

Press release, 11 April 2018

## 30<sup>th</sup> St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award

*The St. Gallen Symposium celebrates the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of its global student essay competition, a vital part of the symposium since 1989. A record number of students submitted essays for the 2018 competition. Meanwhile, former winners and runners-up will share how St. Gallen has impacted their lives and develop a framework on how to transform ideas into reality in collaboration with the symposium participants.*

Since its inauguration in 1989, more than 25,000 ideas have been submitted for the St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award, providing students from well over 1,200 universities, across many cultures and different fields of study, a platform to share their ideas and opinions with an international community of current and future leaders.

### **Empowering student ideas**

Many students who have entered the essay competition have been inspired to continue working on their ideas. The symposium has invited former student qualifiers to share how St. Gallen has had an impact on their lives. More than 120 stories have been submitted. The most inspiring will be presented at the upcoming 48<sup>th</sup> St. Gallen Symposium, held from 2–4 May 2018. Furthermore, and as part of this competition anniversary, former student qualifiers will return to St. Gallen to develop a rulebook on what it takes to make good ideas work in the real world. All symposium participants will be invited to contribute to this project. The inspirational results will be presented at the symposium and made public afterwards.

### **Record number of ideas submitted for 2018 competition**

The competition this year attracted entries from more than 1,200 graduate and postgraduate students from 420 universities in 80 countries, representing 111 nationalities. Entrants were asked to share their answers to the question “Robots are coming for your job. How do you augment yourself to stay economically relevant?” The five very best competitors will present and discuss their essays at the upcoming symposium on Thursday, 3 May 2018 in the evening Plenary Session (video-livestreamed), which will be dedicated entirely to this global student idea initiative. It will include the celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the St. Gallen Wings of Excellence Award since 1989. The three awardees will share a CHF 30,000 cash prize.

### **A world-class, student-run forum**

The St. Gallen Symposium is a student-run global forum that has been creating healthy debates on relevant topics for nearly 50 years – between generations, disciplines and cultures. The 48<sup>th</sup> St. Gallen Symposium will be held at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, one of the world’s leading business schools. In the past, global luminaries such as Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Professor Niall Ferguson, Harvard University, Christine Lagarde, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Jack Ma, Alibaba Group, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO, Stephen Sackur, BBC Television Centre, and Tidjane Thiam, Credit Suisse Group AG, have contributed to the “St. Gallen debates.”

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