Bear Robotics Our Last Meeting Nicholas J. Colella, PhD

# The Field of Robotics is Diverse and International ...

- Robots are Explorers: Earth's ocean depths, the surface of Mars, and active volcanoes ... places challenging or dangerous for humans.
- Robots are Assemblers: automobiles, computers, televisions, and many other products.
- Robots are Small or Mighty: the size of your thumbnail or as big as a earth-hauling truck.
- Robots have Behaviors: mimic insects, animals, and humans.
- Robots Cooperate: operate in teams or swarms.
- Such achievements are due to individuals around the world who are pioneering robotics every day.

#### **Pioneers of Artificial Intelligence**

- Over the past eighty years, since Alan Turing's WWII work, many smart people have expanded the field of artificial intelligence.
- Four significant early pioneers were:
  - Allen Newell, (1927-1992), Carnegie Mellon
  - Herb Simon (1916-2001), Carnegie Mellon
  - John McCarthy (1927-2011), Stanford
  - Marvin Minsky (1927), MIT







#### **Insect Robots**

- While many individuals focused on artificial human-like intelligence, others chose to mimic bugs, birds, and other animals in robotics.
- Rod Brooks at MIT is regarded as the pioneer of insect robotics.
- Smart people at universities around the world have since evolved insect robotics. (Flying robot from UC Berkeley.)
- Insect Robotics has advanced from mimicking individual behavior to demonstrating swarm "intelligence." (Crawling insect from MIT's iSwarm.)
- Swarm Intelligence is a "hot field" of research.







# Bear Robotics may have taught you the following ...

- A robot is a complex system:
  - Structure, Moving Parts, Sensors, Mechanisms, Energy/Power, and Software
  - All pieces must work well together to be successful
- Building a robot can be a challenging, frustrating experience.
- Software requires patience ... write, test, analyze (repeat many times).
- Turning your ideas into a robot requires teamwork.
- Success can be very rewarding.

### You have taught me ...

- You are a smart, nice group of robotics inventors.
- Mr. Ondi is a good teacher and mentor.
- Improvements to the Club:
  - Provide more links, more often to examples of other robots built with Mindstorm.
  - Find examples of successful Mindstorm software and dedicate one lecture on how to program with it.
  - Encourage middle school and high school robotics club members to mentor students in Bear Robotics.
- On a personal note, you have brought me great joy and memories. I will miss each of you.

### **Thank You for Listening**



### **References & Links**

- http://diva.library.cmu.edu/Simon/
- http://diva.library.cmu.edu/Newell/biography.html
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\_McCarthy\_(computer\_scienti st)
- http://www.learnaboutrobots.com/bugs.htm