



WPI

Introduction to MS4SSA Robotics Modules

Mike Gennert
Director, Robotics Engineering

Brad Miller
Associate Director, Robotics Resource Center

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

23 May 2017

A Robot in Every Home

Scientific American, January 2007

“I can envision a future in which robotic devices will become a nearly ubiquitous part of our day-to-day lives... to see, hear, touch and manipulate objects in places where we are not physically present.”

— Bill C

Chairman

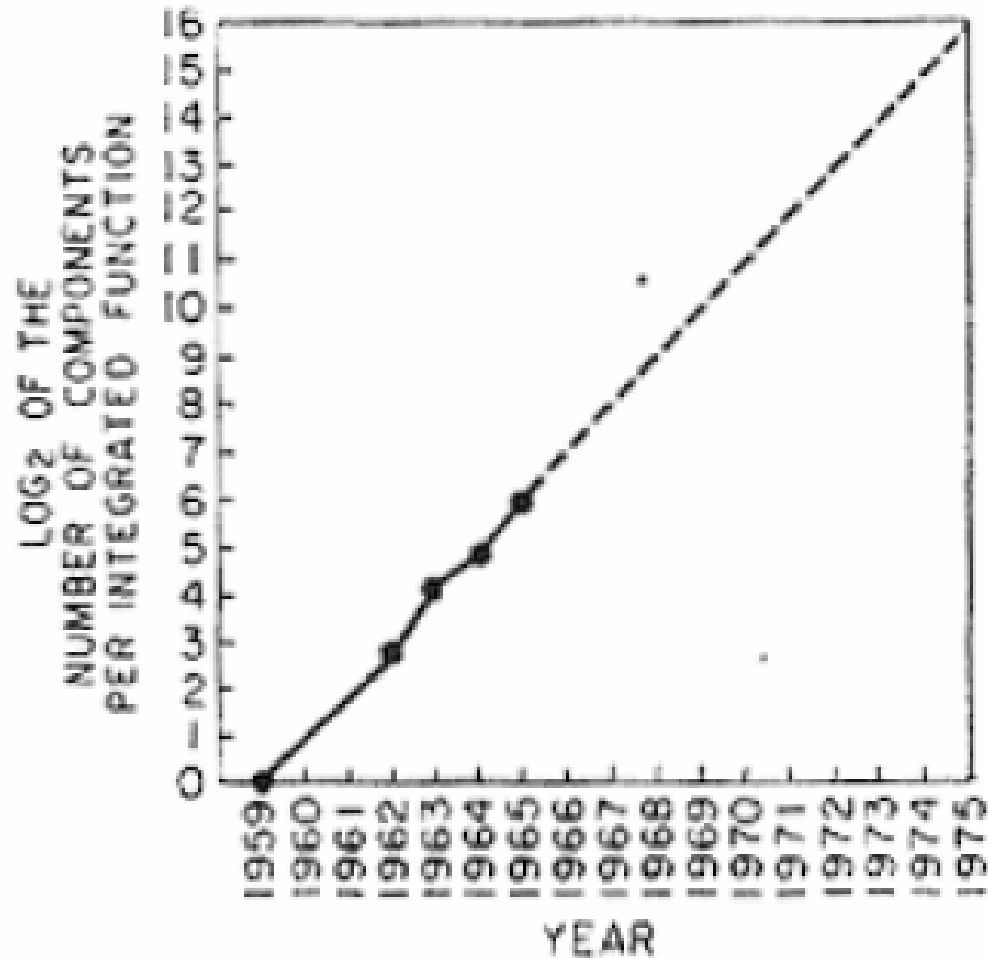


Driving Factors

Exponentials – x2 at regular intervals

- Moore's Law – Processors – 1.5 years
- Kryder's Law – Storage – 1.5 years
- Butter's Law – Network – 9 months

