



# IBMSFQCCAA

## IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

<http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org>

This newsletter is produced by the *IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association* (IBMSFQCCAA), 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 IBMSFQCCAA-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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### Special Reminder:

**JOIN US THURSDAY, JULY 21 AT 7PM AS WE CRUISE THE INTRACOASTAL. STARTS FROM VETERANS PARK IN DELRAY. CALL DELRAY CRUISES (561-243-0686) FOR RESERVATIONS AND MENTION IBM FOR DISCOUNT. COST: \$16+TAX/PERSON. For more about the cruise, see Upcoming Events below.**

### Upcoming Events:

**Thursday, July 21 at 7pm:** Meet other members in Delray Beach for a **Sunset Cruise of the Intracoastal** aboard the Lady Atlantic. **Reservations required:**

### President's Message



Mighty oaks from little acorns grow. That saying is what led IBM to choose "Acorn" as the code name for an ultra secret development project that became the IBM Personal Computer.

Our acorn, the IBMSFQCCAA, started with just four guys a little over one year ago and we have since grown to over 240 members. We invite anyone with at least five years of IBM service or the surviving spouse of a former IBMer to join our organization. If you know of someone who satisfies this criteria and isn't already a member, please invite that person to explore our website at [www.ibmsfqccaa.org](http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org) and click on the word "JOIN" on our homepage.

We were pleased to see so many of you were able to attend the truly outstanding IBM centennial celebration in the Safe Schools facility on the campus of the *Don Estridge High Tech Middle School* in Boca Raton on June 9<sup>th</sup>. IBM graciously provided us the opportunity to extend event invitations to all of our South Florida members and our Association was well represented.

We had a great turnout for our April

event in Sugar Sand Park, when *Dr. Jerry Merkel* was our guest speaker, and at our Meet 'n' Greet gathering at the Blue Martini in the Boca Town Center Mall.

You'll find information about other upcoming events in the yellow areas of page 1 and 2, consistent with our primary goal of promoting communications and social interactions amongst our members.

I also think you will enjoy reading the article on *Dr. Dave Bradley's creation of the 'CTRL' 'ALT' 'DEL' sequence*, which we have all used at some time while trying to recover from a PC error. The article appeared in June 20 issue of the Palm Beach Post, and we're re-publishing it here for your enjoyment.

If you have any suggestions about how IBMSFQCCAA can better serve our local and remote members, please let us know. If you are willing to put forth some effort in advancing a good idea, we would be willing to add resources to bring it to fruition.

We hope you have a very enjoyable summer.

*Justin "Jud" McCarthy*

**call 561-243-0686, and mention IBM** to receive a special discounted price of \$16+tax. The 2-hour cruise departs from Veteran's Park (NW corner of Atlantic and the Intracoastal: heading East on Atlantic, make last left before the bridge into a shopping plaza and go East in the parking lot to Veteran's Park parking). The cruise features Steel Drum entertainment, full beverage service and a pub style menu on-board. **Info:** <http://www.delraybeachcruises.com/index.html>.

**Thursday, July 21 ~9pm after cruise:** (optional) walk across Atlantic Avenue for **entertainment, drinks and dinner at the Blue Anchor Pub**. The Bob MacDonald Band performs every Thursday night at 9pm. The Band bills itself as

American Rock, but country music fans will also be pleased by their variety. The Blue Anchor Pub features a selection of beers on tap and excellent British pub food at reasonable prices.

**Thursday, August 4 at 11:30am:** The next **tri-annual luncheon** (originally organized by Dave Pavek) will take place at **Miller's Ale House**, 1200 Yamato Road, just west of the former IBM main site entrance. Individual checks and a separate dining area will be provided.

(See Events on page 2)



# IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

## Recent Activities

The Newsletter is circulated by email to most of our members and friends. It is sent by USPS to those who are not on 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.**

*(Events - continued from page 1)*

**Late August:** We will host another **Meet & Greet** at a local watering hole. The last one at Blue Martini was well received and we look forward to seeing even more of you at this next one. Details will be forthcoming in early August.

**Wednesday, September 14 at 2:30pm:** A **presentation on the IBM Watson Computer**, which performed magnificently on the TV program "Jeopardy", will be given in the Maple Room at Sugar Sand Park. Lite bites, coffee, water and soft drinks will be available. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

### Future Events (preliminary):

**October: Oktoberfest!!** We are planning an afternoon at the German-American Club's fantastic celebration in Lake Worth. Stay tuned for details.

