

High-flyer's WRTI keynote speech

ENTREPRENEURIAL ACADEMIC PILOT TO SPEAK

PROFESSOR ANDREW SELF, Head of Engineering and Pro Vice-Chancellor at Kingston University, is to give the *WRTI Annual Keynote Lecture 2004* in room HC016 of the Herbert Collins Building at Southampton Institute, East Park Terrace on Wednesday 14 July at 6.30pm. The lecture is free and open to the public.

"Andrew Self is one of the most interesting people I've ever come across," said WRTI chairman Professor David Nicholas MBE. "Anyone who can obtain a Boeing 737 for his students and fly his own Learjet must be pretty special!"

Professor Self lectures on autopilot systems, control engineering and flight dynamics, and was head of flight control at RAF Cranwell, weapon systems analysis, managing the control and dynamics research unit at Brighton University.

The Master stroke

Professor Self was one of the driving forces behind Kingston's new degree course – which practising inventors may access for a reduced fee.

The MSc Technology (Innovation & Entrepreneurship) is a unique Master's degree which provides access to expert help and guidance to accelerate the process of bringing inventions to market.

The degree is based on a flexible, work-based learning framework (the Learning Contract) which recognises the learning involved when undertaking the

Next WRTI meeting WEDNESDAY 9 JUNE

Guest speaker: **Dr Daniel Taylor**, R&D director of Procyon Instruments, manufacturers of pupilometers and ophthalmological equipment.

Innovation 2004 is nigh...

WRTI MEMBERS will be among the inventors vying for a share of the £30,000 prize money on offer at the *Innovation 2004* exhibition, to be held at Winchester's ultra-modern

INTECH Centre on Friday 25 June.

Investors will also be in attendance, seeking out new product ideas and innovations at the show, which is organised by SEHEA and hosted by Business Link Wessex ■

For the aircraft maintenance course run by Kingston University and KLM UK, Andrew Self obtained a fully operational Boeing 737 aircraft for his degree students to work on.



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invention process – whether in the laboratory or workshop, at home or in the university.

Each Master's degree is specifically tailored to the individual student but covers a wide variety of subjects, including business and marketing planning, design for manufacture, grant applications, intellectual property protection, literature searches, manufacturing processes, patenting, licensing, and prototype and product development.

Credits where they're due

Nationally recognised credits are awarded for undertaking activities inherent to the invention process, and a Master's degree awarded following successful completion of the programme (which is approved by the BusinessLink Wessex Virtual Company Group and the Institute of Patentees and Inventors). ■

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http://technology.kingston.ac.uk/
engineering/staff/Academic/self.htm

Wessex Round Table of Inventors meet at 6.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Southampton Institute, East Park Terrace S014 0RP



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

AS MOST OF YOU already know, I was recently appointed vice-president of the newly formed British Inventors Society (go to www.thebis.org for further information). The BIS has set out to identify the location of all lone inventors based in Britain.

Working with the Patent Office, we identified over 100 such innovators in the Southampton area alone. I wrote to all of them with an invitation to come along to our club meetings – so it was especially pleasing to see ten of them at last month's event.

What was quite extraordinary was that there were no less than three professors in our audience – which I must say runs contrary to the collective noun often used for such academics (*you* know: 'an absence of professors')!

Guest speaker Tim Frain, Nokia's director of IPR, provided an immensely informative presentation on the importance of intellectual property. His company files over 1000 patents a year and Tim surprised us all by admitting that even huge multi-nationals feel disadvantaged when confronted by the lone inventor brandishing a patent.

WRTI's treasurer Mike Overy – our very own ex-Nokia employee and an old friend and associate of Tim's – also provoked interesting reactions when he outlined some of the thinking relating to the setting up of a commercial arm for WRTI. It's a sure bet we'll be returning to this subject in the near future – I know it is of considerable interest to many of you.

Sincerely,

David

PROFESSOR DAVID NICHOLAS MBE, Chairman

INVENTORATOR Kate Stead

Creative coaching

HELPING INVENTORS MAINTAIN THEIR MOTIVATION

LIFEWORKS is offering WRTI members the opportunity to experience a free life coaching session from a member of the International Coaching Federation who is a Results Certified Coach, writes *Kate Stead*.

