4th Annual LION’s Lair a Success!

Over 500 members of the Hamilton business community gathered together at Carmen’s Banquet Centre on October 2, as Innovation Factory and the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce presented the fourth annual LiON’S LAIR Awards Gala. The room was abuzz as guests who had come together to celebrate entrepreneurship in Hamilton awaited the results of the Lions’ decisions – which finalists would take home the coveted $160,000+ in cash and professional resources? Six weeks after their pitches to the Lions, the ten finalists – along with the audience – finally got their news. Prize winners of the evening included Rango as the grand prize winner of $57,500 total in cash and professional resources, The Greenlid in second with $51,250, Sound Options Tinnitus Treatments in third with $28,250, followed by Hangry at $15,000 and Special Appucations with $13,000.

The winners were selected by this year’s Lions: Carmela Trombetta, Blair McKeil, Mario Paron, Jeff Puklin, and Tonia Jahshan. The audience also had the chance to vote for the People’s Choice Award, and after the votes were tallied The Greenlid was named the winner and awarded a meeting with Trellis Capital (a Toronto VC firm), $500 cash and a half page ad in The Hamilton Spectator.

The competition is, of course, about more than just the results announced at the Gala. Each of the finalists have committed months of practice and hard work to their ventures, spending hours in training with the IF team since June. They should all be proud of how far they’ve come!

A huge thanks goes out to the incredible LiON’S LAIR partners, like McMaster Innovation Park, whose generous support this event would be impossible without. Through their contributions, IF and the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce are able to put on this fantastic event each year and award over $160,000 in cash and professional resources to the winner(s).

Thank you to all of the partners and Lions for their continued support of LiON’S LAIR, and congratulations to all ten finalists! Learn more about the finalists & their winnings and see photos from the event at lionslair.ca.

MIP welcomes The Forge, a collaboration between IF and McMaster

The Forge is a cooperative effort between McMaster University and the Innovation Factory to provide a business and innovation accelerator for the Hamilton community located in 304A at McMaster Innovation Park. What drives an entrepreneur to accelerate their business through to sales validation and efficiency? First you give them an environment with other entrepreneurs facing similar issues and growing pains. Second you add a regiment of start-up 101 programming to enhance their skills and improve their decision making abilities. Lastly you surround those start-ups with mentors and other successful business people who can help those entrepreneurs avoid the less obvious potholes. The goal of The Forge is to provide a dedicated space, programming and mentorship for start-ups ready to be accelerated from prototype stage to a repeatable sales model. For more information on The Forge program, please visit spectrum.mcmaster.ca/forge.
Co-Locate. Connect.

UNU-INWEH at McMaster Water Week

As part of McMaster Water Week, the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) held several events at McMaster Innovation Park and the main McMaster University campus. The first event held on Tuesday October 7th was the presentation of diplomas to the 2014 graduates of Water Without Borders, a collaborative graduate program between UNU-INWEH and McMaster University.

The Water Without Borders program demonstrates the strong link between McMaster University and UNU-INWEH. More than 30 students have graduated through this program since its inception, involving more than 15 faculty from both institutions. This year’s graduates were Dr. Sarah Dickin, who developed an index to map vulnerability to dengue fever; Mr. Ahmed El Ganzouri, who developed a community rainwater harvesting model; Ms. Naomi Mahaffy, who evaluated plastic biosand filters for household water treatment; Ms. Haley McCormick, who investigated how and to what extent NGOs in Uganda are involved in sustainable land management policy; and Mr. Chris Stanley who developed a framework for integrated water, sanitation, hygiene, and HIV/AIDS community development.

The second event, which culminated in a public high-level panel event at McMaster University, was a two-day consultative workshop to explore country-level response to sustainable development. Participants from the UN, water think tanks, development agencies, and academia joined UNU-INWEH and its partners, the Global Water Partnership and McMaster University, in discussing national development information from seven countries as it pertains to water. This event was part of a larger country-level study aimed to explore the convergences and disconnects between these national plans and the current global dialogues around sustainable development goals that will continue the work of the Millennium Development goals post-2015. Building upon a global report released in November 2013, preliminary findings suggest a wide range of priorities between countries and significant gaps both in information and in capacity to undertake sustainable water sector expansion.

