



VIRGINIA MOUNTAIN SECTION NEWSLETTER

IEEE Region 3, Council 09, Section 65

September 2002

September 19

Six Sigma Methods at General Electric

Dr. Brian Lindholm

General Electric Drives & Controls
Salem, VA

Speaker

Brian Lindholm received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1996. Immediately afterwards he joined General Electric's Corporate Research and Development Center, where he worked on the design of large gas turbine rotors and aircraft engine combustion systems. He later transferred to GE's Industrial Systems facility in Salem Virginia, where he has worked on large industrial drives and generator excitation systems. Dr. Lindholm has also been heavily involved in General Electric's Six Sigma Quality program, where he taught numerous training classes, developed training material for two "expert-level" Six Sigma courses, and provided key algorithms for an advanced Six Sigma automation tool. He is currently functioning in a Six Sigma Blackbelt role, where he mentors numerous Six Sigma projects in addition to his usual work on generator excitation systems.

Abstract

This presentation provides a brief overview of how Six Sigma tools and methods have been used at the General Electric Company to improve product quality and corporate profitability. Items discussed include the following: how Six Sigma was implemented at GE, what types of problems are solved with Six Sigma tools and methods, how Six Sigma activities at GE have evolved from inwardly-focused cost reduction efforts to outwardly-focused customer satisfaction efforts. Several examples of successful Six Sigma projects are also presented.

The VMS Web Site

Browse to:

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/virginia-mountain/>

It has a wealth of information about the Section and the IEEE not generally available through other sources.. Your feedback and input are always welcome.

Send it to

mailto:bill_onesty@juno.com

Reservations

Date: Thursday September 19, 2002
Social: 6:30 PM
Dinner: 7:00 PM
Talk: 8:00 PM

Cost: Member or Guest \$15.00
Student \$ 8.00

Clarion Hotel Roanoke Airport

2727 Ferndale Drive NW
I581 Exit 3 Hershberger Rd West
1st Rt. onto Ordway Drive,
¼ mile, Rt. Into Parking Lot.

Reserve by 5 PM Monday Sept. 16

Mark Shepard (540) 387-8710

msheward@ieee.org

Please specify number of attendees.

IEEE-USA Focuses on Technology Policy Issues in 2002

Ralph W. Wyndrum Jr.
IEEE-USA Vice President, Technology Policy, August 2002

Earlier this year, the IEEE-USA Board of Directors challenged the IEEE-USA Technology Policy Committee (TPC) to develop position statements advancing the interests of its members, technology and our country. The TPC responded before June by developing positions in seven key areas. These positions are now to be delivered in person by IEEE-USA volunteers to key congressional committee chairs and members during the summer recess, and continuing in Washington during the rest of 2002. Where appropriate, the issues will also be addressed to regulatory agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission FERC, the Food and Drug Administration and the new Homeland Security Department.

The top priority issues for 2002 include:

- Defining a 10-year plan for accelerated broadband deployment, and the consideration of such technologies and ultra-wide band wireless and Gigabit Ethernet over Fiber
- Supporting effective measures for security and critical infrastructure protection.
- Advancing research on the reliability of electrical energy systems and the development of distributed interconnection standards
- Ensuring funding and programs for public health service IT infrastructure, found severely wanting in the aftermath of Sept. 11
- Supporting balanced and effective programming of federal investments in R&D, particularly those supporting computer, IT, communications and networking breakthroughs and advanced development
- Ensuring the latest system engineering and technology are brought to bear to improve national aviation safety
- Driving the use of the best technology and most fair standards to meet the needs for a world-class voting technology system

These positions will be emphasized with our elected representatives and executive branch agencies in the remainder of the year.

Other hot issues that will be addressed selectively with appropriate government officials relate to copyright technology controls, the application of trade regulations (ITAR) to technology publications, computer crime, and congressional technology assessment capabilities. For more information, see IEEE-USA's Policy Forum on-line at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum>.

The TPC reports to the IEEE-USA Board of Directors through me in my role as IEEE-USA vice president for technology policy, and is made up of five volunteer committees covering U.S. policy in communication and information, transportation, energy, medical technology and research and development.

We are continually soliciting volunteers, whom we will train and ask to join task forces meeting with congressional, executive and state leaders. We are also soliciting help locally, such as visits with Members of Congress in their district offices, placement of TPC-related news in section newsletters, and/or inclusion of policy discussions in IEEE technical meetings. You can volunteer as part of our Congressional Advocacy Recruitment Effort (CARE) at <http://www.ieeeusa.org/forum/care>, or by contacting IEEE-USA Government Relations Director Chris Brantley at c.brantley@ieee.org.

EDITOR STILL NEEDED

VMS Members

As indicated in previous Newsletters, John Fennick has relocated to New Hampshire. We are certainly going to miss his dedication and efforts as VMS Newsletter Editor and Webmaster for the past seven years. Bill Onesty, of Roanoke, an instructor at ECPI Technical College, has volunteered to take over the task of Webmaster for the Section, but we are still looking for a Newsletter Editor.

Please note (Chapter Chairs and ExComm members in particular), Bill can be reached at:

mailto:bill_onesty@juno.com

The Section is still in need of someone to take over as Editor of the Newsletter.

