

# Inventors Society of South Florida

## Inventors News

August 2008

Inventors Society of South Florida, P.O. Box 6008, Delray Beach, FL 33482

### President's Corner

The Board of Directors thanks **Lydia Woods** for a fabulous presentation to the attendees of the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting at LIGI TOOL & ENGINEERING, INC. Lydia is inspiring, energetic and enduring in her efforts. The Board should have her speak to the membership once a year to reinforce the valuable information she offers.

Lydia began her invent-to-market journey at her back yard pool. One of her daughters wanted to float on the water in the sunlight. The TARP KLIP® was born! Lydia offered many highlights of the journey in her presentation. The points I want to stress to every inventor are the following:

1. Validate the idea and determine if already patented.
2. Create a prototype and validate functionality of materials.
3. Network with the inventing community to obtain leads, ideas, event information, and process knowledge.
4. Choose your process partners based on your needs (participation, contract, long-term) in the relationship.
5. Attend tradeshows and other events that offer product exposure, networking and customer validation.
6. Advertise/promote through website, finder's fee, press release, telephone contact, mass mailings and 60-second CD presentation.
7. Free yourself of tasks that others can do more effectively (fulfillment services).
8. Maintain your integrity in all dealings to keep your business strong.
9. Be open to suggestions for follow-on products.

**Lydia Woods'** path to success has parallels to the journey described by **John Hobbs** in the June meeting. The inventor has to do the research to determine the customer base, wholesale price, raw materials, product exposure and so on. These are key components of your business plan, and requirements to obtain funding or license your product to others. As Lydia and John explained, the timeline of success is counted in years. There is no definitive path to success. It requires endurance, focus, and long-term commitment.

Also, I want to comment on Lydia's presentation table. She had a special photo holder that gave a slideshow of the product in use. There were product samples, posters, and publications promoting her product. She used handwritten notes in large print to keep her focused on what she wanted to say. She had the friendly faces of her family in the audience for encouragement. Lydia recently acquired a partner to upgrade her website and film her presentation for future product promotion. Always focused on product success, Lydia is the epitome of what we encourage in all inventors. Thank you, **Lydia Woods!**

The Board of Directors wants to remind members and visitors that the August meeting will be held at the *Broward County Main Library*. **Eileen Fischlschweiger**, the *Patent and Trademark Depository Library* (PTDL) librarian will be lecturing on the online electronic filing system for patents, as well as other electronic enhancements affecting patenting. This is a special presentation well worth your attendance.

Regards,

*Albert Newman*



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*Inventors Society  
of South Florida*

Presents

*Eileen  
Fischlschweiger*

ON

*USPTO Electronic  
Filing System*

August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM

The Inventors Society of South Florida, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization.

### Mission Statement

To provide a forum that fosters creativity, freethinking and education that will help further our members' innovations.



### Officers & Board Members

President: Albert Newman  
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 Publicity: Leo Mazur and Eva Thomas  
 Public Relations: Eva Thomas

### Contacts

Richard Loughlin in Stuart:  
 772-287-2224  
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 954-486-2426



## Canadian Innovation Centre

The Canadian Innovation Centre ([www.innovationcentre.ca/](http://www.innovationcentre.ca/)) has a process for guiding innovators and their innovations to the market. They've perfected it over the past 30 years. Their process is based on sound market research and original market insight.

The Centre helps individual inventors and entrepreneurs crystallize their ideas and commercialize the resulting products. It also works with innovations coming out of existing enterprises.

The Canadian Innovation Centre has an important role in deploying Canada's innovation strategy. The Centre plans to help Canadian companies exploit new technologies to generate wealth and sustain Canada's competitiveness.

CIC has re-launched its *Innovators Assistance Programme*, designed to guide very early stage new ventures through early business hurdles. The process usually starts with a Critical Factor Assessment (CFA), followed by biweekly meetings between innovator and CIC. The programme costs \$500 per month. ❖

## Innovation Foundation

Two Washington-based think tanks recently recommended that the government should create a National Innovation Foundation to drive economic growth and help U.S. firms compete in world markets. The new entity, modeled after the National Science Foundation or the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, would fund research and analysis to help businesses adapt new technologies quickly, said **Robert Atkinson**, one of the study's authors. He is president of the non-partisan Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. More investment in innovation would go beyond the tech sector and help smaller firms and even traditional manufacturers, the report found.

