

ENGINEERS CLUB OF THE WEST VALLEY

JANUARY 2009 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)546-9112 to let us know you are coming.

JANUARY 9 PROGRAM

A New Approach to Medical Research through Translational Genomics

Michael L. Bassoff, President T-Gen Foundation



Michael Bassoff is President of the Translational Genomics Research Foundation which is a nationally based charitable organization that supports the work of the Translational Genomics Research Institute (T-Gen) and its many programs. He had previously served as President of the Foundation of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). And prior to his tenure at UMDNJ, he served the University of Arizona Health Services Center for more than 16 years.

Translational Genomics Research refers to the study of the genomic structure of the human body with the objective of understanding the genetic cause of disease so as to translate this information into new diagnostic tests and therapeutics. Thanks to the mapping of the human genome, clinical practice is shifting from treatment based on symptoms to treatment based on each person's unique genetic make-up.

FEBRUARY 6 PROGRAM

New Automotive Developments

Max E. Rumbaugh, Jr.



Max Rumbaugh is the Executive Vice President Emeritus of the Society of Automotive Engineers, International (SAE Intl). He is currently a consultant with the Mississippi State University's Center For Advanced Vehicle Systems.

He graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. After service in the Army as an Artillery rocket platoon leader, he attended Purdue University earning Masters degrees in both Engineering and in Business.

Mr. Rumbaugh has given presentations to audiences worldwide, including the Engineers Club on at least two previous occasions.

Max will speak about the New Technologies and Developments in the Automotive Industry.

March 6, 2009

Renewable Energy Sources

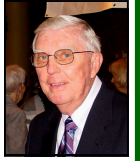
By a Salt River Project Representative

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE

The newsletter is published at www.engineersaz.com about two weeks before each meeting. Questions or suggestions should be directed to Bill Harrison at bharrison@cox.net or (623)546-4943.

NOTES FROM...

President Fred Scheske



Thank you for electing me President of the Engineers Club for the year 2009. It is an honor and a privilege. Please express your thanks to the 2008 officers and committee chairpersons for their commitment and effort in our club's past success in scholarship activity and program presentations

No organization thrives because of one person's effort. We need your input and suggestions for programs and tours. To this end I will circulate at our luncheons to get to know members and to hear your ideas. How can YOU help?

- Tell us what presentations you would like to see and hear .
- Talk to friends; tell them about our organization and our functions.
- Invite them to a luncheon.

Larry Pensiero has received commitments from several excellent speakers for the coming year. With the exceptional service and luncheons provided by Briarwood Country Club, we will have great opportunities to regularly meet and interface with fellow engineers and scientists. Our Engineers Club of the West Valley is a unique organization providing benefits not often found in the Phoenix metropolitan area.

I plan to include some noteworthy 21st Century engineering achievements in the President's Notes in our newsletter. I think it important to write about what engineers and scientists have accomplished and what those accomplishments can lead to in the years ahead. History is important, but what it has taught us and how we can use that knowledge in the future is even more important.

Each member can serve to further accomplishments of our Engineers Club by providing support and by attending and participating in luncheon meetings. **STAY ACTIVE – BE PROACTIVE!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jerry Dassel, J Harvey Johnson, Dirk Kuizenga and Gaither Randall

Club membership is 178



2009 Board Members, L to R - Jodie Lawrosky, Secretary
Don Block, Treasurer - Fred Scheske, President

2009 OFFICERS

President	Fred Scheske	556-2892
Vice President	Larry Pensiero	546-1703
Secretary	Jodie Lawrosky	238-5256
Treasurer	Don Block	546-0557

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	Larry Pensiero	546-1703
Membership	Bob Latvalla	546-7801
Membership	Bill Lee	977-1818
Reservations	Gene Comstock	546-9112
Luncheons	Hal Clemett	546-4941
Scholarship	Geraldine Montag	546-7963
Scholarship	Fred Berkenkamp	214-7757
Scholarship	Rutheloise Borchardt	933-2307
Newsletter	Bill Harrison	546-4943
Web Site	Jim & Pat Ardis	362-1013
Publicity	Keith Morrow	546-3080
Member at Large	Dave Wittchen	544-8945
Field Trips	Dave Whitehouse	544-0942
Past President	Keith Morrow	546-3080

Reflecting By Kess Alley

Sometimes it is quietly sobering and quite enlightening to reflect on what we, as human beings, have experienced and what may be coming in our lives. The past is frozen and the future is an enticing uncertainty on which we love to speculate.

The science of physics has developed the so-called Standard Model for the structure of matter and the operation of the Universe. The many fundamental particles and their interactions are fairly well documented.

According to the best scientific evidence to date, the Universe is about 14 billion years old. Our sun, is about one-half through its 10 billion year life. Our planet Earth is about 4.5 billion years old. Primitive life arose from the seas about 4 billion years ago. After evolution operated for millions and millions of years, modern human beings (*homo sapiens*), in more or less their present form, appeared about 100,000 years ago.

The human race has endured earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, dictators and tyrants, numerous devastating wars, torture, the Black Plague (among others), the Crusades, the Inquisition, genocide, ethnic cleansing, brink of nuclear war, hideous terrorism and other possible life-ending threats.

And then, there is the petty squabbling among ourselves about who and what is noble and right. But, as William Faulkner said in his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, "man will prevail," and, indeed, he has, until now.

Over the past six decades we have discovered and developed mind-boggling electronics, unraveled the secrets of the double helix, and started to move into outer space. We now have a new perspective on our world. We realize that we are exhausting our planet's ability to support and sustain the current population of human beings at the expected level of comfort. Carl Sagan's *pale blue dot* is in trouble.

Climate change (regardless of the cause), depletion of minerals, pollution of our land, water and air, rain forest devastation, loss of animal species, and general interference with Nature has brought us to the brink of an irreversible catastrophe.

We are at a defining moment in human history. We can either firmly resolve to begin to set things right or we can face possible extinction. Many difficult decisions must be made and acted on, and time is running out. Will we be up to the task?

The scientific trail of human evolution is very clear and convincing to those who are willing to follow the evidence. We know that evolution is not finished, in fact we may have changed the direction with our modern medicine and by interference with biological processes. Who knows if human type entities will still be around after five billion more years when our faithful old sun will finally burn out? If so, we can be sure such entities will not look like us. Will they be wiser than we have been?

TREASURER'S REPORT 11-30-2008

General Fund Balance:	\$3,927.25
Scholarship Fund Balance:	\$2,030.23

LUNCHEON MENUS

January 9: Marinated London Broil with Bruchetta Topping, Parmesan Crusted Potatoes, Salad, Rolls, Beverages, Rainbow Sherbet. (Entrée Option: Fruit Plate)

February 6: Apple wood Smoked Pork Chop with Pepper Hash, Thyme Scented Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Beverages, Peppermint Ice Cream (Entrée Option: Fruit Plate)

RESERVATION POLICY

The cost of the monthly luncheon is \$16.50 per person.

The reservation deadline is 6PM Monday before the meeting.

Late reservations cannot be guaranteed the regular meal.

Call Gene Comstock if you cannot keep your reservation.

A fee of \$10 will be charged for "no-shows."

Please have cash or make out your check in advance.

RESERVATIONS Gene Comstock (623)546-9112



Don Porter, receives a certificate of appreciation from Keith Morrow for his presentation on Coal Gasification and CO2 Sequestration.

FIELD TRIPS

Postal Distribution Center

Friday, January 16, 2009 at 4:00 PM

Package Distribution Center

Friday, January 30, 2009 at 10:00 AM

For Information

Call Dave Whitehouse 623-544-0942