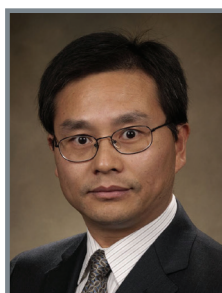
**Jacob Robertson**  
Institutional Repository  
Specialist, Academic Affairs



**Ben Rosairo**  
Piano Instructor,  
College of Arts and Sciences



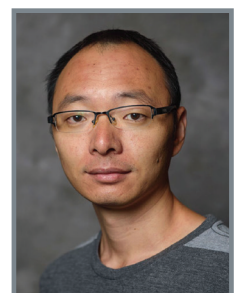
**Xiangrong Shen**  
Professor,  
College of Engineering



**Jialai Wang**  
Professor,  
College of Engineering



**Will Wright**  
Director of Sports Performance,  
College of Education



**Chao Zhao**  
Assistant Professor,  
College of Engineering

# THANKS TO ALL COMPETITORS, JUDGES, FACILITATORS, AND THE SUPPORT TEAM

## Facilitator



**Ying Qin** – Manager, EDGE Labs – The University of Alabama (UA)

## Judges



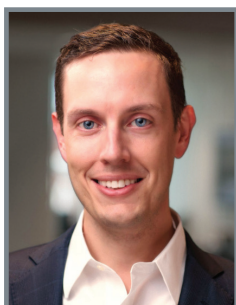
**Jason Bara**  
Professor, Chemical and  
Biological Engineering (UA)



**James Cochran**  
Associate Dean for  
Research, Culverhouse (UA)



**David Hardy**  
Associate Dean for  
Research and Service  
(ORS – UA)



**Joshua Jones**  
CEO,  
Alabama Capital Network



**Rob Morgan**  
Director,  
STEM Path to the MBA (UA)



**Darryl Robinson**  
Principal,  
NewQuest Crosswell

**THANKS TO ALL COMPETITORS, JUDGES, FACILITATORS,  
AND THE SUPPORT TEAMS**

## Support Team



**Dan Blakley**  
Associate Vice President for Economic and  
Business Engagement (ORED – UA)



**Joshua Sahib**  
Assistant Director,  
Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute (UA)



**Dr. Theresa Welbourne**  
Executive Director,  
Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute (UA)





## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Alabama Power  
Foundation

THE  
EDGE



Alabama  
Entrepreneurship  
Institute

EDGE  
LABS



*Culverhouse*  
College of Business



Research &  
Economic Development

## CONNECT WITH US



Visit our website: [www.the-edge.ua.edu](http://www.the-edge.ua.edu)

**Follow Us On Twitter:**  
**Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute**  
**@UA\_AEI**

**Follow Us On LinkedIn:**  
<http://bit.ly/EDGEGroup>  
<http://bit.ly/AEIGroup>

**The EDGE Incubator and Accelerator**  
**@TheEdgCEI**

**Follow Us On Facebook:**  
**@BamaEntrepreneurship**

**Dr. Theresa M. Welbourne**  
**@TheresaWelbourn**

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA** | Research & Economic Development  
Office for Economic and Business Engagement

157 Rose Administration  
801 University Boulevard, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
(205) 348-0787  
[djblakley@ua.edu](mailto:djblakley@ua.edu)

**RESEARCH.UA.EDU**

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA** | Culverhouse  
College of Business  
Alabama Entrepreneurship Institute

2627 10th Ave, Tuscaloosa, AL, 35401  
(205) 348-3343  
[edge@culverhouse.ua.edu](mailto:edge@culverhouse.ua.edu)