

Horizon Fund Provides Small Grants For Big Ideas

Remember the kid.

Remember the kid who sang without embarrassment; who shouted out answers in class; who took that risky jump from the swing? Whatever happened to that kid?

What happened is someone told that kid they “can’t”, says President Michael Schneider.

“What if I told you, you can get that back?” Schneider said. “At McPherson College you have that opportunity.”

To feed the imagination of McPherson College students, Schneider introduced the college’s new “Horizon Fund” starting in the fall of 2010.

The fund provides micro-grants of up to \$500 for students who have an entrepreneurial idea to do good in a creative way. Any individual or team of McPherson College students in any major are eligible to apply for and to receive a grant.

The goal of the fund is to lift up liberal arts at the college and to spark the entrepreneurial spirit of McPherson College students, Schneider said.

In its first year, one out of every 10 McPherson College students received a Horizon Fund grant. Many of these ideas would never have started without the college’s investment in its students.

“This is an opportunity for you to have an idea, get some resources and see if it works,” Schneider said. “Jump out of a swing.”

A complete list of Horizon Fund grant winners are as follows:

ROUND ONE – October 2010

A total of 19 ideas to 22 students were awarded funding in the initial round of the Horizon Fund.

Shane Ball | SR | *Canton, KS*

Awarded a grant to complete a concept motorcycle, The Genesis, to jump start his custom motorcycle design company—Duk Design.

Audrey Secker | JR | *Lancaster, PA*

Plans to start a day care co-op on campus for students, faculty and staff with young children. She is receiving a grant to create a business plan and advisory board.

Pat Knapp | SO | *Basking Ridge, NJ*

His idea is to create a membership driven automotive shop where everyday people can use his space and tools. The grant is to fund additional research on the liability issues related to his project.

Andrew Paschall | SR | *Clarksville, MI*

Has big dreams to create an advertising agency focused on small business. His grant is to help support the creation of a business plan.

Curtis Mullins | *Hutchinson, KS*

Has a vision to create a low cost, high return event on campus to showcase his music as inspired by his independent study class dealing with Phenomenon of Man with Dr. Herb Smith. The grant will allow Curtis to pilot an event on campus.

Dale Schwartz | SR | *Crystal Lake, IL*

He is an artist and a technician. He wants to build lamps and furniture out of car parts to be sold to auto enthusiasts. The grant will fund his first two lamps.

Kalila Haddad | *Kansas City, MO*

Kalila wants to be a car builder and is an accomplished pin-striper. Her vision is to use her talent and share it with young women who want to pursue a career in automotive restoration.

Natasha Chaney | FR | *Edgerton, KS*

She wants to create an effort on campus to raise money for her hometown elementary school teachers. She is going to work with a local bakery to sell cookies to parents for their students at MC.

Steven Ast | JR | *Williamson, NY*

He sees a need that is going unmet in our auto restoration department—lack of tools. The horizon grant will help him fund a survey to assess the issue and make a recommendation.

Blake Jett | JR | *Fort Worth, TX*

Samuel Tucker | SO | *Thornton, CO*

They want to create a clothing company—shirts for causes. Each line of shirts will focus on some type of inspirational art. This grant will help them start their social enterprise by allowing them to develop a business plan and create their first line of shirts.

Lance Butler | FR | *Torrance, CA*

The C.A.R.S club now offers its members (who achieve a certain point level) club jackets. They have plans to make this effort sustainable by selling jackets for profit to alumni and friends of the college. This grant will allow for them to produce some prototype jackets and start working to get this initiative off the ground where alumni/friends will fund jackets for current students.

Jacob Patrick | FR | *Elizabeth, CO*

His grant provides funding for a 4-day high school leadership conference on the MC campus.

Emily James | SO | *Westminster, CO*

Emily is motivated to start a community garden in McPherson. This grant will allow her to create a plan to start a garden.

Lane Allison | JR | *Greensburg, KS*

Tecie Turner | SR | *Scott City, KS*

They have visions of getting students and our community excited about sustainability issues. This grant is to get them started on a pilot project called “Give it back to Mac” which is a McPherson community wide street side recycling program.

Andy Robinson | FR | *Tulsa, OK*

He wants to start a wrestling club at MC. This grant is to provide funding for Andy to do a feasibility analysis and work with MC on his idea.

