



IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association



Presidents Message Summer 2020 - Winter/Spring 2021

What a year! No one could have seen what was coming. To shut down not just our country, but the whole world had everyone on pins and needles. We all listened intently to the TV, read everything we could find in the newspapers and the internet.

The net result, we became prisoners in our own homes.

Slowly details trickled in, saying what we could not do and what we could do. We could not participate in any activities like we had been enjoying. We could not see our doctors in person. We could not sit down with friends and have a pleasant meal. The list went on and on. Thankfully, we could go to the grocery and buy food if we were willing to risk becoming infected by another person doing the same thing we were doing. Fortunately, many businesses started delivery services to get the products we needed

to us without us venturing away from our “safe” home.

We had to be ultra-careful what we touched. Getting our car filled with gasoline was Ok. But, don’t touch the pump. How many of you, before the pandemic thought you would be buying disposable gloves by the box to stay safe?

Speaking of touching things, how many of you carefully wiped down every item with disinfectant that you purchased to make certain you and your loved ones would not be infected.

Enough of the pandemic, you should know that your IBM Alumni group has been active in spite of the situation in which we found ourselves. We quickly learned how to communicate online and hold productive meetings. At the beginning, even though we could talk to one another, we could not

schedule, and hold events. It didn’t take long to decide we needed to go online with our membership.

No sooner than we started, we found many members were not equipped to participate in online get-togethers. Some were prepared because they communicated with family using “Zoom” or an APP like that. Others used their “smart phone” to participate in conversations. We spoke with several members that had problems getting online and helped them get going and participate in this 21st century activity.

It has been nice that, now, many people have “real time” access to the outside world with a camera attached to their computer and showing only their head, they could participate in their underwear. That’s OK, your secret is safe.

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IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

This newsletter is provided for our dues-paying membership by the IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association (IBMSFQCCAA), a nonprofit organization based in Boca Raton, FL and formed in 2011.

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 to help foster IBM alumni connections.

Circulation: The Newsletter is circulated to most of our members and friends via the IBMSFQCCAA website (<http://www.ibmsfqccaa.org/>). It is also sent by mail to members who do not have Internet access. Please provide feedback via email to:

info@ibmsfqccaa.org or mail to:

IBMSFQCCAA,
P. O. Box 273284,
Boca Raton, FL 33427-3284.

Disclaimer: IBMSFQCCAA, its Board members and Newsletter staff are not legally liable for any material submitted to us in good faith and are not responsible for any errors and/or omissions. If a member feels any content correction is needed, please let us know as soon as possible. IBMSFQCCAA Bylaws can be found at www.ibmsfqccaa.org.

WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT. HELP US MAKE THIS A GREAT ORGANIZATION.

PLEASE PASS THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO FRIENDS WHO MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED.

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Welcome New Members

Rick Dayan
Margaret Sbordone
Donald Wortzman

Farewell

We have learned of the following members of the IBM Family who have passed away.

Fred Hall	Aug 22, 2013
Eric Quirindongo	Oct 20, 2019
Dick Beisel	April 6, 2020
Larry Mandigo	April 26, 2020
Bruce Haupt	May 5, 2020
Jim Petrovsky	June 24, 2020
Peter Kennedy	Aug 3, 2020
Don Rex	Aug 13, 2020

Please Update Your Contact Info

Please update your contact info by clicking on the "Feedback" tab of our website—Thanks!

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **TBD - We will plan additional virtual meetings to share interesting topics until it is safe to plan in-person events.**

Credits

Newsletter Editor: Julie Goodwin

Newsletter Content: Jim DeArmond,
Jud McCarthy, Dave Pavek, Larry Salerno

Newsletter Review: IBMSFQCCAA BOD Members

Email Blast Administrators: Dave Johnson,
Joe Herko, Ed Schatz

Photography: Larry Salerno, Angelo Gasparri

Events Calendar: Dave Pavek, Dennis Shea



President's Message (cont)

So what is it we have been doing for our members online? We have been holding a series of online meetings featuring important Boca IBM events. We did a session on Simon. Who remembers Simon, the worlds first "smart phone" developed right here in Boca? We did a session on the Announcements of 1981. We did a session covering the important announcements of 1976. We had a session where Jud McCarthy discussed his new book detailing his career in IBM, What a READ and it's available on Amazon!! We did a session on Advancements in Health and Genomics with IBM Watson. Our guide through these virtual meetings was VP Pete Martinez. Pete planned the events, rounded up retired IBMers that were a key part of these activities and made the event fascinating for all that attended. He even coaxed attendees that were not part of the planned program to talk about their experiences. If you were one of those brave souls, thank you for your contribution. What a GREAT time. Stay tuned to see what new stuff Pete has up his sleeve. We are not done with events like this, yet.

Oh, lest I forget, I had the very special opportunity to present the IBM Alumni President's

Award to Lew Miller. I can't begin to say enough about the contributions Lew has made to our organization since its inception. Much has been behind the scenes. But, for anyone that attended one of our Wine Tastings, Lew was there to ensure your glass was not empty. Lew is one in a million and we have been so glad to have him on our team.