To save both time and money, we are going primarily to electronic distribution, with hard copy mailings only to members without e-mail, and who specifically request being sent hard copy. (This reverses the previous situation where hard copy was the default, and e-mail distribution was only to those who requested it.) In addition to saving money, this will significantly reduce the time demands on the Newsletter Editor.

I (and other members of the VMS Executive Committee) will serve as Interim Editors until we get a volunteer. We really do need someone to step up and volunteer. Anyone interested please call (540) 231-5620

or <mailto:ijacobs@vt.edu>

Ira Jacobs

Temporary (I hope) Editor

Update your IEEE Record

The IEEE will accept updates from volunteers (Officers, editors) and we occasionally note discrepancies, and send corrections to headquarters. However, this is a slipshod method at best and IEEE's general policy is that the member is responsible for his or her own information.

Each month when creating address labels and updating local records we notice numerous obvious errors in the data base e.g., area code 703.

When did you last update your records at IEEE? Have you moved, changed phone number, or e-mail address? Please take a moment to reflect and then act if need be. **In particular, if you have an e-mail address, please include it in your information. This makes it easier for us to contact you, and to automatically update our e-mail database. WE DO NOT MAKE THIS DATA BASE AVAILABLE TO OTHERS!**

There is a web based interactive "change of address" form at:

<http://services1.ieee.org/membersvc/coa/intro.htm>

You can send an e-mail message to:

addresschanges@ieee.org.

Call IEEE Member Services at

1-800-678-4333

Mail changes to:

IEEE 445 Hoes

Lane PO Box 1331 Piscataway,

NJ 08855-1331 USA

Fax your changes to: 1-732-981-9667

In all cases you will need to include your member number for verification purposes.

2002-2003 MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	SPEAKER/TOPIC	MEETING PLACE
September 19	Brian Lindholm Six Sigma Methods at General Electric	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
October 17	Daniel Stilwell Enabling Technologies for Platoons of Cooperating Autonomous Underwater Vehicles	Best Western, Blacksburg
November 21	David Stocker LIDAR Technology for Fully Automatic Crane Operation	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
January 16	Student Projects Details: TBD	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
February 20	TBD	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
March 20	TBD	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
Spouses' Night, 2003		Clarion Hotel Roanoke
April 17	TBD	Clarion Hotel Roanoke
May 15	Plant Tour	TBD

IEEE Virginia Mountain Section

VMS OFFICERS

Chairman: Howard J. Moses
<mailto:Mmoses@ieee.org> (540) 953-5069
Vice Chairman: Mark Shepard
<mailto:MShepard@ieee.org> (540) 387-8710
Sec./Treasurer: Shawn Addington
<mailto:AddingtonJS@mail.vmi.edu> (540) 464-3961

VMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bill Tranter
<mailto:btranter@vt.edu> (540) 552-0759
Jim Squire
<mailto:squirejc@mail.vmi.edu> (540) 552-0052
Ira Jacobs
<mailto:ijacobs@vt.edu> (540) 231-5620
David Livingston
<mailto:d.livingston@ieee.org> (540) 464-7545
Junior Past Chairman:
Dave Kingma
<mailto:dkingma@ieee.org> (540) 961-2200
Virginia Council Representative:
David Geer
<mailto:d.geer@ieee.org> (540) 774-4905

VMS CHAPTER CHAIRS

Industry Applications
Cy Harbourt
<mailto:tallswimr@aol.com> (540) 387-8941
Industrial Electronics/Computer/Control Systems
David Geer
<mailto:d.geer@ieee.org> (540) 774-4905
Microwave Theory & Techniques/Electron
Dain Miller
mailto:dain_miller@ieee.org (540) 563-3998

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Awards:
Ira Jacobs
<mailto:ijacobs@vt.edu> (540) 231-5620
Education & Student Activities
David Livingston
<mailto:d.livingston@ieee.org> (540) 464-7545
Membership Development:
Dan Jackson
<mailto:d.jackson@ieee.org> (540) 774-0484
Nominations:
Dave Kingma
<mailto:dkingma@ieee.org> (540) 961-2200
PACE :
 Vacant
Program :
Mark Shepard
<mailto:MShepard@ieee.org> (540) 387-8710
Publicity :
Dave Kingma
<mailto:dkingma@ieee.org> (540) 961-2200
Student Activities:
David Livingston
<mailto:d.livingston@ieee.org> (540) 464-7545

NEWSLETTER

Interim Editor: Ira Jacobs
<mailto:ijacobs@vt.edu> (540) 231-5620

e-mail Newsletter Subscription

Go to the VMS Web Site page:
<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/virginia-mountain/misc/SignUpForm.html>

Anyone may submit material for the Newsletter

Deadline:
Monday following each meeting

Submit To: Editor

Change of Address

US Mail: IEEE Service Center
 445 Hoes Lane, PO Box 1331
 Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331

<mailto:address.change@ieee.org>

Tel: 800-678-IEEE

Fax: 732-981-9667

IEEE Web: <http://www.ieee.org>

<http://services1.ieee.org/membersvc/coa/intro.htm>

(Changes are forwarded to the Newsletter)

Visit the VMS WEB page:

<http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r3/virginia-mountain>

- Sign on to our mailing lists.
- Section/Chapter meeting notices, and reports.
- Past issues of the Newsletter,
- PACE Patter, etc.
- Articles, organizations, and activities affecting our profession.
- Suggest Meeting Topics and Speakers.
- Links to IEEE, etc.
- Contributions welcomed - make them on-line.