Moore's Law

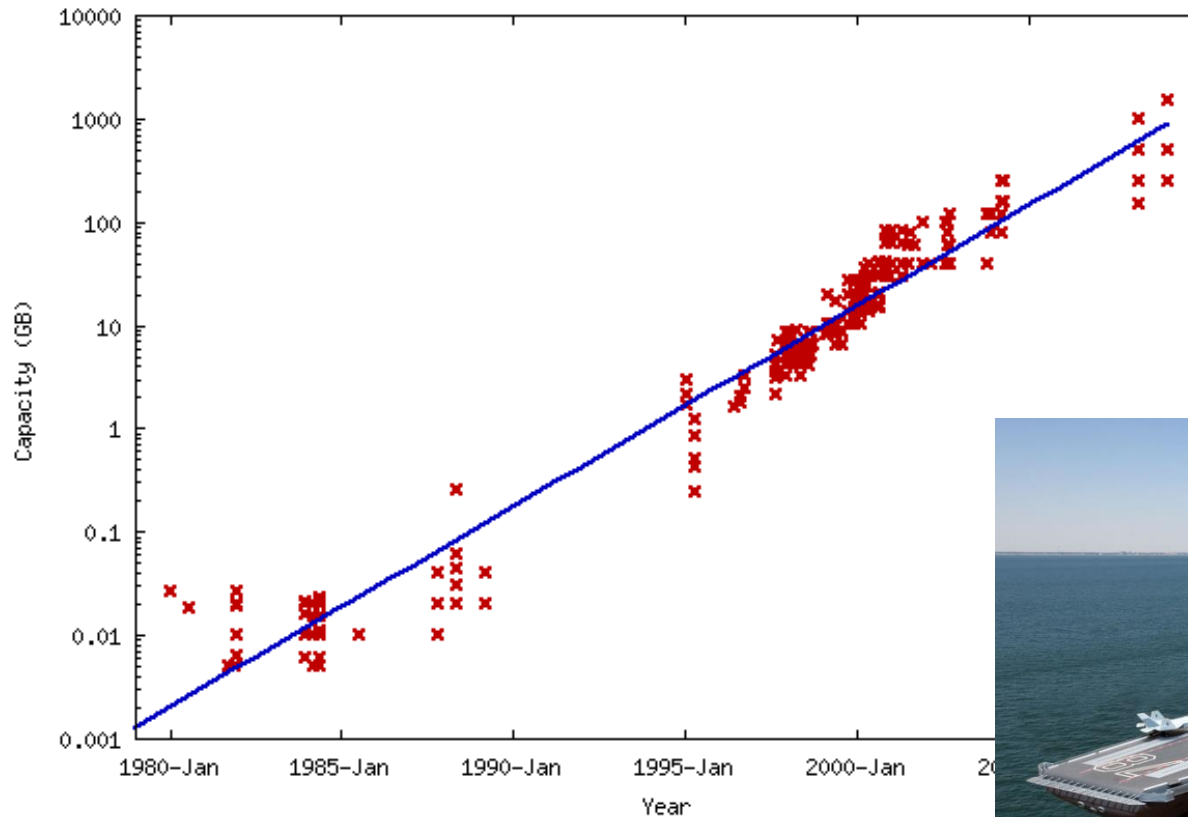


- x2 every 1.5-2 years
- 58 years later...
 - 29-39 doubles
 - $2^{29} = 500 \text{ M}$, $2^{39} = 500 \text{ B}$
- ~30 B transistors on largest chips now

Kryder's Law



4 TB Hard Drive \$109
newegg.com
4TB in punch cards = ?



US Library of Congress = 10 Tb

= 120,000 tons
= USS Gerald R. Ford

Butter's Law

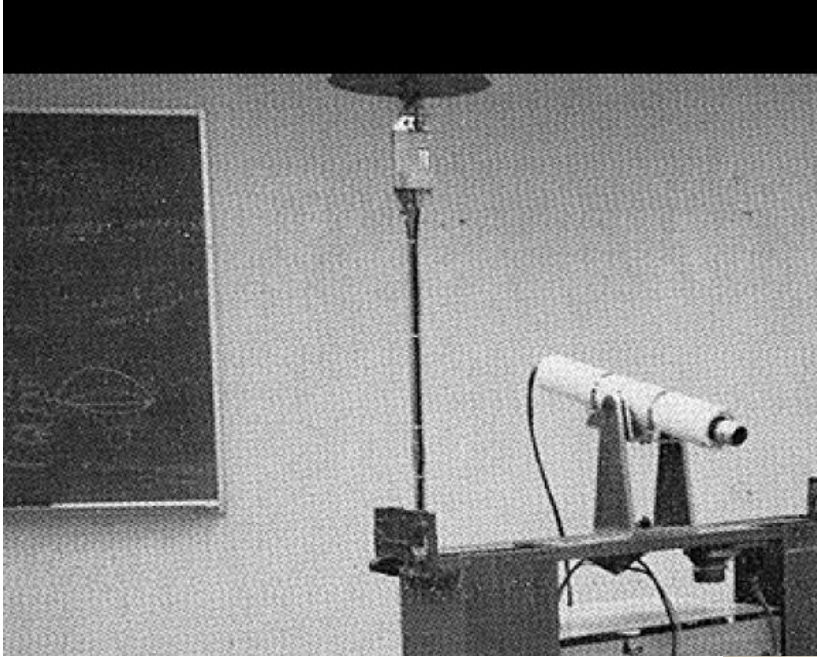
“NEC and Corning achieve petabit optical transmission”

