EE/CpE 423
Senior Design
Fall 2015
Class 4 – 9/22/15
Agenda

• Time line
• Group Status
• IP discussion
• Other Senior Design logistics
Senior Design Tasks – Fall ‘15

- Identify project
- Form group
- Select advisor
- Develop project proposal
- Publish project proposal
- Develop final design report
- Submit parts list, final design report
- Oral/slide presentations
- Weekly status reports
- Effectiveness surveys

9/1/15 - 10/1 - 11/1 - 12/1 - 1/1/16

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Project Status

As of September 22, 3 pm:

• 14 groups have formed (expect ~4 more)

• 58 students are in groups (13 more to form or join groups)
Now that you have the greatest project idea …

• How do you protect it?

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Publication of idea is a really bad idea

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Tell the world

Patent Process

Publication: For patents Filed in US

Publication of idea

Study of prior art, patentability

<1 year

<1 year

A few years

Provisional filing

Final filing

PTO “Office Actions,” Amendments, etc.
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Patent Process

• Implications for Senior Design

• What constitutes “publication?”
  • Web site
  • Class presentation
  • **Unrestricted** discussion with **anyone** other than co-inventors, attorney
  • Distribution of written materials about idea
  • Selling a product that incorporates idea
A typical patent

• Title, inventor, number, etc.
  – Like a title page of your report

• Illustrations
  – To show graphically what is invented, because a picture is worth at least 1000 words

• Specification
  – A verbal description of what the idea is, how it can be used, how to make it
  – Enough for “a person of ordinary skill in the art” to be able to implement the ideas of the patent without undue experimentation or research

• Claims
  – Often bizarre language that describes in legal terms exactly what the inventor has claimed to have invented. Claims are the invention when it comes to deciding whether an invention is infringed (improperly used by someone else)
Protecting IP

• Employee Confidentiality Agreements:
  – “We will sue you if you talk”

• Non-Compete Agreements
  – “What you learned here stays here” – pre-nuptials for the workers

• IP Assignment Agreements:
  – “We own your every waking thought. Maybe your dreams, too”

• Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA):
  – “Forget what we told you when you leave the building”
Other things you should start thinking about

• Project web site
  – Get it up and working soon so you can refine it later when it will be graded.
  – Must include all group deliverables (but NOT group effectiveness reports)
  – Research and other information links
  – All content must be hosted on ECE’s tiger server
  – Each group will have a login on tiger in the form “grp39”
  – If you are developing or hosting at another site, the other site must mirror tiger content (i.e., do not link the tiger site to your off-site content - we can’t archive off-site content). Only the material hosted on tiger will be graded.

• Final presentation
  – As you develop your project concept, think how you will present the idea
  – Presentations will be scheduled at the beginning of December
  – More details on presentation will be provided later – assume ~15-20 minutes; all group members must be present.
Other items

- NBCU is interested in sponsoring a Senior Design group this year
- The 423X sections are still looking for one or two ECE students
- Group assignments need to get finalized to move people between TG403 sections so you can work as a group in both classes