We have held other virtual meetings as well. Many of you participated in our Annual Meeting with a presentation from BRIC in December. By the way, BRIC stands for Boca Raton Innovation Center. Our old IBM home on Yamato Road.

As we look forward, I think we will be able to soon put the pandemic behind. Many members in our group have already received their vaccine and that signals that we are getting close and can, again, get to together face-to-face.

Our board is working diligently to restart our traditional activities, sporting activities, lunches, wine tastings and perhaps some new "fun" things. Also, plenty will be happening at BRIC and we will be a part of it.

Thank you all for hanging in there for a year

without face-to-face events. But be ready for a change. It's time and you will hear details from us soon. Did someone mention Ale House? You bet!! We'll be back with that very popular event.

Don't think we are writing off 2021. Not so! We are planning for good things to happen during this year. It will include more virtual sessions as well as face-to-face events. We will let you know as soon as the events get on the calendar.

Finally, I wish to thank everyone for their support during this difficult time. I have been especially blessed with an amazing Board of Directors in our organization that can accomplish anything. It is a GREAT reminder of what made IBM so successful in days gone by.

Thank you, all! I look forward to seeing you as we come out to reconnect with old friends.

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IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

President's Message (cont)

Your Board of Directors and I continue to work toward supporting our mission. We sincerely welcome your advice. If you can't come to our Monthly Board Meetings (See the Events Calendar on our Activities web page: <http://ibmsfqccaa.org/activities.htm>, send us an email at president@ibmsfqccaa.org, post a note on our Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ibmsfqccaa>, or just give us a call. Our contacts

are listed on the Board web page at: <http://ibmsfqccaa.org/board.htm>.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Jim DeArmond, President



Lew Miller with his President's Award

Recent Activities

Our members have been enjoying association activities over the past several months. Here's a list of events you may have missed:

- ♦ Feb 28, 2020 @ 8:45am-1pm Volunteer Day at Boca Helping Hands
- ♦ Mar 12, 2020 @ 11:30am Qtrly Lunch – Millers Ale House in Boca Raton (22 attended)
- ♦ July 22, 2020 @ 4pm - Discussion of Simon (Personal Communicator) via Go To Meeting after viewing YouTube video made by Wayne Whitley - <https://youtu.be/8ISVf8iXxrk>
- ♦ Sep 16 , 2020 @ 4 pm Vanessa Michelini speaks on 'IBM Watson Genomics' via Go To Meeting.
- ♦ Oct 7 , 2020 @ 4 pm Jud McCarthy spoke about his new book 'Light Blue' via Go To Meeting.
- ♦ Nov 11, 2020 @ 4pm Boca 1976+ IBM Series/1 w contributors speaking Pete Martinez via Go To Meeting.
- ♦ Dec 2 , 2020 @ 4pm Boca 1981+ Robotics, PC, Datamaster, Sedab, ... Pete Martinez via Go To Meeting.

- ♦ Dec 12, 2020 @ 10am IBMSFQCCAA Annual Mtg: Business Mtg & BRIC Plans Presented by BRIC manager Giana Pacinelli via Go To Meeting
- ♦ Feb 17, 2021 @4pm –Pete Martinez - Re-visit 1987 with us - Virtually via Go To Meeting
- ♦ Virtual Tech Talk Tuesdays - (Feb 23 - Mar 9) @ 12pm
 - ♦ Feb 23 - The Early Years: Technology of Radar, IBM, Boca Raton and the First PC(1940s-1981) Dr. Dave Bradley discusses the history of the PC and Sally Ling discusses the importance of Radar at the Boca Raton Air Force Base in WWII. <https://youtu.be/4tcYJYkYYv0>
 - ♦ Mar 2 - Boca Raton as Silicon Beach (1980s - 2000s) Pete Martinez hosts a panel of innovators from Siemens, IBM, Sensormatic, etc. <https://youtu.be/B2ccXovZ34g>
 - ♦ Mar 9 - Today's Technology Scene & expectations for the Future Panel of 3 current CEOs from Boca businesses: BRIC, FAU Research Park, and Modernizing Medicine. <https://youtu.be/fbXnLHFq7oY>



IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

What Ever Happened to Wayne Whitley ?



IBM Engineer, 1975

Retired and loving it, 2021

My name is Wayne Whitley and here is a summary of my nearly twenty year career with IBM:

After completing my military service and returning home as a Vietnam veteran in 1971, I went back to school, earned my Electrical Engineering Degree from the University of Florida and joined IBM as a junior engineer in Boca Raton in 1975. I began working in Manufacturing Engineering creating logic card test software for the IBM Series/1 minicomputer. From there I joined Dr. Jerry Merkel's Series/1 logic development group designing communication cards. I was promoted and went to IBM management school to lead a department of twenty two manufacturing logic card test technicians.

