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Discretion to Institute Trials Before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board

Document: PTO-C-2020-0055-0418

Comment from Mark Kilbourne

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General Comment

I am the President of a small, limited liability corporation called Mr. Butler LLC. Patent Link:

<https://patentimages.storage.googleapis.com/f1/75/35/691716a9aad77d/US7373795.pdf>

I exclusively invented the worlds first system for retrofitting pre-existing deadbolt locks effectively converting such locks for remote control as opposed to a manual key. I patented the retrofitting device in 2008, and began selling commercial (albeit small scale since marketing budget was thin). My sales were climbing each year for several years. Finally, my biggest sale was with Microcenter (a nationwide electronic chain).

I trusted that my invention technology was protected, as I diligently paid my patent maintenance fees when due. I began showing my invention at numerous reputable trade shows, including several shows in Las Vegas: National Hardware Convention and Consumer Electronic Show for several years. Eventually, my technology was noticed on either my own website or the trade shows (or both). Once discovered, August Home copied it, while Apple Inc. integrated it into their Smart Phone, and Home Kit bundling it and SELLING IT

nationwide through Apple Brick and mortar stores as well as online. Naturally, this diminished my sales as my device didnt have the: 1.)marketing presence, 2.) Bells and Whistles, 3.)Expensive Metal parts mine were plastic because of cost. I was unable to sustain meaningful sales, although my device still sells on Amazon and EBay after being bumped from brick and mortar stores in favor of Apples more expensive version. Where was the letter requesting permission to use my patented technology? Apparently, Apple hired lawyers which had much deeper pockets than mine. So I lost in court as well as loosing my entire business.

Attachments

AgrAbility Summer 09



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Summer 2009

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Winners from three states recognized at Minnesota Inventors Congress

The Minnesota AgrAbility Project once again sponsored three cash awards at the 52nd Minnesota Inventors Congress. A number of past and present AgrAbility participants, along with university and AgrAbility staff, judged the inventions based on set criteria. We looked for inventions that help to solve a problem or overcome a barrier for people with a disability, illness or medical condition. Inventions that help seniors cope more effectively with barriers related to the process of aging are considered, too. Minnesota AgrAbility serves farmers with limitations so we look for inventions that are agriculturally related. By being part of this event, we hope more inventors will turn their skills toward designing products for those with disabilities.



Mark Kilbourne takes 1st place with his invention of the Remotizer.

The 2009 Minnesota Inventors Congress was held June 12 – 14 at the Redwood Area Community Center and field house in Redwood Falls, Minn. AgrAbility staff members Deen Swart and Michele Schermann presented at the awards banquet, which was held at Jack Pot Junction near Redwood Falls. Schermann gave a brief overview of the AgrAbility project before announcing the following 2009 recipients:

1st Place – \$300 Cash Award

Mark Kilbourne, Fulshear, Texas, for his invention of the Remotizer. This invention will unlock a door from 30 feet. The remote control box fits any single cylinder deadbolt without altering the door or changing the existing lock and key. It is operated by a simple push-button remote.

2nd Place – \$150 Cash Award

Bette Guzman, Pleasant Hill, Iowa, for her invention of the Replacement Wheelchair Grips. These bright yellow grips fit on the brake and foot levers of a wheelchair. Their color and shape allow wheelchair users to easily locate and distinguish the brake and foot levers.

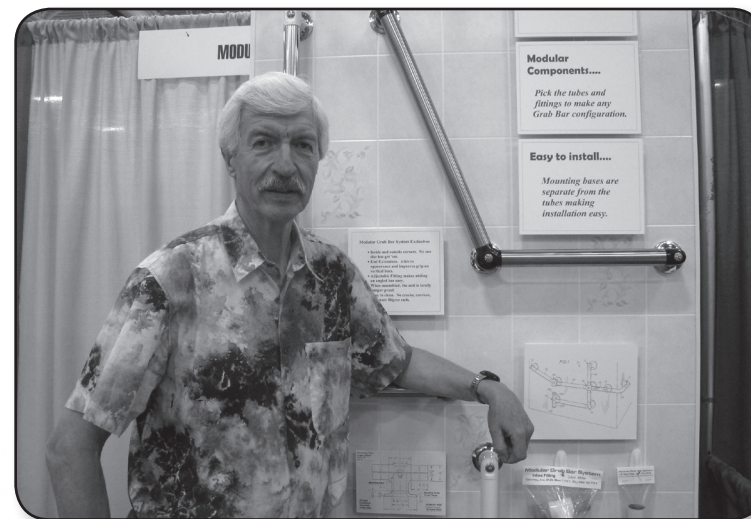


Bette Guzman shows her invention of Replacement Wheelchair Grips.

