



VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

IEEE Region 3, Council 09, Section 65

February 2001

Meeting: Thursday, February 15

Carilion Biomedical Institute; Goals And Progress: The First Year

George J. Blanar, Ph.D.

Vice President, Business Development

Abstract

The Carilion Biomedical Institute (CBI) is a unique partnership between a private health care provider, Carilion Health System; two research universities, University of Virginia and Virginia Tech, and other strategic partners.

The Institute's primary mission is to integrate the diverse activities and organizations needed to turn research ideas into practical healthcare products and processes. This is implemented in pursuit of its three principal goals:

Sponsor focused biomedical research at major universities in order to create a knowledge base, leading to a world of better healthcare.

Accelerate the conversion of basic knowledge into practical products through an integrated environment for prototype development, clinical evaluation, and production partnerships.

Create economic development opportunities in order to improve the quality of life in southwest and central Virginia.

CBI provides funding and entrepreneurial business support for medical research and product development at UVA, VT and

the Carilion hospitals.

Resulting technologies are incubated into potential businesses and licensed to industry or launched as separate companies. All the proceeds are then reinvested into CBI's research programs.

The presentation will provide an overview of the Institute's strategic plan and progress during the first year of operation.

About the Speaker

Dr. Blanar received his BS degree in Engineering Physics from the University of Illinois, and earned both his MS and Ph.D. in Experimental Nuclear Physics from Northeastern University in Boston.

He spent seven years in research at Cornell, the European Center for Nuclear Research in Switzerland, and the Max Planck Institute for Physics and the Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron, both in Germany. He then joined LeCroy Corporation, New York and Switzerland, expanding marketing and sales roles for medical imaging, wireless telecommunications and data acquisition. Most recently, he served as Vice President, Marketing & Sales at Giga-tronics, Inc., San Ramon, CA.

Reservations

Date: Thursday February 15, 2001
Social: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Talk: 8:00 PM
Cost: Member or Guest \$12.00
Student \$7.00

Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport

2727 Ferndale Drive NW
1581 Exit 3 Hershberger Rd West
1st Rt. onto Ferncliff Ave.,
2nd Rt. onto Ferndale Drive.

Reserve by **5 PM Monday** Feb. 12

Call **Dave Kingma 552-3011 x304**

or e-mail: dkingma@ieee.org
Leave a message stating who will be attending.

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VMS Activities

Meeting Report January 18, 2001

The first meeting of the new year was held at the Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport with eighteen in attendance. Ms. Nancy Verona, Senior Industry Director for Advanced Materials and Electronics at Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) in Herndon, Virginia spoke after dinner. Gary Atkinson, the CIT Regional Director from the Roanoke office, accompanied her.

Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) is a state chartered, non-profit corporation dedicated to the growth of technology and business in Virginia. CIT's mission is to enhance Virginia's competitiveness through technology innovation. CIT has eight regional offices across the state that serve Virginia's technology industries by matching market needs to local providers, promoting partnerships and research collaboration with Virginia's Universities, and supporting enhancement of the state's critical technology infrastructure.

Ms. Verona's talk was primarily directed to the activities of the CIT's Electronics Steering Committee, a group of about 20 industry executives (including our own Dave Kingma) who are working to develop and implement a strategic plan to grow the electronics industry in Virginia. The steering committee has identified three primary areas of emphasis for CIT: 1) developing a virtual networking forum within the industry, 2) enhanced collaboration between industry and universities, and 3) workforce development, especially operators and technicians in the manufacturing sector.

The electronics industry in Virginia comprises 302 companies with 26,000 direct employees that support an additional 43,000 indirect jobs statewide. Growth is continuing, with the number of companies increasing by 30% since 1992 and the number of employees a more modest 7.5%.

The electronics industry overall is in the middle of a major restructuring, moving the center of manufacturing competence

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Number 1 is self explanatory.

Under number 2 you will receive occasional news items of particular interest to Section members, e.g. Region and Chapter News, items not normally printed in the Newsletter.

Number 3 is similar to 2 but restricted to National level news: IEEE benefits, courses, IEEE-USA activities. We will try to filter these so as NOT to include those found in The Institute or similar publications.

The COMMENT group is a real trial balloon. Members can send broadcast messages to all others within the group. This is NOT a chat group, nor a bulletin board. It is simply a way to be heard on matters of interest to the Section. All Section officers will be on the list.

The last item in the list is a convenient way to have your name deleted from the paper copy delivery (US Mail) of this Newsletter. We encourage you to at least try it. You can get the e-mail version or view the pdf version on the web site.

In addition, signing on to any of the first four will ensure that you receive any "emergency" announcements – last minute changes, cancellations, etc.