After my time in people management, I opted to return to an advanced development group tasked with designing IBM PC peripherals including touch sensitive pads for the evolving graphical user interface. Next I worked in the IBM Personal System/2 architecture group managed by Darryl Newell. Then I was offered a two year work assignment in the Retail Products Development group in Hursley, England. I was responsible for integrating PC Architecture into European point of sale terminals. My most exciting and enjoyable job after returning to the states was being one of the original

Where Are They Now ?

creators of the worlds first smartphone named Simon. (see <https://youtu.be/8ISVf8iXxrk> for more information)

As I look back on my nearly twenty year career with IBM, I can honestly say that I was blessed with amazing opportunities, and rewarded by the best company I ever worked for.

After leaving IBM in 1995, my wife and I have remained in Florida raising our children and staying close to our families. I worked for a number of start-up companies in Boca Raton as well as for (ex. IBMer), Jim Wulf house at Florida Atlantic University College of Engineering Seatech Lab in Dania Beach, FL. There I designed the digital controller and WiFi antenna array for one of the Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV) as a research project funded by the U.S. Navy.

In 2001, my wife and I moved from Boca Raton to Citrus County to be closer to our parents and to give our children a small town educational environment. We enrolled our children in a small Catholic school where my wife and I ended up as teachers. After ten years as the Computer Science and Technology teacher for grades 1st thru 8th, I retired for good.

I have managed to keep busy playing guitar in a Blues Band and creating videos for my YouTube channel. (see <https://youtube.com/c/whitleyvideos>) Both of our children are in college and now it is time for my wife and I to travel in our RV.



IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

What Ever Happened to Lynn Gill?



Our tractor from days when we had our farm after retirement

I left IBM 7/31/92 under the ITO2 program and settled into a run down 20 acre farm in Trenton FL. Just prior to moving, I met and married my present wife Sara and together we lived our country dream. Sara owned a title Insurance Co, Diplomat Title, in Ft Lauderdale that she sold when we moved to Trenton. To pay the bills, I got a job with Ameridata selling IBM equipment to U of F in Gainesville FL. Next I worked in IT at NFRMC in Gainesville. They had mostly Compaq computers and Lexmark printers. From there I moved up (?) to Network Services. also in Gainesville, where I pulled and punched down miles of Cat 4 cable & fiber optics for networks, closed circuit TV and PA systems in large multi story buildings. It was a learning experience in that I installed IBM and other manufactures equipment gaining an appreciation of how our design requirements impacted the installation and maintenance of techie equipment.

Presently Sara and I are totally retired and live in Rome GA; my son, daughter and their spouses also live in Rome and we enjoy seeing them often. I thoroughly enjoy gardening which makes my kids happy as I represent an endless supply of veggies. We also

Where Are They Now ?

enjoy traveling and have traveled extensively in the US and Canada in our truck camper RV. Since 2000, we have taken our camper and hit the road for 2 to 4 months at a time. 2004, we were in Inuvik NWT Canada cooling our toes in the Arctic Ocean. This year we planned a 3 month trip to the Maritime Provinces of Canada, but the COVID mandated cancellation; perhaps next year.

I was diagnosed with Bladder Cancer in 2011, but have been cancer free since Feb 2012. We are deeply thankful for our good health and financial independence that has allowed us to enjoy a quality lifestyle and we wish everybody this luxury. If you enjoy Civil War history, you will enjoy Rome as it is in the epicenter of the action with many state and National Parks close to us; Sherman even marched through Rome.

... Lynn T Gill



Lynn and Friend Jean and at Sarasota Sands Resorts



IBM South Florida Quarter Century Club and Alumni Association

What Ever Happened to
Lynn Gill?

Where Are They Now ?
(cont)



Lynn and wife Sara in our backyard in Rome, GA



Lynn and wife Sara at a festival in Rome, GA



Lew Miller

**Volunteer Day at Boca Helping Hands -
Donate 4 hours helping others - Feb 28, 2020**



(L to R): Lew Miller, Larry Salerno, Rebecca Linehan,
Phil VanVliet, Sally Langford



Rebecca Linehan, Sally Langford

**Don Estridge High Tech Middle School
Tour - Jan 28, 2020**



Former IBM employees toured Don Estridge High Tech Middle School (where they once worked when it was an IBM development facility). Click here to see a video taken during the tour.

Here is a link to the YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/iSWw5cABpcQ>

**Virtual Meeting - IBM Personal Communicator
("Simon") - July 15, 2020**

Creating **Simon** -
The World's First Smartphone

The inside story from one
of the original 5 inventors



Did you know that the first Smartphone was developed by IBM Boca Raton? Simon, the IBM Personal Communicator, was developed in Boca Raton in the early 1990s.

Here is a link to the YouTube video:

<https://youtu.be/8lSVf8iXxrk>

March 12, 2020 Luncheon



(L to R): Len Desmond, Angelo Gasparri, Ted Davis



(L to R): Mike Lukens, Sue Larson, Chris White, Gary Wisgo

These photos are from our March 12, 2020 luncheon, just as the new corona-virus began to take hold on our nation. 22 brave members and guests met at Miller's Ale House in Boca. Little did we know that we would have to suspend these gatherings for a year or more. But now with the large scale vaccine deployments we are looking at brighter days ahead. We look forward to resuming these luncheons and other in-person events as soon as it is deemed safe. Hope you enjoy the pictures. Stay tuned for future events and please be careful and stay safe! Wishing all a happy and healthy 2021!



