



*******MEDIA ADVISORY*******

What: Introducing the 2017 Southwestern Ontario Nominees for the prestigious Manning Innovation Awards

When: Tuesday, May 30, 2017 – 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM EDT

Where: Innovation Factory | 175 Longwood Rd S #101a | Hamilton, ON
Please RSVP to Gary Svodoba - gs@adventusresearch.com

Why: The Southwestern Ontario Chapter of the Manning Innovation Awards will present its nominees for the 2017 Manning Awards, which recognize outstanding Canadian innovators.

These nominees are eligible for one of the Foundation’s four awards, which will be announced on November 29th at the 36th Manning Innovation Awards Dinner, presented by Scotiabank.

The awards include two \$10,000 Manning Innovation Awards, the \$25,000 David E. Mitchell Award of Distinction and the \$100,000 Principal Award.

Who: The nominees will speak at the luncheon and will be available for media interviews:

Innovators	Innovation
Armen Bakirtzian, Andre Hladio and Richard Fanson	Intellijoint HIP
Karel Havel	Variable Colour LED
Dr. Shaowen Song	System-on-Chip
Tim Jackson, Barry Bisson	SHAD
Cathy Brothers, Judy Blasutti	MatchBoard
Gavin Armstrong	Lucky Iron Fish

(Profiles included in Nominees’ Backgrounder)

Background: The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is helping create a culture of Canadian innovation by discovering, encouraging and rewarding Canadian innovators, and telling their stories. The Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then,

the Foundation has built a national network of 3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 281 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure. For more information visit:

www.manningawards.ca

The Southwestern Ontario Chapter is one of 11 Chapters across the country, which are a dedicated group of volunteers who are passionate about innovation.

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For more information and to book interviews, please contact:

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Southwestern Ontario Chapter Chair

Jennifer Diakiw
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President



BACKGROUND: SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO NOMINEES' PROFILES

Armen Bakirtzian, Andre Hladio and Richard Fanson were students presented with a problem by an orthopedic surgeon, who started working on the solution while still in University. The result is the **intellijoint HIP**. This product is a navigation system for use in total hip replacement or reconstruction that guides the surgeon in a way that improves the accuracy of the procedures. This reduces post-surgery complications, including dislocation, leg length discrepancy, and pain, ultimately reducing the number of revision surgeries. This innovation is a miniaturized camera system that can be attached to the patient's pelvis bone, improving workflow and line-of-sight issues. The system is designed to be relatively low-cost, quick to use and user-friendly.

Karel Havel arrived in Canada and after becoming a registered Professional Engineer, realized his lifelong ambition of becoming an independent innovator. His inventions are many, but it is the **Variable Colour Light Emitting Diode (LED)** of which he is most proud. This innovation repeatedly energizes primary colour light emitting diodes by pulses, fast enough to create an impression of continuously emitted light. The duration of the pulses is regulated to control the portions of the corresponding primary colours, to produce the desired composite colour. This innovation is used in billboards, televisions, smart phones and other similar devices.

Shaowen Song's innovation **System-on-Chip** had its beginning in his 1998 research. Today, this innovation is commercialized and has customers in 25 countries. System-on-Chip uses all hardware chip design architecture, which is comparable to using rewritable CDs to make functional CDs, where the chip design is burnt into pre-made 'blank' chips. This makes it possible for customers to add their own modules to build a system on chip product, reducing the chip production cost for small volume productions. System-on-Chip technology delivers MPEG-2 video/audio decoders, making crystal clear HD video over the Internet a reality with a video compression engine that is smaller, uses less power and is faster than other leading products.

Tim Jackson and Barry Bisson are innovators who nurture emerging innovators through **SHAD**. Each year, students compete to be part of SHAD for a summer enrichment experience. They live in one of 13 Canadian university residences and become part of a community of like-minded, highly driven youth. The program focuses on STEAM (science, technology, engineering arts and mathematics) and includes lectures, seminars, social events, trips plus an entrepreneurship challenge to find an original product or service as a solution to each year's social theme problem. It is an opportunity for the participants to meet with likeminded individuals from across Canada to solve

real-world problems. There are now 15,500 SHAD Fellows, who are innovators and leaders in their chosen fields.

Cathy Brothers and Judy Blasutti created **MatchBoard** in 2011, to address the need to recruit appropriate individuals to non-for-profit Boards without relying solely on the prospective board members' networks or advertising in the media. It matches non-profit boards with employees, based on their interests, skills and passion. Participants engage in a carefully designed step-wise program that includes Board governance training that is guided by professional coaches. Employees gain valuable experience, training and development opportunities and corporations gain from having employees with enhanced skillsets and experience. Non-profit boards gain keen, capable and diverse members, the not-for-profit sector benefits from having better run organizations and ultimately, society benefits from having a stronger non-profit sector.

Gavin Armstrong is a Canadian innovator, who when he learned of the scale and extent of iron deficiency in rural Cambodian villages, started to work on the solution, giving rise to the **Lucky Iron Fish®** (LIF). A fish-shaped lead ingot is placed in the daily cooking pot when making soup or boiling water, releasing iron into the water. Fish are seen as lucky in Cambodia, boosting its acceptance. In addition, the LIF has a smile that fades away, indicating when to replace it. (After about five years of daily use.) As the amount of iron released is at a low level, there are no side effects and the taste of food and water is not altered. The LIF are made and packaged locally in Cambodia, providing employment for many including those with disabilities or disadvantaged youth.

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