Clarion University of Pennsylvania students win Second Annual FAStech Cup competition!

On February 11-14, 2015 Clarion University students John Owens, Chelsea Zola, Zack Horner, and Mike Smith travelled to Dallas, TX to compete in the Second Annual FAStech Cup competition, which was conducted as part of the 2015 Technology Tools for Today (T3) Conference. The competition was comprised of four parts that incorporated elements of financial planning and the use of technology.

First students were required to create a fictitious Financial Planning firm including a webpage with branding, core values, embedded links, financial calculators, etc. In the second portion of the competition the students completed a financial plan for a fictitious couple using software provided by one of the FAStech partners, MoneyGuidePro. Next the students participated in a Skype interview in which they presented their financial plan to their “clients”, who were really judges located at MoneyGuidePro headquarters in Richmond, Va.

Finally, the students travelled to Dallas, TX to meet their “clients” face-to-face and answer questions about their proposed plan, their firm, and their profession. While attending the conference the students participated in various professional sessions and entered a team in the Financial Planning Quiz Bowl. Last year’s Clarion team placed second in the Quiz Bowl competition.

On Saturday morning, February 14, one of the breakout sessions of the T3 conference centered around the FAStech competition, at which it was announced that Clarion University of Pennsylvania was this year’s first place winner, finishing ahead of teams from Texas Tech, Texas A&M, and Utah Valley, among others. As the winners of this year’s competition the students bring home an engraved trophy which includes their names as well as that of Clarion University. The trophy will be on display in the College of Business Administration and Information Sciences (COBAIS) until next year’s competition, when it will be returned to the FAStech partners. The students also bring home a $5,000 check for the COBAIS to use in funding scholarships, or future student competitions.

“The students worked hard on this competition, and they did it on their own time,” said Jeffrey Eicher, Professor of Finance and advisor to this year’s team. “I think that this year’s finish is a clear indication of the overall quality education that the students have received here at Clarion. They excelled, not only in their knowledge of financial planning, but in their use of technology, their ability to adapt to changing circumstances, and in their analytical, presentation and communication skills.”

Results of the competition are posted to www.fastechpartners.com.