(L to R:) Donna and Dave Pavek



(L to R): Rob Baker, Aurora Siegl, Pete Martinez, Jud McCarthy



(L to R): Lee and Kay Stone



(L to R): Lew Miller, Gregg Cesario



(L to R): Joe Herko, Carol Esser, Judy Bradley

Dec 12, 2020 - Virtual Annual Meeting

The tenth Annual Meeting of our Association took place online via Go To Meeting on Saturday, December 12, 2020 starting at 10:00am. There was a brief business meeting followed by a presentation by Boca Raton Innovation Campus (BRIC) manager Giana Pacinelli describing plans for the BRIC enhancements.

She showed a BRIC Amenities Flythrough Video to help members visualize the changes:

<https://vimeo.com/471557269/b6fb9c2c52>

Then members were entertained by Aurora Siegl who played holiday music on her piano.

GoToMeeting REC

Talking: Pete Martinez View Everyone 19

BRiC CROCKER PARTNERS

ROCKET by Hubert Phipps

BRiC
BOCA RATON INNOVATION CAMPUS

Thank You

Jim DeArmond is presenting

Mic Camera Screen Leave

Dec 12, 2020 - Virtual Annual Meeting (cont)

The screenshot shows a GoToMeeting interface with 18 participants. The top bar includes the GoToMeeting logo, a 'REC' indicator, and window controls. The main area is a grid of video thumbnails. Participants with active video are: Julie Goodwin, Jim DeArmond, Pete Martinez, David Johnson, Bob, Joe Herko_Carol Esser, Aurora Siegl, BRADLEY JUDITH, Steve Shewbrooks, Kathryn Moore, nancy, and Dave Pavek. Participants with muted video are: Bill Montgomery, Dennis G Shea, and Margaret Sbordone. Three participants are shown as black boxes with initials: BM, DGS, and JR. The bottom toolbar contains icons for Mic, Camera, Screen, and Leave.

GoToMeeting REC 18 1

Talking: nancy View Everyone

Participants:

- Julie Goodwin
- Jim DeArmond
- Pete Martinez
- Bill Montgomery
- David Johnson
- Bob
- Joe Herko_Carol Esser
- Aurora Siegl
- Larry Salerno
- BRADLEY JUDITH
- Steve Shewbrooks
- Kathryn Moore
- Dennis G Shea
- nancy
- Dave Pavek
- Giana
- John Roberts
- Margaret Sbordone

Initials: BM, DGS, JR

Toolbar: Mic, Camera, Screen, Leave

Dec 12, 2020 - Virtual Annual Meeting (cont)

The screenshot shows a GoToMeeting interface with 18 participants in a grid view. The top bar includes the GoToMeeting logo, a 'REC' indicator, and window controls. The main area displays a grid of video thumbnails for each participant, with their names and status icons (microphone, video) below each. The participants are:

Participant Name	Thumbnail Description
Julie Goodwin	Woman with glasses and headset
Jim DeArmond	Man with white beard and red shirt
Pete Martinez	Man with white hair and blue shirt
Bill Montgomery	Placeholder: BM
David Johnson	Man with glasses and red shirt
Bob	Older man in blue shirt
Joe Herko_Carol Esser	Man in dark shirt in a kitchen
Aurora Siegl	Woman with blonde hair and red top
Larry Salerno	Man with grey hair and blue shirt
BRADLEY JUDITH	Woman with dark hair and black top
Steve Shewbrooks	Placeholder: SS
Kathryn Moore	Woman with blonde hair and blue top
Dennis G Shea	Man with grey hair and blue shirt
nancy	Woman with short brown hair and blue top
Dave Pavek	Man with glasses and white shirt
Giana	Woman with dark hair and black top
John Roberts	Placeholder: JR
Margaret Sbordone	Woman with glasses and grey hair



In Memoriam

Donald Rex

By Aurora Siegl

After many years of serious illness, IBM Fellow Donald K Rex passed on August 13, 2020 at the age of 95. After serving in the Navy in WW11, Don earned his mechanical engineering degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) in NY. While working on his degree Don happened to be in Time Square when the announcement came that WWII was over. Shortly after finishing his degree he was offered a job at IBM. At that time the TJ Watson Sr., CEO of IBM, had become interested in Dr. John Gibbon Jr's experimental machines of the 1930's designed to replace the heart and lungs during an operation. The machine was to oxygenate the blood and continue pumping blood outside of the body when every second was critical for the surgeons. Dr. Gibbons was the medical expert and needed a team to help with the design, engineering, and testing. Through Watson's directive, IBM sponsored the team. IBM also provided engineers and Don Rex was one of those. The Gibbon Heart Lung machine project was developed at IBM Endicott from 1947-1955. Don worked on Versions II and III of these machines.

While working on the Gibbon Heart and Lung Machine, Don received the following patents:

- ♦ 1952 Malmros, Rex, Engstrom, for the extracorporeal circulation device pumping system
- ♦ 1952 Malmros, Rex, for the oxygenating unit for extracorporeal circulation devices
- ♦ 1955 Taylor, Rex, Kuntzelman for the blood handling system for extracorporeal circulation devices.