Thank you to all who attended McMaster Water Week. In total, there were over 400 participants in McMaster Water Week activities, and we look forward to participating in another successful run next year.

McMaster partnership with Chinese Company to develop Water Technology

Imagine being able to ensure drinking water is safe in a community water system by using a series of remote sensors to instantly identify contamination before anyone gets sick. That’s the goal of technology being developed at McMaster University, which is the focus of a new agreement between the University, a Chinese company and other Canadian partners. The deal will see a $3-million investment by the Chinese company Jiangsu Delin Environmental Protection Technology Co. and $1 million from China’s science and technology ministry. The University will provide office and lab space at McMaster Innovation Park and is working with the Provincial and Federal government to obtain further funding. This research in water technology is significant because currently samples have to be taken and then tested, a process that can take several hours or days. Remote sensing offers the promise of continuous testing that can be watched in real time at a central facility. The deal would see researchers in Hamilton collaborating online with researchers at a laboratory in Jiangsu Province, China, to develop the technology with the goal of creating sensing equipment to detect biological contaminants at first and other pollutants such as heavy metals later on.
LION’s Lair Finalists: Advanced Solar Technology Solutions

ASTS is a Canadian manufacturer of RV parts and accessories, creating products that focus on energy and power savings, green technology, and appealing aesthetics. Located in the Atrium/MIP, co-founders Balakumar Bhaskaran and Salman Bawa have enjoyed significant success in Canada, with over 15 RV dealers on board and they are poised to keep growing as they’ve recently expanded into the largest RV market in Canada: Quebec.

The first product that Bhaskaran and Bawa have introduced is the RV Chandelier. The Chandelier is a sleek, rectangular LED lighting system that is easily installed into a recreational vehicle’s existing vent system to provide aesthetically pleasing light throughout the RV. The low power consumption of the Chandelier results in significant power savings of approximately 60%. This reduces the battery drain on the vehicle.

Though energy savings are undeniably attractive to RV owners, the RV manufacturers were averse to investing in technologies that are too invasive to their assembly line processes.

“We decided to create a product that would be easily implemented into the existing RV building blocks,” says Bhaskaran. “So the Chandelier can be installed right into the vent system, post production, which manufacturers love.” Their venture was one of ten companies that were selected as finalists for the 2014 LiON’S LAIR competition put on by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce and Innovation Factory.

“It was humbling to see other companies in Hamilton striving to do good for the community and their respective industries,” says Bhaskaran. “We are incredibly grateful to the team at Innovation Factory for their support. The workshops were extremely valuable in helping us refine our pitch and market strategy.”

Both Bawa and Bhaskaran are loyal to Hamilton and see it as the perfect location for their venture, being a hub for innovation as well as manufacturing. Jim Campbell of Adventec Manufacturing Inc. in Hamilton, Ontario has supported ASTS with assembly line space and technical product development expertise.

What’s on the horizon for ASTS? The team is looking to expand their product line to include solar-powered lighting in 2015, to help achieve their ultimate goal of fostering renewable energy. A bright future, indeed!

2nd Annual Entrepreneurship Fair

McMaster Innovation Park hosted the 2nd annual Entrepreneurship Fair as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week of Canada (GEW). GEW is the world’s largest celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. During one week each November, GEW inspires people everywhere through local, national and global activities designed to help them explore their potential as self-starters and innovators. The Entrepreneurship Fair at MIP featured four different seminars and a keynote panel all geared towards helping local Hamilton entrepreneurs become successful in social media marketing, pitching their ideas, discovering funding opportunities and developing their business model. On Nov. 20, students, entrepreneurs and members of the Hamilton community arrived at the Atrium to discover entrepreneurship. MIP would like to thank all the sponsors who helped make the day possible!

