“Evolution of a Career in Physics and Lessons Learned Along the Way”

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From Industry to consulting to government service, an education in physics can provide the foundation for an exciting and rewarding career. I will share experiences and lessons learned along the way and talk about my perspective on the current technology trends and the challenges we face in the future.

Dr. Lee Knauss is the Director of Engineering and Science at Booz Allen Hamilton for their National Agencies Account, where he leads a multi-disciplinary team of engineers and scientists delivering services and capabilities to address client mission needs. While at Booz Allen, Lee left temporarily to serve in the government as the Chief of Technology Transition at the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA). Prior to joining the government, Lee was the program manager of Booz Allen’s technical support contract at IARPA. He was also a subject matter expert providing technical and programmatic support to several research programs in quantum computing and integrated circuit analysis. Prior to Booz Allen, Lee worked at Neocera as director of their magnetic field imaging product line. He led the transition of this technology from research labs at the University of Maryland to a commercial product that was ultimately adopted by many major semiconductor companies around the world. Prior to Neocera, he spent two years on a postdoctoral fellowship at the Naval Research Laboratory working on ferroelectric thin films for electro-optic applications and large area high temperature superconductor thin films for antennas and other electronic applications. He holds a bachelor’s degree in physics from Moravian College, and a master’s and doctorate in physics from Lehigh University. He holds several patents in magnetic imaging and materials processing and was recently selected as a Fellow of the ASM International. He also serves as the president of the board of directors for the Electronic Device Failure Analysis Society (EDFAS), which is an affiliate of ASM International.