



IBMSFQCAA

# IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

This newsletter is produced by the IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association (IBMSFQCAA), a non-profit organization established in 2011 and based in Boca Raton, FL, for our dues-paying membership. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep members informed of IBMSFQCAA-sponsored social and volunteer activities as well as general items of interest. Newsletter content is provided in the spirit of camaraderie and to help foster IBM alumni connections.

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Join Us in the  
Maple Room  
Sugar Sand Park  
Boca Raton  
APRIL 22, 2011  
2:30 p.m.

Dr. Jerry Merckel  
“Adventure Before,  
During and After  
IBM”

Admission free to  
Members, Spouses,  
Current and Former  
IBMer

Light Refreshments

[Click here to RSVP](#)

## President's Message

Thank you so much for helping us grow our membership, which now stands at over 175 people. We have expanded our membership base westward to now include the state of Hawaii. We are well on our way toward achieving our year-end goal of signing up at least 200 members. (Not bad considering IBMSFQCAA began operations in January 2011)



If you know of any eligible IBMer interested in joining us, please invite that person to visit our website at [www.ibmsfqcaa.org](http://www.ibmsfqcaa.org) and click on the word “JOIN” on our homepage.

We had an excellent turnout of 104 people for our first sponsored lecture, given by Dr. Dave Bradley on “The Story of the IBM PC” at Sugar Sand

Park in Boca on February 4. Due to the success of that venture, we are busy planning additional events.

See the **Upcoming Events** section of this newsletter to check out upcoming activities. You won't want to miss the April 13 Meet 'n' Greet we're hosting at the popular Blue Martini in Boca Town Center Mall.

Then on April 17 we're sponsoring a wallapalooza Meet 'n' Greet gathering for members and their families at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Corn Fiesta at the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach. The whole family can enjoy fresh buttery corn and lively activities while relaxing with classic country music performed by member Quentin Lee Benedict and his Krystal River Band.

And you won't want to

miss guest speaker Dr. Jerry Merckel and his discussion of “Adventure Before, During, and After IBM” on April 22 at Sugar Sand Park. We also plan to bring in future speakers from IBM to speak about “Watson,” the natural language computer that recently became the new “Jeopardy” champion. Did you know that some of the algorithms used by Watson were developed at Boca Raton?

Finally, we are busy planning other IBMSFQCAA Meet 'n' Greet activities and smaller scale get-togethers for our members. So keep checking your e-mail, our website at [www.ibmsfqcaa.org](http://www.ibmsfqcaa.org) and future newsletters for postings on upcoming events you won't want to miss.

*Justin “Jud” McCarthy*

## Good News: IBM employee discounts extended to IBM retirees!

A big hats off to Georgia IBM QCC past president Bart Bartholomew. His unflinching behind-the-scenes efforts for the last two years advocating for IBM to extend employee discounts to IBM retirees have paid off. After many discussions with various IBM powers-that-be, along with unflagging efforts by IBM Communications and crucial championing by insider Rosalia Thomas, IBM's Area HR Partner Leader – South, it's Mission Accomplished! (Or Fait accompli! for those who speak French.)

“We are now proud to announce that the job has been accomplished,” says Bart. “Many, many thanks to Rosalia for hanging in there with me as our advocate. I'm happy and pleased that we were able to accomplish this for retirees.”

Indeed! We owe Bart deep gratitude for his unflagging efforts in helping to get IBM employee discounts extended to IBM retirees. Check the “Other Sites” page on the IBMSFQCAA web site for links to the new retiree discounts.

## Did You Know?

Ralph Lott has joined IBMSFQCCAA along with his wife, Peg. While it's always a joyous event to welcome new members, Ralph deserves a special nod as his start date at [IBM Endicott](#) was 1944! Prior to that he was fighting for our country in the South Pacific. Kudos Ralph!

We also give a shout out to **Bill Cushing** with a 1950 IBM start date. Then **Mike Villamar** boasts 43 years of IBM service. Finally, **Dave Pavek** has 42 years of IBM service and is still employed by IBM, so he has a chance to beat all in the IBM service longevity record department. A hearty congratulations to all of our IBM service record-holders!

The Newsletter is circulated by email to most of our members and friends. It is sent by USPS to those who do not use email. Please provide feedback by email to [info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org) or by USPS to: IBMSFQCCAA, P. O. Box 273284 Boca Raton, FL 33427-3284. **WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT. HELP US MAKE THIS A GREAT ORGANIZATION.**

**PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND WHO MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED.**

## An Eye Opener — a word to the wise

I had a recent health event. I died – twice.

