During the 2020 Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge (SVIC) Tuesday, San Jose State students proposed ideas for solving a growing global health crisis to industry professionals in an effort to receive awards.

SVIC is a competition created by the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business in 2004 as a way to encourage student entrepreneurs’ creativity, according to the competition’s SVIC webpage. Students from all departments are able to create an innovative solution to a local or global issue and compete for cash rewards.

In October, students submitted project proposals and finalists were selected to present at the remote event through Zoom and Mozilla Hub, a virtual reality chatroom. A team of SJSU students from the master’s biotechnology program won the category for Best Elevator Pitch with their project, BioMe. An elevator pitch is a description of an idea or product that is explained in a brief time period. The student team proposed a solution to obesity by using a combination of probiotics and postbiotics. According to a 2013 article in the scientific journal, Clinics in Perinatology, probiotics are microorganisms and postbiotics are byproducts of probiotics, both of which alleviate symptoms associated with obesity. “[BioMe] actually takes an unhealthy gut which is a result of a diet that could be high in fats and sugars [that] leads to weight gain and it actually transforms it to a healthy gut state…which modulates the metabolism for sustainable weight loss,” Laura Henry, a biotechnology graduate student and BioMe co-founder, said over email. The Emergency Connection team won the category for Best Peer-to-Peer/Social Networking Innovation, for its app proposal allowing people to create posts asking for or offering community aid during or after a natural disaster. “The inspiration for the app was purely to help people get quick and local access to resources in their communities during a natural disaster,” business management senior and team member, Kylie Pappas, said, over email. Pappas said the competition made her realize how many students are capable of coming up with innovative ideas. "I also learned that there is a lot that goes into creating a business [and it’s] a lot more than just having an idea,” Pappas said. SJSU, an SVIC Global Innovation and Leadership professor serving as the main organizer and faculty adviser for the event, said she was amazed by students’ capabilities to create original ideas, especially during a global pandemic. "This year was unusual as the event was held in a virtual setting,” Pruthi said over email. "At first, it was difficult to gauge how much interest it would generate and to what extent students would feel willing and motivated to participate.”

Laura Henry, biotechnology graduate student

Judges from industries including marketing and technology determined the winners for all categories except the People’s Choice Award, which was decided by an audience popular vote. Award categories included Best Elevator Pitch, Best Peer-to-Peer/Social Networking Innovation, Best Healthcare Innovation, People’s Choice and Best Overall Innovation. Henry said the team’s win was unexpected. “[There] was a lot of competition today, a lot of really good pitches, but we’re incredibly excited to hear [about the win],” Henry said during the event. “We put a lot of work into it and we’re excited that the judges saw what we saw in our idea.” The Emergency Connection team won Best Peer-to-Peer/Social Networking Innovation, for its app proposal allowing people to create posts asking for or offering community aid during or after a natural disaster. “The inspiration for the app was purely to help people get quick and local access to resources in their communities during a natural disaster,” business management senior and team member, Kylie Pappas, said, over email. Pappas said the competition made her realize how many students are capable of coming up with innovative ideas. "I also learned that there is a lot that goes into creating a business [and it’s] a lot more than just having an idea,” Pappas said. SJSU, an SVIC Global Innovation and Leadership professor serving as the main organizer and faculty adviser for the event, said she was amazed by students’ capabilities to create original ideas, especially during a global pandemic. "This year was unusual as the event was held in a virtual setting,” Pruthi said over email. "At first, it was difficult to gauge how much interest it would generate and to what extent students would feel willing and motivated to participate.”

Pruthi said even under different circumstances this year, SVIC attracted a higher number of submissions than its previous two years, hosting 43 student teams at the first-ever online competition. "I am very pleased that we have student teams from the College of Business, the College of Science and the College of Professional and Global Education (CGPE) among our winners today,” she said. “This year is unusually successful for the College of Business, with student teams from [the college] taking four of this year’s top seven awards, including the Best Overall Innovation.”

Pruthi mentioned that she was disappointed the event was online. "Not being able to see the smiles on the winner’s faces and not being able to capture those smiles on camera, was perhaps the most difficult part of the event for me this year,” she said.

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Laura Henry
Sports franchises must stop appropriation

By Jovanna Oliveras

Sports professional leagues should not allow cultural appropriation or racial slurs in team names. The term "redskin" refers to an offensive racial slur that is not allowed in the National Football League (NFL), but the Washington Football Team (WFT) continues to use it. The team's name is believed to originate from nineteenth-century Washingtonians who wore Native American clothing for hunting. This is evident from a June 19, 1971 NFL article, according to a July 15 Sports Illustrated article. Proving just how effective corporate pressure can be, the Washington Football Team could not risk losing these significant sponsors.

The social outcry, activism and public pressure was enough for Washington Football Team owner Dan Snyder to cave in and change the team’s name. Snyder and other Washington Football Team officials initially said the name was a placeholder until the organization found another replacement, but the name may become permanent, according to a Sept. 13 NBC Sports article. Before the threat of corporate backout, Snyder made his intentions clear just seven years prior: “We’ll never change the name. That’s it. Simple. NO!” he said in a May 16, 2013 USA Today interview.

Many marginalized individuals are tired of explaining why culturally incorrect cartoons as “mascots” mocking their identities are wrong and why they deserve basic human rights and decency. Marginalized people, including Native Americans, should not be team mascots, especially considering the U.S. history with Native American mascots, race-based violence and segregation. Teams that utilize racial slurs and inappropriate caricatures can encourage many fans to believe these harmful stereotypes are accurate or justified.