Life coaching is a tool for enabling people to create solutions, maintain focus, make clear decisions and see things through. I am offering this service to members because I created several inventions and tried for some years to find support to help me take them further. What I was most looking for was someone who would believe in me, keep me motivated, create a clear plan and keep me focused on making my invention a reality.

I didn't find that. Instead I became demoralised and my ideas took a back seat while I developed a coaching practice to support people in developing passive income through ideas and inventions.

Then one day I walked into a shop and found myself staring at a product I had designed nine years earlier, but hadn't patented.

When one door closes...

I was kicking myself – but felt elated at the same time, because my idea was validated: I'd been on the right track all along, but just hadn't found the support I really required. I now run a company which

provides the support I was most looking for, coaching inventors and entrepreneurs.

Coaching is a safe space for people and completely confidential: any ideas or intellectual property arising from the sessions are entirely the property of the client.

Each session is structured to help the individual maintain focus and motivation, forming a strategy to realise their inventive goals and follow through on their ideas.

Sessions are available on weekdays and evenings by telephone or face-to-face. Coaching by telephone means that the person can be anywhere in the world and they don't have to travel. I call them (if they are on a land line) or they can call me on a local rate number from anywhere in the UK. Face-to-face sessions are held at Todd House, near York.

Many people initially feel that they would prefer a face-to-face session. However, after they have tried a telephone session, most change to these from then on. Both are equally effective.

This offer is available now. To book a free session, contact me (see below), stating how long you have been a WRTI member. ■

● **Kate Stead, Lifeworks Coaching Ltd**
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RECORD YOUR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The DTI's Innovation Unit (www.innovation.gov.uk) and the Patent Office (www.patent.gov.uk) have produced an Innovation Logbook for use by engineers, inventors, innovators, researchers and students.

The logbook is an indispensable tool to help innovators and companies identify and protect their valuable IP by formalising records of designs, meetings, notes and research whilst accumulating legal evidence of ownership of ideas. Innovation Logbooks cost £19.99 + VAT and can be ordered via www.innovationlogbook.gov.uk

● Findlay Publications, Franks Hall, Franks Lane, Horton Kirby, Kent DA4 9LL
Fax: 01322 862388 sales@eurekamagazine.co.uk

THE NEW COPYRIGHT LAW

THIS ARTICLE GIVES an overview of copyright law, explains the recent changes in the regulation and provides practical tips to copyright owners and users, writes *Rosanna Cooper*.

Dramatically increased use of personal data and copyright material via electronic transmission – especially on the internet and by digital transfer – has led to the uncontrolled transmission and copying of electronic articles, books and journals, resulting in severe financial implications for publishers and individual copyright owners.

The Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003 came into force last October, introducing a number of significant changes to UK copyright law with the aim of harmonising European legislation.

Copyright

Copyright in the UK arises automatically by an operation of law and there is no system of registration.

Copyright protection can be afforded to various types of creative endeavour (such as literary, dramatic and artistic works) including computer programmes, books, journals and typographical arrangements of published works such as articles.

For copyright to subsist in a work there has to be some element of originality. The test is the degree of skill, labour and judgement expended by the author in the creation of the work. The author owns the copyright, unless the work was created during the course of his employment, in which case the copyright belongs to his employer.

A copyright owner has the right to stop a person infringing his work. Infringement of copyright includes copying, broadcasting, distributing or performing the whole or substantial part of a work without a licence or the consent of the copyright owner. The remedies available are damages (compensation

ROSANNA COOPER CLARIFIES THE LEGAL POSITION FOR INVENTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

OWNERS TIPS

- Review current notices, terms and licences.
- Place copyright notices on all original texts, scripts, sketches and web pages.
- Use clearly drafted terms and conditions on websites.
- Have clear policies regarding copying and hypertext linking.
- Police against infringers.

USERS TIPS

- Obtain consents or licences.
- Check copyright notices on web pages.
- Obtain the correct licences to undertake commercial research.
- To be authorised to play the radio or TV in your office, foyer or factory, you should obtain a licence from the Copyright Licensing Agency or other requisite body.