The purpose of this message is twofold: 1) to convey my experience, and 2) to recommend what we should all do – listen to our bodies.

It cannot be proven but I have heart disease that I attribute mostly to heredity. And I am asymptomatic or non-symptomatic. My father, his father, his mother and all of his siblings died of either heart attack or cerebral hemorrhage (which is also caused by blood flow disruption, or a clot). I do not typically have any symptoms, or I have such light symptoms that I do not pay attention to them.

Over the years, my doctors have successfully treated my bad triglycerides, total cholesterol, HDL and LDL to the point where I was lulled into feeling that we had everything under control. My numbers were all in very good range. What these numbers do not show is plaque buildup.

At 4:00 am the morning of January 4 this year, I was awakened by unusual and persistent fluttering—or the fast beating—of my heart. For years I have had PVCs (premature ventricular contractions), for which I am taking prescription medication. I tried laying on my right side and then on my left side, thinking the fluttering would subside. It did not. It had in the past, but this time it just kept up.

My wife, Jackie (whom I had awakened with my restlessness), asked me if I wanted her to drive me to the hospital. I thought for a few seconds about just going back to bed, but for some reason, as I am pretty hard-headed and am one that believes "it'll never happen to me," I responded, "No, please call 911." I have no clue why I made that decision, but it is very fortunate that I did. I got dressed as Jackie called

911. The operator told her to have me drink no water and to chew up and swallow four baby aspirins (81 mg each). I did and walked downstairs to await the ambulance.

Well, two fire trucks and an ambulance showed up with lights ablaze. After a lot of questions, etc., they loaded me into the ambulance. (Two of them took me in a wheeled gurney down our driveway...I had visions of them letting me go and me winding up far out in the street as we have a very, very steep driveway.) In the ambulance, the paramedic and the driver spent 10 minutes hooking me up to all sorts of stuff and then we headed to Kennestone Hospital in Kennesaw, Georgia.

I recall being off-loaded at the ER, being wheeled into the ER and down two hallways, and that's all I recall. Jackie was told some parts and then saw other parts for herself but basically I died twice, was revived twice with shocks from a defibrillator, was stabilized as much as could be, was taken to an operating room, and had my third and fourth heart stents installed. (I have had two other stents in 2003 and 2008.) Both the ER doctor and cardiologist who performed the operation said that I was in very critical condition and that it was "touch-and-go."

My cardiologist arrived from home and told Jackie that he was startled by what happened as he had done a heart catheterization just over a year ago and I was looking very good then. He and other heart doctors consulted and agreed that what very likely happened was that plaque buildup elsewhere in my body where arteries are slightly larger broke off and traveled to one of my heart arteries, which are smaller. It stuck and caused a blockage and, subsequently, a heart attack. I was in intensive care for two days, then in a regular room in

the cardiac wing for another three days. Fortunately, my improvement was rapid. Doctors and nurses dubbed me Miracle Man.

As you might expect, Jackie was *extremely* concerned. Our daughter, Kira, lives nearby and came to the hospital immediately, but our son, Jason, who lives in London, had to fly back here Wednesday, January 5...arriving at the hospital around 7:30 pm. He and his family had just flown back to London on December 30, 2010 (they were here for Christmas) so I felt really badly about his having to come back over so soon. He returned to London on Sunday, January 10, 2011.

At the risk of sounding somewhat maudlin, all I can say coming out of this experience is that all of us should never shrug off a health problem. When I was awakened by a very rapid and irregular heartbeat and a perspiration-soaked head but no other symptoms, I almost thought that it was just more episodes of the PVCs I've had for quite a long time. But even as hard-headed as I am, I just felt that this was more serious. So instead of going back to bed, I opted to get carted to the ER. Had I gone back to bed, then I am sure that I would not be writing this note now. So *please* never, ever ignore a health problem or think that it will just go away by itself.

W. R. (Bart) Bartholomew  
Atlanta IBM QCC, past President  
[bartb30144@yahoo.com](mailto:bartb30144@yahoo.com)

*Editor's Note: Bart also worked many years at IBM Boca in Information Systems and in PC software. This article was reprinted by permission of the author.*

Dear IBM South Florida QCC and Alumni Association members:

We're honored to be part of this wonderful group and from time to time, it's our intention to write and share information with you. This can cover a variety of topics that our community is engaged in as well as activities around the state.

In this issue, we would like to cover IBM's Centennial. As you know, IBM will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a corporation on June 16, 2011. During 2011, IBM is honoring our past and looking forward to our future. With IBM's global reach, much of that celebration will be taking place through the digital experiences available on the [IBM100](#) website. There you will find [IBM's 100 Icons of Progress](#) that are being released throughout 2011, [films](#) that capture how IBM shaped the last century and made the world work better, and information on [IBM's Celebration of Service](#).