SPIE Optics.org, 22 Jan 2013

1 Pb/s = 10^{15} b/s
= Entire LoC in 0.01 s

Robotics Follows Exponentials

Stanford AI Lab Cart 1979, 3meters/hr



DARPA Grand Challenge 2005, 30Km/hr

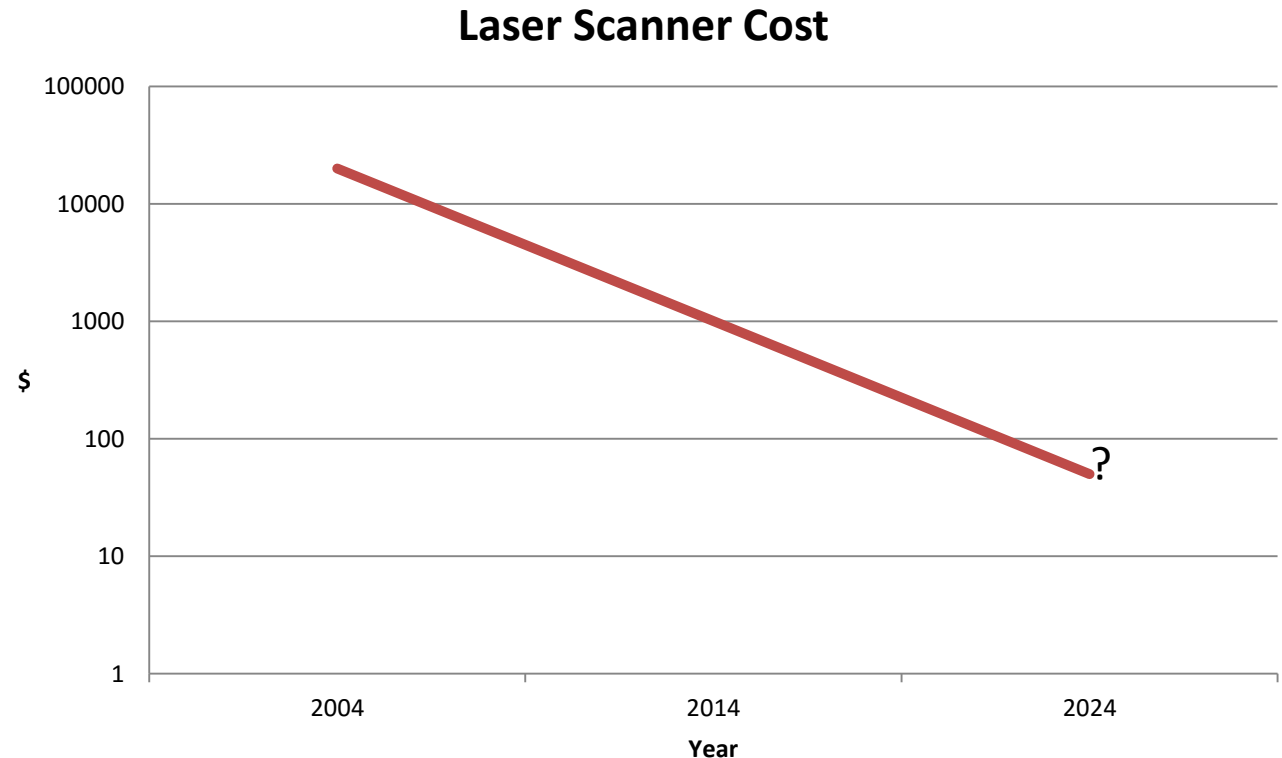


10,000x in 26 years, 2x every 2 years

Tech Drivers

- Robotics *rode* Moore's Law
- Robotics *will drive* future exponentials
- Laser range finder:

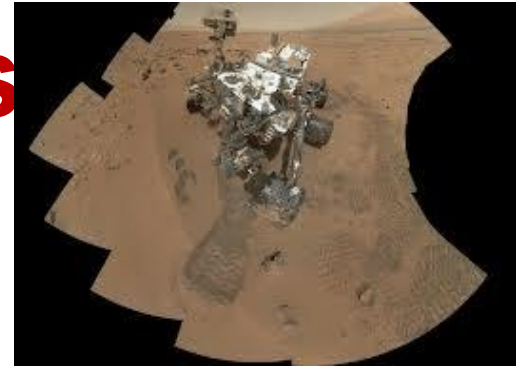
- Past:
- Present:
- Future:



Yesterday's Robot



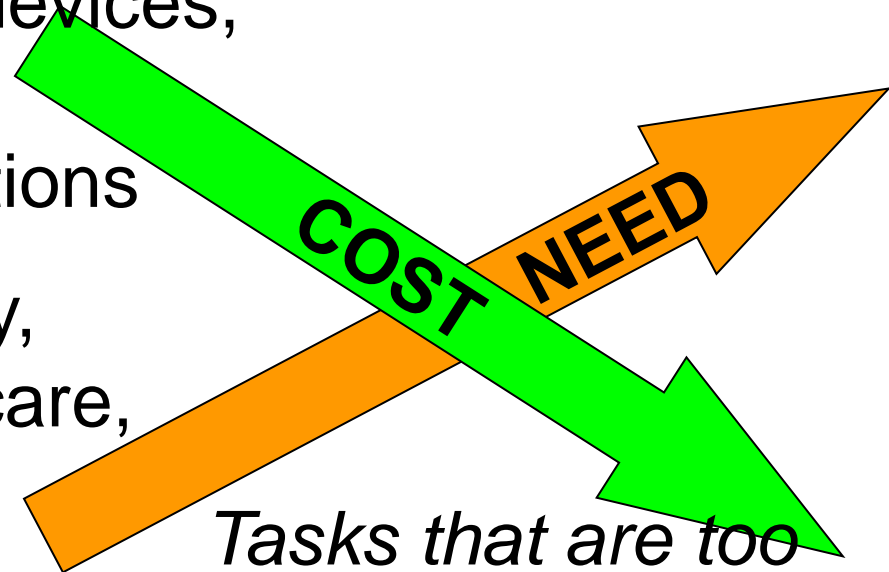
Today's Robots



The Robotics Equation

Sensors,
Computing devices,
Actuators,
Communications

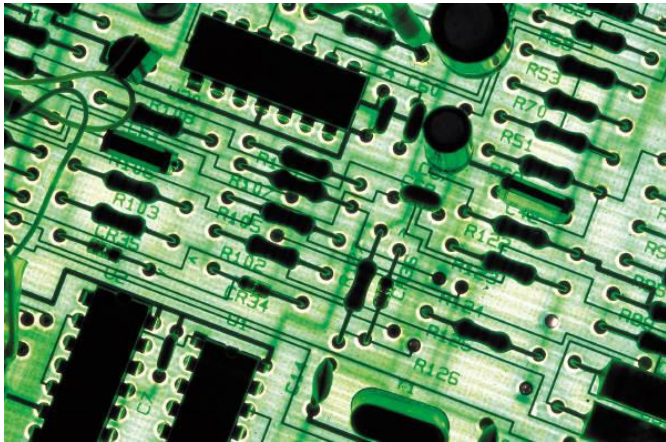
Defense & Security,
Medicine & Elder care,
Consumer,
Manufacturing,
Nano-technology,
Entertainment