Currently, the Commerce Department has several small programs promoting innovation, but the Bush administration wants to phase out one of them – the Manufacturing Extension Partnership - that helps small and medium-size companies modernize their operations. To read the complete report, along with backup material and research, go to [www.itif.org](http://www.itif.org) or [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu) and search for *Innovation Foundation*. ❖

## Big Idea Group Offers Two New Hunts

Their client is a large electronics company interested in innovations in both patient monitoring systems and mobile social networking devices. The prizes in both Hunts are the same: a \$5,000 first prize, plus \$1,000 apiece to four runners-up. In addition, all ideas will be evaluated for licensing. Visit [www.bigideahunts.net](http://www.bigideahunts.net) for entry forms and guidelines. The Deadline for both Hunts is August 5, 2008.

- **SOLUTIONS IN PATIENT MONITORING SYSTEMS** that are uniquely simple yet smart. These new monitors will offer greater ease of use, maintenance, and repair. We're also seeking innovative marketing, sales, and service ideas to help sell such devices. Devices should be aimed at U.S. hospitals, international and secondary facilities (e.g., long-term care), and home care. We are most interested in brand solutions—innovations in interface design and technology that could work across multiple monitors.
- **SOCIAL NETWORKING DEVICE** that allows users to share ideas and experiences from anywhere. This single-purpose social networking device (SND) will let users capture, enhance, or create a variety of media and then distribute or publish it to friends, coworkers, or the Internet. We expect the device to appeal to a broad group of users, from young people twittering about their lives to professionals updating associates via email while on the road. ❖

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Independent Inventors Conference

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Independent Inventors Conference will be held on the campus of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in Alexandria, Virginia August 8-9. A pre-conference workshop, for anyone interested in learning about the basics of patents and the importance of intellectual property protection, will be held on August 7 from 5 to 7 p.m. The workshop is for beginners and is a good foundation for the conference. It is included in the \$100 registration fee.

ISSF VP **Leo Mazur** has attended several conferences and urges anyone who hasn't been to go at least once. This is a golden opportunity to hear speeches, take workshops and have one-on-one interviews with examiners, supervisors, business professionals and Inductees of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Visit [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) and click **the link** for the 13th Annual Independent Inventors Registration to see the topics, speakers, and other details of the event. To learn more about Leo Mazur's experience with this event, contact him at 973-219-9627 or [mazurelectric@earthlink.net](mailto:mazurelectric@earthlink.net). In Leo's own words:

"First of all, it is a very intensive 2+ days covering mainly USPTO topics like how to file a patent, claims construction, searching, dealing with rejection, etc. but there can also be sessions on licensing, court cases, advanced tips, marketing, etc. It all depends on who they get each time as speakers. There are also valuable one on one sessions with examiners, patent lawyers and other professional, where you can ask questions and get answers right from the "horses' mouth" so-to-speak. Even if you are not planning on filing your own patent, the knowledge is very helpful when dealing with your patent professional (which just so happens to be another of their standard courses).

There are also Guest speakers, which are sometimes never announced until you are at the conference. I have seen and spoken with (at the cocktail party after the first full day):

- **Marilyn Montross**, director of Vendor Relations QVC,
- **Scott Baker**, the inventor of the spinner hubcaps,
- **Larry Huston**, Counsel for Proctor & Gamble,
- **Dr. Forrest**, the inventor of the artificial respirator,
- **Pamela Bird**, a prominent product facilitator

and many others. There are always the latest inductees to the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

The night before they have a patent boot camp like program, which I have never been to but have been told, was worth the trip itself. Each time I went the food alone was worth the \$100.00 registration fee." ❖

## Inventors College Organization

Inventors College Organization (ICO) promotes and teaches the inventing process. Inventors are supported in bringing inventions into the marketplace. Visit them at [www.inventorscollege.org/index.html](http://www.inventorscollege.org/index.html). ICO provides exciting and intensive "How to Invent" workshops for children and adults. Their clients are school boards, inventing groups/associations, corporation/business/technical staffs, and the general public.