Catherine Meehan, our Centennial coordinator for Boca Raton will share information on centennial plans in Boca Raton and also seek your involvement in our Celebration of Service days, a special celebration of IBM's legacy, contributions and ways IBM has and continues to help make the world work better.

The fullest and most visible expression of the centennial will be the Celebration of Service activities. This global initiative encourages IBM's entire workforce, retirees, friends and family to volunteer during 2011 in our communities and apply our expertise to civic challenges and address societal needs. There will be a special focus to be active in service in our local community on June 15th, the final day of the company's first 100 years.

To find and join Celebration of Service events, please access [On Demand Community](#) where all of our planned Service events will shortly be posted. Also take a moment to read about the new Celebration of Service grants you may be eligible to submit. Lastly, I invite each of you to go to this site or thru [IBM100](#) now and Pledge Your 2011 Service Hours. Together we will continue to enhance our contributions locally and globally for the next 100 years.

Sincerely,

Sherry Lautenbach, Software Business Executive, Southeast and Boca Raton Senior Location Executive

Rick R. Qualman, Vice President, Strategy & Business Development Telecom Industry and Florida/Puerto Rico Senior State Executive

## Calendar of Events

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**April 13:** Join us for an IBMSFQCAA Meet 'n' Greet gathering at the popular [Blue Martini](#)® in the Boca Town Center Mall from 5:30-7:30 pm. The first drink is free (exception: Martinis), with discounts extended to IBMSFQCAA members. Open to IBMSFQCAA members and a guest, as well as other IBM non-members. Non-members can join at the sign-in table, if desired. Members will receive free drink chits at sign in table. For more info, visit the Blue Martini's website at <http://www.bluemartinilounge.com/eventsboca.html> or contact IBMSFQCAA member Larry Salerno at [boca-larry@comcast.net](mailto:boca-larry@comcast.net) or (561) 487-9446. (Blue Martini is located west of Nordstrom's at southernmost end of Town Center Mall. Entrance from the parking lot only.)
- April 17:** Come one, come all to the IBMSFQCAA Meet 'n' Greet gathering at the **"11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sweet Corn Fiesta"** in

Yesteryear Village on the South Florida Fairgrounds in West Palm Beach. IBMSFQCAA member Quentin Benedict and The Krystal River Band will provide classic country music entertainment from noon to 5:00 pm, and IBMSFQCAA members will gather in that area. The event, which is presented by the Florida Sweet Corn Exchange, offers lots of buttery corn, kiddie rides and assorted activities so get ready for family-style foot-stomping fun while mingling with other IBMSFQCAA members in this lively setting. IBMSFQCAA members with coupons receive discounts: \$5 for Adults (regularly \$8) and \$4 for children 6-11 (regularly \$5); children 5 years old and under are admitted free. There also is an optional \$5 charge for a wristband good for unlimited rides. Parking is free. Members will have use of a picnic table near the band area but may also want to bring foldable chairs to be able to sit on the grass. Yesteryear Village is located on the South Florida Fairgrounds off Southern Blvd in WPB, 1.5 miles west of the FL turnpike Exit #97 and 1 mile east of 441/SR7. Use Fairgrounds entry Gates 3 or 12. For more information, call (561)

793-0333 or visit [www.southfloridafair.com](http://www.southfloridafair.com). Coupon for discounted tickets will be sent to the membership in a separate email.

- April 22:** Based on the popularity of IBMSFQCAA's first sponsored lecture at this location, you won't want to miss speaker **Gerald (Jerry) Merckel's "Adventures Before, During and After IBM"** presentation at Sugar Sand Park in Boca Raton. Jerry received many IBM Invention Achievement Awards during his impressive 26 years with the company and involvement with IBM's mini-computer and personal computer product lines. Currently he serves as Associate Dean of the College of Computing Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Florida and as a Professor in Electrical Engineering. The start time for the presentation is 2:30 pm in the Maple Room of Sugar Sand Park's Community Center. IBMSFQCAA members are welcome to join others for a bite afterwards at nearby Duffy's. (Sugar Sand Park is located between Palmetto Park Rd and Camino Real on Military Trail.)



