

# CLUB | Alum credits program for business

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Landholders, about four years ago," he said. "The best thing about having a business and being an entrepreneur is every time I go to class, the material makes so much sense because I can actually apply everything I'm doing."

Fellow society member Timothy Ramon, a senior business management major, said he formed an entertainment services business, the Avila Group, in September 2007.

"I was tired of treating so many opportunities as hobbies," Ramon said. "I knew I had aspirations to pursue entertainment after graduation and wondered how far along I could be in the business if I started early."

Ramon said he and his friend Tyler Florence, also an SJSU student, started the business together.

"We have the capability to do anything entertainment-service related but spend the majority of our time doing artist management," he said.

Ramon said being a member of Entrepreneurial Society was one of the main factors that inspired him to start his career early.

"(The society) has a huge network of resources and just an affiliation opens those resources to its members," he said. "They project a high bar, and it is refreshing to have benchmarks to try and match."

Parris Khachi, a senior computer science major, said joining the Entrepreneurial Society helped him to meet "like-minded" people who are all on the same "wavelength" as him.

"They have reaffirmed some business concepts that I hold," he said. "It is awesome seeing everyone working hard. It is really inspirational."

Khachi started his business, Let's Woosh, in January.

The business is an online ticketing company that aims to lower convenience fees, Khachi said.

"I have been working on the project for the past year or so, developing code so it would run properly," he said.

Khachi said he has been a freelance Web designer for the past six years, and he said his project gave him a full grasp of operating in a company.

"I need to consider so many aspects to just get everything going," he said. "And then try to keep it maintained — from creating simple policies, to large contracts, to protect myself. I ended up learning a lot."

Former Entrepreneurial Society member, Summit Mahawar, an SJSU alumnus, said he graduated in December 2007 with a degree in business organization and management.

Mahawar said the program provided him with the platform to meet successful entrepreneurs and "gain insight" on starting a business.

"Through the Entrepreneurial Society, I was able to meet successful professionals such as Gary Kremen and Stuart Skorman, both of whom have been very helpful to me," he said. "Everything, from their workshops to their speaker events, helped me gain the know-how and confidence to run my own business."

Mahawar said he started working on his business, Mahawar Media, six months before he graduated.

He said his business is launching a network of screens featuring content to inform people.

"We will place these screens in

places people normally have downtime, such as elevators, waiting lines and restaurant dining areas," he said.

Mahawar said he discovered his business idea while on a trip in China with the Sbona Business Honors Program.

"I got the opportunity to see companies such as Focus Media, which had LCD screens in various locations informing people," he said. "This was a captivating way to reach people, and I immediately thought to myself, 'People here could benefit from this.'"

He said he has had a passion for entrepreneurship since high school and that he comes from a family of entrepreneurs.

"My father owns and operates his own medical clinic, and my uncles are large operators of fast food restaurants," he said.

Mahawar said being part of a start-up business taught him how to deal with people.

"Starting a business truly forces you to understand every facet of business, and it teaches you discipline, agility and ingenuity," he said. "All of these are key skills, which will help me in my future endeavors and career choices."

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but death and taxes"**

- Ben Franklin

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