Tasks that are too

- Dull
 - Dangerous
 - Dirty
- for humans*
- The 3 Ds*

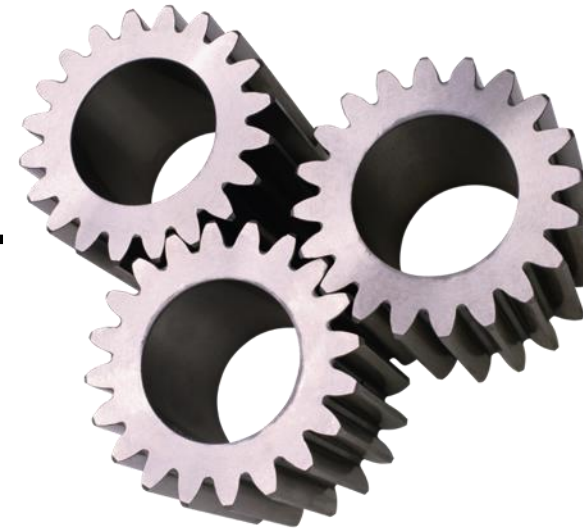
Robotics Education



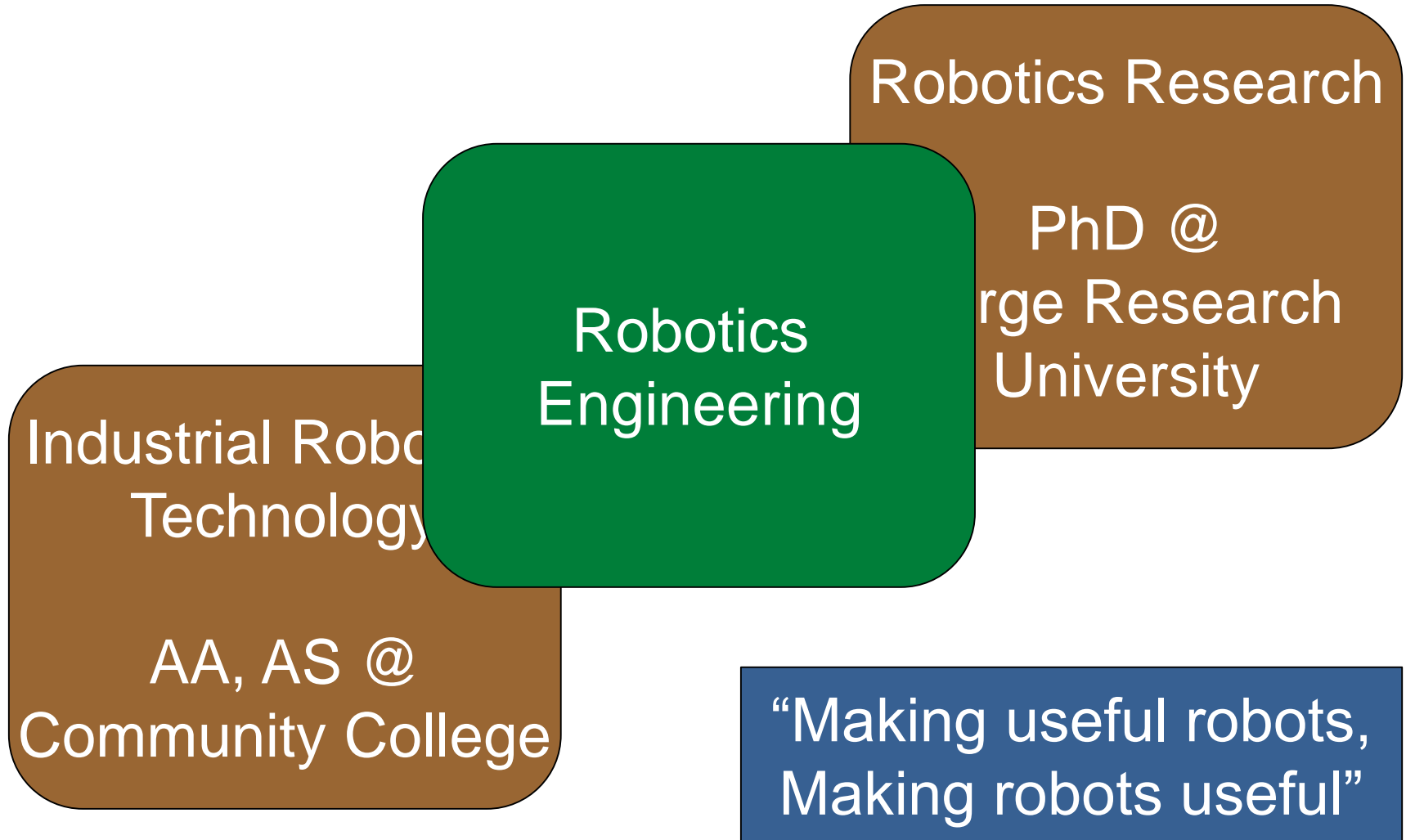
+



+



Robotics Education Gap



Motivation for Robotics Major

Growth in importance of Robotics

- Supply: Push of tech capability ↗ & cost ↘
- Demand: Pull of needs & applications

K-12 interest in Robotics

- Offer students what they want

Great fit for WPI

- Strong CS, ECE, ME
- Project-based curricula
- FIRST Team 190 tradition

Leadership



TouchTomorrow

Eric Overström

Provost, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Stephen Bowen

NASA Astronaut

Sam Ortega

NASA SRR Challenge Program Manager

Jascha Little

Team Leader, Survey

Middle School Robotics

Vision

- Exemplary, nationally recognized,
- Multidisciplinary center for
- Education, research, and innovation in
- Robotics

WPI Robotics Engineering

- BS
 - Goal: Educate engineers for 21st century
 - Grow robotics industry: Supply talent, Start companies
- MS
 - Goal: Technical Leadership
 - Expand robotics industry: Systems thinking
- PhD
 - Goal: Research Leadership
 - Advance robotics: Knowledge, Capabilities

Key Ideas

- Multidisciplinary: CS / ECE / ME
- Spiral Curriculum:
 - Intro to Robotics
 - Unified Robotics I-IV
 - Actuation, Sensing, Manipulation, Navigation
- Social Implications
- Entrepreneurship & the enterprising eng'r
- Project-based

It's never "Not my job!"