**November:** We are exploring possibilities for a Theater evening. *Guys & Dolls* at the Broward Stage Door Theater in Coral Springs (off Sample Road) is being considered. For performances on Thursday, Friday and Sunday evenings, prices range from \$33 to \$38 per ticket. For a Saturday evening performance, prices range from \$37 to \$42 per ticket. (The lower price on tickets are for groups of 20 or more). We need a good read on interest before committing to a block of tickets. If you are interested in

### **April 13: Meet & Greet at Blue Martini, Boca Raton Town Center Mall**

Blue Martini provided a wonderful setting for our April Meet & Greet. They provided not only a complementary drink for our 30+ members attending, but also featured 1/2 priced drinks for those that went on to have more. Their appetizers were great and many of us chose the flatbread pizzas, which are also featured at half price until 8pm. We were pleasantly surprised when we heard 'ol blue eyes as if he were live performing in our midst. As it so happens, Blue Martini has a Sinatra sound alike (Tony Martelli) performing every Wednesday early evening. We plan to return to hear Frank/Tony again later this year.

### **April 22: Dr. Gerald (Jerry) Merckel's "Adventures Before, During and After IBM" - Maple Room at Sugar Sand Park**

*(Photos on page 5)*

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 and Professor of Electrical Engineering in the College of Computing Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Florida.

*Jud McCarthy* opened the meeting and introduced Jerry. We then received a very interesting and informative talk about many behind-the-scenes activities at IBM (some good, some bad) and an often humorous review of Jerry's activities since leaving IBM.

An interesting thing we learned from Jerry's presentation was his involvement in the creation of GeoFocus. This was a local company on the FAU campus that developed and mar-

keted systems solutions for the light rail (commuter train) industry. This was particularly interesting because several IBMSFQCCAA members (*Gary Wisgo, Jud McCarthy, Quent Benedict, Lew Walewski, Bill Gee, and Joe Fink*) have been part of GeoFocus as it developed and installed advanced systems in more than 150 vehicles being used by the Hudson-Bergen, Phoenix, Seattle, and other commuter lines. GeoFocus also developed passenger information systems in use at some TriRail terminals.

After completion of the Phoenix and Seattle projects, GeoFocus was acquired by Kinkisharyo, which also built the Phoenix and Seattle vehicles. GeoFocus also employed four other former IBMers: *Rob Baker, Bob Jenness, Brent Beatty, and Phil VanVliet*. Rob is now with Kinkisharyo in Miami, Bob is a consultant, and Brent and Phil are doing volunteer work.

We had two prize drawings during the meeting. *Mike Slaybaugh* won a Mexican cookbook and *Dave Johnson* won a casual shirt. Congratulations Mike and Dave - and thanks for coming!

### **April - May: IBM PC Restoration**

*(Photos on Page 5)*

A team of IBMSFQCCAA volunteers worked many hours to restore 17 IBM PCs to their original condition so they could be displayed at the IBM 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations in Boca Raton on June 9 and 16, and then at the Boca Raton Historical Society through September 30. Key players in the restoration were *Quent Benedict, Max Enos, Angelo Gasparri, Fred Goetz, Dave Johnson, Dee Kimberly, Craig Kindall, Jud McCarthy, and Vance Val-*

*(See Activities on page 3)*

*Guys & Dolls*, email *Virginia Santanello* ([santanvirg@mymdu.com](mailto:santanvirg@mymdu.com)) and let her know which day you prefer. If you would like to suggest another play, let her know that also.

**November:** A Meet & Greet; location and date will be announced as we get closer.

**Thursday, December 1:** We will host our third and final tri-annual luncheon for 2011. Location TBD. To suggest a location, email *Gregg Cesario* ([greggcesario@aol.com](mailto:greggcesario@aol.com)) with your thoughts.

**Tuesday, December 5:** IBMSQFCCAA Annual Meeting and Holiday Party. We promise less meeting and more party for our final gathering of the year in the Maple Room at Sugar Sand Park, starting at 2:30pm on Monday, December 5th. Join other members

to celebrate our first full year of activities. There will be light refreshments and live entertainment!

### Suggestions for other events?

Email your ideas to *Larry Salerno* ([bocalarry@comcast.net](mailto:bocalarry@comcast.net)). We are always seeking new and interesting forums which provide opportunities for our membership to get together and have fun and/or get informed on a topic of interest to our group. One member has already suggested a Wine Tasting Event and we will be exploring possibilities for same in the future.



