

**THURSDAY
JANUARY 26, 2006**

Scaife Hall Auditorium
Room 125

4:00 PM
Refreshments—3:30 PM



ARTHUR DAVIDSON

**ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
CMU**

Dr. Arthur Davidson has been a special faculty member of ECE since 2000. He holds 5 patents in superconductivity earned in a previous career at IBM, Westinghouse, and Northrop Grumman. He is presently the Executive Director of the C2S2 center, controlling a \$6M per year research consortium. Dr. Davidson has a B.S. in physics from MIT and a Ph.D. in applied physics from Harvard University. He is a member of the American Physical Society, the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and President of the Council on Realizing Excellence in Management. He has been a board member and program chairman of the Applied Superconductivity Conference, and a Visiting Professor at the Technical University of Denmark. He teaches 39-200 "Business for Engineers" to undergraduates.

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For more information:
<http://www.ece.cmu.edu/seminar>

PATENTS: THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

A CRITICAL LOOK AT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

Patents are central to any business plan involving advanced technology, yet engineering students are often lacking in knowledge of the patent system. I mean for this talk to correct this situation and inform students and others of some of the practical aspects of the US patent system. I will cover the origins of patents and copyrights, and go into the "how to" of inventing something, disclosing it, and obtaining a patent. I'll cover the rights of the inventors and the owners. I'll use historical patents from aircraft and radio to illustrate examples of patent infringement and invalidation. I will take a critical look at how the system works now, including issues of what exactly is patentable: can you patent software? A business model? What does it cost? What are the incentives for corporations, individuals, and universities? What are commercial ventures and venture capitalists looking for? What should you do with your hot idea?