Curriculum 1.0

Black: Required General Education (12 courses)

Green: Required Basic Math and Science (9 courses)

Purple: Recommended Basic Math and Science (9 courses)

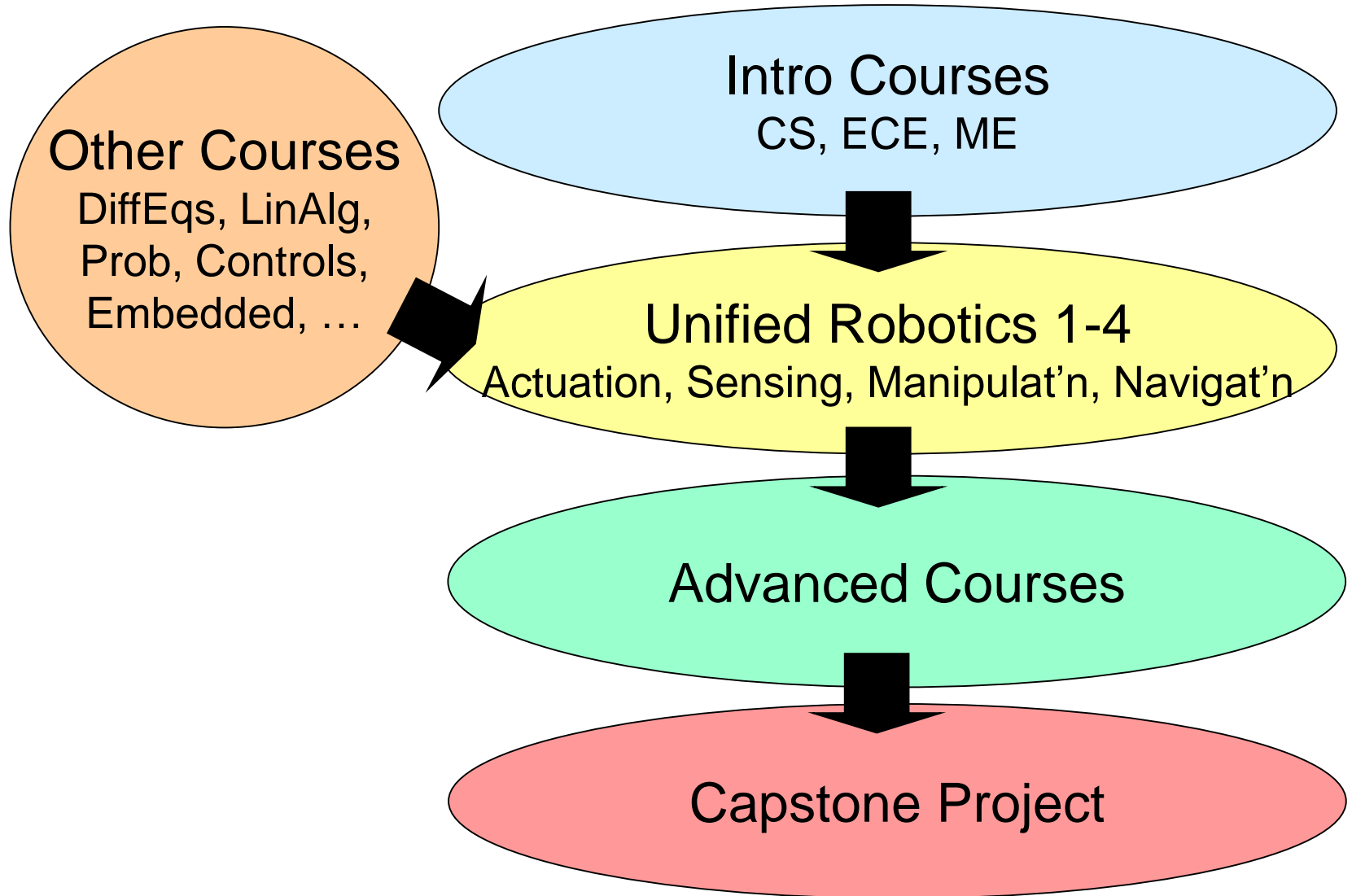
Red: Recommended Engineering (13 courses)

Blue: Recommended Engineering and Free Electives (9 courses)

Class	A Term	B Term	C Term	D Term
Freshman	MA 1021 PH 1110 HU	MA 1022 PH 1101 HU	MA 1023 PE HU	MA 1024 PH 1120 HU
Sophomore	CS 1101 RBE 1001 HU	CS 1102 MA 1021 HU	CS 2303 ECE 2011 SS	MA 2051 ECE 2022 SS
Junior	ECE 2801 ES 2501 IQP	ME 3303 ECE 2223 IQP	ME 3310 Project Preparation IQP	ECE 2311 CS 3733 Robotics Elective 1
Senior	CS 4341 ES 3011 MQP	Robotics Elective 2 Free Elective MQP	Robotics Elective 3 Free Elective	Free Elective

Where's the Robotics?

Curriculum Picture



Curriculum 2.0

Black: Required General Education (12 courses)

Green: Required Basic Math and Science (11 courses)

Red: Required Engineering (13 courses)

Blue: Recommended Engineering and Free Electives (9 courses)

Year	A Term	B Term	C Term	D Term
Freshman	Calculus 1 Physics 1 Great Problems	Calculus 2 Physics 2 Great Problems	Calculus 3 CS 1 HU&A	Calculus 4 Digital Logic Intro Robotics
Soph	Unified Robtcs 1 Embedded Sys Statics	Unified Robtcs 2 Diff Eq HU&A	Controls Soc Sci HU&A	CS 2 Soc Sci HU&A Seminar
Junior	Unified Robtcs 3 Entpreneur'p Junior Project	Unified Robtcs 4 Probability Junior Project	Linear Algebra RBE Elective 1 Junior Project	Social Issues RBE Elective 2 Software Eng
Senior	Science RBE Elective 3 Capstone Project	Free Elective 1 Free Elective 2 Capstone Project	Free Elective 3 Free Elective 4 Capstone Project	Free Elective 5 Free Elective 6 Free Elective 7

Where's the Robotics?

