

# Tom Innes—Intel's 38th Employee

Interview by Barb Frank

*As Intel gets ready to celebrate its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we thought it would be fun to check-in on Tom Innes and see what is new with Intel's 38<sup>th</sup> employee.*

Tom retired in 1998 after 30 years at Intel. In later years, he was the General Manager of a number of businesses and development operations at Intel's Chandler facilities. As some of you may remember, he was responsible for establishing successful microprocessor design centers in Israel and in Arizona, and managed the Embedded Microprocessor business and Intel's Arizona site committee.

These days, Tom spends much of his non-family time consulting for a start-up in Phoenix called Deep Dive Technology. Deep Dive Technology is a company focused on big data analytics, founded by another former Intel employee, Alan Steinberg.

Like many Intel retirees, Tom is an avid volunteer for a non-profit that is dear to his heart. In fact, Tom is on the Core Management Team for the Arizona Science Lab (ASL), which is a program under the larger IEEE Phoenix Section non-profit. Its focus is on conducting engineering and physics workshops for elementary and middle school children.

Over the past four years the Lab has put on workshops for more than 8000 4th-8th graders in the Phoenix area. Kids are guided through the basic science principles and then work in teams of two to design, build and test projects such as water wheels, Popsicle stick bridges, solar-powered cars or bottle rockets! This offers a fun way to experience and learn about the worlds of science, technology, engineering and math.



*Summer 1988 -taken in front of the original Mt. View building of the employees remaining from the original 1968 staff. L to R standing: Jean Jones, Tom Innes, Ted Jenkins, Bob Noyce and Nobi Clark. L to R kneeling: Les Vadasz, George Chiu, Andy Grove and Gordon Moore.*



*Tom volunteers by teaching science and technology at the Arizona Science Lab.*

The Arizona Science Lab leases an old school building in the Tempe School District, which means they can store all of their material there, and operate out of one space versus traveling from school to school. Of course this model is better for the volunteers, but scheduling school busses to transport the children is a new challenge. Although they are well supported by a terrific volunteer team of engineers from the Chandler site, as well as by the Volunteer Matching Grant Program, Tom is always looking for new volunteers! Check out their website at <http://www.azsciencelab.org>.

Tom now has three grandchildren, ages six, three and zero! While Tom has not been an early adopter of technology, especially social media, that may have to change to stay in touch with the younger generation.

What does Tom miss about Intel? Naturally he misses the people, as well as the excellent administrative support he used to get.

When asked about tips for new retirees to make the transition easier, Tom suggested that you spend the time you need to plan your finances and medical long before you retire, because stuff happens – like the 2002 dot com bust, or like the 2008 economic crash! Tom reiterated a point he made from a 2003 interview: “Retirement is not only a lot like work, it IS work. It requires the same set of disciplines and even better time management.” And now he adds, “I learned that those early Intel values of discipline and commitment to results, work in the two small companies that I helped start. The values also work in the non-profit world; the Arizona Science Lab has benefited from these same values.”

Interested in volunteering for the Arizona Science Lab, or just want to catch up with Tom? You can email him at [tom.innes@att.net](mailto:tom.innes@att.net).