ICO is moving into the spotlight as an effective and rapid "incubator" of new inventors and inventions. Inventions have an increased chance of going into the marketplace because of their methods. ICO was founded in 2007 by a retired but still certified professional teacher, **Otto Schmidt**, who is the principal instructor of Accent on Skills Consulting, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. See [www.AccentonSkills.com](http://www.AccentonSkills.com). ❖

### Membership

The Inventors Society of South Florida (ISSF) membership application form is available online at [www.inventorssociety.net/appform.pdf](http://www.inventorssociety.net/appform.pdf). Annual individual membership dues are \$60.

Members are entitled to all that is offered by the ISSF: events, meetings, contests, prizes, awards, nominations, and networking. Members also benefit from a monthly newsletter full of important information, tips, publications, Internet sites and expositions.

Membership is the primary source of funds to the ISSF, without which, it is difficult if not impossible to hold meetings, send newsletters, hold special events, and maintain an Internet presence. ❖

### Newsletter Submissions

If you have something you'd like to see in the newsletter, please discuss with or send it to [cever@earthlink.net](mailto:cever@earthlink.net). If it is something that has to be copied, please send the original or a high quality copy. If you need the original document returned, please note this in the submission package.

Please remember that the newsletter is black print only. Try to keep submissions simple and basic. ❖

### IBM Patent Search

[www.delphion.com](http://www.delphion.com) was originally developed by IBM to help its researchers and developers perform quick and simple patent searches. (IBM is the world leader in patents issued.) IBM made this site available to the public in 1997. It is now one of the most popular sites used for searching technology patents. The site provides bibliographic data, text and drawings of all patents issued since 1974. The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (PTO) site (see below), in contrast, does not provide drawings. The site also supports simple searching by key word, phrase, or patent number. Both the IBM and PTO sites have an online order form where copies of U.S. patents can be ordered for a fee with delivery by mail, fax, or CD-ROM. ❖

## ISSF Meetings

ISSF meets at 1:00 pm on the first Saturday of each month at:

**Ligi Tool & Engineering, Inc.**  
3220 SW 15<sup>th</sup> St.  
Deerfield Beach, Florida 33442  
877-523-6693  
[www.ligotool.com](http://www.ligotool.com)

**From the Florida Turnpike:** Exit at Sample Rd, Exit 69; turn right on Sample Rd (East); left on Powerline Rd; and right on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (past the first stoplight on Powerline Rd, look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

**From I-95 Southbound:** Exit at SW 10<sup>th</sup> St, Exit 40; turn right SW 10<sup>th</sup> St (West); left on Powerline Rd; left on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

**From I-95 Northbound:** Exit at Sample Rd; turn left on Sample Rd (West); right on Powerline Rd; and right on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (past the first stoplight on Powerline Rd, look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

**From I-75:** Exit at the Sawgrass Expressway (Route 869); go to the end of the expressway and continue east on SW 10<sup>th</sup> St; turn right on Powerline Rd and left on SW 15<sup>th</sup> St (look for two cement towers and the *ModComp* sign).

### Contact:

Eva Thomas 561-395-7615  
[etboca@hotmail.com](mailto:etboca@hotmail.com)



## News From Cathy's Desk

The Board of Directors is interested in acquiring future speakers, so anyone with suggestions for presenters will please email any of the board members with that information. Email me at [cever@earthlink.net](mailto:cever@earthlink.net) and I will pass the information along.

At the July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, we were fortunate to have **Lydia Woods** discuss her foray into business. Her experience was incredible. Some of the details are listed here:

- She created a press release for publication in customer-based publications including Popular Mechanics, Power Boating, Home & Garden, and trucking. Her customer base is auto, RV, utility, construction, trucking, landscaping, boating and home shows.
- One of her telephone customers turned out to have a son working as a Wal-Mart buyer. Lydia was eventually contacted by that buyer with positive results.
- Big business beats up the little guy on pricing so DO NOT have big business as your only sales channel.
- Boat and home shows are the best place to put money because reps and buyers attend shows and see your product. Give reps your 60-second CD.
- A Home Depot opportunity occurred through attending an ISSF meeting.
- Lydia met a man in a shopping mall who identified ISSF and two years later she came to an ISSF meeting.
- With Internet mass mailing, Lydia acquired a New Zealand distributor.
- Liability insurance minimum \$2M and larger stores want \$10M.
- You have to validate your invention by getting customers to buy it.
- When speaking with a rep, ask what they will be happy with. The hungry ones take 50%. Only do business with those who are willing to work with you.
- One customer in CA requested a bungee product so TARP KLIP® follow-on added a hook to the cord to hang a banner on a fence.
- Make samples for reps in garage (R&D) but no manufacturing because that requires a business license and may violate statute where you live. Act within the law to protect your business and opportunities.
- Proof of product testing on website for FEMA (government business).
- Keep product simple and inexpensive to minimize competition and knock-offs.
- Keep pricing the same for distributor, buyer, and wholesaler or lose business.
- It is a journey to get your product out there; you want partners with a long-term commitment and high integrity

