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Harley Langdale Jr.  
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**CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**Business Plan Competition**

**Final Pitch**

**April 17, 2026**

**9:00 am -12:45 pm**

**Pound Hall**

**Auditorium**

**(North Campus)**

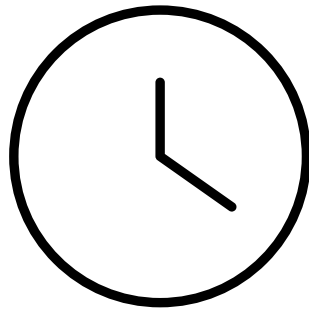
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# EVENT SCHEDULE



**9:00 am -9:30 am**

Opening Remarks

**Dr. Guclu Atinc**, Dean of the Harley Jr.  
Langdale College of Business

Introduction- **Dr. Amy Watson**

**9:30 am -11:45 am**

Presentations

**11:45 am -12:00 pm**

Deliberation by the Judges

**12:00 pm - 12:30 pm**

Closing Remarks

**Dr. William Crowe**, President of VSU

Awards Announcement by

**Dr. Byeonghwa Park**, Director of  
J. Donald Lee Center for  
Entrepreneurship

- **Mary Beth Rousseau**

Mary Beth Rousseau is an Associate Professor of Management at Valdosta State University, where she teaches Strategic Management, Small Business Management, and Entrepreneurship. Her research focuses on innovation, firm performance, and family business, with more recent work centered on case studies that bridge research and practice in management education. Prior to academia, Dr. Rousseau held senior positions in the technology sector in New Zealand during the early growth of the internet economy. She led the development, launch, and management of ventures at the forefront of online payment systems, internet voice applications, and interactive web design, with a focus on business development and new venture growth.



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Scan the QR Code below to view the Program  
Booklet online



- **Chris Jones**

Chris Jones is the Assistant Director of the UGA Small Business Development Center at Valdosta State University and the owner of Georgia Beer Co., a craft brewery based in downtown Valdosta, GA. He brings a unique blend of entrepreneurial experience and business consulting expertise, helping local businesses grow through strategic guidance, operational insight, and practical, results-driven solutions. Chris is deeply committed to supporting South Georgia's business community, leveraging his hands-on experience as a business owner to mentor entrepreneurs, foster regional economic development, and create sustainable growth opportunities for small businesses across the area. He is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Valdosta - Lowndes County Tourism Authority, where he serves on the Executive Committee and is the Chairperson of the Marketing Committee.

- **Michael Oppel**

Michael Oppel is a finance professional in Tifton, Georgia, specializing in credit and financial analysis, business relationship management, entrepreneurship, and risk management. Currently serving as Vice President for Government Guaranteed Lending at Stone Bank, he draws on expertise with USDA B & I and SBA 7(a) programs honed through leadership roles at Colony Bank and Ameris Bank. He also owns multiple businesses, including Red Owl Coffee Company franchise locations and real estate holding companies. A dedicated proponent of economic development, Michael helps businesses secure essential capital to foster growth nationwide. He earned his bachelor's degree in finance in 2010 and his MBA in 2012 from Valdosta State University.

# FINAL PITCH FINALISTS

## 01 She Means Brand

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Nicole Taylor  
Ashlin Meadows

## 02 BATRex

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Bogeon Lee  
Anthony Ikito  
Olivia Lanahan

## 03 Guardian Vision AI

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Solomon Carroll

## 04 SaludYa

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John Barbosa

## 05 jfleming.StudioWorkshop

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Jeffrey Fleming

## 06 SPRK

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Imane Charles  
Molly Barclay  
Sabrina Oncins

## 07 Fresh Visioners

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Jessica Madrid  
Andrea Zambrano

## 08 PTLegacy Studio

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Phylisicia Lundy  
Trista Miller

## JUDGES

- **Mr. Jose de Diego Arozamena**, CEO of Arglass
- **Mr. DeWayne Johnson**, President of Southern Georgia Black Chambers
- **Mr. Chris Jones**, Founder of Georgia Beer
- **Mr. Michael Oppel**, Vice President of Stone Bank
- **Dr. Mary Beth Rousseau**, Valdosta State University

## JUDGES BIO

- **José de Diego Arozamena**

Jose de Diego Arozamena has been in and around the glass industry since birth. Jose's grandfather founded the first family factory in Mexico, which was later run by his parents. The family's passion for the business was passed from generation to generation until, at the age of 23, Jose and his family acquired a faltering U.S. glass factory, which Jose soon turned to profitability. After a long career as an investor heavily involved in management, Jose returned to the glass industry by participating in the acquisition process of Verallia, where he was a member of the board, and by developing Arglass from the ground up. Jose is currently the Founder, Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer at Arglass.

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- **Dr. Guclu Atinc**, Dean of LCOBA
- **Dr. Raymond Elson**, Associate Dean
- **Dr. Yvonne Lee**
- **Dr. Mohammad Movahed**
- **Dr. Byeonghwa Park**, Director of J.D.L. Center
- **Dr. Mary Beth Rousseau**
- **Mr. Jeff Shipley**
- **Dr. Xinyu Wang**
- **Dr. Amy Watson**

- **DeWayne Johnson**

DeWayne Johnson, a Valdosta native, transitioned from an Electrical Engineering career into Entrepreneurship. His company focuses on investing, consultation, and property renovation. Johnson's community leadership includes his current position as President/ CEO of the Southern Georgia Black Chambers, as well as Board Chairman of the South Georgia Regional Library System and Board Vice Chairman of the Copeland African American Museum. His contributions have been recognized with awards, including the Humanitarian Award and the Superior Service Award.