Courses

Undergraduate

RBE1001 Intro to Robotics
RBE2001 Unified 1: Actuation
RBE2002 Unified 2: Sensing
RBE3001 Unified 3: Manipulation
RBE3002 Unified 4: Navigation
RBE4322 Mechatronics
RBE4815 Industrial Automation



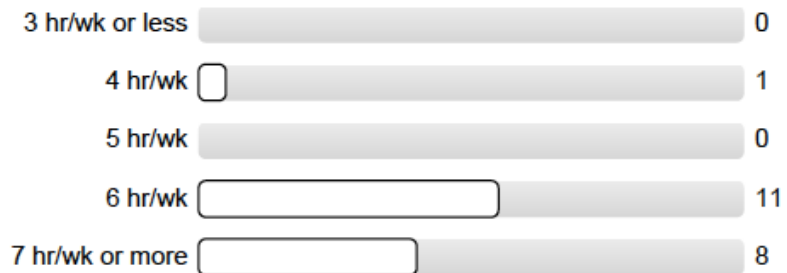
Graduate

RBE500 Foundations
RBE501 Dynamics
RBE502 Robotic Control
RBE510 Multi-Robot Sys
RBE520 Biomechanics & Robotics
RBE526 Human-Robot Interaction
RBE549 Computer Vision
RBE550 Motion Planning
RBE580 Biomedical Robotics
RBE594 Capstone Proj Experience
RBE595 Special Topics
 Adv. Robot Navigation
 Adv. Robotic Parallel & Walking Mechanisms
 Deep Learning for Adv. Robotic Perception
 Formal Methods in Robotics
 Smart Materials & Actuation
 Soft Robotics
 Space & Planetary Robotics

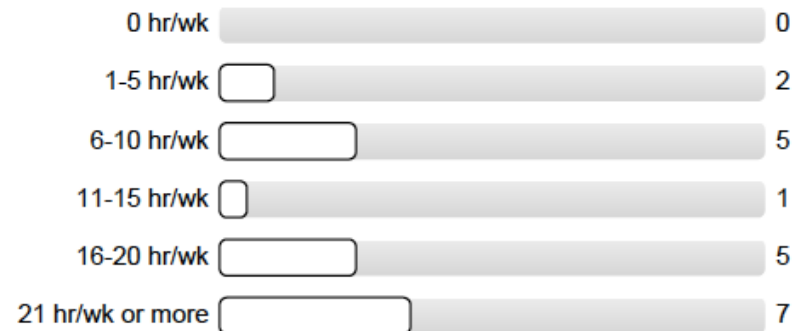
Hard-working Students

RBE 1001 Intro to Robotics Student Course Evaluations C Term 2013:

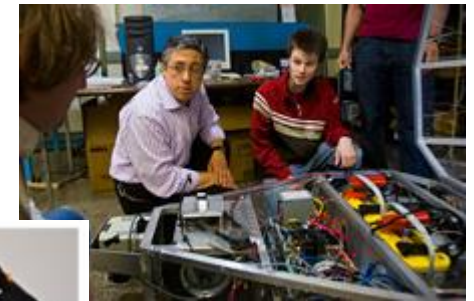
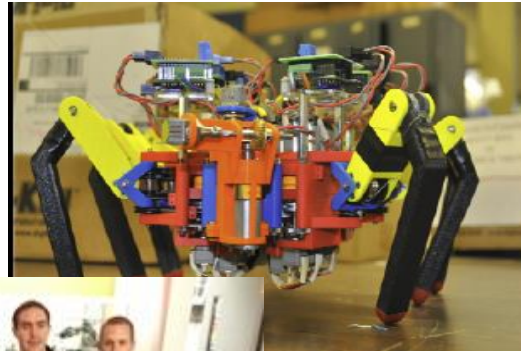
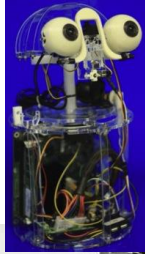
26A. On average, how many hours of the formally scheduled hours for lecture, conference, and labs did you ATTEND each week?



26B. On average, what were the total hours spent in each 7-day week OUTSIDE of formally scheduled class time in work related to course (including studying, reading, writing, homework, rehearsal, etc.)?



Capstone Projects





WPI

ROBOTICS ENGINEERING

IPASS

AN INTELLIGENT PORTABLE AERIAL SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM



PROJECT TEAM:

ADAM BLUMENAU – ALEC ISHAK – BRETT LIMONE
ZACHARY MINTZ – COREY RUSSELL – ADRIAN SUDOL

ADVISORS:

TASKIN PADIR – LIFENG LAI

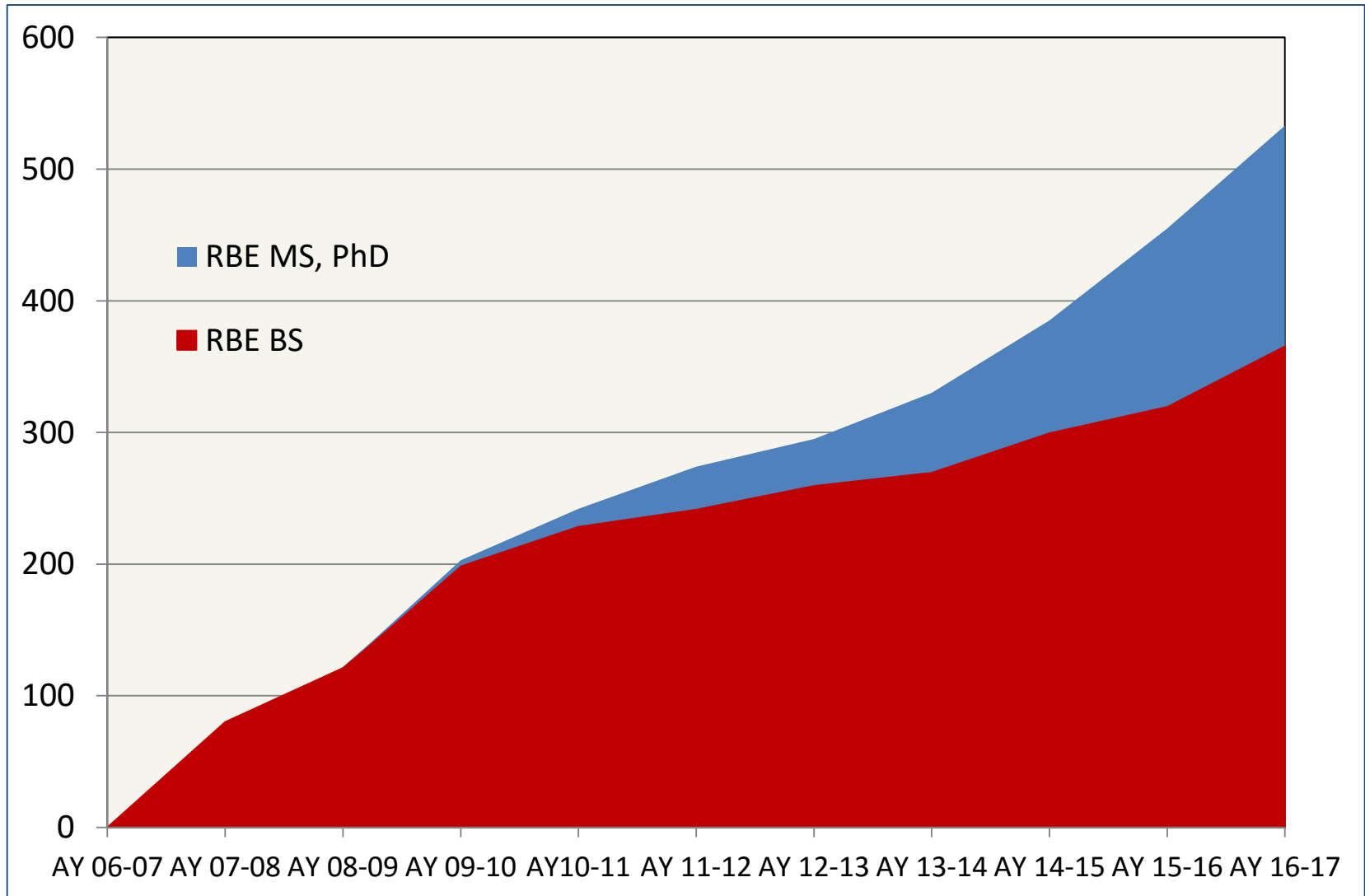
er

Select Project Sponsors

**3C BOSTON
ENGINEERING™**



Enrollment



Jobs & Internships

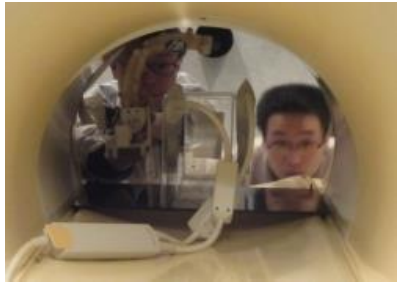


Robotics Research

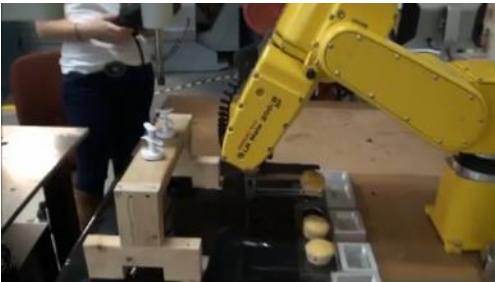
Human-Robot Interaction



Biomedical Robotics



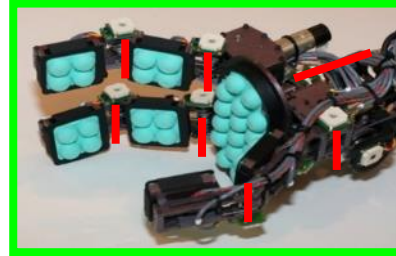
Manufacturing



Assistive
Robotics



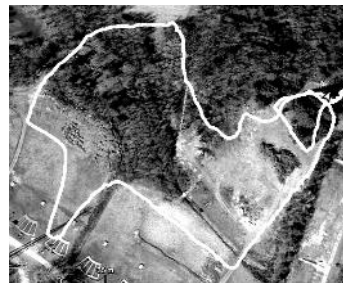
Sensing & Manipulation



Autonomy & Navigation



Odometry & Mapping



Soft Robotics

DARPA Robotics Challenge

Fukushima Disaster



Too dangerous for
humans ...

... send a robot

Too bad robots can't ...

- Traverse rubble
- Attach hoses
- Close valves
- Open doors ... ***YET!***
- Climb ladders
- Use tools
- Remove debris
- Drive vehicle

DRC Trials Video



Self-Driving Vehicles

SFGATE | Autos | Jobs | Real Estate | 7

e-edition | Subscribe |

San Francisco Chronicle

Biz & Tech

Self-driving shuttle loops around Santa Clara University campus

By Carolyn Said | December 31, 2016 | Updated: December 31, 2016 5:00pm

✉ f t p d g+

Print Comments 0



Photo: James Tensuan, Special To The Chronicle



Construction



Semi-Autonomous Mason (SAM) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVWayhNpHr0>

Human Augmentation



Logistics



Garbage Trucks: On Route, In Action! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTUjiLxzDQs>

