



"What a Long Strange Trip it's Been"

Synaptেক has employees all over the country which can make it difficult to connect. As the company continues to grow, this newsletter becomes an essential part in not only sharing information, but connecting to each other. In the past we've shared a lot about our business goals and accomplishments and as we approach a new year we would like to add a more personal element to this newsletter.

Talking about myself has never been a strong point, so when I was asked to go first and share my story, I wasn't sure where to begin. So, let's start with the basics: The most important thing in my life is my family. I have a wonderful partner in life, my wife Melissa, who I've been married to since high school. Through the good and the bad she has been by my side. We have four adult children, Joshua (34), Kristina (30), Bethany (30) and Ava (28). Spread among them is a growing cluster of grandchildren ranging soon to be born to 11 years old. We also have four Papillion pups (small dogs, big ears) that you might hear in the background if you catch me at home. For me, family is where I draw my strength. It is where I find my purpose.

I jokingly say that my professional journey with computers began because of a chair. I went to school at Virginia Tech where I studied as an Electrical Engineer. I had a long break between two classes where I sat on the floor in the hall and studied. Around this time a new phenomenon of "personal computing" was being introduced. IBM had established a grant to open a PC lab on VT campus. When construction began, they brought in desks and chairs. Given a choice between hard floor and comfy chair - I began sitting in the lab because it had a chair. Soon after they brought in computers. Everyone just assumed that I belonged in the lab. The installers thought I was someone from the University, and the University thought I was somehow associated with the installation team. I began to fiddle with the devices, opened a few manuals (actual books - there was no internet then!). So, when they hired staff, I was about 2 months ahead of everyone else's learning curve. My head start was just enough that they eventually offered to pay me to assist in the lab, which also extended my "chair" privileges. It's funny how small things impact our future in big ways. There is an undeniable element of happenstance (the opening of the lab in that particular location) - but it is also what we do with that luck that defines us (the reading of the manuals on my part). I am a firm believer that we all have luck - both good and bad, the key is to make the most of the chances we are given.

On the business front, I have had an opportunity to work at various levels of our industry, which has given me a unique perspective. I worked at General Electric in the industrial commercial sector, have owned a commercial small business, worked for one of the early

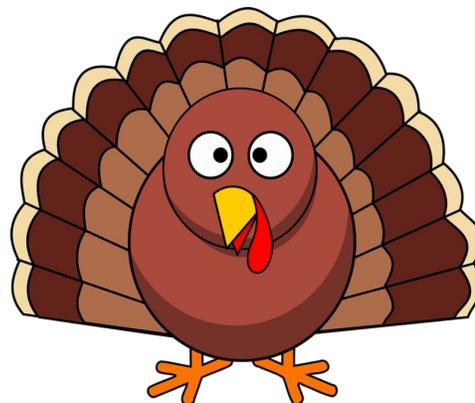
federal contracting success stories out of the Small Business Administration (SIGNAL Corporation). I have experienced multiple mergers/acquisitions to end up as management at one of the large systems integrators (General Dynamics), finally leaving that to go back to my small business roots at Synaptেক. At each step, I learned something and put that away in my bag of tricks to try and make me better for whatever comes next.

Mediasoft was the first company I owned. In the very early days of the

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We wish you and your family a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!



Kudos

The SDIN lead in Colorado Springs would like to praise **Phil Pappas** for taking on more responsibility and for his continued hard work.



Our DLA customer recognized a few of our employees this month:

Christopher Grant for his commitment to his work and always going above and beyond what is expected of him.

Don James for exceeding expectations on his assessment in support of the mission.

Jim Brown for his outstanding effort in the NOC relo move.

Thank for making us shine!

If you have someone you would like to thank or recognize, email your message to news@synaptেকcorp.com

"World Wide Web", access was not ubiquitous. The only way to access was through dial in circuits. For much of the country this was limited to major cities or expensive/unreliable long-distance calls for others. Frustrated that I couldn't get internet, I am proud to say that I was the first to bring the internet to Loudoun County. I burned up my life savings tearing up the front lawn to have the phone company bring in three hundred pairs of phone lines into my basement and purchased banks of US Robotics modems. As the company grew to a reasonably large number of subscribers, we eventually hired staff and moved to offices in Leesburg. As quickly as the internet boom happened, so did the trend to consolidate. We found ourselves in competition with AOL, Erols, and other access bundlers. Eventually, we sold the business to one of the consolidators. I learned many lessons during that time about how quickly technology moves and changes business landscapes. It also instilled that entrepreneurial spirit that is alive in me today. Building something is rewarding - I hope that we will all look back on our Synaptex years with the same level of nostalgia.

SIGNAL Corporation was an 8(a) small business similar to Synaptex. It is where Kam and I met during our support to US Patent and Trademark Office. On a predecessor contract to the IDEA1 2 effort that Synaptex is supporting today. Kam and I grew the USPTO business within Synaptex and branched out to new agencies as opportunities arose. SIGNAL grew from a \$20M business when I joined to a \$250M business when it sold to Veridian (in small part due to our efforts). Veridian eventually sold to General Dynamics Network System. Veridian IT Services, when joined with the legacy GD network services business, became the nucleus of what eventually became GDIT. I had the privilege of running the civilian business of the newly renamed GDIT. GDIT continued on their acquisition spree, acquiring FCBS (and associated CHM), Anteon, VIPS (and associated Buccaneer), and Vangent. After all the consolidation of businesses I ended up the deputy to the GDIT civilian business unit manager. It was a great 18-year run. After a number of years of trying, Kam finally convinced me it was time to move on and join Synaptex full-time.

