

Alumnus-owned business awarded first European patent

7/27/07

Northport, NY -- AppliedETM, a company founded in 1999 by George Eagan, AU Class of 1979, has just been awarded its first European patent. This patent is parallel to appliedETM's U.S. patent, issued on May 22. The patent is a business method patent that claims and protects a method of automatically recording Internet activity performed by a user on behalf of a client. Business method patents are seldom granted in the United States, and are only allowed after heightened scrutiny not only by the assigned patent examiner, but also by a panel of senior examiners who have expertise in the particular field of the claimed invention. In this case, the application was examined for over six years; numerous prior art references were cited against the application during the examination process, and the validity of the claims was argued each time. In the end, two sets of claims were allowed and issued which, due to the extensive, rigorous examination they withstood, should carry a stronger presumption of validity than would a patent that was more easily allowed. The issued claims recite a client session during which Internet activity will be performed. The timing and details of the session are recorded, and an activity record and/or a session bill are generated. These broad claims are applicable to the compliance market, but the scope of the claims is farther-reaching and can encompass many other reporting applications. Thus, these United States and European patents can be used to enforce appliedETM's share of markets that it enters while setting up licensing opportunities in other areas, providing revenue even outside the boundaries of its core business.