

CORANTE

Home > Weblog Columns > Moore's Lore

Weblog columns [select a blog]

ABOUT THIS AUTHOR



Dana Blankenhorn has been a business journalist for over 25 years and has covered the online world professionally since 1985. He founded the "Interactive Age Daily" for CMP Media, and has written for the Chicago Tribune, Advertising Age, and dozens of other publications over the years.

ABOUT THIS SITE

Moore's Law defines the history of technology. It held that the number of circuits etched on a given piece of silicon could double every 18 months as far as its author, Intel co-founder Gordon Moore, could see. Moore's Law has spawned constant revolutions since then, not just in computing but in communications, in science, in a host of areas. Moore's Law applies to radios, and to optical fiber, but there are some areas where it doesn't apply. In this blog we'll take a daily look at new implications of Moore's Law in real time, as it rolls forward to create our future.



SOURCES

ThinkSecret
Apple News
Seth Goldstein
Carlo Longino's Mobile Music Blog
WiFi Networking News
Roland Piquepaille
Guy Kewney
Steve Stroh
Reed/Frankston
TheFeature
Industrial M2M
Russell Beattie
Timbuktu Chronicles
Dan Gillmor Grassroots
Journalism
Edward Felten

Just Launched: Corante Hubs and the Corante Network! Learn more [here](#).

Moore's Lore

« [Surrender, Billy](#) | [Main](#) | [Monopolists at the Academic Gates](#) »

December 14, 2005

The Right Way to Economic Development

Posted by **Dana Blankenhorn**

This month Atlanta lost [Rafael Furcal](#) to a \$40 million LA Dodger contract, but picked up [Jeffrey Skolnick](#) for \$7 million.



I'd say we came out ahead. Skolnick is a leader in bioinformatics, the use of computer technology to model biological processes and steer research toward breakthroughs. Furcal is a good shortstop, but that's about it.

I'm being a bit flip here. The point is that cities and states are bound to do better going after academic superstars than sports stadia or fading industries. Yet most deals are aimed at sports stadia or fading industries.

Georgia, for instance, put over \$180 million in tax revenue into building [Philips Arena](#), where the elite eat sushi in luxury boxes lining one side, while the rest pile into seats on the other. They are offering [all sorts of tax breaks to Ford](#) if it will keep its Hapeville assembly plant open.

But for \$5 million in laboratory expenses and \$2 million for an endowed chair (some of it privately-funded) Georgia gets Skolnick, along with 19 colleagues and \$1.5 million in grant money. Not a bad deal.



Of course, some might say that Skolnick has a lot in common with a star athlete, and the comparison should not be to Furcal but to, say, Terrell Owens. The view from Buffalo, his former home, is basically "good riddance." He was signed with great fanfare in 2000, but according to the *Buffalo News*

GoToMeeting™
ONLINE MEETINGS MADE EASY

TRY IT FREE

Train 10 or 10,000 people a month online with GoToMeeting. One low flat fee means no overage charges – and lower travel costs.
Free 30-day trial.

Check out [IdeaFlow](#) by Renee Hopkins Callahan for the latest on innovation trends and practices. On her radar screen: the [creativity of bipolar children](#), Democrats' call for an "Innovation Agenda", [grocery store innovations](#), creating a culture of [business experimentation](#), and more.

Search

this blog All

Receive by Email

RECENT ENTRIES

- > [The CES Hype Machine Tunes Up](#)
- > [The eBay Myth](#)
- > [Time Warner Dips Into the Funny Money Again](#)
- > [The Terrorists Won](#)
- > [The Traffic Economy](#)
- > [Is This Google's Riskiest Move Yet?](#)
- > [This Week's Clue: Slouching Toward Armageddon](#)
- > [Windows Live Why?](#)
- > [Nationalize the Phone Network](#)
- > [Monopolists at the Academic Gates](#)

RECENT COMMENTS [XML]

- > Frank on [The Terrorists Won](#)
- > Tiny angel on [Angel \(Investors\) in America](#)
- > Brad Hutchings on [The Terrorists Won](#)
- > Jesse Kopelman on [Nationalize the Phone Network](#)

[Doc Searls](#)
[Clay Shirky](#)
[Eric Rice](#)
[Infoteconomics](#)
[BoingBoing](#)
[Lawrence Lessig](#)
[EnGadget](#)
[Frank Field](#)
[Kevin Werbach](#)
[Scott Loftesness](#)
[Scott Watermasysk](#)
[Tony Perkins](#)
[Kevin Marks](#)
[Paul Boutin](#)
[Jeremy Allaire](#)
[Karlin Lillington](#)
[Amy Wohl](#)
[Marc Canter](#)
[Joi Ito](#)
[Rober Scoble](#)
[Dan Bricklin](#)
[Craig Burton](#)
[Brad DeLong](#)
[EGR Weblog](#)
[Bret Fausett](#)
[Zimran Ahmed](#)
[Eric Norlin](#)
[Rajesh Jain](#)
[Andrew Odlyzko](#)
[Tim O'Reilly](#)
[Jonathan Peterson](#)
[Lisa Rein](#)
[Tomalak's Wireless Realm](#)
[Tee Emm's Window to Pakistan](#)
[David Weinberger](#)
[Dave Winer](#)
[Om Malik on Broadband](#)
[IP Inferno](#)

News Sources

[Barrons](#)
[Bloomberg](#)
[Boston Globe](#)
[Business 2.0](#)
[BusinessWeek](#)
[Byte Magazine](#)
[CIO](#)
[CNBC](#)
[CNET - News.com](#)
[CNN-Technology](#)
[Economist](#)
[EE Times](#)
[Fast Company](#)
[Forbes](#)
[Fortune](#)
[Gilder](#)
[Harvard Bus. Review](#)
[IDG.net](#)
[Inc Magazine](#)
[Innovation Journal](#)
[Internet.com](#)
[Mercury News](#)
[MicroTimes](#)
[MSNBC - Tech](#)
[New Scientist](#)
[New York Times](#)
[PC Magazine](#)
[Red Herring](#)
[San Fran. Chronicle](#)
[Slashdot](#)
[The Scientist](#)

and *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* he's kind of a prick. He wanted to get his wife a job. He chewed through assistants like Owens chews through quarterbacks. He's not a detail guy, and he doesn't scratch backs very well.