Ginikachi Ibe | JR | *San Jose, CA*

He wants to start a book buy-back program. The grant will allow him to pilot a consignment program allowing him to give his buy-back model a try.

Brittney Shoulders | FR | *Rialto, CA*

She makes retro purses made with recycled vinyl. This grant will allow her to start a line of purses and develop a business plan.

Jared Stevenson | SR | *Broken Arrow, OK*

Zack Gaddis | JR | *Oklahoma City, OK*

They want to develop a not-for-profit Christian music label—G-1 Entertainment. This grant will help them with their initial copyright legal fees.

Shane Dresser | *Kearny, NJ*

Shane is a licensed massage therapist. He plans to work with a variety of clients including elderly and sick. This grant will help him get started in the McPherson Community.

ROUND TWO – January 2011

In the second round of grants awarded the first week of January, 15 ideas proposed by 18 students received funding. Eleven of the ideas were new.

Breanna Pendleton | FR | *Bakersfield, CA*

Kevin Lewis | FR | *Oklahoma City, OK*

want to create a non-profit called “U.ME.US” to educate adolescents about the dangers and consequences of bullying. The grant will help them develop the program’s plan and curriculum.

Larry Shields | SR | *Las Vegas, NV*

plans to create custom-made baby strollers to look like popular cars – targeted to car enthusiasts. The grant will help Shields study safety and liability issues of the design.

Allison Snyder | SO | *Adel, IA*

is working to create a student-run literary and art journal at McPherson College, open to all students regardless of major. The grant will help Snyder develop a sustainability plan and an advisory board for the journal.

Leah Fitzjarrald | SR | *Newton, KS*

wants to expand her existing business of affordable homemade knit scarves and purses to an online store. The grant will help cover the cost of setting up a website and doing market research.

Casey Maxon | SO | *Lawrence, KS*

is starting his own photography business called “Cacklefest Photography.” The business will focus on quality photographs for auto enthusiasts and restorers. The business will specialize in restored automobiles and the restoration process. His grant will help fund a digital camera and software.

Daniel Barba | JR | *Waxahacie, TX*

Andrew Suits | SO | *Henderson, NV*

have a plan to allow safe and easy battery disposal on campus. The grant will pay for the collection containers for the batteries.

Rod Barlet | SR | *Elizabethtown, PA*

plans to begin a handyman business after graduation in his hometown, competing against larger contractors with affordability. The grant will help Barlet develop a business plan.

Curt Compagnone | JR | *Salina, KS*

has an idea to create a McPherson College Baseball Camp for local high school players, to help players learn about the college program. The grant will help initial planning of the camp.

Jenni Birdsall | SR | *Lansing, KS*

Lidia Labra | SR | *Scott City, KS*

plan to create an elementary and secondary school curriculum for children learning English as a second language. The grant will help fund research materials and planning.

James Tuttle | SR | *Lewiston, NE*

wants to do a research study for his senior project – pending Institutional Research Board approval – to see whether student personality and aggressiveness are more predictive of student success than more traditional factors used to determine admission. The grant will help purchase professional personality testing materials.

Chad Krivin | SR | *East Greenville, PA*

is starting an upholstery business for automobiles and furniture. The grant will help pay for some of his initial tools and business startup costs.

Emily James | SO | *Westminster, CO*

received funding last fall to create a plan for a community garden on campus. James has met with the community and found about 20 people interested in being involved. Plowing has been completed and planting can start in March. This round of funding will help with connections to water supply, fertilizing the soil with manure and other supplies.

Steve Ast | JR | *Williamson, NY*

saw a need in the automotive restoration department at the college – a lack of tools – and used his funds in the first round to conduct a survey of students and professors to make a recommendation. This new grant will help him create a system to “check out” school tools to students and pursue sponsorships for the purchase of new tools.

Dale Schwartz | SR | *Crystal Lake, IL*

began a small business of creating stylish lamps from car parts. He used the initial funds to purchase materials and basic tools, build his first lamps and approach parts companies for donations of auto parts. This second-round grant will help fund additional parts and to promote his business.