Also, Registered Patent Agent **Alvin Blum** gave a presentation based on his experiences. I am including several points that he offered the audience:

- The patent examiner decides whether your claims give you patent rights.
- Referral fees are legal among patent attorneys.
- File a patent application within one year of the Provisional Patent Application (PPA) filing to get earlier date.
- Have a confidential disclosure agreement in place before divulging the invention to your process partner. Include language stating that work done by the process partner is assigned to the inventor.
- When designing a product, keep in mind how it will be manufactured because changes in design can affect claims.
- You can have a claim for structure but get better coverage for a broad claim. So, it is good to describe two ways of doing something and include the general claim.
- Log book shows due diligence. If two weeks pass without work effort, then evidence of due diligence is limited to the most recent two-week gap. ❖

## International Nongovernmental Organizations

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) [www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int)
- International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI) [www.aippi.org](http://www.aippi.org)
- Chartered Institute for Patent Attorneys (CIPA) [www.cipa.org.uk](http://www.cipa.org.uk)
- Institute of Trademark Attorneys (ITMA) [www.itma.org.uk](http://www.itma.org.uk)
- Federation Internationale Des Conseils En Propriete Industrielle (FICPI) [www.ficpi.org](http://www.ficpi.org)
- European Patent Institute (EPI) [www.patentepi.com](http://www.patentepi.com)
- International Trademark Association (INTA) [www.inta.org](http://www.inta.org)
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)
- Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA) [www.jipa.or.jp](http://www.jipa.or.jp)
- Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA) [www.jpaa.or.jp](http://www.jpaa.or.jp)
- IP @ The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) <http://ip.nationalacademies.org/>
- Institute of Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys of Australia [www.ipta.org.au](http://www.ipta.org.au) ❖

## Intellectual Property Websites

*The Center for Advanced Study and Research on Intellectual Property (CASRIP)* of the University of Washington, School of Law is an independent research and policy development institute focusing on problems in patents and other property ownership rights in high technology. CASRIP is recognized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), an institution highly regarded by the intellectual property community, as an observing non-governmental organization. Visit them and read their newsletter at [www2.law.washington.edu/CASRIP/Newsletter/](http://www2.law.washington.edu/CASRIP/Newsletter/).

Visit the *Morishita Law Firm, L.L.C.* ([www.morishitalawfirm.com/Intellectual\\_Property\\_Newsletter.jsp](http://www.morishitalawfirm.com/Intellectual_Property_Newsletter.jsp)) to learn about:

- The Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property
- The Doctrine of Equivalents
- Patent Law
- Trademark Registration
- Copyright as Community Property

*Reeder and Reeder P.A.* offers an Intellectual Property newsletter discussing trademark licensing, trademark fair use, creativity requirement of copyright, Inter Partes proceedings before the TTAB, and Trademarks and Secondary Meaning. Visit [www.reederandreeder.com/IntellectualPropertyNewsletter.jsp](http://www.reederandreeder.com/IntellectualPropertyNewsletter.jsp).

*The Sawyer Center* ([www.santarosa.edu/instruction/jtwd/sbdc/the\\_sawyer\\_center](http://www.santarosa.edu/instruction/jtwd/sbdc/the_sawyer_center)) offers one-on-one counseling and informational assistance on new product development and intellectual property including patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

*Foley and Lardner LLP* offer search capability for their newsletter archives. Visit [www.foley.com/publications/newsletters.aspx](http://www.foley.com/publications/newsletters.aspx) and search for newsletter type Intellectual Property. A list appears, including the recent articles:

- Does Your Licensing strategy Still Work? The Supreme Court clarifies Patent Exhaustion Doctrine.
- USPTO Claims and Continuation Rules Invalid ❖

