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Lawrence University

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## Lawrence University Innovators Participating in Third Annual “Schumptoberfest”

*Posted on: October 10th, 2012 by Rick Peterson*

Lawrence University student and faculty representatives will be among the participants at “Schumptoberfest 2012,” a conference dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship in the liberal arts curriculum. Grinnell College hosts the third annual event Oct. 13-14.



Sid Dayal, a 2011 Lawrence graduate and senior Dan O’Connor, two of the founding members of [Flickey](#),<sup>™</sup> discuss their experience, achievements and challenges in launching a business enterprise designed to enable consumers to download movie rentals from dedicated kiosks onto USB drives. The venture grew out of Lawrence’s “In Pursuit of Innovation” course taught by Assistant Professor of Economics Adam Galambos, Professor Emeritus of Physics John Brandenberger and lecturer in economics Gary Vaughan. The Flickey<sup>™</sup> team also includes junior Nate Fearing and senior George Levy.

Junior Babajide Ademola and senior Patrick Pylvainen will present on their research on the role of entrepreneurship in economic development in Sierra Leone. Ademola and Pylvainen were part of a team led by Professor of Government Claudena Skran that traveled to Sierra Leone this summer to study small ventures that have successfully brought economic development to some

communities in the face of overwhelming odds. Pylvainen is basing his *Senior Experience* on this research with support from the Mellon Senior Experience Fund.

Galamabos and Associate Professor of Economics David Gerard will join the students at the conference.

Schumptoberfest is the brainchild of Gerard, who founded the event in 2010 at Bjorklunden. It is named in honor of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Austrian-American economist Joseph A. Schumpeter who advocated for change-oriented, and innovation-based economics.

Lawrence hosted Schumptoberfest 2011, attracting participants from a dozen campuses in the Associated Colleges of the Midwest and beyond.

The annual conference is sponsored by the ACM through a Faculty Career Enhancement (FaCE) Project grant.

The “Pursuit of Innovation” course helped launch Lawrence’s own program in innovation and entrepreneurship in the fall of 2008. The program has since expanded to include other courses and course modules in economics, government, physics, studio art, the conservatory of music and theatre, directly benefiting more than 250 students from a wide range of majors.