A thirty seven year journey in software engineering with Vic Basili

By Marvin Zelkowitz
I've known Vic a long time

Well, maybe not that long!
Vic joined the Computer Science Center of the University of Maryland in August of 1970.
Important individuals in his career

Professor Bill Atchison hired Vic into the Computer Science Center in 1970
Important individuals in his career

Professor Werner Rheinboldt was an early mentor in programming language research in the early 1970s.
Important individuals in his career

Professor Jack Minker was first chairman of the Computer Science Department in 1973
Important individuals in his career

Professor Ray Yeh knew Vic as a graduate student at the University of Texas and came to Maryland as Chairman in 1979.
Important individuals in his career

Dr. Harlan Mills shaped many of Vic’s ideas in formal methods in the early 1980s
Important individuals in his career

I worked with him on empirical research for the past 32 years
Important individuals in his career

Professor Dieter Rombach worked with him for 10 years at Maryland and was later his "boss" at Fraunhofer
Important individuals in his career

Professor Pat Basili has been his lifelong companion on his journeys.
Early software engineering collaboration between us in 1970s.
Many of Vic’s ideas grew out of our research at the NASA Software Engineering Laboratory - 1976-2002

SEL directors: Jerry Page, Frank McGarry, Marv, Rose Pajerski, Vic, Sharon Waligora
With Dave Parnas in 1981 - a frequent collaborator during late 1970s
Software engineering faculty from mid-1970s to late 1980s

Professors Mark Weiser, Vic Basili, John Gannon, Marv Zelkowitz.
For most of the 1980s, Vic and Professor Amrit Goel of Syracuse University organized the Software Performance Workshop at SU's Minnowbrook Lodge in New York State.
It was here that Vic said his most quotable line: “It is not the university's role to be a leader in education.”
1. It was after dinner after many bottles of wine had been drunk.
2. The topic was the role of the university to train programmers for industry.
3. What Vic meant was: “It is not the university's role to be a leader in [vocational] education [and training].”
Vic Basili was Chairman from 1982 to 1988 when the Department underwent a rapid growth in students, faculty, and research funding.
Vic was instrumental in getting the Computer Science Department into its new home in the AV Williams Building in 1986
Vic’s Research has had an impact on university and industrial research. He is credited with being the major developer of a science of empirical software engineering.

He has given talks in over 30 countries and 6 continents.

He is still waiting for his invitation from Antarctica.
Working hard with John Gannon in Hawaii in 1987

Vic gets his “chair” at the 1988 Singapore ICSE.
Vic lectures at Fudan University, Shanghai, China, February, 1989.
Vic with Professor Rombach and me after the 1992 ICSE in Australia
Much of the Worldwide Empirical Software Engineering community meets at Dagstuhl, Germany, 2006 (again).
1994 ICSE in Sorrento, Italy

Vic with Giovanni Cantone, Christiane Rombach and Cas Jeffery
Vic gives keynote at 1996 Berlin ICSE
Kyoto ICSE in 1998

with Frank McGarry, and Christiane and Dieter Rombach
By 1997 change was apparent at NASA. How to continue the research of the SEL at other organizations?

Opening the Fraunhofer Center in Maryland, January 1998.
Mikael Lindvall, Ioana Rus, Rose Pajerski, Vic and me

Working hard at the first Fraunhofer Center Maryland Retreat, 1999

Ioana Rus and Cheryl Wall
Vic and friend at ICSE 2000 in Ireland

Receiving the ACM SIGSOFT Outstanding Research Award at ICSE 2000.
Three “old timers” honored for 30 years at the University of Maryland - 2001

Ashok Agrawala
Vic Basili
Marv Zelkowitz
Vic was one of the original organizers of ISERN in 1993.

Giving a toast to ISERN host Professor Koji Torii in 2002 in Nara Japan.
First ISESE conference in Nara Japan, 2002

Vic with Forrest Shull, Natalia Juristo, Sira Vegas and Marcus Ciolkowski
Since 2000, we have been cooperating extensively with Professor Barry Boehm of USC.

2000-2003: NSF ITR: Center for Empirically-Based Software Engineering (CeBASE)
2003 – NASA High Dependability Computer Program. Here we are looking to make USC’s robot highly dependable.
ISESE and ISERN 2003 - Rome

Vic with Lionel Briand and Walter Tichy

Vic with Dave Parnas
Hardship lunch during power blackout in Italy

Vic with Barry Boehm, Jeff Carver and Laurie Williams
ISERN, October 2003 – Rome
Past and current University of Maryland researchers at ISERN

Vic with
Ross Jeffery
Filippo
Lanubile
Jyrki
Kontio
Giovanni
Cantone
Marv
Zelkowitz
Sira
Vegas
Forrest
Shull
Guilherme
Travassos
Jeff Carver
In 2004 we got involved in the DARPA high performance computing domain.

How to evaluate programmer productivity on such machines?

-- HPCS meeting in Denver in 2006

Sorry! Only picture I had of Vic was him walking away from camera.
As an active member of the UMD faculty, Vic attends Alumni Day, October 2003

Vic with Professor Nick Roussopoulos and graduate Bill Bail.
Vic receives honorary Laurea Honoris Causa degree, Italy, April 2004.
Fraunhofer Center directors - Frank Herman with Vic. Vic stepped down from that role in 2004.
Demonstrating Fraunhofer "core values" at Fraunhofer retreat - 2004

Vic with Michele Shaw, Kathleen Dangle, Mikael Lindvall, Maggie Jo Brown and Raimund Feldmann
Edinburgh Castle, ICSE 2004
Vic’s first – and last – use of an ATM machine (2004 ICSE in Edinburgh)
Vic’s first – and last – use of an ATM machine (2007, Madrid)
2004 was also a very sad year for software engineering

Frank Anger of NSF, a supporter of software engineering and a great help to us, was tragically killed on July 8 in an automobile accident.
At 2005 ICSE in St. Louis, a symposium was held in honor of Vic's career achievements.
Vic's honorary doctorate from University of Kaiserslautern, 2005
As part of 2006 Dagstuhl trip, taking in a Worldcup game was a nice bonus
Its been a very enjoyable and worthwhile journey with you these past 37 years. I hope we continue to have many more in the future.