Colour Space Place: More Than Just A Landscape

Susan AJ Davis, a local Hamilton artist, is the featured artist in the upcoming Art in the Workplace Exhibit. After focusing on portraits in the previous AWP Exhibits, Davis has turned to images of the natural places she loves. Through this she feels that she is reconnecting as a medicinal artist by her choice of subject and technique. Current medical research underlines the benefits for our bodies and minds to be in nature. Due to the primacy of visual perception, viewing natural scenery is beneficial in many of the same ways as actually being outside. Davis works mostly with a palette knife, which provides deliberately incomplete information. This method increases perceptual closure and strengthens the viewer’s engagement with the image. Davis’ art gives compelling visions that place viewers in a living natural reality. That this will relieve some of the stress and anxiety which are part of modern urban living is also true, and adds power to the artists’ task. Her artwork will be showcased in the 16th AWP Exhibit’s Opening Gala happening December 4.
**MIP Fitness Fall Schedule**

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<tr>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Spin &amp; Core</td>
<td>Barron Yoga</td>
<td>Upper Body Blast</td>
<td>Strength Yoga</td>
<td>Zen Yoga</td>
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<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Body Burn</td>
<td>Free Weight Lift</td>
<td>Spin &amp; Core</td>
<td>Body Burn</td>
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**Barron Yoga:** An athletic, highly demanding yoga class designed to build strength, balance, endurance and flexibility. All fitness levels welcome.

**Body Burn:** This is a full body workout that targets strength and balance from all angles and utilizes your own body weight as a tool for resistance. Beginner to Advanced welcome.

**Free Weight Lift:** Burn calories, transform your body and learn the basics of strength training. Excellent for beginners or those who need an extra push.

**Hard CORE!** Get your six pack ready with this to the point, hard hitting core class. For intermediate to advanced exercisers.

**Spin & Core:** A combination of killer core strength and conditioning to start off your workout with a high intensity spin class to finish it off. This is a great way to build you fitness level and get results. Appropriate for Beginner to Advanced.

**Upper Body Blast:** Geared to target all of your upper body while using a combination of free weights, body weight and balance training. All levels welcome.

**Strength Yoga:** Traditional yoga poses that incorporate light weights to increase the intensity and strength training. Get strong and lean. All levels welcome.

**ZEN Yoga:** Practice relaxing postures and breath work to help de-stress and relax. All fitness levels welcome.

For more information including class prices and memberships visit mcmasterinnovationpark.ca/fitness-facility

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**Planning your next conference**

MIP provides a variety of services designed to make your conference a success. Conference rooms, catering and additional services are available. To book your next conference go to www.mcmasterinnovationpark.ca/meeting-and-conference-facilities and click “Book Now”. For more information contact:

Jarrod Gleadall,
MIP Conference Coordinator
905.667.5508
conferences@mcmasterinnovationpark.ca

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**Coming up at MIP**

- **Art in the Workplace Opening Gala on December 4.** AWP was launched during the official grand opening of the Atrium@MIP with a small gathering of local artists who displayed their creative talents in the corridors of the new facility. AWP continues to grow and is now launching the 16th exhibit. Come out to the Gala on December 4th from 7pm - 9pm in the Atrium to see this exhibits talent!
- **Annual MIP Tenant Holiday Event December 11.** Mark your calendars for this year’s annual tenant Holiday event happening the morning of December 11th from 8-10am. Come out for a great time of Holiday treats and cheer!
- **Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Business after Business on December 11 from 5:30-8:00pm at the Atrium@MIP.** Looking for a great way to connect in person? Business after Business provides you with a relaxed, friendly atmosphere to do just that! Meet and mingle with fellow Chamber Members and their guests, find out about your host...remember to bring lots of business cards.

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**Stay informed**

To receive MIP’s weekly updates, event information, and fitness details please email marketing@mcmasterinnovationpark.ca with “Please include me on your tenant e-list” in the subject line.