Kalila Haddad | JR | *Kansas City, MO*

is working to develop her skills as an auto restorer. Her last round helped her with her pin striping abilities. This round’s grant will help fund a website to promote her services and skills. Haddad to start a “one-stop shop” for auto restoration after graduation

ROUND THREE – April 2011

In the third round of funding, about 20 students and 16 ideas received grants . Of those, 13 were new proposals.

Franz Grossman | SR | *Ebenthal, Austria*

received a grant in the third round in support of his electronic music composition and work as a live DJ.

Eric Wasson | SO | *Mount Airy, Md.*

received a grant to build a prototype skateboard and develop a business plan for his idea called “Drop Lite Skateboards.” In addition to selling to skateboarders, Wasson wants to donate boards to at-risk kids in need as an alternative to gangs and violence.

Kyle Dilley | FR | *Parker, Kan.*

received a grant along with other students in a fledgling improv comedy troupe composed of McPherson College students. The grant helped them to purchase matching T-shirts and start to promote themselves around the area. Dilley said that in addition to entertainment, the troupe helps students get experience with stage time. Eventually the troupe could expand into other performance options, such as monologues, poetry or short theatre.

Kelsi Sowers | SR | *El Dorado, Kan.*

realized Horizon Fund winners and other new ventures would likely need design services. Her design business will fill the niche of providing design services to Horizon Fund winners and other small startups.

Shane Dresser | SO | *Kearny, N.J.*

received a grant for his car paint touch-up business called “Paint Perfections.” The service offers a touch up kit shipped to a consumer’s door with a professionally computer-matched paint code – allowing for affordable, but quality results. The grant will help pay for a business website. Dresser received a grant in round one for a massage table.

Daniel Barba | JR | *Waxahachie, Texas*

received a grant to help get reusable shopping bags into the hands of McPherson College students to reduce plastic shopping bag waste. Barba received a grant in round two, along with Andrew Suits, sophomore, Henderson, Nev., to place battery recycling containers around campus.

Joe Middleton | JR | *Chandler, Arizona*

received a grant to help his event marketing and promotion business for nightclubs, concerts and festivals. The grant will help him to develop a business plan and take the first steps toward organizing the business.

Darrick Johnson | JR | *Maricopa, Arizona*

Joe Middleton | JR | *Chandler, Arizona*

received funds to create a prototype T-Shirt for their clothing company concept called NVUS, standing for “Naturally Victorious with Ultimate Success.” Their plan is to create lines of clothing made of recycled materials, with a portion of each sale going to charity.

Grant Miller | SR | *St. John, Kan.*

plans to start a small business for in-home and small group fitness training. The grant will help him purchase essential fitness equipment and develop a business plan.

Cody Cannon | FR | *Fort Scott, Kan.*

received a grant to help start a McPherson college chapter of Alpha Sigma Pi – a leadership-based honor society.

Jared Coho | FR | *Bellwood, Pa., and the other members of the Automotive Restoration Model T Quick Build Team*

received funds to help with tools, parts, marketing and uniforms to help better promote the team. The Model T team assembles a working Model T from a pile of parts in less than 15 minutes.

Steve Ast | JR | *Williamson, N.Y.*

plans to start a television repair and used television sales business. His grant helped him purchase tools for electronics repair.

Evan Tomer | JR | *Tulsa, Okla.*

received a grant to help him start Precision Automotive Detail, an affordable detailing and cleaning service to bring a vehicle up to showroom condition.

Casey Maxon | SO | *Lawrence, Kan.*

received additional funds for his car photography business “Cacklefest Photography.” His previous grant helped him to purchase a quality digital camera and photography software and he has been expanding his portfolio and gaining customers. The new grant will help him purchase a wide-angle lens and tripod.

Brittney Shoulders | FR | *Rialto, Calif.*

received another grant to assist with her business, Cherry Doll Purses, which creates stylish custom retro purses made from recycled vinyl. The new grant will help with creating a business plan, business cards and pamphlets.

Blake Jett | JR | *Fort Worth, Texas*

Sam Tucker | SO | *Tornton, Colo.*

received a new grant in support of their clothing business, MutePoint Clothing, which contributes a portion of each sale to charity. Since their first grant, the two have added a partner, incorporated as a limited liability company, established an employee ID, created a full business plan and are working on establishing trademark. They have designed their first T-shirt line called “Hope”, with a portion of the profits going to help fund a cure for cancer. The new grant will help fund their first printing run.