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for loss suffered) or an account of profit and/or delivery or destruction of the infringing materials.

The Internet

The content of web pages are literary works and copyright subsists in those pages. Graphics are artistic works. Sound files are sound recordings containing separate musical works. A copyright owner's consent is required for each act of copying.

The protection of 'on demand' services is a major step forward for copyright owners, because protection will now be afforded to copyright works communicated to the public by electronic transmission or

broadcasting. Hence, a copyright owner can stop a substantial part of his work being communicated to the public by electronic transmission, distribution or broadcast without licence or consent. This includes digital copying and contents of books, articles or graphics made available by 'on demand' interactive services such as websites.

Making temporary copies of copyright works which are transient and incidental (such as Internet browsing) are permitted, provided you have authorised access. Temporary copies of computer programmes or databases are restricted.

The use of copyright works for commercial research is not permitted, whether or not the source is acknowledged. However, 'fair dealing' allows copying for non-commercial research purposes provided there is sufficient acknowledgement.

There are restrictions on third-party TV or radio broadcasts in shops, offices or factories. Stricter controls now exist to protect the circumvention of technical devices and services designed to protect technological measures used by copyright owners (for example, the use of encryption, scrambling and other control mechanisms).

Circumvention of such devices and services includes chipping hardware, decrypting video or versatile discs, and hacking.

Restrictions prevent the alteration or removal of copyright notices. Non-exclusive licensees can now bring infringement actions for copyright infringement. ■

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● *Dr Rosanna Cooper is a partner at RT Coopers, a commercial law firm focusing on inventors and business start-ups.*

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BORN IN THE USA

INVENTOR AND AUTHOR JAMES E. WHITE'S
IRREVERENT VIEW FROM ACROSS THE POND

Hard knocks

WAS THIS THE 'TEN-YEARS-TOO-EARLY' PATENT?



DON'T BELIEVE for a second that, just because the USA is a 'first to invent' nation, this necessarily hands any more rights over to inventors than the UK's 'first to file' rule.

'First to invent' has a lot more rules to it than the phrase implies (see www.ideaights.com). In an interference – a USA 'first to invent' contest – the 'first to file' actually wins about 95% of the time.

As I'm sure you're all aware, 'first to file' really means 'first inventor to file' – where 'inventor' can actually be the inventor, or a representative, or someone with a financial interest in their invention (such as an employer).

On the other hand there is always a business risk in delaying filing a patent application: there's no perfect answer to the dilemma because nobody knows what anybody else is doing.

For instance...

Sir Frank Whittle is credited with the invention of the jet engine, but properly speaking his invention is of the centrifugal flow jet engine, 1931 patent publication number GB347206: 'Improvements relating to the propulsion of aircraft and

other vehicles' (which can be read via ep.espacenet.com).

Despite his initial patent, Whittle was extremely fortunate to (eventually) receive funding for his idea – for the simple reason that theoretical propulsion mechanisms of many kinds are invented in their hundreds, *and* are patented. But few actually work in practice, let alone demonstrate improvements over prior art.

Germany's Hans von Ohain also invented a jet engine and proved – with a little help from a mechanic and a lot of his own money – that it would work, with hydrogen as the fuel, before successfully finding a patron to support further development. This device is described in patent DE665978, applied for in 1934 and issued in 1938.

Curiouser and curiouser...

Of course, Whittle did finally manage to obtain funding (and more patents) by the mid-1930's. But his 'engine-that-was-*really*-commercial' application wasn't filed until December 1939, approved in July 1941 but not published (due to wartime security restrictions) until patent GB577971 of May 1946.

Read that patent and you will find comprehension tough. The reason is that the burners, a major repeated component of Whittle's engine, are not described until patent GB577972 – whose application details are exactly the same as patent 577,971.

Combine the two patents and the description is clear enough: you could build one in your garage.

But wait! Patent GB577132 – the crucial but *earlier* device which enabled the working engine to actually operate successfully – describes the missing link.

It begs the question: did Frank Whittle jump the gun with this application...? ■

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In my next article, I'll introduce a US inventor whose patent expired before he got a commercially viable version made...