### Understanding IP Rights

Visit [www.stopfakes.gov/525/menu/index.htm](http://www.stopfakes.gov/525/menu/index.htm) and take an online IPR training course created by the US Department of Commerce aimed specifically at Small to Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs). It includes:

- a needs assessment to help SME's identify what intellectual property they may need to protect,
- basic information about the different types of intellectual property rights,
- step-by-step guidance on obtaining intellectual property protection in the United States and abroad, and
- information about enforcing intellectual property rights abroad. ❖

### Confidential Information

Both legal and equitable remedies are available for a breach of confidentiality. Learn about the remedies in *Protection of Trade Secrets and Confidential Information III*, written by **Edward T. Fan**. Use a search engine to find the article by title and authors. ❖

### Lessons on Inventing

Visit [www.about.com](http://www.about.com) and sign up for their newsletters. You can opt for email lessons on inventing. Anyone with an idea will benefit from having this information. ❖

### Colorado Events

Visit [https://www.cu.edu/techtransfer/about/newsletter\\_index.html](https://www.cu.edu/techtransfer/about/newsletter_index.html). Open the most recent newsletter and scroll down the page to find a list of upcoming events in Colorado. ❖

### Legit vs Scam Company

Visit [www.businessofinventing.com/b-12/index.html](http://www.businessofinventing.com/b-12/index.html) to read **Stephen Paul Gnass'** excellent article, *B-12 for the Brain*, that compares legitimate versus and scam companies. Mr. Gnass offers informative articles at [www.businessofinventing.com/articles.html](http://www.businessofinventing.com/articles.html) on topics including keeping a log book, licensing agents and creating a professional presentation. ❖

**Government Organizations**

- U.S. Patent and Trademark Office [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)
- U.S. Copyright Office [www.loc.gov/copyright](http://www.loc.gov/copyright)
- European Patent Office [www.epo.org](http://www.epo.org)
- Japan Patent Office [www.jpo.go.jp/](http://www.jpo.go.jp/) ❖

**Nongovernmental Organizations (Domestic)**

- ABA Section of Intellectual Property Law [www.abanet.org/intelprop](http://www.abanet.org/intelprop)
- Biotechnology Industry Organization <http://bio.org>
- Copyright Society of the USA [www.csusa.org](http://www.csusa.org)
- Intellectual Property Owners Association [www.ipo.org](http://www.ipo.org) ❖

**Legislation/Court**

- Federal Register [www.gpo.access.gov/nara/index.html](http://www.gpo.access.gov/nara/index.html)
- Legislation (Bills, Public Laws, Committee Reports, Congressional Record) <http://thomas.loc.gov>
- U.S. Supreme Court [www.supremecourtus.gov](http://www.supremecourtus.gov)
- [www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html](http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html)
- Court of Appeals for Federal Circuit [www.fedcir.gov/](http://www.fedcir.gov/)
- Case Code [www.findlaw.com/casecode/courts/fed.htm](http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/courts/fed.htm) ❖

**Searching**

- USPTO Trademark Data <http://tess2.uspto.gov/bin/gate.exe?f=tess&state=knop12.1.1>
- USPTO Patent Data [www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html](http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html) ❖

**Licensing Strategy**

In a decision that will affect the viability of patent licensing strategies now in use, the Supreme Court (Court) clarified the patent exhaustion doctrine. The Court's opinion contained three important holdings. Learn about them in *Does Your Licensing Strategy Still Work?*, written by **Pavan K. Argawal**, **George C. Best** and **Jeanne M. Gills**. Use a search engine to find the article by title and authors. ❖

**Franklin Pierce Law Center**

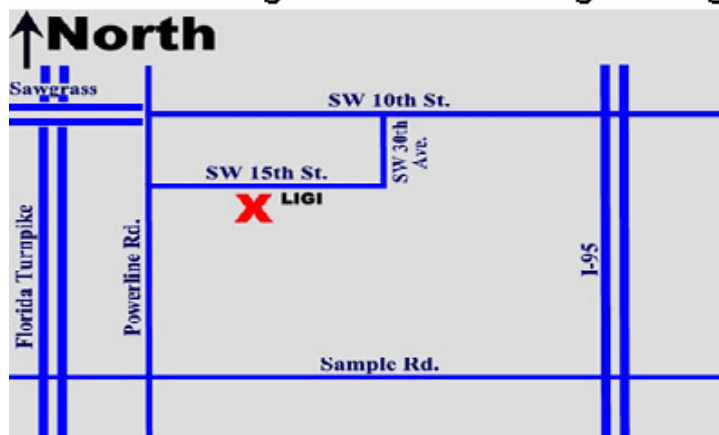
The Franklin Pierce Law Center at [www.fplc.edu/tfield/ipbasics.htm](http://www.fplc.edu/tfield/ipbasics.htm) offers several documents to educate those interested in inventing and patenting. **Thomas G. Field, Jr.** offers an annotated list of discussions:

- *Avoiding Patent, Trademark and Copyright Problems*
- *Converting Intellectual Assets into Property*
- *Trademarks and Business Goodwill*
- *Copyright in Written Work*
- *Publishers' Rights and Wrongs in Cyberspace*
- *Copyright for Computer Authors*
- *Copyright in Visual Arts*
- *Copyright on the Internet*
- *Seeking Cost-Effective Patents*
- *So You Have An Idea*

In the last document, *So You Have An Idea*, Mr. Field chose to help independent inventors make a practical assessment of their situation and provide a broad overview of the things they should do before deciding whether to seek patent protection or attempt to commercialize their invention. Contents include:

- *The Mousetrap Myth*
- *The Better Mousetrap*
- *Inventors Beware!!*
- *The Relationship Between Profit Potential and Legal Protection*
- *Questions to Answer*
- *Getting Answers*
- *The Need for a Prior Art Search*
- *Using Search Results*
- *National and International Time Bars*
- *Making a Record*
- *The U.S. PTO's Document Disclosure Program*
- *Selling Inventions Revisited*

Another **Thomas G. Field, Jr.** document is *Intellectual Property: The Practical and Legal Fundamentals*. This discussion is frequently updated with U.S. IP law changes. The main sections of the document are: *The Price of Ignorance*, *Protecting Your Products* and *Preserving Competition on the Merits*. ❖

**General Meeting at LIGI Tool & Engineering**

First Saturday of Each Month at 1:00 p.m.

## Inventor Wins National Competition

Wheelchair-user **Dr. Huw Thomas** was inspired to design the *Promove Sling* after he had to be lifted by firemen from the first floor of a building when the lift broke down. The retired scientist has created an emergency evacuation device that can help not only disabled or incapacitated people but also the growing population of overweight people in the UK and across the world.

Dr. Thomas won the *Inventors Den* competition, which is supported by the *Wales Innovators Network (WIN)*, an initiative of the Welsh Assembly Government that provides budding entrepreneurs with professional advice and support to help them develop their concepts into commercial products.

The sling is suitable for emergency services, airport service providers, public facilities managers and the health and social care sector. The Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Services are currently trialing the product as are other brigades in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Dr Thomas is even in talks with distributors from as far as America, France, Germany and Ireland. It also recently won a bronze medal at the *International Exhibition of Invention 2008* held in Geneva. ❖

## Spring Home Show in Sydney

As the only Spring Home Show in Sydney this new innovative event has been designed to capture and reflect the cosmopolitan lifestyle that inspires the Sydney home owner and intending home owner. This inaugural show will be held on the 12, 13, 14 September 2008 at Moore Park, Sydney. Building, renovation, restoration, design, decorating and lifestyle topics will be covered by the many exhibition displays as well as features, demonstrations and presentations with a notable presentation highlight being **Shannon Lush**, Queen of Clean, discussing stain removal and other household tips and recycling ideas.

Supported by Master Builders Association NSW, Building Designers Association NSW, National Trust Australia, Inventors Association of Australia Federal and Chefs on the Run there will also be prizes and competitions to be won including a \$25,000 kitchen with appliances from Kitcheners Kitchens and an Automower from GYC. Suppliers are invited to participate and capitalize on the consumer buying momentum as Sydney Springs into life while consumers are invited to visit and start or finish those home projects with the latest in products, technologies and services. ❖

## Novelty and Gag Products Wanted

Visit [www.edisonnation.com/](http://www.edisonnation.com/) to learn more about *Spenser's Live Product Search*. All you need is a well-communicated idea. Prototypes are nice to have, but not necessary. If your idea is selected, you will receive annual payments based on commercialization as well as \$2500 advance. There is no limit to the number of ideas that may be selected. ❖