So what? Does anyone think this signing won't pay for itself, many times over? To continue the sports analogy, Skolnick was seen in Buffalo as a franchise savior, much like Drew Bledsoe, who signed a big contract with the Buffalo Bills around the same time. (That didn't work out great for Buffalo, either.) Here he's more like Bledsoe with the Dallas Cowboys. Stay within yourself, don't throw the ball away, and the team will carry you forward.

Of course you can't build an industrial base on a few academic superstars. You need a big team, you need facilities, you need entrepreneurial infrastructure, and you need a good farm team. Atlanta has all that but the last -- the schools here aren't the best.

But at least this move is one in the right direction. Furcal may win the Triple Crown next year, and Skolnick may be hit by a MARTA bus. But that's not the way to bet.

[Comments \(0\)](#) + [TrackBacks \(0\)](#) | Category: [Business Models](#) | [Consulting](#) | [Futurism](#) | [Investment](#) | [Politics](#) | [Science](#) | [medicine](#)

TrackBack URL:

<http://www.corante.com/cgi-bin/mt/backtar.cgi/18289>

POST A COMMENT

Name:

Email Address:

URL:

Remember Me? Yes No

Comments:

EMAIL THIS ENTRY TO A FRIEND

Email this entry to:

> [dewman on Angel \(Investors\) in America](#)

> [reader on Windows Live Why?](#)

RECENT TRACKBACKS

> [vobios.blog: wikipedia chronicles](#)

> [HGH: Real Estate Secrets](#)

> [A Jack of All Blogs: Open Source Ideas](#)

> [spampolitik.de: Phishing and Terrorismus](#)

> [Doug Ross @ Journal: Digg: 'Bellsouth wants to rig the Internet'](#)

> [Doug Ross @ Journal: Digg:](#)

> CATEGORIES

> [802.11 \(141\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Always On \(143\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [B2B \(19\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Blink > \(89\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [blogging \(139\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Business Models \(210\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Business Strategy \(342\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [cellular \(207\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [computer interfaces \(91\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Consulting \(117\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Consumer Electronics \(155\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Copyright \(137\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Digital Divide \(57\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [e-commerce \(113\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Economics \(218\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [energy \(8\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [ethics \(78\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [fiction \(97\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [fun stuff \(73\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Futurism \(199\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [History \(88\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Internet \(467\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Investment \(181\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Journalism \(213\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [law \(154\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Linux \(38\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [marketing \(69\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [medicine \(31\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Moore's Lore \(135\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [online advertising \(73\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [personal \(159\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Podcasting \(11\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Politics \(224\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Science \(50\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Security \(55\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Semiconductors \(55\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Software \(102\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Space \(27\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [spam \(41\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [Telecommunications \(171\) \[xml\]](#)
 > [war \(30\) \[xml\]](#)

> ARCHIVES

> [December 2005 \(31\)](#)
 > [November 2005 \(42\)](#)
 > [October 2005 \(45\)](#)
 > [September 2005 \(53\)](#)
 > [August 2005 \(57\)](#)
 > [July 2005 \(61\)](#)
 > [June 2005 \(59\)](#)

[Science Magazine](#)
[Scientific American](#)
[SJ Mercury News](#)
[SmallTimes](#)
[Tech Review](#)
[TechWeb](#)
[Unstrung](#)
[Wall Street Journal](#)
[Washington Post](#)
[Wired.com](#)
[WirelessWeek](#)
[Working Knowledge](#)
[Yahoo: Tech](#)
[ZDNet News](#)

Your email address:

Message (optional):

- > [May 2005 \(65\)](#)
- > [April 2005 \(84\)](#)
- > [March 2005 \(101\)](#)
- > [February 2005 \(95\)](#)
- > [January 2005 \(109\)](#)
- > [December 2004 \(103\)](#)
- > [November 2004 \(90\)](#)
- > [October 2004 \(101\)](#)
- > [September 2004 \(82\)](#)
- > [August 2004 \(89\)](#)
- > [July 2004 \(84\)](#)
- > [June 2004 \(96\)](#)
- > [May 2004 \(72\)](#)
- > [April 2004 \(70\)](#)
- > [March 2004 \(69\)](#)
- > [February 2004 \(60\)](#)

RELATED ENTRIES

- > [Monopolists at the Academic Gates](#)
- > [The Right Way to Economic Development](#)
- > [Surrender, Billy](#)
- > [This Just In: People Can Be Bad](#)
- > [False Lessons of the Dreamworks Deal](#)
- > [This Week's Clue: Kilby's Law](#)
- > [Moore's Handwriting On the Wall](#)
- > [Mobile WiMax \(Finally\) Approved](#)



[About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Custom Services](#) | [Licensing](#) | [Press Coverage](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#)

© Copyright 2004 Corante. All rights reserved.