

# NSF-STEP and the Science Club

present

“Dances with Robots: The Story of One Engineer, 112 Little Robots,  
and the Toys, Insects, and Star Wars Movies that Made it all Possible”

A lecture presentation by:

James McLurkin, Ph.D.

University of Washington



Wednesday, October, 29, 2008

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

In the Performance Hall (F-209)

Eastfield College, 3737 Motley Drive, Mesquite, TX. 75150

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# Dr. James McLurkin

Dr. McLurkin is a native of Long Island, NY, where his parents were very encouraging and began cultivating his inventiveness and engineering prowess at a young age. From Lego bricks to BMX bicycling to programming self-designed video games, he quickly became consumed by his passion for engineering.

Dr. James McLurkin is a research associate at the University of Washington. His research focuses on developing distributed algorithms for multi-robot systems, which is software that produces complex group behaviors from the interactions of many simple individuals.

As an independent consultant, McLurkin has advised many engineering projects for clients such as Walt Disney Imagineering and Sensable Technologies. Since 1995, he has lectured at companies and universities such as the Smithsonian Museum, Harvard University, IBM, and Honda Research and Development.

Additionally, he is dedicated to illustrating the fun and excitement in science and engineering, and has taught classes in high school and middle school programs from physics to robotics to civil engineering, in order to help excite a future generation of engineers.

McLurkin was the 2003 recipient of the Lemelson-MIT student prize for invention. He holds a S.B. in Electrical Engineering with a Minor in Mechanical Engineering from M.I.T., a M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and a S.M. and Ph.D. in Computer Science from M.I.T.

Visit Dr. McLurkin's website:  
<http://people.csail.mit.edu/jamesm/index.php>