Replicas of the heart lung machine and lung machine were built for the Mutter Museum in 1980. The Mayo Clinic also adopted many aspects of the Gibbon machine design to develop their own Mayo Gibbon Heart Lung machine.

Don worked at and toured IBM labs in California, France, and other sites in Europe and traveled extensively with his wife Mary Salmon Rex who predeceased him by several years. He was an amazing storyteller and his world travels gave him much to talk about. His wife, Mary, was an awesome cook and baker and would sometimes serve dishes inspired by these travels. He was occasionally called in to supervise projects in other countries to help them meet their deadlines.



In Memoriam

Don Rex (cont)

When Boca Raton began its projects in 1967, Don was sent from California as a high-level manager for System 7 and the Series/1 printer division.

When IBM Boca Raton recently celebrated 50 years, I was honored to bring Don and my father, Ludwig Siegl, retired IBMer and friend/neighbor for over 50 years. I grew up knowing that the man next door was very smart and special, and happened to be my dad's 3rd level manager. When I was 12, a neighbor's ex-police dog was loose, began chasing me and lunged. When Don heard me scream, he rushed out of his house in his bath robe and scared the dog away. I liked to say he "saved my life" but Don would only shake his head. Don and Mary were frequent dinner guests at my parents' house and shared many a special occasion with us. My parents and I were often dinner guests next door and loved how Don and Mary would regale us with their travel tales, each in their own special style. Don loved music, especially jazz. But his major passion besides his dear wife Mary was reading – everything from the New Yorker to the autobiographical collection of stories by David Sedaris, the son of his good friends from NY. Don Rex was generous, an excellent engineer, a phenomenal storyteller and grateful for his friends.

Don was born on March 27, 1925. On the day of his passing, he left a book, *Praying Through Grief: Poems and Meditations for Healing*, opened to the following poem to help us.

Aurora Siegl

When I am Gone Away by Christina Rossetti

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into that silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of the future that you'd planned:
Only remember me: you understand
It will be late to counsel me or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that I once had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than you should remember and be sad.



In Memoriam

Don Rex (cont)

By Susan Sherwood, Executive Director,

Center for Technology & Innovation, Inc.

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Remembering Donald K. Rex - August 2020

Don Rex was the wittiest person I expect ever to meet. He was loaded with wit in the sense of wisdom, with wit in the sense of his wry humor, and with wit in the sense of his lightning-quick grasp of situations. Don approached life as if he overlaid an engineering template on the book of Psalms or a Shakespeare speech – keeping the good stuff, tossing the rest. He spoke clearly to the point; his hesitations as he weighed his next words were just as full of his meaning. And let's not forget his full-throated chuckle.

Don was genuinely curious about what people were thinking and doing. He was a great listener who actively solicited others' ideas. He made it a point to see what was new in each IBM lab at least once a year, talking not just to management, but to the guys at the drawing boards, the tool makers, the junior engineers. He folded these ideas into his Renaissance world view like a mosaic. Don never lost his skill in assembling an amazing whole from piles of little bits. How he stored and processed all this information – who

knows? Humility was a Don hallmark. He was never boastful, although you could almost hear his slight grin when he talked about an idea that had worked out well; with an added chuckle as he described the obstacles hurdled. He always gave credit to the problem solvers, such as: the San Jose idea at the core of the dot matrix printer; Endicott teammates John Engstrom and Leo Farr, who Don credits with making key engineering decisions on IBM's Heart Lung machine in the 1950s; and Bob Garvey who forcefully released this life-saving technology to the surgical community worldwide.

When I met Don in 2003, he talked about his first IBM project 50 years earlier, when he wrestled for weeks with how to build a "lung" that put oxygen into blood without adding bubbles. While driving across a New York City bridge with Mary to a Long Island beach, he came up with the idea of laminar flow over a series of screens. He couldn't wait to get to dry land to sketch out the design for this part of IBM's Heart Lung machine. Fifteen years later, strolling down the Making the Modern World gallery in the London Museum of Science, I saw the Apollo 10 capsule on my right and a Don Rex-designed lung assembly on my left. It had been our fondest hope for the curator to hear directly from Don about IBM's role in what the London museum (mis)labeled a Gibbon - Mayo machine, after the Philadelphia doctor and the Mayo Clinic. He almost made it.



In Memoriam

Don Rex (cont)

There are so many stories. We all have at least one nugget of advice from Don that continues to guide us. My favorite is - Never fall in love with your first idea. What's your favorite? Or in millennial speak – What's most impactful? I can't think of a better tribute than to collect Don's nuggets of advice to become part of the Vintage IBM Computing Center's archive and displays at TechWorks! in Binghamton. Please don't hesitate to write, email, or call so that we can capture your memories of Don Rex and IBM.

Your help is needed to save for the next generation the wit that gave Don the aptitude and fortitude to live his productive and wonderful life, with Mary steadfastly at his side until his last decade. I fully expect to continue recalling Don's and Mary's inspiring spirits.

