



INNOVATIS

Meet the Chairman of Our Young Canadian Chapter

*Science and art
belong to the
whole world,
and before
them vanish the
barriers of
nationality.*

*- Johann
Wolfgang von
Goethe*

There's no doubt that the Foundation is enjoying the many positive effects of regional chapters. Nominations are up and attendance at last year's Halifax awards dinner was at an all-time high. Across the country, chapter members representing business, industry, academia, patent attorneys, licensing agents and past award recipients are joining together to help identify talented Canadians who exemplify the spirit of innovation.

Now, a new group is set to join our family of chapters — allow us to introduce the Young Canadian Chapter and chairman Kyle Doerksen of Calgary. Presently attending Stanford University (completing a Masters degree), Kyle won a 1999 Young Canadian Award for his creation of three-dimensional ground penetrating radar (GPR).

Kyle contacted the Foundation last year with the idea of bringing together

Young Canadian Innovation Award recipients to network, stimulate partnerships and open up new possibilities for Canadian innovation.

In Kyle's words, *"While I have been fortunate enough to receive a number of awards related to my independent research, the Manning Award is one of the most special because receiving it represents induction into the company of a select group of great Canadian innovators."*

"The awards banquet I attended in Toronto was the first contact with this amazing group of people...youth and innovative spirit are a potent combination and putting several like-minded people together could yield fantastic results," says Kyle.

The Young Canadian Chapter has the potential to be the largest chapter and, on the following pages, you will meet two inaugural members of the chapter with their stories written by Kyle.



Kyle Doerksen,
1999 Young Canadian
Award winner

ATTENTION: YOUNG CANADIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS

We invite you to become a member of the Young Canadian Chapter to share your enthusiasm, ideas and experiences. The chapter will initiate a gathering (nationally or locally) of Young Canadian award recipients. Membership is free and the time obligation is your choice. Please contact the Foundation at manning@encana.com to indicate your interest.

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Creative Young Minds Still Innovating A Decade Later



Nathan Litke

**1993 Young Canadian
Award winner from
St. Catharine's,
Ontario**

*“I’ve been living
a six-year working
vacation.”*

By Kyle Doerksen

Nathan Litke wants to make the next ‘Toy Story’ film much more realistic. Currently finishing his Ph.D. at Caltech in Pasadena, California, near Los Angeles, Litke has continued to experiment with computer graphics since he built a Photoshop-type program in the early 1990s and entered it in a high school science fair.

Today, his latest work is focused on animating computer-generated objects that contain an amazing amount of texture detail compared to the smooth characters in ‘Toy Story’ and ‘Finding Nemo.’

“The current state of the art uses moderate sized pieces of ‘rubber’ to represent these shells,” says Litke.

“While it gives the animator a lot of control, it limits the amount of detail you can have in the surface,” he says.

Litke’s Ph.D. thesis on discrete parametric surfaces would open up new opportunities for animators — a future reality that is already attracting interest from several computer animation companies including Pixar, creator of today’s top grossing computer animated films.

Litke credits the unexpected surprise of winning a Manning Young Canadian Award in 1993 to becoming aware of his “first inkling of doing something more research oriented.”

“It exposed me to a community more interested in the invention itself than making a product,” Litke says.

Later, while pursuing the co-op program at the University of Waterloo as an undergrad, he caught “the co-op itch,” the need to explore new opportunities every four months or so.

Since then, he has worked with the National Research Council, Alias-Wavefront and Pixar as well as pursued research in Germany and France.

“I’ve been living a six-year working vacation,” jokes Litke, adding that he certainly enjoys it.

His next move is not yet fully planned but he says it will probably involve working with an animation company like Pixar or doing a post-doctorate program somewhere in Europe.

Young Canadian Alumni Members Continue To Dazzle

(Continued from page 2)

Holly Pekau, who also won a Manning Young Canadian award in 1993 (the second year it was awarded), is pursuing her Ph.D. developing CMOS integrated circuits for RF digitization at radio frequencies.

After completing her undergraduate degree at McGill, she worked for Analog Devices in Boston as well as IBM Microelectronics, which took her to France before returning to her hometown in 2003 to begin her Ph.D. at the University of Calgary.

“The Manning Award encouraged me to go into the engineering field,” says Pekau.

“It encouraged a spirit of creativity and innovation,” she says.

Pekau’s 1993 science fair project, which won numerous awards at the Calgary and Canada-Wide science fairs, used infrared spectroscopy to analyze fingernail proteins to determine people’s nutritional status.

“Hopefully, one day we would like to see a Young Canadian Award recipient win a major Manning Innovation Award,” says Don Park, executive director of the Foundation .

“It would be a thrill for all of us involved to see one of our Young Canadian winners continue in their pursuit of innovation and for it to be so successful that they are back on stage as one of our major adult winners,” says Park.

With Young Canadian innovators like Litke and Pekau continuing to conduct highly innovative advanced research, Park’s hope will likely come true before long. To help ensure that it does, the Foundation is establishing a chapter for past and current Young Canadian winners.

Recently, the Foundation began to actively develop regional chapters across the country to better connect with innovators as well as increase the prominence of the Manning Awards.

“These chapters are proving to be highly successful, and we expect the Young Canadian Chapter to experience that same level of success on a national scale,” says Park.



Holly Pekau

**1993 Young Canadian
Award winner from
Calgary, Alberta**

*“The Manning
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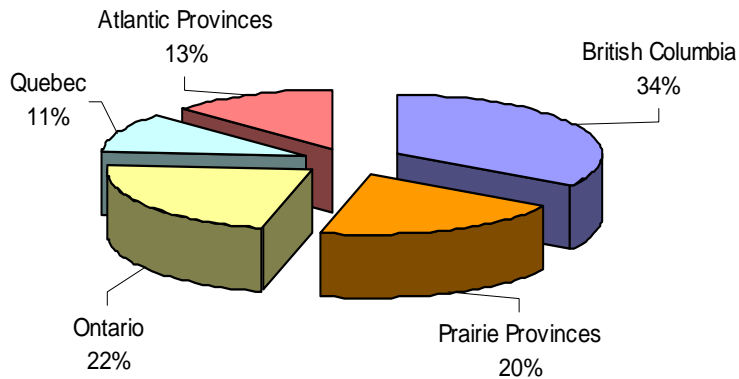
Highest Number of Submissions in 10 Years

Coming Next Issue

Meet our 2004 Young Canadian Winners chosen at the Canada-Wide Science Fair in St. John's, Newfoundland

MANNING INNOVATION AWARDS

Percentage of 2004 Nominations by Region



The value of the work of regional chapters was reflected again with a record 76 submissions received for the 2004 competition. British Columbia led with 34 percent of the nominations, double the amount from the previous year. Congratulations to Chairman Dr. Jim McEwen and his enthusiastic and hardworking British Columbia Chapter. The Atlantic Provinces also had a strong showing and were again well above the average for submissions from that area.

The Manning Innovation Awards, named in honour of the late Ernest C. Manning, former Alberta Premier and Canadian Senator, was incorporated as a not-for-profit society in 1980 to stimulate, encourage and reward deserving Canadian innovators for their personal accomplishments that have widespread social and economic benefit to Canada.

The annual program continues today with a \$100,000 Principal Award, a \$25,000 Award of Distinction, two \$10,000 Innovation Awards and the \$20,000 Young Canadian Innovation Awards program, shared among eight exhibits selected from entries in the senior division of the Canada-Wide Science Fair. Our major sponsors include EnCana Corporation and Petro-Canada.

We're On The Web
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