This year’s lecture will be given by:

MR. FLOYD NATION (BME ‘68)
Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP – Houston Office

About the Speaker
Floyd Nation is a partner in the Houston office of Winston & Strawn LLP, an international law firm with nearly 1,000 attorneys among 15 offices in the United States, Europe and Asia. Mr. Nation has been a successful trial lawyer for over 35 years, specializing in patent infringement litigation. He has tried cases concerning a variety of medical devices, oil-field and construction equipment, food processing, semiconductor devices, software and pharmaceuticals. He has represented clients such as 3M, The Pillsbury Company, Hillenbrand Industries, AOL, Medtronic, The Chicago Board of Trade, The University of Texas System, and CoreLogic.

Before practicing law, he earned his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, he worked for Humble Oil (now ExxonMobil) as a project engineer in the production and reservoir engineering groups. Mr. Nation left Humble Oil to attend The University of Texas School of Law where he received a JD degree with honors. He is admitted to practice in Texas and Louisiana and before the U.S. Supreme Court, various federal circuit and district courts, as well as the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

The Process of Patent Infringement Litigation
This year’s lecture concerns patents and their basic purpose – to reward and encourage inventors. A patent owner is granted the right to exclude others from using the patented invention for a limited period of time.

The focus of the talk will be on the process of protecting that right through patent infringement litigation. While current headlines describe disputes over innovations such as smartphones and awards of hundreds of millions of dollars, litigation over patent rights has existed ever since the constitution created such rights. Inventors such as Alexander Graham Bell, the Wright brothers and Samuel Morse all found litigation necessary to protect their inventions from unauthorized use by others.

A typical patent litigation requires that technology and law be combined to describe the invention and tell the story behind it. The invention’s technical features and advances over the prior art must also be explained. Substantial challenges exist in presenting the often complicated technical information within the applicable legal framework and yet also be clear, brief and understandable to a lay judge or jury. Examples will be discussed involving a variety of technologies such as frozen pizza, implantable heart defibrillators and software systems for buying and selling commodities.
ME 2110 Design Contest and Capstone Expo
In the ME 2110 Design course, sophomore student teams are asked to design, build, & test an autonomous device that must perform multiple tasks of varying complexity based on the main theme of the course (i.e. oil spill crisis, rescue robots, etc) to be judged 6 weeks later during the ME 2110 Design Contest. Similarly, in the Capstone Design course, senior student teams systematically design, build, & report solutions for a variety of problems from industrial sponsors or their own imagination, culminating with the end-of-the-semester Capstone Design Expo.

The Invention Studio and Makers Club
The Invention Studio opened its doors in October 2008, offering undergraduate ME students space & resources to develop innovative projects in a collaborative environment. The invention studio is primarily intended for students in ME4182, the capstone design course, but welcomes any students on campus working on creative projects. The studio is maintained by the Makers Club. The Makers Club is a collective of students who believe in the value of a hands-on education. Their mission is twofold:
- To provide students the space & resources needed to develop innovative projects in a collaborative environment.
- To educate the Georgia Tech community on fabrication with open, student-taught classes & events.

The InVenture Prize
The InVenture Prize @ Georgia Tech is a faculty-led innovation competition for undergraduate students at Georgia Tech. The competitors will introduce their inventions in one or more preliminary rounds from which approximately 10 finalists will be selected to advance to a Final Round. In this round, two winning inventions, either individuals or teams, will be selected & will receive a cash prize, a free US patent filing, & a People’s Choice Award.

Competition Teams
- **GT CanSat:** The goal of this team is to provide students with hands-on experience in the design, construction, and launch of space systems.
- **GT Motorsports:** This team conceives, designs, builds, and tests a single seat formula race car to compete in the annual SAE Formula Competition. The students are responsible for every aspect of the car, including fundraising for the program.
- **GT Off-Road:** This team designs and builds a single seat vehicle from scratch. Members are trained in machining skills and make the parts they design. Mini-Baja racing is under the auspices of SAE International.
- **HyTech Racing:** This multi-disciplinary team designs and builds high performance, hybrid-electric race cars for the Formula Hybrid International Competition.
- **RoboJackets:** This team competes in national and international robotics competitions, and promotes robotics on the GT campus and in the community.
- **Solar Jackets:** This multi-disciplinary student competition team is dedicated to the design, construction, and racing of solar powered cars in competition.
- **Wreck Racing:** This team purchases, repairs, and modifies a car to compete in the annual Grassroots Motorsports Challenge, while facing a strict budget cap.