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M4 Sciences wins Burton D. Morgan business plan competition

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. - A team that develops advanced manufacturing technologies for biomedical, aeronautical and military markets and a startup company that created an online calendar for arts and music took the top prizes Thursday (Feb. 22) in Purdue University's 20th annual Burton D. Morgan Entrepreneurial Competition.

M4 Sciences Corp. won the top \$30,000 prize in the Gold (graduate) Division of the business plan presentation contest, which took place at Discovery Park's Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurship.

James Mann, chief executive officer of M4 Sciences, made the winning presentation, explaining the company's techniques, which are expected to bridge the gap between nanomanufacturing and macromanufacturing with products that require ultra-precise, highly accurate miniaturized components. Team member Brian Gootee is chief operating officer and director of information technology of the company based at Purdue Research Park.



Allison Shank
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M4 Sciences also won \$5,000 of in-kind services from Ice Miller, a legal and business services firm based in Indianapolis. The company was awarded an additional \$5,000 from Indiana Economic Development Corp.

onCurrent.com won the \$15,000 prize in the Black (undergraduate) Division for a startup company that created an online calendar that helps promote arts and music and allows users to supply the information. Immanuel Mullen and Christopher Thomas made the winning presentation. They plan to strengthen networking communities across the United States.

Other winners in the Gold Division were:

- * Second place, \$8,000 and \$3,000 in Ice Miller services: MatrixBio LLC.
- * Third place, \$6,000 and \$2,000 in Ice Miller services: AlGalCo.
- * Fourth place, \$2,000: Vis Viva Energy.
- * Fifth place, \$1,500: TranCell Technologies.

Other winners in the Black Division were:

- * Second place, \$6,000: RAF Solutions.
- * Third place, \$4,000: NudeLaptops.com.

* Fourth Place, \$1,500: EcoTrikes. Inc.

* Fifth Place, \$1,000: Zlin.

Judges were John C. Aplin, managing director of CID Capital; Don N. Aquilano, director of Blue Chip Venture Company and managing director of Gazelle Tech Ventures; Carrie Bates, managing partner of Triathlon Medical Ventures; Chaz Giles, strategist and finance manager of FutureWorks Procter & Gamble; Dr. Ken Green, founding partner of Spring Mill Ventures; G. Logan Jordan, associate dean of administration in Purdue's Krannert School of Management; Michael Menefee, professor of organizational leadership and supervision in Purdue's College of Technology; Jennifer Rhodes, partner at Ice Miller; Steve Shade, managing director of Purdue's Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Discovery Park; and Henry J. Suerth, executive education program director in the Krannert School.

"In the Gold Division, we saw five viable technology-based businesses," Jordan said. "It wouldn't surprise me to see all of them become growing concerns, and I know Burton Morgan would have been very happy with that result."

Richard A. Cosier, Krannert School dean and Leeds Professor of Management, moderated the competition.

"The Burton D. Morgan competition has evolved over its 20 years to become a leading student event of its kind," Cosier said. "This year's contestants again reflect the high-technology nature of Purdue University and the Krannert School, and they give us a glimpse into future innovations that will have an impact in our state and beyond. We'd also like to sincerely thank the Burton Morgan Foundation for funding much of the competition."

The late Burton D. Morgan was a Purdue alumnus who started 50 companies, six of which have become major corporations, including Morgan Adhesives, one of the world's largest makers of pressure-sensitive adhesives. He also was president of Basic Search Co., an idea-development firm, and wrote several books on entrepreneurship.

Morgan established the entrepreneurship competition in 1987 with an endowment gift to Purdue. The Burton D. Morgan Foundation funded the \$7 million, 31,000-square-foot Center for Entrepreneurship.

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PHOTO CAPTION:

Allison Shank, an MBA candidate in Purdue's Krannert School of Management, on Thursday (Feb. 22) makes a presentation for the company AlGalCo, one of the finalists in the 20th annual Burton D. Morgan Entrepreneurial Competition. AlGalCo plans to manufacture non-polluting hydrogen-powered emergency generators for residential use. (Purdue News Service Photo/David Umberger)

A publication-quality photo is available at <http://news.uns.purdue.edu/images/+2007/burtonmorgan-comp0207.jpg>

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