● *James E. White is an inventor and author of Will It Sell?* – how to determine if your invention is profitably marketable (before wasting money on a patent).

www.booksforinventors.com

www.ideaights.com

www.willitsell.com

News in brief

SINGAPORE HOSTED GWIIN's *Global Female Invent & Innovate Conference 2004* last month. Delegates attended the event from as far afield as Australia, Croatia, Finland, Iceland, India, Malaysia, Nigeria, Phillipines, Singapore, Switzerland, Tanzania, United Kingdom and the USA.

The awards ceremony honoured women who could demonstrate commercial, environmentally friendly, innovative and original inventions. Winners included Dawn Gibbins MBE (UK) for her Mondeco Flooring; Kolfinna Knutsdottir (Iceland) for her UV-protected textiles; Pia

Merikoski (Finland) for her biotechnical wool-finishing process; and Fong Wen Mei Eileen (Singapore) for her biomimetic processing of nanostructures.

Sponsored by the British Council, Far Eastern Economic Review, the IPI, Mastercard and the Trade & Investment Advisory Board, speakers included Helen Lom from Geneva's World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and Yvonne Thompson CBE of the London Development Agency.

● **Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GWIIN)**

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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SETsquared

Collaboration station

FOUR UNIVERSITIES COMBINE INNOVATIVE FORCES

BASED IN FIVE centres across the south, SETsquared is a unique collaboration between the universities of Bath, Bristol, Southampton and Surrey focused on helping the region's technology-based innovators shepherd their ideas along the rocky road to commercial success.

Working in tandem with experienced entrepreneurs, SETsquared creates a support structure for potentially high-growth enterprises to make the complex move from concept to fully-fledged start-up company, including the creation of viable business and marketing plans.

The name of the game

SETsquared addresses the lack of support for early-stage businesses through business modelling before positioning clients to best gain the attention of investors, partners and customers. To help make this happen, it works in three key areas:

- **Access to the business community** Providing the right infrastructure to ensure that entrepreneurs gain ready access to the help and support they require.
- **Developmental support** Business development advice, coaching and progress reviews.

● Low-cost serviced office space

Based at the SETsquared centres in Bath, Bristol, Guildford, Southampton and Swindon and administered by their enterprise and innovation staff, these offices are available for periods of up to 18 months, after which time client companies will have hopefully forged ahead.

Come in, HQ

SETsquared headquarters are located at the University of Southampton's Centre for Enterprise and Innovation in Highfield. Southampton is one of the top ten research universities in the UK for astronomy, chemistry, engineering, law, music, physics, and sound and vibration research.

The university works with businesses specialising in industrial aeronautics, maritime archaeology and law, material science, ocean engineering and ship science, and houses the world's leading Optoelectronics Research Centre. ■

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BOOK OF THE MONTH

Galileo's Finger

The Ten Great Ideas of Science
by Peter Atkins
Oxford University Press
£20 Hardback £8.99 Paperback
ISBN 0-19-860664-8

'Peter Atkins aims to give non-technical but honest explanations of difficult ideas, and gets the level exactly right, perfectly exemplifying Einstein's dictum: [science] should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.'
– Sir Michael Berry.

MEMBER SERVICES

Entries in this column are free to WRTI Members, who should mail their details to the Editor (see panel at foot of page).

CONCEPT TO MANUFACTURE. Help with presentation, prototyping, technical & manufacturing issues. Contact: Innovate Product Design, 01722 410 295

FREELANCE EDITOR/DESIGNER
30 years book, magazine and partwork experience. Contact: Frank Landamore on 01273 475 184
franklandamore@hotmail.com

ELECTRONICS CONSULTANT with 30 years experience, specialising in wireless and positioning technologies. Contact: Mike Overy, 01420 562378
mike.overy@zen.co.uk

ELECTRONICS ENGINEER Concept to proof of principle. Ex-scientific civil servant. Own lab. Contact: Mike Wright, 01428 722833
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WRTI is seeking a Treasurer and a Membership Secretary. Interested members should email: secretary@wrti.co.uk

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