With fond memories, Susan Sherwood,
Executive Director

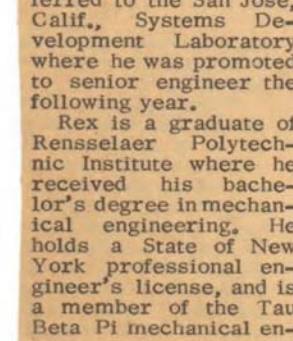
PS Mary Rex was my nursery school teacher. She bravely walked her class of toddlers along the top of the Susquehanna River floodwall in Endicott during its construction. For us little ones, these adventures offered a life-changing perspective of how big the world around us was bulldozer crews, a shocking view. For Mary and Don, likely something to chuckle about together.



1957



1977



1967



Mary & Don - 2003



In Memoriam

Don Rex (cont)

Center for Technology & Innovation, Inc.

Future home of Tech Works! Experience Innovation –
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In Memoriam

Fred Hall

By Dan Cook

We met back in the early days of the QCC. I worked in the Delray Beach end (Old Germantown Rd.) I worked with the System/38s. I came out of the field (GSD & MAPICS) as a manufacturing industry specialist...

I met Fred Hall about '08. He and his wife Audrey moved into the Buena Vida retirement community in Melbourne where my Mother was living. She was so happy to find a nice couple who also could talk "IBM".

Audrey died a few years later. Fred and I were VFW buddies – beer drinking! He was in WWII flying bombers off a wooden-decked aircraft carrier. (I was a Vietnam vet.) Long story made short, I took him on the "Honor Flight" – he did not realize how big a hero he was in the era of the "Greatest Generation". He died in his hometown of Binghamton and Endicott. He was planning to teach me fly fishing in the Adirondacks.

I hope this helps – in putting together the "spirit of Boca" – the Estridge-led IBU.

Windows vs Ford (Response by Fred Hall)

UGH! I think Ford's comparison stinks. I worked on the very first skeleton-models at IBM in Boca Raton in 1981, the 1st few were monsters. After 3-years we had them the size of a small closet and 2-years later (5-yrs) we had one that would fit on a card table. That cost IBM about \$6,000,000, not to product size. Our hq's in Armonk, NY said: we give you 6-more months.

Our group shrunk to 12-people. We worked nite/day and exactly 6-months later...it sat on a desk and weighed 12-pounds...could Ford do that? AND:

this was all new technology....NO car company could EVER do that. Plus: it was ALL NEW technology....100,000 times smaller than any parts on a auto.

AND: there is no comparison to the technical accuracy and miraculous scientific progress IBM made...compared to the automobile which were developed over 90-years ago. We then, produced & built the first laptop in 2-years, which included completely new software...in Boca Raton, FL.



In Memoriam

Fred Hall (cont)

WINDOWS VS FORD

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on. At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, 'If Ford had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon.'

In response to Bill's comments, Ford issued a press release stating If Ford had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics (and I just love this part):

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash.....Twice a day.
- 2.. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
- 3... Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it,

and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.

4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.

6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single 'This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation' warning light.

I love the next one!!!

7. The airbag system would ask 'Are you sure?' before deploying.

In Memoriam

Fred Hall (cont)

8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.

9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.

10. You'd have to press the 'Start' button to turn the engine off.

PS - I'd like to add that when all else fails, you could call 'customer service' in some foreign country and be instructed in some foreign language how to fix your car yourself!!!!

Please share this with your friends who love
- but sometimes hate - their computer!



Some of these pictures were taken while on an HONOR FLIGHT to Washington. Fred flew bombing missions off a wooden decked aircraft carrier during WWII. Dan Cook is pictured with Fred Hall in the photo above.



Fred and his wife Audrey



In Memoriam

Peter Kennedy



Peter Joseph Kennedy, longtime resident of Boca Raton, FL, mostly recently of Weston, FL, passed away August 3, 2020 due to complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Pete, as everyone called him, will always be remembered as a creative mind and inventor, but his greatest idea came in a simple way.

One day, while riding an elevator, he noticed the use of proximity detectors on the floor buttons in an elevator, and realized that could have other practical applications, especially to a hand-held device. That thought led him to develop an idea to allow the screen to recognize finger movements, rather than just touch. The "pinch and zoom" idea was born, patented, and has become a staple of daily life, on every phone, and every handheld device.

And this patent "Shape Detecting Input Device" has been hailed as one of the greatest inventions of our time. <https://www.libguides.com/patents/examples>

Pete was born September 13, 1941 in New York, and moved to Miami, Florida as a small child. His father was an uneducated immigrant from New Foundland, who worked as a painter. While he was in high school, Pete taught his father how to read. His mother was a first generation American, who dropped out of school during the depression. She worked at hotels on Miami Beach as an entertainment coordinator. Humble beginnings for Pete, indeed.

You could rightfully say that Pete was a self-made man. He was a person who would always take things apart just to learn how they worked (much to his mother's chagrin), and had a small electronics repair business in high school. He attended the University of Miami, earning a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering, and went on to get a Master's in Biomedical Engineering. He became a licensed Professional Engineer, and held professional certifications in Human Factors and Ergonomics.

