

Problem-solving course called 'revolutionary'

Next I-TRIZ workshop is May 11-13

By Chuck Buchanan, 2001-'02 Engineers Club president

"It is as if I were sitting in the Engineers Club Dining room adjacent to the big round table on the left, where 'Boss' Kettering was enlightening his luncheon guests on the importance of letting the invention tell us 'to run the errands' necessary to optimize our inventions."

That was the feeling Engineers Club member **Ted Christian** described after participating in the I-TRIZ Innovation WorkBench (IWB) class held March 2-4 at the Club. Ted's great grandfather, William A. Christ, was the fifth Engineers Club president, succeeding Orville Wright.

The Club was fortunate to have Boris Zlotin and Alla Zusman teach the IWB class. "Boris and Alla are to the revolutionary methodology technique of TRIZ as Demming is to quality," new member **Mike Fedetowski** said about the I-TRIZ techniques he learned in the Engineers Club class. "We are fortunate to have the modern developers of the methodology in Dayton to teach us."

The originator of the Russian TRIZ methodology was Genrich Altshuller, who led the development from 1946 until 1986. Then things changed dramatically: Altshuller's health limited his ability to work on TRIZ and control its development, and he ceased his efforts in technological TRIZ altogether. Soon afterward, TRIZ was applied commercially for the first time with the advent of Russian *perestroika*.

In 1982, Zlotin and Zusman founded a technical TRIZ school in Kishinev, Moldova, which specialized in teaching the methodology and providing TRIZ consulting services for industrial companies. Over the next decade the Kishinev School

educated close to 6000 students and solved more than 4000 technical problems.

In 1992, Zlotin and Zusman teamed up with American professionals to found Ideation International in the United States. Most significantly, along with their team, they continued to improve and advance the methodology into what became known as I-TRIZ, incorporating an expanded set of *Patterns of Evolution*, developing new software tools, applying the methodology to non-technical domains, and educating a new generation of engineers and business people worldwide. Several of the I-TRIZ tools are currently being taught at the Engineers Club.

Bill Dean, one of several new members who joined the Club to learn the methodology, said, "It's a great course in problem solving that has a great future in the U.S. for product development."

The exportation of jobs to countries outside the United States worries Dr. **Jim Brandeberry**, retiring dean of engineering at Wright State University. "It's been said that the U.S. has the creativity, but creativity is not taught in our schools," he said.

Brandeberry and six Wright State Engineering Department heads participated in the most recent class. "I-TRIZ is a powerful tool, and we are looking for a way to include the methodology in our educational process," he said.

The Engineers Club will host the next Innovation WorkBench I-TRIZ class on June 15, 16 and 17. The course is available to Club members for a fee of \$2000, which includes three days of instruction, the book *Introduction to*



Genrich Altshuller was the originator of the Russian TRIZ methodology.

TRIZ, the Russian Theory of Inventive Problem Solving by Dr. Stan Kaplan,

and four software tools: Innovation WorkBench, Knowledge Wizard (for non-technical and business problems), Ideation Brainstorming, and Eureka on Demand, which have a combined worth of more than \$5100 if purchased separately from Ideation International's website at www.ideationtriz.com. Club membership is a separate expense.

Please direct any questions regarding the training to Chuck Buchanan at 937-238-3553. To make reservations for the next I-TRIZ class, or for information about Club membership, call 937-228-2148. The Club web site can be found at www.engineersclub.org.

Membership privileges travel with you

When making your travel plans, don't forget to take advantage of city clubs in cities across the United States. The Engineers Club of Dayton has reciprocal agreements with 93 clubs, entitling our club members to dining privileges. For a list of the clubs that will welcome you, call Brenda at 228-2148 or download the Reciprocal Clubs list from our Web site, engineersclub.org.