

**PHOTOS ATTACHED: Ryan Avery; John F. Register; SPE Thermoforming Division Logo**

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**For Immediate Release**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AT SPE THERMOFORMING CONFERENCE® TO ADDRESS COMMUNICATING WITH MILLENNIALS AND PREPARING FOR SUCCESS**

CAROL STREAM, IL, U.S.A., June 26, 2018: The keynote speakers for the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Conference® will address communication with the coming generation and tactics for managing change, it was announced today by SPE's Thermoforming Division. The Conference will take place *September 24-26, 2018 in Fort Worth, TX*, at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

There will be two keynote speakers:

● **John F. Register:** *Citius – Altius – Fortius! Business Lessons from Olympic and Paralympic Medalists.* [Tuesday, Sept. 25]. A Paralympic medal winner, Mr. Register will provide a behind-the-scenes look at the journey to the Olympic and Paralympic podium, exploring what makes athletes tick, and relating this experience to the tactics that prepare business organizations for gold medal success.

John Register won the Paralympic silver medal just six years after having his left leg amputated. A world-class athlete who had qualified for two Olympic Trials and had been a prospect for Army Officer School, Mr. Register was on a career path to success before his injury. Subsequently he found his “new normal,” qualifying for two Paralympic Games and in 2000 winning the Paralympic Long Jump Silver Medal in Sydney, Australia, setting an American record.

Mr. Register is now a change-management expert in strategic communications, and was appointed by then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as one of eight members to advise her on disability foreign policy. He founded the United States Olympic Committee Paralympic Military Sport Program, which shows wounded, ill, and injured veterans how to use sport as a tool for their rehabilitation.

● **Ryan Avery:** *Motivating Millennials™: How to Recognize, Recruit and Retain the Next Generation of Leaders.* [Wednesday, Sept. 26]. By 2020, more than 50% of consumers and employees will have been born during the Millennial generation. Himself a Millennial, Mr. Avery will discuss communication skills for keeping members of his generation motivated, engaged, and excited about a company and its products.

Ryan Avery is an internationally-recognized speaker who shows leaders how to use the power of storytelling to increase their confidence, expand their influence, and motivate people to take action. At age 25, he became the youngest World Champion of Public Speaking in the history of the award, competing against more than 30,000 people from 116 countries to claim the title. He is the co-founder of AveryToday, Inc., and managing partner at How to Be a Speaker, LLC.

“Ryan and John have distinctly different stories to tell, and both speakers will address some of the most pressing issues facing professionals and organizations today,” said Jim Arnet, 2018 SPE Thermoforming Conference Chair. “Conference attendees will leave these presentations with new leadership skills and tools to affect change in their businesses.”

More information is available at <http://thermoformingdivision.com> or by contacting Lesley Kyle at 1-914-671-9524 or [lesley@openmindworks.com](mailto:lesley@openmindworks.com).

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THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION is a technical division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, based in Bethel, CT. The Thermoforming Division’s mission is to facilitate the advancement of thermoforming technologies through education, application, promotion and research. The Division hosts an annual educational conference and publishes an award-winning technical journal, *SPE Thermoforming Quarterly*®. The Division has also funded over \$275K in equipment grants and tens of thousands of dollars in undergraduate scholarships since it was first formed. For more information, please visit <http://thermoformingdivision.com>.