Residential Life



Dining Services & Food Prep



Moley Robotics <http://www.moley.com/>

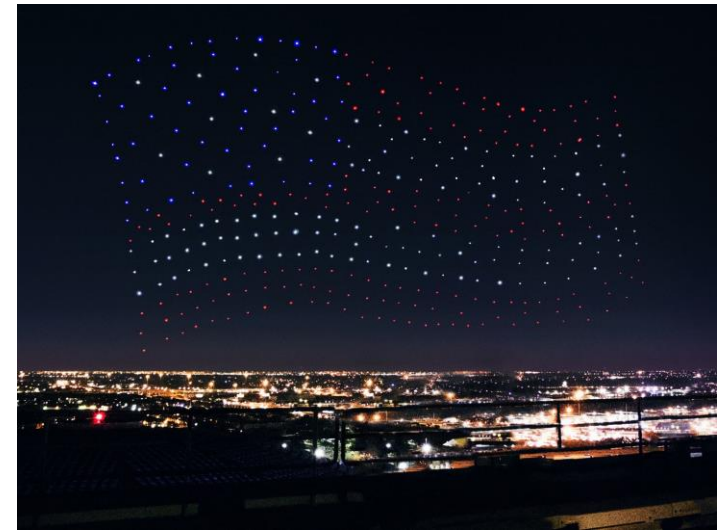
Drones



<http://www.kumarrobotics.org/>



Science <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2015/02/how-lawmakers-aim-protect-you-drone-invasion>



https://assets.wired.com/photos/w_1440/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/American-Flag-ImageTA.jpg

- Ubiquitous
- Cheap
- Hazards / threats
- FAA Regs
 - Fun vs. Work
 - Restrictions
 - Registration

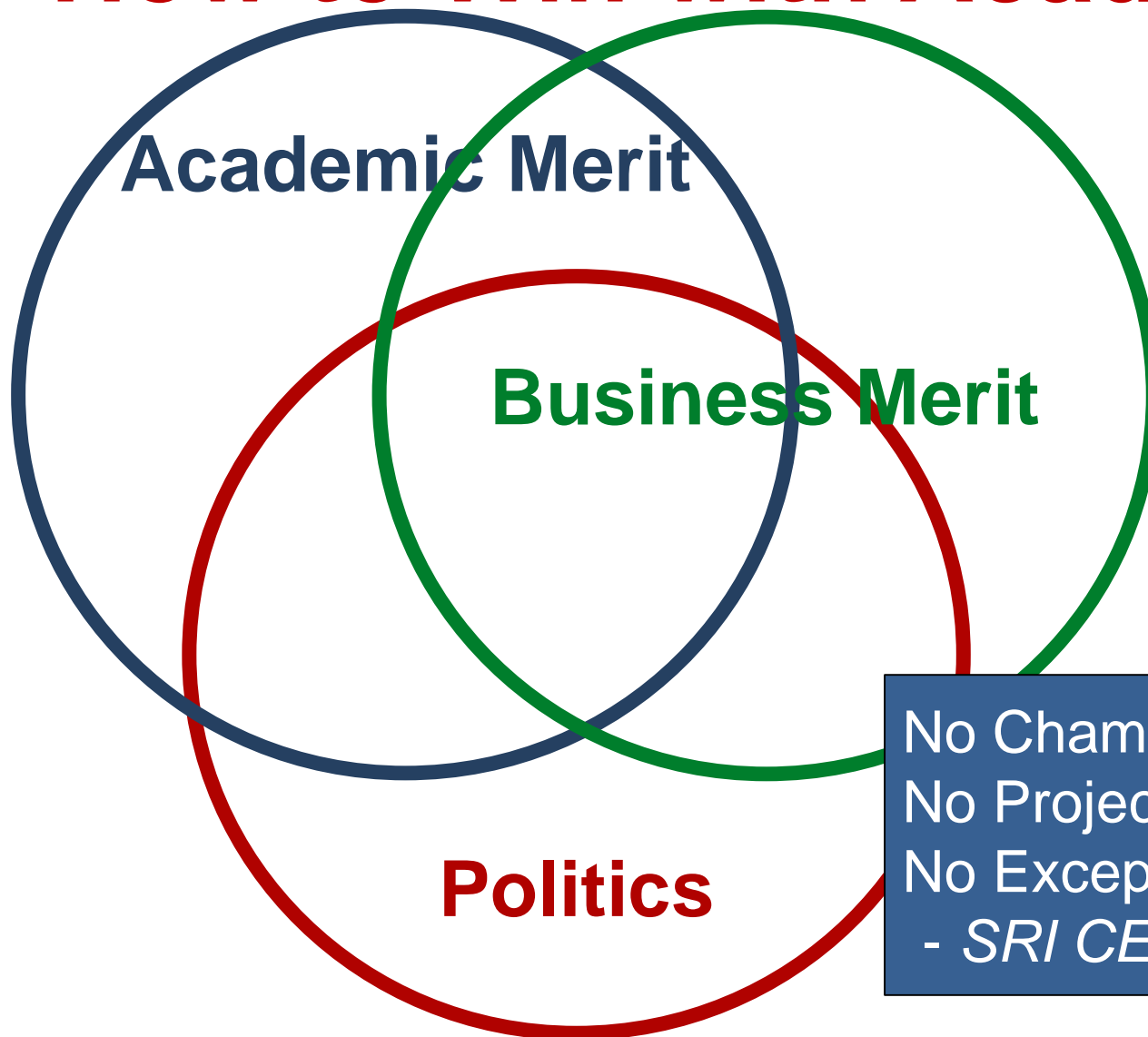
Lessons Learned

*For
faculty
buy-in*

- Need vision & passion... & a business plan
- Bottom-up approach better than top-down
- Top-down approach better than bottom-up
- Stick to one's principles
- Be open to compromise on anything else
- Communicate & cooperate
- **Be bold!**

*For
curriculum
design*

How to Win with Academics



No Champion,
No Project.
No Exceptions.
- SRI CEO Curt Carlson

Acknowledgements

- This work is sponsored in part by AFOSR, DARPA, GE, NIH, NSF, Toyota, WPI
- Equipment: ABB, Axis Communications, Maxon Motors, NVIDIA
- Many colleagues and contributors

Thank You!