But in reality, these false interpretations are recklessly representing cultures that are not in anyone’s right to represent except those within the cultures themselves. The literal misrepresentation of cultural identity and use of appropriation has no place in widespread media or American entertainment. It does not matter if it’s a non-Native American person wearing a headdress at a football game or a Victoria Secret model wearing eagle feathers on a runway in underwear. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the largest representative Native American advocacy organization, launched a campaign to rebrand Native American-inspired stereotypes in pop culture on its website.

Professional teams that disrespectfully depict Native Americans have become multi-million dollar franchises, yet none have repaid or apologized to the individuals they are dehumanizing. Not only have Native Americans been dehumanized, but they have endured centuries of horror because of Little Buffalo’s 1963 and state support and minimal access to resources. According to data from the 2018 U.S. Census, Native Americans have the highest poverty rate among all minority groups in the country at about 25%. Sports fans can honor Native Americans by instead developing Native American-inspired stereotypes in pop culture on its website.

OPINION

SPORTS

SUDOKU PUZZLE

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

SOLUTIONS

12/1/2020

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1
3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2
4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3
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5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4
6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5
7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6
8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

46. Pay attention to
47. Senior
48. Continue to live
49. Quash
50. Brother of Jacob
51. Explosive
52. Regret
53. German for “Mister”
54. Stair
55. Explosive
56. Baked dessert
57. A type of dance
58. Cool, once
59. Not inner
60. Collect
61. Wise one
62. Procedure
63. Smells
64. A nymph of lakes
65. Liabilities
66. Add on
67. Cut away
68. German for “Mister”
69. German for “Mister”
70. German for “Mister”
71. Pull back
72. Workaday
73. Curse
74. Forestall
75. Pull back
76. German for “Mister”
77. Pull back
78. Workaday
79. German for “Mister”
80. German for “Mister”
81. German for “Mister”
82. German for “Mister”
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97. German for “Mister”
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99. German for “Mister”
100. German for “Mister”

ACROSS
1. Freshman
2. Workaday
3. 1, Way to go
4. Royal Church
5. Spy
6. Light opera
7. NFL for Football Time
8. Funeral
9. 9, In sticky
10. Desirable
11. 8, Excuse
12. 7, Demand
13. 6, Add on
14. 5, Add on
15. 4, Add on
16. 3, Add on
17. 2, Add on
18. 1, Add on

DOWN
1. 10, As a water flow
2. 9, Once, in the form of a leaf
3. 8, Cut away
4. 7, Pull back
5. 6, German for “Mister”
6. 5, Pull back
7. 4, German for “Mister”
8. 3, Pull back
9. 2, Pull back
10. 1, Pull back

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Winter brings colder temperatures and higher indoor-celebration gatherings, creating a dangerous cocktail for another surge and a fatal end to the year.

According to an unified federal action plan to curb rising cases across the nation, many Americans will die between now and January when President-elect Joe Biden takes office. According to Trump administration data, the country has continued to register spikes in COVID-19 cases across the nation, leaving the United States could be facing an early lockdown due to the rising COVID-19 cases.

**OPINION**

Oliveia Gerber

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Latin dance club adjusts to Zoom

By Shiri Marwaha

Latin dance club adjusts to Zoom when club members experience lag when music is playing or problems because of the audio; “I do not think it is easy to observe and guide students’ remote practices,” said Takeshi Young. “So I think that’s definitely challenging.”

He said teaching dance through a computer screen is difficult to adapt because in-person practices are easier to observe and guide students’ body movements.

“It’s harder to learn salsa when you’re just watching it on a computer screen, versus being able to see something in person,” Young said.

He said Zoom causes problems because of the lag when music is playing or when club members experience internet issues. These complications make it hard for Young to give feedback and interrupts the team’s practice.

Young and Fernandez without partner has challenged the club and Young said he has focused on teaching technique and solo dancing instead.

The dance club has not added members this semester because of the pandemic.

“Usually we do a lot of recruiting for new students at the beginning of the semester,” Young said. “But given how everything came up with an idea for a socially-distanced dance video. ”

Fernandez said despite the obstacles, the club has adapted to online practices and is working with dance teams at other universities to arrange a remote competition.

“We’re thinking of hosting virtual salsa competition in December,” Young said. Poblete said the circumstances this term faced this semester have given dancers a new appreciation for their time together.

“I think what I’ve learned is just not to take anything for granted even if it’s something as simple as going into a dance studio and being able to dance with people as a community,” Young said.

He said teaching dance is difficult because in-person practices are easier to observe and guide students’ body movements.

“One type of willingness to want to learn is openly accepted here in our team,” said Spartan Mambo president and political science senior Emily Fernandez. “Auditions were the only criteria to join in previous semesters. Fernandez said most students who audition are new to dancing.

“I seriously couldn’t dance the first time I danced salsa, you know, I had two left feet,” she said.

Fernandez said Young and the team take extra time to make sure new members understand the dance techniques.

“If you want to learn, myself and Young and the coach and some other leadership members try selling to take time out of their day to help anyone,” she said.

“I think what I’ve learned is just not to take anything for granted even if it’s something as simple as doing a dance studio and being able to dance with people as a community,” Young said. “I feel like I took that for granted when it was pre-COVID, now that we don’t have that anymore, I realized just how important that is.”

Spartan Mambo dance club members began their performance at San Francisco Salsa Bachata Kizomba Congress on Nov. 15, 2019.

Spartan Mambo is practicing remotely with 14 members.

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