

SPECIAL SEMINAR

Thursday April 16, 4-5pm, WEB 236C

Early Days at TI

Dr. James “Bob” Biard

Professor (Part-time)

Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Texas A&M University

Abstract

The talk will cover three important inventions that I was able to participate in that changed the early semiconductor industry. All three of these patents came from observations made while working on other projects. None of the three was the aim of the official then current project; all three came from the overflow. The talk will also emphasize the need for cooperation and communication. A discussion of changes in the semiconductor industry over the decades and how that affects the expectations of employers will be included.

I went to work at Texas Instruments (TI) in 1957. I now have ~76 total patents but most of the remaining 73 describe improvements in processes or devices that came out of the then current project. While the 73 patents were important to protect my employers' intellectual property they did not have the profound impact of the first three that came out of the overflow. In my career in industry, splits, mergers, and acquisitions have caused me to work for five different companies but I have never had to look for a job. At age 83 I am still working half time at Finisar in Allen, Texas. A career in engineering R&D can be very challenging and rewarding.

Speakers Bio

Dr. Bob Biard grew up in Paris, TX. He received his B.S. in Electrical Engineering (1954), an M.S. in Electrical Engineering (1956), and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering (1957), all from Texas A&M University. Dr. Biard is an inventor with 77 U.S. and foreign patents which include the Light Emitting Diode (LED), the Metal Oxide Semiconductor Read Only Memory (MOSROM), and Schottky clamped logic circuits. He is an IEEE Fellow, a Distinguished Alumnus of Texas A&M, and a member of the National Academy of Engineering.