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3rd Place – \$75 Cash Award

Gene Goad, Ely, Minn., for his invention of the Modular Grab Bar System. This safety handrail made from tubing has various molded fittings that push together to make grab bars of any shape or configuration, including around corners.



Gene Goad took 3rd place with his Modular Grab Bar System.

Minnesota AgrAbility Project

Visit our Web site at www.agrabilitymn.org

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Minnesota AgrAbility staff members receive awards

Minnesota AgrAbility Project's Deen Swart was given the STAR Award for Excellence in Assistive Technology. STAR awards are given to those individuals who exemplify excellence in research and development, use, promotion, advocacy, support and other aspects of assistive technology. The Minnesota STAR Program (a System of Technology to Achieve Results) is located within the Minnesota Department of Administration. STAR's mission is to help all Minnesotans with disabilities gain access to, and acquire the assistive technology they need to live, learn, work and play. The Minnesota STAR Program is federally funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Swart was nominated by Ray Griffin, a Minnesota Rehab Services AT specialist. Griffin made the nomination after working with Swart "from the northwest corner of the state to the southeast corner of the state and everywhere in-between." He recognized the hurdles Swart had to work through to meet the needs of farmers.

Griffin described working with Swart as a pleasure, and says he appreciates her efficiency. "Deen always follows through and chases down needs," says Griffin. "She's there when you need to meet and if you have questions she's always there to take your calls and give you answers. Deen goes all out to get the job done for the farmers. She never gives up; that's what it takes in this job."

Griffin presented the award to Swart during a ceremony on April 14th the State Capitol Rotunda. The Minnesota STAR Assistive Technology Advisory Board and Department of Administration Deputy Commissioner Sheila Reger were there to congratulate Swart.

The Minnesota AgrAbility Project was also awarded a STAR Award for Excellence in Assistive Technology as a service provider. Michele Schermann, Al Rasmussen and Deen Swart accepted this award.



Deen Swart receives the STAR Award.



Deen Swart, Michele Schermann and Al Rasmussen accepted a STAR Award for the Minnesota AgrAbility Project.

Experts share wellness tips with participants and volunteers

Minnesota AgrAbility conducted training for current participants and FenceLine volunteers at the Victorian Inn in Hutchinson, Minn., on March 12 – 13. Ten participants and eight volunteers from across the state participated in the training. The event was hosted by Minnesota AgrAbility staff members Deen Swart, Al Rasmussen and Michele Schermann. The primary focus of the training was agricultural behavioral health.

Michael Rosmann, Ph.D., director of AgriWellness Inc., was the featured speaker. AgriWellness Inc. was founded in 2001 to provide administrative support, technical assistance and training in the Sowing the Seeds of Hope Coalition region serving Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Its goal is to build culturally competent, accessible and affordable behavioral health services for the agricultural community.

Rosmann's presentation focused on behavioral healthcare for farmers. Rosmann stated that, "behavioral healthcare includes treatment for mental health conditions, substance misuse and other addictions; treatments such as psychotherapy, psychiatric medications, support groups and any other service aimed at helping people manage behaviors. Thus, pastoral counseling, classes that teach financial management and visits by

AgrAbility outreach workers are all behavioral healthcare interventions." Rosmann discussed the relationship between stress and performance, stating that "as stress increases, performance improves until the stress becomes too overwhelming; thereafter as stress increases, performance deteriorates and an individual may become incapacitated."

He went on to say that "farmers experiencing high economic related stress are two to three times more likely to experience a serious injury than farmers not experiencing high stress." Rosmann reviewed the danger signs of excessive stress and depression, and provided strategies on managing behavior. He explained, that "behavior, like a feed ration, has ingredients that can be varied to maximize our wellbeing. What we consume, how much and how hard we work, sleep, recreate, pray, laugh, talk and so forth" directly affects our behavioral health."

The first day ended with an evening meal, giving the attendees the chance to socialize informally. The second day featured a Farm Café. Participants had the opportunity to further discuss behavioral health; sharing with and/or providing support to others regarding the behavioral health issues impacting their lives. Overall, the training was a great learning experience for everyone, including the Minnesota AgrAbility team.



Presenters and attendees of the agricultural behavioral health training at the Victorian Inn.



Visit our Web site at www.agrabilitymn.org

Check out past issues of the Fence Post as well as bios and photos of our FenceLine volunteers.

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