## Welcome New Members since the last newsletter

Patricia Armstrong  
John Barrett  
John Bayley  
Moises Behar  
Thomas Blair  
Paul Bogin  
Max Bouknecht  
Robert Budd  
Donald Bush  
Jo Anne Byrne  
Donald Carpenter  
Bill Connor  
Daniel Cook  
Raul Cosio  
Larry Crismond  
William Cushing  
Forrest Dale  
Irene Dallas  
Jim DeArmond  
Bruce D Dent  
Pamela Durham  
Patsy Elliott  
Max Enos  
Dan Fernandez  
Joe Fink  
William ("Bill") Gee  
Mark Goldstein  
Doug Graybill  
Jerry Greenberg  
Robert (Bob) Grinnell  
Jimmy Hall  
Ronald Harp  
Rick Henderson  
Marnie Hoover  
David Johnson  
Peter Kennedy  
H. Stanley Kiel  
Sue King  
George King  
H Lamar Kitchens  
Roger Kleinschmidt  
Larry Larkin  
Chris Lehman  
Howard Leung  
John Magnon  
Michael Mariano  
Anthony Marullo  
Jim McCarthy  
Catherine Meehan  
Jerry Merckel  
Darryl Newell  
Alan Ostrow  
Fred Perry  
Marina Peryman  
Karen Porterfield  
Rick Qualman  
Mike Reale  
Paul Reder  
James Ricer  
P. Doug Schlicher  
John Shelly  
Milan Sorokac  
Stan Strickland  
Roger Stutes  
William Sydnes  
Camil Valcourt  
Vance Vallandigham  
John Van Blois  
Miguel (Mike) Villamar  
Dennis Wainright  
Louis Walewski  
Janis Walkow  
Lori Waters  
Harry Wilmot  
Peter Zambito

## Member Recognition

We are contemplating a regular feature which, in each issue, will spotlight a member or someone we all know who merits recognition. If you'd like to see a feature about someone who has done or is doing things which positively inspire others let us know by email to [info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org). We'll endeavor to do a brief focus article in a future newsletter.

It seems appropriate that we start with our President, Justin (Jud) McCarthy who had a vision of bringing together so many people who have shared so much of their lives working together at IBM. To further his vision Jud worked at length in late 2009 and 2010 with the Georgia IBM Quarter Century Club to create a model for IBMSFQCCAA. Jud shared his vision and enlisted the support of IBM and a number of IBMers and ex-IBMers and together they established the IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association here in Boca Raton, Florida. The Georgia concept was expanded by including ex-IBMers with at least five years of service. Spouses of deceased members are eligible to join as well.

Those of us who have worked with him know that Jud's enthusiasm and drive are contagious. Each month new members amplify the activity and expand the camaraderie. Thanks Jud!

## Are You a Golfer?

Did you know that IBMSFQCCAA participates in an IBM mixed couples golf league that meets on Thursday afternoons for a round of golf at Lakeview Golf Club in Delray Beach, followed by dinner at Duffy's? We would love to have you join us. Our skill levels run the gamut from not too terribly bad to really bad,



so don't feel that you will suffer any embarrassment because of your play level if you join us. You also needn't worry if you are a single because we will try to match you up with another single. We are a friendly group and, in addition to our regular Thursday game, we schedule two golf weekends each year where we can get away, play some golf and have some fun. Last year we went to Naples in the Spring and Sebring in the Fall. Participation in the weekends and the Duffy's dinners is optional. If you think you might be interested and want some additional information, please contact Jud McCarthy at (561) 391-1422 or Sy Schulman at (561) 392-5833.

## Where Are They Now?

Julio De La Rosa, who at one time headed up Personal Computer manufacturing in Boca Raton, is now living in Raleigh, NC with his wife Mary, and working part-time as the finance director for a non-profit theater company called the Justice Theater Project. You can check out their website at [www.thejusticetheaterproject.org](http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org)

## Talk to Us

We want to hear from you. If you have any general comments, ideas for activities, suggestions for improvements, or want to recommend a member for newsletter recognition, let us know by sending an e-mail to [info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org)

*[The Editors reserve the right to accept or reject material]*

## Acknowledgements

Contributors to this second "ad hoc" issue include Bart Bartholomew, Max Enos, Angelo Gasparri, Julie Goodwin, Jud McCarthy, Lew Miller, Karen Porterfield, Sy Schulman, and Larry Salerno. We hope you enjoy reading it.

**Volunteer Positions Available**  
Email [info@ibmsfqccaa.org](mailto:info@ibmsfqccaa.org)

## Mystery Winner of Chocolate Cookbook

*Does anyone know the name of the lady who won the Cookbook raffled off at the February 4, Dave Bradley event at Sugar Sands Park? In the excitement we did not write down her name—so we can't recognize her in this issue - A little embarrassing—but these things happen. Help us solve the mystery*



At our first event on February 4, 2011 104 members and guests listened intently as Dr Dave Bradley recalled interesting stories of the PC glory days.

*(photo courtesy of Max Enos)*