John D. Thompson, born in Montreal in 1934, graduated from McGill University in Mining Engineering in 1957 and received an MBA degree in 1960 from the Ivy School of Business.

This event has been made possible through a generous gift from John D. Thompson.

He began his business career with the FEDB prior to joining Royal Capital shortly after it was founded in 1962. Royal Capital was created to provide term financing and various forms of equity capital to small and medium-size businesses across Canada.

He began as an investment officer, became a supervisor in 1965, the general manager in 1968, a director in 1970 and president and chief executive officer in 1973.

In 1989, when ownership changed, he became chairman of Royal and president and CEO of Montreal Trust, one of the four original shareholders of Royal Capital.

He is currently director of Transat A.T. Inc. and former director of Domtar Corporation, AXA Insurances, BCE Mobile, CP Hotels, and Sherway, as well as a number of corporations of the Scotiabank group including the Montreal Trust Company of Canada, the Bank of Nova Scotia Trust Company, National Trust Company, Scotia Life Insurance Company, Scotia General Insurance Company, Scotia Mortgage Corporation, the Mortgage Insurance Company of Canada, Maple Trust Company, and Dundee Bank of Canada. He is also director of the Macdonald Stewart Foundation and the Windsor Foundation. He was very active in the Montreal business community and served as chairman of the Mount Royal Club, the Royal Montreal Golf Club, and the Forest & Stream Club. He also served as chairman of the Salvation Army Montreal Advisory Board.

The Second Annual John D. Thompson Entrepreneurial Development Seminar

Thursday, January 29, 2015
12:30-5:30PM
McGill University
Faculty Club
THE PANEL MODERATOR:

JOHN D. THOMPSON

THE PANEL:

CHRISS

JAMES

DAVID R.

ARSENAULT

McGOFF

ROLSTON

TOUSSAINT

ENTREPRENEURIAL

DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

THE PROGRAM

10:30 – 1:00 PM REGISTRATION

1:00 – 1:30 PM WELCOME

Katya Marc, Industry Liaison Manager, ICE

Peter Thompson, Vice President, National Bank of Canada

1:30 – 2:45PM PRESENTATIONS

2:45 – 3:00PM Coffee Break

3:00 – 3:30PM PANEL DISCUSSION AND AUDIENCE Q&A

3:30 – 4:45PM CLOSING REMARKS

Professor Benoit Boullet, Associate Dean, Research and Innovation

4:45 – 5:30PM NETWORKING COCKTAIL

THE PANEL

CHRIS ARSENAULT

MANAGING PARTNER

INOVIA CAPITAL

JAMES McGOFF

CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, LIFEPACK

DAVID R. ROLSTON

CO-FOUNDER, VICE PRESIDENT AND CTG, REFLEX PHOTONICS

Didier Toussaint

GROUP PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT SERVICES, DISCOVERY AIR

THE ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

LIFEPACK: A SUCCESS STORY

James McGoff

In 2009, James McGoff moved to Montreal to study materials engineering in the co-op program at McGill University (graduation pending). Throughout 2011 and 2012, he worked for the advanced material analysis group at Boeing Defense, Space & Security where he developed interest for heat transfer and insulation.

With a strong passion for entrepreneurship, James leveraged the resources available through McGill (and relied on some very kind professors) to research the potential commercial applications of several novel materials - particularly in the world of packaging.

Lifepack was started in April 2013 for the purpose of developing products that help blood banks and pharmaceutical companies move temperature sensitive material around the world more efficiently. The company has since sold tens of thousands of its insulated packaging products to health care and food customers both in the US and Canada.

James is an avid supporter of anything that promotes and supports business creation within the McGill engineering community.

Chris Arsenault is Managing Partner at Inovia Capital. Being an early stage investor and entrepreneur for the last two decades, Chris currently serves as a director of observer on boards of AppDirect, beyond the Rock, Kavoon, Airx, Latty, Retreats, Poka and Well.ca. Chris is a board member of Réseau Innovation Exchange (CIX) and is an active Charter Member of the C100.

Before joining Inovia in 2002, Chris founded, co-founded or provided a number of software, mobile and consumer Internet technology start-ups, including 2 spin-offs of telecom giants. Chris was also instrumental in the creation of the ENABLIS Entrepreneurial Network (a $30+ million of sponsored venture capital seed fund). Chris' entrepreneurial and investment experience includes a number of notable exits. As founder and CEO of ICI in the mid 90's, he played an important part in the initial growth of the Internet.

Dr. Rolston received B.Eng., M.Eng. and Ph.D. degrees all in electrical and computer engineering from McGill University, Canada. Prior to co-founding Reflex Photonics, he worked at FCI-AREA as senior photonics scientist where he helped commission one of three global R&D research centers in the field of optics and photonics. While at FCI-AREA’s Corporate Research Center he was responsible for the planning and design of several projects into multi-gigabit parallel optical fiber transceivers and fused biconic fiber couplers.

His current role as CTO at Reflex Photonics includes the design and testing of optical and optomechanical design assemblies for optical transceivers and Hybrid Optical IC Packaging concepts for chip-to-chip optical interconnections. Other fields of interest involve the design, testing, and packaging of VLSI ASICs for high-speed optronic systems. Dr. Rolston has published numerous journal articles and holds several US and International Patents and Patents Pending.

Didier Toussaint is a graduate of the Royal Military College of Canada. He served in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) as a CF-18 pilot where he was awarded the prestigious “Top Gun” award for best overall performance on the CF-18 Fighter Weapons Instructor Course.

Didier’s final assignment in the RCAF was in the Directorate of Aerospace Requirements (DAR), as Deputy Project Director for the CF-18 modernization program. Didier then gained significant experience in the global aerospace and air transportation industry, working as a Senior Consultant for the DRDC (Directorate of Research and Development Canada) and with companies such as Northrop Grumman and CAE. Didier is one of the original founders of Top Aces, which he lead in the role of President and Accountable Executive as it became a world leader in Military Air Training. Top Aces, now part of Discovery Air, is the exclusive provider of Contracted Airborne Training Services to Canada since 2005, has recently continued its expansion in Germany and the United States. Didier is the Group President of Discovery Air Government Services, and is responsible for Discovery Air Defence Services (Top Aces), Discovery Air Technical Services and Discovery Air Fire Services.