## Recent Activities, Continued

(Activities - continued from page 2)  
*landdigham*. *Bill Gee* also contributed by providing signs for each of the systems and *Ed Bulger's* widow contributed by donating one of his old PCs. There were two 5150 (original PCs, one of which was used by *Don Estridge*), a 5155 Portable PC, a 5160 PC XT, a 5162 PC XT/286, a 4860 PCjr, a 5170 PC AT, five PS/2s Models 25, 50, 70, 90, P70 Portable, L40 SX Laptop, two ThinkPads Models 2635 and 2645, and a 6384 ValuePoint 450DX2 system. The display had systems from 1981 (first IBM PC) to 1998 (ThinkPad 600).

### IBM 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration

(Photos on Page 6)

IBM sponsored a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration for IBM employees, retirees, alumni and business partners on June 9. There were 350 in attendance at the Celebration, which was held at the Safe Schools facility on the campus of *Don Estridge* Middle School. In addition to the display of the machines listed above, there was a general IBM meeting which was hosted by *Sherry Lautenbach*, IBM Senior Location Executive and VP, SE General Business. The program included the following presenters:

- *Rod Adkins*, IBM Senior VP, STG, discussed IBM's history over its 100 year life and listed some of the key Boca Raton contributors to IBM's success. Rod's IBM career started in Boca Raton in the early-1980's.
- *Frank Brogan*, Chancellor of the State University System of Florida and former FAU president discussed how FAU and IBM had worked together through the years.
- US Representative *Allen West* spoke about IBM's success as a business leader and some of the challenges that are facing US businesses and the country.
- Boca Raton's Mayor *Susan Whelchel* discussed IBM's contributions to the Boca Raton community and what IBM's presence has meant to the area.
- *Michael Gray*, COO of Champion Solutions Group (son of former IBM Executive *Lou Gray*) introduced the winners of the Student Essay contest that was recently concluded. The win-

ner, *Oyku Barut*, could not come, but the first runner-up *Jennifer Mullins* did attend and read her essay to the group.

- *Rick Qualman*, IBM Senior State Executive and VP, Communications Sector concluded the meeting.

Afterwards, refreshments and birthday cake were served in the lobby.

We recognized several IBM retirees who had a key role in the success of the Boca Raton facility in attendance: *Glenn Anderson*, *Ozzie Osborne*, *Don Rex*, and *Joe Sarubbi*.

It was an outstanding event, and gave everyone a chance to catch up with other IBMers whom they have known and worked beside over the years.

### 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration: BRHS

(Photos on Page 6)

The Boca Raton Historical Society and IBM Boca Raton hosted a reception in honor of Big Blue's 100 birthday on June 16, 2011 at the old Town Hall in downtown Boca Raton. Over 130 people were in attendance to enjoy the IBM: Boca Raton exhibition currently on display and reminisce about the glory days! A brief ceremony included a 100 second video on the history of IBM, a toast by County Commissioner *Steven Abrams*, and cutting of birthday cake by IBM Executive *Rick Qualman*. Guests enjoyed the vintage (functioning) computers, videos and photographs, blue balloons, blue punch and blue cookies! The exhibition has been extended through September 30, 2011 by popular demand.

### Where is Tim Mannix:?

I left the IBM PC world to start a consulting company in Boca Raton with *Nick Nicholson*, another former IBMer. We focused on sales and management training, and Quality Improvement Process implementation. One of our clients made me an offer I couldn't refuse, and I ended moving to Edison, NJ as a partner in a systems integration firm.



After three years in NJ, the call of the grandchildren led us to Cary, NC, where I

started a Sandler Sales Institute franchise, once again doing sales and management training and consulting. After nine years of that, I sold the business to my partner and retired focusing on volunteer work (singing at retirement homes and reading to the blind and visually impaired listeners at a local radio station), joined Rotary and think it's a great way to give back to others. I sing at our local Church, read a lot, play golf, and try to spoil our five grandchildren!

Since my 401K became a 101K, I'm back doing some consulting work. I work primarily with a non-profit group (Stop Hunger Now) whose goal is to eradicate hunger in the world. We set up events where organizations, churches, schools and families (from 5 years of age) get together and package meals which are then sent to schools and orphanages, mostly overseas. It costs only 25 cents a meal and provides these kids with a hot meal. One of my goals this year is to open at least one warehouse in Florida!! Maybe you IBMSFQCAA guys could help.



More than 300 Florida IBMers, retirees, alumni and business partners participated in our Celebration of Service volunteer activities on June 15 marking our Global Day of Service. It was a great day of service! There are many other opportunities continuing throughout the rest of the year reflecting your ongoing commitment to the communities in which we live. During our centennial year, we have had a wonderful opportunity to look back on the last 100 years and reflect on what has made IBM a great company. As employees, retirees and alumni, we can all take personal pride in the company IBM has become. Our current success is an aggregate of the contributions made personally by each of the more than 425,000 IBMers, and the many IBM alumni and retirees.