His career started when he went to work at IBM in the mid 1960s, first starting as a clock technician at Kennedy Space Center during the Apollo program, and later moving to the burgeoning facility that IBM built in Boca Raton, Florida.

There, he worked on projects related to printers for several years, before moving on to work with typewriters. He worked on IBM's Selectric Typewriter, helping refine the design of the ball that was used to revolutionize typing.



In Memoriam

Peter Kennedy (cont)

He also was involved in finding the best natural angle for the typing surface, to ensure comfort and maximize speed - and perhaps most importantly, he had a role in figuring out what the keys should "feel" like when typing.

This would serve him well. In the early 1980s, he moved on to the PC division, and was a founding member of IBM's Human Factors department. His knowledge of the typewriter layout guided him in creating the first keyboards IBM produced to go with a computer.

There's a short story here. Pete was a proponent of switching away from the familiar "QWERTY" layout to the Dvorak style, because research showed that it could be faster and more efficient. Unfortunately, the new style wasn't adopted, and the standard remained as the "QWERTY" style.

The takeaway is that Pete took this type of thing in stride, as he always did. He was always the good "company man." You make your case and if it's unsuccessful, you make sure that the decided outcome gets your full attention, and you do your best.

With that in mind, he focused on making the transition from a typewriter to a personal computer easier. The new keyboard was familiar; it had a similar natural angle, layout, and a feeling like you were typing on a typewriter.

And that became the standard keyboard that's still in use

today. The comfortable, ergonomic keyboards came about because he worked hard to make them that way, and that has carried forward over the years.

Overall, the human factors department ran the gamut of nearly everything IBM had in mind for PCs: software, hardware, hand held game controllers, even packaging - so computers were nestled in protection but easy to take out and assemble at home.

He helped setup labs to conduct scientific studies, and the team figured out how to best design experiments to thoroughly test their products. All of this became a model for the industry. The human factors department was the proverbial gold standard, and the team were truly considered experts in the field.

He worked on monitor designs, how to best use the single color monochrome screen, and helped figure out how to best leverage early color displays to avoid eye fatigue. He was behind the idea of creating a standard font that was anti-aliased (ie, easy to detect and read on the screen), and wrote and lectured extensively on the topic.

After leaving IBM, Pete went on to work for Dell in Austin Texas, and then Compaq, in Houston Texas, bringing a wealth of Human Factors design knowledge to their growing product lines.



In Memoriam

Peter Kennedy (cont)

A few years later, he went to Sony-Ericsson in North Carolina, where he played a large role in designing the early cell phones. He looked at the usability of the phones, and more importantly, he focused on the feeling of the keys as people were starting to text. He also helped design an automatic means to adjust the brightness of newly introduced color screens in various lights.

Many of his designs were revolutionary and industry-leading, as they were described in marketing materials at the time, and they often became the de facto standard used in the industry.

While there, he also came up with an idea to allow for the Amber Alerts to be pushed directly to your phone, and patented it. You can thank Pete when you get an alert about a missing child on your phone.

He was nearly ready to retire, and spend more time with his grandkids, when Apple Computers reached out, and offered him a job. An industry analyst said of the move (paraphrasing) "If they are hiring Pete Kennedy, with his pedigree, then they must be coming out with something remarkable." And they did, as Pete was working on the iPod, and later, the original iPhone. It was absolutely a team effort to make these products, but Pete had many of the ideas that make them tick.

He once told his grandkids about the pinch and zoom:
"Although I was the one that came up with the concepts,

nothing can be done alone. I thought it was my professional duty to include other people that helped me to develop the final patent. You will therefore see their names listed on the patent. Note, there is a list of several inventors on each of these." That's who he was. He never sought glory, rather he was contributing to the greater good. Humility was a primary calling card.

He had a gift of sorts, to just see a need and look to fill it. Often, ideas would just come through everyday life. One day, while sitting at his desk, he realized that many features of the mouse interacting with the monitor could be replaced by a simple touch on a dial or the glass display of a hand-held device; scrolling and clicking an entry on the screen could all be replicated with your finger, and that became a "dashboard" for the iPod, and carried into the iPhone.

<https://www.patentlyapple.com/patently-apple/2010/07/apple-wins-patents-for-dashboard-future-ipad-feature.html>

And it was during his time at Apple that he patented the proximity detector that's leveraged in pinch and zoom.

He finally (unofficially) retired in 2005, and moved back to Florida. But, he still had a desire to create and share his ideas - so he continued to consult, invent, and create for the next decade.



In Memoriam

Peter Kennedy (cont)

He has over 20 patents in his name (some on his own, some with a company he was working for), nearly another 20 that are still in review, countless professional publications, and a variety of ideas and inventions to his name. He was still producing ideas and working on patents until the disease took away his ability to be creative. Several of his later patents may still turn into something amazing one day; only time will tell.

He was always a big proponent for education, and enjoyed sharing what he knew with any/every one. At one point in the 1980s, the physics teacher at his son's high school abruptly quit; Pete stepped in and taught the class for a few weeks while the school looked for a permanent replacement.

