

MECHANICAL & INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING COLLOQUIUM: ME 794 001

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221 MEC

1:00 to 2:25pm

“How do Patents Work? An Engineer’s Guide to Intellectual Property”

Abstract:

Intellectual Property (IP) is the unit which world governments use to define ownership of ideas. Lawsuits disputing IP for large companies like Apple and Samsung are commonplace in the news nowadays. When completing University and starting our professional life it is important to know what our rights are, how do we protect the value of our innovations, and then use them to improve our business. If you want to go to crowdfunding websites for a new idea, be sure to follow some easy steps first to protect your work. With the advent of open-source materials, specifically in 3D printing, the idea of ownership will be more and more challenging to enforce. What does ‘open-source’ mean specifically? How we can benefit from it in order to move faster and what to be careful of. It is not always the best idea to pursue a patent. What is it like for an engineer to work with patent attorneys and how expensive is their time?

Biography

Richard Ranky completed his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering at NJIT in 2007 and is a recently graduated doctorate of Mechanical Engineering at Northeastern University specializing in wearable biomedical devices and embedded sensors in 3D fabricated structures in FDM, SLS, MPJ, and SLA. He has successfully received over \$370,000 in grant research funding in physical therapy devices which covers 3D scanning & imaging, sensor technologies, and human testing in the clinical environment for upper and lower extremities. He holds 1 fully issued US patent for a mechatronics kit for stationary exercise bicycles, 1 medical orthotic application pending review, and additionally has written and filed 5 provisional patents. He has worked with Northeastern’s Technology Transfer Offices (Northeastern University, Boston) to write, refine, and respond to patent examiners with various law firms in Boston. He is currently leading a University spin-off to commercialize smart 3D printing technologies using a combination of open-source, closed-source, and proprietary know-how.