In 2011, we are presented, more than ever before, with innovative ways to share our vision, experiences and passion. IBM has a vibrant social business media program in place and recognizes the power of

(See IBM on page 4)



# IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

## Welcome 63 New Members since our last Newsletter

- W. R. "Bart" Bartholomew  
Robert Brakke  
Juan Caraballo  
Arnold Cohen  
Richard "Dick" Cook  
Kathy Coon  
Donald Crandall  
Dennis Crompton  
Mike Day  
William "Bill" Dayton  
Julio De La Rosa  
Glenn DeGillio  
Frank Desko  
Thom DeVita  
David Dickler  
Joseph Eisenman  
Thomas Gallagher  
Sam Godwin  
Ronald Gross  
George Hays  
Thomas Hearn  
Jim Holmes  
Larry Hunsaker  
Irwin Isert  
Basil Kamener  
Leo Kartheiser  
Kimberlee Kemble  
Wayne Kraft  
Wolfgang Kurpiers  
Ralph Lane  
Allan Larson  
Izzy Magrisso  
Sherry Makis  
John Massey  
George Maxwell  
John McWalter  
Dennis "Denny" Mitchell  
Robert Northard  
Edward Ostrowski  
Edward Payne  
Fred Perry  
Victor Piorro  
Tom Pitts  
Michael Powers  
Francis Repke  
Joe Robinson  
Tom Ryan  
John Ryan  
Peter Sheridan  
Eleanor Simon  
Michael Slaybaugh  
Robert Smith  
J. B. Sojourner  
Margaret "Peggy" Stein  
Marty Stephenson  
Harry Stigall  
Ron Valli  
Linda Voyles  
Gavin Wilson  
Gerard "Gary" Wisgo  
Kenneth Wolff  
Richard Woywod  
Lisa Wright

(IBM - continued from page 3)  
this medium to create deeper connections with our communities worldwide and to highlight IBM's commitment to the Centennial Celebration of Service. In support of the Centennial, IBM has implemented a series of programs and resources to help each of us create connections and find volunteer opportunities that are of interest to you. As you continue to engage in your Celebration of Service activities, take a moment to connect and share with others by going to the [IBM100 site](#) and:

- Share your pledge! Make a pledge on the site; and use the social sharing tool-bar to share your pledge with others.
- Submit your service activity photos! The site has a simple tool to help you upload your volunteer activity photos.
- Join the conversation! The [Centennial Conversations](#) area of the IBM100 site is a place to share your conversations about the Centennial and your volunteer activities.

**100 Years.** A singular achievement...and you've all played a vital role in that achievement. The next 100 years is just beginning. Thank you for your hard work, dedication and professionalism.

*Rick R. Qualman, Vice President Strategy & Business Development, Global Telecommunications Industry Senior State Executive, State of Florida*

## Credits

Content: *Sy Schulman, Angelo Gasparri, Lew Miller, Larry Salerno, Virginia Santanello, Tim Mannix, Emily Santos, Susan Gillis (BRHS).*

Photography: *Quent Benedict, Max Enos, Bill Gee.*

Newsletter Editor: *Bill Gee*

## Farewell

*We have learned of the following former IBMers who have passed away.*

- \* Paul Turner, 2010
- \* Jack Burgess, 03/12/2010
- \* Fred Marx, 03/21/2010
- \* Chuck Malkemes, 05/28/2010
- \* Keith Kerstetter 08/21/2010
- \* Albert H. Raymond Jr., 11/30/2010
- \* Steve Martinkovic, 12/14/2010
- \* Gary Bernstrom, 01/05/2011
- \* Tony Paretta, 02/23/2011
- \* Christopher Morris Clarke, 03/03/2011
- \* S. Thomas Jenkins, 05/30/2011
- \* Larry R. Duffy, 06/08/2011

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**Activities Photos**



**Dr. Jerry Merckel**



**IBMSFQCCA Board with Dr. Merckel**



**Antique IBM PCs Display**





# IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

## Activities Photos, Continued



**IBM's 100th Birthday Celebration**



**Don Rex, Ernie Galinis, Glenn Anderson, Frank Humphreys**



**IBM Wall of Pictures**



**US Rep Allen West, Sherry Lautenbach, Rick Qualman**



**Rick Qualman, Rod Adkins, Jud McCarthy**



**IBM 100th Celebration - BRHS  
County Commissioner Steven Abrams**



**The PC Restoration Team**