He loved to volunteer at his grandchildren's grade schools, and was named senior volunteer of the year in 2009 for Broward County, Florida. <https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/view/21400887/download-pdf-file-of-the-2009-community-involvement-get-involved>

And there was a nice writeup in the paper in Darien, CT sometime after that. <https://patch.com/connecticut/darien/inventor-peter-kennedy-inspires-dhs-students>

On the personal side, he had a dry sense of humor, and told the same (tired, dad) jokes repeatedly. But he always had a smile on his face and was always friendly and pleasant to everyone.

With his happy demeanor and the white beard, he decided to start playing Santa one holiday season. He enjoyed taking on the persona and interacting with people, and kept it up for many years.

Throughout his life, you could often find him puttering in the garage doing something creative: sometimes he'd work with electronics, sometimes he'd garden, sometimes he'd be welding, sometimes he'd be trying something new. He was always a voracious reader, subscribed to several science journals, and watched more educational shows than anyone can remember. Shows like NOVA on PBS were must-see tv.

He loved trains, rode a tandem bicycle with his wife (even though he learned to ride as an adult), and for a few years got really interested in magic. He did a little consulting, and started a couple of small companies with friends along the way, so he could do more than sitting behind a desk.

He always took an active interest in whatever things his boys were into. He wasn't a particularly big sports fan or a music lover, but he'd head out to a ball game or concert, just to be close to them.

And finally, something must be said about his eating habits. He was always noshing on something; he seemed to always be hungry. He liked to joke (or maybe it wasn't a joke?) that during college he read a book "365 ways to prepare ground beef" because he kept it simple.



In Memoriam

Peter Kennedy (cont)

He ate a banana every morning, and that was one thing about him that is a truly lasting memory. He enjoyed cafeteria-style food more than most people do, which was kind of a quirky, amusing thing about him. As a working man, he had a few go-to places for lunch; diner-types, where he would order the same thing almost every day. Usually it was a turkey sandwich, but at one point, he had tuna on wheat every day for nearly a year. As he said, If its working, why change?

I might also point out that he passed away just after finishing a big breakfast, so we know he left us with a full belly - which really which made the family smile.

There's another funny food-related story about him that's worth sharing. He had various food allergies, and he left it to his wife to help keep track of it all. When they'd go out to eat, he would ask "Audrey can I eat this?" On a cruise some years ago, this became a joke that the ships comedian picked up on and used in his act, to uproarious laughter - especially from some relatives.

He is survived by his wife, Audrey, his two sons David and Michael, their wives, and 6 grandchildren - with whom he loved spending time.

Although he annoyed his teenage sons with his endless questions, he taught them how to think critically and to solve problems. They both became engineers as well, mostly due to his influence on them.

In his time with his grandchildren, he passed along the idea of rationality and application of the scientific method to problem solving. His influence on them can be seen there, too. The oldest of them are budding scientists, too.

His love of life, and what he did for a living, was inspiring to anyone who met him. He will be sorely missed.

He always reminded people to do their best. And he always encouraged thoughtfulness, and sharing what you know. I'm quite sure he would ask anyone who reads this to embody this ideal: share your knowledge with others, be a teacher, a mentor, and encourage others.



Call for Submissions for the Vintage IBM Computing Center's Archives and Displays in Binghamton, NY

Susan Sherwood, Director of TechWorks! Experience Innovation - Past, Present, & Future In Binghamton, NY, is calling for memory submissions about Don Rex from his fellow IBMers. Susan will edit these to create a display at the Vintage IBM Computing Center's archive and displays in TechWorks! where Don's photo and accomplishments will be surrounded by fellow IBM engineers and their accomplishments. What a wonderful legacy and inspiration to leave for future generations.

Please keep your submission short, but make sure to include your major accomplishment – even if it was outside of IBM. Please use the following format and send your submissions and photo.jpg attachment to Susan at info@ctandi.org via email. Thank you!

- ◆ Your name and position with IBM
- ◆ A photo of yourself – from back in the day or current
- ◆ Dates and location(s) you worked for IBM,
- ◆ Dates and locations you worked with Don Rex,
- ◆ Project or projects with Don Rex,
- ◆ Your most important accomplishments at IBM or elsewhere
- ◆ Fondest memory of Don Rex or best nugget of wisdom he imparted to you.

For example:

Ludwig Siegl, Sr. Engineer

IBM 1969-1988, Boca Raton, FL

- ◆ Projects under Don Rex – 1969-1988, Boca Raton, FL - System 7 printers, Project Lead for Bahia II printer, patents and lead developer for PRISCO (printer/scanner/copier), Series 1 printers.
- ◆ Ludwig Siegl designed and developed a relay which was used for all Saturn V moonshots. He was Chief Engineer of Hartmann Electric in Mansfield, Ohio, and his relay was approved by Werner von Braun.
- ◆ When Don Rex interviewed Ludwig Siegl for an engineering position, Don called Hartman Electric to verify Ludwig's credentials. Don simply asked the President of Hartman whether IBM should hire Ludwig. "Please don't!" the president responded. "Send him back – we need him desperately!" "You're hired!" Don immediately said to Ludwig.



Attachment file: ludwig siegl ibm.jpg