

ENGINEERS CLUB OF THE WEST VALLEY

JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER

www.engineersaz.com

The Engineers Club is a social organization which meets regularly for lunch with a speaker on a technical topic. Spouses are invited and many attend regularly. Short field trips are occasionally scheduled. Membership is open to anyone who has worked in or had close ties to the engineering or scientific fields. Meetings are held at 11:30am on the first Friday of each month, October through June, at Briarwood Country Club, 135th and Meeker in Sun City West, Arizona.

Visitors are always welcome -- Reservations are required -- Just call (623)544-0942 to let us know you are coming.

JUNE 3 PROGRAM

Biologically-Coupled Robotics: From Ball Catching to Stroke Recovery Therapy

Dr. Michael McBeath, ASU



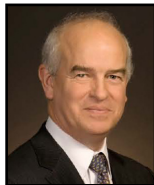
Dr. McBeath's work focuses on computational modeling of perception-action in dynamic, natural environments. Specialty areas span sports, robotics, music, navigation, and multisensory object perception. The most widely known work is on navigational strategies used by baseball players, animals, and robots. His baseball interception research was published in the journal, *Science*, his dog-frisbee study was made fun of on Saturday Night Live, and his autonomous ball-catching robot was selected by the New York Times Magazine as one of its ideas of the year.

Dr. Michael McBeath works in the area of Psychology and Engineering. He majored in both fields for his Bachelors degree from *Brown University*, received a Masters of Science from the University of California, and a Doctoral degree from Stanford University in Psychology with a minor in Electrical Engineering. He worked as a research scientist at NASA - Ames Research Center, and the Interval Corporation, a technology think tank funded by Microsoft co-founder, Paul Allen. Dr. McBeath is currently a faculty member at Arizona State University in the Department of Psychology and adjunct faculty in Kinesiology, Neuroscience, Electrical Engineering, and Arts-Media-Engineering.

OCTOBER 7 PROGRAM

Little Green Bugs Fueling the Future

Dr. Gary Dirks, Director of LightWorks
Arizona State University



As the nation and the world look for alternatives to crude oil for production of hydrocarbon fuels, microorganisms – algae and cyanobacteria – have come to the foreground as candidates for clean, secure feedstocks. Dr. Dirks will review the security context for continued reliance on crude oil, and the factors driving interest in alternatives. And he will provide an overview of the most promising candidates to replace crude oil and focus on photosynthetic algae and bacteria – “little green bugs” – as a promising option.

Dr. Gary Dirks is director of LightWorks, an Arizona State University initiative that capitalizes on ASU's strengths in solar energy and other light-inspired research. Before joining ASU, Dr. Dirks was president of BP Asia-Pacific and BP China, where he brought an innovative approach to business, particularly projects that supported sustainable development and energy security. In December 2008, he was recognized by the *People's Daily* as one of the 10 most influential multinational company leaders of the last 30 years of China's economic development.

NOTES FROM...

President Don Block

A Plea For Help



It is hard to believe that this is our last meeting before the summer break. I hope each of you has a very enjoyable summer. While you are spending vacation time **PLEASE** spend a few minutes thinking about your Engineers Club and how much you have been enjoying the lunches, speakers and discussions with others of like interest. We have had some great programs so far this year and there are more planned for the rest of the year when you return. It would be a shame if all of this was lost. If this club is to continue to survive and attract new members and interesting speakers, each of you needs to take an interest in helping keep the club going. My term as President will be over in December and as yet we do not have a Vice President that can take over as President next year. It is not a difficult job but the Club cannot survive without someone to take the reins. In addition, there will be several other openings on the Board. Come to our next Board meeting on September 19, at 9:30 AM at Bashas Market in SCW and see what we are about. Or contact any board member if you would like additional information about the requirements of any position.

*I started out with nothing
and I still have most of it.*



Past President, Hal Clemett received a plaque recognizing his service to the club from Don Block.

NOVEMBER 4

Engineering Design in Malawi

Dr. Jan D. Snyder, ASU

2011 OFFICERS

President	Don Block	546-0557
Vice President		
Secretary	Jodie Lawrosky	238-5256
Treasurer	Bob Latvalla	546-7801

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	Daryl Lund	271-7337
Membership	Bob Kessler	910-7054
Reservations	Dave Whitehouse	544-0942
Luncheons	Tom Watkins	584-5811
Scholarship	Bill Blackman	214-6550
Scholarship	Don Johnson	975-1657
Scholarship	Don Porter	556-1754
Scholarship	Gerry Montag (Advisor)	546-7963
Member at Large	Les Sherry	975-9081
Newsletter	Bill Harrison	546-4943
Event Support	Ralph Palmer	815-8143
Web Site	David Campbell	518-4871
Publicity	Maurice Hoyt	533-4213
Field Trips	Fred Scheske	556-2892
Past President	Hal Clemett	546-4941

BOARD EMAIL ADDRESS: board@engineersaz.com

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

The following comments are excerpts from a letter written to the Engineers Club recently by Martin Solis who is receiving financial support from the Engineering Scholarship Fund.

To The Engineers Club,

I am so grateful for the assistance, time and support given by the wonderful group of individuals that make up the Engineers Club of the West Valley. You brought me in and welcomed me into your home, all the while treating me as one of your own. I want to thank former President of the Engineers Club, Hal Clemett, as well as all the other members, for the wonderful support and special presentation. I enjoyed being there and meeting everyone and so did my mother who is very grateful for your help, as it is expensive to pay university tuition..... .With all your combined help, I have successfully completed two semesters at Glendale Community College and Arizona State University. I finished my semester at Glendale Community with a G.P.A. of 3.86, and I will be continuing my education as a full time student at ASU for the next 4 semesters to receive my bachelors in Electrical Engineering..... From this point on all my classes will consist of only engineering classes which include this semesters courses – Electromagnetism, Probability in Electronics, Circuits II, and Signals & Systems. The Engineers Club is a great association and I hope that one day I will be a future member and be able to return the opportunity to give to students who are in need and are dedicated in expanding their knowledge in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. Thank you everyone, you have impacted my life in a positive way and allowed me to continue my goals.

Sincerely, Martin Solis

TREASURER'S REPORT 4-30-2011

General Fund Balance:	\$6,310.15
Scholarship Fund Balance:	\$3,437.13

LUNCHEON MENUS

June 3: Beef Stroganoff over Egg Noodles with fresh vegetables and Rainbow Sherbet with a rolled cookie.
(Entrée Option: Fruit Plate)

October 7: Pork Cutlet Grilled Golden, Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes, Chef's Vegetable and Fudge Nut Brownie with Whipped Cream.
(Entrée Option: Fruit Plate)

RESERVATION POLICY

The cost of the monthly luncheon is \$17.00 per person. The reservation deadline is 6PM Monday before the meeting. Late reservations cannot be guaranteed the regular meal. Call Dave Whitehouse if you cannot keep your reservation. **The full luncheon cost is due for "no-shows" and cancellations after 6PM on the Wednesday before the meeting.**

RESERVATIONS Dave Whitehouse (623)544-0942

RAFFLE RESULTS AND DONATIONS

The winner of the raffle at the May meeting was **Al Van Maele** who received \$100 and an additional \$100 was added to the Scholarship Fund.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

(NO NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH)

Club Membership is 143

**SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!
HAVE A GOOD SUMMER**



Dr. George Karady, Professor at ASU, receives a certificate of appreciation from Daryl Lund for his presentation on Lightning Phenomena & Protection at the May luncheon.