## Defense Department Seeks Battlefield Inventions

From faster circuitry to miniaturized atomic clocks that could be used in navigation and communications systems, DARPA, the Defense Department's research and development wing, is seeking a number of technological solutions with potential homeland security applications. Here are two of its current solicitations to industry: a putty that can tack broken bones back together and a way to instantly put out fires or "bend" them to create escape tunnels. Read the details posted by **Ron Margetta** at <http://blogs.cqpolitics.com/innovations/2008/07/defense-dept-seeking-fracture.html>. Rob Margetta can be reached at [rmargetta@cq.com](mailto:rmargetta@cq.com). ❖

### Trade Show Central

Trade Show Central ([www.tscenral.com](http://www.tscenral.com)) provides information on more than 30,000 trade shows in the U.S. This is a useful way to locate a tradeshow for a particular product category where new products are being shown. Trade shows are known as being good places to develop and discuss ideas for new inventions as well as to learn if there may be any market for them. ❖

### Company is a Trademark

**InventHelp®** is really not a company per se, but rather is a trademark that is owned by **Invention Submission Corporation**. You can verify this for yourself by viewing the trademark search summary provided by the United States Patent & Trademark Office. The importance of this is that Invention Submission Corporation, also known simply as ISC, has repeatedly been the subject of complaints from inventors who were misled and taken advantage of as they sought help to patent and market their inventions. While companies may offer good advice in their marketing materials, remember that their services may not serve your best interest. Learn more about this company at [www.ipwatchdog.com/2008/01/10/beware-invent-help-press-releases/](http://www.ipwatchdog.com/2008/01/10/beware-invent-help-press-releases/). ❖

### Thomas Register

The well-known Thomas Register of Manufacturers ([www.thomasregister.com](http://www.thomasregister.com)) is useful for an inventor looking for someone to manufacture his/her invention. The site requires the user to register before searching through the extensive database (more than 155,000 U.S. and Canadian manufacturers). Many of the sites are linked directly to the manufacturer's home page. ❖

### Invention Dimension

The Lemelson-MIT Program has a web portal at <http://web.mit.edu/invent/> that is a one-stop informational center for inventors, innovators and students. This free site advertises awards and opportunities, provides an Inventor's Handbook to answer frequently asked questions. It includes the Invention of the Week, and how to apply for a patent. ❖

**IP Due Diligence**

The importance of due diligence in any investment, merger, or acquisition decision cannot be understated. Visit [www.invention-protection.com/ip/publications/docs/Intellectual\\_Property\\_Due\\_Diligence.html](http://www.invention-protection.com/ip/publications/docs/Intellectual_Property_Due_Diligence.html) to read *Intellectual Property Due Diligence*, written by Gallagher & Dawsey LLC. ❖

*Inventors Society  
of South Florida*

Presents

**Eileen  
Fischlschweiger**

ON

*USPTO Electronic  
Filing System*

August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM

**We're on the Web!**  
See us at:  
[www.InventorsSociety.net](http://www.InventorsSociety.net)

**August ISSF Meeting Speaker**

**Eileen Fischlschweiger** will be making a presentation on the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) Electronic Filing System for the Inventors Society of South Florida at 1PM on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> on the 6th floor of the Broward County Main Library, 100 S. Andrews Ave. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

Come and learn about:

- The USPTO EFS-WEB (an online electronic filing system for patents);
- TEAS (Trademark Electronic Application System) for Trademarks;
- The newly released electronic Copyright Office (eCO) which is still in beta testing;
- Some of the Electronic Business Center systems such as PAIR (Patent Application Information Retrieval) and much more. ❖

**National Gallery for America's Young Inventors**

Student inventors who have won or placed in a national competition or have patented their idea may apply for Induction into the National Gallery for America's Young Inventors! This is the nation's highest honor for K-12 innovators. Visit [www.nmoe.org/gallery/apply.htm](http://www.nmoe.org/gallery/apply.htm) to submit your application by August 1, 2008. ❖

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Inventor News  
AUGUST 2008

Send your email address to [cever@earthlink.net](mailto:cever@earthlink.net) to receive email notice of the newsletter. For those without email, a printed copy of the newsletter will be available at the monthly meeting.

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