...*editor*

from the OEM's to the EMS (electronics manufacturing services) providers. This shift will affect the whole supply web and is driving a number of new business practices, and tools. The enabling technology for this shift is the Internet. Strategies are shifting more heavily to being first-to-market, with manufacturing release to peak production times in the 6-9 month range and a production life-cycle of 24 months for many high-volume segments.

Ms. Verona reported on successes for the past year with particular emphasis on a new website at <http://www.innovationavenue.com>. The *Electronics Channel* here is a forum where industry members can exchange news, calendar events, and information to facilitate the development of commercial relationships. Additional forums are provided for matching job, internship, and speaking candidates to opportunities.

For 2001, initiatives include continued development and promotion of the *Electronics Channel*, sponsorship of a statewide industry conference, hosting a Nanotechnology Workshop in April, and continued enhancement of CIT's policy-making role. Additional information about Virginia's Center for Innovative Technology can be found on their web site at <http://www.cit.org>.

...*Mark Shepard*
Secretary/Treasurer

Chair's Comments

There are several noteworthy people in our section I would like to recognize this month for their contribution to IEEE and the electronics industry.

First, I thank Dan Jackson for his leadership as our chair for the past year and a half, and a second-time chair for our section. I have only known Dan for the last several years, however the more I am involved with IEEE, the more I learn about his many years of service that reach far beyond the VMS section to make our profession the best it can be. Dan, we are truly privileged to have you in our section. Thank you!

Our section is also honored to have two members who were selected by the IEEE board of directors for Fellow status in 2001. John Allen Burns of Virginia Tech was selected for his contributions to the identification, control and optimization of distributed parameter systems. Krishnan Ramu of Virginia Tech was selected for his contributions to the development of AC and switched reluctance motor drives. This is a very select group – no more than one tenth percent of the IEEE voting membership can be selected for Fellow status. Congratulations John and Krishnan!

I look forward to working with the Executive Committee and the section this year so that your involvement in local IEEE activities are rewarding and worthwhile experiences. Please help us do that by forwarding your suggestions to us! I would also like to encourage local industries in our field to consider presenting an interesting project at our section or chapter meetings. This is a good way to promote your business in the community while helping others broaden their exposure to the many aspects of our profession.

Remember that the 50th anniversary of Engineers Week is Feb. 18-24. Do the industry a favor by volunteering your time to a local school and promoting the engineering field!

See you at the section meeting on February 15th!

Dave Kingma
dkingma@ieee.org

Computer/Control/Industrial Electronics Chapter



The First ACM /IEEE-CS Joint Conference on Digital Libraries will be held June 24-28, 2001 at Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, Roanoke, VA. There will be an exciting program of papers, panels, demos, workshops, and tutorials. Before the conference there will be trips to explore the scenery and history of Southwest Virginia. The National Science Foundation will fund a workshop on June 28 to bring together researchers it

funds regarding digital libraries, covering both technology and support for users in a wide variety of content areas and media types.

The conference is looking for volunteers to help make this the outstanding digital libraries event of the year. There is need regarding trips, local arrangements, registration, and other aspects of the conference. Please contact the general chair, Ed Fox,

fox@vt.edu,
540-231-5113

if you have any questions or can help!

For further details, please see

<http://www.jcdl.org>

...*Dave Geer, Chapter Chair*

Telecom Dictionary Resource Available

A new resource, “**Hargrave's Communications Dictionary**” contains simplified communications terms, definitions, acronyms, charts and equations. From ATM to Zone Paging, this volume includes more than 10,000 definitions of key phrases that readers in industry, government and academia need to understand.

For more information, visit

<http://shop.ieee.org/store/product.asp?prodno=C5>

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...*editor*

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...*editor*

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IEEE-USA TODAY'S ENGINEER includes feature articles and short blurbs with career guidance, tips, strategies and solutions for all sectors of the profession. It encompasses the latest on IEEE-USA's career enhancement products and services. See for yourself at:

<http://www.todaysengineer.org/careerfocus>

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2000-2001 MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC	MEETING PLACE
September 21 Spouses' Night	Kenneth R. Laker 1999 IEEE Past President 21st Century IEEE The Exemplary Global Engineering Society	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
October 19	James C. Squire Department of Electrical Engineering, VMI Engineering in Clinical Research: A Case Study	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
November 16	David L. Livingston Department of Electrical Engineering, VMI An Introductory Overview of Computational Intelligence	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
January 18	Nancy A. Vorona Virginia Center for Innovative Technology The Electronics Industry in Virginia- Poised for the Future	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
February 15	George J. Blonar Carilion Biomedical Institute Overview of the Institute Activities	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
March 15 *	Steven Edwards Computer Science Department, VT Java Update *	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
April 19	Student Project Night	TBD
May 17	Plant Tour	TBD

* A Web Site "Name Your Topic" Request

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