I had supported Synaptex since its inception, with GDIT's blessing. My wife, having previous experience with Mediasoft, had invested in Synaptex and was a minority shareholder. I played the role of adviser. It has been over three years since I made the move. Our revenue has grown from approximately \$4M/year annually - to nearly \$18M and I believe we are still in the beginning of a collective journey. It is exciting to once again drive growth in a small business environment. It is invigorating to be surrounded by amazing people that truly care about our customer's mission by delivering their best every day.

We all have our stories and I look forward to hearing more about each of you as we continue to work together. To borrow a phrase from the Grateful Dead - "What a Long Strange Trip It's Been", but I am really way too young to be this introspective - so I will leave you with a thought from Bachman Turner Overdrive - "You ain't seen nothing yet".

-Dave



Introducing AAA Corporate Travel

Synaptex is partnering with AAA Corporate Travel, as our corporate travel management company for our employee business travel. Transitioning to AAA Corporate Travel will enable us to deliver the following benefits:



December 16, 2017

**The Westfields Marriott
Chantilly, VA
7:00pm - 11:00pm**

Join us for a fun Casino theme evening with dinner, live entertainment, and the famous Synaptex gift basket drawing.

RSVP to events@synaptexcorp.com. To book a hotel room click [here](#) or call 703-818-0300 and ask for the Synaptex group rate.

Received New Certifications?

Have you received any new certifications since starting at Synaptex? Please send electronic copies of those certs to iso@synaptexcorp.com.



**REFER
YOUR FRIENDS.
GET
REWARDED.**

DOI- New Orleans
J2EE IT Software Architect

DOJ- Washington DC

- improve the business travel experience for Synaptex Company employees pre-trip, during trip, and post-trip
- simplify employee business travel and allow us to save time and money
- better manage Synaptex Company travel costs
- allow us to locate Synaptex Company employees in the event of an emergency

Synaptex expects to fully transition to AAA Corporate Travel by December. AAA Corporate Travel will also be available for personal trips as well!

More information will be sent to your Synaptex email address within the coming weeks.



December 16, 8:00am-11:00am



Wreaths Across America is an annual nation-wide event that honors our fallen soldiers and veterans. It will be a powerful, emotional morning and a great reminder of what's important during the holiday season. Volunteer with us at Arlington National Cemetery on Dec 16 to place wreaths at each veteran's grave to show respect. The event will take place in Arlington, VA details are available [here](#).

RSVP to meet up with us at events@synaptexcorp.com or contact Kearstin McGinnis (Kearstin.mcginis@synaptexcorp.com).

DLA

Network Engineer - New Cumberland, PA
 Network Engineer- Anniston, AL
 Sr. Network Engineer - Columbus, OH
 VTC Admin- Richmond, VA
 Cyber Security Analyst- Columbus, OH

ETM

Program Manager

NATIONS

Junior Field Engineer - Kansas City, MO
 Field Engineer - Baltimore, MD
 Mid Field Engineer- Washington DC
 Field Engineer- Sacramento, CA

NDU- Washington DC

Help Desk Analyst

Stennis Space Center, Mississippi

Applications Systems Analyst/Programmer Lead
 Database Analyst(Lead & Intermediate)
 Software Systems Engineer (Lead & Intermediate)

VA WiFi Group

Junior Wireless Engineer

Please email your referral resumes to:

careers@synaptexcorp.com
 or visit [Synaptex Careers](#)

DLA Golf Tournament

Fred Taylor, Sheila Andahazy, and Warren McQueen were out representing Synaptex at the DLA Golf Tournament!



Employee Anniversaries

Not in the metro DC area? Visit wreathscrossamerica.org for a participating location near you

NOLA Team Oktoberfest

NOLA VAMC & DOI teams went to Oktoberfest NOLA on 10/21/2017! A great time was had by all!



Back row: Scott Lambertson, Shaun, Jose Escoto, Tony Blatt, Glenn Chauffe, & Heather
Front row: Stanley Assante, Rebecca Murphey & Kellie Dorgan (not shown Lindsey Dale).

7 Years

Robert Ritch

4 Years

Kirk Falk
Kyle Montague

3 Years

Sheila Andahazy

2 Years

Ray Caruso
Jose Escoto

1 Year

Stanley Asante

Welcome New Employees!

Scott Bertran, DLA JETS
Marty Barron, VA WiFi Group
Marcus Campbell, HQ
Jonathan Daher, DLA JETS
James Gray, NDU
Zach Hails, DLA JETS
Isaac Hernandez, DLA JETS
Bryant Huber, DLA JETS
David Lewis, 58 SOW
Levi Penfield, VA WiFi Group
Gary Pretty, VA WiFi Group
Jean-Marc Romain, HQ
Trent Tackett, DLA JETS
Christopher VonTomaszewski, DLA JETS



We want to hear from you!

Send us your news – babies, weddings, pets, trips and vacations, graduations, kudos to coworkers...

Send all submissions to
news@synaptekcorp.com



Left to Right: Rebecca Murphey, Heather, Glenn Chauffe, Tony Blatt, Stanley Asante, Kellie Dorgan, Jose Escoto, Shaun, & Scott Lambertson

Congratulations Kaitlyn and Dave!

Congratulations to our FSO and Quality Administrator, Kaitlyn Jenkins on her marriage to Mr. David Eber. The couple were married at Stone Tower Winery in Leesburg, VA on November 10th. Kaitlyn and Dave are enjoying a warm honeymoon in Aruba.



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