

**2011**  
**School of Engineering and Applied Science Engineering**  
**Achievement Award**  
**(Presentation to *Robert E. Lindberg, Jr.*)**

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To periodically award a graduate of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, who has attained extraordinary distinction, national and/or international prominence, and success in his/her field of endeavor. Their achievements have brought credit to UVa and benefit to society

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- **Dr. Lindberg received his Bachelor's degree in Physics from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1974, his Masters in Engineering Physics from the University of Virginia in 1976, and his Doctorate in Mechanical Engineering from Columbia University in 1982.**
- **I would like to start by quoting John Junkins, Distinguished Professor and the Royce E. Wisenbaker Chair of the dept. of Aerospace Engineering at Texas A&M University. And I quote, "While an Associate Professor at UVa during the 1970s, I had the privilege of meeting a child prodigy who graduated with a BS in Physics from WPI in his late teens and entered the MS program in Engineering Physics at the School of Engineering and Applied Science at UVa." Prof. Junkins continues, "Bob finished his program of studies and thesis in less than two years and graduated in 1976, before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday."**
- **Great things had to be on the horizon for this young man and it began when Bob joined the research staff at the Naval Research Laboratory where he worked on developing new methods for the control of large flexible space structures, new satellite navigation and altitude determination techniques, and the first rigorous examination of the dynamics of space borne robotic arms. On this**

**latter topic, his work with Prof. Richard Longman of Columbia University is widely cited as the foundational work in this field.**

- **Next, in 1987, Bob was recruited by a small entrepreneurial group starting a new space company.....perhaps you have heard of it.....Orbital Science Corporation. Here he contributed to the company's growth from 25 people and \$3M in annual revenue to over 2500 people and over \$750M in annual revenue during his 15 years with the company and during this time he rose through the ranks to become the Senior Vice President for Defense Programs.**
- **Next in 2002, a team of senior faculty members from UVa and five partner universities asked Bob to assist in the development of a competitive proposal to NASA to create the National Institute of Aerospace - NIA - and to also include his resume as NIA's proposed Vice President for Research and Program Development. NASA selected this team's proposal and Bob along with an executive team set out to build a new world class research and education institute that would fulfill NASA's and the partner universities' vision.....within a year and after a national executive search, the NIA's Director's unanimously selected Bob as the NIA's first President and Executive Director. He was also invited to join the faculty of our Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department as a Research Professor, which we are glad he accepted!**
- **The NIA, established under Bob's leadership, has grown from \$5M in annual expenditure to \$27M! In 2007, NASA named NIA a finalist for the prestigious George M. Low Award for Excellence – NASA's top award for its contract and grant recipients. In 2008, NIA shared in the award for the Collier Trophy, awarded by the National Aeronautical Association once a year since 1911 for the most significant aerospace accomplishment of the previous year. In 2011, NIA received its first R&D 100 award.....and the list goes on..... but I must mention that the NIA's outreach programs team has claimed many prestigious honors including two regional Emmy awards and a national Emmy nomination, and in 2010 a Webby Award for best government website, for an interactive website designed for NASA Headquarters.**

- **Dr. Lindberg has lead the transition of the NIA from a NASA subsidized status to financial self-sufficiency, and secured follow-on contracts from NASA Langley Research Center to support continued institute operations. He has also conceived and led the creation of the National Institute of Aerospace Foundation, a non-profit charitable corporation dedicated to furthering the mission of the Institute.**
- **Dr. Lindberg is a fellow of both the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the American Astronautical Society. He has received the Ichabod Washburn Award from WPI and the Egleston Medal from Columbia University.....and now for the Hat-Trick from the University of Virginia.**
- **The great expectations of Dr. Lindberg have now been realized and it is clear why we enthusiastically recognize Dr. Robert E. Lindberg, Jr. with the 2011 School of Engineering and Applied Science Engineering Achievement Award.**